

Greece Dolphin Conservation

Explore stunning Greek islands whilst making a valuable and significant contribution to the conservation of endangered dolphin species

Greece provides an irresistible blend of warm Mediterranean climate, fascinating ancient culture, and seas rich in marine life. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to learn about and make an active contribution towards the conservation of two of the world's most charismatic and endearing marine species – the bottlenose and short beaked common dolphin. By joining Frontier's dolphin conservation project in the Mediterranean Sea you will be making a positive contribution to the protection of dolphin populations around the west coast of Greece, whilst at the same time gaining invaluable practical experience working for a marine research NGO and developing a wide range of conservation skills and techniques.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore stunning Greek islands whilst making a valuable and significant contribution to the conservation of endangered dolphin species
- Gain hands-on marine conservation experience
- Create unforgettable memories and make lifelong friends
- This is a Frontier Connect project!

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum age of 17 years

FAST FACTS

Location	Greece
Activities	Daily visual surveys on board research boat Matching of sighted dolphins with dolphin catalogue Maintenance of dolphin identification catalogue Identification of marine fauna
Accommodation	Volunteer house

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Dolphins have long held a position of significance within Greek mythology and culture since ancient times, with their strong and intimate bond with humans widely celebrated in artwork, and even on old Greek coins! However, despite their beauty, poise and popularity in modern society, dolphin numbers around the west coast of Greece are only a fragment of what they were a century ago. Currently dolphins face a number of threats including habitat degradation, injury from boats and commercialised fishing equipment, prey depletion caused by overfishing, and noise and health effects resulting from increased in-water pollution rates.

There are still a number of key dolphin populations that inhabit and reproduce in the region, and so the protection of these elegant creatures is paramount. You will become a valued member of a dedicated team, committed to ensuring the conservation of a number of endangered dolphin species. The baseline data you collect will contribute towards the long-term management of the area and assist in promoting marine conservation in the wider Mediterranean region.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

You will be part of a dedicated scientific team focused on the study and conservation of schools of charming, lively dolphins in the beautiful coastal waters of western Greece. Your daily routine will vary according to the particular demands of the project at that time, but typically volunteers will split their time between conducting daily surveys at sea and helping to collate and process this information back at the field base. You will work alongside experienced researchers who will train you comprehensively in data collection and analysis techniques. Each day you will take to sea on board the research boat, where you will actively engage in visual surveys, looking for dolphins, sea turtles and other marine fauna. Once dolphins are sighted you will help to record data on their spatial distribution, group size, composition (i.e. number of newborns, juveniles and adults) and behaviour.

Back at the field base after each survey you will help enter the data collected into the research databases. You will be taught how to correctly prepare digital photos of the dolphins for subsequent identification, and learn how to match these using the natural marks on the fin with the digital catalogue of known individuals. If you're willing to get stuck in and engross yourself in valuable work contributing to the conservation of these charismatic and enchanting species then this project is perfect for you.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

The project is located on the beautiful western Mediterranean coast of Greece. You will fly into Athens where you will then use our easy to follow instructions to make your way to the project site. We will provide you with all the information you need prior to your departure to enable you to plan your journey. Upon arrival at the project site you will be met by a friendly Frontier representative from the research team and taken to your accommodation!

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

During your time on the project you will be staying at our volunteer house located in the village 50m from the seaside with your fellow volunteers and research staff. This house also acts as the field base for conservation efforts so you'll spend the majority of your afternoons here analysing data collected from the morning's survey. Within the house there is a large living room with comfortable sofas for you to relax on after a busy day in the field, an open kitchen with all the facilities you'll need to cook up a feast and a big balcony. You'll sleep in bunk beds in the spacious loft area with the other volunteers. The bunks can be divided by separators to provide you with some privacy, and all

sheets and blankets will be provided. As well as sleeping, the loft can also be used to relax in after the long hours spent at sea and working on dolphin data. If you decide to venture out the house in your spare time, then everything you'll need is within walking distance, including the harbour, supermarkets, bars and banks.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

You will be provided with food as part of this programme. Volunteers typically work together with the research staff to cook and complete all house-keeping duties. Make sure you come prepared with some recipes you're comfortable with cooking for everyone - you may even pick up a new dish or two during your stay to wow your friends and family back at home! Alternatively the local village also offers a choice of inexpensive and traditional restaurants for you to sample authentic Greek and Mediterranean cuisine.

Breakfast will usually consist of Greek yoghurt, cereal and toast, and lunch, salad, cheese, freshly baked pies and bread from the local bakery. Dinner will vary, but normally incorporate pasta, rice, vegetables and seafood or meat. Coffee, tea and fruit juice are available in the house throughout the day and there is safe, drinking water on tap to ensure you stay hydrated.

COSTS

Project fee	US\$ 1,195
Registration fee	US\$ 145

This project runs from June until September only. Student discount available for June and September dates only.

DURATION

6 days

DEPARTURE DATES

2019:

9 June - 15 June

16 June - 22 June

23 June - 29 June

30 June - 6 July

7 July - 13 July

14 July - 20 July

4 August - 10 August

11 August - 17 August

18 August - 24 August

25 August - 31 August

1 September - 7 September

8 September - 14 September

15 September - 21 September

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

- Accommodation
- Food
- Project orientation and training
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Athens (ATH)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Mail us on 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.