

United States National Support Element Larissa: Community Information

The following information has been helpful to locally assigned personnel and is provided for your assistance.

Local shops are open for business as follows:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 09:00-13:30 & 17:00-21:00
- Tuesday & Thursday: 09:00-14:00
- Saturday: 09:00-14:00
- Sunday: All Stores (including grocery stores) are closed
- Fresh fruits and vegetables can be purchased at any of the open (farmers) markets generally from 0700 to 1200.
- Markets in Ambelonas and Giannouli are open each Friday.
- There are several markets in Larissa (see below for more details). The largest one, Neapoli, is open each Saturday.
- The market in Tyrnavos is also open on Saturday.
- Each town usually has a butcher for fresh meat; however, packaged meat can be purchased at the local supermarkets.
- There is a large superstore in Larissa, similar to the ones in the U.S. that sell groceries and household items. This facility accepts VAT forms and credit cards.
- Online grocery and clothing stores are very popular and convenient alternative shopping options.

Larissa open markets:

MONDAYS

1. Saranta Martyron – Nikitara and Eolou Streets (behind Champion Marinopoulos, off of Ring Road)
2. Anthoupoli – Alexandroupoleos Street (across the street from Customs, next to cemetery)

TUESDAYS

1. Larissa Train Station – Paleologou Street
2. Abelokipi – Olympou Street (across from the main Larissa Bus Station)

WEDNESDAYS

1. Agiou Athanasiou – Kallitheas Street (“horse statue” intersection, road along the river)
2. Neraida – Pantamia Street (goes along the train tracks and runs parallel to Karditsis Road)

THURSDAYS

1. Nea Smirnis – Dimosthenous Street (off of Socratous Street)
2. Averof – Kallisthenis Street (off of Farsalon Road)
3. Agiou Georgiou – Karlas Street (off of old road to Volos & Old Nat'l Road, behind Superbowl Bowling Alley)

FRIDAYS

Neapolis – covered market (ORGANIC)

SATURDAYS

Neapolis (by the Neapolis square)

Schools

Larissa is a Non DoD Schools site as there is no DoD school in the commuting area. The National Support Element acts as the liaison with the Non DoD Schools Program.

The following educational options are available for elementary school children (grades K-6) in Larissa:

1. Attend local public or private school. NDSP will provide financial assistance to offset the cost of transportation, tuition and books as required by the school for children in grades K and higher. The International School of Larissa (www.isl.edu.gr) is in the vicinity of the base. The school is small satellite school of the International School of Athens. It has a very small school population and uses an American curriculum and American textbooks. The school is certified by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Please contact the School Liaison Officer for more information and updates on extra curricular activities at the school. Sponsors are encouraged to contact the school and the School Liaison Officer for an update on the school if considering the school for their elementary students, due to the small enrollment. Other students (including US children not command-sponsored or not at least five years old) may also attend the school. Parents must make tuition arrangements directly with the school.

The facilities include separate elementary and high school buildings along with a 200-seat indoor gymnasium. Within the elementary school building there is a library, science lab, computer lab, auditorium and cafeteria. Outside, there is an amphitheater, playground equipment, and two large courts for tennis, basketball, and volleyball. There is a hot lunch program offered (students pay a daily fee for lunch). School begins in September and ends in June. School registration runs from the end of the current school year and continues after 1 September of the following school year to allow flexibility for those who arrive late. The following will be required: two passport-size photos of the child, the last report card and a photocopy of the child's passport. School tours and interviews with the teachers are available before the school year begins.

2. Home based educational options. NDSP will provide financial reimbursement up to the rate established by the Department of Defense

Standardized Regulations (DSSR) Grades K-8 can be reimbursed up to \$5700 and grades 9-12 can be reimbursed up to \$7700. Parents that choose to home school should become familiar with the allowable expenses as stated on the website www.eu.dodea.edu/nondod . Virtual Schools are available in many states. Complete academic programs with both on line and standard courses are available through many sources such as www.k12.com and www.worldwide-IDEA.com . For further information about virtual school options contact NDSP.Education@eu.dodea.edu

The following educational options are available for High School students (grades 9-12) in Larissa:

1. Local public or private school. NDSP will provide financial assistance to offset the cost of transportation, books, and labs, as required by the school. The International School of Larissa has the capability of an American College Preparatory Program. Due to the small student enrollment it does not provide a full comprehensive educational program. Sponsors are encouraged to contact the school regarding course offerings and high school population.
2. Home based education with reimbursement for educational expenses. High school educational reimbursement is up to \$7700. DoDEA will have a full comprehensive Virtual High School by school year 2010-2011. Contact the NDSP program for further information about high school on line programs at NDSP.Education@eu.dodea.edu
3. Private boarding school either CONUS or OCONUS. Cost for boarding school and transportation from home to school and return is authorized. The closest boarding school option is in Thessaloniki which is approximately a 2 hour drive away. For assistance with boarding school and questions please contact NDSP.Education@eu.dodea.edu

Religious Programs

At least once per quarter we have visiting Chaplains that offer religious worship services, counseling, etc.

However, there are alternatives:

The Catholic Church, which is very small and the Mass is in Greek, but English written translations of the readings and gospel are provided. Mass is every day including Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m and Sundays at 10:00.

There is an English speaking Protestant service in downtown Larissa. The service is at 10:30am on Sundays, the last Sunday of the month the service is joint Greek/English service at 10:30am.

There also is a Jewish Synagogue located downtown.

The Larissa Christian Centre is in downtown Larissa (El. Venizelou 137 street). All services are joint Greek/English. Services begin at 10:30am.