

## GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



“The Sea Battle of Navarino 20-october-1827” Painting by Thomas-Luny.

*Greek Independence Day takes place each year on March 25th. This is the day when Greeks all over the world celebrate Greece’s Independence from the Ottoman Empire. Typical celebrations include fireworks, parades, and parties. People throughout the world display the Greek flag and even wear white and blue in honor of the Greeks.*

*Instead of celebrate the official conclusion of the Greek War for Independence, which officially ended on July 21, 1832, Greek Independence Day occurs on March 25th, a symbolic day chosen to represent the beginning of the movement that eventually led the Greek people to their freedom.*

Since this is such a major Greek holiday, it is a good idea to learn some vocabulary words associated with it. Here's a look at some of the most important words to know:

### **Greek Vocabulary Words for Independence Day:**

- **Greek Independence Day** – 25η Μαρτίου – (This is one of the most commonly used name for the holiday in the Greek language)
- **Victory or Death** – Νίκη ή θάνατος – (This was the motto of the Greek War for Independence. When Mani joined the resistance in 1821, they said, “Νίκη ή θάνατος”. The phrase caught on and it became the motto amongst the fighters.)
- **Freedom or Death** – Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος (This was another commonly used motto during the war)
- **Greek Revolution** – Ελληνική επανάσταση –
- **Feast** – πανηγύρι – (There are plenty of feasts taking place on Greek Independence Day!)
- **Many Happy Returns!** – Χρόνια πολλά! – (This is the phrase Greeks usually say to one another when they are celebrating something together. It is said on birthdays, name days, and holidays and it is definitely a common word that you will hear on Greek Independence Day).
- **Long Live Greece** – ζήτω η Ελλάδα – (This is another common phrase that is said during this holiday)

To properly celebrate Greek Independence, you should definitely learn at least some of these words! Chances are pretty good that you have heard them in the past, but now you will be able to use them with confidence.

The celebration of the Greek Revolution of 1821 ([Greek](#): Εορτασμός της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης του 1821 less commonly known as Independence Day, takes place in [Greece](#), [Cyprus](#) and [Greek diaspora](#) centers on 25 March every year, coinciding with the [Feast of the Annunciation](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

The day is a [public holiday in Greece](#) and Cyprus. Usually celebrations include parades and other celebratory events on the same day or its eve. The largest event is the military parade in Athens on 25 March, while on the previous day, celebrations take place throughout the schools of the country. In other municipalities parades of military divisions, students, clubs, etc. are held, as well as church services.

More broadly, the holiday acknowledges the successful [Greek War of Independence](#) (1821–1829) was fought to liberate and [decolonize](#) Greece from four centuries of [Ottoman occupation](#). After nine years of war, Greece was finally recognized as an independent state under the [London Protocol](#) of February 1830. Further negotiations in 1832 led to the [London Conference of 1832](#) and the [Treaty of Constantinople \(1832\)](#); these defined the final borders of the new [state](#) and recognized the [king](#).

The holiday was established in 1838 with a Royal Decree by [King Otto](#)'s government



“The Massacre at Chios” by Eugène Delacroix, 1824, Louvre Museum, Paris.