



MARINE CONSERVATION IN GREECE



LOCATION : Alonissos Islands

AVAILABILITY: The Marine Conservation program in Greece is available between May and October.

OVERVIEW :

Imagine diving into the beauty of famous blue beaches surrounded by lush greenery just like scenes from Mamma Mia!

Now, picture yourself safeguarding marine life in Europe's largest National Marine Park, where dolphins, turtles, and falcons thrive and the endangered Mediterranean monk seal finds sanctuary.

This is all possible!

You just need to volunteer in the Marine Conservation Program in Greece Where you will be dedicating your time in preserving Alonissos island's marine ecosystem, including its 6 smaller islands and 22 uninhabited islets.

THE PROJECT :

Welcome to a transformative travel experience that goes beyond sightseeing – an impact trip to the enchanting island of Alonnisos, Greece!

We invite you to join us in an immersive journey that blends adventure, learning, conservation, community engagement and lots of fun!

Seize the opportunity to make a positive social and environmental impact by voluntarily participating to conservational projects, coastal and underwater clean ups, citizen science marine observations, recycling seminars of plastic waste following the concept of Precious Plastic community, and all this while exploring a greek island and earning the most recognized PADI scuba certification, to join the world's largest dive community.

Your scuba skills will drive change, as you participate in underwater activities that contribute to cleaner environment and healthier ecosystems

Together with fellow volunteers, you'll make a tangible impact on the local community and foster an environmentally aware change !!!

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Pick up at the international airport & transfer to the accommodation
- Accommodation (In-room amenities include TV, air conditioning, refrigerator, and high-quality mattresses)
- Breakfast and dinner are included (*Lunch must be paid by the volunteer.*)
- Shared use of common room, outdoor area, garden, and free WIFI
- Individual balconies with breathtaking sea and garden views for each room
- Orientation event on arrival (introduction to Greek culture, volunteer experience, overview of programs, practical information, safety guidelines)
- Guided city tour
- The best tips to discover the city!
- Allocation and coordination of a work placement in an impactful non-profit project
- Introduction on the first day of volunteering
- Ongoing support throughout the stay
- 24h/7 emergency support

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED :

- Flights
- Pick-up at the airport on other dates
- Drop-off at the airport
- Personal expenses
- Personal insurance (health or accidents)
- Meal (lunch)

How is a typical day in this volunteer program ?

Tasks

- PADI Scuba Certifications: Embark on a journey to learn or to continue your training education in scuba diving and earn a reputed PADI scuba certification, opening the door to a world of underwater exploration. Dive into captivating underwater landscapes around Alonnisos all within the largest National Marine Park in Europe, led by experienced dive instructors.
- Conservation Projects: Engage in hands-on conservation projects to protect Alonnisos' unique flora and fauna and sensitize both local community and seasonal visitors. Learn about environmental friendly practises that applied both underwater and on land.
- Coastal and Underwater Cleanups: Dive into the Mediterranean waters for coastal and underwater cleanups, ensuring the preservation of marine life and habitats. Experience the joy of making a tangible impact as you witness the transformation of the underwater environment.
- Citizen Science Marine Observations: Participate in citizen science programs in collaboration with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, to collect valuable data on marine life, contributing to ongoing research efforts and becoming a Citizen Scientist.
- Plastic Waste Management, the "Precious Plastic" Movement: Initiate in managing plastic waste in local scale, through innovative recycling practices inspired by the Precious Plastic initiative and produce new useful objects out of discarded plastic waste

08h00 AM – Breakfast at accommodation

09h30 AM – Travel to project to join local placement staff and begin work on your project

13h30 PM – Lunch at the boat

17h00 PM – Finished day of volunteering

18h30 PM – Reflective Session

20h00 PM – Dinner served at the accommodation

Do I need to speak the local language?

No, you don't need to have any previous skills in the local language! All of our programs are run entirely in English and our guides and staff are all comfortable speaking English as well! But we always encourage our participants to get acquainted with some of the most basic terms and expressions, as even just a simple "Good morning!" in the local language can be a great icebreaker to start interacting with the locals!

There are also language lessons available for volunteers. The language lessons can be booked before or on the arrival. Lessons are taught by a professional teacher and tailored to each volunteer's current language level.

Is prior experience in diving required to take part in the Marine Conservation program?

No, you do not need to have any prior experience in diving, the professional diving instructor will teach you all the necessary basics and safety essentials right on the spot! In your program is included a certificated diving course adjusted to your diving skills.

But it's great if you already do have some previous diving experience, as you'll more easily be able to contribute to cleaning up the ocean by collecting trash from the seabed!

Shall I bring special clothes to participate?

No, the price includes all the professional diving equipment you'll need for your dive. We do recommend bringing comfortable swimwear, beach slippers, and a towel !

What do I need to pack for my trip?

Are you already excited about your stay with us? We prepared a little list of essentials which can assist you with your packing:

- Basics (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner...)
- Medication contact lenses, glasses
- Clothes according to the local weather and the project you applied for
- Plug adapters and power converters
- Unlocked mobile phone – we will give you a Portuguese SIM card that you can charge according to your needs
- Laptop, tablet or smartphone so you have access to Wi-Fi almost everywhere
- Camera (if you want to capture all the unforgettable moments.)

Will I have time for some sight-seeing as well?

Of course! We want you to really get to know your natural and cultural surroundings and will provide you with useful tips and tricks that will help you discover the location of your stay like a local !

Your shifts will generally last between 3 and 5 hours per day and will take place either in the morning, in the afternoon or in the evening, which will leave you with plenty of free time to go explore, take a stroll around your surroundings, catch the most important sites, interact with the locals or simply go and relax! And of course, you will have your weekends off as well !