



# Volunteer Opportunity Rehabilitation Assistants

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

We are in need of Rehabilitation Assistants at the ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre all year round, starting from January 2022!

Experienced and skilled volunteers from previous years are highly eligible!

Internships from Universities and other organizations are welcome!

Contact: [jobs@archelon.gr](mailto:jobs@archelon.gr)

## 1. About this call

The ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre has been operating since 1994 in Glyfada, Attica, next to the sea. It is one of the first Sea Turtle Rescue Centres in the Mediterranean and the only one in Greece. Approximately 70 injured or sick sea turtles each year arrive at the Rescue Center, where they undergo treatment and rehabilitation and their return to the sea is organized. The operation and maintenance of the Rescue Center is based on qualified permanent staff, full-time volunteers from all over the world and part-time volunteers who are residents of Attica.

## 2. The Rehabilitation Assistant (RA) position

The Rehabilitation Assistant (RA) is a volunteer who assists in all aspects of the rescue and rehabilitation of injured/sick turtles, supervises the rest of the volunteers and organizes the daily work.

### **Your contribution will be:**

- **Rescue Network:** activities include response to injured sea turtle stranding throughout Greece, collection of injured sea turtles from the airport, train or bus station, or ports. Understandably these activities are not part of the daily routine, but they may occur quite often, especially during May until October. RAs must have an EU driving license and will be asked to drive ARCHELON's car for this purpose.

- **Sea turtle Rehabilitation:** duties include handling of sea turtles, preparation and administration of food (usually fish) to the turtles, cleaning/disinfection of the rehabilitation tanks, taking biometric data and making behavioural observations and daily treatment of the animals as determined by the Rehabilitation and Rescue Network Officer and the veterinarians in charge. Administering medication and simple topical wound treatments can be performed by RAs after the relevant training. These are some of the main daily activities

at the Rescue Centre, since at any given time there is an average of 25 sea turtles under treatment; during summer months the average can 40 animals.

*Please note that the above tasks are highly demanding in physical terms and must be performed under all weather conditions.*

- **Maintenance:** activities include basic maintenance duties, like cleaning the facilities and equipment.

- **Data entry:** detailed information is kept on each sea turtle case admitted to the Rescue Centre. All data collected is entered in databases so that they can be subsequently used for the compilation of further scientific analysis. RAs might be asked to assist with this task.

- **Emergencies:** after the necessary medical training, the RAs are expected to assist in emergencies regarding new turtles/patients arriving at the Rescue Centre. Since we are working at a sea turtle hospital, these emergencies can occur unexpectedly and at any time during the day and night. RAs will have to provide the necessary medications (e.g. painkillers) to our new patients upon arrival, always under the guidance of the Rehabilitation and Rescue Network Officer. Other emergencies can include the checks on turtles that are in critical condition and are kept out of water.

*Please note that most of the injured/sick turtles arrive at the Rescue Centre in the evening, and this is one of the main reasons why the RA's place of accommodation has to be at the Rescue Centre.*

### **Keeping track of volunteers**

- Training new full- time volunteers
- Supervising all members of the team (up to 10 people at a time)
- Supporting and motivating the volunteers
- Convey ARCHELON's vision and mission to the volunteers

### **Free time**

For every week of participation in the project, RAs will have a day off. There is a possibility of a second day off per week after a 3-month participation in the project.

### **Your profile illustrates**

#### **Minimum eligibility criteria:**

1. Age over 20 years old
2. Holder of a valid EU/International car driving license (for a minimum of 12 months)
3. Fluent in English
4. Ready to spend 6 months on the site. It can be 3-6 months for highly skilled people who have previously volunteered at the ARCHELON Rescue Centre.
5. Basic computer skills in Microsoft Office
6. Participation in sea turtle rehabilitation or other wildlife rehabilitation projects for minimum of 3 months, experience in rescuing and handling wildlife
7. Experience in living/working in multinational groups
8. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
9. Hardworking, reliable, organizational person who can perform in a demanding schedule

and can adapt to changes

10. Sociable, enthusiastic, committed, supportive, patient, good tempered with good communication skills
11. Good physical condition and ability to lift up to 40Kg on a daily basis
12. Ability to work under stressful conditions
13. Ability to assist on surgical procedures and on wound treatments, ability to withstand the sight of severely injured animals, as a result of animal abuse
14. Endurance of warm weather and ability to work in all weather conditions
15. Must have personal health insurance

**Other desired competences/experience:**

- Education / training related to the duties described above, such as: Biology, Veterinary Sciences, Animal Behaviour, Zoology, Conservation Biology
- Previous participation in ARCHELON's projects
- First Aid certification
- Experience in provision of medical care in wildlife

**5. Our offer includes**

- Being part of an international team with the mission to rescue, rehabilitate and release endangered marine species; the loggerhead sea turtle and the green sea turtle
- Receiving the necessary guidance and training on the RAV duties, which are based on the continuously evolving husbandry and veterinary practices of a project running for over 25 years now
- Getting hands-on experience in husbandry and rehabilitation of a protected marine (i.e. experience in handling, tube feeding, providing medications, performing simple topical wound treatments, providing environmental enrichment, understanding and recording behavioural data)
- Living in a multi-ethnic group and trying to meet their expectations as a leader
- Experience in managing a big group of volunteers and coordinating the work in one of the largest sea turtle Rescue Centres in the Mediterranean
- A certificate of participation for RAs joining as interns, according to the internship agreement with your University/ organization
- Accommodation in a shared bedroom wagon at the ARCHELON Rescue Centre
- Usage of all communal facilities (WC, shower, washing machine, cooking stove and utensils) and Wi-Fi provided at the Rescue Centre
- Insurance against accidents (up to a certain amount)
- Contribution to food expenses up to 200€/ month

**Training sessions**

Introductory information sessions will take place on the first two days of the RA's volunteering period.

During the first weeks, the RA will be taught by staff and experienced volunteers all the basic and important daily tasks (e.g. handling of animals, cleaning tanks, preparing food and feeding turtles). In parallel, the RA will be trained to perform and complete the specific shifts and duties that we have at the ARCHELON Rescue Centre.

A second training period will be offered by the Rehabilitation and Rescue Network Officer in the following weeks, during which the RA will learn how to organise and divide the work in

the team, as well as how to provide medications to sea turtles (i.e. drips and injections) and perform basic wound treatments.

***Please note:***

*Applications for the first half of each year need to be submitted by 15th August at the latest and applicants may expect a response within 7 weeks.*

***Exceptionally, for the first half of 2022, the application deadline is the 30th of October 2021 and we will respond by 15th November.***

*Applications for the second half of each year need to be submitted by 15th February at the latest and applicants may expect a response within 7 weeks.*

*Short-listed candidates will be contacted, and an online interview will be scheduled.*

**Further contact and application info**

If interested, please send an email to [jobs@archelon.gr](mailto:jobs@archelon.gr) with the following:

- Application form that you can download from [HERE](#)
- Short Curriculum Vitae (400-900 words)