



# Skala Field Station

## Sample Volunteer Schedule



You will spend most of your time exploring the seagrass meadows and studying the extensive dune systems of southwestern Kefalonia. While surveying these habitats, you will observe the species that inhabit them, create topographical profiles, and assess the environmental pressures affecting both ecosystems. In addition, you will take part in drone-based monitoring of sea turtle nesting beaches, helping to identify nesting activity and, where appropriate, observing nest protection efforts as part of ongoing conservation work.



The information collected during fieldwork will later be sorted and analysed during afternoon data-entry sessions. You will also help keep Kefalonia's beaches free from litter and debris, while taking part in drone surveys and reviewing imagery collected during each flight.



As much of the programme involves snorkelling-based fieldwork, daily schedules are highly dependent on weather and sea conditions. To ensure both participant safety and the best possible survey conditions, activities and timings may be adjusted at short notice. The sample rota provides an overview of the activities and schedule rotations that you may experience during your two-week volunteer programme. Please note that this schedule is intended as an example for an individual participant and does not represent the rota for the entire field station. All schedules are indicative and may vary depending on seasonal factors, weather conditions, and project priorities.



Your days off may differ from those shown in the sample rota. You will have two days off per week. There will also be free time each day and on most evenings, giving you the opportunity to relax or join optional activities such as film nights, quizzes, and other social activities.



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## Nesting Beach Drone Survey

Conducted during sunrise, assisting staff in surveying sea turtle nesting beaches by drone and identifying potential nests. Data is shared with the National Park.

## Sand Dune Habitat Survey

Identifying and counting plant species that are present in the sand dune ecosystem, using quadrats placed along transect intervals.

## Beach Clean Survey

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

## Light Pollution Survey

Overnight survey conducted during moonless hours, collecting data on artificial light pollution that is present on sea turtle nesting beaches at night. Understanding the level of light pollution can help us use mitigating measures to reduce artificial light at night.

## Seagrass Snorkel Surveys

Conducted in the morning or evening. Snorkel over seagrass meadows off Mounda and Skala beach, collecting geotagged photos of the seafloor.

## Beach Profile Survey

Measure how the beach slope changes from sea to the dunes, collecting a dataset that is used to analyze longer term erosion or deposition across the beaches.

## Beach Survey Data Entry

Entering the data collected during surveys into long term databases

## Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat Exploration

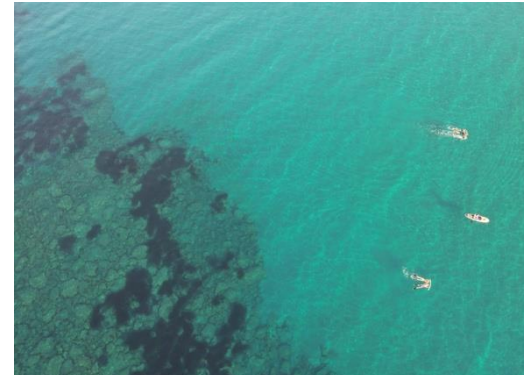
Explore beaches to locate and protect sea turtle nests. You will walk along the shoreline searching for turtle tracks, then locate, mark, measure, and protect these nests to support ongoing conservation efforts in collaboration with the National Park.

## Optional Activities

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

## Photo Classification

Classifying the photos collected from the seagrass snorkel survey, identifying the substrate and seagrass species. These are then mapped using QGIS to understand species coverage.



	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
MORNING		09:00-12:00 <b>TRAINING:</b> Ice breaker Sand Dune Research Practice snorkel (in-water)	07:30-09:30 <b>Seagrass Snorkel Survey</b>	<b>DAY OFF</b>	06:30-08:30 <b>Drone Survey</b>	07:30-09:30 <b>Seagrass Snorkel Survey</b>	<b>DAY OFF</b>
AFTERNOON/ EVENING		12:30-15:30 <b>TRAINING:</b> GPS Training Posidonia Research	14:00 – 15:00 <b>Beach Survey Data Entry</b>		11:45-13:00 <b>Photo Classification</b>	13:45-14:45 <b>Workshop</b>	
		16:30-18:00 <b>TRAINING:</b> Bike Safety Data entry and photo classification	17:30 – 19:00 <b>Beach Clean Survey</b>  19:00-20:30 <b>Turtle Nesting Habitat Exploration</b>		17:00-19:00 <b>Sand Dune Habitat Survey</b>	17:00 – 19:00 <b>Beach Profile Survey</b>	
NIGHT	19:00-20:00 <b>TRAINING</b> Orientation Snorkel Safety		~Optional~ <b>Movie Night</b>	~Optional~ <b>Souvlaki Night</b>	~Optional~ <b>Sunset Swim</b>		

**WEEK 1**  
Skala Field Station

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
MORNING	05:30 – 07:30 <b>Beach Clean Survey</b>	~21:00 – ~06:00 <b>Light Pollution Survey</b>	<b>DAY OFF</b>	06:30-08:30 <b>Drone Survey</b> 09:30-11:00 <b>Seagrass Snorkel Survey</b>	<b>DAY OFF</b>	07:30-09:30 <b>Seagrass Snorkel Survey</b>	05:30-09:30 <b>Sand Dune Habitat survey</b>	<b>DEPART</b>
AFTERNOON/ EVENING	15:00-16:15 <b>Photo Classification</b>	~Optional~ Presentation: <b>Understanding Data Collection</b>		~Optional~ Presentation: <b>Seagrass Mapping</b>		15:00-16:15 <b>Beach Survey Data Entry</b>  Workshop: <b>Sea Turtles and Nesting: Comparing Remote and Urban Beaches</b>	~Optional~ Presentation: <b>Kefalonian Bird &amp; Seal Presentation</b>  15:00-16:15 <b>Workshop</b>	
		18:30-20:30 <b>Turtle Nesting Habitat Exploration</b>		17:30-19:00 <b>Sand Dune Habitat Survey</b>		17:30-19:00 <b>Beach Clean Survey</b>		
NIGHT	~21:00 – ~06:00 <b>Light Pollution Survey</b>	~Optional~ <b>Quiz Night</b>	~Optional~ <b>Games Night</b>	~Optional~ <b>Henna Night</b>	~Optional~ <b>Group Meal Out</b>			

**WEEK 2**  
Skala Field Station