
Underwater Project

Chinese archaeologists have begun full examination of the *Nanhai -1*, the wreck of an ancient Chinese merchant ship currently preserved in a giant tank of water.

The project is expected to last three to four years, according to the Marine Silk Road Museum in Yangjiang, a city in south China's Guangdong Province.

The *Nanhai-1* dates back to the Southern Song Dynasty in the 13th century. It was raised from the bed of the South China Sea at the end of 2007, along with much of its cargo.

Archaeologists will work at the museum, entering into the tank designed to house the ship which is approximately 30 meters in length.

Archaeologists estimate there are about 60,000 to 80,000 antiques among the wreckage, most of them porcelain, precious metal objects and coins.

Over 6,000 pieces of porcelain, copper and other treasure were salvaged in two trial excavations in 2009 and 2011.