



**Embassy of the United States of America  
Athens, Greece**

**February 2012**

## **INFORMATION FOR THE DISABLED**

**Disclaimer:** The following information is presented so that you have an understanding of the facilities, laws and procedures currently in force. For official and authoritative information, please consult directly with the relevant authorities as described below.

**Your flight to Greece:** Disabled passengers and passengers with limited mobility are encouraged to notify the air carrier/tour operator of the type of assistance needed at least 48 hours before the flight departure. Athens International Airport facilities for the disabled include parking spaces, wheelchair ramps, a special walkway for people with impaired vision, elevators with Braille floor-selection buttons, etc. For detailed information on services for disabled passengers and passengers with limited mobility, please visit the airport's website, [www.aia.gr](http://www.aia.gr)

**Hellenic Railways Organization (O.S.E.):** In Athens, the railway office for persons with disabilities is at Larissa main station. Open from 6 AM to midnight, it can be reached at tel.: 210-529-8838, in Thessaloniki at tel.: 2310-59-9071. Information on itineraries, fares and special services provided by the O.S.E. is available at: <http://www.ose.gr>. Recorded train schedule information can be obtained via tel: 1440 and 1110.

**Ferries:** The Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine reports most ferry companies offer accessibility and facilities for people with disabilities and has posted a list of companies on its website, [www.yen.gr](http://www.yen.gr). For information concerning ferry schedules, please consult [www.gtp.gr](http://www.gtp.gr)

**Athens Metro:** Metro service connects Athens International Airport directly with city center. Escalators, lifts, and special areas for people with disabilities are available. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.amel.gr>, via recordings at tel.: 210-519-4012 (7 AM - 7 PM) or the main government information tel.: 185. Email inquiries can be sent to [pservice@ametro.gr](mailto:pservice@ametro.gr).

**Buses:** The Organization of Urban Transportation of Athens and Thessaloniki provides free transportation for the disabled within each city and can be reached via tel.: 1130 (6 AM - 10 PM, Mon - Sat and 8 AM - 3 PM Sundays). Requests must be made two days prior to the date transport is desired.

**Hotels:** Confirm with hotels by phone or fax to be absolutely certain any reserved room will indeed be accessible for your particular situation.

**Sailing Charters for the disabled:** Information available at:  
[www.disabledsailingholidays.co.uk/greek.htm](http://www.disabledsailingholidays.co.uk/greek.htm)

**Museums:** Most of museums in the Athens area are accessible to persons with special needs. Audio guides are provided in a few museums in the Athens and Thessaloniki area. For detailed information concerning individual museums and accessibility for disabled persons, please consult the Ministry of Culture website at <http://www.culture.gr>, e-mail [aepka@culture.gr](mailto:aepka@culture.gr), tel. 210-321-4172/173.

**The Panathenaic Stadium:** A classical cultural monument of Greece directly connected to the Modern Olympic Games from their revival in 1896 until the Athens Olympic games in 2004. After a multi-year renovation, it is once again open to the public. For information please visit, [www.panathenaicstadium.gr](http://www.panathenaicstadium.gr)

**Tactual Museum** (established by the Lighthouse for the Blind of Greece) at 198 Doiranis Street, Kallithea (south of central Athens) is open 9 AM - 2 PM, Monday – Friday. Entry is free for handicapped individuals and their escorts. The exhibits consist of statues, vessels, sculptures and artifacts which are exact replicas of the originals in the museums of Greece. It also includes a Byzantine section with wood carved alters, epitaphs, icons, other religious artifacts and a model of a Byzantine Church. For more information, visit [www.tactualmuseum.gr](http://www.tactualmuseum.gr)

**Information for Disabled Residents in Greece:** Under Greek law, all persons having visual acuity less than 1/20 in both eyes are entitled to monetary assistance. In addition, the blind and all handicapped with more than 67% disability who are high school or technical school graduates can register for a school of higher education or classes of their choice without having to take any exams. There is also a one-year course for telephone operators located in Nea Smyrni that gives visually-impaired individuals the opportunity to study and become telephone operators. Blind or disabled individuals are also entitled to a discounted telephone bill, an unlimited travel card for all means of public transportation, and culture cards for museums, theaters, movies, cultural events, and bookstores.

The Greek National Confederation of Disabled People is located at 236 El. Venizelou Street, 163 41 Illioupoli, tel.: 210-994-9837, fax: 210-523-8967, email: [esea@otenet.gr](mailto:esea@otenet.gr)  
The Lighthouse for the Blind of Greece, may be reached at [www.fte.org.gr](http://www.fte.org.gr) .