

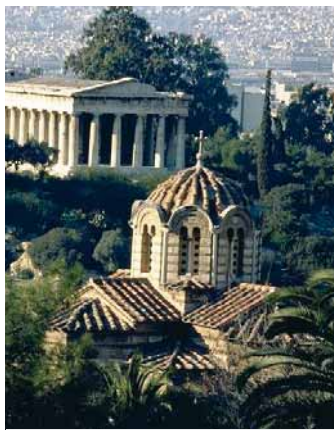
Wonderful Greece!

Greece is a multitude of delightful destinations, from the bustling capital of Athens to the relative calm of the picturesque Greek islands. The country is not only easily accessible from major European cities with frequent flights, its warm temperatures nearly all year round and unique archaeological

Athens-Attica region

The Athens-Attica region offers visitors an abundant treasure of world-renowned monuments, the most famous of which is the majestic Acropolis and the Parthenon, a temple dedicated to Athena Parthenos, the patron goddess of Athens. The city of Athens and the Attica region have become an attractive world meeting place since the successful organization of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. The new infrastructure created for the Games included a new transportation network, a new International Airport, a modernized port of Piraeus and a plethora of new conference facilities and hotels, all making the region an ideal choice as a meetings destination.

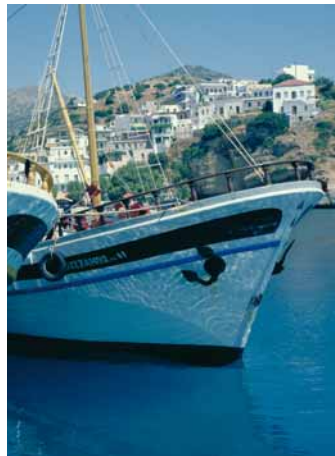
There are more than 45 conference hotels with a seating capacity ranging between 5 and 2,500 delegates



Athens – Thysseum

©GNT0

within the city of Athens alone and more than 40 resort hotels with a seating capacity ranging between 5 and 2,000 delegates in the Attica region and nearby islands. The Athens-Attica region has more than 20 convention centres. Noteworthy is the new wing of the Megaron Concert Hall of Athens, housing one of the most sophisticated convention centres in Europe for 2,000 delegates. More convention centres are being developed as some of the new Olympic stadiums will be converted to hold major convention events. Also worth mentioning is the new



How about a "floating conference"?

©GNT0

AEEC Attica Exhibition & Congress Centre on the south coast of Athens. The centre was among the Athens 2004 Olympic venues and has been turned into a state-of-the-art convention centre. The Athinais Conference Centre, a stone's throw from the ancient Agora, is an interesting example of early 20th century industrial architecture and a former natural silk factory. It is now a state-of-the-art conference complex which hosts a wide range of business initiatives, cultural activities and quality entertainment services.

For those looking for something different, the region provides the option of holding meetings on board luxury cruise ships and yachts, departing from the port of Piraeus around the Saronic Islands, or at open-air theatres to be found in several locations throughout the Attica region.

Crete

Considered by many to be one of Greece's most beautiful islands, the island of Crete offers a varied landscape with high snow-capped mountains, forests and wide green cultivated valleys, rivers and imposing gorges, leading down to magnificent beaches. The island contains numerous examples of the Minoan civilization including the majestic palaces of Knossos and Festos. Heraklion is linked to major European cities by air and to Athens daily

attractions make it an exciting and reasonably-priced meetings and incentive destination. The Greeks are renowned for their hospitality and you can bank on receiving a warm welcome wherever you go. This report focuses on the Athens region, Crete and the Dodecanese Islands.

both by air and sea. Over 40 hotels on the island offer a full conference infrastructure, some of the finest are featured in this guide: Porto elounda DE LUXE RESORT, Out of the Blue, Capsis Elite Resort in Agia Pelagia and Hotel Creta Maris and conference centre in Hersonissos. The meetings potential of the city of Heraklion is enhanced by the educational and research foundations such as the University of Crete and the Foundation for Research and Technology, which host a number of international, mainly scientific

and conferences. Visitors can sample Cretan cuisine, renowned as being the healthiest in the world, with its first-class olive oils, powerful wines, fresh fish, fruit and vegetables.

Dodecanese Islands

The name "Dodecanese" refers to twelve islands although there are many more than that scattered throughout this archipelago in the eastern Aegean. Rhodes is the most important tourism destination of the Dodecanese followed by Kos. The islands are accessible from major European cities by charter flight. Ferries and hydrofoils also run regularly from Piraeus. Meeting and incentive venues on Rhodes and Kos range from luxury resorts with wellness facilities to beach hotels, for example, Capsis Hotel Rhodes & Convention Centre "Marika Capsis 2000", Rodos Palace and the Neptune Hotels, Resort, Convention Centre and Spa on Kos, all featured in this guide. The islands are famous for their historical sites and culinary specialities including baklava, cocktail tomatoes marinated in syrup and melekouni, made from sesame seeds, honey and aromatic spices and almonds. Drinks include the local wines, traditional "kanellada", a cinnamon drink or "soumada", a speciality from the island of Nissyros with its bitter almond taste.



Agios Nikolaos, Crete

©GNT0

conferences annually. The modern infrastructure of the recently inaugurated International Exhibition Centre of Crete (in Gournes, Heraklion) make it an even more dynamic destination for international exhibitions



The Collachium, Rhodes

©GNT0



Acropolis and Lycabettus hill ©GNT0



Agios Nikolaos-Elounda, Crete ©GNT0



Arcadi monastery, Rethymnion, Crete ©GNT0



Acropolis of Lindos ©GNT0

Incentive ideas

Athens and Attica

The Acropolis is the most important archaeological site in Greece; the Parthenon, a temple dedicated to Athena Parthenos, the patron goddess of Athens, being the international symbol of the ancient Greek civilization. Attica or Greater Athens has many such attractions that can



Greek musical instruments ©GNT0

be appreciated on foot. Watch the changing of the guards on the hour, for example, in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Or visit the green oasis that is the National Garden with its tranquil duck ponds and scenic landscapes. Behind this is the white-marbled Panathenian Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896. Then there is the Plaka, Athens oldest suburb, a maze of narrow streets and alleyways, which has been recently restored, inviting visitors for a stroll with its craft boutiques, souvenir shops and popular taverns. One of the most popular places for a day trip is the 278m high Lycabettus hill in the heart of the city. Its panorama platform with snow-white church and a beautiful café can be reached by cable car and provides an impressive

view over the metropolis. Sample the Athens night life by dining in a traditional Greek restaurant or visit a live music club or tavern with Greek syrtaki dancing for a memorable end to the day.

Crete

Join an incentive trip to the Plateau of Lassithi and the Dicte cave where Zeus was allegedly born. Groups can also tour the village of Fodele, birthplace of the painter El Greco, before heading to the bay of Galinous for a beachside dinner. Visits to some of the most important archaeological sites on Crete can also be organized, for example Knossos Palace or the Royal Palace of King Minos and the Archaeological Museum in Heraklion. The bay of Agios Nikolaos on the east coast of the island is the departure point for boat trips out into the bay of Elounda to the ancient, now submerged, harbour town of Olous. An impressive, well-preserved Venetian



Knossos Palace, Heraklion, Crete ©GNT0

fortress can be seen on the island of Spinalonga. Alternatively, take a long walk through the Samaria gorge and be rewarded after the five-hour walk with a well-earned dip in the clear blue water of the Libyan Sea.

Rhodes and Kos

The first port of call in the Rhodes city tour is the medieval part of the

town, then the archaeological museum and the Palace of the Knights in the Collachium. Groups are also taken along the famous street of the Knights where you can see the inns of the seven nationalities which made up the Order of the Knights in the 12th century. The tour proceeds to the Mandraki harbour with its windmills, yachts and lighthouse. Mandraki Harbour was also the home of



Mandraki Harbour, Rhodes ©GNT0

the legendary Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Afterwards the tour continues in the ancient part of the town and the Monte Smith Area with its panoramic views of the town. The acropolis, temples of Zeus and Athena and the partially restored temple of Apollo and ancient stadium can also be seen. The Kos city tour starts with the medieval castle built in the 15th century and the Roman remains such as the Casa Romana and the ancient capital of Agora. Afterwards the group continues to the "Plane of Hippocrates" (the Hippocratic Tree under which Hippocrates reputedly taught) and the Asclepeion, the leading medical sanctuary of the ancient Greek world, considered a masterpiece of Hellenistic architecture. The tour continues with a coach journey to the picturesque village of Zia where visitors can shop for hand-made rugs



"Plane of Hippocrates", Kos ©GNT0

and tablecloths, linen goods, fresh herbs and spices. A number of boat trips are possible, for example a full-day boat trip from Rhodes town to Lindos, further down on the east coast, including a lunch in Lindos village and visit to Kalithea spa. Lindos was a powerful city in ancient times. The acropolis of Lindos and the Temple of Athena Lindia from the 4th century are situated on a 116m-high rocky promontory with splendid views of the sea all round. From Kos, a gentle one and half-hour boat trip takes visitors to the islands of Kalymnos and Pserimos. Kalymnos is a sponge island with a very attractive harbour town, Pothia. Groups can visit a small family sponge firm to see how sponges are processed and hear about the history and methods of sponge diving. Back on board, lunch is served, cooked freshly on the boat. The boat then proceeds to Pserimos with its beautiful sandy beach and time is allowed for swimming, sunbathing and relaxing.

For further information, contact the Greek National Tourism Organization, www.gnto.gr.



MINISTRY OF TOURISM
GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION



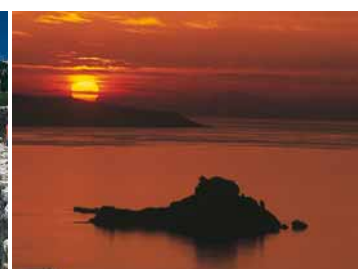
Acropolis - Parthenon ©GNT0



Temple of Poseidon, Cape of Sounion ©GNT0



The Agora, Kos ©GNT0



Sunset from Kos ©GNT0