

Learning The Language

Greek is the official language of Greece, where it is spoken by approximately 10 million people. It is also one of the official languages of Cyprus, where there are an additional 600,000 speakers. Beyond that, some 3 million people elsewhere in the world claim Greek as their first language, including numerous speakers in Turkey, Albania, Canada, and the United States. Greek has been one of the official languages of the European Union since 1981.

It is said that Greek is one of the most difficult languages to learn mainly due to the fact that it has a whole different alphabet that is the first thing you must learn.

Although you can take courses and try to learn the language before you move it will be easier once you are living here in Greece and listening to it every day in the shops, banks, tavernas etc and to be able to fit in you must make the effort. The Greek people will accept you much more if you try to speak their language and even if you get some words totally wrong at the beginning they do like it when you try.

In the larger towns and cities most people speak English but you will still come across places where you need to be able to converse and make yourself understood.

The Greek government runs Greek language courses for foreigners in many towns and also free lessons are available throughout the year in various places.

Private lessons cost around 15 to 20 Euros per hour or you may be able to find a local high school student to teach you.

There are also good language courses on CD available to buy ie BBC Language course or Rosetta Stone is very good.