

2024 | Author: Jens Bokelaar



# Travel report Greece 2024

April 24<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>

Mammals

# Travel report Greece

## 2024

Mammals

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# Introduction

Greece is a country that is easy to travel through. There is a lot of infrastructure for tourists and finding places to sleep or rent a car isn't usually a problem, even in the more remote areas there are normally some hotels.

Biodiversity for mammals is not extraordinary but there is no country with better odds of finding mediterranean monk seal. The Gulf of Korinth could be a good place for dolphin watching as well but I do not have any experience with going there.

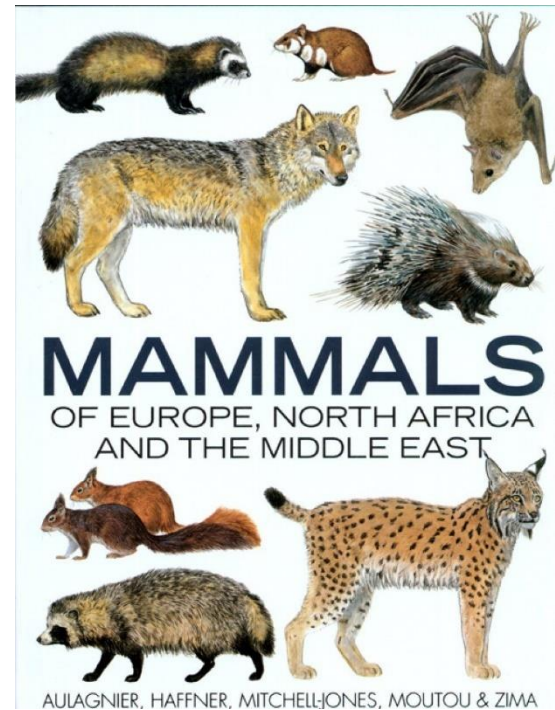
Here a publication about the dolphins in the Gulf of Korinth:

[Click Here](#)

There is lots of literature for European mammals. I myself have these two books. I can advise to get them but they both have problems. The first one is out of print. The second one is in Dutch.

Here you can find the exact coordinates of sightings: [Click here](#)

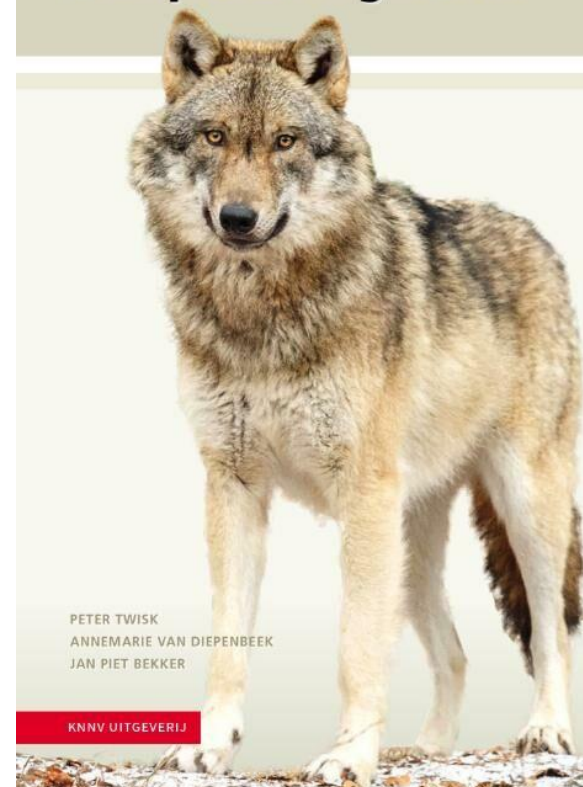
Feel free to ask any questions



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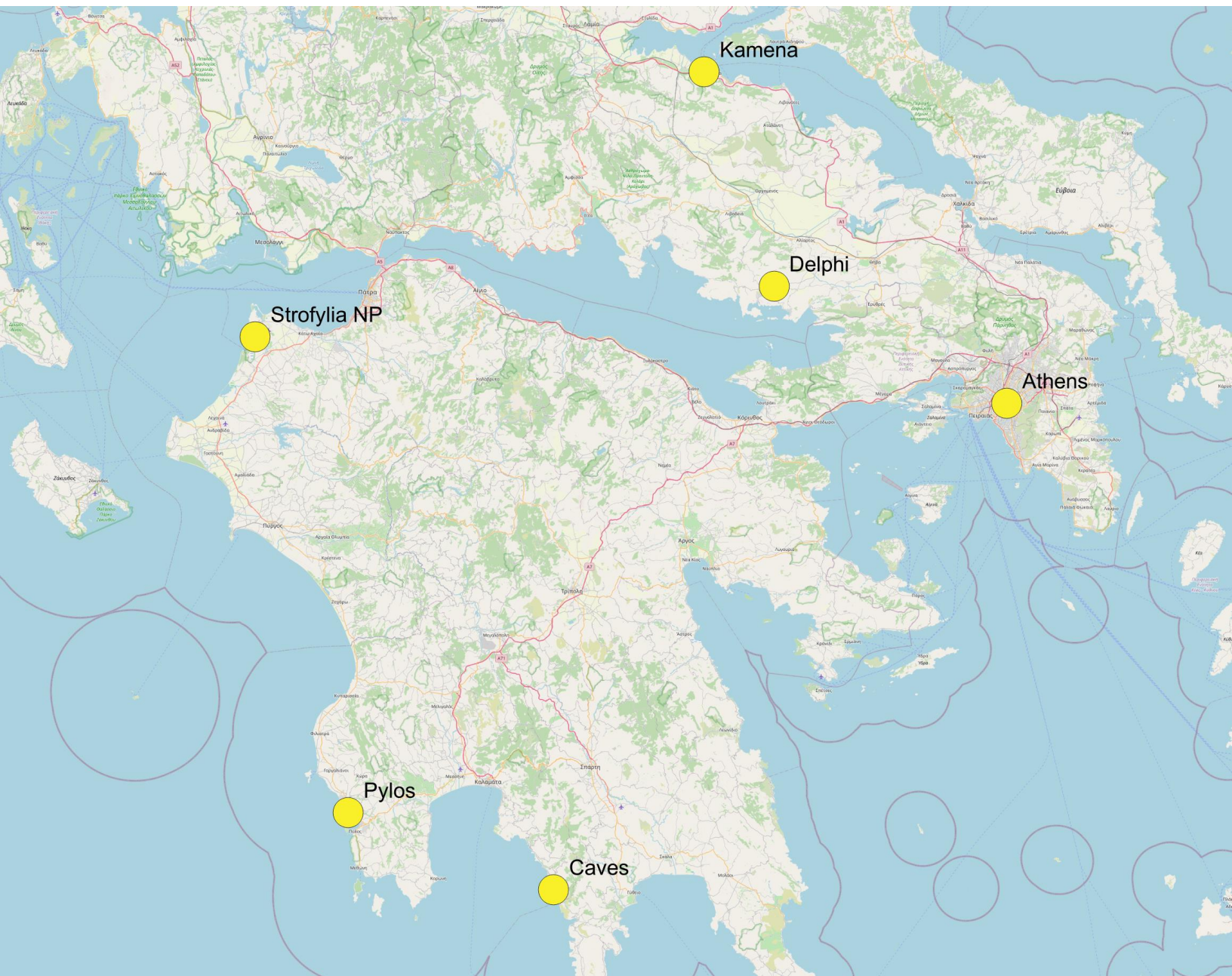
## Europese zoogdieren



PETER TWISK  
ANNEMARIE VAN DIEPENBEEK  
JAN PIET BEKKER

KNNV UITGEVERIJ





# Travel experience

## Athens

### Species list

1. **European free-tailed bat** *Tadarida teniotis*

### Travel log

Just wanted to note that although **European free-tailed bat** can be found at a lot of places they are very common around the acropolis in Athens.



On the way to the Lichadonisia Islands from Kamena harbor

# Kamena

## Species list

2. Mediterranean monk seal      *Monachus monachus*

## What to do

Guided excursions:

- Boat trip to search for Mediterranean monk seal

## Travel log

We traveled as a group of 10 people which meant we could reserve for a private tour at Poseidon Marine Center. Their phone number is: [+30 697 730 1004](tel:+306977301004) and E-mail would be: [poseidonmc@googlemail.com](mailto:poseidonmc@googlemail.com) We started our trip at the harbor of Kamena. You can easily park your car close to the harbor on the street. The boat trip was 3 hours; from 9 o'clock until 12. The boat trip cost 400 euros for the group. I paid 200 euro in advance and we needed to pay 200 euros in cash at the harbor.

Like reported in earlier reports there is a group of 7+ individuals hanging around the islands here. But they sometimes go out further as well. The week before we arrived, they were in the harbor of Kamena hunting fish. They are very accustomed to humans. They come close enough to touch them.

For our trip it took us about 20-30 minutes hanging around the islands until we saw one individual. It stayed at some distance but was curious and swam  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a circle around the boat before it took off.

Spring and Summer are definitely the seasons to come and search for the seals. The captain says he sees them every time he is out during this period. This is different in the winter sadly enough. Daan Drukker went for two days in December and did not see them. His trips were also both times half a day.

## External sources

Wanax01 had reported about this location: <https://www.mammalwatching.com/community-post/mediterranean-monk-seal-licadonisia/>

Additional Ralf Bürglin reported on them: <https://www.mammalwatching.com/community-post/how-to-not-find-a-mediterranean-monk-seal-in-greece/>



# Delphi



## Species list

1. Red fox
2. Field mouse

*Vulpes vulpes*  
*Apodemus sp.*

## What to do

-

## How to get there

Just wanted to note shortly that going to the east from Delphi and south of Parnassus a *Apodemus* sp. crossed the road. The habitat would be suitable for *Apodemus epimelas*. We also heard a fox at night just west of Delphi.



# Pylos



## Species list

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>Golden jackal</b>   | <i>Canis aureus</i>  |
| 2. Red fox                | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> |
| 3. <b>Eurasian badger</b> | <i>Meles meles</i>   |
| 4. <b>Beech Marten</b>    | <i>Martes fiona</i>  |

## Travel log

North of Pilos is a big wetland where a lot of golden jackals were howling at night. Sadly, it is very difficult to see them from the road north of the wetland area (high vegetation). If you want to search them the south side might be better. We did not see them there but they are at this place in great abundance.

We also saw some red foxes. It is very interesting to see that they sometimes have a grayish coloration from the middle back to the bum.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/200287593>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/167931386>

From this location we drove back to Kalamata. During the drive back we saw all the species on the species list mentioned above.



# Katafigi Caves

## Species list

1. **Lesser horseshoe bat** *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
2. **Horseshoe bat sp.** *Rhinolophus sp. (not hipposideros)*

## Travel log

I mainly wanted to mention that Greece has an amazing database for their caves. Not only is it quite easy to find caves but they also list the species found in these caves. Or you can search for the animal species and find out in which caves they are found. It is an amazing resource especially if you are searching for bats.

<https://database.inspee.gr/>

# Strofylia National Park



## Species list

1. Golden jackal *Canis aureus*
2. **Northern White-breasted Hedgehog** *Erinaceus roumanicus*
3. European free-tailed bat *Tadarida teniotis*

## Travel log

It is amazing how easy it was to find Golden jackals if you drive the road through the park. We saw 5 individuals within 15 minutes. Most of them we were able to observe clearly even going so far that they walked parallel to the road within 50 meters. Different to Pylos at this location there where almost no obstruction in the landscape that kept them out of sight.

Where the road enters the south side of the national park there is a grass field. Here we found 2 Northern White-breasted Hedgehog these where a new species for me.