



INFO-PACK

NATURAL FARMING PROJECT

EVS in Kalamata, Greece

GR-2013-27 / NF

The project

The main activities of this project take place in Fifa Permaculture Farm an urban farm that aspires to be an example and inspiration for traditional natural cultivation in urban and in rural environments. It stresses the issues of recycling and reuse, something that has been summed up in a project established in 2009, called Re:Think. The team of workers and volunteers is, through public actions, artistic creations, workshops and excursions for youth and children, constantly trying to educate and improve the local communities' and authorities' attitude towards issues of environment and sustainability. Knowing these matters are in its core transnational, we have come to understand the importance of networking and exchanging good practices also by hosting foreign youth volunteers, which help us understand enriched perspective.



THE VOLUNTEERS' ROLE IN THE PROJECT:

Aim

- To support actions of urban “natural farming” and “bio farming” as well as participate in awareness actions for natural farming, original seeds’ protection, compost, beach/park cleaning, green roofs etc.
- To promote the sense of volunteerism in the city of Kalamata, by participating in the activities of the Youth Centre of Kalamata and of the hosting organisation “K.A.NE. – Social Youth Development”

Tasks of the volunteers

- Field work: Planting trees/vegetables, maintain the ground
- Observe and document (written, photo, video) the process and the results
- Create campaigns
- Be responsible to prepare and carry out the 3R (reduce-reuse-recycle) workshop at the youth centre of Kalamata
- Participate in actions like beach cleaning, park cleaning, other environmental actions
- Develop, manage and carry out a personal project
- Evaluate and compare the process of natural farming
- Make a study and write an essay about green jobs and sustainable development
- Make a study and a campaign about urban farming (green roofs, green balconies etc)
- Participation in the programming, development and evaluation of activities.
- Implementation of other activities of the organization like language exchange workshops, music workshops etc.
- Taking initiatives and proposing to the organization and the local youngsters new projects, fresh ideas etc.
- Developing other projects for social, environmental and cultural cause.
- Participation in the creation of our bi-monthly e-magazine
- Promotion of EVS in the local community
- Creation of a video (one each) about their project and their EVS experience in Kalamata
- Taking care of the Othonos square in front of the Youth Centre and the neighbourhood compost
- Participate in the youth centre and its activities and offering a language exchange workshop



Accommodation...

Volunteers are hosted in the youth hostel/guest house, two volunteers in each room. The houses are fully equipped with refrigerator, washing machine, vacuum cleaner, heating system, oven, plates, glasses, sheets, blankets, pillows, towels etc. etc. etc.

The Town / Life:

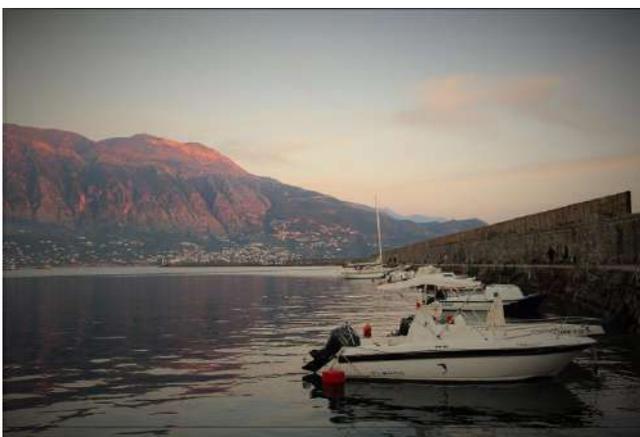


As you might know, Kalamata is a medium size city (a bit less than 80,000 habitants) but beautiful. You will have the opportunity to travel around the town and visit nice places, archaeological monuments, the mountain and many different beaches. The town is situated between the mountain of Taygetos and the Messinian bay.

At the links below you will find some information about the town and the area, you will be able to see some pictures but unfortunately some texts are in Greek:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalamata>

http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/main_cities/kalamata

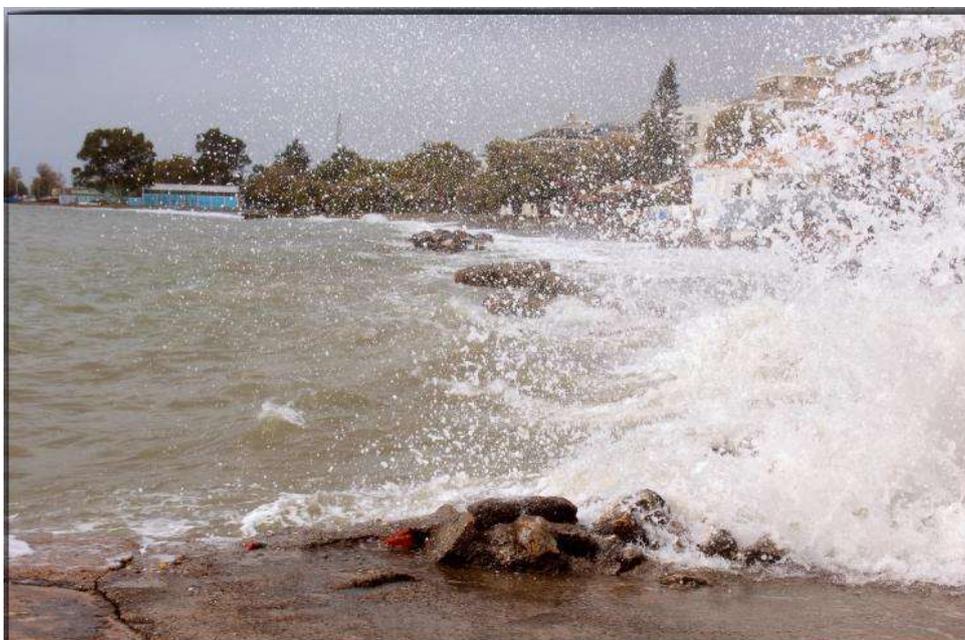


Weather...

During **summer** (from May/June to the end of September/October) you will be able to swim (the sea is clean with variety of rocky or sandy beaches) but in Greece summer is very hot (during July and August the temperatures are between 30 to 40 degrees!), you will have to take care while staying under the sun.



During **winter** the town gets more “moody” as everywhere during winter. There can be a lot of rain, it is snowing once every 3-4 years and the temperatures are between 0 to 20 degrees. During winter you have to be careful when it gets too windy and walking near the sea. As you can understand the climate is mild during winter and a hot during summer; wearing the right clothes and being careful with the sun exposure will protect you all year. You will have to bring with you all kind of clothes, summer clothes, your swimming suit, winter clothes and light winter clothes (for months September, October, April, May- temperatures: 10 to 25).



Leisure time...

In Kalamata you will have the opportunity to make sports, swimming, and mountain hiking (we are cooperating with the hiking club), walking around, hanging out and going to cafes, bars, clubs and parties.



People...

One can meet in Kalamata, except from Greeks, Italian, German and French tourists, mostly older people or families. Also political and economical refugees are living here. They are coming from Albania, Eastern Europe, Arab countries and Africa. They are mostly families or workers so it will be difficult to meet young people from these countries except from Albanian youngsters.

Kalamata is a town which offers a safe environment. It is not facing serious criminality and even the robberies are not so often. Actually it is a peaceful environment and you will not face any serious danger if you take the basic safety measurements.

People are generally very helpful and have this feeling of hospitality. Older people don't speak English and this will be a challenge for you in the beginning. If you try to speak with them in Greek they are always getting smiley and more helpful to you. So the faster the volunteers learn Greek, the faster the life will get easier. Most young people, on the other hand, speak English pretty well.

Greek Language

Volunteers have Greek language lessons, conducted by a professional teacher with years of experience teaching English as a foreign language, especially to EVS volunteers.

In case you would like to make the first steps in learning Greek, below you will find some links that can be very helpful:

<http://www.xanthi.ilsp.gr/filog/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/greek/>

<http://www.greece.org/gr-lessons/gr-english/>

Useful links

Volunteers in Kalamata

EVS blog: www.evskalamata.blogspot.gr

Click here to read our EVS newsletters: <https://issuu.com/kane.kalamata>

K.A.N.E. Organisation

Website: www.ngokane.org

Facebook page: [KANE Social Youth Development](https://www.facebook.com/KANE.Social.Youth.Development)

Youth Centre of Kalamata

Website: kentroneon.wordpress.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/kentroneon

Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/112750556744/

Youtube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCL3SGt3ZJQ-AgB1fHe_NWtQ