

KΟΣΑΜΑΡΕ

Kefalonian Organisation
for the Study & Awareness
of the Marine Environment



SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES



PADI - Distinctive speciality course

Kefalonia - Ionian sea



KOSAMARE

KOSAMARE aims to study, raise awareness and protect the local marine ecosystem and endangered marine species :

- Establish local projects related to the environment, education, eco-tourism or local crafts.
- Inform and educate the public by working with tourists, the population and local schools.
- Collaborate with institutions working in the study and protection of marine species and the marine ecosystem in general.



Kosamare.org

Scientific Diving
May-June / September-October
One week

Kefalonia-Ionian sea



Welcome to Kefalonia !

The largest of the Ionian Islands is home to a rich biodiversity, much of which is hidden from view beneath the waves. Meadows of Neptune Grass (*Posidonia oceanica*) support the marine ecosystem and grow where water conditions are good. The Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*) live in isolated caves and Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) nest and mate around the island.

All of these species are endangered by human disturbance, climate change, pollution and habitat loss.

KOSAMARE is working to protect and raise awareness of the local marine environment and endangered species.



Scientific diving speciality course



Our goal is to introduce scuba divers to scientific diving techniques in order to acquire the skills to use different tools to sample or take measurements in aquatic environments, so they can develop this activity underwater with the same ease they would do on land.

Your training will focus on the study of the Neptune grass ecosystem, fish identification with population assessment; and data collection of invasive species.

The data collected during the course will be used by KOSAMARE for our scientific projects.

What's involved?

This course has been created by marine biologists from KOSAMARE and professional dive instructors from Fiskardo Divers, to be registered as a PADI distinctive speciality.

It includes: knowledge development ; four confined water sessions; four open water sessions.

Requirements:

18 years of age; PADI open water with a minimum of 10 dives.



Workshops

A series of classroom sessions and workshops will introduce you to the marine environment and the techniques you will use to study it.

We will look at carrying out cartographic studies and choosing dive sites; determining **sampling techniques** and procedures to address scientific questions.

During the confined water sessions, you will learn to sample the physio-chemical parameters of the water column.

Practical experience

After a land session, you will practice **transect and quadrats** skills underwater on sessile species, focussing on Neptune grass. Unique to the Mediterranean, it represent one of the most important marine ecosystems and we are gathering data to protect it.

To carry out a fish survey, you will learn the basics of **fish identification**, as skill that can be transferred to other regions of the world. You will also be introduced to some of the **invasive species** in our area, where they come from and what the consequences are. Specifically, you will get involved in our Lionfish (*Pterois miles*) programme.

Underwater **video and photography** are essential to scientific diving. They are skills that you will gather along the way as part of sampling techniques and the study of mobile species.

As the course progresses, you will become more involved in the planning of dives, including location and techniques appropriate to scientific questions.



Accommodation



The accommodation is either tents in the garden or dormitory in the house which is located in the middle of Fiskardo. Food is self gathering, Fiskardo has supermarkets and restaurants.

You will have access to a kitchen with crockery and cookware as well as a bathroom and shower.

AN ECO-FRIENDLY WAY TO LIVE :

- **SAVING WATER..** Water is scarce on the island and we rely on a delivery truck when there is little rain in the summer, so it is a precious resource that needs to be conserved.
- **RECYCLING..** We recycle as much of our waste as possible and volunteers will need to take care of the waste sorting and disposal in their accommodation.
- **USING ECO-PRODUCTS..** For cleaning and showering (Providing by KosaMare).

