

GREECE

Hellenic Republic - Ελληνική Δημοκρατία



Location of **Greece** (dark green)

Capital and largest city	Athens
Official and national language	Greek
Religion	Eastern Orthodoxy

Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Greece has one of the longest histories of any country, tracing its roots to the civilization of Ancient Greece, which is considered the cradle of all Western civilization; its legacy includes democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles and Western drama, including both tragedy and comedy.

Greece has the longest coastline on the Mediterranean Basin and the 11th longest coastline in the world at 13,676 km in length, featuring a vast number of islands, of which 227 are inhabited. Eighty percent of Greece is mountainous, with Mount Olympus being the highest peak at 2,917 m (9,570 ft).