



KARATE1
SERIES A

ATHENS 2024



12-14

January

Karate 1 – Series A

ATHENS 2024

CONTENTS

1. WELCOME MESSAGE	3
1.1 Greeting from the Hellenic Karate Federation President	3
1.2 Greeting from the Chairman of the LOC “K1-SA Athens 2024”	4
2. INTRODUCTION	5
3. INTRODUCTION KARATE 1-SERIES A - ATHENS	5
4. COMPETITION INFORMATION	6
4.1 Categories	6
4.2 Prizes	6
5. CONTACTS INFORMATION	6
5.1 Organizer contact details	6
5.2 Local Organising Committee contact details.....	7
5.3 WKF Event Supervisor contact.....	7
5.4 Safe Sport contact.....	7
6. WKF APPROVED PROTECTIONS, KARATEGIS & TATAMIS	8
7. EVENTS SCHEDULE.....	11
8. COMPETITION PROGRAMME	12
9. RANKING	13
10. ONLINE REGISTRATION & OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION.....	13
10.1 Online Registration Process	13
10.2 Official Accreditation	14
10.3 Technical Support for Online Registration	15
10.4 Entry Fee	15
10.5 Payment.....	15
11. MANDATORY DOCUMENTS	15
12. ANTI DOPING EDUCATION.....	16
13. WKF ACCREDITED COACH.....	16
13.1 WKF Coach Programme / Accredited Coach Certification (level 1).....	16
13.1.1 Schedule	16
13.1.2 Online Registration	16
13.1.3 Fees	17
13.1.4 Payment.....	17
14. MEDIA.....	17

14.1 Press	17
15. COMPETITION VENUE	18
16. TICKET FOR SPECTATORS	18
17. OFFICIAL HOTELS.....	19
17.1 HQ Hotel - Wyndham Grand Athens (5 Star).....	19
17.2 Official hotels.....	20
17.3 Hotels Prices.....	21
17.4 Transport Services.....	22
17.5 Meals at the Venue	22
18. LOCAL COVID RESTRICTIONS	23
19. VISA REQUIREMENTS	23
20. CITY / COUNTRY INFORMATION	24
20.1 About Athens	24
20.2 How to get to Athens.....	25
20.3 Places to go.....	25
21. GENERAL INFORMATION.....	28
21.1 Currency and Exchange	28
21.2 Business Hours	28
21.3 Electricity.....	28
21.4 Weather	29
21.5 Vehicle Driving.....	29
21.6 Consumer's protection.....	29
21.7 Tobacco	29
21.8 Safety in the city	29
22. OMISSIONS.....	30

1. WELCOME MESSAGE

1.1 Greeting from the Hellenic Karate Federation President

Dear all,

On behalf of the Hellenic Karate Federation, I am delighted to welcome you to the Karate 1 – Series A event housed for the second time in Athens, Greece.

It is a great honour and pleasure for the HKF to be entrusted once more by the WKF with the organisation of such an important event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the WKF president, Mr. Antonio Espinos and the WKF EC members.



We are extremely excited to host the first major WKF event in 2024, 20 years after the organization of the Olympic Games in the city of Athens. Rest assured we are doing everything in our power to meet the high standards of a world class event which will be enjoyed by all competitors, coaches, referees, and fans.

The Ano Liosia Olympic Hall has been purposefully selected in order to provide the best conditions required by the WFK Karate 1 – Series A rules due to its exceptional facilities, and capacity.

I am looking forward to welcoming you all to Athens and I would like to thank you in advance for your participation.

Best regards,

Theodoros Margaritis Sietis, President of the Hellenic Karate Federation

1.2 Greeting from the Chairman of the LOC “K1-SA Athens 2024”

Dear athletes, coaches, referees, and Karate friends, I warmly welcome you to the International Karate 1 SA Tournament taking place this year in the beautiful city of Athens. Your contribution to this magnificent sport and your participation in this significant event make our city a source of inspiration and pride.



Karate, a sports activity with deep roots and rich history, speaks through motion and power, conveying messages of humanity, respect, and unity. In this spirit, today’s event provides a meeting where athletes can express, interact, and share their experiences, transcending any racial, linguistic, or social distinction.

Your passion and dedication to the sport are what unites us all here today, creating an atmosphere of collaboration, competitiveness, and friendship. I invite you to enjoy every moment in the tournament, to seize this opportunity for growth, learning, and experiences, and to create memories that will accompany you throughout your life.

We wish you a pleasant stay in Athens, which we hope fills you with positive experiences and makes you feel as close to “home” as possible. We look forward to sharing the spirit of Karate with you and to admiring the strength, energy, and talent you will exhibit on the tatami.

Good luck to all participants and enjoy yourselves, dear guests!

Ioannis Stylianopoulos, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee

2. INTRODUCTION

The WKF Karate 1-Series A is a world-class competition that provides karatekas around the world with more competitive opportunities to shine at the highest level. Presented in an open format thus allowing every athlete in the world to compete, the Karate 1- Series A is framed under the umbrella of the Karate 1 to bring together the best competitors in a series of open championships of unprecedented scale and quality. In addition to this, the Karate 1-Series A offers karatekas the chance to increase their ranking position as the universality of top Karate tournaments is showcased.

While maintaining the individual character of each event, all Series A events have to meet certain standards in order to achieve the above-mentioned goals. Therefore, it is necessary to follow these WKF Karate 1 – Series A Organising Rules 2024.

All members of WKF are admitted participating. The competition categories are identical to those of Senior World Championships except for Kumite team.

The number of competitors for **Kumite** modality is limited to a maximum of 96 athletes per category.

For **Kata** modality the number of competitors is limited to a maximum of 128 athletes.

The WKF [Competition Rules](#) in force will be applied.

Competitors of individual categories earn ranking points in every WKF Karate 1 event according to the official [WKF World Ranking regulations](#).

3. INTRODUCTION KARATE 1-SERIES A - ATHENS

The Karate 1 – Series A ATHENS 2024 will be held next 12th to 14th of January in the Olympic Center of Ano Liosia, Athens - Greece



4. COMPETITION INFORMATION

4.1 Categories

- Female Kumite: - 50kg, - 55kg, - 61kg, - 68kg, + 68kg
- Male Kumite: - 60kg, - 67kg, - 75kg, - 84kg, + 84kg
- Individual Kata: Female, Male
- Team Kata: Female, Male

4.2 Prizes

For Individual categories (Kumite and Kata):

- Gold medallist: 500 €
- Silver medallist: 300 €
- Bronze medallist: 100 €

For team categories (Kumite and Kata):

- Gold medallist: 600 €
- Silver medallist: 400 €
- Bronze medallist: 200 €

5. CONTACTS INFORMATION

5.1 Organizer contact details

HELLENIC KARATE FEDERATION

Ano Liosia Olympic Center

Ano Liosia, 13343, GREECE

Tel: +30 210 6813112

E-mail: info@elok.gr,

www.elok.gr

OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY, COSMORAMA

For reservations, Travel and Meal bookings please contact the official Travel Agency:

Contact Person: MRS MARIA HANTZI / MR LEO ABUEALDAHAB

Tel.: +30 210 3642707

E-Mail: karate@cosmorama-travel.gr

5.2 Local Organising Committee contact details

- Chairman: Ioannis STYLIANOPOULOS (D. Chair of H.K.F. Organizing Committee)
Coordinator
- Member: Periklis KANELIS (National Teams Manager)
Volunteers management
- Member: Stefania DOUKLIA (HKF Attika region committee chair)
Registration, Prizes awards
- Member: Georgios KELALIS (H.K.F. Board Member)
Medical and Anti-doping issues
- Member: Aris KRAVARITIS (H.K.F. Referee Commission Chairman)
Referees issues during the championships
- Member: Ioannis GIANNELIS (H.K.F. Board Member)
Venue setup and organization
- Member: Ioannis MOSXOVAS
Venue setup

The Competition Manager for Karate1 – Series A, Athens 2024 event is Mr. Tervel Zwjatkow, tervel.zwjatkow@gmail.com

Accommodation / Transport – COSMORAMA: karate@cosmorama-travel.gr

Visa Support - karate@cosmorama-travel.gr, info@elok.gr

Other queries – info@elok.gr

5.3 WKF Event Supervisor contact

The WKF Event Supervisor for this K1 Series A event is Mr. Dominique Sigillo. His contact details are as follows:

Email: sigillo.wkf@gmail.com

5.4 Safe Sport contact

WKF events must be safe for all athletes and participants and entirely free from any form of non-accidental violence, namely, harassment and abuse. Any such behaviour will not be tolerated.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of abuse or harassment in Karate, get help and report it.

Your first point of contact for any incident at this event is the WKF Event Supervisor, whose contact information you can find detailed above.

Otherwise, any other incident can be reported via the [WKF Official Complaint Form](#) and sent to: safekarate@wkf.net

6. WKF APPROVED PROTECTIONS, KARATEGIS & TATAMIS

The Karate 1-Youth League complies with the highest level of presentation. In order to guarantee the correct delivery of the event, and to ensure the suitable quality of the tournament, exclusively the following brands are WKF Approved for use in the 2024 Karate 1 – Series A Season.

SPORT PROTECTIONS “WKF Approved”



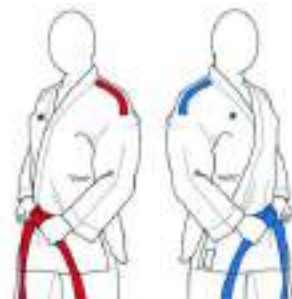
*Click on the logos

CHECK THE COMPULSORY PROTECTIONS FOR THIS COMPETITION

OFFICIAL KARATEGI KARATE 1 – SERIES A

Kumite and Kata karategis with the brand name embroidered on the shoulders in **RED** or **BLUE** are of mandatory use in Karate 1- Series A tournaments.

The authorized companies to use these karategis models are:



ADIDAS

ARAWAZA

BESTSPORT

BUDO-NORD

DAEDO

HAYASHI

PUNOK

SHUREIDO

SMAI

TOKAIDO

WACOKU

WESING

BLITZ

FIGHT ART

FUJIMAE

HAYATE

HIROTA

IPON

ITAKI

KAITEN

KAMIKAZE

KIHON

KO

KWON

MIZUNO

MOOTO

MUVON

NAGASHI

SFJAM NORIS

PROFORCE

TOKYODO

*Click on the logos

DISTRIBUTORS ASSISTANCE “WKF Approved”

Click on the image to visit the distributors by countries.



TATAMIS “WKF Approved”



*Click on the logos

7. EVENTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 11/01/2024	SERIES A	ATHENS
REGISTRATION		
10:00 – 17:00 h	<p>Timeslots by alphabetic order of Countries will be applied to ensure a smooth onsite registration process. Such timeslot will be established once finished the online registration.</p> <p>STATIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Waiver, Passport & Accreditation Check 2) System Check (Sportdata) 3) Athlete Weigh-in 	HQ HOTEL
18:30 – 19:30 h	Coach Meeting & Draw	HQ HOTEL
19:30 – 21:00 h	Referee Briefing	HQ HOTEL
WKF COACH COURSE – ACCREDITED COACH CERTIFICATION (LEVEL 1)		
17:30 – 19:00 h	<p>Onsite Registration Entry: Coach</p> <p>STATIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Waiver, Passport & Accreditation Check 	HQ HOTEL

8. COMPETITION PROGRAMME

ANO LIOSIA OLYMPIC HALL	
Day/hour	COMPETITION
Friday, 12/01/2024 9:00-20:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eliminations & Semi-Finals</u> Female Kata, Male Team Kata</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eliminations & Semi- Finals</u> Female Kumite (-68kg, +68kg) Male Kumite (-84kg, +84kg, -75kg)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Repechages</u> Female Kumite (-68kg; +68kg) Male Kumite (-84kg, +84kg, -75kg)</p>
Saturday, 13/01/2024 09:00-20:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eliminations & Semi-finals</u> Male Kata, Female Team Kata</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Eliminations & Semi- Finals</u> Female Kumite (-50kg, -55kg, -61kg) Male Kumite (-60kg, -67kg)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Repechages</u> Female Kumite (-50kg, -55kg, -61kg) Male Kumite (-60kg, -67kg)</p>
Sunday, 14/01/2024 09:00-14:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Bronze Medals</u> Individual Kata (Female /Male) Male Kumite (-60kg, -67kg, -75kg, -84kg, +84kg) Female Kumite (-68kg, +68kg, -61kg, -50kg, -55kg) Team Kata (Female / Male)</p>
Sunday, 14/01/2024 14:30-18:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Finals</u> Individual Kata (Female / Male) Male Kumite (-60kg, -67kg, -75kg, -84kg, +84kg) Female Kumite (-68kg, +68kg, -61kg, -50kg, -55kg) Team Kata (Female / Male) Award Ceremony</p>

*The detailed competition schedule will be fixed after closing the online registration in order toadequate it to the final number of athletes.

9. RANKING

Competitors can earn ranking points in every Karate1 event according to the official WKF Ranking Criteria, point 3.2 of the WKF [World Ranking Rules](#).

The participation will be limited to those competitors from position 33 onwards of the WKF ranking.

The [applicable ranking](#) will be the one updated on the day of the registration opening, on 12/October/2023. This ranking is called the **Event Ranking** and can be found on the event registration page. It is a **static file** that does not change unlike the current ranking which updates during each ranking update.

10. ONLINE REGISTRATION & OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION

No registration will be accepted after the official online registration deadline and all requests will be declined.

The registration will be validated once completed the online payment through the payment platform. In case of any questions concerning the online registration please directly contact the Sportdata software team via the email address: karate1@sportdata.org

Clubs / teams / federations are responsible for the quality of the entered registration data.

10.1 Online Registration Process

All **competitor** registrations must be made **ONLINE**

**ATHLETES
REGISTRATION**

All **referee** registrations must be made **ONLINE**

**REFEREE
REGISTRATION**

All **coach** registrations must be made **ONLINE**

**COACH
REGISTRATION**

The registration starts three (3) months prior to the event, on **October 12, 2023**, and close fifteen (15) days before the tournament on **December 28, 2023 at 12:00 hrs GMT +0** and it is divided in the following two phases (all phases will close at the 12:00 hrs GMT +0 of the listed day);

- **Phase 1, from 12 to 26 October, 2023 (first two weeks)**: Registration only by National Federations for athletes ranked between position 33 and 100 (included) of WKF Ranking. Maximum, 1 athlete per category.
- **Phase 2, from 27 October to 28 December 2023**: Open registration.

10.2 Official Accreditation

The official registration session will take place on 11/01/2024 from 10 h to 17 h at HQ Hotel (Wyndham Grand Athens)

If changes are required during the official registration session because of incorrect or missing registration data, a fee of € 50 is charged for each change.

The athlete's accreditation must contain an updated photograph that allows the athlete to be identifiable throughout the event.

At registration, accreditation cards will be issued with the participants' main data, a photograph and information about registered categories. The accreditation card must be worn at all times during the event.

Only members of national federations recognized by WKF are admitted participating, following the registration procedures described in Series A Organising Rules 2020 (SA OR Point 6 Registration).

All participants must submit an official document (passport or other valid ID card) for the WKF identification and validation at the accreditation session.

The accreditation of any competitor must be done by the athlete or the athlete's coach, in person bringing the athlete passport or other valid ID at the accreditation session.

The competitor who has not collected, either personally or through his/her coach the accreditation during the official registration, will not be included in the draw.

10.3 Technical Support for Online Registration

Web: https://www.sportdata.org/wkf/set-online/index.php?active_menu=home

Email: karate1@sportdata.org

The weighing will be carried out immediately after receiving the accreditation, those athletes who will not attend the weighing will not be included in the draw.

10.4 Entry Fee

The entry fees are:

Per individual category entry:

- €100
- €150 last 15 days.

Per team category: €100

10.5 Payment

All payments must be processed through the ONLINE PAYMENT PLATFORM. **Onsite payments will NOT be accepted.**

11. MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION

At the onsite registration, all participants (Coach, Athletes, Referees, Officials) must submit a printed and signed Waiver of Liability form.

There are 3 types, one is for the Club/Team Representative, while the other 2 are for all other participants (Over 18 years old and under 18 years old) . Find the links below.

Waiver of Liability Forms:

- i. NF/Team Representative Waiver ([link](#))
- ii. Individual +18 Form ([link](#))
- iii. Individual - 18 Form (Parental Consent) ([link](#))

• The NF/Team Representative takes full responsibility for the validity of all signatures and information provided.

12. ANTI DOPING EDUCATION

As a participant in karate, it is your responsibility to follow the WKF Anti-Doping Rules. Click the [here](#) to take an Anti-Doping Education & Learning Course and learn more about your responsibilities and visit our [website](#). For a few hours, you help keep karate a clean sport.



Course Recommendations

International-level Athletes Education
 High Performance Coach Education
 Medical Professionals Education
 Parents of Elite Athletes Education

13. WKF ACCREDITED COACH

According to the Coach License Manual, **the minimum level required to take part in the Karate 1 events is the “Accredited Coach” level.** To obtain such certification, **coaches must attend a compulsory Coach Briefing.**

13.1 WKF Coach Programme / Accredited Coach Certification (level 1)

Please find below the Coach schedule and the details for the registration process:

13.1.1 Schedule

Accredited Coach Briefing				
Thursday	11/01/2024	from 17 h	to 18:30 h	HQ HOTEL

13.1.2 Online Registration

Those coaches who wish to attend to the “WKF Accredited Coach Briefing” in ATHENS must be registered online and must fill out the “Accreditation Agreement for Coaches” that can be downloaded from the online registration site.

All coach registration must be made online latest until 28 December 2023.



Should you have any difficulties when registering, please contact karate1@sportdata.org for technical support.

13.1.3 Fees

We would like to remind you that the fee to attend to the “Coach Briefing” and to obtain a new license or to renew your expired license of WKF Accredited Coach is 300 CHF.

13.1.4 Payment

All payments must be made through Sportdata platform.

No other methods of payment will be accepted.

Registrations and payments onsite will not be accepted.

14. MEDIA

14.1 Press

Press accreditation can only be given to professional journalists working for a media and having proof of their credentials.

Media professionals can register to request press accreditations through the online registration form which can be found [HERE](#).

Video recording will not be allowed

Should you need more information about press or media related issues, please directly contact the World Karate Federation’s office: press@wkf.net

All press will need to follow the WKF Protocol and hand in printed version of the required documents (section 17)

15. COMPETITION VENUE

ANO LIOSIA OLYMPIC HALL



The Ano Liosia Olympic Hall is a multi-purpose and multi-sport indoor arena that is located in Ano Liosia, a suburb of Athens, Greece.

The Arena was used to host the Judo and Wrestling events at the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics.

PROGNOME
TATAMI BY TROCELLEN

[OFFICIAL TATAMI FOR THIS TOURNAMENT](#)

16. TICKET FOR SPECTATORS

Free entrance to the event.

17. OFFICIAL HOTELS

17.1 HQ Hotel - Wyndham Grand Athens (5 Star)



2, Megalou Alexandrou street, GR 10437, Athens Greece

Fully renovated, to a new haven of affordable luxury in the center of Athens. Conveniently located right next to Metaxourgeio metro station Wyndham Grand Athens hotel is the ideal starting point to explore every major attraction and significant landmarks within minutes.

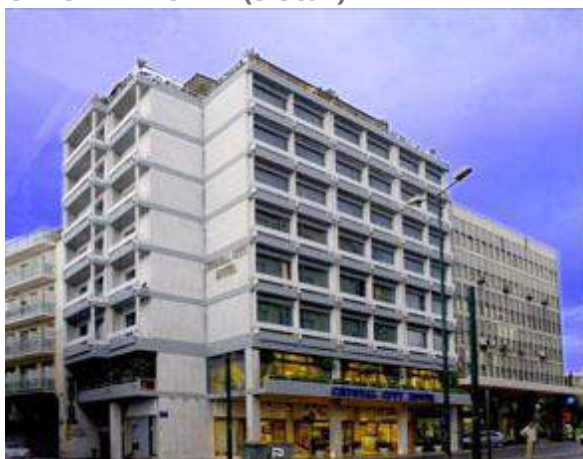
17.2 Official hotels

STANLEY HOTEL (4 Star)



1 Odisseos str, Karaiskaki Square, 10437 Athens – Greece

CRYSTAL HOTEL (3 Star)



4 Achilleos str, 104 37 Athens – Greece

DORIAN INN HOTEL (3 Star)



15-19 P. Tsaldari St. (Pireos), Athens

17.3 Hotels Prices

PRICES PER PERSON PER DAY HOTELS	BED & BREKFAST			HALFBOARD (BREAKFAST + DINNER)			EXTRA MEAL
	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	
WYNDHAM GRAND ATHENS (HQ) - 5*	150 €	90 €	80 €	180 €	120 €	110 €	30 €
STANLEY HOTEL - 4*	120 €	80 €	75 €	145 €	105 €	100 €	25 €
DORIAN INN - 3*	85 €	65 €	63 €	105 €	85 €	83 €	20 €
CRYSTAL CITY - 3*	80 €	60 €	58 €	95 €	75 €	73 €	15 €

One (1) round trip shuttle service transfer by bus is provided daily between the official hotels and the sport venue. Am from hotel to Venue - Pm from Venue to hotel. (Only for bookings made through the official Travel Agency)

All prices above are inclusive of all hotel taxes, VAT and tourism local tax.

The deadline to confirm a reservation is **Friday, November 17th, 2023**.

Accommodation is limited and reservations will be confirmed on a first come first serve basis. After the deadline prices may increase and the agency cannot guarantee that the desired accommodation will still be available.

A booking is considered confirmed only upon receipt of deposit payment. Proof of payment is requested to be processed to our email address karate@cosmorama-travel.gr with name of guest and hotel stated on it.

OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY; COSMORAMA TRAVEL

For all reservation, Travel and Meal bookings please contact the official Travel Agency:

Contact Person: MRS **MARIA HANTZI** / MR **LEO ABUEALDAHAB**

Tel.: +30 210 3642707

E-Mail: karate@cosmorama-travel.gr

Reservation and cancellation policy

Deposit 30% (NON REFUNDABLE in case of cancellation) of the full amount within 48 hours after receiving confirmation from Cosmorama Travel.

Balance payment 70% not later than **Friday, December 8th, 2023**. In case of delay in balance payment Cosmorama reserves the right to cancel the booking without prior notice. The 30% deposit will be held as non refundable.

In case of cancellation, deposit/s made will not be refundable

17.4 Transport Services

One (1) round trip shuttle service transfer by bus is provided daily between the official hotels and sport venue. Am from hotel to Venue - Pm from Venue to hotel. (Only for bookings made through the official Travel Agency)

AIRPORT - HOTEL - AIRPORT

Shuttle service SIC with pick up/drop off from various hotels

50 euros per person

PRIVATE TRANSFERS (airport to hotel or vice-versa)

Prices per vehicle per way

1-4 PERSONS 100 EUROS

5-15 PERSONS 200 EUROS

16-30 PERSONS 290 EUROS

31-50 PERSONS 330 EUROS

Reservation and cancellation policy

Deposit 30% (NON REFUNDABLE in case of cancellation) of the full amount within 48 hours after receiving confirmation from Cosmorama Travel.

Balance payment 70% not later than Friday December 8th 2023. In case of delay in balance payment Cosmorama reserves the right to cancel the booking without prior notice. The 30% deposit will be held as non refundable.

In case of cancellation, deposit/s made will not be refundable

OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY; COSMORAMA TRAVEL

For all reservation, Travel and Meal bookings please contact the official Travel Agency:

Contact Person: MRS **MARIA HANTZI** / MR **LEO ABUEALDAHAB**

Tel.: +30 210 3642707

E-Mail: karate@cosmorama-travel.gr

17.5 Meals at the Venue

Meals for Competitors, coaches and guests will be available in the venue at the price of 15 € per person.

18. LOCAL COVID RESTRICTIONS

These past few years have had a tremendous impact on how we work, live our lives and travel. Although the pandemic is over, Covid-19 continues to be a reality for all of us.

Wearing masks is not required in most indoor spaces, with the exception of Hospitals and Apothecaries. In all other situations, the use of masks is highly recommended, but not obligatory.

19. VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to visit Greece you need to have the following travel documents:

- ID card or passport in the case that your country of origin is a signatory to the Schengen Agreement, you may use your national ID to enter the country and you may stay for a three-month period. In these cases a passport is not necessary, although you will need it in a variety of other transactions, including currency exchange, shopping etc.
- Visa If your country is not a member of the Schengen Agreement, make sure you obtain further information from the [Greek Embassy or Consulate in your country](#) before your trip, or from your travel agency. In case you travel with Visa, make sure you also have suitable insurance coverage for emergency medical or other needs.
- Passport If your country of origin is one of the following non-EU countries, your passport allows you to visit Greece and remain in the country for up to three months (90 days) within a six-month period: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Vatican, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Find out more on the official webpage of the [Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

If local Visa support is needed please contact: karate@cosmorama.gr, info@elok.gr

20. CITY / COUNTRY INFORMATION

20.1 About Athens



A T H E N S

<https://www.visitgreece.gr/mainland/attica/athens/>

Welcome to Athens, the historical capital of Europe. Welcome to the birthplace of democracy, arts, science and philosophy of western civilization. Home of Plato, Socrates, Pericles, Euripides, Sophocles, Aeschylus. Athens is one of the world's oldest cities. It's recorded history spanning around 3.400 years and it is being inhabited since the 11th millennium B.C. E. Today, under the shadow of Parthenon, the contemporary urban scenery of the sprawling city reflects its exciting history, its multi- cultural modern personality as well as the infrastructure and facilities.



The perfect Mediterranean climate with the legendary Greek sunlight, the unique combination of glorious history with modern, urban innovation, the coexistence of great culture with astonishing natural beauty, the high standard hotel accommodation, modern means of transportation such as the cutting edge modern metro, the vibrant rhythm of life, the wide choice of opportunities for shopping, dining and night life and of course the warmth of the Athenians people feature Athens as the ideal all year round city break destination.

A large part of the town's historic center has been converted into a 3 km pedestrian zone, one of the largest in Europe. It leads to the major archaeological sites ("archaeological park"), reconstructing - to a large degree - the ancient landscape. Either on foot or by bike, the "Grande Promenade" around Acropolis is an unforgettable journey through history.

20.2 How to get to Athens

[Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos \(ATH\)](#) is one of the most modern ones in the world that provides excellent ground services. From the first day it began operations in March 2001, it has won international awards and distinctions, and has a special place to the heart of its visitors, who has voted Athens airport to be one of the most functional and comfortable airports in Europe. It is situated 33 km southeast of Athens and connects to the suburban railway and the metro and is the starting point for many bus routes that run to central destinations in Athens. The aforementioned modes of public transport connect to the ports of Piraeus, Rafina and Lavrion, particularly convenient for passengers intending to depart the same day for the islands.

When visiting Athens, pay a visit to the airport's Museum, that gives you the chance to learn about Eleftherios Venizelos, the emblematic figure in world history, as the airport bears the name of this great Greek politician.

For more information about access and public transportation to and from airport visit the official page of AIA.

20.3 Places to go

The Acropolis



This ancient citadel, built in the fifth century B.C., towers over the city and is home to some of the most impressive ancient ruins, buildings, and artifacts. The most famous temple, the Parthenon, was dedicated to the goddess Athena and is considered the peak of Greek art.

The Acropolis Museum



Modern, up-to-date building on the foot of the Acropolis housing important ancient Greek statues and much more

The National Archaeological Museum



The National Archaeological Museum of Athens is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art. It was founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, thus displaying their historical, cultural and artistic value.

Monastiraki



Lively flea market neighborhood with lots of small tavernas serving local snacks.

Plaka



Wander through the narrow cobblestone alleys of this neighborhood at the foothills of the Acropolis. You'll find quaint shops selling jewelry, clothes, ceramics, and souvenirs, plus sidewalk restaurants and family-run taverns serving authentic Greek food. Being one of the oldest neighborhoods in Athens, you'll be able to see Roman columns, medieval churches, and ancient landmarks

Temple of Hephaestus



This ancient Greek temple, located on the Acropolis and dedicated to Hephaestus, god of artisans, blacksmiths, carpenters, craftsmen, fire, metallurgy, metalworking, sculpture and volcanoes,, is one of the few temples to be almost entirely preserved.

21. GENERAL INFORMATION

21.1 Currency and Exchange

EURO

Greece is a Member-State of the European Union and uses its uniform currency – the Euro. Greece, as is the case with the other Member-States of the E.U.

Currency exchange rates are clearly displayed in every bank that accepts currency exchange, while credit card holders may acquire money from the ATMs of the collaborating banks. Greek banks are open for the public from 8:00 to 14:30 Mondays to Thursdays and from 8:00 to 13:30 on Fridays. Euros can also be exchanged for notes of other foreign currencies at exchange offices that are situated at the airport, in the larger cities, as well as at many tourist destinations. A passport is required when exchanging currencies.

21.2 Business Hours

Most Public Services operate from 8:00 to 15:00

21.3 Electricity

Electric power voltage in Greece is 230 V / 50 Hz and the plugs are F type. To avoid the danger of short circuit, make sure to have in your suitcase the necessary transformers / adaptors for your electronic devices or make sure that you will be provided by the relevant socket.

21.4 Weather

January brings down the temperatures but the weather is still pleasant and sunny. Temperatures are around the average of 11°C

21.5 Vehicle Driving

- You must have a valid international driving permit (IDP) or a European Union driving license to drive in Greece if you are from a non-EU country.
- In Greece, you drive on the right side of the road, and the driver's seat is on the left side of the vehicle.
- Major highways and main roads in Greece are generally well-maintained, but rural roads may be narrower and winding.

21.6 Consumer's protection

During your stay in Greece, as a consumer you are protected throughout your transactions by the Greek legislation. In case of omission or infringement of the above, you can call to Tourist Police in 1571 (24/7 in operation).

21.7 Tobacco

Smoking in Greece is banned indoors government offices, workplaces, bars, restaurants, cafés, shopping malls, schools, hospitals, and all forms of public transport, including trains, taxis and ferries.

21.8 Safety in the city

If your country of origin is an EU member-state make sure you are a holder of the European Health Card (EHIC) or any other legal EU document issued by your nation's social security agency. In such cases, the necessary treatment in Greece is provided by the following:

- the Social Security Institute Health Units (polyclinics) or doctor's offices in the region
- Regional clinics (former rural clinics) or the Health Centers of the National Health System
- the outpatients' departments of the hospitals.

If your country of origin is not an EU member-state, make sure you have consulted your social security agency for information before travelling.

Emergency Numbers

- FIRST AID NATIONAL CENTER (Ambulances): 166
- SOS DOCTORS : 1016
- EUROPEAN EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112
- POISONING PHONE CENTER: 210 77 93 777
- FIRE AUTHORITY: 199
- POLICE: 100
- TOURIST POLICE: 1571
- PET HOSPITAL: 210 6038023- 24 -28 (Attica Region).

22. OMISSIONS

As regards that the specific items are not expressly foreseen in the present bulletin reference is to be made to the general rules and guidelines contained in WKF Regulations.

