

Planning Your Budget Before You Live In Greece

This will be the most difficult part of planning your dream of living in the sun. If you by chance have won the lottery or are already a multi millionaire then of course this will not be a problem.

First of all you have to consider what you will need when you first arrive in Greece and you will have to have a contingency plan to cover you in case you have to wait more than a couple of months to find employment as this can be the case.

If you are not moving into your own house that you have bought then you have to consider the cost of renting accommodation, for example in the area we live a one bedroom apartment will cost you around 300 Euros a month plus water and electricity, water is fairly cheap here and only works out at about 60 Euros a year, electricity you can expect to pay around 50 to 75 Euros for a month.

If you decide to rent a villa or larger house then the cost will be around 500 to 600 Euros for the rent.

Of course if you live in a town or city then expect the costs to be much higher, and of course Athens will be even higher, on the whole the islands are much cheaper and of course less than the UK.

One of the reasons we all move to somewhere like Greece is for a better standard of life and cheaper cost of living so you have to choose the best area or island for that, some things even in the cheaper areas can be a little more expensive as on the islands things have to be brought over from the mainland but the rent, utilities and fresh vegetables and meat are very reasonable as well as tasting wonderful.

Some areas are very popular with expats as they have stores selling a few British foods but I prefer to shop in the local stores and eat the Greek food, there is not anything British that I cannot live without.

When you plan your budget you will need to think about the different things you will need to pay out for including:

Three Months Living Costs- This will cover you until you start a business, find employment or settle into your new accommodation. If you base it on your UK living costs then as the cost of living is lower over here in Greece you will have enough for a backup fund. You have to consider that when renting you will have to pay a deposit as well as the first month's rent. If you will be looking for seasonal employment

depending on what time of year you move you will need enough money to cover you through the winter months or you will find things difficult.

Getting to Greece to start your new life in the sun- There are a few options when leaving the UK for your new life in the sun, once you have chosen the area you want to live then after arranging what you will bring with you and finding a removal company or renting a van to drive your goods over yourself, we chose to sell all our furniture and just bring boxes of personal items, clothing etc and we had a removal company bring them over, as Greece is further away from the UK it costs more than it would if you were moving to France or Spain which is closer.

If you decide to drive over it will take around 5 days and you will have to budget for accommodation and ferries en route which can be expensive.

You can also fly which is so much quicker and if you are like we were eager to get to start your new life then this is a good option and as you only need a one way ticket you can find some good deals on the no frills airlines.

Extra payments to plan for- There will be other things you will need to think of that your budget will need to cover. If you are not retired and able to receive free medical cover then you will need to take out private medical insurance or enough money to cover medical bills in case you become ill or have an accident.

There will be other things that you will need when you first arrive for example here in Greece when you transfer the electricity into your name then it can cost a few hundred Euros, these things can add up so I would advise putting aside 500 Euros for this.

I would also suggest that you view our price comparison page as some items can be expensive here in Greece and it may be worth bringing some of these items with you when you leave the UK.

As with all prices in Greece they are subject to change.