

Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
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Bu proje Avrupa Birliği ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından finanse edilmektedir

The first Underwater Trail is finally established in Turkey!

Summer 2016, Yıldız Bay, GÖKÇEADA

The first Underwater Trail in Turkey is established this summer in Gökçeada Underwater Marine Park which has a legal status since 1999.

The Underwater Trail is an application to raise the public awareness on marine conservation through the educative facilities. Approximately 80 metres long underwater trail designed to attract the visitors of all ages over 14 who shall be given the necessary diving equipments (diving masks, snorkels, wet suits and fins).

The visitors have the opportunity to observe and discover the marine life and the tectonic rock formations continuing underwater by means of the underwater information panels presenting the marine organisms live in five different habitats in the region.

The underwater trip is performed in small group sizes and lasts approximately 1 hour with the guidance of the park rangers during high season (from the beginning of June to the end of September).

Furthermore educative visibility materials like leaflets, eco-guide booklets and posters are distributed to the public and all illegal fishing activities are forbidden in the boundaries of the Park.



Why Gökçeada Island?

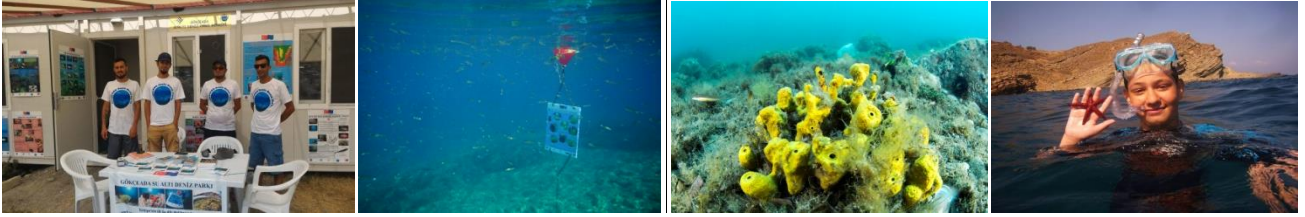
Gökçeada is the biggest island of Turkey and located in the North Aegean Sea. The island doesn't show terrestrial and coastal disruptions due to the urbanisation and uncontrolled settlement. Fishing is one of the most important incomes. Around the island there are numerous mediterranean fishes, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, sea stars, colourful sponges, crabs, algae and the seagrass meadows that are under protection by national and international laws. Saros Bay and Gökçeada Island are also on the way of the migration path of the marine animals between Black Sea and the Mediterranean.



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Gökçeada Underwater Marine Park Project has been conducting by **Turkish Marine Research Foundation** in the framework of **Civil Society Programme** and financed by **Turkey Republic and European Union**. In the period of the Project, TUDAV has taken the advantage of the consultancy of the French partner **BiEAUdiversité** that is a foundation established for environmental researches.

We believe that this project will be a model to further sustainable eco-tourism applications on marine conservation thus the lifes of both local and threatened marine organisms such as Mediterranean Monk Seal will be guaranteed.



Turkish Marine Research Foundation:

TUDAV was established in 1997 to protect marine life and to introduce marine culture and love for seas especially to future generations in Turkey. The foundation carry out researches and conservation projects and provide education on marine protection through summer schools and seminars.

Gökçeada Marine Park was selected one of the best practice of Turkey in Johannesburg the World Summit in 2002. Gökçeada Marine Park Underwater Photography Competitions were organized in 2011, 2005 and 1999 respectively. Finally Gökçeada Marine Park Snorkelling Photography Competition was organized by TUDAV in 28 August 2016.

