

8. PROTECTING WILDLIFE

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISLAND'S FAUNA

The island of Kos is rich in terms of reptilians and marine animals, as well as many bird species. Apart from migratory birds that come from the East and visit the island's fertile wetlands, there are also resident species.

Of the resident bird species, "Bonelli's eagles", of the accipitridate family, lanner falcons, black woodpeckers, lesser kestrels and red buzzards can be observed in the mountainous areas to the south of the island, while rock partridges can be seen in the agricultural areas.

The Fokas Cape, at the south-easternmost part of the island, is the habitat of blue rock-thrushes and of Eleonora's falcons. Shearwaters can also be seen flying over the sea in the same region.

The island of Kos is also the natural habitat for many species of reptiles, such as snakes and lizards, as well as for terrapins and tortoises. Caretta - caretta sea turtles leave their eggs on some parts of the beaches between the Alykes Lake and Tigaki.

The wetland areas of Kos are:

- Alikes Lake on the north coast about 10km west of Kos Town is an area of disused saltpans with reedbeds, marshy areas and open water. Various herons such as Great White Egret and passage waders including Broad-billed Sandpiper are regular here as is Ruddy Shelduck and Greater Flamingo.
- Similar species are found at Psalidi, a small lake with reedbeds where Zitting Cisticola nests, 4km to the south-east of Kos Town. Open sandy areas around these wetlands are home to Stone-Curlew and Tawny Pipit.

The Fauna of Kos Island:

- **Birds:** Perdika mountainous, partridge or lowland, owl, woodcock, crown, lobster, turdus, hawk, hawk eagle, fluffy goosefoot, swallows, ducks, corn cobs, and small birds. Kos is one of the few islands you can still meet maggots.
- **Reptiles:** Viper Poisonous and non-poisonous, Wormwood (Typhlops vermicularis), Saiti, lizards of many species and salamanders. Other reptiles are turtles, testuco graeca, mauremys caspica, lizards etc.
- **Arthropods** of many species such as spiders and scorpions. Only in Kos there is the reptile Blanus strauchi as well as the species Elaphe situla and C.nummifor that are unusual in the rest of the Dodecanese.
- **Mammals:** hare, rabbits, fox, mice, rats, bats (the species of bats in Kos are mainly insectivorous and small, reaching 10 points in length).

Wildlife Policy

Blue Lagoon Village is fully committed to providing greener and healthier environment for everyone in the resort and surroundings. Loyal to our Group Environmental policy we engage in sustainable practices that conserve natural resources and reduce environmental impact. As importantly, sustainable tourism will enhance and protect the destinations where Blue Lagoon Village operates for generations to come.

As a hotel we commit that we do not take any kind of wild animal species from the nature to use them to our facilities. We do not use protected species for food, none of the protected wildlife species of snakes, birds and mammals are not part of the Greek or Mediterranean diet.

We do not have any kind of exhibition or shows that wild life animals take part. None of our activities are involving wildlife species participation. And we do not take part in any kind of trade or selling wildlife species.

Finally we declare that none of the practices of the Travelife Sustainability Standards for Hotels and Accommodations take place on the premises and that we do not promote any of these practices or places.

On the other hand in co-operation with the animal welfare organization “Animal Rescue Kos (ARK)”, we accommodate cats in our complex, providing them medical care as well as food and water, according to their needs.

Below you can see their details:

Mrs. Sue

Kivotos / Animal Rescue Kos

TO 3825, Linopoti, Zipari, Kos 85300 - GREECE

Registered Charity Number - 997918563

Paypal - animalrescuekos@yahoo.com

The Blue Lagoon Village complex is not located in NATURA 2000 environmental zone of Kos island.

As a hotel we provide all the necessary information about the wildlife of the island. We inform our guest to try to prevent any undue disturbance to wild animals. Stay on the outside of bird colonies in Plaka Forest and the Wetland of Alikes and Psalidi, Not to touch, handle, injure or kill any wild bird or other wild animal, Never feed any wild animals and in case of snake, lizard or another animal appearance in the blue lagoon Village complex to inform reception.