

United States National Support Element Larissa: New Arrivals

Passports

US passports are needed for dependants. Passports are strongly recommended Military members, particularly if you plan to partake in leisure travel. Allow sufficient time to process passport requests. A link to US passport online information is provided in the neighborhood network section.

What to Pack/Not to Pack

Some Americans may consider many of the Greek homes to be on the small side. If you have oversized furniture/grand pianos/beds the size of baseball fields, it's best to leave them in storage. Generally, Greek homes do not come with appliances, therefore, they will be provided for you by the Housing office. The appliances are European sizes which are smaller than US models. Be sure to include pots/pans, dishes, and bed linen in your express shipment, as you will need them to set up housekeeping while waiting for your household goods to arrive. See Customs section for information on POV and prohibited items.

Money

Currency is in Euro (€) notes and coins. Notes are in denominations of €1,000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 10 and 5. Coins are issued in denominations of €1 and 2, as well as .50, .20, .10, .05, .02 and .01 cent. Major credit cards, including Diners Club, Visa, American Express, and MasterCard, are accepted at some stores in Larissa. Larissa and most of Greece is considered a cash-based society. You are much better off if you carry cash always. You can get cash at most of the ATMs attached to the banks. If you're card is from the US, most ATM's will give you the option to conduct your transactions in English. Checks are not an option. It is recommended that you exchange some \$ for € prior to arriving in Greece. Many airports in Europe will have currency exchange stands.

Pets

In order to bring your pets into Greece, they must be "chipped". For more information please visit the U.S. Embassy website for all the details: <http://www.usembassy.gr>. Veterinary services are going to be a lot different than what you are used to in the States, but there are some very good local vets.

- All animals must have a rabies certificate, dated within 6 months of CONUS departure date. A health certificate is also required which a veterinarian and the nearest Greek consulate must certify.
- As both the health and rabies certificates are usually handled through the mail, a veterinarian must revalidate the health certificate less than 10 days (preferably less than 3 days) prior to departure.
- There is no quarantine period upon entry into Greece. You must make arrangements for boarding your pets upon arrival, as most hotels do not allow pets.
- Birds are prohibited.