

Welcome to the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association of Greece

This information has been compiled by AOPA Hellas especially for you, our international friends, in order to provide some helpful information about General Aviation (GA) operations in our country.

Greece is full of airports and airfields, with an 85% of them being mostly available in winter time. There are several international public airports with hard surface runways, but only some of them utilise a 24 hours customs availability.

Airclubs mostly operate with Cessnas 150-172-182, Piper Cherokees and TB's. If you plan to fly to our country, you are more than welcome to do that. You will have no problems with communication in English and we are pretty sure that you'll love the sun, the mountains and the clear blue skies. ☺

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to file a flight plan?

On any international VFR flight to, from or within Greece (Athens LGGG FIR), you are required to file a flight plan. You may plan to cross the FIR boundary at any point you wish, as long as it is an identified reporting point (i.e. Airway Fix at FIR border). Even for domestic & local (airport area) VFR flights, a flight plan is required. If you are departing from an airport without an AIS office, you may file your flight plan to Athens Central AIS either by fax to +30 210 3532635 or by phone to +30 210 3533691. These numbers are attended 24 hours a day.

Alternatively, you can try some of the internet flight planning portals [here](#) and [here](#), but, for ZZZZ destination or departure airfields, make sure you copy the appropriate AFTN codes of the airports & airport zones affected.

Also, a passenger manifest, or "General Declaration", may be requested to be submitted at this time.

2. What frequency shall I call when crossing the boundary and where can I land?

All around the country you will be within the reach of "Athens Information" (if you fly VFR) on frequency 130,925 MHz (North Sector) or 119,750 (South Sector). Those stations will provide you with a non radar Flight Information Service and give you all information about active military and restricted airspaces. While flying VFR at low altitude, you may lose contact with FIS station. In that case, just continue to fly according to your flight plan, VFR VMC, and wait for a contact later on.

A contact must be made at least every 30 minutes. It is, however, advisable to contact the Approach or Tower frequency of any military unit whose airspace you will be transiting. Military airports usually have associated TMA's and you should contact the published frequency. You can also contact TUGRIT military radar on 129,80 MHz for advisories.

There is a new FIS service specifically for Athens TMA area, while above mentioned FIS frequencies remain in effect for the rest of Greece. Athens Approach now offers FIS service dedicated to Athens TMA area on frequency 124,025 MHz (refer to LGGG FIR NOTAM A0319/10 for details).

3. At what altitude should I fly?

VFR altitude on an easterly course (0°-179°) is odd thousands plus 500 ft (3500, 5500, 7500, etc.) and on a westerly course (180°-359°) even thousands plus 500 ft (4500, 6500, 8500, etc.). This rule applies above 3000 feet AGL.

On IFR flights, the same semicircular rule applies, but without the +500. Transition Altitude is specified in each airport's approach plate. If you plan to fly above the usual airways' base (6~7000 ft), inform FIS so that they coordinate with Athens Control in case they have any low flying IFR traffic in the airways.

4. What is the VFR transponder code?

At any chosen VFR altitude, you should squawk 7000 unless you are assigned an individual code. Transponder is mandatory for all flights and mode C is mandatory within/below controlled airspace (TMA's, CTR's, Airways, etc.), even if VFR. Flights entering ATHINAI FIR should squawk 7000 unless otherwise advised by ATC.

5. Can I fly a Greek registered airplane with a foreign license?

Unfortunately, with a non JAR license or a non European National License, you cannot fly SX registered aircraft without a validation from the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA). However, with a valid JAR license that was not issued in Greece (i.e. by HCAA), you can fly a SX registered airplane, but only within the boundaries of Hellenic Airspace. The only way to fly SX registered aircraft with foreign license is to get a JAR validation on it from HCAA.

Some National Licenses from European countries (e.g. UK) are still accepted for flight with SX registered aircraft in Greece, but it may not be for long.

FAA Licenses can be used to fly N registered aircraft only, as everywhere else.

For further information contact the HCAA, FCL Department, on +30 210 9973037.

6. How can I obtain a Greek validation?

According to HCAA Technical Directive 10/2007 of 05-Dec-2007, you can get a JAR validation on your foreign license (must be an ICAO contracting state) by HCAA, but it involves a few administrative steps. HCAA issues a validation for a maximum period of 12 months. With this validation on your ICAO license, you can fly to all licensed airports & airfields in Greece with SX registered aircraft, but only:

a) in Day, VFR, VMC

b) under private flight privileges (i.e. no commercial flights)

In brief, for a basic PPL validation, a pilot, along with the application, needs to submit to the HCAA the following:

a photocopy of the ICAO license

a photocopy of the Medical certificate

a photocopy of the R/T certificate

a photocopy of recent logbook entries proving flying currency status

a stamp fee of 6 Euros

For any further information, please, contact the HCAA, FCL Department by calling +30 210 9973037 (altn. 9973976).

Residents of more than 180 days in Greece, who hold a valid JAR license from another JAA country without a Greek Validation, can fly Greek registered aircraft but only within the boundaries of Hellenic Airspace.

For any additional ratings on the PPL (e.g. Instrument Rating), again a 6 month validation can be issued with the necessary JAR Medical, Theory exams passed and a flight test with a FTO (**not** a RF).

For a list of approved Flight Schools (RFs & FTOs) in Greece click [here!](#)

For a list of approved Aeromedical Examiners in Greece click [here!](#)

To visit the HCAA website in English click [here!](#)

For permanent residents in Greece with a JAR license from another JAA country, it is advised that a transfer of their JAR FCL records is made to HCAA in order to avoid temporary validation requirements. For more information contact HCAA, FCL Department at: +30 210 9973037 (alt. 9973976).

7. Are JARs already in effect?

Yes, JARs are already in force in Greece, as Greece is a full JAA member. Greek JAR-FCL licenses are fully recognized by all JAA countries (since March 2004). In any case, it is advised to become familiar with Greek national regulations before engaging in any aviation related business, because some of the traditional regulations may be different from western-European or ICAO standards. The RFs or FTOs (see paragraph 6 above) can inform you about the local regulations.

8. Can I rent an airplane in Greece?

Airclubs are not "rent a plane" facilities. There are no such facilities in Greece. Nevertheless, a foreign pilot may enrol as a fully qualified club member, as any other Greek pilot, and rent a plane from the club as a club member.

Airclubs usually require a check-out with their instructor before renting the plane. Private schools mostly have Cessna 152, 172 or Piper 28 series. Prices range from 140 to 200 Euros per flight hour, depending on type and equipment of the aircraft.

9. Emergency situations

When a flying aircraft is in an emergency situation, then it may land at all approved airports or any suitable aerodrome without prior permission (as referred to AGA 0-1 par 3.1.2.). The Emergency Frequency is the same as the international 121,50 MHz.

10. Controlled fire areas LGC

Greece has introduced this definition which is: An airspace of defined dimensions within which firing of projectiles and missiles takes place and is coordinated in such a manner that air traffic operating through that area is not endangered. Please ask ATC or FIS if any are active in low levels.

11. How do I obtain Weather briefings and NOTAMS?

You can call the LGAV reporting office for NOTAMS at +30 210 3533691 or Fax to +30 210 3532635.

Call +30 210 3533689 for a MET briefing, or, at larger airfields, visit the local MET office. You can also go online for the official weather [here!](#)

12. Ground Handling

According to AIP Greece, you must accept and pay for handling services at major airports if offered to you. If not offered, don't bother. The official wording in the AIP Greece is "where available".

AOPA Hellas has established agreements with ground handling agents in Greece for better pricing towards AOPA members. The agreements include only Marshalling and Transport/Escort to/from airport terminal and they are available only for valid AOPA AIR CREW CARD holders and only GENERAL AVIATION private flights (incl. training). Commercial light aircraft flights are excluded.

Current prices & terms offered by **Swissport Hellas S.A.** (up to 3.000 kg MTOW):

AOPA Hellas AIR CREW cards: 18 Euro + VAT

IAOPA (AOPA International) cards: 24 Euro + VAT

For more info read [here!](#)

Pilots should inform the handling agent at least 24 hours prior to their arrival, so that they can schedule their services and offer the right AOPA discount. Still, if a pilot does not manage to notify the agent within 24 hours of arrival, due to flight operational reasons (e.g. change of destination), a notification should be made at the latest before take off from the departure airport, so that the AOPA member does not lose the right for the discount. In such a case, there may be a slight occasional delay in handling services on arrival by Swissport ground personnel.

You can find the Swissport Contact list [here](#) so you can get in touch with SWISSPORT local stations personnel who are always available, or you can visit their website for published contact details [here!](#)

Current prices & terms offered by **Goldair Handling S.A.** (up to 3.500 kg MTOW):

All AOPA Air Crew cards: 20 Euro + VAT

For more info read [here!](#)

You can find the Goldair Contact list [here](#) or you can visit their website for published contact details [here!](#)

13. Must I takeoff or land at an “International Airport” if I’m coming from abroad ?

Yes! Even if you are flying within the SCHENGEN treaty countries, according to AIP Greece, you must take off or land at a designated "airport of entry". It is not for customs purposes, but customs and/or police personnel have to check the passports for nationality and whether indeed you are coming from/leaving for a Schengen country.

A little airfield in western Greece started recently (5/2011) to provide a handy facilitation. Messologi Aeroclub's people are able to arrange customs service for entry/exit from Greece and other SCHENGEN countries with the same status as in official airports of entry, with only 24 hrs prior notice.

Messologi Airfield (ZZZZ Messologi) is a good alternative solution for those who may not want to visit Kerkyra Airport (LGKR) in NW Greece for entry/exit.

You can find more information about the airfield [here](#) or visit the aeroclub's blog [here!](#)

14. Do I have to fly airways or designated air routes?

VFR flights need to fly a track below or inside controlled airspace (at +500ft ALT). VFR through non controlled airspace is not allowed. Airways, TMA's & CTR's are controlled airspaces and most of Greece is covered by one of them.

Inside the TMA's there are the AIP Greece published "VFR routes" with specific routes and altitudes that must be flown, without the need for an entry clearance. Diversions in route & altitude are given (coordination by FIS) en route for "weather/wind turbulence avoidance", but not during the initial Flight Plan submission phase on ground. All "VFR routes" charts are available at airports where the CAA office has the AIP Greece.

15. Can I fly IFR?

Yes!

16. Can I fly at night?

For the moment, only on an IFR flight plan.

17. Where can I find the airport opening hours?

Besides that information being published by NOTAMs, you can also visit the HCAA website [here](#), but always remember to check the NOTAMs!

Check PPO, PPR and PNR airports (paragraph 19 below) and do contact them (paragraph 25 below) as early as possible for parking permission.

18. Will I find aviation fuel at my destination?

Not all airports have fuel. It should be published in the AIP or by NOTAM. A list of airports providing AVGAS can be found below (paragraph 22).

19. Which airports can I fly to / Do I need prior permission?

The following Greek airports have access restrictions for GA aircraft according to AIP Greece:

PPO (Prior Permission Only) They do not accept GA, except for exceptional cases and then only by permission via H.A.F.	PPR (Prior Permission Required) GA only with prior permission (via H.A.F. for military AB's)	PNR (Prior Notice Required) GA approved only by prior notice (just a fax or phone call will do)
Andravida AB (LGAD) Tatoi AB (LGTT) Kasteli AB (LGTL) Larisa AB (LGLR) Kotroni AB (LGKN) Elefsina AB (LGEL) Sedes AB (LGSD) Stefanovikion AB (LGSV) Tanagra AB (LGTG) Tripolis AB (LGTP)	Araxos AB (LGRX) Athens Venizelos (LGAV) 3 hrs N. Aghialos AB (LGBL) Aktio AB (LGPZ) Souda AB (LGSA) 20 days! Kalamata AB (LGKL) 20 days! Limnos (LGLM) 20 days! Skiros AB (LGSY)	Ioannina (LGIO) Mikonos (LG MK) Apr-Oct Megara AB (LGMG) 48hrs Rodos Maritsa (LGRD) via LGRP TWR Skiathos (LGSK) Syros (LGSO) 2 hrs Santorini (LGSR) 48 hrs Zakinthos (LGZA) 24 hrs Samos (LGSM)

For Military Air Bases (AB) that have no HCAA presence (first column) access is not allowed.

For Military Air Bases (AB) that have HCAA presence (second column) access is allowed but with prior permission either by HCAA or H.A.F.

At least one week (5 working days) before the flight, send an email or FAX to the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA) with the following details:

To: HCAA/D1/A
Fax: +30 210 8947101 & 8916338
Tel.: +30 210 8916247
From: (your full contact details incl. email and fax number)
Subject: Private flight to Kalamata LGKL (amend destination accordingly)

I request permission to visit Kalamata airport with the following flight details:

Pilot Name: Nationality:
Passenger Name: Nationality:
Passenger Name: Nationality:
Passenger Name: Nationality:
Aircraft Registration:
Aircraft Owner:
Aircraft Type:
Aircraft MTOW: x.xxx kg
Arrival Date & Time (UTC): dd/mm/yyyy @ hh:mm
Flight Origin: XXXX (if outside EU, you need to request customs presence)
Departure Date & Time (UTC): dd/mm/yyyy @ hh:mm
Purpose of flight: Private / Recreational / etc.

After the email/fax, they will take care of the coordination with Hellenic Air Force and they will reply you by email/fax within 2~4 days with the approval.

20. Which charts can I use for VFR flying in Greece?

For en route VFR charts for Greece, we use the 1:500.000 TPC charts which are the only available right now. The Nav aids data is old and there is no GPS data on them, but the topography is correct.

For NAV, COM, GPS and AIRSPACE data, we use the Jeppesen low level IFR chart E(LO)13-14 which include the latest data and you can buy it [here!](#)

Moreover, you can find [here](#) the latest initiative by a group of Greek helicopter pilots, which is the ONLY actual VFR Chart existing for Athens FIR. It includes data which are considered by pilots to be correct and is fully usable for navigation on VFR flights in Greece.

NOTE: CHECK ALWAYS THE AIP GREECE AND LATEST NOTAMs BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT IN GREECE!!!

21. How do I obtain Weather briefings and NOTAMs?

You can call the LGAV reporting office for NOTAMs at +30 210 3533691 or send a fax to +30 210 3532635 with your enquiry.

Call +30 210 3533689 for a MET briefing, or, at larger airfields, visit the local MET office. You can also go online for the official weather [here!](#)

Some other useful links on the Internet that we use for WX outlooks in Greece are:

<http://euro.wx.pilotots.net/>

<http://forecast.uoa.gr/>

<http://imkhp2.physik.uni->

[karlsruhe.de/~muehr/satpicsf/noaa/Greece/greece.html](http://imkhp2.physik.uni-karlsruhe.de/~muehr/satpicsf/noaa/Greece/greece.html)

<http://www.eweather.gr/index.php?lang=en>

22. Will I find aviation fuel (AVGAS) at my destination?

The airports that currently provide AVGAS in Greece are:

LGAV

LGTS (only via coordination with the local aeroclub [here](#))

LGRP

LGIR (min. quantity purchase may be imposed)

LGKR

LGKO

LGMG

LGMT (only via coordination with the local aeroclub [here](#))

LGST (Fuel manager Lefteris phone: 6977 999123)

LGSM

LGSA (only via coordination with the local aeroclub [here](#))

ZZZZ Ikaros Moschonis field in Kopaida (Usually SAT & SUN only - airfield is PNR).

ZZZZ Messologi field in Messologi (Only in coordination with the local aeroclub, usually during summer months).

The price of the Avgas varies between 2,5 and 3,0 Euro per Lt. (October 2012)

CHECK above airport NOTAMs to make sure there are no changes since this page was last updated.

23. What are the airport charges?

Landing & Parking Charges:

AIP GREECE VOLUME I FACILITATION (FAL) pgs.3-1, 3-2, 3-3 Chapter I.

1,63 euro: Greek & European Union Registered aircraft up to max. 2,0 tons MTOW.

7,34 euro: Non EU Registered aircraft up to max. 2,0 tons MTOW.

One charge per aircraft per day that counts for **all** Greek airports for **one** calendar day (no surcharge). You can find the complete pricelist from HCAA [here!](#)

Passenger Service Charges:

AIP GREECE VOLUME I FACILITATION (FAL) pgs.3-4 Chapter I.

Airport Development Charge per passenger -not for crew- per departure.

Departing passengers over 5 years old with final destination Greece, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and E U. airports 12 EURO.

For passengers with final destination outside E.U. airports 22 EURO.

Transfer passengers continuing their trip with the same or another airline within 24 hrs pay the charge at the starting airport.

Passengers continuing their trip with the same aircraft (transit) are totally excluded from payment.

Ground Handling Services:

For further information please check paragraph 12 above.

The landing/parking charges got a government wave off since summer 2010 until further notice. Athens International LGAV is excluded from the wave off.

24. Athens GA Airports

The dedicated General Aviation facility for Athens is **Megara (LGMG) airport**, some 40km west of the city of Athens. It is a "VFR only" airport and has operational hours a bit shorter than a normal aviation day to night time period. Visit our Megara LGMG page for further information [here!](#) Megara is a Hellenic Army Aviation helicopter base which has a civil apron on the Eastern side.

Alternatively, one can go VFR day, or IFR day & night to Athens International (LGAV) airport, which is a 24 hr international large size airport. Airport duty officer must be informed for landing permission at least 3 hours in advance and a handling agent must be assigned. Total charges at LGAV for a light aircraft should be about 230 Euros for first day and then another 70~80 Euros per consecutive day.

Tatoi Dekelia (LGTT), is the Hellenic Air Force cadets base and is open only to local based (civilian) aeroclubs. It is not accessible to private individual visitors.

Elefsis (LGEL), a Hellenic Air Force Military Air Transport Command base, is closed to all civilian aviation.

Kotroni (LGKN), a Hellenic Navy heliport, is closed to all civilian aviation.

Ikaros Moschonis (ZZZZ) private field is an excellent GA facility about 105 km NW of Athens. For more information visit AOPA's Ikaros page [here!](#)

25. Airport Details and Contact Directory

To visit the Hellenic CAA engineers' directory click [here!](#)

For a Greek airport phone & fax directory click [here](#) (courtesy of Chania Aeroclub).

For an airport directory with pilots' feedback click [here!](#)

26. Crete Airports - Transit to Africa & Middle East

Many pilots contact us regarding flights via Crete island as an intermediate stop for flights destined to Africa & Middle East. From Crete there are three options:

Chania (LGSA) Air Base on the west side of the island.

A mixed use airport. Civilian, busy Hellenic Air Force & NATO base. To fly there you need to send a PPR fax (paragraph 19) at least 5 working days in advance. Only Greek register aircraft are allowed to operate without PPR there and that only on SAT & SUN. They do have AVGAS, but it has to be arranged via the local aeroclub [here!](#)

Usually there is no handling charge, but Olympic Airways may charge ~40 Euros depending on service provided.

Iraklion (LGIR) at the center of the island.

The capital airport of Crete with lots of commercial traffic. You can visit Iraklion freely with just a PNR, but you should expect some considerable delays in refuelling (same driver for JET-A1 bowser) and may get flight delays in arrivals & departures due to traffic. Also, the handling may not be the cheapest; there are cases where Olympic Airways has charged 80~90 Euros for a simple marshalling and a drive to the terminal.

Expect paperwork & refuelling to take at least 1,5 hour. LGIR VFR routes can be found [here](#) and [here!](#)

Sitia (LGST) on the east side of the island.

A relaxed and calm airport, very friendly to GA. No handling and plenty of AVGAS. Only thing you should be careful with over there are the operating hours. Check the LGST NOTAMs for the operation hours [here!](#)

John Georgantakis (email: [i.georgantakis\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:i.georgantakis(at)gmail.com)), a local AOPA Hellas member, PPL & based Cessna owner, can always help you with anything you may need.

At all 3 airports you can make a Schengen entry/exit (paragraph 13), but it's recommended that you let them know in advance, just in case they need to notify customs officers.

27. Where can I find the AIP Greece online?

You can access Hellenic AIP through HCAA's website [here!](#) Just make a simple registration and off you go.

Finally, if you still need any further information, send an email to: info@aopa.gr

Happy Flying in Greece!