

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR GREEK

ELOT 743 System: BGN/PCGN 1996 Agreement

This romanization system supersedes the one which was approved by the BGN and the PCGN in 1962. It corresponds to the system devised by the Hellenic Organization for Standardization and approved for international use at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1987.

Greek					Romanization	Example		
1.	A	α	<i>A</i>	<i>α</i>		a	Άρτα	Árta
	Ai	αι	<i>Ai</i>	<i>αι</i>		ai	Ακταίο	Aktaío
	Ai	αῖ	<i>Ai</i>	<i>αῖ</i>		ai	Νεράιδα	Neráida
	Au	αυ	<i>Aυ</i>	<i>αυ</i>	before β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ, and all vowels	av	Μαυροβούνι	Mavrouúni
					before θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and word final	af	Ναύπλιο	Náfplio
					when α is stressed or when u occurs with dieresis	ay	Ταύγετος	Taýgetos
2.	B	β	<i>B</i>	<i>β</i>		v	Βόλος	Vólos
3.	Γ	γ	<i>Γ</i>	<i>γ</i>	before all vowels and consonants other than γ, ξ, and χ	g	Γαράζο Γουριά Άγναντα Γλυφάδα	Garázo Gouriá Ágnanta Glyfáda
					before ξ and χ	n	Αγχίαλος	Anchíalos
	Γγ	γγ	<i>Γγ</i>	<i>γγ</i>		ng	Λόγγος	Lóngos
	Γκ	γκ	<i>Γκ</i>	<i>γκ</i>		gk	Λαγκάδα	Lagkáda
4.	Δ	δ	<i>Δ</i>	<i>δ</i>		d	Δένδρα	Déndra
5.	E	ε	<i>E</i>	<i>ε</i>		e	Ερέτρια	Erétria
	Ei	ει	<i>Ei</i>	<i>ει</i>		ei	Ηράκλειο	Irákleio
	Ei	εῖ	<i>Ei</i>	<i>εῖ</i>		eï	Μαρινεΐκα	Marinéika
	Eu	ευ	<i>Eu</i>	<i>ευ</i>	before β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ, and all vowels	ev	Ρεύματα	Révmata
					before θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ, and word final	ef	Λευκάδα	Lefkáda
					when ε is stressed or when u occurs with dieresis	ey	rare	

Greek				Romanization	Example		
6.	Ζ	ζ	<i>Z z</i>		z	Ζεμενό	Zemenó
7.	Η	η	<i>H h</i>		i	Ηράκλειο	Irákleio
	Ηυ	ηυ	<i>Hv hv</i>	before β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ, and all vowels	iv	rare	
				before θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ, and word final	if	rare	
				when η is stressed or when U occurs with dieresis	iy	rare	
8.	Θ	θ	<i>Θ θ</i>		th	Θεσπιές	Thespiés
9.	Ι	ι	<i>I i</i>		i	Ίρια	Íria
10.	Κ	κ	<i>K k</i>		k	Καλαμάκι	Kalamáki
11.	Λ	λ	<i>L l</i>		l	Λίμνη	Lími
12.	Μ	μ	<i>M m</i>		m	Μαραθώνας	Marathónas
	Μπ	μπ	<i>Mπ μπ</i>	initially and word final	b	Μπέχρος	Béchros
				medially	mp	Τέμπη	Témpi
13.	Ν	ν	<i>N n</i>		n	Νεστάνη	Nestáni
	Ντ	ντ	<i>Nτ ντ</i>		nt	Ντία	Ntía
14.	Ξ	ξ	<i>Ξ ξ</i>		x	Ξάνθη	Xánthi
15.	Ο	ο	<i>O o</i>		o	Όθος	Óthos
	Οι	οι	<i>Oι οι</i>		oi	Δελφοί	Delfoí
	Οϊ	οϊ	<i>Oϊ οϊ</i>		oï	Δοϊράνι	Doïráni
	Ου	ου	<i>Oυ ου</i>		ou	Βούναργο	Vounargo
				when o is stressed, or when u occurs with dieresis	oy	rare	

Greek					Romanization	Example		
16.	Π	π	Π	π		ρ	Παύλος	Pávlos
	Μπ	μπ	Μπ	μπ	initially and word final	b	Μπέχρος	Béchros
					medially	mp	Τέμπη	Témpi
17.	Ρ	ρ	Ρ	ρ		r	Μερόπι	Merópi
18.	Σ	σ	Σ	σ		s	Άσος	Ássos
		ς		ς	word final	s	Σάμος	Sámos
19.	Τ	τ	Τ	τ		t	Τίρυνθα	Tírynthá
		ντ		ντ		nt	Πέντε Βρύσες	Pénte Vrýses
20.	Υ	υ	Υ	υ		y	Υλίκη	Ylíki
21.	Φ	φ	Φ	φ		f	Φιλοθέη	Filothéi
22.	Χ	χ	Χ	χ		ch	Χαραυγή	Charavgí
23.	Ψ	ψ	Ψ	ψ		ps	Ψαρά	Psará
24.	Ω	ω	Ω	ω		o	Ωρωπός	Oropós

NOTES

1. Stress is shown in Greek by the use of the acute accent. This mark will be represented in romanization by an acute accent, e.g., Αθήνα → **Athína**, Ντία → **Ntía**. If the stressed vowel is written as a sequence of two vowel characters in Greek, the second vowel character would usually carry the accent. In romanization the acute accent would in these cases similarly be placed over the second vowel letter, e.g., Οινούσσεσ → **Oinousses**, Οίτη → **Oíti**.

When a syllable containing one of the combinations **αυ**, **ευ**, or **ηυ** carries the stress, this is usually marked in Greek on the character **υ**. When these character combinations are romanized **av**, **af**, **ev**, **ef**, **iv** or **if**, the stress should be placed on the preceding vowel letter, e.g., Αύρα → **Ávra**, Γάυριο → **Gávrio**, Καλλιπέυκα → **Kallipéfka**. When the character combinations **αυ**, **ευ**, **ηυ** or **ου** are romanized **ay**, **ey**, **iy** or **oy**, and the stress is found in Greek on the character **υ**, then in romanization the stress would be marked on the letter **y**.

Stress accents are sometimes omitted in Greek, for example, in words and names printed wholly in uppercase characters, but in romanization the stress should always be determined and marked with an acute accent. Usually there is no stress above the vowel character of monosyllabic words, e.g., Κως → **Kos**. In Greek abbreviations, any accent which may be found should not be romanized.

2. The dieresis should be shown in romanization where it occurs in Greek, e.g., Μαρινέϊκα → **Marinéïka**, Αχαΐα → **Achaíia**.
3. In some older maps and publications employing an older form of the Greek language, certain accents and non-alphabetical characters may be encountered. These should be treated as follows:

Greek accent	Representation in romanization
´ (acute accent)	´ (acute accent)
` (grave accent)	´ (acute accent)
~ (circumflex accent)	´ (acute accent)

Any other marks and accents not previously mentioned should be ignored.