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Foreign tourists drove Greece's overnight stays up 1.0% in September

Non-residents accounted for 90.3% of overnight stays after arrivals rose 2.1% to 5.24 million

Friday, November 20, 2026

Greece recorded a modest rise in overnight stays in tourist accommodations in September, as foreign visitors continued to drive demand at the end of the summer season.

The Hellenic Statistical Authority, or ELSTAT, said on Thursday, November 19, that total overnight stays reached 23,549,439 in September, up 1.0% from the same month in 2025. Tourist arrivals also increased, rising 2.1% to 5,244,126, an increase of 110,362 travelers from a year earlier.

The figures are provisional and cover hotels, similar establishments, campgrounds and short-stay accommodations across the country. ELSTAT said the increase in overnight stays amounted to 231,081 additional nights compared with September 2025.

The data showed that international demand remained the main force behind the monthly gain. Overnight stays by non-residents rose 1.1%, while overnight stays by Greek residents fell 0.2%. Foreign travelers accounted for 90.3% of all overnight stays in September and 82.9% of all arrivals, underscoring the dominant role of inbound tourism in the market.

That split suggests that the rise in total nights was supported almost entirely by visitors from abroad, while domestic demand was broadly flat to lower. The pattern is significant because September is one of the final strong months of the main tourism season in Greece, when the country still benefits from warm weather and sustained travel from key foreign markets.

Arrivals grew faster than overnight stays, which points to slightly shorter visits on average than the pace of traveler growth might otherwise suggest. Even so, the overall average stay across all types of tourist accommodations stood at 4.5 days, according to the statistical authority.

The September results indicate that Greece maintained high accommodation activity late in the season, with international travelers continuing to fill most beds in the country’s lodging sector. Hotels and similar establishments, along with campgrounds and short-term lodging providers, all formed part of the official count used in the monthly release.

ELSTAT published the figures in its report on September 2026 arrivals and nights spent in tourist accommodations on Thursday, November 19, through its official statistics portal, statistics.gr.