

# Greece Turtle Conservation

*Live and work with other volunteers to conserve and protect one of the most important loggerhead turtle nesting areas in Greece*

Greece provides a blend of a hot Mediterranean climate, fascinating ancient culture, and seas teeming with marine life. Enjoy the chance to immerse yourself in this fabulous culture whilst living close to the beautiful sandy beaches and helping to protect one of Greece's most charismatic sea creatures, the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta* in Greek).

On this project you'll live and work with other enthusiastic and energetic international volunteers to conserve and protect one of the most important loggerhead turtle nesting areas in Kefalonia, Greece.

You will conduct daily monitoring surveys each morning to record nesting activity and help to protect turtle nests against predation by mammals and inundation by sea water. In addition to this, volunteers will conduct field surveys on nesting beaches to locate and protect new nests. At night you will help to survey, tag and measure nesting turtles and record beach characteristics and light pollution levels.

You will receive practical training on the job from local staff, and have the opportunity to help safeguard Greece's vulnerable sea turtles and exceptional habitats for future generations.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Hands on work and training to help monitor and relocate vulnerable sea turtle hatchlings
- Experience Greek culture and architecture first hand
- Helping to protect Greece's sea turtles
- Gather valuable population data of the vulnerable sea turtles
- Observe and tag nesting females

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Must be able to cycle - those less comfortable with cycling should chose Site 1

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Kefalonia, Greece
-----------------	-------------------

<b>Activities</b>	Tag and monitor loggerhead sea turtle Excavation of loggerhead sea turtle nests Raise public awareness Gathering valuable population data of the endangered marine turtles Observe and tag nesting females
<b>Transport</b>	Airport pickup & public transport.
<b>Accommodation</b>	Shared apartment

## WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

The project works with local environmental authorities and fishermen in order to mitigate and reverse population reduction of sea turtles.

The Island of Kefalonia, off the west coast of Greece, is an important breeding area for the loggerhead sea turtles in the Mediterranean. The project's primary objective is to protect the sea turtles and their habitats through monitoring and research, developing and implementing management plans and raising public awareness of the need to conserve these resilient creatures.

Volunteers will help to protect sea turtle nests against predation and inundation by sea water from incoming tides. This activity ensures that as many hatchlings survive as possible and add to global population numbers. In addition to this volunteers will have the chance to help educate the local community to try and encourage them to adopt friendlier attitudes towards the natural environment and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of conserving loggerhead sea turtles.

## WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Your day to day duties will be dependent upon the current focus of the project at the time of your arrival. The work is varied with all volunteers taking on different roles each day.

If you are present during the main breeding season (May-July), you will assist in the identification of fresh sea turtle nesting activities. Successful nesting locations are then clearly marked and protected.

During peak nesting season (mid May- August) tasks may include morning surveys to look for adult turtle tracks and locate nests, 'caging' or relocating threatened nests, and night surveys to observe and tag nesting females.

During the hatching season (August - September) , you will record any hatching events and help to prevent the destruction of the nests. In addition to this, particular attention is paid to light pollution levels, which can cause hatchlings to crawl in the wrong direction and so, never make it to the sea. You may have the opportunity to help identify potentially harmful light pollution sources and try to reduce their effects. When this is not possible, you will provide the nest with shade so that emerging

hatchlings are not disoriented and make it quickly to the sea. Furthermore, you will patrol beaches close to the volunteer house, gathering valuable population data on these vulnerable sea turtles.

You will work in an alternating shift pattern with the other volunteers. Between shifts you will have plenty of time to relax on your balcony, enjoy the white sandy beaches or explore the local area. You will also have one day off a week which will vary depending on the work programme assigned by your field leader.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?**

Volunteers arriving on their start date will be met upon arrival at Kefalonia airport (EFL) by a member of the in country staff and transferred to your accommodation using the public transport links on the island.

## **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?**

You will be living in a shared apartment right next to the beach. The apartments have a number of facilities including shared bathrooms, hot water throughout day, kitchenette with a fridge, electricity and a balcony. Volunteers are required to cycle to their shifts on the nearby beaches (15-20 minute bike ride).

## **WHAT WILL I BE EATING?**

A great aspect of this project is that it is self-catered. This is a fun element of travelling away from home as it gives you that added freedom and it is a good opportunity to bond with fellow volunteers. The cost of food will be split between the volunteer teams operating at each site, as will the cooking duties, in line with the community living ethos on camp.

## **COSTS**

2 weeks	US\$ 1,045
4 weeks	US\$ 1,395

Longer durations may be available on request

## **DEPARTURE DATES**

### **2019**

June 2nd (Fully Booked)

June 16th (Fully Booked)

June 30th (Fully Booked)

July 14th (Fully Booked)

July 28th

August 11th (Fully Booked)

August 25th

September 8th

September 22nd

## **2020**

May 10th (4 weeks only)

May 24th

June 7th

June 21st

July 5th

July 19th

August 2nd

August 16th

August 30th

September 13th

September 27th

## **DURATION**

2 or 4 weeks (4 week placements now fully booked for 2019)

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

### **Before you go**

- Pre-departure support & documentation
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Advice on visas & equipment
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt

### **In-country**

- Airport Pick-up
- Project orientation
- Accommodation

- Project equipment
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

## **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Nearest airport(s): Kefallinia (EFL)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on [info@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:info@frontier.ac.uk)

Check out our social media here:

*Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.*