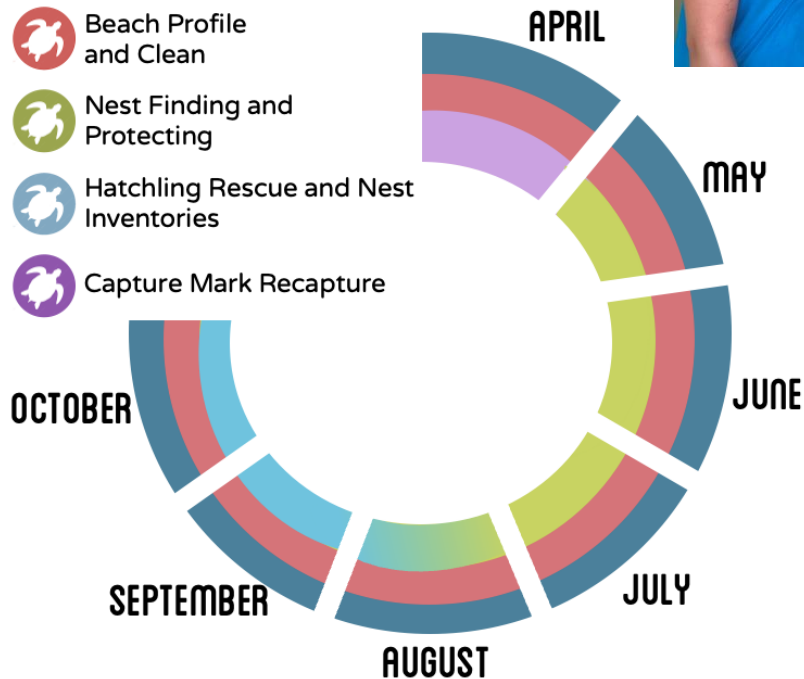


Argostoli Field Station

Sample Volunteer Schedules



-  Harbour Patrols
-  Beach Profile and Clean
-  Nest Finding and Protecting
-  Hatchling Rescue and Nest Inventories
-  Capture Mark Recapture



These sample rotas illustrate the possible schedules and activity rotations you may experience during your two-week volunteer programme. Please note that the rotas vary depending on the Field Station location and seasonal differences, as shown in the chart below.

Your days off may differ from those shown in the sample rotas. Typically, you will have one day off during your first week and two days off per week thereafter, unless you plan to travel early on your departure date.

If you would like to take part in a shift on one of your days off, please let us know as early as possible so we can try to accommodate your request within the rota.



Argostoli Hatching Season pt.1



Late-July through early October
(dependent on hatching activity)

Harbour

You will observe turtles and record information regarding their foraging and social behaviours. You will also take photos that will be used in our photo-ID catalogue to aid in the identification of individual turtles and in the understanding of the size and dynamics of the local population. If a turtle under risk is spotted, usually due to fishing hooks and lines or plastics, you will help our team capture the turtle and treat it or transport it for further examination and treatment.

Optional Activities

We like to have evenings together, whether it's a souvlaki night, organise a pizza takeaway or run a volleyball tournament. It's a great time for you to socialize outside of sea turtle activities and get to know the rest of the team.

Public Awareness

Our public awareness shift engages tourists in learning about sea turtles, from their life cycle and nesting habits to the importance of our local population. We highlight the key threats they face, including pollution, habitat disturbance, and human activity. Visitors are encouraged to take simple, responsible actions such as keeping beaches clean and respecting nesting areas to help reduce these impacts.

Hatchling Rescue

The team will place a box around the nests and check them every hour throughout the night to see if any hatchlings have emerged. If hatchlings are present during a check, they are carried to a dark part of the beach where the team will let them crawl to the sea and swim away on their own.

Beach Profile

Beach morphology is an important factor for sea turtle nesting. We regularly organise teams that 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.

Evening Harbour

Patrol the harbour to see what turtles can be spotted during the evenings and where exactly they like to spend their time. We know the regions they frequent in the mornings but now it's time to explore the evening.

Nest Inventories

We conduct nest inventories to assess the fate of every egg and the hatching success of each nest.

Morning Survey

You will check the beach for hatching tracks and record their origin and orientation. Occasionally, in the early mornings, you will come across newly emerged hatchlings crawling to the sea, which you will observe until they make it safely to the sea. After a nest has hatched completely, you will conduct nest inventories to assess its hatching success and other parameters.

Training

To make sure everyone is prepared to conduct research. A certain amount of training is provided. This will bring everyone to the same starting point in their sea turtle conservation adventure.

Beach Clean

Record and collect litter, identifying the material type, submitting the data to the NOAA database



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MORNING (~05:00-12:00)		10:45-13:16:00 TRAINING: - Ice breaker - Harbour - Morning Survey	6:15-10:30 Morning Survey	10:30 – 12:00 Harbour	20:00-07:30 Hatchling Rescue	DAY OFF	6:15-10:30 Morning Survey
AFTERNOON (~12:01-16:00)							
EVENING (~16:01-20:00)	18:30-19:30 TRAINING: - Orientation (if you do not arrive in time for this, don't worry, you'll be caught up later in the day or Monday)	16:30-18:00 TRAINING: - Bike safety - Beach profile - Sand sifting - GPS Talk/Game - Beach Demos	18:30-19:30 TRAINING: - Sea turtle biology and conservation in the Mediterranean		18:30-20:00 Evening Harbour		18:30– 20:00 Beach Profile
NIGHT (~20:01-05:00)	~Optional~ Pizza	~Optional~ Beach Rounders	~Optional~ Quiz Night	20:00-07:30 Hatchling Rescue	~Optional~ Movie Night		~Optional~ Souvlaki Night

WEEK 1

Argostoli Hatching

(Pt. 1 – Late July through Early October)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
MORNING (~06:00-12:00)	09:30 – 12:30 Harbour	07:30-10:30 Harbour	DAY OFF	06:00-10:30 Morning Survey	DAY OFF	09:30-12:30 Harbour	20:00-07:30 Hatchling Rescue	DEPART	
AFTERNOON (~12:01-16:00)		~Optional Presentation~ Drone technology and photo ID use in conservation		~Optional Presentation~ WS Statistics Presentation		~Optional Presentation~ The role of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> in the Mediterranean	~Optional Presentation~ Kefalonian Bird & Seal Presentation		
EVENING (~16:01-20:00)	18:30-20:00 Beach Clean			19:00-20:00 Public Awareness		18:30-19:00 Nest Inventory	14:00-15:00 Data Entry		18:30-20:00 Beach Profile
NIGHT (~20:01-05:00)	~Optional~ Quiz Night	~Optional~ Volleyball Tournament		~Optional~ Henna Night		20:00-07:30 Hatchling Rescue	~Optional~ Turtle Bingo		~Optional~ Scavenger Hunt

WEEK 2

Argostoli Hatching

(Pt. 1 – Late July through Early October)