



Greece:
“Live your myth”

GREECE

- The official name of Greece is the Hellenic Republic.
- Athens is the capital of Greece. It is also the most populated city in the country (4 mil)



GREECE

- Location: Southern Europe, bordering the Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, between Albania and Turkey.
- Population: 10.94 mil. (2011 census)
- Language: Greek
- Currency: Euro (EUR)
- 80 percent landscape of Greece comprises of mountains. Only one half of the country is covered by forests, the other half is barren.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GREECE

- Greece has more than 2,000 islands, of which approximately 170 are populated. Greece's largest island is Crete (3,189 sq. miles)
- Greece enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine a year.
- No point in Greece is more than 85 miles (137 kilometers) from water. Greece has about 9,000 miles of coastline, the 10th longest in the world



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GREECE



- Approximately 16.5 million tourists visit Greece each year, more than the country's entire population. Tourism constitutes nearly 18% of the Gross Domestic Product
- About 12 million people around the world speak Greek. They live mostly in Greece, Cyprus, Albania, Turkey, Australia and the United States

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GREECE

- Continuously inhabited for over 7,000 years, Athens is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It is also the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, political science, Western literature, historiography, major mathematical principles, and Western theories of tragedy and comedy.
- The world's third leading producer of olives, the Greeks have cultivated olive trees since ancient times. Some olive trees planted in the thirteenth century are still producing olives



GREEK SHIPPING



- Throughout history, Greeks have loved the sea. With more than 1,800 merchant ships in service, Greece has one of the largest fleets in the world. Aristotle Onassis and Stavros Niarchos (“The Golden Greek”) are some of the better-known Greek shipping businessmen.
- Greek ships make up 70% of the European Union's total merchant fleet. According to Greek law, 75% of a ship's crew must be Greek

THE PARTHENON

- The Parthenon (“Place of the Partheons,” from *parthenos* or “virgin”) was built almost 2,500 years ago and sits on the Acropolis above the city of Athens. It actually featured colorful sculptures and a large gold-and-ivory statue of Athena. It took 15 years to build



METEORA

- The **Metéora** (Greek: Μετέωρα, "suspended rocks", "suspended in the air" or "in the heavens above" - etymologically similar to "Meteorite") is one of the largest and most important complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Greece, second only to Mount Athos. The six monasteries are built on natural sandstone rock pillars, at the northwestern edge of the Plain of Thessaly near the Pineios river and Pindus Mountains, in central Greece.
- The nearest town is Kalambaka.



Entry Requirements for Business/Tourist Visa

- African and Asian nations are required to carry a visa when entering the country
- Rest of the world, whether they visit for tourism or business purposes travel visa free and can stay up to 90 days.
- Students, employees on a long-term contract, investors need to submit, to the consulate, papers proving the purpose and their financial soundness in order to be issued with a long-term visa/residence/work permit.



Currency/payment issues:

- Euro is the only legal tender accepted
- Cash (in Euros) and credit cards are widely used/not checks/take time/ unless cashed out at US bank branches (e.g. citi)
- Passport is necessary at all times while being in Greece/passports show the validity of your entry and the duration of your stay
- VAT (the equivalent of the US sales tax) is imposed in Europe, on different rates, throughout the EU, on final price of goods & services
- Always ask for receipts, if they don't provide with, either call market police or just bargain
- Stores are closed only on Sundays, but in the provinces they still obey the "siesta regime" according to which there is a pause between 2-5 pm.
- Public services are open 8-4pm



Travelling inside Greece:

- In Athens:

Highly recommended areas to visit :
museums, the Parthenon, the
ancient market, archaeological sites,
lycabettus hill, the constitution
square, art galleries, shopping areas,
nightlife areas, traditional greek
food tavernas and restaurants

- Islands in the Aegean and Ionian sea
(sun, beaches, resorts)
- Mainland for divergent landscapes
and archaeological sightseeing
(Delphi, Epidaurus, Mycenae,
meteora)



Precautions while in Greece:

- No special places to avoid visiting
- Avoid walking or driving intoxicated after midnight
- Avoid carrying with you large sums of cash or valuable accessories
- All means of transportation are safe in Greece, subway (metro) is the most convenient in touring Athens
- For 3G/4G systems specs are the same but differences are mainly in frequency bands, so all y need is buy a prepaid SIM card and just insert it in your phone. Others prefer low-cost prepaid phone cards that you can buy at all kiosks or tobacco selling points
- Most of coffee shops and most of the public squares in Athens provide cost free wifi access to the internet



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Culture behavior issues:

- There are no religious and/or common cultural practices
- The vast majority of Greeks, (taxi drivers, bus drivers, store employees) even in the country side speak English so, communication while moving around or shopping is relatively easy
- Greeks use often hand gestures to welcome or while discussing
- there are no special social taboos that visitors should be aware of and avoid



Safety/health issues:

- There are no unique punishable crimes in Greece, most of the crimes committed are of similar type/nature as the ones we meet in the western world
- If a visitor is arrested or detained he should immediately ask for the consular authorities of his country to be notified
- There are no physical/weather phenomena to worry about. In the extreme need for emergency evacuation services, always keep with you your consulates' contact numbers
- Health insurance is advised when travelling, for emergency cases refer to state or private clinics' emergency sections



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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Greece in the USA
Consulate in Houston



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Welcome to the Greek Consulate in Houston



In this section of our website you can keep up to date with the latest news from our Consulate in Houston, learn about the services provided, read about the Consul and the mission's staff and find all the relevant contact information.

Please note that the states of jurisdiction of our Consulate are Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Island



SERVICES FOR GREEKS



SERVICES FOR NON GREEKS



CONTACT INFORMATION



INVEST IN GREECE

Latest News

- Consul's trip to Dallas, TX March 24-25 2012
- Independence Day Celebration (Houston - March 22, 2012)
- Visit of the Consul G. Papanikolaou to Austin, Texas

Contact Info

- 520 Post Oak Boulevard Suite 450
Houston Texas 77027
United States of America
- 29.7540674,-95.4529816
- +1713 8407522 , 8407523
- +1713 8400614





QUESTIONS?