



10 Days

Greece

Caretta Caretta Conservation

Since 1983, the primary objective of ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece has been to protect the sea turtles and their habitats in Greece through monitoring and research, developing and implementing management plans, habitat restoration, raising public awareness and rehabilitating sick and injured turtles back into the wild. There are three types of sea turtles in the Mediterranean, only one of these, the *Caretta caretta*, nests in Greece. Join the team in Greece and help support loggerhead turtle conservation by surveying nests and learning about how the turtles need our support at this crucial time.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Athens

Fly from the UK to Athens then transfer to the South Peloponnese region stopping for a leg stretch halfway at the Corinth canal. This canal connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. It cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth and separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland. It is an incredible feat of engineering!

Day
2-8

Turtle conservation work

Throughout our stay on the South Peloponnese, we shall be volunteering with the sea turtle conservation team. The conservation lasts around 3-4 hours each day, so there is plenty of time to relax, explore and understand this beautiful part of the world. This region has some superb beaches stretching for just over 8kms and has become an important nesting site for loggerhead turtles which have, unfortunately, become threatened by overdevelopment, unsustainable fishing practices and pollution. As part of this Peloponnese turtle conservation holiday you'll be monitoring and helping to protect nesting sites as well as raising awareness in the local community and gathering info under the guidance of a tour leader and other members of the sea turtle protection society. The exact activities you will undertake will vary depending on the season your visit is conducted in, but examples include:

During nesting season (mid-May – mid August):

- Morning surveys to look for adult turtle tracks, locate nests, relocate threatened nests, enclose and mark them to protect them from human activity and predation by mammals. During nesting season and depending on the project it is likely that you will be able to join the team in night surveys where they observe and tag nesting females. Of course, sightings can't be guaranteed!

During hatching season (mid July – end of October):

- Morning surveys to look for baby turtle tracks and locate nests, marking of hatching nests and dealing with any hatchlings that are still on the beach.
- Shading of the nests to protect the hatchlings from disorientation.
- Excavations of hatched nests to determine the hatching success.





Throughout each period the group can also conduct public awareness work such as:

- Beach patrols where we inform beach users how to behave on the nesting beaches in order not to harm the nests.
- Safe guarding of nesting beaches at night to prevent people from entering the beaches and therefore disturbing the turtles.
- Running of information kiosk for tourists and locals.
- Giving slide shows and conducting Information Tables at hotels.

Additional conservation work that can be conducted on the nest sites includes:

- Conducting beach clean ups (always really beneficial)
- Collection of bamboo to construct nest protection
- Construction of wooden boxes for injured turtles
- Maintenance of equipment used

Activities are tailored for each purpose, therefore groups may be divided into different working parties if requirements for each conservation activity dictates a working limit.

Day
9

Sea Kayaking

Today being our last full day in Greece it's time to let our hair down and have a bit of an adventure. With a two to two and a half hour sea kayak exploration and time to swim and snorkel in this rich marine environment, it will certainly be a day to remember and an excellent way to finish off our Greek adventure. Who knows, we may see a turtle whilst kayaking! At the end of the day we have our final farewell dinner in a cosy local Greek tavern.

Day
10

Returning to UK

Taking our transfer back to Athens airport, we check in for our flight home to tell stories of how we made a small but important contribution to helping to save the turtles!

Further information

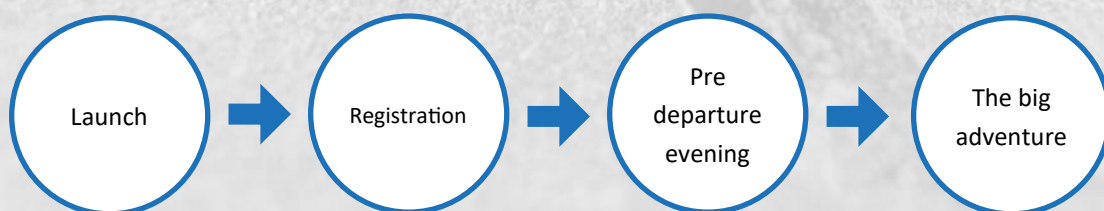
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:

● ● ○ ○ ○ 2/5

Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Culture shock rating:

● ● ○ ○ ○ 2/5

Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western pallets should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.



1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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