



Svoronata 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. You will also participate in bird surveys, helping to identify and record local species. In addition, you will survey sea turtle nesting beaches, locating and protecting nests as part of ongoing conservation efforts.



The information collected during fieldwork will later be sorted and analysed during afternoon data-entry sessions. In addition, you will help keep Kefalonia's beaches free from litter and debris through regular beach-clean surveys.



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 and quizzes.



Svoronata Field Station



Bird Survey

Conduct surveys of coastal bird species in Kefalonia, contributing observations to Cornell University's eBird platform and Ainos National Park databases. The work records travelling, stationary, and incidental sightings across the island to track species status and behavioural trends over time. It also develops advanced identification skills for determining species, age, sex, and condition, while producing annual standardized checklists documenting bird populations on the island.

Bird and Beach Survey Data Entry

Entering the data collected during surveys into long term databases.

Marine Debris Monitoring

Record and collect anthropogenic marine debris at designated beach sites and subsequently submit the data to NOAA's Marine Debris tracker, a citizen science initiative.

Seagrass Snorkel Surveys

Evaluate snorkel survey data previously collected in the field to assess and classify images of the sea floor and sea grass coverage using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software and techniques.

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.

Sand Dune Habitat Survey

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

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.

Turtle Nesting Habitat Exploration

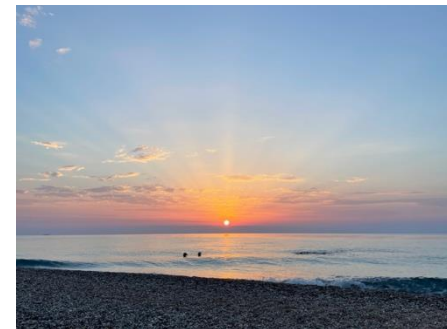
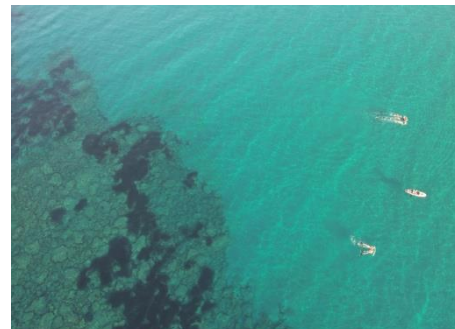
Explore remote beaches by boat to locate and protect sea turtle nests. Departing early morning, you will walk along the shoreline searching for turtle tracks, then locate, mark, measure, and protect these nests to support ongoing conservation efforts.

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.

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.



| | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| MORNING (~07:00-12:00) | | 7:30 – 12:30 TRAINING: Practice snorkel (in-water) Snorkel presentation. Coastal Species Identification | 07:15 – 09:15 Sand Dune Habitat Survey | 05:30 – 07:30 Bird Survey | DAY OFF | DAY OFF | 07:15 – 09:15 Seagrass Snorkel Survey |
| AFTERNOON (~12:01-16:00) | | 13:30-16:00 TRAINING: Bird survey Beach profile survey Beach clean survey Beach demos | 14:30 – 16:00 Beach Survey Data Entry | 14:30 – 16:00 Photo Classification | | | 14:30 – 15:15 Bird Survey Data Entry |
| EVENING (~16:01-20:00) | 18:15-20:00 Orientation Snorkel Safety | | 18:00 – 20:00 Sea grass Snorkel Survey | 18:30 – 19:15 Marine Debris Monitoring and Beach Profile Survey | | | 18:30 – 19:15 Sand Dune Habitat Survey |
| NIGHT (~20:01-07:00) | | ~Optional~ Quiz Night | | ~Optional~ Smoers Night | | | ~Optional~ Souvlaki Night |

WEEK 1
Svoronata Field Station

| | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------|----------------|---|---|--|---------------|
| MORNING (~07:00-12:00) | 05:40 – 07:30 Bird Survey | 07:15 – 09:15 Seagrass Snorkel Survey | DAY OFF | DAY OFF | 06:30 – 13:00 Turtle Nesting Habitat Exploration | 07:30 – 09:00 Sand Dune Habitat Survey | 07:15 – 09:15 Seagrass Snorkel Survey | DEPART |
| AFTERNOON (~12:01-16:00) | 14:30 – 16:00 Beach Survey Data Entry ~Optional~ Presentation: Understanding Data Collection | 14:30 – 15:15 Bird Survey Data Entry ~Optional~ Presentation: Seagrass Mapping | | | ~Optional~ Presentation: Kefalonian Bird & Seal Presentation | 14:30 – 16:00 Photo Classification Workshop: Sea Turtles and Nesting: Comparing Remote and Urban Beaches | 16:00-17:00 Periodic Fauna and Biodiversity Review (data review) | |
| EVENING (~16:01-20:00) | 18:30 – 19:15 Marine Debris Monitoring | | | | 18:00 – 20:00 Sand Dune Habitat Survey | 18:30 – 19:15 Marine Debris Monitoring | 18:30 – 20:00 Bird Survey | |
| NIGHT (~20:01-07:00) | ~Optional~ Henna Design | 21:00 – 01:00 Light pollution Survey | | | ~Optional~ Movie Night | ~Optional~ Scavenger Hunt | | |

WEEK 2
Svoronata Field Station