



Greece Ελλάδα

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Klimataria (p380)
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Best Places to Sleep

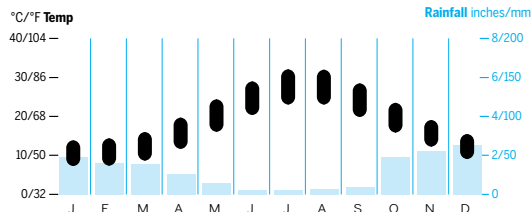
- ➔ Nafplion 1841 (p348)
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Why Go?

It's easy to understand how so many myths of gods and giants originated in this vast and varied landscape, with wide open skies and a sea speckled with islands. Endless kilometres of aquamarine coastline, sun-bleached ancient ruins, strong feta and stronger ouzo – the Greek landscape thrills while the culture captivates with a population passionate about everything from politics to art. Magnificent archaeological sites like the Acropolis, Delphi, Delos and Knossos are easily reached and hiking trails criss-cross Mt Olympus, the Zagorohoria and islands like Crete and Corfu. Meanwhile, the nightlife thrives in Greece's vibrant modern cities and on islands such as Mykonos and Santorini. Add a flourishing arts scene, world-class cuisine and welcoming locals 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 Athens** (p337) Tracing the ancient to the modern, from the Acropolis to booming nightclubs.
- 2 Cyclades** (p355) Island-hopping under the Aegean sun.
- 3 Lesvos (Mytilini)** (p375) Sipping ouzo while munching grilled octopus on this olive-tree-filled island.
- 4 Santorini** (p360) Staring dumbfounded at the dramatic volcanic caldera on this incomparable island.
- 5 Hania, Crete** (p363) Strolling the lovely Venetian Harbour then supping on some of Greece's best food.
- 6 Meteora** (p351) Climbing russet rock pinnacles to exquisite monasteries.
- 7 Nafplio** (p348) Basing yourself in this quaint village and exploring the back roads and ruins of the Peloponnese.
- 8 Rhodes Town** (p369) Losing yourself within the medieval walls of the Old Town.
- 9 Delphi** (p351) Searching for the oracle amid the dazzling ruins.

ATHENS

POP 3.1 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,

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bustling shops and stylish, alfresco dining. Even in the face of current financial issues, Athens is more cosmopolitan than ever before with hip hotels, artsy-industrial neighbourhoods and entertainment quarters showing its modern face.