

# 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
	Aï	αῖ	<i>Aï</i>	<i>αῖ</i>		aï	Νεραΐδα	Neráïda
	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	Ταϋγετος	Taÿgetos
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
	Eï	εῖ	<i>Eï</i>	<i>εῖ</i>		eï	Μαρινεΐκα	Marinéïka
	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.	Z	ζ	<i>Z</i>	ζ		z	Ζεμενό	Zemenó
7.	H	η	<i>H</i>	η		i	Ηράκλειο	Irákleio
					before β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ, and all vowels	iv	rare	
	Hu	ηυ	<i>Hv</i>	ηυ	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</i>	θ		th	Θεσπιές	Thespiés
9.	I	ι	<i>I</i>	ι		i	Ίρια	Íria
10.	K	κ	<i>K</i>	κ		k	Καλαμάκι	Kalamáki
11.	Λ	λ	<i>L</i>	λ		l	Λίμνη	Límni
12.	M	μ	<i>M</i>	μ		m	Μαραθώνας	Marathónas
	Mπ	μπ	<i>Mπ</i>	μπ	initially and word final	b	Μπέχρος	Béchros
					medially	mp	Τέμπη	Témpi
13.	N	ν	<i>N</i>	ν		n	Νεστάνη	Nestáni
	Nτ	ντ	<i>Nτ</i>	ντ		nt	Ντία	Ntía
14.	Ξ	ξ	<i>Ξ</i>	ξ		x	Ξάνθη	Xánthi
15.	O	ο	<i>O</i>	ο		o	Όθος	Óthos
	Oι	οι	<i>Oι</i>	οι		oi	Δελφοί	Delfoί
	Oϊ	οϊ	<i>Oϊ</i>	οϊ		oï	Δοϊράνι	Doiráni
	Oυ	ου	<i>Oυ</i>	ου		ou	Βούναργο	Vounargo
					when o is stressed, or when u occurs with dieresis	oy	rare	

	Greek					Romanization	Example	
16.	Π	π	<i>Π</i>	<i>π</i>		p	Παύλος	Pávlos
	Μπ	μπ	<i>Μπ</i>	<i>μπ</i>	initially and word final	b	Μπέχρος	Béchros
					medially	mp	Τέμπη	Témpi
17.	Ρ	ρ	<i>Ρ</i>	<i>ρ</i>		r	Μερόπι	Merópi
18.	Σ	σ	<i>Σ</i>	<i>σ</i>		s	Άσος	Ássos
		ς		<i>ς</i>	word final	s	Σάμος	Sámos
19.	Τ	τ	<i>Τ</i>	<i>τ</i>		t	Τίρυνθα	Tírynthá
		ντ		<i>ντ</i>		nt	Πέντε Βρύσες	Pénte Vrýses
20.	Υ	υ	<i>Υ</i>	<i>υ</i>		y	Υλίκη	Ylíki
21.	Φ	φ	<i>Φ</i>	<i>φ</i>		f	Φιλοθέη	Filothéi
22.	Χ	χ	<i>Χ</i>	<i>χ</i>		ch	Χαραυγή	Charavgí
23.	Ψ	ψ	<i>Ψ</i>	<i>ψ</i>		ps	Ψαρά	Psará
24.	Ω	ω	<i>Ω</i>	<i>ω</i>		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 → **Ath na**, Ντία → **Nt a**. 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 → **Oino sses**, Οίτη → **O ti**.

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 → **vra**, Γάυριο → **G vrio**, Καλλιπεύκα → **Kallip fka**. 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 → **Marin ka**, Αχαΐα → **Achaíá**.
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.