



Greece

Includes ➔

Athens	514
Mycenae	525
Olympia	525
Delphi	526
Thessaloniki	527
Mykonos	530
Santorini (Thira)	536
Crete	539
Knossos	541
Corfu	553

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ To Maridaki (p543)
- ➔ To Steki tou Yianni (p551)
- ➔ Paparouna (p529)
- ➔ Funky Gourmet (p521)
- ➔ M-Eating (p533)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Aroma Suites (p538)
- ➔ Casa Leone (p543)
- ➔ Marco Polo Mansion (p546)
- ➔ Amfitriti Pension (p524)
- ➔ Siorra Vittoria (p554)

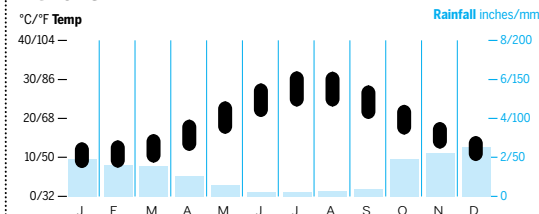
Why Go?

The alluring combination of history and ravishing beauty that has made Greece (Ελλάδα) one of the most popular destinations on the planet always seems to beckon. With in easy reach of magnificent archaeological sites such as the Acropolis, Delphi, Delos and Knossos are breathtaking beaches and relaxed tavernas serving everything from ouzo to octopus. Hiking trails criss-cross Mt Olympus, the Zagorohoria and islands like Crete and Corfu.

Wanderers can island-hop to their heart's content (each island has its own character), while party types can enjoy pulsating nightlife in Greece's vibrant modern cities and on islands such as Mykonos and Santorini. Add welcoming locals with an enticing culture to the mix and it's easy to see why most visitors head home vowing to come back. Travellers to Greece inevitably end up with a favourite site they long to return to – get out there and find yours.

When to Go

Athens



May & Jun Greece opens the shutters in time for Orthodox Easter; the best months to visit.

Jul & Aug Be prepared to battle summer crowds, high prices and soaring temperatures.

Sep & Oct The tourist season winds down; an excellent, relaxing time to head to Greece.



Greece Highlights

- 1 In **Athens** trace the ancient to the modern from the Acropolis to booming nightclubs.
- 2 Island-hop through the **Cyclades** (p530) under the Aegean sun.
- 3 Sip ouzo while munching on grilled octopus in lovely **Lesvos/Mytilini** (p550).
- 4 Stare dumbfounded at the dramatic volcanic caldera of incomparable **Santorini** (p536).
- 5 Stroll the lovely Venetian Harbour in **Hania** (p542), Crete, then sup on some of Greece's best food.
- 6 Climb russet rock pinnacles to the exquisite monasteries of **Meteora** (p526).
- 7 Use quaint **Nafplio** (p524) as a base for exploring the back roads and ruins of the Peloponnese.
- 8 Lose yourself within the medieval walls of the Old Town in **Rhodes Town** (p545).
- 9 Search for the oracle amid the dazzling ruins of **Delphi** (p526).

ATHENS

POP 3.8 MILLION

Ancient and modern, with equal measures of grunge and grace, bustling Athens is a heady mix of history and edginess. Iconic monuments mingle with first-rate museums, lively

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cafes and alfresco dining, and it's downright fun. With Greece's financial difficulties Athens has revealed its more restive aspect, but take the time to look beneath the surface and you'll discover a complex metropolis full of vibrant subcultures.