

## OM's A-Z



## OF GREECE

**A** **ACROPOLIS**  
Standing there for over 2500 years the Acropolis is THE landmark of Athens, attracting millions of visitors annually. The symbol of democracy and of the Ancient Classical Golden Era of Athens.

**ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES**

Every region & island of the country has its own archaeological sites. Half and full day excursions can be arranged to the most spectacular monuments while two to nine day archaeological tours can be organized for special interest groups.

**AREA**

Greece stretches over 131,957km<sup>2</sup> (50,949miles<sup>2</sup>) with numerous islands (about 2000) and the tenth-longest coastline of the world, a staggering 14.800km (9,246 miles).

**AIRLINES**

**Olympic Airlines** is the country's official carrier, with many domestic, European and Non-European destination. Another Greek carrier for domestic and European flights is the **Aegean Airlines**. Many other airlines service Greece's main airport, the Athens International Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, including:

**Arriving from Europe at Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos**

Aegean Airlines, Aeroflot, AeroSvit, Air Berlin, Air France, Air Malta, Air Moldova, Air One, Albanian Airlines, Alitalia, Armavia, Austrian Airlines, Blue 1, British Airways, Brussels Airlines, Bulgaria Air, Carpatair, Centralwings, Clickair, Cyprus Airways, Czech Airlines, Donbassaero, Easyjet, Georgian Airways, Germanwings, Iberia, Ilyich-Avia, Jat Airways, KDavia, KLM, Kras Air, LOT, Lufthansa, Malev, My Air, Norwegian, Olympic Airways, Scandinavian Airlines, Sky Europe, Sterling, Tarom, Turkish Airlines, Vueling

**Arriving from Non-European destinations at Athens Int'l Airport Eleftherios Venizelos**

Air China, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Egypt Air, El-Al Israel Airlines, Emirates, Gulf Air, Olympic Airlines, Qatar Airways, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Syrianair, Thai Airways, Tunisair, Uzbekistan Airways

**AIRPORTS**

Except for Greece's main international airport, the Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos, there are numerous domestic airports and international airports that have charter services during the summer months. The main ones are in Thessaloniki, Crete (Heraklion and Hania), Rhodes, Kerkyra (Corfu) and Kos.








**ATHENS**

The capital of Greece, home of nearly half of all Greeks (about 4 millions) surprises with antiquity and modernity. Surrounded by mountains from three sides and by the sea from the fourth side, Athens has seen a dramatic development from the village it once was, to being the capital since 1834 and until the recent Olympic Games in 2004, which have all contributed to make Athens a buzzing place full of contrasts and life.



**B** **BEACHES**  
Whether it's golden sand and sparkling seas at the doorstep of your luxurious hotel, or turquoise waters surrounded by ancient monuments and impressive cliff faces, Greece and the Greek islands have it all.



<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><b>CLIMATE</b> See "WEATHER"</p> <p><b>CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS</b> OM Destination Management will deliver an event program that not only addresses all your requirements, but also incorporates additional innovative touches. By arranging everything from airport transfers, accommodation and venues, to activities, tours and unforgettable dining experiences, <b>OM makes perfection look effortless.</b></p> <p><b>COOKING &amp; CUISINE</b> In Greece, <b>eating and drinking is arguably the centrepiece of life.</b> Traditional cooking is second to none, incorporating olive oil, fresh local fruits and vegetables, pulses, tender meats and fresh seafood to create a delicious feast of the senses. Wine is also a staple in the Greek kitchen, used alongside fresh herbs, lemons and locally grown spices. Traditional Greek cuisine has been much in the headlines for its health benefits. The healthy diet does not only help with obesity, but also helps to cure heart diseases and is known for its positive effect on longevity.</p> <p>A Greek meal often consists of several dishes, including the famous Greek salad, some appetizers and often more than one main dish. Dining is a social event in Greece and will often take place rather late in the heat of the summer.</p> <p>The dining options in Greece are endless – from open-air taverns and restaurants in restored mansions, to gourmet cuisine in stylish and trendy urban settings.</p> <p><b>COASTLINE</b> Greece boasts an impressive 14.880km of coastline, which means endless beaches, numerous ports and coastal towns, breath-taking cliffs, thousands of islands and islets and lots to see on a cruise or a sailing trip.</p> <p><b>CULTURE</b> Greek culture and language dates back as far as ancient Greece. In nearly 400 years of Turkish occupation, the Greeks have made every effort to preserve and cultivate their Greek language and Christian-Orthodox religion. The people of Greece are friendly and welcoming, with hospitality still being cherished as a major virtue.</p> <p><b>CURRENCY</b> Greece, a member of the European Monetary Union since 2001, has the Euro (€) and Cents as currency. 100 Cents are 1 Euro.</p> <p><b>CRUISING, SAILING &amp; YACHTING</b> Nowhere in the whole world is there such a combination of sea and sunshine, magnificent coasts, majestic scenery, ancient and medieval monuments, as in the Aegean and Ionian Seas, which surround Greece. Cruises to numerous destinations within Greece can be arranged for groups of all sizes, on chartered and scheduled liners. For small groups of up to 80 people there are many luxurious yachts or sailing boats that are available for chartering.</p>	    
<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME</b> Every year, the last Sunday of March, daylight saving time comes into effect in Greece. All clocks are advanced by one hour. Greece reverts to Standard Time on the last Sunday in October.</p> <p><b>DESTINATIONS</b> OM Hellas is your reliable partner for any destination in Greece. Thanks to the flight network and facilities, Athens has become the most popular destination for business travel within Greece. However, there are plenty more attractive destinations we can help you with. Whenever your programme allows it, we are confident to recommend Loutraki, Porto Heli, Thessaloniki, Killini, Halkidiki and the islands Rhodes, Crete., Mykonos, Kos and more for incentive and conference travel. Just ask!</p>	 

**DISTANCES**

Distances in km and miles (approx.) from Athens to major cities and other tourist areas:

	SALONICA (THESSALONIKI)		PATRAS		HERAKLION (BY BOAT OR AIR)		NAFPLIO		CORINTH		MYKONOS (BY BOAT OR AIR)		RHODES (BY BOAT OR AIR)		CRETE (BY BOAT OR AIR)	
	km	mls	km	mls	km	mls	km	mls	km	mls	km	mls	km	mls	km	mls
<b>ATHENS</b>	515	322	215	135	334	209	146	92	86	54	84	52	490	307	142	89

**DRIVING**

A European driving licence is accepted. For Non-European driving licences an international driving licence might be required. Please check with your local authorities.  
Vehicles are Left-Wheel-Drive and are driven on the right hand-side of the road.

**E ELECTRICITY**

Electricity supply in Greece is 220 Volt.

**EL GRECO**

El Greco ("The Greek", full name: Doménicos Theotokópoulos) was a painter, sculptor, and architect of Cretan origin in the 16th century.

His story as artist and freedom fighter was revived with the inspiring movie "El Greco" by Iannis Smaragdis, out in the cinemas in October 2007, with music of the famous Greek composer Vangelis.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

Greece is a full member of the European Union since 1981.

**EUROVISION SONG CONTEST**

In 2006 Greece's singer Elena Paparizou brought the Eurovision Song Contest to Athens' new Olympic Stadium thanks to her winning song "My number one" in 2005.

**EYZONES**

The Presidential Guards in front of the Parliament building at Constitution Square.

**F FESTIVALS**

There are a lot of festivals & cultural activities all over the country, especially during the summer. Even the smallest village has something to offer in the way of folk dance, music or theatre events. Some of the most important cultural events in which world wide famous artists participate are:

- The **Athens Festival** (June-September), with drama and dance performances, traditional and contemporary music concerts etc. Most of the performances take place in the **ancient Herodus Atticus Amphitheatre**, located at the footsteps of the Acropolis.
- The **Epidaurus Festival**, (July-September), with drama performances that take place in the **ancient amphitheatre of Epidaurus** in Peloponnese.
- The **Thessaloniki Film Festival** (autumn).

**FLIGHT TIMES**



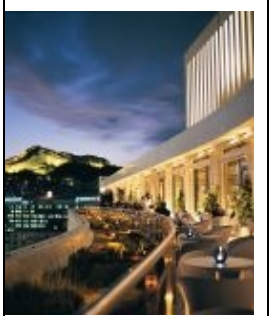

With its excellent location, Greece is just 3,5 hours from London, around 3 hours from Paris and 2,5 hours from Frankfurt, and only 2 hours from Rome.







**FOOD**

See COOKING & CUISINE





**G GEOGRAPHY**

Greece is located at the southern end of the Eastern Europe, connecting Europe with the Orient. About 2000 islands and 6000 islets, 14.880km (9246 miles) coastline and with four fifth of its land mountainous indicate the variety you will find in Greece. Its highest mountain is the Mount Olympus with 2,917 metres (9,570 ft).

	<p><b>GREECE</b>                  Greece – land of the Gods, blessed with more than 3000 hours of sunshine yearly, amazing beaches with crystal-clear waters, breathtaking mountains, numerous islands, picturesque villages, modern cities and an impressive history. Located in Europe next to Asia and Africa, its heritage of ancient Greece, the Roman and the Byzantine Empire, and nearly four centuries of Ottoman rule made it also the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature, political science, major scientific and mathematic principles, and Western drama (both tragedy and comedy).                  OM Hellas is waiting for you to help you make the most of your stay in this amazing country.</p>	
<p><b>H</b></p>	<p><b>HEALTH</b>                  Health standards in Greece compare favourably with those of developed countries.</p> <p><b>HELICOPTERS</b>                  Helicopters are available for chartering.</p> <p><b>HELLAS</b>                  is the Greek name for Greece.</p> <p><b>HELLENIC REPUBLIC</b>                  The official name of Greece.</p> <p><b>HIPPOCRATES</b>                  The father of Medicine and the Hippocratic oath.</p> <p><b>HISTORY</b>                  Greece's history is both complex and fascinating, and is difficult to summarise in a few lines, but this approximate timeline is a good guide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aegean civilization (Minoan Civilisation) from 2700 BC - 1450 BC</li> <li>• Mycenaean Greece (Bronze Age) from 1600 -1100 BC</li> <li>• Greek Dark Ages from 1100 -800 BC</li> <li>• Ancient Greece from 1000 -323 BC (First Olympic Games in 776 BC, death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC)</li> <li>• Hellenistic Greece from 323 -146 BC (146 BC Annexation of the Greek peninsula and islands by Rome)</li> <li>• Roman Period from 146 BC - 300 AD</li> <li>• Byzantine Empire 323 – 1453 AD (Middle Ages)</li> <li>• Ottoman Rule and the Rise of Modern Greece 1453 - 1821</li> <li>• The modern Greek state from 1821</li> </ul> <p><b>HOTELS</b>                  There are more than <b>7,500 hotels</b> in the country. The vast majority of the hotels have recently undergone major renovations thus ensuring <b>high standards of services &amp; comfortable accommodations</b>.</p> <p>The Hotels on the islands and some of the Hotels in Athens, are located directly <b>on the beach</b> and offer the <b>ideal combination of Conference and leisure facilities</b>.                  From Boutique hotel to Resorts Greece has something for every taste and need.</p>	 
<p><b>I</b></p>	<p><b>INNOVATIVE INCENTIVES</b>                  OM offers a range of original and exciting activities to promote team building, and to ensure the group takes away <b>life-long memories of their Greece visit</b>. OM incentives include 4x4 corporate challenges, local experiences, Mini and Beach Olympics, boat and cart building, yacht racing, treasure hunting and so much more.</p>	

	<p><b>INTERNATIONAL OFFICES</b> OM's experienced team extends to Cyprus, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Croatia.</p> <p><b>ISLANDS</b> Greece consists of more than 2000 islands and 6000 islets. Crete is Greece's largest island, followed by Evia. Every island has its own unique character and specialties, and friendly inhabitants. Some islands are just offshore and provide the perfect day excursion for nearby cities, like the island of Aegina for the Athenians. Greece has an island to match every taste, like the party-island Mykonos, the honeymoon island Santorini, the knights' island Rhodes and many more. OM Hellas is there for you to help you find the perfect island for your event.</p>	
<p><b>J</b></p>	<p><b>JUNE</b> June may be the official beginning of summer but in Greece, you can hit the sunny beaches for a splash any time between April and beginning of November.</p>	
<p><b>K</b></p>	<p><b>KARAGIOZIS</b> A Karagiozis is a puppet character in the Greek folklore puppet theatre, usually a trickster poor Greek man whose sole interest is sleep and eating. Karagiozis puppets can be found for sale, e.g. in the Plaka area of Athens.</p> <p><b>KAZANTZAKIS</b> Nikos Kazantzakis, famous Greek writer and philosopher of 20<sup>th</sup> century Greece, is the author of the novel and later film "Zorba the Greek".</p> <p><b>KOMBOLOI</b> The komboloi is a popular fidget toy for men, a small worry bead to pass their time with.</p> <p><b>KOS</b> The island of Hippocrates (4 BC), the father of Medicine and the Hippocratic Oath for ethical practice of medicine.</p>	  
<p><b>L</b></p>	<p><b>LANGUAGES</b> The official language is <b>Greek</b>, but <b>English</b> is widely spoken and understood.</p> <p><b>LEXICON</b> Another word for "dictionary". There are over 30.000 words of Greek origin used in the English vocabulary and other European languages.</p>	
<p><b>M</b></p>	<p><b>METRIC VERSION</b> In Greece, weather temperature reports are given in Celsius degrees, petrol is sold by the litre, grocery items are in grams and kilograms, fabric lengths in metres and road speeds in kilometres per hour.</p> <p><b>MEETINGS</b> See CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS</p> <p><b>MOUNTAINS</b> Four fifths of Greece's surface are mountains, which create an impressive scenery and a paradise for hill walkers, rafters, skiers and climbers alike. In winter, the snow covered tops of the mountains invite people for skiing, in spring the mountains in full bloom entice people to discover the nature and the many monasteries perched on the rocks, in summer the mountains offer a refreshing escape from the heat, and in autumn vineyards full of juicy grapes attract our attention to the year's harvest and the wine production everywhere. Many of Greece's peaks are above 2000 metres (6,562 ft), with Mount Olympos, the holy mountain and siege of the God Zeus at 2,917 metres (9,570 ft).</p> <p><b>MUSEUMS</b> There are hundreds of museums all around the country for all interests. Opening hours vary</p>	

	<p>according to the season.</p> <p><b>MYKONOS</b> Mykonos, the hippest Greek island that the ship tycoon Aristotle Onassis put on the map, has been the glamour retreat for many stars and adventurous people ever since. Its whitewashed houses, windmills and narrow stone-paved streets in the town centre, the golden sand beaches and an amazing choice of cafes, taverns, restaurants, bars and clubs have become a symbol for the perfect holidays. But there is more to it: you never know what to expect – you might meet a movie star, a simple dinner might turn into a party until dawn... Mykonos is the island of unlimited possibilities!</p>	 
<b>N</b>	<p><b>NATIONALITY</b> The majority of Greece is <b>Greek</b>, with immigrants mainly from Eastern European countries.</p>	
<b>O</b>	<p><b>OLYMPIC GAMES</b> Greece is home to the Olympic Games, which in ancient times took place in Olympia on the Western Peloponnese until 393 AD. The first international Olympic Games of modern times took place in Athens in the specially-built Kalimarmaro Stadium in 1896. In 2004, the Summer Olympics returned to Greece again, when Athens was appointed to host the Games. Athens has built numerous state-of-the-art venues for the Games and overhauled its public transports network and its road network. The new international airport, many refurbished hotels and public places, but most of all the successful, magnificent execution of the Games have made Athens a first choice destination for business travel, with many Olympic venues now available for hire to create a truly memorable event.</p> <p><b>OM DESTINATION MANAGEMENT</b> OM Hellas Destination Management is the A-Z of Greece!</p>	 
<b>P</b>	<p><b>POPULATION</b> Greece's estimated population is <b>11.171.740</b> (estimation of the national statistics 2007). Apart from the capital, Athens, with an estimated population of 3,7 millions, Thessalonica is the second largest city with about 1 million residents. Patras, the gateway to Italy with its huge port, is the third biggest city with approximately 200.000 residents, followed by Heraklion on the island of Crete with about 150.000 residents.</p> <p><b>PORTS &amp; HARBOURS</b> Piraeus is the major port of Greece and one of the biggest in the Mediterranean. It serves most of the Greek islands. Also in vicinity of Athens is Rafina port, (20 km East of Athens) which serves the Aegean Sea Islands. Other major ports are in Thessaloniki and Patra. The port of Thessaloniki mainly serves the islands of Lemnos, Lesbos &amp; Hios all year round, as well as the island groups of Sporades, Dodecanese and Cyclades during the summer months. The port of Patra serves the Ionian Sea islands and the Italy. All the Greek islands have their own port and many of them their own Marinas.</p> <p><b>POSTAL &amp; COURIER SERVICES</b> Apart from the official Greek postal services, the following courier companies operate in most areas of the country: TNT, DHL, FEDERAL EXPRESS, U.P.S.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: GREECE</b> January 1: New Year's Day January 6: Epiphany Day March 25: Greek National Day May 1: Labour Day August 15: Mother of God Dormition October 28: Greek National Day (Ochi Day) December 25: Christmas Day December 26: Boxing Day</p>	 

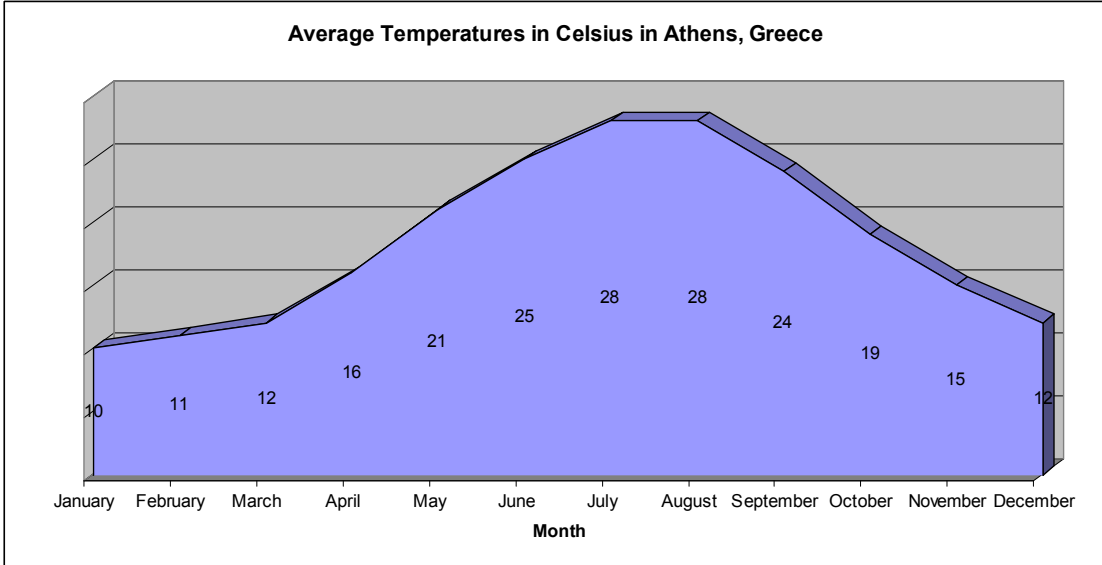
	<p><b>Variable public holidays</b>  Green Monday  Good Friday (Greek Orthodox)  Easter Sunday (Greek Orthodox)  Easter Monday (Greek Orthodox)  Pentecost-Kataklysmos (Festival of the Flood)</p> <p>All Public Services, private enterprises, banks and shops are closed on Public Holidays. In resort and coastal areas, however, shops and certain services remain open.</p>	
<p><b>Q</b></p>	<p><b>QUEENS OF GREECE</b>  In the archaic period there were some powerful Greek women, the Amazon queens. Later, during the Hellenistic period there were a number of powerful queens of Greek origin that lived in an area conquered by Alexander the Great, like Aretaphilia of Cyrene, Arsinoe II of Egypt, Atemisia I and Artemisia II of Helicarnassus, Cleopatra of Eqypt, Cynane of Macedonia, Olympias of Macedonia.</p> <p><b>QUINCES</b>  Glyko is a delicious Greek speciality; it is a sweet preserve of almost any fruit including quinces, nuts or even vegetables. It is served with a glass of cold water, a refreshing addition to the syrupy glyko.</p>	
<p><b>R</b></p>	<p><b>RELIGION</b>  The majority of Greeks is <b>Christian Greek Orthodox</b>.</p>	
<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>SAFETY</b>  Greece is one of the safest destinations to visit. We are very proud of the safety and security Greece has managed to build and preserve over many years.</p> <p><b>SALONICA (THESSALONIKI)</b>  Often seen as counterpart to Athens, Salonica, second biggest city of Greece, has its very own character. Often seen as the city of churches, it has an amazing Byzantine heritage and a generous, spacious character with its wide street and seaside location. With the spiritual centre of the Mount Athos, the holy mountain with several monasteries on the peninsula of Halkidiki nearby, the numerous beaches and its splendid nature, there is a lot to see in- and outside Salonica. Salonica's international airport, its strategic position near many Balkan countries and Turkey and its excellent modern conference facilities have put it on the map for large-scale exhibitions.</p> <p><b>SCHENGEN</b>  Greece is part of the Schengen Agreement that ensures freedom of travel between its member states.</p> <p><b>SHOPPING HOURS</b>  <b>Winter Period (November 1 - March 31)</b>  Mon, Tue, Thu: Up to 19:00  Wednesday: Up to 14:00  Friday: Up to 20:00  Saturday: Up to 15:00</p>	 

	<p><b>Summer Period (April 1 - October 31)</b>                  Mon, Tue, Thu: Up to 20:30                  Wednesday: Up to 14:00                  Friday: Up to 21:30                  Saturday: Up to 17:00                  Summer afternoon recess Mon, Tue, Thu and Friday (June 15-August 31) from 14:00-17:00                  In resort and coastal areas, shops have extended trading hours.</p> <p><b>Banking hours for the public</b>                  Monday-Friday: 08:15 - 13:00                  Monday: 15:15 - 16:45.                  (May, June, July, August: Monday- Friday: 08:15 - 13:00)</p> <p><b>SPORTS</b>                  With the Olympic Games, Greece has not only hosted a major sports event, but also created a staggering 25 brand-new athletic venues. Major matches, like the UEFA Cup Final 2007 have taken place in Athens since.                  Greece offers unlimited possibilities for sports, from water sports to ski, from golf to racing, everything can be found in this multi-destination.</p>	 
<p><b>T</b></p>	<p><b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                  The Greek Telecommunications Organization (OTE) has direct telephone services with almost all the countries of the world. Mobile phones operating with the GSM &amp; DCS network systems can be used all over the country.                  ISDN connections and wireless internet are available in most hotels.</p> <p><b>TIME ZONE</b>                  The time zone in Greece is two hours ahead of Greenwich and one hour ahead of France, Germany and Italy (GMT+2).</p> <p><b>TRANSFERS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TAXIS</b>                  Athens has an excellent and relatively cheap public transport network with the three metro lines (tube), train lines, buses, trolley-buses, the tram and taxis. Outside Athens, buses, taxis and sometimes also trains serve the public.                  OM's accompanied transfer service includes a meet and greet, airport assistance, water and refresher towels upon arrival. Plus, <b>you will travel in comfort</b> with either a mini bus, larger luxury coach, private Mercedes or even a Limo, depending on your group size and specific requirements. This means your fantastic Greek experience begins as soon as your plane touches the island.</p> <p><b>TOURS</b>                  OM's Classic Tours can be catered for your group's requirements and interests. To <b>experience the more traditional side of Greece</b>, tour its historical monuments, meet the country's farmers, hop on board for a wine tour or shop your way through Greece's older towns, and see for yourself what makes Greece so truly special.</p>	  
<p><b>U</b></p>	<p><b>UNIVERSALITY</b>                  Greece has it all, with its numerous beaches, countless islands, lush orchards, rocky mountains, picturesque villages, modern cities... A truly universal destination!</p>	
<p><b>V</b></p>	<p><b>VISAS</b>                  EU citizens <b>do not require a visa</b> for entering Greece, a valid passport or their national identity card (provided there is a photo and the citizenship is declared on the card) will do. The passport must be valid at least until the day of departure from Greece.</p> <p>For other countries, please refer to:  <a href="http://www2.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/Services/Visas/Visas+for+Foreigners+travelling+to+Greece/">http://www2.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/Services/Visas/Visas+for+Foreigners+travelling+to+Greece/</a></p>	

**W WEATHER**

Greece enjoys a Mediterranean climate with long dry summers, from mid-May to mid-October, and with mild winters from December to February, separated by short autumn and spring seasons. **The sun shines about 3000 hours a year** making Greece a weather friendly destination all year round.

**TEMPERATURE (in degrees Celsius)**



**WINE**

Greece enjoys **a long tradition of winemaking**; any trip beyond the metropolitan areas reveals a landscape spotted with the tiered vineyards producing ruby-red wine with a rich fruity aroma as well as refreshing or sweet white wines. Greece features world famous grapes as well as local varieties that can well compete with them. At OM Hellas we are happy to introduce you with one of our local or professional wine-tasting tours.



**X XENOS**

The Greek way of referring to someone from overseas, but also another name for the God Zeus, the Xenos-Zeus.

**Y YES!**

At OM, we have a positive attitude, are focussed on solutions and on making your vision a reality.

**YOGHURT**

The thick Greek yoghurt, main ingredient of the Tzatziki and much-loved as a light dessert served with honey has become a trademark even outside Greek boundaries.



**Z ZEUS**

Zeus is the king of the gods, the ruler of Mount Olympus, and the god of the sky and thunder according to the Greek mythology

