

Greece Destination Guide



Cash

The currency used in the Greek Islands is the Euro. The Euro, denominated in banknotes of: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Euros, while coins come in: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents (or lepta in Greek) and 1 and 2 Euros. It is important to always have some cash money in Greece and the Greek Islands. Although many hotels, restaurants and tourist shops in Greece accept credit cards, you might encounter few studios or small shops in less-touristy islands that ask for cash.

Credit and ATMs

Major card providers are accepted in larger cities and tourist areas in Greece. If you're in more remote areas, you might find that retailers don't take American Express. However, when you make it to truly rural Greece, you may find that cash is the only acceptable form of payment.

ATMs on the Greek Islands can be found in the typical tourist areas and main town centers. ATMs on the smaller and less populated islands may be hard to come by. To avoid being caught without cash, plan and withdraw money at the tourist areas for your Greek Island holiday.

In Case of Emergency

European Emergency Number (Police/Medical/Fire): 112

Police-Immediate Response: 100

Ambulance: 166

Fire: 199



The standard electrical frequency in South Africa 50-Hz, while the standard voltage is 230-V. The sockets and plugs in the country are either type D, M, or N.

It is wise to bring a voltage converter as well as an adapter. Using your appliances or electronics in South Africa isn't recommended unless they share the same voltage.

Around $\frac{1}{3}$ of South Africa's population uses smartphones, while about 90% of the population has a mobile connection of some sort. The country uses 2 GSM bands, 3 LTE bands and 3 UMTS bands.

There are WiFi hotspots in South Africa. Many of these can be found at cafes, hostels, malls, airports, hospitals, and hotels in major cities and towns.

Otherwise, you can use your mobile data nearly anywhere.



Getting Around

Roads in the mainland of Greece are modern and newly-constructed in a large scale. The main highway of Greece is E75 Athens-Thessaloniki, whose construction has almost finished, except for a couple of spots (in Stylida and Tempa). A large highway, Egnatia Odos, was also recently finished, crossing all Northern Greece and connecting the port of Igoumenitsa to Alexandroupoli, a town close to the borders between Greece and Turkey. While driving in the Greek highways, have in mind that you may encounter toll posts. The toll fares vary from 1,5 to 3,5 euros, as each toll post has different fares.



Getting There

One can travel to Greece by road, plane, train or sea. Major roads link Greece with Europe and Asia. Rail connections with Europe allow for a lovely nostalgic journey. And last but not least, Greek ports welcome ocean-going ships and local ferries all year round.



Language

Greek is the official language of Greece. It is spoken by about 99.5% of the population. It is also, alongside Turkish, the official language of Cyprus. Because of the membership of Greece and Cyprus in the European Union, Greek is one of the 23 official languages of the European Union.



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