

Jim Gold's GREEK TRAVEL TIPS

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WEATHER: Temperatures are mostly in the 70's. But be prepared for a range of 60 to high 80's.

CLOTHING: Pack lightly. Our tour dress is informal. Casual clothing is appropriate for everything we do. Bring clothes you can layer to suit a range of temperatures. Suggestions: Wash and wear clothing, sweater, jacket, shorts, raincoat or umbrella, swim suit, comfortable walking shoes (for dancing, too), sandals, sun hat, sunglasses.

MONEY: The currency of Greece is the Euro. For exchange rates a currency site to explore is: <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

You can exchange dollars at banks or change bureaus. There are ATM's.

I suggest bringing \$300 to \$500, mostly for local shopping. Some large stores take credit cards. Traveler's checks are almost useless. Stick to cash. You may see a local costume, instrument, blouse, book, icon painting, CD, or whatever. For purchases and bargaining "on the spot", cash is best. Plus it's more fun.

A good currency site if <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: Valid passport required. Visa is not.

A website to explore is: www.passportsplus.com

LUGGAGE: One suitcase per traveler is best. You may also bring one carry-on bag that fits under the airline seat or in the overhead compartment. (Attach name tags to all luggage.)

IMMUNIZATION: No inoculations needed for Greece.

MEDICINES: Keep them close at hand, not in checked luggage.

ELECTRICITY: If you live in a country with 110V electricity, your electric accessories would not work in Greece where 220V (50Hz) electrical outlets are standard. You need to **purchase an electrical adaptor** to make sure all your equipment can be plugged into the Greek electrical outlets.

Special Tip: Some Greek wall outlets have very deep sockets - so deep that the American plug end on your device may keep the adapter plug from fitting into the space.



This is another reason to always bring several plug adapters with you - they can be connected together to give you an extension providing enough room for your device to fit.

TIPPING: No one knows the “correct” amount to tip. When asked, guides and drivers answer: “It is up to you.” This is true. Thus, to help you decide what is fair, here are some suggested guidelines: \$10 (American) dollars per day for our guide, \$7 per day for our bus driver, porters \$1 per person.

It is also customary to leave a small tip in restaurants when ordering a drink, as these are not traditionally part of the meal. Tipping can be in Euros or dollars.

AIRPORT CHECK-IN: Be at the airline counter at least 3 hours before departure. Seat assignments are determined by the airline; they cannot be guaranteed until you are assigned boarding cards at the airport check-in counter.

OTHER: You can increase your tour fun by learning the alphabet, memorizing the words below, and trying them out on Greeks on the street, in the shops, at restaurants, anywhere.

12 MAGIC GREEK WORDS

Kalimera (ka-li-ME-ra)...Good morning, Good day

Gia sou (Yia sou) Literally “For you.” Hello, goodbye, hi.

Ti kaneis (tee KA-nis) How are you?

Ef Charisto (ef cha-ri-STO) Thank you

Kala (ka-LA)...(Good)

Nai (NEH)...(Yes)

Oxi (O-chi)...(No)

Pou einai (POU EE-neh)... Where is?

Greek is written in the Greek alphabet. To learn more go to:

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_alphabet

Start using your magic Greek words today! Practice them aloud, with nerve, energy, verve, gusto, and enthusiasm! Try them out on family members, friends, neighbors; say them in shopping malls, restaurants, on the street, and in your home. You'll be amazed at the reaction and your progress.

Whatever magic Greek word you say, in whatever order you say them, Greeks will reward you with a nod, smile, and sometimes even an answer! That's when the fun begins.

Greek Alphabet

Capital	Small	Name of Letter	Pronunciation
A	α	Alpha	AHL-fah
B	β	Veeta	VEE-tah
Γ	γ	Ghamma	GHAH-mah
Δ	δ	Dhelta	THEHL-tah
E	ε	Epsilon	EH-psee-lohn
Z	ζ	Zeeta	ZEE-tah
H	η	Eeta	EE-tah
Θ	θ	Theeta	THEE-tah
I	ι	Yiota	YOH-tah
K	κ	Kappa	KAH-pah
Λ	λ	Lamvdha	LAHM-thah
M	μ	Mee	MEE
N	ν	Nee	NEE
Ξ	ξ	Ksee	KSEE
O	ο	Omicron	OH-mee-krohn
Π	π	Pee	PEE
P	ρ	Rho	ROH
Σ	σ	Seegma	SEEGH-mah
T	τ	Taf	TAHF
Υ	υ	Ipsilon	EE-psee-lohn
Φ	φ	Fee	FEE
X	χ	Hee	KHEE
Ψ	ψ	Psee	PSEE
Ω	ω	Omegha	oh-MEH-ghah