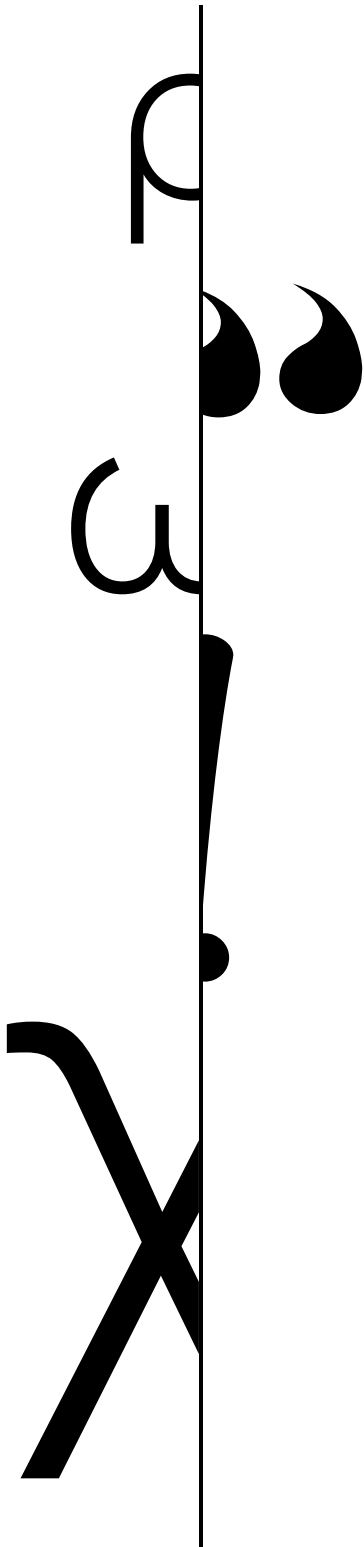


# Greek Highlights & Gastronomy Guide:

Unveiling Greece's  
Hidden Gems

Irene J. Karageorgou

Everything You Need to  
Discover the Heart and  
Soul of Greece through  
Language Learning!



**TO ALL FOREIGN VISITORS WHO  
REALLY WANT TO GET TO KNOW**

**MY COUNTRY,  
GREECE.**



**IRENE J. KARAGEORGOY**

GREEK HIGHLIGHTS & GASTRONOMY GUIDE

TRANSLATION: **TINA KARAGIANNI**

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

IRENE J. KARAGEORGOU IS A PASSIONATE TUTOR AND LIFELONG LEARNER DEDICATED TO TEACHING GREEK AS A SECOND OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE. WITH EXTENSIVE ACADEMIC STUDIES IN GREEK PHILOLOGY, INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION, ICT IN EDUCATION, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION, SHE COMBINES A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE WITH A GENUINE LOVE FOR SHARING THE RICHNESS OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

AS THE FOUNDER OF GREEK TALK, THE INNOVATIVE PLATFORM THAT MERGES LANGUAGE LEARNING WITH CULTURAL EXPLORATION, IRENE ENVISIONS MAKING GREEK ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. HER APPROACH EMPHASIZES AUTHENTIC COMMUNICATION, EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHODS, AND A DEEP CONNECTION WITH GREEK HERITAGE.

THIS BOOK IS NOT JUST A TOOL FOR LEARNING GREEK BUT A BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF GREECE. THROUGH HER WORK, IRENE INVITES YOU ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY, WHERE LANGUAGE BECOMES THE KEY TO NEW PERSPECTIVES AND MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS.

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## BOOK DESCRIPTION

The book you are holding is a starting point for those who want to gain command of the Greek language, understand the Greek soul and be initiated into the Greek culture. It is a groundbreaking travel guide to Greece and at the same time it is a communication and pronunciation guide, an understanding-the-Greek-culture guide and a guide that offers practical tips for every chaday life in Greece.

It is a **communication guide** because it includes useful words and phrases as well as extra Greek vocabulary that can be used by foreign language speaking visitors in Greece to cover basic communication needs such as speaking and understanding Greek. This will help them deal with everyday language challenges successfully and with confidence while in Greece.

It is a **pronunciation guide** as all words are presented in both their written form and pronunciation. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)\*symbols are used so that words are pronounced as accurately as possible. This will help speakers be precise and avoid misunderstandings due to errors in pronunciation. Any other transcription of phonetic symbols is arbitrary.

It is a **guide in the Greek culture** because it provides information about the customs and traditions, the mentality and everyday life routines of modern Greeks helping visitors to get accustomed to, understand and decode the Greek way of life and behaviour.

Finally, it is a **practical guide** as it offers a wide array of additional useful tips about everyday life that complete what one needs to know before and during their visit to Greece, in order to experience a pleasant stay.

Learners can also find extra practice exercises for every Unit in order to test themselves and see what they have learned.

*\* The IPA is a system of phonetic notation. It was devised by the International Phonetic Association as a standardized system of speech sounds and is based mainly on Latin and partially Greek script. The IPA symbols can be used to present the pronunciation of each word in any language. In this book the IPA symbols are used to explain the pronunciation of Greek words with accuracy. The IPA symbols that you will learn in Units 1, 2 and 3 of the book are a one-to-one correspondence between the symbols and the sounds found in the Greek language.*

## THEMATIC UNITS

Official holidays
Archaeological sites
Museums
Theaters
Religious monuments
Thermal Spots
Beaches
Coffee
Souvlaki
Traditional appetizers
Traditional meals
Traditional sweets
Traditional Beverages

*In the archaeological sites Top Highlights, readers can find important information about the history of the most significant monuments of the Greek civilization and understand the historical facts these archaeological sites are connected with. There is also information about the cultural elements that characterize the era in which these monuments were built. In the museums Top Highlights, museum exhibits, sculptural complexes, great works of art and artifacts are selectively presented along with their history.*

## BOOK STRUCTURE

There are 17 units in the book with helpful vocabulary and tips that cover 14 different situations in which you may find yourself during your stay in Greece. In the **first part** you can find useful words and phrases, information about the Greek culture and practical tips that follow the theme of each unit. The **second part** offers extra vocabulary while in the **third part** you can find practice exercises to check your knowledge.

## UNIT STRUCTURE

Each unit is independent; it is not connected with the previous or the following unit and can be studied separately. At the beginning of each unit (orange board) you can find a **summary** of the unit which is then followed by a **detailed presentation** (vocabulary, phrases, sentences). At the end of the unit (purple board) you can find comprehensive **examples**. Rich cultural **information** and useful **tips** along with relevant icons complete the theme of each unit.

## HOW TO READ THE BOOK

The bold blue IPA symbols in brackets represent the pronunciation of the Greek words, modified to suit the needs of the book.

e.g. [**protoxroñá**]

The bold red italics are used for the English words, phrases and sentences that are translated into Greek and the Greek pronunciation is given.

e.g. ***New Year's Day*** [**protoxroñá**]

The black fonts are used for the translated words, phrases and sentences into Greek.

e.g. ***New Year's Day*** [**protoxroñá**] Πρωτοχρονιά

### Notes

- For borrowed words, the pronunciation closest to the original was selected.  
e.g. For the word *champagne* the transcription is [**sampáña**]
- The parentheses in italic black font inside the brackets include:
  - The number symbol of the preceding number word.  
e.g. *eight pork skewers*: [**oxtó** (8) **suvláķa ĵiriná**]
  - Monetary value.  
e.g. *€6 please*: [**éksi evró** (€6) **parakaló**]

### Accent mark

The accent mark is placed over the stressed vowel. One-syllable words which do not carry an accent mark according to Greek grammar rules, are transcribed with an accent mark when the vowel is stressed in pronunciation.

e.g. *καί* [**ķé**] *and*



## Abbreviations

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>sing.</i>	singular	<i>pl. form</i>	plural form
<i>pl.</i>	plural	<i>tel.</i>	telephone
<i>sing. form</i>	singular form	<i>km</i>	kilometers

## WHO IS THE BOOK FOR

This book is for those who love Greece and want to become acquainted with the country itself, as well as its language, history and culture. For those who want to live the experience of travelling around Greece and enjoy a cultural “adventure”. For those who want to be able to have satisfactory day-to-day communication during their stay in Greece. For those who want to communicate more effectively with their Greek friends, relatives or business associates

## ICONS USED IN THE BOOK

	Extra vocabulary
	Useful information
	Top highlights
	Useful tips
	Contact information
	Word origin, word etymology, meaning
	Culinary advice
	Traditions and customs
	Museums
	Grammar and pronunciation rules
	Greek originality
	See glossary
	Distances (in km)
	Opening hours
	Unit change
	Cultural don'ts

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Irene Karageorgou is considered an expert in teaching Greek as a foreign language. Her educational courses “**Greek for Beginners. The Complete Method. Level 1 Part 1,2,3**” are bestsellers and have been bought by thousands of learners. She has been teaching Greek to foreign and native speakers for more than 15 years. She is married and she has a son.

## Greek pronunciation guide Part 1 (vowels, diphthongs, combinations)

Vowels: Α α, Ε ε, Η η, Ι ι, Υ υ, Ο ο, Ω ω

Vowel digraphs: ΟΥ ου, ΑΙ αι, ΕΙ ει, ΟΙ οι, ΥΙ υι

Diphthongs: Αϊ αϊ, ΑΗ αη, ΟΗ οη, Όι όι

Combinations: ΑΥ αυ, ΕΥ ευ

Vowels: Α α, Ε ε, Η η, Ι ι, Υ υ, Ο ο, Ω ω

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
A	α	[a]	<i>almond</i>	⇒	αλάτι	[aláti]	<i>salt</i>
E	ε	[e]*	<i>ten</i>	⇒	τέσσερα	[tésera]	<i>four</i>
H	η	[i]*	<i>hit</i>	⇒	μήλο	[mílo]	<i>apple</i>
I	ι	1. [i]* 2. [j] 3. [x̣] 4. [ñ]	<i>hit</i> <i>yes</i> <i>humor</i> <i>new</i>	⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒	1. ιδέα 2. καρδιά 3. μάτια 4. μια**	[iḏéa] [karðjá] [máṭxa] [mñá]	<i>idea</i> <i>heart</i> <i>eyes</i> <i>one</i>
Y	υ	[i]*	<i>hit</i>	⇒	κύμα	[kíma]	<i>wave</i>
O	ο	[o]*	<i>on</i>	⇒	όνομα	[ónoma]	<i>name</i>
Ω	ω	[o]*	<i>on</i>	⇒	ώρα	[óra]	<i>time</i>



\*\*The cardinal number one (1) has three genders in Greek. In this case the word «μία» is the female gender.

Vowel digraphs (two vowels pronounced as one): ΟΥ ου, ΑΙ αι, ΕΙ ει, ΟΙ οι, ΥΙ υι

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
OY	ου	[u]	<i>put</i>	⇒	κούπα	[kúpa]	<i>cup</i>
AI	αι	[e]*	<i>ten</i>	⇒	και	[ké]	<i>and</i>
EI	ει	[i]*	<i>hit</i>	⇒	είκοσι	[íkosi]	<i>twenty</i>
OI	οι	[i]*	<i>hit</i>	⇒	οικονομία	[ikonomía]	<i>economy</i>
YI	υι	[i]*	<i>hit</i>	⇒	υιός	[iós]	<i>son</i>



- ✓ \***[e]** is represented by two Greek graphemes: ε, αι
- ✓ \***[i]** is represented by six Greek graphemes: η, ι, υ, ει, οι, υι
- ✓ \***[o]** is represented by two Greek graphemes: ο, ω

Diphthongs (two vowels pronounced as one syllable): Αϊ αϊ, ΑΗ αη, ΟΗ οη, Όι όι

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
Aϊ	αϊ	[ai]	<i>ice</i>	⇒	γάιδαρος	[gáidaros]	<i>donkey</i>
AΗ	αη	[ai]	<i>ice</i>	⇒	αηδόνι	[aiḏóni]	<i>nightingale</i>
OΗ	οη	[oi]	<i>oil</i>	⇒	βόηθα	[vóitha]	<i>help</i>
Όι	όι	[oi]	<i>oil</i>	⇒	ρόιδι	[róidi]	<i>pomegranate</i>

Combinations: ΑΥ αυ, ΕΥ ευ (are pronounced in two different ways)

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
AY	αυ	1. [av] 2. [af]	<i>avant-garde</i> <i>after</i>	⇒ ⇒	αύριο αυτή	[ávrio] [aftí]	<i>tomorrow</i> <i>she</i>
EY	ευ	1. [ev] 2. [ef]	<i>ever</i> <i>effect</i>	⇒ ⇒	Ευρώπη ευχαριστώ	[evrópi] [efxaristó]	<i>Europe</i> <i>thanks</i>



In the next unit you will learn the **GREEK CONSONANTS** and **HOW TO ACCENT GREEK WORDS**.

## Greek pronunciation guide Part 2 (consonants, How to accent Greek words)

**Consonants:** Β β, Γ γ, Δ δ, Ζ ζ, Θ θ, Κ κ, Λ λ, Μ μ, Ν ν, Ξ ξ, Π π, Ρ ρ, Σ σ ς, Τ τ, Φ φ, Χ χ, Ψ ψ  
**How to accent Greek words**

**Consonants:** Β β, Γ γ, Δ δ, Ζ ζ, Θ θ, Κ κ, Λ λ, Μ μ, Ν ν, Ξ ξ, Π π, Ρ ρ, Σ σ ς, Τ τ, Φ φ, Χ χ, Ψ ψ

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
B	β	[v]	<u>v</u> ase	⇒	βάζο	[vázo]	vase
Γ	γ	1. [ɣ] 2. [j]	<u>a</u> miga (Spanish) <u>y</u> es	⇒	γάλα γέρος	[γάλα] [jéros]	milk old man
Δ	δ	[ð]	<u>t</u> his	⇒	δίνω	[ðino]	give
Ζ	ζ	[z]	<u>z</u> one	⇒	ζώνη	[zóni]	belt
Θ	θ	[θ]	<u>t</u> heater	⇒	θέατρο	[théatro]	theater
Κ	κ	1. [k] 2. [k̃]	<u>c</u> ar <u>c</u> ute	⇒	καλός και	[kalós] [ké]	good and
Λ	λ	1. [l] 2. [l̃]	<u>l</u> ogic <u>t</u> agliatelle	⇒	λογική ελιά	[lojiki] [elía]	logic olive
Μ	μ	[m]	<u>m</u> um	⇒	μαμά	[mamá]	mum
Ν	ν	1. [n] 2. [ñ] 3. [ŋ]	<u>n</u> ext <u>n</u> ew <u>a</u> nger	⇒	ναι πανιά άγχος	[né] [pañá] [áŋchos]	yes sails anxiety
Ξ	ξ	[ks]	<u>T</u> exas	⇒	έξι	[éksi]	six
Π	π	[p]	<u>p</u> an	⇒	πόδι	[póði]	foot
Ρ	ρ	[r]	<u>r</u> ed	⇒	Ρώμη	[rómi]	Rome
Σ*	σ ς	1. [s] 2. [s] 3. [z]	<u>s</u> un <u>s</u> un <u>b</u> ismuth	⇒	σήμερα καλός κόσμος	[símera] [kalós] [kózmos]	today good world
Τ	τ	[t]	<u>t</u> ea	⇒	τιμή	[timí]	price
Φ	φ	[f]	<u>f</u> ast	⇒	φως	[fós]	light
Χ	χ	1. [x] 2. [x̃]	<u>l</u> och (Scottish) <u>h</u> uge	⇒	χορός όχι	[xorós] [óxi]	dance no
Ψ	ψ	[ps]	<u>l</u> ips	⇒	ψωμί	[psomí]	bread



\*The letter «Σ, σ» has three different forms compared to the rest of the letters of the Greek alphabet which have two. These forms are:

1. «Σ» (upper case)
2. «σ» (lower case – inside a word)
3. «ς» (lower case – at the end of a word)



The Greek letter «Β, β» is pronounced [v] NOT [b]

The Greek letter «Ρ, ρ» is pronounced [r] NOT [p]

The Greek letter «Χ, χ» is pronounced [x], [x̃] NOT [ks]

### How to accent Greek words

When you see a letter carrying this mark (´), you should pronounce this letter louder. This mark is called **[tónos]** in Greek and “accent mark” in English. Stressing Greek words is very important. If you stress a word in a wrong way its meaning will change.

For example, the Greek word «πότε» **[póte]**:

- ✓ If you stress the letter [o] «πότε» **[póte]** it means “when” **BUT**
- ✓ If you stress the letter [e] «ποτέ» **[poté]** it means “never”.



In the next unit you will learn the **CONSONANT DIGRAPHS** and the **DOUBLE CONSONANTS**.

## Greek pronunciation guide Part 3 (consonant digraphs, double consonants)

**Consonant digraphs:** ΜΠ μπ, ΝΤ ντ, ΓΚ γκ, ΓΓ γγ, ΓΧ γχ, ΤΖ τζ, ΤΣ τσ

**Double consonants:** ΒΒ ββ, ΚΚ κκ, ΛΛ λλ, ΜΜ μμ, ΝΝ νν, ΠΠ ππ, ΡΡ ρρ, ΣΣ σσ, ΤΤ ττ

**Consonant digraphs** (two consonants pronounced as one): ΜΠ μπ, ΝΤ ντ, ΓΚ γκ, ΓΓ γγ, ΓΧ γχ, ΤΖ τζ, ΤΣ τσ

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
ΜΠ	μπ	1. [b]	<u>b</u> ox	⇒	μπάλα	[bála]	ball
		2. [mb]	member	⇒	κολυμπώ	[kolimbó]	swim
		3. [mp]	imperium	⇒	σαμπάνια	[sampáña]	champagne
ΝΤ	ντ	1. [d]	<u>d</u> ay	⇒	ντομάτα	[domáta]	tomato
		2. [nd]	end	⇒	πέντε	[pénde]	five
		3. [nt]	rent	⇒	μέντα	[ménta]	mint
ΓΚ	γκ	1. [g]	<u>g</u> o	⇒	γκολφ	[gólf]	golf
		2. [ǵ]	get	⇒	γκέμι	[ǵémi]	bridle
		3. [nǵ]	anger	⇒	έγκυος	[énǵios]	pregnant
ΓΓ	γγ	1. [ŋg]	English	⇒	Αγγλία	[anǵlía]	England
		2. [ŋɣ]	unused	⇒	συγγραφέας	[siŋɣraféas]	author
		3. [ŋj]	unhoped	⇒	εγγενής	[enǵenís]	inherent
ΓΧ	γχ	1. [ŋx]	unhealthy	⇒	άγχος	[áŋxos]	anxiety
		2. [nǰ]		⇒	εγχείριση	[enǰírisi]	operation
ΤΖ	τζ	[dz]	<u>j</u> ee <u>p</u>	⇒	τζάκι	[dzáki]	fireplace
ΤΣ	τσ	[ts]	<u>p</u> izza	⇒	τσάι	[tsái]	tea

**Double consonants** (one consonant used written twice and pronounced as one with the exception of «γγ»): ΒΒ ββ, ΚΚ κκ, ΛΛ λλ, ΜΜ μμ, ΝΝ νν, ΠΠ ππ, ΡΡ ρρ, ΣΣ σσ, ΤΤ ττ

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
ΒΒ	ββ	[v]	<u>v</u> ase	⇒	Σάββατο	[sávato]	Saturday
ΚΚ	κκ	[k], [k̄]	<u>c</u> ar	⇒	κόκκινο	[kók̄ino]	red
ΛΛ	λλ	[l]	<u>l</u> ogic	⇒	Ελλάδα	[eláda]	Greece
ΜΜ	μμ	[m]	<u>m</u> ap	⇒	άμμος	[ámos]	sand
ΝΝ	νν	[n]	<u>n</u> ext	⇒	Άννα	[ána]	Ann
ΠΠ	ππ	[p]	<u>p</u> an	⇒	παππούς	[papús]	grandfather
ΡΡ	ρρ	[r]	<u>r</u> ed	⇒	άρρωστος	[árostos]	sick
ΣΣ	σσ	[s]	<u>s</u> un	⇒	τέσσερα	[tésera]	four
ΤΤ	ττ	[t]	<u>t</u> ea	⇒	περιττός	[peritós]	unnecessary



When you study and understand the correspondence of IPA spelling to the pronunciation of Greek letters fully, you will be able to study this book, learn to pronounce Greek words correctly and speak Greek fluently.



You can find the letters of the Greek alphabet and their names in the Glossary, page 45.



In the next unit you will learn **THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS IN GREECE.**

## Official holidays in Greece

- |                           |                          |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • January 1 <sup>st</sup> | • March 25 <sup>th</sup> | • May 1 <sup>st</sup>     | • October 28 <sup>th</sup>  |
| • January 6 <sup>th</sup> | • Orthodox Good Friday   | • Orthodox Whit Monday    | • December 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| • Clean Monday            | • Orthodox Holy Saturday | • August 15 <sup>th</sup> | • December 26 <sup>th</sup> |

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Day****[protoxroñá]**

Πρωτοχρονιά



On New Year's Day in Greece we celebrate not only the first day of the year, but also the name day of Saint Basil **[ájios vasílis]** (Greek Santa Claus). There is an old custom to eat a special cake with a coin hidden in it **[vasilópita]**. The person who finds the coin in their piece has good luck for a whole year.

**January 6<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany****[ta ájia theofánia]**

Τα Άγια Θεοφάνεια



This day commemorates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Jesus, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) were made manifest. The name of the holy celebration is Epiphany, meaning manifestation of God.

custom

*There is a tradition of a cross being tossed into the sea or a river and men and more rarely women diving to catch it. The cross is first blessed by a priest. The man who recovers the cross is said to have good luck throughout that year.*

**Clean Monday** (movable feast)**[kathará ðeftéra]**

Καθαρά Δευτέρα



Clean Monday is the first day of Lent (forty days before Easter). Is called “clean” because Christians should begin the holy season with “clean hearts and good intentions”. This day is celebrated with outdoor excursions, delicious lenten foods while the most common custom is paper kite flying.

custom

*In Mid-February Greece's Carnival season called **[apókries]** begins and lasts for two weeks. Popular Carnival Parades take place in Patra **[pátra]** and Xanthi **[ksánthi]**.*

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day****[ikostí pémti martíu eliniķí epanástasi]**25<sup>η</sup> Μαρτίου, Ελληνική Επανάσταση

Greeks celebrate the commencement of the Greek people's successful revolution against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. This festive day also coincides with the religious day of the Annunciation to Theotokos-Mother of God, when the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary and told her that she would bear the son of God.

custom

*On this day it is customary to eat crispy, fried cod fish with garlic sauce **[bakaíáros skorðaíá]**.*

**Orthodox Good Friday** (movable feast)**[meyáli parasķeví]**

Μεγάλη Παρασκευή



On Good Friday the Orthodox Church commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross. This commemoration begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Friday afternoon that observes the unnauling of Christ from the Cross and the placement of His body in the tomb.

custom

*This day every church decorates an epitaph. During the procession of the Epitaph people follow holding lit candles in hands and chanting hymns, filling the streets of every city and every village of the country.*

**Orthodox Holy Saturday** (movable feast)**[meyálo sávato]**

Μεγάλο Σάββατο



Holy Saturday is the day between the Crucifixion of Christ and His glorious Resurrection. It commemorates the burial of Christ and His descent into Hades. There are several church services throughout the day, but the most important one takes place in the evening.

custom

*Just before midnight, the church gets quiet and goes dark. A moment later the priest announces “Christ Has Risen” and appears holding a lit torch and passes the Holy Flame (which arrives from Jerusalem by airplane) to the candles of worshippers standing nearby.*

**info** People offer the salutation “Christ has risen” [xristós anésti] which is responded to with the phrase “He has truly risen” [aliθós anésti].

### May 1<sup>st</sup>, Labor Day

[protomajá] (literally meaning the first day of May)

Πρωτομαγιά



May 1<sup>st</sup> is a celebration of laborers and the working classes. In addition, May 1<sup>st</sup>, in Greece, is a day that celebrates the return of spring. On this day it is customary for people to go to the countryside, have picnics and pick flowers.

**custom** The most common custom is the preparation of a wreath of flowers which will be hung on the front door of each home.

### Orthodox Whit Monday

[ajíu pnévmatos]

Αγίου Πνεύματος



Whit Monday is known as “Monday of the Holy Spirit”. The feast is dedicated to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. This event brought the Church of Christ into existence and gave rise to the Christian faith on earth.

### August 15<sup>th</sup>, Assumption Day

[ðekapendávγustos k̃ímisi tis θεotóku]

Κοίμηση της Θεοτόκου



The day of the Virgin Mary [tis panajías] is among the top three most celebrated holidays in Greece along with Easter and Christmas. The Feast commemorates the repose [k̃imisis] of the Mother of Jesus Christ and the miraculous transport of Mary, in bodily form, to Heaven after her death.

### October 28<sup>th</sup>, Ochi Day

[ikostí oγδοί oktovríu iméra tu óxi]

28η Οκτωβρίου, Ημέρα του Όχι



During WWII, the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini issued an ultimatum to the Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas demanding that Italian troops be allowed into Greece. Metaxas' response was “NO”. This rejection led to the subsequent battle and eventual defeat of the invading Italian army in 1940.

**custom** Military parades, folk dancing, and feasting take place on this day in towns around Greece.

### December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas

[xristújena]

Χριστούγεννα



Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the son of God. The traditional Greek Christmas Eve meal is stuffed roast turkey. During Christmas season children go from door to door singing Christmas carols [kálanda]. A small gratuity is customary.

#### Traditional Christmas sweets

- custom**
- ✓ [melomakárona] Christmas honey cookies (juicy cookies covered with dripping honey).
  - ✓ [kurabjéðes] Christmas butter cookies, a kind of shortbread sweet, covered with powdered sugar [záxari áxni] which makes them look like snowballs.

### December 26<sup>th</sup>, Synaxis of the Mother of God

[sínaksis iperajías θεotóku]

Σύναξις Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου



On the second day of Christmas, the Christian Church gives glory and thanksgiving to the Most-holy Theotokos, who gave birth to Jesus Christ. This feast is called “the Synaxis” because on this day all the faithful gather to glorify her and universally celebrate a feast in her honor.

**info** Demonstrations can be called for at short notice, but there are certain dates on which demonstrations traditionally occur: November 17<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>.



official  
holidays

[epísimes  
arjies]



In the next unit you will learn **THE TOP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN GREECE.**

## Top Greek archaeological sites

- The Acropolis of Athens
- Knossos Palace, Crete
- The Acropolis of Lindos, Rhodes
- Ancient Olympia, Peloponnese
- Mycenae, Peloponnese
- Delphi, Central Greece
- Sounio, Athens
- Delos Island, Cyclades

**The Acropolis of Athens** (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

[akrópoli aθinón]

Ακρόπολη Αθηνών



The Acropolis and its monuments are the most significant architectural and artistic complex bestowed to the world by the ancient Greeks. It is a symbol of the values and achievements of the classical civilization. Here you can admire creations dating back to the golden age of Pericles (5<sup>th</sup> century BC).



**Top highlights:**

- ✓ **The Parthenon** [o parθenónas]



The Acropolis is perched upon a mount above the city of Athens. The word "Acropolis" is a compound word consisted of the words [ákro] and [pólis] and it means edge of the city.

The Parthenon was erected between 447 and 438 BCE by order of Pericles, and is considered one of the most perfectly proportioned buildings of all times. It was dedicated to the virgin Athena, the goddess of wisdom and patroness of Athens. The architects were Ictinus [iktínos] and Callicrates [kalikrátis].

- ✓ **The Erechtheion** [to eréχθio]

The building had two porches. At the south porch, the roof was supported by six massive female statues, the Caryatids [kariátides]. The original Caryatids are protected in the Acropolis museum. One of the six Caryatids was removed by Lord Elgin in 1801 and can now be found on exhibition in the British Museum, in London.

- ✓ **The Propylaea** [ta propílea]
- ✓ **The Temple of Athena Nike** [o naós tis aθinás níkis]



The word Nike [níki] means "victory".

It was designed by Callicrates to commemorate the victory of the Greeks over the Persians.



The word Parthenon [parθenónas] means "a virgin's chamber".

TIP!

For the best view of the Parthenon, try Philopappou Hill [lófos tu filopápu].

info

The theatre of Dionysus [θέατρο tu θιονίσu] is the oldest playhouse in the world. It lies on the south slope of the Acropolis.

info

The majority of the Parthenon sculptures are shared between the Acropolis Museum and the British Museum while important pieces can be found both in the Louvre museum and the Vatican museum.



**Knossos Palace, Crete**

[knosós]

Κνωσός



Knossos is the largest of the preserved Minoan palatial centers. The settlement was established well before 2000 BC and was destroyed by a combination of earthquake and the invading Mycenaeans around 1500 BC. The Myths of the Labyrinth, Minotaur, Icarus and Daedalus, are connected to Knossos.

info

Knossos was a maze [lavírinθος] of apartments [ðiamerízmata], corridors [ðiaδómus] and staircases [skáles]. Its labyrinthine complexity inspired the myth of the Minotaur [minótavros], a lurking half-man, half-bull monster slain by the legendary Theseus.



**Top highlights:**

- ✓ **The "Throne Room"** [i éθusa tu θρόnu]



It is located about 7 km away from the city of Heraklion.

The Throne Room in Knossos is partly restored. The throne, benches, floor and bowl are all original.

- ✓ **The Hall of Double Axes** [i éθusa ton ðiplón aksónon]
- ✓ **The "Dolphin Sanctuary"** [to ieró ton ðelfiñón] or **"Queen's Room"** [ðiamérizma tiz vasílisas]
- ✓ **The "Grand Staircase"** [i meγáli skála]
- ✓ **The drainage system** [to sístima apoχétefsis]

info

Knossos was discovered in 1878 by Minos Kalokairinos. The excavations began in 1900 AD by the English archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans and his team.

## The Acropolis of Lindos, Rhodes [akrópoli tis línðu]

Ακρόπολη της Λίνδου



This place is literally a gallery of ancient empires as it includes monuments of different time periods. Most of them were built in the Hellenistic period, the Byzantine era and also in medieval times during the rule of the Knights.



### Top highlights:

- ✓ The Temple of Athena Lindia [o naós tis aθinás linðías]
- ✓ Propylaea of the Sanctuary [propílea tu ierú naú]
- ✓ Hellenistic Stoa [elinistikí stoá]
- ✓ A Rhodian trireme [i roðía triíris]

**info** Reaching the Lindos Acropolis from the village of Lindos

You can either walk there or ride on a donkey's back, for part of the way. The last part of the trek is the hardest and is done on foot only.

## Ancient Olympia, Peloponnese (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

[arχéa olimbía]

Αρχαία Ολυμπία



Olympia is an ancient Greek sanctuary dedicated to Zeus, the father of gods and men. The ancient Olympic Games were held here every four years, beginning in 776 B.C.



### Top highlights:

- ✓ The Temple of Zeus [o naós tu ðía]
- ✓ The Temple of Hera [o naós tis íras]
- ✓ Council House [to vuleftírio]
- ✓ The ancient stadium [to archéo stáðio]
- ✓ The Philippeion [to filipío]

It was erected by Philip II, King of Macedonia after his victory in Chaeronea in 338 BCE.

**info** The ancient Olympic Games were a sporting event, in honor of Zeus. In 393 AD the Roman Emperor Theodosius I, abolished the Games as part of his efforts to suppress paganism in the Roman Empire.

**info** The first modern Olympic Games [olimpiakí agónes] were held in Athens in 1896. Pierre de Coubertin was the restorer of the modern Olympic Games.

**info** The greatest distinction for an athlete was his victory at the Olympic Games, a highly prestigious Panhellenic competition held in ancient Olympia. During the Olympic Games all wars and conflicts among city-states would cease and peace would prevail.



The Olympic flag is a symbol of the Olympic Games.

## Mycenae, Peloponnese (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

[mikínes]

Μυκήνες



Mycenae was the center of power in the Late Bronze age (1600-1100 BCE). Mycenaean culture is the source of ancient epics and legends such as the dynasty of Atreids, the labours of Hercules, the Trojan war and Agamemnon's tragic life and death.



### Top highlights:


- ✓ The Lion Gate [i píli ton leóndon]
- ✓ The Treasury of Atreus [o ðisavrós tu atréos]

The Treasury of Atreus is a beautiful Tholos Tomb, also known as the "Tomb of Agamemnon". The size of the tomb and the masonry work are awe inspiring. It lies on the hill opposite the palace.

- ✓ The Grave Circle A [o tafikós perívolos álfa]
- ✓ The tholos tombs of Aegisthus and Clytemnestra [o táfos tu ejísθu ké tis klitemnístras]
- ✓ The cyclopean walls [ta kīklópia tíxi] which enclose the citadel.
- ✓ There is a small museum and information desk about digs on the site.

**info** Many of the artifacts that were unearthed at Mycenae are exhibited at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens.

**info** Mycenae is a thousand years older than the Acropolis.

 It is located in the North-East part of Peloponnese in Argolis, about an hour and half away from Athens, and 22 km away from Nafplio.