

Tourist warnings on Greek finance crisis

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AS CONCERN grows about travel to Greece in the light of the country's dire financial problems, the Association of South African Travel Agents (Asata) has recommended South African tourists take precautionary monetary measures when travelling to Greece.

The UK Foreign Office has issued advice saying: "Visitors to Greece should be aware of the possibility that banking services - including credit card processing and servicing of ATMs - throughout Greece could become limited at short notice.

"Make sure you have enough euros in cash to cover emergencies, unforeseen circumstances and any unexpected delays."

Asata chief executive Otto de Vries said: "It is imperative that South Africans travelling

to Greece in the immediate future are well prepared for their travels. We strongly recommend that tourists carry a reasonable amount of euros in case the situation becomes dire."

Asata's advice:

- The €60 restriction on daily withdrawals does not apply to people who hold bank cards from outside Greece, although there are reports that some ATMs have run out of money.

- Having the facility for multiple means of payment such as a cash passport or your credit card is recommended, but cash will be the best form of payment.

- Take extra security precautions when carrying cash. Use safes and deposit boxes to store cash and split money between family members so you don't carry too much around with you.

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