

## The Diamonitirion

The Diamonitirion (διαμονητήριο) is, like a visa, a document of entry into the Holy Mountain. It states the date of entry (or on special diamonitiria for workers and researchers an extended period of time authorized for stay in a particular monastery), and typically has the following information written in the blanks provided on the form:

- Proper name
- Religious affiliation
- Specialty/Profession (only occasionally entered)
- Passport number
- Country (i.e., citizenship) or city (for Greek citizens)

On the back of the Diamonitirion are the rules according to which the Diamonitirion is issued, which are to be observed by every pilgrim. These directions read (in translation) as follows:

### Essential Directions to Pilgrims

Dear Pilgrims of the Holy Mountain Athos,

Welcome to this holy place of prayer, quietude, repentance, monastic practice and the unceasing service of the Triune God. During the extent of your hospitality here, in the realm of the Panagia (i.e., the All Holy Virgin), the following instructions will be very useful for you:

- 1 Your dress and presence must be respectful and polite, as appropriate to a holy place
- 2 Mobile phones must be turned off in the Church, the Trapeza and in the grounds of the Holy Monasteries and other Holy Shrines
- 3 Do not circulate without permission into other buildings and places beyond the areas designated for hospitality.
- 4 It is required that you conduct yourselves in quiet and silence in the Church and the Trapeza and respect the program and the posted directions of every Holy Shrine.
- 5 The use of devices for television, radio and the playing of music is forbidden.
- 6 Smoking is universally not permitted.
- 7 Take special care to avoid causing a fire. Camping in the open is strictly forbidden.
- 8 Hunting (of wild animals) is strictly forbidden as is also the bringing in of arms and dogs.
- 9 Imaging (movies and videos) is strictly forbidden. The related equipment and materials are subject to seizure by the police.
- 10 Photographing of monks and interior spaces is forbidden without advance permission.
- 11 The extent of your hospitality is four days, and one day in each Holy Shrine. To avoid disappointment, be sure to have made advance arrangements with the Holy Shrine in which you desire to be offered hospitality.
- 12 If you are in possession of a Special *diamonitirion*, that is, having been invited by a particular Holy Lodging, do not seek hospitality at another Holy Shrine, because this constitutes a violation of the rules of hospitality of the Holy Mountain.