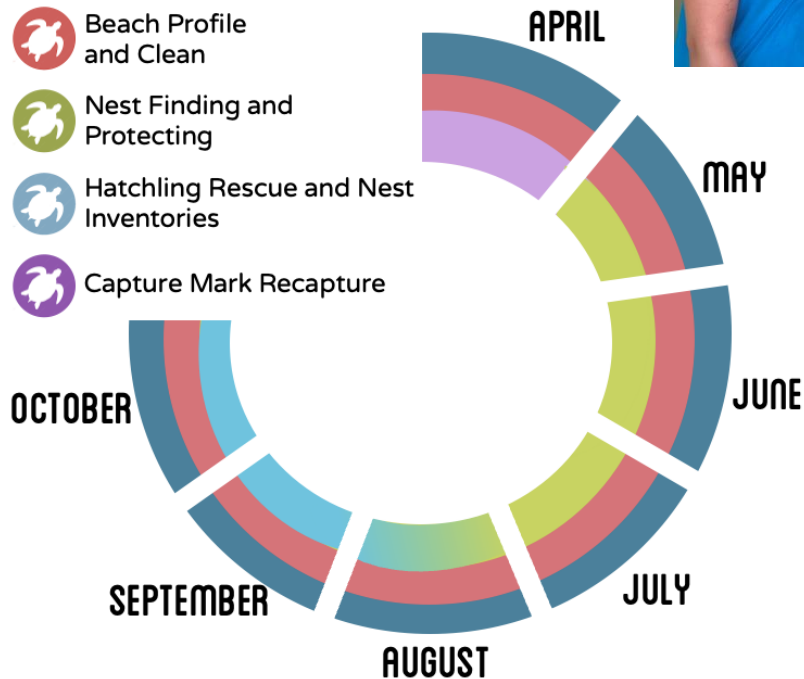


Argostoli Field Station

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.2



Early to mid October through November
(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.

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.

Sea Turtle Tagging

You will observe sea turtles in the Argostoli Harbour and Lagoon alongside our research team and drone operator. During each session, turtles are carefully captured, measured, and tagged as part of an ongoing conservation and monitoring program.

You will assist by helping to safely restrain the turtles and support the data-recording process; however, tagging is carried out exclusively by trained staff. Injuries and health conditions are also documented, with treatment provided when necessary.

The data collected contributes to our understanding of local sea turtle population dynamics and supports the maintenance of a valuable long-term monitoring dataset.

Nest Inventories

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

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.

Beach Clean

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

Morning Survey

You will check the beach for hatchling 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.

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.



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MORNING (~07:00-12:00)		10:45-13:16:00 TRAINING: - Ice breaker - Harbour Talk - Hatching Talk	07:30 – 10:00 Morning Survey	DAY OFF	08:15 – 11:00 Sea Turtle Tagging	DAY OFF	08:00-10:30 Harbour
AFTERNOON (~12:01-16:00)							14:00-15:00 Data Entry
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	13:30-14:30 TRAINING: - Sea turtle biology and conservation in the Mediterranean 17:30-18:45 Beach Clean		17:30-18:45 Harbour Survey		
NIGHT (~20:01-05:00)	~Optional~ Pizza	~Optional~ Beach Rounders	~Optional~ Quiz Night		~Optional~ Movie Night		~Optional~ Souvlaki

WEEK 1
Argostoli Hatching
(Pt. 2 – Early to mid October through November)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MORNING (~07:00-12:00)	06:00-09:00 Morning Survey	08:00-10:30 Harbour	DAY OFF	07:30-10:00 Morning Survey	DAY OFF	08:15 – 11:00 Sea Turtle Tagging	07:30-10:00 Morning Survey	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)	17:00-18:30 Beach Profile			17:30-19:00 Beach Clean		17:30-19:00 Nest Inventory	17:30-19:00 Evening Harbour	
NIGHT (~20:01-05:00)	~Optional~ Sunset Swim	~Optional~ Volleyball Tournament		~Optional~ Henna Night		~Optional~ Scavenger Hunt	~Optional~ Turtle Bingo	

WEEK 2
Argostoli Hatching
(Pt. 2 – Early to mid October through November)