Welcome to Greece
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Basic Facts & Figures

Language
Usage of the Greek language spans three and a half millennia. The Greek language and alphabet has been an essential part of the development of many western languages. The first evidence of a written language was found in Crete and is called Linear B. Most popular foreign languages are also widely spoken.

Telephone
Country code +30, area code (210, 211, 212 for Athens / 2610 for Patras)

Climate
Greece is perfect for those who enjoy the sun; for over two thirds of the year the country basks under clear, sunny skies. However, temperatures do vary. Winters are mild and rainy, with temperatures sometimes dropping to freezing point, especially in the north. Summers are long and dry, with extremes of 39°C (104°F), making the average temperature over the year approximately 17°C (63°F).

Government & Politics
Parliamentary democracy.

Banking
Banks are open Monday-Thursday 08.00-14.30 and Friday 08.00-14.00 and remain closed during weekends and public holidays. Cash withdrawal is available through ATM machines. Currency exchange can be made through ATM machines, which display the “CIRUS” and “MAESTRO” logos, or at Currency Exchange Desks located in central parts of the city.

Currency
Greece is part of the European Union and has adopted the Euro as its official currency. The Euro (€) consists of notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and each euro comprises 100 cents. Coins are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and 1 and 2 euro coins. There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency or euros you may import into Greece. Currency should be exchanged only at official exchanges or banks, never on the street or black market.

Time Difference
Greece operates two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and also operates summer time – moving the clocks forward one hour during the summer.

Electricity Supply
The electrical supply is 220 volts/ 50 cycles, using the European continental two-prong style. Adapter plugs are available from electrical shops.
Mobile Phones
Greece operates the GSM, 3G & 4G mobile phone standards.

Traffic Regulations
Driving is on the right. Traffic regulations and signs are as elsewhere in Europe. The center of Athens has alternate-day driving. All vehicles with odd-numbered license plates may go into the central ring of the city on odd-numbered days and even-numbered cars on even days (Mon-Fri). This includes rental vehicles with local Athens plates, but not taxis.

Taxis
Taxis are numerous (they are painted yellow in Athens and red-white in Patras and have the sign TAXI on top). Meters are set at the start of each journey with a minimum fare applying; Tariff 1 on the meter indicates a regular fare, and 2 the rate between midnight and 5am. In the city you can hail a taxi in the street.

Tipping
Service is generally included in restaurant and bar bills (unless explicitly mentioned) although it is customary to tip at the discretion of the customer.
Useful phrases

Ναι.
ne
Yes.

όχι
okhee
No.

Καλώς ορίσατε
Kalos orreesate
Welcome!

Χαίρω πολύ
khero polee
Pleased to meet you.

Γεια σας
ya sas
Hello

Ευχαριστώ
efkhareesto
Thank you.

Με λένε ...
me lene ...
My name is ...

Μιλάτε Αγγλικά;
meelate angleeka?
Do you speak English?

Συγγνώμη, αλλά δεν μιλάω Ελληνικά;
seegnome, ala dhen meelao eleeneeka
I’m sorry, I don’t speak Greek.

Χαίρετε
kherete
Goodbye
Athens is the capital city of Greece. It is situated at the southeast tip of Greece’s mainland and is the country’s heart, economic and industrial, as well as political and cultural center.

According to legend, the Gods of Olympus, who were worshipped by the ancient Greeks, decreed that the city should be named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom. The city, set on and around a dramatic hill of rock - the Acropolis - became the cradle of western civilization. Athens is the birthplace of democracy, with Parthenon being an architectural and technological masterpiece, a crowning symbol of aesthetics in the world.

Athens today is a city rich in contrasts and surprises. It is a beautiful, constantly evolving city with an exciting, unique mix of the Ancient, Byzantine, Neoclassical and Modern. In Athens the past, present and future co-exist in breathtaking harmony offering an unparalleled array of choices ranging from luxurious hotels to state-of-the-art conference centers. Athens’ historical center, with its many museums and galleries, offers a trip through the centuries, while the city’s inexhaustible variety of restaurants satisfies all palates.

At night Athens offers a unique combination of ancient drama and modern dance, concert halls and cozy tavernas and nightclubs. Visitors are encouraged to discover the different aspects of the city: from the ancient theaters to the modern exhibition halls; from the sandy beaches of the seaside resorts to the hills and the mountains surrounding the city; from relaxing on a sailboat to shopping in the busy city center.
Transport to α2-innohub

The α2-innohub is located in key position in the business district of Athens, at Maroussi suburb, adjacent to the crossroads of two main road arteries of the Attica basin: Attiki Odos (a six-lane motorway constituting the Athens City Ring Road) and Leoforos Kifissias (the North-South Avenue).

The α2-innohub is located at 44 Kifissias Avenue (Monumental Plaza building, overlooking Kifissias Avenue).
Arriving at the Athens International Airport

Athens International Airport is located 33km southeast of Athens and is easily accessible via Attiki Odos. Public transport to α2-innohub, Athens center and the port of Piraeus is provided by Metro, Railway and Express Airport Buses, ensuring efficient transport, facilitating linkage to key areas and attractions.
Transport to α2-innohub

(Continued)

From Athens International Airport to α2-innohub:

Suburban Railway: Athens Airport station to Kifissias Avenue station. Trains depart from the Airport every 20 minutes, starting at 05:26 am until 21:44 pm. The journey time to Kifissias Station is approximately 20 minutes. For information about the itineraries and tickets [www.trainose.gr](http://www.trainose.gr) and [www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr).

Taxi: Available on a 24-hour basis. Taxi queue next to Exit 3 of the Arrivals Level.

Prebooked Taxi/ Transfer: Pre-booked taxis are available upon request. For further information, please contact the Taxi Union Association (SATA) at tel.: +30 210 5239524. Notice: According to the Greek Legislation, taxi drivers should provide a receipt for the amount paid for transportation services.

Pre-booked Motor coach: Pre-booked Motor coaches are available upon request.

From Athens International Airport to Athens City Center:

Express Bus Line 95 (X95): Athens International Airport to Syntagma. For more information about the itineraries and tickets [www.oasa.gr](http://www.oasa.gr).

Metro: Line 3 "Athens International Airport – Agia Marina". For more information: [www.amel.gr](http://www.amel.gr) or [www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr).

Taxi: Available on a 24-hour basis. Taxi queue next to Exit 3 of the Arrivals Level.

Day time fare (05:00 - 24:00): €35.00.

Night time fare (00:00 – 05:00): €50.00.

Prebooked Taxi/ Transfer: Pre-booked taxis are available upon request. For further information, please contact the Taxi Union Association (SATA) at tel.: +30 210 5239524. Notice: According to the Greek Legislation, taxi drivers should provide a receipt for the amount paid for transportation services.
Transport to α2-innohub

(Continued)

From Athens City Center to α2-innohub:

**Metro & Suburban Railway:** Athens Syntagma or Monastiraki to Doukissis Plakentias via Metro Line 3 “Athens International Airport – Agia Marina” & from Doukissis Plakentias to Kifissias Station via Suburban Railway. For information about the itineraries and tickets [www.amel.gr](http://www.amel.gr) and [www.trainose.gr](http://www.trainose.gr).

**Public Bus:** Line A7 Athens (Stournari) to Kifissia and Line A8 Athens (Polytechnio) to Marousi. Bus Station: IOANNIDOY for α2-innohub.

**Express Bus Line 14 (X14):** Syntagma to Kifissia. Bus Station: OTE.

For more information about the itineraries and tickets [www.oasa.gr](http://www.oasa.gr).

**Taxi:** Indicative day/night fare from Syntagma to Maroussi: €10,00/€15,00.

**Prebooked Taxi/ Transfer:** Pre-booked taxis are available upon request. For further information, please contact the Taxi Union Association (SATA) at tel.: +30 210 5239524.

Notice: According to the Greek Legislation, taxi drivers should provide a receipt for the amount paid for transportation services.
Hotels

Divani Caravel - Cat: De Luxe
2 Vas. Alexandrou Ave., 16121 Athens | Tel: +30 210.72.07.000
E-mail: info@divanicaravel.gr, Site: www.divanis.com

Crown Plaza City Centre - Cat: De Luxe
50, Michalakopoulou Str., 11528 Athens | Tel: +30 210.72.78.000
E-mail: info@cpathens, Site: www.cpathens.com

Stratos Vassilikos - Cat: De Luxe
114 Michalakopoulou Str., 11527 Ambelokipi | Tel: +30 210.77.06.611
E-mail: info@airotel.gr, Site: www.airotel.gr, Online code: CORPACC

Holiday Inn Athens Airport - Cat: De Luxe
40,2 km Attica Ave., 19002 Paiania | Tel: +30 210.66.89.000
E-mail: atticainfo@hiathens.com, Site: www.holiday-inn.com

Melia Athens - Cat: A
14 Chalkokondili & 28th October Ave., 10677 Athens | Tel: +30 210.33.20.100
E-mail: melia.athens@melia.com, Site: www.melia.com

New Hotel - Cat: A
16 Fillelinon Str., 10557 Plaka | Tel: +30 210.32.73.000
E-mail: info@newhotel.gr, Site: www.yeshotels.gr

Periscope - Cat: A
22, Haritos Str., 10675 Kolonaki | Tel: +30 210.72.97.200
E-mail: info@periscope.gr, Site: www.yeshotels.gr

Civitel Olympic Hotel - Cat: A
2A, Kifissias Ave., 15125 Maroussi | Tel: +30 210.61.01.008
E-mail: reservations@civitelhotels.com, Site: www.civitel.eu

Athens Habitat Apartments - Cat: A
Saronikou 5 & Lagadion, 15125 Maroussi | Tel: +30 210.68.42.967
E-mail: rsv@athenshabitat.gr, Site: www.athenshabitat.gr

Royal Olympic Athens - Cat: A
28-34 Athanasiou Diakou Str., 11743 Athens | Tel: +30 210.92.88.400
E-mail: info@royalolympic.com, Site: www.royalolympic.com

Elements Hotel Apartments - Cat: B
3-5, Strati Mirivili Str., 15233 Chalandri Athens | Tel: +30 210.689.56.06
E-mail: rsv@elementshotel.gr, Site: www.elementshotel.gr

Civitel Attik - Cat: B (4 keys)
13-15, Eptalofou Str., 15125 Maroussi | Tel: +30 210.61.01.008
E-mail: reservations@civitelhotels.com, www.civitelattik.eu

Twentyone Hotel - Cat: B
21, Kolokotroni & Mykonou Str., 14562 Kefalari – Kifissia | Tel: +30 210.62.33.521
E-mail: info@twentyone.gr, Site: www.yeshotels.gr
Restaurants

InnoCafé.
44 Kifissias Ave., Maroussi (in the α2-innohub)
Tel: +30 215.53.53.799

Coffee House.
44 Kifissias Ave., Maroussi
Tel: +30 210.61.06.820

Bottega.
Fragkokklisias 3A Str., Maroussi (contemporary cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.61.00.288

Mono.
Palaiologou Mpenizelou 4c Str., Plaka-Athens (Mediterranean cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.32.26.711

Spondi.
5 Pirronos Str., Pagrati-Athens (two Michelin Stars)
Tel: +30 210.75.20.658

Varoulko.
80 Pireus Str., Psiri-Athens (one Michelin Star)
Tel: +30 210.52.28.400

Orizontes Lycavittou.
Lycabettus Hill-Athens (fish and Mediterranean cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.72.27.065

To Ouzadiko.
25-29 Karneadou Str., Kolonaki-Athens (traditional Greek cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.72.95.484

Pasaji.
Stoa Spiromilou, Kolonaki-Athens (Mediterranean/ traditional Greek cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.32.20.714

Olive Garden.
52 Panepistimiou Av., Titania Hotel Athens (Mediterranean cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.33.26.200

Attikos-Mina.
7 Ritzioti Garibaldi Str, Athens (traditional Greek cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.92.15.256
City of Patras

Patras is Greece's third largest urban area and the regional capital of West Greece, located in northern Peloponnese, 215 kilometers west of Athens. The city is built at the foothills of Mount Panachaikon, overlooking the Gulf of Patras.

The Patras Metropolitan Area is a conurbation of 222,460 inhabitants, while its urban area, contained within the Patras municipality, had a population of 202,757 (in 2001). The core settlement has a history spanning four millennia. In the Roman period it had become a cosmopolitan center of the eastern Mediterranean whilst, according to Christian tradition, it was also the place of Saint Andrew's martyrdom.

Dubbed Greece's Gate to the West, Patras is a commercial hub, while its busy port is a nodal point for trade and communication with Italy and the rest of Western Europe. The city has two public universities and one Technological Institute, hosting a large student population and rendering Patras a major scientific center with a field of excellence in technological education. The Rio-Antirio Bridge connects Patras' easternmost suburb of Rio to the town of Antirio, connecting the Peloponnese peninsula with mainland Greece.
Transport to π1-innohub

The π1-innohub (Patras Innovation Hub) is located in the outskirts of Patras, Greece’s third largest urban area and the regional capital of Western Greece, 215 km west of Athens. It resides in a strategic position, close to the University of Patras, with a panoramic view to the Rio-Antirio Bridge, and successfully operates as a “bridge” connecting innovation, research and high-technology.
From Athens International Airport to π1-innohub:

**Suburban Railway:** Athens Airport station to Kiato station. Trains depart from the Airport every 60 minutes, starting at 05:44 am until 21:44 pm. The journey time to Kiato Station is approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes. Kiato Station is connected to Patras by bus (Λ2EX, Λ4EX, Λ6EX, Λ8EX, Λ10EX, Λ12, Λ14X, Λ16EX, Λ18EX, Λ20EX, Λ22EX, Λ24EX, Λ26X). The journey time from Kiato to Patras Station by bus is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes (by Express buses). For information about the itineraries and tickets [www.trainose.gr](http://www.trainose.gr) and [www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr).

**Bus:** Athens International Airport is directly connected to the intercity bus (KTEL) terminals KIFISOS and LIOSION by X93 - ST. YPER. LEOF. KIFISOY - AER/NAS ATHINON (EXPRESS). For more information [www.oasa.gr](http://www.oasa.gr) and [www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr).

**Taxi:** Available on a 24-hour basis. Taxi queue next to Exit 3 of the Arrivals Level.

**Prebooked Taxi/ Transfer:** Pre-booked taxis are available upon request. For further information, please contact the Taxi Union Association (SATA) at tel.: +30 210 5239524 or taxivanpatras@taxivanpatras@hotmail.gr, mobile:+30.6977.702.063. Notice: According to the Greek Legislation, taxi drivers should provide a receipt for the amount paid for transportation services.

**Pre-booked Motor coach:** Pre-booked Motor coaches are available upon request.
Hotels

★★★★★ Patras Palace Hotel - Cat: De Luxe
15, Othonos Amalias Str., 26221 Patras | Tel: +30 2610.62.31.31
E-mail: info@patraspalace.gr, Site: www.patraspalace.gr

★★★★ Porto Rio Hotel - Cat: A
Rio, Patras, 26500 | Tel: +30 2610.99.21.02
E-mail: info@portoriohotel.gr, Site: www.portoriohotel.gr

★★★★ Airotel Achaia Beach - Cat: A
Kastelokambos, Patras 26500 | Tel: +30 2610.991.801
E-mail: info@airotel.gr, Site: www.airotel.gr, Online code: CORPACC

★★★★ Byzantino Hotel - Cat: A
106, Riga Feraiou Str., 26221 Patras | Tel: +30 2610.243.00
E-mail: info@byzantino-hotel.gr, Site: www.byzantino-hotel.gr

★★★ Airotel Patras Smart Hotel - Cat: B
New Port of Patras area, 26222 | Tel: +30 2611.100.900
E-mail: info@airotel.gr, Site: www.airotel.gr, Online code: CORPACC
Restaurants

InnoCafé. 4 Kastritsi Str., Rio (snacks & traditional Greek cuisine in the π1-innohub)
Tel: +30 210.93.40.29

Naftikos. 12 Poseidonos Str., Rio - Patras (Mediterranean & traditional Greek cuisine)
Tel: +30 2610.99.59.92

Agnantema. Eleftherias Str., Rio - Patras - (fish and traditional Greek cuisine)
Tel: +30 2610.99.34.00

Fagioum, 7 Vas. Roufou Str., Patras - (bar and Mediterranean cuisine)
Tel: +30 2610.27.05.57

En Plo. 60 Polytechniou Str., Patras (fish and Mediterranean cuisine)
Tel: +30 210.75.20.658

Mesogeios. Petmeza Av., Kastelokambos Patras (fish and Mediterranean cuisine)
Tel: +30 2610.99.46.01

Petrino. Sella Patras, (traditional Greek cuisine)
Tel: +30 2610.99.84.50
A: Kifissias Ave. 44, Monumental Plaza-Building C, GR-15125 Maroussi, Athens, Greece
T: +30.210.63.00.770

E: info@corallia.org
W: www.corallia.org