



# MICE in GREECE



[www.visitgreece.gr](http://www.visitgreece.gr)

# Mice in Greece

Welcome to the birthland of Symposia, Festivals and the Olympic Games

Greece lies where the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia converge. The country's location in the eastern Mediterranean region has contributed to establishing it as the ideal destination for conventions, meetings, events and international exhibitions. With a solid history that goes back over 4,000 years,



Olympic Athletic Centre of Athens 'Spiros Louis' (O.A.K.A.)



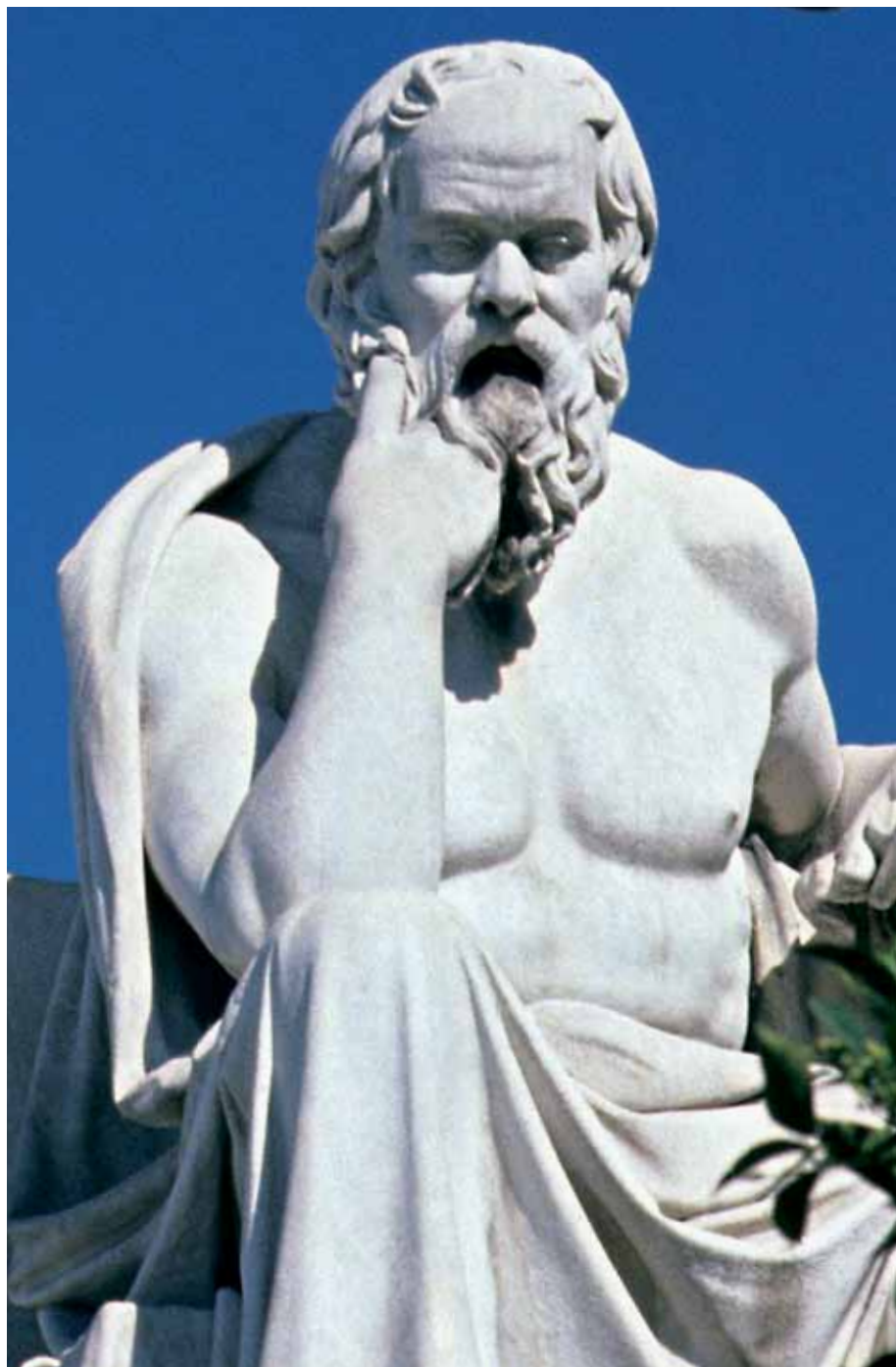
Greece has hosted a wide range of events: from the ancient Olympic Games, symposia and the ancient festivals to contemporary mega-events, such as the European Capital of Culture and the Olympic Games; hallmark events such as the *Athens Authentic Marathon* and the *Athens and Epidaurus Festival*; and thousands of other major and minor public or private events. The expertise and efficiency of Greek organisers, the excellent presentation of products, the modern techniques and support structures guarantee to participants a productive and memorable stay. So, go ahead, choose the right venue for your next event and enjoy the wonderful natural surroundings across the country. However, bear in mind that the periods from April to June and September to November can be a wise choice when planning your events, as they are off high tourist season for Greece. For more info, contact the **Hellenic Association of Professional Congress Organisers (HAPCO)** at [www.hapco.gr](http://www.hapco.gr).



Santorini Island



Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus



Statue of Socrates fronting the Academy of Athens

# Meetings

## Plan your meeting in Greece, enjoy numerous attractions

While Greece is traditionally perceived as a holiday destination, there is much to endear the country to businesses and organisations wishing to arrange meetings, conferences, exhibitions and events. Greece is a longtime favourite choice of the meeting industry, not to say the appropriate setting for any occasion, thanks to its excellent climate conditions and great natural beauty; its historic and cultural legacy, evident across the country; the world famous Greek hospitality and the high



Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre



### CHOOSE A LOCATION

**Athens** and **Thessaloniki** have established themselves as standard destinations for business meetings thanks to a number of great venues, significant cultural sites and mild weather all year round. **Patras, Larisa, Kalamata**, and several other mainland towns are alternatives to hosting your meeting in big cities. **Rhodes, Crete** and **Corfu** islands provide modern facilities for your meeting in an international island style.

quality services; modern hotels and conference venues not only in large urban centres but also in the mainland and on the islands; and last but not least, the excellent Greek gastronomy. Your business trip can easily be mixed with pleasure in Greece, so arrange your meetings in the country where your stay can be fruitful, enjoyable and memorable; a country that has it all!

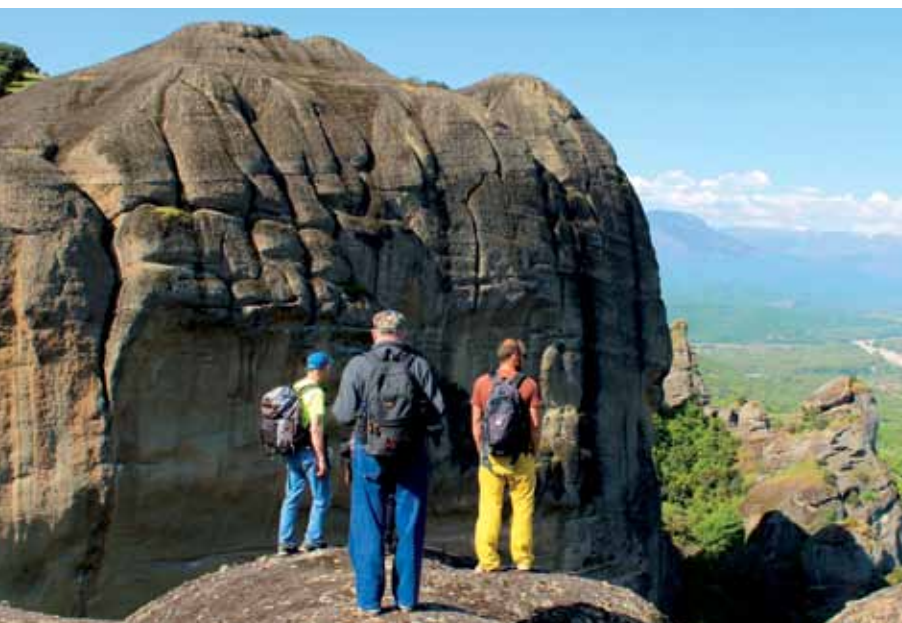


Thessaloniki

# Reinventing incentives

## Motivate your work team

Greece offers a beautiful and exciting arena to revitalise and motivate your work team, being the land where ancient heroes were inspired to achieve courageous feats, great deeds and acts of endurance. Aside from organised team building activities, the combination of great weather, good food, fantastic nature and relaxed ambience will provide participants with a rewarding and memorable experience. Several companies in Greece offer comprehensive itineraries featuring well planned team building



activities, and many are happy to tailor provide a programme according to each company's needs. Some companies specialise in arranging for conference facilities and services with team building activities such as sailing, coastering, diving and snorkelling, water skiing, rafting and kayaking (in mainland Greece), canyoning, taking off-road trips, climbing, hiking, horse riding, wine tasting and many more. The choice is all yours.



# Conferences & Conventions

Arrange your conference in the birthplace of science

Numerous scientific conferences in medicine, architecture, natural sciences, humanities etc take place annually in Greece, reflecting the significance placed on innovative science while giving participants the opportunity to visit the cradle of science in the western world. Throughout the year, a large number of conference centres provide excellent infrastructure offering top-rated services in several key destinations such as Athens, Thessaloniki, Crete, Rhodes, Corfu, and in smaller ones such



Zappeion Conference & Exhibition Centre



Acropolis Museum





as Igoumenitsa, Ioannina, Alexandroupoli, Santorini, and Kos. There are new science and technology centres and exhibition areas that can accommodate small or large scale conference events with high-tech facilities, sophisticated audiovisual and teleconference equipment, first-class auxiliary services such as dining and service areas and, above all, an extensive network of highly skilled and specialised staff, translators, technicians, organisers, and many more. A memorable experience awaits you in the city or in the countryside, near the mountains or by the sea. You will find many public and private agencies, which can provide related info and accommodate all your needs.



Megaron Athens International Conference Centre

# Exhibitions, Events, Trade Shows, Festivals

Plan your next event. Relish the experience.

Greece competes with the largest event destinations worldwide and has made a name as host to a number of important professional, corporate, scientific, sports and cultural events, such as the Olympic Games, the biggest sports event in the world, which returned to its home country in 2004.



## MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EXPOS IN GREECE

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR [tif.helexpo.gr](http://tif.helexpo.gr)

POSIDONIA [posidonia-events.com](http://posidonia-events.com)

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

[thessalonikibookfair.gr](http://thessalonikibookfair.gr)

ART ATHINA [www.art-athina.gr](http://www.art-athina.gr)

ART THESSALONIKI [art-thessaloniki.helexpo.gr](http://art-thessaloniki.helexpo.gr)

PHILOXENIA [philoxenia.helexpo.gr](http://philoxenia.helexpo.gr)

XENIA [www.xenia.gr](http://www.xenia.gr)

GREEK TOURISM EXPO [aite.gr](http://aite.gr)

100% HOTEL SHOW [www.hotelshow.gr](http://www.hotelshow.gr)

HOTELIA [hotelia.helexpo.gr](http://hotelia.helexpo.gr)

HO.RE.CA. [horecaexpo.gr](http://horecaexpo.gr)

FOOD EXPO [www.foodexpo.gr](http://www.foodexpo.gr)

OENOTELIA [oenotelia.gr](http://oenotelia.gr)

OENORAMA [www.oenorama.com](http://www.oenorama.com)

ATHENS INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

[www.athensboatshow.gr](http://www.athensboatshow.gr)



Art Athina Exhibition

In 2021, **Elefsina**, a suburban city in Attica, will be the European Capital of Culture. It is the fourth Greek city to host this mega-event, following **Athens** (1985) **Thessaloniki** (1997) and **Patras** (2006). **Thessaloniki International Fair** takes place annually in September and it is a leading exhibition event in Greece and in Southeastern Europe. **The Athens Authentic Marathon** attracts thousands of runners from all over the world. **The Athens and Epidaurus festival** is Greece's foremost cultural festival and one of the oldest and celebrated performing arts festivals in Europe. From an art exhibition to a trade show, from a concert to a festival, from a small-scale event to a big international event, Greece can be the right host for any occasion. Well-trained, warm and hospitable people will work for the success of your event, always with a smile on their face.



Teloglion Foundation of Art, A.U.Th



Elefsina Archaeological Site

# Mice up your life in Athens

## Why MICE in Athens, Attica

Athens is an ideal MICE destination that combines state-of-the-art infrastructure, excellent congress facilities and venues. The city is easily accessible from all over the world and it offers world-class attractions, modern amenities, diverse entertainment and a mild climate throughout the year. Apart from the year-long sunshine that this city is blessed with, and the great variety of things to see and do, Athens is considered one of the safest capitals in Europe. MICE visitors will enjoy a user-



Monastiraki Square



friendly transport network, major archaeological sites such as the world famous Acropolis, numerous museums and art galleries, restaurants and bars, designer boutiques, and last but not least, the renowned Greek hospitality.

MICE tourism is a considerable part of Athens' tourism traffic in the city centre, as well as in the suburbs of **Maroussi**, **Piraeus**, **Paiania** and **Spata**. There is a wide range of venues available for staging events in the greater area of Athens for any number of participants; from modern hotels to the 18,000 capacity **Olympic Athletic Centre** and the **Panathenaic (Kallimarmaro) Stadium** with a seating capacity of 45,000.

The Greek Capital welcomes you and invites you to organise your event in top class facilities. Make the most of your business trip in Athens while you enjoy world famous sites and a delicious cuisine.



Panathenaic (Kallimarmaro) Stadium



#### USEFUL INFO

**Athens Convention Bureau (ACVB)**

[www.athensconventionbureau.gr](http://www.athensconventionbureau.gr)

**City of Athens**

<http://www.thisisathens.org/>

# Where East meets West

## Why MICE in Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is Greece's second city and one of the oldest in Europe. It lies at the crossroads of East and West, stretching over 12 kilometres in a bowl formed by the low hills facing the **Aegean Sea**, at the northernmost point of Thermaikos Gulf.

It boasts an extensive transport network, with good air, road, rail and sea links and its central Balkan location places it at the gateway to Eastern Europe.



Thessaloniki Concert Hall

The two biggest conference and event facilities in the city are the **HELEXPO International Congress & Exhibition Centre** (seating 2,400) and the **Thessaloniki Concert Hall** (seating 1,464). In addition to these, you can choose among 7 other conference centres and 39 hotels with meeting facilities, as well as mid-size venues, numerous restaurants and other locales for smaller events.

Every September, the **Thessaloniki International Exhibition Centre** becomes the ideal world stage to do business. Its facilities are used to stage a variety of events - from regional shows aimed at consumers to major trade shows for entire industries and an international audience. Throughout the year, major fairs showcase the best and the newest products and services of premier industries, such as Renewable Energy Sources, Construction Technology, Tourism, Food, Beverages, Nanotechnology and many more.



Exhibition facilities (old port warehouses)



Noesis, Thessaloniki Science Centre & Technology Museum



Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Congress Centre

#### USEFUL INFO

**Thessaloniki Convention and Visitors Bureau (TCV)**

<http://www.thessalonikiconventionbureau.gr/>

**Thessaloniki Tourism Organisation**

<https://thessaloniki.travel/en/>

# Around Greece

## Venues and Locations

If you're planning a small conference, or perhaps you wish to arrange for a meeting in a sunny location of great beauty, choose among the numerous alternatives this country offers. You will find well-equipped conference venues - as well as convention and meeting facilities, located at the most popular destinations in the mainland (Halkidiki, Larisa, Ioannina, Patras, Kalamata) and the islands (Crete, Rhodes, Kos, Corfu, Chios). You can also choose a location suitable for a meeting in a cozy



Rhodes Island



Chania, Crete



environment, where you can combine business and social activities, surrounded by lovely nature. Options for meeting venues range from historic renovated structures to contemporary facilities, from traditional to industrial-style ones, from urban facilities to rural retreats, from indoor amphitheatres to outdoor spaces, and even floating ones, including yacht charters. Hundreds of top class hotels and facilities cater for anything from a handful of attendees to thousands of participants.

Bear in mind that your choice of venue depends on the event you organise. For larger conferences, accessibility and convenience are key notions, especially if attendees come from different countries. Proximity to international airports, efficiency of transport networks and availability of accommodation are all key considerations. A wise choice will contribute significantly to the success of your event.



Corfu Island



# Cruise Ship Conferences

## Sailing into knowledge

Conference tourism aboard a vessel is an emerging trend in Greece. Participants from all over the world choose the Greek seas and develop their topics aboard a cruise ship in idyllic surroundings of deep blue or turquoise waters. On the islands, mooring berths provide first rate services and allow visitors to combine the enjoyment they derive from their scientific field with exploration of the Greek marine environment.



Santorini Island

A cruise can have a motivating effect on people who get together for a course of training and it has been a long-time favourite of meeting planners and incentive organisers. Greece has all there is to offer for a comfortable and enjoyable stay aboard a vessel; from day trips around the country's thousands of islands to long-haul trips on a large cruise liner around the Mediterranean. Greece's bright sunshine and minimal rainfall offer great options to conference and incentive tour planners and work their magic on any individual traveller or group. An event aboard a cruise ship will offer delegates business education and training in amazing surroundings. For many stakeholders, this type of voyage in the Greek seas is a fascinating prospective. Anchors aweigh!



Rhodes Island



Chania lighthouse, the town's historic landmark at the old port entrance, Crete

# Infrastructure

## Environmental and Social Responsibility

Greece is home to leading infrastructure (such as the Athens International Airport, the Rio-Antirrio Bridge, major highways, etc). A modern and environment friendly public transport system that includes underground railway (metro), tramway, suburban railway, trolleybuses & hybrid buses covers most of the delegates' transport needs.

The Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos was voted by passengers as **Best Airport in**



Piraeus Port



Rio - Antirrio Bridge

**South Europe for 2018** and won the **Skytrax World Airport Award**, according to the world's largest annual air travellers' satisfaction survey, while in 2008 it received the **GreenBuilding Award** by the European Commission.

Attica Tollway (**Attiki Odos**), a modern 70km long motorway, connects the Athens - Lamia National Road with the Athens - Korinthos National Road, bypassing the centre of Athens.

In the summer, there are frequent ferry connections to Greek islands from the ports of Piraeus, Lavrio, Rafina, Thessaloniki, Patras and Heraklion (Crete).

Balancing economic development with societal and environmental welfare is nowadays a corporate obligation, and a significant topic in conferences and trade shows and Greece is committed to adopting environment-friendly and socially responsible practices.



# Greece in a Nutshell

## Mix business with pleasure

Greece ranks high in the list of competitive congress market destinations and seeks to improve its place yet more. The country offers a host of luxury hotels with well-equipped conference halls and experienced conference organisers, thus proving that it is a worthy destination for congresses, conferences, incentive travels and major international sports and cultural events. The country is also known across the world for its outstanding natural beauty, mild climate, and ever-changing



Paros Island

landscapes, as well as for its long history and its scientific and cultural heritage. For all the above reasons and more, Greece is the ideal destination for mixing business and pleasure.

The country has recently grown into a destination for corporate team-building activities alone or in conjunction with meetings and conferences. Most companies in the MICE field offer a range of leisure and active pursuits, such as excursions and outdoor activities including hiking, golf, water sports, sightseeing tours, helicopter and yacht charter trips, and tailor made team building activity sessions.

Organise a trade fair, a conference, a meeting or similar event by an island's golden sands, or in a place rich with culture and history, a location with a vivacious nightlife, great shopping, mouthwatering local dishes or impressive modern art.

You will find that Greece makes the ideal choice for any MICE demand.



Athens, Zappeion Conference & Exhibition Centre



*Got inspired by our brochure?  
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and arrange your event  
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