



Lonely Planet Greece

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Looking for a guide focused on just the islands? Check out **Lonely Planet's *Greek Islands*** or ***Crete*** guides for a comprehensive look at all the islands have to offer; or ***Pocket Athens***, a handy-sized guide focused on the can't-miss sights for a quick trip.

About Lonely Planet: Since 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel media company with guidebooks to every destination, an award-winning website, mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet covers must-see spots but also enables curious travellers to get off beaten paths to understand more of the culture of the places in which they find themselves.

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From Reader Review Lonely Planet Greece for online ebook

Martha says

I normally see Lonely Planet as a superior brand among European travel books. I picked up the Greece Lonely Planet to determine how to spend 9 days in Greece. It's sub-par compared to their other countries for deciding where to go within Greece. I would steer clear.

This being said, the Lonely Planet Pocket Athens does not deserve to be lumped into the country guide (and I believe was written by a different person).

Selina says

This was a helpful book in preparing for our trip to Greece. It is broken up into geographical sections and is arranged in a way that makes sense. While it does make sense, it is not super easy to read or follow. While still helpful, it was difficult to find what I was looking for at times, but it will definitely come in handy next week!

Uldis Braunfelds says

Very useful for travel with car.

Hermien says

Not as helpful as usual so therefore 3 stars, but a 5 star destination and people.

Beth says

For me, I find the Lonely Planet guides to be okay, but not great. This one included.

Lamadia says

I'm usually highly dependent on my Lonely Planet guide when I travel, however, I felt this one was lacking more than others that I've used. I usually use Lonely Planet because they're the best for traveling around inside a country and not just staying in one city, but this one was lacking in the transportation details. For example, it mentions that there is a suburban rail system in Athens that reaches all the way to Corinth, but no further information about how to use it, how long it takes, or how much it costs. And this would have been great since there is no map available printed in the city, or posted at the station, and the employees are not

greatly interested in helping a lost traveler. These are the kinds of things I'm used to having in Lonely Planet. Also, some of the towns only had sightseeing listed and nothing about sleeping or getting there. Possibly it's a symptom of trying to fit all of Greece into one book, but I found it less useful than other Lonely Planets, for example the Romania guide.

Kimberly Brooks says

I'm going to Greece this summer, so I wanted to know a little about the country (since all I knew about it was Athens). Definitely made me more excited to go! Also, found Meteora through this book, and the day and a half we spent there was incredible. Wouldn't have known about it otherwise.

David Sarkies says

A useful travel guide to Greece

25 March 2012

This is the first Lonely Planet guide that I have read cover to cover. I sometimes wonder if we are supposed to do that but I guess it is useful if you are planning on visiting a country and want to be as prepared as possible before you actually travel. Okay, I actually read this book after I went to Greece, however after reading it I am definitely planning on returning, soon (though not soon enough).

I found this to be a very useful book, though it can be quite slow going. While it is impossible to cover everything (there are a number of things not covered) they do try to cover as much of the country as possible, particularly the places that are generally popular destinations for tourists. However, it also explores areas that are generally off the beaten track, particularly since there are usually hidden gems there as well.

I love Greece and there were places that I knew about that I didn't get to visit (such as the burial mound at Marathon). However as I read this book I kept on discovering places that I had never heard of or if I knew about I didn't think of much. It is because of these places that I am already planning a three week holiday back there so that I can go and visit them. Okay, one of the places is in Turkey (Ephesus) but since I put Samos onto the list, getting to Ephesus is not going to be all that difficult (though from what I have read, getting to Samothrace will be, but I so want to go and see the sanctuary of the Great Gods that I am going to attempt to work my way around it).

Greece is actually a very religious country, which is pretty obvious once you get there. It is one of the few European countries where the church still holds a lot of sway over the running of the country. As we are quite aware, it is also a very old country, dating back over 4000 years. I will not go too much into the ancient side of things, particularly since I discuss Classical and Roman Greece elsewhere. What is interesting is that Greece was occupied by the Ottomans for around 400 years but still managed to retain its identity. Okay, the Jews lived in exile for 2000 years, so 400 years is not a huge challenge. However, we need to remember that the period between the fall of Rome (around 500 AD) and the fall of Constantinople (around 1450) that Greece was ruled by the Greeks (the Byzantine Empire was Greek in pretty much everything that it did).

Greece, while being considered the nation that first experimented with democracy, in its modern form it has not been a democracy for all that long (since 1975). There were periods when it did try to create a republic,

but it shifted over to that of a monarchy pretty quickly (though I do wonder where they found a king, since there is supposed to be a hereditary line, and the last king of Greece would have been the Byzantine Emperor). However, after World War II, the country collapsed into a civil war between the capitalists and the communists. The capitalists won and established a dictatorship that lasted until 1975. This is not surprising (especially since capitalists will do anything to make sure that only capitalist governments exist - while they promote the glories of democracy, in their minds democracies only work when it is capitalist governments that are elected: one of the reasons I hate politics is that the hard right tend to mock and ridicule anybody that disagrees with them, and if that does not work, they get violent) considering that the Greeks have a strong connection with the Russians. In fact the modern Russian state originated from the Byzantine Empire, and goes back even further as the Ancient Greeks had numerous colonies on the shores of the Black Sea. The languages are similar, and if you look at the Cyrillic languages of Eastern Europe you will notice that it has Greek origins. Further, the religion of Eastern Europe is pretty much Orthodox, having its origins in the Greek Orthodox Church.

I did like the history that they talked about behind the attractions. Greece, as mentioned, has a very long and rich history, and even if one does not like the ancient ruins, there are quite a few medieval castles still standing. There are places where the Venetians established trading posts (such as Heraklion, where a Venetian Fort stands at the entrance to the harbour) and in the Dodecanese there are the remains of the forts of the Knights of St John. However, one does wonder if Greece would have ever attempted to claim Anatolia on top of the mainland and the islands. World War I did have its origins in the struggle between Greece and Turkey as it attempted to wrestle its traditional lands in Thrace. However, if one were to consider what lands were originally Greek, one would include the west coast of Turkey as well as Istanbul. However, early on in its modern history, there was a massive population swap, when Turks returned to Turkey and Greeks to Greece.

This is a very useful and helpful guide, though unfortunately it will be quickly out dated. Also while the listings regarding accommodation and food are useful, one must remember that a lot of that is the personal opinions of the authors and contributors. When I was there I had left the the guide at home. In any case, despite buying another travel guide in Greece, it ended up sitting at the bottom of my suit case doing nothing, and we were able to find plenty of places to eat (and drink) and they all served fine food as well. However, there is still a lot more of Athens that I would like to explore.

Jonathan Miller says

As usual Lonely Planet comes through. Although we only spent time in Athens (with side trips to Mycenae and Delphi) and on Samos the book was worth buying. Good maps, reliable reviews of restaurants (although one we looked for has closed) and solid info about sites etc. Our trip was enriched by having the book.
