



British Embassy Athens

Consular Section
1 Ploutarchou Street
Athens 10675
Greece

Tel: 210 7272600
Fax: 210 7272720
Email: Consular.Athens@fco.gov.uk
Website: ukingreece.fco.gov.uk

Notes on Greece - Athens

The British Consular Network in Greece offers consular support and assists British Citizens who face serious difficulties such as hospitalisation, arrest or death of a family member.

We can

- Issue replacement passports
- Provide information about transferring funds from the UK to you
- Provide appropriate help if you have suffered rape or serious assault, are a victim of other crime, are ill or in hospital.
- Provide details of local lawyers, interpreters, doctors and funeral directors
- Do all we properly can to contact you within 24 hours of being told that you have been detained
- Offer support and help in a range of other cases, such as child abductions, death of relatives overseas, missing people and kidnapping
- Contact friends and family for you, if you wish us to do so
- Make special arrangements in cases of terrorism, civil disturbances or natural disasters.

We cannot

- Get involved in private disputes over property, employment, commercial or other matters. Get you out of prison, prevent the local authorities from deporting you after your prison sentence, or interfere in criminal or civil court proceedings
- Help you enter a country, for example, if you do not have a visa or your passport is not valid, as we cannot interfere in another country's immigration policy or procedures.
- Give you legal advice, investigate crimes or carry out searches for missing people, although we can give you details of people who may be able to help you in these cases, such as English-speaking lawyers
- Get you better treatment in hospital than is given to local people
- Pay any bills or give you money from public funds
- Make travel arrangements for you, or find you work or accommodation
- Make business arrangements on your behalf
- Make sure you will be safe in another country – safety and security are matters for the Government concerned
- Provide compensation if you are affected by a major catastrophe or terrorist attack

Registering with the British Embassy – LOCATE Service

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Contact: Athens – 210 7272600, Corfu 26610 30055. Crete 2810 224012, Rhodes 2410 22005, Thessaloniki 2310 278006, Zakynthos 26950 22906

We strongly advise you to register with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's LOCATE service on our website: ukingreece.fco.gov.uk. Entering details of your trip as well as emergency friend and family contact details will help us find you in the event of an emergency. The information contained in the register will not be given to a third party without the written consent of the persons concerned.

Greek Regulations Regarding Registration/Residence Certificates

All EU nationals must apply for the new "Registration Certificate" (Veveoisi Engrafis) after they have spent 3 months in Greece. The Registration Certificate replaces the old "Residence Permit" (Adeia Diamonis). **It is obligatory**. This new certificate is open-dated and therefore will not need to be renewed. The following documents are required when applying for the issue of a Registration Certificate.

1) *In the case of a working person*

- a) The passport used when the applicant entered Greece
- b) A statement by the applicant's employer, duly certified by the local Labour Inspectorate, or a statutory declaration (Ypefthini Dilosi) in Greek specifying the nature and duration of the work to be done by the applicant and confirming local health cover e.g. IKA.

2) *In the case of members of his/her Family*

- a) The passport used when the applicants entered Greece
- b) A document issued by the appropriate authority of the country of origin showing their relationship, i.e. marriage/birth certificates, which will need to be translated into Greek or, alternatively, applicants may sign a statutory declaration (Ypefthini Dilosi) in Greek to confirm the relationship.

3) *In the case of pensioners or unemployed persons*

- a) The passport used when the applicants entered Greece
- b) Applicants will be asked to prove that they have adequate funds to support themselves e.g. by producing their bank account booklet which must show a minimum balance. Alternatively, pensioners can produce written proof (translated into Greek) that they are in receipt of a pension from their country of birth.
- c) Applicants will need to be able to prove that they have health insurance. This can be an EHIC card, E121, UK or Greek Private Health Insurance.

A new document now available to all EU nationals is the "Permanent Residence Certificate" (Engrafo Monimis Diamonis). It is **optional**. This certificate may suit British citizens who are married to Greek citizens or British citizens who have made Greece their permanent home. Anyone wishing to obtain this certificate must be able to prove that he/she has been a permanent resident of Greece for over 5 years.

Application for the above certificates should be made to the local Aliens Department office or local Police stations in districts outside Athens, foreign nationals must go to the Police Station closest to their residence.

Area	Address	Telephone number
Athens	24 Petrou Ralli Road, Tavros	210 340 5828
Maroussi	15 Agiou Orous Street	210 687 5176/7
Piraeus	37 Iroon Polytechniou Street	210 412 2501 ext 2382
South – East Areas	Gate of former Eastern Airport	210 969 0292 – 3
Egaleo	21 Marmara Street	210 531 9312

Health Care in Greece

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Information can be obtained by contacting the local office of the Greek National Health Service: IKA, www.ika.gr. Appointments to see an IKA doctor may be made by calling 184. The Greek National Health service provides the basic medical service to Greek NI contributors and has a reciprocal agreement with the British National Health Service. Visitors to Greece should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC is available free of charge through most UK post offices or from the UK Department of Health via their website at www.dh.gov.uk or by calling 0845 606 2030 to obtain the leaflet "Health Advice for Travellers". The EHIC entitles you to emergency medical treatment on a par to treatment received by Greek Nationals. You will not be covered for medical repatriation, on-going medical treatment or treatment of a non-urgent nature.

We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling abroad. There are many public and private hospitals and medical centres of varying standards around Greece. The level of nursing and after-care may differ from what is normally available in Britain.

From 1/10/2009 everyone (regardless of age) who lives and works in Greece is required to obtain an **AMKA** number. AMKA is citizens "Identity" Social Insurance Number. It is an eleven digit number and the first six digits reflect the holders date of birth. It is essential for those who plan to a) work b) be insured c) obtain medical and hospital care and d) receive a pension or benefits. Your AMKA number can be acquired at your local KEP office (Citizens Service Centre).

Health Cover & Pensions

British residents in Greece should apply to the Pensions Service for the following forms when they require long-term health cover; if you are in receipt of a state pension then you need to apply to the UK Pensions Service for an E121 form. When you receive this, you should complete it and take it to your local IKA office. You will be issued with an IKA health booklet in exchange. This booklet can then be renewed by IKA each year. Under normal circumstances, the person who receives a pension is entitled to name his/ her spouse as a dependent and this renders the dependent person eligible to apply for an E121 from the Pensions Services and therefore obtain a separate health booklet. Unlike the UK, Greece, at the present time, does not recognise partnerships - be it man & woman or same sex - so it is therefore not possible for a partner to be listed as a dependent.

If a person has worked in the UK for the past 2-3 years and plans to take up residence in another EU country, he/she can apply to the UK Pensions Service for an E106 form. This form should then be taken to the IKA office where it will be exchanged for a health booklet. However, in this instance, the booklet will only be issued for a maximum of 2 years. The number to call for these services is (0044) 191 218 7777. A person coming to look for work in Greece, who was previously unemployed in the UK, is entitled to free medical treatment in Greece provided he/she produces an E119 to their local IKA office. This may be obtained by calling (0044) 191 218 7652.

Furthermore, to enable a pension to be paid directly into a Greek Bank Account, a form must be obtained from the Pensions Service. This needs to be completed by the pensioner giving all his/her Greek bank account details and sent back to the Pensions Service who will then make the necessary arrangements. For information on medical benefits you can contact The Pensions Service, Medical Benefits, Tyneview Park, Newcastle NE98 1BA, Tel (0044) 191 218 1999 – website www.thepensionservice.gov.uk

Driving Licences

British nationals can drive in Greece provided they hold an appropriate valid "European Union format" British driving licence and passport. The Motor Insurance Bureau in Greece has a department serving foreign drivers who hold Residence Certificates.

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Under EC Directive 80/1263/EEC, the holder of a driving licence issued in a member state of the EU (unless the licence bears an indication that it was granted in exchange for a non-EU licence) has the right to exchange it into the corresponding licence of the new country of residence without taking a driving test. The exchange is possible through any KEP office. The previous licence must be surrendered to the licensing authority. EU Directive 91/439/EU (implemented in Greece on 01/01/97) states that such a change for persons holding the EU pink common-format driving licence is not obligatory. A Greek driving licence remains valid until the holder reaches the age of 65 years, after which an application for extension is required.

Our travel advice has general information about licence requirements www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/europe/greece

You may obtain further information through the Greek Ministry of Transport: www.yme.gr. For any enquiries relating to the replacement or renewal of a UK driving licence, you should contact the DVLA directly – website www.dvla.gov.uk

Temporary Importation of cars by tourists

Visitors from other EU Member States, whose cars are registered in that EU state, are free to drive their vehicle in Greece for a period of six months without customs control. The vehicle registration document and proof of ownership is required. **Travellers should at all times be able to prove to the authorities when the vehicle was brought into Greece.** To qualify for a second period of tax free circulation: either both the vehicle and the owner should be out of Greece for at least 185 days or while the owner is away, the vehicle can remain at a sealed area designated by the Customs authority.

The entitlement to circulate a vehicle on foreign plates is strictly personal, consequently only the wife/husband or children may use the car in addition to the owner. After the expiry of the period granted by the customs authorities, the person concerned will be required to either:

- 1) re-export the car,
- 2) seal it with the customs for a period of at least 6 months (but no more than 24 months) after which time, provided the owner can show that he/she has been out of Greece for at least 6 months during this time, another 6 month circulation period may be granted, **or**
- 3) clear it through customs.

Failure to conform to the provisions of Greek Law as above may result in the Greek Customs imposing fines for each extra day after the expired period. **Such fines can be very steep and the vehicle may be confiscated.** Under such circumstances, the vehicle will not be released to the owner unless he agrees to clear it through customs or export it from Greece. Further advice can be obtained from the Directorate for the Supervision and Control of Cars (DIPEA): Akti Kondyli 32, Piraeus 185 10, Tel 210 462 3615, 210 462 6325 and 210 462 7325.

Permanent import of vehicles – Change of residence certificate

European Union nationals, resident in another European Union state for at least two years, who decide to transfer their place of residence to Greece, are exempt from VAT and Registration currently levied in Greece on:

- ◆ cars (owned and used privately)
- ◆ pleasure craft

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- ◆ motorcycles
- ◆ mobile caravans

Within one month from the date of importation, owners of such vehicles must appear in person at the nearest Customs Authority to request exemption from payment of registration and VAT. The owner will then be granted special Greek registration plates. Vehicles entering Greece are also required to undergo a test at a Vehicle Technical Control Centre (KTEO). A VEHICLE IMPORTED UNDER THE ABOVE REGULATION may not be transferred, leased, pawned or lent, nor its use assigned in any other manner without prior approval of the customs authorities. In the event of transfer, lease, pawning, lending or assignment of the use of such a vehicle before the lapse of one year, the total amount of tax due shall be collected.

A full list of requirements and more detailed information is available through the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance: Director of Customs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Amalias 40, Athens 105 62, Tel 210 324 5552 / 210 324 5587, www.gsis.gr.

Customs Formalities

From 1 January 1993 EU nationals visiting Greece may freely import and re-export personal effects and are no longer subject to any customs controls or other formalities at points of direct entry from another EU Member State. However, for vehicles, please see the above paragraph. Those coming to Greece to take up RESIDENCE should obtain a change of residence certificate or 'certificate for domicile transfer' which is issued by the Greek Consular authorities in the United Kingdom (www.greekembassy.org.uk.)

Property Purchase

It is possible for foreigners to purchase property in Greece with the exception of certain designated areas. It is important that you retain the services of a competent lawyer to assist you in any purchase. Please refer to the Embassy's website for a complete list of English-speaking lawyers operating in Greece. <http://ukingreece.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/when-things-go-wrong/>

Greek Tax and Tax Number

One of the first things you should do when you decide to settle in Greece is to register for a tax number (AFM – pronounced aa-fee-mee). An AFM is required to buy a car, motorbike or property and to legally work in Greece. The local Greek Tax Office (Eforia) is the place to do this. Your accountant or lawyer can obtain one for you or you can apply yourself in person. Once you have an AFM you are required to submit a yearly tax return in Greece, regardless of income. There is a bilateral taxation agreement between the UK and Greece whereby persons are obliged to submit their tax declaration to the tax authorities in their country of residence, irrespective of where his/her income arises.

Employment in Greece

Be aware that Greece has unemployment. A good knowledge of Greek will assist you to find a job. For advice on finding job within the EEA (European Economic Area), you may refer to the Jobcentre Plus, which is part of the European Employment Services network (EURES); (www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk, www.eures-jobs.com, Tel: 0044 (0)113 307 8090). You may also find employment opportunities through English Language publications such as the "Athens News",
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“The Herald Tribune – Kathimerini” and “Athens Plus”. There are also various regional newspapers in other areas in Greece, such as “The Corfiot” and “The Crete Courier”. The Embassy has no means of finding employment in Greece for British passport holders.

EU Nationals, by virtue of Article 52 of the EC Treaty, have the right of self-establishment in Greece, i.e. they may work as self-employed persons. However, in some areas, e.g. self-employed teachers, the Greek authorities may require that an applicant satisfies certain qualifications and requirements. Consequently, anyone wishing to set up as a self-employed person in Greece should consult the Greek authorities regarding their eligibility before doing so.

Jobseeker’s Allowance (Unemployment Benefit)

If you receive unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom and wish to move to Greece in an effort to find work, you may continue to receive unemployment benefit in Greece from the local Manpower and Employment Organisation Office (OAED) for a period of THREE months. Before your departure from the UK, you need to let your local Jobcentre Plus (Tel: 0800 055 6688) know of your decision in good time so that they can give you the necessary forms to fill in prior to your departure. According to Greek regulations, you will have to have remained at the disposal of Jobcentre Plus to look for a job for four weeks after you have registered the commencement of your unemployment.

When you move to Greece you must register yourself with your local OAED office, as unemployed, within 7 days of leaving the UK. You will need to submit the E303 form to OAED, issued by your local Jobcentre Plus in the UK. For further information on the documents required you should refer to your local OAED office (Tel: 210 998 9000, www.oaed.gr). **IF YOU DO NOT FIND WORK WITHIN THREE MONTHS YOU MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY.**

Education

Primary Education

Introductory classes are available for foreign children at some primary schools in each area. There are usually two types of introductory classes; one is for children with absolutely no knowledge of Greek and the other for students with some knowledge of the Greek language. According to teachers, children successfully adjust to the lessons within one month. Children can register throughout the school year, although early registration is advisable. Introductory classes operate at some schools provided a sufficient number of students apply. Certain schools may offer special work with foreign children, but this depends largely on the teachers and available resources.

Secondary Education

There are no introductory classes for secondary education students. Students will be admitted to the class corresponding to their level of education on production of their official school certificates, which must be officially translated.

Further information and useful links, as well as the structure of the Greek Educational system and a list of foreign schools in Greece can be obtained directly from the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs - website www.ypepth.gr.

Voting in Greece

European Union citizens have the right to vote and to be elected both during the Municipal/Community Elections and the EU Parliamentary Elections. Registration with the electoral of the Municipality/Community of the Greek Government is required in order to be eligible to vote. **EU citizens do not have the right to vote in the Greek General Elections.** For further information, you may refer to the Municipality/Community of your place of residence and to

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the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization (Division of Elections) on 210 323 4758, 210 322 0281 and 210 322 3736 - website www.ypes.gr

Voting in the UK

All British citizens, who have been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years, are eligible to vote in UK Parliamentary elections and European Parliamentary elections in the UK. If you were not registered, because you were a minor at the time of departure from the UK, you may now register as an overseas voter provided your parent or guardian was registered to vote in the UK. For further information please refer to the following website www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Useful contact details

*Legalisation of documents /
Apostille stamp*

The Legalisation Office, Norfolk House (West)
437 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2AH
Tel: 0044 1908 295 111 Fax: 0044 1908 295 122
www.fco.gov.uk / Email: legalisationoffice@fco.gov.uk

*Copies of birth, death,
marriage certificates*

General Register Office, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road
Southport PR8 2HH Tel: 0044 1510471 4801/4805
www.gro.gov.uk / Email: General.section@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Renewal / lost driving licence

DVLA – Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Longview
Road, Swansea, SA6 7JL, Tel: 0044 1792 786 369
www.dvla.gov.uk / Email: drivers.dvla@gtnet.gov.uk

Travelling with pets to the UK

Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
PETS helpline: 0044 2072 386951 Fax: 0044 2072 382188
www.defra.gov.uk / Email: helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

UK Tax enquiries

HM Revenue and Customs, HMTC Residency (Liverpool)
St. John's House, Merton Rd, Liverpool, L75 1BB
Tel: 0044 151 210 2222 www.hmrc.gov.uk

*Citizen Service Centres
(KEP Offices)*

There are Citizen Service Centres (KEP in Greek)
throughout Greece which you may visit. These centres offer
information and services which vary from central to regional
and local level.
Tel: 1500 www.kep.gov.gr

Ermis – 24 hour public service

A Greek Government site for central information and e-
services hub to citizens and businesses. www.ermis.gov.gr

European Commission

For information on your rights, travelling, education and
living within the European Union. <http://ec.europa.eu/>

The Greek Ombudsman

Chatzigianni Mexi 5, Athens (Hilton Area)
Tel: 210 728 9600 Fax: 210 729 2129
www.synigoros.gr Open: Monday – Friday, 08.30 – 14.00

*Teaching English as a foreign
language*

A teaching licence is required in order to teach English in
Greece. For information for the certification of basic
knowledge of the Greek language and on the necessary
requirements contact the Ministry of Education (Tel: 210 344

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2813 and 210 344 2995 (www.ypepth.gr) or via the local education authorities. For more information on obtaining the necessary qualifications / documents, you may also wish to refer to the British Council (www.britishcouncil.org/greece.htm).

Qualified nurses wishing to take up employment in Greece

Apply in writing, before coming to Greece, directly to:
The Association of Graduate Nurses, Athens Tower, Building 'C', 2nd Floor, 2 Messogion Avenue, Athens 115 27
Tel: 210 770 2861

For official translations

Translation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Arionos 10, Psyrri, Athens 105 54
Tel: 210 328 713 – 6 (www.mfa.gr)
Working hours: 09.00 – 13.00

*Yellow Pages
Greek Telephone Directory
Overseas Telephone
Directories*

800 110 1888 (www.xo.gr)
11888 (www.whitepages.gr)
11889

Do's and Don'ts in Greece

✓ **Do** bring sufficient *funds* with you for your stay and your return. The British Embassy / Consulate cannot pay your bills.

✓ **Do** take out full *travel insurance* and **Do** bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which is available from your local Post Office in the UK or by telephoning the following UK number 0845 606 2030.

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- ✓ When you want to *hire a vehicle, boat, quad bike or moped*, **Do** check beforehand; is it roadworthy / seaworthy? Is there full insurance cover? **Do** wear a helmet on a moped and drive carefully; an accident can ruin your holiday.
- ✓ **Do** take care when visiting well-known historical sites, public squares, and underground trains or when you are in a crowded place; they are favoured haunts for bag-snatching and mugging.
- ✓ **Do** respect *customs regulations*; Contraband is a serious offence and carries heavy prison sentences.
- ✓ **Do** respect *Greek laws and customs*, disorderly conduct could result in you being arrested, regardless of your British citizenship. The British Embassy/Consulates cannot obtain your release or give you legal advice.
- ✓ **Do** make sure that your passport is valid and in good condition. Keep your passport safe and keep separate copies of it when travelling. It is advisable to leave a photocopy of your passport and itinerary with a friend or a relative at home.
- × **Don't** *drink to excess*. Too much *sun*, especially when mixed with *alcohol*, can result in dehydration and lead to serious health problems. Instead, drink plenty of water. **Don't** *drink and drive*.
- × **Don't** get involved with *drugs*; penalties can be severe. You may need to take a doctor's letter with you if travelling with certain types of prescriptive drugs.
- × **Don't** carry all your *money* with you.
- ✓ **Do** trust your instincts! Your personal security depends on it....

Customer feedback: We welcome your views on the assistance we provide. We use your feedback to identify areas we need to improve. We would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to complete our customer feedback form, which is available on line - www.ukingreece.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/customer-feedback/

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