

GREECE

(Official name: Hellas)

Our country is located on the southeastern part of Europe. Athens is the capital and largest city, followed by Thessaloniki, which is commonly referred to as the co-capital. Its official language is Greek and its official religion is Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Situated on the southern tip of the Balkan peninsula, it shares land borders with Albania to the northwest, with F.Y.R.O.M and Bulgaria to the north and Turkey to the northeast.

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.

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, literature, historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles, and theater, including both tragedy and comedy. After centuries of independence, the Greek city-states were unified by Philip of Macedon in the fourth century BC. His son Alexander the Great rapidly conquered much of the ancient world, spreading Greek culture and science from the eastern Mediterranean to the Indus River. Annexed by Rome in the second century BC, Greece became an integral part of the Roman Empire and formed the core of its successor, the Byzantine Empire. The Greek Orthodox Church, rooted in the first century CE, shaped the modern Greek identity and transmitted Greek traditions to the wider Orthodox World. Falling under Ottoman dominion in the mid-15th century, the nation state of Greece emerged in 1830 following the war of independence.

Greece is today a democratic and developed country. A founding member of the United Nations, Greece was the tenth member to join the European Community.

Greece, which is one of the world's largest shipping powers and top tourist destinations, has the largest economy in the Balkans, where it is an important regional investor.

(Source: Wikipedia)

Images from Greece

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKU_mA7MQdg



An old and historical part of the city of Athens and the ancient Acropolis on top of the mountain.

THE ISLAND OF CRETE

Crete is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands, and the fifth-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, after Sicily, Sardinia, Cyprus, and Corsica.

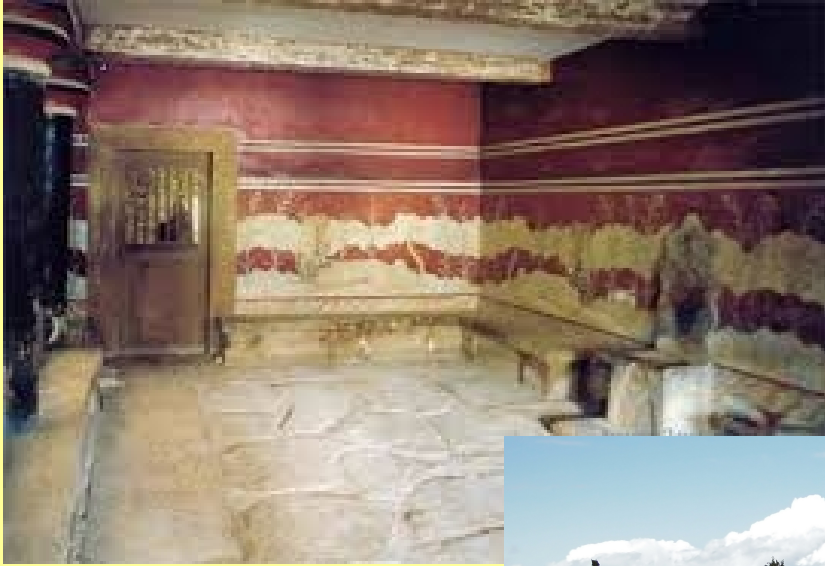
The capital and the largest city is Heraklion.

Crete forms a significant part of the economy and cultural heritage of Greece, while retaining its own local cultural traits (such as its own poetry and music). It was once the center of the Minoan civilization (c. 2700–1420 BC), which is currently regarded as the earliest recorded civilization in Europe.





Heraklion with its Venetian castle.

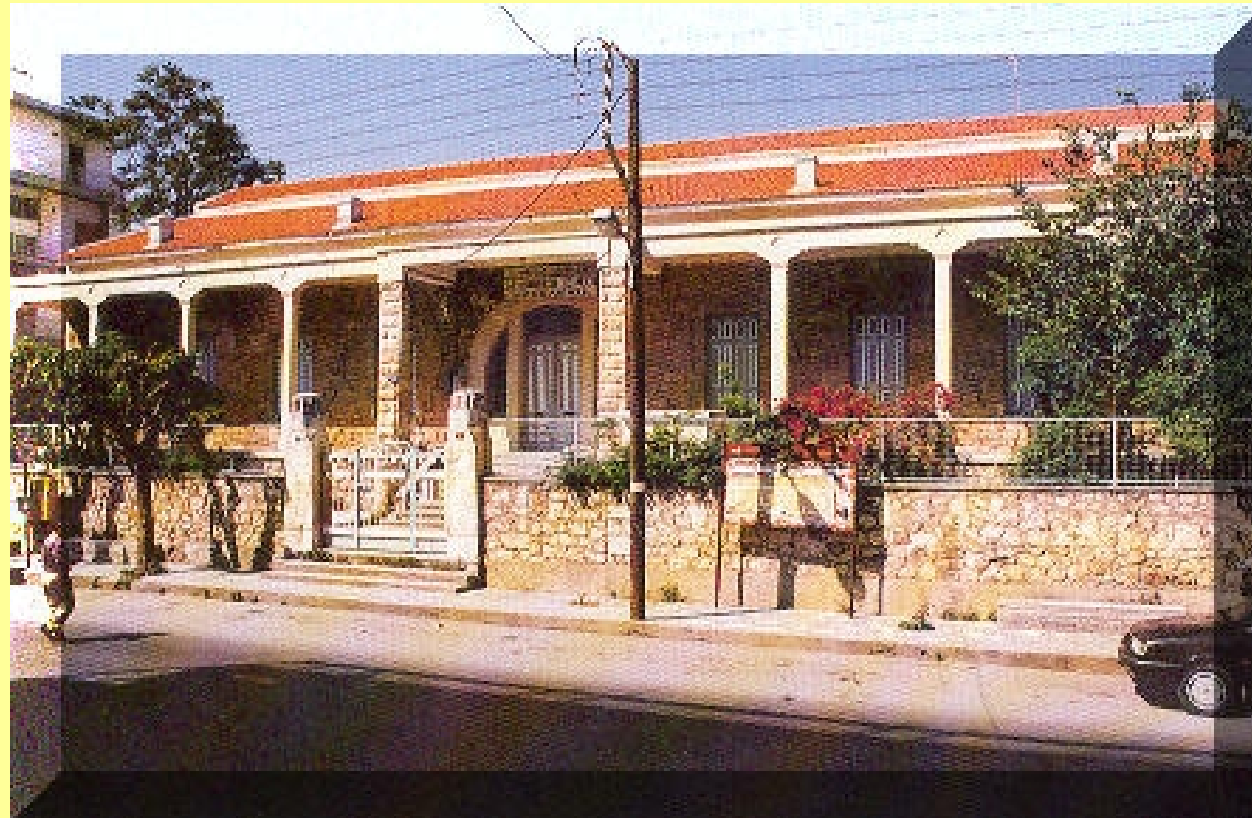


Parts of the palace of king Minoas (Minoan era, archaeological site of Knossos).

OUR SCHOOL

Our school is the 31st elementary school of Heraklion. We share the same building with the 24th elementary school. Both schools host more than 350 children from age 5 to age 12. It is located in an historical building, which some decates ago used to be a public nursery for orphan and abandoned babies.

The facilities of our school iclude – apart from the classes – a music class room, computers and a library.





Elementary school in Greece has 6 grades. Children enter the first grade at the age of 6 and finish at the age of 12. All the subjects are taught in Greek language. Teachers teach all the subjects except physical education, English language and music, for which we have special teachers.

I teach in the first grade this year. My students are around 6 years old.

In first and second grade children are taught Greek language, mathematics, a subject that intergrates social and science studies and crafts. They also have physical education and music.

From 3rd grade and later children are also taught history, Christian orthodox religion and English and from 5th grade and after they also have science, geography, social political education. In some schools they have and second foreign language (French or German).

Our school day starts at 8:10 o'clock with prayer in the school yard. Small kids remain at school until 12:30 and older kids until 13:15. Children of working parents have the option to remain at school until 4 o'clock. We don't have lessons on Saturday and Sunday.