

From Paris to Tokyo to Fort Worth every drop of water is connected in a continuous global chain so that water never remains an isolated incident and never exclusively belongs to any specific time or place. Even the tiniest drop of water shares a heritage with the greatest ocean

Charles W. Moore - from Water and Architecture

Stories tell how since ancient times, people have used labyrinths to invoke the mercy of the Gods in their dealings with the sea. At the shores of Iceland and the Baltic Sea, there are still many old labyrinths that were once used by fishing people to indicate the directions of the winds and to pray that the old sea Goddesses would protect the fishers in a safe return home. Legends tell how labyrinths near lakes and sea sides have also been used as a place to guide the souls of the deceased to the hereafter.



Labyrinth at Dritvik, Iceland
Picture: Jeff Saward/Labyrinthos

In some Italian villages the Sea Goddess has, since the Etruscan times, been portrayed as a two tailed mermaid: the symbol of the eternal giver and taker of life. She is still present on several Italian churches, like on the St. Michael Church in Pavia:



Picture: Selma Sevenhuijsen/LabyrintWerk

Let's ask for the healing power of water



Labyrinth made by Henk Coppens
on 1-1-2005 at the beach in IJmuiden
Picture: Selma Sevenhuijsen/LabyrintWerk

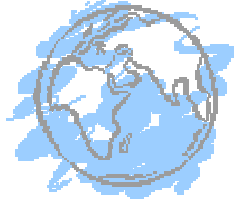
Join us in a Worldwide Circle of Labyrinths

to commemorate the victims and
the survivors of the 2004 Tsunami

Sunday 23 January 2005



www.waterlabyrinths.com



At the threshold between the years 2004 and 2005 the world witnessed the sudden and disastrous power of the ocean. By the force of a tsunami hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives, their loved ones and their homes and livelihood. It was a harsh reminder of how cruel and ill fated the sea can be.

On Sunday 23 January 2005 we will hold a worldwide commemoration for the victims and the survivors of the tsunami. We invite you to make a labyrinth near a place of water and to dedicate it to the wellbeing of all people that are struck by this disaster.

We will also ask for the restoration of the healing power of water. All over the globe the sea has always been a source of life for the world population. It has not only brought disaster to mankind but has also been a source of food, light, solace, pleasure and hope. Always and everywhere water has been used as a source for the blessing of life.



Sunday 23 January 2005

We invite you to join in a worldwide circle of labyrinths to be held at 23 January 2005. It is our vision that on this day many, many people around the globe will create and walk labyrinths in connection with water, for hope, healing and as a symbol for how connected we all are. We hope that you can make a special labyrinth or just walk an existing one

- at the seaside
- near a lake
- near any other source of water like a river, a stream or a pond
- or in snow or on ice

If you don't have access to natural sources of water you may find creative ways to join in, like:

- with fountains
- dishes of water
- rain
- use your imagination!

Please invite friends, relatives and members of your networks to join in and to either make their own labyrinth or to walk your labyrinth with you.

We also invite you to take pictures of your labyrinth and your ceremonies and to afterwards send one to the website of this project: www.waterlabyrinths.com. You can visit this website from 7th January on to receive suggestions for creating a labyrinth and for shared ceremonies and prayers.

Initiators:

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