



Greece

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HISTORY

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Greece is undoubtedly a country steeped in ancient history. Cycladic civilization inhabited the country as far back as 3000 BC, after which other civilizations emerged over time. The city-states of Ancient Greece, called polis, created the more advanced concepts of separate governments, language dialects, and laws, many still used today.

Alexander the Great then united the Greek people when he came into power in 332 BC, and by 30 BC, Greece became part of the Roman Empire and then later part of the Byzantium Empire when the Roman Empire split. As a result, Greek culture had a significant influence on both Empires. Greece only left the Byzantium Empire in the 1400s with the arrival of the Ottoman Empire. After the Greek War for Independence, they later broke free from the Ottomans and slowly added the islands nearby to their territories. Italy invaded Greece in WWII, which was then taken over by Germany. But when the war ended in Germany's defeat, Greece joined NATO.

They are currently a member of the European Union.



MONEY



The currency in Greece is the euro, with banknotes being available in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and coins of 2 and 1 Euro and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent of euro.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in Greece; however, it is always advisable to carry cash as some small shops and traders in lesser tourist areas may only accept cash.

ATM

You can use any cash or credit card in any ATMs here. However, there may be a lack of ATM options or cash in the ATMs on the smaller, more remote islands.



HELPFUL INFO

Climate

In general, Greece has a warm Mediterranean climate. The summer days are hot with a cool evening breeze, especially up north and in the coastal regions. Athens can reach up to 40C degrees. Winters are mild; however, the northern regions are cold and snowy.

Electricity

Both the C and F type plugs are used in Greece, and the country operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.



Technology & Communication

Hotels, Internet Cafes, Restaurants, and coffee shops mostly offer WIFI, even if the bandwidth may sometimes be slow. If you wish to have 100% access to the internet while traveling around Greece, a pocket WIFI or local sim card would be recommended. These are widely and cheaply available.

Infrastructure & Transport

A large part of Greece's economic development is focused on improving the lives of its citizens by creating easily accessible and environmentally friendly cities and towns. An extensive, efficient road network is now close to completion with large new motorways making road travel much more efficient across the country. Both the Bus and Metro system has also grown exponentially in the last couple of years, leaving citizens and visitors with many transport options, especially in the larger cities such as Athens.



In Case Of An Emergency

For any life-threatening emergencies, Dial 112.

Language

Greek, Stemming from Medieval Greek with different regional dialects, is the official language here, with English being the most prominent international language used.



LGBT Travel

Thankfully, Greece is one of the most liberal destinations in Europe, with an established gay scene. Athens and Thessaloniki are particularly popular, with Mykonos also having a very well-known gay community with many establishments catering for the LGBTQ2IA community.

Religion

The dominant religion in Greece is Greek Orthodoxy and plays a dominant role in the culture and heritage here.



ΕΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΙΣ ΕΥΛΟΓΕΙΤΕ ΤΟΝ ΘΕΟΝ

Getting There

Greece is easily accessible by car from any of its neighboring countries. Italy tends to be the favored entry point when arriving by car.

One can also travel via ferry, from any of Italy's ports. This is a popular option for those taking their car over to Greece.

There are direct flights from all major European airports. The most cost-effective way to fly from another continent, such as North America, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa, is to fly via another European airport. i.e., London, Frankfurt, or Amsterdam. The majority of flights arrive in Athens or Thessaloniki.

Driving

The legal driving age is 18, and all drivers must carry a legal driver's license. You will need an international driver's license to rent a car if your license is not from a country within the European Union.

Motorists drive on the right and overtake on the left. The legal speed limits are 50km/hour in urban areas, 110km/hour on open roads, and 120km/hour on motorways.

Warning: Greek drivers tend to be impatient.

THE EXPERIENCE

Culture

Greeks are intensely passionate about their culture and certainly believe that their heritage defines them. One of the most important elements is language. This is a country very rich in history with most historical customs and traditions still being followed. The majority of the festivals and celebrations are religious in nature and involve traditional music and dance. Daily cultures are highly influenced by religion.

Local culinary products are commonly used in cooking, creating a strong influence on regional cultures. Although architecture has evolved through many phases, each style strongly illustrates the particular era's culture and traditions.

And then there is coffee. Going out for coffee is embedded in the Greek way of life.

Bucket List

Santorini Catamaran Cruise

Private Tour of Athens

Traditional Greek Food Tastings or cooking class

Private Santorini Experience Tour

Visit Acropolis

A night out in Mykonos

Beach day in Crete

Day on Corfu Island

Snorkel or Scuba Dive The blue caves of Zákynthos

Family Travel Highlights

Climbing the Acropolis Rock

Watersports or hiking the Cycladic Islands

Explore the Peloponnese region

Visit Classical Greece Highlights including Epidaurus, Olympia, Delphi, Mycenae, Meteora

City Bike Tour of Athens

Tourism Authority

The Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO) is a Public Entity (PE) supervised by the Ministry of Tourism. The GNTO was first established in 1927 and re-established in 1950 by Emergency Act 1565/50, ratified by law 1624/51); in the meantime, tourism fell under the competence of various ministries. Since 1950, the GNTO constitutes the ruling state agency for the tourism sector. According to law 3270/04 (Government Gazette 187/A/11.10.2004), GNTO consists of the Head Office located in Athens and the Regional Departments of Tourism (as of 01.01.2005). The structure of the GNTO's services and the competences of each unit are included in Presidential Decree 343/2001 (Gov. Gazette no 231 A).



Foods To Try

Baklava

Bougatsa

Dolmadakia

Feta Me Meli

Galaktobourekó

Greek Salad (Choriatiki)

Kataifi

Moussaka

Souvlaki

Yemista

Tzatziki



Drinks To Try

Greek Ouzo

Chios masticha

Retsina

Greek Coffee

Tsipouro

Raki/Tsikoudia

Photography Hot Spots

Stavrota mountain in Lefkada

Windmill in Mykonos

Meteora

Melissani Cave, Kefalonia

quaint island of Symi

Crete

Santorini

Corfu

Souvenirs To Buy

Greek Cosmetics

Leather Sandals

Tagari Bags

Kompoloi : Worry Beads

Tavli : backgammon set

Karagiozis figurine

A mati talisman for the evil eye

Handmade ceramics

Bouzouki





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425-361-5212



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