



2022 Scientific Diving programme by KOSAMARE KEFALONIA - GREECE



In the clear blue water of Kefalonia, this opportunity is accessible for every diver, the only condition is to be ready spending a lot of time underwater!

Like much of the Mediterranean, the underwater landscape of Northern Kefalonia is characterised by *Posidonia oceanica*, a species of seagrass that supports the marine ecosystem. The seagrass is very much affected by tourism, mainly boat activity, around the island. During 2 weeks, you will take part of a programme aiming to understand and collect data to protect better this species and its inhabitants. You will gain a **PADI certification in scientific diving techniques** whilst contributing to conservation efforts.

What you will learn from this programme:

- Discover and **understand the structure and the functioning of *Posidonia oceanica* ecosystem.**
- Identification, observation and monitoring of **Mediterranean fish.**
- Taking part on a **scientific study** that will support a protecting programme including the implementation of permanent eco-moorings and seagrass restoration around the Northern cape of Kefalonia.

Introduction to the programme

Posidonia oceanica is one of the most important ecosystems in the Mediterranean. It is protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive but still faces major threats, including significant impacts from recreational boating. Our goal is to monitor seagrass meadows in the north of Kefalonia through aerial photography and underwater surveys, in order to ascertain priority areas for an permanent eco-moorings and regeneration project. The programme consists of **gathering data on *Posidonia oceanica* density and percentage coverage** in 4 different bays. We aim to **estimate the fish biodiversity** in the different bays where we are studying the health of the *Posidonia* through underwater surveys.

The place of the programme:



Kefalonia is a Greek island located in the Ionian sea, just in front of Ithaca. The largest of the Ionian Islands, it 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*) lives in isolated caves and Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) nest and mate around the island.

Fiskardo is a village in the North of Kefalonia with a small and diminishing fishing fleet, and a growing tourism industry. You'll find a lot of restaurants and all the facilities you will need.

When the rest of Kefalonia was largely destroyed in the 1953 Ionian Earthquake, Fiskardo survived and its characteristic Venetian architecture remains.

Programme's organisation

The programme is divided in two main parts : ***Posidonia oceanica* monitoring & Fish survey**



***Posidonia oceanica* monitoring:**

You will be fully part of our *Posidonia oceanica* monitoring programme. After taking part in a series of training dives you will be able to carrying out underwater surveys using quadrats and transects. Our methodology is designed to be simple and replicable, leading to large amounts of practical data.

The programme consists into gathering datas underwater on the density of seagrass meadows in four different bays using quadrats and percentage of coverage of alive *Posidonia* in the same bays using transects as well as setting up the upper and lower limit of the different seagrass meadows.

Fish survey:

This will include an introduction to fish identification and a few dives of training on identification & fish sizing.

The rest of the programme consists of carrying out fish biodiversity assessments in the same bays used for the *Posidonia oceanica* monitoring.



PADI Certification: At the end of the programme you will gain the certification of **PADI introduction to scientific diving techniques** specialty!

Programme's conditions

Who can participate:

To participate to this 2 weeks programme, the participants should meet some requirements:

- Being over **18 years old**.
- Having at least the **first degree of diving certification** (PADI Open Water, CMAS 1 Star or equivalent) with **10 dives logged**.*
- Being comfortable with underwater skills.
- Having an **health certification** for diving.
- Speaking **english**.
- Comfortable with communal living, enthusiastic and open-minded!

*This certification can be acquired in Fiskardo before the programme (see the section below).

The diving:

All the diving activities are done in collaboration with [Fiskardo divers eco dive resort](#). For a long time, Fiskardo divers has been running eco-related activities and programmes and is closely related to Kosamare since all the staff from Kosamare are also working with Fiskardo divers! During the programme, they will provide us with dive equipment, facilities, accommodation and even sometimes extra divers from the staff!



*As said before, **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY CERTIFICATION OR TEN DIVES LOGGED**, you can come a week before the beginning of the programme and get trained. This has an extra cost. However, special prices on the certification and the dives will then be offered (if you want any more information, send us directly an email or contact fiskardodivers@yahoo.com).

Practical information

FROM THE 18th OF JUNE TO THE 2nd OF JULY
~ 6 places ~

FROM THE 27th of AUGUST TO THE 10th OF SEPTEMBER
(to be confirmed)
~ 4 places ~

2 weeks ~ 1250 €



For more information:

Go on our website : <https://www.kosamare.org/>

Contact us directly: info@kosamare.org