

Setting Up Broadband In Greece

Broadband in Greece is becoming more widespread now and much easier to obtain although in some of the more remote areas it is not available yet so if you choose to live in a tiny village up in the mountains you will not be able to receive it for quite a while.

OTE is the main service provider for broadband as well as for the telephone although now they have competition from Forthnet and Tellas.

OTE

In September 2007, OTE announced the introduction of its "OTE All in One" package that offers subscribers always-on broadband, unlimited fixed-to-fixed calls and a Cosmote post-paid subscription.

Forthnet

In July 2007 the company announced two major events. Firstly, Forthnet launched broadband services with 24 Mbps speeds based on ADSL2+ technology. Secondly, Forthnet announced plans to invest EUR 108 million in the expansion and development of its broadband infrastructure as a part of its investment plan for the period 2006 to 2009.

Tellas

Tellas is a telecommunication company offering fixed and mobile telephony services in Greece. The company was established in August 2001, following a joint venture between the Greek Public Power Corporation (PPC) and Wind, an Italian telecoms operator.

Currently, Tellas SA is an operating subsidiary of Wind PPC Holding N.V., acquired by Wind Hellas Telecommunications in October 2007. In August 2008, Wind Hellas Telecommunications announced the merger with Tellas.

In July 2007, the Greek government approved EUR 9.5 million funding for Tellas to be used for the development of broadband infrastructure and services in the regions of Attica and Thessalonica.

Make sure you do your research before you decide which company you will subscribe to as often you will have to sign up for a minimum of 18

months so you will not be able to change over until the end of your contract.

It is of course much easier to have your telephone and broadband services from the same company, you can set this up at the same time, when you go into do this you will need a copy of your tax number and passport, it is very simple to do and we found the people to be very helpful.

It may take a while to be connected initially depending on the waiting list, we waited a few weeks but I have known other people to be connected in a week, every case is different. I would advise not to get upset or angry with the staff if it takes a little longer as you will get nowhere with that attitude it is better to be firm but polite to be able to resolve any problems, we have come across case where expats go in and create a scene and they will get put to the bottom of the pile, it is just the way the system works here, very different from the UK.

The bills for telephone and broadband as with other utility bills come out every two months and can be paid at the post office, OTE office or you can set up a direct debit from your Greek bank account, most Greeks still like to pay at the offices with cash, bear in mind that the queues can be long so get there early.

You can still use your mobile phone here but it will be cheaper to buy a Greek sim card with a new Greek number, it is very cheap to call other Greek mobiles and landlines which can be handy while you are waiting for your connection, it only costs a few cents to text or call within the country from a mobile, more of course if you are texting or calling the UK.

You have decided to live in the sun here in Greece so please be patient and realise that things work very different to in the UK and maybe a lot slower but that is one of the reasons you have moved is for a slower and more relaxing way of life.