

Survival Guide

1. Coming to Greece

The official arrival Date is Monday, 17 July. If you are planning to arrive on an earlier date please inform us beforehand.

There are three options for your arrival to Greece.

1.1 Airplane

Araxos

Unfortunately Patra doesn't have an airport. The nearest airport is **Araxos** (40km away) but there aren't companies that serve the routes throughout the whole year. However during the summer there are many charter flights. As there isn't an official site of the airport we called there and we are waiting them to send us which airlines flying from/to Araxos. As soon as we will have it, we will send it to you!

Eleftherios Venizelos

The major airport of Greece that serves the most international flights is [Athens' International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos"](#). Many airlines have direct flights to Athens. The two biggest Greek air carriers are [Olympic Airlines](#) and [Aegean Airlines](#). You can also search for flights by referring to your local airlines. An extensive search for air connections between various destinations can be performed on [this](#) website (unfortunately, the data base does not contain low cost airlines). There is also a number of cheap companies offering flights to and from Greece, especially the summer period. The following list contains the most important among them:

Company	Destinations
German Wings	Flights from Athens and Thessaloniki to Germany
Air Berlin	Flights from various Greek airports (including Araxos) to Germany
Easyjet	Flights from Athens to Berlin, London and Milan
Virgin Express	Flights from Athens to Brussels
Sky Europe	Flights from Athens to Budapes, Bratislava and Krakow
WizzAir	Flights from Athens to Katowice (Poland)

1.2 Ferry-boat to Patra

If you are coming from Italy (or nearby places) this is a good option for you. Ferries travel from Italy to Patra many times a day and offer a comfortable and cheap way of coming to Greece. You are also arriving to the city where the Summer University will begin directly and don't have to use extra means of transportation. Ferries that arrive to Patra depart from the following Italian cities: Ancona, Bari, Trieste, Venezia and Brindisi. Depending on schedules, you can get a ticket with a return trip for 100 euros or even less. Various companies operate ferry lines to Greece, the most important among them being [Superfast](#), [ANEK](#), [Minoan](#) and [BlueStar](#). For alternative options you can check the website ferries.gr.

1.3 Train (to Thessaloniki)

The following trains depart daily to and from Greece for the following destinations:

"Trans Balkan": Budapest - Thessaloniki (through Bucuresti and Sofia)

"Olympus Express": Ljubljana - Thessaloniki (through Zagreb, Beograd and Skopje)

"Hellas Express": Beograd - Thessaloniki (through Skopje)

"602" for Svilengrad

If you intend to come by train from another Balkan country, we recommend you buy the Balkan Flexipass rail pass. For further information, you can refer to the official web site of the [Greek Railway](#).

2. Coming to Patra

Unless you took the ferry directly to Patra, you will need to use internal transportation to come to Patra.

2.1 Coming from Athens to Patra by bus

In order to take the bus for Patra you have to go to "KTEL Kifissou", the central bus station in Athens serving trips to Peloponnesus. A bus trip to Patra takes about 2,5 hours (express bus) or 3 hours (regular bus). They both cost about 14 euros. You have to issue a ticket for Patra when you get there, look for a sign called "Patra" or "Achaia" at the ticket office. Advanced booking is not necessary. You can see the timetables [here](#) (From: Atiiki, Athens To: Achaia, Patra).

To get to "KTEL Kifissou" you have the following options: You can get there directly from Athens airport by taking bus X93. You will get off the bus at the end of the line. If you find yourself in the center of Athens, you can go to "KTEL Kifissou" by taking bus 051. To take bus 051 follow these instructions: From Omonoia square (metro

station Omonoia) find the street "Agiou Konstantinou" that starts from Omonoia. Take this street and turn left at the 3rd street (called "Menandrou"). The bus stop for bus 051 is a few meters away. The following [map](#) of the center of Athens may be useful (courtesy of [Greek National Tourist Organization](#))

2.2 Coming from Athens to Patra by train

Train is a bit cheaper than bus but takes some extra time (approximately 4 hours). To take the train to Patra you have to get to "Larissa Train Station". To get there do the following: Take the Metro and go to the direction of Sepolia and get off at "Larissa Station" (it could also be displayed as "Stathmos Larissis"). Please refer also to the [map](#) of Athens and the website of the [Greek Railways](#). From airport you can also take a train and go to Larissa station (frequency: every 20 minutes from 06:05-20:20)

2.3 Coming from Thessaloniki to Patra by bus

You can come either by bus or train. Bus is a bit expensive, 23 euros, but is faster and more comfortable and has a direct route three times a day for Patra. Buses for Patra leave from "Makedonia Bus Station". You can issue tickets at the station, look for signs called "Patra" or "Achaia" at the ticket office. You can see the timetables [here](#) (From: Thessaloniki To: Achaia, Patra). To get to "Makedonia bus station" from the train station you need to take bus number 1.

2.4 Coming from Thessaloniki to Patra by train

There are not directly trains from Thessaloniki to Patra. You have to take a train from Thessaloniki to Athens and then take another train from Athens to Patra.

3. Getting around Athens

If you have some time to spend in Athens, here is some useful information:

- To get from Athens Airport to the center of Athens (Syntagma) you have to take bus X95.
- To get from Athens airport to the nearest metro station (Ethniki Amyna) you can take bus X94.
- To go to the bus station for Patra from the center of Athens you have to take bus 051 (see above for info).
- To get to the train station from Athens center you have to use the Metro. You must take the Metro with direction to Sepolia and get off at "Larissa Station" (it could also be displayed as "Stathmos Larissis").

Also refer to the website of [Athens Urban Transportation Organization](#) and [Athens Metro](#) for details.

4. Practical Information

Clothing, Sleeping and Eating

The days of July and August are by far the hottest in Greece. So, be equipped with light cloths (t-shirts for boys and short skirts for girls!) and of course a swimsuit (if you need one). It is also a good idea to have a jacket just in case, although most probably you will not need it. Furthermore, you should have with you a sleeping bag and a mattress for the camping site and athletic shoes for the trekking! We are also looking forward to taste your national drinks and possibly listening to your national music!

Although we will be very kind with you :-), it is important to have a travel insurance during your stay in Greece (E111 form for EU citizens). It's all Greek to me!

Although the primary language during the Summer University will be the English (and the body language), it will be possibly good to learn some words and useful expressions in Greek:

English	Greek
Hello!	Gia!
Good morning	Kalimera
Good bye!	Gia! or Adio!
Yes	Ne
No	Ochi
Where?	Pou?
Thank you	Efcharisto
Excuse me	Signomi
Please	Parakalo
Water	Nero
Beer	Bira
I don't understand	Den katalaveno
Do you speak French?	Milate Gallika?
Beautiful woman	Oreo gomenaki
Handsome Man!	Paidaros!
Shall we dance?	Chorevoume?
I am more romantic than other men	Eimai pio romantikos apo tous allous
Would you like to see my stamp collection?	Thelis na dis ti silogi gramatosimon pou echo?

Costs

The Greek currency is the euro (€) made up of 100 cents. Euro coins come as 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, 1 and 2. Euro notes come as 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500(oh my God!). All euro notes and coins are legal tender throughout the euro zone, regardless of their country of issue. If you come from a country not using the euro, you may find the latest exchange rates [here](#). In Greece you will not have any problem finding an ATM for taking money, as most machines accept also foreign cards. In the following list you can see some typical price ranges currently found in Greece.

Commodity	Price Range
Beer (super market)	0.80 - 1.20
Beer (pub or club)	3 - 5
Hamburger	3
Mineral Water (1.5 l)	0.80 - 1.5
Cheap Dinner	3 - 6
Medium Dinner	8 -14
Medium Pizza	6 -10
Shampoo	4 - 8
Cigarettes (20)	2 - 3