

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:50 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Yes let's do that – give people as much forewarning as possible. I note the UK have updated their travel advice to reflect these protests overnight, so good to post today.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:48 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Ok, yes we can post a thread of two posts.

Should we post these today?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Public Diplomacy Officer
 Australian Embassy Athens
 5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street
 Athens 115 28
 Tel.: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Mob.: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Voicenet: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 W: www.greece.embassy.gov.au
 X: www.x.com/AusAmbAthens
 FB: www.facebook.com/AustraliainGreece
 Insta: www.instagram.com/ausembgr



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:45 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} – makes sense to add that updated advice to the posts.

Hard to shorten that X post below too much – perhaps we should do two X posts?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:43 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Would you like us to add that strikes will affect air and sea transports? Taxis have also announced a strike, but no other strikes have been announced yet.

We can easily add this to the FB post, but we will need to reduce the size of the X post to make space for the extra line.

FB

Large rallies will take place in numerous locations across Greece on Friday 28 February, marking the anniversary of the Tempi train crash. If you are in the areas where the rallies are taking place, exercise caution and follow the advice of local authorities.

Scheduled strikes will affect air and ferry travel and taxi transfers. Contact your travel agency for information.

X

Large rallies will take place across Greece on 28/2, marking the anniversary of the Tempi train crash. If you are in these areas, exercise caution & follow the advice of local authorities.

Strikes will affect air & ferry travel & taxi transfers. Contact your travel agent for info



Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Public Diplomacy Officer
Australian Embassy Athens
5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street
Athens 115 28

Tel.: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mob.: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Voicenet: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

W: www.greece.embassy.gov.au

X: www.x.com/AusAmbAthens

FB: www.facebook.com/AustraliainGreece

Insta: www.instagram.com/ausembgr



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 10:48 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Looks great, thanks both.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 10:45 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Suggest a few tweaks below.

Fine to post on Wednesday.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 10:42 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful review of the below proposed post:

Large rallies will take place in numerous locations across Greece on Friday 28 February, marking the anniversary of the Tempi train crash. If you are in the areas where the rallies are taking place, exercise caution and follow the advice of local authorities.

I will be on leave on Thursday, but I'm happy to post it on that day, or even the previous day.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Public Diplomacy Officer
Australian Embassy Athens
5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street
Athens 115 28

Tel.: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mob.: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Voicenet: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

W: www.greece.embassy.gov.au

X: www.x.com/AusAmbAthens

FB: www.facebook.com/AustralianGreece

Insta: www.instagram.com/ausembgr



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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 10:28 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: post on our social media for Thursday [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As s 22(1)(a)(ii) will be absent would you be able to post something on Thursday 27/2 on our social media in regard to the strike and protests planned across Greece on 28/2 (2-year commemoration day for the Tempi train crash)

Thank you

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Security and IT Manager
Australian Embassy, Athens
Tel: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Web: <http://www.greece.embassy.gov.au/>
fb: <https://www.facebook.com/AustraliaInGreece/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianInGreece/posts/pfbid02Xi3Xt6ht7TjZs8w9cMK5xVvYRGsiekjieusrqSZ1k7M3zN6BWvditpSrzuAN22bBpl>



Australian Embassy, Greece ✓

Published by s 22(1)(a)(ii)

i
· 25 February · globe

...

Large rallies will take place in numerous locations across Greece on Friday 28 February, marking the anniversary of the Tempi train crash. If you are in the areas where the rallies are taking place, exercise caution and follow the advice of local authorities.

Scheduled strikes will affect air and ferry travel and taxi transfers. Contact your travel agency for information.

[Smartraveller](#)

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<https://x.com/AusAmbAthens/status/1894324524822245881>



Alison Duncan @AusAmbAthens · Feb 25

Large rallies will take place in numerous locations across Greece on Friday 28 February, marking the anniversary of the Tempi train crash. If you are in the areas where the rallies are taking place, exercise caution and follow the advice of local authorities. 1/2

[@Smartraveller](#)

🔄 ...

💬
1

↻

❤️

📊 206

🔖
↑



Alison Duncan @AusAmbAthens · Feb 25

Scheduled strikes will affect air and ferry travel and taxi transfers. Contact your travel agency for information. 2/2

[@Smartraveller](#)

🔄 ...

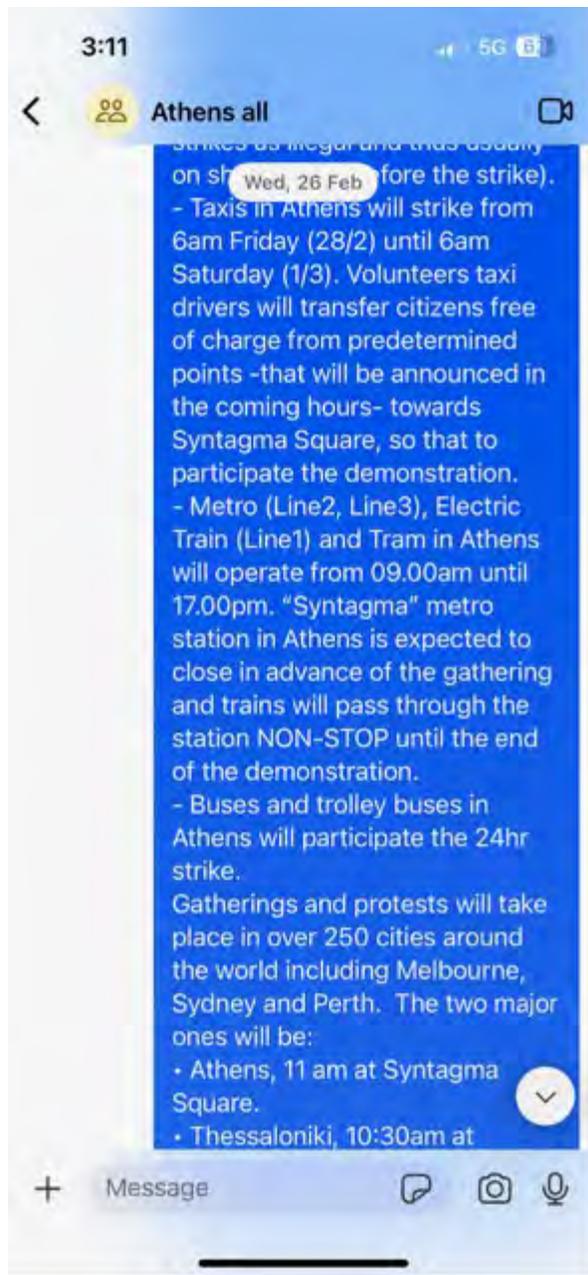
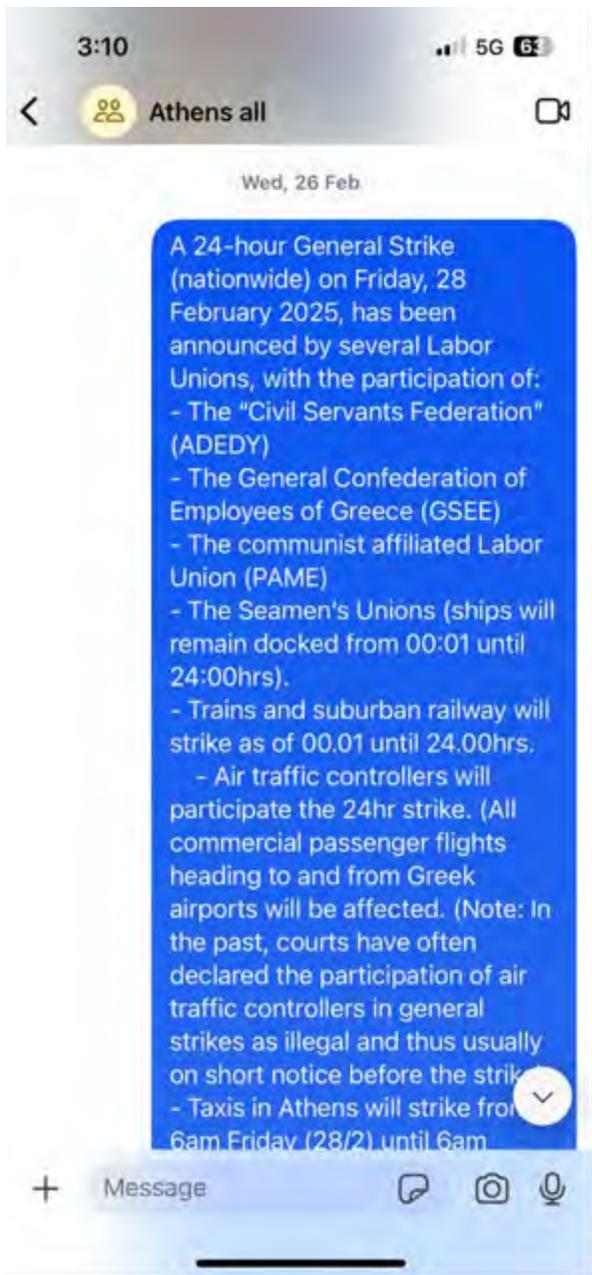
💬

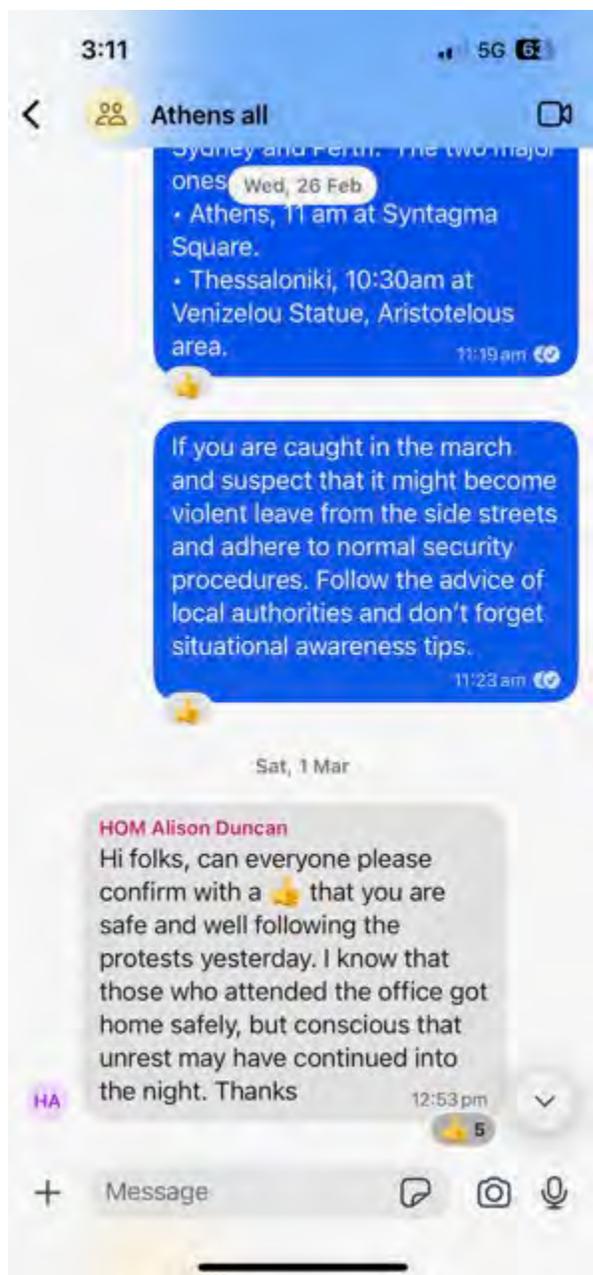
↻

❤️

📊 121

🔖
↑





s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 8:33 AM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Operational Status on Friday, February 28th [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 47F(1) – the Australian Embassy will operate as normal on Friday, possibly with reduced staff but we'll still be open.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

First Secretary and Consul
Australian Embassy, Athens
5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street | 115 29 Athens
T: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 7:57 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Operational Status on Friday, February 28th

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

INFORMATION FOR ALL TENANTS

Dear all good morning,

We would like to inquire whether your company/embassy plans to operate as usual on Friday, February 28th, in light of the nationwide demonstrations. Please confirm your operational status at your earliest convenience to assist us in planning accordingly. Kindly note that the building's main reception and the Management Office will be operating as usual.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best regards,



s 47F(1)
Head of Operations & Security

Mexi Building | Management Office

s 47F(1)

 s 47F(1)

 5 Chatzigianni Mexi Str, ZIP 115 28, Athens, GRC

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 8:27 AM
To: Travel Advice
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: TIN offer of assistance -Update from GOV.UK for: Greece travel advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) ! We will be publishing advice on our social media accounts about the demonstrations and will tag smartraveller. We don't normally update the TA for these kinds of things as they are quite frequent here, and we've got a decent reference in the TA to strikes and demonstrations. But do let me know if you have another view.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – for info. Perhaps bring forward the publishing date on our socials given the UK has updated their travel advice.

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Consul and SAO
Australian Embassy, Athens
5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street | 115 29 Athens
T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Vnet: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
M: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 2:02 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: TIN offer of assistance -Update from GOV.UK for: Greece travel advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning s 22(1)(a)(ii) I hope you're doing well.

I'm sure you've already seen this, but please let us know if post is proposing an update to the TA or messaging through social channels – we can reshare or assist with an update at this end if helpful.

Many thanks in advance.

Cheers,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Travel Advice Section (TIN)
Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

smartraveller.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: GOV.UK Email <gov.uk.email@notifications.service.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 2:54 AM
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Update from GOV.UK for: Greece travel advice

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.



Update from GOV.UK for:

Greece travel advice

Greece travel advice

Change made:

New information about demonstrations across Greece on 28 February ('Warnings and insurance' page).

Time updated:

3:49pm, 24 February 2025

Why am I getting this email?

You asked GOV.UK to send you an email each time we add or update a page about:

Greece travel advice

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Change your email preferences](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Greece: Security - Protests planned for 28 February anniversary of Tempe train crash
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: Europe Posts , Melbourne , Sydney
From: Athens
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

References:**Response:** Routine, Information Only

Summary: 28 February marks the second anniversary of the Tempe train crash which killed 57 people. Demonstrations have been planned in over 250 cities in Greece and abroad, including outside the Greek Consulates in Melbourne & Sydney, to protest against the delay of the criminal investigation and the perceived cover up by the government. Although the organisers have called for peaceful protests, police are investigating social media posts inciting violence. Numerous unions and federations will go on strike. The Athens protest is expected to be one of the largest of the last decade. The police has not yet announced its security measures. Post issued advice via social media.

Sent By: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**Prepared By:****Approved****By:**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Greece: 73 arrested in 28 February protests
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: Europe Posts
From: Athens
Sent by: Alison Duncan

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary: As foreshadowed in reftel, large protests took place across Greece and around the world yesterday to mark the second anniversary of the Tempe rail disaster. Protestors in Athens threw molotov cocktails and marble rocks torn from buildings at police, who responded with water cannon and tear gas. Initial reports indicate 60 people were injured, including 25 police, and 73 arrested. Most Embassy staff worked from home yesterday as a precaution and all are accounted for. We will report further on the fallout.

Sent By: Alison Duncan

Prepared By: Alison Duncan

Topics: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 9:30 AM
To: Travel Advice
Subject: RE: Travel advisories [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks for checking in s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yes, we think the TA is still current. The state of emergency for all of the islands (Santorini, Amorgos, Anafi and Ios) is continuing, in response to the earthquakes. The MFA has advised that the end dates are:

- Santorini – 3 April
- Amorgos – 11 March
- Anafi – 13 March
- Ios – 14 March.

We will be checking next week as to whether the state of emergency is extended for the other three islands, as it was for Santorini. If it's lifted, we'll adjust the TA.

On the continuing protests regarding the train disaster, these are likely to continue but we think we're covered in the 'Civil unrest and political tension' section.

Thanks again, we really appreciate your support.

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Consul and SAO
Australian Embassy, Athens
5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street | 115 29 Athens
T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Vnet: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 12:08 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Travel advisories [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

is the Greece TA still current?

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Travel Advice Officer | Travel Advice Section
Consular Communications and Policy Branch | Consular Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ps 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 10:27 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii); Alison Duncan
Subject: RE: Travel advisories [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

I think the general reference to protests occurring regularly and with little notice is adequate – although we could now potentially add 28 February as the anniversary of the Tempe rail disaster as another key day of significance (alongside the others).

Some suggested edits to the TA were we minded to amend it.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

////////////////////////////////////

Public protests, strikes, demonstrations and events that draw large groups of people occur regularly and often with little notice, mainly in central Athens around Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Exarchia. They can also occur in other major cities, including Thessaloniki around Aristotelous Square, Egnatia Street, the Arch of Galerius and the campus of Aristotle University. Protesters and police could clash. Sometimes petrol bombs and fireworks are thrown by protesters, and police deploy tear gas, **water cannons and flash bangs**.

Protests also occur on days of national or commemorative significance, including:

- **28 February – the anniversary of the Tempe rail disaster**
- 1 May — Labour Day
- 17 November — the anniversary of the 1973 student riots
- 6 December — the anniversary of the 2008 riots

Violent clashes can occur between supporters of rival sporting teams. Molotov cocktails and stones have been thrown, and people have been killed.

To protect yourself during periods of unrest:

- avoid public protests
- monitor local media for possible unrest or strikes
- keep a low profile
- plan to avoid areas known for unrest on days of national significance
- change your travel plans if disruptions arise
- follow the advice of local authorities

Protests and strikes can disrupt **metro**, taxi and ferry services and public transport. There may also be road closures. Monitor the media for news on protests or strikes that may impact your travel plans. Plan extra time for movements and be ready to change your travel plans if necessary.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 9:15 AM
To: Alison Duncan <Alison.Duncan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: FW: Travel advisories [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi both

Consulting you on my proposed response to ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} following her query re the currency of our TA, in case you have other views. Our TA is here: [Greece Travel Advice & Safety | Smartraveller](#).

Thanks

^{s 22(1)(a)(i)}

Thanks for checking in ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

On the protests, our TA covers protests/demonstrations in the 'Civil unrest and political tension' section. While we didn't update our TA for the major protests about the train disaster on 28 February, we issued alerts on our social media accounts in the lead-up. Protests are likely to continue in an ad hoc way going forward. If you wish us to make specific reference to the protests regarding the train disaster, we'll do so. I note the UK added specific information in their TA about the demonstrations on 28 February, but that they removed them on 1 March. Canada still has reference to the demonstrations on 28 February in their TA.

Regarding the earthquakes, the state of emergency for all of the islands (Santorini, Amorgos, Anafi and Ios) is continuing. The MFA has advised that the end dates are:

- Santorini – 3 April
- Amorgos – 11 March
- Anafi – 13 March
- Ios – 14 March.

We will be checking next week as to whether the state of emergency is extended for the other three islands, as it was for Santorini. If it's lifted, we'll adjust the TA.

Thanks again, we really appreciate your support.

Duplicate - s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Alison Duncan
Sent: Monday, 17 March 2025 1:28 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Draft TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: TA Greece update 17 Mar 2025.docx

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Thanks ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} A few suggested tweaks

Alison Duncan (she/her)

Australian Ambassador to Greece, Romania and Bulgaria

Tel. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sign up [here](#) to receive notifications about Embassy events

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 17 March 2025 1:19 PM
To: Alison Duncan <Alison.Duncan@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Draft TA update [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi there

See attached some proposed updates to our TA to reduce the emphasis on the state of emergency, while maintaining reference to it. The attached is in line with the TA for Canada and the UK.

I've also included ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} minor updates regarding protests/demonstrations.

For your consideration

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Consul and SAO
Australian Embassy, Athens
5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street | 115 29 Athens
T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Vnet: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Latest update**Still current at:**07 March 2025**Updated:**24 February 2025

Latest update:~~Greek authorities have declared a state of emergency for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities (see 'Safety'). Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences earthquakes and volcanic activity. In a seismic event, monitor the media and official websites for updates and follow the advice of authorities.~~

We advise:**Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.****Get the latest updates**

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Download[map of Greece \(PDF 325.12 KB\)](#)**Download**[map of Europe \(PDF 2.62 MB\)](#)**Local emergency contacts****Advice levels**[What does this mean?](#)

Collapse all

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#)

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#)

[Exercise common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia.](#)

in Greece.

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#) in Greece.

Overview

Safety

- A state of emergency ~~has been declared~~ [is in place](#) for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. [While the strength and frequency of earthquakes has subsided, the continued state of emergency enables the Greek authorities](#) ~~Ministry of Civil Protection to quickly mobilise resources in case of a strong earthquake. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed.~~ If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Petty crime and theft are serious issues in tourist areas and on buses and trains. Pickpocketing, bag snatching, and slashing luggage to steal belongings are common. Pay close attention to your belongings.
- Terrorist attacks have occurred at or near popular tourist areas in central Athens. Always be alert and take official warnings seriously.
- Strikes, protests and demonstrations take place regularly and can turn violent. Rioting can break out with little warning. Violent clashes have occurred between supporters of rival sporting teams. Avoid affected areas, monitor media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Be alert to the potential risks around food and drink spiking. Drink only at reputable venues.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

Health

- Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. Drink plenty of water, wear light clothing, stay in air conditioning or shaded areas, and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Dust storms occur in Greece, particularly during Spring.
- Medications such as codeine are subject to special rules. Carry a prescription and a letter from your doctor.
- Measles is common in Greece. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- The standard of medical care varies. Public hospitals are short on medical supplies and provide limited nursing care. Family or friends usually provide care.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

Local laws

- Always carry an ID, such as a photocopy of your passport.
- It's illegal to take photos of military sites and personnel. It's also illegal to smoke indoors.
- You may have to do military service if you're a male dual national. If you're of Greek descent and born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you're a Greek citizen, get advice from the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) before you travel.
- Same-sex relationships are legal in Greece, though attitudes vary throughout the country. Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas. Attitudes are generally more accepting on Greek islands such as Mykonos, Santorini and Ios.

Full travel advice:[Local laws](#)

Travel

- Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases.
- The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.
- There may be long queues at border points when the new system starts. Allow plenty of time for transfers.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Greek embassy or Consulate](#) for enquiries about your ability to enter Greece from your departure country.

Full travel advice:[Travel](#)

Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy](#) in Athens.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice:[Local contacts](#)

Full advice

Expand all full advice

Safety

Expand all

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crime is a serious issue in tourist areas, including Monastiraki and Syntagma Square in central Athens.

Theft, including pickpocketing, bag snatching and luggage slashing, is common on buses and trains to and from the Athens airport and on ferries to and from the Greek islands.

Organised groups of thieves often use distraction techniques, such as crowding and pushing at metro stop exits.

Tourists' belongings have been targeted at their short-term rental accommodation, with thefts of valuables and passports occurring while they are out.

To reduce the risk of theft:

- stay in physical contact with your belongings, particularly on public transport and on buses and trains to and from the airport
- be alert at tourist spots in central Athens and on the islands
- don't leave bags on the back of chairs or the floor in cafés or restaurants
- carry your day bag with one strap across your body and carry small backpacks at the front of your body
- if driving on holiday, keep your valuables with you, always lock your vehicle, and park in a well-lit area or a secure car park
- research your accommodation carefully and pay attention to your surroundings when checking in, particularly for self check-in accommodation.

Tourist scams

Tourist scams exist in Greece, including taxis, hotels, restaurants, and vehicle hire services. If you've been the victim of a scam, report your claims to the nearest Police station and be prepared to support your claim with evidence.

Under Greek law, all suppliers of goods and services must issue you a receipt.

Alcohol

The national legal age for buying and drinking alcohol is 18.

A standard drink can contain more alcohol than in Australia. This can apply to both the volume and strength of the alcohol. Be aware of how much you are consuming.

Consider the risks when drinking alcoholic beverages, particularly drinks made with spirits.

You can become seriously ill after drinking contaminated alcohol.

Labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

To stay safe:

- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks

If you suspect that you, or someone you're with, has been poisoned, get urgent medical attention. It could save you from permanent disability or death.

Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Physical and sexual assault

Serious [physical](#) and [sexual assaults](#) occur in Athens and on islands, including Mykonos, Santorini, Zakynthos and Ios. There's also a risk of [drink spiking](#) with the intention of sexual assault.

Racially motivated and homophobic attacks have occurred.

To protect yourself:

- don't walk alone in isolated areas at night, especially in the Athens suburb of Omonia and at the railway and bus stations of Larissa and Peloponissos
- save the location of your accommodation on the maps app on your phone for easy access
- keep an eye on your drink, and don't accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.
- create a shared communication chat with your fellow travellers to stay in touch if separated.

If you're a victim of sexual assault in Greece, it's your decision whether to report it to the police. In Greece, health professionals must notify the police when they have a patient who alleges they've been assaulted. Hospital staff may refuse to provide a full medical examination without a document from the police confirming you've reported the crime.

There have been instances where an alleged abuser has laid defamation charges against their accuser and/or their family members at the same time. This can result in the accuser being arrested.

If the case goes to trial, there's an expectation that the victim attend court in person to testify, regardless of whether they live in another country.

Before you travel, read our guidance on [reducing the risk of sexual assault](#). We also have an [advice page](#) on what to do immediately after a sexual assault, reporting a sexual assault overseas, and available counselling.

More information:

- [Partying safety](#)

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Terrorism

Terrorism occurs in Europe. Targets across Europe have included:

- public transport
- transport hubs
- public places popular with tourists

European security services have disrupted some planned attacks in recent years.

Radical groups have staged attacks, mainly in Athens. Attackers have previously used bombs or guns. People have been injured but rarely killed. Substantial damage to buildings and vehicles can occur.

Terrorist targets have included:

- government institutions
- former government ministers
- the offices of members of parliament
- foreign diplomatic missions
- the police

Terrorists haven't targeted tourists. But some attacks have happened near popular tourist areas in central Athens, such as Syntagma Square.

To protect yourself from terrorism:

- be alert to possible threats, especially in public places
- take care around areas terrorists tend to target
- monitor the media for new threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

Report suspicious activity or items to the police.

If there's an attack, leave the area as soon as it's safe. Avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

Public protests, strikes, demonstrations and events that draw large groups of people occur regularly and often with little notice, mainly in central Athens around Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Exarchia. They can also occur in other major cities, including Thessaloniki around Aristotelous Square, Egnatia Street, the Arch of Galerius and the campus of Aristotle University. Protesters and police could clash. Sometimes petrol bombs and fireworks are thrown by protesters, and police deploy tear gas, [water cannons and flash bangs](#).

Protests also occur on days of national or commemorative significance, including:

- [28 February – the anniversary of the 2023 Tempe rail disaster](#)
- 1 May — Labour Day
- 17 November — the anniversary of the 1973 student riots
- 6 December — the anniversary of the 2008 riots

Violent clashes can occur between supporters of rival sporting teams. Molotov cocktails and stones have been thrown, and people have been killed.

To protect yourself during periods of unrest:

- avoid public protests
- monitor local media for possible unrest or strikes
- keep a low profile
- plan to avoid areas known for unrest on days of national significance
- change your travel plans if disruptions arise
- follow the advice of local authorities

Protests and strikes can disrupt taxi and ferry services and public transport. There may also be road closures. Monitor the media for news on protests or strikes that may impact your travel plans. Plan extra time for movements and be ready to change your travel plans if necessary.

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Water activities

Lifeguards operate at many Greek beaches from June to September. Riptides can lead to dangerous conditions at times. Check the local weather conditions before heading to the beach.

Be aware of and follow warning flags and signs. Most drownings occur on beaches without a lifeguard or outside of lifeguard hours.

Coral, urchins and jellyfish live in the waters off Greece. Always take care when entering the water and seek medical assistance if needed.

Climate and natural disasters

Greece experiences [natural disasters](#) and [severe weather](#).

A state of emergency ~~has been declared~~ [is in place](#) for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea [since February 2025](#). [While the level of seismic activity has declined, the risk of stronger tremors has not disappeared](#) [remains](#). [The state of emergency enables the Greek authorities Ministry of Civil Protection to mobilise resources in case of a strong earthquake. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed.](#)

If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

More information:

- [Earthquakes and tsunamis](#)
- [Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection announcements](#)

Information on national disaster incidents and severe weather is posted by local authorities and @112Greece on social media. Alert messages may be sent by local authorities to mobile numbers advising of critical incidents. Alerts are posted in Greek and sometimes in English. For updated information on natural disasters, see civilprotection.gov.gr.

Fires

Wildfires occur during the extended summer period, from June to September. Fires can start close to cities and tourist locations with little warning and travel quickly. Fatalities have occurred. Avoid affected areas.

Expect travel disruptions if you're due to travel to an area that might be affected by wildfires. Monitor the media and contact your travel provider for the latest updates. The air quality during these periods may deteriorate due to heavy smoke. Forest fires are highly dangerous and unpredictable.

More information:

- [Floods and fires](#)
- [There's a bushfire](#)

Flooding

Heavy rainfall can lead to flooding in some regions, with road closures and interruptions to power and other services. Seek shelter, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Earthquakes and volcanoes

Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences [earthquakes](#) and [volcanic activity](#).

Get updates from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#).

Natural disasters

If a natural disaster or severe weather happens:

- monitor local media and other sources

- keep informed about possible safety risks
- follow the advice of local authorities

Health

Expand all

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away.

Physical and mental health

Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#) to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#) (Healthdirect Australia)

Medications

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Greece. Take enough legal medicine for your trip in its original packaging. The name on the prescription should match the name on your passport.

Carry a copy of your prescription and a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

Codeine and other prescription opiates can only be issued with a prescription from an accredited Greek medical professional.

For more information, contact the Greek National Organization of Medicines:

- By telephone: 0030 213 2040 395 / 285 / 225 / 000
- By email: clearance@eof.gr / relation@eof.gr

More information:

- [Medication](#)
- [Australian Embassy in Athens](#)

Health risks

Heatwaves

Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. They can cause heat exhaustion, heat stroke and death. Drink water, wear a hat and light clothing and stay in air-conditioned buildings or shaded areas.

Many major tourist sites have little shade. At peak tourist periods, queues at major attractions can involve waiting over an hour in the sun. Plan your visit to these sites, keep an eye on the weather forecast, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Avoid hiking during heatwaves. If you do head out on a hike, don't go alone. Be sure to check the weather, plan your route, pack water, sunscreen and your phone, and tell someone where you're going and when you plan to be back.

Dust storms

Storms of dust from the Sahara Desert are increasing in frequency across Greece, particularly during Spring, worsening the air quality and reducing sunlight and visibility. If you have respiratory conditions, you should limit outdoor activities and consider wearing masks outside until the skies clear.

Measles

Greece is experiencing an increase in [Measles](#) cases.

Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

More information:

- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Outbreaks 2019](#)
- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Immunisation Service](#)

Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#) are increasing in Greece. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)
- [National Public Health Organisation in Greece](#)

Foodborne diseases

Outbreaks of foodborne diseases, including [brucellosis](#), sometimes happen.

To protect yourself from illness, avoid:

- uncooked and under-cooked food
- unpasteurised dairy products

See a doctor immediately if you suspect food poisoning or have a fever or diarrhoea.

Medical care

Services provided by hospitals and medical centres aren't free, and payment is required before you leave the facility. Sometimes, the medical provider may ask you for payment before you receive treatment.

The standard of medical facilities and care vary in quality. Public hospitals in Greece are below the standard in Australia. Considerable delays may be encountered with non-urgent surgeries and other medical treatments at public hospitals.

Public hospitals can have shortages of medical supplies, including essential medication. They also have limited nursing care. You may be asked to pay a fee for medical treatment at a hospital or medical centre. Friends and relatives are usually required to give or pay for around-the-clock care, including for tasks like helping you eat, wash and use the toilet.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need evacuation. This is more likely if you're in a remote area or on a Greek island. You might be moved to Athens or another place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Public ambulances can be slow to respond to emergencies and vary in quality. Private hospitals operate their own ambulances and provide better quality service.

Private hospital costs are high.

Local laws

Expand all

Local law

You're subject to local laws and penalties, including those that appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling, especially for an extended stay.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Breaking the law can lead to severe penalties, large fines and jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug possession, use or trafficking, even small amounts, include heavy fines and prison sentences.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Surrogacy

Commercial surrogacy is illegal in Greece.

More information:

- [Going overseas for international surrogacy](#)
- [Surrogacy in Greece](#)

Other laws

In Greece, it's illegal to:

- not carry a photo ID, such as a clear photocopy of your passport
- carry weapons of any type (including pocketknives and pepper spray)
- smoke in indoor public places. The penalty is a fine of up to 500 euros.
- engage in sexual conduct with a person aged under 15
- breach customs rules about the export of Greek antiquities

It's also illegal to take photos of:

- military installations
- military personnel
- places with signs banning photography

Drones

Recreational and commercial flying of drones is regulated. Drones must be registered for use across the European Union.

Non-compliance may lead to fines and drone confiscation.

More information:

- [Information for visitors concerning drones](#) - Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA)
- [Civil drones](#) - European

Australian laws

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognised in Greece.

Greek males aged 19 and above have military service obligations. You may have to do military service if you're a male Australian-Greek dual national. This can apply if you are of Greek descent and were born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you have Greek citizenship.

There are penalties if you don't comply, and you may be prevented from leaving Greece.

Get advice from the nearest Greek [embassy or consulate](#) before you travel if you:

- have Greek citizenship
- may be eligible for Greek citizenship

Local customs

Dress codes are relaxed in tourist areas and resorts. Dress modestly in places such as churches and religious buildings.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas.

Same-sex sexual activity is legal but isn't widely accepted.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ people](#)

Travel

Expand all

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases. Get an entry stamp in your passport from border control when you first enter the Schengen area.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice, and you'll need a visa in some situations. Contact the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

More information:

- [Visit Greece](#)
- [Embassy of Greece](#)

European Entry/Exit System (EES)

The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.

The EES is a digital border system that registers non-EU visitors travelling into the Schengen Area. When entering the Schengen Area, you'll need to have your fingerprints and photo taken. This creates a digital record that registers your biometric details. Passports will no longer be stamped.

You'll need to do this on your first visit to the EU after the EES is introduced. If you visit the Schengen Area again within 3 years of creating your digital record, you'll only need to provide either your fingerprint or photograph at the border on entry and exit.

This process should only take a few minutes per person, however you may experience longer queues at borders when the new system starts.

Other formalities

Recognition of nationality

If you were born in Greece, you might have problems entering if the place of birth stated on your Australian passport is no longer officially recognised by Greece.

Officials may deny entry, especially if you're entering Greece from the Republic of North Macedonia.

We can't intervene on your behalf if Greek officials refuse you entry to Greece.

Passport

Validity

Some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply the rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You can end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.

The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure it'll be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#).

Always carry your passport when crossing borders, even within the [Schengen area](#).

Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible:

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#).
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#).

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the nearest [embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#) before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The official currency of Greece is the Euro.

You must declare amounts over 10,000 euros or equivalent if you're travelling between Greece and any non-European Union (EU) country. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

You don't need to declare it if you're travelling to or from another EU country.

You'll be fined if you don't declare it or declare the wrong amount when entering or leaving Greece.

Greece has daily ATM withdrawal limits. However, they don't apply to most major foreign debit and credit cards.

If you have Greek citizenship, you can only take up to 10,000 euros when leaving Greece.

Local travel

Extension of stays

Extension of stays in Greece beyond the allowed 90 days isn't automatic. Requests for extension with the relevant local authority should be lodged at least 4 weeks before your visa-free period expires. Present your request to the office of the Greek police on aliens issues.

Driving permit

Australian driver's licences are officially recognised as valid for use in Greece. If you plan on driving in Greece, you may not need an International Driving Permit. Contact the [Greek Embassy or Consulate](#) for more information on your licence type.

Your licence must be valid for the type of vehicle you'll drive, including quad bikes, motorbikes, mopeds, motor scooters and other similar vehicles.

You could face a large fine if you don't have the correct licence. Your insurance won't cover you if you have an accident.

Road travel

Driving is hazardous due to aggressive driving and poor-quality roads and vehicles.

During peak season, severe traffic congestion occurs in the main cities and on the islands.

Check your insurance covers car hire and using quad bikes, motorbikes or jet skis. Get advice on any gaps. Your insurance may have conditions such as holding the correct licence for vehicles. Make sure you're covered. Check what additional fees may apply for any damage to hire vehicles.

Driving while intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance is illegal. Insurers won't cover accidents when drivers are under the influence of alcohol.

Driving offences may also attract heavy penalties.

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)
- [Driving in Greece - European Commission](#)
- [Travel insurance](#)

Quad bikes and motorcycles

Quad bike and motorcycle accidents cause serious injuries and deaths every summer on the Greek islands. Operating or riding quad bikes and motorcycles while intoxicated is illegal.

Always wear a helmet. It's illegal not to wear one. It may also invalidate your travel insurance if you have an accident.

If you experience any issues with the bike's operation, it's recommended that you return it to the rental company as soon as possible.

Taxis

Only use licensed taxis. Always ensure the driver uses the meter. Be careful when using credit cards to pay fares. Ask for and check your receipt.

Pedestrians

Drivers and motorcyclists often ignore traffic signals and drive through red lights. They rarely give way to pedestrians, including at pedestrian crossings.

Be very careful when crossing the road, including at traffic light controlled intersections and pedestrian crossings.

Traffic police sometimes direct traffic at major intersections. If the traffic lights conflict with police directions, you must follow the directions of the traffic police.

Footpaths in Greece are very narrow and often blocked. They are often made of tiles or marble and become very slippery when wet.

Sea travel

Ferries and large catamarans carry most visitors to the Greek islands. However, some services don't provide suitable access for people with disabilities.

During the tourist season, from May to October, be prepared for high temperatures and large crowds at popular seaports.

Usually, there are only one or two brief announcements on ferries before arrival or departure.

In most cases, you'll need to carry your luggage up and down stairs. Help with luggage is usually unavailable unless you've booked a private cabin in advance.

Ferry services can be delayed or cancelled in bad weather, mainly due to strong winds. Check the forecast and reconfirm your departure with your travel provider if it looks like the weather may be a risk.

On some Greek islands, such as Santorini, smaller boats or tenders transport cruise ship passengers to and from shore. Passengers using tenders may have difficulty getting up and down stairs.

Arrange for a coach or taxi to collect you in advance, or you may find it difficult to get transport.

Make sure your insurance covers the following:

- any existing health condition
- your planned activities
- travel on ferry and cruise ships

Australian-flagged sailboats or yachts sailing in the Mediterranean may be subject to Greek and EU taxes and duties. Seek advice from the Hellenic Coast Guard or the nearest [embassy or consulate](#) of Greece before you travel. If you've been involved in a maritime accident, the Greek Coast Guard may request under its regulations to inspect your vessel to confirm it is seaworthy.

More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

Air travel

To find out about flight delays at Athens International Airport, check their [website](#) or phone (+30 210) 353 0000.

DFAT doesn't provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

Check [Greece's air safety profile](#) with the Aviation Safety Network.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Expand all

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends

- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

Medical emergencies

Call 112.

Police

Call 112.

For non-urgent criminal issues, contact local police at the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Tourist police

Are available 24/7 and can be contacted on 171.

The Tourist Police help with non-serious crimes and can provide police reports and certificates for theft of personal items and lost travel documents.

There are tourist police offices across Greece, including on major islands.

The main office is at 4 Dragatsaniou Street, Klafthmonos Square, in Central Athens and is open all year. Call (+30 210) 322 2230 or (+30 210) 322 2232.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

For consular help, contact:

Australian Embassy, Athens

5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street

Athens 115 28, Greece

Phone: (+30 210) 870 4000

Website: greece.embassy.gov.au

Facebook: [Australia in Greece](#)

X: [@AusAmbAthens](#)

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Consular: Greece - Travel Advice - Ad hoc update
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts
From: Athens
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
TA Greece update 17 Mar 2025.docx
Response: Routine, Requires Action

Summary

Seismic activity around the Cycladic islands is continuing, but is declining. Post proposes minor updates to the Travel Advice for Greece.

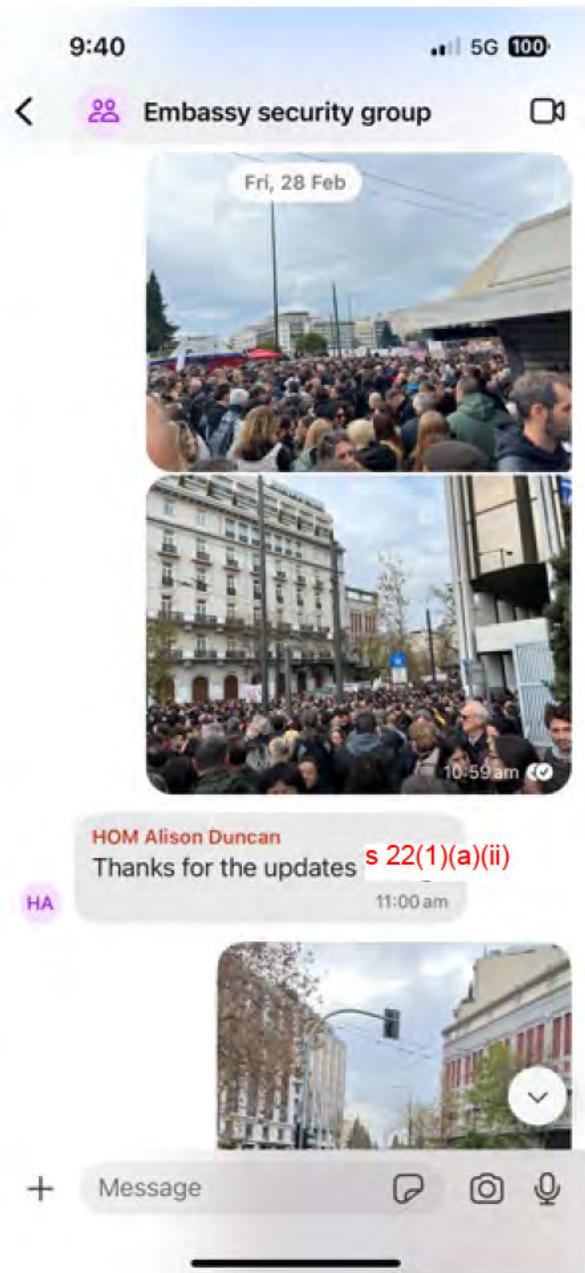
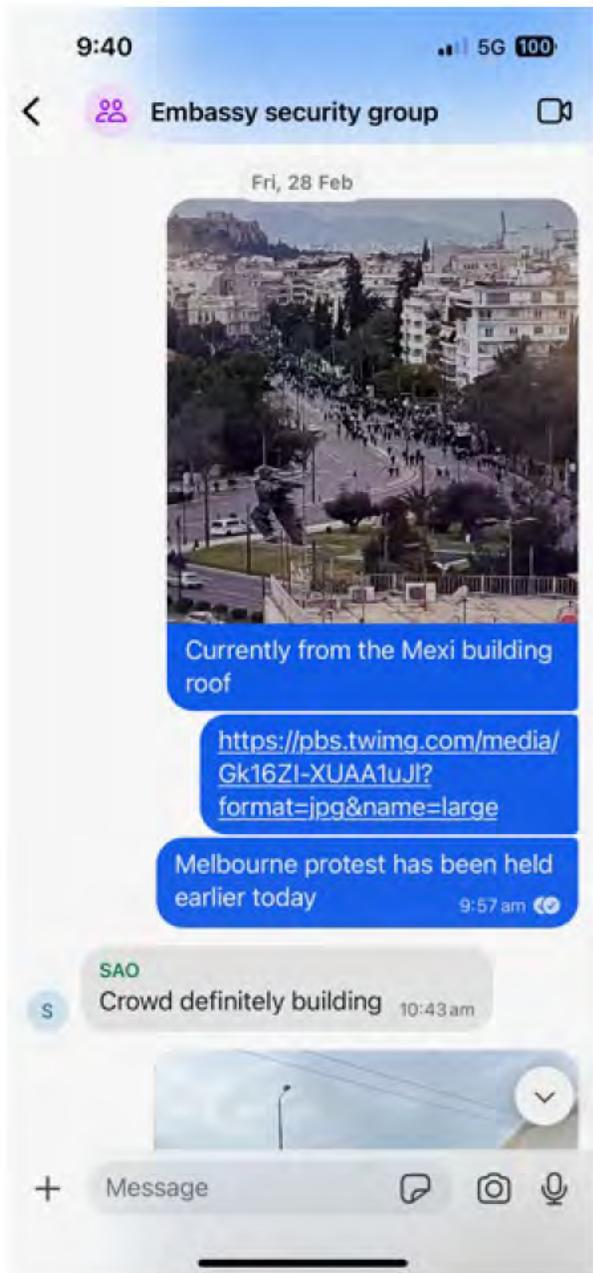
Post proposes minor updates to the Travel Advice for Greece, to highlight messaging from the Greek MFA and Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection that seismic activity in the Cycladic islands is declining, but the state of emergency remains in place, primarily to allow for emergency services to mobilise resources in case there is a stronger earthquake. All four islands have different end dates for their state of emergency. We will update the Travel Advice if we receive confirmation of the lifting of any or all of the states of emergency.

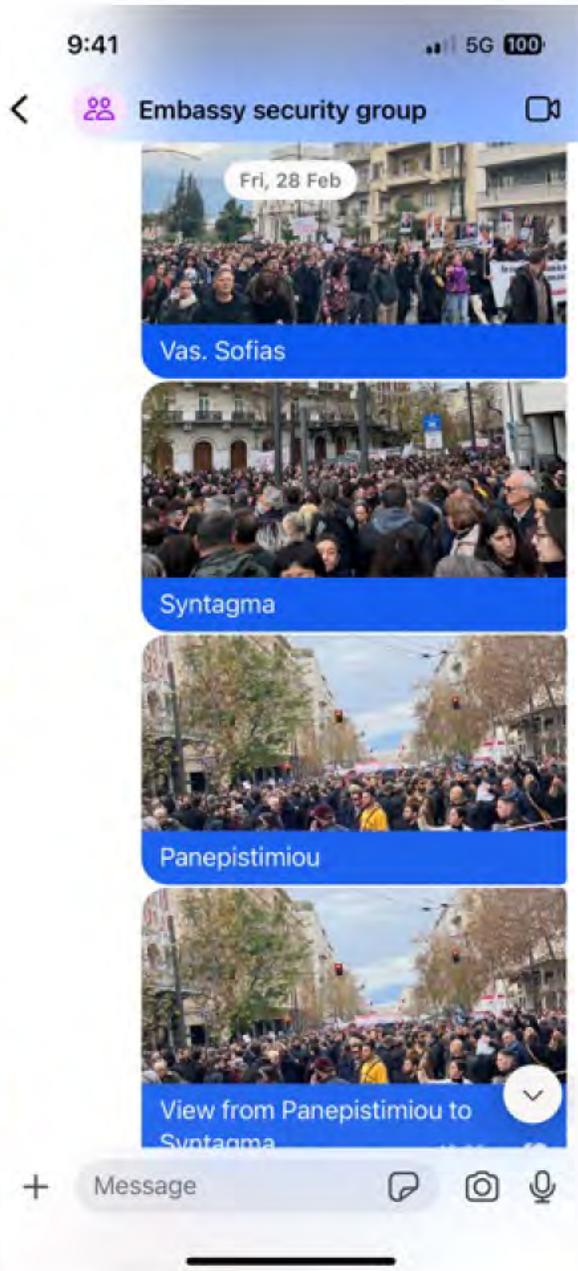
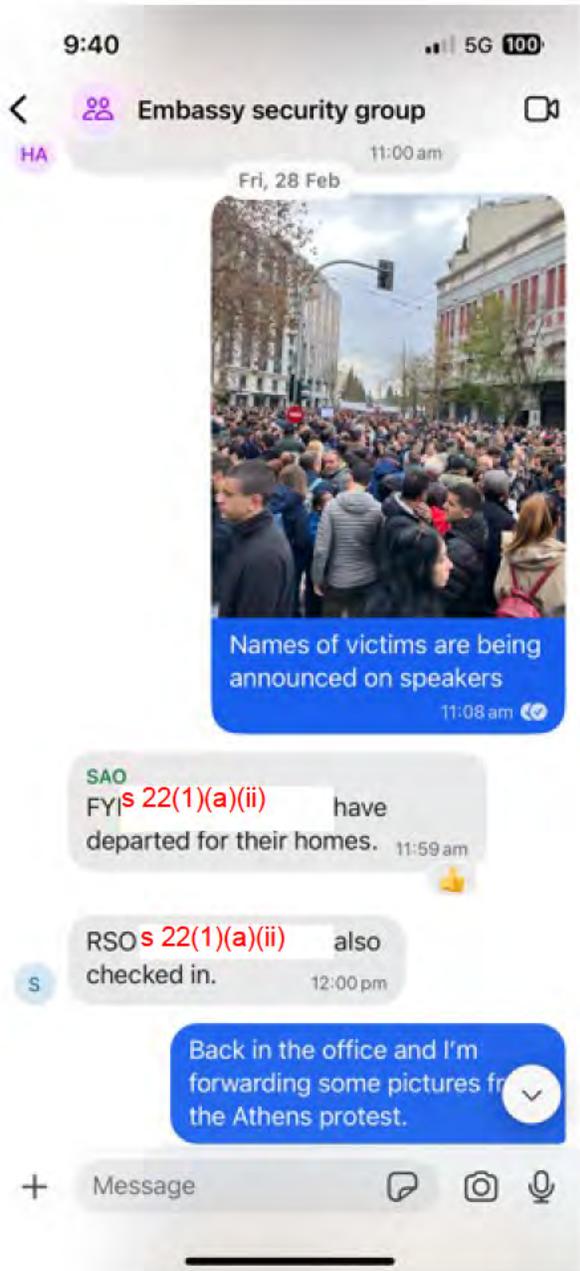
2. We have also taken the opportunity to update the 'Civil unrest and political tension' section to reflect 28 February as a new day of national significance for Greece, as the anniversary of the 2023 Tempe rail disaster.

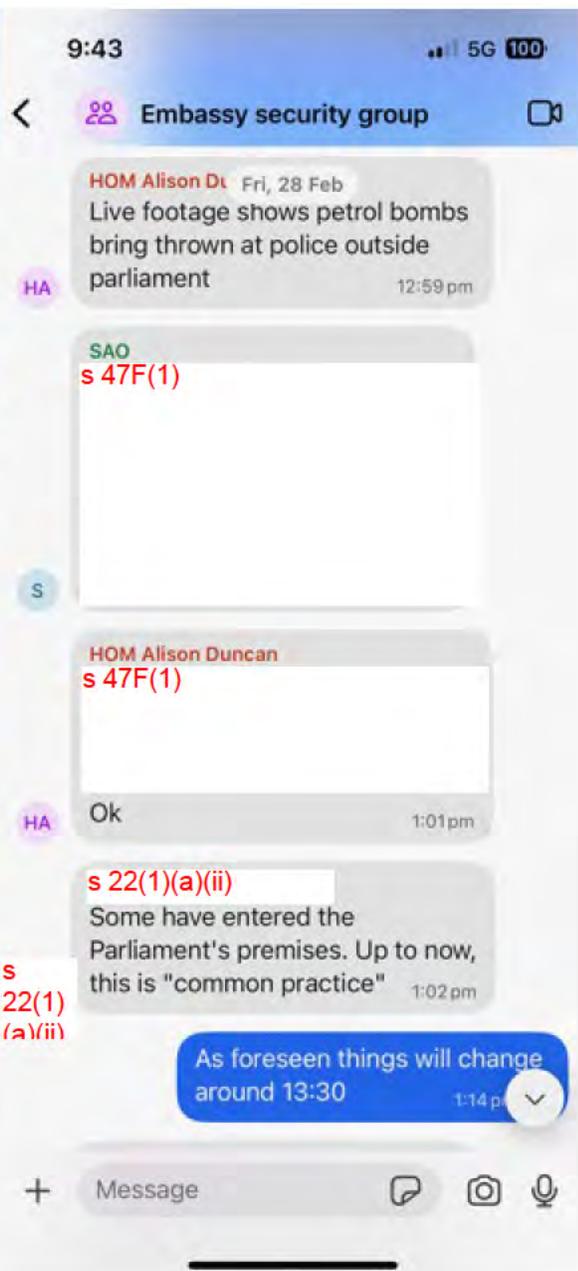
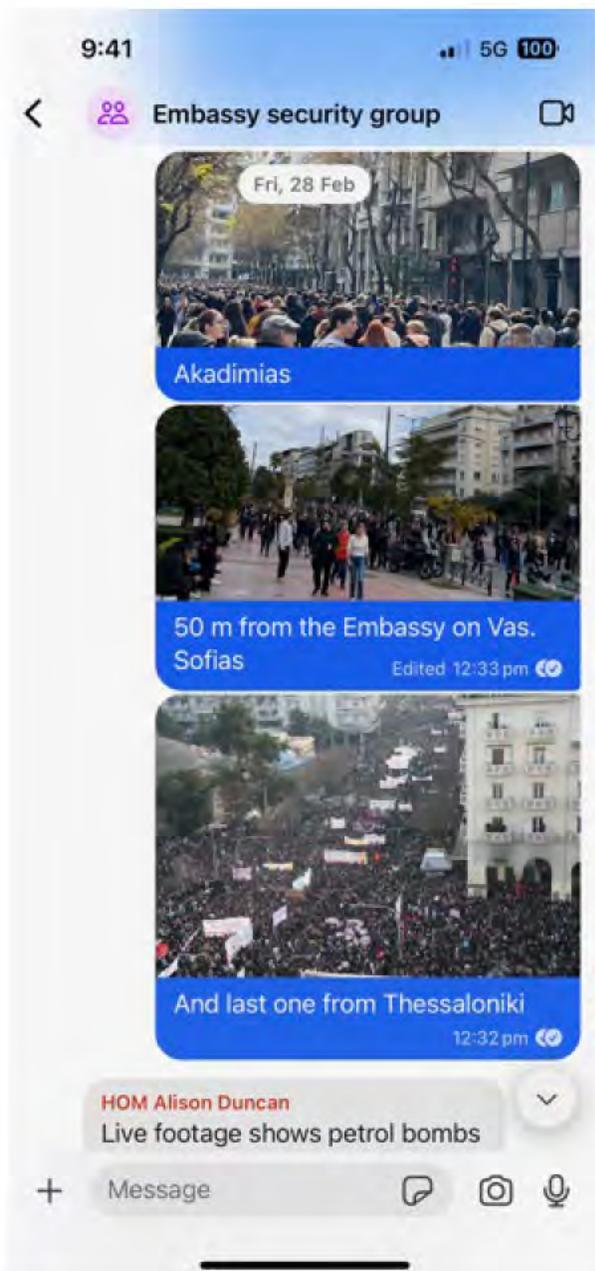
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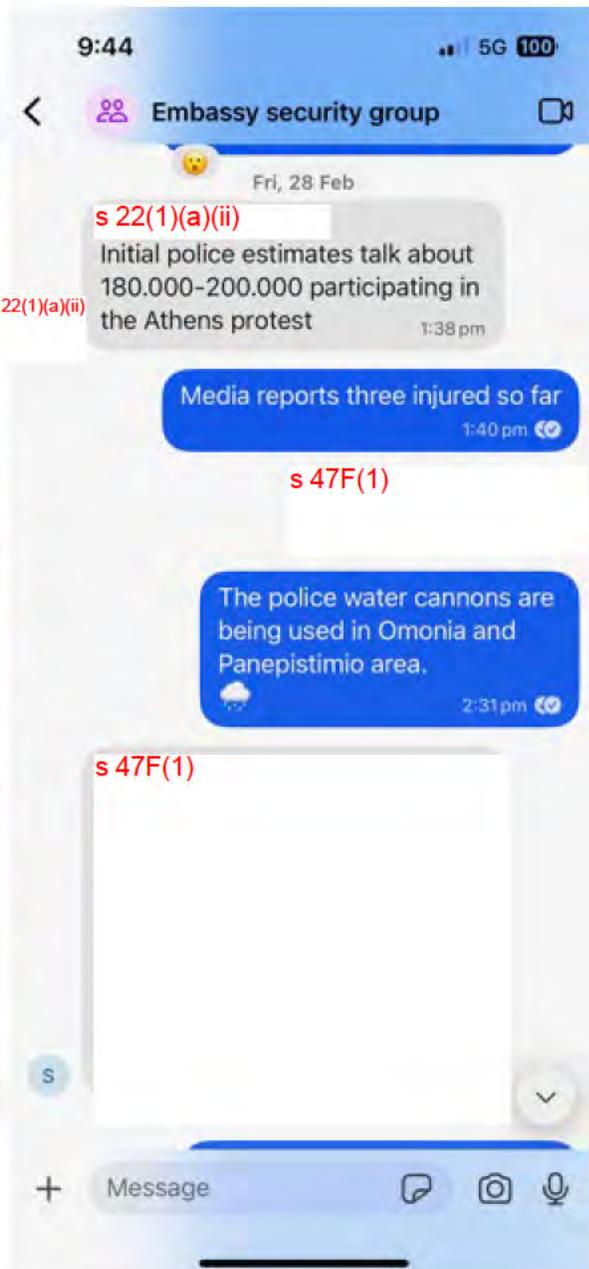
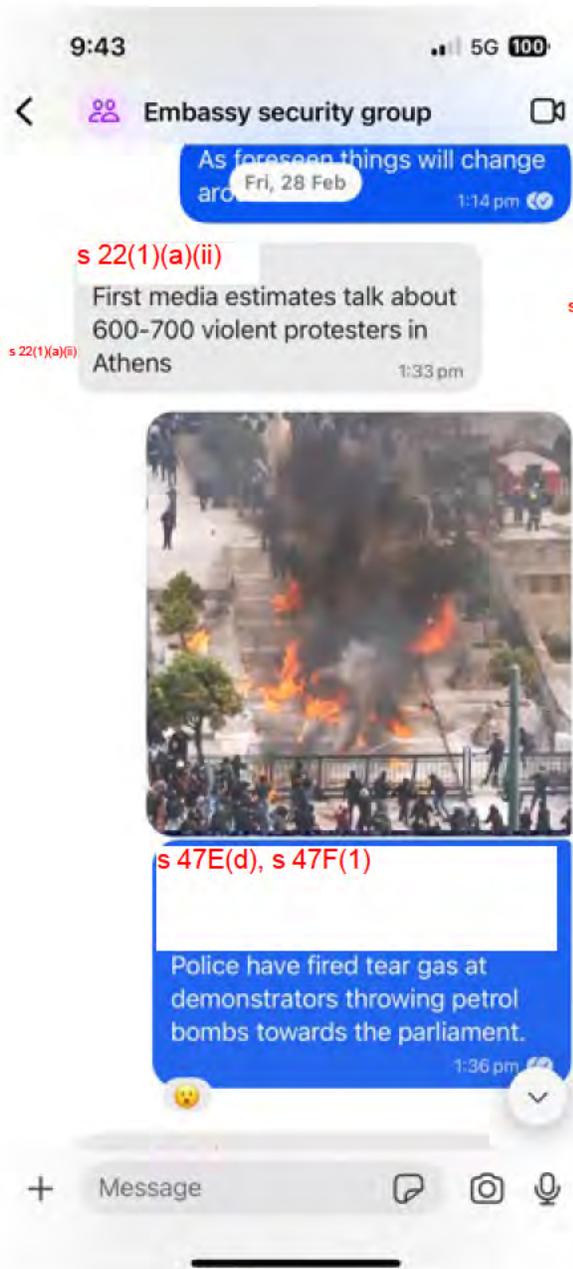
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by:
Approved HOM
by:
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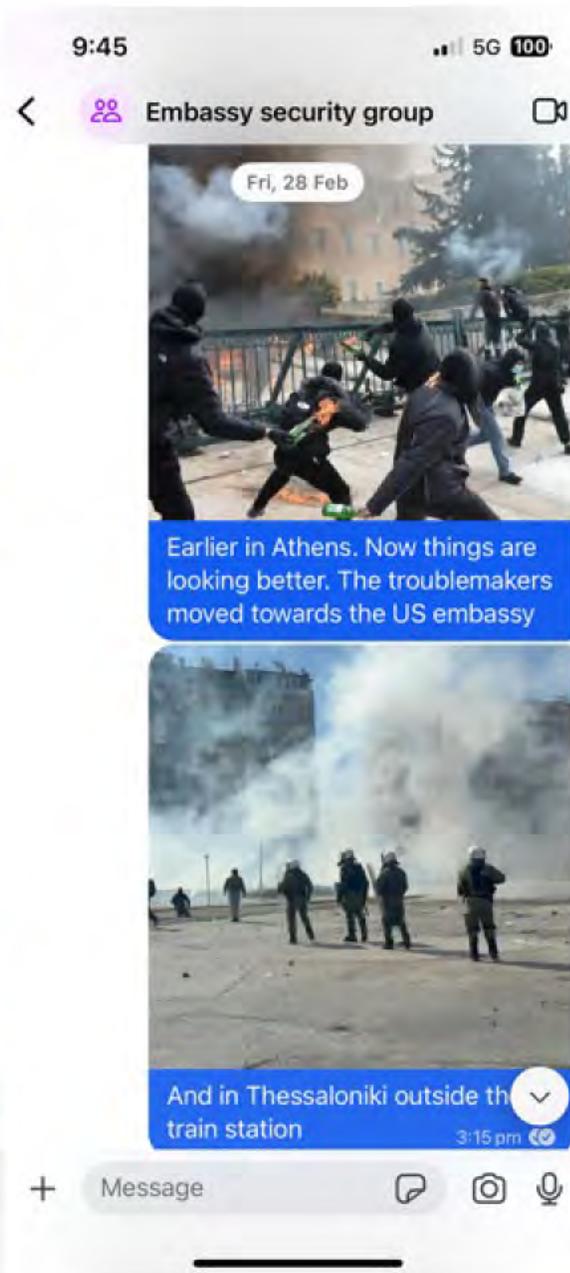
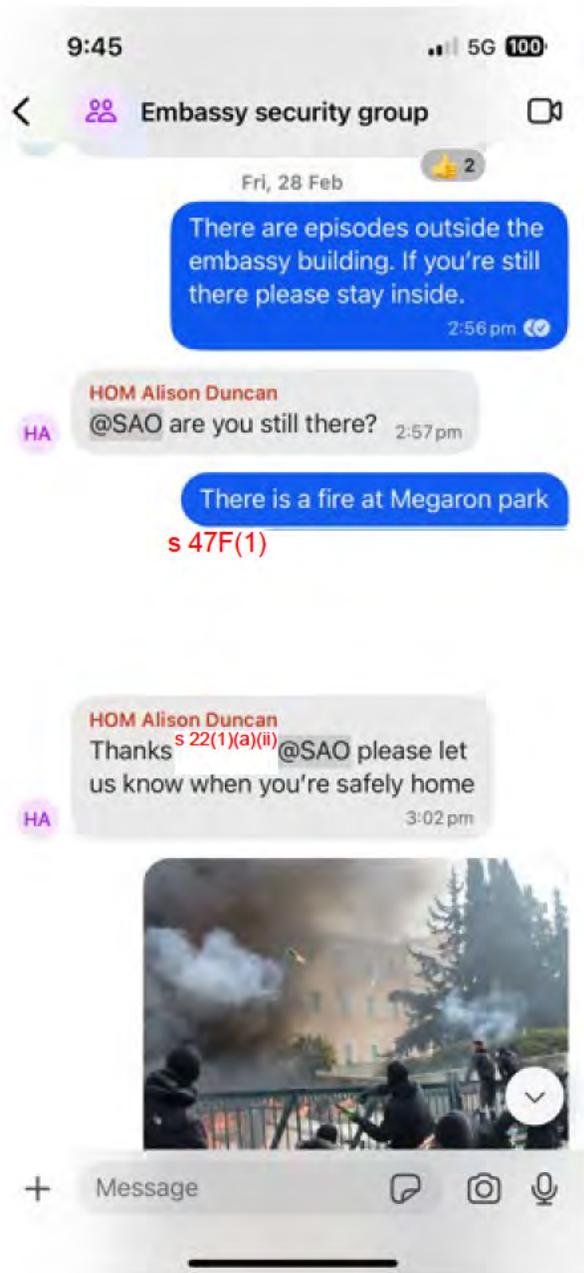
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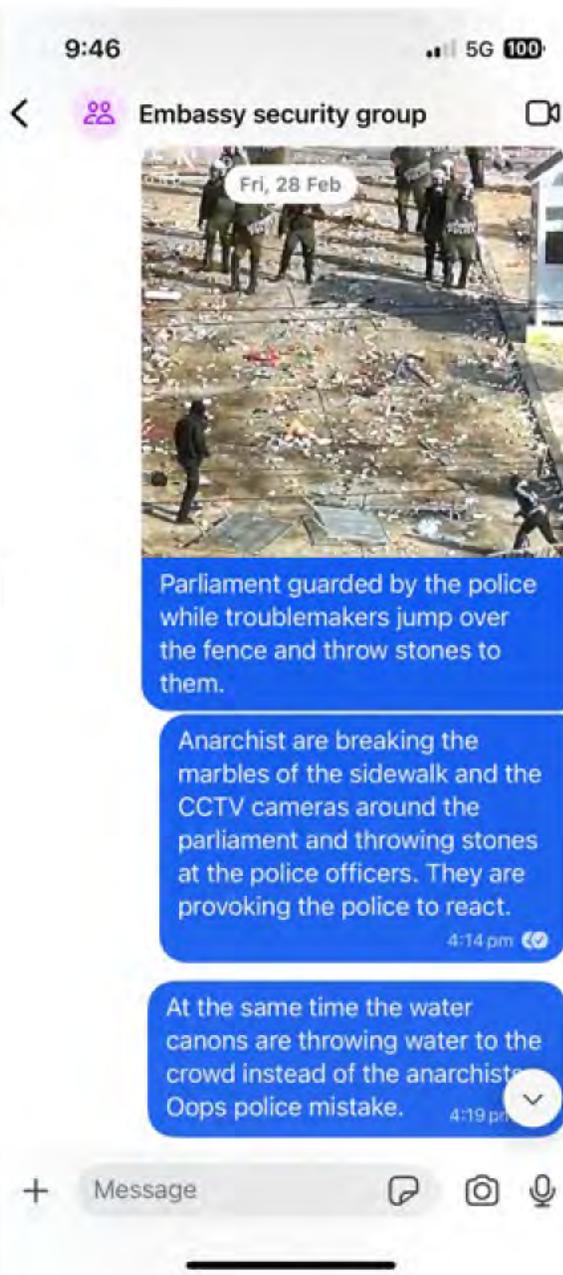


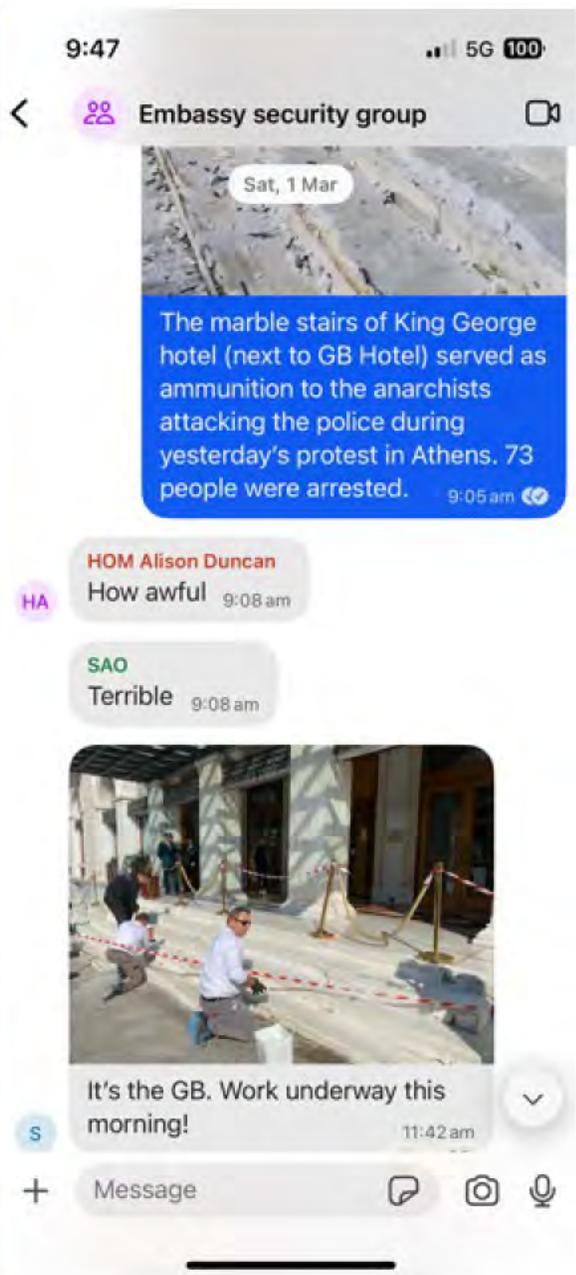
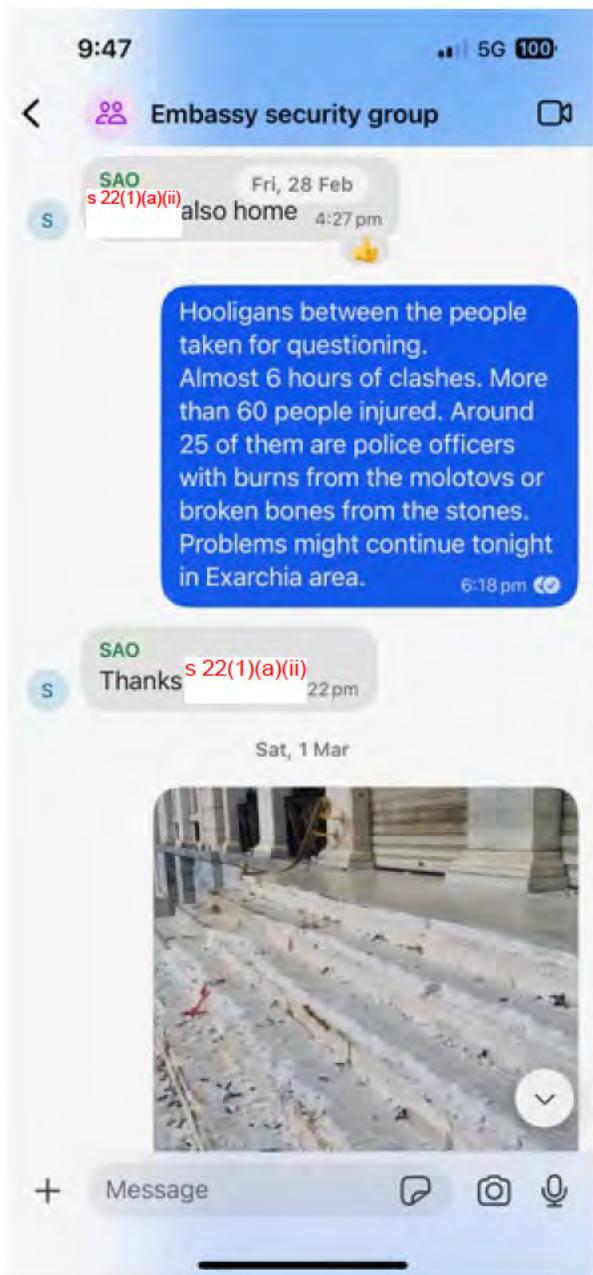


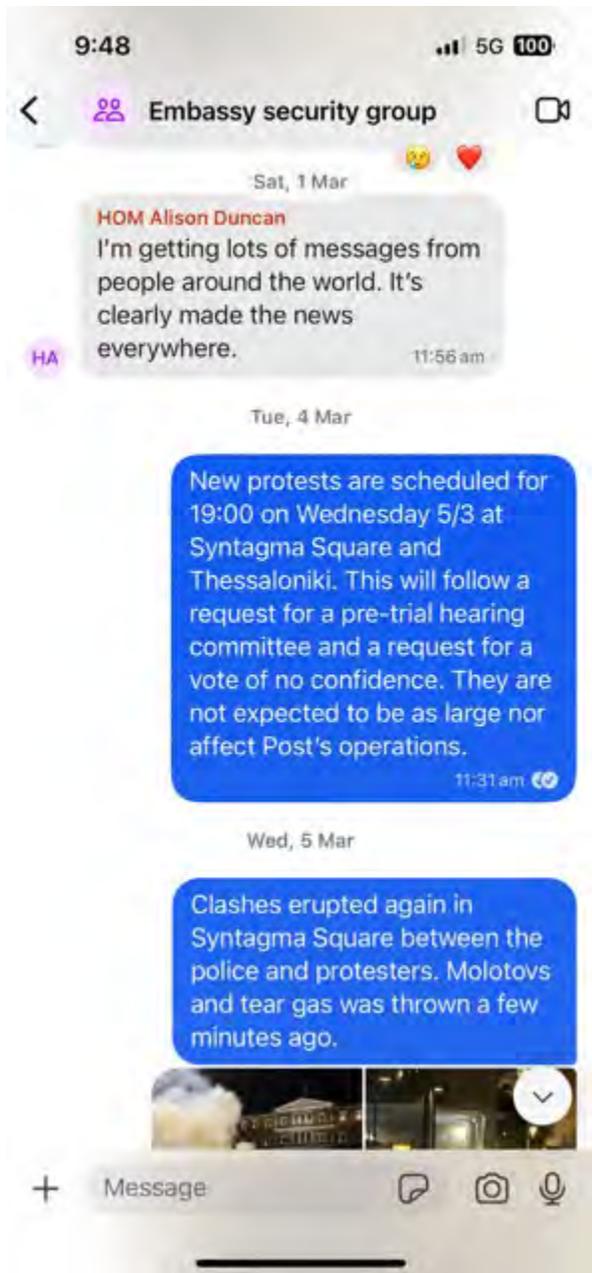












s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Global Watch Office
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2025 2:56 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Consular Operations & Emergency Centre
Cc: Alison Duncan; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Protests in Athens [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIALHi ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Thanks for the update. GWO is monitoring the situation closely. We will be mentioning this in our Incident Log which is to be dispatched at 0730 AEDT tomorrow.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Kind regards
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office
 Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division
 T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Always notify the GWO in the first instance of a potential crisis event and include GWO in all subsequent messaging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2025 11:45 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Alison Duncan <Alison.Duncan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Protests in Athens [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi teams

You're probably well aware there are major protests in Athens today, which we flagged on our social media accounts earlier in the week. The Embassy opened with core staff only today, with most people working from home. The two of us who are still here will be leaving shortly to ensure we can get home (the protests have turned quite ugly in the last couple of hours). Our security guard will also depart when we do.

FYI – and for CEC in case any calls come through to you. We've only taken 3 calls today though, and nothing to do with the protests.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Consul and SAO
 Australian Embassy, Athens

5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street | 115 29 Athens

T: +s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Vnet:s 22(1)(a)(ii)

M: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Greece - Seismic Activity - Update 21 Feb 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts
From: Athens
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
TA update Greece 21 Feb 2025.docx
Response: **Routine, Information Only**

Summary

The Greek Government continues to monitor the ongoing seismic activity around the Cycladic islands. While the frequency of earthquakes has eased in recent days, a larger earthquake in the region is still a possibility. The state of emergency remains in effect for Santorini, and has been extended to the islands of Ios, Amorgos and Anafi. We recommend a minor update to our Travel Advice for Greece to reflect this.

Seismologists note that the frequency of earthquakes affecting Santorini and nearby islands has eased in recent days, however the outlook remains uncertain. The Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection said in an interview this week that a larger earthquake in the region remains a possibility. The state of emergency announced on 6 February remains in effect on Santorini, and has been extended to the islands of Ios, Amorgos and Anafi.

2. Teams of scientists are monitoring seismographs as well as other systems that track ground deformation, gas emissions and satellite data. Inspecting teams have concluded that public buildings, including schools, are responding well to the seismic loads. Schools on the islands have been closed until today (21 February), with a decision to be made tomorrow on whether they remain closed next week and beyond. Reports indicate parents support the continued closure of schools on the islands, with many looking to enrol their children in schools in Athens.

3. The Greek Government has announced special support measures for businesses operating on the islands of Amorgos and Santorini. This includes some financial compensation and insurance coverage for staff. The Government has also announced the development of a new emergency port facility on Santorini for a potential large-scale evacuation. In tandem, the Maritime Ministry issued a ban on cruise ships docking at Santorini ports where landslides have occurred. The Civil Aviation Authority also held an emergency exercise this week at Santorini airport, focussed on the provision of air traffic services.

4. Given the importance of the tourism industry to the Greek economy, the Government is strong in its messages around its monitoring of the situation and preparation for any

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

significant developments. The Tourism Minister said in an interview on 20 February that the Government's focus was on transparency and sharing all available data so that visitors were aware of the ongoing seismic activity. The Minister also emphasised that Greece was "a safe destination for travellers". This is in the context of the prediction that foreign tourist arrivals in Greece will increase by around 16 per cent in the first quarter of 2025 compared to 2024.

5. Post has not received any calls or correspondence on the situation this week. We suggest a minor update to our Travel Advice for Greece to reflect that the state of emergency has been extended to three other islands (see attached). We note the state of emergency for each island has a different proposed end date, so we've removed references to the end date to avoid confusion.

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Latest update**Still current at:**21 February 2025**Updated:**10 February 2025

Latest update:Greek authorities have declared a state of emergency for [the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes](#). [Earthquakes have been occurring around the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi](#) in the Aegean Sea. If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities (see 'Safety').

We advise:**Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.****[Get the latest updates](#)**

This map is presented for information only. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade accepts no responsibility for errors or omission of any geographic feature. Nomenclature and territorial boundaries may not necessarily reflect Australian Government policy. For the latest travel advice visit [smartraveller.gov.au](#). Provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.

Download**[map of Greece \(PDF 325.12 KB\)](#)****Download****[map of Europe \(PDF 2.62 MB\)](#)****Local emergency contacts****Advice levels****[What does this mean?](#)**

Collapse all

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#)

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#)

[Exercise common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia.](#)

in Greece.

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#) in Greece.

Overview

Safety

- A state of emergency has been declared for [the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi until 3 March](#), following a series of earthquakes [around the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi](#) in the Aegean Sea. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed. [Airlines and ferry companies have added extra departures to mainland Greece](#). If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Petty crime and theft are serious issues in tourist areas and on buses and trains. Pickpocketing, bag snatching, and slashing luggage to steal belongings are common. Pay close attention to your belongings.
- Terrorist attacks have occurred at or near popular tourist areas in central Athens. Always be alert and take official warnings seriously.
- Strikes, protests and demonstrations take place regularly and can turn violent. Rioting can break out with little warning. Violent clashes have occurred between supporters of rival sporting teams. Avoid affected areas, monitor media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Be alert to the potential risks around food and drink spiking. Drink only at reputable venues.

Full travel advice:[Safety](#)

Health

- Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. Drink plenty of water, wear light clothing, stay in air conditioning or shaded areas, and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Dust storms occur in Greece, particularly during Spring.
- Medications such as codeine are subject to special rules. Carry a prescription and a letter from your doctor.
- Measles is common in Greece. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- The standard of medical care varies. Public hospitals are short on medical supplies and provide limited nursing care. Family or friends usually provide care.

Full travel advice:[Health](#)

Local laws

- Always carry an ID, such as a photocopy of your passport.
- It's illegal to take photos of military sites and personnel. It's also illegal to smoke indoors.
- You may have to do military service if you're a male dual national. If you're of Greek descent and born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you're a Greek citizen, get advice from the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) before you travel.
- Same-sex relationships are legal in Greece, though attitudes vary throughout the country. Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas. Attitudes are generally more accepting on Greek islands such as Mykonos, Santorini and Ios.

Full travel advice:[Local laws](#)

Travel

- Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases.
- The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.
- There may be long queues at border points when the new system starts. Allow plenty of time for transfers.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Greek embassy or Consulate](#) for enquiries about your ability to enter Greece from your departure country.

Full travel advice:[Travel](#)

Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy](#) in Athens.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice:[Local contacts](#)

Full advice

Expand all full advice

Safety

Expand all

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crime is a serious issue in tourist areas, including Monastiraki and Syntagma Square in central Athens.

Theft, including pickpocketing, bag snatching and luggage slashing, is common on buses and trains to and from the Athens airport and on ferries to and from the Greek islands.

Organised groups of thieves often use distraction techniques, such as crowding and pushing at metro stop exits.

Tourists' belongings have been targeted at their short-term rental accommodation, with thefts of valuables and passports occurring while they are out.

To reduce the risk of theft:

- stay in physical contact with your belongings, particularly on public transport and on buses and trains to and from the airport
- be alert at tourist spots in central Athens and on the islands
- don't leave bags on the back of chairs or the floor in cafés or restaurants
- carry your day bag with one strap across your body and carry small backpacks at the front of your body
- if driving on holiday, keep your valuables with you, always lock your vehicle, and park in a well-lit area or a secure car park
- research your accommodation carefully and pay attention to your surroundings when checking in, particularly for self check-in accommodation.

Tourist scams

Tourist scams exist in Greece, including taxis, hotels, restaurants, and vehicle hire services. If you've been the victim of a scam, report your claims to the nearest Police station and be prepared to support your claim with evidence.

Under Greek law, all suppliers of goods and services must issue you a receipt.

Alcohol

The national legal age for buying and drinking alcohol is 18.

A standard drink can contain more alcohol than in Australia. This can apply to both the volume and strength of the alcohol. Be aware of how much you are consuming.

Consider the risks when drinking alcoholic beverages, particularly drinks made with spirits.

You can become seriously ill after drinking contaminated alcohol.

Labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

To stay safe:

- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks

If you suspect that you, or someone you're with, has been poisoned, get urgent medical attention. It could save you from permanent disability or death.

Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Physical and sexual assault

Serious [physical](#) and [sexual assaults](#) occur in Athens and on islands, including Mykonos, Santorini, Zakynthos and Ios. There's also a risk of [drink spiking](#) with the intention of sexual assault.

Racially motivated and homophobic attacks have occurred.

To protect yourself:

- don't walk alone in isolated areas at night, especially in the Athens suburb of Omonia and at the railway and bus stations of Larissa and Peloponissos
- save the location of your accommodation on the maps app on your phone for easy access
- keep an eye on your drink, and don't accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.
- create a shared communication chat with your fellow travellers to stay in touch if separated.

If you're a victim of sexual assault in Greece, it's your decision whether to report it to the police. In Greece, health professionals must notify the police when they have a patient who alleges they've been assaulted. Hospital staff may refuse to provide a full medical examination without a document from the police confirming you've reported the crime.

There have been instances where an alleged abuser has laid defamation charges against their accuser and/or their family members at the same time. This can result in the accuser being arrested.

If the case goes to trial, there's an expectation that the victim attend court in person to testify, regardless of whether they live in another country.

Before you travel, read our guidance on [reducing the risk of sexual assault](#). We also have an [advice page](#) on what to do immediately after a sexual assault, reporting a sexual assault overseas, and available counselling.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Terrorism

Terrorism occurs in Europe. Targets across Europe have included:

- public transport
- transport hubs
- public places popular with tourists

European security services have disrupted some planned attacks in recent years.

Radical groups have staged attacks, mainly in Athens. Attackers have previously used bombs or guns. People have been injured but rarely killed. Substantial damage to buildings and vehicles can occur.

Terrorist targets have included:

- government institutions
- former government ministers
- the offices of members of parliament
- foreign diplomatic missions
- the police

Terrorists haven't targeted tourists. But some attacks have happened near popular tourist areas in central Athens, such as Syntagma Square.

To protect yourself from terrorism:

- be alert to possible threats, especially in public places
- take care around areas terrorists tend to target
- monitor the media for new threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

Report suspicious activity or items to the police.

If there's an attack, leave the area as soon as it's safe. Avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

Public protests, strikes, demonstrations and events that draw large groups of people occur regularly and often with little notice, mainly in central Athens around Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Exarchia. They can also occur in other major cities, including Thessaloniki around Aristotelous Square, Egnatia Street, the Arch of Galerius and the campus of Aristotle University. Protesters and police could clash. Sometimes petrol bombs and fireworks are thrown by protesters, and police deploy tear gas.

Protests also occur on days of national or commemorative significance, including:

- 1 May — Labour Day
- 17 November — the anniversary of the 1973 student riots
- 6 December — the anniversary of the 2008 riots

Violent clashes can occur between supporters of rival sporting teams. Molotov cocktails and stones have been thrown, and people have been killed.

To protect yourself during periods of unrest:

- avoid public protests
- monitor local media for possible unrest or strikes
- keep a low profile
- plan to avoid areas known for unrest on days of national significance
- change your travel plans if disruptions arise
- follow the advice of local authorities

Protests and strikes can disrupt taxi and ferry services and public transport. There may also be road closures. Monitor the media for news on protests or strikes that may impact your travel plans. Plan extra time for movements and be ready to change your travel plans if necessary.

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Water activities

Lifeguards operate at many Greek beaches from June to September. Riptides can lead to dangerous conditions at times. Check the local weather conditions before heading to the beach.

Be aware of and follow warning flags and signs. Most drownings occur on beaches without a lifeguard or outside of lifeguard hours.

Coral, urchins and jellyfish live in the waters off Greece. Always take care when entering the water and seek medical assistance if needed.

Climate and natural disasters

Greece experiences [natural disasters](#) and [severe weather](#).

A state of emergency has been declared for [the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi until 3 March](#), following a series of earthquakes [around the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi](#) in the Aegean Sea. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed.

~~[Airlines and ferry companies have added extra departures to mainland Greece.](#)~~ If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

More information:

- [Earthquakes and tsunamis](#)
- [Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection announcements](#)

Information on national disaster incidents and severe weather is posted by local authorities and @112Greece on social media. Alert messages may be sent by local authorities to mobile numbers advising of critical incidents. Alerts are posted in Greek and sometimes in English. For updated information on natural disasters, see civilprotection.gov.gr.

Fires

Wildfires occur during the extended summer period, from June to September. Fires can start close to cities and tourist locations with little warning and travel quickly. Fatalities have occurred. Avoid affected areas.

Expect travel disruptions if you're due to travel to an area that might be affected by wildfires. Monitor the media and contact your travel provider for the latest updates. The air quality during these periods may deteriorate due to heavy smoke. Forest fires are highly dangerous and unpredictable.

More information:

- [Floods and fires](#)
- [There's a bushfire](#)

Flooding

Heavy rainfall can lead to flooding in some regions, with road closures and interruptions to power and other services. Seek shelter, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Earthquakes and volcanoes

Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences [earthquakes](#) and [volcanic activity](#).

Get updates from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#).

Natural disasters

If a natural disaster or severe weather happens:

- monitor local media and other sources
- keep informed about possible safety risks
- follow the advice of local authorities

Health

Expand all

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away.

Physical and mental health

Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian](#)

[Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#) to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#) (Healthdirect Australia)

Medications

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Greece. Take enough legal medicine for your trip in its original packaging. The name on the prescription should match the name on your passport.

Carry a copy of your prescription and a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

Codeine and other prescription opiates can only be issued with a prescription from an accredited Greek medical professional.

For more information, contact the Greek National Organization of Medicines:

- By telephone: 0030 213 2040 395 / 285 / 225 / 000
- By email: clearance@eof.gr / relation@eof.gr

More information:

- [Medication](#)
- [Australian Embassy in Athens](#)

Health risks

Heatwaves

Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. They can cause heat exhaustion, heat stroke and death. Drink water, wear a hat and light clothing and stay in air-conditioned buildings or shaded areas.

Many major tourist sites have little shade. At peak tourist periods, queues at major attractions can involve waiting over an hour in the sun. Plan your visit to these sites, keep an eye on the weather forecast, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Avoid hiking during heatwaves. If you do head out on a hike, don't go alone. Be sure to check the weather, plan your route, pack water, sunscreen and your phone, and tell someone where you're going and when you plan to be back.

Dust storms

Storms of dust from the Sahara Desert are increasing in frequency across Greece, particularly during Spring, worsening the air quality and reducing sunlight and visibility. If you have respiratory conditions, you should limit outdoor activities and consider wearing masks outside until the skies clear.

Measles

Greece is experiencing an increase in [Measles](#) cases.

Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

More information:

- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Outbreaks 2019](#)
- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Immunisation Service](#)

Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#) are increasing in Greece. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)
- [National Public Health Organisation in Greece](#)

Foodborne diseases

Outbreaks of foodborne diseases, including [brucellosis](#), sometimes happen.

To protect yourself from illness, avoid:

- uncooked and under-cooked food
- unpasteurised dairy products

See a doctor immediately if you suspect food poisoning or have a fever or diarrhoea.

Medical care

Services provided by hospitals and medical centres aren't free, and payment is required before you leave the facility. Sometimes, the medical provider may ask you for payment before you receive treatment.

The standard of medical facilities and care vary in quality. Public hospitals in Greece are below the standard in Australia. Considerable delays may be encountered with non-urgent surgeries and other medical treatments at public hospitals.

Public hospitals can have shortages of medical supplies, including essential medication. They also have limited nursing care. You may be asked to pay a fee for medical treatment at a hospital or medical centre. Friends and relatives are usually required to give or pay for around-the-clock care, including for tasks like helping you eat, wash and use the toilet.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need evacuation. This is more likely if you're in a remote area or on a Greek island. You might be moved to Athens or another place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Public ambulances can be slow to respond to emergencies and vary in quality. Private hospitals operate their own ambulances and provide better quality service.

Private hospital costs are high.

Local laws

Expand all

Local law

You're subject to local laws and penalties, including those that appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling, especially for an extended stay.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Breaking the law can lead to severe penalties, large fines and jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug possession, use or trafficking, even small amounts, include heavy fines and prison sentences.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Surrogacy

Commercial surrogacy is illegal in Greece.

More information:

- [Going overseas for international surrogacy](#)
- [Surrogacy in Greece](#)

Other laws

In Greece, it's illegal to:

- not carry a photo ID, such as a clear photocopy of your passport
- carry weapons of any type (including pocketknives and pepper spray)
- smoke in indoor public places. The penalty is a fine of up to 500 euros.
- engage in sexual conduct with a person aged under 15

- breach customs rules about the export of Greek antiquities

It's also illegal to take photos of:

- military installations
- military personnel
- places with signs banning photography

Drones

Recreational and commercial flying of drones is regulated. Drones must be registered for use across the European Union.

Non-compliance may lead to fines and drone confiscation.

More information:

- [Information for visitors concerning drones](#) - Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA)
- [Civil drones](#) - European

Australian laws

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognised in Greece.

Greek males aged 19 and above have military service obligations. You may have to do military service if you're a male Australian-Greek dual national. This can apply if you are of Greek descent and were born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you have Greek citizenship.

There are penalties if you don't comply, and you may be prevented from leaving Greece.

Get advice from the nearest Greek [embassy or consulate](#) before you travel if you:

- have Greek citizenship
- may be eligible for Greek citizenship

Local customs

Dress codes are relaxed in tourist areas and resorts. Dress modestly in places such as churches and religious buildings.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas.

Same-sex sexual activity is legal but isn't widely accepted.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ people](#)

Travel

Expand all

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases. Get an entry stamp in your passport from border control when you first enter the Schengen area.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice, and you'll need a visa in some situations. Contact the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

More information:

- [Visit Greece](#)
- [Embassy of Greece](#)

European Entry/Exit System (EES)

The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.

The EES is a digital border system that registers non-EU visitors travelling into the Schengen Area. When entering the Schengen Area, you'll need to have your fingerprints and photo taken. This creates a digital record that registers your biometric details. Passports will no longer be stamped.

You'll need to do this on your first visit to the EU after the EES is introduced. If you visit the Schengen Area again within 3 years of creating your digital record, you'll only need to provide either your fingerprint or photograph at the border on entry and exit.

This process should only take a few minutes per person, however you may experience longer queues at borders when the new system starts.

Other formalities

Recognition of nationality

If you were born in Greece, you might have problems entering if the place of birth stated on your Australian passport is no longer officially recognised by Greece.

Officials may deny entry, especially if you're entering Greece from the Republic of North Macedonia.

We can't intervene on your behalf if Greek officials refuse you entry to Greece.

Passport

Validity

Some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply the rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You can end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.

The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure it'll be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#).

Always carry your passport when crossing borders, even within the [Schengen area](#).

Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible:

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#).
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#).

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the nearest [embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#) before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The official currency of Greece is the Euro.

You must declare amounts over 10,000 euros or equivalent if you're travelling between Greece and any non-European Union (EU) country. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

You don't need to declare it if you're travelling to or from another EU country.

You'll be fined if you don't declare it or declare the wrong amount when entering or leaving Greece.

Greece has daily ATM withdrawal limits. However, they don't apply to most major foreign debit and credit cards.

If you have Greek citizenship, you can only take up to 10,000 euros when leaving Greece.

Local travel

Extension of stays

Extension of stays in Greece beyond the allowed 90 days isn't automatic. Requests for extension with the relevant local authority should be lodged at least 4 weeks before your visa-free period expires. Present your request to the office of the Greek police on aliens issues.

Driving permit

Australian driver's licences are officially recognised as valid for use in Greece. If you plan on driving in Greece, you may not need an International Driving Permit. Contact the [Greek Embassy or Consulate](#) for more information on your licence type.

Your licence must be valid for the type of vehicle you'll drive, including quad bikes, motorbikes, mopeds, motor scooters and other similar vehicles.

You could face a large fine if you don't have the correct licence. Your insurance won't cover you if you have an accident.

Road travel

Driving is hazardous due to aggressive driving and poor-quality roads and vehicles. During peak season, severe traffic congestion occurs in the main cities and on the islands.

Check your insurance covers car hire and using quad bikes, motorbikes or jet skis. Get advice on any gaps. Your insurance may have conditions such as holding the correct licence for vehicles. Make sure you're covered. Check what additional fees may apply for any damage to hire vehicles.

Driving while intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance is illegal. Insurers won't cover accidents when drivers are under the influence of alcohol.

Driving offences may also attract heavy penalties.

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)
- [Driving in Greece - European Commission](#)
- [Travel insurance](#)

Quad bikes and motorcycles

Quad bike and motorcycle accidents cause serious injuries and deaths every summer on the Greek islands. Operating or riding quad bikes and motorcycles while intoxicated is illegal.

Always wear a helmet. It's illegal not to wear one. It may also invalidate your travel insurance if you have an accident.

If you experience any issues with the bike's operation, it's recommended that you return it to the rental company as soon as possible.

Taxis

Only use licensed taxis. Always ensure the driver uses the meter. Be careful when using credit cards to pay fares. Ask for and check your receipt.

Pedestrians

Drivers and motorcyclists often ignore traffic signals and drive through red lights. They rarely give way to pedestrians, including at pedestrian crossings.

Be very careful when crossing the road, including at traffic light controlled intersections and pedestrian crossings.

Traffic police sometimes direct traffic at major intersections. If the traffic lights conflict with police directions, you must follow the directions of the traffic police.

Footpaths in Greece are very narrow and often blocked. They are often made of tiles or marble and become very slippery when wet.

Sea travel

Ferries and large catamarans carry most visitors to the Greek islands. However, some services don't provide suitable access for people with disabilities.

During the tourist season, from May to October, be prepared for high temperatures and large crowds at popular seaports.

Usually, there are only one or two brief announcements on ferries before arrival or departure.

In most cases, you'll need to carry your luggage up and down stairs. Help with luggage is usually unavailable unless you've booked a private cabin in advance.

Ferry services can be delayed or cancelled in bad weather, mainly due to strong winds. Check the forecast and reconfirm your departure with your travel provider if it looks like the weather may be a risk.

On some Greek islands, such as Santorini, smaller boats or tenders transport cruise ship passengers to and from shore. Passengers using tenders may have difficulty getting up and down stairs.

Arrange for a coach or taxi to collect you in advance, or you may find it difficult to get transport.

Make sure your insurance covers the following:

- any existing health condition
- your planned activities
- travel on ferry and cruise ships

Australian-flagged sailboats or yachts sailing in the Mediterranean may be subject to Greek and EU taxes and duties. Seek advice from the Hellenic Coast Guard or the nearest [embassy or consulate](#) of Greece before you travel. If you've been involved in a maritime accident, the Greek Coast Guard may request under its regulations to inspect your vessel to confirm it is seaworthy.

More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

Air travel

To find out about flight delays at Athens International Airport, check their [website](#) or phone (+30 210) 353 0000.

DFAT doesn't provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

Check [Greece's air safety profile](#) with the Aviation Safety Network.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Expand all

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

Medical emergencies

Call 112.

Police

Call 112.

For non-urgent criminal issues, contact local police at the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Tourist police

Are available 24/7 and can be contacted on 171.

The Tourist Police help with non-serious crimes and can provide police reports and certificates for theft of personal items and lost travel documents.

There are tourist police offices across Greece, including on major islands.

The main office is at 4 Dragatsaniou Street, Klafthmonos Square, in Central Athens and is open all year. Call (+30 210) 322 2230 or (+30 210) 322 2232.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

For consular help, contact:

Australian Embassy, Athens

5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street

Athens 115 28, Greece

Phone: (+30 210) 870 4000

Website: greece.embassy.gov.au

Facebook: [Australia in Greece](#)

X: [@AusAmbAthens](#)

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Greece: Security - Protests planned for 28 February anniversary of Tempe train crash
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts, Melbourne, Sydney
From: Athens
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Summary

28 February marks the second anniversary of the Tempe train crash which killed 57 people. Demonstrations have been planned in over 250 cities in Greece and abroad, including outside the Greek Consulates in Melbourne & Sydney, to protest against the delay of the criminal investigation and the perceived cover up by the government. Although the organisers have called for peaceful protests, police are investigating social media posts inciting violence. Numerous unions and federations will go on strike. The Athens protest is expected to be one of the largest of the last decade. The police has not yet announced its security measures. Post issued advice via social media.

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Greece: 73 arrested in 28 February protests
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts
From: Athens
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Comments:
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Summary

As foreshadowed in reftel, large protests took place across Greece and around the world yesterday to mark the second anniversary of the Tempe rail disaster. Protestors in Athens threw molotov cocktails and marble rocks torn from buildings at police, who responded with water cannon and tear gas. Initial reports indicate 60 people were injured, including 25 police, and 73 arrested. Most Embassy staff worked from home yesterday as a precaution and all are accounted for. We will report further on the fallout.

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Greece: Tempe train crash anniversary - Massive rallies put government under pressure
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts, Washington
From: Athens
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Comments:
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Summary

On 28 February, approximately one million Greeks attended rallies across the country and around the world demanding truth and justice on the second anniversary of the Tempe rail disaster. The centre-right ND government denies accusations of a cover up and has pledged railway safety upgrades. Parliament approved an opposition motion to conduct an inquiry into former Deputy Civil Protection Minister Triantopoulos, but the Government survived a censure motion. The anniversary offered citizens a platform to vent wider frustrations. The Government will face an uphill battle to move on from this issue.

Further to reftels, on 28 February 2025, the second anniversary of the Tempe rail disaster that led to the death of 57 individuals, massive rallies (the largest in recent decades) took place across the country and abroad, including in Australia. We report on the rallies' political ramifications.

2. An estimated one million people participated nationwide. In Athens, an estimated 300,000–400,000 took part. The protesters commemorated the 57 lives lost and sought "justice, truth and accountability". Some slogans included: "I don't have oxygen", "we were all in the same wagon" and "state murders". Although some opposition leaders/figures attended the protests, they were not organised by any party. The Athens protest turned violent with a group of approximately 800 anarchists and hooligans clashing with police forces in various areas of downtown Athens, including outside Greece's parliament. The police arrested over 70 individuals. Similarly, rallies in other major cities turned violent.

3. Rallies took place in 252 cities in Greece and 112 cities abroad, including in New York, Ankara, Barcelona, Brussels, Budapest, Bucharest, Dublin, Luxembourg, Madrid, Paris, Rome and Sofia. At least two rallies took place in Melbourne and Sydney. In Melbourne, the

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

protesters gathered outside of Greece's consulate holding banners with the number of the victims and the "i don't have oxygen" slogan. The rallies in Australia were peaceful.

Tempe regaining prominence

4. Despite initial shock and anger s 22(1)(a)(ii) the Tempe crash lost prominence a few months after it happened due to the belief that human error was the cause. The ruling centre-right New Democracy (ND) was re-elected with a comfortable majority in June 2023. The media coverage of Tempe subsided and the Government likely thought the issue had been put to rest without significant cost. Tempe returned to the headlines in recent months following new audio of the passengers' last moments; an increasing perception that the Government was covering up evidence, including tampering with the site in an effort to avoid political responsibility; and a rumour that one of the two trains carried illegal flammable substances which were the cause of the fire (implying government knowledge and corruption). Perceived delays in the judicial process also added to the frustration.

5. According to a recent opinion poll by Pulse, 85 per cent of respondents blame the Government for the accident, 72 per cent believe there was a government cover up, and 65 per cent believe some politicians should be held criminally responsible.

Multifaceted reasons behind the crash

6. A day before the nationwide rallies, the Hellenic Air and Rail Safety Investigation Authority, an agency created after Tempe, presented the findings of its investigation. It concluded that several factors were behind the crash. Firstly, key railway employees (e.g. the railway station master in Larissa and train drivers) had made mistakes. Secondly, the report highlighted the existence of a confusing control panel, poor communication systems, and the normalisation of opposite direction driving. Thirdly, Greece's acute economic crisis (2010–17) had left the railway system poorly maintained and understaffed and created some deficiencies. Railways lacked preventive maintenance and adequate training for staff, had poor system design, and employees were working under unrealistic goals. Finally, the inquiry noted that at least five passengers died from a fire which was likely caused by an unidentified substance and not by the collision.

7. In a Facebook post, Prime Minister Mitsotakis said the protesters demanded "the absolute minimum of trust and justice for the victims" and safeguards that a similar tragedy would never happen again. He committed personally to ensuring the main railway line, connecting Athens with Thessaloniki, would become safe by 2027. Government officials commented to local media that they had "received the message". In a recent parliamentary debate, Mitsotakis criticised the opposition for politicising the issue, calling leftist opposition parties a "heterogenous alliance of nihilists".

8. The opposition has sought to benefit from the widespread dissatisfaction. The main opposition PASOK tabled a proposal for the creation of a parliamentary committee to examine whether Deputy Minister for Civil Protection Triantopoulos, who resigned on 4 March, intervened to cover-up evidence at the accident's site and whether his parliamentary immunity should be removed. PASOK's proposal passed with 277/300 votes. The Government supported

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

the motion to highlight its cooperation and transparency. In addition, four opposition parties (PASOK, SYRIZA, Pefsi Eleutherias and New Left) tabled a censure motion against the government on 5 March. The parliament rejected the motion on 7 March with 157 votes against it and 136 in favour.

What does all this mean?

9. Local commentators noted that besides a feeling of pain and anger for the 57 dead, the Tempe accident enables citizens to vent broader grievances, including a dissatisfaction with the government's perceived arrogance s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d)

lack of empathy, sub-optimal communication and readiness to portray citizens' dissatisfaction as politically motivated and part of a destabilisation effort. More broadly, commentators observed Tempe allowed people to express frustration for daily problems such as the high cost of living and ongoing poor public services.

10. s 33(a)(iii)

ND is currently polling around 25 per cent but needs close to 38 per cent to form a majority government at the next parliamentary elections in 2027. s 33(a)(iii)

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Consular: Greece - Travel Advice - Ad hoc update
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts
From: Athens
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
TA Greece update 17 Mar 2025.docx
Response: Routine, Requires Action

Summary

Seismic activity around the Cycladic islands is continuing, but is declining. Post proposes minor updates to the Travel Advice for Greece.

Post proposes minor updates to the Travel Advice for Greece, to highlight messaging from the Greek MFA and Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection that seismic activity in the Cycladic islands is declining, but the state of emergency remains in place, primarily to allow for emergency services to mobilise resources in case there is a stronger earthquake. All four islands have different end dates for their state of emergency. We will update the Travel Advice if we receive confirmation of the lifting of any or all of the states of emergency.

2. We have also taken the opportunity to update the 'Civil unrest and political tension' section to reflect 28 February as a new day of national significance for Greece, as the anniversary of the 2023 Tempe rail disaster.

text ends
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Latest update**Still current at:**07 March 2025**Updated:**24 February 2025

Latest update: [Greek authorities have declared a state of emergency for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities \(see 'Safety'\). Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences earthquakes and volcanic activity. In a seismic event, monitor the media and official websites for updates and follow the advice of authorities.](#)

We advise:**Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.****[Get the latest updates](#)**

This map is presented for information only. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade accepts no responsibility for errors or omission of any geographic feature. Nomenclature and territorial boundaries may not necessarily reflect Australian Government policy. For the latest travel advice visit smartraveller.gov.au. Provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.

Download[map of Greece \(PDF 325.12 KB\)](#)**Download**[map of Europe \(PDF 2.62 MB\)](#)**Local emergency contacts****Advice levels**[What does this mean?](#)

Collapse all

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#)

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#)

[Exercise common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia.](#)

in Greece.

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#) in Greece.

Overview

Safety

- A state of emergency ~~has been declared~~ [is in place](#) for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. [While the strength and frequency of earthquakes has subsided, the continued state of emergency enables the Greek authorities](#) ~~Ministry of Civil Protection to quickly mobilise resources in case of a strong earthquake. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed.~~ If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Petty crime and theft are serious issues in tourist areas and on buses and trains. Pickpocketing, bag snatching, and slashing luggage to steal belongings are common. Pay close attention to your belongings.
- Terrorist attacks have occurred at or near popular tourist areas in central Athens. Always be alert and take official warnings seriously.
- Strikes, protests and demonstrations take place regularly and can turn violent. Rioting can break out with little warning. Violent clashes have occurred between supporters of rival sporting teams. Avoid affected areas, monitor media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Be alert to the potential risks around food and drink spiking. Drink only at reputable venues.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

Health

- Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. Drink plenty of water, wear light clothing, stay in air conditioning or shaded areas, and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Dust storms occur in Greece, particularly during Spring.
- Medications such as codeine are subject to special rules. Carry a prescription and a letter from your doctor.
- Measles is common in Greece. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- The standard of medical care varies. Public hospitals are short on medical supplies and provide limited nursing care. Family or friends usually provide care.

Full travel advice:[Health](#)

Local laws

- Always carry an ID, such as a photocopy of your passport.
- It's illegal to take photos of military sites and personnel. It's also illegal to smoke indoors.
- You may have to do military service if you're a male dual national. If you're of Greek descent and born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you're a Greek citizen, get advice from the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) before you travel.
- Same-sex relationships are legal in Greece, though attitudes vary throughout the country. Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas. Attitudes are generally more accepting on Greek islands such as Mykonos, Santorini and Ios.

Full travel advice:[Local laws](#)

Travel

- Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases.
- The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.
- There may be long queues at border points when the new system starts. Allow plenty of time for transfers.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Greek embassy or Consulate](#) for enquiries about your ability to enter Greece from your departure country.

Full travel advice:[Travel](#)

Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy](#) in Athens.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice:[Local contacts](#)

Full advice

Expand all full advice

Safety

Expand all

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crime is a serious issue in tourist areas, including Monastiraki and Syntagma Square in central Athens.

Theft, including pickpocketing, bag snatching and luggage slashing, is common on buses and trains to and from the Athens airport and on ferries to and from the Greek islands.

Organised groups of thieves often use distraction techniques, such as crowding and pushing at metro stop exits.

Tourists' belongings have been targeted at their short-term rental accommodation, with thefts of valuables and passports occurring while they are out.

To reduce the risk of theft:

- stay in physical contact with your belongings, particularly on public transport and on buses and trains to and from the airport
- be alert at tourist spots in central Athens and on the islands
- don't leave bags on the back of chairs or the floor in cafés or restaurants
- carry your day bag with one strap across your body and carry small backpacks at the front of your body
- if driving on holiday, keep your valuables with you, always lock your vehicle, and park in a well-lit area or a secure car park
- research your accommodation carefully and pay attention to your surroundings when checking in, particularly for self check-in accommodation.

Tourist scams

Tourist scams exist in Greece, including taxis, hotels, restaurants, and vehicle hire services. If you've been the victim of a scam, report your claims to the nearest Police station and be prepared to support your claim with evidence.

Under Greek law, all suppliers of goods and services must issue you a receipt.

Alcohol

The national legal age for buying and drinking alcohol is 18.

A standard drink can contain more alcohol than in Australia. This can apply to both the volume and strength of the alcohol. Be aware of how much you are consuming.

Consider the risks when drinking alcoholic beverages, particularly drinks made with spirits.

You can become seriously ill after drinking contaminated alcohol.

Labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

To stay safe:

- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks

If you suspect that you, or someone you're with, has been poisoned, get urgent medical attention. It could save you from permanent disability or death.

Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Physical and sexual assault

Serious [physical](#) and [sexual assaults](#) occur in Athens and on islands, including Mykonos, Santorini, Zakynthos and Ios. There's also a risk of [drink spiking](#) with the intention of sexual assault.

Racially motivated and homophobic attacks have occurred.

To protect yourself:

- don't walk alone in isolated areas at night, especially in the Athens suburb of Omonia and at the railway and bus stations of Larissa and Peloponissos
- save the location of your accommodation on the maps app on your phone for easy access
- keep an eye on your drink, and don't accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.
- create a shared communication chat with your fellow travellers to stay in touch if separated.

If you're a victim of sexual assault in Greece, it's your decision whether to report it to the police. In Greece, health professionals must notify the police when they have a patient who alleges they've been assaulted. Hospital staff may refuse to provide a full medical examination without a document from the police confirming you've reported the crime.

There have been instances where an alleged abuser has laid defamation charges against their accuser and/or their family members at the same time. This can result in the accuser being arrested.

If the case goes to trial, there's an expectation that the victim attend court in person to testify, regardless of whether they live in another country.

Before you travel, read our guidance on [reducing the risk of sexual assault](#). We also have an [advice page](#) on what to do immediately after a sexual assault, reporting a sexual assault overseas, and available counselling.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Terrorism

Terrorism occurs in Europe. Targets across Europe have included:

- public transport
- transport hubs
- public places popular with tourists

European security services have disrupted some planned attacks in recent years.

Radical groups have staged attacks, mainly in Athens. Attackers have previously used bombs or guns. People have been injured but rarely killed. Substantial damage to buildings and vehicles can occur.

Terrorist targets have included:

- government institutions
- former government ministers
- the offices of members of parliament
- foreign diplomatic missions
- the police

Terrorists haven't targeted tourists. But some attacks have happened near popular tourist areas in central Athens, such as Syntagma Square.

To protect yourself from terrorism:

- be alert to possible threats, especially in public places
- take care around areas terrorists tend to target
- monitor the media for new threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

Report suspicious activity or items to the police.

If there's an attack, leave the area as soon as it's safe. Avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

Public protests, strikes, demonstrations and events that draw large groups of people occur regularly and often with little notice, mainly in central Athens around Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Exarchia. They can also occur in other major cities, including Thessaloniki around Aristotelous Square, Egnatia Street, the Arch of Galerius and the campus of Aristotle University. Protesters and police could clash. Sometimes petrol bombs and fireworks are thrown by protesters, and police deploy tear gas, [water cannons and flash bangs](#).

Protests also occur on days of national or commemorative significance, including:

- [28 February – the anniversary of the 2023 Tempe rail disaster](#)
- 1 May — Labour Day
- 17 November — the anniversary of the 1973 student riots
- 6 December — the anniversary of the 2008 riots

Violent clashes can occur between supporters of rival sporting teams. Molotov cocktails and stones have been thrown, and people have been killed.

To protect yourself during periods of unrest:

- avoid public protests
- monitor local media for possible unrest or strikes
- keep a low profile
- plan to avoid areas known for unrest on days of national significance
- change your travel plans if disruptions arise
- follow the advice of local authorities

Protests and strikes can disrupt taxi and ferry services and public transport. There may also be road closures. Monitor the media for news on protests or strikes that may impact your travel plans. Plan extra time for movements and be ready to change your travel plans if necessary.

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Water activities

Lifeguards operate at many Greek beaches from June to September. Riptides can lead to dangerous conditions at times. Check the local weather conditions before heading to the beach.

Be aware of and follow warning flags and signs. Most drownings occur on beaches without a lifeguard or outside of lifeguard hours.

Coral, urchins and jellyfish live in the waters off Greece. Always take care when entering the water and seek medical assistance if needed.

Climate and natural disasters

Greece experiences [natural disasters](#) and [severe weather](#).

A state of emergency ~~has been declared~~ [is in place](#) for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea [since February 2025](#). [While the level of seismic activity has declined, the risk of stronger tremors has not disappeared remains. The state of emergency enables the Greek authorities Ministry of Civil Protection to mobilise resources in case of a strong earthquake. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed.](#)

If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

More information:

- [Earthquakes and tsunamis](#)
- [Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection announcements](#)

Information on national disaster incidents and severe weather is posted by local authorities and @112Greece on social media. Alert messages may be sent by local authorities to mobile numbers advising of critical incidents. Alerts are posted in Greek and sometimes in English. For updated information on natural disasters, see [civilprotection.gov.gr](#).

Fires

Wildfires occur during the extended summer period, from June to September. Fires can start close to cities and tourist locations with little warning and travel quickly. Fatalities have occurred. Avoid affected areas.

Expect travel disruptions if you're due to travel to an area that might be affected by wildfires. Monitor the media and contact your travel provider for the latest updates. The air quality during these periods may deteriorate due to heavy smoke. Forest fires are highly dangerous and unpredictable.

More information:

- [Floods and fires](#)
- [There's a bushfire](#)

Flooding

Heavy rainfall can lead to flooding in some regions, with road closures and interruptions to power and other services. Seek shelter, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Earthquakes and volcanoes

Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences [earthquakes](#) and [volcanic activity](#).

Get updates from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#).

Natural disasters

If a natural disaster or severe weather happens:

- monitor local media and other sources
- keep informed about possible safety risks
- follow the advice of local authorities

Health

Expand all

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away.

Physical and mental health

Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian](#)

[Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#) to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#) (Healthdirect Australia)

Medications

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Greece. Take enough legal medicine for your trip in its original packaging. The name on the prescription should match the name on your passport.

Carry a copy of your prescription and a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

Codeine and other prescription opiates can only be issued with a prescription from an accredited Greek medical professional.

For more information, contact the Greek National Organization of Medicines:

- By telephone: 0030 213 2040 395 / 285 / 225 / 000
- By email: clearance@eof.gr / relation@eof.gr

More information:

- [Medication](#)
- [Australian Embassy in Athens](#)

Health risks

Heatwaves

Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. They can cause heat exhaustion, heat stroke and death. Drink water, wear a hat and light clothing and stay in air-conditioned buildings or shaded areas.

Many major tourist sites have little shade. At peak tourist periods, queues at major attractions can involve waiting over an hour in the sun. Plan your visit to these sites, keep an eye on the weather forecast, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Avoid hiking during heatwaves. If you do head out on a hike, don't go alone. Be sure to check the weather, plan your route, pack water, sunscreen and your phone, and tell someone where you're going and when you plan to be back.

Dust storms

Storms of dust from the Sahara Desert are increasing in frequency across Greece, particularly during Spring, worsening the air quality and reducing sunlight and visibility. If you have respiratory conditions, you should limit outdoor activities and consider wearing masks outside until the skies clear.

Measles

Greece is experiencing an increase in [Measles](#) cases.

Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

More information:

- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Outbreaks 2019](#)
- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Immunisation Service](#)

Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#) are increasing in Greece. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)
- [National Public Health Organisation in Greece](#)

Foodborne diseases

Outbreaks of foodborne diseases, including [brucellosis](#), sometimes happen.

To protect yourself from illness, avoid:

- uncooked and under-cooked food
- unpasteurised dairy products

See a doctor immediately if you suspect food poisoning or have a fever or diarrhoea.

Medical care

Services provided by hospitals and medical centres aren't free, and payment is required before you leave the facility. Sometimes, the medical provider may ask you for payment before you receive treatment.

The standard of medical facilities and care vary in quality. Public hospitals in Greece are below the standard in Australia. Considerable delays may be encountered with non-urgent surgeries and other medical treatments at public hospitals.

Public hospitals can have shortages of medical supplies, including essential medication. They also have limited nursing care. You may be asked to pay a fee for medical treatment at a hospital or medical centre. Friends and relatives are usually required to give or pay for around-the-clock care, including for tasks like helping you eat, wash and use the toilet.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need evacuation. This is more likely if you're in a remote area or on a Greek island. You might be moved to Athens or another place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Public ambulances can be slow to respond to emergencies and vary in quality. Private hospitals operate their own ambulances and provide better quality service.

Private hospital costs are high.

Local laws

Expand all

Local law

You're subject to local laws and penalties, including those that appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling, especially for an extended stay.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Breaking the law can lead to severe penalties, large fines and jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug possession, use or trafficking, even small amounts, include heavy fines and prison sentences.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Surrogacy

Commercial surrogacy is illegal in Greece.

More information:

- [Going overseas for international surrogacy](#)
- [Surrogacy in Greece](#)

Other laws

In Greece, it's illegal to:

- not carry a photo ID, such as a clear photocopy of your passport
- carry weapons of any type (including pocketknives and pepper spray)
- smoke in indoor public places. The penalty is a fine of up to 500 euros.
- engage in sexual conduct with a person aged under 15

- breach customs rules about the export of Greek antiquities

It's also illegal to take photos of:

- military installations
- military personnel
- places with signs banning photography

Drones

Recreational and commercial flying of drones is regulated. Drones must be registered for use across the European Union.

Non-compliance may lead to fines and drone confiscation.

More information:

- [Information for visitors concerning drones](#) - Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA)
- [Civil drones](#) - European

Australian laws

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognised in Greece.

Greek males aged 19 and above have military service obligations. You may have to do military service if you're a male Australian-Greek dual national. This can apply if you are of Greek descent and were born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you have Greek citizenship.

There are penalties if you don't comply, and you may be prevented from leaving Greece.

Get advice from the nearest Greek [embassy or consulate](#) before you travel if you:

- have Greek citizenship
- may be eligible for Greek citizenship

Local customs

Dress codes are relaxed in tourist areas and resorts. Dress modestly in places such as churches and religious buildings.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas.

Same-sex sexual activity is legal but isn't widely accepted.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ people](#)

Travel

Expand all

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases. Get an entry stamp in your passport from border control when you first enter the Schengen area.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice, and you'll need a visa in some situations. Contact the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

More information:

- [Visit Greece](#)
- [Embassy of Greece](#)

European Entry/Exit System (EES)

The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.

The EES is a digital border system that registers non-EU visitors travelling into the Schengen Area. When entering the Schengen Area, you'll need to have your fingerprints and photo taken. This creates a digital record that registers your biometric details. Passports will no longer be stamped.

You'll need to do this on your first visit to the EU after the EES is introduced. If you visit the Schengen Area again within 3 years of creating your digital record, you'll only need to provide either your fingerprint or photograph at the border on entry and exit.

This process should only take a few minutes per person, however you may experience longer queues at borders when the new system starts.

Other formalities

Recognition of nationality

If you were born in Greece, you might have problems entering if the place of birth stated on your Australian passport is no longer officially recognised by Greece.

Officials may deny entry, especially if you're entering Greece from the Republic of North Macedonia.

We can't intervene on your behalf if Greek officials refuse you entry to Greece.

Passport

Validity

Some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply the rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You can end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.

The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure it'll be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#).

Always carry your passport when crossing borders, even within the [Schengen area](#).

Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible:

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#).
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#).

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the nearest [embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#) before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The official currency of Greece is the Euro.

You must declare amounts over 10,000 euros or equivalent if you're travelling between Greece and any non-European Union (EU) country. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

You don't need to declare it if you're travelling to or from another EU country.

You'll be fined if you don't declare it or declare the wrong amount when entering or leaving Greece.

Greece has daily ATM withdrawal limits. However, they don't apply to most major foreign debit and credit cards.

If you have Greek citizenship, you can only take up to 10,000 euros when leaving Greece.

Local travel

Extension of stays

Extension of stays in Greece beyond the allowed 90 days isn't automatic. Requests for extension with the relevant local authority should be lodged at least 4 weeks before your visa-free period expires. Present your request to the office of the Greek police on aliens issues.

Driving permit

Australian driver's licences are officially recognised as valid for use in Greece. If you plan on driving in Greece, you may not need an International Driving Permit. Contact the [Greek Embassy or Consulate](#) for more information on your licence type.

Your licence must be valid for the type of vehicle you'll drive, including quad bikes, motorbikes, mopeds, motor scooters and other similar vehicles.

You could face a large fine if you don't have the correct licence. Your insurance won't cover you if you have an accident.

Road travel

Driving is hazardous due to aggressive driving and poor-quality roads and vehicles. During peak season, severe traffic congestion occurs in the main cities and on the islands.

Check your insurance covers car hire and using quad bikes, motorbikes or jet skis. Get advice on any gaps. Your insurance may have conditions such as holding the correct licence for vehicles. Make sure you're covered. Check what additional fees may apply for any damage to hire vehicles.

Driving while intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance is illegal. Insurers won't cover accidents when drivers are under the influence of alcohol.

Driving offences may also attract heavy penalties.

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)
- [Driving in Greece - European Commission](#)
- [Travel insurance](#)

Quad bikes and motorcycles

Quad bike and motorcycle accidents cause serious injuries and deaths every summer on the Greek islands. Operating or riding quad bikes and motorcycles while intoxicated is illegal.

Always wear a helmet. It's illegal not to wear one. It may also invalidate your travel insurance if you have an accident.

If you experience any issues with the bike's operation, it's recommended that you return it to the rental company as soon as possible.

Taxis

Only use licensed taxis. Always ensure the driver uses the meter. Be careful when using credit cards to pay fares. Ask for and check your receipt.

Pedestrians

Drivers and motorcyclists often ignore traffic signals and drive through red lights. They rarely give way to pedestrians, including at pedestrian crossings.

Be very careful when crossing the road, including at traffic light controlled intersections and pedestrian crossings.

Traffic police sometimes direct traffic at major intersections. If the traffic lights conflict with police directions, you must follow the directions of the traffic police.

Footpaths in Greece are very narrow and often blocked. They are often made of tiles or marble and become very slippery when wet.

Sea travel

Ferries and large catamarans carry most visitors to the Greek islands. However, some services don't provide suitable access for people with disabilities.

During the tourist season, from May to October, be prepared for high temperatures and large crowds at popular seaports.

Usually, there are only one or two brief announcements on ferries before arrival or departure.

In most cases, you'll need to carry your luggage up and down stairs. Help with luggage is usually unavailable unless you've booked a private cabin in advance.

Ferry services can be delayed or cancelled in bad weather, mainly due to strong winds. Check the forecast and reconfirm your departure with your travel provider if it looks like the weather may be a risk.

On some Greek islands, such as Santorini, smaller boats or tenders transport cruise ship passengers to and from shore. Passengers using tenders may have difficulty getting up and down stairs.

Arrange for a coach or taxi to collect you in advance, or you may find it difficult to get transport.

Make sure your insurance covers the following:

- any existing health condition
- your planned activities
- travel on ferry and cruise ships

Australian-flagged sailboats or yachts sailing in the Mediterranean may be subject to Greek and EU taxes and duties. Seek advice from the Hellenic Coast Guard or the nearest [embassy or consulate](#) of Greece before you travel. If you've been involved in a maritime accident, the Greek Coast Guard may request under its regulations to inspect your vessel to confirm it is seaworthy.

More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

Air travel

To find out about flight delays at Athens International Airport, check their [website](#) or phone (+30 210) 353 0000.

DFAT doesn't provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

Check [Greece's air safety profile](#) with the Aviation Safety Network.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Expand all

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

Medical emergencies

Call 112.

Police

Call 112.

For non-urgent criminal issues, contact local police at the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Tourist police

Are available 24/7 and can be contacted on 171.

The Tourist Police help with non-serious crimes and can provide police reports and certificates for theft of personal items and lost travel documents.

There are tourist police offices across Greece, including on major islands.

The main office is at 4 Dragatsaniou Street, Klafthmonos Square, in Central Athens and is open all year. Call (+30 210) 322 2230 or (+30 210) 322 2232.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

For consular help, contact:

Australian Embassy, Athens

5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street

Athens 115 28, Greece

Phone: (+30 210) 870 4000

Website: greece.embassy.gov.au

Facebook: [Australia in Greece](#)

X: [@AusAmbAthens](#)

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 11:19 AM
To: Travel Advice
Subject: RE: For approval - Greece tech update (date change) - Seismic activity update - 18 March 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) good to publish

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 11:00 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: For approval - Greece tech update (date change) - Seismic activity update - 18 March 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful for your review and approval of the tech update (date change) for Greece. Proposed update refers to the ongoing seismic activity (latest update. Safety overview and full advice).

https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/node/176/revisions/view/64033/64324/visual_inline

Cable reference: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Please find attached HOM approved track changes.

Many thanks in advance.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Travel Advice Section (TIN)

Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P +**s 22(1)(a)(ii)** | E **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)

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We [acknowledge](#) the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 10:47 AM
To: Travel Advice
Subject: RE: For approval - Greece tech update (date change) - ongoing SOE - 24 February 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) good to publish. Can we also adjust the home page text as well.

Cheers
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)
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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 8:14 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: For approval - Greece tech update (date change) - ongoing SOE - 24 February 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful for your review and approval of the tech update (date change) for Greece. Minor update refers to the ongoing State of Emergency (latest update, safety overview and full advice).

https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/node/176/revisions/view/63887/64020/visual_inline

Cable reference: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Please find attached HOM approved track changes.

Many thanks in advance.

Cheers.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Travel Advice
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 11:00 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: For approval - Greece tech update (date change) - Seismic activity update - 18 March 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Track Change - Greece (tech update) - 18 March 2025.docx; Cable - Proposed update - Greece (tech update) - 18 March 2025.docx

OFFICIAL

Dear ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Grateful for your review and approval of the tech update (date change) for Greece. Proposed update refers to the ongoing seismic activity (latest update. Safety overview and full advice).

https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/node/176/revisions/view/64033/64324/visual_inline

Cable reference: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Please find attached HOM approved track changes.

Many thanks in advance.

Cheers,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Greece

Latest update

Still current at: 18 March 2025

Updated: 18 March 2025

Latest update: Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences earthquakes and volcanic activity. In a seismic event, monitor the media and official websites for updates and follow the advice of local authorities (see 'Safety').



We advise:

Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.



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Advice levels

What does this mean? | >

Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#) in Greece.

Overview



Safety

- A state of emergency is in place for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. While the strength and frequency of earthquakes have subsided, the continued state of emergency allows Greek authorities to quickly mobilise resources in case of a strong earthquake. If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Petty crime and theft are serious issues in tourist areas and on buses and trains. Pickpocketing, bag snatching, and slashing luggage to steal belongings are common. Pay close attention to your belongings.
- Terrorist attacks have occurred at or near popular tourist areas in central Athens. Always be alert and take official warnings seriously.
- Strikes, protests and demonstrations take place regularly and can turn violent. Rioting can break out with little warning. Violent clashes have occurred between supporters of rival sporting teams. Avoid affected areas, monitor media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Be alert to the potential risks around food and drink spiking. Drink only at reputable venues.

[Full travel advice](#) Safety



Health

- Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. Drink plenty of water, wear light clothing, stay in air conditioning or shaded areas, and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Dust storms occur in Greece, particularly during Spring.
- Medications such as codeine are subject to special rules. Carry a prescription and a letter from your doctor.
- Measles is common in Greece. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- The standard of medical care varies. Public hospitals are short on medical supplies and provide limited nursing care. Family or friends usually provide care.

[Full travel advice](#) Health



Local laws

- Always carry an ID, such as a photocopy of your passport.
- It's illegal to take photos of military sites and personnel. It's also illegal to smoke indoors.
- You may have to do military service if you're a male dual national. If you're of Greek descent and born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you're a Greek citizen, get advice from the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#)  before you travel.
- Same-sex relationships are legal in Greece, though attitudes vary throughout the country. Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas. Attitudes are generally more accepting on Greek islands such as Mykonos, Santorini and Ios.

[Full travel advice](#) [Local laws](#)



Travel

- Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases.
- The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#)  for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.
- There may be long queues at border points when the new system starts. Allow plenty of time for transfers.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Greek embassy or Consulate](#)  for enquiries about your ability to enter Greece from your departure country.

[Full travel advice](#) [Travel](#)



Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy](#)  in Athens.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

[Full travel advice](#) [Local contacts](#)

Full advice

Safety

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crime is a serious issue in tourist areas, including Monastiraki and Syntagma Square in central Athens.

Theft, including pickpocketing, bag snatching and luggage slashing, is common on buses and trains to and from the Athens airport and on ferries to and from the Greek islands.

Organised groups of thieves often use distraction techniques, such as crowding and pushing at metro stop exits.

Tourists' belongings have been targeted at their short-term rental accommodation, with thefts of valuables and passports occurring while they are out.

To reduce the risk of theft:

- stay in physical contact with your belongings, particularly on public transport and on buses and trains to and from the airport
- be alert at tourist spots in central Athens and on the islands
- don't leave bags on the back of chairs or the floor in cafés or restaurants
- carry your day bag with one strap across your body and carry small backpacks at the front of your body
- if driving on holiday, keep your valuables with you, always lock your vehicle, and park in a well-lit area or a secure car park
- research your accommodation carefully and pay attention to your surroundings when checking in, particularly for self check-in accommodation.

Tourist scams

Tourist scams exist in Greece, including taxis, hotels, restaurants, and vehicle hire services. If you've been the victim of a scam, report your claims to the nearest Police station and be prepared to support your claim with evidence.

Under Greek law, all suppliers of goods and services must issue you a receipt.

Alcohol

The national legal age for buying and drinking alcohol is 18.

A standard drink can contain more alcohol than in Australia. This can apply to both the volume and strength of the alcohol. Be aware of how much you are consuming.

Consider the risks when drinking alcoholic beverages, particularly drinks made with spirits.

You can become seriously ill after drinking contaminated alcohol.

Labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

To stay safe:

- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks

If you suspect that you, or someone you're with, has been poisoned, get urgent medical attention. It could save you from permanent disability or death.

Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Physical and sexual assault

Serious [physical](#) and [sexual assaults](#) occur in Athens and on islands, including Mykonos, Santorini, Zakynthos and Ios. There's also a risk of [drink spiking](#) with the intention of sexual assault.

Racially motivated and homophobic attacks have occurred.

To protect yourself:

- don't walk alone in isolated areas at night, especially in the Athens suburb of Omonia and at the railway and bus stations of Larissa and Peloponissos
- save the location of your accommodation on the maps app on your phone for easy access
- keep an eye on your drink, and don't accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.
- create a shared communication chat with your fellow travellers to stay in touch if separated.

If you're a victim of sexual assault in Greece, it's your decision whether to report it to the police. In Greece, health professionals must notify the police when they have a patient who alleges they've been assaulted. Hospital staff may refuse to provide a full medical examination without a document from the police confirming you've reported the crime.

There have been instances where an alleged abuser has laid defamation charges against their accuser and/or their family members at the same time. This can result in the accuser being arrested.

If the case goes to trial, there's an expectation that the victim attend court in person to testify, regardless of whether they live in another country.

Before you travel, read our guidance on [reducing the risk of sexual assault](#). We also have an [advice page](#) on what to do immediately after a sexual assault, reporting a sexual assault overseas, and available counselling.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Terrorism

Terrorism occurs in Europe. Targets across Europe have included:

- public transport
- transport hubs
- public places popular with tourists

European security services have disrupted some planned attacks in recent years.

Radical groups have staged attacks, mainly in Athens. Attackers have previously used bombs or guns. People have been injured but rarely killed. Substantial damage to buildings and vehicles can occur.

Terrorist targets have included:

- government institutions
- former government ministers
- the offices of members of parliament
- foreign diplomatic missions
- the police

Terrorists haven't targeted tourists. But some attacks have happened near popular tourist areas in central Athens, such as Syntagma Square.

To protect yourself from terrorism:

- be alert to possible threats, especially in public places
- take care around areas terrorists tend to target
- monitor the media for new threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

Report suspicious activity or items to the police.

If there's an attack, leave the area as soon as it's safe. Avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

Public protests, strikes, demonstrations and events that draw large groups of people occur regularly and often with little notice, mainly in central Athens around Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Exarchia. They can also occur in other major cities, including Thessaloniki around Aristotelous Square, Egnatia Street, the Arch of Galerius and the campus of Aristotle University. Protesters and police could clash. Sometimes petrol bombs and fireworks are thrown by protesters, and police deploy tear gas, water cannons and flash bangs.

Protests also occur on days of national or commemorative significance, including:

- 28 February - the anniversary of the 2023 Tempe rail disaster
- 1 May — Labour Day
- 17 November — the anniversary of the 1973 student riots
- 6 December — the anniversary of the 2008 riots

Violent clashes can occur between supporters of rival sporting teams. Molotov cocktails and stones have been thrown, and people have been killed.

To protect yourself during periods of unrest:

- avoid public protests
- monitor local media for possible unrest or strikes
- keep a low profile
- plan to avoid areas known for unrest on days of national significance
- change your travel plans if disruptions arise
- follow the advice of local authorities

Protests and strikes can disrupt taxi and ferry services and public transport. There may also be road closures. Monitor the media for news on protests or strikes that may impact your travel plans. Plan extra time for movements and be ready to change your travel plans if necessary.

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Water activities

Lifeguards operate at many Greek beaches from June to September. Riptides can lead to dangerous conditions at times. Check the local weather conditions before heading to the beach.

Be aware of and follow warning flags and signs. Most drownings occur on beaches without a lifeguard or outside of lifeguard hours.

Coral, urchins and jellyfish live in the waters off Greece. Always take care when entering the water and seek medical assistance if needed.

Climate and natural disasters

Greece experiences [natural disasters](#) and [severe weather](#).

A state of emergency has been in place for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos, and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea since February 2025. While seismic activity has declined, the risk of stronger tremors remains. The state of emergency allows Greek authorities to mobilise resources in case of a strong earthquake.

If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

More information:

- [Earthquakes and tsunamis](#)
- [Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection announcements](#) 

Information on national disaster incidents and severe weather is posted by local authorities and @112Greece on social media. Alert messages may be sent by local authorities to mobile numbers advising of critical incidents. Alerts are posted in Greek and sometimes in English. For updated information on natural disasters, see [civilprotection.gov.gr](#) .

Fires

Wildfires occur during the extended summer period, from June to September. Fires can start close to cities and tourist locations with little warning and travel quickly. Fatalities have occurred. Avoid affected areas.

Expect travel disruptions if you're due to travel to an area that might be affected by wildfires. Monitor the media and contact your travel provider for the latest updates. The air quality during these periods may deteriorate due to heavy smoke. Forest fires are highly dangerous and unpredictable.

More information:

- [Floods and fires](#)
- [There's a bushfire](#)

Flooding

Heavy rainfall can lead to flooding in some regions, with road closures and interruptions to power and other services. Seek shelter, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Earthquakes and volcanoes

Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences [earthquakes](#) and [volcanic activity](#).

Get updates from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) [↗](#).

Natural disasters

If a natural disaster or severe weather happens:

- monitor local media and other sources
- keep informed about possible safety risks
- follow the advice of local authorities

Health

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away.

Physical and mental health

Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#) [↗](#) to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#)  (Healthdirect Australia)

Medications

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Greece. Take enough legal medicine for your trip in its original packaging. The name on the prescription should match the name on your passport.

Carry a copy of your prescription and a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

Codeine and other prescription opiates can only be issued with a prescription from an accredited Greek medical professional.

For more information, contact the Greek National Organization of Medicines:

- By telephone: 0030 213 2040 395 / 285 / 225 / 000
- By email: clearance@eof.gr / relation@eof.gr

More information:

- [Medication](#)
- [Australian Embassy in Athens](#) 

Health risks

Heatwaves

Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. They can cause heat exhaustion, heat stroke and death. Drink water, wear a hat and light clothing and stay in air-conditioned buildings or shaded areas.

Many major tourist sites have little shade. At peak tourist periods, queues at major attractions can involve waiting over an hour in the sun. Plan your visit to these sites, keep an eye on the weather forecast, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Avoid hiking during heatwaves. If you do head out on a hike, don't go alone. Be sure to check the weather, plan your route, pack water, sunscreen and your phone, and tell someone where you're going and when you plan to be back.

Dust storms

Storms of dust from the Sahara Desert are increasing in frequency across Greece, particularly during Spring, worsening the air quality and reducing sunlight and visibility. If you have respiratory conditions, you should limit outdoor activities and consider wearing masks outside until the skies clear.

Measles

Greece is experiencing an increase in [Measles](#)  cases.

Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

More information:

- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Outbreaks 2019](#) 
- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Immunisation Service](#) 

Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#)  are increasing in Greece. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)
- [National Public Health Organisation in Greece](#) 

Foodborne diseases

Outbreaks of foodborne diseases, including [brucellosis](#) , sometimes happen.

To protect yourself from illness, avoid:

- uncooked and under-cooked food
- unpasteurised dairy products

See a doctor immediately if you suspect food poisoning or have a fever or diarrhoea.

Medical care

Services provided by hospitals and medical centres aren't free, and payment is required before you leave the facility. Sometimes, the medical provider may ask you for payment before you receive treatment.

The standard of medical facilities and care vary in quality. Public hospitals in Greece are below the standard in Australia. Considerable delays may be encountered with non-urgent surgeries and other medical treatments at public hospitals.

Public hospitals can have shortages of medical supplies, including essential medication. They also have limited nursing care. You may be asked to pay a fee for medical treatment at a hospital or medical centre. Friends and relatives are usually required to give or pay for around-the-clock care, including for tasks like helping you eat, wash and use the toilet.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need evacuation. This is more likely if you're in a remote area or on a Greek island. You might be moved to Athens or another place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Public ambulances can be slow to respond to emergencies and vary in quality. Private hospitals operate their own ambulances and provide better quality service.

Private hospital costs are high.

Local laws

Local law

You're subject to local laws and penalties, including those that appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling, especially for an extended stay.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Breaking the law can lead to severe penalties, large fines and jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug possession, use or trafficking, even small amounts, include heavy fines and prison sentences.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Surrogacy

Commercial surrogacy is illegal in Greece.

More information:

- [Going overseas for international surrogacy](#)
- [Surrogacy in Greece](#) 

Other laws

In Greece, it's illegal to:

- not carry a photo ID, such as a clear photocopy of your passport
- carry weapons of any type (including pocketknives and pepper spray)
- smoke in indoor public places. The penalty is a fine of up to 500 euros.
- engage in sexual conduct with a person aged under 15
- breach customs rules about the export of Greek antiquities

It's also illegal to take photos of:

- military installations
- military personnel
- places with signs banning photography

Drones

Recreational and commercial flying of drones is regulated. Drones must be registered for use across the European Union.

Non-compliance may lead to fines and drone confiscation.

More information:

- [Information for visitors concerning drones](#)  - Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA)
- [Civil drones](#)  - European

Australian laws

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognised in Greece.

Greek males aged 19 and above have military service obligations. You may have to do military service if you're a male Australian-Greek dual national. This can apply if you are of Greek descent and were born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you have Greek citizenship.

There are penalties if you don't comply, and you may be prevented from leaving Greece.

Get advice from the nearest Greek [embassy or consulate](#)  before you travel if you:

- have Greek citizenship
- may be eligible for Greek citizenship

Local customs

Dress codes are relaxed in tourist areas and resorts. Dress modestly in places such as churches and religious buildings.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas.

Same-sex sexual activity is legal but isn't widely accepted.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ people](#)

Travel

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases. Get an entry stamp in your passport from border control when you first enter the Schengen area.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice, and you'll need a visa in some situations. Contact the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) [🔗](#) for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

More information:

- [Visit Greece](#) [🔗](#)
- [Embassy of Greece](#) [🔗](#)

European Entry/Exit System (EES)

The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) [🔗](#) for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.

The EES is a digital border system that registers non-EU visitors travelling into the Schengen Area. When entering the Schengen Area, you'll need to have your fingerprints and photo taken. This creates a digital record that registers your biometric details. Passports will no longer be stamped.

You'll need to do this on your first visit to the EU after the EES is introduced. If you visit the Schengen Area again within 3 years of creating your digital record, you'll only need to provide either your fingerprint or photograph at the border on entry and exit.

This process should only take a few minutes per person, however you may experience longer queues at borders when the new system starts.

Other formalities

Recognition of nationality

If you were born in Greece, you might have problems entering if the place of birth stated on your Australian passport is no longer officially recognised by Greece.

Officials may deny entry, especially if you're entering Greece from the Republic of North Macedonia.

We can't intervene on your behalf if Greek officials refuse you entry to Greece.

Passport

Validity

Some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply the rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You can end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.

The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure it'll be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#) .

Always carry your passport when crossing borders, even within the [Schengen area](#).

Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible:

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the nearest [embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#)  before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The official currency of Greece is the Euro.

You must declare amounts over 10,000 euros or equivalent if you're travelling between Greece and any non-European Union (EU) country. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

You don't need to declare it if you're travelling to or from another EU country.

You'll be fined if you don't declare it or declare the wrong amount when entering or leaving Greece.

Greece has daily ATM withdrawal limits. However, they don't apply to most major foreign debit and credit cards.

If you have Greek citizenship, you can only take up to 10,000 euros when leaving Greece.

Local travel

Extension of stays

Extension of stays in Greece beyond the allowed 90 days isn't automatic. Requests for extension with the relevant local authority should be lodged at least 4 weeks before your visa-free period expires. Present your request to the office of the Greek police on aliens issues.

Driving permit

Australian driver's licences are officially recognised as valid for use in Greece. If you plan on driving in Greece, you may not need an International Driving Permit. Contact the [Greek Embassy or Consulate](#)  for more information on your licence type.

Your licence must be valid for the type of vehicle you'll drive, including quad bikes, motorbikes, mopeds, motor scooters and other similar vehicles.

You could face a large fine if you don't have the correct licence. Your insurance won't cover you if you have an accident.

Road travel

Driving is hazardous due to aggressive driving and poor-quality roads and vehicles. During peak season, severe traffic congestion occurs in the main cities and on the islands.

Check your insurance covers car hire and using quad bikes, motorbikes or jet skis. Get advice on any gaps. Your insurance may have conditions such as holding the correct licence for vehicles. Make sure you're covered. Check what additional fees may apply for any damage to hire vehicles.

Driving while intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance is illegal. Insurers won't cover accidents when drivers are under the influence of alcohol.

Driving offences may also attract heavy penalties.

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)
- [Driving in Greece - European Commission](#) 
- [Travel insurance](#)

Quad bikes and motorcycles

Quad bike and motorcycle accidents cause serious injuries and deaths every summer on the Greek islands. Operating or riding quad bikes and motorcycles while intoxicated is illegal.

Always wear a helmet. It's illegal not to wear one. It may also invalidate your travel insurance if you have an accident.

If you experience any issues with the bike's operation, it's recommended that you return it to the rental company as soon as possible.

Taxis

Only use licensed taxis. Always ensure the driver uses the meter. Be careful when using credit cards to pay fares. Ask for and check your receipt.

Pedestrians

Drivers and motorcyclists often ignore traffic signals and drive through red lights. They rarely give way to pedestrians, including at pedestrian crossings.

Be very careful when crossing the road, including at traffic light controlled intersections and pedestrian crossings.

Traffic police sometimes direct traffic at major intersections. If the traffic lights conflict with police directions, you must follow the directions of the traffic police.

Footpaths in Greece are very narrow and often blocked. They are often made of tiles or marble and become very slippery when wet.

Sea travel

Ferries and large catamarans carry most visitors to the Greek islands. However, some services don't provide suitable access for people with disabilities.

During the tourist season, from May to October, be prepared for high temperatures and large crowds at popular seaports.

Usually, there are only one or two brief announcements on ferries before arrival or departure.

In most cases, you'll need to carry your luggage up and down stairs. Help with luggage is usually unavailable unless you've booked a private cabin in advance.

Ferry services can be delayed or cancelled in bad weather, mainly due to strong winds. Check the forecast and reconfirm your departure with your travel provider if it looks like the weather may be a risk.

On some Greek islands, such as Santorini, smaller boats or tenders transport cruise ship passengers to and from shore. Passengers using tenders may have difficulty getting up and down stairs.

Arrange for a coach or taxi to collect you in advance, or you may find it difficult to get transport.

Make sure your insurance covers the following:

- any existing health condition
- your planned activities
- travel on ferry and cruise ships

Australian-flagged sailboats or yachts sailing in the Mediterranean may be subject to Greek and EU taxes and duties. Seek advice from the Hellenic Coast Guard or the nearest [embassy or consulate](#)   of Greece before you travel. If you've been involved in a maritime accident, the Greek Coast Guard may request under its regulations to inspect your vessel to confirm it is seaworthy.

More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

Air travel

To find out about flight delays at Athens International Airport, check their [website](#)  or phone (+30 210) 353 0000.

DFAT doesn't provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

Check [Greece's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

Medical emergencies

Call 112.

Police

Call 112.

For non-urgent criminal issues, contact local police at the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Tourist police

Are available 24/7 and can be contacted on 171.

The Tourist Police help with non-serious crimes and can provide police reports and certificates for theft of personal items and lost travel documents.

There are tourist police offices across Greece, including on major islands.

The main office is at 4 Dragatsaniou Street, Klafthmonos Square, in Central Athens and is open all year. Call (+30 210) 322 2230 or (+30 210) 322 2232.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

For consular help, contact:

Australian Embassy, Athens

5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street

Athens 115 28, Greece

Phone: (+30 210) 870 4000

Website: greece.embassy.gov.au 

Facebook: [Australia in Greece](#) 

X: [@AusAmbAthens](#) 

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Greece

Latest update

Still current at: 24 February 2025

Updated: 24 February 2025

Latest update: Greek authorities have declared a state of emergency for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities (see 'Safety').



We advise:

Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.



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Advice levels

What does this mean? | >

Exercise normal safety precautions in Greece.

[Exercise normal safety precautions](#) in Greece.

Overview



Safety

- A state of emergency has been declared for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed. If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Petty crime and theft are serious issues in tourist areas and on buses and trains. Pickpocketing, bag snatching, and slashing luggage to steal belongings are common. Pay close attention to your belongings.

- Terrorist attacks have occurred at or near popular tourist areas in central Athens. Always be alert and take official warnings seriously.
- Strikes, protests and demonstrations take place regularly and can turn violent. Rioting can break out with little warning. Violent clashes have occurred between supporters of rival sporting teams. Avoid affected areas, monitor media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Be alert to the potential risks around food and drink spiking. Drink only at reputable venues.

[Full travel advice](#) [Safety](#)



Health

- Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. Drink plenty of water, wear light clothing, stay in air conditioning or shaded areas, and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Dust storms occur in Greece, particularly during Spring.
- Medications such as codeine are subject to special rules. Carry a prescription and a letter from your doctor.
- Measles is common in Greece. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- The standard of medical care varies. Public hospitals are short on medical supplies and provide limited nursing care. Family or friends usually provide care.

[Full travel advice](#) [Health](#)



Local laws

- Always carry an ID, such as a photocopy of your passport.
- It's illegal to take photos of military sites and personnel. It's also illegal to smoke indoors.
- You may have to do military service if you're a male dual national. If you're of Greek descent and born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you're a Greek citizen, get advice from the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#) [📄](#) before you travel.
- Same-sex relationships are legal in Greece, though attitudes vary throughout the country. Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas. Attitudes are generally more accepting on Greek islands such as Mykonos, Santorini and Ios.

[Full travel advice](#) [Local laws](#)



Travel

- Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases.

- The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#)  for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.
- There may be long queues at border points when the new system starts. Allow plenty of time for transfers.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Greek embassy or Consulate](#)  for enquiries about your ability to enter Greece from your departure country.

[Full travel advice](#) [Travel](#)



Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy](#)  in Athens.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

[Full travel advice](#) [Local contacts](#)

Full advice

Safety

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crime is a serious issue in tourist areas, including Monastiraki and Syntagma Square in central Athens.

Theft, including pickpocketing, bag snatching and luggage slashing, is common on buses and trains to and from the Athens airport and on ferries to and from the Greek islands.

Organised groups of thieves often use distraction techniques, such as crowding and pushing at metro stop exits.

Tourists' belongings have been targeted at their short-term rental accommodation, with thefts of valuables and passports occurring while they are out.

To reduce the risk of theft:

- stay in physical contact with your belongings, particularly on public transport and on buses and trains to and from the airport
- be alert at tourist spots in central Athens and on the islands
- don't leave bags on the back of chairs or the floor in cafés or restaurants
- carry your day bag with one strap across your body and carry small backpacks at the front of your body

- if driving on holiday, keep your valuables with you, always lock your vehicle, and park in a well-lit area or a secure car park
- research your accommodation carefully and pay attention to your surroundings when checking in, particularly for self check-in accommodation.

Tourist scams

Tourist scams exist in Greece, including taxis, hotels, restaurants, and vehicle hire services. If you've been the victim of a scam, report your claims to the nearest Police station and be prepared to support your claim with evidence.

Under Greek law, all suppliers of goods and services must issue you a receipt.

Alcohol

The national legal age for buying and drinking alcohol is 18.

A standard drink can contain more alcohol than in Australia. This can apply to both the volume and strength of the alcohol. Be aware of how much you are consuming.

Consider the risks when drinking alcoholic beverages, particularly drinks made with spirits.

You can become seriously ill after drinking contaminated alcohol.

Labels on bottles aren't always accurate.

To stay safe:

- drink only at reputable licensed premises
- avoid home-made alcoholic drinks

If you suspect that you, or someone you're with, has been poisoned, get urgent medical attention. It could save you from permanent disability or death.

Report suspected cases of methanol poisoning to the police.

More information:

- [Partying safely](#)

Physical and sexual assault

Serious [physical](#) and [sexual assaults](#) occur in Athens and on islands, including Mykonos, Santorini, Zakynthos and Ios. There's also a risk of [drink spiking](#) with the intention of sexual assault.

Racially motivated and homophobic attacks have occurred.

To protect yourself:

- don't walk alone in isolated areas at night, especially in the Athens suburb of Omonia and at the railway and bus stations of Larissa and Peloponissos
- save the location of your accommodation on the maps app on your phone for easy access
- keep an eye on your drink, and don't accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.
- create a shared communication chat with your fellow travellers to stay in touch if separated.

If you're a victim of sexual assault in Greece, it's your decision whether to report it to the police. In Greece, health professionals must notify the police when they have a patient who alleges they've been assaulted. Hospital staff may refuse to provide a full medical examination without a document from the police confirming you've reported the crime.

There have been instances where an alleged abuser has laid defamation charges against their accuser and/or their family members at the same time. This can result in the accuser being arrested.

If the case goes to trial, there's an expectation that the victim attend court in person to testify, regardless of whether they live in another country.

Before you travel, read our guidance on [reducing the risk of sexual assault](#). We also have an [advice page](#) on what to do immediately after a sexual assault, reporting a sexual assault overseas, and available counselling.

More information:

- [Partying safety](#)

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Terrorism

Terrorism occurs in Europe. Targets across Europe have included:

- public transport
- transport hubs
- public places popular with tourists

European security services have disrupted some planned attacks in recent years.

Radical groups have staged attacks, mainly in Athens. Attackers have previously used bombs or guns. People have been injured but rarely killed. Substantial damage to buildings and vehicles can occur.

Terrorist targets have included:

- government institutions
- former government ministers
- the offices of members of parliament
- foreign diplomatic missions
- the police

Terrorists haven't targeted tourists. But some attacks have happened near popular tourist areas in central Athens, such as Syntagma Square.

To protect yourself from terrorism:

- be alert to possible threats, especially in public places
- take care around areas terrorists tend to target
- monitor the media for new threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

Report suspicious activity or items to the police.

If there's an attack, leave the area as soon as it's safe. Avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

Public protests, strikes, demonstrations and events that draw large groups of people occur regularly and often with little notice, mainly in central Athens around Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Exarchia. They can also occur in other major cities, including Thessaloniki around Aristotelous Square, Egnatia Street, the Arch of Galerius and the campus of Aristotle University. Protesters and police could clash. Sometimes petrol bombs and fireworks are thrown by protesters, and police deploy tear gas.

Protests also occur on days of national or commemorative significance, including:

- 1 May — Labour Day
- 17 November — the anniversary of the 1973 student riots
- 6 December — the anniversary of the 2008 riots

Violent clashes can occur between supporters of rival sporting teams. Molotov cocktails and stones have been thrown, and people have been killed.

To protect yourself during periods of unrest:

- avoid public protests
- monitor local media for possible unrest or strikes
- keep a low profile
- plan to avoid areas known for unrest on days of national significance
- change your travel plans if disruptions arise
- follow the advice of local authorities

Protests and strikes can disrupt taxi and ferry services and public transport. There may also be road closures. Monitor the media for news on protests or strikes that may impact your travel plans. Plan extra time for movements and be ready to change your travel plans if necessary.

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Water activities

Lifeguards operate at many Greek beaches from June to September. Riptides can lead to dangerous conditions at times. Check the local weather conditions before heading to the beach.

Be aware of and follow warning flags and signs. Most drownings occur on beaches without a lifeguard or outside of lifeguard hours.

Coral, urchins and jellyfish live in the waters off Greece. Always take care when entering the water and seek medical assistance if needed.

Climate and natural disasters

Greece experiences [natural disasters](#) and [severe weather](#).

A state of emergency has been declared for the islands of Santorini, Ios, Amorgos and Anafi following a series of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea. Authorities are on alert, and additional emergency management personnel have been deployed.

If you're in the area, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

More information:

- [Earthquakes and tsunamis](#)
- [Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection announcements](#) 

Information on national disaster incidents and severe weather is posted by local authorities and @112Greece on social media. Alert messages may be sent by local authorities to mobile numbers advising of critical incidents. Alerts are posted in Greek and sometimes in English. For updated information on natural disasters, see civilprotection.gov.gr .

Fires

Wildfires occur during the extended summer period, from June to September. Fires can start close to cities and tourist locations with little warning and travel quickly. Fatalities have occurred. Avoid affected areas.

Expect travel disruptions if you're due to travel to an area that might be affected by wildfires. Monitor the media and contact your travel provider for the latest updates. The air quality during these periods may deteriorate due to heavy smoke. Forest fires are highly dangerous and unpredictable.

More information:

- [Floods and fires](#)
- [There's a bushfire](#)

Flooding

Heavy rainfall can lead to flooding in some regions, with road closures and interruptions to power and other services. Seek shelter, monitor the media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Earthquakes and volcanoes

Greece is in an active seismic zone and experiences [earthquakes](#) and [volcanic activity](#).

Get updates from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) .

Natural disasters

If a natural disaster or severe weather happens:

- monitor local media and other sources
- keep informed about possible safety risks
- follow the advice of local authorities

Health

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away.

Physical and mental health

Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#)  to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#)  (Healthdirect Australia)

Medications

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Greece. Take enough legal medicine for your trip in its original packaging. The name on the prescription should match the name on your passport.

Carry a copy of your prescription and a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

Codeine and other prescription opiates can only be issued with a prescription from an accredited Greek medical professional.

For more information, contact the Greek National Organization of Medicines:

- By telephone: 0030 213 2040 395 / 285 / 225 / 000
- By email: clearance@eof.gr / relation@eof.gr

More information:

- [Medication](#)
- [Australian Embassy in Athens](#) 

Health risks

Heatwaves

Heatwaves are becoming more frequent over the summer months. They can cause heat exhaustion, heat stroke and death. Drink water, wear a hat and light clothing and stay in air-conditioned buildings or shaded areas.

Many major tourist sites have little shade. At peak tourist periods, queues at major attractions can involve waiting over an hour in the sun. Plan your visit to these sites, keep an eye on the weather forecast, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Avoid hiking during heatwaves. If you do head out on a hike, don't go alone. Be sure to check the weather, plan your route, pack water, sunscreen and your phone, and tell someone where you're going and when you plan to be back.

Dust storms

Storms of dust from the Sahara Desert are increasing in frequency across Greece, particularly during Spring, worsening the air quality and reducing sunlight and visibility. If you have respiratory conditions, you should limit outdoor activities and consider wearing masks outside until the skies clear.

Measles

Greece is experiencing an increase in [Measles](#)  cases.

Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

More information:

- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Outbreaks 2019](#) 
- [Department of Health and Aged Care Measles Immunisation Service](#) 

Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#)  are increasing in Greece. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)
- [National Public Health Organisation in Greece](#) 

Foodborne diseases

Outbreaks of foodborne diseases, including [brucellosis](#) , sometimes happen.

To protect yourself from illness, avoid:

- uncooked and under-cooked food
- unpasteurised dairy products

See a doctor immediately if you suspect food poisoning or have a fever or diarrhoea.

Medical care

Services provided by hospitals and medical centres aren't free, and payment is required before you leave the facility. Sometimes, the medical provider may ask you for payment before you receive treatment.

The standard of medical facilities and care vary in quality. Public hospitals in Greece are below the standard in Australia. Considerable delays may be encountered with non-urgent surgeries and other medical treatments at public hospitals.

Public hospitals can have shortages of medical supplies, including essential medication. They also have limited nursing care. You may be asked to pay a fee for medical treatment at a hospital or medical centre. Friends and relatives are usually required to give or pay for around-the-clock care, including for tasks like helping you eat, wash and use the toilet.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need evacuation. This is more likely if you're in a remote area or on a Greek island. You might be moved to Athens or another place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Public ambulances can be slow to respond to emergencies and vary in quality. Private hospitals operate their own ambulances and provide better quality service.

Private hospital costs are high.

Local laws

Local law

You're subject to local laws and penalties, including those that appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling, especially for an extended stay.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Breaking the law can lead to severe penalties, large fines and jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug possession, use or trafficking, even small amounts, include heavy fines and prison sentences.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Surrogacy

Commercial surrogacy is illegal in Greece.

More information:

- [Going overseas for international surrogacy](#)
- [Surrogacy in Greece](#) 

Other laws

In Greece, it's illegal to:

- not carry a photo ID, such as a clear photocopy of your passport
- carry weapons of any type (including pocketknives and pepper spray)
- smoke in indoor public places. The penalty is a fine of up to 500 euros.
- engage in sexual conduct with a person aged under 15
- breach customs rules about the export of Greek antiquities

It's also illegal to take photos of:

- military installations
- military personnel
- places with signs banning photography

Drones

Recreational and commercial flying of drones is regulated. Drones must be registered for use across the European Union.

Non-compliance may lead to fines and drone confiscation.

More information:

- [Information for visitors concerning drones](#)  - Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA)
- [Civil drones](#)  - European

Australian laws

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognised in Greece.

Greek males aged 19 and above have military service obligations. You may have to do military service if you're a male Australian-Greek dual national. This can apply if you are of Greek descent and were born outside of Greece, even if you don't think you have Greek citizenship.

There are penalties if you don't comply, and you may be prevented from leaving Greece.

Get advice from the nearest Greek [embassy or consulate](#)  before you travel if you:

- have Greek citizenship
- may be eligible for Greek citizenship

Local customs

Dress codes are relaxed in tourist areas and resorts. Dress modestly in places such as churches and religious buildings.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid public displays of affection, especially in rural areas.

Same-sex sexual activity is legal but isn't widely accepted.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ people](#)

Travel

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Greece is a part of the [Schengen area](#). This allows you to enter without a visa in some cases. Get an entry stamp in your passport from border control when you first enter the Schengen area.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice, and you'll need a visa in some situations. Contact the nearest Greek [Embassy or Consulate](#)  for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

More information:

- [Visit Greece](#) 
- [Embassy of Greece](#) 

European Entry/Exit System (EES)

The new [European Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#)  for all non-EU nationals, including Australians, travelling in or out of the Schengen Area will be implemented in 2025. A specific start date hasn't been announced.

The EES is a digital border system that registers non-EU visitors travelling into the Schengen Area. When entering the Schengen Area, you'll need to have your fingerprints and photo taken. This creates a digital record that registers your biometric details. Passports will no longer be stamped.

You'll need to do this on your first visit to the EU after the EES is introduced. If you visit the Schengen Area again within 3 years of creating your digital record, you'll only need to provide either your fingerprint or photograph at the border on entry and exit.

This process should only take a few minutes per person, however you may experience longer queues at borders when the new system starts.

Other formalities

Recognition of nationality

If you were born in Greece, you might have problems entering if the place of birth stated on your Australian passport is no longer officially recognised by Greece.

Officials may deny entry, especially if you're entering Greece from the Republic of North Macedonia.

We can't intervene on your behalf if Greek officials refuse you entry to Greece.

Passport

Validity

Some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply the rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You can end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.

The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure it'll be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#) .

Always carry your passport when crossing borders, even within the [Schengen area](#).

Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible:

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the nearest [embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#)  before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The official currency of Greece is the Euro.

You must declare amounts over 10,000 euros or equivalent if you're travelling between Greece and any non-European Union (EU) country. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

You don't need to declare it if you're travelling to or from another EU country.

You'll be fined if you don't declare it or declare the wrong amount when entering or leaving Greece.

Greece has daily ATM withdrawal limits. However, they don't apply to most major foreign debit and credit cards.

If you have Greek citizenship, you can only take up to 10,000 euros when leaving Greece.

Local travel

Extension of stays

Extension of stays in Greece beyond the allowed 90 days isn't automatic. Requests for extension with the relevant local authority should be lodged at least 4 weeks before your visa-free period expires. Present your request to the office of the Greek police on aliens issues.

Driving permit

Australian driver's licences are officially recognised as valid for use in Greece. If you plan on driving in Greece, you may not need an International Driving Permit. Contact the [Greek Embassy or Consulate](#)  for more information on your licence type.

Your licence must be valid for the type of vehicle you'll drive, including quad bikes, motorbikes, mopeds, motor scooters and other similar vehicles.

You could face a large fine if you don't have the correct licence. Your insurance won't cover you if you have an accident.

Road travel

Driving is hazardous due to aggressive driving and poor-quality roads and vehicles. During peak season, severe traffic congestion occurs in the main cities and on the islands.

Check your insurance covers car hire and using quad bikes, motorbikes or jet skis. Get advice on any gaps. Your insurance may have conditions such as holding the correct licence for vehicles. Make sure you're covered. Check what additional fees may apply for any damage to hire vehicles.

Driving while intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal substance is illegal. Insurers won't cover accidents when drivers are under the influence of alcohol.

Driving offences may also attract heavy penalties.

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)
- [Driving in Greece - European Commission](#) 
- [Travel insurance](#)

Quad bikes and motorcycles

Quad bike and motorcycle accidents cause serious injuries and deaths every summer on the Greek islands. Operating or riding quad bikes and motorcycles while intoxicated is illegal.

Always wear a helmet. It's illegal not to wear one. It may also invalidate your travel insurance if you have an accident.

If you experience any issues with the bike's operation, it's recommended that you return it to the rental company as soon as possible.

Taxis

Only use licensed taxis. Always ensure the driver uses the meter. Be careful when using credit cards to pay fares. Ask for and check your receipt.

Pedestrians

Drivers and motorcyclists often ignore traffic signals and drive through red lights. They rarely give way to pedestrians, including at pedestrian crossings.

Be very careful when crossing the road, including at traffic light controlled intersections and pedestrian crossings.

Traffic police sometimes direct traffic at major intersections. If the traffic lights conflict with police directions, you must follow the directions of the traffic police.

Footpaths in Greece are very narrow and often blocked. They are often made of tiles or marble and become very slippery when wet.

Sea travel

Ferries and large catamarans carry most visitors to the Greek islands. However, some services don't provide suitable access for people with disabilities.

During the tourist season, from May to October, be prepared for high temperatures and large crowds at popular seaports.

Usually, there are only one or two brief announcements on ferries before arrival or departure.

In most cases, you'll need to carry your luggage up and down stairs. Help with luggage is usually unavailable unless you've booked a private cabin in advance.

Ferry services can be delayed or cancelled in bad weather, mainly due to strong winds. Check the forecast and reconfirm your departure with your travel provider if it looks like the weather may be a risk.

On some Greek islands, such as Santorini, smaller boats or tenders transport cruise ship passengers to and from shore. Passengers using tenders may have difficulty getting up and down stairs.

Arrange for a coach or taxi to collect you in advance, or you may find it difficult to get transport.

Make sure your insurance covers the following:

- any existing health condition
- your planned activities
- travel on ferry and cruise ships

Australian-flagged sailboats or yachts sailing in the Mediterranean may be subject to Greek and EU taxes and duties. Seek advice from the Hellenic Coast Guard or the nearest [embassy or consulate](#)   of Greece before you travel. If you've been involved in a maritime accident, the Greek Coast Guard may request under its regulations to inspect your vessel to confirm it is seaworthy.

More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

Air travel

To find out about flight delays at Athens International Airport, check their [website](#)  or phone (+30 210) 353 0000.

DFAT doesn't provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

Check [Greece's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

Medical emergencies

Call 112.

Police

Call 112.

For non-urgent criminal issues, contact local police at the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Tourist police

Are available 24/7 and can be contacted on 171.

The Tourist Police help with non-serious crimes and can provide police reports and certificates for theft of personal items and lost travel documents.

There are tourist police offices across Greece, including on major islands.

The main office is at 4 Dragatsaniou Street, Klafthmonos Square, in Central Athens and is open all year. Call (+30 210) 322 2230 or (+30 210) 322 2232.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

For consular help, contact:

Australian Embassy, Athens

5 Hatziyianni Mexi Street

Athens 115 28, Greece

Phone: (+30 210) 870 4000

Website: greece.embassy.gov.au 

Facebook: [Australia in Greece](#) 

X: [@AusAmbAthens](#) 

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade