

The PEATS project is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> phase – being approved by the EU around 10 years ago. Before that other programmes run by Grampus and partners go right back to 1996, giving 25 years of unbroken mobility for UK-based vocational students and staff. Around 15 European countries offer a number of pre-agreed 32-day training / work experience blocks, which are officially recognized and accredited through ECVET (“European Certificate for Vocational Education and Training”). All PEATS placements consider rural sustainability and embrace “Green Village” (an earlier “Leonardo da Vinci” project) principles of environmental, cultural, social and economic sustainability in the countryside

## PEATS (Environmental Skills) "CREATING A NETWORK OF TRAILS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF LARNACA DISTRICT" – 28<sup>th</sup> March to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - for students, recent graduates/diplomates and those enrolled in ‘Green Village’. (32 days)

Lefkara Municipality and Kato Drys Community Council have worked with Grampus Heritage for 10 years now. Kato Drys were an original ‘Green Village’ partner, specializing in rural food, empowering communities and traditional handicrafts. The village of Kato Drys sits at 650 metres above sea level in the mountainous part of Larnaca District and has become known as a village with a sustainable future, with festivals, handicrafts, cookery and a buoyant community. Lefkara has been voted one of the thirty most beautiful places in the world. Both villages feature in the story of the world famous ‘Lefkara Lace’ (UNESCO Cultural Heritage at Risk); also, with the help of Grampus, both villages embark on a path to become art, craft and fashion villages. Both villages are set in a rugged mountain landscape with the Machairas mountains, Lefkara and Dipotomos dams

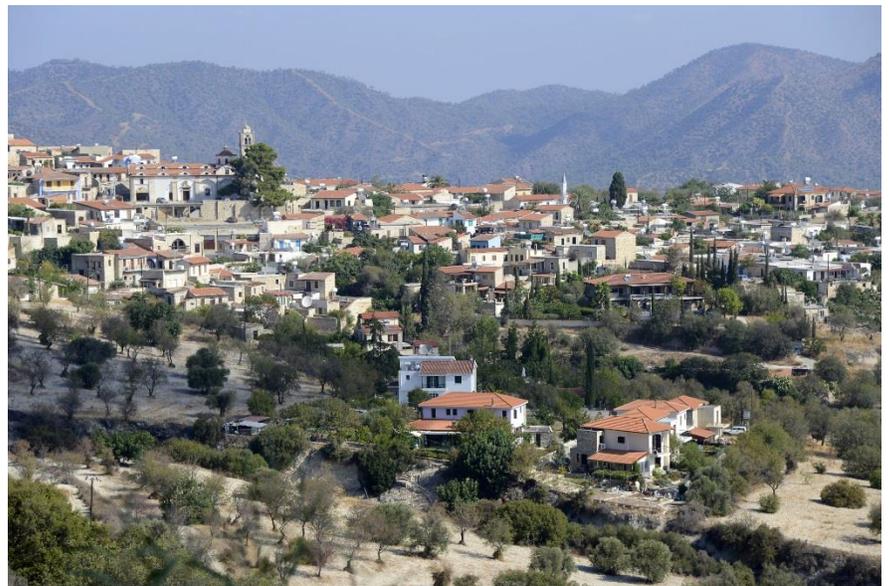


**Above: E4 Trail**

and the picturesque Dipotomos (‘two rivers’) and St Spiridon’s valley. We concern ourselves at this stage with an area between the villages of Vavla, Kato Drys, Pano Lefkara, Lythrodontas and Skarinou and centred on the hamlet of Kyprovasa (copper valley’). The area has passing through it the long distance “E4” trail, which is internationally-known and recognized, beginning in Spain and finishing in Cyprus, covering more than 10,000 kilometres.

**Below: Pano Lefkara**

**WEEK ONE** – after arrival to Paphos or Larnaca, transfer to Pano Lefkara for accommodation in 8-bedroomed courtyard house. Evening meal together, discuss the weeks ahead. On the first full day we induct you into our organization and network, discuss the project and look together at films and the existing body of information. On the second full day, we pack a picnic and tour the area in a 7-seater 4-wheel drive vehicle (you have use of this vehicle for the duration of the placement). On the tour you begin to select routes to explore and record and you begin entering them onto a map



(by hand initially, later, digitally). Each day you explore a new route.... You record hazards, interesting features, including archaeology, churches water mills, shielings/ mandras (summer mountain farms). You also photograph such features plus plants/flowers/trees, herds of sheep and goats with attendant shepherds and generally anything a tourist might be interested in. You also record problems such as dumping and litter – you may do some cleaning or give instructions to local volunteers.

**Below: The Kourvellos obelisk (volcanic plug) in the Dipotomos valley – southern end of trails area.**



**WEEK TWO** – the exploring and mapping of trails continues. You use recognizes methods of scoring routes for time to complete them and difficulty. You also begin to thing holistically but also in themes...orchid trail, butterfly trail, special tree trail, archaeology/old settlement trail (later students might flesh out



this latter theme). You will use a drone and become more and more proficient in its use. You will link also to the film-making team and gather footage for a video about the trails you identify. You must also devise resting stops, identifying shady places to picnic with potable water.

**Left: Picking strawberry tree fruit (Arbutus spp.)**

**WEEK THREE** – Producing the leaflet / booklet / guide. We use a local graphics, design and printing company. You will experiment with natural dyes – many plants are readily available along the trails you survey and map....examples are oak and walnut leaves and bark, madder, eucalyptus, olive leaves,

etc. You will also assemble and use all the sketches and photographs you've made. The original plant dyed pieces you produce will be colour copied by a design/print centre and then exhibited. You will be guided as to style but also have a free hand to include your own images, sketches, even snippets of creative writing/ each member of the team will have different skills and strengths – by week 3 these will be well-recognised. The team-work is an important part of your placement. Throughout these first three weeks your weekends are free to explore or relax. At least one Friday will be set-aside for a guided tour into the Troodos Mountains.



**Above: Vinegar plant dyeing – sustainable design technique**

**WEEK FOUR** – This is a 'hands-on' week, to give you some skills and appreciation of what is necessary to maintain footpaths and trails. Other groups of students are in Cyprus and one tesm will be restoring a stone-built medieval water cistern in the Dipotomos valley. The water cistern lies on one of the pre-existing cultural trails previously identified by the Cultural Association led by former Mayor Andreas and working with Grampus. Our plan is that you will have identified places on the trail network, where an intervention is needed

– such as inserting steps, stone pitching or installing marker posts. We will give time this week for supervised training in all these ‘go withs’ if necessary/ possible.

### **WEEK FIVE (4 days)**

These last days are for finishing your work – at least in printable PDF form. I hope there will also be time for relaxing, shopping and cleaning the student house! Of special cultural interest in Lefkara is the famous lace (“Lefkaritika”) and the silversmithing. Grampus work to support these, running a community shop to help put the lace into modern clothes and build a fashion interest. Both Kato Drys and Lefkara are emerging art villages and you should enjoy this art and, if time allows, take part.



***Left: Medieval water cistern***

### **GENERAL**

As mentioned you have use of a 7-seater off-road vehicle – you must check oil and water. You need more than one driver. It goes without saying that you will need appropriate footwear and clothes. In May it will be hot, you need hats, sunscreen and flasks + insect repellent. One of your group (Abbie Cartmel) is the leader, due to her proven skills and prior knowledge of the area; you must accept this leadership but also seek to offer your own ideas and

be a useful team member.

In the student house, you might need to share rooms. You must follow the rules of the house. There is a good kitchen and wood-burning stove. There is no TV, so at least 1 person should take a laptop (this would be useful also for your work). You will receive €80 each per week for food. You must buy and prepare your own food and should shop as a team. You should also manage the household as a team! We do provide a free welcome and farewell meal – this normally involves cooking in a traditional outdoor oven. You will arrive in Cyprus during the time of the COVID 19 pandemic and you must follow the rules issued by the Cypriot State. Cyprus has coped well during COVID and you will see and experience little evidence of impact.



***Machairas Mountains***

**For more information & application forms please contact:**

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