



04 Hiking

Many visitors choose to experience the beauty of Greek nature by hiking for hours on the numerous marked and unmarked trails of our islands.

If you choose to do so it is important that someone is informed about your planned hike and rough time schedule. It can be a family member, your partner, your tour guide, the host in the place where you stay or even the competent authorities (Police, Fire Service, etc). In this way it will be easier and faster to locate you in case of orientation loss, sudden illness or any other emergency.

- Remain calm - Avoid Panic. Try to help friends and family to remain calm, too.

If inside a hotel or any other building

- Do not use the elevator
- Use the stairs.
- Do not run
- Walk fast.
- Go to the hotel emergency meeting point.

If you need to report an emergency or to call for help

- European emergency call number **112**
- Greek Fire Service phone number: 199



Welcome to the South Aegean of Greece

Enjoy your vacation time safely

Dear Visitor,

Welcome to the beautiful and historic South Aegean Archipelago. We are more than happy to have you here and we want you to enjoy a wonderful and unforgettable vacation experience. Your safety is of paramount importance to us. As you are in an environment that is different from the one in your country, please take a moment to read the information below that will help you stay safe avoiding any potential risks.

01 Swimming

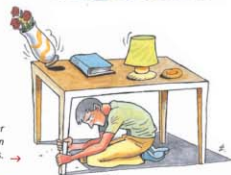
Our sea is among the most beautiful and friendliest in the world. Enjoy it, but do take some precautions:

- Don't swim when drunk or immediately after eating a heavy meal.
- Stay close to the shore. There is no strong tide here but there can be currents at some locations.
- Use common sense and observe any warnings in case of bad weather (thunderstorm, big waves, wind).
- Don't jump in without knowing depth of water.

Evacuate the building using the stairs. Do not use the elevator...



Drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy table and hold on until the shaking stops.



Crouch in the center of the room and cover your head and your back neck with your arms...



02 Earthquakes

Earthquakes are natural phenomena that occur in most places on earth. Most of the earthquakes in our country do not cause serious concern as the buildings have been built to high standards.

Occasionally, however, earthquakes can be very strong and may cause damages.

- In case of an earthquake stay calm.
- If you are in a room or in another place in a hotel, stay there. Move away from windows and glass surfaces. Get cover under a sturdy wooden desk or table holding one of its legs or, if not available, lie on the floor in the center of the room protecting your head.
- If you are outdoors, stay there. Move immediately to an open and safe space such as a square, away from buildings, power lines, signs, etc.
- If driving, pull over to the side of the road and stop. After the earthquake keep an eye for probable damages on the road surface, bridges, power lines, and on the dock of the bay.
- If you are close to the beach keep in mind that earthquakes may cause tsunamis. Although this phenomenon is extremely rare in Greece stay alert.



Forest Fires 03 or wildfires, or bushfires

Forest fires are part of the ecological circle of Mediterranean ecosystems. However, due to their increased frequency and the damages they cause to forests, homes and infrastructures, they have become a problem for Greece and other Mediterranean countries.

When visiting the beautiful outdoors of our islands, please be careful. Unlike many natural disasters, most wildfires are caused by people, mainly due to ignorance and negligence - and can be prevented by people, too. Here are some tips on how to prevent wildfires and what to do if you spot one or you find yourself in its path.

If you notice an unattended or out-of-control fire in forest or agricultural land please report it immediately: **call 112 or 199** (Fire Service) from any available phone (landline or cell phone).

- Do not become an unintentional arsonist:
- Do not discard lighted cigarettes, matches, and smoking materials on the forest floor when visiting a forest or on the road from moving vehicles.
- Do not park your car on dry grass or other dead litter. The catalytic converter that is usually installed underneath the car body reaches very high temperatures while driving and may ignite such dead fuels when parked.



- Do not launch flying lanterns in the summer months. They have been the cause of numerous forest fires.
- Lighting a fire outdoors is not permitted by law between May 1st and October 31st. It is allowed to light fire for cooking in organized campgrounds, only in the places and installations intended and prepared for the purpose. Extinguish any fire completely before leaving the site.

If threatened by a forest fire:

- Keep calm, think rationally, react quickly.
- If authorities are present, follow their directions.
- Do not try to outrun the fire especially running upslope.
- The fire should not reach you in the open. Look for a building to shelter in. Most buildings in Greece are built with non-flammable materials and they can provide adequate shelter until the fire front passes provided they are not engulfed in thick vegetation. If you can seek shelter in a safe building get in there and shut all doors and windows.
- If driving a vehicle, drive away if your route is not blocked by the flames or smoke. Be alert for other drivers in panic. If the road is blocked try parking in an open space with adequate separation from forest fuels (4 times the flame height) and stay in the car.
- If on foot and in the open and it becomes obvious that there is no safe escape, look for an open space with as little vegetation around as possible, and lie on the ground (e.g. in a ditch next to a road). Take short breaths close to the ground, where the coolest air is, trying to avoid intake of hot gases.