

## **Noah's Ark on Ararat**

### **Compiled by Glen W. Chapman**

Mount Ararat is located in Eastern Turkey on the borders of Iran, Armenia (formerly U.S.S.R.), and Nachivan. This volcanic mountain rises 5,165 meters or 16,945 feet high above the plains and is the highest location in the ancient kingdom of Urartu, a region which covered thousands of square miles. Ararat is the bastardized name of [Urartu](#) from the [Hebrew Torah](#) written by Moses (c. 1450 BC) which only included the consonants "rrt". The Assyrians wrote about battles against the Urartian tribes from the thirteenth century BC until the sixth century BC when Urartu was destroyed by the Medes. The name Urartu then vanished from history and was replaced by Ararat and Armenia in the vicinity as well as in Bible translations in English, etc. As history went on in the first and second millenia AD, the mountain became known as Ararat and the region as Armenia. Many people believe that Mount Ararat is the place where Noah's Ark landed but the Bible does not state this. It simply says that the boat landed in the Urartian mountains, of which there are hundreds, although Ararat is the highest. Since Mount Ararat is the highest location in Urartu, some people throughout history have jumped to the unproven conclusion that it was the landing place and promoted that concept as a regional tradition.

Mount Ararat may be the largest single-mass or volume mountain in the world as it is huge (one really has to see it in person to appreciate its immensity) and rises to 17,000 feet from the plains surrounding it at 2,000-3,000 feet while most other large mountains are in a mountain range with less differential and base circumference. Ararat has only a few native trees growing on it in Ahora village and several small forests on Little Ararat. Views differ as to whether Ararat formed much of its size after the flood (post-flood) or during the flood as some geologists like Seventh Day Adventist Clifford Burdick Ph.D. have claimed to find pillow lava (lava spewed into water) around the 14,000-foot level. Some geologists claim that cylindrical mountains like Little Ararat show that it is a post-flood mountain. There are also claims of fossils and sedimentary layers on Greater Ararat but these claims have not been backed up with evidence as of this date although there are fossils near Ararat. From 14,000 feet to 17,000 feet, much of the lava is covered by an ice cap which is about 17 square miles in size and is up to 300 feet deep. As computed by [ArcImaging](#), the coordinates that cover the ice cap area on Mount Ararat are N 39 degrees 41' to N 39 degrees 44', E 44 degrees 15' 30" to E 44 degrees 19' 30". The area of this rectangle is about 31.6 square kilometers.

Since the upper reaches of this volcanic mountain is covered with broken lava rock everywhere and is currently extremely difficult to ascend or descend, its present state makes it a poor location for Noah's Ark to land and for all the animals to easily descend. Yet, Mount Ararat has the bulk of the purported eyewitnesses of the boat-like structure, especially since 1850. These "alleged" eyewitnesses are the only reason why the search should continue on the mountain.

Given the extensive research which has taken place on Mount Ararat, it seems fair to say that if Noah's Ark ever survived into modern times and is somewhere on Ararat, there are few places remaining on the mountain to search. There have been many expeditions, accounts, alleged sightings, anomalies, and claims of discovery involving Mount Ararat. What is lacking is any scientific evidence or photo that shows that Noah's Ark exists today. However, one should also consider the possibility that Noah's Ark landed on Mount Ararat and was subsequently destroyed, which is the possibility alluded to in the article [Even If Noah's Ark Is Not Proven, Noah's Ark Still Could Have Landed On Mount Ararat](#) .

Given all the ground and aerial expeditions (and one with sophisticated mapping capabilities), one should surmise that if the remains of Noah's Ark are indeed on Mount Ararat, they are not in plain view; if the boat is there, it must be buried. There

have been 2 attempts that used sub-surface Radar (Ground Penetrating Radar - GPR) technology on Mount Ararat to look under the ice. The 1988 Willis expedition and the 1989 Aaron/Garbe/Corbin expedition used GPR. The 1988 Willis expedition successfully surveyed the eastern summit plateau and the saddle area between the two peaks, concluding there were no Ark remains under the ice. The 1989 expedition was not as successful as the preceding year, where a less-capable GPR system was used in temperate (melting) ice cap conditions on the western plateau of Mount Ararat. However, they were able to determine the ice depth on the western plateau and scale the size of the Ark.

If the remains of Noah's Ark were in moving ice on Mount Ararat (there is only one legitimate glacier, the Black Glacier, though there are other moving ice flows like the so-called Parrot Glacier), the Ark would have been ground to bits. [Arclmaging](#) contends that until the entire mountain has been adequately "sub-surface" surveyed using the latest remote sensing technology, some people such as the alleged eyewitnesses contended that the Ararat ice cap contains the remains of Noah's Ark since about 90% of the supposed eyewitnesses claim that the boat was sticking out of the ice even though the explorers over the past 50 years did not see the same boat-like structure.

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#### **AREAS OF INTEREST & SPECIFIC ACCOUNTS:**

NOTE: There is much more detail and resources in the book [The Explorers of Ararat: And the Search for Noah's Ark](#).

##### **Northeast**

The areas of high interest are the [Abich II Glacier](#) from between the two summit peaks "the saddle" at 16,500 feet down to 14,000 feet, and then the [Ahora Gorge](#) just below. Some information about the Mount Ararat Research Foundation (Aerial Stereophotographic Survey) expedition to the Ahora Gorge page has been added.

##### **Northwest and West**

Some have an interest with an [Ararat Anomaly](#) on the rim of the Western Plateau around 15,000 feet. Information and DIA photos regarding this site were obtained by Porcher Taylor using the Freedom of Information Act. Although the CIA statements are interesting, there is nothing visible or very interesting in the photos provided. B.J. Corbin had a suspicion about the [Chuchian site](#), located on the northwest side of Mt. Ararat in a remote canyon at approximately 13,000 feet but believes that the area is too small. The [Western Plateau](#) and [Parrot Glacier](#) are two areas of interest, especially since many of the local people pointed to this general vicinity when questioned, possibly because Fernand Navarra brought his wood down from the Parrot Glacier area. An ARF expedition with Navarra, Bill Dougall, Alva Appel, and Bud Crawford in 1968 failed to find any wood. However, a SEARCH expedition with Navarra, Elfred Lee, Bud Crawford, and Hugo Neuberg in 1969 did discover small pieces of wood in a melt pond next to the Parrot Glacier in what was termed the Navarra Ice Pack. Navarra's 1950's guide claimed that Navarra planted the 1955 wood on Ararat. This is a possibility since Navarra was on the mountain in 1952 and 1953 before his 1955 discovery and in 1968 before the 1969 discovery. Irregardless of where Navarra's wood originated (both wood samples were analyzed to be of the same tree-type), both 1955 and 1969 wood samples were carbon-dated around 1300-1700 years old, far short of any possible Noah's Ark landing.

Arclmaging does not believe that wood should be sought or promoted as evidence of Noah's Ark since dating will always be debated. The only reason to search there on Mount Ararat the first place is because of the alleged eyewitnesses over the past 150 years and they claimed to see a boat, not pieces of wood. Also, even if the wood was

dated "early", there would be no way to prove that this "new" wood was a part of Noah's Ark anyway so it would be extremely controversial and debated.

[Ed Crawford](#) claims a spot near the upper reaches of the Parrot Glacier but there is no evidence that Noah's Ark or a huge man-made structure has survived at this location.

As well, an Italian named Angelo Palego claims a spot between the upper reaches of the Parrot Glacier and the Western Plateau at approximately 14,000 feet (4300 meters). However, as with other alleged sites, Palego has provided no scientific evidence to back up his claims. Palego associate and webmaster Francesco Arduini says that after there was some confusion with doctored photographs adding Noah's Ark without proper labeling on a previous website, Palego has now authorized the [Official Angelo Palego website](#).

### **Eastern Summit Area**

In 1988, Dr. Charles Willis virtually eliminated the [Eastern Plateau](#) and a portion of the "saddle" area between the two peaks as a possible resting place for Noah's Ark, using sub-surface radar and polar ice drilling.

The proximity to the Iranian and Armenian borders, and the military conflict between Turkish soldiers and Kurdish terrorists on and near Mount Ararat, make it extremely difficult to obtain permission to do scientific research on the mountain because terrorists like to cross from Iran and hide on the mountain before they go elsewhere in Turkey. Because of this, Mount Ararat is a second-degree military zone and no foreigners have been legally allowed on it since 1991.

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### **Information Wanted:**

- Several researchers are looking for an alleged photo and article of Noah's Ark in the Stars and Stripes or Yank newspapers during W.W.II (1943-1946).
- Name and identity of Christian U-2 pilot who spoke to many about his flights over Ararat, possibly in late 50's to mid 70's, when clear photos of an Ark-like anomaly were allegedly photographed.
- Anyone knowing any information about alleged German scientist Dr. Robert Geist who worked with the Vertebrate Paleontology wing at the Smithsonian Institution in the late 1960's and the Sun Boats of Egypt in the 1950's.

Please contact [Robin Simmons](#) and [email\\_research@noahsarksearch.com](mailto:email_research@noahsarksearch.com) (760.329.2745 fax 760.329.5745)





**Mt Ararat**



**Wood From Noah's Ark -Navarra**