



Greece and the South Aegean Region

Where is Greece?

- Greece is a country in south-eastern Europe.
- It borders a number of countries, including Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria and Macedonia.
- It also has a large coastline in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Greece covers an area of 131,957 sq. km. It is the 15th largest European country by area.
- About 10.8 million people live in Greece. The capital city is Athens.
- Greece has around 6,000 islands, although only 227 of these are inhabited.

Comparison with the UK

- Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe and Greece in southern Europe.
- Due to its more southerly position (closer to the equator) Greece is warmer than the UK. On average, Athens is 9 degrees hotter than London.
- Greece is smaller than the UK.
- Significantly more people live in the UK – 66 million compared to 10.8 million.
- London has a much larger population than Athens: 8.4 million compared to 3.1 million.
- Greece has higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Olympus is 2,917m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis at 1,345m.
- Greece is made up of more islands than the UK.

Greece has a long and rich history and a culture which has developed over thousands of years from the time of the Ancient Greeks. Its warm climate also makes it a popular holiday destination for people across the world.

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| <p>Population</p> |  | <p>The population of Greece is around 10.8 million people. This makes it the fourteenth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 82 people per square kilometre. This is the 30th highest population density in Europe.</p> |
| <p>Settlements</p> |  | <p>The most populous and capital city of Greece is Athens. It has a population of over 3 million people. Most settlements were founded around the coast as Greeks were historically seafaring people.</p> |
| <p>Economic Activity</p> |  | <p>Greece is a part of the European Union, and its currency is the Euro. Greece has suffered many financial problems in recent years and have had to be helped by other countries. Tourism, agriculture and fishing are large sources of income.</p> |
| <p>Resources/Trade</p> |  | <p>Greece has many natural resources and are a large trader of petroleum products. In terms of food, Greece exports high quantities of fresh fruit, olive oil, tomato-based product and wine.</p> |

Physical Geography

- Greece is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe.
- Greece also contains thousands of islands in the Aegea, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas. The largest island is Crete.
- Greece has a warm and sunny climate. The temperature averages around 33 degrees in summer and 14 degrees in winter.
- The longest river in Greece is Haliakmon, which is about 185 miles long.
- There are many volcanoes. The most famous are those of Santorini, Kos, Milos and Nisyros.

