

GREECE · GOLDEN VISA

Frequently asked questions

Do I have to live in Greece, or pay Greek tax, to keep the residence permit?

No. The Greek Golden Visa has no minimum-stay requirement — you can hold and renew it for years without spending a single night in Greece. And holding the permit does not make you a Greek taxpayer: Greek tax residence is a separate, deliberate step. You can keep EU residence in reserve while remaining tax resident wherever you are today, with no Greek tax on your worldwide income.

If I keep the permit but never move, do I owe Greece anything on my global income?

No. Greek worldwide taxation applies only to Greek tax residents. As a non-resident permit holder you would, at most, be taxed only on income actually sourced in Greece (for example rent from your Greek property). Your foreign income stays outside the Greek net unless and until you choose to transfer your tax residence.

When does the EUR 100,000 non-dom flat tax actually make sense?

When you intend to become Greek tax resident AND your foreign-source income is large. The EUR 100,000 is a fixed ceiling that discharges Greek tax on all foreign income no matter its size, so the more you earn abroad, the greater the saving versus the 9%-44% progressive scale (top rate above EUR 60,000). It requires a EUR 500,000 Greek investment and that you were not Greek tax resident for seven of the prior eight years. For a retiree with a foreign pension, the separate 7% pensioner regime is usually the better route.

What does the visa-free Schengen travel actually let me do?

As a Greek residence-permit holder you may travel across the Schengen Area without a separate visa and stay in other Schengen countries for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Your time in Greece itself is unlimited. You and your family are also exempt from the EU's new EES and the upcoming ETIAS short-stay systems. It is not, however, the right to LIVE or WORK long-term in another EU country — that unlimited right is specific to Greece.

Who in my family can be included?

Your spouse or registered partner (including same-sex partners), unmarried children up to age 21 (extendable to 24 if in full-time study in Greece), and the dependent parents of BOTH you and your spouse. That is an unusually broad scope, covering three generations under a single application, all on the same renewable terms and all with the same travel rights.

Can my children study in Greece or use it as a base for European universities?

Yes. Children with the permit can enrol in Greek public and private schools on the same terms as EU citizens, attend international schools (British, American, IB curricula) in Athens and elsewhere, and enrol at Greek universities. The held EU base also gives the family standing options for higher education across Europe.

How does this protect my family in a Plan-B scenario, and what are its limits?

It gives every family member a pre-secured, written legal right to enter and reside in an EU country — arranged calmly today, not improvised in a crisis. If you ever need to move, there is no application to file or approval to wait for; you travel on a normal flight and present passport plus permit. Its limit is important to state plainly: it is a legal right to enter and reside, NOT an evacuation service. It does not transport your family or operate where commercial travel is impossible. Its value is that the pathway and destination are settled in advance.

What happens if I keep the permit for years and only activate it later?

That is precisely how it is designed to be used. Renew every five years, spend no time in Greece if you prefer, and the right stays fully valid and dormant until you need it. Kestrel maintains your renewal calendar and document set so the status never lapses and the file is always ready to act on.

Does the residence permit lead to citizenship?

The Golden Visa is a residence permit, not citizenship, and the two should not be conflated. Greek citizenship is a separate, much longer process with its own residence-duration, language and integration requirements that generally require actually living in Greece. Most clients hold the Golden Visa for its residence, travel and Plan-B value rather than as a fast track to a passport — and any citizenship path should be assessed individually with counsel.

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