

IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

Full details of how to obtain a visa to enter and stay in Greece can be found at <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/greece-visa/>

Three Methods:

1. If you hold a European Union Passport, or a Swiss or Norwegian Passport, there are no restrictions on you entering or staying in Greece. Therefore, no problems joining YWAM Lesvos/Next Wave.
2. If you hold a Passport from outside the EU from a developed nation (if in doubt please check online for your country's visa requirements, see above) you will be given a 90-day visa, free at the entry point to the Schengen area. (Greece is within the Schengen visa treaty area of Europe, which covers: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Liechtenstein).
3. If you are a non-EU citizen and wish to stay longer than 90 days, you could apply for a Seafarer's visa and join the crew of YWAM Next Wave which is a twin ministry with the land-based campus of YWAM Lesvos. This is the procedure:
 - a. You MUST have a Seafarer's medical fitness certificate which you can get from any doctor in any country, provided it is IMO/ILO approved. The Maltese form downloadable at www.ywamnextwave.org meets the criteria perfectly. You will fill in part A, the doctor fills in part B. Part C is the required certificate. Please ensure ALL sections are completed (the chest x-ray is optional) the doctor signing and stamping the certificate.
 - b. You will need to obtain STCW Basic Safety Training course certificates. All seafarer's now must to complete this course before going to sea. It consists of 4 short courses (2 days of basic firefighting; 1 day personal sea survival; 1 day first aid and Personal & social responsibility lecture). It is usually conducted as a 5-day combined course from a maritime college throughout the world. (Look online for courses).
 - c. Also, you now need to apply for a Maltese Seafarer's book (looks like a passport and cost 60 Euros) but can't do this until you have a & b above. With these you are entitled to a Seafarer's visa which is unlimited. Application with this memo.
 - d. You MUST send all your travel itinerary to the Captain of YWAM Next Wave captain@ywamnextwave.org AT LEAST 7 working days in advance, so he can double check you have the right things and he must pass them to the ship's agent at least 4 working days in advance for them to prepare the forms for your entry into Mytilini.

On arrival in the first Greek port/airport, you will be met by an A1 agent who will arrange for you to obtain a Seafarer's visa. Then the ship's agent will meet you at Mytilini airport and take you to the Port Police (Immigration authorities) where you will be stamped OUT OF the Schengen area and ONTO the vessel. The agent will then drop you off at the vessel. On arrival on board, or shortly afterwards, you will have a formal familiarization tour of the vessel and be SIGNED ON to the 'ship's articles of agreement' as trainee crew (or another position if you are suitably qualified).

- a. The cost will be 50 Euro for immigration and 150 Euro for the agent which will be charged to the vessel and claimed back from you later. You will be joining YWAM Next Wave as a trainee crew member, unless you already hold a marine certificate, in which case you should send ALL these to the Captain at the same time as the medical certificate, STCW Basic Training certificates.
- b. Your stay in Greece is now unlimited, as long as your ministry is 'attached' to the vessel. i.e. Although you are not 'chained' to the vessel, if the vessel sails from Lesbos (e.g. during the Bluewater DTS, sailing around the Aegean) you must sail with it, or give up the Seafarer's visa.

For details of the ministry of the Training vessel s/y Next Wave and marine training opportunities, please visit ywamnextwave.org.