



## *Greena Ecological Consultancy*

### **Bat Research Workshop in North West Crete, Greece 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

This trip offers an incredible unique opportunity to carry out bat research work in an idyllic place, in fabulous weather with average temperature of 19C (14-25C range), an average of 10hrs sunshine a day and sea temperature of 19C.



This intensive bat research workshop is being held in conjunction with Panagiotis Georgiakakis, from the Natural History Museum, Crete and data produced will contribute to Cretian bat diversity records.

In 2008, 17 bat species of bats had been recorded on Crete, some of which only occur in the eastern Mediterranean. The European free tailed bat is the most widely recorded species, but also found on this island are *Rhinolophus blasii*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Pipistrellus kuhli*, Savi and Hanaki, plus *Plecotus kolombatovici* and *P. macrobullaris*. There will be opportunities for those who already have a degree of suitable experience to learn to handle and measure a range of bat species, take photographs and make sound recordings as bats are released. Crete is in an interesting location lying on the boundary between European, Middle Eastern and North African bat populations.

In September 2011, Greena Ecological Consultancy led a team of bat workers to Crete for a Bat Research Workshop catching the following 12 bat species were during trapping surveys using mists nets and a harp trap: *Pipistrellus kuhli* and *hanaki*, *Hypsugo savi*, *Rhinolophus blasii*, *hipposideros* and *ferrumequinum*, *Myotis aurescens* and *blythi*, *Plecotus macrobullaris* and *kolombatovici*, *Miniopterus shreibersi* and *Tadarida teniotus* and made sound recordings too of course.

During the 2012 Bat Research Workshop we will be carrying out an inventory of bats in the Northwest of Crete by a combination of bat detector surveys, trapping at underground site entrances, at ponds, over streams and in wooded gorges and roost visits - mainly to underground sites as Crete has over 2000 caves.



We will use a range of Greena bat detectors to carry out recordings from transects and static monitoring, plus of course the detectors brought by course participants. The results will be compiled into a report contributing considerably to the existing knowledge about bats on Crete. The information will be passed onto the relevant Ecologists and Conservation groups working in Crete.

The workshop cost includes all board, food, car hire, fuel and any permits or park entrance fees which may be required from arriving in to departing from Crete. Staying at Villa Alexander in a coastal location we will have a lunchtime meal at a local Taverna and then take a picnic lunch into the field in the evenings. The Villa we will be based in has modern studios and apartments, doubles for couples and twins or singles for others, a swimming pool, Wi-fi, a large room we will use as a common/ work room, the sandy beach is very close by and the bay is apparently good for snorkelling.

We can testify that the local food available in the Tavernas in Crete is really delicious too - this should be advertised as the Greek Cordon Bleu Bat Research Workshop really!

Greena Eco will take all the relevant specialist equipment out to Crete on the plane.

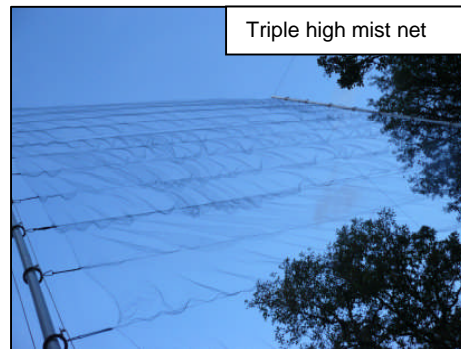
Flights to/ from Crete are not included in the costs so you will need to arrange and fund that yourself, ideally travel to Chania Airport as this will be the closest airport to the accommodation (around 20 minutes away). Iraklion airport could also be okay but will add another couple of hours travel on each way. There are several different flights and airlines available, though Easy Jet is by far the cheapest, flying to Chania from Gatwick.

The car groups and drivers will be organised before we go, so that each group can rendezvous and head off independently to make their own way to the accommodation.

The workshop will end late on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> May in order to be able to pack up and fly back from Chania from midday on the 8th, but of course if you want to, you could extend your stay on Crete and remain on the island for longer, independently, three of the 2011 participants did this.

The research participants will include field surveys carrying out sound recordings while on and attending trapping sessions in different locations each night, using triple and single height mist nets, harp trap and a sonic lure.

Most of the sites will be fairly accessible to roads or tracks, but on one night we will visit an isolated monastery site with important bat caves in the north of the Akoritiri that we will have a long hike to, we may also try to access one of the gorges on the peninsula.



It will be possible to take photographs of bats in the hand and make sound recordings as bats are released.

Day time sessions will incorporate post survey analysis of the recordings using participants own laptops wherever possible, loaded with suitable sound analysis software.

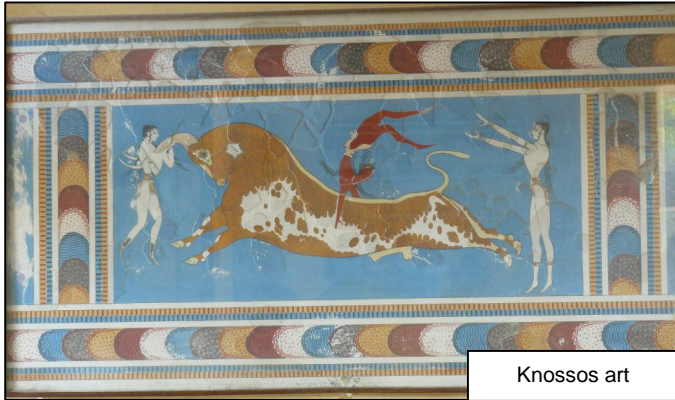
## **Crete Bat Research 2012 content to includes the following:**

### **Morning sessions to include:**

- Equipment familiarisation
- Methodology of transect and static bat detector survey
- Planning the following evenings survey
- Post survey computer analysis

### **Night time sessions to include:**

- Bat trapping requiring the setting up of a harp trap and various mist nets, some at cave/tunnel sites
- At least one more lengthy/challenging night excursion into an isolated area
- Safe practice handling techniques demonstrated and taught
- Transect walks in trapping areas, recording bats acoustically
- Acoustic lure used to aid catching certain specific species
- Static monitoring using Anabat and the EcoObs Batcorder



Knossos art



Workshop dining in Crete in 2011

**Costs include the following:**

- ❖ Tuition
- ❖ Accommodation
- ❖ All meals
- ❖ Hire cars - shared between course participants
- ❖ Car fuel and insurance
- ❖ Permits and local ferry costs

**The Crete Bat Research Workshop cost is \$1400\***

\*Please note that the price does not include the flight costs to/ from Crete

\*To guarantee a single room for the week a supplement of \$140 will be charged

**For booking forms, further information and kit list, please contact:**

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Check the Greena Eco website at [www.greenaeco.co.uk](http://www.greenaeco.co.uk) for details of this and other Greena Eco bat courses