

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL NOTES

Greece

(Tour Code: PGA)

GREECE is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa and has land borders with Albania, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the Northeast. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of mainland Greece, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south.

Arrival in Athens (ATH): A representative will be waiting for you at “Baggage Claim Area”, holding a sign “Peony Tours” for easy identification. However, if you do not see the tour guide or representative at the baggage claim area, please proceed to the exit and look for them in the arrival hall.

Climate: Most of the country enjoys a Mediterranean climate. Summers are hot and dry with a seven-month period of near constant sunshine generally from April until November. For weather broadcast please check: www.theweathernetwork.com

Language: Greek is the national official language. English is the most widely understood foreign language in Greece, followed by French and Italian.

Religion: More than 95% of Greek citizens are Greek Orthodox Christians.

Visa: Greece is a party to the Schengen Agreement. U.S. citizens who hold valid passports may enter Greece for up to 90 days for tourists without a visa. For non-US passport holders, note that **PGA tour requires multiple visa** to enter Greece. For more visa information please check www.mfa.gr/usa/en/the-embassy.

Health: Current information on vaccinations and other health precautions can be found at US Centers for Disease Control website: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel

Cash Controls: Any person entering or leaving the EU has to declare the cash that they are carrying if this amounts to 10,000 Euros or more, this includes checks, travelers' checks, money orders, etc.

Customs: Greek customs authorities have strict regulations concerning the export from Greece of antiquities, including rocks from archaeological sites.

Currency: The currency of Greece is the Euro. You are advised to take more than one means of payment with you (cash, credit card, travelers' check). It's always a good idea to set aside a small amount of cash or pocket money for buying small items and for using public washroom.

Electricity: Electrical current is 230V, 50Hz and uses two-pinned plugs. Appliances from USA require a universal plug adapter and transformer.

Clothing: 1) Bring comfortable, casual clothing and good walking shoes. A warm sweater or jacket is a must for cool evenings. You'll need only comfortable and casual clothes for Aegean Cruise. 2) Meteora Monastery Attire: Shorts, tank tops and sleeveless shirts are prohibited. Men have to wear pants. Women need to wear long skirt, dress or sarong to cover knees.

Shopping: The most popular souvenirs are products of Greece including jewelry, organic and natural products such as olive oil, honey, and jams. **Food and Water:** Be careful of the water in all areas and especially on the islands. Bottled water is available everywhere. Olive oil is the main ingredient you will find probably in just about every Greek dish.

Things to Pack: The sun is very strong in Greece. Don't forget sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, sandal, bathing suit. Remember the Insect repellent, motion sickness pills, medications in the original packaging, and your own toiletries.

Safety and Security: Most visits to Greece are trouble-free, but be aware that incidents of theft of wallets, handbags etc are common on the metro and crowded tourist places. If you are the victim of crime, contact your tour guide and call the emergency line 112 immediately for English speaking assistance.

Important Telephone Numbers: In the event of any problem or in complicated situations, you can get help from US Embassy in Athens, Tel: (210)729-4444, or check website <http://gr.usembassy.gov>. Have the following three digit telephone numbers with you at all times: Universal Emergency Line 112, Fire Service 199, Ambulance 166, Police 100, Tourist Police 171, Coast Guard 108.

International Calls: The international dialing code of Greece is 00, country code is 30; Athens' area code is 210.

Calling USA from Athens, dial:
00 + 1 + Area Code + Phone Number

Calling Athens from USA, dial:
011 + 30 + Area Code + Phone Number

Aegean Cruise: 1) The cruise embarkation labels indicating names and cabin number will be delivered to you by the tour director on the evening before cruise departure. 2) Cruise tipping, shore excursions and beverage package are included in your tour fare as specified in the itinerary. All other expenses on the cruise line will be automatically charged to your Sea Pass Account. For more information, please refer to the cruise company's website <http://celestyalcruises.com>.