12 things to know about GREECE
QUICK_FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of State:</th>
<th>Hellenic Republic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital:</td>
<td>Athens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
<td>10,815,197 (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area:</td>
<td>131,957km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate:</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion:</td>
<td>98% Orthodox Christians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency:</td>
<td>Euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calling Code:</td>
<td>+30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Zone:</td>
<td>GMT +2</td>
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Tradition of Democracy

The word “democracy” (Greek: δημοκρατία) combines the elements of dêmos (δήμος, meaning “people”) and krátos (κράτος, meaning “rule” or “power”): the rule of the people.

From the Athenian democracy to the radical constitutions drafted in the course of the establishment of the Modern Greek state, the legendary resistance of the Greeks to Nazism, to the Third Hellenic Republic and active political participation, Greece has been the cradle of Western democracy and its people heir to an ancient democratic tradition, at the forefront of Europe’s struggles for freedom and democracy.

After the restoration of Democracy in 1974 following seven years of military rule, and the people’s choice for their form of government in a referendum, the Hellenic Republic became a Parliamentary Constitutional Republic.

Did you know that “demokratia” was first introduced in the year 507 B.C. by the Athenian leader Cleisthenes?
Did you know that Greece enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine—or 3,000 sunny hours—a year, and has many areas of strong winds, making it a potential renewable energy hub, which could enhance the energy mix for all of Europe?

A Geopolitical & Investment Hub

Greece’s unique geostrategic position – at the crossroads between three continents (Europe, Asia, Africa), the East & the West, the Balkans & the Mediterranean Sea – has determined its history and is shaping its future.

A hub since antiquity, Greece has been empowered by a longstanding membership of the UN, NATO, EU & the Eurozone, an extensive infrastructure (45 airports, 140 ports, 2.265km of railway & 117.000km of roadway network), and continues to be a regional hub for peace, trade and logistics.

Greece’s geographical position ensures its key role to all major routes that secure energy sufficiency for Europe and designates it as an emerging hub for gas and electricity. A gateway to over 140 million consumers in SE Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean - a region with a GDP of almost €1 trillion - Greece offers investment opportunities with regard to consumer goods, technology, innovation and tourism.

USEFUL LINKS
www.mfa.gr
www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr
A traditionally maritime nation since antiquity, Greece, with some 19,000 km of coastline and 9,000 islands & islets, is a pioneer in commercial shipping & a distinguished member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Shipping constitutes 6% of the Greek GDP, while it employs around 160,000 people. The Greek merchant fleet is the largest in the world in terms of total tonnage (224 million dwt, roughly 16% of the world's total capacity).

In terms of total number of ship ownership, Greece stands 4th worldwide: 1st in tankers, 2nd in dry bulk carriers, 2nd in LNG ships, 3rd in LPG ships and 5th in containers. Greek shipping constitutes 40% of the european shipping sector. Greek shipowners control more than 4,065 freighters, while more than 52% of the shipping companies listed in NYSE & NASDAQ are owned by Greek nationals.

Did you know that Greece ranks 5th in terms of the total number of ships flying a Greek flag, which is equivalent to 4.73% of the world’s dwt?
Greece as a tourist destination is a powerful brand. With the 10th most extensive and spectacular coastline in the world, a plethora of islands surrounded by turquoise sea, imposing mountains, luscious forests, iconic landscapes and a rich cultural heritage, Greece is a top global tourist destination for year-round holidays.

Greece invites visitors to plunge into its beauty and learn the true meaning of “philoxenia” (hospitality). Besides sun & beach holidays, Greece provides attractive propositions for alternative and thematic forms of tourism: cultural, religious, nautical, medical, spa, rural, gastronomy & wine, conference, marine, sport, winter & ski, luxury and city breaks.

Greece is also ideal for tourism-related investments, as it is a classic choice for millions of visitors every year. With a continuous rise in arrivals and revenue in recent years, the tourist industry accounts for approx. 17% of Greece’s GDP and employs around 700,000 people.

USEFUL LINKS
www.visitgreece.gr
www.sete.gr
Greece has a large number of highly educated professionals & scientists. Greek scientists work for ESA, CERN & collaborate with NASA, while many Greek academics teach and/or conduct research in Universities at home & abroad. Although Greeks are less than 0,2% of the world population, Greek scientists account for almost 3% of top scientists worldwide.

Innovative products used for space applications (pressure sensors, specialized wires & layouts, hardware & software used for launching & flying space rockets) are produced by 40 Greek companies and 99% of them are exported.

The first certified system of treating ballast water is a Greek invention, used by both Greek & foreign ships alike. Start-ups are popping up everywhere & academic research is yielding results in varied fields such as detecting microorganisms in cultivations, the creation of a robotic search & rescue vehicle, ecological vehicles & nanotechnology.
In Greece, the very birthplace of academia, everyone is entitled to free education at all levels. All academic fields are covered by over 20 public Universities & 15 Higher Technological Educational Institutes, some of which rank among the best in the world.

While teaching is mainly in Greek, specialized studies are also available in other languages; in 2005, the International Hellenic University was established, the first Greek state university to offer studies exclusively in English.

There is also a State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) coordinating scholarship programmes for post-graduate studies. Greece’s “intellectual capital” is a strong national asset. Greeks place a high value on education, recognizing it as the most valuable asset one could have. Greece records the highest percentage (29.4%) of students in tertiary education in the EU, while the number of students taking science at doctoral level is high too. Learning foreign languages is also widespread.

**USEFUL LINKS**

www.ihu.edu.gr
www.uoa.gr
Did you know that Greece is the world’s largest producer of organic saffron?

#LAND_OF_TREASURES

The Gifts of the Soil

Greece is endowed with an extraordinary terrain, vegetation and climate that provide the country’s most magnificent wealth, its agricultural products - most of them PDO protected: from the unique mastic tree, the omnipresent grapevines, its golden pine tree honey and the ‘red gold’ saffron, to the natural abundance of its fruit and vegetables.

In terms of its biodiversity, Greece is one of the richest countries in Europe, and when it comes to the varieties of its endemic herbs and medicinal plants, on a global scale it is second only to Madagascar.

Rich in mineral deposits and energy resources, Greece is the world’s biggest supplier of perlite, while its extractive industry, together with the corresponding manufacturing sector, account for 3% - 5% of GDP. Greece produces more than 430,000 tons of olive oil annually, of which over 75% is extra virgin olive oil, while exports of agricultural and livestock-farming products account for 1/3 of total exports.

USEFUL LINKS

www.minagric.gr
www.newwinesofgreece.com
A 4,000 Year-Old Motto

From ancient philosophers to modern Greek urbanites, and from cosmopolitan magnates to small village grannies, the arch wisdom of Greek people is embodied in a 4,000 year-old motto: “Εὖ Ζῆν”, to live life well: a piece of perennial wisdom about enjoying the beauty and joys of life, but also facing bumps and problems with spirit and ethos; an equally natural and philosophical approach to wellbeing and longevity.

From the legacy of the Ancient Olympics to modern sports, and from the healing temples of Asclepius to modern spas, the search for a healthy mind in a healthy body has been a staple of Greek life.

The age old tradition in medicine, the life-prolonging advantages of the Mediterranean diet, the tasteful, healthy and nutritious Greek cuisine, but most of all, a healthy disposition towards life, form the recipe of a lifestyle based on the premise “the simpler, the better”.

USEFUL LINKS
www.gastronomymuseum.gr
www.greekbreakfast.gr
If Classical, Hellenistic and Byzantine masterpieces bring art-lovers to Greece, it is the vibrant contemporary arts scene that is most likely to amaze them: avant-garde theatre and cinema, a lively music scene, frontline visual arts and some of the world’s most pioneering museums.

Theatrical tradition has been consistently strong with the Greeks from antiquity to the present. Greek music encompasses a rich range of traditions, with regional and stylistic variations covering folk, modern, mainstream or alternative, and rembetika. Greek cinema has been on the rise again with the emergence of a new wave of notable Greek filmmakers and major film festivals.

In recent years, there’s been an upsurge of cultural spaces and foundations hosting Greek contemporary art exhibitions. Major modern art biannual exhibitions are hosted in Athens and Thessaloniki, along with Art Athina, the largest annual visual arts event in Greece.
Greek heritage encompasses a lot: the tangible cultural wealth that includes sites and monuments, artifacts, ancient theatres and Byzantine churches; and the intangible that includes some of Greece’s most precious gifts to humanity, like drama, arts, science, poetry, music; plus its unique natural heritage.

There are 17 Greek monuments and sites recorded on UNESCO’s World Heritage List including the Acropolis, Delphi, Olympia, Meteora and Rhodes’ Medieval Town. On UNESCO’s Intangible cultural heritage list, one can find the Mediterranean diet, Tinian marble craftsmanship and the cultivation of mastic.

Greek heritage, however, is mostly about bringing this glorious past into a creative present and future: to understand, value, enjoy and carry it forth creatively into the future for generations to come.
The Greek language has the longest and most widely documented history of any other Indo-European language. It is the same language used by Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Euripides, Sophocles and Aristophanes more than 3,000 years ago, and has made a major contribution to all western languages, being one of the richest languages in the world.

**Mini-glossary**

(Nai) Yes
(Ochi) No
(Ya) Hello!
(Kaliméra) Good morning
(Kalispéra) Good evening
(Kalinihta) Good night
(Miláte angliká?) Do you speak English?
(Efharistó) Thank you
(Parakaló) Please/ You’re welcome

Did you know that the Guinness Book of Records has ranked the Greek language as the richest in the world, with 5 million words and 70 million word types?

**USEFUL LINKS**

www.greek-language.gr
en.greekcourses.uoa.gr
The Greek people as a whole constitute a force that makes Greece punch above its weight. Greeks of the diaspora & the motherland have achieved significant world status through their erudition & spirit and a long tradition of ‘placing man at the centre of the cosmos’.

To name only a few:

Homer: poet; Socrates: philosopher; Dominicos Theotokopoulos (El Greco): painter; George Seferis, Odysseas Elytis (Nobel Prize winners), C.P. Cavafy, Yiannis Ritsos: poets; Aristotle Onassis, Stavros Niarchos: shipping magnates; George Papanikolaou: physician/biologist, inventor of the ‘pap test’; Ioannis Pallikaris: ophthalmologist (1st laser procedure on the human eye); Sir Alec Issigonis: car designer; Nicholas Negroponte: MIT Media Lab; Dimitris Mitropoulos: conductor; Manos Hadjidakis, Mikis Theodorakis, Vangelis Papathanasiou: musicians & Academy award winners; Maria Callas: opera singer; Costa Gavras: film director; Leonidas Kavacos: violinist.

USEFUL LINKS
www.ggae.gr
www.ellines.com
This is a publication of the Secretariat General for Media and Communication
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www.media.gov.gr

Graphic Design: Elena Soupiana
Printed by DIATYPOS, Athens, Greece, 2016

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