

Facts About Greece

Greece is a country in the south-east of Europe. Mainland Greece shares its borders with Albania, Turkey, Macedonia and Bulgaria. It is often referred to as a crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa.

Greece enjoys 8,479 miles of coastline with a vast number of islands dotted throughout the Aegean, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas. The largest island is Crete, which is a popular holiday destination for tourists.



Average summer temperature:

33°C

Average winter temperature:

10°C

Average summer rainfall:

6mm

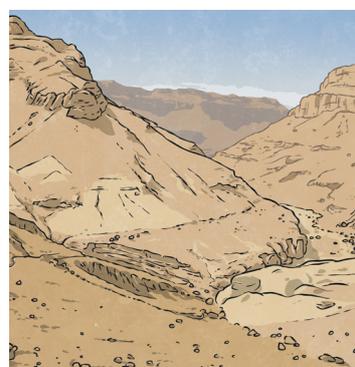
Average winter rainfall:

65mm



Greece has a warm, sunny climate and enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine a year on average. It has a typically Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Most people consider Greece to be a summer holiday destination, although there are also popular ski resorts in the mountainous regions to the north of Athens.

Eighty percent of Greece consists of mountains or hills, making it one of the most mountainous areas in Europe. Mount Olympus is the highest peak in Greece, measuring 9754 feet high. According to Greek legend, when God created the world, He sifted the earth through a strainer. After giving each country good soil, he threw the stones that were left over his shoulder and created Greece.





The capital city of Greece is Athens. Athens is one of the oldest cities in Europe, having been inhabited continuously for more than 7000 years. Around 40% of the entire population of Greece live here.

Greece is known as the 'cradle of Western civilisation', introducing democracy, maths, science and language ideas that still influence us today. The Parthenon is situated on the Acropolis of Athens, an ancient citadel on a rocky outcrop above the city of Athens, and is one of the most recognised symbols of classical Greece. Athens is said to be named after the Greek Goddess Athena, who presented a gift of an olive tree to the citizens. The Parthenon is a temple dedicated to Athena.



ATTRIBUTION - Photos courtesy of Ronald Saunders and Claire Rowland (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Questions

1. On which continent can you find Greece?
2. How many countries border Greece? Write them in alphabetical order.
3. Which seas flow around Greece and its many islands?
4. Which is the largest Greek island?
5. Give two reasons why Greece is popular with tourists.

