

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR GREEK BGN/PCGN 1962 System

This system is a simplified version of the system devised by the PCGN in 1941 and later adopted by the BGN. In 1962 the two organizations agreed to joint adoption of certain changes in the original system, specifically the omission of special rules for the treatment of Greek geographic names of Albanian, Bulgarian, Italian, Macedonian, and Turkish origin. That revision eliminated the need to consider the origin of names and removed ambiguity from the romanization of Greek expressions of possible non-Greek origin.

This system is based on the pronunciation of modern Greek and is not intended for use in the romanization of classical Greek.

	Greek			Romanization	Example	
1	A α	A α		a	Ἄρτα	Árta
	αι	ai		ai	Ἀθῆναι	Athínai
	αυ	av		av	Μαυροβούνι	Mavrovóuni
2	B β	B β		v	Βόλος	Vólos
3	Γ γ	Γ γ	before α, ο, ου, ω, and consonants other than γ, ξ, and χ	g	Γαράζον Γούρα Ἄγναντα Γλιφάδα	Garázon Góura Ágnanda Glifádha
			before αι, ε, ει, η, ι, οι, υ, and υι	y	Πηγαί Ἀγία	Piyái Ayía
			before ξ and χ	n	Ἀγχίαλος	Ankhíalos
	γγ	γγ		ng	Λόγγος	Lóngos
	γκ	γκ	initially	g	Γκοριτσά	Goritsá
			medially	ng	Λαγκάδα	Langádha
4	Δ δ	Δ δ	between v and ρ	d	Δένδρα	Dhéndra
			otherwise	dh	Δάφνη	Dháfni
5	E ε	E ε		e	Ἐρέτρια	Erétria
	ει	ei		i	Πειραιεύς	Piraiévs
	εῖ	ei		ei	Μαρινεΐκα	Marinéika
	ευ	ev		ev	Λευκάς	Levkás
6	Z ζ	Z ζ		z	Ζεμενόν	Zemenón

	Greek		Romanization		Example	
7	Η η	H η	i		Ἡράκλειον	Iráklion
	ηυ	ηυ	(rarely occurs)	iv		
8	Θ θ	Θ θ	th		Θεσπιαί	Thespiaí
9	Ι ι	I ι	(For subscript iota, see note 4.)	i	Ἰρία	Íria
10	Κ κ	K κ	k		Καλαμάκι	Kalamáki
	γκ	γκ	initially	g	Γκοριτσά	Goritsá
			medially	ng	Λαγκάδα	Langádha
11	Λ λ	Λ λ	l		Λίμνη	Límnì
12	Μ μ	M μ	m		Μαραθών	Marathón
	μπ	μπ	initially	b	Μπέχρος	Békhros
			medially	mb	Τέμπη	Témbi
13	Ν ν	N ν	n		Νεστάνη	Nestáni
	ντ	ντ	initially	d	Ντία	Día
			medially	nd	Παντάνασσα	Pandánassa
	ντζ	ντζ		ntz	Βιτζέντζος	Vitzéntzos
14	Ξ ξ	Ξ ξ	x		Ξάνθη	Xánthi
15	Ο ο	O ο	o		Ὅθος	Óthos
	οι	οι	oi		Οἶτη	Oíti
	ου	ου	ou		Βούναργον	Vounargon
16	Π π	Π π	p		Παῦλος	Pávlos
	μπ	μπ	initially	b	Μπέχρος	Békhros
			medially	mb	Τέμπη	Témbi
17	Ρ ρ	P ρ	r		Μερόπι	Merópi
18	Σ σ	Σ σ	s		Ἄσσος	Ássos
	ς	ς	(finally)	s		

	Greek			Romanization	Example	
19	Τ τ	Τ τ		t	Τίρυνς	Tírins
	ντ	ντ	initially	d	Ντία	Día
			medially	nd	Παντάνασσα	Pandánassa
20	Υ υ	Υ υ	initially and between consonants	i	Ύλίκη Μύλος	Ilíki Mílos
			after α, ε, and η	v	Λευκάς	Levkás
			after ο	u	Μαυροβούνι	Mavrouníni
	υι	υι		i	Άγυιά	Ayiá
21	Φ φ	Φ φ		f	Φιλοθέη	Filothéi
22	Χ χ	Χ χ		kh	Χαραυγή	Kharavyí
23	Ψ ψ	Ψ ψ		ps	Ψαρά	Psará
24	Ω ω	Ω ω		o	Ώρωπος	Oropós

1. The apostrophe and reversed apostrophe, one or the other of which is written in Greek in front of all initial uppercase vowel characters, above all initial lowercase vowel characters, and above the second character of all initial two-vowel character sequences, should not be romanized, e.g., Ἀθῆναι → **Athínai**, Ἡράκλειον → **Iráklion**, Οἰνόφυτα → **Oinófitá**. These apostrophes must be distinguished from accent marks when they occur together, e.g., Ἀβάτον → **Ávaton**, Ἥλια → **Ília**, Οἴτη → **Oíti**. The reversed apostrophe is sometimes found also with ρ and should, likewise, not be romanized: ῥέμα → **réma**.
2. Stress is shown in Greek by the use of the tilde or circumflex, the acute accent, or the grave accent; all of those marks should be represented in romanization by an acute accent, e.g., Ἀθῆναι → **Athínai**, Ντία → **Día**, Ζεμενὸν → **Zemenón**.

If the stressed vowel is written as a sequence of two vowel characters in Greek, the second vowel character should carry the accent; similarly, in romanization the acute accent should be placed over the second vowel letter, e.g., Οἰνοῦσαι → **Oinoúsai**, Οἴτη → **Oíti**, Θεςπιαὶ → **Thespiaí**.

Where a syllable containing one of the combinations αυ, ευ, or ηυ carries the stress, this is marked in Greek on the character υ; in romanization it should be shown on the preceding vowel letter, e.g., Πειραιεύς → **Piraiévs**, Ἄυρα → **Ávra**.

Where the apostrophe and the accent are written together in front of initial uppercase vowel characters, the apostrophe should be disregarded and the accent should be placed above the initial letter in romanization, e.g., Ἀβάτον → **Ávaton**. (See note 1 above.)

In rare cases, a Greek word will be found written with two accents; the second accent should not be romanized.

Accents and apostrophes are sometimes omitted in Greek, particularly in words and names printed wholly in uppercase characters, but in romanization the stress should always be determined and marked with an acute accent.

In Greek abbreviations and monosyllables, any accent which may be found should not be romanized.

3. The dieresis should be shown in romanization where it occurs in Greek, e.g., Μαρινεΐκα → **Marinéïka**, Ἀχαΐα → **Akhaíä**; and over the second vowel letter in romanization of the following combinations of Greek vowel characters: αε, e.g., Ἀετὸς → **Aëtós**; αη, e.g., Ἀηδών → **Aîdhón**; οη, e.g., Οἰνόη → **Oinóï**; ωο, e.g., Ἡρώων → **Iróön**.
4. The character ι (*ióta*) is sometimes found written under or, in uppercase, to the right of the vowel characters α, η, and ω. This "subscript iota" should not be romanized, e.g., Μυρτιῶν Πέλαγος or ΜΥΡΤΩΙΟΝ ΠΕΛΑΓΟΣ → **Mirtóön Pélagos**.