



Version of May 22, 2012

PRACTICAL TRAVEL INFO

*How to reach Patras, your accommodation and the Summer
School Venue / University*

What to do at your free time

*The information in this document was accurate at the time of compilation. Please check with the
respective sources for changes or updates.*

How to reach Patras & your accommodation

Patras may be reached via air mainly using the **Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport**. The small **Araxos/Patras airport** serves mostly charter flights, plus scheduled Ryan Air flights to/from London, Milan and Paphos (Cyprus). Patras may be also reached by **ferry boat** from various Italian ports.

1. Reaching Patras from the Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport

From the Athens airport (<http://www.aia.gr>) you have the following options for reaching Patras (230km west of Athens):

- **Car Rental:** Renting a car at the airport is one of the **recommended** ways to reach Patras. The drive takes 2.5 hrs - Please note a long portion of the road on the Peloponnese (from Korinthos to Patras) is under re-construction. For this reason please try to drive in daytime and safely!
- **Intercity bus service (KTEL)** http://achaiaktel.gr/?module=default&pages_id=24 (in Greek only): To get to the intercity bus, you need to go to the Kifisos KTEL Bus Station. From the airport you may use the X93 express city bus (5 euros, 50-60 minutes depending on traffic) or take a taxi (about 40 Euros, 20 minutes). At the KTEL station look for the ACHAIA - PATRA teller to buy a ticket (around 19 Euros). Buses to Patras leave every 30 minutes (from 05:30 till 22:30). If you wish to stay in Athens, you may use the metro or a taxi to get to the city center.
- **By train:** You may use the train (OSE) from the Athens airport to get to Patras. Specifically, you use the Suburban Railway System (Proastiakos) from the airport to



the Kiato station on the Peloponnese. Trains run from 05:44 to 17:44 and take 1.30 hrs to reach Kiato (10 Euros one way or 18 Euros round trip).

Once at the Kiato station you need to get off the train and take the OSE bus to Patras (due to line upgrading the rail service from Kiato to Patras is temporarily suspended). The OSE buses leave about 5 minutes after the train arrival at the Kiato station (reaching Patras from there takes 1.30 hrs, 12 Euros one way or 22 Euros round trip).

As the bus service is not very frequent, please plan your trip according to the Tables below (please check for updates):

Airport → Kiato → Patras						
Suburban Railway (Proastiakos) -Train						
Train	4400 4300	4404 4304	4412 4312	4416 4316	4420 4320	4424 4324
From Athens Airport	05:44	07:44	11:44	13:44	15:44	17:44
Arrival at Kiato St.	07:19	09:19	13:19	15:19	17:19	19:19
OSE Buses from Kiato to Patras						
Stations	Λ2EX	Λ-4	Λ-6	Λ-8	Λ-10	Λ12EX
Kiato St.	07:25	09:30	13:30	15:30	17:30	19:30
Patras St.	08:50	12:00	15:20	17:20	20:00	21:00

Patras → Kiato → Airport						
OSE Buses						
Stations	Λ-1	Λ-3EX	Λ-5	Λ-7	Λ-9	Λ-11EX
Patras St.	06:50	08:50	11:30	13:50	16:30	18:50
Kiato St.	09:20	10:20	13:20	16:20	18:20	20:20
Suburban Railway (Proastiakos) -Train						
Train	4409 4309	4411 4311	4417 4317	4423 4323	4427 4327	4431 4331
From Kiato St.	09:25	10:25	13:25	16:25	18:25	20:25
Arrival at Athens Airport	11:01	12:01	15:01	18:01	20:01	22:01

- **By taxi:** An expensive (not recommended) possibility is to take a taxi from the Athens airport directly to Patras. The cost should probably be close to 250 Euros – in this



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case it is strongly recommended that you negotiate a fixed price with the driver beforehand.

2. **Reaching Patras from the Araxos/Patras Airport** (<http://www.araxos-airport.com>) You may use the bus service to central Patras or simply a taxi directly to your accommodation (40 km). In the latter case it is best to fix a price beforehand.

3. **Reaching Patras by Ferry Boat from Italian ports**

The port of Patras (<http://www.patrasport.gr/start>) is south of the city centre. Upon arrival please take a taxi directly to your accommodation.

How to reach your accommodation at Rio (Patras)

The University of Patras and the suggested Achaia Beach Airotel and the Stavropoulos Foundation Dormitory are at the suburb of Rio (8 km northeast of the city centre). If you use a car rental from Athens, please follow the signs for the University of Patras as you enter the Patras area. If you use public transport you will arrive at the Patras city centre from where you can take a taxi to your hotel at Rio. Further info: <http://www.upatras.gr/index/page/id/65>

Accommodation Options

Participants may stay at various hotels in the area. Two recommended options are the Achaia Beach Airotel and the Stavropoulos Foundation Dormitory.

1. **Achaia Beach Airotel Hotel** http://www.airotel.gr/hotel/achaia_beach_hotel.

Achaia Beach Airotel is located right at the beach in Rio, about 3 km km from the University Campus. Special rates for SYSWIND participants – single 58€ / 67€, double 67€ / 76€, including breakfast and taxes. Availability is limited. Please fill and fax the special hotel reservation form before May 20th, 2012.

2. **The Stavropoulos Foundation Dormitory**

<http://www.stavropouloufound.gr/index.php?lang=en>

Close to the Achaia Beach Airotel, it offers rooms at about 15€ per night. Please contact the Dormitory directly at info@fep.gr to make a reservation and mention SYSWIND Summer Course. Availability is limited.

How to reach the Summer School Venue

The lectures shall be held at the **Conference & Cultural Center of the University of Patras** located right on campus (<http://www.confer.upatras.gr/indexen.php>).



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How to reach the University of Patras Conference Centre from the recommended accommodation

Either ask for a taxi, or use the free bus service provided by the Patras Suburban Railway system. To use this service just walk to the suburban train stop (Petmeza str and Achilleos str – this is the Kastellokampos rail stop which is only 300-400 m from either accommodation site). The buses leave from there every hour at xx:10 (from 7:10 till 23:10). You may ask the driver to drop you right at the University Conference Centre. Further info is available at <http://www.gopatras.gr/EN/traina.php#>. For returning to your accommodation please follow the reverse procedure (buses leave the Conference Center hourly at xx:50).

What to do in and around Patras at your free / extra time

Patras is a historic and pleasant university town located right by the sea in a beautiful area in north western Peloponnese and very close to world heritage sites such as Delphi and Olympia. The scenery is very nice with the sea and the impressive mountains in the background. If you have time available it is recommended to visit the city centre (which is easily reached using the suburban railway system; an afternoon is sufficient). The Patras Archaeological Museum <http://www.patrasmuseum.gr/indexen.html> (in Greek) is close to the University campus (use a taxi) and is certainly interesting. You should also visit the nearby beach of Rio with its many seafront restaurants and cafes, and you may choose to walk on the impressive Rio-Antirrio bridge (you may return by ferry if you wish – the service is free for pedestrians). The sites of Olympia (<http://www.olympia-greece.org/museum.html>) and Delphi (<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/greece/delphi>) are exceptional and famous worldwide; they may be comfortably visited on day trips.

In case of additional available time you may wish to consider visiting the nearby, very pleasant, historical town port of Nafpaktos (Lepanto – the famous sea battle derives its name from this place; an afternoon is sufficient <http://www.nafpaktos.gr/welcome-to-nafpaktos/>), the nearby seafront village of Psathopyrgos with its restaurants and cafes, hiking or using the special historical gear train (<http://www.trainose.gr/thematikatrena/kalabryta>) to reach the historical town of Kalavryta up on the mountain through the exceptionally beautiful Vouraikos gorge (day trip), or the superb nature area and beach of Kalogria (afternoon trip), or visit the beautiful island of Zakynthos (Zante – two or more days recommended).

A more complete list of interesting sights around Patras follows:



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- **The Castle of Patras:** http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/2/eh251.jsp?obj_id=932 on the hill very close to the city centre, constructed on the site of an ancient Acropolis in the 6th century BC – restructuring by Byzantines, Franks, Ottomans, Venetians and others.
- **Roman Odeon:** in the upper town area, built around 160 AD, used as an open air theatre for concerts and other performances.
- **Patras Archaeological museum** <http://www.patrasmuseum.gr/indexen.html> (in Greek only): located between the Patras city centre and Rio, it houses collections about the history of Patras and the surrounding area from prehistory to the end of Roman Times.
- **The Achaia Clauss winery:** located at the outskirts of Patras, at Petroto. Founded in 1861 by the Bavarian Gustav Clauss, it is most famous for its sweet desert wine called Mavrodaphne. Further info: <http://www.greekwinemakers.com/czone/winemakers/Ahaia.shtml>
- **The Rio-Antirrio Bridge:** The world's longest multi-span cable-stayed bridge, linking the town of Rio on the Peloponnese to Antirrio on mainland Greece.
- **St. Andrew Cathedral:** <http://byzantinearch.blogspot.com/2010/11/saint-apostol-andrew-cathedral-patras.html> In the in Patras city centre, it is the largest church in Greece and the second largest Byzantine-style church in the Balkans. Byzantine relics of Apostle Saint Andrew are kept here.
- **The Apollon Theater:** Located in the Patras city centre (George I Square) is a smaller scale of the La Scala in Milan. Designed by the famous German architect Ernst Ziller and completed in 1872.
- **The Rio, Agios Vasilios and Kalogria beaches:** Rio and Agios Vasilios beaches are located on the eastern suburbs of Patras, not far from the University campus, while Kalogria is 40 km west of the city centre and is one of the best in Greece (also a nature area).
- **Nafpaktos:** The historical town port of Nafpaktos (Lepanto – the famous sea battle derives its name from this place; an afternoon is sufficient <http://www.nafpaktos.gr/wellcome-to-nafpaktos/>). Beautiful fortified port with cafes and restaurants.
- **Psathopyrgos:** beautiful seaside village with restaurants and cafes.
- **Vouraikos Gorge - Kalavryta – Historical Mega Spilaio Monastery:** One may hike or using the special historical gear train (<http://www.trainose.gr/thematikatrenea/kalabryta>) to reach the historical town of Kalavryta up on the mountain through the exceptionally beautiful Vouraikos gorge. On the way to Kalavryta one may visit the historical and impressive Mega Spilaio monastery (single day trip is sufficient).



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- **Olympia:** A famous UNESCO designated site, 100 km SW of Patras. Olympia, a sanctuary of ancient Greece in Elis, is known for having been the site of the Olympic Games in classical times. The Olympic Games were held every four years, dating back to 776 BC. <http://www.olympia-greece.org/museum.html> and http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2358
- **Delphi:** Also a famous UNESCO designated site, 120 km NE of Patras. The site of the Delphi oracle, which was the most important in the classical Greek world, and a major site for the worship of god Apollo. <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/greece/delphi>
- **Zakynthos, Lefkas, and Kefalonia Islands:** Very beautiful and historical Ionian islands that may be reached on a few-day trips from Patras. <http://www.zakynthos.net.gr/>
<http://www.lefkas.net/> <http://www.kefalonia.net.gr/>



Ancient Delphi



Ancient Olympia



Zakynthos Island