

# ATHENS

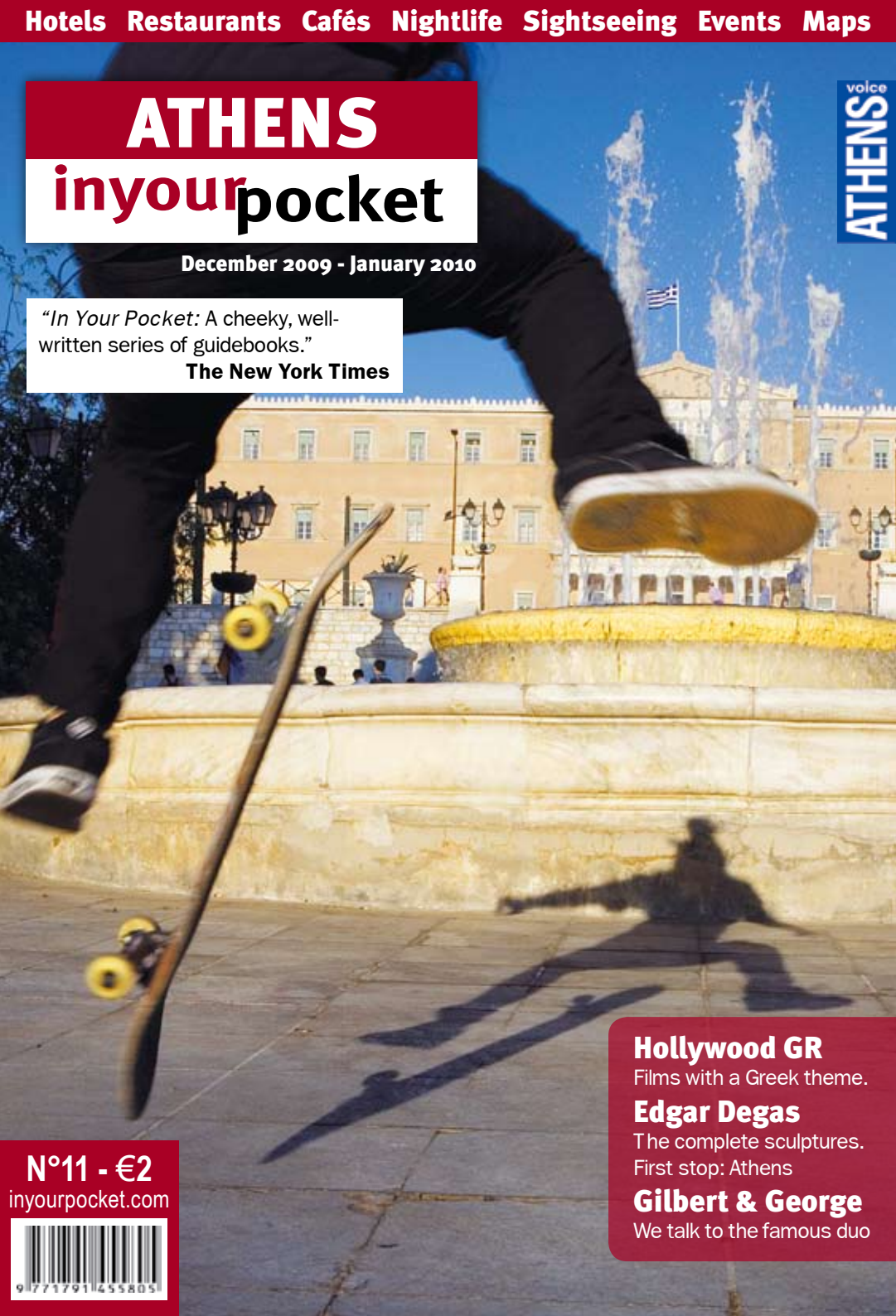
## inyourpocket

December 2009 - January 2010

*"In Your Pocket: A cheeky, well-written series of guidebooks."*

**The New York Times**

voice  
**ATHENS**



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The old gas works factory, a landmark of the Gazi district



Greece has a public debt approaching 120% of its GDP, a budget deficit close to 12.5% and a new socialist government elected to sort those figures out. *Sisyphus*, in Greek mythology, had an easier task trying to roll the stone up the hill.

The country has been hit by the crisis full on and many believe that things are going to get worse before they get better. However, there are some positive side-effects for those who choose to visit Athens this winter. To start with, most hotels have slashed their prices and the cost of accommodation in the city is now approaching more reasonable levels by European standards. Shops are offering large discounts even outside the traditional sales periods and some restaurants seem to have started reconsidering their pricing policies. Add to that the ever buzzing cultural scene of the capital, the seasonal festivities and the Athenian mild climate and you have all the good reasons to be here off-season.

And in case you don't have enough of Greece during your stay, we have prepared a list of good Hollywood films with a Greek theme, perfect for a cold and rainy winter day back home. (pgs 18,19)

From this issue on, *Athens In Your Pocket* joins the publishing group of the leading weekly of the capital, *Athens Voice*.

## Cover story



Syntagma (Constitution) is the central square of Athens overlooked by the Greek Parliament. The place is buzzing around the clock and one of its main attractions are the skaters performing tricks to the visual entertainment of locals and tourists passing by.

© Christina Georgiadou

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It has been another great year for *In Your Pocket*. We now publish a record **57 guides** and mini-guides across **22 European countries**. We print more than four million *In Your Pockets* annually. This year we launched new guides in **Maribor, Bled, Portoroz, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Brasov, Lviv and Odesa**. Next year you can expect to see **Venice, Vienna and Glasgow** - amongst others - *Pocketed*.

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**ATHENS** **inyourpocket**  
ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

**Athens In Your Pocket**  
Harilaou Trikoupi 22  
106 79 Athens

**Editorial office:**  
Pallados 21  
105 54 Athens

**e-mail:** [athens@inyourpocket.com](mailto:athens@inyourpocket.com)

[www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com)  
[www.inyourpocket.gr](http://www.inyourpocket.gr)

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### Editorial

**Publisher** Fotis Georgeles  
**Managing Editor** Vangelis Koronakis  
**Contributors** Mandi Millen, Stephanie Bailey  
**Layout & Design** AIYP creative studio  
**Photography** © Athens IYP - VK  
**Maps** © Road Editions

**tel.** (+30) 210 3316196  
**fax** (+30) 210 3316195

### Sales & Circulation

**Advertising Director** Louisa Nathanail  
**Advertising Mgr** Nikos Tsouanatos  
**Direct Market Mgr** Vassilis Zarkadoulas  
**Financial Director** Efi Mourtzi

**tel.** (+30) 210 3617530  
**fax** (+30) 210 3617310

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### Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

## Press Box

"Solid, reliable information on everything from where to book a reasonable B&B to how best to spend 72 hours in a city."

**The Guardian**

"You do not even need to pack a guidebook: just pick up an *In Your Pocket* when you arrive."

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**The Independent**

"The secret of the *In Your Pocket* guides is that, unlike many expensive travel guides, they are written by native English speakers living in the city they are writing about. That can lend itself to frank, matter-of-fact advice about your destination rather than jaded impressions from world-weary professional travel writers."

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**International Herald Tribune**

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We want to find out how we can make our guides better: please take five minutes to complete our online survey at [inyourpocket.com/survey](http://inyourpocket.com/survey).

Then, tell us about your experiences in *Pocket* cities. A year or so ago *In Your Pocket* took the interactive plunge and began allowing readers to post **comments** under our own reviews. The response has been incredible, nowhere more so than in Riga, where the famous rip-off joint *Lord Pub* has garnered so many comments from angry readers that at one stage earlier this year our system couldn't cope: we had to reconfigure it to accommodate all the feedback. All of our venues - and most of our features - are now open blogs ready for your comments. If you have something to say on Warsaw's raunchiest nightlife venues, say it at [inyourpocket.com](http://inyourpocket.com). If you want to flaunt your Cornish nationalist credentials, do it at [inyourpocket.com](http://inyourpocket.com). Our local editors are encouraged to reply to comments and make a point of taking on board what our readers are telling us. While we vet all comments before publication, if you provide a valid email address we usually publish them all. So let rip!





## Facts &amp; Figures

**Official country name:** Hellenic Republic  
**Population:** (2001 census) 10.9 million  
**Total territory:** 131,944 sq km (51,458 sq mi)  
**Athens population:** 3.8 million  
**Religion:** 98% Greek Orthodox, 1.5% Muslim  
**Political system:** Parliamentary democracy  
**GDP per capita:** \$ 33,400 (2008)  
**Inflation rate:** 1%  
**Unemployment rate:** 10%  
**Highest point:** Mount Olympus 2,917m  
**Length of coastline:** 15,021 km

## Alcohol

Greeks tend to drink on social occasions and you will rarely witness scenes of extreme drunkenness in the streets or in bars, clubs etc. Alcohol is freely available 24 hours a day even from kiosks in the streets.

The common beer brands dominating the market are anything but local: Amstel and Heineken boast a combined market share of around 70%. However, over the last few years many new Greek brands have been introduced into the market and are steadily gaining in popularity: Mythos and Alpha are the most popular. Most other well-known international brands are widely available.

Go easy on beer as most brands have an alcohol content of five percent or higher. Greeks generally drink beer in the summer months and usually as an accompaniment to their meals.

Stick to beer or wine unless you are absolutely certain of the quality of the spirits served. Some bar owners serve cheap (methanol-based) spirit substitutes out of branded bottles and a great night out may end up in a miserable day in bed nursing a nasty hangover.

A visitor should not leave Athens without savouring **Ouzo**, the renowned Greek traditional spirit (together with scotch, to be sure) that is best enjoyed with seafood meals. Diluted with water and ice, it becomes a lovely milky-coloured aniseed-flavoured drink, but be warned: it will give you the worst hangover of your life if you consume it in excess.

**Mastiha** is another pleasant, sweet-tasting spirit, made with the resin of the Mastic tree and is an exclusive product of Chios island.

Finally, Greece produces a plethora of international and local grape varieties, which make very good wines. **Retsina** is of course the most famous of these, with a pine resin flavour, which is added during fermentation. It is, however, looked down upon by modern-day Athenians, who don't think of it as classy enough for their refined taste buds: more of a peasant or working class wine.

## Bouzoukia

This is an exclusively Greek institution, which has evolved to survive many decades of Athenian nightlife: Well-known Greek singers perform live most nights in 'bouzoukia' night-clubs and that's where a visitor can get a first-hand experience of the truly local sense of fun. Although plate-smashing is no longer en vogue, the heaps upon heaps of carnations showered upon singers as they perform songs from the local popular repertoire, the endless quantities of scotch downed in a single night and, no less, the scantily dressed young ladies dancing on the tables and singing along with their favourite artists, all go a long way towards making this a not-to-be-missed experience for any visitor.

## Time

Greece is in the Eastern European Time zone (EET): GMT +2 hours. Between the last Sunday of March and the last Sunday of October Greece is in the Eastern European Summer Time Zone (EEST): GMT +3 hours

## Customs

There are no restrictions placed upon incoming travelers from other E.U. countries (with the exception of tobacco and alcohol products, which are restricted to amounts corresponding to individual personal use only, i.e. 800 cigarettes and 10lt of strong spirits per visitor).

If you are arriving from non-EU countries, you are entitled to import products of a total value of €175. Animals must have undergone all mandatory vaccinations and be equipped with passports. Strangely enough, you are not allowed to import the following: drugs, weapons, nuclear or biological substances, explosives, flammable gases, protected species, animal products and pornographic material (as for this last category, you shouldn't worry, as you'll be able to find it aplenty once you're in the country)

## Disabled travellers

Unfortunately, Athens is not a Special Needs-friendly city. In fact, it is a disgrace that even the disabled residents of the city itself face a nightmare whenever they need to leave their homes. Authorities try to make their lives easier by constructing wheelchair and blind-person friendly pavements but, in practice, all these vital aids for the disabled are rendered useless by insensitive car and motorbike drivers, who park their vehicles in every last inch of available space imaginable (including right in front of wheelchair access ramps), making the life of even non-disabled pedestrians a living hell. Restaurants and public buildings are obliged by law to offer easy access and specially adapted toilets for the disabled, but then again, laws are there to be broken...

## Drugs

All drugs are illegal in Greece and there is a strict zero-tolerance policy. However, smoking hash/cannabis does happen among young (and not-so-young) Athenians, but they usually do so in the privacy of their homes. Take our word for it and don't try to get your hands on dope.

## Climate



## Famous Greeks [9]



## El Greco (Domenicos Theotokopoulos) 1541-1614

El Greco was one of the greatest painters of the Renaissance. He was born in Venetian occupied Crete, second son of a wealthy merchant.

He received his initial training as an icon painter in Crete which was a centre of artistic activity in the post-Byzantine world. Around 1576 he went to Venice to practice his art where he stayed for a few years and was associated with old age Titian.

He then moved to Rome where he was accepted by the intellectual elite and completed a series of important works. Gradually, he developed his unique style of elongated figures and distorted bodies but because of his unpopular criticism of emblematic figures such as Michelangelo he created many enemies in Rome from where he departed in 1577.

First he moved to Madrid and then Toledo, the religious capital of Spain at the time. His first commissions left the King of Spain Philip II unsatisfied and as a result El Greco lost any hope of royal patronage and was forced to abandon his plans to move back to Madrid. It was in Toledo that El Greco produced most of his masterpieces. Among his most famous works are The Burial of the Count of Orgaz, The opening of the Fifth Seal and The Adoration of the Shepherds which he painted during the last year of his life.

During his work on a commission for the Hospital Tavera, El Greco fell ill and died on April 7 1614. He was buried in the Church of Santo Domingo el Antigua.

The exact number of his works is a subject of dispute among scholars and experts.

\*More famous Greeks to read online: [www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com)

## Electricity

European style two pin sockets are used and electricity comes at 230V 50Hz AC. Adaptors are available at most hotels and electrical appliance shops, as well as at the Airport shops.

## Etiquette

Greeks like to think of themselves as a nation apart from all the rest. They believe they are direct descendants of their illustrious ancient forebears and they are very proud of their history and past. They tend to think that the rest of the world, although it revolves around them, is constantly conspiring against them and never understands them.

If you avoid questioning the...obvious correctness of these views, most Greeks will lean over backwards to please you as a guest. If you go out to dinner with locals, there is no way you will be allowed to pay your share of the bill and if they ask you to stay over at their house, they will in all likelihood offer you their own bed, in order to make you feel as comfortable as possible. This is known as 'flotimo', a Greek word without an exact equivalent in English, meaning something between a sense of honour, dignity and pride and is a highly-praised virtue in Greek society

## Health &amp; Safety

Athens is a polluted city but has come a long way since the eighties. New technology cars and buses and the transfer of all heavy industries outside city limits have reduced emissions to a bearable level for a city of its size. Depending on atmospheric conditions though, you may still get the odd smoggy day and feel like you just woke up in Mexico City!

There are no widespread infectious diseases that should be of concern to the visitor and no vaccinations are required prior to your visit. Greece has a relatively low (but steadily and alarmingly rising) level of HIV infections. Complacency among young people leads the authorities to run awareness-raising campaigns every so often.

Tap water is chlorinated and perfectly safe. Or so the public water company says. If you prefer bottled mineral water you can buy it everywhere cheap. Its street price is strictly regulated (50c for a half litre bottle and 1 Euro for a 1.5 litre bottle) as it is considered an essential amenity during the long hot summers.

Athens is one of the safest European capitals (then again, most guides for most capitals tend to claim the same). But here we actually mean it. The good old cliché 'if you don't go looking for trouble you'll be perfectly fine' applies here too. Petty crime does exist, but if you avoid certain areas, such as the backstreets around Omonia and Vathis Squares, especially as a sole traveler, and keep an eye on your belongings, your stay in Athens will be trouble-free.

Women traveling alone may encounter the Mediterranean temperament of some local men but this rarely goes beyond a stare or a whistle.

Finally, you will definitely get thrown out of a bar if you get plastered and cause trouble. But that's fair enough, isn't it?

## Metro

It was finally constructed about a century after most of its European counterparts, but for that same reason, Athens has one of the most luxurious and squeaky clean metro systems in Europe. It only has two lines (plus a pre-existing one which runs over-ground) but its stations are lined with marble and granite and are generously and tastefully adorned with artworks and replicas of ancient objects (in some cases, even showcasing original archaeological material).

## Money

Greece adopted the Euro currency on January 2, 2002. Prices soared as a result of the conversion, a fact which still ranks high as a favourite (and heated) topic of discussion among Greeks, usually embarked upon when presented with their restaurant bill and suddenly filled with nostalgia for the good-old Drachma days.

Major international credit cards are accepted everywhere and travelers' cheques can be cashed-in at hotels and banks.

## Music piracy

The country features in the black list of international anti-piracy organisations. Friendly smiling Nigerians equipped with stacks of pirate CDs and DVDs can be found roaming every neighbourhood of the city.

Athenians tend to spend a lot of money on pirate music (or they did before they started downloading it for free). Add to that the Greek judges' sympathy for the young Nigerians when the unsympathetic police take them to court and you have one furious music industry. As a result, legitimate music prices have been slashed during the last few years and you can now buy top-selling music from €5 (which is the same as the price for a pirate copy!)

## The Greek alphabet

The Greek alphabet looks scary but once you learn how to pronounce each letter and combination of letters you can actually read Greek! Just give it a few minutes and you'll be surprised.

Αα	alfa	pronounced	as in <b>cat</b>
Ββ	beta		as in <b>vino</b>
Γγ	gama		as in <b>yet</b>
Δδ	delta		as in <b>the</b>
Εε	epsilon		as in <b>set</b>
Ζζ	zita		as in <b>zebra</b>
Ηη	ita		as in <b>six</b>
Θθ	theta		as in <b>theme</b>
Ιι	ghiota		as in <b>six</b>
Κκ	kapa		as in <b>key</b>
Λλ	lamda		as in <b>love</b>
Μμ	mi		as in <b>man</b>
Νν	ni		as in <b>new</b>
Ξξ	ksi		as in <b>text</b>
Οο	omikron		as in <b>box</b>
Ππ	pi		as in <b>power</b>
Ρρ	rho		as in <b>run</b>
Σσ	sigma		as in <b>sun</b>
Ττ	tau		as in <b>tea</b>
Υυ	ipsilon		as in <b>six</b>
Φφ	fi		as in <b>fun</b>
Χχ	chi		as in <b>hi</b>
Ψψ	psi		as in <b>tips</b>
Ωω	omega		as in <b>box</b>

Note that ita (η), giota (ι), ipsilon (υ) as well as (ει) and (οι) are pronounced exactly the same.

(ο) and (ω) are pronounced the same too, (ου) is pronounced oo, (αι) is pronounced e, (ευ) is pronounced ev and (αυ) is pronounced av. Once you remember the above, you can (with a little practice) read everything written in Greek. As for understanding...that's a whole different story and will take some serious effort, practice and time.

**Police emergency tel. 100**

**Ambulance tel. 166**

**Fire Service tel. 199**

## Roads & Driving

Athenian drivers are a lot safer and more disciplined than those of Cairo, Istanbul and probably Bucharest...

They do stop at red traffic lights most times, but that's about it. Like their Balkan counterparts, they strongly believe that heavy traffic can magically disappear at the touch of their horn. They have no respect whatsoever for pedestrians and cycling is a sure way to eventually land yourself as a client of the National Health Service (and that's the last thing you want to do, take our word for it).

Athenian roads are not in the best of conditions and this is exacerbated by the complete lack of coordination between the different governmental departments and public utility companies that regularly carry out roadworks and drill into city streets. It is not rare to witness the electricity or water company men drilling into a street that has just had a new asphalt layer applied only a week earlier!

Cars are allowed into the city-centre (areas marked with a "Greek Delta" sign and called 'Daktylios') every second day, depending on their registration plates (odd number plates on odd calendar days and even number plates accordingly). This measure was introduced back in 1982, in order to tackle the increasing traffic and pollution problems of the time and has become completely outdated nowadays.

The traffic in the centre cannot get any worse and although public transport keeps improving with the introduction of new metro stations and tram lines, Athenians are so enamoured of their cars that only a total ban would improve traffic conditions (and would then, with mathematical precision, lead to a full-scale revolt).

Parking in the city centre is regulated Mon-Fri 09:00-21:00, Sat 09:00-16:00 and is allowed only on white lines. The ridiculously complicated pricing system is as follows: 50c for the first half hour increasing by 50c for every subsequent half hour and up to two hours (€2). For two and a half hours you have to pay €4 and for three hours, which is the maximum time allowed, €6. Blue lines are reserved for residents and yellow ones for public services and retail professionals.

If you prefer to opt for something simpler, this comes at a price: Parking lots, over and under ground, are scattered around the centre and start at €5 per hour up to a minimum of €15 for a whole day.

## National Holidays

<b>Jan 1</b>	New Year's Day (Protochronia)
<b>Jan 6</b>	Epiphany (Theofania)
<b>Mar 2 (mov)</b>	Ash Monday (Kathari Deftera)
<b>Mar 25</b>	Independence (Ikosti Pempti Martiou)
<b>Apr 19 (mov)</b>	Easter Sunday (Pascha)
<b>Apr 20 (mov)</b>	Easter Monday (Deftera Pascha)
<b>May 1</b>	Labour Day (Protomagia)
<b>Jun 8 (mov)</b>	Holy Spirit Monday (Agiou Pnevmatos)
<b>Aug 15</b>	Assumption of Virgin Mary (Dekapentavgoustos)
<b>Oct 28</b>	1940 refusal to yield to the Axis
<b>Dec 25</b>	Christmas Day (Christougenna)
<b>Dec 26</b>	Boxing Day

## Olympic Games

After being refused the centenary modern Olympics of 1996, Athens was finally awarded the Games of 2004. Against all international media odds, who worked overtime for their respective governments, each outbidding the next in their efforts to sell overpriced and useless security systems, the city organised a wonderful and absolutely safe Olympiad that filled all Greeks with a sense of national solidarity and pride - and rightly so. This was, surely enough, before they were presented with the eight billion Euro bill, whereupon everyone came to the conclusion that the Olympics are no business for a small country like this one...

## Smoking



Smoking has officially been banned in all indoor public areas in Greece since July 1. However, like everything else in this country, the ban was not a simple blanket measure for all. Establishments over 70 sqm are obliged to provide separate smoking rooms and owners of places under 70 sqm are free to decide whether theirs will be a smoking place or not! So far the

results have been satisfactory in most working places, but in wonderful Greece, laws rarely get in the way of people's lives and most bars and many restaurants have completely ignored the new law. The compliance of many of the owners has been limited to the abolishment of ashtrays, so customers in many places have to extinguish their cigarettes on the floor! Only a universal ban in all public places could ever bring an end to the Greeks' favourite habit and the new government have said that this is a possibility they seriously examine. Till then, relax and light up.

## Athens Portraits [8]

### Bouzouki Man

He's as Greek as you can get - and fiercely proud of it. A creature of the night, you're unlikely to see Bouzouki Man in his full glory before 1am. If you do spot him during daylight, he'll be nursing his morning coffee in the kafeneion or sitting outside smoking and clacking his worry beads.

His natural nocturnal habitat is the bouzoukia, a uniquely Greek type of night club named after the stringed instrument that forms the mainstay of its music (see the Basics, pg 8).

There, Bouzouki Man thinks nothing of shelling out 200 Euros for a bottle of whisky and another 200 for tray after tin-foil tray of carnation flowers to shower the singers churning out a repertoire of Greek hits at full blast.

The ultimate social animal, he's usually found in large groups in which the Alpha Male establishes his dominance by mounting the stage to perform an intense 'zeibekiko' dance that requires a special kind of concentration and endurance as he stoops to the ground, balancing on one foot, before leaping up and switching the legs.



## Stray dogs

Athens' streets are littered with thousands of stray dogs, a fact that, according to animal welfare organisations, constitutes bad publicity for the city. The truth is, however, that many of these animals are not abandoned in the streets but are actually born there and live in neighbourhoods where people feed and water them on a daily basis. Just before the Olympic Games, most strays were rounded up by the authorities, vaccinated and sterilised, only to be placed right back in their natural habitat, the streets. Most of them wear collars and are harmless and quite friendly.

## Tipping

Service charge is included in the bill in all restaurants and cafés but if you are pleased with the service it is customary to leave a few euros on the table. Ten percent is considered generous; something around five percent is the most common practice. Tipping is expected in most expensive hotels and taxi drivers will round up the amount themselves when they give you the change, so you shouldn't worry about this!

## Visas

There is no visa requirement to enter Greece for citizens of the E.U., Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the US.

For a full list of countries exempt from visa requirements for up to 90 days visit you can consult the Greek Foreign Ministry website at: [www.yplex.gov.gr](http://www.yplex.gov.gr).

**The Athens tel. code is +30 210**

Purists frown on women joining in. It's considered a fiercely masculine dance - females are only expected to kneel in homage, clapping the slow rhythm.

The ladies' chance to shine comes when they climb onto tables to wiggle and squirm their sparkling evening wear in a

way that could make Madonna blush. Even middle-aged matrons sometimes clamber onto the stage to shimmy frantically next to the singer.

The stage gets more crowded as the night wears on, and it's only by virtue of official flower sweepers that performers don't slip up on the mountains of flower heads thrown in tribute. But as fast as the brooms clear the stage, shapely young girls weave between the tables selling more carnations to fill it up again.

By 5am, the die-hards are still going strong. Even when the bouzouki players and singers have left the stage, Bouzouki Man and his gang are heading for an all-night restaurant on Syngrou Avenue for a plateful of 'patsa' (tripe) to soak up all that whisky.

\* More Athens portraits to read online: [www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com)



## BC

**c.3000BC:** Evidence of human habitation at the foot of the Acropolis hill in Athens.

**2700-1450BC:** The Minoan Civilisation flourishes in Crete and the Aegean, centred on the palaces at Knossos and Phaestus in Crete, with trade relations with Egypt and Syria.

**1700-1100BC:** Rise of the Mycenaean Civilisation. Mycenaean trade with Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Successive invasions of the Greek (Hellenic) Tribes: **Achaean**, **Aeolians**, **Ionians** and **Dorians**. A royal fortress is built on the Athenian Acropolis.

**1200BC:** Upon his return to the city after slaying the Minotaur in Crete and rescuing Athenians held captive by King Minos, King Theseus unites the province of Attica with Athens as its capital. Legend has it that he forgot to hoist the white sail to show his father, Aegeus, that he survived. In his grief, the old man hurled himself to his death in the sea which was later named the Aegean after him.

**1100BC:** The collapse of the Mycenaean Civilisation is followed by the Hellenic Dark Ages. Aeolian, Ionian and Dorian Greek colonisation of Asia Minor.

**c.1000BC:** The city limits of Athens expand, construction of the first Agora.

**8th century BC:** Greeks found colonies around the Mediterranean basin. Rise of aristocracies throughout Greece.

**776BC:** The first Olympic Games in history, held at Olympia, mark the beginning of the Classical Greek period.

**621BC:** **Dracon** drafts strict new 'draconian' law code in Athens.

**c.600BC:** Athens wins Salamis from neighbouring Megara and founds a colony, Sigeum, at the mouth of the Hellespont.

**594-593BC:** Archonship of **Solon**. First democratic reforms in Athens (cancellation of debts, replacement of birth by wealth as the criterion for office, creation of a people's court).

**566BC:** First Panathenaic Games held in Athens to honour **Athena**, goddess of Wisdom and patron-goddess of the city.

**561-560BC:** **Peisistratus** seizes power and becomes tyrant in Athens.

**c.530 BC:** New temple of Athena built on the Acropolis.

**510BC:** **Hippias**, the son of Peisistratus, is overthrown from the dictatorship in Athens with help from Sparta. **Cleisthenes** takes charge in Athens.

**508-507BC:** Democratic reforms of Cleisthenes in Athens upheld by the 'Ekklesia' (public assembly of male Athenian citizens with the right to vote at public hearings and elect magistrates).

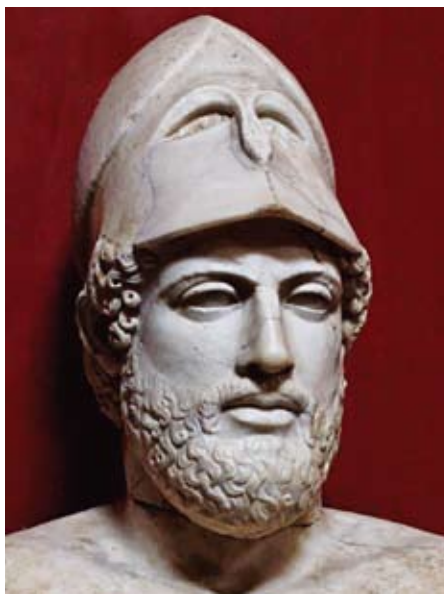
**499BC:** Beginning of the Persian wars with the revolt of the Ionian city-states against **Darius**. Athens sends a fleet in support of the Ionians. Darius pledges to avenge the Athenians.

**490BC:** The Athenians block the Persian invasion with their victory in the battle of Marathon. Legend has it that **Phaidipides**, an Athenian herald, ran from the battlefield back to Athens to announce the triumph with the word 'nenikikamen' (we won) and died on the spot. This story inspired the modern Marathon run.

**490-480BC:** Extraction of silver ore from the mines at Laurion, used for minting the Athenian silver 'owl' coins that financed the expansion of Athens' navy.

**480BC:** King **Leonidas** of Sparta, vastly outnumbered by the Persian army under **Xerxes**, falls with his warriors in the battle of Thermopylae. The Persians sack Athens but are badly defeated in the naval battle of Salamis.

**479BC:** Persians defeated at Plataea. Rebuilding of Athens begins, including the construction of Long Walls linking the city to the port of Piraeus.



Pericles, the Athenian leader of the 'Golden Age'

**461-429BC:** Named by historians 'The Golden Age' of Athens. During this period, Athens establishes the Athenian (or Delian) League and takes control of a large number of Greek city-members of the League. Athens and its allies pursue an offensive war against both the Persians and the Peloponnesian League led by the Spartans. In 451BC, Athenians and Spartans sign a five-year truce, which lasts until 446, whereupon begins the period known as the 'Thirty Year Peace'. During this period, Athens reached the peak of its prosperity. Democracy, science, philosophy, drama, architecture, sculpture, all flourished. The Parthenon, among other architectural masterpieces, is built between 447-437BC.

**438BC:** Large chryselephantine (gold-and-ivory) statue of Athena set up in the Parthenon.

**431BC:** The peace is broken with the onset of the Peloponnesian War. Athens goes at war with Sparta once again.

**430-428BC:** The plague decimates a quarter of the population of Athens, including **Pericles**.

**415BC:** Athenian expedition sails to Sicily under **Alcibiades**.

**404BC:** The end of the Peloponnesian war and Athens' surrender usher in Sparta's hegemony in the Hellenic world. This is followed by a short period of Theban dominance.

**360BC:** **Philip II** is crowned King of Macedon and the period of the kingdom's dominance begins.

**356BC:** **Alexander the Great**, son of Philip II, is born in Pella.

**336BC:** Philip dies and Alexander succeeds him as King of Macedon.

**334-323BC:** Alexander is proclaimed King of all Hellenes and embarks on the conquest of Persian lands, expanding his empire as far as Egypt and India.

**323BC:** Alexander dies in Babylon and the Hellenistic Period begins. Macedonia becomes dominant in the Hellenic World.

**146BC:** Greece becomes a province of the Roman Empire.

**86BC:** Following Athens' support to **Mithridates**, king of Pontus, **Sulla** attacks the city. Athens loses all political influence and Corinth is established as the capital of the Roman province.

## AD

**54:** The **Apostle Paul** visits Athens and delivers the Sermon on Aeropagus Hill.

**150:** **Herod Atticus** becomes governor of Athens, constructs the theatre at the foot of the Acropolis that bears his name.

**330:** **Constantine the Great** transfers the capital of the Roman Empire to Byzantium, which is renamed Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire is established. Before his death, Constantine the Great establishes Christianity as the official religion of the Byzantine Empire.

**529:** Philosophical academies closed by Emperor **Justinian I**, temples reconsecrated as Christian churches.

**1054:** Schism between the Eastern Orthodox and (Western) Roman Catholic Churches.

**1204:** Capture of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade by the Franks and Venetians.

**1453:** Sultan **Mohammed II** captures Constantinople. End of the Byzantine Empire.

**1456:** Capture of Athens by **Omar**.

**1460-1715:** Turks occupy all of Greece after continuous warfare with the Venetians.

**1687:** Venetians lay siege to Athens under **Morosini**. The Acropolis, which was used as a Turkish gunpowder store, is partially destroyed.

**1801:** Lord **Elgin** removes Parthenon marbles to London.

## Twentieth century

**1910:** Cretan politician **Eleftherios Venizelos** is elected prime minister of Greece.

**1912:** First Balkan War. Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria fight against the Ottomans. Greece obtains parts of Macedonia, Epirus and the north Aegean islands.

**1913:** Second Balkan War. Greece and Serbia fight against Bulgaria. Crete unites with Greece.

**1914:** **King Constantine** insists that Greece remains neutral during the First World War. Venizelos wants to enter the war on the side of the Allies. The King flees the country and Greece enters the war.

**1919:** The Allies award Venizelos, being on the winners' side, certain parts of Turkish and Bulgarian Thrace and the right to place troops in the area of Smyrna on the Turkish coast, where a large and prosperous Greek population exists.

**1921:** The Greek troops begin a massive campaign and advance towards Ankara.

**1922:** The resurgent Turkish army drives the Greeks back to the coast and Smyrna is burnt down on August 31. More than a million Greeks abandon their homes and become refugees on the Greek mainland. There follows a massive exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey, based on religious faith, under the Treaty of Lausanne.

**1940:** After occupying Albania, Italy demands the right of passage through Greece. Greeks respond to the Italian ultimatum with a single word, "No", on October 28. Greek troops repel the Italian forces into the Albanian mountains, advancing towards Albania during the winter.

**1941:** In April, Germany invades Greece and the country is occupied by German, Italian and Bulgarian forces. The big famine of the winter of 1941 leaves more than 40,000 dead, mainly in Athens and other major cities. Greeks take to the mountains, form resistance groups and declare a 'Free Greece' on the inaccessible mountainous mainland.

**1944:** The last Wehrmacht soldier departs from Athens on October 12. Greek and British troops enter the liberated capital. In December, fighting breaks out in the streets of Athens between communist supported resistance groups and the National Army supported by the British.

**1821:** The Greek Revolution against Turkish occupation begins.

**1827:** The fleet of the mediating powers (France, Britain, Russia) destroys the Turkish fleet at Navarino. End of Ottoman Rule in Greece.

**1830:** Greek sovereignty recognised under the London Protocol. Nauplion becomes the first capital of independent Greece.

**1831-1834:** The assassination of the first governor of Greece, **Ioannis Kapodistrias**, leads to the establishment of monarchy by the foreign powers. Bavarian King **Otto I** arrives in Greece and Athens is established as the new capital.

**1838:** The Royal Palace (now the House of Parliament) completed on Syntagma Square.

**1843:** King **Otto** grants a constitution and representative Assembly, following popular uprisings.

**1863:** King **Otto** is dethroned and prince William of Denmark is crowned King of Greece under the name **George I**. He brings the Ionian islands as a coronation gift from Britain.

**1866:** Cretan uprisings against the Ottomans lead to war between Greece and Turkey.

**1877:** Prime Minister **Charilaos Trikoupis** introduces measures that limit the power of the monarchy to interfere in democratic institutions.

**1896:** The first modern Olympic Games held in Athens. 20th century

After a month of intense fighting, the guerrillas surrender.

**1945:** A period of persecution against anyone suspected as a communist drives thousands of people to the mountains.

**1947:** A guerrilla army is put together on the mountains by the Communist Party and a bitter three-year civil war erupts. The Dodecanese islands are united with Greece, giving the country its final shape.

**1949:** The National Army, with heavy support from the US, drives back the guerrillas through the northern borders of Greece. More than 50,000 communists and their families become political refugees behind the Iron Curtain.

**1952:** Greece joins NATO.

**1962:** Greece becomes the first associated member of the European Community.

**1967:** A group of middle ranking army officers seize power and a seven-year dictatorship begins. King Constantine II flees the country. Military junta led by Colonel **Papadopoulos** rules Greece.

**1973:** In November, an uprising of students in Athens against the dictatorial regime, known as the Athens Polytechnic Uprising, is crushed with bullets and tanks.

**1974:** A coup in Cyprus results in Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern part of the island. Military regime collapses in Athens. A Republic is proclaimed by referendum. Presidential democracy adopted.

**1981:** Greece becomes the tenth member of the European Union. Socialist **Andreas Papandreu** and his party PASOK win the elections.

**1985:** Athens becomes Europe's first Cultural Capital.

**2002:** Greece joins the Euro zone and abandons the Drachma after 167 years.

**2004:** Greece successfully organises the Olympic Games.

**2005:** **Karolos Papoullas**, a former socialist foreign minister, is elected President of the Republic.

**2009:** Centre-left PASOK party wins the national elections and **Giorgos Papandreu** becomes Greece's new Prime Minister.

## Athens in two days



## Day One (see map trail pg 78-79):

Start your day early in **Syntagma Square**. See the changing of the guard in front of the **House of Parliament** (on the hour) and walk along Amalias Avenue. Enter the **National Gardens**, pass **Zappelon** and head towards the **Panathenaic Stadium**. Walk down Vasilisis Olgas Avenue, pass **Hadrian's Arch** and the **Temple of Olympian Zeus** and cross to **Plaka**. Allow yourself to wander around its picturesque meandering streets and stop for a coffee at one of the numerous cafés. Walk along pedestrianised Dionisiou Areopagitou street, climb the **Acropolis hill** and enjoy the pride of western civilisation. Once you're done with the sacred rock head to the new **Acropolis Museum** before you stop for a late lunch-Greek style somewhere around Thissio station. Afternoon is time to visit **Kerameikos** with its ancient cemetery, the **Ancient Agora** and the bustling and quaint **Monastiraki Flea Market**. Have an aperitif at nearby Psirri district and round off the evening with a late dinner accompanied by live Greek music, or head to Gazi where you can combine dinner with late drinks.

## Day Two:

Begin the day at the top end of Ploutarchou Street in Kolonaki, from where you will board the scenic funicular (runs every half hour €6) or walk the lovely pine-lined pedestrianised path up **Lycabettus hill** (about 300m). Take in the breathtaking views of the Acropolis and the panorama of Athens and the **Saronic Gulf** sprawled at your feet. Seize the opportunity to visit the historic white-washed church of **Saint George** crowning the hill before taking the funicular back down. Make your way to Panepistimio station and board the metro to Victoria, from where you will cross to the **National Archaeological Museum**. Allow at least two hours for your visit, before stopping for a light lunch at the Museum restaurant or at one of the numerous Bohemian establishments lining **Exarchia Square**. Board the metro to Syntagma station, where you will change to the **Tram** that will take you down to Athens' southern coastal suburbs. Enjoy your leisurely ride, taking in the golden sea views along the way. Get off at **'Parko Filsvou'** stop in Paleo Faliro and walk along the seaside palm-lined esplanade, stopping off for a coffee at one of the numerous cafés (we recommend a freddocinno!). Enjoy lounging at the beach before taking the Tram back to downtown Athens and rounding the day off with dinner somewhere around Monastiraki Station with its numerous lively live-music establishments or, if posh dining is more up your street, head to Kolonaki.

## Plaka

**E5,E6,F6 Bordered by the Acropolis, Amalias and Mitropoleos Streets. [M]Syntagma, Monastiraki.**

This is what Athens has to offer as an old town, a district most visitors feel obliged (and rightly so) to pass through at least once, but few Athenians visit for their entertainment needs. Countless tourist shops, selling kitsch ancient replicas and tasteless souvenirs and many moussaka-restaurants, most dating back to the 1970s, give the visitor a cliched and somehow false view of Athens. However, if you wander off the beaten track, through its picturesque and serene meandering streets leading up to the Acropolis, you can discover a plethora of architectural gems giving a unique feel of the city at the beginning of the twentieth century, as well as discovering many small museums to keep you occupied for hours. The old neighbourhood of 'Anafiotica' just under the Acropolis rock will give you a déjà-vu of your last Greek island holiday, right in the centre of Athens.

## Kolonaki

**H4,H5,I5 Bordered by: Vassilisis Sofias, Akadimias Streets and Lycabettus hill. [M]Syntagma.**

Anyone who is (or thinks he is) anyone, lives or hangs around Kolonaki Square (Filikis Eterias Square). The Athenian élite of politicians, high profile journalists, actors, models and powerful businessmen, together with idle non-working residents who spend their days in the numerous posh cafés and restaurants, mingle, show off and decide the future of the country. All the expensive fashion boutiques are based here, and the nightlife is designed to please the above-mentioned crowds, as well as visitors who come here from the rest of Athens to get a taste of the high life. Beach attire, large groups of lads and the matching attitude should be avoided, if you wish to pass through the strict 'face control' of the bouncers and spend a night among Athens' 'beautiful people'.

## Gazi

**A4 Bordered by Pireos, Iera Odos, Konstantinoupoleos Streets. [M] Kerameikos.**

A relatively new hot spot, characterised by the old factory that used to produce gas for lighting the streets and houses of the city many decades ago. Fortunately, the Municipality of Athens preserved the old factory building and transformed it into the 'Technopolis' cultural centre where concerts, exhibitions and festivals take place. With the completion of Kerameikos metro station in 2007, the area took off and it is now a top choice for entertainment among young Athenians. A good number of gay bars and clubs have given the homosexual community of Athens a night-time destination, although one cannot describe Gazi as a gay district.

## Exarchia

**F2,G2,H2 Bordered by: Asklipiou, Akadimias, Patision (October 28th) Streets. [M] Omonia.**

Neighbouring Kolonaki but at the exact opposite end of the spectrum, this is the traditional alternative corner of Athens inhabited by old Athenians and frequented by young Bohemian intellectuals, leftists, students, rockers and anarchists. The nightlife here is excellent, and as you'd expect a lot more relaxed and laid back. Nobody cares about what you wear or who you are. The old days' frequent riots are now rare (with the exception of December 2008) but there is always a refreshing revolutionary feeling to make restless minds feel at home.

[athens.inyourpocket.com](http://athens.inyourpocket.com)



Lycabettus hill

AIYP

## Thissio

**B5,C5,C6 Bordered by Ermou Street, Philopappou Hill, Ancient Agora. [M]Thissio.**

One of the oldest districts of Athens. The Acropolis towering above and its many neoclassical buildings preserve the aura of a bygone era. Walk around the Ancient Agora and Philopappou hill, soak up the atmosphere of the cradle of western civilisation, imagine Socrates conversing with his disciples on these very same grounds and attune yourself to the rhythm of life of modern city-dwellers sipping their indispensable 'frappé' (iced coffee the Greek way) at one of the countless outdoor cafés directly facing the Sacred Rock.

## Makrigianni

**E7,E8 Bordered by the Acropolis, Philopappou hill, Syngrou Ave. [M]Acropolis.** A district overwhelmed by sixties blocks of flats (like most of Athens of course) with some forgotten neoclassical treasures amongst them, Makrigianni hasn't so far had very much to offer the visitor except its proximity to the ancient monuments and some tourist shops and restaurants. To be sure, this was the case until the New Acropolis Museum, the pride and joy of the capital, finally opened its doors and thereafter transformed the district into one of the foremost attractions for visitors and Athenians alike.

## Commercial triangle (Historic Centre)

**E4,E5,F4,F5 Bordered by Stadiou, Athinas and Ermou St. [M]Monastiraki, Syntagma, Panepistimio.**

A complex of narrow streets lined with shops selling everything you can imagine, this is the traditional shopping heart of the city. It used to be dead quiet in the evenings, but when neighbouring Psirri started becoming saturated with nightspots of all kinds, entertainment entrepreneurs took the opportunity to cross Athinas street and live up this historic part of the capital. The establishments in this area of town tend to maintain a certain individuality and character and target more selective audiences.

## Metaxourgio

**B3,C3 Bordered by Pireos, Iera Odos, Achilleos Streets. [M]Kerameikos.**

This is the latest up and coming area of the capital, with a new bar, restaurant or art venue appearing every few days. Like many other European cities, Athens is gradually rediscovering its neglected and forsaken districts of ill repute and transforming them into night-time hot spots. The shoddy brothels still operate here around the clock, but, at night, the fashionable crowds of the capital reclaim the neighbourhood.

## Psirri

**D4 Bordered by Athinas, Ermou, Pireos, Evripidou Streets. [M]Monastiraki, Thissio.**

This neighbourhood of narrow streets, workshops, warehouses and wholesale shops of every kind, established itself as the 'Soho' of Athens about fifteen years ago. (Since then, this title has been variously attributed to each new nightlife hub that springs up in previously deprived areas). Countless bars, clubs, theatres, restaurants and cafés cater for the masses and for that reason, cannot maintain a distinctive character. The food is generally average, with some exceptions, and some bars sell spirits of a low quality disguised in branded bottles (colloquially called 'bombs'). Restaurants with live Greek music often charge higher prices than the quality of their food justifies, but if you want to experience dancing and singing the Greek way, do enter any of them on a Saturday evening, or even better a Sunday afternoon.

## Omonia Square

**and the area west of Athinas & September 3rd Streets. D2,D3,E2,E3 [M]Omonia.**

This central square is the Balkan face of Athens. Buzzing and ugly, gritty and colourful, its working class crowds mingle with immigrants, street traders, lottery ticket sellers and, occasionally, weird and suspicious figures.

If you head towards the back streets to the west of the square you'll find yourself in the Athenian version of a China town, where other predominant nationalities are Pakistanis and Africans. A few surviving neoclassical buildings come as a welcome contrast to the concrete of the square, the looks of which most Athenians hated as soon as it was reconstructed a few years ago.

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## Mamma Mia



**2008 Dir. Phyllida Lloyd. Feat: Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan** If you are a fan of ABBA music and the Greek islands this is a perfect way to spend two entertaining and cheerful hours. The Aegean island of *Skopelos* is the setting of this feel-good film which is based on the original musical stage production. The performances are slightly over the top, the plot couldn't be any simpler and Pierce Brosnan

cannot sing, but all that don't matter. You will be singing along and having great fun for the duration of the film. **amazon.co.uk: £ 10.98**

## Captain Corelli's Mandolin



**2001 Dir. John Madden. Feat: Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz** The film that changed *Cephalonia's* tourist fortunes. Based on Louis De Bernières' wonderful novel and worldwide best seller, this is a war-time love story between Pelagia a country girl and captain Corelli, an officer of the Italian occupying force of the island. Although the simplified story doesn't quite live up to the book, the beautiful scenery and

sapphire waters of the island produce excellent photography making it a perfect teaser to start planning your next summer holiday. **amazon.co.uk: £ 5.68**

## Mediterraneo



**1992 Dir. Gabriele Salvatores. Feat: Diego Abatantuono** A squad of Italian soldiers, not much interested in fighting, are sent to the island of *Kastelorizo* during WWII. Cut off from the war for years, they become part of the local community and begin enjoying their lives on the island. Vana Barba, a Greek actress and sex-symbol of the time, plays the village prostitute who accommodates the soldiers' needs until she falls in love with one of them. A bitter-sweet Italian comedy with an Academy Award for best foreign film. **amazon.co.uk: £ 5.88**

## My Big Fat Greek Wedding



**2002 Dir. Joel Zwick. Feat: Nia Vardalos, John Corbett** Tola, a 30 year old Greek, born in the US, is expected by her family to marry a Greek orthodox guy and live happily ever-after. Instead she falls for Ian, a protestant American and the shocked family finds it hard to come to terms with their bad fortune. A hilarious comedy packed with exaggerated stereotypes about the traditional Greek family. It

didn't go down very well among some humourless Greeks but foreigners with a first hand experience of a Greek family absolutely loved it. **amazon.co.uk: £ 4.98**

## Shirley Valentine



**1989 Dir. Lewis Gilbert. Feat: Pauline Collins, Tom Conti** Shirley, a bored Liverpool housewife wins a trip to sunny *Mykonos* where she finds romance and happiness in the company of a local restaurant owner. Away from her boring and unfulfilling life she gets the chance to rediscover herself and her true inner longings. A classic British comedy with the cliché and overplayed 'give up

everything and follow your heart' scenario, but in this case given with a good dose of Greek scenery and some truly enjoyable dialogues. **amazon.co.uk: £ 3.98**

## Summer Lovers



**1982 Dir. Randal Kleiser. Feat: Peter Gallagher, Daryl Hannah** This is a corny eighties film with a story that may not appeal to everyone. However, if you watch it in a cold and rainy winter day it is guaranteed to make you long for the summer. *Santorini* in its full swinging glory makes up a 'postcard from Greece' film that could be easily used by the Greek Tourism Organisation. A young Daryl

Hannah has to put up with her boyfriend's summer affair and eventually finds herself happily entangled in an erotic triangle. **amazon.co.uk: £ 9.82**

## 300



**2006 Dir. Zack Snyder. Feat: Gerard Butler, Lena Headey** Based on Frank Miller's graphic novel, which is in turn based on the real battle of *Thermopylae* (480 BC), this film is shot with a special technique of a digitally-enhanced background that makes up a special visual experience. It is the story of Spartan King Leonidas who tries to stop, with his 300 men, the hordes of invading Persians. The dialogues are

simple, the characters exaggerated and the battle scenes bloody and violent. The film had a mixed reception, a typical love or hate production. **amazon.co.uk: £ 4.88**

## Zorba the Greek



**1964 (b/w) Dir. Michael Cacoyannis. Feat: Anthony Quinn, Alan Bates** A young English writer inherits a mine on the island of *Crete* and travels there taking with him Alex Zorba, a middle aged man as an aide to run the mine. A fantastic adaptation of the most translated Greek novel internationally. Antony Quinn perfectly personifies Kazantzakis' hero Zorba who teaches the young writer a thing

or two about how life should be lived and appreciated. Nominated for seven Academy Awards and winner of three. **amazon.co.uk: £ 4.98**

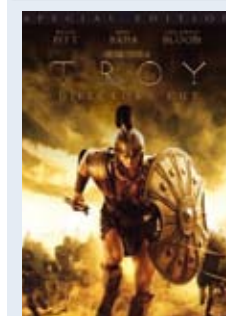
## For Your Eyes Only



**1981 Dir. John Glen. Feat: Roger Moore, Carole Bouquet** Roger Moore's fifth James Bond, and the twelfth in the series, is mainly set in *Corfu* and the beautiful *Meteora* region of central Greece. *Meteora* is a UNESCO listed site with impressive high rock pinnacles with Greek orthodox monasteries built on top. The film has a typical cold war Bond plot complete with British spyships, devices

that the enemy is after, KGB agents, fast cars, guns and sexy girls ready to oblige to 007's urges. **amazon.co.uk: £ 3.98**

## Troy



**2004 Dir. Wolfgang Petersen. Feat: Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom** A blockbuster adaptation of Homer's epic poem. The Greeks lead by Achilles siege *Troy* to bring back home Helen of Sparta who has run away with Paris, the prince of Troy. Definitely an entertaining and visually satisfying film, with a good cast and impressive graphics. History buffs have objections regarding the accuracy

of the screenplay but don't forget, this is a Hollywood production, if one wants the true and full story one must read the *Iliad*. **amazon.co.uk: £ 4.98**

## Never on Sunday



**1960 (b/w) Dir. Jules Dassin. Feat: Melina Mercouri, Jules Dassin** Melina Mercouri plays Ilya a kindhearted prostitute, that every man is after in the port of *Piraeus*. Homer, is an American who unsuccessfully tries to pull her out of her 'immoral' lifestyle. One of the classics of Greek cinema, a well played role by the 'nation's sweetheart' that lost the Academy Award for best woman actress to Elisabeth

Taylor. The film's score by Manos Hadjidakis however, won the Award for best music and the tune became a worldwide Greek hit ever since. **amazon.co.uk: £ 4.98**

## The Guns of Navarone



**1961 Dir. J Lee Thomson. Feat: Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quinn** An all-star classic epic, one of the best war movies ever made. A small team of commandos are sent to a fictitious Greek island to destroy enemy guns that block the passage to allied warships. Although the film won the Academy Award for special effects in 1961, its strong point is the characters and the realistic plot and

naturally has little in common with the contemporary war films based on impressive effects and not much more. **amazon.co.uk: £ 3.98**



**Gilbert & George**



**Until January 10: Gilbert & George "Jack Freak Pictures, Bernier Eliades Gallery C5, Eptachalkou 11, M Thissio, tel. 210 3413936, www.bernier-eliades.gr.** With a career that has been developing for some forty years, Gilbert and George are flying high with their latest picture series, the Jack Freak Pictures, the duo's largest series to date, with 153 images to be exact. Having travelled a number of private galleries in Europe, including the Bernier-Eliades Gallery in Athens, where selected pictures are on display, the entire show will then be exhibited at various museums around the world. Our cultural editor Stephanie Bailey met them.

**AIYP: Was there any particular reason you chose these works for your Athens exhibition?**

**George:** Only the limitations of the space.

**Gilbert:** There are four different themes in the images; monsters, the Union Jack, nature, demented cockneys.

**AIYP: The Athens show is your fifth featuring your new works, where else have you been and where will you go from here?**

**Gilbert:** We are doing six private shows, the first was in the White Cube, London, then Berlin, then Paris, Brussels, Salzburg, then one here in Athens, and in one month's time in Naples and then we do museum shows. We are starting Museum shows in Malaga, then we go to Zagreb, then we have the Palais des Beaux Art in Brussels, then Hamburg, Austria, then Poland.

**George:** It's extraordinary. It's very, very rare to see so many pictures. We were traumatised positively by our retrospective at the Tate Modern, which contained about 200 pictures. This series has 153!

**AIYP: The Union Jack is a major feature in the work, as is East London. Why?**

**Gilbert:** Even Prada uses the Union Jack!

**George:** It means so many things to so many different people. It's one of the few flags which is burnt and spat on. It's also not a flag it's a collection of flags – it's a union. They were both used for crucifixion – they say that Jesus was probably crucified with the diagonal cross. The right wing idiots claim the union flag, and the left wing idiots disown it – so they've both got to be wrong!

**Gilbert:** We know about the East end of London, and that's quite extraordinary. Everybody is from somewhere else - every single person.

**AIYP: What is the aim in your pictures?**

**Gilbert:** Art is boring if it doesn't speak. We want people to see our pictures and remember them forever.

▶ Open 10:30 - 20:00, Sat 12:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun Mon.

**Warhol / Icon**



**Until January 10: Warhol/Icon: the Creation of Image at the Byzantine and Christian Museum and Warhol Screen tests at the Potnia Thiron Gallery. Potnia Thiron, F1 Zalmi 7, Exarchia, tel. 210 3307380, Byzantine Museum, 15, Vassilis Sofias 22, tel. 210 7294926.** Potnia Thiron Gallery, Athens, and Haunch of Venison Gallery, London have joined forces to present two epic exhibitions that delve into the life and works of the father of pop art. The exhibits both explore Warhol's obsession with fame and the concept of icon through his innovative portraiture as well as his iconic screen tests. The setting within the Byzantine museum puts the spotlight on Warhol's Byzantine religious beliefs, his Slavic background, and devotion to his mother while probing into the significance of the icon throughout history – from the icons of the Christian past, to modern icons of a celebrity-obsessed secular era. See [www.potniathiron.eu](http://www.potniathiron.eu) for more ▶ Potnia Thiron Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00-15:00 Byzantine Museum Open 08:30 - 15:00, Closed Mon



Swiss Design, Contemporary Space, until Jan 31

**Edgar Degas: The complete sculptures**



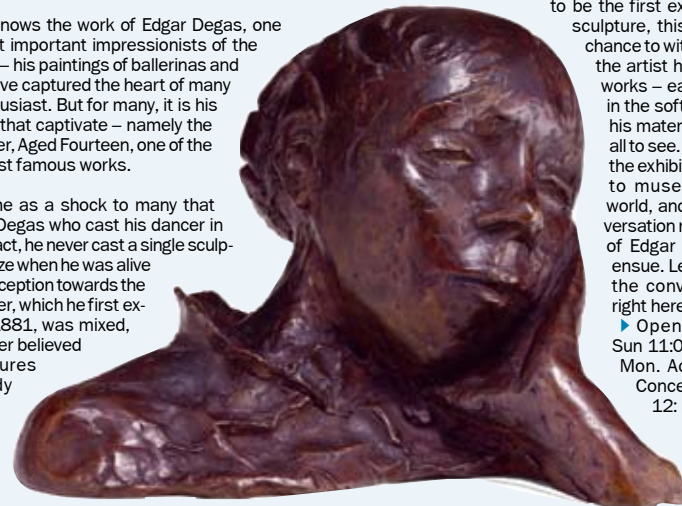
The Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen

**Until April 25: The Complete Sculptures of Edgar Degas C5, Herakleidon Experience in Visual Arts, Iraklidon 16, M Thissio, tel. 210 3461981, www.herakleidon-art.gr.**

The Herakleidon Museum stages a groundbreaking show featuring all 74 sculptures of Edgar Degas - set to redefine everything we know about the artist's sculptures. The result of a discovery by Walter Maibaum and his wife, Carol Conn, of a series of Degas sculpture models no-one knew existed until now, will be on show until April 25th.

Everyone knows the work of Edgar Degas, one of the most important impressionists of the movement – his paintings of ballerinas and dancers have captured the heart of many an art enthusiast. But for many, it is his sculptures that captivate – namely the Little Dancer, which he first exhibited in 1881, was mixed, and he never believed his sculptures were ready to be shown in public.

It may come as a shock to many that it was not Degas who cast his dancer in bronze. In fact, he never cast a single sculpture in bronze when he was alive because reception towards the Little Dancer, which he first exhibited in 1881, was mixed, and he never believed his sculptures were ready to be shown in public.



Maybe that's why Degas used a mixture of clay and beeswax to create his pieces – the beeswax giving the material a malleability that would last for some time – becoming, in essence, clay's equivalent to oil paint. Degas liked to work on his pieces continuously and when he died in 1917, some 150 sculptures in this material were discovered in his studio.

It was decided by the heirs to Degas' estate that twenty-two editions of 74 sculptures would be cast in bronze at the French Hébrard Foundry belonging to Adrien-A. Hébrard and casting began in 1919. In 1976, Hébrard's daughter, Nelly, announced the existence of a bronze master of 73 of the Degas' bronzes. This was unusual as usually, masters were cast in plaster. In fact, the only sculpture without a bronze model is the Little Dancer – of which 3 plaster models exist.

Traditionally, plaster is the material of choice to create models for bronze casting, as plaster does not warp, shrink, or distort like bronze does. As it was revealed that Degas' bronze sculptures had been cast from bronze models, it meant that one generation of details had been lost from the originals, though this is not the case for the Little Dancer – plaster saved her features, making her the only sculpture closest to the hand of Degas. For the remaining 73, however, the discovery of the bronze models rendered them second generation.

In 2004, Maibaum and his wife discovered a plaster series of the 73 Degas sculptures. With the help of Dr. Gregory Hedberg, the trio discerned that the plasters had been made by Paul Albert Bartholomé, a sculptor and close friend of Degas during Degas's lifetime and with his consent. Considering 1600 bronze sculptures made after the death of the artist exist today, the discovery of the plaster models is sensational.

The bronzes cast from these plaster models will reveal the true sculptural hand of the artist, with no details lost.

With the Little Dancer widely-regarded to be the first example of modern sculpture, this exhibition is the chance to witness the hands of the artist himself in all of the works – each mark he made in the soft, rough surface of his material will be there for all to see. Starting in Athens, the exhibition will then travel to museums around the world, and then, a new conversation redefining the work of Edgar Degas will surely ensue. Let it be known that the conversation started right here, in Athens.

▶ Open 13:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission fee: €6, Concessions: €4, Under 12: Free





The Three Penny Opera, Pallas Theatre

Lesley Leslie-Spinks

**Badminton Theatre** Alsos Stratou, Goudi, **M** Katechaki, tel. (+30) 211 1010020, [www.badmintontheater.gr](http://www.badmintontheater.gr)

**December**

14,15: **Chicago Mass Choir** €20-60

From Dec 19: **Alexander the Great and the Accursed Dragon** €12-17

**January**

5-17: **Las Vegas Magic Festival** €14-42

► Ticket reservations: [www.ticketnet.gr](http://www.ticketnet.gr), (+30) 210 8840600.



**Gagarin 205** Liosion 205, tel. (+30) 210 8547600, [www.gagarin205.gr](http://www.gagarin205.gr)

**December**

Fri 11: **Mando Diaó**: Gagarin 205 €30

Sat 12 **Blue Oyster Cult**: Gagarin 205 €40

Fri 18 **Vodka Juniors**: Gagarin 205 €8

Sat 19, Sun 20 **Sivert Höyem**: Gagarin 205 €35

**January**

Sat 23 **Pain of Salvation+Lake of Tears+Agua De**

**Annique+Disillusion+Scar of the Sun**: Gagarin 205 €38

Sun 31 **My Dying Bride**: Gagarin 205 €30

**Half Note Jazz Club** G8, Trivonianou 17, Mets, **M** Acropolis, tel. res: 210 9213310/club: (+30) 210 9213360, [www.halfnote.gr](http://www.halfnote.gr)

**December**

4-12: **Plessas In New York**

11-17: **Zulu 9:30**

18-27: **Sue Moreno & The Handsome Men**

28-Jan 7: **Bellevue Cadillac**

**January**

8-14: **Margaret Zorbala & Helder Moutinho**

15-21: **Curtis Fuller Quintet**

22-28: **The Jojo Effect with Anne Schnell**

► Open, Mon, Sun 20:30, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat 22:30.

Admission Fee: €30-40, students: €20-30.

**Pallas Theatre** Voukourestiou 5, **M** Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3213100, [www.elthea.gr](http://www.elthea.gr)

**December**

11,12,13: **Intensio Gala Ballet** €40-60

**January**

8,9: **Hotel Pro Forma "Tomorrow, in a Year" A Darwin Electro-Opera** €40-60

14,15,16,17: **The Three Penny Opera, Berliner Ensemble** €20-120

► Box Office: Mon-Sat 09:00-20:00

## Greek National Opera



### Opera

**Dec 13,15,17,18,20,22,26,30 Jan 2,3,6: 'Rigoletto'** Giuseppe Verdi After last year's success, Rigoletto, one of the most famous operas of Verdi opens this year's artistic season. Nikos Petropoulos' direction places the action in Italy during the period of fascism and presents the play with the aesthetics of a film noir. Olympia Theatre Tickets: €20-130

**Dec 16,19,23,27,29: 'L'inganno felice'** Gioachino Rossini / **'Le Bal masque'** Francis Poulenc,

Co-production with the Athens Chamber Opera, the Universität der Kunste, Berlin, the French Embassy in Greece and the French Institute in Athens. Olympia Theatre, Tickets: €10-58

**Jan 24,27,29,31: 'Un ballo in maschera'** Giuseppe Verdi, Co-production with Megaron – The Athens Concert Hall and Teatro Municipale Giuseppe Verdi di Salerno Megaron, Tickets: €34-110

### Ballet

**Jan 10,12,13,14,15 Ballet Gala** Alles Walzer Renato Zanella Music: J. Strauss II, J. Strauss, G. Mahler Bolero Renato Zanella Music: M. Ravel Co-production with Megaron – The Athens Concert Hall. Megaron, Tickets: € TBA

### Opera for Children

**Dec 2 - Apr 30 Die Fledermaus Johann Strauss.** Acropol Theatre, Tickets: €8-20, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun 11:00

► **Olympia Theatre:** F3, Akadimias 59-61, Tel. (+30) 210 3612461 Box Office: Mon-Sun 09:00-21:00 **M** Panepistimio, [pr@nationalopera.gr](mailto:pr@nationalopera.gr), [www.nationalopera.gr](http://www.nationalopera.gr)

► **Megaron, The Athens Concert Hall** K4, Vasileisis Sofias & Kokkali, **M** Megaro Mousikis, tel. (+30) 210 7282333, [www.megaron.gr](http://www.megaron.gr)

► **Acropol Theatre:** F3, Ipokratous 9-11, Tel. (+30) 210 3643700 Box Office: Mon-Sun 09:00-21:00 **M** Panepistimio, [pr@nationalopera.gr](mailto:pr@nationalopera.gr), [www.nationalopera.gr](http://www.nationalopera.gr)

### Ticket reservations:

[www.tickethouse.gr](http://www.tickethouse.gr)  
[www.ticketnet.gr](http://www.ticketnet.gr)  
[www.ticketpro.gr](http://www.ticketpro.gr)

## Christmas & New Year



Athens gets less excited about Christmas and New Year than most of its northern European counterparts. It's only during the last decade that the city has been putting an effort into organizing outdoor concerts and other events and Athenians seem to respond in greater numbers every year.

The seasonal festivities officially start with the lighting up of the city Christmas tree in Syntagma Sq by the Mayor. Unfortunately at the time we went to press the detailed schedule of events was not available but we can safely say that there will be daily happenings on most Athenian squares, small outdoor markets, concerts, etc.

On the New Year's eve every year a huge stage on Syntagma Sq hosts a free concert with many famous Greek artists and bands playing from early evening. A good place to be when the year changes is under the Acropolis or even better on Filopapou hill which is less crowded than Syntagma and you can enjoy the full fireworks spectacle that takes place on the hill.

Most Athenian restaurants and hotels on Christmas and New Year evenings offer formal dinners with special menus but bear in mind that prices are fixed and high. It can cost anything between €50-200 per person for a set menu, wine and champagne. Unfortunately Greece is a country where everything is taken care of at the last minute, so we were not able to have specific prices and menus from anyone. It is therefore advisable that you call the restaurant or hotel of your choice for details.

Finally, all bars and nightclubs organize special events that on New Year won't start before 1:00 am the earliest, and most five star hotels serve 'New Year Breakfast' from the early hours (€30-€80).

## In Your Pocket Video Guides

*In Your Pocket* goes into the movie business... Kind of... Over the past few months we have gradually been putting together some extensive **video guides** to various *In Your Pocket* cities, using our own editors, writers and local researchers as presenters. You can see much of our video content embedded on our website at [inyourpocket.com](http://inyourpocket.com), or view all our videos in one place on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/inyourpocket](http://youtube.com/inyourpocket).


## Hotel Listings Policy

Athens offers its visitors a comprehensive range of accommodation, as you'd expect from a city of its size.

The Olympic Games of 2004 gave its hotel industry a radical overhaul, many new hotels were built and most existing ones underwent complete renovation.

Although accommodation is ample, Athens' hotels are not cheap and hoteliers seem to prefer lower occupancy rates at higher prices.

In Your Pocket will not stop crying out that Athens is in desperate need of reasonably priced accommodation at all levels and our list of recommendations is primarily based on the premise of the fairness of prices charged for the services being offered.


Suite and impress your companion beyond any expectation. The suite occupies the hotel's entire ninth floor and boasts of a terrace with a private swimming pool, a jacuzzi and a wonderful Parthenon view which is included in many of those international lists compiled for the rich and privileged of this world. Tudor Hall, the 7th floor French restaurant, has had its ups and downs, but remains a prominent member of the Athenian dining elite. ▶ 102 rooms, Singles/Doubles: €180-400, Suites: €500-10,000.  ★★★★★

**Club Hotel Casino Loutraki Poseidonos 48, Loutraki, tel. (+30) 27440 60300, fax (+30) 27440 60306, Reservations@clubhotelloutraki.gr, www.clubhotelloutraki.gr.**









An ultra luxurious resort less than an hour away from Athens. Everything you could desire for a dream stay, away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre: Designer furniture, a private beach, large swimming pools and gardens, an excellent invigorating Wellness Centre and, last but not least, the largest casino in Greece that is worth visiting even if you stay in the city centre. There are regular shuttle bus connections from the centre of Athens. With just €15 you'll get transport, entrance fee, free drinks and lunch as well as the opportunity to spend a few hours of fun and style in a real world class casino. Even if you are not the gambling type, the experience is worth a visit and you still stand a chance of winning one of the free regular instant cash lottery draws (€1000 & €2000) Transport info & reservations: 210 5234188 & 210 5234144 ▶ 255 rooms, Singles: €200-350, Doubles: €245-370.  ★★★★★

**Grande Bretagne G5, Syntagma Square, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 333000/(+30) 210 3228034, info@grandebretagne.gr, www.grandebretagne.gr.**

This historic hotel occupies probably the most expensive piece of commercial property in the country. Pure luxury, grandeur and splendour consistently place GB in every kind of 'top hotels of the world' list. Most impressive though, is the list of its famous guests, more or less all the important people who have visited Athens since the hotel was built back in 1874: Winston Churchill, Maria Callas, Aristotle Onassis and...Naomi Campbell, as well as countless kings, queens and heads of state have in the past slipped between its crisp sheets.


The hotel has housed governments and occupying forces during turbulent times and from its balconies, the foreign press has watched and reported on every important event of modern Greek history. Needless to describe its amenities, if you can afford the bill you can find out for yourself. What we need to point out is its Spa, which is definitely worth one of your Athens days, and will only set you back a few hundred euros... ▶ 321 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €250-400, Suites: €500-€5000.  ★★★★★

## Symbol key

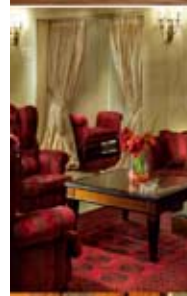
 Air conditioning	 Credit cards accepted
 Live music	 Take away
 Child friendly	 Facilities for the disabled
 Non-smoking areas	 Guarded parking
 Casino	 Nearest station
 Internet	 Animal friendly
 Sauna	 Swimming pool

## Cream of the Crop

**Astir Palace Apollonos 40, Vouliagmeni, tel. (+30) 210 8902000, fax (+30) 210 8962582, reservation@astir.gr, www.astir-palace.com.** Located in the coastal suburb of Vouliagmeni, less than an hour from the city centre, Astir Palace is for those who wish to spend their holidays in an elegant and exclusive environment, being pampered by the sea. This luxurious resort, sheltered among shady pine-tree groves, with its rock-hewn landscape, idyllic sea views and private beaches, offers soothing serenity for those wanting to escape the madding crowd. In general, its amenities are good, including a spa, fitness centre, hair and beauty salon, mini soccer terrains, tennis courts and water sports, as well as a good choice of restaurants and bars. And for those VIPs among you, we have to mention that there's a helipad and private helicopter service, no less, as well as a limousine transfer service. Couples will love its romantic sunsets and lovely rejuvenating surroundings while, with its detached bungalows, it also makes a good choice for those bringing their family entourage. ▶ 199 rooms. Singles: €150-200, Doubles: €200-300, Suites: €700-1000.  ★★★★★

**Athens Hilton K5, Vas. Sofias 46, M Evangelismos, tel. (+30) 210 7281000, fax (+30) 210 7281111, reservations.athens@hilton.com, www.hiltonathens.gr.** Need we mention that panache and elegance are synonymous with the word Hilton? Built in 1963, it wouldn't be an overstatement to say that governments have risen and fallen in this building. Recently, it underwent a total refurbishment adopting a minimal style without abandoning its true Hilton character. Heads of state and top celebrities love the presidential suite overlooking the city. Any type of conference or meeting can be held here, hosting from 10 to 1200 people. An immense fitness centre, a beauty salon, barber's shop, cigar store, newsagent and jewelry store all at your service. And if you feel you're carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders, you can wind down in the silent room, a place of complete relaxation. ▶ 524 rooms. Singles: €160-250, Doubles: €180-400.  ★★★★★

**Classical King George Palace G5, Vasileos Georgiou 3, Syntagma Sq, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3222210/(+30) reserv.210 3443590, fax (+30) 210 3250504, kgpalace@classicalhotels.com, www.classicalhotels.com.** A member of 'The Leading Hotels of the World' and one of the distinguished Syntagma Sq trio. If you have a few thousand euros to spare, go for the 350 sqm Royal Penthouse



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## Over €150

**Electra Palace F6, Nikodimou 18-20, Plaka, [M]Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3370000, fax (+30) 210 3241875, salespath@electrahoteles.gr, www.electra-hotels.com.** All time classic luxury in the heart of Plaka. You'll certainly feel you're worth a bob or two once you pass the front door. No hi-tech extravaganzas in the standard rooms and small bathrooms are marked down as a negative, but you can always book a suite with living room, LCD TV and balcony with a startling view of Plaka. The spectacular indoor pool and fitness centre will certainly make up for potential bad weather and keep you in shape. ▶ 154 rooms. Singles: €150-200, Doubles: €160-250, Superior rooms: €295-450. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Ledra Marriott Syngrou 115, tel. (+30) 210 930 00 00, fax (+30) 210 935 86 03, athensmarriott.com.** 50 Cent and rock star Tina Turner stayed in the presidential suite of this famous luxury hotel. The colonial style furniture adds a certain character to the rooms, which are spacious with huge single beds. City breakers and businessmen alike love Ledra Marriott. The executive lounge gives you the impression you're staying in a Tokyo skyscraper hotel and you can't help but feel that Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson will walk in any minute to join you for a nightcap. The hotel's Polynesian restaurant, Kona Kai, has ranked among the capital's top dining spots for the last quarter of a century. ▶ 314 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €149-269, Junior suites: from €349, Suites: from €350. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**O&B Boutique C4, Leokoriou 7, [M]Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3312950, fax (+30) 210 3312942, reserve@oandb-hotel.com, www.oandbhotel.com.** Hats off to this charming 11 room hotel nestling in the heart of Psirri. Designer Aria Korizi did her very best to give a good name to the "boutique hotel" label, by skillfully taking advantage of its small spaces. Following her intervention, this minuscule establishment is big enough to host an elegant bar-restaurant, offering an interesting vegetarian, continental or even American breakfast for anyone passing by. Also on offer are 'Molton Brown' amenities in the chic bedrooms, free-of-charge Internet and personalised services for anyone looking to treat oneself to a pleasant city-break weekend. An expansion is underway. ▶ 11 rooms, Doubles: €190-210, Suites: €300. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Periscope I4, Haritos 22, Kolonaki, [M]Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 7297200, fax (+30) 210 7297206, info@periscope.gr, www.periscope.gr.** An ultra stylish hi-tech small hotel in the smart neighbourhood of Kolonaki. Rooms are grey and minimally decorated with coloured details, the ceilings are covered with photographs of Athens and there is a penthouse suite with a private jacuzzi and panoramic views of the city. Views that can be enjoyed 24 hours even from the lounge downstairs on the flat screens connected to the rooftop periscope. Wi-Fi Internet is free. ▶ 22 rooms, Singles: €150-170, Doubles: €165-190. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Semiramis Charilaou Trikoupi 48, Kifisia, tel. (+30) 210 6284400, fax (+30) 210 6284449, info@semiramisathens.com, www.semiramisathens.com.** If you are willing to exchange central location for a stay in a truly exceptional hotel and pop design is your cup of tea, then look no further than Semiramis. Located in the leafy and posh northern suburb of Kifisia 15 km from the centre of the city, owned by an art collector and designed by Karim Rashid no less, this hotel is a temple of modern living. An outright riot of colours

and shapes complemented by top class facilities will tempt you to spend your entire holiday inside the hotel! ▶ 51 rooms. Singles / Doubles: €180-300, Bungalows / Suite: €350-600. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Sofitel Airport Athens International Airport, [M]Airport, tel. (+30) 210 3544000 / (+30) 210 3544444, H3167@accor.com, www.sofitelathens.gr.** If you want to stay close to the airport, look no further. This is as close as it gets. Situated right across from the Athens Airport Main Terminal Building, it's ideal for business travelers or even those transiting via Athens. The city centre is just 35 minutes away by metro. What is more, it's a child-friendly hotel as it allows children under the age of twelve free of charge. Rooms are sophisticated and comfortable and amenities include two restaurants, bar, exhibition area, beauty centre, swimming pool, fitness centre, sauna, as well as massage treatments to soothe away that jet lag. ▶ 345 rooms. Singles / Doubles: €150-250, Suites: €360-380. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

## €100-150

**Amalia G6, Amalias 10, tel. (+30) 210 3237300, fax (+30) 210 3237309, www.amalia.gr.** Situated right across the National Gardens and close to the House of Parliament, this building was renovated in the spring of 2007. Expect standard luxury services, without eccentricities and a central and convenient location. ▶ 98 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €100-150. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Athenian Callirhoe F8, Kallirois 32 & Petmeza, [M]Syngrou-Fix, tel. (+30) 210 9215353, fax (+30) 210 9215342, hotel@tac.gr, www.tac.gr.** Renovated in 2002, this hotel has undergone an extensive facelift, scraping its walls clean of every last sign of colour, mark or decoration from its previous outfitting. Fussy customers will be satisfied with the wide range of plush comforts. To name a few of these, free Internet, free fitness centre and generous upgrades. Some of the bathrooms, especially in executive rooms, are more than spacious. A fine-looking meeting room, smart conference centre and the indulgent "Merhaba" bar for after-work laidback entertainment, stand out as this hotel's strong points. ▶ 84 rooms. Singles: €100-150, Doubles: €100-180, Suites: €200-250. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Ava F7, Lysikratous 9-11, [M]Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 3259000, fax (+30) 210 3259001, info@avahotel.gr, www.avahotel.gr.** 100% non-smoking hotel. Fully-equipped kitchens in all rooms make this a favourite for families, those who prefer home cooking to eating out and for anyone looking to spend a budget holiday in Athens. Rooms are not extremely decorated but should do if you're not the eccentric type. Free Internet and multilingual personnel to ensure you get all the information you need. ▶ 15 rooms, Doubles: €130-160, Triples: €140-170, 4persons: €230-270, 5persons: €250-280. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★

**Electra F5, Ermou 5, [M]Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3378000, fax (+30) 210 3220310, saleselath@electrahoteles.gr, www.electra-hotels.com.** This 4-star establishment is the ideal choice for those looking to spend their holidays shopping. Situated on Ermou street, the country's top commercial thoroughfare, this hotel has always been regarded as a meeting point for Athenians. In this 9-storey building you'll be offered basic luxury and a good vantage point from which to gaze down at passing crowds. If you have some extra euros to spare, ask for a suite with a French style Rococo balcony with a view of Lycabettus Hill. ▶ 106 rooms. Singles: €110-150, Doubles: €120-160. [M][A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W][X][Y][Z] ★★★★★




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**Eridanus C4, Pireaus 78, tel. (+30) 210 5205360, fax (+30) 210 5200550, eridanus@eridanus.gr, www.eridanus.gr.** One of the top small hotels in the city, in the hot nightspot zone of Gazi. It is named after an ancient waterway of Athens, and is singled out for its unique indoor design and modern decoration. Hermes bathroom sets, free Internet access, as many beverages as you can drink and hydro-massage in every room are some of the details that make the difference. Try out the fitness centre, with a sauna and a hamam. A non-smoking wing is also available. An excellent, value for money, highly recommended hotel. ▶ 38 rooms. Standard: €120-170, Acropolis view: €150-190, Suites: €200-350.  ★★★★★

**Esperia Palace (Best Western) Stadiou 22,  Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3238001, fax (+30) 210 3238100, info@esperiahotel.com.gr, www.esperiahotel.com.gr.** A central city hotel with an aristocratic feel. The good refurbishment it was given recently didn't change its style and character. All the fittings in the rooms are numbered and designed by Greek rustic furnisher Saridis. Classic luxuries in junior and superior suites are accompanied by a distant but nonetheless enticing Acropolis view. Well-sized conference rooms in case you're in town on business. Sip your Greek coffee in café 'L'angolo', a typical old style upper class Athenian cafeteria and try out the delicious and generous buffet at its excellent restaurant 'Athineos'. ▶ 185 rooms. Singles: €100-140, Doubles: €120-200, Triples: €150-250, Superior/Suites: €185-300.  ★★★★★

**Fresh E3, Sofokleous 26,  Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 5248511, fax (+30) 210 5248517, info@freshhotel.gr, www.freshhotel.gr.** Member of the select club of 147 design hotels of the world, it goes without saying that staying here will add a sparkle of style to your holidays. It offers a resplendent array of cheerful colours, which really do make your day. Inspirational decoration within the rooms, combined with all the comforts of a respectable 21st century establishment. Undoubtedly, this is the standard-bearer of the city's attempt to attract an elegant, exclusive type of clientele. ▶ 133 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €90-180.  ★★★★★

**Golden Age K5, Michalakopoulou 57,  Megaro Mousikis, tel. (+30) 210 7240861-9, fax (+30) 210 7213965, goldenage@ath.forthnet.gr, www.goldenage.gr.** It is worth going for one of its two executive suites: Glass roofs and large verandas, minimal decoration and the impressive night city view through its large windows, will make you feel as if you spent a lot more on your accommodation. The standard rooms offer comfortable accommodation too and balconies completely separated from each other, with a high degree of privacy. Overall, a good, modern and reasonably priced business hotel that will do fine for your holiday too. ▶ 122 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €90-120.  ★★★★★

**Hera E8, Fallrou 9,  Acropolis/(+30) 210 9236682, fax (+30) 210 9238269, info@herahotel.gr, www.herahotel.gr.** If Greek god Zeus's companion were a hotel, she'd probably be as attractive as this small boutique hotel. The 38-room establishment is located in a typical early 20th century Athenian building, right across from the New Acropolis Museum. A lovely roof garden and restaurant is an excellent alternative to going out if you feel a little tired one evening and breakfast will brighten up your day, thanks to a glass roof in the breakfast room. Visitors are mainly holidaymakers and businessmen looking for an elegant and well-placed hotel. ▶ 38 rooms. Singles: €100-130, Doubles: €110-170, Suites: €200-250.  ★★★★★

**Herodion D7, Rovertou Galli 4,  Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9236832-6, fax (+30) 210 9211650, herodion@herodion.gr, www.herodion.com.** One of the best roof gardens in Athens. Wooden floors, jasmine and olive trees and two jacuzzis looking towards the Acropolis. You can almost reach out and touch the Parthenon. Americans and Australians love it here and now the New Acropolis Museum has opened just around the corner, this hotel looks set to become a definite meeting-point for Greeks and visitors alike. ▶ 90 rooms. Singles: €90-120, Doubles: €100-150, Triples: €160-230.  ★★★★★

**Melia Athens F2, Chalkokondili 14,  Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3320100, fax (+30) 210 3320200, melia-athens@solmelia.com, www.melia-athens.com.** A luxury hotel nearest the National Archaeological Museum. This modern hotel is housed in one of the city's old buildings, which somehow survived its unattractive replacements of the late 60s. The fitness centre, hamam and sauna are free of charge and the rooms are elegant and attractive. Safety freaks have finally found their haven, as all rooms have a safety door that isolates the bedrooms in case of fire. ▶ 126 rooms, 10 suites. Singles/Doubles: €90-140, Suites: €220.  ★★★★★

**The Athens Gate F7, Syngrou 10,  Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9238302, fax (+30) 210 9237493, reservations@athensgate.gr, www.athensgate.gr.** Located opposite Hadrian's Gate, this classy beauty is a good choice if you want to spend a couple of days in style. Drink one of the cheapest and best cappuccinos in the capital while trying to imagine what Athens used to look like from the ninth floor. 3 non-smoking floors and 14 rooms with a see-through (from the bed) shower in case you can't get enough of your companion. Time also equals information, a fact of which the owners here are no doubt aware, as you can access the Internet while in the bathroom. ▶ 104 rooms. Singles: €90-120, Doubles: €100-140, Suites: €250-300.  ★★★★★

**Titania F3, Panepistimiu 52,  Panepistimio, Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3326000, fax (+30) 210 3300700, titania@titania.gr, www.titania.gr.** Large central hotel, with a spacious reception area dominated by marble, gold and a few ancient replicas. The rooms are comfortable, decorated for mainstream tastes and provide all standard amenities. Olive Garden, the rooftop restaurant, offers an almost 360 degrees view of the Athenian skyline and live jazz to pleasantly accompany your Mediterranean dinner. ▶ 385 rooms. Singles: €90-120, Doubles: €100-140, Suites: €400.  ★★★★★

## Under €100

**Acropolis Museum E8, Syngrou 48,  Syngrou-Fix, tel. (+30) 210 9249050 - 1, fax (+30) 210 9249052, info@acropolismuseumhotel.com, www.acropolismuseumhotel.com.** This 1930s building was once a clinic. These days, this modern renovated establishment is appreciated most by those who prefer a cozy family atmosphere to impersonal service. The owner's motto is "feel at ease and come and go as you like, because this will be your home for the next couple of days". Rooms designed to suit all kinds of tastes, with high ceilings and a belle époque aura. The wall colours vary depending on the floor you're on. Couples and businessmen love it here and with free Internet access and a warm welcoming ambiance, no doubt, so will you. ▶ 22 rooms. Singles: €75-90, Doubles: €90-110, Family: €200.  ★★★★★

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**Acropolis Select E8, Fallirou 37-39, Makrigianni, tel. (+30) 210 9211611, fax (+30) 210 9216938, select3@otenet.gr, www.acropoliselect.gr.** This is a decent three star hotel housed in a typical seventies building, more impressive once you walk in. Tasteful and low profile decoration as well as helpful and professional staff guarantee a pleasant stay for those not looking for swimming pools and spa services but good value for money accommodation instead. Some rooms boast large verandas, an extra definitely worth asking for. The location is very convenient too, just two minutes from the metro and within walking distance to the Acropolis and Plaka. ▶ 72 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €60-100.      ★★★

**Arethusa F5, Mitropoleos 6, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3229431, arethusa@traveling.gr, www.arethusa-hotel.gr.** Named after an Athenian nymph, this centrally located hotel is a good choice if location is important to you. It is spotlessly clean and ideal for mid-rangers who care more about outdoor activities and want decent accommodation for the right price. Try the café on the mezzanine, there's something Parisian about it. ▶ 87 rooms. Singles: €60-80, Doubles: €75-95.      ★★★

**Arion D4, Agiou Dimitriou 18, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3216777, fax (+30) 210 3216779, arion@tourhotel.gr, www.arionhotel.gr.** Veiled in a back street of the Psirri area, this was one of the many establishments that were renovated just before the Olympic Games of 2004. You can tell from the photos on the walls showing off all the sports venues. The rooms are modern and most of them have an Acropolis view, which is usually overpriced in Athens. Not here though. First come, first served. ▶ 51 rooms. Singles: €70-80, Doubles: €80-100.      ★★★






**NEW**






**Athens Lotus C1, Hiou 9, Metaxourgeio, M Metaxourgeio, tel. (+30) 210 5249050, info@athenslotus.gr, www.athenslotushotel.gr.** Housed in a recently renovated neo-classical building, Athens Lotus is a great mid-size hotel with a character and a feel of old Athens, conveniently located two minutes walk from the nearby metro station. The rooms and communal areas are tastefully decorated and spacious, the staff very professional and internet access is free. Family rooms available. ▶ 31 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €70-90.      ★★★★★

**Attalos E4, Athinas 29, tel. (+30) 210 3212801, fax (+30) 210 3243124, info@attaloshotel.com, www.attaloshotel.com.** Basic accommodation in this well situated but old building. It has a seventies feel and the staff are polite and helpful. The attraction in this establishment is its roof garden, with a great Acropolis view where we guarantee you'll spend many relaxing hours, and its location on leafy and bustling Athinas Street bordering Psirri and the historic centre, just two minutes walk from the metro. ▶ 80 rooms. Singles: €50-70, Doubles: €60-80, Triples: €80-100.      ★★






**Jason Inn C4, Asomaton 12, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3251106, fax (+30) 210 3243132, www.douros-hotels.com.** Good for groups and medium-budget city travelers. Rooms are pretty plain, but clean and spacious and for most guests that's satisfactory. Serving an invigorating American breakfast, which prepares you for a day visiting the sites of the historic Kerameikos area, situated nearby. It is also conveniently located for a short walk back after a long night out, bar-hopping in Psirri. ▶ 57 rooms. Singles: €60-80, Doubles: €80-100.      ★★★

## Apartments/Studios

**Athens Studios E8, Velkou 3A, M Acropolis, tel. 210 9235811, fax 210 9224040, info@athensstudios.gr, www.athensstudios.gr.** This is one of our top low budget favourites. You'll be just a couple of steps away from the New Acropolis Museum and the Acropolis itself. You'll get to stay in an apartment that pretty much looks like home. Some of the delights to look forward to are flat screens, comfy sofas and a free ADSL connection. Elspeth Geronimos, the lady in charge, wants to create an English speaking corner in the heart of Athens and her studios form part of this plan. A lunch corner and a laundromat make up the other pieces of the puzzle. By the way, don't bother dropping off your dog at the kennels. Dogs are more than welcome! Make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to get a glimpse of the "Athens by night" walking tour, organised by Athens Studios. That's the right time of day to appreciate the city's delights, with people who know where to take you. ▶ Singles: €22-26, Doubles: €35-50, Triples: €96.      ★★

**EP16 D4, Epikourou 16, M Thissio, tel. 6976 484135, info@boutiqueathens.com, www.EP16.com.** Luxury apartment accommodation is scarce in Athens, as is reasonably priced accommodation. Brand new entry EP16 hits both birds with one stone and what's more: it brings a fresh metropolitan air in downtown Athens. Don't think of chandeliers and silver cutlery, the 4 brand new apartments housed in a refurbished 30s building are luxurious in the contemporary sense of the word: designer furniture, pleasant honey but minimal environment, a location right in the arty heart of the city and every modern amenity you may ever need for a comfortable stay. This is definitely the next Athenian super-hit for the knowledgeable and lucky few (reserve well in advance). Minimum stay 3 days. ▶ €110 for the larger apartments and €90 for the smaller ones. Negotiable for long term stay. A complimentary bottle of champagne awaits those who mention in Your Pocket on booking!.      ★★

**Niki F6, Nikis 27, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3220913, fax (+30) 210 3220886, info@nikihotel.gr, www.nikihotel.gr.** An elegant colourful and tastefully decorated small budget hotel conveniently located between Syntagma Sq and Plaka. Ideal therefore for those who prefer walking to public transport. ▶ 22 rooms, 1 suite. Singles/Doubles: €60-100, Suite: €110-130.      ★★★

**Omiros F5, Apollonos 15, Plaka, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3235486-7, fax (+30) 210 3228059, omiroshotel@hol.gr, www.omiroshotel.gr.** A very good choice if you want to stay centrally and not spend a fortune. Just off the centre of action, Syntagma Sq and Ermou St, this medium sized hotel comes complete with all the facilities you're going to need for a pleasant stay, free WiFi included. The rooms are comfortable with wooden floors and some of them have an Acropolis view at no extra charge. ▶ 40 rooms. Doubles/Triples: €70-90.      ★★★



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**Philippos E8, Mitseon 3, M Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9223611-4, fax (+30) 210 9223615, philippos@herodion.gr, www.philipposhotel.gr.** A sister hotel of Herodion, this one caters for more budget conscious travelers. Acceptable, excellently located accommodation, on a quiet street very close to the Acropolis and Plaka. Rooms are basic, but if you are not extremely fussy and you're not planning to spend all your time in the hotel (why should you?), this is very good value for your money accommodation. ▶ 50 rooms. Singles/Doubles €80-100.      ★★

## Budget

**Cecil E4, Athinas 39, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3217079, fax (+30) 210 3219606, info@cecil.gr, www.cecil.gr.** This pretty neoclassical building was once a rather high-class establishment, thanks to its French style rooms and its belle époque feel. That's probably why many Greek film scenes set in France are shot here instead of on site: it's a lot cheaper! You are guaranteed to experience gangster movie flashbacks thanks to a historic early 20th century elevator (still operational). All in all, this is definitely a distinctive choice. ▶ 40 rooms. Singles: €50-80, Doubles: €70-100.      ★★

**NEW**






**Centrotel Peoniu 11A, M Victoria, tel. (+30) 210 8258010, info@centrotel.gr, www.centrotel.gr.** If you're not desperate to stay on the 'shiny' part of the city (and pay accordingly), this is one of the best value for money budget hotels in Athens, located within walking distance from the Archaeological Museum and Victoria Metro Station. Constructed in 2005, it is a super-clean and modern hotel with a helpful and professional staff that would be more than adequate in a five star establishment. Free parking and free internet is the icing on Centrotel's cake. ▶ 59 rooms. Singles/Doubles: €60-80, Suites: €100.      ★★

**Metropolis F5, Mitropoleos 46, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3217871, www.hotelmetropolis.gr.** This is a good choice for backpackers and travelers who prefer to spend their money on anything other than a hotel. The rooms are less than basic but then again, you will get to use the smallest bathroom ever. So why stay in this 22-room lodge? Because you'll get the feel of what life is like in an original Bauhaus structure. ▶ 22 rooms. Singles: €40-70, Doubles: € 40-80, Triples: €60-100.      ★★

**Pan F5, Mitropoleos 11., M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3237816, fax (+30) 210 3237819, reservations@pan-hotel.gr, www.panhotel.gr.** Named after ancient god Pan, this family business is a respectable choice. The internet is free of charge, the rooms are not bad for the price and it is very well positioned, only a two-minute walk from the Monastiraki area. ▶ 33 rooms. Singles: €60-80, Doubles: €70-100.      ★★

## Hostels

**Athens Backpackers F7, Makri 12, M Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9224044, info@backpackers.gr, www.backpackers.gr.** With quotes such as "this is not a prison cell, it's a host-cell", "pay in advance and if you're not happy you can obtain a refund", this hostel is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. 18-30 curious Americans adore this fully non-smoking, English speaking joint, but if you hang out here long enough you'll get to meet people from all around the world. You can always chill out for free on the settees if you arrive in the middle of the night and your booking is

for the next morning. A heavy duty oven with all necessary food preparation accessories awaits the cooking types. If it's luxury you're after, look elsewhere. What you'll get here is a clean room for a good night's sleep and great opportunities to meet free style travelers like yourself. Look out on the notice board for funny announcements like, "Fabian, call your mother" and prepare for cool parties on the ground floor. Test your 'surviving-on-a-tight-budget' skills by trying out Ed's "3 days in Athens for 30 euros" plan. ▶ Dorms: €18-25, Doubles: €40-50.     

**AthenStyle D5, Agias Theklas 10, Psirri, M Monastiraki, Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3225010, info@athenstyle.com, www.athenstyle.com.** If you are the type who prefers to stay close to nightlife this new hostel is a perfect choice as it is located right in Psirri. An old recently converted building with four and six bed dorms sharing a bathroom each and, if you prefer more privacy (at a higher price) you can opt for one of the double rooms or even the studio flats. There is a bar, free internet and a rooftop bar with a close up view of the Acropolis and Plaka. ▶ Dorms: €25, Doubles, studios: € 60-150.     

**Dioskouros F7, Pittakou 6, M Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 3248165, fax (+30) 210 3219991, consolas@hol.gr, www.hotelifivos.gr.** English-speaking, as most hostels in Athens, and as basic as you can get, it is located in the heart of Plaka. There are 2 shared toilets on each floor and no elevator to speak of. If you're lucky enough, you'll get a room with air conditioning. The breakfast area is set in a pleasant outdoor patio. All the rooms are non-smoking and you'll get to meet young backpackers, who share the same interests. Namely, traveling for practically nothing. ▶ Dorms: €20, Doubles: €40, Triples: €50, Quads: €60.    

**Fivos E4, Athinas 23, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3226657, fax (+30) 210 3219991, consolas@hol.gr, www.hotelifivos.gr.** Fivos is another non-smoking establishment in this tobacco-fanatic capital. It isn't fancy and luxurious but it's clean, and is favoured by young city travelers eager to meet new friends. According to the Scottish receptionist, who looks like he's just walked off the set of a gangster film, "this is a place for travelers. The people who work here are also travelers stopping over, making it easier to understand a guest's needs", which means that they may have a job for you, if you fancy staying in Athens a little longer. Travel light or choose a room on the first floor, as the word "lift" is unknown here. ▶ Dorms: €20, Singles: €30 Doubles: €40, Triples: €50, Quads: €60.     





## American

**Hard Rock Café F6, Filellinon 18, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3252758, www.hardrock.com/athens.** There are no surprises with Hard Rocks, you know that. It's all guitars and jackets and motorbikes hanging from the walls, burgers and margaritas and a large number of touristy faces, just like you! One thing that certainly distinguishes this one, is the very Athenian three-storey refurbished neoclassical building. Go ahead, buy this Athens Hard Rock T-shirt...for your little sister of course...and enjoy a true Hard Rock evening. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎️ 📍 📞

**Jackson Hall H5, Milloni 4, Kolonaki, tel. (+30) 210 3616098, www.jacksonhall.gr.** This is a classic hotspot for chic Athenians of all ages, the place to see and to be seen in classy upmarket Kolonaki. Serves tasty cocktails and an interesting assortment of American-style food, though a tad on the expensive side (it must, after all, live up to its eclectic clientele). Its crammed tables lining the pavement, with a unique uninterrupted view to the pedestrian path/fashion catwalk, are a distinctively Athenian landmark, even in winter. Service is very professional. If you are looking for a stylish night out in town, you should consider checking this out. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. €€€. ☎️ 📍 📞

## Arabic

NEW

**Habiba Astypaleas & Patission 224, tel. (+30) 210 8673722.** If you want to go off the beaten-track, brave the outer limits of the city centre and head towards Patissia. On the corner of Patission and Astypaleias, Habiba serves the best falafels and humus in the city, homemade on a daily basis by brothers Mohammed and Mahmoud. Serving up traditional recipes their mother taught them while growing up in Palestine, this restored, neo-classical interior - of what once was a music school - hosts live music on Friday and Saturday nights. ▶ Open 20:30 - 01:30. Closed Mon. ☎️ 📍 📞

## Argentinean

**El Bandoneon B2, Virg. Benaki 7, Metaxourgio Sq, M Metaxourgio, tel. (+30) 210 5224346, www.elbandoneon.com.** An authentic restaurant run by an Argentinean tango teacher who, after falling in love with a Greek lady, decided to bring a bit of his country's passion to the heart of Athens. Theatrical events with tango dancers, free tango lessons some days of the week and a fantastically decorated dining hall, make up the perfect setting to savour the delicious meats and wines coming straight from Argentina. Reservations highly recommended. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€€. ☎️ 📍 📞

## Asian

**Kona Kai Syngrou 115, (Ledra Marriott Hotel), M Syngrou-Fix, tel. (+30) 210 9300000.** This Polynesian restaurant became a synonym for fine dining in an era when Athenians were used to international cuisine as much as they were used to snow sledges. A quarter of a century later, Athenians have become true cosmopolitan diners but Kona Kai remains a point of reference for the knowledgeable who come here time and again to enjoy excellent food prepared by top Polynesian chefs. As Marriott deliberately keeps its original tacky Polynesian decoration, the place cannot be described as ultra fashionable, but who needs to be trendy when one is already a legend? ▶ Open 19:00 - 00:00. Closed Sun. €€€€. ☎️ 📍 📞

## Restaurant Listings Policy

Many Athenian restaurants sell a number of things like décor, location, view, exclusivity and attitude, forgetting to pay adequate attention to their primary business: food.

Some others concentrate on food but make their customers pay through the nose for the privilege.

In Your Pocket staff undertake the strenuous task of selecting, among hundreds of establishments, those that truly respect the custom of their visitors and take their business seriously, whether they are humble cheap souvlaki joints or sophisticated expensive Michelin-starred restaurants.

Your experiences are always appreciated. Please post your own review on our website or email us at: athens@

**Red Indian D3, Epikourou 25 Psirri, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3219908, www.redindian.gr.** This restaurant is so authentic, it feels like it has been taken to bits somewhere in India and reassembled in the darkest part of Psirri. You can tell it is an up market establishment for the local Indian and Pakistani community, no less welcoming though for those of us who appreciate an original Madras. All the dishes served are equally authentic and you can choose between a set menu and dozens of delicious main courses. ▶ Open 18:00 - 00:00, Sun 02:00 - 00:00. €€€. ☎️ 📍 📞

**Soul Kitchen D4, Evripidou 65, Psirri, M Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3310907.** One of the best gardens in the centre of Athens, hidden in the backyard of a restored neoclassical building. It hosts a bar restaurant with a great ambience serving great cocktails and exotic fare by a chef trained in the Royal Thai School of Culinary Arts. The kitchen therefore is not lacking in attitude and style, as evinced by its refreshing Vietnamese salad, Burmese chicken with caramelised onions or its very own variation on the classical sweet and sour sauce, made with tomatoes. If you prefer just drinks, you can accompany them with a tasty selection of finger food with a distinctive South East Asian touch. The crowds are ultra-stylish 25-40s, and the staff very professional. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎️ 📍 📞

**Wagamama The Golden Hall, Kifissias Avenue 37, tel. (+30) 210 6836844, www.wagamama.com.gr.** Athens got its own Wagamama recently and those of us who never miss the opportunity to enjoy its fresh and delicious Asian meals abroad got really excited! The quality and prices are the same as in every other Wagamama around the world but it is a shame that this first Athenian restaurant is housed in the open space of a shopping mall. They take no phone reservations, but once you're there you can request a table, do your shopping in the new exclusive Golden Hall and then return to enjoy your freshly prepared yasai yaki soba. ▶ Open 12:00 - 11:30. €€. ☎️ 📍 📞

## Price Guide

Prices are based on a good meal with house wine (where not available, we assume that a bottle of decent but reasonably-priced wine is shared between two people).

€: Less than €15 per person  
 €€: €15 - €30 per person  
 €€€: €30 - €45 per person  
 €€€€: More than €45 per person

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51.807 Greek words used in languages of the world

5.000 years of Civilization

2.600 years since the Birth of Democracy

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## French

**Cellier Le Bistot G5, Panepistimiou 10, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3638525.** A grand Parisian bistrot right in the centre of Athens. Excellent location to enjoy a glass of wine and a light lunch in style, after a tiring sightseeing or shopping walk. The piano and a sax will add that little bit of extra touch. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Chez Lucien A7, Troon 32, Petralona, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3464236.** A tiny French owned bistrot hidden for years in the now upcoming area of Petralona. Troon street is one of the prettiest in the city with an old Athenian flavour and atmosphere. You may have to share your table (there is also one hanging upside down from the ceiling but we doubt you can dine there) and you'll enjoy original French specialties prepared in the open kitchen and French wines at very reasonable prices. Just make sure you come early (that's before 21:00 in Athens) - they take no phone reservations. ▶ Open 20:30 - 01:30. €€. 📍📞📺

## Greek Modern

**Aleria B3, Megalou Alexandrou 57, Metaxourgio, M Metaxourgio, tel. (+30) 210 5222633.** Great setting that manages to successfully combine pop, belle époque and urban funky elements with the romantic simplicity of a beautiful terrace, the food here is equally impressive. The cuisine on offer ranges from traditional Greek dishes to fusion Mediterranean cuisine, prepared with simple ingredients in ingenious combinations, with delightful results. ▶ Open 21:00 - 01:00. €€€. 📍📞📺

**Athiri B4, Plateon 15, Kerameiko, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3462983, athirirestaurant@gmail.com, www.athirirestaurant.gr.** Dine in style in this excellent Greek restaurant named after an Aegean grape variety. Here you will enjoy traditional Greek dishes like stifado and beef stew served with hand made pasta, the way tourists usually don't. All the ingredients used are fresh, the atmosphere in the neo-classical building is civilised but not stiff and the service professional yet friendly. A restaurant worth one of your less casual (but not expensive) Athenian evenings. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:30. Closed Mon. €€€. 📍📞📺📺

**Fasoli G2, Emmanuel Benaki 45, Exarchia, M Omonia, Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3300010.** This is a low-budget restaurant that nonetheless will impress your companion as long as she doesn't see the bill. Students love this place as it gives them the opportunity to eat a decent meal in an uplifting environment, without spending a fortune. The place is bright, with small glittering lights inside and outside. We found the staff was in a hurry to serve us but nonetheless friendly and fun to talk to. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€. 📍📞📺📺

**Hytra D4, Navarchou Apostoll 7, Psirri, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3316767.** Standing out from the rest in Psirri, this unaffectedly stylish restaurant will satisfy even those very demanding palettes that are well seasoned in haute cuisine. The dishes are designed by top Athenian chefs and they are intricate and well balanced, with an affinity towards fish and seafood and a clear preference for elaborate dishes. The wine list is up to the quality of the cuisine. ▶ Open 20:00 - 00:30. Closed Mon. €€€€. 📍📞📺

**Kallisti Gefsis I2, Asklipiou 137, tel. (+30) 210 6453179, www.kallisti-restaurant.gr.** Sweet and feminine like its name, which means "most beautiful", with stylised photographs of flowers adorning its walls and impeccable art de la table, Kallisti Gefsis is a restaurant that has managed to make its presence felt on the Athenian gourmet scene both for its innovations, as well as for its refined and high quality food. Under its new management and the two female chefs, flavours here are intense and memorable. A good choice for savouring tantalisingly flavoursome Greek cuisine prepared with creativity and respect for quality. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00, Sun 14:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon. €€€. 📍📞📺

**Kanella A4, Konstantinoupoleos 70 & Efmolpidon, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3476320.** One of the great success stories of Gazi and the neo-taverna movement. A combination of a Greek mum's type of cooking, low prices and a fashionable clientele, packs this restaurant and its pavement tables every single day and night. Cold lentil salad, and lemon lamb are our favourites while the house wine is an acceptable choice if you want to keep your bill at really low levels. ▶ Open 14:00 - 03:00. €€. 📍📞📺📺

**Kuzina C5, Adrianou 9, Thissio, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3240133.** Stylish modern taverna serving quality, flavoursome cooking that has rightfully earned it a name for fusion cuisine. Its dishes artfully mix traditional ingredients in innovative and successful Mediterranean combinations. But the creative play does not end here, for the chef, Aris Tsanaklidis, has yet another gastronomical ace up his sleeve... try out some of his creations such as dumplings filled with a feta cheese mousse and served with pomegranate syrup or orzo risotto style with lobster, and you will understand what we mean. Continue your evening with drinks at Tarazza roof bar, with a great Acropolis view. ▶ Open 13:00 - 02:00. €€. 📍📞📺📺

**Mamacas A4, Persefonis 41, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3464984.** One of the pioneers of the nightlife scene around the Gazi area, this well-known club-restaurant remains very popular with the beautiful partying crowds of the city. Impeccable white couches inside, in a minimalist setting leaving plenty of open space for dancing, while there's also a packed second stage in the basement where fellow dancers and onlookers get up close and personal. Watch out for its live DJ sets. As for dining here, it offers modern Greek cuisine, served in a stylised (and pricier) revamp of tradition. ▶ Open 13:30 - 03:00. €€€. 📍📞📺📺

**ManiMani E8, Fallrou 10, Makrigianni, M Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9218180.** Mani is the rocky area in the south of the Peloponnese, and many of its local dishes are served in this superb modern restaurant, housed in the first floor of a neoclassical building a few steps away from the new Acropolis museum. If you are looking for real, non-touristy Greek food at surprisingly low prices, this is your first choice. We love dining here and we cannot recommend it enough. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. €€. 📍📞📺📺

**Milos K5, Hilton hotel, Vasillis Sofias 46, M Evangelismos, tel. (+30) 210 7244400.** Although you'll find it at the Hilton hotel, this is a fine stand-alone Athenian restaurant. The strong point of Milos is its use of top-quality local produce, brought in from around the country, including fresh fish from the Aegean Sea, which is shipped in on a daily basis. The ambience is ultra modern and the clients are mainly businessmen and celebrities, among others. Very nice thought to offer a €20 lunch menu of the same quality as dinner but watch out: wine is not included and it is not cheap. ▶ Open 12:30 - 16:30 & 20:00-00:00 Sun 12:30 - 18:00 €€€€. 📍📞📺

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**Psaro-kokkalo G3, Solonos 119, Exarchia, M Omonia, Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3846596.** They do serve meat too but, if you come here, sea food is what you should try. One of the new breed of Athenian restaurants that pay attention to the surroundings and try to keep the bill to reasonable levels. Fresh oysters are on offer most days and a few other fish specialties are worth trying. ▶ Open 13:00 - 00:00, Sat 13:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Riffi G2, Emmanuel Benaki & Valtetsiou, Exarchia, tel. (+30) 210 3300237.** Modern restaurant huddling in a narrow street crammed with interesting culinary choices ideal for a quiet dinner in style. The bright decoration brings to mind summers on the Greek islands. To that extent, the food is quite light and mostly represents Aegean cooking. You may need to book ahead, since it is usually filled with arty types. The house wine is an acceptable and economic solution, especially if you plan to drink much. Anything you decide to eat will be a success but do make sure you order the burgers. They're simply delicious. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Tirbouson A3, Konstantinoupoleos 104, Metaxourgio, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3410107.** A relatively new entry, this modern Greek restaurant is run by a young man Giannis and his parents and offers delicious traditional Greek food with a creative touch. The highlight of the dining hall (a converted workshop) is an impressive light pendant made with wine bottles. If you are a train spotter, window tables offer an undisturbed view of the rail tracks outside. ▶ Open 14:00 - 02:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Urban A4, Voutadon 50, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3417606.** A great choice for a dinner out in town, this modern restaurant adheres to minimalist design and an overall industrial-bar concept. The food is excellent, with dishes that are worthy ambassadors of traditional, as well as fusion Greek cuisine and Mediterranean cooking. The 'mezedes' list includes an abundance of superbly executed dishes, such as the splendid 'melitzanosalata' (aubergine salad), its original salads using fresh ingredients and local produce in original combinations, the mouth-watering onion tart, as well as the giant beans ('gigantes') served with lime-flavoured salmon relish. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00. €€€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Yantes G2, Valtetsiou 44, Exarchia, M Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3301369.** An upmarket (for the neighbourhood of Exarchia) restaurant serving modern Greek cuisine prepared with almost exclusively organic ingredients. The clientele consists mostly of young freestylers and intellectuals and the atmosphere is laid back and casual. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

## Greek Cretan

**Alatsi K5, Vrasida 13 (Hilton area), M Evangelismos, tel. (+30) 210 7210501/(+30) 210 7210502.** When famous TV journalist Stavros Theodorakis launched this restaurant, it became an instant hit. Politicians and fellow journalists, among others, throng here to savour the Cretan dishes cooked using fresh produce shipped daily from the island of Crete. Snails, rabbit, and 'gamopilafo' (risotto served at Cretan weddings) are among the specialties. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Revaizi Thermopylon 21 & Kastoros, Pireaus, M Pireaus, tel. (+30) 210 4080017.** Cretan cuisine is extremely en vogue these days in Athens but this is a hidden original Cretan restaurant in the harbour of Pireaus, that was not even featured in Greek listings magazines until recently. You'll enjoy all the usual Cretan fare ('gamopilafo', rabbit etc), excellent meats and real Cretan wine, plus a free welcome 'raki' carafe, to the sounds of Cretan music (live on Friday evenings). Take metro line 1 all the way to the harbour of Pireaus, on exiting the station turn right and walk along the harbour for 500 metres. Take a right turn just before the Church of Agios Dionisios. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒

## Greek Traditional

**Ancient Tastes G2, Kodratou 22, Karaiskaki Square, M Metaxourgio, tel. (+30) 210 5239661.** The theme here is, you guessed it, ancient Greece and the restaurant tries to transport you, gastronomically and atmospherically, to the time of Pericles. To begin with, the menu itself is based on original sources citing recipes that were actually in use in ancient Greece. Indeed, beside every dish on the menu there's the corresponding text of the ancient recipe. Now, as for the food itself, there is a good selection of imaginative and quite fruity salads, many meat dishes and a lovely stuffed cuttlefish, to name a few. Oh, and lest we forget - definitely accompany your meal with a carafe of "oinomelo" (wine deliciously blended with honey). ▶ Open 19:00 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. €€€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Damigos (Bakaliarakia) F6, Kidathineon 41, Plaka, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3225084.** Right in the heart of touristy Plaka, this basement taverna serves 'bakaliarakia' (fried cod in batter served with 'skordalia' - the deadly garlic sauce) the same way it has done throughout the twentieth century. Dining here makes one feel like an extra in an old black and white film and rightly so...the place has provided the setting for many Greek films of the sixties. ▶ Open 14:00 - 12:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Doris E4, Praxitelous 30, M Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3232671.** A daytime-only restaurant, catering to a clientele of local business people and shoppers. Do not be deterred by the colour of the walls (who on earth thought of painting a traditional, old-fashioned Greek restaurant pink?) the food here is excellent. You can choose from an extensive menu (displayed every day on a blackboard, only in Greek) that could in its own right be proclaimed a cook book on Greek cuisine. Prices are dead cheap and, if you prefer to opt for sweets, 'loukoumades' (Greek-style doughnuts topped with honey) are the house specialty. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Ilias C5,B5, Thessalonikis 7 & Eptalhokou 5, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 34 22 407/(+30) 210 345 80 52.** The hands-on consumption of copious amounts of barbecued lamb chops constitutes a time-honoured ritual that has survived the refinement of the modern Athenian. In these sister traditional Greek taverns you will enjoy the best lamb chops in town, and an excellent location on a quiet pedestrianised street. Beat the locals by arriving before 21:00, or call for a reservation as both places are packed every evening. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Kappari A8, Dorieon 36, Petralona, tel. 210 3450288.** An old house, salvaged from demolition, and its front yard have become a traditional Greek tavern that preserves a nostalgic old Athenian atmosphere. The emphasis of the menu is on grilled meat but there are other typical Greek dishes on offer and the quality and taste of almost everything we tried was exceptional. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Kioupia J4, Deinokratous & Anapiron Polemou, Kolonaki, tel. (+30) 210 7400151.** The philosophy of this Greek restaurant is serving a plethora of traditional dishes from around Greece, with an emphasis on local specialties, in a set menu that is renowned for its lavish servings and never-ending succession of finely-prepared dishes. There is also the option of an à la carte menu if you so prefer. Its strong point is that it offers an all-in-one crash-course introduction to Greek, regional cuisine in an elegant environment with a touch of aristocratic class. Bear in mind, however, that the quantity occasionally overwhelms the quality. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. €€€€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Palia Taverna tou Psara E6, Erechtheos 16, Plaka, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3218733.** Plaka is full of tourist traps but many expats swear by this taverna's name. It has been operating for more than a century in an old, now restored building not very easy to find in the labyrinth of small streets. The food is basically fish and the kind of standard Greek more appreciated by foreigners. There is live music and the prices are slightly high but it is probably your best choice if you die to dine in Plaka. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Taverna tou Psirri D4, Eschylou 12, Psirri, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3214923.** As you can probably guess from our recommendations list, we are huge fans of original Greek tavernas serving real Greek food with no frills and attitude attached. This is definitely one of those places that has survived for decades in an area full of frills and attitude and poor excuses for Greek restaurants. They do fish and they do meat and day specials and everything is simply excellent. The wine is decent and comes from a barrel, the atmosphere is welcoming and the staff are trying their best when the place is packed. As for the bill, just don't worry about it. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:30. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**To Kafeneio I5, Loukianou 26, Kolonaki, tel. (+30) 210 7237757.** Unadulterated traditional Greek food in an atmosphere of understated elegance. The dishes here are simple and flavoursome. We recommend the "aginaires ala polita" (artichokes in a lovely creamy egg and lemon sauce), stuffed cabbage leaves ("lachanodolmades") or the lovely specialty salad, accompanied by its good quality house wine. Of course, this being Kolonaki you will pay a bit more for your Greek culinary experience, but then again, the pleasant atmosphere and tasteful surroundings (including the signatures of famous personalities that have passed through its doors) explain the pricing policy. ▶ Open 12:00 - 00:00. Closed Sun. €€€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓

**Triantafyllo tis nostimias F5, Lekka 22, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3227298.** Difficult to pronounce and impossible to find as it is hidden inside a small arcade, this traditional Greek taverna serves the local population of the surrounding offices. There are both meat and fish dishes prepared with fresh ingredients and a genuine taverna atmosphere that every Saturday afternoon comes alive with bouzouki. Add to all that its ridiculous prices and you have a perfect lunch place two minutes from Syntagma Sq. ▶ Open 12:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓



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## Fine Dining

**Matsuhisa (Nobu) Astir Palace Hotel, Apollonos 40, Vouliagmeni, tel. 210 8960510.** No need to travel to Beverly Hills and Aspen (or indeed Malibu, New York, Milan and of course Tokio) anymore, to savour Mr Matsuhisa's heavenly creations. His newest restaurant opened its doors in Athens recently, and became immediately the gastronomic talk of the town. If you can appreciate the Nobu experience of creative Japanese cuisine at its best combined with a superb seaside location and impeccable service, you won't mind the bill, probably the highest you'll pay in Greece (a 'dégustation' menu costs €98 without wine). ▶ Open, Tue, Wed, Thu 19:30 - 00:00, Fri, Sat 19:30 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 17:30. Closed Mon. €€€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Spondi 18, Pyrronos 5, Pangrati, tel. 210 7520658, www.spondi.gr.** With two Michelin stars and a membership of Rélais & Châteaux, it is considered by many as the best restaurant in Athens. Its French chef creates haute cuisine dishes with imaginative flair, catering for people with exquisitely refined taste buds. The wine list is as comprehensive as you'd expect in a world class restaurant like this and prices reflect the gastronomic experience. But if you choose to dine at Spondi we don't suppose that cost is an issue... ▶ Open 20:00 - 00:00. €€€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Varoukko C4, Pireos 80, Metaxourgeio, ☎️Thissio, Kerameikos, tel. 210 5228400, www.varoukko.gr.** By far the best sea food restaurant in Athens. Lefteris Lazarou, a celebrity chef awarded with a Michelin star and founder of Varoukko, chooses the foremost ingredients and creates a magnificent, yet simple menu. He maintains a personal relationship with his guests and you'll often see him leaving his kitchen and discussing with them their impressions. A cellar visible from one of the dining halls hosts an excellent list of Greek and international labels. A selection of daily-prepared imaginative desserts will ensure the best possible conclusion to your Varoukko experience. ▶ Open 20:30 - 0:30. Closed Sun. €€€€. ☎️📍📞

**Tzitzikas and Mermigas G5, Mitropoleos 12-14, Syntagma Sq, ☎️Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3247607.**

Located in the heart of Athens, at walking distance from many top and mid-range hotels, you'll have to book in advance unless you're lucky. Crowded with all sorts of types and ages, this 'mezedopolio' is well known for its modern atmosphere and tastes. Decorated as an old grocery store, this 2-storey establishment is ideal for a relaxed night out. There's a good wine list to choose from and whatever you order will be more than appetizing. Make sure you try the 'keftedakia tis giagias' (grandma's meatballs), 'mastelo' cheese, anything that ends in mastic, the chicken ribs with roast potatoes and, last but not least, any pie. The salad with 'anthotiro' (a type of creamy soft cheese) is a good choice too. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎️📍📞📺

## Italian

**Aglio Olio & Peperoncino F8, Porinou 13, Makrigrani, ☎️Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9211801.** A lovely trattoria with a warm atmosphere, serving all the classic Italian dishes plus some daily specials. Well hidden in a backstreet of the Makrigrani area, it's actually very easy to find: once you're out of the Acropolis metro station, through the 'A. Diakou' exit, turn right into Porinou St ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sat 20:00 - 02:00, Sun 14:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Cosa Nostra Agias Theklas 5, Psirri, ☎️Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3310900.** We should recommend this restaurant even if the food wasn't up to scratch. For the effort of the owners to reconstruct up to the last detail such a perfect prohibition era gem. If you love the checked table clothes and Mafia photos wait till you see the fully equipped barber shop downstairs and the amazing mafia boss desk upstairs. By the way, the food is good too. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 01:00. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Il Doppio G2, Andrea Metaxa 30, Exarchia, ☎️Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3304333.** This unassuming trattoria serves tasty Italian specialties at reasonable prices. Once you set foot in the elegant neoclassical building nestling right in the busy epicentre of bohemian Exarchia, you will suddenly find yourself in a traditionally Italian setting, complete with wooden floors and chairs, open-air kitchen, earth-coloured hues - mainly ochre and beige - and checked table cloths, which all contribute to creating an environment of understated style. It serves a wide selection of pasta dishes and also offers an extensive wine list. Another of its attractions is its long opening hours, as this Italian-lovers' haunt closes well after midnight. ▶ Open 13:00 - 02:00. €€. ☎️📍📞

**Il postino Skoufa 64 & Griveon 3, Kolonaki, ☎️Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3641414.** This Italian-owned osteria serves fresh, simple, well cooked Italian food that you can watch being prepared in its open kitchen. Postcards on the walls and flowery windows give the place a pleasant Italian feel, while outside tables will make you feel like you're dining in a suburb of Rome. Its position is very convenient should you wish to continue your evening in the nearby bars in this small but lively nightlife neighbourhood on the borders Kolonaki and Exarhia. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎️📍📞📺

## NEW

**Pasta la vista A4, Dekeleon 1A, Gazi, ☎️Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3461392, www.pastalavista.gr.** Gazi was temporarily left without a good Italian restaurant but Pasta la vista is now back in new premises just off the buzzing main square. The food is still prepared and served to true Italian standards which means fresh ingredients, simple cooking and delicious results at very reasonable prices. One of your best choices to start a long evening in the capital's 'entertainment village' ▶ Open 14:00 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎️📍📞📺

## Meat Lovers

**Butcher A5, Persefonis 19, Gazi, ☎️Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3413440.** Following the huge success of fish restaurant 'Sardeles', the owners set up shop next door. This meat-only restaurant looks like an old butcher's shop and serves fine organic meats and local varieties of sausage supplied directly from every corner of Greece. Potatoes fried in olive oil are a must. Lemon or chocolate pie and the complimentary liquors will round off your meal nicely. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:30. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Mezedopolio:** Taverna specialising in 'mezedes' (entrées-nibbles)

**Ouzeri:** Taverna specialising in 'mezedes' that are best accompanied by a carafe of ouzo

**Tsipouradiko:** Taverna specialising in 'mezedes' that are best accompanied by a bottle of 'tsipouro'

**Telis D4, Evripidou 86, Psirri, ☎️Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3242775.** Rich and poor have been eating side by side here for decades. Leave your table manners at home and do not expect pleasant surroundings and fancy decoration. You're only here for one reason: to stuff yourself with the best pork chops in Athens. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☎️📍📞📺

## Mediterranean

**Athinaios F4, Stadiou 22, ☎️Panepistimio, Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3238000, fax (+30) 210 3238108, athineos@esperiahotel.com.gr, www.esperiahotel.com.gr.** Athinaios is the favourite restaurant of the Athenian establishment. Businessmen and politicians take their (long) lunch breaks over its enormous buffet, which is available daily until 17:00. Prices are not low but still reasonable considering the quality of the cuisine, the large selection and the unlimited consumption. Dinner is à la Carte, but you'll be equally impressed. ▶ Open 13:00 - 17:00 & 19:00-22:00. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Boschetto J5, Evangelismos Grove, ☎️Evangelismos, tel. (+30) 210 721 08 93.** For the fans of aristocratic fin-de-siècle ambience and for those who still cling to 'passé' formalities, rules of etiquette and other such charming antiquated traditions. As expected, this restaurant attracts a mainly older and well-mannered, 'high-society' crowd. That having been said, it must be stressed that the strengths of this establishment do extend to an interesting selection of dishes on offer, with a slight preference for fish and seafood, and its lovely garden. ▶ Open 13:00 - 16:00 & 20:00-00:30. Closed Sun. €€€€. ☎️📍📞

**Canteen A4, Iakchou 8 & Efmolpidon, Gazi, ☎️Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3451508.** Simple east Mediterranean food in a minimal environment at the right price is the philosophy of this brand new restaurant (opened a couple of months ago). It is located just off the hustle and bustle of the top Athenian nightlife destination, Gazi, and comes complete with a separate bar and a club upstairs where you can continue your evening until the early hours among young and cool crowds of the city. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon. €€. ☎️📍📞📺

**GB Corner G5, Hotel Grande Bretagne, ☎️Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3330000.** This classic brasserie, a meeting point for government officials, prominent businessmen and powerful media professionals lives up to the fame and luxury of its host Grande Bretagne hotel. Art-deco atmosphere, leather sofas and immaculate service, together with the well prepared Mediterranean food, make up the GB experience. Probably the most formal business lunch you can have in Athens. And you'll pay for it accordingly. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. Closed Sat, Sun. €€€€. ☎️📍📞

**Horizontes I3, Lycabettus Hill, tel. (+30) 210 7227065.** Only a helicopter can offer you a better view of the city. Here, the view will cost you a little less and you'll get dinner added in as an extra bonus. At the top of Lycabettus Hill, the panoramic view of Athens will add a special touch to a romantic dinner. Take the railway from the top end of Ploutarchou St. in Kolonaki. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€€€. ☎️📍📞

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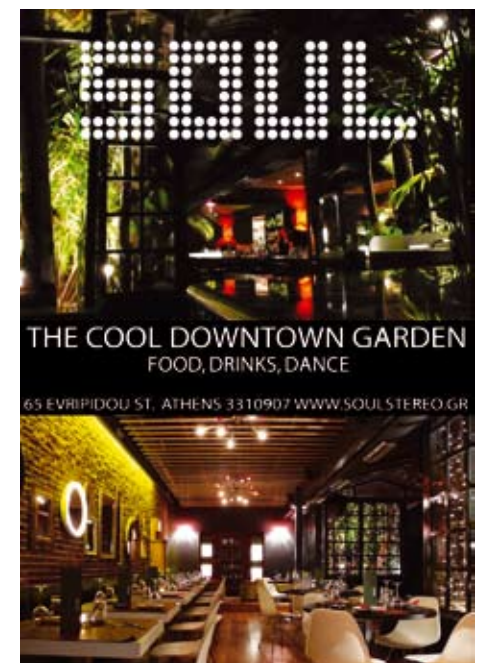
## Bar Restaurants

**Avalon C4, Leokoriou 20 & Sarri, Psirri, ☎️Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3310572.** A bar restaurant with long wooden tables and a medieval ambience specialising in mussels prepared in every possible way. It offers a good selection of beers and you can continue your evening with nicely prepared drinks at the bar. Occasionally, they organise live events. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺

**Balthazar Tsoha 27 & Voumazou, ☎️Ampelokipi, tel. (+30) 210 6441215.** A classic 'see and be seen' bar-restaurant for the affluent crowds of the city, housed in an old grand neoclassical mansion with a beautiful garden. Food is Mediterranean and priced for the celebrity clientele, but the music can be too loud for those who prefer to enjoy a quiet dinner. Do not dress too casual. ▶ Open 21:00 - 01:30. €€€€. ☎️📍📞

**Central H5, Kolonaki Sq, ☎️Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 7245938.** Right on Kolonaki Square, this is the top meeting point for très chic ladies, after they've spent a fortune in the expensive fashion boutiques which abound in the area. The music is mainstream and loud and the food pricey. The party every Friday starts as soon as the Yuppies walk out of their offices and every Saturday as soon as the shops close. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€€€. ☎️📍📞

**Gazarte A4, Voutadon 32-34, Gazi, ☎️Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3460347.** A live stage on the ground floor and a restaurant-bar upstairs. The impressive views of the Gazi area with the old gasworks factory through the vast glass windows are unfortunately not matched by the food, which is not as exceptional. An undefined crowd of all ages gathers here and spends the evening in typical Athenian style: standing still and chatting. ▶ Open 20:00 - 02:00. Closed Mon, Sun. €€€. ☎️📍📞📺



## Greek food

**Mezes (sing.) / Mezedes (pl.):** A selection of entrées served in small plates and placed at the centre of the table for sharing among friends.

**Horiatiki:** Traditional salad consisting of tomatoes, cucumber, green peppers, olives, feta cheese and a generous serving of olive oil, universally known as Greek Salad.

**Horta:** Salad composed of certain varieties of boiled wild herbs or greens.

**Saganaki:** Pan-fried type of dish served with lemon. Popular varieties are the shrimp, or 'garides saganaki', cheese or 'tiri saganaki' and mussels or 'midia saganaki'.

**Gemista:** Oven-roasted tomatoes, peppers (and less usually, courgettes and aubergines) stuffed with rice and herbs (and optionally mince meat, pine nuts, raisins).

**Gigantes:** Giant beans oven-roasted in a tomato and herb sauce.

**Melitzanosalata:** Aubergine salad (dip).

**Taramosalata:** Fish roe salad (dip).

**Fava:** Chick-pea dip served with lemon and chopped onion.

**Soutzoukakia:** Spicy meatballs flavoured with cumin and served in a red sauce.

**Moussakas:** Well-known oven-baked dish of potatoes, layered with mince meat, aubergines and bechamel sauce.

**Spanakopita:** Traditional spinach pie.

**Tiroпита:** Traditional cheese pie.

**Stifado:** Type of meat dish slow-cooked in wine and spices, together with a generous amount of shallots.

**Pica Pica D4, Agion Anargyron 8, Psirri, ☒ Monastiraki, Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3251663.** Athens' own tapas bar in the heart of one of the ultimate Athenian night time destinations. An interesting choice of Spanish nibbles in a relaxed and elegant environment with a funky twist. Music is discreet, making it a good choice for a quieter evening out or for a pre-clubbing dinner. A spot also perfect for crowd watching. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. €€. ☒ ☒

**Ratka Haritos 30-32, Kolonaki, ☒ Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 7290746.** Bar-restaurant with a 30-year prominent presence, great flair and a distinctive aura of a stylish Parisian bistro. Ratka retains a loyal crowd of chic (and many celebrity) Athenians who are attracted by its reputation. A multicultural array of dishes is available to choose from, true to its sophisticated metropolitan ambience. We enjoyed its fillets cooked on stone, its excellent sushi and innovative salads. Accompany your meal with a fine wine or champagne from its discerning wine list and enjoy your meal in an elegant environment to the sound of mellow ethnic, jazz and classical music. ▶ Open 13:00 - 02:00, Sat 13:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. €€€€. ☒ ☒ ☒

**Venti D4, Lepeniotou 20, Psirri, ☒ Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3254504.** Its previous owner must have been stunned to witness the radical transformation of this old dilapidated building into one of the city's most popular night-time hot spots. Don't be turned off by the surly looking doormen at the entrance, you won't get turned away. Mediterranean treats such as ravioli and shrimp wrapped in 'kataifi' (angels' hair pastry) are served in a typical Greek environment that even includes an olive tree and giant palm tree. Once you're done eating, try mingling with the other well-dressed people boogying to their favorite mainstream tunes. Sofas are also available for the lazier ones among you or if you overindulged in the food department. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. Fidsays & Saturdays Admission: €10. ☒ ☒

## Mexican

**Meson El Mirador C4, Agisilaou 88 & Salaminos, Kerameikos, ☒ Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3420007, www.el-mirador.gr.** This renovated 3-storey residence in Kerameikos takes you back to the 50s when the city hadn't yet lost its neoclassical character. This is home to one of the centre's top Mexican restaurants. The food is excellent and prepared by a Mexican lady. We recommend the "takitos con keso" (cheese pies) to start with, accompanied by the "salpikon" salad. For your main course, go for the burritos, the fajitas, or even the "enchiladas de pollo". The wine list is satisfactory with domestic as well as foreign selections but the sangria is one of the best you can have in town. Its roof terrace (specially converted for the winter) faces directly the Acropolis. ▶ Open 19:30 - 01:00, Sun 13:00 - 17:00. €€€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

## Drinks

**Ouzo** Traditional aniseed-flavoured spirit usually accompanying seafood 'mezedes'

**Tsipouro** Traditional strong spirit

**Raki** Traditional strong spirit similar to tsipouro

**Rakomelo** 'Raki' blended with honey, served warm

**Retsina** Traditional wine flavoured with pine resin

**Hell's Kitchen E3, Kleisthenous 13, ☒ Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 5241555, www.hellskitchen.gr.** This is not a typical Athenian restaurant, in the sense that it has more of a London, Berlin or indeed, New York feel, and that's why we love it. Huge glass windows overlooking the seedy back streets of the City Hall, dim lights, open kitchen and a bar that, unlike most restaurants, makes it worth visiting even just for drinks. The food mainly consists of burgers and sophisticated sandwiches, with a few salads and pasta dishes. ▶ Open 12:00 - 00:00. Closed Sun. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒

**Lalu H5, Anagnostopoulou 1, Kolonaki Sq, ☒ Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 62 33 933.** Chic and trendy bar-restaurant attracting the beautiful and stylish Kolonaki crowd. The emphasis on earthen hues and the extensive use of wood panelling add warmth to the atmosphere, with carefully added touches of glamour. The food is generally good, with an interesting selection of salads and a large multicultural choice of main courses, as well as some sinful desserts. To sum up, a tasteful bar-restaurant, distinguished for its creative panache both in the culinary as well as in the art of trend-setting. ▶ Open 20:00 - 02:00, Sat 13:00 - 02:00. €€€. ☒ ☒ ☒

**Mommy G3, Delfon 4, Kolonaki, ☒ Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3619682.** An interesting bar-restaurant packed with old mismatched furniture and a sixties pop-kitsch home feel. It hosts periodical art and photographic exhibitions and boasts of a loyal clientele of ultra-fashionable and avant-garde Athenians who come here to enjoy lazy drinks in the afternoons or lively dj sets in the evenings. The small terrace outside is a good option for a quieter dinner and conversation. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 04:00. €€€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

## 24 hrs

**Papandreou Aristogeitonos 1, Central Market, ☒ Omonia.** This is a veritable institution of the central meat market. A 24-hour restaurant serving market workers and visitors alike since 1896. A favourite early-morning hangout for journalists in the older days, when all national newspapers were based downtown. These days party animals and bar staff make a stop here in the early hours of the day. If you just had a crazy night out topped with copious amounts of alcohol to boot, take our word for it, this is what the doctor orders before heading back to your hotel balcony to watch the sunrise. ▶ Open 24h. €. ☒ ☒ ☒

## Ouzeri

**Glykis F6, Agelou Geronta 2, Plaka, ☒ Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3223925.** Glykis is an ouzeri just off Plaka square frequented mainly by students and some tourists where you can have an ouzo lunch accompanied by a pikilia (a plate of assorted mezedes) coming in different sizes depending on the number of people sharing. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. €. ☒ ☒

**Naxos D5, Hristokopidou 1 Psirri, ☒ Monastiraki, Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3218222.** An 'old school' ouzeri in Psirri that pre-existed the charge of the masses. Humble but real food, fried fish and lots of 'mezedes' as well as charcoaled octopus - usually on weekends - will perfectly accompany the ouzo-drinking experience you ought to have at least once while in Athens. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

**Ouzou Melathron D5, Astigos & Philippou, ☒ Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3240716.** Thessaloniki in northern Greece is a city of fine food and a relaxed lifestyle and it is only natural that Ouzou Melathron, one of its famous 'ouzeri', set up shop in the capital. Convenient location and excellent 'mezedes' make it a favourite among Athenians and visitors alike. You may have to wait for a table (no reservations) but it is well worth it. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒

**Rebecca D4, Miaouli 22, Psirri, ☒ Monastiraki.** If you're looking for an unaffected, no-frills going-out experience in a buzzing, youthful environment, this is worth checking out. Situated in the lively nightlife area of Psirri and brimming with a casual crowd of students sipping their "rakomela" (traditional sweet but in no way innocent drink concocted by warming up raki - a strong spirit - with honey), the atmosphere here is reminiscent of a university campus bar. You will be surprised to find that despite its in no way extraordinary décor, it manages to create a lively, playful ambience and you may even have to queue for a cramped little table on the curb. A good choice if you're the laid-back type and enjoy being at the epicentre of all the buzz - the ideal people-watching spot. ▶ Open 13:00 - 02:00. €. ☒ ☒

## Turkish

**Tsiflik Bahkse A4, Triptolemu 26, Gazi, ☒ Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3462926.** Turkish restaurant with a pleasant ambience enlivened by touches of artistic playfulness (such as the place mats depicting scenes from different regions in Turkey and the baroque-style gilded mirror frames), the menu here focuses on the rich gastronomic tradition of Asia Minor. We recommend the 'hounkiar begjenti' (meat in an intensely flavoured sauce served on a bed of mashed aubergines), the meat and 'meze' platter and the 'manti'. There is live music every Saturday and Sunday ▶ Open 20:30 - 01:00. €€. ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

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## Souvlaki

**Bairaktaris E5, Monastiraki Sq, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3213036.** Mr. Bairaktaris, the owner of this historic kebab house (and a neoclassical buildings...collector!) has been feeding both the Athenian elite and working classes for decades. He loves being photographed with his celebrity customers and putting the framed pictures on the dining hall's walls. Its strategic location on Monastiraki Square ensures it is perennially packed, despite fierce competition by its equivalent neighbours. The kebab, which is actually an elongated meatball flavoured with spices, is very tasty and the grease will keep you going for a whole day if you're on a budget holiday! ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Iroon Square E5, Iroon Square 6, Psirri, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3218219.** This is actually an address as this place has no name. It doesn't need one as it has been well known for years for its tasty fare among its fans who queue everyday during lunchtime to enjoy high quality kalamakia and meatballs served on their own or inside half a loaf of normal bread. If you are a fan of pita bread head elsewhere, none is served here. ▶ Open 12:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Kavouras G2, Themistokleous 64, Exarchia, M Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3838010.** Feast your appetite on gyros or kalamaki, wrapped in warm pita bread and topped with tzatziki. Kavouras is a place to savour the traditional Greek souvlaki, no niceties, no refinements, just plain old hearty meat-lovers' fare. If, while taking a stroll through the district, you feel pangs of hunger and decide to look for something on the go, give it a try, though keep in mind that good taste here is limited to the food, don't go looking for tasteful décor. ▶ Open 10:00 - 05:00. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Kosta E5, Agias Eirinis Sq, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) No Telephone.** A lunch cult for Athenians in the know. Every day, from his narrow kitchen, Mr. Kostas serves hundreds of portions of his single speciality: Meatballs on pita bread, french fries, tomato, spicy sauce and a pickled pepper on top. Do not expect seating and service, customers enjoy their lunch standing outside, in one of Athens' prettiest squares. With €6 you'll stuff yourself and you'll feel like a true Athens insider. ▶ Open 12:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Kostas F5, Pentelis 5, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3228502.** In every Athens guidebook you will invariably find the world famous 'hole-in-the wall' Kostas souvlaki in Plaka. Don't go looking for it as this place shut down more than a year ago. However (and remember, you read it here first), Kostas is now back in business. He set up shop at a new location to serve his many loyal fans who insist that he makes the best souvlaki in Athens since 1950. The new premises are modern and minimal with just a tiny grill, a fridge and a sink. The only reminder of the old place is the same old sign reading 'No stress' in Greek. But the souvlaki is top class, and you won't need to worry about the side-effects of the tzatziki, as Kostas uses plain yoghurt instead. ▶ Open 12:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Lefteris (o Politis) E2, Satovriandou 20, M Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 5225676.** Hidden in the back streets of seedy Omonia square these are actually two separate joints next to each other. Forget about the one with the

full menu on the right and walk into the left door where you have no choice but a kebab in non greasy pita bread with just tomato and onion, the original stuff sold here since the fifties when the father's owner came to Athens from Constantinople. The kebab is top quality pure meat and less spicy than elsewhere but the hot paprika added on top adds that little piquant extra that makes it one of the tastier choices in the city. ▶ Open 12:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Livadia F2, Gladstones 7, M Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3832413.** Named after the Greek town famous for its kalamaki this is a heavy-duty souvlatzidiko. A look in the refrigerator with the thousands of kalamakia waiting to be grilled will give you a good idea of the turnover of this place and therefore the freshness of the meat sold. The uneven chunks of pork on the skewer, as opposed to the perfect cubes in most places, make them look and taste homemade and are enjoyed by most on a plate with french fries and a cold glass of beer. ▶ Open 12:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Nikitas D4, Agion Anargyron 19, Psirri, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3252591.** If you happen to pass through Psirri during the daytime and feel like an authentic cheap and delicious lunch, is very easy to spot Nikitas. It is the one whose outside tables are always crammed and you may have to wait for a while, but it is worth it. This psitopolio has been serving the working crowds of Psirri since 1967 and has maintained a loyal clientele even these days with the hundreds of choices in the area. ▶ Open 12:00 - 18:00. Sun Closed (July). €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Thanassis E5, Mitropoleos 68, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3244705.** Opposite Bairaktaris, this is the second of the three establishments making up the souvlaki triangle of Monastiraki square. Tourists just grab the first available table on the street without much thought to which of the three it belongs, but the loyal to Thanassis locals will wait as long as it takes, as they insist that the superiority in taste and quality compared to the neighbours is clear. The downside is that the menu is limited but that shouldn't matter as a merida kebab is why you're here for anyway. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

## Glossary

**Souvlaki:** (Athens & southern Greece only): A generic term used for any kind of meat consumed inside warm pita bread together with tzatziki, tomato and onion. In northern Greece the word sandwich is used instead, whereas *souvlaki* refers exclusively to *kalamaki*.

**Kalamaki:** (Athens & southern Greece only) A small wooden skewer with chunks of pork or chicken meat used in *souvlaki* or consumed on its own with a slice of bread.

**Gyros:** Pork or chicken donner meat used in *souvlaki* or served as a *merida*

**Kebab:** Spicy long meatballs made with minced lamb and consumed as a *merida* or wrapped inside pita bread as a *souvlaki*

**Merida:** Means 'portion' and it consists of a few *kalamakia*, or *kebabs* (usually four) served on a plate with a couple of *pites* and increased amounts of tomato and tzatziki.

**Tzatziki:** Traditional yoghurt, garlic and cucumber dip.

**Taverna:** Synonymous with 'tavern' or 'diner', a no-frills, authentic and lower-priced eating-out establishment.

**Psistaria / Psitopolio:** No-frills grill-house serving meat dishes.

## Sea Food

**Barbounaki H7, Stadiou Sq 2, tel. (+30) 210 7011753.** A pleasant modern fish tavern that opened its doors a few weeks ago. The dining hall is all white with a strong Cycladic island reference. Its menu is biased towards less expensive fish varieties like sardines, red mullets etc. and the side dishes are interesting and some rather creative. The place is conveniently located on the Panathenaic Stadium square so you can combine dinner with sightseeing. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Efta Thalasses G4, Omirou 11, Kolonaki, M Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3624825.** Coming to Athens after a big success in the capital of good food Thessaloniki, Efta Thalasses (seven seas) is a modern fish and sea food restaurant with a civilised feel. It is not dirt cheap but the quality of the food served (everything is fresh and deliciously cooked) makes it a good choice for an ouzo lunch among politicians and local businessmen. ▶ Open 13:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Gialtskari Achilleos 119, Paleo Fallo, tel. (+30) 210 9837498.** We don't often recommend restaurants outside the city centre unless we think that the food you will enjoy there is really worth a short bus or tram ride. This is one of those cases: a restaurant paying utmost attention to the quality and the freshness of the ingredients they use. The menu is therefore not set but depends on the fish that passed the cook's daily tests: ie the best in the market. And what's more: the bill will be just a fraction of what you'd pay elsewhere for the same quality. Some regulars will be disappointed we're giving away their little secret, but that's our job after all, isn't it? Tram from Syntagma Sq, tram stop Achilleos (about 30 min) ▶ Open 14:00 - 00:00. Closed Mon. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Sardeles A5, Persefonis 15, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3478050.** This modern and reasonably-priced fish restaurant specializes in humble varieties of fish and has become a huge success. When the weather is good it more than triples its size with pavement tables right on the main Gazi street, where you can watch the crowds go by and enjoy the complimentary limoncello and masticha liquors offered to pleasantly conclude your meal. ▶ Open 12:30 - 01:30. €€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

**Thalatta A5, Vitonos 5 (& Pireos 105), Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3464204, www.thalatta.gr.** A lovely sea food restaurant housed in a converted old house just off the Gazi district. It is an excellent choice for those looking for a little more sophisticated seafood cuisine than Sardeles, but not quite as pricey as Varoulko. Mr Triantafyllidis, the owner, starts his day early in the open-air markets of the city, to make sure his guests enjoy the freshest fish and oysters he can find. ▶ Open 20:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. €€€. ☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

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## Cafés

**Acropolis Museum Café E7, New Acropolis Museum, M Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9000901.** Someone had to finally set an example in this overcharging city and what a nice surprise: it was the brand new Acropolis Museum with its two cafés. Elsewhere you'd pay through the nose for the view and the privilege of the surroundings (the terrace tables directly face the Parthenon), but here you can enjoy the absolute cheapest coffee in town (€1.50-2.50) and snacks and salads (€2.50-6.00) with traditional Greek products prepared with a modern twist. We look forward to the complete menu they have promised towards the end of the year. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. ☎📞📱📺📷

**Aiolis E5, Aioulou 23, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3312839.** A large café housed in a lovely neo-classical building. The tables outside are usually occupied by tourists enjoying their drinks in the sun, but the real attraction of Aiolis is the atmospheric interior with its high ceilings and wooden panels. ▶ Open 09:00 - late. ☎📞📱📺

**Booze E4, Kolokotroni 57, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3240944, booze@boozecooperativa.com, www.boozecooperativa.com.** This is not an ordinary café, it is rather a part of an alternative art house, Booze Cooperativa, that hosts a large number of art events, exhibitions, concerts, video art projections and performances. There is a long wooden table, magazines and board games, and if you feel at home and spend the whole day there, just step upstairs to the night club, an offspring of the historic 90s Booze club. ▶ Open 10:00 - late. ☎📞📱📺

**Briki Dorileou 6, M Megaro Mousikis, tel. (+30) 210 6452380.** A laid-back, chilled-out kind of entertainment, your average funky, minuscule Soho square type of bar, open all day for coffee, draft beer and fun cocktails until the early hours of the next morning. This is a standing-up bar so don't bother coming here if you're feeling tired. The soundtrack is excellent, with a wide array of styles. As for the gathered crowds, ages range from 18 to 48. ▶ Open 10:00 - late. ☎📞

**Café Avyssinia D5, Avyssinias Sq, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3217047.** Bohemian café-bistro situated in the quaint and attractive Monastiraki Flea Market area, it offers real Greek coffee, ouzo, as well as a tasteful selection of "mezedes" (an assortment of entrees shared among a group of friends and often downed with ouzo or raki). If you're in the area antique shopping or on the lookout for collectibles or vintage items, consider stopping over for a wonderful meal in this picturesque charming environment. ▶ Open 10:30 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. ☎📞📱📺📷

**Da Capo H5, Tsakalof 1, Kolonaki Sq, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3602497.** Famous outdoor café, where any self-respecting nouveau riche Athenian wants to be spotted among politicians, actors and high profile celebrities. This isn't just a simple "place to drink your coffee" choice but a way of life for some of its regulars who spend hours here on a daily basis practicing the intricate ancient art of checking out passing crowds. Espresso and cappuccino prices are surprisingly reasonable considering the location and the clientele. ▶ Open 07:30 - 00:00. ☎📞📱📺

**Dioskouroi Café D5, Adrianou 39, Monastiraki, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3253323.** This café is situated in the picturesque spot just above Monastiraki Metro station. Students love it and you'll have a hard time finding a table. Order frappé or Greek coffee in the morning and if you hang around long enough, continue with ouzo and "mezedes" while practicing your backgammon skills. ▶ Open 08:00 - 02:00. ☎📞

**Ethnikon G5, Syntagma Square, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3310576.** You can't get any more central than this. Right on Syntagma Sq, the heart of the city, this is an essential stop between sightseeing walks. If the weather is good, grab a table under the trees, get your camera out, order a frappé and enjoy being a complete tourist! ▶ Open 06:00 - late. ☎📞📱📺📷

**Filion H4, Skoufa 34, Kolonaki, tel. (+30) 210 3612850.** Despite its unremarkable décor, this lively café manages to retain its multitude of regular customers (many of them famous actors and writers), because of its cosy laid-back atmosphere and congenial environment. The coffee here is superb and so is the ice-cream, as this is one of the few places serving acclaimed Greek ice-cream brand Kayak, guaranteed additive and preservative-free. A good choice for lingering and enjoying an invigorating beverage together with a scoop or two (or three), or a traditional pastry following a strenuous shopping session in Kolonaki. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎📞📱📺

**Ginger Ale G2, Themistokleous 74, Exarchia, M Omonia, tel. (+30) 210 3301246.** Retro pop has become so trendy during the last few years in Athens, that it is getting a bit boring, not least because of the cheap and soulless imitations of 60s objects and furniture used en masse by owners who in their effort to differentiate their place achieve the exact opposite result. Ginger Ale is no place like that, every piece of furniture is an original vintage item carrying the marks of the extraordinary decade. The crowd is equally cheerful and relaxed, you are right on Exarchia square after all. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎📞📱

**Kafeneio Thissio C6, Akamantos 2, Thissio, M Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3473133.** This café was serving the locals of Thissio long before bars and cafés took over every last inch of available space around the area. These days, its clientele is a lot younger and its decoration modern and minimal. It maintains a distinct laid back Bohemian character, unlike most of its undifferentiated neighbouring counterparts. Drinks are cheap and if you feel peckish after the obligatory walk around the Acropolis Rock, a light lunch comes at low prices. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎📞

**Klepsidra E6, Klepsidras & Thrasvoulou 9, Plaka, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3212493.** A nicely isolated from the madding crowd café, it is a must stop during your wandering in the narrow streets of Plaka. Coffees and refreshments will be placed next to the tasteful little fragrant basil plants adorning the tables. An idyllic setting for quiet evening drinks too. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. ☎📞

**Krinos E4, Aioulou 87, tel. (+30) 210 3216852.** This café has been around since the twenties. Most of its regulars too! Its old style has been kept intact, despite the occasional refurbishments. Here you'll savour the best bougatsa (cream pie topped with sugar and cinnamon) in town. Also loukoumades, ice-cream and sandwiches priced lower for takeaways. ▶ Open , Mon, Wed, Sat 07:30 - 15:30, Tue, Th, Fri 07:30 - 20:30. Closed Sun. ☎📞📱📺

**Magaze E5, Aioulou 33, tel. (+30) 210 3243740.** This café became an instant hit as soon as it opened its doors a couple of years ago. Trendy and colourful crowds frequent it and its regulars prefer to sit at the bar under the huge map of Athens that covers one of its walls. Mind you, on a sunny day, it can be impossible to get a table outside. ▶ Open 09:00 - late. ☎📞📱

[inyourpocket.com](http://inyourpocket.com)

## Bars

**A Lier Man A4, Sofroniou 2 Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3426322.** This bar-restaurant belongs to the select club of establishments that become trendy as soon as they open their doors to the public. Tucked in a narrow street just off the main Gazi square, it has been one of the big hits of the last season. Although they serve food, the place is primarily a bar with small rooms and smart decoration where freestyle crowds pack themselves to enjoy good music of different genres. When the weather is good a couple of tables outside serve as a much needed chill out retreat. ▶ Open 20:00 - 02:00. ☎📞📱

**Baba Au Rum E5, Kleitou 6, M Syntagma, Monastiraki.** Forget everything you knew about cocktails! This new arrival is virtually a cocktail lab! The guys import directly most of the rare spirits, bitters and syrups they use to produce their out-of-this-world cocktails. Their excellent menu-booklet includes seven cocktails you 'must taste at least once in your lifetime'. We had them all during our first visit and we can only agree with the statement. The place itself has the minimal-industrial feel of the 'Bios' school but most people stand outside right in the heart of the city's historic triangle. The only negative point is that it can take long to be served when the place is packed. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00. ☎📞📱

**Bartesera F5, 25, Kolokotroni St. & Praxitelous Gallery, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3229805.** A sitting room for quiet conversations, a bustling section and, in the middle, a space for those who like a bit of both. As for the music, expect nothing less than alternative lashings of jazz, progressive, soul and hip-hop. One of the hottest night spots in town these days, frequented by your average 25-40 freestylers. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. ☎📞📱

## NEW

**Belafonte C4, Agisilaou 61, Kerameikos, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3462054.** What could easily be described as Nixon's little brother, Belafonte is flying the flag for the Nixon-style Doxiadis-executed design identity. With greys in a lighter shade, Nixon's downtown New York urban chic has been streamlined with clean, warehouse lines, plenty of standing space, and a magnificent glass façade overlooking the dark, atmospheric streets of downtown Athens. A bar with lights that perfectly illuminate, Belafonte is the ultimate night haunt for the devilishly hip. ▶ Open 20:30 - 03:00. ☎📞

**Bios B4, Pireos 84, Kerameikos, M Kerameikos/Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3425335, www.bios.gr.** A point of reference for the alternative-progressive Athenian youth. A minimal bar, a stage for live performances, a basement club hosting experimental DJs and two small art house cinemas, all under the same industrial roof of a beautiful bauhaus building with a quiet roof garden with a distinct downtown feel. Founder Vassilis Charalampidis, a designer and his team, have embarked on a 'creative exploration of the multiple manifestations of urban culture', at the same time bringing Athenian nightlife a step closer to Berlin, London and New York. Its quiet roof garden has a distinct downtown feel. ▶ Open 11:00 - 3:00. ☎📞

## NEW

**Cachica B4, Plataion 5 & Agisilaou, Kerameikos, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3470188.** Cachica is a bar that serves up summer evenings, rustic warmth and classic cool. Travelling the world with parties that explore music from different countries and genres, if you're looking to escape from uber arty-farty haunts, electro-pop and hippie hang outs, a nightcap here is just the ticket. With a perfectly restored, neo-classical interior bathing in soft,



O'Connell's is another of the three authentic Irish pubs in Athens, located just at the end of the ferry port of Piraeus.

With its classic bar, comfortable seating & dark wood interior, the atmosphere in O'Connell's is perfect for sharing a few pints with friends. O'Connell's is also a great pick for a business lunch or dinner. Its menu consists of bar food such as burgers, sandwiches & more, with a variety of daily specials.



O'Connell's Irish Pub  
Akti Miaouli 79  
18538  
Piraeus

[www.oconnellsirishpubathens.com](http://www.oconnellsirishpubathens.com)  
[info@oconnellsirishpubathens.com](mailto:info@oconnellsirishpubathens.com)



D&M Concepts LTD



gold and red lighted hues accentuated by coloured, opaque glass windows in rich blues, greens and purples, banners falling from the gloriously high ceiling and natural embellishments, there is no place quite like it in town. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. 📍📞

**Capu F5, Lekka 14, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3226844.** One of the two bars that have transformed this small arcade on Lekka street into a buzzing nightclub. The decoration is retro-pop and the music is mainly black beat and soul. ▶ Open 10:00 - 04:00. 📍📞

**Crudo A4, Konstantinoupolis & Megalou Alexandrou, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3477048.** Wine bars are rarely found in Athens despite the fact that Greece has come a long way in its appellation products. It was an Italian, Antonio, who finally created a minimal and chic vineria, where you can complement your choice of Italian and Greek labels with a large variety of cheeses and hams supplied directly by the best Italian producers. With prices as low as €4 per glass, your evening here can turn into an interesting and fun wine-tasting experience. The music is appropriately cheerful and discreet. ▶ Open 20:00 - 02:00, Sun 13:00 - 02:00. 📍📞📺📺

**Duende F7, Tziralon 2, Makrigranni, M Acropolis, tel. (+30) 210 9247069.** A small, civilised and old fashioned brasserie, where the music (Dean Martin et al) actually allows for proper conversation. You will not meet the trend-setting crowds of Athens here, but you can perfectly well enjoy an intimate and quiet evening. As regards the décor, every single last detail has been meticulously attuned to immaculate, frustrating, perfection. ▶ 📍📞

**En Delphis G3, Delfon 5, Kolonaki, M Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3608269.** In the summer or when weather permits, large crowds occupy the lovely pedestrianised street with the neoclassical buildings, situated in this quintessential meeting point of the Athenian bar scene. Its loyalists are neither the posh nor the grungy types that hang around the two districts that it borders, Kolonaki and Exarchia respectively. Basically, a happy medium. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. 📍📞

**Galaxy Bar F4, Stadiou 10, M Panepistimio/Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 322 77 33.** Vintage at its best, a small bar that has existed in Athens for ever, as reflected in its smoke stained walls and furniture. Original seventies, with not-so-young regulars, it has a civilised gentleman-like atmosphere, and, as such, it is not recommended for a crazy night out. Come here instead to experience how people used to enjoy their evenings in an era long gone: fine drinks and meaningless conversation. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun. 📍📞€

**Galaxy Bar (Hilton hotel) K5, Vas. Sofias Ave 46, M Evangelismos, tel. (+30) 210 728 10 00.** Stay away if you're on a budget holiday, but do come along to the roof bar of the Athens Hilton if you're the type who only feels at home when mingling with important (looking) people, even if this comes at a price of €15 per drink. A classy bar not to be confused with the classic Galaxy on Stadiou Ave. Amazing city view, fine cocktails and delicious finger food, accompanied by music from top Athenian radio DJs, all at the appropriate price. ▶ Open 15:00 - 03:00. 📍📞📺

**Gazaki A4, Triptoleμου 31, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3460901.** Those in favour of an evening of drinking and hooking up with complete strangers should head for Gazaki. In a neighbourhood crammed with bars,

you'll often find yourself wondering off into the street, glass in hand, only to return a little later to wrap up the evening by knocking back tequila shots and mumbling utter nonsense to the person unfortunate enough to be standing next to you. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. 📍📞

**Hoxton A4, Voutadon 42, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3413395.** In Hoxton's industrial environment, you get the distinctive impression that seamstresses are constantly working behind the Chesterfield couches to shorten those baggy pants of yours. Pop, rock and electro glimpses in an environment alluding more to a workhouse. There are quite a few bars just outside the Kerameikos metro station but make no mistake, this club is one of the top hot spots of Athenian nightlife. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. 📍📞

**Intrepid Fox A4, Triptoleμου 30, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3466055.** With its name borrowed from the legendary London club, this new Gazi entry is of course a pure rock-metal house. There are hundreds of posters and record covers of the genre on the walls, a long bar, and a pool table and the music is thankfully far from the stale old type rock one expects to listen in similar establishments. Live performances organised from time to time. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. 📍📞📺📺

**Mai Tai I4, Ploutarchou 18, Kolonaki, M Evangelismos, tel. (+30) 210 7258306.** This is a good choice for Kolonaki beginners in the sense that it doesn't feel as exclusive as other establishments in the area, (without of course being completely laid back). Typical Kolonaki crowds enjoy early and late drinks: the after work ones, and those who come in later, with a certain number of regulars 'working' both 'shifts'. If too much socializing makes you hungry, there is a Greek Mediterranean selection of dishes to choose from. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00. 📍📺

**Micraasia A4, Konstantinoupolis 70, Gazi, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3469139, www.micraasia.gr.** A old neoclassical house, just off the main bar square of Gazi, belonging to the owner's family since they moved to Athens from Asia minor in 1926, is now converted into a 3 level atmospheric nightclub. A ground floor bar playing funky tunes, a first floor bistro with small rooms and flowery wallpapers and an open air terrace (when weather permits) with an ethnic feel. The whole experience is completed with Mediterranean food coming in small tapas portions and live dance show every Friday evening. The bar hosts interesting photographic exhibitions of new and famous artists. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00. 📍📞

**Molly Malone's Yiannitsopoulou 8, Glyfada, tel. (+30) 210 8944247, www.mollymalones.gr.** Come the spring, the Athenians just love to spend their evenings down the coast, in and around the southern seaside suburb of Glyfada. The tram from Syntagma Sq will get you straight there and you can combine your little excursion with an evening of authentic Irish hospitality and probably the only Irish Stew you can find in Athens. Molly Malone's has been around for more than five years and it's a regular meeting point for the many expats of the area as well as locals who love live sports and a pint of Guinness or two. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. 📍📺📺📺

**Nixon B4, Agsilauou 61, Metaxourgeio, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3462007.** It feels good to be able to take part in a conversation without having to scream one's lungs out in order to be heard. DJs wouldn't exactly fit in the same room together but this is why this "film noir" bar attracts all sorts of types. Minimal decoration for low profile people, with better things to do than stare at the couple on the beautiful red leather couch. Tasty nibbles from a limited menu in case your stomach begins to grumble. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. 📍📞📺

**O'Connell's Akti Miaouli 79, Piraeus, M Piraeus, tel. (+30) 210 4281110.** A new entry at the port of Piraeus, this brand new Irish pub became an instant hit with the shipping community of the biggest harbour in east Mediterranean. Open all day for lunch, dinner, after work drinks, and of course all live sporting events on satellite TV. ▶ Open 12:00 - late. 📍📞📺📺

**Pairidaeza F4, Parnasou 3, M Panepistimio, Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3210233.** Paradise in Persian. Situated on Karitsi Square, the owners of this bar seem to have a distinct preference for black music. Perhaps that's their image of the afterlife. A room filled with indie-style furniture and James Brown effigies singing "it's too funky in here". Should you decide to go out late, past metro opening hours, don't worry. Driving there is also an option, courtesy of an extensive parking lot situated right next to Pairidaeza. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00. 📍📞

**Pop E5, Kleitiou 10, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3220650.** Imagine fitting a bar in your corridor. That's how narrow Pop is, situated in the city centre opposite a shoe shop that in the evening suffers tens of young people sprawled on its doorstep. Why should you go to a bar that probably doesn't have the space to accommodate your entire group of friends within its premises? Because this is where you'll get to savour the finest margaritas in town, to the sounds of Pulp and the rest of Brit-Pop hits. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. 📍📞

**Rock n' Roll I5, Loukianou 6, Kolonaki, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 7217127, www.rocknroll.gr.** For more than twenty years Rock n' Roll has been a nightlife point of reference in posh Kolonaki. Always packed with affluent and pretty faces, as mainstream as it gets and relatively hard to get in, this is a typical place to savour the wicked Athenian nightlife you've been hearing about. On Saturday afternoons, just after the shops close the party starts and goes on until the early hours of Sunday. They serve food too - burgers etc - but you are not here to stuff yourself but to see and be seen. An effort to look smart will pay off at the door. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00, Sat, Sun 13:30 - 05:00. 📍📞📺

**Seven Jokers F5, Vouli 7, M Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3219225.** A real fun bar for those who want to get sloshed. The owner/bartender puts on an amazing show, with dancing and singing on his everyday menu. Freestylers and media staff love it here, but you'll also get to meet expats as Reuters is at walking distance from here. And when you find yourself awake the next morning on a bench or on one of the bar's seats with a terrible hangover, just order a coffee and one of those delicious sandwiches Seven Jokers offers in the morning and head off straight to work. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00, Sun 21:00 - 03:00. 📍📞

#### NEW

**Six D.O.G.S. E5, Avramiotou 6-8, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 2103210510.** A completely new concept has taken over Avramiotou Street, a tiny, little road hidden just off Athinas Street. Once the haunt of skaters and general night-time shenanigans with four different bars offering up four very different identities, 6 D.O.G.S has taken over with a bar, an events space as well as a gallery. Hosting a mixture of live and electronic musical events and parties practically on a daily basis, this is one street that's always got something going on. Good times to be had. ▶ Open 22:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00. 📍📞📺📺

**Swing A4, Iakhou 8 & Efmolpidon, M Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3451508.** It seems that the team behind other iconic success stories in the Athenian nightlife are up

to something similar in the Gazi Area. A cool and cosy bar, and a tastefully decorated club upstairs make up what we'd bet is the next hotspot in Gazi. Different DJs every evening fill the place with tunes ranging from swing to soul. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon. 📍📞📺

**The Art Foundation (TAF) D5, Normanou 5, Monastiraki, M Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3238757, www.theartfoundation.gr.** Established in 2008, TAF is a relatively new kid on the Monastiraki block, a refreshing and creative endeavour that puts all other art-cum-bar establishments to shame. An outdoor bar situated in the courtyard of an exquisitely rundown neoclassical building dating back to 1870, the soothing sound of jazz, cool lighting and lovingly-tended plants make for a vibrant and intellectual atmosphere that attracts the crème-de-la-crème of the Athenian crowd. Its excellent exhibition programme changes frequently and utilises the entire space in a way that would bring any art enthusiast to their knees. One of the best bars Athens has to offer, a nightcap here brings together fine art and even finer conversation. ▶ Open 19:00 - 01:00. 📍📞📺

**The James Joyce D5, Astigos 12, Monastiraki, M Monastiraki, Thissio, tel. (+30) 210 3235055, fax (+30) 210 3235070, info@joyceirishpubathens.com, www.joyceirishpubathens.com.** This is precisely what was missing from the Athenian scene: A typical Irish pub. All major sports events are covered and every weekend and some week nights artists from around Europe perform live. The decoration is unpretentious and tasteful: dark wood, barrels, porcelain and books. The interesting black n' white liquor trade photos add an extra touch to the whole drinking ritual. If your stomach begins to complain, order, what else? Fish n' chips. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. 📍📞📺📺📺📺

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**Tory Bar F4, Karitsi 10, [M]Panepistimio/ Syntagma, tel. (+30) 210 3311555.** This is a small bar that pioneered the nightlife scene around Karitsi Square. A classic already, it encompasses three distinctive bars within the same establishment: In the morning, it serves coffee and sandwiches, in the late afternoon, it attracts professionals for after work drinks while, in the evening, it transforms itself into a lively and perennially packed bar with a loyal clientele that flocks here to enjoy delicious cocktails and listen to excellent music of different genres, depending on the resident dj. One of our favourites. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 18:00 - 02:00. [S][C][E]

**Tribeca G3, Skoufa 46, Kolonaki, [M]Panepistimio, tel. (+30) 210 3623541.** Young flirty professionals gather here for after-work drinks to see and be seen by their peers. Music is mainstream, drinks are good but if you arrive dressed as if coming straight from the beach, souvlaki-gyros in hand, you will definitely raise a few eyebrows. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. [S][C][E]

## Clubs

**Baraonda Tsocha 43, [M]Ampelokipi, tel. (+30) 210 6444308.** A luxurious club-restaurant located behind "Leoforos" Stadium, old home to Panathinaikos FC. Businessmen, politicians and plain showoffs are often spotted here. It might be a little hard to get in if you're not appropriately dressed, but don't worry about being turned away if you wear sneakers. If they are made by Ferrari that is! Dimmed lighting inside prevents you from taking a closer look at your dinner. Don't worry; it's all wholesome and elegantly presented on your plate. If you worry about finding another parking spot for a night cap, no need to leave early as this neo-baroque venue is a full scale club too. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon. €€€€. [S][C][E][F]

**Cubanita D4, Karaiskaki 28, Psirri, [M]Monastraki, tel. (+30) 210 3314605.** This night club has been around for many years but it hasn't lost any of its Cuban finesse and atmosphere. Cuban bands perform on its live stage and its regulars are the fun loving Athenians of all ages. Dress up, get into the mood and shake your hips to the Caribbean rhythms. ▶ Open 22:30 - 04:00. Closed Mon. [S][C][E]

**Soul Stereo D4, Evripidou 65, Psirri, [M]Monastiraki, tel. (+30) 210 3310907.** A two stage nightclub playing excellent music, one of the city's favourite night hang outs. The staff is friendly and the clientele are the laid back, shiny happy people of the city. It always gets crowded after midnight and there are frequent theme parties with DJs performing either on the more easygoing atmospheric ground level or on the first floor, where things can get wild. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. Closed Aug [S][C]

**Underworld G3, Ippokratous 56, [M]Panepistimio, tel. +30 6972802171, info@underworldclub.gr, www.underworldclub.gr.** An underground club with fans who swear by its name, it's the top fetish/goth venue in the city. The club has just moved to a new two stage venue. Dark futuristic ambience, invites "saints and sinners, outcasts and tortured souls" to its extreme electro-industrial, gothic and dark wave sounds. Frequent live performances and daily thematic parties never let the dark youth of Athens get bored. Check website or call for info on special events. ▶ Open 00:00 - 06:00. Admission is free except Fridays (€5) and Saturdays (€7). [S][C][E][F]



## NEW

**Venue A5, Pireos 130, [M]Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3411410, www.venue-club.com.** A typical Athenian mega-club hosting celebrity DJs from around the world. Mainstream, posey crowds is the norm, with exceptions depending on the guest DJ. There are three separate sitting areas, the main one for the commoners, a VIP and a super exclusive one behind the DJ booth, just to remind us that when it comes to nightlife we're not all the same. ▶ Open Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00. [S][C]

**Villa Mercedes A5, Andronikou & Tzaferi 11, Rouf, [M]Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 3422606.** Mainstream as they get, posey as they get and summery as they get, this grand club will give you a good taste of a typical Athenian night among pretty and wealthy faces. Make an effort to dress up a bit, beach look will not get you past the bouncers, and arrive after midnight, unless you come for dinner. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00.

## Adult Entertainment

**Alcatraz Syngrou 137, tel. (+30) 210 9316417, www.alcatraz.gr.** Some tables are just a breath away from the dancefloor, but if you're not lucky enough to get one of them, you can watch the show - which is the strong point of this club - on the plasma screens too. ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00.

**Baby Gold Syngrou 140, tel. (+30) 210 9228902/(+30) 210 9235576, www.babygold.gr.** The music is really loud in here and if you forget about the naked beauties all around, you could easily mistake it for a dance club. Things can get really hot (and expensive) if you opt for a private lapdance. Avoid it Fridays and Saturdays and better stick to beer. ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00. Admission fee: €15 (one drink included).

**Baby O Pireos 171, tel. (+30) 210 3477744, www.baby-o.gr.** One of the oldest strip clubs in town, with a really funny DJ whose comments are unfortunately only in Greek! The shows performed by the girls get really hot. Try to get one of the tables next to the dancefloor, you won't regret it. Otherwise, the large sofas are roomy enough for all of you plus the ladies you'll invite for drinks (€20). Lap dance: €10 ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00. Admission fee: €15.

**Diamond Dolls Syngrou 237, tel. (+30) 210 9421264, www.penthhouseclub.gr.** Some of the girls in this club could easily be Playboy bunnies but the management is not content with them alone and from time to time calls in international celebrity showgirls to keep the regulars on the alert. A private dance upstairs will set you back €50. Drinks cost €11, table dance €12 ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00. Admission fee: €15.

**Grand Ritorno K5, Michalakopoulou 52, [M]Megaro Mousikis, tel. (+30) 210 7245233, www.grandritorno.gr.** A large number of mostly stunning dancers will happily join you for a drink (€20-30) or tabledance for you (€10-50). The regular shows during the night aren't exceptional but the service is polite and the drinks passed our quality tests. ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00. Admission fee: Week nights: €10, Weekends: €15 (one drink included).

**Mousses Club Poseldonos 30, Kallithea, tel. (+30) 210 9413079, www.mousses.gr.** This club has been around for more than a decade and inevitably has had its ups and downs. It is located a bit further out of the centre, on the way to Piraeus but they can arrange a taxi lift from your hotel and back. They also offer 20% discount to tourists, so you call it a bargain. ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00. Admission fee: €10, drink included).

## Sexy Athens



Athens is not a European sex destination. However, as a big city, it certainly offers a range of sinful pleasures to its locals and visitors. The legal part of prostitution caters to the lower end of the market. Brothels are concentrated in certain areas of the city such as Metaxourgeio or around Filis St. and are usually seedy establishments housed in old buildings that can be distinguished by a simple light bulb placed at the entrance, which is lit even during the day. The ladies in most of these have seen better days and the prices are accordingly low (€20-€30).

As for illegal prostitution, the cheaper end of the spectrum is basically composed of street workers that can be found during night hours along Solonos St. and around Theatrou Sq. and Evripidou St. just off the Psirri nightlife district. The latter ones are mostly good looking African girls, illegal immigrants who work the streets for little money and very often face organised police raids and disappear for a few hours in the back streets of the area. Be aware that these girls do not necessarily undergo any medical examinations, which their counterparts in the legal brothels are legally bound to undertake. The higher end of the market is naturally made up of call girls that publicise their services in many Greek newspapers, thinly disguised as soul mate ads. One of these (foreign) ladies' hourly visit rates will set you back at least €100.

For those with more... 'particular' tastes, every night along the right hand by-street of Syngrou Avenue (running from the centre of the city down towards Piraeus), boys dressed as girls (transvestites) take up their posts and wait for their clients. Prices negotiated on the spot.

Of course there is always the pure entertainment option: you can head for one of the numerous strip clubs that spring up in the city like mushrooms, where foreign girls will table-dance for you or just keep you company if you buy them an (expensive) drink (do not expect much more than this). Most of these clubs have an ongoing dance show, some quite explicit. Fortunately, you only pay for what you get and there aren't frequent cases of ripping off like it happens in many other European capitals. (Owners wouldn't want to push their luck, as these clubs although tolerated aren't exactly legal). That is not to say that what you get is cheap. Your entrance with one drink costs €10-15, a table dance of 2-3 minutes €10-15 and the ladies' drinks €20 or more. Most gentlemen's clubs, as is their self-professed title, are to be found on both sides of Syngrou Avenue and are easily recognisable by their bright neon signs, but you can find them elsewhere in town too. Your hotel receptionist will probably be able to point you to one of them.



Athens is by no means New York, Berlin or Amsterdam when it comes to homosexuality. It has, however, come a long way during the last ten years, more though on the entertainment side of things rather than on the actual acceptance of homosexuality. It seems that the gay community of the city takes a less assertive approach than gay people in other western countries do. This is because Greek society is still overwhelmingly conservative, dominated by the Greek Orthodox Church, which still adamantly opposes the introduction of same-sex marriages in Greece.

As a visitor, though, you tend to be looking to have a good time rather than resolve the hang-ups of Greek society and you won't find yourself short of a wide array of gay bars, clubs and, what's more, gay restaurants to choose from.

As for our list, there are many more places frequented by gay and lesbians than those who actually call themselves so and can be readily identified as gay. Here you'll find a list of some classics but if you're looking for more diversity you can always head to the Gazi district and follow the crowds.

## Cafés

**Blue Train Café Konstantinoupoleos 84, Gazi, [M] Kerameikos, tel. 210 3460677.** This is a romantic bar and its outdoor tables boast of a hard to beat décor: Real trains passing by every so often! Perfect for early drinks but you may find yourself still lingering at its tables long after the last sleeper train has departed to the north. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00. [M] [C] [F]

**Myrovolos C3, Giatrakou 12, Avdi Sq, Metaxourgio, [M] Metaxourgio, tel. 210 5228806.** A favourite lesbian all-day hangout tucked away in a lovely hidden square that gives you the feeling of a small country town. There is food on offer if after a few coffees or drinks you're having such a relaxing time that you're too lazy to move on. ▶ Open 11:00 - 03:00. [M] [F]

## Clubs

**Lamda Club F8, Lebesi 15, [M] Acropolis, tel. 210 9224202.** This gay dance club has been around for long enough to be considered a classic. Ground floor is no different to any other dance club but things can get sizzling hot in the basement darkroom. Music is mainstream and Greek and they hold frequent events like competitions, lotteries etc. ▶ Open 23:30 - 05:00. [M] [C]

**S-Cape Army Academy A4, Megalou Alexandrou 139, Gazi, [M] Kerameikos, tel. 210 3411003, info@s-cape.gr, www.s-cape.gr.** A large club with an army theme and a strong presence in the gay nightlife scene. It consists of two separate rooms, an outdoors cocktail lounge open in the weekends, and an indoors club where you can dance the night away among its young regulars. The music is mainstream-dance. (Thursdays are Greek nights) ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00. [M] [C]

**Sodade A4, Triptolemu 10, Gazi, [M] Kerameikos, tel. 210 3468657.** Pretty young faces and pure dance music make this place one of the most popular 'straight friendly' clubs in town. Both its rooms are packed during weekends and the party doesn't stop till early morning hours. ▶ Open 23:30 - 06:00. [M] [C]

## Bars

**Big A4, Iera Odos 67 & Falesias, Gazi, [M] Kerameikos, tel. 6946 282845, www.bigbarathens.gr.** Athenian bears found their favourite hang out in this friendly and unassuming bar, appropriately located just off Gazi and the model-faced and bodied gay crowds that frequent the district's bars. Drinks are cheap, the atmosphere is friendly and there are frequent events and parties. Every Tuesday is Greek night and every Thursday rock ▶ Open 22:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon. [M] [C]

**Granazi F8, Lebesi 20, Makrigranni, [M] Acropolis, tel. 210 9244185.** Granazi opened its doors as a gay bar back in an era when gay bars in Athens were as frequent as elephants. More than two decades later it still entertains the Athenian gay community, but is popular with slightly older crowds. Greek music is the norm here and it is very conveniently located if you want to continue your night dancing in Lamda, just a few steps away. ▶ Open 20:00 - 04:00. [M] [C]

**Taxidi Bar A4, Zagreos 23 & Konstantinoupoleos, Gazi, [M] Kerameikos.** You will immediately feel you're among friends in this small and cozy girls' bar.

The music is not too loud and allows for conversations. There are live performances some evenings and some others they will be happy to let the aspiring DJs among you demonstrate their talent. ▶ Open 20:00 - late. Closed Mon, Tue. [M] [C]

## Restaurants

**Sapfo C3, Megalou Alexandrou 35, Metaxourgio, [M] Metaxourgio, tel. 210 5236447.** Originating in Lesbos island, home of the legendary ancient Greek poetess of Sapphic love, this restaurant has brought the atmosphere of Eressos right to the centre of Athens. Old summer friends reunite to enjoy delicious specialities from the island and a large selection of ouzo. There is an eastern feeling to this restaurant with an abundance of Turkish elements in the decoration, an influence that extends to the food and music. Prices are really low for the quality of the food and the service. ▶ Open 13:00 - 24:00. €€. [M] [C] [F]

## Saunas

**Alexander Sauna A4, Megalou Alexandrou 134, Gazi, [M] Kerameikos, tel. (+30) 210 6980282, www.alexandersauna.com.** A gay meeting point of European standards and great attention to hygiene and service. A jacuzzi, a large steam room, private rooms and leather sofas where you can enjoy soft drinks and coffees. Thematic parties, events and happenings guarantee endless fun for the cold and rainy winter days and nights. ▶ Open 19:00 - 03:00, Fri 17:00 - 08:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 03:00. Admission fee: €15, Young club 18-25: €9, W/E happy hour 16:00-17:00 €10. [M] [C] [F]

**Flex Gym E4, Plyklitou 6, [M] Monastiraki, tel. 210 3210539.** Gym and sauna under the same roof in the centre of the city. 3 saunas, 2 jacuzzis, a steam room and 100 sqm gym, will keep you busy for hours. They also offer free solarium and internet in a spotlessly clean environment. ▶ Open 16:00 - 24:00, weekends 14:00-24:00. Admission fee: €20, under 30's : €15. [M] [C] [F]



thematic days

**CRUISING SPA FUN:**

Sunday 16.00-03.00

**PARTNERS' DAY:**

Monday 19.00-03.00

**BEARS' DAY:**

Tuesday 19.00-03.00

**UNDERWEAR DAY:**

Wednesday 19.00-03.00

**MIX & MATCH DAY:**

Thursday 19.00-03.00

**EXPLOSIVE NIGHT:**

Friday 19.00-08.00

**INFERNAL NIGHT:**

Saturday 16.00-08.00

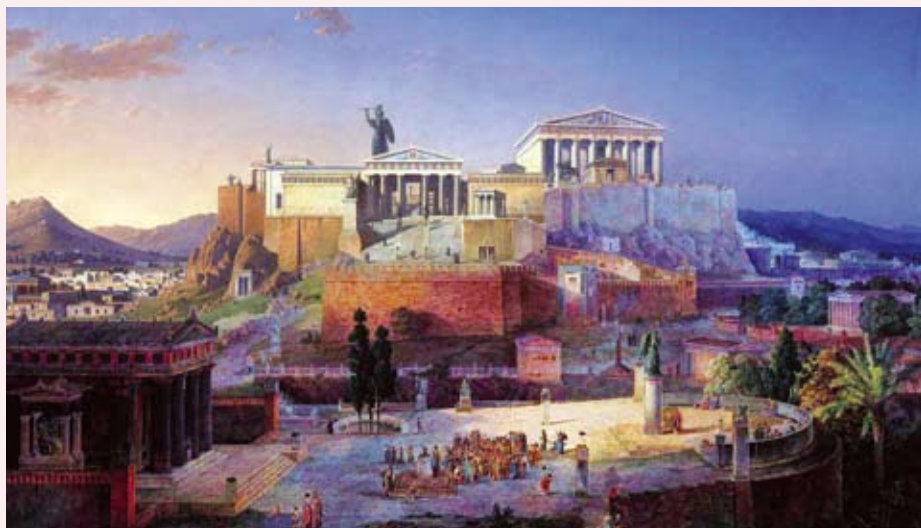
facilities

- 4 floors
- 2 saunas
- jacuzzi
- steam room
- cabins
- dark room
- private rooms
- snack bar area
- garden
- safety lockers
- free internet
- events, parties

www.gaygreece.gr  
www.lesbian.gr  
www.athenspride.eu



## Monuments &amp; Archaeological Sites



The Acropolis in Ancient Athens by Leo von Klenze

Pinakothek Museum, Munich

Athens is known the world over for its ancient monuments - and no visit to the city would be complete without seeing its most iconic landmark, the Acropolis. Dating back to the 5th century BC, the Acropolis is made up of the **Parthenon**, the **Erechtheion**, the **Temple of Athena Nike** and the **Propylaea**, and embodies the highest ideals of Ancient Athens - harmony, beauty, proper measure, liberty, knowledge, virtuous competition and democracy.

The Acropolis and its surrounding area - including the Acropolis Slopes, the Ancient Agora, the Areopagus, the Pnyx and the Hills of the Muses, the Roman Agora and Library of Hadrian - are at the historical heart of the city. Walking through them, it doesn't take too much imagination to picture Ancient Athens as it was back then. The monuments are intrinsically linked with the birth of Democracy and they symbolise a precious part of the cultural heritage of Greece and western civilisation ever since. Those ideals have echoed down through the centuries and can still be heard today.

The Middle Ages and Ottoman Period, however, were trying times for the Acropolis and its surrounding sites. They suffered as a result of natural disasters like earthquakes, but more so at the hands of man. Some monuments were reused as palaces, churches, mosques and residential areas. But perhaps the greatest damage occurred when an explosion rocked the Acropolis during Morosini's siege in 1687, and (as many Greeks will tell you) as a result of Lord Elgin's looting of the marbles (1801-1803). These events irreversibly altered the face of the Acropolis more than anything else in its long history.

Exploration and excavation of the sites began a few years after the establishment of the Greek state in 1834, and continued until about the middle of the 20th century. Important restoration programmes are now underway on several monuments. In 1997, the sites around the Acropolis were included in the project for the 'Unification of the Archaeological Sites of Athens', one of the city's most

ambitious urban planning projects ever. This has seen the creation of 3-km long pedestrian walkway-archaeological park in the centre of the densely inhabited modern city, with whole areas (such as the East, West and North Slopes of the Acropolis, the Western Hills and the Library of Hadrian) restored and now open to visitors.

In all, the pedestrianised site covers more than 1,000,000 sq.m. The project won 3rd prize (Diploma) in the 'Conservation of Cultural Landscapes' category of the annual European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards in 2005. The pedestrianised zone formed by **Dionysiou Areopagitou** and **Apostolou Pavlou** streets hosts cultural events, including an annual summer Book Fair and art exhibitions. The **Theatre of Herodus Atticus** is also an important venue for theatrical, musical and dance performances, giving visitors the opportunity to experience a unique blend of ancient and modern civilisation. Greeks are rightly proud of their heritage and they are keen to share it with the world, so special consideration is providing visitors with information, with detailed signs, publications, leaflets, guides and audiovisual material in English and Greek. Educational programmes are also available to introduce children to Athens' unique monuments and raise awareness of the importance of respecting and protecting the cultural heritage they represent.

Though Athens is generally not an easy city to get around for people with mobility problems, efforts have been made at the Acropolis with an arrangement of pathways with ramps at specific locations to enable such visitors to visit - or at least view - the most important monuments, and the installation of a lift on the North Slope means that disabled visitors can now get a close-up view for the first time.

UNESCO proclaimed the Acropolis site a World Heritage Monument in 1987. The administration of the sites is funded by National Resources, while the majority of the restoration programmes and the project for the Unification of the archaeological sites surrounding the Acropolis is co-funded by the EU.

## www.theotheracropolis.com

The Acropolis of Athens has been many things other than what we have learned to believe. The collective behind the 'www.theotheracropolis.com' project, tries to introduce us to the different faces, roles and identities of the sacred rock through the centuries. They want to take our perception of the site away from the stereotypical tourist experience and "undermine the monolithic discourse on the Acropolis as an exclusively classical site".

An extremely interesting photo blog worth checking out before the obligatory visit, especially for those who like to go a bit deeper than the surface.

**Acropolis of Athens** .  **Acropolis**, tel. 210 3210219.

Set in a site covering 30,000 sq.m., the **Acropolis of Athens** is a perfect example of how ancient architecture was adapted to a natural site to form what has become a model worldwide and down the ages. It was the ancient city's most important religious centre and its monuments, (the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, the Propylaea - the monumental entrance to the Acropolis - and the small Temple of Athena Nike) have become an important symbol of ancient Greece's bequest to Europe and the world. The first signs of occupation on the 'sacred rock' of the Acropolis date back to the Neolithic period (2nd millennium BC). In Mycenaean times (1200-1100BC) it was the seat of the king, whose palace stood roughly where the Erechtheion was built many centuries later. After the 11th century BC until the end of Antiquity, it was home to the cult of Athena, patron goddess of the city that took her name. There, Athena was worshipped at majestic temples, brilliant buildings and a vast number of votive monuments. The most renowned were built in the second half of the 5th century BC, when Athens took a lead among the ancient world's city states, following important victories against the Persians and the establishment of Democracy. In the golden age that followed, thought and art flourished, and an exceptional group of artists made the ambitious plans of Athenian statesman Pericles reality, under the guidance of the sculptor Pheidias. The most important monuments were built during that time: the Parthenon, built by Ictinus (447-432BC), the Erechtheion, with its shrines to Athena Polias and Poseidon-Erechtheus and the porch adorned with the famous Caryatids hand-maidens (421-406BC), the Propylaea - the monumental entrance to the Acropolis designed by Mnesicles (437-431BC) - and the small temple of Athena Nike (421-407BC). ▶ Open 08:30 - 15:00. Admission: €12, Concessions: €6 (4 day pass).

**The Slopes of the Acropolis D6,D7,E7**. The 70,000 sq.m. archaeological site of the Slopes of the Acropolis extends around the Sacred Rock of the Acropolis. After the Acropolis itself, the Slopes were the most important religious centre of ancient Athens. The sanctuary of Dionysus Eleuthereus on the South Slope, established in the

6th Century BC, was the site of the Great or City Dionysia celebrations. Here too was the theatre of Dionysus, one of the world's most ancient theatres, where the works of the Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were performed. The same archaeological area is also home to the Odeion of Pericles, ancient Athens' first roofed building for musical contests, the sanctuary of the healing god Asclepius founded in the 5th century BC, the Stoa given to the city in 160 B.C. by the king of Pergamon, Eumenes II, various monuments donated by sponsors of theatrical performances such as the Monument of Lysicrates, and the Odeion of Herodus Atticus, built in the 2nd century AD. With the predominance of Christianity, especially during the 5th century AD, many buildings on the South Slope were reconsecrated as Christian monuments. The East Slope is dominated by the cave of Aglauros, where the Athenian youths (ephebes) took the oath to protect the sanctuaries and sacred institutions of the city. One of the most important monuments of the North Slope is the spring of Klepsydra, in front of which ran the last section of the Panathenaic Way. On this side of the rock there are three cave sanctuaries dedicated to the cults of Pan, Zeus and Apollo, the cave with the Mycenaean spring, the sanctuary of Aphrodite and Eros and the Medieval church of Saint Nicolas.



The Erechtheion on the Acropolis Rock. The Caryatids are replicas of the original ones housed in the new Museum



### Hadrian's Gate



**Hadrian's Gate F7, Amalias Ave.** Built by Athenians in honour of the Roman Governor Hadrian 131AD, the gate bears two inscriptions - the first, facing the Acropolis, reads 'This is Athens, the ancient city of Theseus', and the other, facing the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the centre of the Roman city, reads 'This is the city of Hadrian and not of Theseus'. The monument attempts to harmoniously combine architectural elements typical of both Roman (such as the arch) and Greek (colonnades) traditions.

**The Ancient Agora D5, M Monastiraki, Thissio, tel. 210 3210185.** The Agora was the heart of the public life of the city - its religious, political and commercial centre, where Athenian Democracy was born and flourished. The Agora was a large, open square that provided a forum for social and cultural activity, commercial exchange, religious festivals, open-air theatrical performances and athletic contests. From the 6th century BC, the area was gradually surrounded by public buildings that were rebuilt over the course of some 800 years while the Agora remained the centre of Athens. It was traversed by the Panathenaic Way and by the West Road. Tradition has it that Europe's first law court in Europe was on the Areopagus, next to the Ancient Agora. The nearby hill of the Pnyx is another unique site, where the meetings of the Assembly of the 'Demos' (Public Assembly of the Citizens), were held. The Ancient Agora and Areopagus site covers an area of about 400,000 sq.m. northwest of the Acropolis.  
▶ Open 08:30 - 15:00, Mon Museum opens at 11:00. Admission: €12 (or pass) Concessions: €6

### www.parthenonfrieze.gr

Hats off to the Ministry of Culture and everyone else involved in this unusual for the Greek public sector hi-tech effort. If you are an archaeology buff, just interested or want your kids to spend some pleasant yet useful time online then check out this great interactive application: **www.parthenonfrieze.gr**. You will see details of the Parthenon in 3D, take thematic interactive tours, learn about the frieze, play games, puzzles etc and download interesting brochures with useful information about the monument.

### The Roman Agora



**The Roman Agora and the Library of Hadrian E5,** The 28,000 sq.m. site of the Roman Agora and the Library of Hadrian includes the two large Roman monuments north of the Acropolis and east of the Ancient Agora. The Roman Agora was the centre of commercial activity of the city during Roman times, while the Library of Hadrian housed the state archives and philosophical Academies and was its spiritual, educational and cultural centre. The Roman Agora was constructed by the Roman emperor Augustus (between 19 and 11 BC) to accommodate the commercial enterprises of the city, with shops, storerooms and offices. The Library of Hadrian was built as part of a project to re-design Athens by Hadrian in 132 AD to house the city's largest library, the state archives and philosophical schools. The site also features monuments such as the Water Clock (*Horologion*) or Tower of the Winds - with its ornate sculpted depictions of wind-gods, wind vanes, sundials and a complicated internal water-clock - built around 50BC by Macedonian astronomer Andronikos Kyrresthes, as well as the *Vespasianae* (public latrines), the *Agoranomeion* and the Fethiye Mosque (Tzami). North of the Roman Agora is the *Medrese* (Seminary) and to the south the Mosque. A section of the Late Roman fortification wall and a four-apsed early Christian can be seen within the Library of Hadrian.

**The Western Hills C6,7,** The Western Hills (Hill of the Muses or Philopappus Hill, the Pnyx and the Hill of the Nymphs) site covers 680,000 sq.m. to the west of the Acropolis. It was an important and densely inhabited section of the ancient city, with many important road axes. The Pnyx is dominated by the site where meetings of the Assembly of the Demos, the principal institution of Athenian Democracy, were held. Philopappus Hill is crowned by the monument of the same name as well as a modern Observatory. The Philopappus monument is a funerary stele erected in 114-116AD by the Athenians in honour of Caius Julius Antiochus 'Philopappus', the exiled prince of Commagene (a kingdom in south-east Asia Minor that had just been conquered by the Roman Empire). This area, mythically connected with the Amazonomachy, was first inhabited during the 6th century BC. During the 5th century BC, it was one of the most densely populated parts of ancient Athens including two well-known 'demes' (districts), Melite and Koile. The ancient Koile road, running from Athens to the port of Piraeus, was a most important commercial and strategic thoroughfare.

### The Parthenon



**Parthenon E6, M Acropolis, tel. 210 3214172.** Built between 447-437BC, during the 'Golden Age' of Athens under Pericles, the Parthenon is a world famous sight. Its design harmoniously combines the Doric and Ionic orders, and its architectural and structural details and the precision in the carving of the marble are a testament to the expertise in the artisans that created it. Further, the décor of the Parthenon and its surrounding monuments had a profound and lasting influence on Western art (especially sculpture and portraiture), as it depicted the human form in an individualised manner for the first time. These artistic innovations fuelled developments that influenced the art of Hellenistic and Roman times, as well as the Renaissance, Baroque, Romanticism and Neoclassicism. ▶ Open 08:30 - 15:00. Admission: €12, Concessions: €6 (four day pass)

### Panathenaic Stadium



**Panathenaic Stadium H7, Arditos Hill, tel. 210 3251744.** A Stadium existed on this site from as early as the 4th century BC, when it was used for the mystical Ceremonies held for the Panathenaic Festival in honour of Athena, patron-goddess of the City of Athens. Roman governor Hadrian had also constructed a Stadium at this site, where gladiatorial contests and shows were put on for the Athenian public. The ancient Stadium was completely restored, as an exact replica of the Ancient Stadium, in the late 19th century, in order to host the first modern Olympiad (1896). During the Athens Olympic Games of 2004, this gleaming white Pentelic-marble Stadium provided the venue for the archery event as well as for the culmination of the Marathon Run. Visitors can walk up to the Stadium but are not allowed to enter its grounds.

### Lysikrates Monument



**Lysikrates Monument F7, Lysikratous Square and Tripodon St, Plaka, M Syntagma.** This monument commemorates the support of its benefactor-founder of a theatrical performance at the nearby theatre of Dionysus, the earliest theatre in the world - that's the answer in case you wonder just what that strange structure on Tripodon Street is. It was built in 335BC by Lysikrates and is also known as the "Lantern of Diogenes" in reference to its unusual shape. The circular building rests on a square shaped limestone podium and includes a portico of six Corinthian columns. It also has a frieze featuring the life of Dionysos, the god of wine and revelry. In 1669, the structure was handed over to Capucin monks, who used it as a study room. The Lysikrates monument is the best preserved of its kind, mainly due to the efforts of French archaeologists Fr. Boulanget and E. Loviot who restored the area in 1887.

### Temple of Olympian Zeus

**Temple of Olympian Zeus F7, Vasilissis Olgas & Amalias, M Acropolis, tel. 210 9226330.** Construction of the temple began in the 6th century BC under the tyrants Hippias and Hipparchos, at the site of the ruins of an earlier temple built by their father, the tyrant Peisistratus. The Temple stood unfinished throughout the 'Golden Century' of Athens and was only completed by Roman governor Hadrian, known as the 'Philhellene', in 132AD. The Temple was huge by ancient standards, rivaling other colossal famous Temples such as the Heraion in Samos, and featured a large gold and ivory statue of Zeus in its cella. Today, only fifteen of its original 104 columns are still standing. A sixteenth column lies on the ground, where it fell during a storm in the 19th century. ▶ Open 08:30 - 15:00. Admission: €2, Free for pass holders.

A four day pass costing €12 (concessions €6) will get you in: The Acropolis, the Ancient Agora & museum, Kerameikos & museum, the Roman Agora, Acropolis' North & South Slopes and the Temple of Olympian Zeus.





Acropolis view from the Museum's Parthenon Gallery

VK

## Acropolis Museum Guide

The **New Acropolis Museum** has proven to be a massive success as was expected. Receiving 90,000 visitors in its opening week alone, the monumental complex buzzes daily with the excited chatter of visitors from all over the world, eager to see the rich collection of artefacts discovered in and around the ancient Acropolis hill. With light, space and angular lines, the museum design and its perfect view of the Acropolis, honours the history of this ancient site and its treasures. It is divided into historically-defined sections that put the ancient site into context:



**The Ancient Neighbourhood:** Built on the remains of an Athenian neighbourhood, the remnants of streets, houses, workshops and baths are clearly visible through the transparent floors and viewing areas at the entrance to the museum. Walking into the museum, the neighbourhood continues below, a reminder of the history that lies beneath one of the world's most historical cities.

**The Gallery of the Slopes of the Acropolis:** Provides an insight into the ancient Athenian daily life, with display cases lining an ascending ramp that mirrors the slope leading to the Acropolis. Keep your eyes down – a collection of ceramic bowls, wine glasses and plates discovered buried in the floor of a house dating to the 3rd Century BC are encased in the museum floor at the gallery's entrance. Amongst the artefacts from households, what really puts things into perspective are unfinished statues and clay moulds – a touch of reality behind the mythical figurines of ancient times. Votive offerings of *'Ioutrophorai'*, or vessels



that carry bathwater to the nuptial bath, taken from the sanctuary of the **Nymphs** give a complete overview of the different terracotta painting techniques used in ancient Greece, something pottery buffs will delight in, while the collection of unusual, figurative vases with three-dimensional bodies worked onto the surface are also a hit with visitors. Pieces from the Sanctuary of Dionysus' temple frieze reveal magnificent workmanship that expertly transformed dense marble into flowing fabrics draped over dancing women. Theatrical masks and a statue of **Old Silenus** carrying a young **Dionysus** on his shoulders allows one to go back in time to see what a temple to an enigmatic and flamboyant god would have looked like.



**The Archaic Gallery, 1st Floor:** The Archaic Gallery paints a vibrant picture of Athens and the Acropolis before the refinement of the Classical era, expressed in the Archaic Parthenon's pediment that dominates the gallery's entrance. A stark contrast to the highly-classical figures of the Parthenon, the archaic style is exemplified in the size and scope of its centrepiece – a magnificent sculpture depicting two gargantuan lions devouring a bull. Those archaic sculptors certainly had a talent for depicting animals – seek out the hunting dog if you aren't convinced. Then, after animals come statues of women – lots of them. Reflective of the worship of a female deity, some 200 *'Korai'* were discovered on the Acropolis, many with the traces of the original paint that decorated the expertly carved fabric chitons clothing their stylistic (and voluptuous) bodies. Nearby, the pediment of the **Ancient Temple** – which replaced the old geometric temple (close to the site of the Parthenon) around the time of the abolishment of tyranny in 508/507 BC – tells the story of

the **Gigantomachy**, the war between the gods and rebelling giants. A warlike **Athena** is shown with her cloak made of snakes, though the real triumph here is the work that went into restoration efforts – the plaster casts that complete the statues are second to none.



Caryatids from an angle never seen before

VK

**The Propylaea, Erechtheion and Temple of the Athena Nike, 1st Floor:** After the Archaic temple comes one of the crowning jewels of the Acropolis complex and the Museum – the famous **Caryatids** – female sculptures that acted as columns on the Erechtheion temple's porch. Built on the site of the geometric period temple to **Athena Polias** (the Ancient Temple) which had been destroyed by the Persians, the **Erechtheion** is known for its irregular design, in part due to the irregular surface of the rock as well as the need to protect the remains of ancient cults, a mark of respect after the Persian-induced destruction to the Acropolis, something the ancient Greeks never forgot. Another special aspect of this display is that rather than being sealed off in a glass, as was the case in the old Acropolis Museum, the **Caryatids** can finally be enjoyed in the round, an illustration of the museum's dedication to bringing its exhibits to life. This is evident in the temple of **Athena Nike's** frieze exhibit – a scaled arrangement of how the frieze would appear on the temple itself, which most people pass as they enter the Acropolis through the **Propylaea** without a second glance. A number of reliefs are also on display, taken from the Nike temple's balustrade, the Sandal-binding Nike being a glorious example of superb relief-carving, with luscious fabrics draped over an even more lusciously carved out body.



**5th Century BC. – 5th Century AD, 1st floor:** Representing periods in the Acropolis' history from the **Hellenistic** period, the **Roman** period, and the advent of **Christianity**, classical art lovers will admire the face of the cult statue of **Artemis Brauronia** by **Praxiteles**, one of the most celebrated attic sculptors of the 4th Century BC. In fact, faces are the real winner in this section, with a collection of portrait busts allowing visitors to gaze into the intricately carved faces of historical figures such as a young **Alexander the Great**, as well as **Lucius Verrus**, **Agrippina the Younger**, Emperor **Caracalla**, his wife **Plautilla** and a rather handsome portrait of a Barbarian from the 3rd quarter of the 2nd Century AD exhibited in the **Roman** period – who knew savages could look so refined? This section also contains

the museum's most curious exhibits – a haunting marble face of a woman dating to the 5th/4th Century BC, with black lines running from her expressive inlaid eyes, she seems to be crying, while a marble sphere dating to the 3rd/2nd BC carved with magic symbols and icons suggests we are looking at something that was just as much a mystery to the ancients as it is to those looking upon it today.



The magnificent Parthenon Gallery

VK

**The Parthenon Gallery, 3rd floor:** The **Parthenon Gallery** is where visitors can truly appreciate the museum design and its intentions. Built with the precise geometry and dimensions of the Parthenon, one can admire the **inner frieze**, the **outer metopes** and the **crowning pediments** while looking towards the Parthenon itself, perched atop the Acropolis hill. Finally, it feels like the pieces have found a home worthy of their stature, and a walk around this exhibition hall evokes the magnificence of the mighty structure. Nevertheless, the spectacular exhibition space invokes mixed feelings. Many of the displayed pieces are replicas of fragments housed mainly in the British Museum, though the conspicuous gaps in the gallery make the frieze found behind the west pediment appear all the more miraculous – bar one missing piece, this section is made up entirely of fragments belonging to the museum. The shame in the situation is unavoidable, particularly when most of the breathtaking pediment sculptures – especially on the west pediment – are plaster casts. However, the cast makers' excellent work, is also apparent in the expert reconstruction of the floral **akroterion** that once crowned the Parthenon's east pediment. Indeed, regardless of the debate, the work that has gone into the museum is unquestionable, something eloquently expressed in the bewitched faces of its visitors – history really does come alive here.



Original and replica: Spot the difference!

VK

**Acropolis Museum E7 Dionysiou Areopagitou 15, MAcropoli, tel. 210 9000901, info@theacropolis-museum.gr, www.theacropolismuseum.gr** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Closed Mon, Admission fee: €1 (€5 from Jan 1). We recommend you reserve tickets on-line in order to avoid queues.



## Archaeological Museum



**National Archaeological Museum Patision (28th October) 44, [M]Victoria, tel. 210 8217724, fax 210 8213573, eam@culture.gr.** The National Archaeological Museum is set in a characteristic hefty neoclassical building, designed by L. Lange and remodelled by P. Kalkos, H. Vlachos and E. Ziller (built 1866-1889), housing a unique, recently refurbished, collection of ancient Greek art and artefacts. Its more than 20,000 exhibits showcase the development of Greek civilisation from Prehistory down to the late Roman era. There are vast collections of finds from the **Neolithic, Bronze Age, Cycladic** and **Mycenaean periods (Prehistoric Collection)** including: the famous gold mask attributed to Agamemnon, finds from the prehistoric settlement on the island of Thera (Santorini) - including wonderfully preserved colourful wall-murals; the **Sculpture Collection** (7th-5th centuries BC) showcasing many internationally-acclaimed masterpieces of the genre, some of which attributed to Praxiteles' workshop, the **Near Eastern Antiquities Collection**, as well as the **Metallurgy and Vase & Minor Objects Collections**.

Two of its newest exhibits include a 4th century BC gold funerary wreath and a 6th century BC marble statue of a young woman, returned to Greece in 2007 by the Getty Museum in California and conspicuously displayed.

Another major highlight is its renowned **Egyptian Collection**, 1,100 priceless items of which were recently put on permanent exhibition following years in the Museum's vast underground storage areas. Considered one of the foremost Egyptian collections worldwide, its star items include a wooden body tag for a mummy, the bronze statue of Princess-Priestess Takushit (c. 670BC) adorned with a gown strewn with hieroglyphs, a 3,000-year-old preserved loaf of bread (with a bite-sized chunk missing!) and other intact organic materials, as well as a rare bronze miniature figurine depicting an African boy at a street market. The **Stathatos Collection** was also recently brought up from storage and put on display, mainly showcasing ancient jewellery.

There are plans for the future underground expansion of the Museum's permanent exhibition spaces, but these are not expected to materialise any time soon. It also periodically houses temporary exhibitions. Its amenities include a coffee-shop/restaurant in the pleasant atrium in the basement area, Museum shop, conference facilities and modern conservation workshops.

► Open 08:30 - 15:00, Mon 13:30-20:00 Admission fee €7, concessions €3.

## Other Museums

**Battleship Averoff Marina Filsvos, Trokadero, tel. 210 9888211, info@bsaverof.com, www.bsaverof.com.** This late 19th century battleship has today been converted into a Naval Museum, showcasing the history of the Greek Navy and honouring the servicemen who died during naval engagements during its time of service, the first half of the twentieth century. ► Open , Mon, Wed, Fri 09:00 - 13:00 & 18:00-20:00, Tue, Thu 09:00 - 13:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 14:00 & 18:00-20:00.

**Benaki Museum H5, Koubari 1 & Vasilissis Sofias, [M]Syntagma, tel. 210 3671000, fax 210 3671063, benaki@benaki.gr, www.benaki.gr.** Housed in a beautiful neoclassical building, this reputable private Museum houses a vast collection of finds from Prehistoric down to early twentieth century Greece. It regularly hosts periodic thematic exhibitions that are generally highly regarded and attract large numbers of visitors. Its permanent collection is vast - indeed, this is simultaneously an Archaeological, Byzantine and Folk Culture Museum - yet also very instructive, thanks to the well-organised exhibition structure. The café-restaurant extends to the roof-terrace and offers uninterrupted views of the Acropolis and Lycabettus Hill. The Museum shop also provides an on-line sales service via the Internet. ► Open 09:00 - 17:00, Thu 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Tue. Admission fee: €6.

**Byzantine and Christian Museum Vasilissis Sofias 22, tel. 210 7232178.** Set in a beautiful building, surrounded by a serene courtyard - a leisurely outdoor stroll is a must - this Museum offers visitors the opportunity to explore the way of life, art, religious practices and customs of the Byzantine and Medieval periods in Greece. It is especially instructive as regards the intricate interconnections underlying the symbolisms of the pagan -ancient- and early Christian periods, revealing lesser-known facets of this transition. The Museum also houses a very important collection of Byzantine and post-Byzantine icons and frescoes. A gift shop is available. ► Open 08:30 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission fee: €4.

**Epigraphical Museum F1, Tositsa 1, [M]Omonia, Victoria, tel. 210 8232950, fax 210 8225733, ema@culture.gr.** This Museum houses the leading collection of ancient Greek inscriptions and it is the largest of its kind in the world. Decrees, tribute lists, records, all have their place in this interesting archival Museum. It is housed in the south wing ground floor of the National Archaeological Museum. It comprises an internal and external courtyard (atrium), a lobby, eleven rooms, a large hypostyle corridor, a gallery, offices and a laboratory for the conservation of inscribed stone monuments. ► Open 08:30 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Free admission.

**Goulandris Museum of Cycladic and Ancient Greek Art Neophytou Douka 4, [M]Syntagma, tel. 210 7228321 - 3, fax 210 7239382, info@cycladic-m.gr, www.cycladic-m.gr/.** This small Museum is housed both in an appealing modern building as well as in a stunningly beautiful neoclassical edifice and includes one of the best and most representative collections of Cycladic art worldwide (from the Cycladic group of islands in the Aegean, third millennium BC), as well as a smaller selection of Bronze Age, Minoan, Mycenaean, Geometric, Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic items, including very well-preserved black-figure pottery. It also regularly hosts interesting periodic exhibitions. Amenities include a children's area, Museum shop and agreeable café-restaurant in the cozy atrium. ► Open 10:00 - 17:00, Thu 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Tue. Admission fee: €5, Saturdays: €2.5, 18-26: €1.

**Herakleidon-Experience in Visual Arts C5, Herakleidon 16, [M]Thissio, tel. 210 3461981, fax 210 3458225, info@herakleidon-art.gr, www.herakleidon-art.gr.** This excellent private Museum is housed in an attractive listed neoclassical building in the busy heart of the trendy Thissio district. It regularly houses periodic visual arts exhibitions focusing on the work of important twentieth century artists, such as M.C. Escher and V. Vasarely. Don't leave without a visit to the giftshop. ► Open 13:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission fee: €6, concessions: €4.

**Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum E7, Karyatidon & Kallisperi, [M]Acropolis, tel. 210 9221044, fax 210 9237358, info@lalaounis-jewelrymuseum.gr, www.lalaounis-jewelrymuseum.gr.** This is a private non-profit foundation devoted to the historical development of the art of jewelry. It is located at the foot of the Acropolis, in a picturesque neoclassical building. Its permanent collection comprises more than 4000 items of jewelry, designed by its founder Ilias Lalaounis (1940-2000). Many items in its collection have been inspired by the art of ancient and Byzantine Greece, Europe, America and Asia, as well as from nature and from scientific discourse. It also provides educational facilities such as a library and jewelry-making workshop, as well as seminars designed for students. ► Open 09:00 - 16:00, Wed 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Tue. Admission fee: €4, concessions: 2,30 €Free admission for members and children under 10Free admission on Wednesdays after 15.00 & Saturday 9.00 - 11.00.

**Islamic Art Museum C4, Ag. Asomaton 22 & Diplou 12, [M]Thissio, tel. 210 3251311, fax 210 3225550, islamic\_collection@benaki.gr, www.benaki.gr.** This recently opened annex of the Benaki Museum, housed in an elegant neoclassical building complex in the historic heart of Athens, near the ancient Kerameikos cemetery, displays a fine collection of Islamic art from the Near East, Middle East, Far East and North Africa, from the 12th to the 19th centuries. It presents the evolution of Islamic art in relation to the historic development of Islamic civilisation. ► Open 09:00 - 15:00, Wed 09:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission fee: €5, concessions: €3.

**Jewish Museum F6, Nikis 39, [M]Syntagma, tel. 210 3225582, fax 210 3231577, info@jewishmuseum.gr, www.jewishmuseum.gr.** This is a historical and ethnographic Museum that aims to preserve, explore and present the material evidence related to the historic Jewish community in Greece. It holds more than 8000 artefacts showcasing the secular and religious history and way of life of Jews in Greece. A giftshop is also available. ► Open 09:00 - 14:30, Sun 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sat. Admission fee: €5, concessions €3.

**Kerameikos Museum B4, Ermou 148, [M]Thissio, tel. 210 3463552.** Displays the important archaeological finds unearthed at the adjacent ancient Kerameikos cemetery, such as funeral urns, funerary monuments ('stelai') and pottery items, aptly illustrating the funerary customs of ancient Athenian society. There are a number of impressive pottery items and funerary monuments in its collection. ► Open 08:00 - 19:00, Mon 11:00 - 19:00. Admission fee: €2, concessions: €1, students, under 19 yrs: free.

[www.culture.gr](http://www.culture.gr)

THE COMPLETE SCULPTURES  
OF  
**EDGAR DEGAS**  
27/11/2009 - 25/04/2010



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Museum

**Herakleidon**  
EXPERIENCE IN VISUAL ARTS

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Metro: Thissio

Tel.: 210 3461981

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Museum hours: Tues.-Sat. 13:00-21:00,

Sun. 11:00-19:00

Monday Closed

## War Museum



**War Museum I5, Rizali 2, M Evangelismos.** Dedicated to the history and practice of warfare, it holds an important collection of war memorabilia from the Mycenaean Period up to present-day Greece, with special focus on the Second World War, the War in Korea and the Cyprus War. The architecture of the building itself is very original, as it is one of the most representative examples of the avant-garde architectural movement in Athens during the 1950s. The historical fighter planes at the entrance are also worth seeing. ▶ Open 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Mon. Free admission.

**Museum of Contemporary Art Fratzi 14 (management), tel. 210 9242111-2, fax 210 9245200, protocol@emst.gr.** (as yet not housed at a permanent address -the building is due for completion by the end of 2009- but exhibitions take place in an array of various establishments as circumstances permit, mainly at the New Wing of the Athens Concert Hall). The Museum of Contemporary Art, since it began operating in 2000 -albeit its as yet nomadic existence- has organised some very successful exhibitions, that have remained true to its mission to showcase the trans-cultural, experimental/exploratory and thought-provoking aspects of contemporary international art.

**Museum of Greek Folk Art F6, Kydathinaion 17, Plaka, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3229031, fax 210 3226979, melt@melt.culture.gr.** From the 17th century to the present, this Museum preserves, records, exhibits and presents the history and evolution of Greek folk art. Among its exhibits are embroidery, weaving, traditional costumes, household items (such as the intricate 'stamps' used for embossing and decorating bread during traditional festivals), shadow-theatre puppets (the famous 'Karaghiozis'), as well as silver, wood and stone carvings. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Mon. Admission fee: €2, concessions: €1.

**Museum of the Ancient Agora D5, Adrianou 24, M Thissio, tel. 210 3210185.** Housed in the renovated 'Stoa of Attalos' (dating to 150BC) within the archaeological site of the Ancient Agora, it is a veritable Museum of the History of Democracy, showcasing items linked with the development of Athenian public and commercial life, civic emancipation and democratic institutions, from antiquity up until the birth of the modern Greek State. There are a number of world-acclaimed ceramic items and statues among its collections, such as the colossal statue of Apollon Patroos (c. 330BC). The models of the Ancient Agora (commercial centre), Acropolis and Pnyx (public meeting area) are very illuminating as regards the city's ancient topography. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:45, Mon 11:00 - 16:45. Admission fee: €4, concessions: €2.

**Museum of the City of Athens / Vouros-Eutaxias Foundation F4, Paparrigopoulou 5-7, M Panepistimio, tel. 210 3231397, fax 210 3220765, http://www.athenscitymuseum.gr/.** This Museum, inaugurated in 1973 by benefactors Lambros Eutaxias and his uncle Alexandros Vouros, is housed in the stately mansion that was the residence of Otto, the first King of Athens and his wife Amalia, from 1837 up to 1843, and its first floor is dedicated to their memory. It seeks to present the modern history of the city of Athens, since it became capital of the nascent Hellenic State in 1834, up to the present day. Among its collections are works of art, items of furniture and household objects, as well as complete reconstructions of typical late 19th - early 20th century living and sitting rooms of the Athenian aristocratic elite. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Tue. Admission fee: €3, Concessions: €2.

**Museum of Traditional Musical Instruments E6, Diogenous 1-3, Plaka, M Acropolis, tel. 210 3254119, fax 210 3250198.** Housed in a simple neoclassical three-storey building in a serene quarter of Plaka, this Museum houses one of the foremost collections of traditional musical instruments in Europe. Exhibits are accompanied by sound recordings, allowing you to experience the sound of each instrument, as well as its musical combination with other instruments. Information is provided on how the instruments are created. There is a large library for dedicated scholars in the adjacent Research Centre for Ethnomusicology. Musical recitals are sometimes held in the garden. A giftshop selling traditional music CDs and musical instruments is also available. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00, Wed 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Free admission.

**National Glyptothek Military Park, Goudi, M Katechaki, tel. 210 7709855.** This recently opened annex of the National Gallery holds its important Sculpture Collection, including works by acclaimed Greek and international artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Interesting temporary exhibitions are frequently organised. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Tue. Admission fee: €6, Concessions: €3.

**National Historical Museum F4, Stadiou 13, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3237617.** Housed in the imposing historical building that was Greece's first House of Parliament, this Museum tells the story of Greece since the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, with special focus on the War of Independence (1821-1829), through to the mid 19th century. The commanding statue of Theodoros Kolokotronis, among the leaders of the Greek War of Independence, proudly greets visitors to the Museum. Among its invaluable exhibits are archival records, photographs, costumes, flags, paintings, religious icons, royal portraits and weapons. A giftshop is available. ▶ Open 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Mon.

**New Benaki Museum A5, Pireos 138, M Kerameikos, tel. 210 3453111, www.benaki.gr.** This recently opened annex to the Benaki Museum is situated in an ex-industrial and underprivileged strip spanning Piraeus Str and extending to the Gazi area, which is fast transforming itself into a veritable hub of experimental and avant-garde artistic activity. Housed in a tasteful building that gracefully combines simplicity and an imposing aspect and provides a most welcome contrast to its rather neglected surroundings, this Museum is well worth a visit if you wish to take in what Athens has to offer as far as modern and contemporary art exhibitions are concerned. As well as its regularly alternating temporary exhibitions, it also periodically hosts alternative drama performances by independent unconventional theatre

companies. The Museum Shop is well worth a visit if you're looking for original and creative -though a tad expensive- gift ideas, while the café-restaurant on the ground floor serves a good selection of dishes and lovely freshly-made salads. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon, Tue.

**Numismatic Museum G4, Panepistimio 12, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3643774, fax 210 3635953, protocol@nm.culture.gr, www.nma.gr.** Its exhibits include more than 600,000 coins spanning a period from antiquity to the early modern era. It is housed in the mansion of Heinrich Schliemann, discoverer of the Mycenaean treasure, which was designed by the famous architect Ernst Chiller during the late 19th century. Its amenities include conservation laboratories, a well-equipped library, a hall that houses temporary exhibitions and a Museum shop. ▶ Open 08:30 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Admission fee: €3, concessions: €2.

**Postal and Philatelic Museum H7, Stadiou Square 5 (Panathenaic Stadium), tel. 210 7519042, fax 210 7519279, postmuseum@elita-net.gr, http://www.postalmuseum.gr/.** Stamp lovers and collectors should not miss a visit to this Museum. Among its star exhibits are the printing plates of the first stamp in Greece, as well as a collection of the first stamps in history to be connected with the Olympic Games (namely, with the 1896 first modern Olympics that were held in Athens, at the adjacent Panathenaic Stadium). Its interesting exhibits narrate the postal and philatelic history of modern Greece. There is a gift shop that sells stamps and other collectors' items. ▶ Open 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Free admission.

**Railway Museum S1okou 4, Sepolia, tel. 210 5246580.** A haven for the railways aficionados, here you can feast your eyes on historic 19th century steam locomotives, historic tram trains, as well as unique exhibits such as the royal car of King George I of Greece, or a wagon (the smoking carriage) that was part of the Sultan train of the Ottoman Empire. Also on display are related railway paraphernalia, such as tickets, instruments and mechanics' tools, as well as models and historic photographic archives. Bus 024 from Syntagma sq (Praktoreia stop) ▶ Open 9:00 - 13:00, Wed 9:00 - 13:00 & 17:00-20:00. Closed Mon. Free admission.

**Spyros Vassiliou Museum D7, Webster 5, M Acropolis, tel. 210 9231502, fax 210 922 0193, atelier@spyrovassiliou.org, www.spyrovassiliou.org.** A small museum near the Acropolis dedicated to the life and work of Greek artist Spyros Vassiliou. Paintings, woodcuts, posters and illustrations for book covers and records are among the works on display. ▶ Open , Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 16:00, Wed 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon.

**The National Gallery J5, Michalakopoulou 1, M Evangelismos, tel. 210 7235857, fax 210 7224889, www.nationalgallery.gr.** Housing a collection of Greek art from the sixteenth century to the present, mainly spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it includes some works by Dominicos Theotocopoulos (El Greco), as well as works by seminal Greek artists such as Th heophilos, Nikiforos Lytras, Nikolaos Gyzis, Georgios Iakovidis, Nikolaos Kounelakis, Nikolaos Chatzikyriakos-Ghikas, Yiannis Tsarouchis, Yiannis Moralis, Nikos Eggonopoulos and Alekos Fassianos. The Gallery frequently organises interesting temporary exhibitions. It also houses conservation laboratories and a library, while plans for its expansion are underway, with no concrete timeframe announced as yet. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00, Sun 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Tue. Admission fee: €6.5, concessions: €3.

## Sundays in Athens



Unlike some European capitals where Sundays don't differ much from any other week day, in Athens all shops are closed and a shopaholic visitor can get very easily depressed. Here are some things you can do in the capital only on a Sunday, just to help you get over the closed shops blues.

**Sunday church.** Attending a **Greek Orthodox church** service can be an interesting experience whether you're religious or not. The Sunday morning service (between 07:00 and 09:30) is the one most Greek churchgoers attend all over the country, although fewer and fewer young people are seen in church. The best place to visit in the city centre is, of course, Athens Cathedral (modest compared to magnificent cathedrals you may have seen elsewhere) on Mitropoleos Street, where you are likely to mingle with local dignitaries, politicians, etc. The little old church of Kapnikarea (see pg 62) on Ermou street is a more intimate and atmospheric alternative, although it can get crammed.

**Changing of the guard.** The guards (Evzones) at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** in front of the Greek Parliament change on the hour every day and night and this is a top tourist attraction. Every Sunday morning though, just after 10:30 the visitor can watch the full official ceremony when the whole Presidential Guard march from their barracks to the tomb followed by a military band. The uniform of the elite soldiers originates in the war of independence from the Ottomans and the kilts have 400 pleats, as many as the years of the occupation.

**Monastiraki flea market.** Once you're done with the Evzones, you can cross Syntagma square and walk down the deserted commercial Ermou street to get to Monastiraki where the **flea market** is at full swing every Sunday morning. Avisinias square is where you'll find most shops selling antiques mixed with junk and you can spend a few hours watching people digging under the piles of used objects of all kinds. If you decide to buy something, remember that prices are negotiable, especially those quoted to foreigners. A self styled market with old stamps, coins and banknotes takes place every Sunday at the end of Adrianou street just outside Thissio metro station where you can buy a set of old drachma coins, but again, be cautious with the prices.



## Historic Buildings

**Arsakeion Megaron F3, Panepistimiou 47, [M]Panepistimio.** Built by renowned 19th century architect Lysandros Kafantzoglou, this imposing building is among the finest examples of modern Athenian architecture and hosts the Council of State High Court. Adjacent to the Arsakeion is the pleasant Books' Arcade, an ideal book-lovers' haunt and anyone avid for a shelter during a rainy day.

**Athens City Hall Kotzia Square, [M]Omonia.**

An impressive neoclassical building situated in a breathtaking cobblestone square, bristling with pleasant cafés and busy shopping centres (the picturesque Central Athens open-air meat market is right down the street). The square also functions as an open-air antiquities Museum and is surrounded by beautiful neoclassical buildings from the turn of the century (such as the National Bank or 'Karatzá Megaron'). The City Hall also houses a valuable art collection.



**Athens Metropolitan Cathedral Mitropoleos Sq, [M]Monastiraki, Syntagma.**

Completed in 1862 after 20 years of construction (the first stone was laid by King Otto and Queen Amalia), this large three-aisled domed basilica was consecrated to the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. Inside are the tombs of two Orthodox saints. In its pleasant courtyard there are the statues of the last Byzantine Emperor (Saint Constantine XI 'the Martyr') and a former Archbishop of Athens. It is currently undergoing restoration, so large parts are not visible under the scaffolding.

**Athens Stock Exchange Sofokleous 10, [M]Omonia.**

Built in 1934 to host the nomadic stock market of those days, it is an imposing neoclassical building that is well worth a detour from Kotzia Square. There is no activity in the building these days as trading went electronic a few years ago and the management moved to a new building in 2007. Don't miss the innovative glass display on the ground, which exhibits a section of the Ancient Athenian wall.



**Bank Of Greece F4, Panepistimiou 21, [M]Panepistimio, www.bankofgreece.gr.**

The headquarters of the Central Bank of Greece. The building was designed by architects K. Papadakis and N. Zoumpoulidis and its foundations were laid in 1933. The official

inauguration took place in 1938, under Governor Emmanouil Tsouderos.

**House of Parliament (Vouli) G5, Syntagma Square, [M]Syntagma, tel. 210 3707000, fax 210 3692170, info@parliament.gr, www.parliament.gr.**

Overlooking Syntagma Square, it was originally the Royal Palace of King Otto and Queen Amalia, the first monarchs of Greece. Designed in the neoclassical style by Friedrich von Gartner, the palace was completed in 1843. It was used as the Royal Residence until 1924 and, since 1934, has housed the Greek

Parliament. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument in honour of the servicemen who fell in the struggle for Greek Independence, is located in the forecourt of the building. The Tomb is guarded by the Presidential Guard ('Evzones') in traditional dress, whose intricately orchestrated changing of the guard at the turn of the hour attracts many visitors, who also take the opportunity to feed the ubiquitous flocks of pigeons. ▶ Open, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. Free admission.



**Church of Aghioi Theodoroi F4, Aristeidou & Euripidou St, [M]Panepistimio.** Yet another structure built over the ruins of a much earlier temple. This was common practice during Byzantine ages, in an attempt to wipe out idolatry. And what less costly method than appropriating the very materials the ancient building was made of, for "holy purposes"! According to the inscription found on the west wall, this church dates back to 1065 AD. The last known restoration was in 1840, following damages it incurred during the Greek War of Independence. This is a cross-in-square construction, with 3 apses on the east side. As is the case with most churches in Greece, the bell tower was added later. As for the imposing wall paintings, they date to the 19th century.



**Church of Panaghia Kapnikarea E5, Ermou & Kapnikarea St, [M]Syntagma, Monastiraki.**

Built as usual on the ruins of an ancient temple, which was dedicated to goddess Athena or Demeter, this minuscule church is commonly known as Kapnikarea. It is usually surrounded by hundreds of people, either waiting for someone or having their portrait drawn and even having a breather in between shopping. In a poll, it would probably be voted the best loved church in Athens. As for its background, it was erected around 1050AD, but the small porch with the two columns was built closer to the end of the 12th century. It is cross-in-square shaped, with three apses on the east side and a narthex on the west. A chapel, dedicated to Aghia Varvara, was later added to the north side. As for the interior, which is open to the public, there are paintings signed in 1955 by Greek artist Photis Kontoglou.

**National Library - Athens Academy - Athens University F4, Panepistimiou 28-32, [M]Panepistimio.**

These striking neoclassical buildings were built by the Hansen brothers of Copenhagen. The National Library is reached via an impressive sculpted marble staircase, while the Athens Academy is flanked by imposing statues of Apollo and Athena on either side, while the impressive frescoes at its entrance depict the myth of Prometheus.



**National Polytechnic University F1, Patision (28th October) 46, [M]Omonia.** This building, although in an unfortunate state of disrepair due to persistent student sit-ins, is worth visiting because of its connection with the historic student uprisings against the military dictatorship, which were violently put down on 17 November, 1973. There is a monument in honour of the Polytechnic students killed in the Greek Resistance during World War Two, situated in the forecourt of the University, on which students and politicians lay wreaths on the anniversary of the uprising, in order to commemorate the event.

**National Theatre D2, Ag. Konstantinou 22, [M]Omonia.** Housed in an impressive neoclassical building, with a grand colonnaded façade and beautiful interior, it is the foremost establishment of the National Theatre of Greece.



**Observatory C6, Hill of the Nymphs, [M]Thessio.**

This historic Observatory, the first of its kind in Greece and the Balkans, was designed by renowned architect Theophile Hansen and was inaugurated in 1842. It has a unique cross-shaped structure, that points to the four points of the horizon, while its resplendent golden dome can be seen gleaming in the Athens sky from quite a distance.

**Old House of Parliament F4, Stadiou 13, [M]Syntagma.**

It was the first residence of King Otto, while he awaited completion of the Royal Palace (now House of Parliament) and subsequently housed the Greek Parliament between 1843-1854 and 1875 - 1932. In front of the building there stands an imposing equestrian bronze statue of General Theodoros Kolokotronis, among the leaders of the Greek War of Independence. Today, this stately neoclassical building houses the National Historical Museum (see museums).



**Presidential Palace and Megaron Maximou H6, Irodotou Attikou Street, [M]Syntagma.**

The imposing Presidential Palace, which was formerly a Royal Residence, now hosts the Republic's Presidency and is guarded by 'evzones' (Presidential Guards in traditional costume). It was designed by

renowned architect Ernst Ziller in the 1870s. Nearby is the attractive neoclassical Megaron Maximou, which functions as the Prime Minister's office. Admission by invitation only.

**Turkish Baths E6, Kyristou 8, Plaka, [M]Syntagma.** This is among one of the very few surviving remnants of the Ottoman period in Greece and the sole surviving traditional bathhouse in Athens. This interesting 17th century bathhouse is open to visitors. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:30. Closed Mon.



**Tzisdarakis Mosque E5, Monastiraki Square, [M]Monastiraki.** Overlooking Monastiraki Square, this was a historic Ottoman mosque constructed during the governorship of the 'voivode' Tzisdarakis in Athens, in 1759. It now houses the Museum of Greek Ceramic

Art, while its Minaret has been removed.

**Zappeion G6, Amalias & Vas Olgas, [M]Syntagma.**

Built in 1874-1878 by architect von Hansen, on the order of Greek-Romanian national benefactors and cousins Zappas, this lofty neoclassical structure originally housed an exhibition hall. Surrounded by beautiful gardens, that include a pleasant coffee-shop and restaurant, as well as an array of interesting sculptures, it is now used for international conferences, commercial events, as well as for European heads of State meetings.



## Cemeteries

**Commonwealth war cemetery Poseidonos Av, Ailimos.**

2,028 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War are buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 596 of the burials are unidentified and there are also 74 men of the army of undivided India who died during the campaigns in Greece and Crete during the Second World War. In the north-east corner of the cemetery, a plot contains the graves of servicemen and civilians who after serving in the Crimean War, died in Greece. A Memorial within Phaleron War Cemetery commemorates nearly 3,000 members of the land forces of the Commonwealth who lost their lives during the campaigns in Greece and Crete in 1941 and 1944-1945, in the Dodecanese Islands in 1943-1945 and in Yugoslavia in 1943-1945, and who have no known grave. Tram stop: Pikrodafni



**First cemetery of Athens G8, Anapafseos and Trivonianou, Mets, [M]Acropolis.**

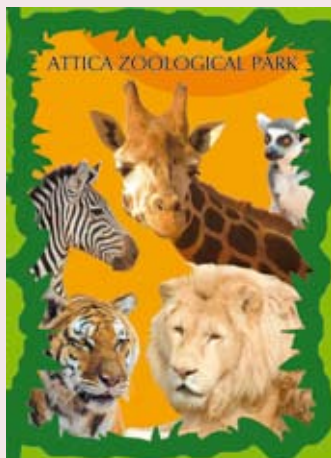
Most famous Greeks are buried here. It is a museum in its own right with every kind of monument and ornamental patterns, marble sculptures, columns, sarcophagi and neoclassical temples, conveying the memorial art that flourished during the 19th century along the rebirth of the new Greek state. (It was founded around 1837, when Athens was also established as the capital city of the modern Greek state (1834). It spreads on the slope of the Arditos hill, close to the Panathinaiko Stadium.

## Children's Athens

**Allou Fun Park Kifissou & Petrou Ralli Junction, Rentis, tel. 210 4256990, www.allou.gr.** Entertainment Park covering about 40,000 square meters. The Park includes an extensive array of amusement rides, an 'Adrenaline Zone', the 'Shock Tower': a 40m free fall experience and the largest observation wheel in Greece. 'Kidom' is the adjacent fairytale park designed for younger children, complete with a pirate ship, carousel, trampolines, and climbing towers. Bus no: B18 and trolleybus 21 from Omonia. A taxi will cost €6-8 from the centre of Athens.

► Open 17:00 - 01:00, Fri 17:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 01:00. Admission: Free (A fee is charged for using the rides & games). Kidom is open until 00:00 daily

**Attica Zoological Park Yalou, Spata, tel. 210 6634724, fax 210 6634726, zoo@atticapark.gr, www.atticapark.gr.** Although it cannot be said that this is among the world's greatest zoos, you and your children will definitely enjoy a few hours of fun away from the city centre. You'll have the opportunity to see more than two hundred species of birds, many reptiles, Greek fauna species like: wolves, bears, foxes and wild cats, a number of African mammals like giraffes, zebras, antelopes and some rare animals like snow leopards and white lions. Visitors can walk into the monkeys' enclosure and also walk through a special tunnel and get very close to the four cheetahs of the park. To get there take the 319 bus from Doukissis Plakentias metro station. ► Open 09:00 - sunset. Admission fee: €14, Children, Seniors: €10.



**Copa Copana 12th km Athinon Ave. Haidari, tel. 210 5576006, fax 210 5576007, info@copacopanapark.com, www.copacopanapark.com.** Copa Copana is a huge winter entertainment park complete with ice skating facilities, ski and snowboard slopes and many winter themed games. The Magic Town, is a big children playground where your little treasures will spend hours of playing. There is a café and a Mediterranean restaurant to keep the grown-ups occupied too. Bus No: A16, B16, E16, 865 from Koumoundourou sq, Bus stop: Afaia-Haidari. Taxi costs about €10. ► Open 10:00 - 02:00.

**Foundation of the Hellenic World Pireos 254, M Kallithea, tel. 212 2540000, fax 212 2540123, hellenic\_cosmos@lme.gr, www.hellenic-cosmos.gr.** This Centre, situated in a former industrial complex and spanning a total area of approximately 60,000 sq.m., is not a Museum in the conventional sense of the term. It does host exhibitions aiming at showcasing the development of the arts, sciences and every aspect of society throughout the Hellenic world (the current exhibition is entitled 'A Journey to the World of Greek mathematics'). Yet, its exhibits are not the usual original artefacts, but contemporary reconstructions of an interactive character, including state-of-the-art technological applications.

The Foundation also hosts the 'Tholos', a dome-shaped virtual-reality theatre, currently showing an interactive tour of the Ancient Athenian Agora. The Foundation also includes a conventional theatre, a café, internet-access area and gift-shop. Highly recommended if you are looking for a high-tech educational experience for the whole family and want to rediscover the little explorer in you. (Bus line 049 Omonia-Piraeus, Bus-stop: Viochalko) ► Open 09:00 - 16:00, Wed 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat. Admission fee: €4-6, Tholos: €10.

**Hellenic Children's Museum Kidathineon 14, Plaka, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3312995, fax 210 3312996, info@hcm.gr, www.hcm.gr.** This is a small haven for children aged up to 12 years old, with multifaceted thematic exhibits specially designed to cater to children's imagination and stimulate their intellectual, creative and inquisitive faculties. It covers an area of more than 520 sq. m. in a historic three-storey neoclassical building, including an attic and garden. ► Open, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 14:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon. Free entrance.

**Natural History (Goulandris) Museum Levidou 13 / Othonos 100 (Gaea Centre), M Kifisia, tel. 210 8015870, fax 210 8080674, info@gnhm.gr, www.gnhm.gr.** This Museum houses an extensive collection of zoological, botanical, entomological, geological and palaeontological exhibits, with the aim of shedding light on the evolution of the Earth and living systems, as well as raising public awareness regarding the urgent need to safeguard the environment. The Gaea Centre is a modern exhibition area with interactive displays and audiovisual performances that tackle and invite the reader to address topical environmental issues. Amenities include special educational programmes for children, a café-restaurant, gift-shop, as well as a parking area. ► Open 09:00 - 14:30, Sun 10:00 - 14:30. Closed: Until Aug 20 Admission fee: €5 (€7 combined ticket for Gaea Centre), concessions: €3 (€4).

**Planetarium-Eugenides Foundation Syngrou 387, Palio Fallo, tel. 210 9469641, public@eugenfound.edu.gr, www.eugenfound.edu.gr.** Fancy a journey to the stars? If you're not a millionaire or an astronaut but just curious what Neptune looks like this time of year, drop by the Eugenides Foundation. This is home to the largest and, by general acclaim, most advanced digital 3-D 360 degrees Planetarium in the world, built in 2003 and designed to seat 280 people at a time. Large format films and planetarium shows are projected on a 25-metre diameter dome. Thanks to the latest digital technology you can scuba dive in the great barrier reef, get up close and personal with a Hawaiian volcano crater and follow Neil Armstrong's footsteps on the surface of the moon. Buses: 126, A2, B2 from Akadimias & Omirou St ► Open 19:30 - 20:30, Sat, Sun 10:30 - 20:30. Closed Mon, Tue. Planetarium Digital Shows: €6, IWERKS Shows: €8.

## Olympic Sports Complexes



## O.A.K.A. (Athens Olympic Sports Complex)

Easily accessible by taking the metro and getting off at Eirini station. The 2004 Olympic Sports Complex was inaugurated in 1982 on the site of the ancient 'demesne' (district) of Athmonon. About 250 years ago, Athens was divided into ten districts, each one run by a different tribe. In fact, excavations have brought to light very important findings and the history of this area could fill more than one book. Greeks believed that the Olympic Games would firmly place OAKA on the sightseeing map. Unfortunately, tourists tend to visit the central archaeological sites and the sea instead. Roman water reservoirs, aqueducts, ancient baths and terracotta water pipes were dug up here. The whole complex was re-designed in view of the 2004 Athens Olympics and the rather expensive but nonetheless, awe-inspiring, Santiago Calatrava roof ushered in a new era in its long history. The Complex consists of five different venues, namely the Olympic Indoor Hall (basketball, volleyball, gymnastics), the Athens Olympic Aquatic Centre (swimming, synchronized swimming, water polo, diving), the Athens Olympic Tennis Centre (which now also houses the Athens Tennis Academy), the Athens Olympic Velodrome and the impressively designed Olympic Stadium (athletics, football). Currently, it is home to AEK and Panathinaikos Football Clubs, meaning that you can always watch a football match and experience the thrilling vibe of a stadium crammed with spectators.

## Faliro Bay Complex

Take a stroll alongside the redeveloped urban coastline. Located 6km from the city centre, begin your tour by making your way down the scenic palm tree-lined seaside esplanade. There is a walking path, constructed along Poseidonos Avenue, to help improve access from the parking area. Athletics track and sports facilities are available for the dedicated athletes among you. Moreover, in the near future the Complex will also cater to art-lovers and the environmentally-conscious, as plans have been unveiled to create a metropolitan ecological park, modern arts and cultural centre, as well as the new National Library and National Opera within its grounds. When works are complete, Athenians will acquire a 35 km cycling route as well. Until that day arrives, you can visit the marina, enjoy a coffee or drink at one of its numerous stylish bars and wish one of the whopping yachts anchored there was yours.

# Unique books from Ireland

(and 21 other prizes)

Complete our latest readership survey at [inyourpocket.com/survey](http://inyourpocket.com/survey) and we'll enter you in our prize draw: the winner gets something priceless and unique from every country currently In Your Pocket.



[inyourpocket.com/survey](http://inyourpocket.com/survey)

**inyourpocket**  
ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES



## Taxis



The Greek government, (obviously taking into account the world-class services that Greek taxis offer), recently announced its plans to gradually raise the rates charged per km until they double by May 2010 (€0.36 per km going up to €0.72). Another Greek myth - that of cheap taxis - is finally busted. There has been no talk about opening up the profession and no talk about licencing new taxi companies to offer high quality taxi services to the public. No talk, either, about some taxi drivers - usually operating at airports - who try to earn a day's (or even a week's) wages from foreign visitors.

If you have to use a taxi, always ask for the meter to be on, and never accept a fixed price if you pick up a taxi in the street. The current starting price is at €1.05 and then there is a fixed rate of €0.60 per km for the single, day-time tariff (05.00-24.00), and €1.05 per km for the double, night-time tariff. The minimum charge for every ride is €2.80. There is an additional charge of €3.40 when you travel from and to Athens Airport and €0.95 from and to harbours, train and bus stations. You can call a radio taxi by paying an extra €1.70 for immediate pick up (which can take some time during rush hours) or €3 - 5 for an appointment. Please note that the following radio-taxi companies only handle the calls and do not own the taxis. They are not therefore responsible for the conduct of the drivers.

**If you feel that you are about to be ripped off, refuse to pay and demand to be taken to the nearest police station. This has worked wonders in the past and tourists have seen the price asked dropping dramatically in seconds!**

## Radio Taxi Companies

**Apollon tel. 210 3636508**  
**Asteras tel. 210 6144000**  
**Ellas tel. 210 6457000**  
**Enotita tel. 210 6459000**  
**Evropi tel. 210 5028574**  
**Hermes tel. 210 4115200**  
**Icaros tel. 210 5152800**  
**Kosmos tel. 18 300**  
**Protoporia tel. 210 2130400**

\*We have received (aggressive and impolite) comments from the Taxi Drivers' Union about our warnings to foreign visitors. Our answer is that we will happily withdraw such warnings as soon as the flow of readers' complaints about the conduct of some taxi drivers dries up.

## Public transport

A universal type of ticket is used, at a cost of €1 and it is usable for **90 minutes** after its validation on all means of transport. **24h tickets** cost €3 and **7day tickets** cost €10. (see pg 66 for the new 3 day 'Tourist ticket')

There are also monthly and yearly unlimited travel cards at various costs. For info call 185 or ask at any public transport ticket kiosk or metro station. Fines for fare-dodgers are **60 times** the price of the ticket.

## Buses and Trolleybuses tel. 185, www.oasa.gr.

They operate between 05:00-24:00 and their network is convenient. The recent inauguration of bus lanes means that they are relatively fast though sometimes unpunctual. If you're within the town centre you should be fine, as you'll find there'll be more than one bus line serving your route. Make sure you purchase your ticket from a kiosk ('periptero') beforehand and that you validate it once on board.



## Metro tel. 210 6792399, www.ametro.gr.

This is definitely the most convenient means to getting around Athens. It operates between 05:00-24:00 from impeccable stations (some, such as Acropolis and Syntagma, also doubling as site museums) playing soothing classical music and featuring

glittering white marble and interesting works of art. The metro has good links to the pre-existing over ground rail network, connecting the harbour of Piraeus with the northern suburb of Kifisia, the stations of which have been recently upgraded. At long last, the operating hours have been extended to 02:00 am every Friday and Saturday and Athenians just love it.

## Tram www.tram-sa.gr.

For the leisurely traveler who wishes to get around in style (the tram cars were designed by Ferrari designer Sergio Pininfarina, no less) and in a less crowded, albeit slower fashion, the tram is the way. It is brand new and more comfortable and spacious than the buses and trolleybuses. Plus, you get the chance to view the wonderful seaside esplanade of Athens' southern coastal suburbs by boarding the tram towards Voula. Operating hours are 05:00-24:00.



## Courier Services

**ACS** 210 8190000 **DHL** tel. 210 9890000  
**TNT** tel. 801 11868868 **UPS** tel. 210 9984000



Public telephone boxes

AIYP

## 24 hrs kiosks



Run out of cigarettes, feel like reading a newspaper, craving for a chocolate, need a condom, or worst of all, someone stole your In Your Pocket guide at 5 in the morning? No worries, here is where you'll find 24-hour kiosks:

Kolonaki Sq. H5  
 Syntagma Sq. G5  
 Kanigios Sq. F2

Mavili Sq. K4  
 Omonia Sq. E3  
 Ag Assomaton Sq. C5

## Car rental

**Avis** Tel. 210 6879600, fax 210 6879610, reservations@avis.gr, www.avis.gr



**Budget** Tel. 800 11 800 12, 210 8981444, reservations@budget-athens.gr, www.budget-athens.gr.

**Europcar** Tel. 210 2882151, fax 210 2882050, info@batek-europcar.gr, www.europcar.com.gr

**Hertz** Tel. 210 6264000, fax 210 6264409, www.hertz.gr

**National** Tel. 210 3493428, fax 210 3493417, reservations@nationalcar.gr, www.nationalcar.gr

## Free Internet

**athenswifi:** Grab your laptop, head to Syntagma Square, Kotzia Square, or Thissio (from the metro station up along the pedestrian path), find somewhere comfortable to sit and log on: Internet access is free!

## Post Offices



If you are the old-fashioned type and a snail-mail lover, here is a list of centrally located post offices.

The stamp to post a 20gr letter or postcard abroad costs €0.70. Add to that €3.20 for registered and €2.90 for express mail.

**Acropolis post kiosk D6, Acropolis rock, M Akropolis, tel. 210 3217650.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 14:00, Sun 09:00 - 13:30.

**Aiolou - Central PO E3, Aiolou 100, M Omonia, tel. 210 3216024.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 20:00, Sat 07:30 - 14:00, Closed Sun.

**Exarchia G1, Zaimi 36-38, M Victoria, tel. 210 8219570.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Kolonaki 15, Ploutarchou & Karneadou 35, M Evangelismos, tel. 210 7244404.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Makrigrani F7, Dionisiou Areopagitou 7, M Akropolis, tel. 210 9218076.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Metaxourgio C3, Thermopylon 42, M Metaxourgio, tel. 210 5225277.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Mitropoleos E5, Mitropoleos 60, M Monastiraki, tel. 210 3218143.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 20:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Omonia E2, 3rd Septemvriou 28, M Omonia, tel. 210 5233636.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Plaka F6, Nikis 33, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3235831.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Syntagma Square F5, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3237573.** ▶ Open 07:30 - 20:00, Sat 07:30 - 14:00, Sun 09:00 - 13:30.

## Luggage lockers

Luggage lockers can be found at **Omonia, Monastiraki** and **Piraeus** old (green) line metro stations.

## Transport tickets maths

A new **'Tourist ticket'** has been introduced for visitors coming to Athens only for a few days. The cost of the ticket is €15 and it can be used on all means of transport including unlimited journeys to and from the **airport** for three days.

However, given the existence of a **weekly ticket** costing €10 (excluding the airport lines), going for the new ticket only makes sense for those who only want to travel to and from the airport on metro or suburban railway (€6 each way - €10 return).

If you want to use the bus to and from the airport (€3.20 each way) you're probably better off buying the weekly ticket and pay for the airport bus separately. This will cost you just €1.40 more but you'll get a week's worth of transport rather than just three days.

The three-day ticket is also valid on the neglected and depressing **sightseeing bus** 400 (€5) if you go for it chances are that you'll be alone on the bus.

## Aircraft/helicopter rentals

**ABI (air business international) Vouliagmenis 602A, Glyfada, tel. 210 9967870, fax 210 9967872, info@abi.gr, karafil@abi.gr.** Buy, sell, lease or hire helicopters and aircrafts.

**Airlift Herodou Attikou 12A, Marousi, M Marousi, tel. 210 8093771/210 8093777, airlift@airlift.gr, www.airlift.gr.** Helicopter rental for sightseeing or transport in style.

## Airlines

**Aegean Viltanioti 31, Kifisia, tel. 210 6261000/Airport: 210 3530101.**

**Aeroflot Xenofontos 14, tel. 210 3220986/Airport: 210 3531101.**

**Aerosvit Syngrou 36-38, tel. 210 9210710/Airport: 210 3534020.**

**Air France Megalou Alexandrou 7, Argyroupoli, tel. 210 9970700/Airport: 210 3530380.**

**Air China Filellinon 24, tel. 210 3716386/Airport: 210 3534245.**

**Albanian Panepistimiou 15, tel. 210 3227466/Airport: 210 3530376.**

**Alitalia Vouliagmenis 577, tel. 210 9988888/Airport: 210 3534284.**

**Austrian Vouliagmenis 18, Glyfada, tel. 210 9601240/Airport: 210 3533425.**

**British Airways Themistokleous 1, Glyfada, tel. 210 801 1156000/Airport: 210 3531170.**

**Bulgaria Air Nikis 33, tel. 210 3228113/Airport: 210 3531156.**

**Continental Airlines Filellinon 25, tel. 00800 44143592/Airport: 210 3530678.**

**Cyprus Athens International Airport, tel. 210 3534100/Airport: 210 3534312.**

**Czech Airlines Kyprou 151, Argyroupoli, tel. 210 9652957/Airport: 210 3531252.**

**Delta Athens International Airport, tel. 00800 44129506/Airport: 210 3530116.**

**Emirates Syngrou 128, tel. 210 9333400/Airport: 210 3531174.**

**Gulf Air Nikis 33, tel. 210 3220851/Airport: 210 3531566.**

**Iberia Athens International Airport, tel. 210 3537600.**

**Jat Airways Amerikis 10, tel. 210 3622054/210 3634572.**

**KLM Megalou Alexandrou 7, Argyroupoli, tel. 210 9110000/Airport: 210 3533436.**

**LOT Panepistimiou 15, tel. 210 3237762/Airport: 210 3530376.**

**Lufthansa Sorou 18-20, Marousi, tel. 210 6175200.**

**Malev Panepistimiou 15, tel. 210 3241116/Airport: 210 3530376.**

**Olympic Syngrou 96, tel. 801 801 0101/Airport: 210 3550500.**

**Qatar Airways Syngrou 170, tel. 210 9508700/Airport: 210 3534011.**

**SAS Vouliagmenis 85, Glyfada/Airport: 210 3530373.**

**Singapore Airlines Kallirois 103, tel. 210 3728000/Airport: 210 3531259.**

**Swiss Sorou 18-20, Marousi, tel. 210 6175320/Airport: 210 3530382.**

**Thai El. Venizelou 32, Glyfada, tel. 210 9692020/210 3531237.**

**Turkish Athens International Airport, tel. 210 3537280/Airport: 210 3530401.**

## Ferry Schedule

From Piraeus to:	Days	Dep.
Siros-Tinos-Mykonos / HS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7:25
Siros-Tinos-Mykonos / HS	--- 4 5 6 7	17:15
Paros-Naxos-Santorini/BS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7:25
Siros-Tinos-Mykonos /BS	1 2 - 4 5 6 7	7:35
Kithnos-Serifos-Sifnos-Milos-Kimolos/GA	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7:25
Paros-Naxos/HS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7:30
Ios-Santorini/HS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7:15
Santorini-Rethymno	- 2 - - - 6 -	15:45
Paros-Naxos/HS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:30
Siros-Tinos-Mykonos /HS	1 2 - 4 5 6 7	17:15
Paros-Naxos-Iraklia-Shinoussa-Koufonisi-Amorgos-BS	- - 3 - 5 - 7	17:30
Paros-Naxos-Amorgos-Astipalea/BS	1 - - - - - -	17:30
Syros-Paros-Naxos-Donousa-Amorgos-Astipalea/BS	- 2 - 4 - 6 -	17:30
Siros-Ikaria-Samos-HS	1 2 3 4 - - -	13:00
Siros-Ikaria-Samos-HS	- - - - 5 - -	16:00
Paros-Naxos-Kalimmos-Kos-Nisiros-Tilos-Rodos/BS	1 - 3 - - - -	15:00
Chios-Mytilini/NEL	1 2 3 4 5 - 7	19:00
Siros-Kos-Rodos/BS	1 - - 4 - - -	19:00
Serifos-Sifnos-Milos/HS	1 2 - 4 5 6 7	18:00
Kalimmos-Kos-Rodos/BS	- 2 - 4 - - -	18:00
Syros-Patmos-Leros-Kos-Rodos/BS	- - 3 - - - -	19:00
Heraklio/ANEK	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:30
Heraklio/ML	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	21:00
Chania/Anek	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	21:00
Paros/BS	- - - - 5 - 7	21:00
Paros-Naxos-Ios-Sikinos-Folegandros-Santorini-Anafi/GA	- - - - - 6 -	15:00
Kithnos-Serifos-Sifnos-Kimolos-Milos-Folegandros-Sikinos-Ios-Santorini-Anafi	- 2 - 4 - - -	15:00
Patmos-Leros-Kos-Rodos/BS	- - - - - 6 -	23:55

## Ferry companies

**ANEK LINES Akti Kondyli 22, Piraeus, tel. Domestic:210 4197420/International:210 4197430, booking@anek.gr, www.anek.gr.** Ferry connections between Piraeus - Crete and Greece - Italy

**Blue Star Ferries Amalias 30, tel. 210 8919800, bluestarferries@bluestarferries.com, www.bluestarferries.com.** Ferry connections from Piraeus to Cyclades and Dodekanese

**Hellenic Seaways, tel. 210 4199000, www.hellenicseaways.gr.** High speed ferry connections to the Saronic islands and Cyclades

**Minoan Lines 25th August St. 17, Heraklion, Crete, tel. 210 4145700, info@minoan.gr, www.minoan.gr.** Ferry connections between Piraeus - Crete and Greece - Italy

**NEL Lines Astigos 2, Piraeus, tel. 210 4115015, sales@nel.gr, www.nel.gr.** Connections to Lesbos, Chios and the Cyclades

**Superfast Ferries Karamanli 157, Voula, tel. 210 8919509, www.superfast.com.** Blue Star's international sister company connects Greece and Italy and also Scotland and Belgium



OSE train in northern Greece

VK

## Trains

The Greek rail network is one of the smallest in Europe. In fact, there is one main line to the north of the country and another to the Peloponnese. The mountainous landscape of the country does not allow for an extensive network but the truth is that the railway never featured among Greek governments' top priorities. Only over the last twenty years, there has been an effort to modernise and upgrade the standards of the rail services and as a result the travel time between Athens and Thessaloniki is now less than five hours. However, for the rail journey lovers, Greek railways are not short of scenic routes, some of them otherwise inaccessible. Every train departs Athens from Lariss station (Metro: Stathmos Larisis)

**OSE Sina 6 (Central tickets office), tel. 1110, www.ose.gr.** The Greek railways state monopoly. There is no online booking but you can call 1110, buy the tickets and they'll courier them to you at a small surcharge.

## Train schedule

From Athens	Dep.	Arr.	City	To Athens	Dep.	Arr.
6:50-ic	12:21	THESSALONIKI	1:51-ic	6:45		
7:54-icex	12:09	THESSALONIKI	7:24-icex	11:39		
9:21	15:03	THESSALONIKI	7:35	14:06		
10:51-ic	15:50	THESSALONIKI	10:13-ic	15:20		
13:21-ic	18:31	THESSALONIKI	11:40-ic	16:42		
14:53	20:55	THESSALONIKI	12:43	18:18		
16:51	23:44	THESSALONIKI	14:54-ic	19:49		
19:29-ic	23:44	THESSALONIKI	16:29	22:46		
20:39-ic	02:01	THESSALONIKI	19:01-ic	23:16		
22:55-sl	06:26	THESSALONIKI	23:03-sl	5:46		
23:59-sl	07:18	THESSALONIKI	23:39-sl	6:12		
6:50-ic	17:16	ALEXANDROUPOLIS	0:51	14:06		
16:51	5:50	ALEXANDROUPOLIS	6:42-ic	16:42		
20:39-ic	6:58	ALEXANDROUPOLIS	15:22	5:46		
23:59-sl	13:18	ALEXANDROUPOLIS	20:32-ic	6:45		
22:55	12:40	SOFIA	17:00	6:12		
From THESSALONIKI				To THESSALONIKI		
Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.		
16:15-sl	5:06	BELGRADE	22:20-sl	13:07		
19:58-sl	7:45	ISTANBUL	20:30-sl	8:17		
6:26	12:40	SOFIA	6:55	13:00		
17:48	23:55	SOFIA	17:00	23:39		



## Spending guide

Here you are in Athens, this sprawling, chaotic, enticing city, with its rough-hewn lively urban character, wondering where to head off shopping. Let us give you a few insiders' tips...

First of all, and take our word for it, you'll need to keep shop opening hours in mind. Although opening hours are officially unregulated from Monday to Saturday (on Sundays all shops except pastry shops, wine and spirits shops, flower shops and emergency pharmacies, are closed), you'll find that most businesses (with the exception of large department stores) adhere to the following opening hours:

Mon, Wed, Sat: 09:00-15:00.

Tue, Thu, Fri: 09:00-14:30 & 17:00-20:30.

All shops close on National Holidays. Souvenir shops and convenience stores operating around tourist sites are generally open longer hours, usually 09:00-23:00 every day. Now that we've sorted when to shop, time to tackle the next question: **where to shop.**

A visit to the charming **Plaka** district, apart from some rather kitsch souvenir shops, will also reward you with great traditional arts and crafts shops that are well worth a visit (we give you some ideas in our listings section). On the other hand, if it's a more all-encompassing shopping experience you're after, a good bet is to head to **Ermou Street** (starting from Syntagma Square and culminating in Monastiraki). This is a great shopping spree destination, as it's conveniently pedestrianised and offers a very wide selection of mainstream consumer goodies: clothes, jewelry, shoes, cosmetics, gift shops (yes, you gussed it, Ermou Street is mainly a ladies' shopping haven).

But the lower end of Ermou Street, towards the seedier **Monastiraki** area, is a different story. Head here for urban wear, so you can deck yourself out in original street

style labels (some of which designed by well-known graffiti artists).

Oh, and as regards local colour, don't miss out on a walk through the bristling **Monastiraki Flea Market** (great for collectors' items, vintage records and other quirky items and memorabilia) and the colourful Athens' Central Market (we recommend you purchase some local herbs here - there's a very wide selection available at great prices). At the opposite end of the spectrum, **Kolonaki** caters to those after some sophisticated, upmarket chic (at the appropriate price, of course).

Then again, if you're the department-store type of shopper, you'll have to choose between a few really impressive department stores. (See our list).


Finally, some useful shopping tips before you set off:

**Credit cards:** All major international credit cards are accepted in all large stores, as well as in boutiques. They may not be accepted in family-run businesses or local neighbourhood stores, so in those establishments it is best to double-check. Most Greeks pay for their purchases in plastic, which accounts for the proliferation of credit schemes available, as well as for the very large amounts of debt incurred by many Greek households.


**Sales:** Winter sales run during the period from middle to end-January up to mid-February (maximum five weeks' duration). Summer sales run during the period from mid-July up to the end of August at the latest.


**Local shopping culture:** Greeks tend to be big spenders and great fans of branded items, generally sporting designer sunglasses and top of the range mobile phones as essential accessories, with a concurrent tendency to accumulate rather large credit card bills as well. In short, you're in a true shopping-lovers' city. Enjoy!

## Clothes

**Prime-Timers Ifaistou 12**,  **Monastiraki**, tel. **210 3242972**, [www.prime-timers.gr](http://www.prime-timers.gr) The top chain for street fashion in Athens. Young Athenians go crazy for their exclusively imported brands like WeSC, BENCH, RINGSPUN, SIXPACK, HOOCH, FREESOUL etc as well as exclusive Levi's Adidas and Converse collections.


## Collectors Items


**Collectors shop Stadiou 39**,  **Omonia**, tel. **210 3318248**, fax **210 3318249**, [info@collector-shop.com](mailto:info@collector-shop.com), [www.collector-shop.com](http://www.collector-shop.com). Mr Syvridakis is an expert dealer of rare Greek coins, banknotes and stamps. In his shop you'll find huge collections which can also be purchased from his excellent on-line shop.



**Tarasouleas Stadiou 10**,  **Syntagma**, tel. **210 3255564**, fax **210 3221440**. Mr Tarasouleas is an authority in numismatics and in his shop you'll find rare greek coins, banknotes and a large collection of stamps.

## Department Stores

**Attica Panepistimiou 9**, **City Link**,  **Syntagma**, tel. **211 1802600**, fax **211 1802698**, [www.atticadps.gr](http://www.atticadps.gr). Upmarket department store, the biggest in the city. All top brands priced accordingly. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.      

**Notos Galleries Aiolou 99**,  **Omonia**, [www.notos-galleries.gr](http://www.notos-galleries.gr). A standard department store primarily selling clothes and satisfying most of the consumption needs of the modern Athenian.

**Notos Home Kratinou 5**, **Kotzia Sq**,  **Omonia**, tel. **210 3743000**, [www.notosgalleries.gr](http://www.notosgalleries.gr). This is a one stop shop for young couples setting up their new home. Furniture, electrical appliances and even a travel agency cater to every self-respecting wedding list.

**The Mall**,  **Nerantziotissa**, [www.themallathens.gr](http://www.themallathens.gr). This shopping centre with the imaginative name is the biggest shopping complex in the wider Athens area. If you have a whole day to spend shopping then head for this out-of-town temple of consumption. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.     

## Electronics, Computers & Gadgets

**Germanos**, [www.germanos.gr](http://www.germanos.gr). There is a branch in every other corner. Here you can change batteries and repair and buy every brand of mobile phone.

**Plaisio**, [www.plaisio.gr](http://www.plaisio.gr). The largest computer and office supply chain. Stournari 19 & 24, Fl-Zaimi 10, Fl-Voulis 3, Syntagma, F5

**Public**, [www.public.gr](http://www.public.gr). You can't miss this large store selling computers, gadgets and books: It's right on Syntagma Sq, G5



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## Gifts & Souvenirs

**Benaki Museum Gift Shop Koumbari 1, Kolonaki, M Syntagma, tel. 210 367 1000, fax 210 367 1063, the-shop@benaki.gr, www.benaki.gr/museumshop/en.** A tasteful selection of replicas of ancient Greek and Byzantine art, as well as an interesting selection of jewelry, prints, ceramics, antiques, religious icons and books. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Thu 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Tue.

**Kombologadiko H5, Koumbari 6, Kolonaki.** This speciality shop offers all kinds of rosary beads, known as 'kombologia' - in Greece they are used for pleasure and for aiding concentration and are especially favoured by older men. It is also recommended against stress and, believe it or not, as an aid for quitting smoking. A gift with many uses...

**Melissinos, The poet-sandalmaker Agias Theklas 2, Psirri, M Monastiraki, Thissio, tel. 210 3219247, info@melissinos-poet.com, /www.melissinos-poet.com.** Fancy a pair of hand-made ancient Greek sandals made by a world famous...poet? Stavros Melissinos has crafted sandals for celebrities like the Beatles, Jackie Kennedy, Sofia Loren and has featured in newspaper articles all over the world. He runs his workshop together with his son, an artist.

**National Archaeological Museum Gift Shop Patision (28th October) 44, M Victoria, tel. 210 8217724, fax 210 8213573.** Recently refurbished and expanded, it offers a wide selection of replicas of ancient artifacts, as well as a comprehensive collection of guide books on ancient Greece. An interesting selection of gift ideas and memorabilia is also available. ▶ Open 08:30 - 19:00, Mon 13:00 - 19:00.

**Oikotexnia Filellinon 14, Plaka, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3250240, fax 210 3218272, handicraft@ikpa.gr, www.oikotexnia-ikpa.gr.** A wide range of traditional Greek handicrafts and homeware is on sale here, while proceeds from sales contribute to the preservation of Greek folk arts and crafts. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Mon, Sat 09:00 - 15:00.

## Greek designers

**Celia Kritharioti F6, Dedalou 8, Plaka.** Internationally acclaimed Greek designer, her creations are feminine, sensuous and elegant. She is also well known for her wedding gowns and lovely sequined and hand-embroidered garments, many of which are strewn with semi-precious stones and crystals.

**Loukia H5, Kanari 24, Kolonaki.** Unique designer label that manages to exude an aura of romance, unconventional creative originality and theatrical extravaganza, all in one. Loukia's clothes are simultaneously reminiscent of a fairy tale princess, with flamboyant tulle, ruffles, laces and embroideries, as well as an outspokenly subversive-yet-glamorous diva, confident enough to pull off these exciting creations in style.

**Parthenis H4, Dimokritou & Tsakalof 20, Kolonaki.** Casual chic designer label, offering sophisticated garments using exclusively natural fibres for those who opt for style and comfort in one. Orsalia Parthenis' creations can aptly be characterised as unaffected and simple, yet quintessentially elegant.

## International Bookshops

**Compendium Nikis 28, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3221248, compendium@otenet.gr.** An independent English language bookshop in Plaka. Literature, newspapers, magazines

**Deutsche Buchhandlung (German Bookshop) Stadiou 10 & Omirou 4, M Panepistimio, Syntagma, tel. 210 3225294, fax 2103232289, sales@dbo.gr, www.dbo.gr.** German books are not widely available in Athens but this excellent buchhandlung perfectly covers the needs of German locals and travellers.

## Market values

	€	\$	£
Mc Donald's Big Mac	3.20	4.80	2.91
Kg of white bread	0.75	1.13	0.68
Snickers bar	0.60	0.90	0.55
0.7L of vodka	14.50	21.80	13.20
0.5L bottle of beer	1.00	1.50	0.91
20 Marlboros	3.20	4.80	2.91
Public transport ticket	1.00	1.50	0.91
Cinema ticket	8.00	12.00	7.28

**Exchange rates (as of 27.11.2009):**  
**EUR=1.50USD EUR=0.91 GBP**

**Eleftheroudakis Panepistimiou 17, M Panepistimio, tel. 210 322938, elebooks@books.gr, www.books.gr.** Expats' favourite hang out, this 7 storey bookshop boasts a large English section with all the paperbacks you're likely to wish for before you head to the beach and then some.

**Fashion Bookstore F5, Thisseos 6.** An interesting little bookshop selling exclusively fashion magazines from around the world.

**Librairie Kauffmann (French Bookshop) Stadiou 28, M Panepistimio, Syntagma, tel. 210 3255321, fax 210 3230320, kauffmann.stadiou@yahoo.gr, www.kauffmann.gr.** A historic bookshop supplying local francophones since an era when French was the foreign language of choice among educated Greeks.

**Road Travel Bookstore Solonos 71, M Panepistimio, tel. 210 3613242, fax 210 3614681, bookstore@road.gr, www.road.gr.** This excellent travel bookshop belongs to the top Greek cartography company Road, which is our map supplier. A visit here is essential before any excursion to the countryside, where you'll have a huge choice between their top quality maps covering every last corner of the country, their state of the art GPS system and all international travel guides series. If you mention you're an In Your Pocket reader, the bookshop's experienced staff will happily give you an extra discount.

## Jewellery

**Folli Follie Ermou 18 & 37, Solonos 25, Tsakalof 6, www.follifolle.com.** Folli Follie jewellery and accessories are sold in twenty countries and they have their own boutiques in New Bond Street and Rue Royale. No need to go that far, as you are where they are designed and produced. Your wife back home will never imagine how affordable her present was.

**Zolotas G5, Panepistimiou 10, Stadiou 9, www.zolotas.gr.** Fine jewellers since 1895. Inspired by classic Greek art, their creations are objects of desire for every female with fine taste and finesse. If a knickknack souvenir is not your cup of tea and you have a corresponding bank balance, then walk in one of their posh boutiques and spoil yourself or your beloved.

## Markets

**Athens Central Market (Varvakeios) Athinas Street (between Evrilpidou & Sofocleous Streets), M Monastiraki, Omonia.** An extravaganza of sights, smells and sounds, here you will be treated to a very wide selection of spices, herbs, cheeses, olives, meats, fish and all sorts of gastronomic delights. Take a pick from the wonderful selection of nuts, herbs and dried fruits - you will be hard pressed to find these back home. ▶ Open 07:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

## Fruit & Vegetable street markets (Laiki markets)

Every Athenian neighbourhood has its own open air fruit and veg market on a specific day of the week. Licenced producers bring their fresh goodies from their farms to the big city neighbourhoods. Prices start high in the morning but in true market fashion get really low towards midday.

One of the best and well worth pottering around is in Kallidromiou St. Exarchia, every Saturday morning.

**Monastiraki Flea Market Ifestou & surrounding streets, M Monastiraki.** It has lost some of its old days charm as modern shops have replaced the stalls, but it remains the absolute Athenian open-air, vibrant, people-packed, shopping/haggling experience. Head here if you are looking for antiques, collectors' items, vintage clothing, old music records and books, homeware, leatherwear and souvenirs. ▶ Open 07:00 - 15:00.

## Music

**Metropolis Panepistimiou 64, M Omonia, tel. 210 3830404.** This is the largest and cheapest music store in Athens. Top music and DVDs from €5. Tickets for many concerts and events are sold here.

## Natural Cosmetics

**Apivita G4, Solonos 26, Kolonaki, www.apivita.com.** A full series of natural cosmetics produced with propolis, honey, royal jelly, rosemary, green tea and fruits. Greek products that make perfect gifts for anyone back home.

**Korres, www.korres.com.** Started as a homeopathic pharmacy, Korres now produces more than 500 skin and hair care herbal products, sold in more than 30 countries. Greek women love them as they are 100% natural.

## Second hand

**American Markets . Ermou 30, D5, 2nd floor tel. 210 3217870, Ermou 48, D5, 1st floor tel. 210 3215740, Sofokleous 19, E3, 1st floor tel. 210 3217051.**

**Yesterday's Bread Kallidromiou 87, Exarchia, tel. 210 8811233.** Imported second hand clothes.

## Shoes

**Camper Ermou 34, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3216709.** The world's grooviest shoes!

**Kalogirou H5, Patriarchou Ioakim 4, Kolonaki.** The ultimate fashionable shoe shop, with top international labels as well as its own-brand discerning designs. A must-visit destination for all shoe aficionados.

## Supermarkets

**AB Vassilopoulos, www.ab.gr.** Supermarkets are rare in downtown Athens, they tend to concentrate in residential areas. Some central branches of the best supermarket chain AB Vassilopoulos can be found at the following addresses: -Vouliagmenis 67 & Menonos, Mets, F8 -Marni 24, E1 -Spyrou Merkouri 38, Pangrati, J6 -Keiriadon & Sifon, Petralona, A6 -Mavromichali 157 & Digeni Akrita, I1 ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

## Sweets

**Aristokratikon F5, Karageorgi Servias 9.** The city's premier sweets and pastries emporium, with an extensive array of delicious hand-crafted sweets and chocolates, made with the finest local ingredients.



Laiki market

VK

## Traditional Food Products

**Gaea Products, www.gaea.gr.** Greek traditional products of exceptional quality and many international awards. Extra virgin olive oil, olives, and dips to take home with you. Available in large supermarkets and the airport duty free shops.

**Mastiha Shop G5, Panepistimiou & Kriezotou and Athens Airport, www.mastihashop.gr.** All mastiha products brought to you by the association of Chios mastic growers. These exclusively Greek product makes the ideal gift to bring home if you want to avoid an 'ouzo power' t-shirt! Try the natural chewing gum and the sweet liquor. A full range of natural cosmetics is also available.

**Mesogaia F6, Nikis & Kydathineon 52, Plaka.** Delicately selling delicious local speciality foods from around Greece, such as extra-virgin olive oil, the local spirit, 'raki', a diverse array of cheeses and a fragrant selection of wild herbs.

## Traditional Instruments

**Iapetos D4, Louka Nika 14, Psirri, M Thissio, Monastiraki, tel. 210 3225963, www.karellas.gr.** A workshop producing handmade traditional musical instruments. Prices are high but your bouzouki will be of the highest quality. On line orders too.

## Wines & Spirits

**Wine Garage I4, Xenokratous 25, Kolonaki, tel. 210 7213175, info@winegarage.gr, www.winegarage.gr.** Greek wines are much better than you may think and if you want to bring a few bottles back home, in this excellent shop you'll find a huge selection of Greek and world labels, expert advice and prices to make you smile.



## Embassies

**Albania** Vekiarell 7, Filothei, tel. 210 6876200.  
**Australia** Kifisias 1-3, tel. 210 8704000.  
**Austria** Vas.Sofias 4, tel. 210 7257270.  
**Belgium** Sekeri 3, Kolonaki, tel. 210 3617886.  
**Bulgaria** Stratigou Kallari St, Psychiko, tel. 210 6748106.  
**Canada** Ioannou Gennadiou 4, tel. 210 7273400.  
**Cyprus** Herodotou 16, tel. 210 7237883.  
**Czech Republic** Seferi 6, Psychiko, tel. 210 6719701.  
**France** Vas.Sofias 7, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3391000.  
**Germany** Karaoli & Dimitriou 3, Kolonaki, tel. 210 7285111.  
**Hungary** Kameadou 25, tel. 210 7256800.  
**China** Krinon 2A, Psychiko, tel. 210 6723282.  
**Ireland** Vasileos Konstantinou 5-7, tel. 210 7232771.  
**Israel** Marathonodromou 1, Psychiko, tel. 210 6719530.  
**Italy** Sekeri 2, Kolonaki, tel. 210 3617260.  
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**Poland** Chrissanthemou 22, Psychiko, tel. 210 6797700.  
**Romania** Emmanouil Benaki 7, Psychiko, tel. 210 6728875.  
**Russia** Nikiforou Lytra 28, Psychiko, tel. 210 6725235.  
**Serbia** Vasilissis Sofias 106, tel. 210 7774344.  
**Slovakia** Georgiou Seferi 4, Psychiko, tel. 210 6771980.  
**South Africa** Kifisias 60, Marousi, tel. 210 6106645.  
**Spain** Dionysiou Areopagitou 21, tel. 210 9213123.  
**Sweden** Vasileos Konstantinou 5-7, tel. 210 7266100.  
**Switzerland** Iasiou 2, tel. 210 7230364.  
**Turkey** Vasileos Georgiou 8, tel. 210 7263000.  
**UK** Ploutarhou 1, tel. 210 7272600.  
**USA** Vasilissis Sofias 91, tel. 210 7212951-9.

## Banks

**Alpha Bank** Stadiou 40, tel. 2103260000.  
**ATE Bank** Panepistimiou 23, tel. 210 3298911.  
**Bank of Greece (Central Bank)** Panepistimiou 21, tel. 210 3201111, www.bankofgreece.gr.  
**BNP Paribas** Vasilissis Sofias 94, tel. 210 7468000.  
**Citibank** Achaia 3, Kifisia, tel. 210 8186000.  
**Eurobank** Amalias 20, tel. 210 9555000.  
**HSBC** Mesogion 109, tel. 210 6962100.  
**Marfin Egnatia Bank** Zefyrou 56, tel. 210 9304811.  
**National Bank** Eolou 86, tel. 210 3341000.  
**Piraeus Bank** Amerikis 4, tel. 210 3335000.  
**Postal Savings Bank** Pesmazoglou 2-6, tel. 210 3704000.

€1 = £0.91

(November 27 2009)

## Business connections

**American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce** Mesogion 109, tel. 210 6993559, www.amcham.gr.  
**Athens Exchange** Athinon 110, tel. 210 3366800, www.ase.gr.  
**Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry** Akadimias 7-9, tel. 210 3604815, www.acci.gr.  
**Athens Tourism & Economic Development Company** G6, Xenofontos 7, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3253123, fax 210 3216653, info@atedco.gr.  
**British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce** Vasilissis Sofias 25, tel. 210 7210361, www.bhcc.gr.  
**General Secretariat for Investment and Development** Nikis 5-7, tel. 210 3332402, www.ggea.gr/index\_en.htm.  
**German-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry** Dorileou 10-12, tel. 210 6419000, http://griechenland.ahk.de/.  
**Hellenic-Dutch Association of Commerce and Industry** Kifisou 102, tel. 210 5384177, www.heda.gr.  
**Hellenic-Chinese Chamber** Amerikis 10, tel. 210 3629052, www.chinese-chamber.gr/.  
**Hellenic Center for Investment** Mitropoleos 3, tel. 210 3355700, www.elke.gr.  
**Hellenic Foreign Trade Board** Marinou Antipa 86-88, Ilioupoli, tel. 210 9982100, www.hepo.gr.  
**Hellenic Ministry of Economy and Finance** Nikis 5-7, tel. 210 3332000, www.mnec.gr/en.

## Business services

**Adecco** Kifisias 56, tel. 210 6930490, www.adecco.gr. HR and recruitment business services  
**Dowlings Solicitors** Kifisou 19, Nea Kifisia, tel. 210 8076575, www.dowlings.gr. English Solicitors operating in Greece, specialising in Greek property, management and related taxation issues.  
**Fair Consulting** F5, Lekka 23-25, M Syntagma, tel. 210 3232633, fax 210 3232664, info@fairconsulting.gr, www.fairconsulting.gr. Claims management, loss appraisals and insurance settlements negotiations.  
**FC&D** Zisimopoulou 16, Psychiko, tel. 210 6930780, www.fcd.gr. Franchise consultancy in the Greek and international markets.  
**Global Business Services** Kifisias 90, tel. 210 8764876, www.gbs.gr. Furnished, equipped and serviced offices for as long as you need them.  
**International Business Services** Michalakopoulou 29, tel. 210 7245541, www.ibs-ltd.gr. Translation, HR, conference and consultancy services to traveling businessmen and foreign companies entering the Greek market  
**Kantor Omirou & Vissarionos** 1, tel. 210 7297500, www.kantor.gr. Business consultants with an international presence.  
**KPMG** Stratigou Tombra 3, Agia Paraskevi, tel. 210 6062100, www.kpmg.gr. Auditing, accounting, business consultancy, the global way.  
**Manpower** Xenofontos 9, tel. 210 3240200, www.manpowerteam.gr. Recruitment services by the global experts.  
**Sarantitis Law Firm** Anagnostopoulou 9, tel. 210 3670400, www.sarantitis.com. A legal firm specialising in all areas of business law  
**SOL SA** Fokionos Negri 3, tel. 210 8691100, www.solae.gr. The largest Greek accounting & auditing firm with offices all over the country

## Foreign Institutes

**British Council** Kolonaki Sq, M Syntagma, Evangelismos, tel. 210 3692333, fax 210 3634769, www.britishcouncil.gr.  
**Cervantes Institute** Skoufa 31, tel. 210 3634117, fax 210 3647233, dirate@cervantes.es.  
**French Institute** Sina 31, M Panepistimio, tel. 210 3398600, fax 210 3646873, www.ifa.gr.  
**Goethe Institute** Omirou 15, M Panepistimio, tel. 210 3661000, fax 210 3643518, gl@athen.goethe.org, www.goethe.de/athen.  
**Hellenic American Union** Massalias 22, Kolonaki, M Panepistimio, tel. 210 3680000, fax 210 3633174, hau@hau.gr, www.hau.gr.  
**Italian Cultural Institute** Patission 47, M Victoria, tel. 210 5242646, fax 210 5242714, www.licatene.esteri.it.

## Government

**Parliament** Vasilissis Sofias 2, tel. 210 3707000, info@parliament.gr, www.parliament.gr.  
**Prime Minister** Irodou Attikou 19, www.primeminister.gr.

## Greek language courses

**Athens Centre** Archimidou 48, tel. 210 7012268, info@athenscentre.gr, www.athenscentre.gr. A private institute offering lessons in modern Greek and also business Greek, Greek culture, theatre, poetry etc

## Emergency numbers

**Airport Police** 210 3536919.  
**Ambulance** 166.  
**Coast Guard** 108.  
**ELPA (roadside assistance)** 10400.  
**Fire Service** 199.  
**Hospitals, Doctors, Pharmacies** Info 14944.  
**Police** 100.  
**SOS Doctors** 1016.  
**Tourist Police** 171.  
**Traffic Police** 210 5230111.

**University of Athens Modern Greek Language Teaching Centre**, University Campus, Ilissia, tel. 210 7277672, nglit.info@nglit.uoa.gr, www.nglit.uoa.gr. Modern Greek lessons organised by the University of Athens. All year, summer and intensive classes and reasonable tuition fees.

## Information Numbers

**Ferries departure info** tel. 1441.  
**KTEL (intercity buses) departure info** tel. 14505  
**OASA (urban transportation) info** tel. 185.  
**OSE (Greek Railways) info** tel. 1110.

€1 = \$1.50

(November 27 2009)



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## International Schools

**American Community Schools of Athens (ACS Athens)** Agias Paraskevis 129, Ano Halandri, tel. 210 6393200, fax 210 6390051, [www.acs.gr](http://www.acs.gr).  
**Byron College** 7 Filolaou St, Gargitio Geraka, tel. 210 6047722, fax 210 6048542, [www.byroncollege.gr](http://www.byroncollege.gr).  
**Campion School** Agias Ioulanis, Pallini, tel. 210 6071700, fax 210 6071750, [www.campion.edu.gr](http://www.campion.edu.gr).  
**Ellinogermaniki Agogi (German)** Doukisis Plakentias 25, Halandri, tel. 210 6853220, fax 210 6821953, [www.ellinogermaniki.gr](http://www.ellinogermaniki.gr).  
**French-Greek School** Trikalon & Chlois, Agia Paraskevi, tel. 210 6012704.  
**International School of Athens (ISA)** Xenias & Artemidos, Kefalari, Kifissia, tel. 210 6233888, [info@isa.edu.gr](mailto:info@isa.edu.gr), [www.isa.edu.gr](http://www.isa.edu.gr).  
**Italian School** Mitsaki 18, tel. 210 2280338, [www.scuolaitalianathene.edu.gr](http://www.scuolaitalianathene.edu.gr).  
**Polish Community School** Navarinou 19, Holargos, tel. 210 6538204.  
**St Catherine's British Embassy School** Sofokli Venizelou 73, Kifissia, tel. 210 2829750, [administrator@stcatherines.gr](mailto:administrator@stcatherines.gr), [www.stcatherines.gr](http://www.stcatherines.gr).

## Media

**AIR 104.4 fm Athens International Radio**. The city's cosmopolitan frequency. A mix of local, BBC, Radio France Internationale and Deutsche Welle productions.  
**Athens News**, [www.athensnews.gr](http://www.athensnews.gr). The authoritative English language weekly of the capital. Catch up with the local news, every Friday at news stands. €2.50

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[www.ellinika.org](http://www.ellinika.org)  
[www.xanthi.ilsp.gr/filog](http://www.xanthi.ilsp.gr/filog)

## Real estate

**Remax Hellas** Adrianiou 42, Neo Psychiko, tel. 210 6753417, [info@remax.gr](mailto:info@remax.gr), [www.remax.gr](http://www.remax.gr).

## Removals

**Mondial Forwarding Hellas** 20th km National road Athens-Korinthos, Elefsina, tel. 210 5540907, [www.mondialtransport.com](http://www.mondialtransport.com).  
**Orphee Beinoglou** Syngrou & Evripidou 2, Kallithea, tel. 210 9466100, [www.beinoglou.gr](http://www.beinoglou.gr).

## Sailing Charter Companies

**Kiriakoulis Mediterranean** Allimos 7, Allimos, tel. 210 9886187-91, fax 210 9818979, [charter@kiriakoulis.com](mailto:charter@kiriakoulis.com), [www.kiriakoulis.com](http://www.kiriakoulis.com).  
**Vernicos Yachts** Poseidonos 11, Allimos, tel. 210 9896000, fax 210 9850130, [info@vernicos.gr](mailto:info@vernicos.gr), [www.vernicos.com](http://www.vernicos.com).

## Travel Agencies

**Viamare** E8, Missaralotou 2, Makrigianni, Acropolis, tel. 210 9228930-2, fax 210 9228940, [info@allyeartravel.gr](mailto:info@allyeartravel.gr), [www.allyeartravel.gr](http://www.allyeartravel.gr). This is a small independent travel agency run by young people who will go out of their way to satisfy all your travel needs around the country. Accommodation, tours & cruises, sightseeing, ferry tickets and last but not least: objective and independent advice.  
**Travel Plan** F4, Hristou Lada 3, Panepistimio, tel. 210 3333300, fax 210 3333581, [info@travelplan.gr](mailto:info@travelplan.gr), [www.travelplan.gr](http://www.travelplan.gr). If you are a resident of Athens and need to travel abroad, this is the largest and most reliable outgoing travel company in Greece. Unfortunately their website is only in Greek.

## Hospitals

**Public Accidents' Hospitals**  
**Asklipieio Voulas** Vasileos Pavlou 1, Voula, tel. 210 8958301.  
**KAT** Nikis 2, Kifissia, KAT, tel. 210 6280000.  
**Public General Hospitals**  
**Evangelismos** Ypsilantou 45-47, Evangelismos, tel. 210 7201000.  
**Geniko Kratiko 'Gennimatas'** Mesogion 154, Ethniki Amyna, tel. 210 7768000.  
**Ippokratio** Vasilissis Sofias 114, Ampelokipi, tel. 210 7483770.  
**Laiko** Agiou Thoma 17, Ampelokipi, tel. 210 7456000.  
**Tzanio** Afentouli & Tzani 1, Piraeus, tel. 210 4519411.  
**Public Children's Hospitals**  
**Agia Sofia** Thivon & Papadiamandopoulou, Goudi, tel. 210 7726000.  
**Aglaia Kyriakou** Thivon & Levadias, Goudi, tel. 210 7726000.  
**Maternity Hospitals**  
**Alexandra** Vasilissis Sofias 80, Megaro Mousikis, tel. 210 7750432.  
**Elena Venizelou** Elena Venizelou Sq, Ampelokipi, tel. 210 6432220.  
**Iaso** Kifissias 37-39, tel. 210 6184000.  
**Leto** Mouson 7-13, tel. 210 6902000.  
**Mitera** Kifissias 7 Erithrou Stavrou 6, tel. 210 6899421.



Athens metro map



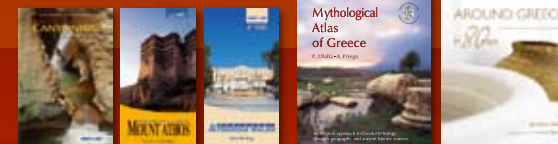
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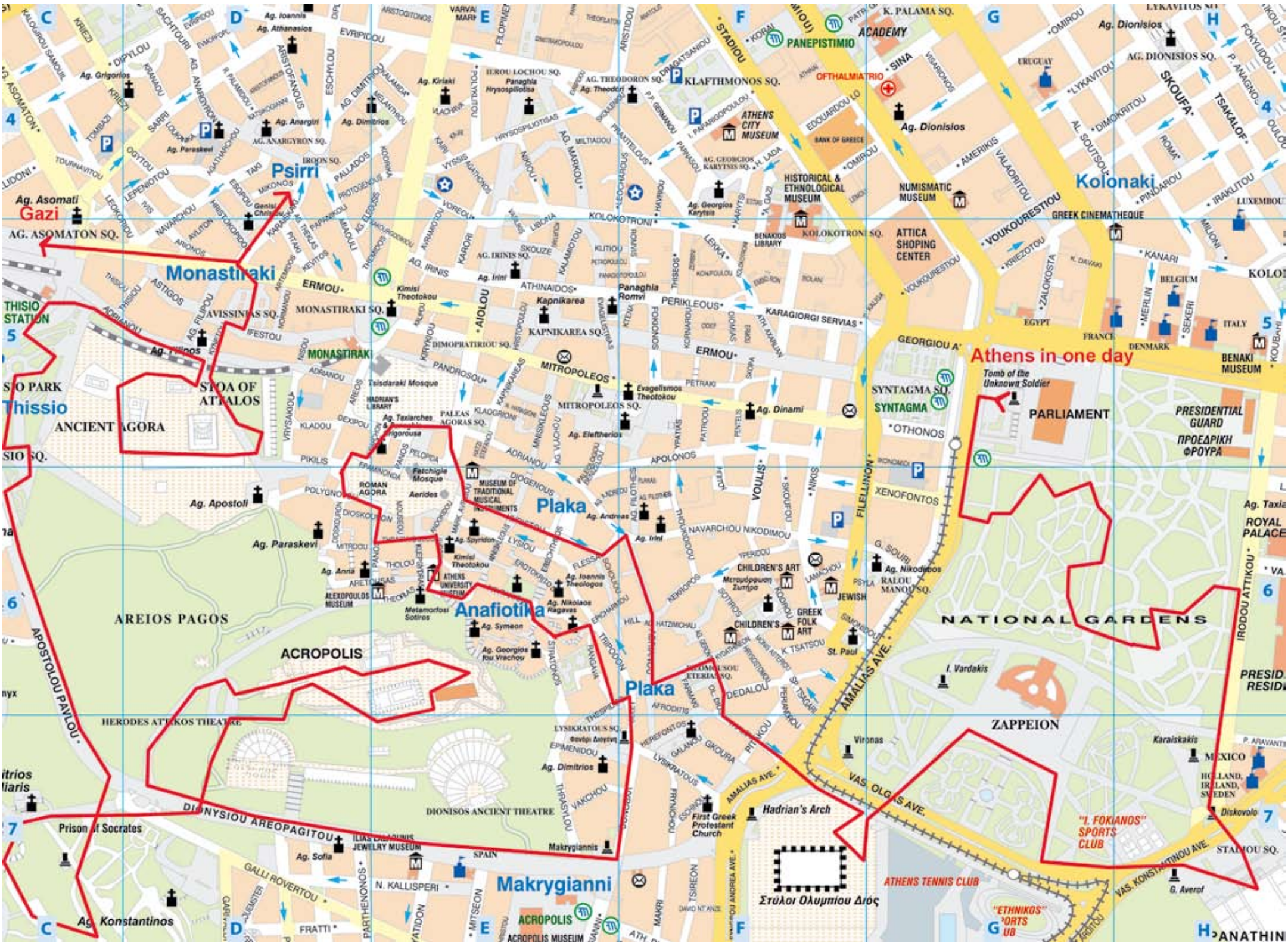
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**Anafiotika**

**Plaka**

**Makrygianni**

**Athens in one day**

**Kolonaki**

**ZAPPEION**

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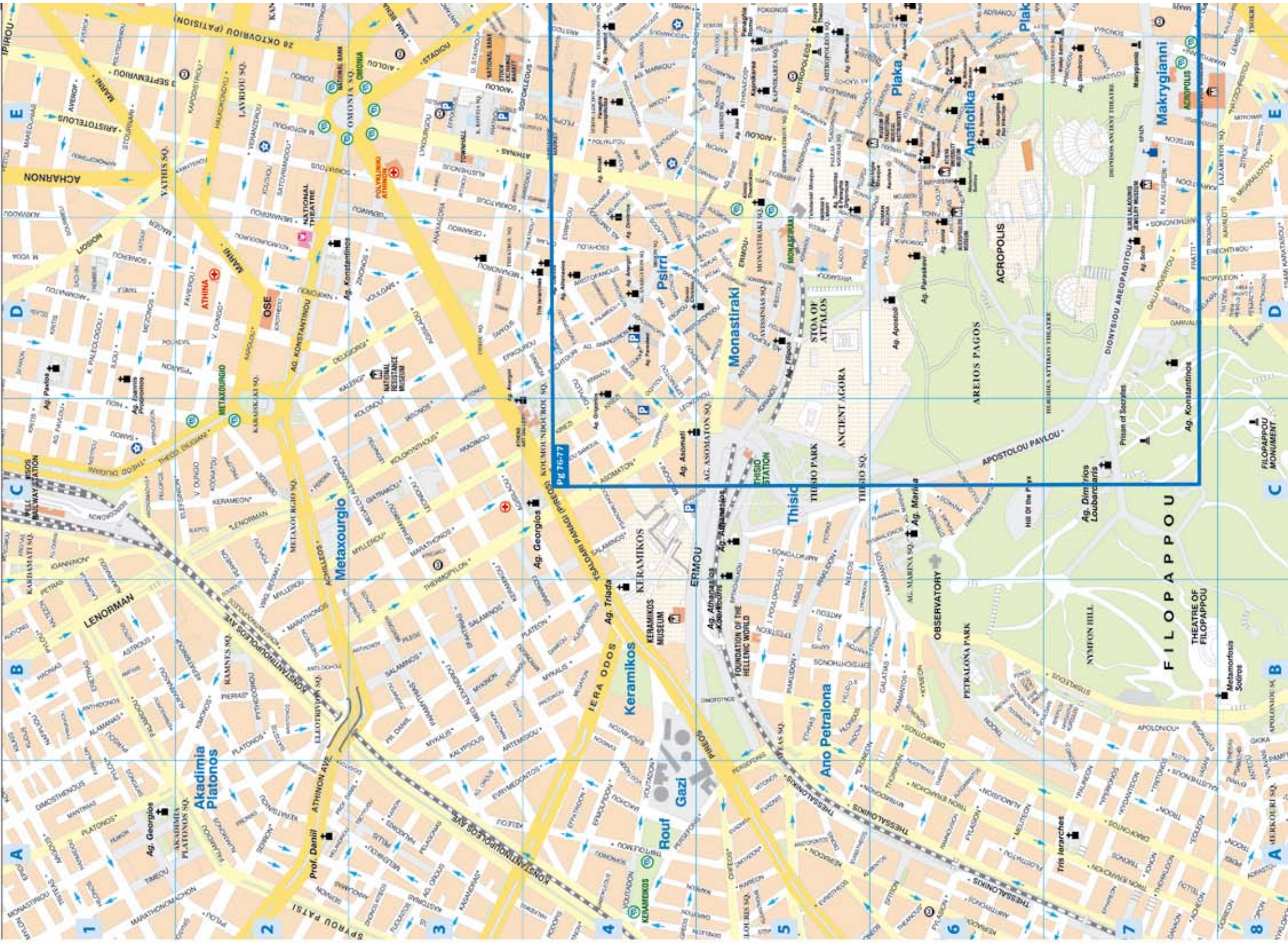
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28 OKTOBRIU (PATISION)

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LAVRIU SQ.

ATHINA

OSE

Metaxurgio

LENORMAN

Akadimia Platonos

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SPROU PATSI

OMONIA SQ

NATIONAL THEATRE

Ag. Konstantinos

VOLOARE

Ag. Konstantinou

Metaxourgiou Ave

KONSTANTINOPOULOS AVE

ATHINON AVE

Prof. Danil

3

ATHENS

Psirri

Monastiraki

Ag. Ananias

Ag. Asomaton Sq.

Keramikos

Iera Odos

Ag. Triada

Rouf Gazi

4

Monastiraki

Stoa of Attalos

Ag. Paraskevi

Ag. Anastasi

Thessaloniki Station

Thessaloniki

Ano Petralona

Ag. Athanasios

Ag. Kiriakos

5

Plaka

Anafiotika

Acropolis

Areios Pagos

Ag. Dionysios Loubarcardis

Observatory

Petalona Park

Ag. Marina Sq.

Ag. Maria

6

Makrygianni

Areios Pagos

Ag. Konstantinos

Ag. Dimitrios Loubarcardis

Ag. Dionysios Loubarcardis

Ag. Dora

Ag. Dora

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Ag. Dora

8

FILOPAPPOU

THEATRE OF FILOPAPPOU

Metamorfosis Solinas

Ag. Dora

Ag. Dora

Ag. Dora

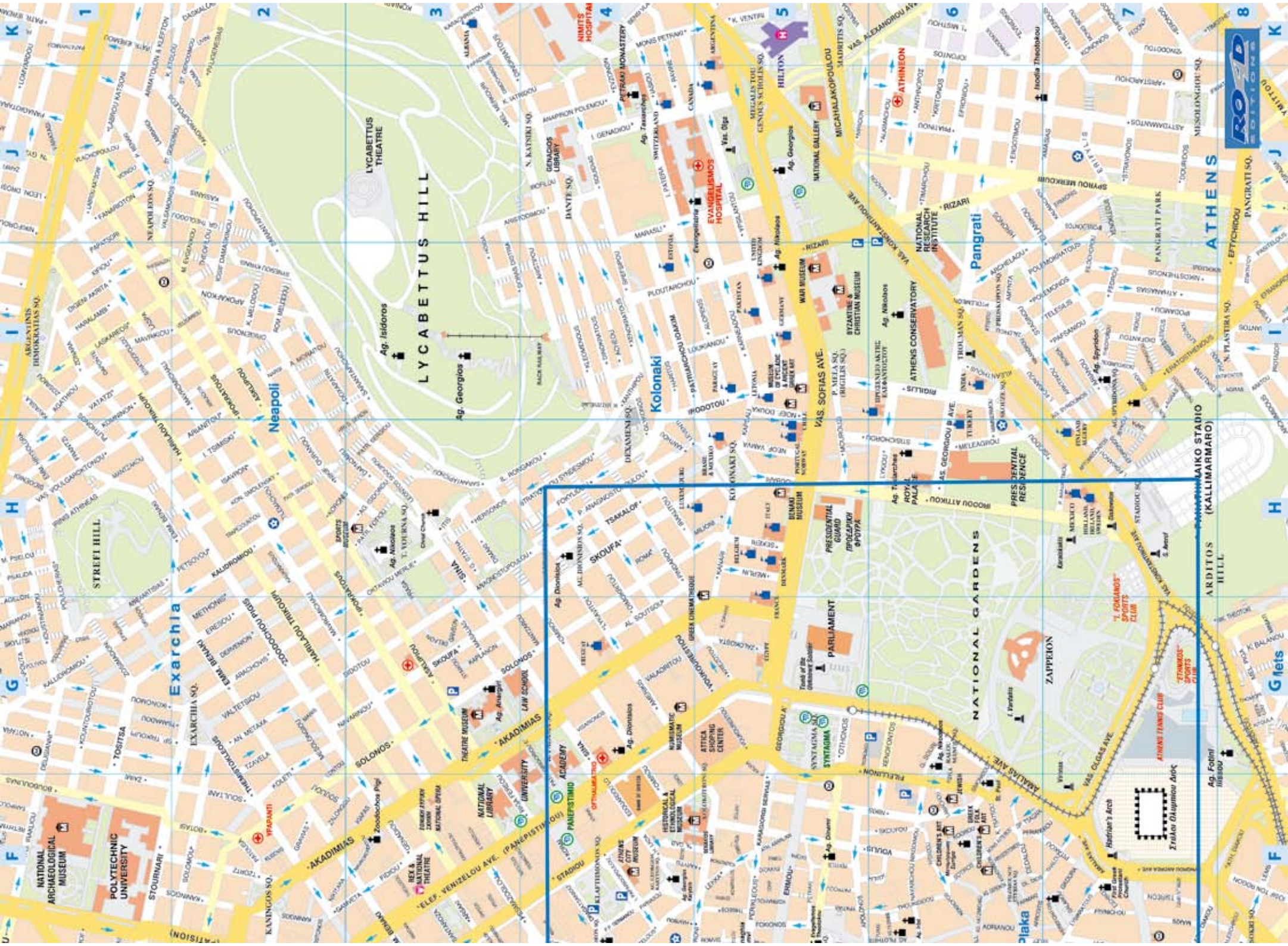
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8





Exarchia

Neapoli

LYCABETTUS HILL

Kolonaki

NATIONAL GARDENS

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ATHENS

MAIKO STADION (KALLIMARMARO)

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Glets





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- ATHENS: 8, Syngrou Ave.  
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- KIFISSIA: 263, Kifissias Ave.  
tel.: +30 210 62 36 730
- ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: "EL. VENIZELOS",  
tel.: +30 210 35 30 553-4
- PIRAEUS: 26-28 Akti Kondili Ave.,  
tel.: +30 210 34 70 877
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