

# 2024 PROJECTS



**ARCHELON**  
The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece








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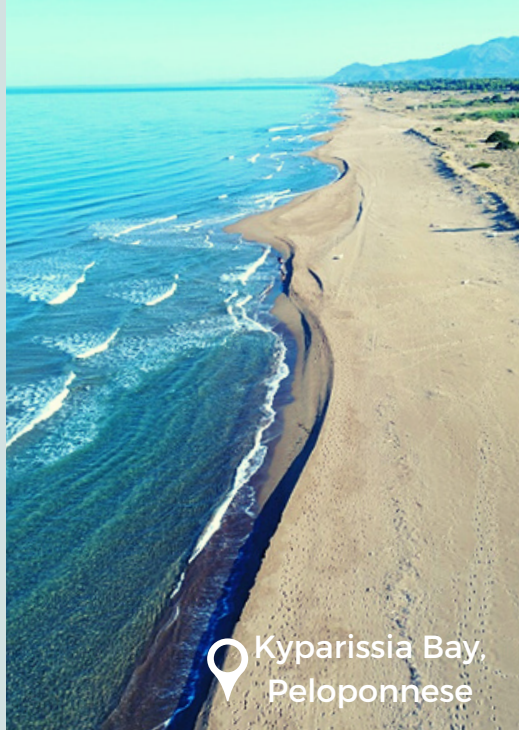
Is this summer your turn to  
save sea turtles?

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 Zakynthos,  
Laganas Bay



 Kyparissia Bay,  
Peloponnese



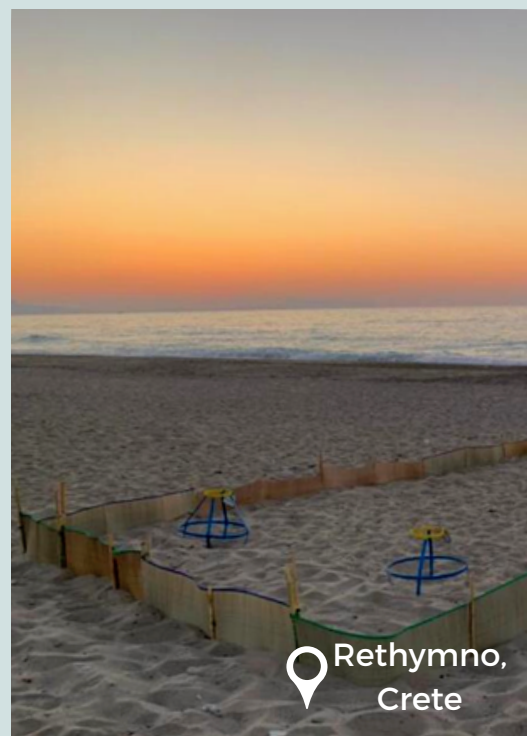
 Lakonikos Bay,  
Peloponnese




 Koroni,  
Peloponnese



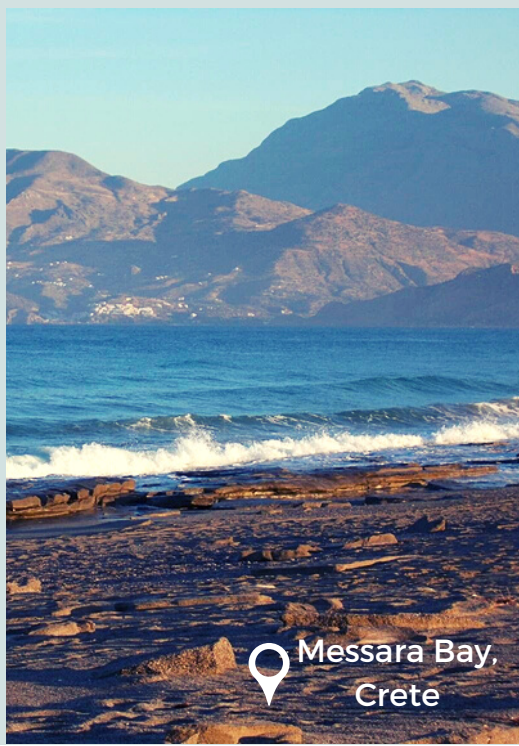
 Amvrakikos  
Gulf,  
West Greece



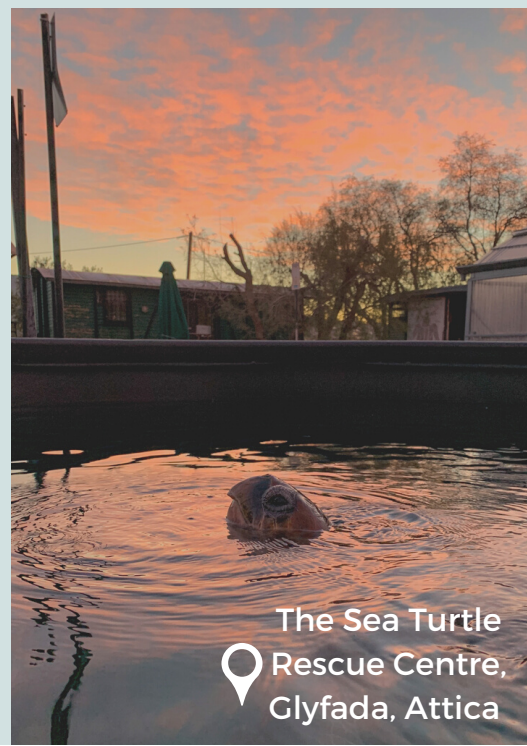
 Rethymno,  
Crete




 Chania  
Crete



 Messara Bay,  
Crete



 The Sea Turtle  
Rescue Centre,  
Glyfada, Attica





# 1. ZAKYNTHOS

Be part of a challenging project with long walks on these famous beaches for morning and evening observations. There are 6 nesting beaches in Laganas Bay, with a total length of 5,5 km, where one of the largest breeding populations of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the Mediterranean lays an average of 1200 nests every year.

Zakynthos is one of the best places to gain experience with several challenges for sea turtle conservation. We protect turtles, nests, and hatchlings, while at the same time, many thousands of visitors use the beaches and the hotels/restaurants nearby and take turtle spotting tours. Habitat conservation/ nest protection protocols and public awareness actions are implemented every year in order to keep this population of sea turtles going.

ARCHELON has been monitoring nesting activity there since 1983 and continues to do so in collaboration with the National Marine Park of Zakynthos, which was established in 1999. The impact of the project is very significant in terms of conservation, but also in terms of public awareness, monitoring of threats and the degree of compliance with existing regulations.

In 2024 this Field station will accommodate 55 volunteers at max at any given time, who will share in rotation the sea turtle monitoring and public awareness/ fundraising tasks every week. You will be spending time in an area of outstanding natural beauty with crystal blue waters, sandy beaches, and wooded hills and there are many interesting things to see and do on the island in your free time. Volunteers stay in tents in a private campground in Kalitero near the town of Zakynthos and usually cook meals together as a group.

**Duration:** 10 MAY to 15 OCTOBER.

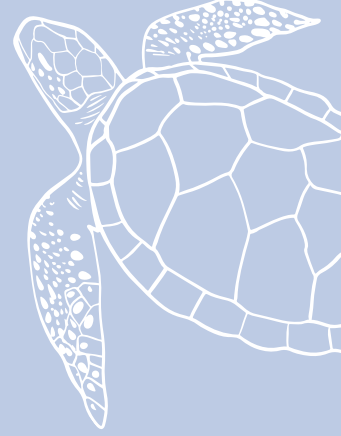
**Min. stay :** 4 weeks

**Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship opportunities**



# 2.

## KYPARISSIA BAY



A great chance to get involved with long term scientific monitoring, active conservation and community outreach in this major loggerhead nesting destination in the Mediterranean!

In Kyparissia Bay, the number of nests recorded annually ranges from 3,000 to 4,500. It has been steadily increasing in the last decade, due to protection against predators and other measures. So be prepared for a lot of physical work.

Kyparissia Bay is located on the west coast of the Peloponnese. Monitoring of sea turtle nesting in the south part of the Bay (10 km) began in 1984 and has consequently expanded to cover about 40 km. The project includes morning and evening observations, nest protection and public awareness activities.

Here you will experience one of the most undisturbed coastal ecosystems in Greece. Ancient Olympia and many natural attractions can be reached in your free time.

The project operates with about 45-50 volunteers at any given time. The Field station and the sleeping and cooking facilities are within an organized camping in Giannitsochori.

**Duration:** 10 MAY to 30 SEPTEMBER.

**Min. stay:** 4 weeks

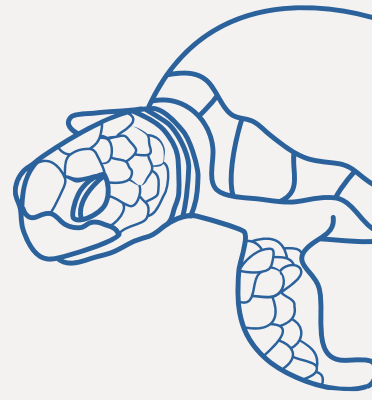
***Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship opportunities***





# 3.

## LAKONIKOS BAY



Your presence will be essential for sea turtle survival on these beaches. The project is trying to build collaboration with local businesses for habitat conservation and is often involved in rescuing injured sea turtles which unfortunately are reported in the area.

Lakonikos Bay is located on the southeastern side of the Peloponnese. The beaches of Mavrovouni, Valtaki, Selinitza, Vathi, as well as the 15km beach of Evrotas, host an average of 200 nests every year. In the sea we often meet both the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), but the green turtle has not been found nesting there.

Here is the opportunity to participate in a small team of 15-25 volunteers and monitor the reproductive activity with morning observations and protect nests and hatchlings. The team operates a seasonal Information Station and organizes presentations and beach awareness campaigns. The Field station is located within in a well organized campsite in Mavrovouni.

**Duration:** 25 MAY to 25 SEPTEMBER.

**Min. stay:** 4 weeks

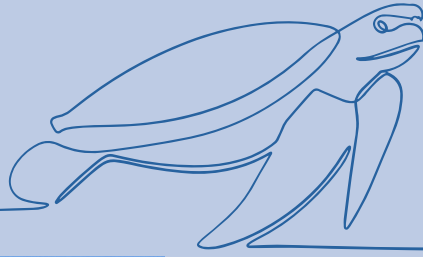
**Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship opportunities**





# 4.

# KORONI



Here is your opportunity to ensure that a small sea turtle population will continue to exist in the years to come, especially in the face of climate change.

Koroni and the adjacent Zanga - Memi beach are found about 50 km from the city of Kalamata, in south Peloponnese and host on average 46 nests per year.

You will be monitoring the reproductive activity in the 2.7 km long beach with morning surveys and protect nests and hatchlings. A seasonal Information Station is usually set up in the town square from where volunteers conduct public awareness and fund raising campaigns.

The team of 10-15 volunteers stays in an organized campsite in the town of Koroni, famous for its Venetian castle and the golden sandy beaches that surround it.

**Duration:** 2 JUNE to 15 SEPTEMBER.

**Min. stay:** 4 weeks

***Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship options***





# 5.

## RETHYMNO



Get involved in the challenge of maintaining the loggerhead sub-population of Crete! This project deals with the conservation of the busiest nesting beach on Crete, which is about 11 km long and hosts about 350 loggerhead nests per year.

The coast of Rethymno is a busy tourist destination renowned for its beautiful sandy beaches and well-developed services for visitors. Unfortunately, tourist activities result in decreased space for turtles on the beach and the need for protection of sea turtles in this area is imperative.

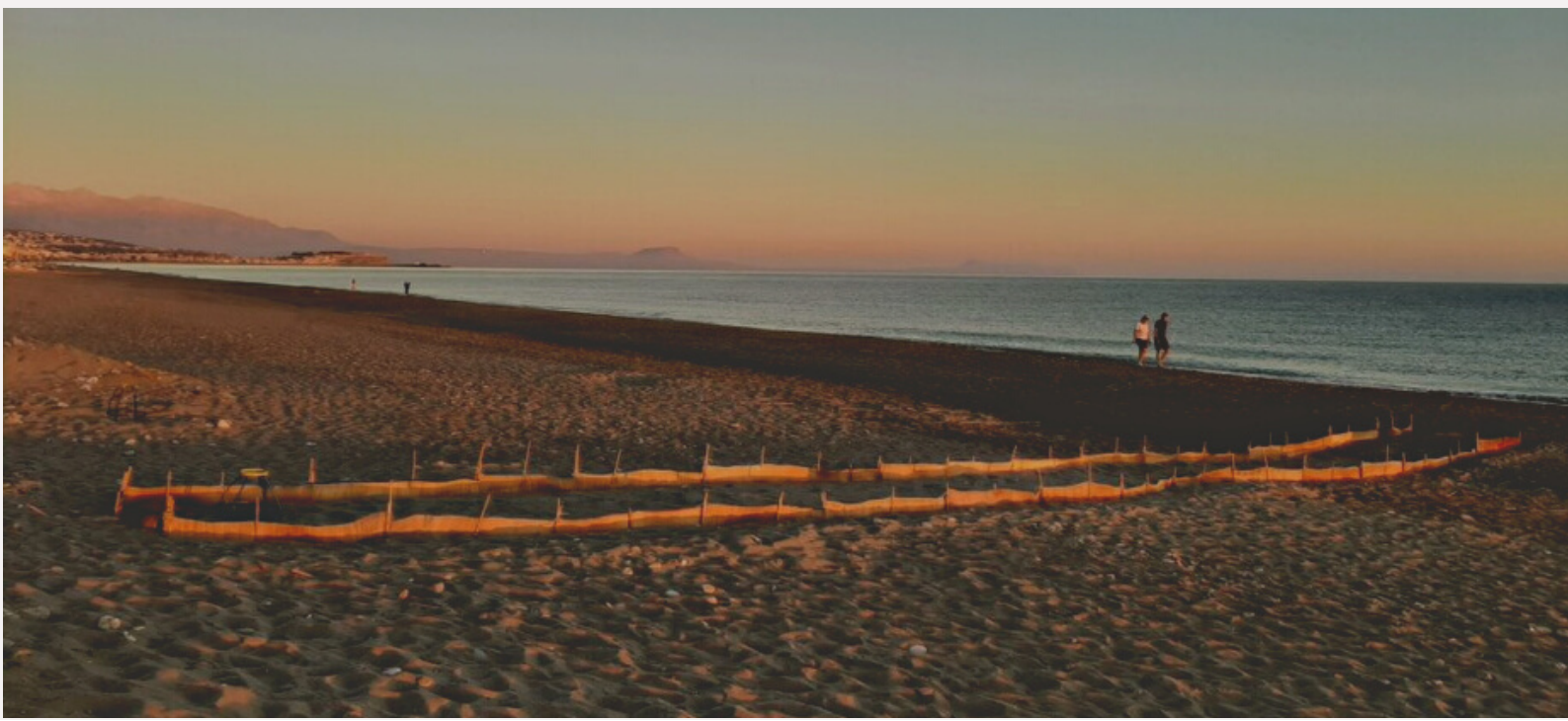
You will be implementing practical solutions for the conservation of the coastal zone and the sea turtles, promoting a sustainable scheme for tourism. There will be morning and night beach surveys as well as public awareness and fundraising activities.

The team of 20-40 volunteers is based in an organized campsite in Missiria village.

**Duration:** 10 MAY to 12 OCTOBER

**Min. stay:** 4 weeks

***Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship options***





# 6.

# CHANIA



A great chance to get involved in the challenge of maintaining the loggerhead sub-population of Crete. This project deals with the conservation of several small beaches, totaling 13 km in length, which are particularly popular during the summer months. The beaches host on average 100 loggerhead nests each year, but a steady decrease in numbers of nests has been noted over the last decade.

The bay of Chania is located in northern Crete and it is an important tourist destination with beautiful landscapes and beaches. Unfortunately tourism activities have reduced the chances for successful nesting activity on the beaches. The need for protection of sea turtle reproduction in this area is imperative and the challenge is how not to lose heart in dealing with the conservation issues on the beach and at sea.

You will be implementing practical solutions for the conservation of the coastal zone and the sea turtles and promoting a sustainable scheme for tourism. Tasks include morning beach surveys as well as public awareness and fundraising activities. A team of 10-30 volunteers is based in an organized campsite in Daratsos village,

**Duration:** 20 MAY to 4 OCTOBER

**Min. stay:** 4 weeks

**Check out the special categories: for Field Leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship options**





# 7.

## MESSARA BAY



This project in the bay of Messara takes care of about 50 nests of loggerhead sea turtles every summer and in 2019 became the first place to observe a female green turtle nesting in Greece, ever!

Located in southern Crete, 65 km from the city of Heraklion, the nesting beaches in Messara Bay have a total length of 8 km. The naturalness and the beauty of the coast is noteworthy while buildings and tourist pressure can be observed only in a few places.

There has been relative success in the implementation of a few measures for the protection of nests in the last few years, but efforts need to be continued every year to ensure the long term conservation of sea turtles in this area.

Volunteers carry out morning beach surveys and run a seasonal information station in Matala, famous for their painted caves by the hippies in the '70s. The team of 20-25 volunteers will use the Municipality Camping for accommodation.

**Duration:** 31 MAY to 30 SEPTEMBER **Min. stay:** 4 weeks

***Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Internship options***



# 8.

## AMVRAKIKOS

A great opportunity to get hands on experience in the capture and recapture techniques for studying sea turtles population dynamics in Amvrakikos Gulf and explore new beaches for nests.

Amvrakikos is a relatively shallow and semi-enclosed marine area located in the Ionian Sea in northwestern Greece. You will be part of a small team of volunteers who will get out with a dinghy boat in the Gulf every day, collect and record data on sea turtles. You will receive training on how to safely and efficiently capture the turtles, take the measurements and then return them to the sea so that neither they nor you are overly stressed.

**Duration:** 29 JUNE to 31 AUGUST

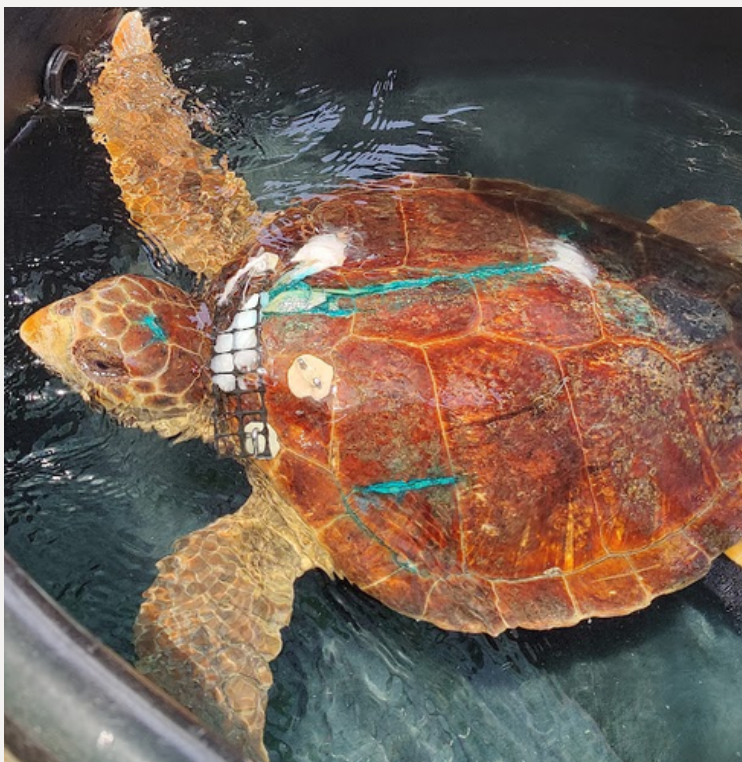
only 1 specific participation period available

***Check out the special categories for field leaders and Internship options***





# 9. The Sea Turtle Rescue Centre



At ARCHELON's Rescue Centre we receive, treat and rehabilitate injured and sick sea turtles from all over Greece and offer educational activities to schools and visitors.

This is one of the best places to have hands on experience in sea turtle rescue operations, treatments and releases.

It is a busy project where a team of 6-8 volunteers takes care of the turtles, keeps the tanks and other spaces clean, talks to visitors and keeps a small shop with souvenirs. Training and supervision in all tasks is provided by experienced staff.

The impact of the project has been growing, with 70 turtles per year reaching the Centre and more than 50% of them successfully rehabilitated and released.

The Rescue Centre is located in Glyfada, close to Athens, with a sandy beach next to it. There is lots of things to do in your free time. Accommodation is organized in the Centre and in an apartment easily accessible by public transport,

The Rescue Centre operates all year round.

**Min. stay:** 5 weeks - **Max. stay:** 24 weeks

***Check out the special categories for Rehabilitation Assistants, Part- time volunteers & Internship options***









# 2024 PROJECTS

**Overview Projects and Fees**

**Special Categories of Volunteers**

**Internship and Research Opportunities**



**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

**APPLY ONLINE**

**[www.archelon.gr](http://www.archelon.gr)**