TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

GREECE

Country name	Greece
State title	Hellenic Republic
Name of citizen	Greek
Official language	Modern Greek
Country name in official language	Ελλάδα = *Elláda*
State title in official language	Ελληνική Δημοκρατία = *Ellinikí Dimokratía*
Script	Greek
Romanization System	[ELOT 743 System, approved for use by BGN/PCGN in 1996](#)
ISO-3166 country code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	GR/GRC
Capital	Athens
Capital in official language	Αθήνα = *Athína* Pre-1976: Ἀθῆναι = *Athínai*
Population	2011 census: 8,216,000

Geographical Names Policy

Recommended geographical names are those taken from official Greek sources and romanized according to the BGN/PCGN approved romanization system[1] (see page 3). English conventional names, where they exist, may be used in addition or instead of romanized Greek names according to context. Please contact PCGN for more details.

Country name

The modern Demotic[2] country name in Greek is Ελλάδα = *Elláda*. The pre-1976 official *katharévousa* name - Ἑλλάς or Ελλάς = Ellás - is still commonly encountered on cartographic products and in more formal contexts (and this *katharévousa* form may sometimes be encountered as Hellas).

Languages

The official language of Greece is Modern Greek; the Demotic form was made the sole official version in 1976 (see below for background). There are minor differences in dialect, some local (e.g. Cretan) and some dating from the population exchange with Turkey in the 1920s, which saw the integration of almost a million people whose families had been separated from Greece for centuries. In some villages in the south-eastern Peloponnese, the Tsakonian

---

[1] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693694/ROMANIZATION_OF_GREEK.pdf
[2] The Demotic form was made the sole official version in 1976. See below for further details.

(Greek: *Tsakónika*) dialect of Greek (or language closely related to Greek) is still spoken, but only by a few hundred mostly elderly people.

Other linguistic minorities are being assimilated into Greek. Albanians settled in Greece over a period of centuries and their descendants lived mostly in mountain villages on the mainland (including the Peloponnese). They are called in Greek Αρβανίτες = *Arvanítes* and their dialect of Albanian is Αρβανίτικα = *Arvanítika,* but Arbëresh in Albanian. Most now speak Greek. These are distinct from Albanian immigrants since the early 1990s.

The Vlachs of the Pindos Mountains in the northern mainland are also losing their language, which is akin to Romanian.

Small minorities of Bulgarian and Turkish speakers remain in the Thrace (*Thráki*) region of north-eastern Greece.

Writing system

Modern Greek, like Ancient Greek, uses the Greek alphabet which has changed little in well over two thousand years. A spelling reform in 1982 simplified the accent system (diacritics), reducing the diacritics marking stress from three to one.

Language and transliteration

For much of the twentieth century, place names in Greece posed a variety of challengesfor the toponymist. Numerous small villages had had their names changed up to the 1950s; two forms of the Modern Greek language existed; several transliteration systems were in use – none universally or consistently; and accurate, large-scale modern maps were not available. These issues could combine to create multiple names or spellings for single places. By the early 21st century, systems had been standardised and better, consistent sources, such as https://geodata.gov.gr, are now available. Some of these difficulties are discussed below in more detail.

Differing forms of the Greek language

Over a period of more than two thousand years, the Greek language diverged considerably from that of the classical writers such as Homer, Herodotus and Aristotle. Spelling, pronunciation and vocabulary had all mutated, in part because of the influence of other languages such as Turkish, Albanian and Bulgarian. The resulting commonly spoken form of Greek is called Demotic (Greek: Δημοτική = *Dimotikí*). The growth of nationalism in the late 18th century, culminating with the war of independence in the 1820s, encouraged the development of a deliberately archaised form of Greek, called Καθαρεύουσα = *Katharévousa* (Greek for "purified"). For 150 years, these two forms of Greek existed in parallel, with disputes between their proponents occasionally leading to violence. The dispute had political overtones, with the Demotic and *Katharévousa* camps typically equating to Left and Right. Demotic was spoken by most, but was not often written nor used in education; a role filled by *Katharévousa*.

The Government of Greece made the decision in 1976 to abandon *Katharévousa* for official use, following the fall of the military dictatorship in 1974. Since then, *Katharévousa* has been

little used outside churches, though it took until at least the 1990s for Demotic to appear on maps to a significant degree.

An additional spelling reform was made in 1982. The diacritics marking stress were reduced from three to one, and a sign (an inverted apostrophe) at the beginning which indicated an H in Ancient Greek (but silent in both varieties of modern Greek) was abandoned.

As far as place names are concerned, the two forms of Greek usually differ slightly or not at all, and the change only affects the last few letters of a name. Loss of final –n in Demotic is very common.

Table: Examples of *Katharévousa* / Demotic different spellings.

Katharévousa Greek script	*Katharévousa* transliteration	Demotic Greek script	Demotic transliteration (ELOT 743) PCGN recommended form
Ἀθῆναι	*Athēnai*	Αθήνα	**Athína**
Σπέτσαι	*Spetsai*	Σπέτσες	**Spétses**
Πάτραι	*Patrai*	Πάτρα	**Pátra**
Ἑλλάς	*Ellas (Hellas)*	Ελλάδα	**Elláda**
Ηράκλειον	*Iraklion (Herakleion)*	Ηράκλειο	**Irákleio**
Λευκάς	*Leukas/Levkas*	Λευκάδα	**Lefkáda**
Ναύπλιον	*Navplion*	Ναύπλιο	**Náfplio**
Σαλαμίς	*Salamís*	Σαλαμίνα	**Salamína**

Transliteration

The history of transliteration of Greek into a romanized form is long and complex. Names of places, people and gods in the history or mythology of Ancient Greece are typically rendered into English using Latin forms. This is usually not appropriate for place names or personal names in modern Greece.

The Greek Organisation for Standardisation (romanized Greek acronym: ELOT from **Ελ**ηνικός **Ο**ργανισμός **Τ**υποποίησης) issued a revised system in 1983 (called ELOT 743) which was introduced in stages and has, since the late 1990s, been accepted by the Greek Government, the UN, BGN and PCGN as the standard system for Modern Demotic Greek in Greece. It is very widely used on road signs in Greece as well as printed guide books, and some online texts - more so than any previous system (note however that at the time of writing [April 2020] place names in Wikipedia and on Google Earth are not romanized consistently).

Changes in the transliteration systems have overlapped (co-incidentally) with the change from *Katharévousa* to Demotic. ELOT 743 post-dates the *Katharévousa*-Demotic change by some years, so a *Katharévousa* word in ELOT 743 transliteration should not occur except retrospectively, but Demotic romanization in a variety of ways is likely, though less so with the passage of time.

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

The ELOT 743 system of 1983, adopted by BGN and PCGN in 1996, is more accurately reversible than the older 1962 system previously used by BGN and PCGN, but is a less reliable guide to Modern Greek pronunciation.

In the remainder of this document, Greek words are given in Demotic form with ELOT 743 transliteration, unless otherwise stated. Transliterations from Greek (or other scripts) are in *italics*.

Inventory of characters

The ELOT 743 transliteration system, adopted by PCGN in 1996, includes 23 letters of the Roman alphabet (not J, Q or W). C appears only in the combination *ch* (pronounced as in Scottish "loch"). Six vowels (a,e,i,o,u and y) can have an acute accent; in fact there must be one (and only one) accent on any word with two or more syllables; this denotes the stress and appears over the vowel of the stressed syllable of words in lower-case letters. It is not usually used on words written entirely in capitals, however, which sometimes makes identifying the stress difficult. If a word begins with an accented vowel, the acute accent is written on the left side of the first letter (eg Άρτα or Ήπειρος). In transliteration the acute accent should be shown above the vowel – Árta, Ípeiros. Some Greek vowels can also be written with a diaeresis (two dots), but only after another vowel (so never initially).

Greek (Arial)	Greek (Verdana)	Romanization	Unicode (hex) encoding for Romanized character
Ά	Ά	Á	00C1
ά	ά	á	00E1
Έ	Έ	É	00C9
έ	έ	é	00E9
Ή	Ή	Í	00CD
ή	ή	í	00ED
Ί	Ί	Í	00CD
ί	ί	í	00ED
Ϊ	Ϊ	ï	00EF
Ϊ́	Ϊ́	Í́	1E2E
ΐ	ΐ	í́	1E2F
Ό	Ό	Ó	00D3
ό	ό	ó	00F3
ού	ού	oú	o plus 00FA
Ύ	Ύ	Ý	00DD
ύ	ύ	ý	00FD
ϋ	ϋ	ÿ	00FF
ΰ	ΰ	ÿ́	00FF+0301
Ώ	Ώ	Ó	00D3
ώ	ώ	ó	00F3

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

Administrative structure

Since 2011, the top four levels of administration and local government in Greece are as follows (Mount Athos (the Holy Mountain) is an autonomous district that does not fit into this structure, but is detailed below under the Regions). Maps illustrating this information are available here: https://www.geogreece.gr/divisions_en.php

First level

Seven "Decentralised administrations". Greek: Αποκεντρωμένη Διοίκηση = *Apokentroméni dioíkisi.* Plural αποκεντρωμένες διοικήσεις = A*pokentroménes dioikíseis.* Their names are simply combinations of the Regions in the second level. These decentralised administrations would not be considered the first administrative level divisions and would not usually be shown on an administrative map.

Second level – considered first level of administration (ADM1)

There are thirteen Regions and it is these administrative regions that would usually be shown on a map. Region in Greek is Περιφέρεια = *Periféreia*. Plural Περιφέρειες = *Periféreies*.

Five of the Decentralised administrations are formed of two or more "Regions" The areas of the regions of Attica and Crete each form their own 'Decentralised administration'.

Third level

Regions are divided into 74 "Regional units". Many of the Regional units approximate to the fifty or so *nomoí* (plural of *nomós*, translated as department, prefecture or "nome") which had existed in Greece from the mid-19th century up to 2011. Regional unit in Greek is Περιφερειακή ενότητα = *Perifereiakí enótita.* Plural: Περιφερειακές ενότητες = *Perifereiakés enótites*.

Fourth level:

The Regional units are divided into 332 municipalities. Greek: Δήμος = *Dímos* Plural: δήμοι = *dímoi.*

Table: The seven Decentralised administrations.

English name	No. of regions	Greek script full name AΔ shown as abbreviation of Αποκεντρωμένη Διοίκηση	Capital
Attica	1	ΑΔ Αττικής	*Athína* (Athens)
Crete	1	ΑΔ Κρήτης	*Irákleio*
Macedonia and Thrace	2	ΑΔ Μακεδονίας–Θράκης	*Thessaloníki*
Epirus and Western Macedonia	2	ΑΔ Ηπείρου – Δυτικής Μακεδονίας	*Ioánnina*
Thessaly and Central Greece	2	ΑΔ Θεσσαλίας – Στερεάς Ελλάδας	*Lárisa*
Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian	3	ΑΔ Πελοποννήσου, Δυτικής Ελλάδας και Ιονίου	*Pátra*
Aegean	2	ΑΔ Αιγαίου	*Peiraiás* (Piraeus)

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

Table: The thirteen Regions (ADM1s) - summary.

Greek script short name	Greek transliteration	English name	ISO 3166 code	Capital	No. of Regional units
Αττική	Attikí	Attica	GR-I	*Athína* (Athens)	8
Στερεά Ελλάδα	Stereá Elláda	Central Greece	GR-H	*Lamía*	5
Κεντρική Μακεδονία	Kentrikí Makedonía	Central Macedonia	GR-B	*Thessaloníki*	7
Κρήτη	Kríti	Crete	GR-M	*Irákleio*	4
Ανατολική Μακεδονία και Θράκη	Anatolikí Makedonía kai Thráki	Eastern Macedonia and Thrace	GR-A	*Komotiní*	6
Ήπειρος	Ípeiros	Epirus	GR-D	*Ioánnina*	4
Ιόνια Νησιά	Iónia Nisiá	Ionian Islands	GR-F	*Kérkyra*	5
Βόρειο Αιγαίο	Vóreio Aigaío	North Aegean	GR-K	*Mytilíni*	5
Πελοπόννησος	Pelopónnisos	Peloponnese	GR-J	*Trípoli*	5
Νότιο Αιγαίο	Nótio Aigaío	South Aegean	GR-L	*Ermoúpoli*	13
Θεσσαλία	Thessalía	Thessaly	GR-E	*Lamía*	5
Δυτική Ελλάδα	Dytikí Elláda	Western Greece	GR-G	*Pátra*	3
Δυτική Μακεδονία	Dytikí Makedonía	Western Macedonia	GR-C	*Kozáni*	4

Details on the thirteen Regions

Name in romanized Greek	***Attikí***
Name in Greek script	Αττική
English conventional name	Attica
Centre-point	27 46N 23 32E (ignoring Kýthira)
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Attikís*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Αττικής
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-I
Centre in romanized Greek	*Athína*
Centre in Greek script	Αθήνα
Variant names of centre	*Katharévousa* Greek: Ἀθῆναι = *Athinai/Athēnai*. Athens (conventional English name)
Website	http://www.patt.gov.gr/site/
Notes	Comprises mainland Attica plus islands of *Salamína* (Salamis), *Aígina*, *Kýthira*, *Ýdra*, *Spétses*, *Póros* and part of Peloponnese mainland opposite Póros.

Name in romanized Greek	***Stereá Elláda***
Name in Greek script	Στερεά Ελλάδα
English name	Central Greece
Centre-point	38 35N 23 01E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Stereás Elládas*

Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Στερεάς Ελλάδας
Variant names	*Katharévousa* Greek: *Stereá Hellás*. Note that although the region's English name is "Central Greece", *stereá* actually means "mainland".
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-H
Centre in romanized Greek	*Lamía*
Centre in Greek script	Λαμία
Website	https://pste.gov.gr/
Notes	Comprises part of mainland plus islands of *Évvoia* (Εύβοια) (conventional: Euboea) and *Skýros*.

Name in romanized Greek	***Kentrikí Makedonía***
Name in Greek script	Κεντρική Μακεδονία
English name	Central Macedonia
Centre-point	40 44N 23 04E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Kentrikís Makedonías*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Κεντρικής Μακεδονίας
Variant names	Former transliteration: *Kendrikí Makedhonía*.
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-B
Centre in romanized Greek	*Thessaloníki*
Centre in Greek script	Θεσσαλονίκη
Variant names of centre	English conventional (obsolescent): Salonica or Salonika. Greek shortened form: Σαλονίκη = *Saloníki*. Greek abbreviation: θες\νίκη
Website	http://www.pkm.gov.gr/

Name in romanized Greek	***Kríti***
Name in Greek script	Κρήτη
English name	Crete
Centre-point	35 12N 24 54E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Krítis*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Κρήτης
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-M
Centre in romanized Greek	*Irákleio*
Centre in Greek script	Ηράκλειο
Variant names of centre	*Katharévousa* Greek: Ηράκλειον = *Irákleion*. Turkish: Kandiye. Italian (obsolete): Candia.
Website	https://www.crete.gov.gr/
Notes	The obsolete name Candia for the largest city and the entire island is ultimately derived from Arabic *khandaq* "ditch" or dry moat around *Irákleio*.

Name in romanized Greek	*Anatolikí Makedonía kai Thráki*
Name in Greek script	Ανατολική Μακεδονία και Θράκη
English name	Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
Centre-point	41 08N 25 08E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Anatolikís Makedonías kai Thrákis*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Ανατολικής Μακεδονίας και Θράκης
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-A
Centre in romanized Greek	*Komotiní*
Centre in Greek script	Κομοτηνή
Variant names of centre	Bulgarian: Гюмюрджина = *Gyumyurdzhina*. Turkish: Gümülcine
Website	https://www.pamth.gov.gr/index.php/el/
Notes	Includes islands of *Thásos* and *Samothráki*.

Name in romanized Greek	*Ípeiros*
Name in Greek script	Ήπειρος
English name	Epirus
Centre-point	39 36N 20 45E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Ipeírou*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Ηπείρου
Variant names	Albanian: Epir or Epiri. Italian: Epiro. Former transliteration: *Ípiros*.
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-D
Centre in romanized Greek	*Ioánnina*
Centre in Greek script	Ιωάννινα
Variant names of centre	Albanian: Janinë. Colloquial Greek: Γιάννενα = *Giannena* or Γιάννινα = *Giannina*. English conventional (obsolete): Janina. Italian: Giànnina. Turkish: Yanya.
Website	http://www.php.gov.gr/

Name in romanized Greek	*Iónia Nisiá*
Name in Greek script	Ιόνια Νησιά
English name	Ionian Islands
Centre-point	38 47N 20 28E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Ioníon Níson*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Ιονίων Νήσων
Variant names	Italian: Isole Ionie. A common Greek name Ἑπτάνησα *Eptánisa*, anglicised as Heptanese, means "Seven islands" but this term included Kýthera, now part of Attica Region.
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-F
Centre in romanized Greek	*Kérkyra*
Centre in Greek script	Κέρκυρα

Variant names of centre	Albanian: Korfuz. English conventional: Corfu [town]. Italian: Corfù [città]. Latin: Corcyra.
Website	https://pin.gov.gr/home
Notes	Comprises six main islands of *Kérkyra* (Corfu), *Paxoí* (Paxos), *Lefkáda*, *Itháki* (Ithaca), *Zákynthos* (Zante) and *Kefaloniá*.

Name in romanized Greek	***Vóreio Aigaío***
Name in Greek script	Βόρειο Αιγαίο
English name	North Aegean
Centre-point	38 53N 26 04E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Voreíou Aigaíou*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Βορείου Αιγαίου
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-K
Centre in romanized Greek	*Mytilíni*
Centre in Greek script	Μυτιλήνη
Variant names of centre	Former transliteration: *Mitilíni*.
Website	https://www.pvaigaiou.gov.gr/
Notes	Comprises north-eastern islands of *Límnos*, *Lésvos* (Lesbos), *Chíos*, *Ikaría* and *Sámos*.

Name in romanized Greek	***Pelopónnisos***
Name in Greek script	Πελοπόννησος
English name	Peloponnese
Centre-point	37 18N 22 28E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Peloponnísou*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Πελοποννήσου
Variant names	English (obsolete): Morea
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-J
Centre in romanized Greek	*Trípoli*
Centre in Greek script	Τρίπολη
Variant names of centre	*Katharévousa* Greek: Τρίπολις *Trípolis*. Turkish: Tripoliçe. Older names: Tripolitsá, Droboglitsa etc.
Website	https://www.ppel.gov.gr/
Notes	Excludes north-western districts of *Achaḯa* and *Ileía* which are part of Western Greece.

Name in romanized Greek	***Nótio Aigaío***
Name in Greek script	Νότιο Αιγαίο
English name	South Aegean
Centre-point	36 43N 26 06E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Notíou Aigaíou*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Νοτίου Αιγαίου
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-L
Centre in romanized Greek	*Ermoúpoli*

Centre in Greek script	Ερμούπολη
Variant names of centre	*Katharévousa* Greek: Ἑρμούπολις = *Ermoúpolis* (also seen as *Hermoúpolis)*
Website	http://www.pnai.gov.gr/
Notes	Comprises the two archipelagos of the Cyclades and Dodecanese. The Cyclades (Greek: Κυκλάδες = *Kykládes*) include *Náxos*, *Ándros*, *Tínos*, *Thíra* (*Santoríni*), *Mílos*, *Kýthnos* and many others. The Dodecanese (Greek: Δωδεκάνησα = *Dodekánisa*) include *Ródos* (Rhodes), *Kos*, *Kárpathos*, *Pátmos* and many others.

Name in romanized Greek	***Thessalía***
Name in Greek script	Θεσσαλία
English name	Thessaly
Centre-point	39 34N 22 25E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Thessalías*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Θεσσαλίας
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-E
Centre in romanized Greek	*Lárisa*
Centre in Greek script	Λάρισα
Variant names of centre	English conventional (obsolescent): Larissa.
Website	https://www.thessaly.gov.gr/
Notes	Includes Northern Sporades (Βόρειες Σποράδες) islands of *Skíathos*, *Skópelos* and others (but not *Skýros*).

Name in romanized Greek	***Dytikí Elláda***
Name in Greek script	Δυτική Ελλάδα
English name	Western Greece
Centre-point	38 18N 21 30E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Dytikís Elládas*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Ελλάδας
Variant names	Former transliteration: *Dhitikí Elládha*.
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-G
Centre in romanized Greek	*Pátra*
Centre in Greek script	Πάτρα
Variant names of centre	English conventional: Patras. Italian: Patrasso. *Katharévousa* Greek: Πάτραι *Pátrai*.
Website	https://www.pde.gov.gr/gr/
Notes	Comprises SW northern mainland and NW corner of Peloponnese peninsula.

Name in romanized Greek	***Dytikí Makedonía***
Name in Greek script	Δυτική Μακεδονία
English name	Western Macedonia

Centre-point	40 21N 21 29E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Periféreia Dytikís Makedonías*
Long form name in Greek script	Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Μακεδονίας
Variant names	Former transliteration: *Dhitikí Makedhonía*.
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-C
Centre in romanized Greek	*Kozáni*
Centre in Greek script	Κοζάνη
Variant names of centre	Albanian: Kozhan. Macedonian: Кожани = *Kožani*.
Website	https://www.pdm.gov.gr/
Notes	Includes peninsula of Χαλκιδική = Chalkidikí, excluding Mount Athos.

Autonomous region

Mount Athos has been an autonomous district since 1927. It is geographically part of Central Macedonia. Mount Athos is an important centre of Eastern Orthodox monasticism, home to 20 monasteries. Only males are allowed to enter the region.

Name in romanized Greek	*Katharévousa*: **Ágion Óros** (official name) Demotic: *Ágio Óros.*
Name in Greek script	*Katharévousa*: Ἅγιον Ὅρος (official name) Demotic: Άγιο Όρος
English name	Mount Athos (Holy Mountain), or Athonite Republic
Centre-point	40 17N 24 11E
Long form name in romanized Greek	*Aftónomi Monastikí Politeía Agíou Órous*
Long form name in Greek script	Αυτόνομη Μοναστική Πολιτεία Αγίου Όρους
Variant names	Former transliteration: *Áyion Óros*. Classical: *Hágion Óros*.
ISO 3166-2 code	GR-69
Centre in romanized Greek	Demotic: *Karyés*
Centre in Greek script	Demotic: Καρυές
Variant names of centre	*Katharévousa*: *Karyaí* *Katharévousa* romanization: Καρυαί
Notes	In Greek, "Mount Athos" refers only to the mountain. The autonomous state is usually called the Holy Mountain. *Katharévousa* Greek is still in normal use.

Place-name changes

Greece grew to its present territorial extent in seven stages from 1830 up to 1947. With each stage, Greece absorbed various ethnic and linguistic minorities inhabiting villages which often had non-Greek names. There was widespread official re-naming of these villages, especially in the 1920s after the exchange of population with Turkey, and in the 1950s after the Civil War of 1944-49. No large towns have been affected by these changes.

Greek and conventional English names

Many place names in Greece have conventional English equivalents. These may be a simplified form of the Greek name, or derived from Latin or Italian forms. Some are falling into disuse. Ancient sites are usually known in English by the conventional name, but a nearby village would typically be given its modern Greek name; e.g. Mycenae (ancient site); Μυκήνες = Mykínes (nearby currently populated place) and Tiryns (ancient site) Τίρυνθα = Tíryntha (currently populated place).

Road-sign policies

Road signs show destinations in Greek script, with a romanization or English translation where appropriate.

Street name policies

For street names, the practice is slightly different from road signs. The sign is in Greek script followed by an exact ELOT 743 transliteration, but without use of translated English terms. For example, the street name Vyronos is named after the English poet Byron, but it appears only in this romanized Greek form, a name barely recognisable to an English visitor.

Trans-national features (rivers, mountains etc.)

Some geographical features cross the boundaries between Greece and one or more neighbouring countries. They have slightly or completely different names in each country. Each name should only be used on the appropriate side of the international boundary, with no preference given to either.

Rivers

Greek script	Greek romanization	2nd language	3rd language
Αξιός	*Axiós*	Macedonian: Вардар = *Vardar*	
Άρδας	*Árdas*	Bulgarian: Арда = *Arda*	
Αώος	*Aóos*	Albanian: Vjosë	
Έβρος	*Évros*	Bulgarian: Марица = *Maritsa*	Turkish: Meriç
Νέστος	*Néstos*	Bulgarian: Места = *Mesta*	
Στρυμόνας	*Strymónas*	Bulgarian: Струма = *Struma*	*Katharévousa* Greek: Στρυμών = *Strymón*

Lakes

Greek script	Greek romanization	2nd language	3rd language
Λίμνη Δοϊράνη	*Límni Doïráni*	Macedonian: Дојранско Езеро = *Dojransko Ezero*	English: Doiran Lake
Λίμνη Μεγάλη Πρέσπα	*Límni Megáli Préspa*	Albanian: Liqeni i Prespës se Madhe	Macedonian: Преспанско Езеро = *Prespansko Ezero* English: Lake Prespa
Límni Μικρή Πρέσπα	*Límni Mikrí Préspa*	Albanian: Prespa e Vogël	

© Crown Copyright 2021

Mountains

Greek script	Greek romanization	2nd language	3rd language
Όρος Γράμμος	*Óros Grámmos*	Albanian: Mal Gramoz, Mali i Gramozit	
Καϊμακτσαλάν	*Kaïmaktsalán*	Macedonian: Кајмакчалан = *Kajmakčalan*	
Κερκίνη	*Kerkíni*	Bulgarian: Радомир *Radomir*	
Όρος Βόρας	*Óros Vóras*	Macedonian: Ниџе = *Nidže*	
Ροδόπη	*Rodópi*	Bulgarian or Macedonian: Родопи = *Rodopi*	English: Rhodope [Mountains]

Sources and useful references

- BBC Country Profile: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17372520
- CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/gr.html
- FCDO Travel Advice: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece
- Hellenic Statistical Authority: https://www.statistics.gr/en/home
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/
- Languages: www.ethnologue.com; www.omniglot.com
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server (GNS): http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/

Compiled by DGC and PCGN

www.gov.uk/pcgn

info@pcgn.org.uk

October 2020, updated July 2021