2027

VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS



volunteers@archelon.gr www.archelon.gr +30 210 5231342

WHO WE ARE

ARCHELON is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and protection of sea turtles and their habitats in Greece. Its activities combine scientific research with volunteer work and aim to activate society for a better and sustainable planet through education and information dissemination.

- Since **1983**, ARCHELON has been systematically recording the nesting activity of the loggerhead sea turtles and protecting their nests on the most important nesting beaches in Greece, every summer. As a result, ARCHELON's sea turtle monitoring and conservation projects rank among the longest-running in the world.
- Established in **1994**, the ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre in Glyfada receives and treats injured sea turtles and carries out educational activities for thousands of students and visitors every year.
- Since **2005**, ARCHELON's project in the Amvrakikos Gulf has been collecting data on the population of sea turtles feeding in the area.

Every project in ARCHELON represents a remarkable blend of vital on-the-ground conservation work for sea turtles and rigorous scientific research through the systematic collection of diverse data.

- The effectiveness of ARCHELON's conservation efforts is reflected in measurable population trends that show encouraging signs of recovery.
- The breadth of ARCHELON's scientific contribution is reflected in the numerous research papers published, primarily in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- Our projects reach out to nearly a 100,000 people every year. We talk to children and teachers, tourists and beach users, fishermen and other professionals at sea, hotel managers and hotel staff. We work together with local authorities, local communities and other environmental organisations for a sustainable planet.

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JOIN US

* Protect sea turtles + their natural habitats
* Gain field experience + valuable skills
* Promote sustainability + raise public awareness
* Build international communities + local collaborations





We can all LIVE TOGETHER!

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7+2 PROJECTS

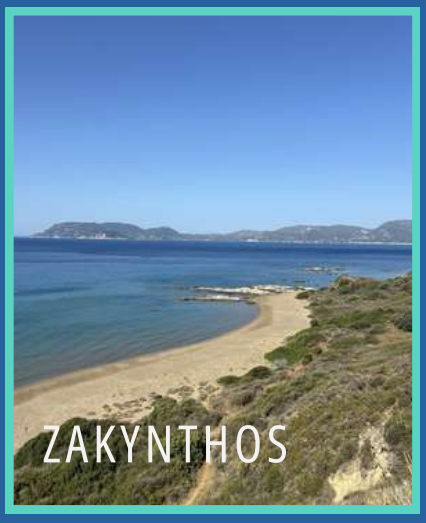
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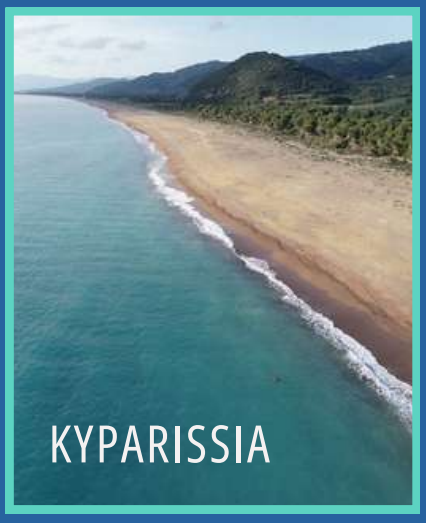


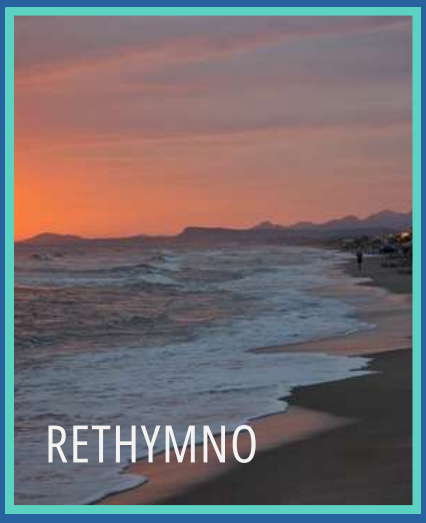
THE NESTING BEACHES

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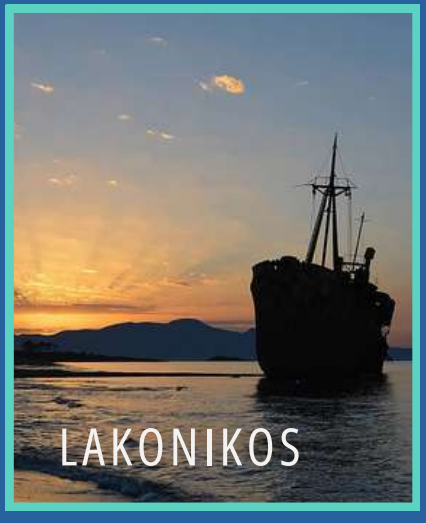
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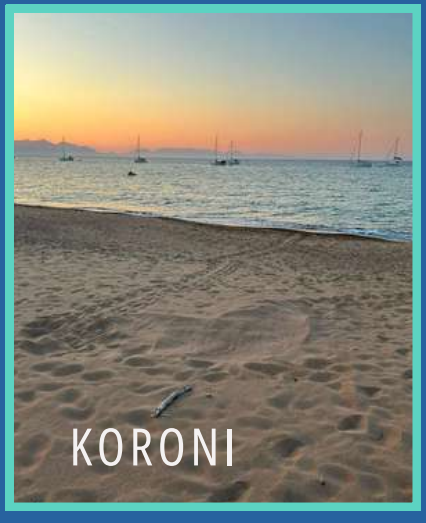




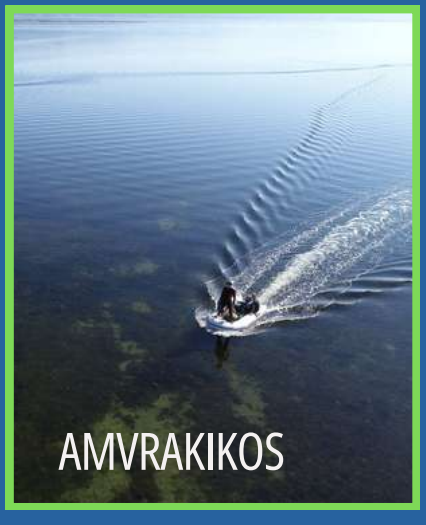














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JAN FEB MAR APR **MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT** NOV DEC

1. ZAKYNTHOS

Join the Longest-Running Sea Turtle Project in Greece!









APPLY NOW

MAY 05 - OCTOBER 15 | 5.5 KM | 6 NESTING BEACHES | 1,500+ NESTS

ARCHELON has been monitoring the nesting activity on Zakynthos island since 1983 and continues to do so in collaboration with the National Marine Park of Zakynthos (established in 1999). Join our systematic annual efforts to protect sea turtles, nests, and hatchlings—and make a tangible difference for this iconic species!

- **Protect a Mediterranean Treasure** Your mission is to protect the famous beaches of Zakynthos, home to one of the largest breeding populations of loggerhead sea turtles in the Mediterranean. Every year, more than 1,000 nests are laid here. While helping turtles, you'll also raise awareness among the thousands of tourists visiting the island each summer.

- **Experience Life on a Beautiful Greek Island** Spend your time in Zakynthos, a renowned destination of outstanding natural beauty. Enjoy crystal-clear waters, sandy beaches, and lush wooded hills while contributing to vital conservation work.

- **Join an International Community** Live at the Zakynthos Field Station, a private campground in Kalitero, near Zakynthos town that accommodates up to 50 volunteers from around the world. Experience communal living, get trained in sea turtle monitoring, and participate in public awareness and fundraising tasks every week in rotating shifts.

Check out the special categories for Field leaders, Greek speakers, Part-time volunteers & Interns.

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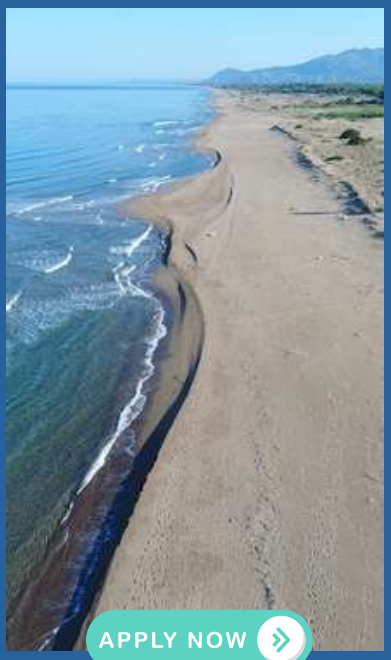
2. KYPARISSIA BAY

Experience the Ultimate Turtle Conservation Challenge!









APPLY NOW

MAY 05 - SEPTEMBER 30 14 KM OF NESTING BEACHES 6,000+ NESTS

ARCHELON has been monitoring nesting activity in Kyparissia Bay since 1984. Thanks to protection from predators and conservation measures, the number of nests has steadily increased over the past decade. Join our long-term scientific monitoring and conservation efforts in the Mediterranean's busiest loggerhead nesting site!

* **Take on a Challenging and Rewarding Role** Your mission is to monitor and safeguard this habitat within the Nature Protection Area, home to the largest breeding population of loggerhead sea turtles in the Mediterranean. The number of nests laid here is on the rise (recently exceeding 6,000 nests!) making your work crucial for the future of the species.

* **Experience a Long Stunning, Sandy Beach** Stay in one of Greece's most undisturbed coastal ecosystems and explore the natural beauty of the Peloponnese peninsula. Discover nearby attractions such as Ancient Olympia and immerse yourself in both nature and culture.

* **Connect with Volunteers from Around the World** Live at the Kyparissia Field Station, a private campground within Apollo Camping in Giannitsochori, just a few steps from the beach. The station accommodates up to 45 volunteers from around the world. Experience communal living, receive full training, and take part in sea turtle monitoring, public awareness, and fundraising tasks in rotating weekly shifts. Build life-long friendships while contributing to vital conservation work.

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3. RETHYMNO

Protect Hatchlings and Promote Sustainable Tourism in Crete!









APPLY NOW

MAY 05 - OCTOBER 15 | 11 KM OF NESTING BEACH | 300+ NESTS

ARCHELON has been monitoring nesting activity on Rethymno's beaches, the busiest nesting site on Crete, since 1990. Join our annual efforts to protect over 300 loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nests on this popular tourist destination, where every nest counts.

* **Make a Difference on a Busy Beach** Tourist activity and visitor amenities reduce available nesting space, making your mission to protect the Cretan loggerhead sub-population crucial. Raising public awareness among visitors and promoting the concept of responsible tourism will be an essential part of your work on this project.

* **Explore World-Famous Crete** Spend your time in a renowned destination known for stunning sandy beaches, medieval architecture, and rich local culture. Discover the old town of Rethymno, savour authentic Cretan cuisine, and explore the island's scenic landscapes.

* **Join a Global Conservation Team** Stay at the Rethymno Field Station, a private campground inside Camping Elizabeth, just a few meters from the beach. Join a multicultural team of 40 volunteers from around the world. Experience communal living, receive full training, and take part in sea turtle monitoring, public awareness, and fundraising tasks in rotating weekly shifts. Build lifelong friendships while making a real difference for sea turtles.

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4. CHANIA

Make a Difference Where Nature Meets Tourism!









APPLY NOW

MAY 05 - OCTOBER 15 | 13 KM OF NESTING BEACH | 200+ NESTS

ARCHELON has been monitoring nesting activity in Chania since 1992. Join the annual effort to protect more than 200 loggerhead nests, on this busy tourist destination, where every nest counts.

* **Make Every Nest Count** While tourist activities and visitor amenities affect the nesting turtles on the beach, your mission to protect this Cretan sub-population of the loggerhead is imperative. Raising public awareness and promoting sustainable tourism practices is a vital part of working on this Project.

* **Immerse Yourself in Cretan Culture** Spend your time in a world-famous destination known for its beautiful sandy beaches. Visit the picturesque old port of Chania, explore the Cretan cuisine and engage with the rich local culture.

* **Build Friendships While Conserving Nature** Stay in Chania Field Station, a private campground inside Camping Chania, a few minutes from the beach. Join a multicultural team of 20-30 volunteers from all over the world. Experience communal living, get trained and join the sea turtle monitoring, public awareness and fundraising tasks every week in rotating shifts.

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5. LAKONIKOS BAY

Spread the Message of Conservation to the Local Community!









APPLY NOW

MAY 25 - SEPTEMBER 25 | 23.5 KM | 5 NESTING BEACHES | 1,000+ NESTS

In recent years, the beaches of Lakonikos Bay have hosted an annual average of 1,000 loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nests. The local waters are also home to green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Join our long-term conservation efforts to protect nesting turtles and ensure that hatchlings safely reach the sea.

* **Join a Small Team Making a Difference** Work alongside a dedicated team of 15–25 volunteers with a mission to protect the turtles of the Bay, raise awareness, and foster meaningful, long-lasting connections with the local community.

* **Explore the Southern Peloponnese Coast** Stay right on Mavrovouni Beach and use your free time to explore the stunning southern Peloponnese peninsula. Discover charming coastal towns like Gytheio, Limeni, and Areopoli, as well as breathtaking natural scenery along the way.

* **Live in an International Volunteer Community** Stay at the Lakonikos Field Station, a private campground inside Camping Meltemi, located right on Mavrovouni Beach. Experience communal living, receive full training, and participate in sea turtle monitoring, public awareness, and fundraising tasks in rotating weekly shifts.

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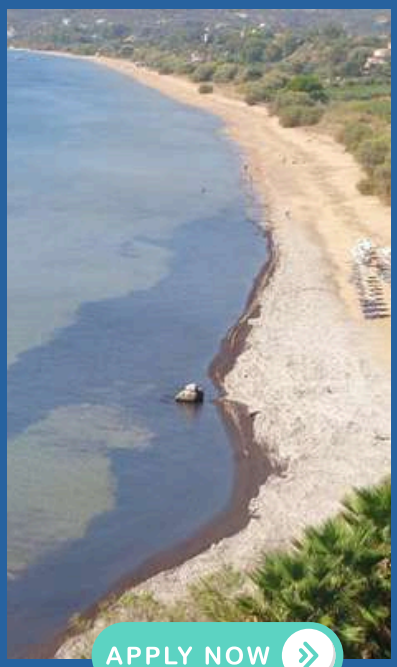
6. KORONI

Hands-On Conservation in a Small Greek Coastal Town!









APPLY NOW

JUNE 01 - SEPTEMBER 15 | 2.7 KM | 1 NESTING BEACH | 200+ NESTS

The beach of Zaga-Memi near Koroni hosts an average of 200 loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nests each year. Join our efforts to ensure this small sea turtle population continues to thrive, especially in the face of climate change.

* **Join a Small Team with a Big Impact** Work alongside a dedicated team of 10–15 volunteers to protect local turtles, raise awareness, and build meaningful, long-lasting connections with the Koroni community.

* **Immerse Yourself in the Life on the Greek Coast** Stay in the charming coastal town of Koroni, famous for its Venetian castle, and explore the golden sandy beaches that surround it. Nearby, you can visit Kalamata, Areopoli, and other picturesque Greek coastal towns.

* **Share Skills, Stories, and Memories** Stay at the Koroni Field Station, a private campground inside Camping Koroni. Experience communal living, receive full training, and participate in sea turtle monitoring, public awareness, and fundraising tasks in rotating weekly shifts. Build lifelong friendships while contributing to vital conservation work.

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7. MESSARA BAY

Explore Southern Crete's Wild Side While Saving Turtles!









APPLY NOW

MAY 25 - SEPTEMBER 25 8 KM 3 NESTING BEACHES 200+ NESTS

The beaches of Messara Bay in southern Crete hosts an average of 200 loggerhead nests every year. Here is your opportunity to ensure that this small sea turtle population will continue to exist in the years to come, especially in the face of climate change.

- **Work in a Dedicated Small Team** Join a small team of 10-15 volunteers with the mission to protect the turtles of the area, raise awareness and build strong, long-lasting relationships with the local community.
- **Explore the southern coast of Crete** Stay on the coastal Greek town of Matala, famous for its hippie caves and spend your time exploring the beautiful beaches of southern Crete, experiencing Cretan cuisine and engaging with the local culture.
- **Create life-long bonds** Stay in Messara Field Station, a private campground inside the Matala Municipal Camping, a few meters from Matala beach. Experience communal living as a volunteer, get trained and join the sea turtle monitoring and public awareness tasks in rotating weekly shifts.

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8.AMVRAKIKOS GULF

Join a Unique Turtle Project in a Wetland of International Importance!









APPLY NOW

JULY 01 - AUGUST 31 SEA TURTLE FEEDING GROUNDS

Since 2005, ARCHELON's project in Amvrakikos Gulf has been collecting data on the population of sea turtles living in the area. The Project's activities include capture of turtles using the rodeo technique, identifying, tagging and releasing them directly back to the sea.

* **Join a Unique Project** A great opportunity to get hands-on experience in the capture and recapture techniques for studying sea turtle population dynamics in Amvrakikos Gulf, an important feeding ground for loggerhead sea turtles. You will receive training on how to safely and efficiently capture the turtles for a few minutes and take their measurements.

* **Be Part of a Focused Volunteer Crew** Join a small team of 10 volunteers with the mission to monitor the Gulf every day using a dinghy boat, collect and record important data about the sea turtle population.

* **Work, Live, and Grow together** Stay in a private ARCHELON appartment, experience communal living with the other volunteers, get trained and join the sea turtle monitoring activities.

Check out the special categories for Field leaders & Interns.

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9. RESCUE CENTRE

Be Part of the Mediterranean's Largest Turtle Hospital!









APPLY NOW

OPERATING ALL YEAR ROUND SEA TURTLE REHABILITATION

ARCHELON's Rescue Centre receives, treats and rehabilitates injured and sick sea turtles from all over Greece and offers educational activities to schools and visitors. This is one of the best places to gain hands-on experience in sea turtle rescue operations, treatments and releases.

* **Experience Turtle Rehabilitation Firsthand** Join this busy project where a team of 6-8 volunteers takes care of the turtles, prepares their food, keeps their 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.

* **Explore the Athenian Riviera** The Rescue Centre is located on the 3rd Marina of Glyfada, right next to Glyfada beach and half an hour from Athens city center. Spend your time in the Athenian Riviera, visit the Temple of Poseidon in Cape Sounio or expore the historic center of Athens.

* **Make a Difference Together** Stay in a private ARCHELON appartment, share a communal living with the other volunteers, get trained and join the sea turtle rehabilitation and public awareness shifts.

Check out the special categories for Field leaders & Interns.

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Participating in ARCHELON was the best decision! It was a unique experience with something new happening every day and it left me with many amazing memories and valuable skills. I learned a lot about the sea turtles and their protection. I also loved raising public awareness while talking to many people from around the world.

Responding to a rescue call and being responsible for treatment, cleaning and feeding of this wild injured animal was one of the most moving and fulfilling parts of my time with ARCHELON. I would highly recommend to all people with a love for animals and nature to consider volunteering their time with ARCHELON, both in the Field Projects and the Rescue Centre.





I have been lucky enough to experience not one but four ARCHELON projects! Each is wonderful and amazing in itself, whether you're in the shallow lagoon in Amvrakikos or the varied beaches of Lakonikos, ARCHELON has something to offer for everyone!

It was a pleasure to volunteer with ARCHELON again over the last 4 weeks on the nesting beaches of Zakynthos. I developed my skills in time management, leadership, communication and teamwork through a wide range of tasks. I met amazing and determined people from all over the world. Living all together 24/7 results in really strong friendship bonds forming throughout the camp.



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VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS







* VOLUNTEERING ROLES + REQUIREMENTS
* PROJECTS + FEES
* VOLUNTEERING FAQ
* SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF VOLUNTEERS
* INTERNSHIPS + RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
* APPLICATION FORM



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