



BoG: Positive year ahead for Greek tourism

The Greek tourism sector is moving full speed ahead thanks to the revamp of regional airports, new routes by low cost carriers and the increase in the availability of rooms, said Bank of Greece Governor Yannis Stournaras in his 2017 report.



Ministry: Bookings to Greece up for 2018

Since the beginning of 2018, bookings from Greece's traditional and new markets have recorded an increase of 15 to 30 percent, according to the Tourism Ministry.

'Greece-Russia Year of Tourism' Actions announced

A series of actions are planned for the Greece-Russia Year of Tourism 2017-2018 initiative. According to the Tourism Ministry, the program of actions includes a tourism business forum in Halkidiki in June and Greek culture festivals in the city of Krasnodar Krai.

Athens Chamber launches new tourism committee

The Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) has set up a Trade and Tourism Committee to be headed by Nikos Kogioumtsis. Topping the agenda of the new entity includes upgrading the historic center of Athens and promoting it as a leading destination.

Greece-Italy launch 3-year cultural cooperation

Greece and Italy have launched a three-year cooperation that sees the

major cultural organizations of the two countries cooperating for artistic exchanges, co-productions and educational programs in the fields of theater, opera, music and dance.

New US travel advisory says Greece is a safe destination

Greece is among the world's safest destinations, according to a new travel advisory system announced by the US State Department. Under the four-level advisory, Greece is listed as a "level 1" country, the lowest rating calling on travelers to "exercise normal precautions".



E-ticket at select Greek museums, sites expected soon

An e-ticket system offering admission to a number of Greek museums and archaeological sites will undergo test runs as of May 1, with officials looking to set it into force on June 1.



Greece sets legal framework for thalassotherapy centers

The technical and operational specifications for the establishment, alteration or expansion of thalassotherapy centers in Greece have been put into law, paving the way for the development of spa and wellness facilities in the country.

DRV shows interest in the Peloponnese

The German Travel Association (DRV) is interested in boosting its presence and collaboration with the Peloponnese Region and is considering the area as the host destination for its annual conference in 2019.

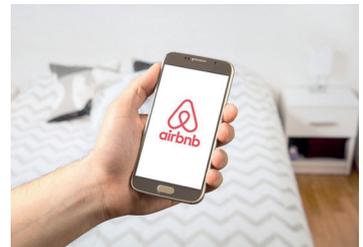
HOSPITALITY

Lakitira S.A. Undergoes 'Special Liquidation'

Lakitira S.A. is the first hotel enterprise in Greece to have undergone "special liquidation" after defaulting on bank loans. During the process, carried out by Deloitte, Greek tourism was safeguarded as the Lakitira hotels did not close and holidaymakers did not have their vacation cut short. Following an auction, Atlantica Hotels purchased Lakitira S.A. for 62.9 million euros.

Parliament passes 'stayover tax' amendment

An amendment to the law of the "stayover tax", already being charged since January 1 to guests at hotels and rooms-to-let across Greece, was passed by Greek Parliament. The stayover tax is imposed on guests per day and per room or apartment.



Greece to run online registration platform for Airbnb-style rentals

Greece's Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE) was expected in March to launch an electronic registry for property owners leasing their homes via sharing economy platforms to register all rental activity. Penalties will reach up to 5,000 euros.



Ikos Resorts Expands to Spain

Ikos Resorts has announced its expansion to Spain through its newly setup entity Ikos International SCA, headquartered in Luxembourg.