



Sea turtle conservation



OVERVIEW

Our primary focus is on sea turtle conservation, both through protecting their nests on the island's busiest beaches and by monitoring and protecting the island's sea turtle population.

The Kefalonia sea turtle conservation program is a research-based project on the island of Kefalonia, Greece. Volunteer tasks range from daily morning patrols to locate and protect new nests, turtle identification and behavioral research surveys in areas where sea turtles swim and informing locals and visitors about the island's biodiversity.

Hands-on learning is emphasized throughout the project, so that volunteers acquire practical experience on a wide range of wildlife research and conservation practices, including their legal and social aspects, which are often the most controversial aspects of conservation.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Most mornings begin by either cycling to the nesting beaches at sunrise to identify and record fresh sea turtle tracks and nests or observing the behavior of sea turtles swimming in the bay. On some late afternoons, you'll be on the beach measuring beach width and slope, which change through the season.

During your free time, you can take advantage of the beach near the accommodation and enjoy the sea. You will spend some evenings and late nights on the beach to measure light

pollution, tag nesting turtles, or rescue hatchlings in danger.

VOLUNTEERS WILL GAIN

Valuable research experience, increase their knowledge in wildlife conservation and develop their interpersonal skills while exploring new places, experiencing a new culture and making lifetime friends. Most importantly volunteers will be helping save the sea turtles of Kefalonia from extinction.

REQUIREMENTS

- 18 years of age or older
- Minimum stay of 2 weeks
- Comfortable riding a bicycle on hilly terrain
- Able to walk and cycle during a hot day

Volunteers do not need prior experience but should be enthusiastic about conservation and committed to the cause. All volunteers are trained on protocols and techniques to ensure quality data collection and the welfare of the turtles.

Volunteers must be able to cycle to the nesting beaches with their team and walk along the beach for field surveys. Volunteers should be comfortable in a communal living environment with shared responsibilities.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Accommodation in shared rooms
- Trained field leaders with 24-hour support
- Cookware and research equipment
- Transportation to and from Kefalonia's airport/bus station on project start & end dates

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Food
- Flights and transport to the island
- Personal expenses

ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

In either one of our two Field Stations, you will be staying in a rented apartment, sharing a room, kitchen, and bathroom with your teammates. A large balcony will host group gatherings and our evening meals. Shared bathrooms have hot water heated with solar power, and shared kitchens are equipped with cookware, utensils, and a shared fridge. You will be able to shop in local grocery stores and use the project facilities for your own meal preparation.

The Argostoli location, near the airport, is a short walk to the beaches. A mini-market, about a 15-minute walk away, has basic groceries and you will also be able to shop in the town of Argostoli when on harbour shifts. We also offer a pre-order option so that basic “starter kit” of groceries is there for you on your arrival.

If you select the Lixouri location, there is a grocery store just 200m away from the Field Station. The town square is just 600m away, where there are several restaurants, bakeries and cafes. The team may have some outings to this quaint town square where you can taste the local cuisine, and on occasion, experience some Greek music and dancing.

Option 1: Fly direct to Kefalonia (EFL)

Option 2: Fly to Athens (ATH) then Fly to Kefalonia (EFL)

1 hour flight to Kefalonia from Athens.

Option 3: Fly to Athens (ATH) then bus/Ferry to Kefalonia

7-hour bus/Ferry ride to Kefalonia from Athens.