

Relocating to Corfu

SOME HELPFUL ADVICE

Sending money to Corfu

When transferring funds to Corfu you will obviously need to get a bank account. Clients buying a property from Places in the sun will automatically have one opened for them free of charge. No money is required for this purpose as we know the bank and they accept that our clients will be transferring money in the future.

Once you have a bank number you can transfer any amount of money that you wish and even apply for credit cards.

A Money Broker is essential when transferring money into your account. A money broker will advise you of the best (financial) date to transfer your money so that you not lose in the exchange rate. A Money broker will take care of customs and excise for you (this way no one can accuse you of money laundering). We have a very good Broker who has been used by all our clients and has never been found wanting.

Name Dave Foster Tel (0) 207345 5303 Mobile (0) 77 1258 6033

Company he works for. First rate FX

Ring and chat or ask for some literature through the post.

You will once you have paid for a large purchase such as a house, car or land need to ask your bank for your pink slips (these actually turn out to be yellow). These should be kept in a file to give to your accountant for your yearly tax return.

Accountant

You will need an accountant in Corfu.

This is because each year you will need to put in a tax return. This does not incur Tax charges; it is just to say that you own items in Corfu. The accountant charges around 60 euro per year to do this for you.

We use a very good one named Spiro (not necessary until January of each year.) Call and mention Steve at Places in the sun and he will know exactly what you require.

Spiro TEL 2661023655

If you have not brought a property Spiro will also help you to get a tax number or set up a business. Spiro speaks English

TAX NUMBERS

Once here in Corfu you will require a tax number in order to achieve most things.

If you have purchased a property your tax numbers will be on the deeds.

If you do not have a property but are renting, then you will require help from your solicitor or accountant to get one.

You require a tax number for most things i.e....buying large items. Getting bills changed into your name, getting a phone connected, it is handy to keep your tax number in your telephone.

Bank account

If you want to open a bank account you will be asked for your tax number and around 300euro deposited.

IF YOU HAVE USED **PLACES IN THE SUN** to buy a property this will all be done for you with no money required . We have an affiliation with the bank that we can open bank accounts with nil money for our clients,.

mortgages

It is possible to get a mortgage on land ,property or a new build in Corfu.

PLACES IN THE SUN have contacts with many banks and provided that you have proof of yearly salary and that you earn enough you can defiantly get a mortgage often for 100%.

If you are self employed you will need to supply accounts for the past 3 years .

If employed you will need to supply P60's for the past 3 years.

Residency

It is handy to have a residency card; this says that you are a resident of Corfu and that you can for instance buy a car.

GETTING RESIDENCY

Residency cards are for a 5-year period and are free.

Resident cards can be obtained from the Aliens office in Corfu town.

Head for Corfu and on your right you will pass Lidl and Profi, keep going on that road, along that road on your right you will see a large area where you can pull in and park, there is a large building called star bowl, a ten pin bowling alley. Park to the left side of this and where the buildings come to an end to the left if facing away from the road, you will see a walkway (large enough for a vehicle), walk through there and you will see stairs, go up the stairs and into the building there are several desks head for the door straight through and to the left.

The Aliens Office.

Here you tell the gentleman that you require residency, produce your passport and 4 passport photos (it is wise to have your Greek bank book with you, they used to ask to see it) and you will

fill in a form and then return on the day that they tell you to pick up your residency card. You will be asked when you came into the country and where you are staying, they may ask for an E1 11.

British Consulate

The British consulate is in an office in Corfu town, my best advice is to locate the tax office (anyone will direct you to this) the address is 18 Mantzarou Street; it's on the first floor

Tel 26610 23457.

The consulate is useful for problems and advice. You can registrar with the consulate to say that you are staying here in Corfu. This is a good thing to do as in the case of Misfortune such as arrest, a death or loss of passport then they would be of help to you.

Telephones

GETTING A PHONE RECONNECTED.

If the property that you are in had a telephone then usually you can get it reconnected quite easily.

You will need the person's name that the phone was originally in and the old telephone number. If the phone line is to the house and the box is inside the house you only need a reconnection. Telephone **134** and speak to the person on the end of the phone, they do speak English.

If there are problems, such as a broken wire or cut wire then ring **121** and give them the number and the engineer will come out to fix it.

In all cases you may need a tax number.

Failing all other things the OTE (Telephone Company) office is on the same road as the Tax office in Corfu town, there is also one at Skripero on the way to town.

If you are a new build or a house minus a phone line then I would head straight for Corfu town with my passport and my tax number.

MOBILES

If you have a British mobile with you it is sometimes possible to have a Greek simm card fitted into it on the pay as you go system.

Any Vodaphone shop (Corfu town or Acharavi) will tell you if this is possible.

Once fitted with a Greek simm card you then buy a pay as you go card from any supermarket.

If you have a British phone here and a friend rings you and you answer it you will be paying for that call twice over as the signal bounces back and forth.

Electricity

Here on Corfu electric is quite complex.

You can run any English electrical item with no problems, the electric is 220 volt. However, we do get power surges here and it is wise to have a box fitted to stop damage to TV's, computers etc, this applies to Greek or English items.

If you have brought a renovation it is best to apply for electric connection before you renovate, it is less cost and easier.

If you have a new build you will only have builders electric, you will then need to apply for 2nd electric once your house as been signed off (to say it is built properly etc) by your civil engineer. **YOU WILL NOT NEED TO DO THIS IF..** You have used the builder Stefanos Armenis connected to us ,Angela his wife will take you to the electric office and help you to achieve this. Only the owner of the property can do this so you do have to attend. There is no real hurry for this to be achieved as you can run a house on builders electric for around 2 years before they cut you off.(if ever) but better be safe than sorry.

If you are renting and want the bills altered into your name you will have to go to the Electric office with all your details as well as your tenancy agreement.

If the house that you are in has the old round fuse system, be aware that this usually means that you will not be able to run too many things at once before the fuse blows. It is wise to keep a few spare fuses (buy at electro polis next to the Delia supermarket in Sidari. These are colour coded as to what strength they are , Take one with you and the lads in there speak English, so can advice you.

We do have power cuts in storms ,so candles and a lighter are a must. You can buy for around 6 euro a calor gas burner to boil water on . These are sold in all supermarkets and are a great standby for a cup of tea.

For electrical problems..**Dimitri Tel 6947151268**

Water

Water on Corfu is generally not for drinking. However if you have a well or if your home is in the mountains then you can have the water tested in Corfu to see if it is fit for consumption.

During the summer months the pressure on Corfu is poor. Most people have a secondary water tank with a pump connected so that their pressure remains the same . The cost of this is around 6 to 800 euros and worth every penny. The plumber will help and advise on this matter .

Oliver Tel 6946048135

If you have brought a house and the water connection is not working , head for Karasades on the way to Roda , the water authority office is next to the church on the main road. They will reconnect you quite quickly.

Post

Your post office will be in the nearest village to you and this is where you will have your post sent to , they will tell you their address.

If you cannot see a post office (yellow sign) then your mail will almost certainly go to one of the coffee shops in that village, anyone will help you to find the correct one.

SENDING POST HOME

If you are sending post then be aware that it can take up to 3 weeks for a letter to reach England, we find it best to go to the post office and express deliver everything. This takes two to three days.

Shipping and Removals

If we cannot buy the items that we want here in Corfu then we ship it out from England. This is not as expensive as you may think and it means that you can order over the Internet or telephone, pay by credit card and collect in Corfu.

The company that we use and have never had a problem with is **MONDIAL**, they have a warehouse on the Lifkimi Road in Corfu Town and one in Brimsdown, North London. All you have to do is have your item delivered to **Mondial .Brimsdown, Enfield England** and then ring to say it's on its way and they will tell you when you can pick it up in Corfu.

If your item or items are too large for your vehicle then we all use a local man named Spiro sometimes referred to as Columbus, he is from Avliotes and has a large lorry.

Spiro Tel 2663095593

If you tell him that the estate agent Steve gave you his number he may give you a better price as we put a lot of work his way.

If you are moving all your belongings here ring Mondial for a price they are really competitive and tried and tested by us all.

Tel Mondial Brimsdown North London Tel 0044 0208 805 3344

Mondial Corfu Tel 26610 32879

Satellite TV

If you want a TV in Corfu that you can view English programs there is a TV Satellite man that can help you.

There are several types of package and several prices. They will be able to advise you.

Paul Tel 6944413900

There are many options now including buying sky here and not paying the package to sky but owning a once only card brought here.

Buying a car

Here in Corfu it is relatively easy to buy a car. You locate the car you want then ensure that you have your residency card, tax number and passport. You will need to ask them at the car showroom for their help as they will tell you about getting a bankers draught and the address at which to pay the balance. They do not always take the money in the showroom, sometimes your bank has to pay Athens, but they will guide you towards Tax and insurance.

A car on Corfu is insured for all and any driver. You are required to have all your documents with you at all times in case the police stop you. Car theft is to my knowledge non-existent.

MOT is required every 2 years.

Tax must be paid in Dec /Jan or you will pay double. Your tax will come to your post office and you can pay it there .

For help getting a car fixed or bodywork done

Dimitri Tel 6937139221

Shopping

Most of the significant shops are in Corfu town itself.

Supermarkets are **Lidl**, very reasonable and producing a few English products;

A&B on the way to town on the right hand side, more European foods but more expensive.

Delias Sidari near petrol station, reasonable price but limited.

Koskinas large supermarket in Sidari on crosses roads. Good selection.

Electro polis, DIY shop next to Delia's supermarket Sidari. Good shop.

Shops in Corfu close at 2 pm and sometimes reopen at 6pm.

Shops in Sidari open all day but close Sundays except summer, open Sundays

Anything can be found in Corfu it may though have to be ordered from Athens but usually only takes 2 days.

There are a lot of bank holidays in Corfu and on those days everything will be closed in winter.

If a van or vehicle beeps outside your home, there is usually something for sale with the baker you can have a delivery daily. You need to just go out when he beeps his horn.

White goods in Corfu are reasonable and on a par with British prices.

Gardening

There are several small garden centres around, one of the best is in Corfu town on the lifkimmi road, another very good one is in Acharavi, go straight through the town centre and then after a sign saying house on hill, the centre is on the right hand side. Closes at 2pm.

Weed killer cannot be brought at the garden centre.

Head for Roda and cross the cross roads on the left you will see a sort of shop selling roses and olives, outside are all sacks and plant pots. Here you can buy...weed killer. Pet foods, rat poison act.

There is a shop in Platanos (to Roda at cross roads turn right follow signs.), which deals with repairs of garden machinery and sharpening of chainsaw blades.

There is florist in Sidari just after the cross roads on the left hand side.

Doctors and medical treatment.

You will need to bring with you to Corfu an **E1.11**. From the post office so that you can have free medical care.

You may need to bring an **E10** if moving permanently please check with NHS.

Should you become ill you have the right to visit the doctors at the **Agros medical centre**, close to **Drossato** on the way to Corfu town. The doctors there are very good.

Should you want a GP here, there is a doctor in Sidari who for 100euro per year will allow visiting him as many times as necessary and he of course in time will get to know you and become your GP. Steve and I use doctor Yanni, he has worked in England and Athens **Dr Yanni Tel 6974868653.**

Chemists are located throughout the villages in Corfu. Sidari, Acharavi, Karasades, Corfu. Look for the green cross.

Should you have to go to hospital the way to call an ambulance or the police in Corfu is **123**. Most people speak English. I am told that if you are getting an Ambulance ,it is wise to say that you want to go to the local hospital not the clinic. The clinic is private and you will have to pay. Most tourist seem to be taken to the clinic.

Building in Corfu

This is complex to explain on paper, but I am going to run the general rules.

If you own 4000sqm of land (4 stremma), which is outside of the village or town zone you can usually, build 200sqm of home (this will include any verandas).

If you own any land in the town-planning zone you can build a minimum of 55%.

If you're topographic states that you are in the zone (just outside of the village) you can usually build 10%.

It is always best to check with a civil engineer.

If you have brought land through Places in the sun this will not be necessary as your build allowance will be on the front of your Topographic and will have been explained to you by your Lawyer.

We at Places in the sun have tried and tested many builders over the past 6 years.

We have an alliance with the man who we have found to be the most reliable and the best .He has worked on our own home.

He will offer a price for Places in the sun clients only, of, 1050euro per sqm. This is for the whole project ,i.e. plans ,permissions ,build with all fittings ,complete to getting the key. There are a few exceptions but that is the general.

In our absence please contact (quoting places in the sun) both speak excellent English.

Stefanos Armenis or Angela Armenis. Tel 6949208368

Civil Engineers

If you have land or a house here then you will almost certainly have heard about civil engineers. They are the architects and project managers of the Island. They can tell you exactly where your boundaries are and where you can build your home. They will oversee the build for you and will

take full responsibility for the build. Should you require a civil engineer then we use a man called Yannis in Corfu town and Angela (under building) can give you his number and take you to see him.

Bringing your animals

Should you wish to bring your animals to Corfu you will need to contact Defra on line or by telephone? These are the official vets for England and control the movement of Animals ,they can help you to achieve an export licence.

VET

A good vet in Corfu town is Adonis

TEL 26610 34711 or 6936489480

Corfu Weather

The weather in Corfu is spectacular.

Spring is lovely warm and around February.

Summer boils from May to Oct.

Oct to Dec is good to lovely

Jan into parts of Feb are rainy but you still get sunshine in between.

Getting here in Winter

During the winter Months Corfu airport only has flights to and into Athens.

You can come here by

Easy jet to Athens and then Aegean or Olympic to Corfu.

Ryan air to Binesee Italy and then a ferry to Corfu Town.

Ryan air to Venice and then an overnight ferry to Corfu Town.

There is an alternative to flying and that is to drive , we have now driven 5 times and find it really easy. From Folkestone you can get the ferry or tunnel train , this is fantastic and gets you to France in half an hour for cheap fare get a cheap day return and use it one way only.

From Calais head for Lyon and then Turin and then on to Milan and through to Venice here you can pick up a ferry for Corfu, this is an overnight stay on the ship.

Getting here or home in Summer

Best way to get home or to Corfu in season is to look at the good websites on line and try

Tompson fly

Fly Thomas cook.

Cheapest flights .co.uk.

Excel airlines.

Finn air.

Air Gibraltar

Or call (our agent in England) who can often get you a cheap flight.

MARIA Tel 01304 219751

Swimming pools

Swimming pools come in many shapes, sizes and styles.

1. Concrete and tile in the ground pool .built by the builder. This requires permission and a licence; this is quite costly to build.
2. Out of the ground pool imported from America and England. These are very cheap and can be brought in many styles and sizes. The one in the picture was 3000euro; this could be sunk in the ground for a little extra money. Fitting is 1000euro if you don't want the job yourself. There will be a little cost for sand and cement. They come with pump, filter , ladder, skimmer, broom ,Hoover and covers. They can be brought with a beaded liner instead of the plain one shown.

Places in the Sun can supply you with a pool, brochure is in the office. TEL 6945 636125



3.

There is an agent here selling all parts for pools ie plumbing , pumps,sand for the filters and chemicals. His name is Leo and his phone number is2663095329'

Pensions

You will need to check this in England as the law changes all the time. The NI contributions office should be able to help you but it is my understanding that you can get your pension anywhere in Europe but please do check.

We hope that this is some help to our clients.

schools

I am led to believe that the school system in Corfu is excellent , all children take exams and stay on at school well into the sixth form.

I do not have children in school myself but many clients have brought children to Corfu and in order to do that you will need to bring your Childs last school report and a health record from your doctor, this will then need to be translated into geek by the official embassy translator. Contact the Greek embassy in Holland Road , London. They will tell you how to go about this . If you are in Corfu then the official translator number is

Christos Angelis TEL 0030 6976566399

work

If you wish to work in Corfu you only need to find yourself a job.

The contributions agency is EKA and you will have to ask your employer to pay your EKA (most like to not pay EKA for their casual employees. If your employer pays your EKA, and really by law they are supposed to, then after two years of work with no days off sick, you can claim unemployment benefit in winter months and your medical bills are covered.

FINALLY

Here at placesinthesun.co.uk we hope that our knowledge of Corfu is helpful to you.

All the people that we have passed on in this file have worked on our home or work with us in our daily job. The information given was correct at the time written but things change and it is always advisable to check anything with the Greek consulate.

PLACES IN THE SUN TEL 26630 95907 Mobile 6945 636125.

