



Driver's License

Driving requirements in Greece differ depending on whether a person has official orders. If a person is military, civilian, or a dependent on official orders in Greece, they need a valid U.S. driver's license, a copy of their orders, and valid insurance to drive. Not all countries recognize the U.S. military license expiration rules, so licenses should be renewed PRIOR to arriving in Greece.

Additionally, these drivers must complete the Local Hazards Training and pass a written Driving in Crete test before they are authorized to operate a motor vehicle on or off base. This course is offered by the Safety Office during Indoctrination training or Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., in the Safety Office, located in Bldg. 53.

All personnel not on official orders (visitors, family members, tourists, etc.) are required to have an International Driver's License to drive in Greece. Please apply for this PRIOR to arriving in Greece because such licenses are only available from the American Automobile Association (AAA) and the American Automobile Touring Alliance (AATA).

NOTE Whether on orders or visiting, if planning to rent a car and travel throughout Europe, an International Driver's License may be required because this varies country to country – of note, Greek rental car companies sometimes require an International Driver's License.

Gasoline

***NOTE – the privately owned vehicle (POV) Gas Station on base is currently closed and is scheduled to re-open in April 2024. Fuel coupons are being used instead of the gasoline token described below. Please visit the Customs Office in Building 49 for more information.**

Unleaded gasoline for your privately-owned vehicle is available to DoD personnel in Greece on a tax-free basis which amounts to a substantial discount from the local market. POV gasoline tokens for are sold at the Navy Exchange Customer Service Desk. There is a \$25 deposit that is refundable upon return of the gasoline token to the NEX Customer Service Desk. Gasoline tokens purchased at the NEX are used like a debit card at the installation gas pumps. Money can be added as needed at the NEX Customer Service Counter.

Your POV must be registered at the Visitor Control Center prior to purchasing a gasoline token. You must bring your orders, your ID and your base vehicle pass to purchase the gasoline token.

The Navy Exchange is located in Bldg. 17.

Customer Service Hours are Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The Visitor Control Center is located in Bldg. 85.

Customer Service Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Vehicle Rental

Vehicle rental is available on the installation through Spa Tours, located in Bldg. 96, and out in town. In order to drive a rental vehicle onto base, you will need to get a vehicle pass from the Vehicle Control Center (VCC), located in Bldg. 85, outside the Mouzouras Gate.

***NOTE – the POV Gas Station on base is currently closed and tax-free gasoline is NOT available for rental cars. The Gas Station is scheduled to re-open in April 2024. Please visit the Customs Team in Building 49 for additional information.**

If you rent a car while you are waiting for your POV to arrive, you may obtain tax-free gas for the rental; just bring a copy of your orders, your rental contract for the vehicle, and your military ID card or Common Access Card (CAC) to the NEX Customer Service counter when applying for your gas token. When your POV arrives, you must update the vehicle information. Not doing so will disable your account and prevent future gasoline purchases.

Alcohol & Driving

Greek traffic laws are more strict on drunk driving than U.S. laws. The Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limit in Greece is 0.05 (0.05 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters or 1 deciliter of blood); driving with a higher limit can result in a DUI charge in Greece, with more significant penalties corresponding to higher BAC levels. NSA Souda Bay's [Installation Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy](#) has more information.

NSA Souda Bay's higher headquarters, Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central (CNREURAFCENT), has issued a [General Order](#) restricting alcohol-impaired driving in conformity with Host Nation (HN) law. It states that for all personnel assigned to CNREURAFCENT and its subordinate commands, driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle with a BAC above the HN's local limit is prohibited. Additionally, for all military and civilian personnel onboard any location under the control of CNREURAFCENT, driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle with a BAC above the HN's local limit is prohibited. Personnel above the HN's local limit will be violating a General Order, which may result in administrative or criminal action under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

NSA Souda Bay runs a no fault taxi program called Topsy Taxi to limit intoxicated vehicle operators on public roadways. If you have had too much to drink, leave your vehicle and take a taxi. The command will issue a card to our service members in advance, which is to be provided to the taxi driver with instructions to drive them to the base where the Command Duty Officer (CDO) will pay for the fare.

Rules of the Road

You may notice driving habits are considerably different from those in the U.S. Apply your defensive driving skills at all times. Watch for drivers passing you with oncoming traffic and on blind curves. Watch for slow moving tractors, large trucks, mopeds, bicycles, motorcycles, or animal carts. Roads in Crete can be very narrow. Stay out of the left lane unless you are passing in a safe zone.

Sheep, goats, and, yes, even olive trees have `right of way` on roads, or wherever they are. If you damage or injure a tree or an animal, you will likely have to pay the owner the value of the item/animal and all of its potential value. So, if you crash into an olive tree, you have to pay for the tree and all of the olives it would have made in its lifetime. As olive trees can live for more than a thousand years, that can add up to a lot of olives and consequently a lot of money! If you hit a goat, you have to pay for that goat and its entire potential offspring. Simply put, drive very carefully.

Watch for potholes, rocks on the road, abrupt cliffs, and roads with little or no shoulder. Local insurance does not cover the vehicle undercarriage.

Seat belts are required. Wear them at all times, not just on the installation. The speed limit on the installation is 15 mph or 25 kph. Off base it is posted, so pay attention.

The use of cell phones while driving is not permitted unless the driver is using a speaker phone or an earpiece.

Traffic Tickets

During your tour in Greece, you may receive a traffic ticket. The police usually issue them on the spot, but your rear license plate can be confiscated by police for a parking violation or even a moving violation. If a Greek police officer issues you a ticket, be respectful. There may be a communication gap, and you may not understand why the ticket is being issued. If this occurs, accept the ticket and bring it to the Security Department for assistance in rectifying your citation or locating your vehicle tag.

Vehicle Accidents

If you are involved in any vehicle accident, call Dispatch as soon as is safely possible. Even if it is minor, report it. The Dispatch operator will assist with language interpretation. Security and Legal can help you navigate the Greek investigative and legal proceedings, if necessary.

If you are the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident that causes injury or death to another, criminal charges may be initiated against you. A traffic accident with injuries is an automatic misdemeanor and can result in six months to five years in Greek prison. Prompt notification to Dispatch and Security Department is essential to the protection of your rights.

People can have heightened emotions in all types of accident situations. Remember to keep your cool and remain an ambassador of the U.S., as you are a guest here in Greece.

Dispatch Contact Information

Emergency Dispatch from Off Base: (+30) 282-1021911

Non-Emergency Dispatch from Off Base: (+30) 282-102-1223/1652/1660

Command Duty Officer: (+30) 694-043-1155