

Greece (Ελλάδα)

- Official name: Hellenic Republic (also known as Hellas or Hellada)
- Population: 10,444,491 (January 2020 estimate)
- Median Age: 45.6 years (2020 estimate)
- Language(s): Greek
- Government: Parliamentary Republic
- President: Katerina Sakellariopoulou (1st Greek woman president; elected January 2020)
- Independence Day: March 25, 1821
- Land Area: 50,949 square miles (slightly smaller than Alabama)
- Capital: Athens
- Agricultural Land: 47.6% (2016 estimate)
- Forest: 31.7% (2016 estimate)
- Natural Resources: lignite, petroleum, iron ore, bauxite, lead, zinc, nickel, magnesite, marble salt, hydroelectric, solar and wind power potential
- Agricultural Products: wheat, corn, barley, sugar beets, peaches, olives, tomatoes, cotton (of which Greece is the only EU producer), grapes, melons, citrus, tobacco, potatoes, beef, dairy products
- Currency: 0.9 Euros = 1 US Dollar (January 2020)

Fun Facts

- Greek is one of the oldest languages in Europe (3,000 years old). Thousands of English words come from Greek.
- There are more than 2,000 islands; only 170 are populated. Crete is the largest.
- Athens is one of the oldest cities in Europe (inhabited for over 7,000 years). On the Acropolis hill sits the Parthenon (built 2,500 years ago).
- Famous Greeks: Socrates, Homer (Odyssey), Alexander the Great, Giannis Antetokounmpo (Milwaukee Bucks).
- The Olympic Games and democracy originated in Greece.
- People celebrate the “name day” of the saint that bears their name along with their own birthday.
- After giving a compliment, Greeks make a puff of breath through pursed lips, as if spitting, to protect the person receiving the compliment from the “evil eye.”

