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presents
FOR BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDERS
Guide to Greece
by the
British Embassy, Athens
March, 2006

PASSPORTS

Persons possessing valid passports giving the holder's national status as:

'British citizen'

are permitted to enter Greece and remain for three months from their date of entry without a visa or any other formality except customs examination. If this three month period is exceeded without the permission of the Greek authorities difficulties may be experienced on trying to leave the country and prosecution for contravening the regulations may follow.

Intending visitors whose passports bear different descriptions from that above should consult the nearest Greek Consulate or visa issuing post to find out if a visa is required.

Passports should be safeguarded at all times and renewed before the expiry date. **British passports remain the property of Her Majesty's Government and should not be used as collateral.** Standard ten-year passports are issued by the Consular Section of the British Embassy in Athens. Application forms for renewal may be obtained from the Embassy or other British Consulates in Greece. HYPERLINK <http://www.british-embassy.gr>

SPECIAL NOTES

'British Dependent Territories Citizen'

'British Overseas Citizen'

'British Subject'

'British Protected Person'

'British National (Overseas)'

Passport holders who are uncertain of their position under this Act and who wish to travel overland to Greece through other countries, should consult the relevant Embassies before embarking on their journey.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES

Those coming to Greece to take up RESIDENCE should obtain a change of residence certificate which is issued by the Greek Consular authorities in the United Kingdom. This certificate contains only items which are subject to Special Consumption Tax in Greece. 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 cars, boats, etc. please see the following paragraph. Small quantities of flowers, bulbs and fresh fruit may be imported. Plants must be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates issued by the appropriate authority in the country of origin. Small animals may be imported as long as accompanied by a veterinary certificate issued by the MAFF.

TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF CARS BY TOURISTS

Tourists from other EU Member States, whose cars are registered in that EU State, are free to circulate in Greece for a period of six months without customs control. The car registration document and proof of ownership of a caravan or boat is required. Travellers should at all times be able to prove to the authorities when the car was brought into Greece.

To qualify for a second period of tax free circulation: either both the car 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 special Customs compound in Greece for the period stated. Greek road tax is payable for all additional periods of circulation.

The entitlement to circulate 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:

re-export the car,

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 will be granted, or

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.** Under such circumstances, the vehicle is not released to the owner unless he agrees to clear it through customs or export it from Greece.

Advice on extensions, transfer or sale of tourist cars in Greece can be obtained from the Directorate for the Supervision and Control of Cars (DIPEAK) at the following address:

Directorate for the Supervision and Control of Cars

DIPEAK
Akti Kondyli 32
Piraeus 185 10

Telephone No: 210 46 23615 46 26325 and 46 27325

PERMANENT IMPORT OF VEHICLES – CHANGE OF RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE

EUROPEAN UNION NATIONALS, who are residents in other European Union Countries 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
- motorcycles
- mobile caravans

provided that:

At the time of application the applicant has not been resident in Greece for more than two years.

The applicant has/had been domiciled in another member state for at least 185 days in each year of the three years prior to their initial arrival in Greece.

The applicant holds a change of residence certificate issued by the Greek Consular Authorities in the EU State of previous residence. This certificate is valid for use within 12 months.

The applicant owned and used the vehicle in the prior EU member state of residence for at least 6 months and that appropriate TAX and VAT has been paid in the country of origin.

The applicant is in possession of a 5-year residence permit. Applicants who are not in possession of a 5-year residence permit should be aware that, usually, the relevant taxes and dues are required to be paid or a bank guarantee deposited for a sum equal to those taxes and dues, **until** they produce a 5-year residence permit to the appropriate customs authorities.

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. Normally the charge for such plates is equivalent to 20% of the Registration tax. Vehicles entering Greece are also required to undergo a test at a Vehicle Technical Control Centre (KTEO). Diesel engine vehicles are **not** permitted to circulate in Athens, Piraeus or Salonika. It is **highly recommended** that all vehicle owners consult the

nearest Greek Consulate for full information prior to their departure for Greece.

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 by 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.

Authoritative information on this special concession is available from the Greek Customs Authorities at:

Director of Customs
Ministry of Finance
Amalias 40
Athens 105 62
Telephone No: 210 324 5552
210 324 5587

DRIVING LICENCES

A British motorist driving in Greece temporarily need not possess an International Driving Licence provided he/she holds an appropriate valid "European Union Format" British driving licence and passport. British motorists driving their own car **MUST** obtain adequate insurance for Greece from their insurance company in the UK. The Motor Insurance Bureau in Greece has a department serving foreign drivers who hold Green Cards.

You may obtain information through the:

MOTOR INSURANCE BUREAU
10 Xenofondos Street (4th Floor)
Athens 105 57
Telephone No: 210 323 8402, 210 323 6562
Fax No: 210 323 8370

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 for a licence of the new country of residence without taking a driving test. The application must be made within one year of taking up residence in a different member state; 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.

Persons hiring a car or motorcycle in Greece should look carefully into the question of

adequate insurance cover. In the event of an accident the driver may be liable for payment of damages and may be held in custody pending payment. There are many motorcycle accidents in Greece, some fatal. The wearing of helmets by motorcyclists is obligatory by law.

RESIDENCE PERMITS

British passport holders wishing to stay in Greece for more than three months need to obtain a residence permit. Application **MUST** be made in person within three months of the date of arrival in Greece.

In Athens and its suburbs application should be made to the Aliens Department Offices at:

ATHENS:	99 Antigonis Street, off Lenorman, Kolonos	
	Tel: 210 510 2834 and 210 510 2833	
MAROUSI:	Ag. Orous 15	Tel: 210 687 5177
PIRAEUS:	37 Iroon Polytechniou Street	Tel: 210 412 2501 ext 382
GLYFADA:	23 Karaiskaki Street	Tel: 210 960 1340

In districts outside Athens application should be made to the nearest police station. The grant of residence permits and their renewal is entirely a matter for the Greek authorities and the Embassy or Consulates cannot support applications or intervene on behalf of the applicants. Since regulations concerning residence and employment are under review, you should check with your nearest Greek Consular office in Britain for up-to-date information.

RESIDENCE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

As from 1 January 1988 nationals of the European Union are allowed to work in Greece without work permits. However, residence permits **ARE** required, whether a person will be working in Greece or not. Those persons wishing to set up their own business should comply with the relevant regulations in obtaining a licence to practice. In accordance to legislation such persons also need to register with the local tax office. Certain occupations directly involved with food and beverages also require a work licence issued by the Hellenic Police (e.g. bar/cafeteria or restaurant work).

The following documents will be required when applying for the issue of a residence permit:

IN THE CASE OF THE WORKING PERSON

The passport on which the applicant entered Greece.

A statement by the applicant's employer, duly certified by the local Labour Inspectorate, specifying nature and duration of the work to be done by the applicant.

(NB: The medical certificate, which had previously been required according to Article 12 of Presidential Decree No. 499 / 1987 has now been abolished according to the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 403 / 2001.)

IN THE CASE OF MEMBERS OF HIS/HER FAMILY

A document issued by the appropriate authority of the country of origin showing their relationship, i.e. marriage/birth certificates.

that the persons in question are supported by the applicant, or live under the same roof as he/she, in that country.

The documents at 1) a). Every time employees change work they must report the change to the local Labour Inspectorate Office of the new employer's area. Persons who are coming to Greece to work for THREE months only, should report this fact to the nearest Aliens Police or police station within 8 days of their date of arrival in Greece.

EMPLOYMENT

A number of employment agencies in Greece deal with enquiries made in person or by letter. Some are reliable. There are also agencies in the United Kingdom who may be able to assist in finding employment in Greece, usually as nannies and governesses. You are advised to secure a written statement (agreement) before arrival in Greece as to duties involved, hours of work, salary and arrangements for payment of fares to and from Greece. If in doubt you should seek legal advice before any contract for employment is signed. The Embassy has no authority to intervene in disputes between employers and employees.

Technically, private employment agencies cannot operate in Greece. This function is performed by the State through the Ministry of Labour regional OAED Offices. British Nationals, however, may find employment opportunities through English Language publications such as the "Athens News" and "The Herald Tribune" – Kathimerini. There are also various regional newspapers in other areas in Greece (such as "The Corfiot" in Corfu).

There is a considerable demand for the teaching of English as a foreign language and there are many opportunities for regular and part-time employment, however, prospective employees should examine contracts carefully before taking up such engagements. A Presidential Decree signed in 1997 made it possible for European Union Nationals to be generally employed in and also open Foreign Language 'Frontistiria'. There are certain criteria for teachers and Directors of Study at Frontistiria vis-a-vis certification of basic knowledge of the Greek Language. Relevant examinations for the obtaining of such certificates are organised periodically under the auspices of the Ministry of Education.

The Embassy has no means of finding employment in Greece for British Passport holders.

Since 1 January 1981 nationals of EU countries, by virtue of Article 52 of the EC Treaty, have the right of self-establishment in Greece. This means that EU nationals may work

on their own account as self-employed persons. However, in some areas, e.g. self-employed teachers, the Greek authorities may require persons to satisfy certain qualifications and requirements. Consequently anyone wishing to set up as a self-employed person in Greece should consult the Greek authorities regarding their position before doing so.

Qualified nurses wishing to take up employment in Greece should write before coming to Greece directly to: The Association of Graduate Nurses, Athens Tower, Building 'C', 2nd Floor, 2 Messoghion Avenue, Athens 115 27 Telephone No: 210 770 2861. With their letter nurses should include full details of their qualifications and experience and mention when they would be available commence employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Persons who receive unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom and move to Greece in an effort to find work may continue to receive unemployment benefit in Greece from the local Manpower and Employment Organisation Office (OAED) for a period of THREE months. They should produce to their local OAED office form E303, which is issued by their local Benefit Agency in the United Kingdom. They must also register themselves at the same OAED office as unemployed within 7 days of signing off in the U.K. IF THE APPLICANT DOES NOT FIND WORK WITHIN THREE MONTHS HE/SHE MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

A person can remain abroad for 4 weeks and continue to receive benefit on return to the United Kingdom. However, if a person remains abroad up to six months they will need to re-register with the Benefits Agency on their return to the United Kingdom.

MEDICAL – HOSPITAL TREATMENT IN GREECE

Where to get information: The Social Insurance Foundation (“Ildrima Kinonikon Asfaliseon” known as IKA) situated on the 3rd floor at 47 Megalou Alexandrou Street, Athens 104 36, or its regional or local offices called “Ipokatastimata” or branches which are called “Parartimata”.

The Greek National Health system provides a basic medical service to Greek NI contributors, and has a reciprocal agreement with the British National Health Service. You should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC replaced Form E111. The EHIC is available free of charge through most UK post offices or through the UK Department of Health via their website at: HYPERLINK <http://www.dh.gov.uk> www.dh.gov.uk or by telephoning 0800 555 7777 and obtaining their leaflet "Health Advice for Travellers". The EHIC is not a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but entitles you to emergency medical treatment on the same terms as 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. You should check any exclusions, and that your policy covers you for the activities you want to undertake.

There are many Public and Private Hospitals and Medical centres of varying standards. Doctors and facilities are generally good on the mainland, but may be limited on the

islands. The standards of nursing and after care, particularly in the public health sector lag behind what is normally acceptable in Britain. The Public Ambulance Service, (Tel No: 166) will normally respond to any accident. There have been reports of severe shortages of ambulances on some islands.

When the IKA facility is required, by calling 184 one can make an appointment to see a doctor or a specialist at an IKA Centre. Patients are given an appointment with a doctor or dentist who works for the social insurance. Patients will not be charged. Prescriptions given under this scheme may be taken to any chemist where they are charged 25% of the cost.

The 'European Health Insurance Card' (EHIC) should be shown. If you choose to approach Greek practitioners/hospitals direct for private treatment, the Community arrangements will not apply and you will be responsible for the full cost of any treatment received. You should therefore take out sufficient private insurance to cover full costs for yourself and your family before you leave the U.K.

Hospital Treatment

IKA will arrange free hospital treatment. If a patient cannot get to an IKA office before going to a hospital or first aid station, he/she should ask the authorities at the hospital or station for free treatment under the IKA scheme. The 'EHIC' must be shown. Pensioners who intend to take up residence in Greece and who are entitled to free medical treatment in the United Kingdom, also enjoy a similar entitlement in Greece. They should produce to their local IKA office form E121, which is issued by their local Department of Health Office in the United Kingdom. A person coming to look for work in Greece, who was unemployed in the U.K., is entitled to free medical treatment in Greece if he/she produces to their local IKA office form E119. This is also issued by their local Department of Health Office in the U.K. In both the above cases IKA will exchange the form for a medical booklet. If in a more remote part of the country or on a small island, there may be no IKA office within easy reach. One may have to receive and pay the full costs of private treatment. Before leaving Greece a postal application needs to be made to the nearest IKA office for a refund. **REFUNDS USUALLY COVER ONLY PART OF THE COST. INDIVIDUALS PAY THE BALANCE THEMSELVES.**

British tourists who need urgent medical treatment can be treated at one of the state hospitals on duty. An 'EHIC' only covers costs in state hospitals. Those who have travel insurance and can claim refunds from their insurance company can seek treatment at a private hospital.

Private hospitals and clinics in the Athens area are:

1. Athens Medical Centre (Maroussi) 5-7 Distomou St, Maroussi, Athens 151 25
Tel: 210- 619 8100

Athens Medical Centre (Neo Psychico) 1 Andersen St, Neo Psychico 115-25
Tel: 210-697 4000.

Athens Medical Centre (Paleo Faliro) 36 Areos St, Paleo Faliro, Athens 175-62
Tel: 210-9847961

Hygeia Hospital, Kifissias Ave and Erythrou Stavrou 4, Maroussi, Athens 151 34
Tel: 210 - 682 7940

CHEQUES

Normally banks in Greece will not cash a private cheque drawn on a bank in Greece or abroad, unless the drawer can produce a Eurocheque card. Addresses of British Banks are given on page 12.

TRANSFER OF CAPITAL

It is an offence to send cash, cheques etc. by mail from Greece to another country without obtaining the prior permission of the Greek authorities. Currency controls affecting a large number of currency transactions have recently been lifted.

It should be noted that at all times EU Nationals who wish to transfer funds abroad will be required by their commercial bank to prove that the transaction falls within permitted categories.

Those interested should seek advice from a local bank or alternatively from the relevant section of the Bank of Greece in Athens. Importation of foreign exchange in any form is not limited. However a person who is carrying more than the total equivalent of 10,000 EURO when entering the country, which he/she intends to take out again, should declare the amount on arrival.

Travellers leaving Greece are permitted to export:

Amounts up to € 10,000 EURO freely.

Amounts over € 10,000 EURO provided a declaration is submitted on departure to the Customs Authorities which will include (for residents) a Greek Tax Office certificate that taxes have been paid in Greece, or (for tourists) evidence that this amount had been declared on arrival. **NOTE:** For amounts over € 10,000 EURO further arrangements from a commercial bank may be required.

INCOME TAX

Income tax is payable by all persons having income arising in Greece, regardless of nationality or place of residence. The total income acquired in the immediately preceding financial year is subject to income tax after the deduction of allowances and exemptions provided for. There is a bilateral taxation convention between the United Kingdom and Greece whose object is to avoid double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect of taxes on income, however, according to the Convention, persons are obliged

to submit their tax declaration to the local tax authorities IN THEIR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE irrespective of where his/her income arises. For example: a pensioner living in Greece on his/her U.K. pension must submit a declaration to the local Greek Tax Office. The Ministry of Finance will then, upon request, issue certificate for use with the UK Tax Authorities stating that the pensioner in question has been taxed in Greece. More information can be obtained from the Board of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London S.W.2, and locally from the Greek taxation authorities or Ministry of Finance.

CAMPING AND HOSTELS

There are a number of caravan and camping sites, on the mainland and on the islands. Camping in open areas is prohibited without prior police permission. There are some youth hostels on the mainland and on the islands.

MAIL

Neither the Embassy nor British Consular Posts elsewhere in Greece accept private mail for collection, any mail so received is passed to the Athens Poste Restante facilities and/or its offices throughout Greece. Some travel agents will hold mail for travellers. HM Government accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to mail sent to travellers care of British Embassies or Consulates.

PROPERTY PURCHASE

Foreigners may purchase property in Greece with the exception of certain designated areas. The best person to approach for advice and assistance on these subjects is a lawyer. The Embassy has lists of Greek lawyers and Estate Agents who correspond in English. The Embassy cannot advise on property purchase.

REGISTRATION

Travellers should keep their relations or friends informed of their whereabouts and their plans in case they are needed in an emergency. Those staying in Greece for over three months may register at the Embassy or nearest British Consulate and in January of each year thereafter. They should keep the Consulate informed of any change of address and notify it when they leave Greece permanently. The Embassy cannot assist in tracing missing persons except in cases of minors.

EDUCATION

<u>American Community Schools</u>	<u>Byron College School</u>
Agias Paraskevis 129 & Kazantzaki Street	7 Filolaou Street Gargitos, Geraka
Ano Halandri Athens 152 34	Athens 153 44 Tel: 210 604 7722-5

Fax: 210 604 85542
Fax: 210 609 63200051E-mail: HYPERLINK mailto:byroncol@otenet.gr byroncol@otenet.gr
Web: HYPERLINK http://www.acs.gr www.acs.gr Web: HYPERLINK http://www.byroncollege.gr www.byroncollege.gr www.byroncollege.gr

Campion School	International School of Athens
Agias Ioulianis Street	Xenias & Artemidos Streets
Pallini	Kefalari
Athens 153 44	Athens 145 62
Tel: 210 607 1700	Tel: 210 623 3888
Fax: 210 607 1750	Fax: 210 623 3160
Web: HYPERLINK http://www.campion.edu.gr www.campion.edu.gr E-mail: HYPERLINK mailto:info@tasis.edu.gr info@tasis.edu.gr	

St. Catherine's British Embassy School	St. Lawrence College
73 Sofokli Venizelou Street	Anemon Street
Lykovryssi	Loutsas Kouke
Kifissia 141-23	Koropi 194 00
Tel: 210 282 9750	Tel: 210 891 7000
Fax: 210 282 415	Fax: 210 891 7010
E-mail: stcats@hol.gr	E-mail: info@st-lawrence.gr
	Web: http://www.st-lawrence.gr

PENFRIENDS

There is no organisation in Greece which undertakes to find penfriends but schools will sometimes arrange for friends from amongst their students. The addresses for two Greek Colleges are given on page 12.

BRITISH ASSOCIATIONS

British Council Reading Room

Filikis Etairias 17
Kolonaki Square
Athens 106 73
Tel: 210 369 2333

British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

25 Vas. Sofias Street
Athens 106 74
Tel: 210 721 0361 210 721 0493

CHURCHES**St. Paul's Anglican Church**

27 Filellinon Street
Athens 105 57
Tel: (chaplain's) 210 721 4906

Holy Communion every Sunday at 10.15 a.m. The Chaplain is also Chaplain to Her Majesty's Ambassador and can also be contacted at his home on Tel: 210 721 4906.

St. Andrew's (International and non-denominational)

66 Sina Street
Athens 106 72
Tel: 210 645 2583

St Andrew's is based at St Catherine's British Embassy School.

St Peter's Church meets at St Catherine's British Embassy School, 73 Sophocles Venizelou, Lykovryssi, Kifissia 141-23.

Hellenic International Christian Church (Pentecostal)

18 Tsaldari Street
Kifissia 145 61
Tel: 210 854 0513 and 210 854 0475

Scripture Union Headquarters, La Verne Premises, meets at 11.15 a.m. every Sunday

St. Dennis Roman Catholic Church

24 Panepistimiou (a.k.a El. Venizelou) Avenue & Omirou Corner
Athens 106 72
Tel: 210 362 3603

Services in English every Sunday, at 7.00 p.m.
Monday – Saturday 07.30 a.m.

Many other churches are available in Athens and in other parts of Greece. For full details, please request our separate "List of Churches".

NON-CHRISTIAN CREEDS

Islam - For a list of mosques please contact the Mufti's offices

Mufti's office – Komotini
82 Ermou Street, Komotini 691 00
tel: 25310-26771

Mufti's office – Xanthi
15 Clemanso Street, Xanthi 671 00
tel: 25410-23288

Mufti's office – Didimotiho
Tel: 25530-22266

Hinduism

Kranidi, Argolida
tel: 6942- 280298

Judaism

For a list of synagogues please contact the Central Jewish Council, 36 Voulis Street, Athens 105 57 tel: 210-3244315/18

Buddhism

Buddhist Centre
15 Sonierou Street, Vathis Square Athens
tel: 210-523 1491

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS & ADDRESSES

The above notes are brief and intended for general guidance. Intending travellers wishing to have more details and information on specific points may find the following addresses useful:

Hellenic Organisations

Hellenic Tourism Organisation (EOT - London)
4 Conduit Street
London W1R ODJ
Tel: 0044 207 495 9300

Consulate General of Greece
1A Holland Park
London W11 3TP
Tel: 0044 207 221 6467

National Tourism Organisation (EOT – Athens)
2 Amerikis Street
Athens 105 64
Tel: 210 327 1300

Penfriends

American College of Athens
6 Gravias Street

Athens College
15 Delta Street

Agia Paraskevi
Athens 153 42
Tel: 210 600 9800

Psychiko 154 10
Tel: 210 679 8100

Teachers' Certificates

General Education Directorate
Ministry of Education
15 Mitropoleos Street
Athens 105 57
Tel: 210 323 0461, 210 323 0862-4

Christian Organisations

YMCA (XAN) (men & women)
Acadimias & Omirou Streets
Athens
Tel: 210 362 6970

YWCA (XEN) (only women)
11 Amerikis Street
Athens 106 72
Tel: 210 362 4291

Athens Youth Hostels

PANGRATION
75 Damareos Street
Pangrati
Athens 116 33
Tel: 210 523 4170
Fax: 210 751 0616

Details of official youth hostels throughout Greece can be obtained from the Hellenic Youth Hostel Organisation (Tel: 210 751 9530 & Fax: 210 751 0616)

English Newspapers

Athens News
3 Christou Lada Street
Athens 102 37
Tel: 210 333 161
Fax: 210 323 1384

The Herald Tribune (Kathimerini)
Eth.Makariou & Dim. Falireos 2
Neo Faliro 185 47
Tel: 210 480 8000
Fax: 210 480 8255

BritsinCrete Website
Lasithi, Crete 72400
email - info at britsincrete.net

British Banks

HSBC
109-111 Messogion Avenue
Athens 115 26

Tel: 210 696 0000

Royal Bank of Scotland

61 Akti Miaouli Street

Piraeus 185 36

Tel: 210 459 6500

BRITISH CONSULATES IN GREECE

British Vice Consulate

1 Menekratous Street

Corfu 491 00

Tel: 26610 23457/30055

Fax: 26610 37995

HYPERLINK <mailto:Corfu@british-consulate.gr> Corfu@british-consulate.gr

Rhodes@british-consulate.gr

Honorary British Vice Consulate

Gr. Lambraki 29

Rhodes 851 00

Tel: 22410 22005

Fax: 22410 24473

British Vice Consulate

Papa-Alexandrou 16

Heraklion

Crete 712 02

Tel: 2810 224 012

Fax: 2810 243 935

Crete@british-consulate.gr

Honorary British Consulate

21 Aristotelous Square

Salonika 546 24

Tel: 2310 278 006

Fax: 2310 283 868

Thessaloniki@british-consulate.gr

Honorary British Vice Consulate

Annetas Laoumtzi 8

Kos 853 00

Tel: 22420 21549

Tel: 22420 26203

Fax: 22420 25948

Kos@british-consulate.gr

Honorary British Vice Consulate

Akti Petrou Ralli 8

Ermoupolis,

Syros 841 00

Tel: 22810 82232/ 88922

Fax: 22810 83293

Honorary British Vice Consulate

Votsi 2

Patras 262 21

Tel: 2610 277329

Honorary British Vice Consulate

5 Foskolos Street

Zakynthos 29100

Tel: 26950 22906/ 48030/ 45386

Fax: 2610 225334

Fax: 26950 23769
Zakynthos@british-consulate.gr

DO's AND DON'Ts IN GREECE

BRING SUFFICIENT FUNDS with you for your stay and your return. Bank transfers take time especially to the Greek islands. If you miss your return charter flight you may need to buy another ticket 'or pay a surcharge'.

HOLIDAY INSURANCE – DO bring medical card E111 available from your the UK Post Office.

HIRING A VEHICLE, BOAT OR MOPED? - Do check beforehand: is it roadworthy or seaworthy? Is there proper insurance cover? **Do** wear a helmet when on a moped and drive carefully – *an accident can ruin your holiday.*

SEXUAL ASSUALTS - Women should not walk home alone at night, nor should they accept lifts from strangers or casual acquaintances.

PERSONAL SECURITY - Do take care when visiting well-known historical sites – they are favoured haunts of bag-snatchers and muggers.

DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH DRUGS - Penalties are severe – sentences range from 10 years to **LIFE** imprisonment for trafficking. Prescriptive drugs for personal use may not be permitted or may require an import permit.

GREECE HAS UNEMPLOYMENT - Do not expect to find work easily. A good knowledge of Greek is essential for most jobs. Fruit picking opportunities are limited.

DO RESPECT CUSTOMS REGULATIONS - Contraband is a serious offence and carries heavy prison sentences. Vehicles, boats and aircraft must be taken out of Greece by you within specified time limits.

DO RESPECT THE GREEK LAWS - Drunken and violent tourists resisting arrest have

been given heavy prison sentences. The British Consulates cannot obtain your release.

TOO MUCH SUN – especially if mixed with alcohol – can result in dehydration and lead to serious health problems. **DO** take care.

IN CONCLUSION PLEASE REMEMBER THAT....

Tourists are **STRONGLY** advised to take out medical insurance to cover their stay in Greece before leaving Britain. However, many policies include clauses which exempt responsibility in the case of injury or death caused by moped accidents.

IT IS AN OFFENCE to pick up, or to attempt to carry away any item, no matter how small or apparently worthless, which could be described as an antiquity. It is also an offence to dive for, or to photograph antiquities in Greek territorial waters.

A law introduced in August 1987 provides very **SEVERE SENTENCES FOR DRUG OFFENCES**. For example, possession of even a small quantity of narcotics is punishable by a prison sentence of up to 15 years and a very high fine. Other offences carry prison sentences of up to 20 years as well as very high fines. Anyone convicted of causing the use of narcotic substances by individuals below the age of 18 years may be imprisoned for life and face an extremely high fine. **Under this law** over 100 substances are classified as narcotics. The possession, trafficking or use of the following non prescriptive drugs is prohibited: **Hashish, Marijuana, Heroin**, various **Hallucinogens** such as: **LSD, STF, Mescaline** and *except by permission of the Greek authorities* the following prescriptive drugs: **Cocaine, Codeine, Opium, Morphine, Demerol, Methadone, all synthetic narcotics, opium derivatives, amphetamines**. Persons visiting Greece in possession of these prescriptive drugs should contact the nearest Greek Consulate before they travel.

NUDISM is not an offence in itself, but British visitors have been prosecuted by private persons laying a charge with the police under the law dealing with offences against public morals/decency. The courts do not accept ignorance of the law as an excuse.

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of these notes but:

this leaflet is only a guide

it is not exhaustive

many situations will require professional legal advice

the Embassy cannot give legal advice but can provide a list of English speaking lawyers.

The Embassy cannot be held responsible for any errors or wrong information.

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Athens**

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The comprehensive guide for British and Irish expatriates living, working, retiring, investing in property, or enjoying lengthy stays in Crete, Greece's southernmost island. A lively forum also provides lots of practical answers for living in Crete and Greece where the reality on the ground is often different to what is expected.