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## **Charter in Greece**

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## 1. Introduction

The mainland as well as the many and various beautiful and colorful islands of amazing Greece have very much to offer to the yachting industry. The Greek Authorities are doing whatever they can to set up rules and conditions for chartering in the country. In 2014 the Law 4256/2014 was implemented which was the start of organizing the yachting business. In the year 2022 the new Law 4926/2022 has replaced the old one as a new and more informative. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 the e- charter Permission platform was announced and launched.

## 2. Greek Charter License

Except the Greek flagged boats, the embarkation and disembarkation in the Greek waters also are allowed for:

- a) All EU flagged commercial yachts.
- b) All NON-EU flagged commercial yachts with length over **35m** constructed of Steel, Alum., GRP.

The duration of the Greek charter license for the European OR the Non-European yachts is three (3) years and the time needed for the procedures to obtain it is approximately one (1) month.

In order to obtain the Greek Charter License, the owner company must do the following:

1. Open a branch office in Greece which means that a registered office address as well as a service of an accountant will be needed.  
OR
2. Appoint Greek Company to act on their behalf as commercially management company for the charter activities in Greece.



3. Make an application to the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy and arrange to get for the yacht a Foreign Commercial Yacht Inspection Certificate by a Classification Society (INSB and Phoenix are the two Greek who can issue such certificate).

### **3. e-charter permission**

#### For charters starting & ending in Greece

Eligible yachts to obtain this short and limited period Greek Charter License (28 days maximum per calendar year) which can be issued electronically via the “e-Charter Permission application” are:

- a) All EU flagged commercial yachts.
- b) All NON-EU flagged commercial yachts with length over **35m** and constructed of Steel, Aluminum or GRP.

The following are required for the application and the issuance of the (21) days e-charter permission, via the “e-Charter Permission Platform which can be extended for more (7) days.

1. Greek Tax Identification Number (A.F.M.).
2. Foreign Commercial Yacht Inspection Certificate (PEXEPA).
3. Signed charter Contract.
4. Pay the VAT (70% before the start of the charter and the balance 30% at the end of the charter)
5. Payment of the Special Cruising Tax TEPADACH as per the following formula:

$$\mathbf{T = B + (H \times GT)}$$

Where:

**T:** The total amount of the TEPADACH, rounded to the nearest hundredth in euro

**B:** Standard amount of five hundred (500,00) euro



**H:** The total number of days of the duration of the charter within Greece.

**GT:** Different amounts will apply according to the Gross Tonnage (please see the below table)

- a. 30€ for yachts up to 150 GT
- b. 40€ for yachts with 150,01-250 GT
- c. 45€ for yachts with 250,01-500 GT
- d. 100€ for yachts with 500.01-1.000 GT
- e. 115€ for yachts with 1.001–2.000 GT
- f. 130€ for yachts of more than 2.000 GT

Example: Yacht 37m length & 290 Gross tonnage for 7 days in Greece

$$T = 500 + (7 \times 45) = 815 \text{ euro}$$

## 4. e-charter permission plus

For charters starting outside & ending Greece or starting in Greece & ending outside of Greece.

Eligible yachts to obtain this short and limited period Greek Charter License (28 days maximum per calendar year) which can be issued electronically via the “e-Charter Permission application” are:

- a) All EU flagged commercial yachts.
- b) All NON-EU flagged commercial yachts with length over **35m** and constructed of Steel, Aluminum or GRP.

For the application via the “e-Charter Permission Platform & the issuance of the limited Charter Permission the following are required:

- Greek Tax Identification Number (A.F.M.).
- Foreign Commercial Yacht Inspection Certificate (PEXEPA).
- Signed charter Contract.
- Payment of the Special Cruising Tax TEPADACH PLUS as per the following formula:



$$T = B + [ H X (GT + m)]$$

Where:

**T:** The total amount of the TEPADACH Plus rounded to the nearest hundredth in euro.

**B:** The standard amount of five hundred (500,00) euro.

**H:** The total number of days of the duration of the charter in Greek territory

**GT:** Different amounts will apply according to the Gross Tonnage

30€ for yachts up to 150 GT

40€ for yachts with 150-250 GT

45€ for yachts with 250-500 GT

100€ for yachts with 501-1.000 GT

115€ for yachts with 1.001–2.000 GT

130€ for yachts with more than 2.000 GT

**m:** Different amounts will apply according to the length

a. 30€ for yachts up to 15m

b. 165€ for yachts from 15,01m up to 25m

c. 350€ for yachts from 25.01m up to 35m

d. 850€ for yachts from 35.01m up to 45m

e. 2.000€ for yachts from 45.01m up to 60m

f. 5.000€ for yachts over 60m.

Example: Yacht 37m length & 290 Gross tonnage for 7 days in Greece

$$T = 500 + [7 \times (45+850)] = 6.765,00 \text{ euro}$$

## 5. TEPADACH PLUS

All non-Greek flagged commercial yachts **of any size and constructed of any material** are allowed to make application via the “e-Charter Permission Platform and pay the Special Cruising Tax TEPADACH PLUS as per the formula mentioned in the above Paragraph 4,

Example: Yacht 28 m length and 180 Gross tonnage for 10 days in Greece

$$T = 500 + [10 \times (40+350)] = 4.400,00 \text{ eur}$$



## 6. VAT Rates

After the Covid period the Greek Government has reduced the VAT rate for crewed yachts to 13% from 24%. According to the European Directive 2006/112 /EC, the Circular 1156/1997 of the Greek Economic Ministry as well as the Circular A.1018 of the Tax office, the VAT rate depends on the Certificate of Compliance of the vessel and the actual cruising areas.

- For unlimited navigation the VAT will be 5.2% (60% discount)
- For navigation with limitations the rate will be 7.8% (40% discount)
- For charters of less than 48 hours the VAT rate will be 13%.
- 6,5% VAT will be applied if 60% of the cruising time is made in the international waters which must be proved by AIS.

## 7. Comments

1. TEPADACH or TEPADACH Plus are not applicable for those who has the (3) years validity Greek charter License.
2. TEPAI not applicable if TEPADACH or TEPADACH Plus paid.
3. The Insurance policies must include terms for Greek waters.
4. VAT documentation and payments when applied.
5. Up to date commercial yachts for private use by the owners will be considered as private yachts but this might change.

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