



# WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



## Greece Marine Conservation Project



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# TRIP OVERVIEW



## Warwickshire College – Booking Reference 4688

### Travel Dates:

24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

### Flights:

Flight No	Flight Date	Dept.	Dept. Time	Arr.	Arr. Time
LS0927	24/06/2026	Manchester (MAN)	15.00	Kefalonia (EFL)	20.50
LS0928	01/07/2026	Kefalonia (EFL)	21.45	Manchester (MAN)	23.40

\*Always check the flight timings on your final documents

**Baggage Allowance** – 1 piece checked baggage @ 22kgs, 1 piece hand baggage max dimensions 56x45x25 cms

### Project:

Greece Marine Conservation Project

### Trip Cost:

£1695.00 per person

£360.00 deposit

£667.50 Instalment due 04/03/2026

£667.50 Balance due 29/04/2026



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Location and project content

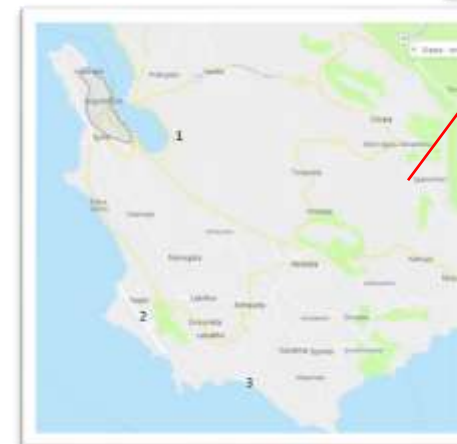


# ABOUT GREECE



## Location

The marine conservation project is based on the island of Kefalonia, the largest island in the Ionian Sea located to the west of mainland Greece and offering dry rugged landscapes and sandy coves. The project base is in the southern part of the island and only 10 minutes from the airport. Argostoli harbour is 30 minutes away; the harbour is one of the key areas for monitoring the sea turtles foraging and social behaviours as well as being the hub of the island.



- 1 – Argostoli Harbour
- 2 – Kefalonia Airport
- 3 – Conservation Base at Minies

# MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECT



## Turtle Conservation

The aim of the programme is to carry out research and conservation efforts to protect Kefalonia's threatened loggerhead sea turtles. You will study and monitor their native coastal habitats in Kefalonia, which are critical for their reproductive success, along with their year-round foraging and migrations. This is a hands-on learning experience in the marine conservation field and provides valued volunteer hours to an endangered species.

### May – Early August

Early morning beach surveys look for turtle tracks to, locate, mark, measure and protect all the nests that were laid the previous night with the aim of protecting the nests from accidental damage and to monitor their progress.

Nest inventories will assess the fate of the eggs and the hatching success of each nest; this maximises the reproductive success of the sea turtle population and allows for monitoring the effects of climate change on the sea turtle.



# MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECT



## Your Conservation Programme

- Beach Profiling
- Daily Harbour Behaviour Study
- Sand Sifting and Beach Cleaning
- Perform health checks
- Drone technology and its uses in conservation
- Coastal Research Project covering erosion and light pollution
- Snorkel Surveys
- Mount Ainos research and visit
- Boat trip to spot turtles utilising drone technology
- Lecture on the Posidonia Meadows

**All students must be able to swim and familiar with snorkelling (even in a pool)**

# MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECT



## Presentations

- Scientific methodology of the programme
- Drone use in conservation
- Climate change and its effects
- Understanding the importance of the work the volunteers undertake and how this supports the programme

## Learning Objectives

- Interpret sea turtle tracks on the sand
- Demonstrate standard scientific methodology used in the field
- Conduct research with the emphasis on Posidonia meadow mapping
- Improve investigating, analysing and problem-solving skills
- Acquire a thorough understanding of standard research practices and conservation principles
- Build teamwork and leadership skills

# MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECT



## Turtle Conservation

The beaches of south Kefalonia have some unique characteristics; seasonal storms shape them dramatically, some seasons entire beaches disappear, while others change morphology with the season. Beach morphology is an important factor for sea turtle nesting. During the nesting season teams are regularly organised to go to all the nesting beaches and record the beach width and slope, this information is used to understand seasonal alterations of the coastal environment in Kefalonia.

Turtles swim in the Bay of Argostoli and the Koutavos Lagoon during the summer (more than 100) and some stay over winter. This gives us a unique opportunity to study their feeding behaviour and their social interactions, which are mostly antagonistic. It also provides an opportunity to perform regular health checks on these turtles. During harbour surveys the turtles are observed and information recorded regarding their foraging and social behaviours. Photographs are taken that will aid in the ID of individuals and provide an understanding of the size and dynamic of the local population. If a turtle at risk is spotted, usually after having swallowed a fishhook, line or plastic, you will help the team capture the turtle and treat it or transport it for further treatment.



## Posidonia Meadows

The seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* is an endemic marine plant unique to the Mediterranean Sea that provides multiple ecosystem services such as increasing biodiversity, transparent waters, white sand beaches, oxygen and helps to palliate global warming by acting as an important carbon sink. *Posidonia* meadows are vulnerable and fragile habitats that are declining in the Mediterranean Sea.



## Mount Ainos

Covering more than 12000 hectares, Mount Ainos was declared a national park in 1962, the mountain rises 1628 metres above sea level. Providing numerous trails that offer stunning views of the island you can see a wide variety of plants and trees including the rare black pine of Kefalonia (*Abies Caphalonica*) plus the opportunity to spot varieties of reptiles, tortoise and peregrine falcons.



# YOUR PROJECT



## Sample Itinerary – 7 Night Programme

- Arrive in Kefalonia, check in to your accommodation
- Orientation, Nesting training lecture, harbour training presentation, snorkel practice at beach, afternoon sea turtle biology presentation and evening sea grass ecology and fish ID presentation
- Snorkel survey and Harbour survey, evening presentation on drone use in conservation and workshop
- Nesting beach survey, nest checks and beach clean followed by snorkel survey and evening climate change talk
- Snorkel survey and harbour survey, evening coastal clean up
- Nesting beach survey, nest checks and beach clean followed by snorkel survey
- Snorkel survey and Harbour survey, evening shift review and summary
- Morning free then depart for home

**It's important to remember that wildlife does not work to an agenda, therefore activities may change at short notice!  
All activities are also seasonal and subject to availability**





# LIFESTYLE & ACCOMMODATION

Life in Greece



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



## Accommodation

Astra Village Hotel is a friendly family run hotel located close to the sea turtle conservation centre.

Rooms are shared 2-4 people per room with a shared bathroom.

There is free internet access and the hotel has a rooftop pool for you to enjoy during any free time.

## Food at the Project

The restaurant will provide breakfast, dinner and a packed lunch each day.

## Dietary Requirements

Provision can be made for Vegetarian & Vegan diets and for those who have a medical condition such as Coeliac disease that requires a Gluten Free Diet and for those with severe allergies to dairy, eggs or nuts.





# USEFUL INFORMATION

Details on what's included, kit  
list



# WHAT'S INCLUDED



## What is Included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- ATOL protection
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support



## NOT Included

- Personal Travel Insurance \*
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visas/travel documents
- Tips

\* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

## Suggested kit list

To allow for ease of transfer to the project a soft holdall/ soft suitcase is preferred.

- Short and long sleeve T-shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (or work/zip-off trousers)
- Long sleeve shirts for sun protection/cold
- Dark clothing for night nesting beach surveys
- Beach sandals
- Trainers
- Hiking boots/comfortable walking shoes to work in every day
- Waterproof jacket
- Sweatshirt/Fleece
- Socks
- Underwear
- Change of casual clothes for evenings
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Hat for sun protection (all year)
- Daypack rucksack
- Beach Towel
- Swimwear
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Flashlight/Torch (red light)

### Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Power bank
- Waterproof bag for phone/camera
- Water shoes

\* All work clothes should be neutral or earth tones whilst at the project.  
**No skimpy/revealing or brightly-coloured clothing to be worn.**



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