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Michalis Panayotakis, 6,5 years old.

The artwork on the cover is courtesy of the Museum of Greek Children's Art.



ATTICA • ATHENS

Athens, having been inhabited since the Neolithic age, is considered Europe's historical capital and one of the world's emblematic cities. During its long, everlasting and fascinating history the city reached its zenith in the 5th century B.C (the "Golden Age of Pericles"), when its values and civilisation acquired a universal significance and glory. Political thought, theatre, the arts, philosophy, science, architecture, among other forms of intellectual thought, reached an epic acme, in a period of intellectual consummation unique in world history.

1. Panoramic view of Athens and the south suburbs bordered by the sea. The sacred Rock of Acropolis dominates the centre.

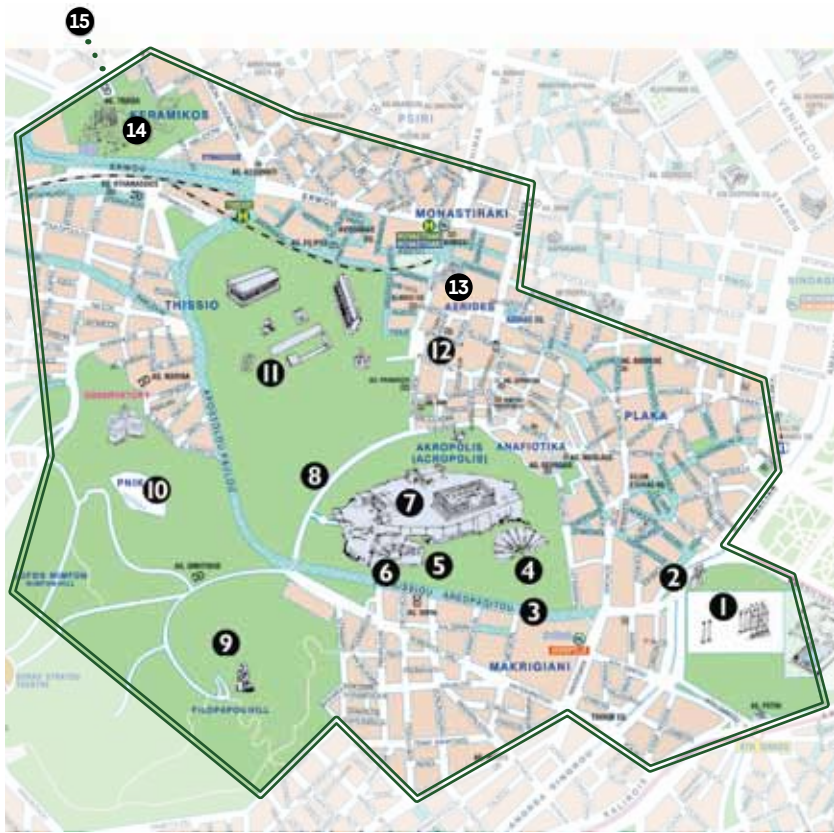
Therefore, Athens constituted the cradle of western civilisation. A host of Greek words and ideas, such as democracy, harmony, music, mathematics, art, gastronomy, architecture, logic, Eros, euphoria and many others, enriched a multitude of languages, and inspired civilisations.

Over the years, a multitude of conquerors occupied the city and erected splendid monuments of great significance, thus creating a rare historical palimpsest.

Driven by the echo of its classical past, in 1834 the city became the capital of the modern Greek state. During the two centuries that elapsed however, it developed into an attractive, modern metropolis with unrivalled charm and great interest.

Today, it offers visitors a unique experience. A journey in its 6,000-year history, including the chance to see renowned monuments and masterpieces of art of the antiquity and the Middle Ages, and the architectural heritage of the 19th and 20th centuries. You get an uplifting, embracing feeling in the brilliant light of the Attic sky, surveying the charming landscape in the environs of the city (the indented coastline, beaches and mountains), and enjoying the modern infrastructure of the city and unique verve of the Athenians.

Year-round visitors are fascinated by Athens, one of the most attractive and charming capitals of Europe.



Tour of Athens, 1st stage: ANTIQUITIES IN ATHENS

A 3-kilometre pedestrian zone (the biggest in Europe) has been established in central roads (Vas. Olgas Str, D. Areopagitou Str, Ap. Pavlou Str, Adrianou Str. and a section of Ermou Str) leading to the major archaeological sites of Athens (archaeological park). Visitors to the section from Dionyssiou Aeropagitou (opposite Hadrian's Arch) to the crossroads of Ermou Str and Pireos Str (in the Kerameikos area) may enjoy the ancient landscape in a tranquil setting of the city. The archaeological tour is an unforgettable experience.

2. Temple of Olympian Zeus: 16 of a total of 104 columns (with a height of 17 metres) have been preserved.

3. Hadrian's arch, the symbolic gate of the city of Athens.

1 OLYMPIEION

The Olympieion includes the sanctuary (temple) of Olympian Zeus, Roman baths, classical houses as well as a section of the ancient city's fortification wall. According to the geographer Pausanias, the temple of Olympian Zeus

was founded by Deukalionas, a mythical ancestor of the Greeks. In the age of tyranny, circa 515 BC, Peisistratos the younger grandson of the tyrant Peisistratos, attempted to replace the old temple with a new, more impressive temple. The tyranny, however, was abolished and construction

work was terminated. The construction of the new temple was later assigned to the Roman architect Decimus Cossutius by the king of Syria Antiochus IV, Epiphanes. Antiochus died in 163 BC and the construction of the temple was once again abandoned. The structure did not have a roof and pediment. The construction of the temple, which ranks among the biggest in antiquity, was completed in 131 AD by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. It is of Corinthian order (110m in length and approximately 44m in width), three rows of eight columns at the narrow sides and two rows of twenty columns at its long sides. Inside the temple there was a gold and ivory statue of Zeus which does not exist today.

Ilissos Valley.

The surviving section of the *Ilissos river valley* (right behind the temple of Olympian Zeus) is worth a visit. In antiquity the Ilissos river was known as the sacred river of the Muses. Scattered remains of ancient sanctuaries are located in the valley. You will find

nearby the rock of the *Kalliroi spring* – which was famous in antiquity – and the church of *Ayia Fotini*, which was built in 1872 at the site of an ancient temple, on the foundation of the sacred sanctuary of Ekati. You will find nearby, the preserved monuments of the classical, Roman, and Byzantine age, among others, (*the Temple of Apollo Delphinios, the Temple of Cronos and Rhea, a Byzantine quarter with workshops, and Leonidis Church*).

2 HADRIAN'S ARCH

Following the construction of the temple of Zeus, the Athenians, in 131 AD, in honour of Emperor Hadrian, built an arch on the northwestern perimeter of the temple. The monument is 18m tall and 13m wide while the arch, built of *Pentelic marble*, bears two inscriptions on the architrave over the arch. One inscription, facing the Acropolis and the old town (facing west), says: "*This is Athens, the city of Theseus*". The other inscription, facing





the sanctuary and an extension of Athens constructed by Hadrian, (facing east), says: “This is the city of Hadrian, not Theseus”.

3 DIONYSIOU AREOPAGITOU STR

Dionysiou Aeropagitou Str is one of the most impressive streets of Athens, offering an extraordinary view of the southern *slope* of the Acropolis, where some of the city’s most significant monuments stand, and

the Parthenon. Most of the buildings on one side of the road facing south were constructed in the late 19th century and the early 20th century in the neoclassical or modernist style, reflecting the bourgeois style of the street.

4 THE ANCIENT THEATRE OF DIONYSOS

Directions: Enter the archaeological area on the southern slope of the Acropolis (entrance at

Dionysiou Areopagitou Str), and head upwards. On the slope to your right is the most ancient theatre of the world, the Theatre of Dionysos. In this theatre, the most famous ancient Greek poets, *Aeschylus*, *Aristophanes*, *Euripides*, and *Sophocles* saw premiere performances of their plays in the 5th century BC. The auditorium and the proscenium were made of wood. In the 4th century BC they were reconstructed using marble. Sections of the stone auditorium survive. According to experts, the theatre had a capacity of 17,000. On the slope overlooking the theatre, sculpted on the rock of the Acropolis, is the choregic *Monument of Thasylus* (319 BC) and two choregic *Corinthian columns*.

5 THE STOA OF EUMENES

Above the theatre is the *Stoa of Eumenes*, which was built by the *King of Pergamum*, *Eumenes II* in the 2nd century BC. The arch provided shelter to theatregoers in case of bad weather or shade from the sun. Nearby are the ruins of the *Asclepieion of Athens*, which was built in 429 BC, following

the plague, which decimated the population.

6 THE ODEION OF HERODES ATTICUS

The Odeion of Herodes Atticus was built in 161 AD by the wealthy *Herodes Tiberius Claudius Atticus*, a teacher and philosopher, who inherited a fortune from his father. Herodes Atticus constructed the covered Odeion in memory of his wife Regilla. Ancient Greeks organised events in the Odeion. Nowadays, the 5,000-seat theatre is a venue for concerts of the *Athens Festival* (see page 126). You may enjoy the beauty and charm of the Odeion in a morning stroll on the way to the *Acropolis*.

7 THE ACROPOLIS

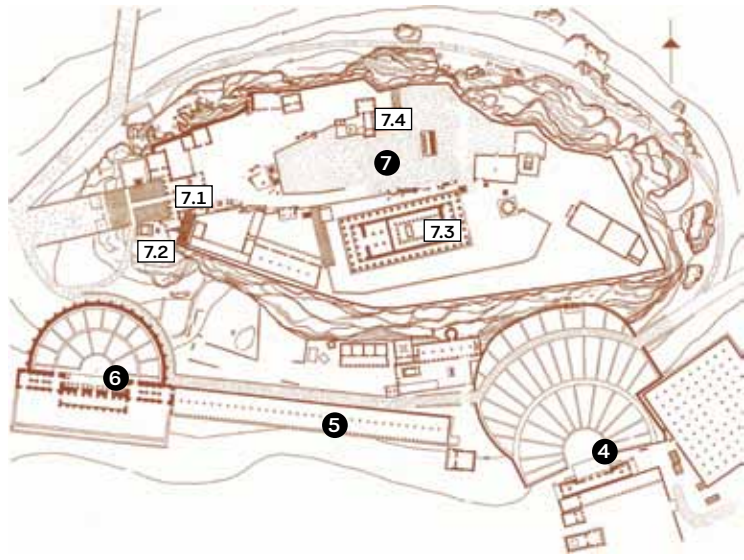
The Acropolis is the symbol of Athens, the sacred rock, linking the fabulous ancient civilisation with the modern city. The monuments on the Sacred Rock date back to the prehistoric era and antiquity. The grandeur and beauty of the Sacred Rock attract Greek and foreign visitors. A visit to the Acropolis is a unique experience.



4. View of the pedestrianized Dionysiou Areopagitou Str., centerpiece of the “grand promenade” in the archaeological sites of Athens.

5. The Theatre of Dionysos.

6. The Roman Odeion of Herodes Atticus.



THE SIGHTS:

North Slope of Acropolis.

Follow *Peripatos* [Pathway] on the north slope of the Acropolis Rock where the first inhabitants of Athens had settled. You will first meet a structure containing a fountain, known as *Hourglass* (5th c. BC); the Panathenaic Way went by this location. The cavernous

openings were used for the worship of *Apollo Ypoakraios* [Under the Heights], *Olympian Zeus*, the *god Pan* and further east the *sanctuary of Aphrodite and Eros*.

7.1 The Propylaea

adorned with monuments, is the grand entrance of the Acropolis. The Propylaea, built by Pericles in 437-432 BC,

were the work of the famous Athenian architect, *Mnesikles*. They were incorporated in the wall which has been preserved until today and was built during the first half of the 5th century B.C., in place of the older destroyed Cyclopean wall. Before reaching the Propylaea, you will pass through the *Beulé gate*, part of the Roman fortifications of the Acropolis. Right after that you will encounter a 13 m. high pedestal, known as the "*monument of Agrippa*", on which the Athenians in 27 B.C. erected a statue of the Roman Marcus Agrippa, benefactor of the city.

7.2 The Temple of the Athena Victory (Wingless Victory)

south of the *Propylaea*, was built circa 420 BC in commemoration of the victory of the Greeks against the Persians. The temple was the work of the architect *Kallikrates*. The site was the location of a sanctuary in the prehistoric era. To the left of the temple you will find the *Erechtheion*. Facing the temple is the *Parthenon*.

7.3 The Parthenon

is an architectural masterpiece of great renown. You will appreciate its splendour if you visit, and learn about the history and the secrets of the construction of the Parthenon. This unique temple, dedicated to the goddess *Athena*, was built of *Pentelic marble*. The *Parthenon* of the classical era was built on the remains of the monumental *earlier Parthenon*, an archaic temple built in the late 6th century BC. The architects of the classical temple, which was constructed and decorated from 447-432BC (in the golden age of Pericles), were *Iktinos* and *Kallikrates*. It is a Doric peripteral temple with 8 columns on the front and the back and 17 columns on each side. In the Parthenon stood the chryselephantine statue of *Athena*, the work of the famous sculptor *Pheidias*, who was also in charge of the overall construction. The statue was the destination of the great procession of the Panathenaea, depicted on the frieze of the temple.



7. Acropolis: the monument of Agrippas, the temple of Athena Nike and a part of Propylaea.

8. The Parthenon, the most splendid architectural achievement of classical Greece.



The chryselephantine statue of Athena.

According to mythology, the name of the city is connected with a rivalry between Poseidon and Athena for the guardianship of the city. Poseidon offered the Athenians a horse, while Athena, struck the rock of the Acropolis with her spear, and an olive tree sprouted. The Athenians preferred the olive tree, which symbolised peace and prosperity. The city was named after Athena. The 12-metre high statue stood in the Parthenon. The interior of the statue was made of wood, while the nude parts were made of ivory. The removable robe and the helmet were coated with gold plating. The statue, which represented the goddess Athena bearing arms, and on her right hand a 2-metre high ivory statue of victory, was lost in the early Byzantine era. Ancient sources, and the analytical descriptions of Pausanias (2nd century AD), testify to the existence of the statue. Archaeologists have derived information about the statue from copies. The most

famous copy is the *Varvakeios Athena*.

7.4 The Erechtheion

was built from 420-406 BC at the most holy site of the Acropolis, where goddess Athena planted the olive tree, her sacred symbol. The tree was later destroyed by Persian invaders. According to mythology, following the expulsion of the Persians, the tree miraculously sprouted again.

Caryatids:

The figures of the maidens supporting the roof of the southern balcony of the temple are copies. Five of the six Maidens that once adorned the temple are displayed in the Acropolis Museum, while the sixth is displayed in the British Museum.

TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Please be patient when you ascend the holy rock. You will be rewarded by the spectacular view at the top.

▶ You will pass through the *Propylaea* before you arrive at the Parthenon.

▶ The view from the temple

of the *Athena Victory* is spectacular.

▶ The slight bulge of the columns of the *Parthenon* gives the impression that they are bending under the weight of the roof.

▶ The secret of the harmony of the Parthenon is that there is not a straight line in the design. Don't be deceived by the optical illusion of the columns, which appear to bulge.

▶ The *Erechtheion* is a unique temple constructed according to the style of ancient Athens. It is constructed on two levels. It is asymmetrical and has two balconies, which are not thematically connected to each other. The small balcony on the south side is better known, mainly due to the six *Caryatids* that support the roof. The differences between the sections of the temple may be due to the fact that the various parts are dedicated to various gods. The eastern section was dedicated to Athena Poliada, and the western section to Poseidon Erechtheus.

The Acropolis Museum
(see page 41)

8 THE AREIOS PAGOS

The Areios Pagos, venerated in antiquity, is the most ancient law court of the world. It was the seat of the first aristocratic assembly of ancient Athens. The assembly gradually lost political influence and in the latter half of the 5th century, it retained solely its function as a court, mostly hearing murder cases. The *Oresteia* describes the trial at this court of *Orestes* for the murder of his mother *Clytemnaestra*, and her lover *Aegisthus*. Apostle Paul spoke to the Athenians at the Areios Pagos in 51 AD. A bronze plaque on the base of the hill commemorates his sermons.

9 PHILOPAPPOU HILL

Well worth a visit any time of the year. A walk at Philopappou Hill is a fascinating experience: you will find here a magnificent park, important monuments such as the alleged *Prisons of Socrates*, the *Tombs of Kimon*, the ancient *Koilis*



9. The northern wing of the *Propylaea*, known as the *Gallery*, was decorated with paintings.

10. The southern balcony of the *Erechtheion* with the famous *Caryatids*.

10



13

12

street, which was a mercantile boulevard with shops and houses, *Iroo Mousaiou*, the *Philopappus Monument* and the spectacular view of the Parthenon and the Acropolis.

THE SIGHTS:

- **Philopappus Monument** was built by Athenians in the 2nd century BC in honour of the benefactor, ruler of Syria, Gaius Julius Antiochus. Gaius Julius was also known as Philopappus, which roughly translated means “one who loves his grandfather.” His grandfather was the last King of Kommagini Antiochus IV.

- **Cobbled road.** In the 1950's the Greek architect D. Pikionis developed the design of the area encompassing the Propylaea of the Acropolis and Philopappou Hill. Take note of the hand made cobbled roads leading to the monuments, the church of *Ayios Demetrios Loumbardiariis* (see page 22) and the refreshment room. The area has been designated a Scheduled and Protected Monument of the Global Cultural Heritage.

10 PNYX

Pnyx is situated between the *Hill of the Muses* (the location of Philopappus Monument) and the *Hill of the Nymphs*, (the location of the Sanctuary of the Nymphs and the National Observatory, see page 43). The semicircular square was after 6th century BC the location of the assembly of the people of Athens. They gathered here to hear orators speak from a rock platform in the centre of the Pnyx, and participate in the democratic polity. The assembly is thought to have had a capacity of 10,000.

11 THE ANCIENT AGORA

The archaeological area of the ancient Agora is located on the foothills of the *Acropolis*, near Thission Metro Station. In antiquity, the Agora was not solely a commercial centre. It was also an important political, cultural and religious centre. In the area of the agora were located administrative buildings, temples, public services and courts. The Athenians gathered here every day to buy and sell their goods, learn

the current news, criticise the government, exchange ideas, or engage in discussion. The area was settled in the Neolithic age. The monuments located there were built in various historical periods: from the classical age to the 11th century AD. The church of *Ayioi Apostoloi* was built in the 11th century (see page 22).

THE SIGHTS:

11.1 Thission (Theseion) - Temple of Hephaistos.

Thission was dedicated to *Hephaistos* and *Athena*, and not *Theseus*. It is located in the western perimeter of the Agora. It is the best-preserved temple of antiquity. It was built in 460-415 BC. In the temple stood the statues of *Hephaistos* and *Athena*, thought to have been sculpted by *Alkamenes*.

11.2 The monument of the Eponymous Heroes.

Here stood the statues of the ten heroes of Attica (4th century BC). The ten clans of Attica were named after the heroes. Public announcements were displayed on the pedestal of these statues.

11.3 Poikile Stoa.

It is thought that Poikile Stoa derived its name from the variety of the colours and themes of its murals. The name “Poikile” (poikile means diverse) leads us to the supposition that the murals here were painted in a variety of colours and themes. Here *Zinon* taught *Stoic* philosophy, which was named after *Poikile Stoa* (460 BC).

11.4 The Stoa of Attalus.

The Stoa of Attalus, a two-floor building, was donated by the King of Pergamum *Attalus II* (159-138 BC) to the city of Athens. It is thought to have been a kind of ancient commercial centre with 21 shops on each floor. The collection of the *Museum* displays everyday objects, which were unearthed in excavations in the ancient Agora. Visitors may get an idea of everyday life in ancient Athens.

11.5 The Basileios Stoa.

The Basileios Stoa, constructed circa 500 BC, is located on the foothills of *Thission*. It was the seat of the *Archon Vasileus* and the council of the *Areios Pagos*.

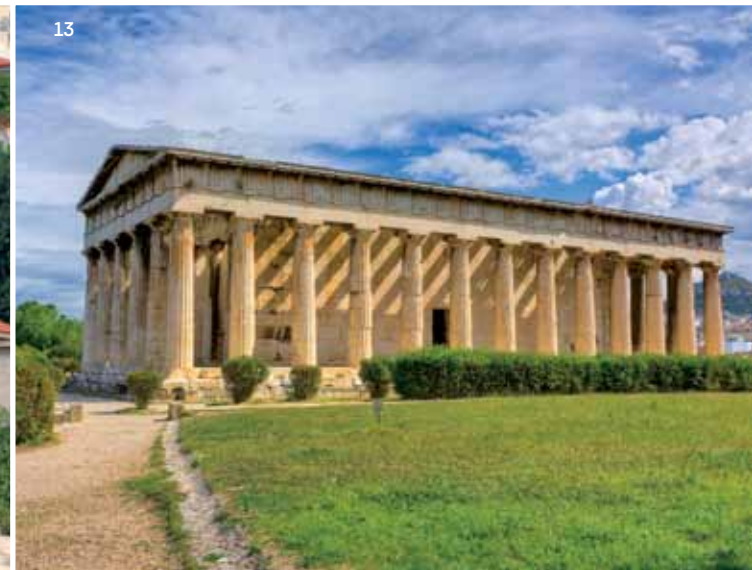
11. The funerary monument of Philopappus (with a height of 12 metres), decorated with sculpted depictions of Philopappus and his family.



12. Attalus colonnade was fully restored from 1953-1956. It houses the Ancient Agora Museum.



13. The Temple of Hephaistos (Thission), on the western side of the Ancient Agora (Agoraios Kolonos Hill).



11.6 Odeion of Agrippa.

Built by Agrippa in 15 B.C. it could seat 1,000 spectators and had a two-storeyed portico. It was destroyed in 267 A.D. by the Herulians and in 400 A.D. the Gymnasium was built in its place. On the north side four large statues of Giants and Tritons, salvaged from the Odeion, were placed on pedestals. Three of these statues still exist.

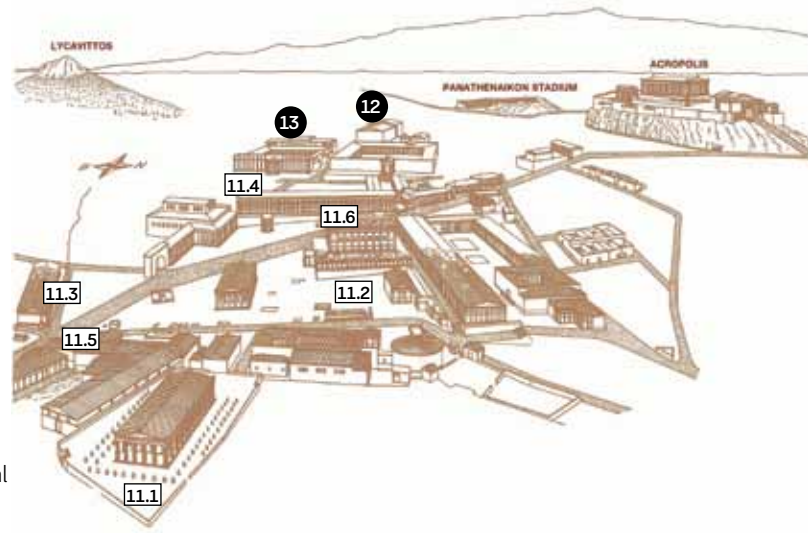
12 THE ROMAN AGORA

The Roman Agora (in the Plaka area) was an architectural complex, built between 19 and 11 B.C., consisting of a large rectangular court surrounded by colonnades (stoas). Behind the stoas were various shops.

THE SIGHTS:

Gate of Athena Archegetis.

Located at the west side of the area. A monumental gateway with four Doric columns and a pediment of Pentelic marble, preserved in excellent condition.



Kyrristus Clock – Tower of the Winds.

On the eastern side of the Roman *Agora* stands an octagonal monument. The *Clock of Andronicus Kyrristus*, constructed in the 1st century BC, was a hydraulic clock. On each face of the clock can be seen bas-reliefs of the eight winds. The monument was named 'Winds' from the depictions.

Vespasianes (public lavatories).

Rectangular building with anteroom and square room with benches with holes in them on all four sides and a sewage canal underneath (1st century A.D.), named after Roman emperor Vespasianus.

Fetihie Mosque

(see page 25)

13 HADRIAN'S LIBRARY

It is situated north of the Roman Agora (the entrance is on 3 Areos Str). It is a rectangular building measuring 122m x 82m with a Corinthian propylon on the west side. It was built by Roman emperor Hadrian in 132 A.D. It formed a colonnade with specific areas used for the storage of papyrus and books, lecture halls etc. There was a courtyard in the center. In this courtyard an Early Christian Church was built during the 5th century, which was later destroyed and replaced by a 7th century three-aisled basilica and an 11th century single-naved basilica.

14 KERAMEIKOS

The ancient Kerameikos was located in the north-western outskirts of Athens. It was partly enclosed by, and partly beyond, the walls that divide the area of the excavation. In the centre of the archaeological site are the two best known arches of ancient Athens, the *Dipylon* where the Panathenaic procession would start and



14. Horologion [timepiece] of Kyrristos (Tower of the Winds) in the Roman Agora.



15. The main yard of the Roman Agora.



16. Hadrian's Library.

the *Sacred Arch*, where the sacred way would begin and the *Elefsinian Mysteries* procession would pass through (see page 100). In the vicinity of the arches was the most ancient and the biggest cemetery of *Attica*. Moreover it was the place of burial of citizens who were honoured by the city of Athens. According to the geographer *Pausanias*, the location was named after *Keramos*. However, the place was most likely named after the neighbourhood of the *kerameis* (potters). (The definition of *Kerameikos* is something related to ceramics or potters). The neighbourhood of the *kerameis* was established on the banks of the river *Iridanos*. You can see the riverbed in the archaeological area. The *ancient Demos of Kerameikos* covered a large area. Only part of it has been unearthed in excavations. It is thought that the area of the *Kerameikos* was bounded by the north-western perimeter of the *Agora* on one side and the copse that was named after the hero *Akademos*, on the other side.

The festival of the Panathenaea.

Every year the ancient Athenians celebrated the *Mikra (small) Panathenaea*, and every four years they celebrated the *Megala (great) Panathenaea*, which were grander and included horse racing, athletic contests, competitions in music and other activities. On the last day of the festival, a procession began at *Kerameikos*, (the preparation of the procession would take place in a large 5th century B.C. building with a peristyle central court named *Pompeion* next to the *Dipylon*). The procession passed through the *Agora* and ascended the *Acropolis*, where a veil named *Peplon* was offered to goddess *Athena*. According to custom, during the festival, statues were covered with real clothes. The robe of the gods was basically a woollen tunic, woven by a priestess assisted by young virgins. It was placed on the mast of a large wooden boat as its sail and carried to the *Acropolis*. The procession followed the boat. This procession is depicted on the frieze of the *Acropolis*.

THE SIGHTS:

Tombs and stelae (columns).

Kerameikos is mainly known for its tombs and columns. The copy of the marble bull in the enclosure of the tomb of *Dionysus from Kollytos*, and the copy of the famous columns of *Dexileos* and *Hegesos* (late 5th century BC). If you want to see the original sculpture of the *Dexileos* tomb stele, as well as other finds of the excavation, please visit the Museum. The tomb stele of *Hegesos* is displayed in the National Archaeological Museum (see page 75)

The Kerameikos Museum.

It is located in the archaeological site of *Kerameikos*. It displays very significant finds of the excavation of *Kerameikos*, including funeral gifts found in tombs and sculptures adorning tombs of the archaic and classical periods.

The Public Memorial.

A section of the ancient cemetery, including the tombs of public figures and a multitude of the graves of soldiers fallen in battle, was recently excavated near the archaeological area of *Kerameikos (at 35, Salaminas Str)*.

15 AKADEMIA PLATONOS (PLATO'S ACADEMY)

From *Kerameikos* archaeological site, follow *Salaminos* and *Monastiriou Streets* and you will reach *Akadimia Platonos* area. The area was inhabited in the prehistoric age (in the 6th century BC one of the three famous *Gymnasia* of Athens was founded here). It is named after the hero *Akademos*, or *Ekadimos*. However, it is known after the famous philosophical school founded by *Plato (neighbourhood Akademia Platonos)* in 387 BC. The school was a focal point of the prestigious Neoplatonist philosophers. Today, the archaeological site is developing within a park. It occupies a surface of approximately 37 acres, between *Athinon Avenue* and *Lenorman Avenue* (access from the streets *Monastiriou*, *Faonos* and *Drakondos*).

THE SIGHTS:

The Sacred Residence of the Geometric period

consists of seven rectangular spaces. It has the same features as the sacred residence of *Eleusina*. Remnants of sacrifices found at the residence seem to indicate that this was a major place of worship.

The Gymnasium.

The *Gymnasium* is a large rectangular building (1st century BC – 1 century AD), with an internal peristyle and rooms on the northern side. In the *Gymnasium* is a small area that served as an arena.

The Peristyle building.

A large rectangular building (4th century BC) with an interior peristyle. It is thought to have been an arena or an annex of the *Gymnasium*.

The Early Greek Arched Residence.

It consists of a hall, a chamber and a storage room. It is thought to be the prehistoric residence of *Akademos*.



17.
Kerameikos:
Iridanos
riverbed next
to *Iera Odos*
[*Sacred Way*].

18.
Funerary
Stelae in the
Kerameikos
archaeological
site.

Tour of Athens 2nd Stage: BYZANTINE MONUMENTS IN ATHENS

The 11th and 12th centuries are thought to be the **Golden Age of Athens' Byzantine art**. Most of the better known and more important Byzantine churches of Athens were built in these two centuries as part of a Christian reconstruction following the campaigns of Emperor Basil II in the Balkans. Some of the better-known monasteries were also founded in the same period in the suburbs of Athens.

THE SIGHTS:

1 The Old Metropolis (Cathedral) (Mitropoleos Square).

This charming church is located near the new Cathedral. It was built in the late 12th century. It is dedicated to *Gorgoepikoos Panayia* (the Virgin Mary) and *Ayios Eleftherios*. Ancient and Byzantine bas-reliefs were used for the construction of the church. In the façade is an ancient frieze, taken from a monument of the 4th century B.C. depicting official Attic festivals. The church was the official Episcopal

Seat of Athens following the expulsion of the bishops from the Parthenon by the Franks and later the Turks. From 1839 to 1842 it was used as a library. The new Metropolis nearby was built from 1842 and 1862 as the cathedral of Athens. It is a domed church built in the neobyzantine and neoclassical style.

2 Kapnikarea (Ermou Str).

The Kapnikarea is a cruciform, domed Byzantine church with a dome dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary. The original building was constructed in

the 11th century. Construction was completed in the 13th century. It has had various names: *Camoucharea*, *Chrysocamouchariotissa*, *Panayia tis Vasilopoulas* (Virgin of the Kings daughter). In 1834, the year of the construction of Ermou Str, the authorities considered plans to relocate the church, or demolish it, since it was located in the middle of Ermou Str, and was a hindrance to traffic. However, thanks to the intervention of *Ludwig of Bavaria*, father of King Otto, and *Neofytos Metaxas*, Bishop of *Talantio* and Bishop of Athens, the church was preserved at the present location.

3 Ayios Nikolaos Rangavas (Plaka)

is located near the Anafiotika area of Plaka. The church was built in the 11th century. It was part of the Palace of the *Rangavas family*. *Michael I*, Emperor of Byzantium, was descended from this family. The area around the church was formerly called Rangavas.

4 Ayia Ekaterini (Plaka)

is located near the *Lysikrates Monument* (see page 29), in the square bearing the same name. Shading the church is a palm tree. It was constructed from 11th-12th century. In the corner of the square are the ruins of a roman monument.

5 Ayios Ioannis Theologos (Plaka)

is a very beautiful cruciform church of the 11th-12th century. It is located at the crossroads of *Erotokritou Str* and *Erechtheos Str*. It has been renovated several times.

6 Sotiras tou Kotaki (Plaka)

is better known as Ayia Sotira. It is located at *Kydathinaion Str*, opposite the Museum of Greek Folk art, in the Plaka area. It was built in the 11th-12th century. It has been renovated several times.

7 Metochi Panayiou Tafou (Anafiotika).

It is located at *Erechtheos Str*. It is a small monastery belonging to the Holy Sepulchre



19.
Kapnikarea
church.



of Jerusalem. The church of the monastery, *Ayioi Anargyroi* was built in the 17th century.

8 Panayia Chryssokastriotissa (Anafiotika)

One of several churches in *Anafiotika*. According to popular belief, the miraculous icon of the church protects believers in difficult circumstances.

9 Sotira Lykodimou - Russian Church (Filellinon Str)

is the biggest medieval building of Athens. Built in 1031, it was part of a Roman Catholic monastery that closed in 1701. In the 1850s the building was renovated by *Tsar Alexander II* who donated a bell-tower. *Sotira Lykodimou* is the Russian Orthodox Church of Athens.

10 Ayioi Apostoloi tou Solaki (Ancient Agora)

is located within the Ancient Agora excavation area. It is one of the oldest churches of Athens (1000-1025). It was constructed on the ruins of

a Roman nymphaeum of the 2nd century. In the 1950s, following a renovation, it was restored to its original form. Many post-Byzantine murals of the church of *Ayios Spyridonas*, which has been demolished, were transported to *Ayioi Apostoloi*.

11 Pantanassa (Monastiraki Square)

It is a three-aisled basilica built in the 10th century. The church belonged to the monastery of *Koimesi tis Theotokou* from which the district's name is derived (*Monastiraki*). In the older days it was a dependency of the *Kaisariani Monastery* (see page 91)

12 Ayios Demetrios Loumbardiaris (Philopappou Hill)

is a beautiful basilica of the 16th century, with remarkable murals. According to prevailing tradition its name (*Loumbardiaris* or *Bombardiaris*) was derived from an incident that occurred in the 17th century when the Christians believed that *Saint Demetrios*

protected them from a great Turkish cannon (*Loumbarda*) located there.

13 Ayioi Asomatoi (Thissio)

A cruciform church built in the 11th century, with carved stone blocks, framed by bricks, while in places subsequent Islamic influence is obvious.

14 Ayios Ioannis stin Kolona (Euripidou Str).

A small chapel built in the 12th century, it was named after a Roman column, preserved in the interior. *Ayios Ioannis o Vaptistis* was thought to be a healer of all sicknesses of the head. Visitors may see on the column offerings to the Saint offered by the faithful expressing gratitude for his help.

15 Ayioi Theodoroi (Klathmonos Square).

The church was reconstructed in the late 11th century on the foundation of a church that was built in the 9th century. It was built by *N. Kalomaos*, who was a *Spatharocandidatos* (a rank of the Byzantine Court).

16 Taxiarches (the church of the Petraki Monastery, at 14, Gennadiou Str),

built in the 12th century, it belongs to the *Petraki Monastery* (18th century). In the cross-domed church visitors may see murals dating back to 1719.

17 Ayioi Isidoroï (Lycabettus Hill)

is a small church located in a large cave in *Lycabettus Hill*. It was formerly called *Ayios Sidereas* church. It was burned in 1930 and reconstructed in 1931.

18 Ayios Georgios (Lycabettus Hill)

is a whitewashed church at the top of *Lycabettus Hill*. You can reach the church on foot, or by funicular. It is thought that in antiquity the temple of *Akraios Zeus* was located here. In the period of Frankish rule, the small chapel of *Profitis Ilias* was built here. Later *Ayios Georgios the Rider* was built here. The exact date of the construction of the church is not known. The church bell was donated by *Princess Olga* who put the ruined church under her protection.

20



20. The Byzantine church of *Ayioi Apostoloi*, on the eastern side of the Ancient Agora.

21. *Ayios Georgios*, on the top of *Lycabettus Hill*. In the background is its distinctive bell tower.

21





Tour of Athens, stage 3:

OTTOMAN MONUMENTS IN ATHENS

Athens was conquered by the Ottomans in 1456 and liberated in March 1833. Throughout that period it was the biggest city in the southern part of the Greek peninsula. Remarkable buildings of the period have been preserved.



22. Fethiye Mosque next to the Roman Agora.

23. The Tzistarakis Mosque, on the picturesque Monastiraki Square.

24. The gate of the Muslim seminary (mendreses).

THE SIGHTS:

1 Mosques.

The *Tzistarakis Mosque* (or *Kato Sintrivaniou*), located in Monastiraki Square, was built in 1759 by the Turkish vojvod Moustafa Agas (or Tzistarakis). Seeking lime for the construction of the Mosque, Tzistarakis removed the 17th column of the *Temple of Zeus* (see pages 6-7). The Mosque has a loggia with four columns and two rows of four windows on each side. Since 1981 it has housed the *Museum of Traditional Ceramics*. In Athens, there is only one mosque open to the public, the Tzistarakis Mosque. Near the *Roman Agora* (see page 16), is the remarkable *Fethiye Mosque* [Fethiye Camii] which was built in 1456 on the remains of a three-aisled basilica (there are discernible segments), in honour of Mohamed II the Conqueror, on the occasion of his visit to Athens. After 1834 and until the early 20th c. it was changed into a military bakery. Today it houses a collection of the Archaeological Service (closed to the public).

2 Hamam (Turkish Baths).

The Bath of the Winds (Hamam Abid Efendi), in Plaka (at Kyristou 8), built in the 17th century, was a popular meeting place in the Ottoman era. It was renovated and now houses the *Museum of Cleanliness and Body Embellishment* as well as many artistic and cultural events.

3 Muslim Seminary [Madrasah].

The gate of the Muslim seminary, at the crossroads of Aiolou St. and Pelopida St. (Plaka area), is what has remained of the building, which was demolished in 1914 and archaeological excavations took place on site. According to an inscription above the entrance, the seminary was built in 1721 and consisted of a main building, which was a school and a mosque, rooms where students and teachers (hodja) stayed, secondary rooms, and a central court. In the 19th c., after Athens was selected to become the Capital of the Greek state, the facilities housed a prison.



THE ARCHITECTURE OF MODERN ATHENS

Neoclassicism

was from 1834 to the 1920s the predominant architectural style of the small city – which was situated in what is today the historical centre. The style of neoclassicism, which was in vogue in Western Europe, was a product of the romantic fascination with antiquity. It was introduced by German architects who came to Greece in the early 1830s to plan Athens. In the interwar era and especially after 1955, a number of Athens neoclassical buildings were torn down.

25.
Distinctive art nouveau mansions at Vasilissis Sofias Avenue.

26.
University of Athens: a superb example of neoclassical architecture.

However, in many areas of the historical centre, the charming, neoclassical style has been preserved.

Eclecticism.

In the late 19th century the tradition of neoclassicism was enriched by the romantic aesthetic, usually following the French style. Although Athenian

classicism remained the predominant architectural style, public and private buildings were constructed in this period in a breezy style, influenced by the decorative style in vogue in Western Europe.

Art Nouveau.

This radical movement was not established as a major architectural trend in Athens. However, after 1920, Greek bourgeois from Smyrna, Egypt, and Constantinople constructed residences following the art nouveau style. The few, impressive art nouveau buildings contrasted with the uniform neoclassical and eclectic architecture prevailing in Athens.

The modernist movement.

In the early 1930s, buildings with more than two or three floors – the usual number of floors of buildings at the



time - were constructed. These small blocks of flats, which sometimes had six floors, introduced a Greek variety of the international modernist architectural style (Bauhaus, Art Deco). The main characteristic of buildings constructed in this period, (as well as the preceding period), are the semicircular ledges, and the facades. A multitude of these buildings are thought to be important monuments exemplifying the global history of the modernist style.

The post-war era (1950 – present day).

In the post-war era, the population of Athens and

demand for housing rapidly increased. In the 1950s and the early 1960s, buildings with marble facades, parapets, and imposing entrances were in vogue. From 1960-1985 (the development era) the mass construction of dull modern buildings was in vogue, altering the physiognomy of the new neighbourhoods. Quality buildings were also constructed in this era. In the past few decades, following a period of stagnation, Athens has acquired important new (predominantly public) buildings, giving the city a new splendour, and upgrading depressed areas.

26

27. *In the period from 1930-1960 a multitude of buildings reflecting architectural trends from modernism to more recent styles were built in Athens.*

28. *The building of the Headquarters of the National Bank of Greece, one of the most impressive buildings in Athens (2002).*



27



Tour of Athens, stage 4: HISTORIC CENTRE (1)

1 PLAKA

Plaka, also known as the “neighbourhood of the gods,” is the oldest neighbourhood of Athens. Walking on its paved narrow streets you get the feeling that you are travelling back in time. The origin of the name of the neighbourhood is unknown, although theories abound. According to popular belief, Plaka was named after a slab of stone that was found near the church of *Ayios Georgios Alexandrias*, in the vicinity of the theatre of Dionysos. The beautiful neoclassical style colour of the houses, the architecture, the well-kept gardens, and

the beauty and atmosphere of the neighbourhood are enchanting. In Plaka the air you breathe is different; it is lighter, cleaner, and fragrant, like a gift of the gods. When you visit Plaka you should bring a map, because you might get lost in the labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys. In *Adrianou Street*, the central street of the neighbourhood, as in other streets in the area, you will find shops selling traditional products, souvenirs, Greek folk art and handicrafts, etc.

THE SIGHTS:

1.1 Filomousou Etairias Square, the central square of the neighbourhood, was named after the *Filomousos*

Etairia (The Society of the Friends of the Muses, in other words, the nine goddesses of the Arts), which was founded in 1813. The purpose of the Society was the promotion of Greek studies and the preservation of the archaeological treasures of Athens. At the square, located at the crossroads of *Kydathinaion Str*, *Farmaki Str*, *Olympiou Dios Str* and *Angelou Geronda Str*, are a multitude of cafes, restaurants, clubs with live music and souvenir shops.

1.2 The Children’s Museum,

located at *Kydathinaion Str* is a wonderful place for children. In the attic is a reconstructed room with old furniture, a radio, and theatre in the style of old Athenian homes, named “granddad and grandma’s room,” where children may dress with old style clothes. The Museum houses among others, an exhibition of paintings by children, old toys, a fairground and a library. If you have children, be sure to visit the Children’s Museum. It’s, also, worth seeing the neighbouring

Museum of Greek Children’s Art (9, *Kodrou str.*), which, among other things, exhibits in its premises paintings and three dimensional artworks by children up to 14 years old from all over Greece, which are renewed on a regular basis.

1.3 Lysikrates Monument.

In ancient Athens, theatrical performances held at the theatre of Dionysos were funded by wealthy citizens, the *donors*. The city gave a prize to the donor of the winning performance. When the wealthy *Lysikrates* won the prize in 334 BC, he constructed a monument to house it. The monument is preserved (ancient *Tripodon Str* - pavement of the road is preserved in a special space in a renovated building at number 28). The monument has had a long and varied history. In 1658, a Capuchin monastery was founded here. In 1669, Capuchins bought the monument. *Lord Byron* stayed at the monastery in his second visit to Greece. In the gardens the cultivation of the tomato, hitherto unknown in Greece, was introduced.

29. *Lysikrates Monument.*

30. *The side streets in Plaka ooze with the atmosphere of a bygone age.*



1.4 Anafiotika,

on the foothills of the Acropolis, has the charm of a beautiful island village. It was built in the mid 19th century by the renowned builders of the Aegean island of Anafi, who were invited to construct the palace of the first king of the Hellenes, *Otto* (see page 47). Feeling nostalgic for their birthplace in their long stay in Athens they recreated it in the upper area of Plaka. They built small, whitewashed houses, reproducing the architectural style of their village. We recommend that you visit *Anafiotika*, the neighbourhood of the Anafiotas, a unique, charming area.

The Museum of the University of Athens.

The building housing the museum, located at *Tholou Str*, was formerly the residence of the architect *Kleanthis* (1832-1833). Subsequently it housed the first University of Athens (1837-1842).

The Kanellopoulos Museum

was founded in 1976, following the donation of the

private collection of *Pavlos* and *Alexandra Kanellopoulos* to the Greek state. It is housed in the neoclassical mansion of the *Mihalea family*. The Kanellopoulos collection consists of archaeological finds and works of art from the prehistoric era to modern times.

The Roman Agora
(see page 16)

Byzantine churches
(see page 20)

Ottoman Monuments
(see page 24)

2 MONASTIRAKI

A distinctive old Athens area, with narrow, irregularly criss-crossing streets, and small buildings, characteristic of Ottoman and to some extent Byzantine urban planning. On the outdoor stands of street sellers, or the small shops on the central roads (*Adrianou Str*, *Pandrosou Str*, *Ifaistou Str*, *Thiseiou Str*, *Ayioi Filippou Str*, *Astigos Str*, and *Ermou Str*) you can find anything, such as shoes, clothes, old and new furniture, old books

and magazines, souvenirs, jewellery, hats, bronze objects, new and used records and CDs and traditional Greek instruments (*bouzouki*, *toublerleki*). Shopping or walking in *Monastiraki* is an unforgettable experience. You will be stunned by the variety and quality of things you can buy in the market.

THE SIGHTS:

2.1 Monastiraki Square

Historic Square, fully renovated, paved with colourful stones and paving blocks forming a multi-coloured mosaic. In the background, one can see the *Acropolis Rock* (see page 9) and the *Plaka* (see page 28). In this magnificent square, significant monuments from many different historic eras coexist. Such monumental sites are the *Tzistarakis mosque* (see page 25), *Hadrian's library* (see page 17), the Byzantine church of *Pantanassa* (see page 22). Of particular interest also is the renovated neoclassical metro station - one of the oldest of the metro network (1895). Next to the platforms,

in a specially formed space of 300sq.m. one can see the encased with stones, bed and banks of *Iridanos river*, dating from antiquity. It is visible even from the square, through the archaeological excavation pit.

2.2 Avissinias Square (Giousouroum)

is the central square of *Monastiraki*. Here you will find a wide range of rare furniture, antiques and the copies of antiques, and a variety of used items. Moreover, you will find old wardrobes, bookcases, frames, mirrors, antique office tables, tables, gramophone records and musical instruments. Come early if you want to shop. Noon is the best time to come if you want to take a look around. You can have a glass of Greek wine or ouzo with Greek snacks - called *mezedes* - in one of the small shops of the square, and observe the bustle of the *bazaar*.

2.3 Adrianou Str,

a distinctive Athens street, connects *Hadrian's library* with

31. *Plaka* quarter is a heritage area.

32. A multitude of the labyrinthine alleys of *Plaka* lead to the *Anafiotika* and the peripheral footpath of the *Acropolis*.

33. A typical island style house in *Anafiotika*, *Plaka*.



the Thissio metro station. In the neoclassical one-floor or two-floor buildings are shops with traditional items, and antique shops. Street-sellers sell their ware here Sundays. You will find here cafes and small fashionable restaurants with a unique view of the archaeological area of the *Ancient Agora* (see page 14).

3 THE OLD COMMERCIAL CENTRE

The area encompassed by *Mitropoleos Str*, *Athinas Str* and *Stadiou Str* is the heart of the historic centre of Athens, and the old commercial area. In the area, with the smaller or larger labyrinthine streets, are more than 2,500 shops selling a wide range of products. Pedestrian zones have been established. The historic commercial centre is a rather quiet area, with many cafes full of atmosphere, small bars and modern restaurants with customers any time of the day.

THE SIGHTS:

3.1 Mitropoleos Str.

It connects *Syntagma Square* (see page 46) with

Monastiraki Square (see page 31). The buildings on the street are built in the neoclassical style. The *Metropolis* (Athens Cathedral, see page 20) dominates Mitropoleos Square. On the square are several cafes. In the colourful *Dimopratriou Square* nearby you will find tavernas with traditional Greek food.

3.2 Ermou Str.

The street is named after the god Hermes – the protector of trade. *Ermou Str* was one of the first streets paved by *Kleanthis* and *Schaubert*. More than 60 years, from the late 19th century to the 1960s, it was a centre of women's fashion. It is one of the best areas for shopping in the capital. You will find a variety of silver, among others, candle holders, bowls, vases and jewellery, often hand-made goods produced in Greece, in shops at *Lekka Str*, which connects *Perikleous Str* and *Kolokotroni Str*, and the nearby arcades. Also, in the picturesque *Evangelistrias*

and *Ayiou Markou Streets*, there are many shops selling clothing and shoes at very reasonable prices.

In the section of *Ermou Str* closest to *Syntagma Square*, (up to *Athinas Str*) you will find the *Kapnikarea church* (see page 20). In the section of *Ermou Str* closest to *Pireaus Str* (from *Thiseio* to *Pireaus Str*) you will find the *archaeological site of Kerameikos* (see page 17).

3.3 Athinas Str.

A central commercial road connecting *Omonia Square* (see page 60) with *Monastiraki Square* (see page 31). Designed in perspective of the *Acropolis Rock*, it was one of the first main roads constructed in modern Athens and has a multitude of important architectural examples of 19th century and early 20th century styles. Noisy and busy most of the time, *Athinas Str* is connected mainly to the food trade. In the arcades of the old market most of the shops sell groceries. The fragrance of foods, fruits, herbs and nuts

pervades the air. The street has the charm of the bazaars of the East.

3.4 Athens Town Hall (*Athinas Str* 63)

was constructed in 1874 in a strictly neoclassical style. Originally a two-floor building, in 1937 a floor was added and the building was modified due to the increased space requirements of the Municipality. In the interior you will find the paintings of known Greek painters of the 19th century, and murals of *F. Kontoglou* with representations of mythological and historic themes (1937-1940). You will find a large oil painting depicting the Apostle Paul teaching the Athenians Christian religion (1877) in the Municipal Council hall. In the reception room (1st floor), you will find in special glass-showcases, small terra cotta figures representing all the mayors of Athens. In the vicinity of the municipality is an attractive, small square, *Theatrou Square*.

34. The *Metropolis* (Athens Cathedral) at *Mitropoleos Square*. On the right is *Ayios Eleftherios* chapel.

35. A rare palimpsest of monuments dating to all historical times in Athens is to be seen in *Monastiraki square*.

36. The Athens Town Hall.



3.5 Kotzia Square
(*Ethnikis Antistassis Square*),

formerly called Laou Square, and Loudovikou Square, faces the Town Hall. The eclectic style *Melas Mansion* (Ern. Ziller 1887), with an impressive façade, and two small towers at the sides, dominates the south side of the square. The central hall is covered with a glass roof. In the perimeter are Doric and Ionian style colonnades. The building, formerly the residence of V. Melas, houses the Cultural Centre of the National Bank of Greece. In the eastern side of the square is a renaissance style building, the *G. Stavrou Mansion*, housing services of the National Bank of Greece. A section of the *Acharnic Gate* of the *Themistocleian walls* was uncovered and is exhibited in the northeastern section of the square.

3.6 Varvakeios Municipal (Central) Market

is a rectangular building (1886) with a large covered court. There are a total of 73 food stalls (meat market,

fish market, vegetable market and groceries) in the interior and exterior sections. The market is covered with a glass and metal roof and has symmetrical windows. You will find here small restaurants (eating-houses) with fresh food, attracting Athenians especially after midnight. There is a small grove on the square (*Varvakeios Square*) across the street.

3.7 Evripidou Str

a charming street with an oriental atmosphere, connects *Koumoundourou Square* (see page 61) with *Klathmonos Square* (see page 35). You will find here a multitude of shops selling spices, sweets, nuts, coffee, and traditional oriental products.

3.8 Aioulou Str.

A pedestrian zone has been established in a large section of the Aioulou Str, which connects Panepistimiou Ave. with the Roman Market (Plaka). At the crossroads of Aioulou Str and Sophocleous Str is the newly constructed

Administration Building of the National Bank of Greece (2002), one of the most important modern architectural sights of Athens. The building was designed by Greek architects, with the collaboration of the famous architect M. Botta. On the ground floor you will find a restored section of the ancient Acharnai road. At 10 Sophocleous Str is the old mansion of the *Athens Stock Exchange*, with a classical style façade with four Dorian columns. As you head towards Plaka you will see two marvellous churches, which are well worth a visit: The *Panagia Chrysospiliotissa* (1863 – at the crossroads of Aioulou Str and Panagia Chrysospiliotissa Str) and *Ayias Eirinis Str* (1847- Athinaidos Str) both built by the architect L. Kaftantzoglou. Ayia Eirini, which was the first Cathedral of Athens, is located at a picturesque square, where one can find a flower market and many café-bars.

3.9 Stadiou Str

is a central street – one of the first paved roads of

modern Athens. It was built on a river bed. It was formerly called Feidiou Str and Akakiou Str. There was a plan to extend the street to the Panathenaic Stadium – which was never put into action – hence the name Stadiou.

3.10 National Printing House

connects *Sarantouza Str* and *Arsaki Str*. One of the first state buildings raised in the modern city (1834), it is built in the neoclassical style. Before 1905, it housed the National Printing Service.

3.11 Klafthmonos Square

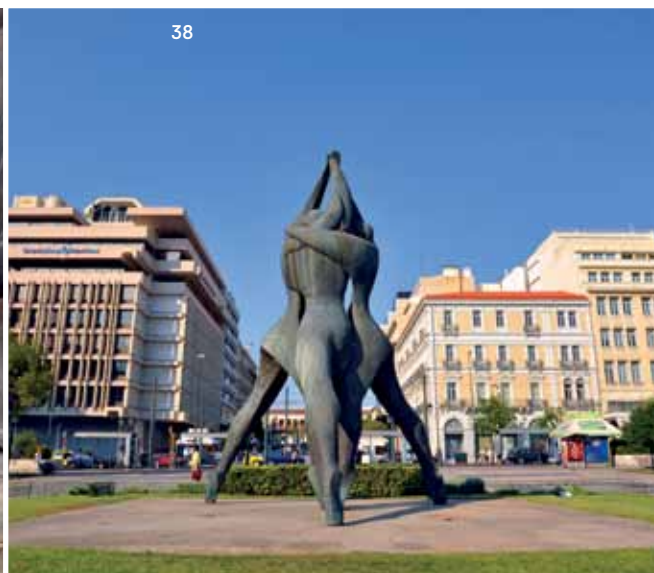
is a spacious square with interesting buildings (among others, *The Museum of the City of Athens*, see page 85, the former Ministry of Merchant Marine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Byzantine church of *Ayioi Theodoroi*, see page 23) and a multitude of cafes. An impressionist bronze statue representing the *National Reconciliation* (*Doropoulos*



37.
Kotzia Square
– view of the
northwest side.

38.
The National
Reconciliation
monument on
Klafthmonos
Square.

39.
A distinctive
 turret of Melas
Mansion on
Kotzia Square.



1988) stands in the centre of the square.

3.12 Attikon-Apollon building

is an eclectic style mansion (early 20th c.). It houses two cinemas, among the oldest of Athens, which have recently been renovated.

3.13 Karytsi Square

is a small square, named after the church at its centre. The elegant church (built by L. Kaftantzoglou) was erected at the site of an older church where the Athenians in January 1833 selected a deputation to welcome the new king Otto in Nauplion. Opposite the square is the neoclassical style *Parnassos* building. The area is today one of the most popular entertainment spots, as there are many cafes and small bars.

3.14 Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation (OTE) Mansion,

an exceptional example of modernism in Athens, with elements of older

architectural styles, it is the work of the known Greek architect *An. Metaxas* (1931).

3.15 Kolokotroni Square,

a small square, with the National Historical Museum and the impressive statue of the hero of the Greek Revolution Th. Kolokotronis on horseback (L. Sohos, 1904) at its centre. Opposite the square (Stadiou Str 8) is the dilapidated *Douila Residence*, one of the oldest buildings of the modern city, the work of *Chr. Hansen*.

3.16 National Historical Museum

This impressive neoclassical construction was built during the period 1858-1871 according to the plans of Fr. Boulanger, which were later modified by the Greek architect *P. Kalkos*. Up until 1935 the building constituted the seat of the Greek Parliament and for this reason it is called *Old Parliament*. Since 1961 it houses the collections of the *National Historical Museum* (for the museum collections see page 81)



Tour of Athens, stage 5
HISTORIC CENTRE (2)

1 PSYRI

A colourful neoclassical Athens neighbourhood, encompassed by *Athinas Str*, *Ermou Str*, and *Evrpidou Str*. It is a busy neighbourhood, especially in the night. You will find on its narrow alleys a multitude of cafes, small bars, clubs, restaurants, ouzo-restaurants, and taverns with live Greek music, theatres, galleries, art galleries, and antique shops.

Following the liberation of Greece (1833), veteran freedom fighters and immigrants from the provinces settled in the neighbourhood. They opened cottage industries

and workshops, which have given the neighbourhood a distinctive character. In the early 1990s, following a series of construction works, the neighbourhood became a popular nightlife and residential area. The churches in the area are also quite interesting, such as *Ayioi Anargyroi*, *Ayios Demetrios*, *Ayios Gregorios (Armenian)*, et al. *Iroon square*, the central square, is a good place for you to start your walk.

2 KERAMEIKOS

Near the archaeological area (see page 17) is the historic neighbourhood of Kerameikos. Worth seeing are



40. The statue of Th. Kolokotronis before the building of the National Historical Museum.

40

Ayion Assomaton Str (with the *Museum of Islamic Art*, (see page 82), Melidoni Str (you will find here the *Jewish synagogues Beth-Shalom* and Etz Hayyim as well as the *Museum of Modern Ceramics*) and Salaminas Str. In recent years, the area has become one of Athens popular nightlife hubs with many small restaurants, bars and live-music nightclubs.

3 GAZI

The former Gas works is at the centre of the neighbourhood, which was formerly called *Gazohori* (Gas village). Located in western Athens, it is the third square of the city, in accordance with the *Kleanthis-Schaubert* urban plan. It has to a large extent maintained the colour of a historic Athens neighbourhood. You will find cafes, bars and luxury restaurants, popular among Athenians, in a multitude of old, picturesque buildings. In the area, one can choose between different theatres and theatrical scenes.

THE SIGHTS:

3.1 The Gas works (Gazi)

was founded in 1857 and closed in 1983. It produced lighting gas for the city. Formerly in the area were, among others, wood workshops, foundries, machine-works, garages, restaurants, barbers shops, medical centre. The Gas works, a scheduled building, is the only one of its kind in Europe. The buildings have unadorned, neoclassical masonry, a varnished, wooden roof with skylights, covered with Byzantine or French style tiles and sheet-iron. It is an industrial zone, housing a cultural centre of the Athens Municipality (*Technopolis*) where major cultural and other types of events are hosted (concerts, exhibitions, conferences). Also, part of the facilities (furnaces, tanks, air chambers etc.) now form part of the *Industrial Gas Museum* where the history of the former industrial zone is presented by means of original items (such as machinery and other implements) audio and video recordings. Entrance is from Peiraios, Persefonis and Iakchou Streets.

4 METAXOURGEIO

The traditional neighbourhood in the centre of Athens was planned by architect, *Chr. Hansen*. The name is derived from a *silk fabric manufacture factory* (1834-1835), which closed in 1875. The building still stands on *Meg. Alexandrou St.*, between *Mylerou St.* and *Giatriakou St.* It was renovated and today houses the *Municipal Art Gallery* (with a collection of 3,000 works of art, mostly by Greek visual artists) and different cultural events. On the one side of *Achilleos Str* (facing *Pireos Str*) is the old section, and on the other side (facing *Lenorman Str*), is the new section. The new section, which has been reconstructed, has not maintained the historic character of the neighbourhood, while in the old section a number of buildings constructed in the traditional style have been preserved. In the area, a multitude of small restaurants-bars, and cafes are in operation serving traditional oriental beverages, sweets, and food.

THE SIGHTS:

4.1 Marble fountain.

The marble fountain, located at Metaxourgeio Square, was built in the 19th century. It was transported here from Dimopratriou Square.

4.2 Iasonos Str and Yiatrakou Str.

Starting at *Karaiskaki Square*, take *Achilleos Str*, turn at Iasonos Str, and head towards Agisilaou Str. You will find here small theatres in historic buildings. Take a right turn at Akadimou-Yiatrakou Str, and head towards Achilleos Str. Take note of the small, neoclassical (one-storey and two-storey) houses with balconies, balusters, and ornate front doors. At the crossroads of Yiatrakou Str and Germanikou Str, you will find a small colourful square (Avidis Square), with cafés and bars.

4.3 The Peloponnese Railway Station.

Starting at Karaiskaki Square, take a turn at Diliyianni Str, and you will arrive at this colourful building, built in 1912-1913, with an architectural design

41

41. Two-storey neoclassical building at Iroon Square (Psyri).



42. Neoclassical building façades on Melidoni street (Kerameikos area).

42



43. The marble fountain at Metaxourgeio Square.

43





44 combining the neoclassical, central European and Art Nouveau styles. The railway station (serving railway lines to the Peloponnese) is a copy in a reduced scale of the Constantinople railway station, reflecting the European architectural trends of the 19th century. Opposite the Peloponnese Railway Station is the **Larissis Railway Station** (serving railway lines to central and northern Greece), built in 1908, in the neoclassical style, and later reconstructed.

5 KOLONOS

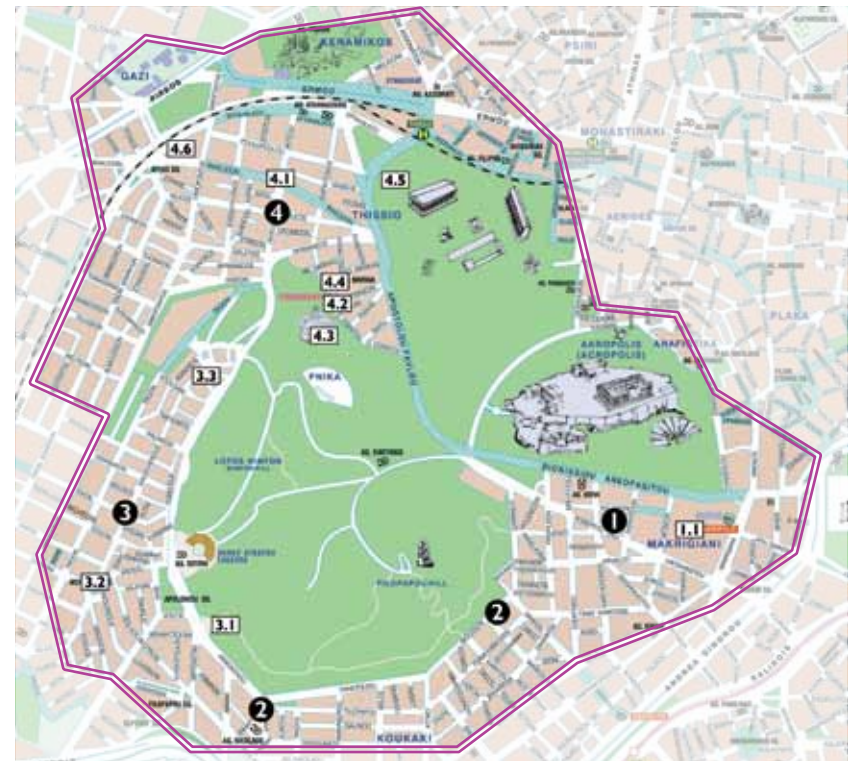
If you want to go for a walk, you can visit Kolonos, a

working-class neighbourhood of Athens, near the historic centre. Although the area has been rebuilt, the neighbourhood maintains its distinct, historic character. Starting at Peloponnese Railway Station take Ioanninon Str, to *Ippiou Kolonou Hill* and (take a turn at Evripou Str) proceed to *Skouze Hill*. Around these small wooded hills, you will find an area of detached houses with gardens and small, elegant blocks of flats, preserving the atmosphere of the old Athens neighbourhood (nearby metro stations: *Sepolia* and *Attiki*).



44. Part of the old Gasworks facility was turned into an Industrial Gas Museum.

45. A view of the industrial park at Gazi (Technopolis), the venue of cultural and other events.



Tour of Athens, stage 6

HISTORIC CENTRE (3) THE PHILOPAPPOU HILL AREA

1 MAKRIYIANNI

A residential area, enclosed by the Dionysiou Areopagitou Str to the foothills of Philopappou Hill. The neoclassical houses, and the newer buildings, (especially buildings built in the interwar era), are charming. Makriyianni is one of the most elegant neighbourhoods of the city. Worth a visit are, among others, *Mitsaion Str*, *Parthenonos Str*, *Webster Str*, *Cavalloti Str*, *Kallisperi Str*, *R. Gali Str*, *Mousion Str*.

THE SIGHTS:

1.1 The Acropolis Museum.

It is one of the most important contemporary works

of architecture in Athens. Its construction, designed by architects *B. Tschumi* and *Mih. Fotiadis* was completed in 2007. Standing only 300m away from the Acropolis, its total area covers 21,000 sq.m, while it offers a display area of 14,000 sq.m. It is made of steel, glass and concrete; it uses natural light efficiently so that its 4,000 exhibits would show off. The last level (The Parthenon room) has the dimensions and the direction of the Parthenon and it has been rotated by 23 degrees in relation to the rest of the building so that the visitor would have an immediate view of the monument. The surrounding area, visible from

the glass floor of the ground level, functions as an open-air museum-excavation. The main entrance is on Dionysiou Areopagitou Street (see page 8). In addition, the imposing **Weiller building** stands in the vicinity. Having been built by German architect *W. Von Weiller*, it combines Byzantine style masonry and neoclassical decorative patterns. Initially it was used as a military hospital and later as police unit headquarters, whereas since 1987 it houses the *Acropolis Research Centre* (for museum exhibits, see page 78).

2 KOUKAKI

Neighbouring Makriyanni is Koukaki, a district with a friendly, pleasant ambience and interesting sites especially the area near Philopappou Hill (*Panaitoliou Str, Arakinthou Str*).

3 ANO PETRALONA

A charming, colourful neighbourhood, exuding the 1950s atmosphere in Athens. Several examples of working-class urban architecture are preserved, among others, one-storey and two-storey houses.

THE SIGHTS:

3.1 Dora Stratou Theatre

is located west of the hill (*ancient Amphitheatre*). You can see performances of Greek folk dances by the *Dora Stratou* dance group. Dora Stratou dedicated her life to the research and preservation of Greek folk art. The group, which has participated in a multitude of festivals worldwide, is known in Greece and abroad. The dancers wear traditional Greek costumes of various regions of the country, and perform songs and dances dating to all periods of Greece's history.

3.2 Mercouri Square

is a colourful square, with small cafes, bars and traditional tavernas, in the nearby streets.

3.3 Stone-built houses.

An attractive, small neighbourhood is surrounded by *Apolloniou Str* and *Troon Str* - where the post-war period stone-built houses exude the atmosphere of a mountain village.

4 THISSIO (THESEION)

The area was named after the nearby ancient temple (see page 15). A traditional neighbourhood with a

multitude of charming neoclassical houses and stately buildings. Have a drink at one of the outdoor cafés at Thissio Square (at *Apostolou Pavlou Str*), and enjoy a unique view of the Acropolis and the Ancient Agora area.

THE SIGHTS:

4.1 Irakleidon Str

is the central pedestrian zone of the area, with attractive neoclassical buildings. Here, and at *Akamantos Str*, which is parallel to Irakleidon Str, you will find a multitude of cafes and bars, open all day. Moreover, in the nearby pedestrian zone at *Eptahalkou Str* you will find traditional tavernas with Mediterranean cuisine.

4.2 D. Aiginitou Str

connects *Apostolou Pavlou Str* with the National Observatory. It has a unique view of the Acropolis, Lycabettus Hill, the Ancient Agora and the modern city.

4.3 National Observatory,

the oldest research institution of Greece and the Balkans, was founded in 1842. The building of the Observatory was designed by Th. Hansen; it is located at Nymphon Hill which took its name from

the sanctuary of the Nymphs, situated there in antiquity, opposite the Acropolis and the Ancient Agora. It is an attractive neoclassical cruciform-shaped building, facing the four cardinal points.

4.4 Ayia Marina Square

is a colourful, quiet square, with Ayia Marina church (19th century) at its centre. In the north-western side, sculpted into the rock, lies the original chapel, with a posterior dome and murals of the 13th century.

4.5 Thissio Park

is the north-western section of the Ancient Agora archaeological site. It was planted with trees in 1862 and ornamental plants in 1931. Formerly it was the area where Athenians celebrated Easter.

4.6 Pouloupoulos Hat-factory (66, *Iraklidon Str*.)

is a noteworthy industrial building with interesting masonry and a tiled roof. The building, an important landmark that housed a hat-factory many years, is a scheduled monument. The space is used for various purposes (*Melina Mercouri* Cultural Centre).

46. External view of the Acropolis Museum.



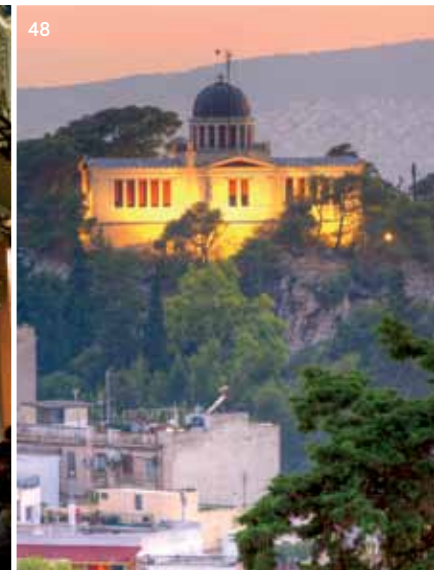
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47. The popular cafés of Thissio Square offer an unobstructed view of the Ancient Agora and the rock of the Acropolis.



47

48. The National Observatory on Nymfon hilltop [Hill of the Nymphs].



48



Tour of Athens, stage 7

KOLONAKI, THE RIGILLIS AREA, METZ

49. *Tsakalof Street, one of the central roads of Kolonaki, with a multitude of cafes and commercial shops, is a busy street.*

50. *Lykavittou Street in Kolonaki seen in the direction from Lykavittou Square towards Skoufa Street.*

1 Kolonaki

Kolonaki is situated at an exclusive location, encompassed by Syntagma Square, Vasilissis Sofias Avenue and the slopes of Lycabettus Hill. It was named after the old column (the Greek for small column is kolonaki), in the centre of Kolonaki Square. The area was not developed before

the 1880's. In Kolonaki you will find parks and attractive buildings, built predominantly in the neoclassical and modernist architectural style, lending the area a distinguished character. It is considered the "aristocratic" neighbourhood of Athens. You will find here the most expensive commercial shops, popular cafes and modern bars, and luxury restaurants.

If you seek diversion and relaxation, go for a stroll at *Patriarchou Ioakim Str, Tsakalov Str, Anagnostopoulou Str, Milioni Str, Fokylidou Str, Karneadou Str, Loukianou Str, Ploutarchou Str, Haritos Str, Spefsipou Str and the Lycabettus circular.*

THE SIGHTS:

1.1 Kolonaki Square (Philikis Etairias Square).

When you visit Athens you should have a coffee at one of the cafes at Kolonaki Square. Modern Athenians and foreign visitors enjoy a break at one of the cafes, eating, drinking coffee and chatting.

1.2 Dexameni Square

is a small square, which serves as a local recreation ground. The traditional café on the square attracts Athenians and visitors. It was the meeting place of intellectuals in the 20th century. You will find here an old aqueduct (2nd c. AD) and an open-air cinema.

1.3 Skoufa Str

is the central street of Kolonaki, with interesting neoclassical and art deco style buildings. Along the

street (from Kolonaki square towards Neapoli), one would find many shopping centres, contemporary cafes, and small bars with a distinct air, particularly popular all day long.

1.4 Ayios Dionyssios (Skoufa Str),

a stately church, was built in the early 1930s at the site of an earlier church. The façade is built in a neo-renaissance style, and the interior is decorated in the Byzantine style. Ayios Dionyssios Areopagitis, one of Athens' early Christians, is the patron saint of Athens.

1.5 Lycavittou Square,

is located near Ayios Dionyssios (at the crossroads of *Lycavittou Str* and *Anagnostopoulou Str*). Dominating the square is the *Dragoumis Mansion* (1925), a private residence, which formerly accommodated the Brazilian Embassy.

1.6 Voukourestiou Str,

distinctive Athens road, it connects the foot of Lycabettus Hill with Syntagma Square. In the pedestrian zone (linking *Academias Str* to



Panepistimiou Ave.), you will find a multitude of attractive cafés and bars.

1.7 Marasleio.

An impressive neoclassical building (at the crossroads of *Marasli Str* and *Spefsipou Str*), it is the work of architect *D. Kallias* (1905) and houses the education Institute “Marasleios Academy of primary education”.

1.8 Taxiarches

(*the church of the Petraki Monastery in Kolonaki, see page 23*).

1.9 Gennadios Library.

Impressive building in the classicistic style, which was inaugurated in 1926 to house the book collection (a total of 26,000 volumes) donated in 1922 by the scholar *I. Gennadios* to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. In 1960 the building was expanded. It is surrounded by a large garden with lush vegetation (for the library’s collections and books, see page 86).

SHOPPING IN KOLONAKI

In Kolonaki you will find the most fashionable

boutiques, with high couture items produced by Greek and international designers, among others, shoes, and leather goods, toys, old furniture, jewellery, house ware. At *Voukourestiou Str* and the surrounding area - in the vicinity of Syntagma Square - you will find world-famous Greek jewellers, bookshops specialising in foreign language editions, and major galleries exhibiting the works of Greek painters and sculptors.

2 SYNTAGMA SQUARE

Syntagma Square is Athens’ central square. The name of the square is derived from an uprising on 3 September 1843, of the people and the guard of Athens before the then Royal Palace building, (what is now the Parliament), demanding that King Otto grant a Constitution (Syntagma means Constitution). Syntagma Square and Omonia Square are the two central locations of the city. You should not be surprised when you ask directions if people refer to Syntagma square. Plaka, the

Acropolis, the Cathedral, the National Garden, Ermou Str, and Kolonaki, are located in the vicinity of Syntagma Square. You will find fashionable cafes and small restaurants located here. The square is busy around the clock. At the kiosks you will find miscellaneous items, ranging from aspirin to souvenirs, newspapers and foreign magazines.

THE SIGHTS:

2.1 The Parliament.

Dominating Syntagma Square, the building was the residence of the first king of Greece Otto. The building was constructed from 1836 to 1842. George A’, who succeeded Otto on the throne, also resided in the palace. During his reign, two successive fires destroyed the building, making it unsuitable for use as a royal residence. In 1924 the government decided to situate Parliament in the building. Reconstruction work was completed in 1934. The interior was redesigned by architect *A. Kriezis*. In Parliament you will find national treasures, such as the first Greek Constitution,

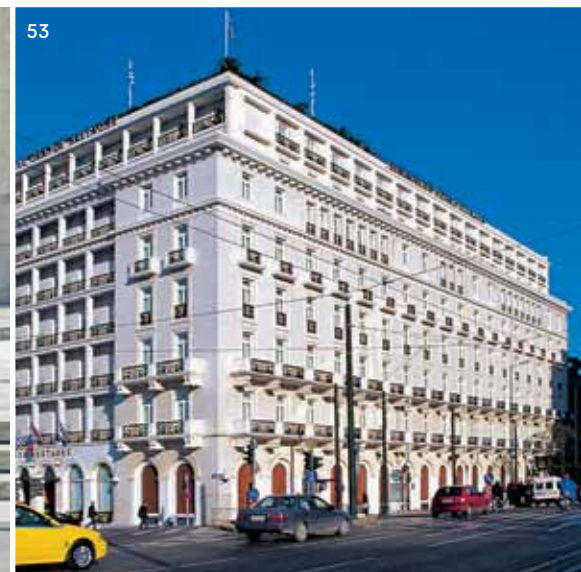
a collection of valuable paintings and a large library.

2.2 Monument of the Unknown Soldier.

Built from 1929-1932, in front of Parliament, it is a sculpted depiction of a slain soldier (the work of sculptor *K. Dimitriadis*), bearing an inscription with excerpts of *Pericles’ Epitaph*. Commemorated on the marble wall surrounding the monument are the greatest battles of the Greek army after 1821. Greek and visiting officials lay a wreath at the monument on national holidays. The monument is guarded around the clock by two sentinels, called *Evzones*, who wear the traditional uniform. The ceremony of the changing of the guard, which takes place every hour, is worth seeing, especially on Sunday morning (11 a.m.), when it is accompanied by a military band and a large group of *Evzones*.

2.3 Hotel Grande Bretagne,

a luxury hotel, built in 1842. The building, designed as a private residence, was the work of *Th. Hansen*. Renovated



51

52

53

51.
The Greek Parliament dominating the east side of Syntagma Square.

52.
The monument of the “Unknown Soldier.”

53.
The hotel Grande Bretagne.

in 1874, it accommodated a hotel. In 1958 the hotel was reconstructed to meet increasing demand, and several floors were added to the structure. In 2003 the building was completely renovated. The hotel is connected to major events of Greek history. A multitude of notables and celebrities visiting Athens stayed here. Worth a visit is the interior, with a café and luxury restaurant, exuding a unique atmosphere.

2.4 Ancient aqueduct.

A section of the ancient cemetery and Peisitstratos aqueduct, unearthed in the northeastern section of the square, is displayed in an outdoor, covered area.

2.5 Philellinon Str

is a prolongation of Stadiou Str. You will find here attractive neoclassical buildings and, at the crossroads of Philellinon Str, Xenofontos Str and Souri Str, the *Sotira Lykodimou* church (see page 22) and the *Anglican church of Saint Paul* (1843), the work of Ch. Hansen, with elements of

Gothic style and cruciform shape.

2.6 Amalias Avenue

is a broad avenue connecting *Hadrian's Arch* (see page 7) with Syntagma Square. An elegant street with stately neoclassical and modernist buildings, it is located in the vicinity of the National Garden. As you ascend towards Syntagma Square, you will have a view of Parliament and, in the distance, Lycabettus Hill.

3 NATIONAL GARDEN

The National Garden, open from dawn to sunset, is an oasis in the centre of the city. It has a total area of 160,000 m². Some five hundred different kinds of plants, bushes and trees from various locations around the world are grown here (in total, it has 7,000 trees and 40,000 bushes). At the same time, it comprises an important natural life reserve in Athens as many different species of birds, hedgehogs, turtles, ducks and even bats are gathered here. The National Garden – which was formerly

the palace garden - was laid out from 1838-1860. There are six entrances: at Vasilissis Sofias Avenue, Irodou Attikou Str, Vasilissis Amalias Avenue, and two entrances connecting the National Garden to the Zappeion. You will also find here a small *pond*, a small *zoo*, the *Botanical Museum*, a traditional *café*, a *children's library*, a *playground*, various *monuments of antiquity*, and the *busts* of important personalities of modern Greece (among others, politicians and authors).

THE SIGHTS:

3.1 Zappeion Mansion,

an attractive building designed by *Th. Hansen*, it was constructed from 1874-1888. In the past few years some of the most significant events in the history of the country have taken place in the "Conferences and Exhibitions Mansion," such as European summits, the announcement of election results, and significant political announcements. Moreover, art exhibitions and occasionally concerts are held here. In the vicinity of the mansion are the statues

of the Zappas cousins, who funded the construction of the building, and an attractive park, where Athenians go for a walk, especially on Sundays. Near Zappeion Mansion there is a very nice café and an open-air cinema.

4 THE RIGILLIS AREA

A prestigious area with luxury residential buildings, villas and abundant vegetation. It is encompassed by *Vasilissis Sofias Avenue*, *Rigillis Str*, *Vasileos Konstantinou Avenue* and *Irodou Attikou Str*. The area is located in the vicinity of the old palace (now the Presidential Mansion).

THE SIGHTS:

4.1 Presidential Mansion (Irodou Attikou Str).

The former Royal palace, three storeyed, bearing pronounced neoclassical and eclectic elements (1890-1897), designed by the architect *Ern. Ziller*. Formerly it was used as the residence of the heir apparent to the Hellenic Royal Crown, later as a palace, and in 1974 as the official residence of the



54

54. Part of the National Garden from the side of Vas. Amalias Ave. and the distinctive alley lined by washingtonias (a type of palm tree).

55. Zappeion Mansion. Eight pairs of Corinthian columns can be seen on its forefront.



55

President of the Hellenic Republic. The mansion is guarded by Evzones wearing a distinctive uniform. It is surrounded by an impressive 25,000 m² garden, which contains 140 species and varieties of ornamental trees and bushes; it is open to the public every Sunday (10 am – 2 pm, entry from Vas. Georgiou II St. upon presentation of identity).

4.2 Maximou Mansion (Irodou Attikou Str),

the official residence of the respective Greek prime minister, it was designed in 1924 by *Ant. Helmis*. The mansion was constructed following the death of Helmis, by his wife, and her new husband D. Maximos. It has a small garden.

4.3 The statues.

The sculptures at the junction of Irodou Attikou Str (facing Kallimarmaro Stadium) are among the most attractive in Athens: the *Discus thrower*, a bronze statue by *K. Dimitriades* (1927), the marble *Wood-chopper* by *D. Filippotis*, 1872-1875) – gymnast *V. Yiannoulis* posed for the work – and the

Statue of G. Karaiskakis, a bronze monumental sculpture (4.40 metres high), by *M. Tombros* (1963-1966), depicting the hero of the Greek war of independence on horseback.

4.4 The Athens Conservatory.

It is located at the junction of *Vas. Georgiou II, Rigillis* and *Vas. Konstantinou Sts.* It was built during the years 1969 – 1976 (designed by *G. Despotopoulos*) and it is a fine example of the *Bauhaus* architectural style. There are rooms for teaching music, drama, eurhythmics as well as rooms for concerts, events etc. The permanent and temporary exhibitions of the National Museum of Contemporary Art (see page 84) are housed here for the time being. Opposite lies the National Hellenic Research Foundation (1961 – 1975) a noteworthy modernist building.

5 PANATHENAIKON (KALLIMARMARO) STADIUM

Panathenaikon [Panathenaic] Stadium, a remarkable

construction, was made of white marble. The horseshoe shaped stadium faces the National Garden. In 330 BC a stadium made of wood was built at this location. Herodes Atticus constructed a marble edifice, which was the model for the edifice of the stadium that stands today. It was used as a space for athletic competitions, which took place during the *Panathenaea festival*. The stadium that stands today has a capacity of approx. 60,000 spectators. It was built in 1869-1870 and it was the venue of the first Olympic Games in modern history (1896). Surrounding the stadium is the wooded *Ardittos Hill*, where locals love to go for a walk (www.panathenaicstadium.gr).

6 METZ

One of the most fashionable neighbourhoods of Athens, was developed in the 1870s. It was named after the Metz brewery that was located in the area, and for a long time it was a popular recreational area. Until the 1950s Ilissos River went through the area (at present day *Ardittou Str*). Today it is a quiet residential area, encompassed by *Ardittou Hill* and the 1st Cemetery (along the *Loginou Str* pedestrian zone). In the central road of the area, *M. Mousourou Str*, are cafes. Worth seeing are other distinctive roads of the neighbourhood (among others, *Nik. Theotokis Str, Trivonianou Str, Dikaiarchou Str, Balanou Str*). If you take *Kleitomachou Str, Arhimidou Str* and *Embedokleous Str*, you will reach *Varnava square*. You will find here cafes, traditional tavernas and luxury restaurants. You can

return to the Panathenaikon Stadium via *Agras Str*.

7 1st Cemetery

It is the oldest and biggest cemetery of Athens. Several important personalities of modern Greece have been laid to rest here (among others, politicians, scientists, artists, religious leaders etc). The foundation of the cemetery coincided with the foundation of the modern Greek state. The design recalls the major cemeteries of Western Europe in the early 1900s. It is basically an outdoor sculpture display, with a stately and serene garden, excellent monumental tombstones, built by some of the most important Greek sculptors of the past two centuries.

THE SIGHTS:

Koimomeni.

The most famous sculpture of modern Greek art, made by *Y. Halepas* in 1878, for the grave of *S. Afentakis*.

G. Averof Monument.

The grandest monument of the cemetery, built by the sculptors *G. Vitalis* and *D. Filippotis*. The remains of the national benefactor are here.

Heinrich Schliemann Monument.

The tomb monument of the German archaeologist who discovered ancient Troy, made by *Ern. Ziller* (1892). It is shaped like a church. On the groundwork are sculpted depictions of the Trojan Cycle.

Chr. Zografos Monument.

Built in the renaissance style, it resembles the Mausoleum of *Lorenzo de' Medici* in Florence.

Nude Angel.

A remarkable tombstone sculpture by *G. Vitsaris* (1872), on the tomb of *N. Koumelis*.



56. The Panathenaikon (Kallimarmaro) Stadium.



Tour of Athens, 8th stage: FROM LYCABETTUS HILL TO STREFI HILL

1 LYCABETTUS (LYCAVITTO) HILL

It is a forest in the heart of the city, and among the Athenians' favourite places for hiking or relaxing in the local cafés and restaurants. According to mythology, goddess Athena wanted her temple in Acropolis to be closer to heaven. One stormy night she went to Mount Penteli (see page 90), and took a large rock with the purpose of placing it on the existing rock. As she transported the rock, two black birds approached her, bringing her bad news regarding something she had to take care of immediately. In her

57.
*Lycabettus
(Lykavittos) Hill.*

rage and haste, the rock fell in the centre of Athens. The rock, which is 278 metres high, is located in the centre of Athens. In ancient times the hill was covered by lush vegetation and on its top stood a temple dedicated to Zeus. By the time Athens was liberated from the Turkish occupation, Lycabettus Hill had no trees at all. Reforestation started in 1880 and was completed in 1915.

THE SIGHTS:

The view of the city.

Don't miss the view of the Acropolis and of the entire city extending up to the sea. You will also enjoy walking along

narrow paths all the way to the top of the hill.

1.1 Lycabettus Theatre.

An open-air theatre built from 1964-1965 by the architect *T. Zenetos* at the site of an old mine following the recommendation of the Greek actress *A. Synodinou*, for performances of ancient drama. It has a capacity of 3,000. In summer cultural events are staged here, attracting music and theatre fans.

1.2 Ayios Georgios

(see page 23)

1.3 Ayioi Isidoro

(see page 23)

Getting there.

If you want to go by car, there is only one road leading to the top of the hill. If you prefer to walk, there are many footpaths. You may also take the funicular, which runs daily to the hilltop and starts from the corner of *Aristippou Str* and *Ploutarchou Str (Kolonaki)*.

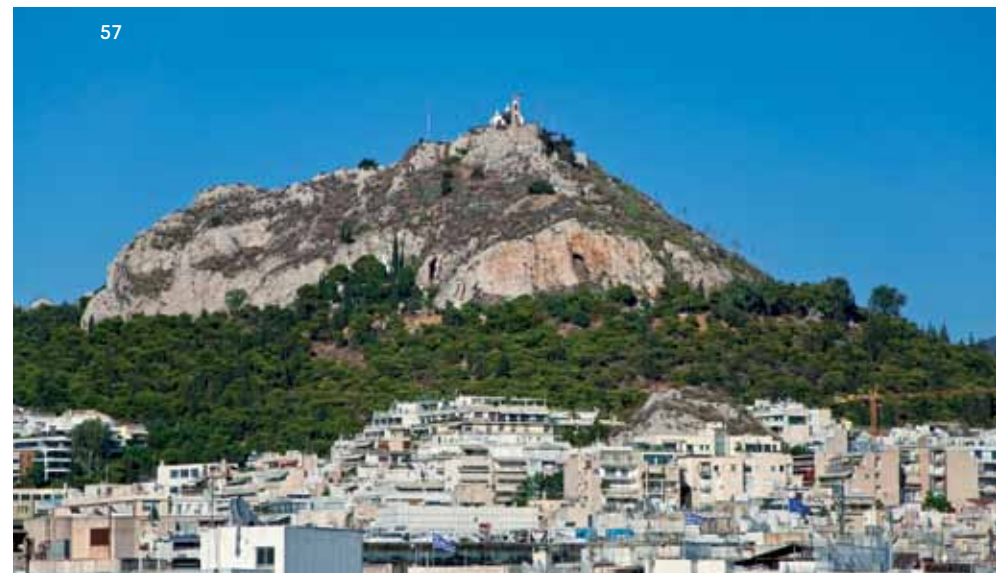
2 NEAPOLI

Neapoli is encompassed by Lycavittos Hill and Mavromihali

Str. It is, after Plaka, the oldest neighbourhood of Athens (Neapoli means New Town). Neapoli and Exarhia were built after 1860. The first residents were mostly students. The area is situated near the University of Athens and the National Technical University. Later it became a favourite residential neighbourhood of artists. The remarkable neoclassical church of *Ayios Nikolaos Pefkakion* (1895) is located at *Asklipiou Str.* Facing Lycabettus Hill, is an area on a steep incline, with pedestrian zone, lined with trees and steps leading to the central roads (among others, *Solonos Str., Asklipiou Str., Ippokratous Str., Sina Str., Massalias Str., and Delfon Str.*) where you will find a multitude of cafes, small bookshops and antique shops among other places of interest.

3 EXARHIA

An old Athens neighbourhood, with a special charm. It is known as a residential neighbourhood of students and artists, with a bohemian character, contrasting with the worldly Kolonaki Square. In the past few decades, a series of



57

reconstruction works have considerably upgraded the area. A multitude of important neoclassical, eclectic and modernist buildings are preserved. Following the renovation works, the neighbourhood attracted a new generation of residents. Go for a walk in the pedestrianised part of *Themistocleous Str* (from Themistocleous Square to Kallidromiou Str) and other pedestrian zones of the area, such as, *Valtetsiou Str*, *Methonis Str*, *Eresou Str*, and then rest in a café, bar or traditional taverna.

THE SIGHTS:

3.1 Exarhia Square

is the central square of the neighbourhood. It is a busy square, with a vivid night life. You will find here a multitude of cafés and small, trendy bars and two *open-air cinemas*, offering unique entertainment in the summer. Also, in the neighbouring streets apart from the restaurants and café-bars, one would find particular shops selling clothes, old records, books and hand-made jewellery.



4 STREPI HILL

Strefi Hill is located in the vicinity of Exarhia Square, and despite of its relatively small size (approximately 12.5 acres) it forms a green oasis in the densely built city.

It was planted with trees in the 1920s, until then it was used as a quarry. Nowadays one will find here *sports facilities*, *ouzo bars*, an *open-air theatre* made of stone, and at the top you will enjoy

a panoramic view of the city. To get there, you take *Kallidromiou Str*, a beautiful street, with neoclassical mansions and small popular cafés and bars, (from Emm. Benaki Str to Deliyianni Str).

58. The view of the city and the Acropolis from the top of Lycabettus Hill is unique!

59. Lycabettus cable railway.

60. Lycabettus Theatre.

61. Enjoy your meal, your coffee or beverage while you drink in the view from Lycabettus hilltop.

62. Exarhia Square.



Tour of Athens, stage 9: FROM SYNTAGMA SQUARE TO OMONIA SQUARE

1 SYNTAGMA SQUARE

(see page 46)

2 PANEPISTIMIOU AVENUE (EL.VENIZELOU)

One of the oldest roads of Athens, it was originally designed to be a Boulevard (formerly called Boulevard Str). Today it is one of the busiest roads, linking Syntagma Square with Omonia Square. On this broad avenue, a number of the most important, representative public buildings of Athens were built, unique landmarks of the city.

THE SIGHTS:

2.1 Army Pension Funds Building.

A stately building occupying the block encompassed by Panepistimiou Str, Voukourestiou Str, Amerikis Str and Stadiou Str, it was built from 1927-1938. The royal stables were formerly

located here. The façade was built in the Art Deco style. In the centre is an arcade with shops. Recently reconstructed, the building is now a shopping centre and an office building. It also houses three theatres (Pallas, Mikro Pallas and Aliki), as well as cafes and restaurants.

2.2 Iliou Melathron (12, Panepistimiou Str)

is one of the most attractive neoclassical buildings of Athens. It was reconstructed in 1879 by *Ern. Ziller* in the neorenaissance style. It was the residence of the German archaeologist and philhellene Hein. Schliemann. It has a double stairway in the northern side, while in the façade and the other two floors, are colonnades with ionic columns. The interior is decorated with Pompeian style murals and depictions of the landscapes and finds from Troy. In 1927 it became the seat of the Supreme Court (the highest

penal court of the country). It houses now the *Numismatic Museum* (see page 81). In the peaceful garden you will find a café-restaurant which stays open until late at night.

2.3 Archaeological Society Mansion.

A five-storey building, it is an exceptional example of late classicism. The entrance is decorated with ionic columns. Located at the corner of Omirou Str and Panepistimiou Avenue, it houses the Archaeological Society of Athens.

2.4 Catholic Church of Ayios Dionyssios (1853-1865).

The three aisled, cross-in-square style basilica was designed by the architects *L. von Klenze* and *L. Kaftantzoglou*. The portico in the western side has five cylindrical arches (it is located at the corner of Panepistimiou Avenue and Omirou Str).

2.5 Athens Eye-Clinic (Panepistimiou Avenue and Sina Str).

A stately building (1854) with elements of Byzantine and neoclassical architecture, it was designed by *Ch.*

Hansen and modified by *L. Kaftantzoglou*. Formerly a one-storey building, in the mid-1860's a second floor was added to the structure.

2.6 Bank of Greece Mansion (Panepistimiou Str 21).

A stately building occupying a whole block. The foundations were laid in 1933 and the bank was inaugurated in 1938. The transactions halls recall the unadorned, stately atmosphere of the interwar period.

THE THREE TEMPLES OF LEARNING ("Athenian Trilogy").

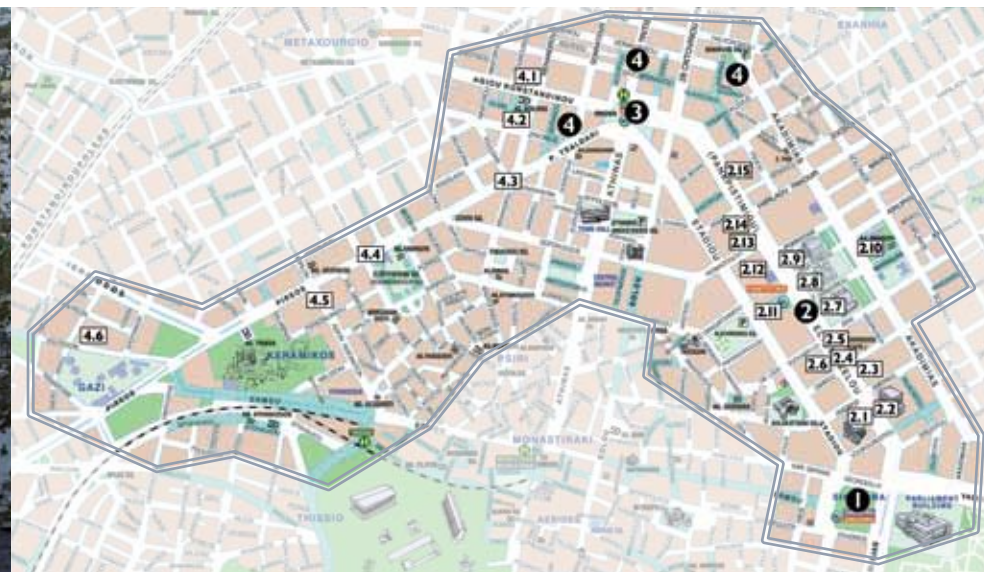
Three stately buildings constructed by two Danish architects, the *Hansen* brothers, who lived in Greece.

2.7 Athens Academy (1859-1887):

On either side of the Academy, are two wings decorated with friezes and a pair of high columns supporting the statues of *Apollo* and *Athena*, whereas at the front side of the building the visitors are welcomed by the statues of *Plato* and *Socrates*. The Academy was



63. Iliou Melathron, also known as "Schliemann Mansion".



designed by *Th. Hansen*, the younger of the Hansen brothers. The statues were sculpted by *L. Drosis* and the painted decoration was produced by *K. Rahl*. The Academy is thought to be a prime example of Greek architectural style.

[2.8] University (1839-1864)

The University of Athens was designed by *Ch. Hansen*, the elder of the Hansen brothers. Worth seeing are the fountain in the court, the circular stairway and the multicoloured murals with classical themes (designed by the Bavarian *K. Rahl*), decorating the walls, located behind the columns on the balcony.

[2.9] National Library (1887-1902):

A remarkable building, planned by *Th. Hansen*. It is the largest library in the country, housing a unique range of thousands of books in all languages. On the façade is a stately six-column portico in the Doric style, based on the design of *Thissio*. The interior, designed by *Ern. Ziller*, is lighted by a skylight on the

roof and encompassed by an Ionian style colonnade.

[2.10] Cultural Centre of the Athens Municipality.

Located in the vicinity of the *trilogy* (at *Akadimias Str 50*), it is a remarkable neoclassical building which was built in 1835 according to the design of *Chr. Hansen*. It was a hospital in the course of decades. Cultural events are held in the building. In front of the main entrance of the building is a small garden with the busts of historical figures (among others, artists and politicians), while on the other side, (at *Solonos Str*), is a traditional café. Exactly adjacent to the café (at *Akadimias Str*) is the stately *Palamas building* (with a pink interior, it is known as the “pink building”). Built in 1857-1859, it houses the *Theatrical Museum library*. Diagonally across the street, (at the corner of *Ippokratous Str* and *Akadimias Str*), is the *Student Union of the University of Athens* (1926-1931), designed by *Al. Nikoloudis* in the eclectic style of the *Beaux Arts*.

[2.11] Korai Square

is a small, attractive square, developed when a pedestrian street was created at *Korai Str*. North-east of the square is the *Rallis building* (10, *Korai Square*) built in the early neoclassical style. Opposite the *Rallis building* is the modernist building of the *General Accounting Office* (designed by *E. Lazaridis*). Northwest of the square is the remarkable former hotel *Grand Hotel* (2, *Korai Square*, today used as a shopping centre). Opposite the *Grand Hotel* is the modern building of *Alpha Bank*. At the square you will also find the recently renovated *Korai Arcade* with a multitude of cafes, fast food restaurants, shops, and a cinema.

[2.12] Ionian Bank Mansion (Pesmatzoglou Str).

A remarkable eclectic style mansion with art deco decoration (1925). The central transactions hall has a notable colonnade and balconies. The lighting, a skylight with stained glass windows, is spectacular.

[2.13] Arsakeion Mansion (1846-1955).

A stately two-storey mansion, it is a distinctive example of Greek classicism with a strain of eclecticism. Formerly the *Arsakeion Girls School*, it is now the *Council of State*, (highest Court of State). Adjacent to the mansion is the *Courts Square*.

[2.14] Arsakeion Arcade (Orfeos)

The arcade in the Mansion, built in the neobaroque style, has a remarkable glass roof with a dome in the centre. You will find here shops, cafes and the “*Stoa tou Vivliou*” (Book Arcade) with the bookshops of 60 Greek publishing houses. Cultural events are held at the *Stoa tou Vivliou*.

[2.15] Rex Cinema.

A mansion with three halls (cinema-theatre), built from 1935-1937, the design was influenced by contemporary American skyscrapers. Two halls are now used for performances of the *National Theatre*. The third is an entertainment centre.

64



65



64. & 65.
The neoclassical Athenian Trilogy on Panepistimiou Ave. (starting from the left): the National Library, the University and the Academy of Athens.

3 OMONIA SQUARE

A central square, which is busy around the clock, throughout the year, by contrast with Syntagma Square. Omonia Square has always been busy around the clock. According to custom, Athenians, after a night out Saturday evening, buy Sunday papers at kiosks and stands on the square. Omonia is the oldest central square of modern Athens. A visit to Omonia, to get a sense of the vibrancy of the square is a must for all visitors. At the square you will find the usual fast-food shops. Foreign newspapers are sold at kiosks. At the square are stately buildings, in particular the hotels *Bangeion* and *Alexandros* (at the crossroads of Athinas Str, the former *Neon* café, and a branch of the *National Bank* (at Panepistimiou Str). At Omonia Square is a central metro station.

4 THE OMONIA SQUARE AREA

Stadiou Str, Patision Str, Panepistimiou Avenue, 3rd Septemvriou Str, Pireos Str, Athinas Str and Ayiou Konstantinou Str converge at

Omonia Square. It is a busy area, with small roads around Omonia Square and *Kaniggos Square* and interesting places (small shops, traditional cafes etc.).

THE SIGHTS:

4.1 The National Theatre of Greece (*Ayiou Konstantinou Str*).

Built from 1891-1901, according to the design of *Ern. Ziller*, it was commissioned by King George I and funded by Greeks residing abroad. A replica of the National Theatre of Vienna, it is built in the renaissance style. The theatre opened in November 1901. It was formerly called the Royal Theatre, but in 1930 it was renamed National Theatre. The central auditorium (Italian style) has a capacity of 1000 spectators (stalls, dress circle, upper circle, and two boxes). Facing the theatre (at Menandrou Str) is the three-storey neoclassical *Eynard Mansion*, which accommodates a Museum dedicated to actors K. Paxinou and A. Minotis.

4.2 Ayios Konstantinos (*Ayiou Konstantinou Str*).

Facing the National Theatre,

it is a monumental church (1871-1896/1905) built by *L. Kaftantzoglou*. The recently renovated three-aisled basilica has a stately façade in a combination of neoclassical and renaissance styles, a monumental entrance in the form of an ancient propylaeum, and an attractive interior decoration.

4.3 Pireos Str (*P. Tsaldari Str*).

Constructed along the path of the ancient road linking Athens to Piraeus. The *Long Walls* were constructed along the side of the street. The first paved road in Athens, Pireos Str links the city with the port of Piraeus. In the 19th century an industrial zone was developed and a multitude of factories were constructed along the road. In the past few years a multitude of factories were renovated and used for another purpose (museums, cultural centres, the Higher School of Fine Arts). The buildings at Pireos Str, a very busy street, are interesting examples of urban industrial architecture. At number 138 of Pireos Str one will find a modern building that houses the *new Benaki Museum*

where periodic exhibits of the Museum are held (see page 83). At number 254, Tauros area stands the *Civilisation Centre "Hellenic Cosmos"* established by the Foundation of the Hellenic World (see page 86).

4.4 Koumoundourou Square (Eleftherias):

An attractive square with green areas. Facing Pireos Str is the grand neoclassical mansion which until recently housed the *Municipal Gallery* built in 1874 (designed by *G. Metaxas*). Neighbouring the gallery is the small church of Ayioi Anargyroi (1893). Located on the square is a small stone-built theatre, which is used for events.

4.5 Ayion Assomaton Str:

Notice St. George's ornate church (1910), designed by E. Ziller, at the junction of Peiraos and Assomaton Streets. The church used to be part of the buildings housing an orphanage which were demolished in 1963. Past this point, take a left turn at Ayion Assomaton Str. You will find at number 45 one of the best-known traditional buildings of Athens (picturesque classicist style, 1880), with copies of the famous twin Caryatids on the balcony. The house, is among the most photographed and painted themes of Athens.

4.6 Gazi

(see page 38)

4.7 Botanical Garden of the Athens University:

Located at the crossroads of *Iera Odos*, which in Greek means *Sacred Road* (built along the path of the ancient road of the *Eleusinian Mysteries*) and *Sp. Patsi Str*. It has a total area of 7,000 m² and there are some 120 varieties of trees and plants and mosses and grasses from different parts of the world.



66. A view of Omonia Square with buildings of a variety of architectural styles.

67. Copies of the Caryatids, at the small house at 45, Ayion Assomaton Street.





Tour of Athens, stage 10: FROM OMONIA SQUARE TO KYPSELLI

1 PATISION STR (28th OCTOVRIOU STR)

68. *The National Technical University of Athens has played a decisive role in important events of the Modern Greek history.*

A central road linking Patisia area to the centre which until the early 20th century was a rural area with small houses and gardens! Following rapid development, it became clearly an urban location, now one of the busiest streets of Athens. Among a multitude of new buildings, neoclassical,

Art Nouveau and modernist buildings are preserved. As you head from the crossroads of Patision Str and *Alexandras Avenue* towards Patisia, on your left is *Victorias Square* (at 3rd Septemvriou Str), on your right is the stately *Higher School of Economic and Scientific Studies*, (1935), on your left the *Hara* block of flats, an pioneering work built in the 1920s at Patision

Str 337 and on your right the *Kyriadis neighbourhood* (in the vicinity of Papadiamantis Square), formerly a garden city (with villas, two-storey blocks of flats, densely vegetated) developed in the 1920s - the suburban style has been preserved notwithstanding subsequent development.

THE SIGHTS:

1.1 National Technical University of Athens.

Designed by the architect *L. Kaftantzoglou*, it was built from 1861-1876. It is an archetype of the urban tradition of Athens. It comprises of a central building and T-shaped wings facing Patision Str. It has two floors and the entrance is elevated. Two monumental staircases lead to the Ionian style four-column propylaea of the ground floor, a copy of the northern hall of the Erechtheion (see page 12).

1.2 Acropol Palace Hotel (1925-1926).

A five-story building designed by the architect *I. Mayiasis*, the Acropol Palace is a

distinctive example of Athens Art Nouveau architecture.

1.3 Tositsa Str.

A wide pedestrian zone, flanked by the National Technical University and the garden of the National Archaeological Museum, with a row of trees in the middle, Tositsa Str is a place to relax and stroll.

1.4 The National Archaeological Museum.

A stately building constructed in the late 19th century, the National Archaeological Museum was designed by *L. Lange* and *Ern. Ziller*. The Ionian style propylaea are adorned with clay statues, the copies of ancient works, while on either side is an oblong arcade. You will find a café at the atrium and another one in the beautiful garden in front of the Museum, where many Athenians like to hang out, especially in the summer. (for museum exhibits see page 75).

1.5 Egyptou Square.

An elegant square with neoclassical and modernist



buildings, examples of the formerly bourgeois character of the area, located at the crossroads of Alexandras Avenue, and Patision Str.

2 PEDION TOU AREOS

The largest park in Athens (230,000 m²), was laid out in 1934. Named after the roman *campus martius*, the park used to be a training ground for military units. It was later changed and became thoroughly reshaped as one of the most popular places in Athens for strolling, relaxing and having fun all year round. There is also a maze shaped like the *Minoan labyrinth* with a botanical garden, a rose garden through which an artificial stream flows, surrounded by plane trees, cafes, open air theatres and places reserved for various events.

THE SIGHTS:

[2.1] The statue of King Constantine.

A bronze statue of King Constantine (1868-1922) placed on a monumental

marble pedestal, erected in 1938. It is located at the central entrance of the park, facing Egyptou Square.

[2.2] Statue of Athena (Promahou).

A monument dedicated to the British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers killed in the Second World War, it was sculpted in 1952 by sculptor *V. Falireas*. The marble lioness at the base was sculpted by *Ath. Limnaios*. A small olive orchard was planted around the monument, while reshaping works were under way in the park.

[2.3] Iroon Avenue.

A wide, stately road in the park with the busts of the freedom fighters of the Greek Revolution. You will find it at the Mavromateon Str entrance.

[2.4] Taxiarchon Church.

Post-Byzantine church of the 16th or 17th century. In the court there is a monument with the remains and the statue of prince Alexander Ypsilantis (1792-1828), who was closely connected to the Revolution of 1821.

[2.5] Ayios Haralambos.

The church was built in 1928, in cruciform shape, at the site of an old church. In the church are icons of the important Greek painter *F. Kontoglou*.

[2.6] Mavromateon Str.

An elegant road linking the Archaeological Museum with Kodringtonos Str. Facing Pedion tou Areos is a row of stately, luxury blocks of flats, most of them built in 1925-1960, when the street was thought to be one of the most prestigious locations of the city.

3 KYPSELI

A distinctive bourgeois neighbourhood of Athens, Kypseli has preserved its aristocratic character, although in the past few decades it has been rebuilt and is now densely populated. In the 1990s a multitude of immigrants settled in Kypseli, transforming it into a charming multicultural neighbourhood. Among the modern blocks of flats

several examples of stately neoclassical buildings and blocks of flats of the interwar period are preserved, which are worth seeing. They are located on distinctive roads of the neighbourhood (among others, *Drosopoulou Str, Eptanisou Str, Ithakis Str, Tinou Str, Tenedou Str, Spetson Str, Lefkadass Str*). You will also find in Kypseli the notable churches *Ayia Zoni* (1927) and *Ayios Georgios* (at the square of the same name, 1931).

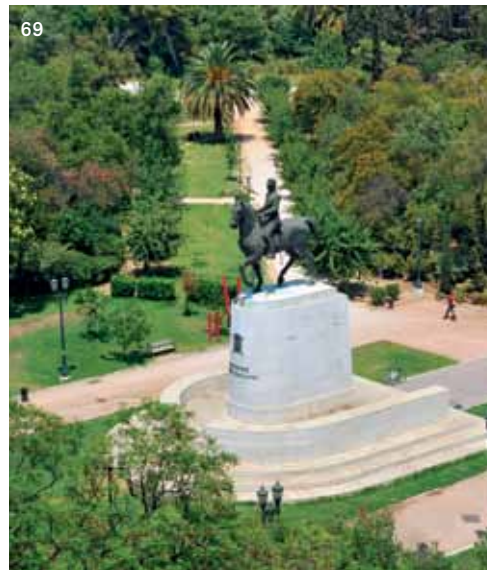
THE SIGHTS:

[3.1] Fokionos Negri Str.

A wide, stately, green pedestrian zone linking Kypselis Square to Drosopoulou Str, Fokionos Negri Str is the centre of the neighbourhood. Originally called the "green boulevard", Fokionos Negri Str was built in 1937, at the site of a stream. In the 1960s it acquired a reputation for nightlife, attracting politicians and artists. A busy street throughout the day, it is a popular recreational area, with dozens of cafes, restaurants and small bars. On the pedestrian passage between Sporadon and Zakyinthou Str (42, Fokionos Negri Str) stands the preserved building of the *old Municipal Market* (1935).

[3.2] Courts (former Army Cadet School).

A complex of neoclassical buildings, the courts are located south of Kypseli (Evelpidon Str). The building was built from 1900-1904, (designed by *E. Ziller*), for the Army Cadet School. In the early 1980s the Athens Court of First Instance moved here. Between the Courthouse area and the neighbouring Pedion tou Areos is the location of *Protomagia square* where there is a skateboard track; the small green *Finopoulos hill* is nearby.



Tour of Athens, stage 11: HISTORICAL WALK

If you don't have much time, in the historical walk (approximately 3.5 kilometres) you can visit and see the most important monuments and sights of Athens. It is a walk through history, from classical antiquity, through all the historical periods, architectural styles, and successive phases of the development of the city to the 21st century (classical period, roman period, Byzantium, Turkish occupation, neoclassicism, and 20th century).

In fact it is a walk in history, which only Athens can offer.

ACROPOLIS

(see page 9)

THE ODEION OF HERODES ATTICUS

(see page 9)

PLAKA

(see page 28)

BYZANTINE ATHENS

(see page 20)

OTTOMAN MONUMENTS

(see page 24)

SYNTAGMA SQUARE

(see page 46)

VASILISSIS SOFIAS AVENUE

The most impressive road of Athens, linking Syntagma Square to Ampelokipi. Formerly called Kifissias Avenue, it linked Athens to the traditional suburb of Kifissia. It has in part lost the original character of a classic boulevard. However, it is one of the most charming roads of the city, with some of the most attractive buildings, museums and parks.

THE SIGHTS

(from Syntagma Square to Ampelokipi):

1 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUILDING *(5, Vasilissis Sofias Avenue).*

The work of *Ern. Ziller* (1872-1873), it belonged to the Syngros family before being bequeathed to the Greek state in 1921. The neoclassical mansion housing the main services of the ministry, has been designated a work of art. In 1985 it was linked to a later building, at Zalokosta Str.

2 THE FRENCH EMBASSY *(Psyhas Mansion).*

A stately three-storey building at the crossroads of Akadimias Str). It was built in 1894 by *An. Metaxas* for the Psyhas family. It has notable modernist decorative elements connected to the neoclassical style.

3 THE ITALIAN EMBASSY

The residence of prince Nicholas, before the expulsion of the royal family in 1917, it later accommodated a luxury hotel ("Le Petit Palais"). Later it was bought by the Italian government to accommodate the embassy.

4 THE NATIONAL GARDEN

(see page 48)

5 THE BENAKI MUSEUM *(1, Koumpari Str).*

The most impressive neoclassical building of Athens, it was built in stages from 1910 to 1931 (designed by *An. Metaxas*). Formerly the residence of Ant. Benakis, since 1931 it houses the Museum exhibits (see page 82).

6 THE SAROGLEIO MANSION *(Officers Club).*

A stately building constructed in the Beaux Arts style, it is located at Rigillis Square (P. Mella). It was designed by architect *Al. Nikoloudis*.

7 THE STATHATOS MANSION.

A remarkable neoclassical mansion (at the crossroads of Irodotou Str and Vasilissis Sofias Avenue), Stathatos Mansion was designed by *E. Ziller* in 1885. It accommodates the new wing of the *Museum of Cycladic Art* (see page 80). It is linked



72. A general view of Vas. Sofias Ave. seen from Syntagma Square.





to the museum by a glass-covered passage.

8 THE BYZANTINE AND CHRISTIAN MUSEUM.

The main building of the Museum is *Villa Ilisia* (1848), a neorenaissance style building, constructed at the bank of the then uncovered Ilissos river. It was the residence of S. de Marbois-Lebrun, known as the “Duchess of Plaisance” The building was designed by *St. Kleanthis*, (or according to

some sources *Chr. Hansen*). Following the death of the duchess (1854), the mansion was acquired by the Greek state. It houses the museum since 1930. Two new wings were built in 1952 and 1994 (for exhibits, see page 83).

9 THE WAR MUSEUM.

A modern building (designed by *Th. Valentis*), inaugurated in 1975, for the purposes of gathering, preserving

and exhibiting military relics and other national tokens demonstrating the history and struggles of the Greek nation, (for the exhibits, see page 83).

10 THE RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

Located at the crossroads of Vasilissis Sofias Avenue and Loukianou Str, the building was constructed from 1930-1932 (designed by *An. Metaxas*). Formerly the residence of the then Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, it was granted to the British state following his death. It accommodated the British embassy in Athens before 1960. Following the construction in a neighbouring location of the new building of the embassy, it became the residence of the ambassador.

11 AYIOS NIKOLAOS AND AYIOS GEORGIOS.

Small churches in cruciform four-column style, Ayios Nikolaos and Ayios Georgios are representative examples of the architectural trends of the late 19th century. Ayios

Nikolaos (1876, neighbouring the British embassy) is built in a distinctive neo-Byzantine style, while Ayios Georgios combines the Byzantine, classicist and roman styles.

12 EVANGELISMOS HOSPITAL (old building).

A neoclassical building (designed by *G. Metaxas*) Evangelismos hospital was inaugurated in 1880 by the then Queen Olga. Later an English-style garden was laid out in the yard.

13 MEGALI TOU GENOUS SCHOLI SQUARE.

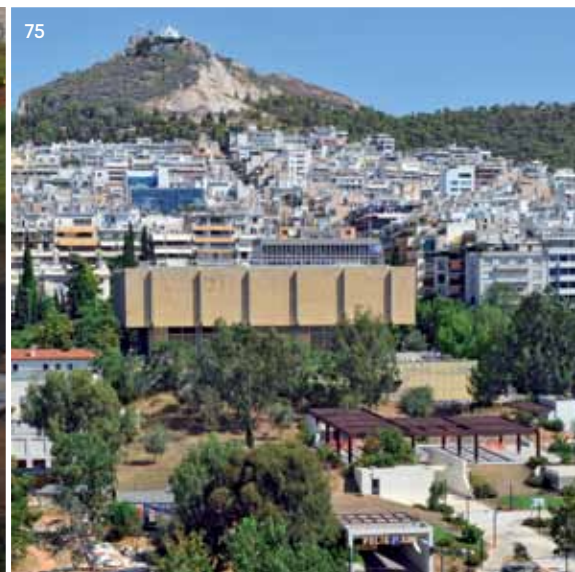
A small square at the crossroads of Vasilissis Sofias Avenue and Vasileos Konstantinou Avenue. In the centre is the impressionist 9-metre high sculpture of *K. Varotsos* named *Dromeas* (1988), sculpted exclusively out of sheets of glass. Facing the square is the *Hilton* hotel (1958 – 1963), with elements of the international modernist style and engravings crafted by *I. Moralis*, a leading Greek visual artist, on the building’s

73. Ancient monuments lie scattered in the National Garden.

74. The sundial on the west side of the National Garden.

75. The War museum; Kolonaki and Lycabettus Hill are in the background.

76. The yard of the Byzantine and Christian Museum.



west side (at the neighbouring streets, Ventiri Str, Mexi Str etc. are cafés, bars and small restaurants). On the opposite side of the square (at the crossroads of Vasilissis Sofias Avenue and Gennadiou Str) are two remarkable Art Deco blocks of flats of the interwar period. Opposite the “Hilton” is the building of the **National Gallery- Museum Alexandros Soutzos** (see page 83), built in 1966-1975 in the brutalist architectural style of Le Corbusier. On the other side of the street lies **Rizari park** (covering a 24,000 m² area), one of Athens’ oldest gardens and a fine spot for relaxing.

14 ELEFThERIAS PARK.

A park with a statue of Eleftherios Venizelos (sculpted by the sculptor *G. Pappas*). In the rear section are three stone built buildings, accommodating the Athens Municipality Arts Centre and the Eleftherios Venizelos Museum. Facing the park is a row of three unadorned neoclassical buildings of the hospitals *Aeginitio*, *Aretaeio*, and *Alexandra*.

15 THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL.

A monumental work (designed by *M. Vourekas*), the Athens Concert Hall was built in stages from 1973-1991. It is thought to be one of the best concert halls in the world. It has, among others, concert and opera halls, a musical library, a conference centre, and halls for multiple uses. In the winter, concerts, opera, theatre and dance performances, and other events, are held here. An impressive garden surrounds it where cultural events often take place.

16 THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

The most important example of modern architecture in Athens (1959-1961), designed by the famous architect *W. Gropius*.

17 MAVILI SQUARE.

Among the most “vibrant” squares of Athens, with a multitude of cafés, bars and restaurants in the area, Mavili Square attracts visitors



throughout the day. It is a prestigious residential area, near Lycabettus Hill and the central *Vasilissis Sofias Avenue* and *Alexandras Avenue*. Recently it has lost some of its former charm as a result of the traffic on the surrounding streets.

18 THE IPPOKRATEIO HOSPITAL.

A scheduled public building, constructed in the 1880s in the neoclassical style. It has accommodated a hospital since 1912. Adjacent to the

hospital is the chapel of *Ayios Andreas* (17th century).

19 TOWER OF ATHENS.

The first glass skyscraper of Athens (1971-1973) – one of a few skyscrapers constructed in the greater urban area of the capital. A complex of respectively two 25- and 12-storey buildings, the tower of Athens accommodates mainly company offices. In front of the Tower of Athens is a small villa with a garden, a relic of the 1920s when the area (*Ampelokipi*) was rural.



77. The Tower of Athens, at the crossroads of Vasilissis Sofias Avenue and Mesogeion Avenue.

78. Rizari park.

79. Dromeas at Megali tou Genous Scholi Square (Vasilissis Sofias Avenue).

80. The Hilton hotel.



SUBURBS

During your stay in Athens you may want to visit the suburbs. In the suburbs you may go for a walk on vegetated roads, and relax at a confectionery, café or bar.

THE NORTHERN SUBURBS (Psihiko, Filothei, Maroussi, Kifissia).

The suburbs of Psihiko, and Filothei were developed in the late 1920's on the model of British garden cities. They are quiet residential areas, with attractive villas, abundant vegetation and broad streets.

In Maroussi are the facilities of the *Olympic Athletic Centre of Athens* (O.A.K.A.), the central group of facilities for the 2004 Olympic Games. Kifissia is perhaps the most elegant suburb of northern Athens. The luxury villas of Kifissia of the 19th century were raised by the oldest Athenian families. The attractive villas and vibrant shopping streets, as well as the impressive and very popular shopping malls facing Kifissias Avenue have turned the area into a hotspot.

Worth seeing is the *Goulandris Natural History Museum* (see page 87), the significant *Archaeological Collection* (see page 125) which comprises Roman monuments, grave stelae, terracotta and marble findings, statues and busts from the area, *open air cinemas* and the *Flower Show*, which takes place every May in Kifissia Grove. Some of the best restaurants, confectioneries and cafes of Athens are in Kifissia. *Alsos Syngrou*, (1,000,000 m²) adjacent to Kifissia and Maroussi, a wooded area, is an ideal place to go for a walk and relax. You can also ride your bike or play basketball, volleyball or football in the fields near the building of Anavryta School. This is also the location of Agios Andreas, the only orthodox neo-gothic church in Greece.

Getting there.

The main road linking Athens to the suburbs is *Kifissias Avenue*. You can reach Maroussi and Kifisia on **line 1** of the metro.

THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS (Faliro, Glyfada, Voula, Vouliagmeni).

The southern suburbs are located on the coast of the **Saronic Gulf**, from **Piraeus** to cape **Vouliagmeni**. Access from Athens is easy (the southern suburbs are just 20-30 minutes from the centre). The southern suburbs are an ideal place to go for a walk by the seaside, and swim. The best and most popular beaches of Attica, with clean water (see page 121) are located here. The areas each have a shopping centre with superb shops. In the southern suburbs you can walk on the marinas, have lunch or dinner by the seaside, enjoy your favourite water sports, or play golf, in a court with international standards (18 holes, par 72 course), located in *Glyfada*. The *Glyfada Golf Club* (tel 210 89.46.820) is

open daily from 08:00 am to sunset. Situated along the coast are hotels with a view of the sea.

In the coastal area of the **bay of Faliro**, (from Neo Faliro to Paleo Faliro) a huge recreational and cultural park is being planned, which will comprise the existing sport facilities built for the Olympic games, smaller venues for recreational and cultural purposes, an impressive aquarium putting on display the submarine species of the seas of Greece and the Mediterranean, a birds garden, nautical facilities, all of which will be connected by an esplanade. In **Trocadero** (P. Faliro) you may visit the **Maritime Museum**, on one of the most famous warships of recent Greek history, the **battleship Averof**. You can also go for a walk, ride your bike or have a coffee or a drink at the *Floisvos marina area* situated nearby. An exemplary playground, an open-air cinema and cycling tracks are to be found in Floisvos Park (P. Faliro). In **Ayios Kosmas** is a large seaside park. A metropolitan park with an

81. Old eclectic building in Kifissia. The building houses a modern shopping centre.



82. An impressive mansion of Kifissia.



83. There is a frequent bus and metro railway service running in the Athens north suburbs.



84



area of 1,000 acres will be constructed in the area of the old airport (**Helleniko**). **Vouliagmeni** is an attractive suburb with abundant vegetation, elegant villas, attractive beaches, the unique **Vouliagmeni Lake**, and some of the best hotels in Attica. Athenians visit the coast and have lunch at a restaurant or a drink at a bar by the seaside.

Getting there.

In order to reach these suburbs you may use the tram which leaves from Syntagma

Square and runs along two lines: line **T1** towards Neo Faliro (terminal at the Peace and Friendship Stadium) and line **T2** towards Voula (terminal at "Asclepieio Voulas"). Moreover line **T3** follows the itinerary Voula – Neo Faliro, offering you the opportunity to enjoy a unique trip along the coastal area. Also, you can reach the southern suburbs by using bus lines **B3** (Akadimias-Glyfada, via Vouliagmenis Avenue), **E22** (Akadimias-Saronida, express line), et al.

84. Vouliagmeni lake has therapeutic waters. The geological attraction is the popular destination of the residents of Attica.

85. The Olympic Stadium in the Olympic Athletic Centre of Athens (O.A.K.A.).

86. The propylaea of the renovated National Archaeological Museum.

85



MUSEUMS

THE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The completely renovated National Archaeological Museum ranks among the leading archaeological museums in the world. You will be impressed by the treasures of the museum and will want to come back for another visit. However, if you come just once, be sure to have enough time. The museum contains approximately 11,000 masterpieces dating from the 7th millennium B.C to the 5th century B.C which are classified in 7 collections: **Prehistoric** (Neolithic, Cycladic and Mycenaean antiquities, rooms 3-6 and 48 on the 1st floor), **Sculptures** (rooms 7-35), **Bronze** (rooms 36-39), **Egyptian Antiquities** (rooms 40-41, of world-wide importance), **Stathatou** (room 42 with 970 works of art mainly miniatures), **Vases and Miniatures** (rooms 49-63 1st floor) and **Cypriot** (room 64 1st floor). In addition to the permanent exhibits, the

Museum also holds temporary exhibitions and educational programs. We list some of the exhibits of the museum:

The golden mask of Agamemnon

(**Room 4**). Although it has been proven that it is not the mask of *Agamemnon*, it is a noteworthy exhibit, well worth seeing. *Schliemann's* theory was mistaken – today it is thought to be the mask of a king who died three centuries before *Agamemnon* (16th century BC). In the gallery of *Mycenaean Antiquities*, other than the mask, you can see jewels, golden works of art, swords etc, found in the royal graves of Mycenae.

The Harper of Keros.

(**Room 6**). It dates back to the early Bronze era (2700-2300 B.C) and is one of the most ancient depictions of musicians of Early Cycladic idoll sculpture. It represents a man seated on a throne holding a harp or lyre in his right hand, with a raised head and slightly open thighs.

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The Kouros of Sounion

(Room 8). It was a votive offering of a sailor to Poseidon, dating from 600 B.C. It bears a height of 3m in frontal position, with his left foot forward.

Dimitra and Persephone.

(Room 14). This attractive, well-preserved statue from Elefsina was sculpted from around 440-430 BC. It depicts *Dimitra* giving hay to *Triptolemos*, the young king of *Elefsina*. To her right, her daughter *Persephone* gives her blessing. Notice that the *Triptolemos* and *Dimitra* have different sizes. In that period artists made gods taller when they were depicted with mortals on a dedicatory column - a sign of respect of the gods.

The Poseidon (or Zeus) of Artemission

(Room 15). Is it perhaps a statue of *Poseidon* or of *Zeus*? Archaeologists have not come up with an answer. The bronze statue, a masterpiece of the sculpture of the classical period, is 2.09 metres high. It is one of the few preserved original bronze statues.

Myrrine's oil-flask.

(Room 16). It is the main exhibit in the hall, which bears *Myrrine's* name. It is sculpted on white marble and was discovered in 1873. It is decorated with a sculpture representing *Hermes* driving with one hand a young woman, *Myrrini*. According to the epigram located on her head, the god's purpose was to bring the woman to *Pluto* (god of *Hades*). Three men, relatives of *Myrrine* observe the spectacle. (430-420 BC).

The stele of Hegeso.

(Room 18). Don't fail to see the famous column (stele) of *Hegeso* (5th century BC). It was discovered in *Kerameikos* (see page 17). There is copy of the column in *Kerameikos*. The sculpture depicts *Hegeso* seated, taking a jewel from a box. A slave is holding the box. It is thought that the colours used for the background of the sculpture and the jewel are blue and gold respectively. On the upper section of the column is carved the name "*Hegeso*u tou *Proxenou*". Notice the artful depiction of her melancholy expression and the folds of her dress.

The Horse rider of Artemission.

(Room 21). The bronze statue of the 2nd century BC and a statue of *Poseidon* were discovered in the vicinity of *Cape Artemission*. The horseman and his horse may have been smelted separately. Notice the excellent depiction of the extended muscles of the horse and the expression of agony on the horseman's face.

The Adolescent of Marathon.

(Room 28). The statue of a youth was named after the bay of *Marathon*, where it was discovered in 1926. The inscription on the pedestal states that he is a boxer. Excepting for the left hand, which is thought to be the produce of a posterior repair, the statue is thought to be a masterpiece. It is thought to be the work of *Praxiteles*, or his student (330BC).

The Adolescent of Antikythira

(Room 28). Archaeologists have varying opinions regarding the significance of the statue. The main subject holds a spherical object in his hand. Some archaeologists claim that the statue depicts

the *god Pan* holding an apple, while others claim that it is the statue of *Perseus* holding the head of *Andromeda* (340 BC). It was found in a shipwreck in the vicinity of *Antikythira* in 1900.

The head of Hygeia.

(Sculpture rooms). Discovered in the temple of *Alea Athena* in *Tegea* the head of *Hygeia* was apparently part of a statue (350-340 BC), attributed to sculptor *Scopas*. You will recognise the head of *Hygeia* (the goddess of health), which has been reproduced in photographs.

Marble votive bas-relief.

(Sculpture rooms). *Dimitra*, *Persephone* and *Asclepius*. *Persephone* stands to the left, holding two torches on her right hand. In front of her sits *Dimitra* and to her right stands *Asclepius*. To the right are six supplicants who, according to the inscription, dedicated the sculpture to *Asclepius* and the two *Elefsinian goddesses*. Their names are carved on the pedestal encompassed by crowns made of olive branches.

87. National Archaeological Museum: the marble funerary column of a soldier running (Athens, circa 500 B.C.).



88. The room housing the "Horse rider of Artemission" in the National Archaeological Museum.



89. National Archaeological Museum: a Black Figure cup with a depiction of runners (circa 540 B.C.).



The statuette of Zeus. (*Bronze rooms*). The statuette of the Zeus casting lightning from Dodoni. Notice the stance of the god as he prepares to cast lightning. It is the same as Poseidon of Artemision.

Statuette of Pharaoh Savaka (*Room 41*). Dating since 700 B.C, the Pharaoh is represented kneeling down with extended arms. His name is engraved on his belt brooch and he is wearing the crown of the Nubian Pharaoh.

The exhibition of Thera. (*Room 48*). The main exhibits of the exhibition are the murals, which are a valuable source of information on life in the Aegean in the Bronze Age. They were discovered in the *Akrotiri (Cape) of Thera (Santorini)*. They are the earliest examples of large-scale painting in Europe.

- **The mural of spring:** Depicts a rocky landscape with vivid red lilies and swallows, some flying in pairs some on their own.
- **The mural of the fisherman:** One of the best preserved murals, it depicts a nude fisherman holding two strings of fish.

- **The mural of two children boxing:** Two children boxing. The child standing to the left wears boxing gloves and earrings. Notice their almond-shaped eyes.

Epigraphical Museum.

A section of the Archaeological Museum, with a separate entrance. (Tositsa 1) Displaying 14,000 inscriptions from Greece and Asia Minor, it is one of the leading museums of its kind in the whole world. Notice the inscription containing a resolution about *klitrotoi* [those appointed by lot], from Salamina island - it is the oldest political decision taken in Athens (510 – 500 BC); worthy of notice is also the stele [stone slab] containing a letter of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius addressing the Athenians (174-175 BC).

THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

It houses priceless finds from the Acropolis monuments that represent its history and function as the most important religious centre of ancient Athens. On the *main level*, the visitors can

see extended remnants of the ancient city, revealed with the excavations that are displayed under the specially-made glass floor, as well as significant finds deriving from the slopes of Acropolis. On the *first level* there are finds from the Acropolis during the Mycenaean and Geometric era, exhibition of archaic items, architectural structures and sculptures from Propylea, from the temple of Athena Nike and Erechtheion, as well as works dating from the late ancient period to the early Christian years. On the *second level* you can find the restaurant, the Museum's shop and book store, balconies with the view of the exhibits on the main and first level as well as a digital media area. Finally on the *third level* (Parthenon Gallery) are displayed the frieze, the metopes and the temple's pediments. The museum also offers an area for occasional exhibitions and cultural events, an amphitheatre, an internet hall and an information centre. Some of the most significant exhibits are listed below:

The Caryatids.

The statues of the beautiful priestesses were used for

supporting the roof of the southern balcony of the Erechtheion (420 B.C). Apparently they were named after the women of Caryes (an ancient city of Arcadia in the Peloponnese), who are thought to have been the models of certain statues. During the Turkish Domination the *Caryatids* were also referred to as *Petrified Princesses* or the *Maidens of the Castle*.

The Moschoforos.

The exceptional statue of a bearded youth (6th century B.C) is carrying a calf on his shoulders, a sacrifice to goddess Athena.

Kritias' Boy.

A statue of remarkable craft (480 BC, attributed to sculptor Kritias) depicting a youth with wavy long hair arranged around his head.

Alexander the Great.

The Head of Alexander the Great which was found near *Erechtheion*. It is speculated that the statue was made by sculptor *Leocharis*, after the visit of the Macedonian king to the city, following the battle of Chaeroneia (339 B.C)



90. & 91. The Acropolis Museum: Galleries showcasing exhibits from the Acropolis Slopes (left) and Erechtheion & the Caryatids (right).



The daughter of Antenor.

The marble statue which dates back to 525 B.C. is famous for its monumental grandeur (2m high), its expressiveness and austere facial expression.

The Archaic Kores.

The statues of the maidens who were dedicated to goddess Athena for a long period of time. No two maidens were alike, their varying hair styles and the drapery of their robes give the visitor the chance to admire the development of the sculpture in ancient Greece.

Sculptures decorating the Parthenon (444-432 B.C).

Creation of the sculptor Pheidias, the sculptures are unique masterpieces of works of art in the history of all times. Among others, one would find sections of the frieze depicting the *Panathenaean* procession, the Olympian gods and certain metopes depicting scenes of the *Centauromachy* (battle of centaurs), the *Gigantomachy* (war of giants), the *Amazonomachy* (battle of Amazons) and the *Trojan War* (for information on

Parthenon's frieze, see: www.parthenonfrieze.gr).

THE MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART - NICHOLAS AND DOLLY GOULANDRIS FOUNDATION

The well-organised museum was founded with the purpose of housing the *Goulandris* private collection of *Cycladic Art*. It is one of the leading museums in Athens.

Exhibits: On the 1st floor you will find various relics of *Cycladic* civilisation, while on the 2nd floor are miniatures and other objects of the same period. On the 3rd floor there is a collection of antiquities of the Cypriot civilisation as well as other temporary exhibits, whereas the 4th floor houses the ancient Greek art collection of K. Politis and the permanent exhibition "Scenes of everyday life in ancient times", where the visitor has the opportunity to get an idea about the public and private life in ancient Athens by means of special films and three-dimensional virtual reality representations, associated with the 142 objects belonging to the permanent collections of the

museum. In 1992 a new wing was added to the Museum, at the *Stathatos Mansion* (see page 67). In the New Wing you can see the *Academy of Athens* collection of ancient Greek art. On the basement of the building at N. Douka Str. you can buy replicas of museum exhibits.

THE NUMISMATIC MUSEUM

It is one of the five most important numismatic museums in the world. It displays more than 600,000 coins, "treasuries" (closed coin collections), standard weights, metals and precious stones, from the ancient Greek period, the Roman period, Byzantium, the western middle Ages, and modern history.

MUSEUM OF DIACHRONIC ART

It is located in an old silk mill which was converted into the multicentre for cultural events "*Athinais*" in the Votanikos area (near Gazi). The objects exhibited present the evolution of Cypriot art over a period of 9,000 years (from the

Neolithic Era until the end of the Middle Ages), depicting the unique character of Cypriot civilisation. A significant number of the exhibits come from the archaeological collection of the scientific foundation founded by the Pierides family.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS IN THE METRO

The biggest excavation ever in Greece was carried out at the time of the construction of the metropolitan railway of Athens (1993-2000). Some of the approximately 50,000 finds that were uncovered in these excavations are exhibited in specially designed spaces in the metro stations *Panepistimio*, *Syntagma*, *Akropoli*, *Evangelismos* and *Monastiraki*.

THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

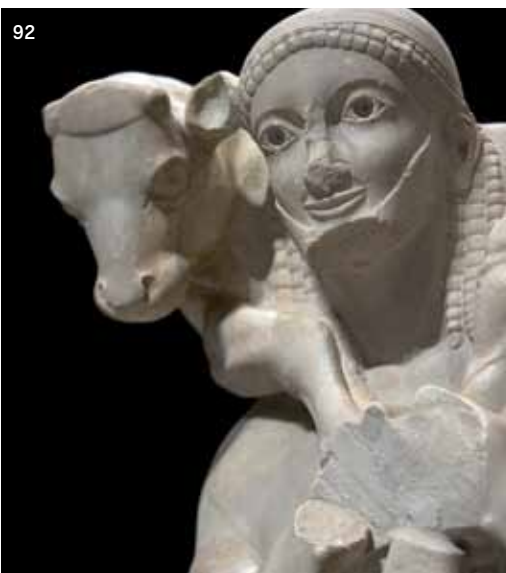
Located at *Kolokotroni Square* (see page 36). The exhibits, displayed in 16 galleries, cover the period dating back to the last years prior to the fall of

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92. The Archaic *Moschoforos* statue in the Acropolis Museum.

93. Part of the archaeological finds which are displayed at the Acropolis metro station.

94. The entrance of *Stathatos Mansion* at *Vasilissis Sofias Avenue*.



93



94



Constantinople (15th century) to the beginning of the World War II; whereas the largest part of the exhibition pertains to the characters and historic events of the Greek War of Independence of 1821.

THE BENAKI MUSEUM

One of the leading museums in Athens, the Benaki Museum is well worth a visit. It was founded by patrician *Ant. Benakis* (1873-1954) and inaugurated in 1931. It displays more than 45,000 exhibits of the collection of *Ant. Benakis* and other donors, organised in six collections.

Greece at the Benaki Museum.

This section comprises various categories with over 33,000 works, representative of Greek culture from antiquity to the creation of the modern Greek state and 1922 (the end of the Greco-Turkish War).

Toys and Childhood.

Included are 15,000 old toys and children's objects from Greece and the area of Greater Hellenism, from antiquity to 1970 – and Europe, America, Africa, and the countries of the East.

Coptic Art.

A large collection of fabrics, metalwork and woodwork, representing the production of Egypt in the 5th and 6th centuries.

Chinese Art.

Displays more than 1,300 exhibits (most of them were donated by *G. Eumorfopoulos*), representative of the Chinese civilisation from the 3rd Millennium BC to the 19th century (among others, vases, funeral statuettes, porcelain, miniatures and semi precious stones).

N. Hadjikyriakou-Ghika Gallery.

It contains works of art donated by the famous Greek painter *N. Hadjikyriakos-Ghikas*, and it is an annex of the Benaki museum. Housed in the building where the artist lived for 40 years (at 3, *Kriezotou St*), the gallery displays a representative example of his work.

The Museum of Islamic Art.

It is housed in a neoclassical building complex dating from the beginning of the 20th century, consisting of two residential buildings and located in the *Kerameikos area*

(see page 37). It is one of the leading Islamic Art collections in the world. It displays more than 8,000 exhibits from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Persia and India, representative of the development of Islamic art from the early Islamic age to the 19th century.

New Benaki Museum (Peireos Street).

It is a modern building covering an 8,200 m² area, containing a 3,000 m² space reserved for exhibitions, an 850 m² indoor atrium and an amphitheatre that provides seating for 300. It hosts mostly exhibitions of modern art. You will also find a café-restaurant.

Exhibitions: The Benaki Museum holds important exhibitions in the central building or in its other buildings.

THE BYZANTINE AND CHRISTIAN MUSEUM

This Museum can rightfully take pride in possessing one of the leading collections of Byzantine icons in the world. Its exhibits, that represent 1700 years of Byzantine art and architecture (3rd to 20th centuries), include 25,000 ecclesiastical objects from Greece, the Balkans, Cyprus, Constantinople and Russia, classified in 11 collections: Sculptures, Mosaics, Murals, Replicas and the *Loverdos' Collection* (includes manuscripts, woodcarving crafts, vestments, portable icons etc). The Museum also hosts important temporary exhibitions and runs educational courses. The surrounding area serves as a park with an open-air amphitheatre, a gift shop, a restaurant-café and recreational facilities. The grounds are connected to the adjacent archaeological site of "*Aristotle's Lyceum*" (i.e. the

school where the philosopher taught from 335 B.C. when he founded it until 323 B.C.). Within the site there are remains of the gymnasium [athletic training grounds], the baths, the Teaching Room for ephebes [adolescents], *Konistirio* [Palaestra -small athletic grounds], *Elaiothesion* [the Oiling Room-where athletes rubbed their body with oil] and the Reading Room – Library.

THE WAR MUSEUM

On display are weapons from the Stone Age and the Classical Period to the World War II. Amongst them there is a siege machine with a bridge and a ram dating back to the Hellenistic years, maps, flags, military uniforms and the models of warships and aircraft that are displayed, representing the entire spectrum of Greek history. In the front yard you will also find characteristic types of artillery guns, as well as various models of war aircrafts, some of which you can enter.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY – MUSEUM ALEXANDROS SOUTZOS

It is the leading Gallery in Greece. The core of the collection comprises of 117 paintings, listed in 1878. Later the Gallery was enriched by private collections granted by *Al. Soutzos*, *Eur. Koutlidis*, and other Greek painters and collectors. A number of important works of art, such as the "*Crucifixion*" by *Lorenzo Veneziano* and a collection of engravings of the 16th and 20th centuries were acquired by the Gallery.

Well worth seeing are:

"The Kiss" by *N. Lytras* (drawn before 1878), "The Engagement," by *N. Gyzis* (1877), "Children's Concert" by *G.Iakovidis* (1900), "The



95.
National Historical Museum: the portrait of Lord Byron.

96.
Byzantine and Christian Museum: icon of the 14th century, depicting the archangel Michael.



Concert of Angels,” by *Domenico Theotocopoulos* and “Equestrian Greek Warrior,” by *Eug. Delacroix* (1856), “Port of Kalamata” by *K. Parthenis* (1911) etc.

Exhibitions. The National Gallery mounts periodic exhibitions featuring important Greek and foreign artists, often held in parallel with other events.

National Glyptothek of Greece.

The museum is housed in two renovated buildings (former royal stables) with a beautiful surrounding area occupying 6500 m² in Alsos Stratou (district of Goudi). One hundred and fifty Greek sculptures dating to the 19th and 20th century are exhibited in the museum’s indoor and outdoor areas. Periodic plastic arts exhibitions featuring Greek and foreign artists are also held.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Housed in an old beer factory (Fix, on Syngrou Avenue) which was built in 1893 and was thoroughly

reshaped in the 1950s, the Museum opened in 2000. It displays the works of Greek and foreign artists, and holds important temporary exhibitions. A full scale renovation of the building and the installation of the permanent collections are scheduled to take place by the end of 2013. The museum is planned to open in the first half of 2014.

Note: Until the museum’s main building is ready to accept visitors, the permanent and temporary exhibitions will be held in the Athens Conservatory Building (see page 50). It would therefore be wise to contact the museum for specific information before visiting.

THE FRISSIRAS MUSEUM

The only Museum of Contemporary European Painting in Greece, the Frissiras Museum is housed in two neoclassical buildings in Plaka. The collections include paintings, drawings, sculpture, and engravings of major European and Greek artists (among others, *Hockney*,

Auerbach, Blake, Rustin, Pat Andrea, Dado, Rego, Arroyo, Adami, Diamantopoulou, Moralis, Mauroidis, Theofylaktopoulou, Botsoglou, Byzantiou).

THE MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK ART

The remarkable collections of this museum are dated from 1650. Modern Greek embroidered items from all over the country are showcased on the **ground floor**. Small groups of pottery, wood-carved items for church use (weaving tools, wooden seals for use on the Eucharist bread etc) and figures used in the Greek Shadow Puppet Theatre on a traditional stage setting are all to be found in the **mezzanine floor**. Temporary exhibitions are housed on the **first floor**. Traditional silver articles are on display on the **second floor** and you will find a rich collection of Greek folk costumes on the **top floor**. Other exhibits include paintings of *Theofilos Hadjimichalis*, a major Greek folk art painter and chiselled stones. In a 19th c. two-storey building at 22, Panos

St. (Plaka) you can visit the permanent exhibition of the Museum titled Men and Tools – Aspects of labour in pre-industrial society. Both the Traditional Pottery Collection which is housed in Tzisdarakis Mosque (see page 25) and the Bath-house of the Winds (see page 25) are annexes of the Museum.

MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF ATHENS (VOUROS-EUTAXIAS FOUNDATION)

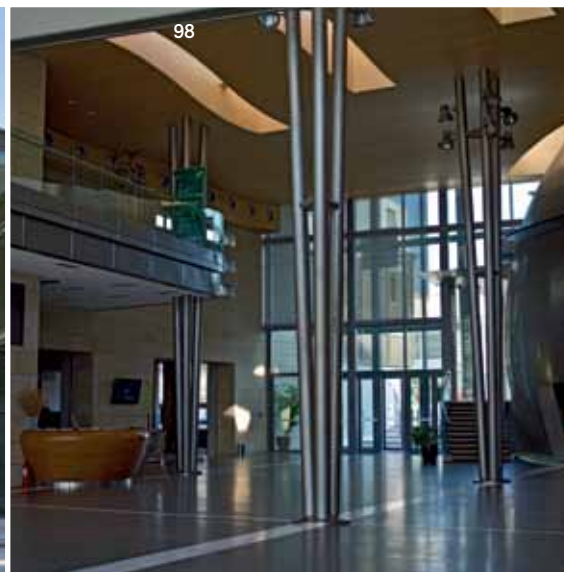
The museum is accommodated in a neoclassical building constructed in 1833 (*Vourou Mansion*, at Klafthmonos Square), which was used as King Otto’s temporary palace from 1836-1842. You will find here paintings and engravings connected to the history of the Greek capital, mainly from the early 18th century to the 20th century. Moreover, furniture belonging to the first King of Greece, Otto is displayed.

THE MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Accommodated in an austere mansion built in 1842, at Arides Square, the

97. The super-modern, impressive Tholos of the Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre a hemispheric virtual reality theatre where the spectator is taken on a stereoscopic tour of Ancient Greece.

98. & 99. Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre: main entrance is to the left and the café inside the atrium is to the right.



museum displays 1,200 folk musical instruments of the F. Anogeiannakis collection. Every showcase has audio. You can hear excerpts of songs played on the exhibited instruments. At the shop you will find CDs, selected books and copies of the musical instruments.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE

Founded in 1977, its collection comprises 8,000 authentic pieces, photographs, documents and archives that refer to the 2,300-year-old presence of Jews in Greece. Moreover this permanent exhibition depicts themes such as the Synagogue, worship vessels, the Synagogue calendar, traditional costumes, the Holocaust, the cycle of life, the history and tradition of Greek Jews.

THE GENNADIOS LIBRARY COLLECTION

The collection includes valuable manuscripts and books, documents, periodicals, maps of the most important periods of Greek literature. Moreover, you will find here a Byzantine library, a reading

room and an exhibition room. Well worth seeing is the collection of the personal objects of *Lord Byron* (golden clock, laurel wreath, seals, etc).

THE FOUNDATION OF THE HELLENIC WORLD

It was founded in 1993 for the purpose of informing the public and preserving Greek history and culture by means of modern technology. The Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre was established to this end. *Hellenic Cosmos* presents, among other things, Greek history on the Internet from the Stone Age until today, digitally reproducing ancient monuments and spaces, projecting historical and cultural documentaries, organising exhibitions and educational programmes and staging cultural tours by means of the Virtual Reality systems: *Tholos*, *Ark* and *Magic Screen*.

PLANETARIUM

The digital *planetarium* established by the *Eugenides Foundation* has a dome of 25m in diameter and a 950m²

area. It is one of the biggest and best equipped digital planetariums in the world. The ultra modern projection room has a capacity of 280 persons, with specially designed reclining; interactive participation seats, thus taking the visitor to a unique virtual reality journey to the universe. It also has 1,800 m² of available exhibition space, modern congress centre and a scientific library.

THE VORRES MUSEUM

Six thousand exhibits, representing 40 centuries of Greek history, are displayed in the Museum. The area of the Museum is 4,500 m². It is divided in two sections. In the *first section* you will find a collection of modern Greek art comprising of paintings and sculptures of the late 20th century. The *second section* is housed in a complex of two traditional village houses and a building, which was formerly used as a winepress. You will find here household objects, such as carpets, furniture, millstones, and ceramic art works from various areas of Greece. Moreover,

in the section are exhibited oil paintings and engravings connected to historical events, and certain archaeological finds.

THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (GAIA CENTRE)

In this important Museum you can learn about the interdependence of living organisms. The museum displays rich collections of insects, mammals, serpents, birds, and shells, and rocks and fossils from Greece. Moreover, it organises seminars and lectures and holds temporary exhibitions connected to environmental issues relating to Greece and the world.

Gaia Centre.

Recently, the Museum opened the Centre of Environmental Research and Education Gaia. Visitors are offered a glimpse of the workings of nature. Educational programmes are also held at the building. The area of the building is 12,500 m².

For information on museums, see pages 123 – 126

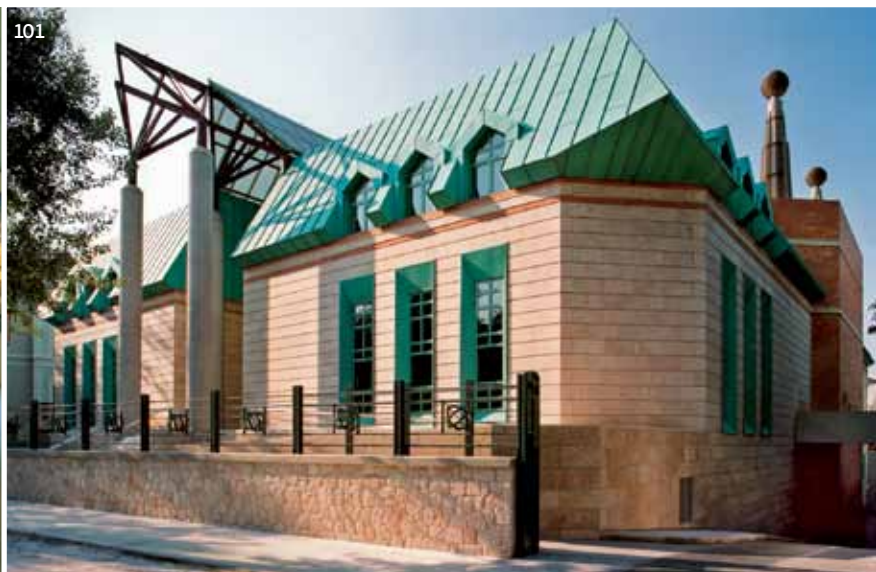
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100. The Vorres Museum.

101. The Goulandris Natural History Museum: a photo of Gaia Centre.

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DAY TRIPS IN ATTICA

Greater Attica, an area of natural beauty, has been since antiquity one of the most important cultural centres of Greece. With important historical and archaeological sites, unique Byzantine monuments, mountains, fertile plains and clean beaches – all easily accessible from Athens – Attica is an attractive destination for day trips, offering an escape from the busy streets of Athens.

1 MOUNT PARNITHA

Parnitha was first inhabited during the Mycenaean period; it always constituted a key-point in Attica's defence, as it was the most fortified mountain in ancient Greece.

Being the highest mountain in Attica (1.400 m) and one of the most beautiful mountains of Greece, it is located 30 kilometres northwest of

Athens. Mount Parnitha's *National Park* has an area of more than 300km². It is home to 30 species of mammals (deer, hares, foxes, etc) and 120 bird species (many of which are endemic). There are over 800 kinds of herbs and plants, corresponding to 17% of Greek flora.

Walk on one of hundreds of footpaths, take a mountain bike ride on a designated

trail in the area of *Ayios Merkourios*, explore dozens of small caves, relax by the lovely *Beletsi lake* (on the east mountainside), and visit a lot of beautiful churches and monasteries (*Ayia Triada, Moni Kleiston, Moni Ayiou Kyprianou* etc). At the location *Bafi* (alt. 1,160 m. tel. 210 24.69.050) and *Flambouri* (alt. 1,158 m.tel. 210.24.64.666), two mountain resorts operate offering a capacity of 50 people each. The mountain attracts climbing fans (locations *Arma, Katebasma Gouras, Flambouri, Korakofolia* and *Megalo Armeni*). Moreover, one can visit the luxury hotel *Mont Parnes* and try his luck in the casino.

THE SIGHTS:

Frourio Filis.

This fortress is located on the west slope of the mountain. It was built during the 4th century B.C. in a strategic position with an unobstructed view, replacing an older one nearby. SE of the fortress along the road leading to Athens, there are still visible chariot wheel tracks.

Spileo Panos.

(Cave of god Pan) is located near Frourio Filis, it is accessible via a stream, by climbing a rough slope. It was named after the Nymphs and god Pan which were worshipped in that area. 2,000 lanterns were found in the cave and it consists of two halls decorated with stalagmites and stalactites while one can still see carved on the rocks since antiquity, the sockets for the votive offerings.

Mont Parnes Casino.

The casino is open daily except Wednesdays. Visitors should wear evening dress and carry a valid passport. Visitors under 23 years of age are not allowed into the casino.

Getting there: If you use your own car, follow the National Road towards Lamia and take a left turn at the Parnitha exit. The road leading to the top follows a picturesque route, with many turns. If you do not want to take your car to the top, park at the foot of the mountain and take the funicular (tel. 210 24 21 234). **Buses**



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102. Climbing the craggy rocks of Parnitha.

103. The slopes of Hymettos.



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number A10 and B10 leave from Larissis Railway station (Athens) and will take you to the foot of the mountain in about two hours.

2 MOUNT PENTELEI

Penteli is a densely vegetated mountain with springs and attractive locations. From the top, you have a spectacular view of the city as well as the Euboean Bay. Penteli is a well known source of marble, as the Pentelic Marble was the main material used for the construction of all Attic architectural and sculptural marvels of the classical period. The unique white colour of Pentelic marble was well known in antiquity. Pentelic marble was an important export product of ancient Athens. Later it was used in the construction of the Panathenaikon (Kallimarmaro) Stadium (see page 50), which was the location of the 1st modern Olympics (1896), revived by the French baron Pierre de Coubertin. The locations *Daveli's Cave* and "*Dytikos toichos*" (Western Wall) are ideal for climbing. For information contact the Greek Federation for Hiking-Climbing tel. 210 36.45.904).

THE SIGHTS:

The Penteli Monastery.

The wealthiest and biggest monastery in Greece, Penteli Monastery was founded in 1578 by Archbishop *Timotheos*. It is dedicated to the Dormition of the Virgin. A number of buildings were added to the original structure. Sections of the original building were later reconstructed. Recently a multitude of new buildings were added for the monks staying at the monastery. Visitors may see the original hospital, fountain and some of the cells.

Palace of the Duchess of Plaisance.

Impressive 19th century mansion which looks like a gothic castle and was built for S. de Marbois-Lebrun, known as the "Duchess of Plaisance". The building which now houses the Byzantine and Christian Museum was also built for her (see page 68). From time to time, artistic events take place in the courtyard of the palace. However, you may find the building closed, due to repairs that are currently under way (tel. 210 80.42.575).

Getting there. Take trolley-bus No. 19 from Athens (Vasileos Irakleiou Str, in the vicinity of the Archaeological Museum) to Halandri Square, and change to local bus line 451B and get off at bus stop Monastiri. Also, using metro line 1, get off at Maroussi station and from there take local bus line 446 (Amaroussio Station – Penteli Hospital).

3 MOUNT HYMETTOS

Mount Hymettos is located south of the Athens basin. It is linked to the history of Athens. Sanctuaries have been built here since antiquity (among others, the sanctuaries of Zeus and Pan). Moreover, in the western side were marble mines. Marble was used for the construction of monuments in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Hymettos has abundant vegetation and a large variety of fauna and flora. In the past few decades, the state has introduced special measures to protect the important ecology of Mount Hymettos. Hymettos is a destination preferred by Athenians as proximity to the city and the beautiful natural environment turn hiking into a pleasant activity while walking past archaeological finds and important Byzantine monasteries.

THE SIGHTS:

Ayios Ioannis Kynigios Monastery.

Located at the northern peak of Hymettos, with a view of Athens and the Mesogeia Plain, the monastery was possibly built in the 12th century. Only the central church (built of plinth), which has been modified, and the main entrance (13th century), remains of the old monastery. The monastery accommodates a women's commune. Access to the monastery from Agia Paraskevi (open 8:00-12:00 pm and 16:00-19:00).

Ayios Ioannis Theologos Monastery.

The monastery is located in the vicinity of the perimeter of the Papagou suburb. You can get there via Anastaseos Str. The monastery was built on the site of an ancient building (you will find here, among others, ancient column capitals, pedestals etc). The main cruciform church, is dated to the late Byzantine period (13th- 15th century). The monastery accommodates a women's commune. It is

closed at mid-day (12:00-16:00).

Asteriou Monastery.

Located north of Ayios Ioannis Theologos, on a wooded slope, Asteriou Monastery is thought to have been founded in the 5th century. The building complex, which has been preserved, includes a four-side fort-style court, two wings with buildings and a main church, built in cruciform style, with interesting murals of the 16th century. A domed cistern with a fountain from the period of Turkish occupation is preserved. The monastery has been designated a historical monument (open 08:00-15:00).

Kaisariani Monastery.

Built in the 11th century, the monastery is located in an idyllic location on the slopes of Mount Hymettos, near *Kaisariani* suburb. According to Greek mythology, the god *Hephaistos* often came here. The riverbed of the river *Ilisos*, the sacred river of *Aphrodite*, is located on a hill above the monastery. The monastery was built on the ruins of a roman

104. *Penteli (or Daveli) Cave, in the southwest side of the mountain, near the Monastery. This used to be the biggest ancient marble quarry and a sanctuary. Two small 11th c. churches are located at the entrance.*



and late ancient Greek temple. Four columns of the ancient temple now support the dome of the church. In the late 12th century and early 13th century the monastery prospered and became an influential cultural and spiritual centre. The church of the monastery, dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, is built in the Hellenic cruciform style, and decorated with murals of the 16th century. On the western wall of the yard you will find a spring. The water gushes from the mouth of a marble goat. Formerly it was thought that the water cured infertility. It is thought that it has *magic* qualities. There is a holy water spring in a sanctuary on the northwest wall of the yard. Kaisariani Monastery is an excellent starting point for a hiking trip.

Ayios Ioannis Kareas Monastery.

The monastery, founded in 1550, is located a few hundred metres from the *Kareas* area. The main church, a two-storey wing of cells and a small one-floor building on the northern side is all that remains of the old complex. After the 1970's major reconstruction work was done on the old monastery and a new two-floor wing of cells was built. It is a women's monastery (opening hours 08:00-12:00 and 16:00-20:00).

Panos Cave (Nymfolypou).

Located in the southeastern area of the mountain (3 kilometres north of the suburb of *Vari*). It was dedicated to Pan. The deity was worshipped there from 600 BC to 150 AC. Worth seeing are the unique sculptures and epigrams preserved on engravings in the rocks. The most important is an epigram by the sculptor Archedimos. Archaeologists researching the multiple finds (among others, clay oil lamps, stone offerings) deduced that the cave was used

as a place of worship also in the Christian period.

The Botanical Garden.

Some 5 kilometres from the centre of Athens, you can enjoy a walk in an area with 3 million pine trees, cypress trees, fir trees, poplar trees, plane trees, and oak trees. Moreover, in the Botanical Garden are thousands of birds and wild flora. It is the ideal scene for a long walk and a picnic. You will find picnic tables and benches, after about 20 minutes of walking from Kaisariani Monastery.

4 DAPHNI MONASTERY

Well worth your visit is Daphni Monastery (11 kilometres from Athens, near *Haidari suburb*, the Athens – Corinth Highway), which is linked to ancient mythology, the classical period, and Byzantine history. The Monastery is thought to be the most important Byzantine monument in the Athens area, while the mosaics are thought to be masterpieces of the golden age of Byzantine art.

Built on hallowed ground.

In the 2nd century AD, the geographer *Pausanias* referred to the *Temple of Daphnaios* or *Daphneios Apollo*, located in a sacred laurel thicket, by the *Iera Odos* (*Iera Odos* in Greek means *Sacred Road*), leading from Athens to Eleusina. The Goths destroyed the temple in 395 AD. Later, the Byzantine emperors banned idolatry. The Christians acquired the location and built a church, using the materials of the old temple. They selected this location because it was on the road to Eleusina, where the idolaters held the *Eleusinian Mysteries*. In 1100 a new octagonal church was built. The monastery was modified several times before the 19th century. In the Greek

Revolution it was refuge of Greek freedom fighters.

The myths. According to mythology, the location was named after the ancient temple and the laurel thicket. According to another myth, *Daphni* was named after *Queen Daphne*, whose boat was shipwrecked near the port of *Eleusina*. *Queen Daphne* was saved, and as an expression of gratitude to the god *Apollo*, she built the temple. The temple was later destroyed by the Goths. However, according to another myth, the place was named after the nymph *Daphne*, who escaped to the location from the god *Apollo* and was metamorphosed into a laurel bush.

THE SIGHTS:

The mosaics.

Daphni monastery is famous for its unique and beautiful mosaics, created in the 11th century. You will see them on the walls, the dome, the arms of the cross, the roof and the altar. Seventy-six of the subjects of the mosaics refer to the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary. Moreover, you can

see mosaics depicting saints and prophets.

Christ Pantokrator.

The central figure on the dome is *Pantokrator*, encompassed by a circle symbolising the sky, while the golden font symbolises Paradise. *Pantokrator's* face is austere. He looks at the people on earth and judges their actions. He is surrounded by the prophets of the Old Testament.

The Dormition of the Virgin.

The mosaic is half destroyed. It is located on the western wall of the Church. Notice the angel descending from the sky to receive the soul of the Virgin. He is thoughtful. His hands are graciously covered by fabric.

Diomedes Botanical Garden.

It is located near the monastery. It is the biggest of its kind in the Eastern Mediterranean, with a total area of 465 acres. More than 3,000 species of trees and flowers, originating from Greece



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105. Kaisariani Monastery.

106. Detail of the unique mosaics of Daphni Monastery.

and abroad, are planted in 50 acres, while the rest of it preserves to a great extent its forestal character (free entrance from 401 Iera Odos, tel. 210 58.11.557).

Getting there: From Koumoundourou (Eleftherias) Square you can take bus lines 865 (to Mandra), A16 (to Eleusina) and Γ16 (to Aspropyrgos). You will get off at Moni Dafniou [Daphne Monastery] Stop. To visit Diomedes Botanical Garden, take bus lines 865 and A16 and get off at Diomideios Stop.

5 PIRAEUS (PIREAS)

Most people have heard at least once the song "The youth of Piraeus," composed by *M. Hadjidakis*, with *Melina Mercouri* singing in the film "Never on Sunday." However, many people don't know the place, which the film and the movie made famous – the city and port of Piraeus.

The history of Piraeus.

Piraeus is washed almost on all sides by the sea and the way of life is linked to the water. In prehistoric times it was an island and men used to cross the straits to reach

the opposite coast (in ancient Greek the word for «crossing the straits» is *dieperaiounto*). That perhaps explains the origin of its name.

The architect *Hippodamus* designed the urban planning of Piraeus in the mid 5th century BC. *Hippodamus* plans were used as the guidelines for the reconstruction of the city in 1834. *Themistocles* was the first person to realise the importance of the role the city could play for Athens. He made Piraeus Athens's leading port, relegating the *Bay of Faliro*, which the Athenians used before the 5th century BC. Seeking to develop a fortified port for the city of Athens, from 493 to 479 BC he built the wall of Piraeus. Later *Pericles* completed the fortification, building the **Long Walls**, which protected both sides of the road from Piraeus to Athens. In the Middle Ages, Piraeus was named *Porto Leone*, after a giant stone lion, guarding the entrance of the harbour. Today it is the main port of Athens, the biggest port in Greece, one of the leading ports in the Mediterranean, an important

centre of the merchant marine, industry and transportation. The centres of Piraeus are its three ports: the central port, Zea marina, and Mikrolimano.

THE SIGHTS:

1 The Central port.

The ancient name of the central port was *Kantharos*. At present it is the centre of the city. You will find here ships to all the islands of the Saronic Gulf, the Aegean Sea (excepting the Sporades) and Crete. Walk around and look at the passenger and freight ships, and the arrivals and departures of merchandise and people from the entire world. On *Vasiliades Coast* the new modern building of the *Ministry of Shipping*, is erected. In the *Freatyda* area parts of the ancient *Walls of Piraeus* (the coastal section) are preserved.

2 Zea marina (Pasalimani).

Impressive yachts and cruise ships anchor in this marina. At the seafront are restaurants, tavernas, bars and shops. Adjacent to the Archaeological

Museum is the **Ancient Theatre of Zea** (4th – 3rd c. BC). In the direction of Mikrolimano you will see Votsalakia, a beach popular among the locals, as well as *Koumoundourou* islet which is an important natural reserve.

3 Mikrolimano.

The port was protected by the goddess *Mounihia Artemis*. At present it is a popular location, attracting people from all over Attica. It is a beautiful little harbour with fishing boats, small boats and luxury yachts. If you like fish and seafood, have lunch or dinner at one of its famous tavernas. Within a short distance lies the *Peace and Friendship Stadium* sports arena, surrounded by areas of greenery and recreation.

4 Kastella.

An elegant and popular neighbourhood of Piraeus, built on a hill also known as *Profitis Ilias* named after the church which lies in a copse on the hilltop. Walk to the top of the hill, and admire the alleys with picturesque houses. The



107. A view of Piraeus main port area.



view of the main port, Zea and Mikrolimano is unique. In the area is the open-air theatre *Veakeio*, which hosts important cultural events in summer. There is also *Sirangio cave* (further up Votsalakkia beach) which used to be a sanctuary and an *Asclepieion* [healing temple sacred to the god Asclepius].

⑤ The Municipal Theatre.

It dominates one of the central squares (*Korai Square*). It was built in the 1890s in the neoclassical style by architect *I. Lazarimos* and has a horseshoe shaped, Italian style hall (pit, galleries and balconies) of total capacity of 1,300 spectators. The outside area is one of the most frequented places, a meeting place of residents of Piraeus. Within a short distance (at the junction of Filonos and Karaoli-Dimitriou Sts.) is the location of the *Municipal Gallery* housed in a neoclassical building, where works of art by leading Greek artists (N. Lytras, M. Axelos, P.

Vyzantios and others) are on display.

⑥ The I.S.A.P. station (Piraeas metro station).

The stately eclectic building with the arched dome (1929), replicates the relevant European stations of the period. Recently the interior was completely renovated. On one of the walls are displayed the works of the students of the School of Fine Arts.

⑦ The Archaeological Museum.

It features mostly sculptures found in Piraeus at the coast of Attica. The exhibits, presented in 10 halls, relate to the history, and the rise and fall of the ancient city. Notice the bronze trident-shaped piston of a trireme, the metrological bas-relief (room 1), the four rare bronze statues discovered in Piraeus in 1959 (*the Archaic Kouros Apollo*, two *statues of Artemis*, *Athena of Piraeus* with a height of 2.35 m), the bronze, *ancient tragedy mask* of the 4th century BC (Rooms 3-4), the sanctuary of Cybele (room 5), the collection

of tomb sculptures (room 6) and the monument of *Kallithea* bearing a height of 7m (rooms 7-8).

⑧ The Nautical Museum.

It is the largest museum of its kind in Greece, covering an area of 1,850 m². The Nautical Museum is located at *Akti Moutsopoulou*. Its exhibits cover about 3,000 years of Greek nautical history.

Directions. You can take the line 1 of the metro and get off at the stop "Piraeas." There are bus lines from Athens to *Akti Xaveriou* in Piraeus. One line has its terminus at Syntagma Square (number 040) and another line has its terminus at Athinas Str in the Omonia Square area (number 049).

⑥ SOUNIO

The sanctuary of Sounio (the famous *temple of Poseidon* is here) is one of the most important ones in Attica. Situated at a unique site (cape Sounio) the sanctuary is one of the major sights of Greece. It is one hour's drive from the centre of Athens (69 km). The

route to Sounio follows the coastline of the Saronic Gulf passing through the tourist resorts of *Varkiza*, *Ayia Marina*, *Lagonissi*, *Saronida*, *Anavissos*, *Legrena* et al. Look out of the window of your car or bus and you will enjoy the sparkling blue sea. If you travel by car, you can stop and go for a swim in an organised beach or in one of the beautiful little bays located at many places on your way. You will also find here a multitude of cafes, tavernas serving fresh fish and ouzo restaurants.

THE SIGHTS:

The Temple of Poseidon.

At this site the ancient Greeks worshipped the god of the sea, *Poseidon*. Preserved are 16 Doric style columns (originally there were 38). The temple was built in 448-440 B.C., during the *Golden Age of Pericles* on the ruins of an earlier one built of limestone. The architect is unknown. However, it is thought that it is the same architect who designed *Theseion* (see page 15).

Its dimensions were 31.12

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108. Zea harbour (or *Pasalimani*) is one of the central locations of the city of Piraeus.

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109. & 110. The building (left) and the restored platform area (right) in the Piraeus metro station.

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x 13.47m.; it had a frieze with a sculpted decoration above the architrave of the vestibule. Following an examination of the finds unearthed in the area archaeologists have deduced that *Poseidon* was worshipped here before the 5th century BC.

The temple of goddess Athena.

Worth your visit is the temple of *Athena Sounia*, located at a distance of 400 metres from the temple of *Poseidon*. You will find here the substructures of two temples: a large temple built at around 470 BC or during the Peloponnesian War (431-404), and a small temple. Archaeologists have diverging opinions regarding the small temple: some believe it is the ruin of an old temple dedicated to *Athena*, and built in the period 600-550 BC, other believe the temple was dedicated to *Artemis*.

6.1 Lavrio.

Located approximately 10 kilometres northeast of Sounio is Lavrio, a small picturesque town with a multitude of

neoclassical houses and mansions, which was famous in antiquity for its silver and bauxite mines. The mines of Lavrio closed in the late 1970s. The **Technological Cultural Park of Lavrio** was built in the town outskirts, past the Palm Forest and the old neighbourhoods of Santorineika and Kyprianos. The park includes industrial units dating to the 1875-1940 period. It is now a museum and it also hosts cultural events. The Archaeological Museum, located at 1, Andr. Kordelas St., housing finds from that area (Sounio, Thorikos etc) and the **Mineralogy Museum** (Iroon Polytechniou) are worth your visit. By the fish market (Iroon Square) and along the seafront there are many traditional coffee shops and fish tavernas serving a variety of delicacies, as well as small café-bars. Some 4 kilometres north of Lavrio is the archaeological site of *Thorikos*, one of the oldest settlements of Attica. Excavations have revealed the most ancient theatre within the Hellenic territory,

parts of the settlement, metal work facilities, a 4th century B.C. tower, cemeteries and a sanctuary of goddess Demeter. In the area encompassed by Lavrio and Sounio is the **Sounio National Park**, with natural archaeological and cultural attractions.

Getting there. Two bus lines link Sounio to Athens: one route via, the coastal road of Varkiza and Legrena, and another via the inland of Attica, namely Agia Paraskevi, Koropi and Lavrio. The terminus of both bus lines is located at *Mavromataion Str* in the vicinity of *Pedion tou Areos* in Athens (tel. 210 82 30 179). Moreover, travel agents organise day trips to the temple of Poseidon.

7 ELEUSINA (ELEUSIS)

Located 23 kilometres west of Athens, it was founded in the 2nd millennium BC; the sanctuary became pan-Hellenic in the 8th century BC. Today, the city has mainly industrial character with obvious however indications

of its older attributes, such as the aristocratic houses of the early 20th century (mainly on Pangalou Str and Nicolaidou Str), as well as the neighbourhoods with one-storey houses and the old industrial buildings. The district around the harbour, where ruins of the ancient breakwater are preserved, is also of interest. However, uninitiated visitors will not appreciate its glorious past, the history and the mythology regarding the local gods, the deities and the worship thereof.

Demeter and Persephone.

The citizens of Eleusina worshipped *Demeter*, the goddess of nature, spring and agriculture. The myth of *Demeter* and her daughter *Persephone* is, like most myths, allegorical. It refers to the rebirth of plant life, following its "death" in winter, and the eternal longing for immortality. According to a hymn of the 7th century B.C., one day the earth opened up in two, *Plouton*, the god of the underworld appeared, and seized the young *Persephone*. He took her to his kingdom and made her

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111. Sounio:
The ruins of
the temple of
Poseidon.

112.
Entrance to
the sanctuary
at Eleusis
was forbidden
to the non-
initiated for
many centuries.

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his wife. Her mother looked for her in despair. She looked for her nine days and nights, without success. She arrived despairing at the doorstep of the palace of Keleos, king of Eleusina. She became the nurse of his son, not revealing that she is a goddess. When her real identity was revealed, she requested that a temple be built in her honour. She remained in the temple, devastated by the loss of her daughter. The following year, not a seed grew on the world. Zeus was worried. He sent *Hermes* to appeal to Plouton. A compromise was reached: Persephone would remain in the kingdom of Plouton 1/3 of the year, and the remaining time she could stay with her mother. Overjoyed, Demeter allowed the plants and flowers to grow, and the earth became fruitful again.

The Mysteries of Eleusina.

The Eleusinian mysteries were named mysteries because the most important part of the event, involved intense mysticism. We don't know much about the worship

of Demeter by thousands of people over 15 centuries. The *Great Eleusinian Mysteries* had their starting point in Eleusina. The remarkable procession moved on to Athens through the Sacred Way and headed by the priestess and the sacred symbols of the worship of *Demeter*. The Mysteries were concluded with ceremonies in honour of the dead. After the ceremony, Athenians returned to Athens. The *Eleusinian mysteries* were abolished in the 4th century BC by the Byzantine emperor *Theodosios*.

THE SIGHTS:

The Archaeological site.

During your visit, bear in mind that the greater part of the area was *avaton* – a place inaccessible to the uninitiated – for many centuries. Worth seeing are the remains of the *Telestirion* (ceremonial chamber), also known as the *lero ton Mystirion*, located in the centre of the area, the *leri Avli* (Sacred Courtyard), the *Great and Small Propylaea*, and *Ploutoneio*.

The Archaeological Museum.

Displayed at the Museum of *Eleusina* are the finds of the digs of the sanctuary and the western cemetery. Worth seeing is the *Early-Attic Amphora of Eleusina* (650 BC). The neck of the amphora is decorated by a depiction of the blinding of the Cyclops *Polyphimos by Ulysses*. On the main body of the amphora, *Perseus* beheads *Medousa*. Also worth seeing is the *Kori* from the pediment of the *leri Oikia* (leri Oikia in Greek means Sacred House) (490-480 BC). It is the statue of a running maiden, her head turned to the left.

West Cemetery.

Located near the archaeological site, it was the most significant necropolis of the ancient city. A conglomeration of prehistoric graves, presumably belonging to the personage of the tragedy *Hepta epi Thébas* (Seven against Thebes).

Roman Bridge.

Located on the east entrance of the city (near the highway Athens-Corinth). Dating to the

2nd century A.D. it is a 50m. long bridge made of stone and it was part of the Sacred Way. Also, in central parts of the city, sections of the *Roman Aqueduct* (125 A.D.) are preserved.

7.1 Archaeological Museum of Megara.

21 km. west of Eleusina is the town of Megara. A significant town in antiquity, it is the birthplace of Euclides, Theognes and Eupalinos. Its decline started with the end of the Peloponnesian War. Its interesting archaeological museum houses terracotta and marble findings from the greater area, covering the chronological period from the 6th century B.C. till the Roman era. Among the most important exhibits are the *terracotta bust of Demeter* (5th century B.C.), a *terracotta female bust* (5th cent. B.C.), a *spout with the shape of a lion's head* (around 350 B.C.), a *female statue wearing a peplos - veil* (325-300 B.C.), et al. It is worth visiting the *fountain of Theagenis*, an impressive building

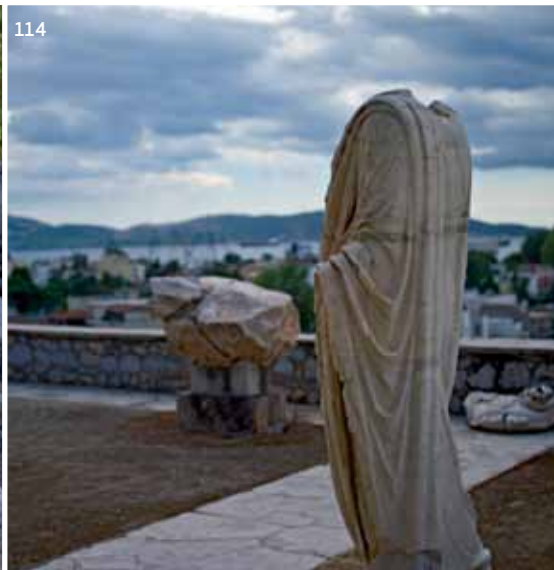
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113. View of the sanctuary of Eleusis.

114. & 115. Eleusis Archaeological Museum: left, a marble statue in the round wearing a toga (2nd half of 1st c. AD); right, the "Fleeing Kore".

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containing water supply pipes dating to 500 BC; it is close to the town's central square.

Getting there. If you travel by car, take the Athens-Corinth National Road. The bus to Eleusina (**number A16 and B16**) has its terminus at Koumoundourou Square in Athens. There is a long distance bus line (K.T.E.L.) running to Megara town, which leaves from Thissio Metro Station (tel. 210.32.44.448). You can also use the Suburban Railway (for info see page 122).

8 ATTICA ZOOLOGICAL PARK (SPATA)

One of the largest zoos in the Balkans spreading across 128,000 m² in the area of Yialou (Spata) is at a 15km distance NE of Athens. A visit there is a unique experience especially for children. It consists of: the **Ornithological Park** boasting the third largest collection of birds worldwide (1500 birds from 300 different species), farm animals and large **cages-miniatures of three continents**; the **World of Reptiles** with pythons,

boas, crocodiles, etc; the **Greek Fauna** featuring rare animals of Greece such as brown bears, wolves, wild cats, the eurasian lynx, otters etc; the **African Savanna** (giraffes, zebras, antelopes, jaguars, snow leopards, white lions, etc); and the section with the **monkeys and apes** and the **Forest of Monkeys** where visitors share the same space with monkeys; the **felines** section (tigers, servals, ocelots, etc); the section with the **hippopotamuses, alligators**, etc. The zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until sunset.

Getting there. By bus (No 319 from Doukissis Plakentias metro station). By car via the Attiki Odos Motorway, exit 18 with direction to Spata (from the airport) and exit 16P with direction to Rafina (from Eleusina).

9 MARATHON

Well worth your visit is Marathon, with an archaeological area and museum. Marathon is one of the most beautiful locations in Attica. The journey to Marathon is a very pleasant one. On your way you will pass

by fields, vineyards, olive groves, wild vegetation, as well as **man-made Lake Marathon** with its impressive dam with marble coating, built in 1929. In the vicinity you will find many beautiful beaches where you can swim and sunbathe. The most famous beach is **Schinias** (an exceptionally beautiful location which has been declared a National Park), which has a pine forest bordering on the sandy shore. You can combine a visit to Marathon with a visit to the **archaeological area of Ramnounda** (12 kilometres from Marathon).

The battle of Marathon.

The main source of information regarding the battle of Marathon is the ancient historian Herodotus. According to Herodotus, the Persian fleet disembarked 100,000 troops in Marathon in 490 BC. Facing this immense army were just 11,000 Greek troops (10,000 were from Athens and 1,000 from Plataiai). The Greeks, thanks to the military genius of **Miltiades**, won the battle.

Following the victory, **Feidippidis**, an Athenian soldier, was sent to bring the good news to the city. He ran all the way from the field of battle to the Market of Athens. He said one word: **Nenikikamen** (we have won), collapsed and passed away. In memory of the event, the modern **Marathon** covers the distance Feidippidis ran, and is symbolised in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

THE SIGHTS:

The Monument (Tomb) of Marathon.

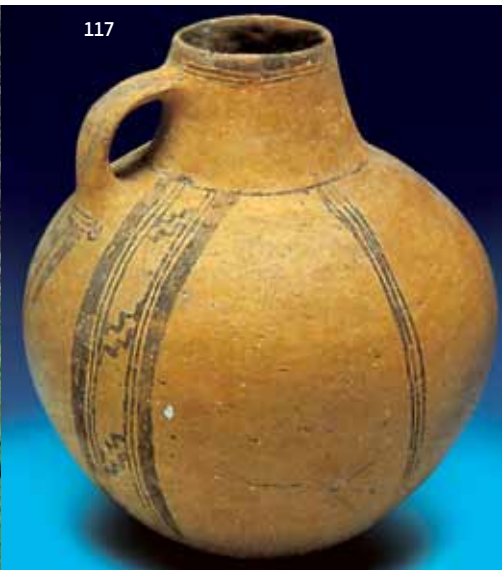
Adjacent to the ancient battle field, at a distance of one kilometre from Marathon's beach, you will find a unique monument (Tomb), 9m. tall and 50m. in diameter, of the 192 Athenian soldiers who were killed in this famous battle. Nearby (at Mesosporitissa), the replica of the **tropaion** (trophy) erected by the Athenians following the victorious battle is found (fragments of the original are displayed at the

116.
The large 9m. high Marathon tumulus [Tymbos] which was erected for the interment of the 192 Athenian warriors who died in the victorious battle of the Athenians over the Persians in 490 BC.

117. & 118.
The Marathon Archaeological Museum: left, clay vase of the Neolithic period from the Cave of Pan (Oinoi); right, part of the memorial Stele erected in the Marathon plain following the victory of the Athenians.



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Archaeological Museum of Marathon).

The Archaeological Museum of Marathon.

The museum is small. It houses exhibits from nearby towns, as well as other periods and locations. Important finds of the Neolithic Age, such as the finds discovered at the *cave of Pan* in Oinoi, and a collection of columns, thought to have been built in the 2nd century BC, bas-relief portraits and inscriptions coming from the *Epavlis (mansion) of Herodes Atticus* (2nd century A.D.) found close by, are also on display. Also exhibited are finds from the Early Helladic (3000-2300 B.C.) cemetery found at *Tsepi* location, the Egyptian sanctuary of Isis (2nd century A.D.) and the Roman *valaneion* (circular bath, 2nd-4th Century A.D.) found at *Brexiza* location. Next to the museum, in a sheltered area there is a *Mid-Hellenic cemetery* (2000-1300BC) and in proximity there is *Tymbos ton Plataieon* (tomb of Plataiai locals) which includes 11 graves of warriors

from Plataiai who fell in the battlefield.

The Marathon Run Museum

in Marathonas town. Exhibited items were donated to Marathonas town by the Olympic Museum of Lauzanne and are on display in two buildings. *Building A* shows the history of the Olympic Marathons through texts, photographs and other exhibits; *building B* contains exhibits regarding Olympic Medal Winners, Marathon Cities, female participations in the Marathon etc.

Ramnous (Kato Souli).

The name of the area is derived from the word '*ramnos*', the name of a variety of bushes which cover the area. In antiquity, *Ramnous* was known for its port and fort. In the archaeological area are the ruins of two temples. The Great temple was dedicated to *Nemesis*, the goddess of Divine Justice (it was the most important sanctuary of the goddess in ancient Greece). The small temple

was dedicated to Themis, the goddess of Justice. Both temples were built in the 5th century BC. The remains of a *fort, theatre, funerary monuments*, among others, are preserved. This archaeological site commands a unique view of Euboea and the Euboean Gulf (Gulf of Evoikos).

Getting there. You can take the bus to Paralia Marathona, from *Mavromataion Str* (Aigyptou Square) near Paidiou tou Areos. Tel. 210 82 10 872.

10 AMPHIAREION

Amphiaraos is one of the less known deities of ancient mythology. Nevertheless, he was popular enough to have twelve temples and sanctuaries dedicated to him. His popularity was attributed to his powers as a healer and a seer. According to myth, he was not born, but emerged from a spring, located near his temple, in the vicinity of Oropos. He participated in the expedition of the Argonauts,

and later in the siege of Thebes by the Argeans where Zeus himself intervened saving Amphiaraos's life. The most important temple dedicated to Amphiaraos is *Amphiareion*, located in a gorge on the border of Attica and Boeotia. An ancient theatre with a capacity of 3,000 dominates the area. Notice the five white marble seats around the scene, with sculpted decoration and epigraphs. The temple is located in the vicinity of a spring, mentioned in the myth of *Amphiaraos*. It was built in the *Doric style* in the 4th century BC. Most of the ruins in the area were dated to 6th century BC.

Getting there. Amphiareion is located 48 kilometres from Athens. If you have a car, take the Athens-Lamia National road, and turn right on the road to Oropos. Two bus lines link Athens to Oropos, both with a stop in the vicinity of the Amphiareion archaeological area. Walk another 3 kilometres from the bus stop to the archaeological

119. Theatre at Amphiareion archaeological site.

120. Vravrona: at Arkton Collonade resided young girls dedicated to the goddess Artemis.



site. Two alternative bus lines link Athens to Ayioi Apostoloi (get off at *Oropos*, at a distance of 3.3 kilometres from the archaeological site), and *Oropos*. You can get off the bus at the *Markopoulo* cemetery, at a distance of 3 kilometres from the location. You will find the terminus of the buses at *Mavromataion Str* in Athens (Aigyptou Square) tel 210 82 30 179.

11 VRAVRONA

Vravrona, with an interesting archaeological site, is well worth a visit. On your way to *Vravrona*, you will travel through one of the most beautiful areas of *Attica*, with green fields, vineyards, olive trees, gentle mountainsides, and the coast of the blue Euboean Gulf. In summer, if you don't like the heat, you can take a dip in the sea. Be sure to follow the signposts leading to *Markopoulo* and *Porto Rafti*, then take a turn left at the sign for *Vravrona*. A few kilometres inland is the archaeological site and the museum on your left.

Artemis Vravronia.

Vravrona was dedicated to *Artemis*, the goddess protector of hunters, animals and the safe birth of humans. Enraged by the murder of two small female bears, *Artemis* caused an epidemic in Athens. She requested that an oracle tell the Athenians that all girls aged 5 to 10 living in *Attica* were obliged to worship her. The Athenians obeyed the command of the goddess and brought their little girls to the temple, where they spent their childhood years serving her and participating in the festivals organised there. The girls who went to the temple, were called *arktoi* (bears). The festivals in honour of the goddess were called *Vravronia*. Musical performances, athletic competitions and poetry readings were held, among other things, at the festivals.

THE SIGHTS:

Archaeological site.

You will notice the co-existence of the ruins of the ancient Greek temple of *Artemis* and a Christian church of the 15th century,

dedicated to Saint George. Unfortunately only the sanctuary of the ancient temple is preserved. Archaeologists have not determined the shape of the original temple. Walk over a bridge, built in the classical period, which leads to the temple, and visit the partially renovated colonnade.

The Museum.

Small and interesting, the museum houses in five rooms exhibits from the *Vravrona* area and *Anavyssos*, *Perati* and other areas of *Attica*. These exhibits cover the period from the Bronze Age until the Roman times. The most important finds are the sculptures from the sanctuary of *Artemis*.

11.1 Paiania Cave (Koutouki).

With a large variety of rocks and the multiformity of the stalactites and stalagmites, *Koutouki* Cave ranks among the most interesting and rich caves in Greece. Located on the eastern slope of *Mount*

Hymettos, at an altitude of 540 metres, 4 kilometres from *Paiania* in the *Mesogeia* area, it has a total area of 3,800 square metres.

Getting there. *Vravrona* is located 38 kilometres from Athens. If you have a car, take *Mesogeion* Avenue, and following the suburb of *Aya Paraskevi*, take a turn right on the road to *Markopoulo-Porto Rafti*. A bus line links the area to Athens. It departs every hour from *Mavromataion Str* (*Pedio tou Areos* – tel. 210 82 30 179).

12 NORTHWEST ATTICA

Resort area where many Athenians have summer houses. It is an area of natural beauty with large stretches of pinewoods and interesting mountains (*Kitheronas*, *Pastra*, *Pateras*, *Geraneia*) which are popular for hiking and mountain activities. With numerous beautiful beaches (see page 121), traditional villages (*Alephori*, *Vilia*, *Kriekouki* or *Erythres*, etc.) and many hotels.

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121.
The north side of *Gyftokastro* (4th c. BC) with seven remaining square towers is the best preserved part of the construction.

122.
Aigosthena fortress, part of the walls.

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THE SIGHTS:**Eleutherus.**

Ancient city of Boeotia, conquered by the Athenians during the 6th century B.C. The archaeological site (near the village Vilia) includes foundations of a 4th century B.C. temple, ruins of residences dating from the Archaic Period until the early Christian years and foundations of two early Christian Basilicas. Situated on a rocky hill the fortress **Gyftokastro** (wall perimeter 860 m.), dominates the area. This fortress was integrated in the defense mechanism of Attica by the Athenians during the 4th century B.C.

Aegosthenes Fortress.

Located near Porto Yermenó, it dates from the 4th – 3rd century B.C. and is considered the best-preserved ancient castle. Close to the fortress are the foundations of a five-aisled basilica (5th cent.) with a mosaic floor, while on the castle's acropolis one can

see remnants of the cells of a medieval cloister, as well as a chapel from the same period that is still open to worshippers.

Getting there. If you travel by car, take the Athens-Corinth National Road and after Eleusina get off and follow the road to Mandra (approx. distances from Athens: Vilia 54 km, Alepohori 60 km, Erythres 61 km). You can also use the intercity bus service. Long distances buses to Erythres, Porto Yermenó and Megara leave from Thission metro station (tel. 210 32.44.448).

THE SARONIC GULF ISLANDS

Boats, ferries and flying dolphins depart daily from the port of Piraeus (Gate E8) for the splendid islands of the Saronic (Saronikos) Gulf, **Salamina**, **Aegina**, **Angistri**, **Hydra**, **Poros** and **Spetses**. Moreover, tourist offices organise daily cruises to the islands.

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123. Poros, one of the most beautiful islands of the Saronic Gulf.

124. At Kolonaki you will find some of the best-known fashion brands.

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**SHOPPING IN ATHENS**

You will be surprised at the bargains you will find in Athens. Golden and silver jewellery are popular, given the international renown of Greek designers. A multitude of jewellers shops most of them located in the *Syntagma Square* and *Kolonaki areas*, have a wide selection of reproductions of ancient Greek jewels and traditional and modern designs. Most of them are hand made by local craftsmen. Moreover, at a multitude of Greek shops you can find silver and turquoise filigrans, most of them made in the city of *Ioannina*, in *Epirus*, with attractive traditional motifs.

Worth a visit is the *Ilias Lalaounis Jewellery Museum*.

The Museum houses more than 3,000 designs of jewels. Some 45 collections representing the history of Greek jewellery inspired by the art and architecture of eleven civilisations, nature, technology and biology.

You may be interested in the famous furs of *Kastoria*, the product of a craft that was perfected over the centuries. In the *Syntagma Square* area is a multitude of fur shops offering a wide range of coats, jackets and fur hats, with classic and modern designs.

You may also find bargain souvenirs, hand made goods and bronze vases. Athens has been famous for its copper utensils, clay items and pottery

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since the *Archaic Age*. The ideal place to find unique items of Greek ceramic art and earthenware is the suburb of *Maroussi*, where most designers and ceramicists have shops offering hand made pieces.

You may also find quality wool and cotton sweaters with unique designs and leather

goods and shoes made by Greek designers. You will find these items at *Ermou Str* and *Kolonaki Square*.

You will also find a large variety of antiques in shops in *Kolonaki*, *Syntagma* and *Monastiraki*, such as furniture, hand painted wooden trunks, attractive miniatures, and small decorative items.

FUN-TIME FOR KIDS

While you stay in the Greek capital, there are lots of things you can do to relax and have fun with your kids.

In Plaka you can visit the **Hellenic Children's Museum** and the **Museum of Greek Children's Art** (see page 29) two amazing places created for children.

If you need some relaxing, you can tour or even take a short rest in parks and green areas downtown: the **National Garden** (see page 48), **Pedion tou Areos** (see page 64) **Thissio park** (see page 43), **Eleftherias park** (see page 70), the park surrounded by the **Ancient Agora** (see page 14) and the **Rock of Areios Pagos** (see page 13). You can also take a walk on the following hills: **Lycabettus** (see page 52), **Filopappou** (see page 13), **Nymfon** (see page 43), **Strefi** (see page 54) and **Ardittou**.

In various downtown spots there are well-tended playgrounds: in **Dexameni square** (Kolonaki, see page 45), in **Zappeio garden** (see page 49) in **Neapoli** (see page 53), in **Thissio** (see page 43) etc.

Enjoy a **bicycle** ride through a large part of the city's historic centre, along the "Grand Promenade" (see page 6) following the 3 km pedestrianised route which starts from Olympieio and ends in Gazi, via Dionysiou Areopagitou, Apostolou Pavlou and Ermou Streets.

Watch a show of the traditional **shadow puppet theatre** indoors or in the open air.

Visit the **Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre** (see page 86) where special cultural courses for children take place involving the use of new technologies; the **Planetarium** of the Eugenides Foundation (see page 86) currently one of the best in the world; the **Goulandris Natural History Museum** as well as **Gaia Centre** (see page 87); and the **Archelon Sea Turtle Protection Society** (3rd Marina, Glyfada, www.archelon.gr) where you can get information on the life and protection of this species.

You can also enjoy yourselves playing with your kids in

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125. In *Adrianou Street (Plaka)*, you will find shops selling traditional products, souvenirs, Greek folk art and handicrafts, etc.

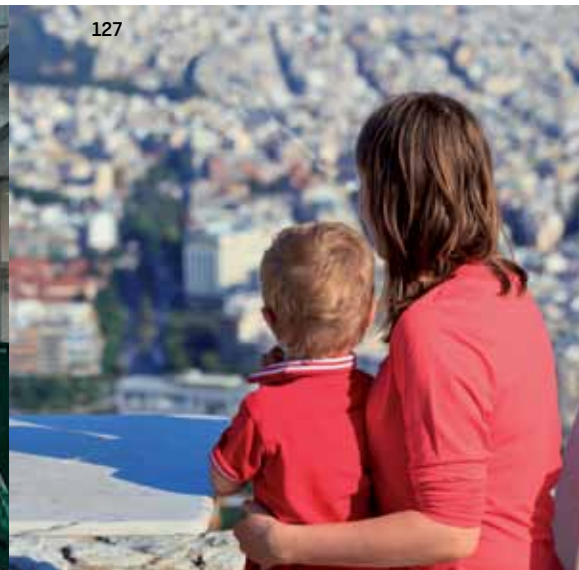
126. *Ermou Street* is a very busy street most of the year. It is the location of a multitude of well-known shops.

127. & 128. Choose among the wide range of activities on offer in Athens and have a great time with your kids.

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Allou Fun Park (www.allou.gr) - the biggest fun park in Rentis, Athens, (at a 7 km distance from the city centre) and in **Adventure Park**, a recreation area in the Malakasa woods (38 km N of Athens, www.adventure-park.gr) where activities related to nature get organised. Another option is to visit the **Antonis Tritsis Environmental Awareness Park** (Ilion, 8-10 km northwest of the city centre - www.parkotritsi.gr). It is a 1,200,000 m² area with artificial ponds and streams and abundant flora and fauna. You can stroll around, go horseback or bicycle riding, visit the playgrounds, see a place where rare reptiles are shown, visit the marketplace where organic and traditional products are sold, coffee shops etc. Other options include the **Diomedes Botanic Garden** (see page 93) and the **Attica Zoological Park** (see page 102) one of the biggest zoos in the Balkans.

Go hiking, pic-nicking or bike riding on the beautiful mountainous areas around Athens: Mt **Parnitha** (see

page 88) includes **Tatoi**, at a 15 km distance NW of Athens, where the lush green estates and the old summer palace of the former Greek royal family are, covering an area of 42,000,000 m²; **Mt Penteli** (see page 90); and **Mt Hymettos** (see page 90).

If, however, you prefer **swimming in the sea**, you should know that in Attica there are many beaches, some of them with a variety of facilities and services on offer (including marine sports facilities), starting from the south suburbs of Athens (see page 73) and stretching their winding paths all the way to Cape Sounio (see page 97), or lying along the east and west shorelines (for detailed information on Attica's beaches see page 121). The beaches closest to the city centre are reachable within 20 - 45 min, by bus, tram (up to Voula), or taxi. The ones located further away (at a distance up to 90 min.) can be reached by long-distance bus, suburban railway or by car (for transportation and transport vehicles see page 122).

NIGHT LIFE

Athens never sleeps. Some people say that Athens is more vibrant at night. Ancient and modern Athens offers more opportunity for nightlife than any other city. You have a lot of options: ancient Greek drama in a theatre dated to the period the play was written, world famous orchestras playing music ranging from Beethoven and jazz in one of the most modern concert halls of Europe, unique musical stages and clubs offering variety and creativity.

The capital of Athens offers nightlife fans special nights out. Whatever you choose to do, you will discover that Athens nightlife offers variety and unique choice, making it possible to enjoy throughout the night. The only problem is that the following day you have to see the sights... You

can start your evening out at one of the select restaurants or one of the distinctive Greek tavernas located in every neighbourhood of the city. The atmosphere in Greek restaurants is relaxed and friendly and the food is excellent. You may go to a taverna with live greek music, or one of hundreds of popular bars, clubs, and night spots where the orchestra plays all types of music. You can find bars in all central areas, and all the suburbs, (among others, Kifisia, Faliro, Glyfada, Vouliagmeni, Voula, Varkiza).

It is said that a night out at a place with live bouzouki music is an unforgettable experience. Make a point of going out to bouzoukia while you're here, you'll listen to popular Greek music, sing, dance and have a great time.

130. & 131. *Have fun - the Greek way - in the traditional tavernas downtown and in the suburbs.*

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129. A host of lovely beaches stretch along the Attican coast, within easy access from the city centre.

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GREEK CUISINE AND WINE

Greek cuisine has a unique flavour. During your stay in Greece you will be pleasantly surprised by culinary specialities. "Mousaka," "souvlaki," "Greek salad," is all most people know of Greek cuisine. However, you will discover that Greek cuisine comprises of a large variety of dishes fully meeting the culinary appetites of meat-eaters and vegetarians.

This is not surprising considering that Greece is the country where symposiums originated and the homeland of the Epikureian philosophers. Archestratos wrote the first cookbooks in history in 330 BC reminding readers that cuisine is a mark of civilisation. Greece has a gastronomic tradition of 4,000 years. However, like most national cuisines, Greek cuisine was influenced by neighbouring countries, from the East and the West.

TRADITIONAL GREEK CUISINE

Greek cuisine is unique because it combines the following features: unique ingredients, Greek dietary habits, the custom of making a meal a social event, and the pleasant atmosphere of Greece.

The basic ingredients.

Greek cuisine has four secrets. Good fresh ingredients, the proper use of aromatic herbs

and spices, the famous Greek olive oil and simplicity. Greek olive oil deserves a special mention. It accompanies nearly all Greek dishes. It is usually used in large measures. Greece has high quality, healthy olive oil. The artificial cultivation of vegetables is not widespread in Greece because of the mildness of the climate. Most vegetables are cultivated in a natural way, preserving their aroma and taste. You will be delighted by the taste of Greek tomatoes, cabbage, carrots,

onions, parsley, and garlic, not to mention fresh Greek fruit, such as, among others, grapes, apricots, peaches, cherries, melons, and watermelons. The aromatic herbs, which most Greeks pick in the mountains or the country, have a unique flavour, aroma and therapeutic qualities. You will be delighted by the intoxicating aroma of oregano, thyme, mint, and rosemary, in a large variety of dishes. Don't forget to try Greek cheeses, in particular, feta. Meat has unique flavour because sheep and goats graze on open fields, and grazing meadows are verdant. Mediterranean seafood tastes much better than ocean seafood. The Aegean Sea and Ionian Sea, are clean seas, abundant in fish. Fresh fish fried on charcoal is a speciality.

The Greek attitude.

Greeks religiously preserved the custom of gathering around the table to enjoy a meal or various appetisers, (*mezedes*), with ouzo. Having a meal with friends at home or at a restaurant or *taverna* is a deeply rooted social habit.

The Greek word *symposium*, recalling the ancient origins of Greece, translated word for word means "drinking with company." The atmosphere in typical Greek restaurants and tavernas is casual, relaxed and informal. Food is prepared according to fundamental rules. Good amateur cooks enjoy great respect in their social circle, while a good housewife in Greece means a good cook. A good cook sometimes dedicates days to the preparation of a meal for his friends.

The general atmosphere.

Try a glass of ouzo or wine with fried octopus or any other Greek dish, sitting in the shade of a tree in a small taverna by the seafront, on an Aegean island. Try to repeat the experience in your home country, preparing the same dish, and helping yourself to the same drink. You may try it anywhere, but you will soon realise that the flavour is not the same. Don't try again. Your palate has not changed, nor is there something lacking in your cooking skills. The Greek

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132. The enjoyment of a good meal with friends is a distinctive Greek custom.



133. Choriatici, a traditional Greek salad.

134. Masticha sweet is also known as ypovrychio [submarine] as it is served inside a glass of water.

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food-relishing experience, in particular the combination of the food and the place where it is served, are unique, and cannot be exported or imitated. It is simply something you can find, taste and enjoy only in Greece.

GREEK WINE

Greece, the country of Dionysos, the god of wine, is the home of the first Vins de Qualite Produit Region (VQPRD) wines in history. The wines in question were from the islands of Hios and Thasos, famous in antiquity. For a variety of historical and social reasons, and due to natural disasters, the art of wine-making declined from the mid-19th century to the early 1960s. Then the traditional customs of wine-making revived. Today you can find a multitude of excellent Greek wines from every region of the country. When you taste Greek wine, bear in mind that it is the produce of excellent harvest, made from varieties of grape unknown to Western lovers of wine.

Greek wines are classified in the following four categories:

- 1) Controlled Appellation of Origin.
- 2) Superior Quality Appellation of Origin
- 3) Local wine.
- 4) Table wine.

Controlled appellation of origin

Listed in the category are only sweet wines, such as the Mavrodaphne of Cephalonia and Patra, the Moschato of Patras, Limnos, Cephalonia and Rodos, and the Sweet wine of Samos.

Listed in the category of *superior quality appellation of origin* are some of the best wines of Greece. Some 20 locations have been designated appellation of origin. In Northern Greece are the appellations Zitsa, Amyntaio, Goumenisa and Naousa. In Halkidiki is the appellation Playies Melitona. In Thessaly are the appellations Agjalos and Rapsani. In the Athens area is the appellation



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of Kantza. In the Peloponnese are the appellations of Patras, Mantinea, and Nemea. In the Ionian islands is the appellations Rombola Cephalinias. In the islands of Paros, Limnos, Rhodes, and Santorini are the appellations (Paros, Limnos, Rhodes and Santorini). In Crete are the appellations of origin, Arkanes, Peza, Siteia and Daphnes.

Finally the last two categories, i.e. *the local* and *table wines*, offer wine lovers pleasant, exhilarating flavours.

The Vineyard of Attica.

Attica is a traditional high quality wine producing region. The total area of Attica's vineyards is 16,346 acres. The different varieties

of grapes cultivated are: Savatiano, Athiri, Bilana, white Moschato, Roditis, Asyrτικο, Robola, Alexadreias Moschato, Amvourgou Moschato, Fileri, Malagouzia (Greek white wines), Mandilaria, Agiorgitiko (Greek red wines), Chardonnay, Sauvignon blanc, Ugni blanc, Semillon (Foreign white wines) and Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignan, Syrah, Tempranillo (foreign red wines). Also the area of Eastern Attica (Mesogeia) is well known for its Retsina, a popular wine which accompanies superbly the dishes of the Mediterranean cuisine.

For more information please contact the Assosiation of Attica's vineyard wine producers.

Tel.: 210 60.38.019
website: www.enoaa.gr

135.
Tomatoes and peppers stuffed with rice, minced meat or vegetables; this is one of the most popular Greek dishes.

136.
Seafood delicacies are an integral part of the Greek gastronomy.

137. & 138. Attica is a traditional high quality wine producing region.



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INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Greece is located in south-eastern Europe. It has a population of 10,815,000. The country is a Presidential, Parliamentary Democracy, having joined the European Union in 1981.

Athens is located in the Attica district, within the Attica basin, which is encompassed by Mount Aegaleo, Mount Parnitha, Mount Penteli and Mount Hymettos. Athens, the suburbs and the neighbouring town of Piraeus constitute an urban entity (greater urban complex of the capital) with a population of about 4 million residents.

Currency: The national currency of Greece since January 1, 2001, is the euro. You can exchange currency at the airport, at private currency exchanges, and banks.

Dialling code: The international dialling code of Greece is +30.

Time zone: Athens time is seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, and one hour ahead of Central European Time.

Climate: Athens has a mild climate, with sunshine more than 260 days a year. The average monthly temperature is:

| Month | Temperature in °C |
|-----------|-------------------|
| January | 10.3 |
| February | 10.6 |
| March | 12.3 |
| April | 15.9 |
| May | 20.7 |
| June | 25.2 |
| July | 28 |
| August | 27.8 |
| September | 24.2 |
| October | 19.5 |
| November | 15.4 |
| December | 12 |

WHEN TO VISIT

Visit Athens any time of the year. For your info, high season is from April to October, peaking in August.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day: 1 January.

Epiphany: 6 January. Consecration of the waters in the Piraeus area. The Cross is cast in the sea and young men dive in to retrieve it.

Shrove Monday: 41 days before Easter. The commencement of Lenten fasting. On Shrove Monday Greeks fly kites, fast, and celebrate the Shrove Monday feast. Athenians gather mainly at Philopappou Hill and other high grounds.

Independence Day and the Annunciation: 25 March. Military Parade.

Easter: Good Friday to Easter Monday. On Good Friday in the afternoon Epitaphios is decorated with flowers in churches. The procession of the Epitaphios is joined by people holding candles and singing psalms on the streets of every town and village in the country.

Resurrection: Celebrated with fireworks and flares at midnight, on the eve of Easter.

Easter Day: According to custom, on Easter Day, Greeks eat lamb roasted on the spit. The festivities include music and dancing.

May Day: 1 May. Flower shows take place in Athens.

The Dormition of the Virgin: On 15 August.

28 October: National holiday. Military parade.

Christmas: 25-26 December.

OTHER TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS:

Carnival: Carnival festivities of 3 weeks duration, ending on Shrove Monday. In Athens the main Carnival festivities are held in Plaka.

Wine Feast: Organised by a multitude of municipalities.

Nautical Week: Celebrated in Faliro.

Pentecost: Celebrated 50 days after Easter.

EMBASSIES – CONSULATES

For information regarding Embassies and Consulates, enquire at the Greek National Tourism Organisation or:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Public Information Center 3, Akadimias Str (ground floor),
tel.: 210 36. 82. 048,
fax: 210 36 82 474,
email: apodimosypex@kep.gov.gr,
website: www.mfa.gr,
opening hours 8:00-18:00.

ACRONYMS

You will come across a multitude of Greek abbreviations during your visit in Athens.

EOT: Greek National Tourism Organisation.

ELPA: Automobile and Touring Club of Greece.

ELTA: Hellenic Post Office.

KTEL: Inter-urban domestic buses.

OASA: Athens Urban Transport Organisation.

OSE: Hellenic Railways Organisation.

OTE: Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation.

ELECTRIC CURRENT

The standard electric current in Greece is **220V (50Hz)** alternating current.

INTERNET

In many parts of central Athens (Syntagma square, Kotzia square, the area of Thissio etc.) there is free wireless internet connection available (**information:** www.athenswifi.gr), as well as in other public areas (museums, libraries etc.). Also in most neighbourhoods and outskirts, in Peiraias and other parts of Attica operate a lot of internet cafés.

THE POST OFFICE

The signposts outside post offices are blue and yellow coloured and the post office boxes are yellow. Athens post offices are open from Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 14:00. Three post offices listed below have longer opening hours.

2, Mitropoleos Str, Syntagma Sq.:
tel.: 210 33 19 501,
210 32 26 253.

Open weekdays from 07:30–20:00;
Saturdays from 07:30 – 14:00;
Sundays from 09:00 – 13:30.

100, Aiolou Str (near Omonia Sq.):
tel.: 210 32 16 024,
210 32. 47. 690.

Opening hours on weekdays
from 07:30 – 20:00;
Saturdays from 07:30 – 14:00.

60, Mitropoleos Square:
tel.: 210 32 18 143.

Opening hours weekdays from
07:30 – 20:00.
Closed on Saturdays - Sundays.

Hellenic Post Office (EL.TA):
information **tel.:** 800 11 82 000;
website: www.elta.gr.

Domestic-International
Telegrams: **tel.:** 136.

Post Office Phone Service
("Door to Door"):
tel.: 800 11 83 000 (toll free),
210.60.73.000 (only from
mobile phones)

Parcels: **tel.:** 210 52. 49. 359

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

POLICE

General Police Headquarters of Attica: 173, Alexandras Avenue,
tel.: 1033, 210 64 76 000,

Emergency number:
tel.: 100, 112

Drugs Squad:
tel.: 109, 210 64.76.215,
210 64.47.534

Athens Traffic Police:
tel.: 210 52 84 000.

Piraeus Police Headquarters:
37, Iroon Polytechnieiu Str,
tel.: 210 41.74.471.

Piraeus Traffic Police:
tel.: 210 41.39.263-4.

Airport police:
tel.: 210 35 36 899.

E.L.P.A.: 395, Mesogeion Avenue,
tel.: 210 60 68 800.

E.L.P.A.: Road Assistance:
tel.: 10400.

HEALTH CARE

Emergency Number:
tel.: 166.

**Emergency hospitals,
pharmacies, doctors:**
tel.: 14944 (in Greek).

**Medical information in Greek
and English:**
tel.: 210 89 83 146.

Medical emergency help line:
tel.: 210 74 60 000

SOS Doctors:
tel.: 1016.

National Blood donation centre:
tel.: 210 24.10.000

Poison Information centre:
tel.: 210 77 93 777-8.

AIDS help line:
tel.: 210 72 22 222.
(Mon – Fri 09:00 - 21:00)

**Social and Psychological
emergency help line:**
tel.: 197 (24-h service).

Firefighters: tel.: 199.

TOURIST INFORMATION

GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION (E.O.T.)

Central Office:
7, Tsoha Str, 115 21 Athens,
tel.: 210 87 07 000,
210 87 07 088, 1572,
email: info@gnto.gr,
website: www.visitgreece.gr.

Athens information centre:
18-20, Dionysiou Areopagitou St.,
tel.: 210 33 10 392,
210 33 10 716,
210 33 10 347
fax: 210 33 10 640.

**Greek National Tourism
Organisation Offices Abroad:**
For Greek National Tourism
Organisation Offices enquire at
the Organisation's central office
or visit the web page:
www.visitgreece.gr

TOURIST POLICE

A department of the Greek Police (EL.AS), manned by specially trained men and women, providing information and assistance to tourists. The Tourist Police are authorised to settle minor disputes between tourists and tourist businesses. Tourist Police speak foreign languages. Officers wear the insignia "Tourist Police" on the shoulder. For tourist information dial 1571 any time and day, at any location in the country.

Athens Tourist Police Station:
43-45, Veikou Str – Koukaki,
tel.: 210 92 00 724-26-27-29-30-32.

Piraeus Tourist Police Station:
Akti Xaveriou,
tel.: 210 42 90 664-5.

City of Athens (information):
tel.: 1595.

HOTELS

In Athens and the greater Athens area (including the suburbs, Piraeus, and Attica), are more than 700 lodgings of all categories, with a total capacity of about 63.000 beds. Most of the lodgings have been renovated and modernised recently and have high quality, modern facilities.

The Hotel Chamber of Greece:
24, Stadiou Str, 105 64 Athens,
tel.: 213 216.99.00,
213 216.99.25;
email: info@grhotels.gr,
website: www.grhotels.gr

The Hellenic Hotel Federation (H.H.F.):
24, Stadiou Str, 105 64 Athens,
tel.: 210 33 12 535-6;
fax: 210 32 30 636;
email: info@hhf.gr;
website: www.pox.gr.

**The Hellenic Union of
Campsite Owners:**
9 Mauromihali Str 106 73 Athens;
tel.: 210 36 21 560,
fax: 210 36 21 918,
email: gr-camp@otenet.gr,
website: www.greececamping.org

**The Greek Youth Hostel
Organisation:**
75, Damareos Str,

tel.: 210 75 19 530,
210 75.10.616,
email: yhostels@otenet.gr

TOURIST ORGANISATIONS

ORGANISED TOURS-EXCURSIONS

For organised tours of Athens, the Attica area, the islands of the Saronic Gulf, and other areas of Greece (among others, Delphi, Mycenae, Epidavros, Meteora, Northern Greece) contact the Greek National Tourism Organisation or:

The Hellenic Tourist and Travel Agents Association:
11, Iosif Rogon Str, 117 42 Athens;
tel.: 210 92 23 522;
fax: 210 92 33 307;
email: hatta@hatta.gr;
website: www.hatta.gr.

CAR RENTAL

In the Athens area are many reliable car rental companies, most of them located at Syngrou Avenue. For information regarding car rentals contact:

Hellenic Car Rental Association:
31, Viltanioti, Str. Kato Kifissia, 145.64 Athens,
tel.: 210 62.64. 281
fax: 210 62.64. 289
email: steea@steea.gr,
website: www.steea.gr

YACHT BROKERS

For yacht rentals contact the following organisations:

Hellenic Yacht Brokers and Consultants Association:
Office A1 in Zea Marina, 185 36, Piraeus;
tel.: 210 45 33 134;
fax: 210 45.99.563,
email: hyba@ath.forthnet.gr,
website: www.hyba.gr

Hellenic Association of Leisure Craft Owners:
Ktiro Dioikisis Marina Zeas, 185 36, Piraeus;
tel.: 210 26 335
fax: 210 42.80.465,
website: www.hpyoa.gr

BEACHES

Athens is the only European capital washed by the sea. In the city's south suburbs, along

the Saronic Gulf (from P. Faliro to Vouliagmeni), and other areas of Attica, there are dozens of beaches some of which offer a variety of services, with clean waters and easy access. Several Attica beaches have been awarded "Blue Flags of Europe," granted every year to beaches and marines meeting strict criteria regarding clean waters and beaches, good organisation and security and the protection of the coastal environment. For the programme visit the **website:** www.blueflag.org

ORGANISED BEACHES

(with entry ticket): Grand Beach Lagonissi, Asteria Seaside, Asteras Vouliagmenis Beach, Vouliagmenis Lake, Attica Vouliagmenis Beach, Voula Beach A', Varkiza Beach, Ayioui Kosma Beach, Alimos.

OTHER BEACHES

South Attica: Batis and Edem (Paleo Faliro), Vouliagmeni – Deftero Limanaki; Anavysos – Eden and Thymari; Sounio (KAPE, Legraina, Temple of Poseidon, Sounio-Poseidonia Coast), Patroclos Island. **East Attica:** Kerateas beach (Kakia Thalassa), Porto Rafti (Avlaki-Ayia Marina, Erotospilia), Vravrona-Artemis (Hamolia, Ayioui Nikolaou Artemidos Beach); Rafina (Marikes Beach, Kokkino Limanaki); Nea Makri (Zoumberi, Mati, Paralia Neas Makris); Marathon (Schinias – Karavi, Dikastika, Ramnountas, Sesi). **North Attica:** Oropos (Ayioi Apostoloi), Paralia Kalamou, Oropos - Nea Palatia, Pigadakia Chalkoutsiou. **West Attica:** Porto Yermenio, Psatha, Alepochori, Kineta, Strava, Schinos.

MARINAS

In Attica there are 6 marinas, with a total docking capacity 3,000 boats.

Alimos marina:
tel.: 210 98.80.000,
fax: 210 98.53.151
website: www.alimosmarina.gr

Floisvos marina:
tel: 210 98 71 000-2,
fax: 210 98.71.060,
website: www.flisvosmarina.com

Glyfada marina:

Headquarters:

tel.: 210 89.12.362,**fax:** 210 89.47.284**1st marina:****tel.:** 210 89.47.353**2nd marina:****tel.:** 210 89.49.374**3rd marina:****tel.:** 210 89.41.389**4th marina:****tel.:** 210 89.47.920,**website:** www.aegean-marinas.eu**Vouliagmeni marina:****tel:** 210 89 60 012-4,**fax:** 210 89.60.415,**website:**

www.vouliagmeni-marina.gr.

Piraeus Zeas marina:**tel:** 210 45.59.000,**fax:** 210 45.59.031,**website:** www.medmarinas.com**Lavrion Olympic marina:****tel.:** 22920 63 700,**website:** www.olympicmarine.gr .

For further information regarding marinas contact the Greek National Tourism Organisation or

Public Properties Company S.A.:

7, Voulis Str, 105 62 Athens;

tel.: 210 33. 39. 516;**fax:** 210 33 39 507;**email:** info@etasa.gr;**website:**

www.tourism-development.gr.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport service (buses, trolleybuses, the metro system and trams) start at 5 a.m. and run until midnight. You must carry a valid ticket or a boarding card which you can buy from specially designated spots in the stations. The ticket must be validated during the first boarding and it is valid for 90 min. for an indefinite number of trips, using any service and towards any direction. The fine for not showing a valid ticket is 60 times its price.

URBAN BUS AND**TROLLEYBUS LINES**

Urban bus and trolleybus itineraries cover the entire areas of Athens, Piraeus and the suburbs. In order to provide a better service, certain lines

crossing busy spots in the Attica Basin run 24 hours a day [for information on bus and trolleybus lines call 185 (in Greek) – **website:** www.oasa.gr].

ATHENS METRO

The Greek capital can boast one of the best and one of the most sumptuous, cleanest subway systems in Europe with new lines under construction. At every stop you can find a table with all the lines and routes of the metro trains. On Friday and Saturday night the service runs until 2 a.m., **website:** www.ametro.gr.

ATHENS TRAM

It connects the centre of Athens (Syndagma square) to the city's southern outskirts (towards Voula and New Faliro - Stadium of Peace and Friendship), meanwhile, its expansion is being planned in order to extend all the way to the centre and the harbour of Piraeus. On Fridays and Saturdays the service runs on a 24-hour basis, however from midnight until 5 a.m. lines run every 40 min.

Website: www.tramsa.gr**DOWNTOWN TOURING**

You will find double-decker tourist buses in Syntagma area, aboard which you can see the major sights in Athens and get a tour around the biggest part of the city centre. From Syntagma and Plaka there are wheel-driven tourist trains which make runs to most parts of the historic centre. Ride one of the traditional horse-driven carriages stationed in Dionyssiou Areopagitou street (near the Acropolis) if you wish to take a trip in the vicinity.

SUBURBAN RAILWAY

It connects Athens to "Eleftherios Venizelos" Airport and the city of Kiato (105 km west of Athens, in Peloponnese), with intermediate stops. At the stations you will find timetables with detailed information.

Website: www.proastiakos.gr**ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT "Eleftherios Venizelos"**

Sparta 190 19, Greece;

tel.: 210 35 30 000;**fax:** 210 35 30 001;**website:** www.aia.gr.

The Suburban Railway and the metro links the airport to Athens. Moreover, bus lines linking the airport to the greater Athens urban complex: number X95 (to Syntagma, Athens), X96 (to Piraeus), X92 (to Kifissia), X93 (to the inter-city bus terminal), X94 (to metro station Ethniki Amaryna) and X97 (to Dafni metro station).

Olympic Air:

Information - reservations

tel.: 210 35.50.500,

8018010101;

website: www.olympicair.com**Aegean Airlines:**

information – reservations

tel.: 801 11.20.000

(from a landline phone)

210 62. 61. 000

(from cell phones only)

website: www.aegeanair.com**HELLENIC RAILWAYS ORGANISATION (O.S.E.)**

1-3, Karolou Str, information on domestic and international train schedules:

tel.: 1110, 210 52.97.777;**website:** www.ose.gr.**SEA TRANSPORT****Information on schedules:****tel.:** 14944 (for Greek),

14541 (for English)

Central Piraeus Harbour Police:**tel.:** 210 42 26 000.**Rafina Harbour Police:****tel.:** 22940 22 300.**Lavrion Harbour Police:****tel.:** 22920 25 249.**INTERCITY BUS STATIONS:**

Buses for destinations within Attica or to other parts of the country depart from three bus stations. (Information **tel.:** 14944, **website:** www.ktel.org).

1st Station: 100, Kifissou Str;**tel.:** 51 24 910.**2nd Station:** 260, Liosion Str;**tel.:** 210 83 17 153.**Attica district KTEL:****tel.:** 210 82 30 179

(Sounio, Oropos,

Porto Rafti, Markopoulo);

210 82 10 872 (Marathon).

TAXI

All taxis have a taxi counter, recording charges. Drivers are obliged to set the counter at every fare. From 05:00 – 24:00 hours tariff 1 is used and from 24:00 – 05:00 tariff 2. Taxis are supplied with a valid price list, recording the fare and surplus charges not recorded by the taximeter. To get information on customer service or file a complaint, call **1019**.

MUSEUMS

In Athens, Piraeus, the suburbs, and environs, are a multitude of important museums and archaeological sites. The list below includes a selection of museums. For information regarding museums, you can also visit the site **http://odysseus.culture.gr**

The National Archaeological Museum:

144, Patision Str,

tel.: 210 82 17 717,

210 82 17 724,

website: www.namuseum.gr

(Victoria metro station).

The Acropolis Museum:

15 Dionyssiou Areopagitou Str,

tel.: 210 90.00.901,**website:**

www.theacropolismuseum.gr

(Acropolis metro station)

The Athens Ancient Agora Museum:

Stoa of Attalus, Ancient Agora,

tel.: 210 32 10 185, (Monastiraki

or Thissio metro stations)

The Kerameikos Museum:

148, Ermou Str;

tel.: 210 34 63 552

(Thissio metro station)

The Epigraphical Museum:

1, Tositsa Str;

tel.: 210 82 17 637

(Victoria metro station)

The Athens Numismatic Museum:

12, Panepistimiou Str (Iliou

Melathron);

tel.: 210 36 43 774;

210 36 12 540,

website: www.nma.gr

(Syntagma metro station)

The Museum of Cycladic Art:

4, Neofytou Douka Str,

tel.: 210 72 26 321-3;
website: www.cycladic.gr
(Evangelismos metro station)

Museum of Diachronic Art:
Cultural Multicentre Athinais,
34-36 Kastorias Str. – Votanikos,
tel.: 210 34.80.000,
website: www.athinais.com.gr.

The National Historical Museum:
13, Stadiou Str;
tel.: 210 32 37 617,
website: www.nhmuseum.gr
(Syntagma metro station)

**The Benaki Museum
(central building):**
1, Koumbari Str & Vas. Sofias Av.;
tel.: 210 36 71 000;
website: www.benaki.gr

- Pireos Street building:
138, Pireaus Str. (Gazi),
tel.: 210 34 53 111

- The Museum of Islamic Art:
22, Ayion Assomaton & 12,
Dipyliou Str. (Kerameikos),
tel.: 210 32.51.311-14

**The Byzantine and Christian
Museum:**
22, Vas. Sofias Avenue;
tel.: 210 72 11 027;
210 72 32 178,
website:
www.byzantinemuseum.gr
(Evangelismos metro station)

The War Museum:
2, Rizari Str;
tel.: 210 72 52 974-6
(Evangelismos metro station)

**The Museum of the City
of Athens (Vourou -
Eftaxia Foundation):**
5-7, Paparrigopoulou Str
(Klafthmonos Square);
tel.: 210 32.31.397,
website:
www.athenscitymuseum.gr,
(Panepistimio metro station)

**The National Gallery - Museum
Alexandros Soutzos:**
50, Vas. Konstantinou Avenue;
tel.: 210 72 35 857
website: www.nationalgallery.gr,
(Evangelismos metro station)

**National Glyptothek of
Greece:**
Parko Stratou, Goudi, entrance
from Katehaki Ave.,
tel.: 210 77.09.855
(Katehaki metro station).

**The National Museum of
Contemporary Art:**
17 - 19 Vas. Georgiou II &
Rigillis St.,
tel.: 210 92 42 111-3,
website: www.emst.gr;
(Evangelismos metro station)

The Athens Municipal Gallery:
Leonidou and Myllerou Str,
(Metaxourgeio),
tel.: 210 32 31 841.

The Frissiras Museum:
3, Monis Asteriou Str, Plaka;
tel.: 210 32 34 678;
website:
www.frissirasmuseum.com.

The Greek Folk Art Museum:
17, Kythathinaeon Str, Plaka;
tel.: 210 32 29 031;
210 32 13 018,
website: www.melt.gr
– Building at 22, Panos St.:
tel.: 210 32.14.972

**The Greek Folk Musical
Instruments Museum:**
1-3, Diogenous Str, Plaka;
tel.: 210 32 50 198,
210 32 54 119-129,
website:
www.instruments-museum.gr

**The Kyriazopoulou Ceramics
Collection:**
Tzistarakis Mosque, Monastiraki;
tel.: 210 32 42 006,
website: www.melt.gr
(Monastiraki metro station).

**The Hellenic Children's
Museum:**
14, Kythathinaeon Str;
tel.: 210 33 12 995-6;
website: www.hcm.gr.

Museum of Greek Children's Art:
9, Kodrou Str (extension of
Voulis Str.); Plaka,
tel.: 210 33.12.621,
210 33.12.750,
fax: 210 33.13.734,
website:
www.childrensartmuseum.gr

**The Historical Museum of the
University of Athens:**
5, Tholou Str, Plaka;
tel.: 210 32 40 861.

The Kanellopoulos Museum:
12, Theorias Str & Panos Str, Plaka;
tel.: 210 32 12 313.

The Theatrical Museum:
50, Akadimias Str;
tel.: 210 36 29 430,

(Panepistimio metro station)

**The Eleftherios Venizelos
Museum:**
Eleftherias Park,
tel.: 210 72 24 238,
(Megaro Moussikis metro station)

The Eleftherias Park Arts Centre:
10, Evzonon Str,
tel.: 210 72 32 603 – 4,
(Megaro Moussikis metro station)

**The Newer Ceramics Research
Centre:**
4-5, Melidoni Str, Kerameikos,
tel.: 210 33 18 491-6,
website: www.pottery-museum.gr
(Thissio metro station)

**The Ilias Lalaounis Jewellery
Museum:**
12, Kalisperi Str, Acropolis,
tel.: 210 92 21 044,
website:
www.lalaounis-jewelry-museum.gr
(Akropolis metro station)

**City of Athens Technopolis
(Gazi Industrial Archaeological
Park and The Maria Callas
Museum):**
100, Pireos Str, Gazi;
tel.: 210 34.60.981,
website:
www.technopolis-athens.com
(Kerameikos metro station)

The Jewish Museum of Greece:
29, Nikis Str;
tel.: 210 32 25 582,
website: www.jewishmuseum.gr

**The Foundation of the Hellenic
World:**
18, Pouloupoulou St, Thiseio;
tel.: 212 254 38 00,
www.fhw.gr
– **Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre:**
254 Pireos St. - Tavros, Athens;
tel.: 212 254 00 00,
website: www.hellenic-cosmos.gr

**Planetarium, Eugenides
Foundation:**
387 Syngrou Avenue, Paleo Faliro
(entrance from Pendelis Str),
tel.: 210 94.69.600,
210 94.69.642,
website: www.eugenfound.edu.gr

**The Archaeological Collection
of Kifisia:**
30, Georganta Str. & Kassaveti
Str. – Kifissia,
tel.: 210 80.85.560

**The Goulandrakis Natural History
Museum:**

13, Levidou Str, Kifissia;
tel.: 210 80 15 870,
website: www.gnhm.gr,
– **Gaia Centre:** 100, Othonos Str.

The Vorre Museum:
1, Parodos diadohou Konstantinou
Str, Paiania 19 002;
tel.: 210 66 42 520;
210 66 44 771.

**The Piraeus Archaeological
Museum:**
31, Harilaou Trikoupi Str;
tel.: 210 45 21 592.

The Greek Nautical Museum:
Akti Themistocleous, Piraeus;
tel.: 210 42 86 959,
210 45 16 264.

Municipal Gallery of Piraeus:
29, Filonos St.
tel.: 210 41.01.401

**The Archaeological Site
of Olympieion:**
tel.: 210 92.26.330

**The Archaeological site of the
north and south slopes of the
Acropolis:**
(Dionysos Theatre, The Stoa of
Eumenes etc.) –entrance form
Dionyssiou Areopagitou Str.
tel.: 210 32.24.625

**The Archaeological Site
of Acropolis:**
tel.: 210 32.10.219

**The Archaeological Site
of the Ancient Agora:**
tel.: 210 32.10.185

**The Archaeological site
of the Roman Agora:**
tel.: 210.32.45.220

The Library of Hadrian:
tel.: 210 32.49.350

**The Archaeological Site
of Kerameikos:**
tel.: 210 34.63.552

**The Archaeological Site
of Sounio:**
tel.: 22920 39 363.

**The Archaeological site
of Eleusina (Museum):**
tel.: 210 55 46 019,
210 55 43 470.

**The Megara Archaeological
Museum:**
22, Dimarchou Menidiati Str,
tel.: 22960 22426

**The Marathon Archaeological
Museum:**

114, Plataion Str, Marathon;
tel.: 22940 55 155,
the Tomb of Marathon:
tel.: 22940 55 462.

The Marathon Run Museum:
 Marathonos Ave. and 25th
 Martiou St. – Marathonas,
tel.: 22940 67.617

**The Archaeological site
 of Ramnous:**
tel.: 22940 63 477.

**The Archaeological site
 of Amphiareion:**
tel.: 22950 62 144.

**The Archaeological site
 of Vravrona:**
tel.: 22990 27 020.

Attica Zoological Park (Spata):
 Thesi Yialou, P.O. Box 38,
 Spata 19004,
tel.: 210 66.34.724,
website: www.atticapark.com

CULTURAL EVENTS

For cultural events in Athens see foreign language newspapers on sale at central kiosks (among others, Syntagma Square, Omonia Square), or **website:** www.culture.gr

ATHENS FESTIVAL

The Athens Festival, established in 1955, is held in summer (June – September) at the open air Roman Herodes Atticus Odeon. It is one of Europe's major festivals. Some of the best Greek and foreign groups and artists perform classical and modern music, opera, dance and theatre. The Festival in summer holds important cultural events at the Lycabettus theatre, and other venues of the city.

Hellenic Festival S.A.:
 Makryianni Str and 23,
 Hadjichristou Str, 117 42 Athens;
information and reservations:
 210 92 82 900;
fax: 210 92 82 941;
email: info@greekfestival.gr;
website: www.greekfestival.gr

Central ticket office:
 39, Panepistimiou Str
 (in the arcade);
tel.: 210 32 21 459,
 210 32.72.000;
opening hours: 08:30 – 16:00
 (Monday to Friday, 09:00 –

14:30 (Saturdays).

**The Odeion of Herodes Atticus
 ticket office:**
tel.: 210 32 32 771;
opening hours:
 09:00 – 14:00 & 18:00 – 21:00.

Lycabettus theatre ticket office:
tel.: 210 72 27 233,
 210 72 27 209.

THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL

Vas. Sofias Str & Kokkali Str,
 115 21 Athens; information –
 reservations
tel.: 210 72 82 333;
email: webmaster@megaron.gr;
website: www.megaron.gr.

**Central ticket office:
 opening hours:**
 Monday – Friday 10:00 – 16:00;
 Saturday 10:00 – 14:00 and
 18:00 – 20:30; Sunday 18:00 –
 20:30. On days of performances
 Monday- Friday 10:00-20:30,
 Saturday 10:00- 14:00 &
 18:00-20:30, Sunday 18:00-
 20.30

Ticket office in the city centre:
 8, Omirou Str.
 (near Syntagma Square),
opening hours:
 Monday – Friday 10:00 – 16:00.

THE NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE

The oldest opera theatre
 in Greece. Opera and ballet
 performances and music concerts
 are held in its two auditoria,
 (Olympia and Acropol)
(website: www.nationalopera.gr).

The Olympia Theatre:
 59, Akadimias Str, 106 79 Athens;
information – reservations:
 210 36 12 461;
 210 36 43 725;
fax: 210 36.43.577

The Acropol Theatre:
 9-11, Ippokratous Str,
 106 79 Athens;
information – reservations:
 210 36 43 700;
 210 36 08 666;
fax: 210 36.08.268

THE ONASSIS CULTURAL CENTRE

It is housed in a modern,
 impressive building on Syngrou
 Ave. and stages top theatrical,
 music and dance performances,
 visual art exhibitions and literary
 events (www.sgt.gr).

Information:
 107-109 Syngrou Ave,
 11745 Athens,
ticket office: 210 90.05.800,
Administration Office:
 2130 178 000,
email: info@sgt.gr
 (Syngrou-Fix metro station).

LYCEUM CLUB OF GREEK WOMEN.

Founded in 1910 by the first
 Greek feminist K. Parren, the
 Lyceum Club of Greek Women
 seeks to preserve Greek folk
 customs, research and study
 different varieties of Greek
 national dress, record Greek folk
 music, and study and perform
 Greek folk dances. The Lyceum's
 museum (on 7 Dimokritou Str
 –Kolonaki, tel 210 36.29.513)
 exhibits a valuable collection
 of genuine Greek dresses
 from every part of the country.
 Members of the Lyceum's
 folk dance groups wear these
 costumes during performances
 in Greece and abroad
 (14, Dimokritou Str.,
tel.: 210 36 11 042,
website: www.lykeionellinidon.gr).

DORA STRATOUE THEATRE

(see page 42).
tel.: 210 32 44 395,
 210 92 14 650;
fax: 210 32 46 921.

ATHENS MUNICIPALITY CULTURAL ORGANISATION

stages cultural and sporting
 events. **Information:**
tel.: 210 36 21 601,
 210 36 30 706,
fax: 210 36 14 358;
website: www.cityofathens.gr

OPEN AIR CINEMAS

rank high among Greece's
 attractions. Athenians in summer
 evenings like to see a movie in
 a garden with trees and flowers,
 beneath a starlit sky. In Greece
 films are not dubbed. Foreign
 films have Greek subtitles.

SPORTS

Undersecretariat for Sports:
 7, Kifissias Avenue, 115 23 Athens;
tel.: 210 64 96 000;
website: www.sportsnet.gr.

The Sports Federations: website:
 www.sportsnet.gr/3/g31.html.

**The Hellenic Olympic
 Committee (E.O.E.):**
 52, Dim Vikela Str
 (372, Kifissias Avenue)
 152 33 Halandri, Athens;
tel.: 210 68 78 888;
fax: 210 68 78 940;
website: www.hoc.gr.

The Athens Classic Marathon,
 organized from 1983, is being
 held every November on the
 authentic course, from Marathon
 to the Panathenaikon Stadium
 (Athens) and also includes
 power walking and two more
 road races (10km and 5km).
Information: SEGAS (Hellenic
 Amateur Athletics Federation),
 137 Syngrou Ave., 171 21 Nea
 Smirni, Athens;
tel.: 210 93 31 113,
 210 93 15 886;
fax: 210 93 31 152;
website:
 www.athensclassicmarathon.gr

WEBSITES

***Athens Municipality:**
 www.cityofathens.gr.

***Tourist portal of the
 Municipality of Athens:**
 www.breathtakingathens.com

***Attica Region (tourist portal):**
 www.athensattica.gr

***Ministry of Culture and
 Sports - Information on
 archaeological sites and
 historical monuments:**
 http://odysseus.culture.gr

***Modern architecture in
 Athens – Attica:**
 www.culture2000.tee.gr.

***Athens Archaeological Sites
 Unification Company (E.A.X.A.):**
 www.astynet.gr.

*** Athens Convention Bureau (ACB):**
 www.athensconventionbureau.gr

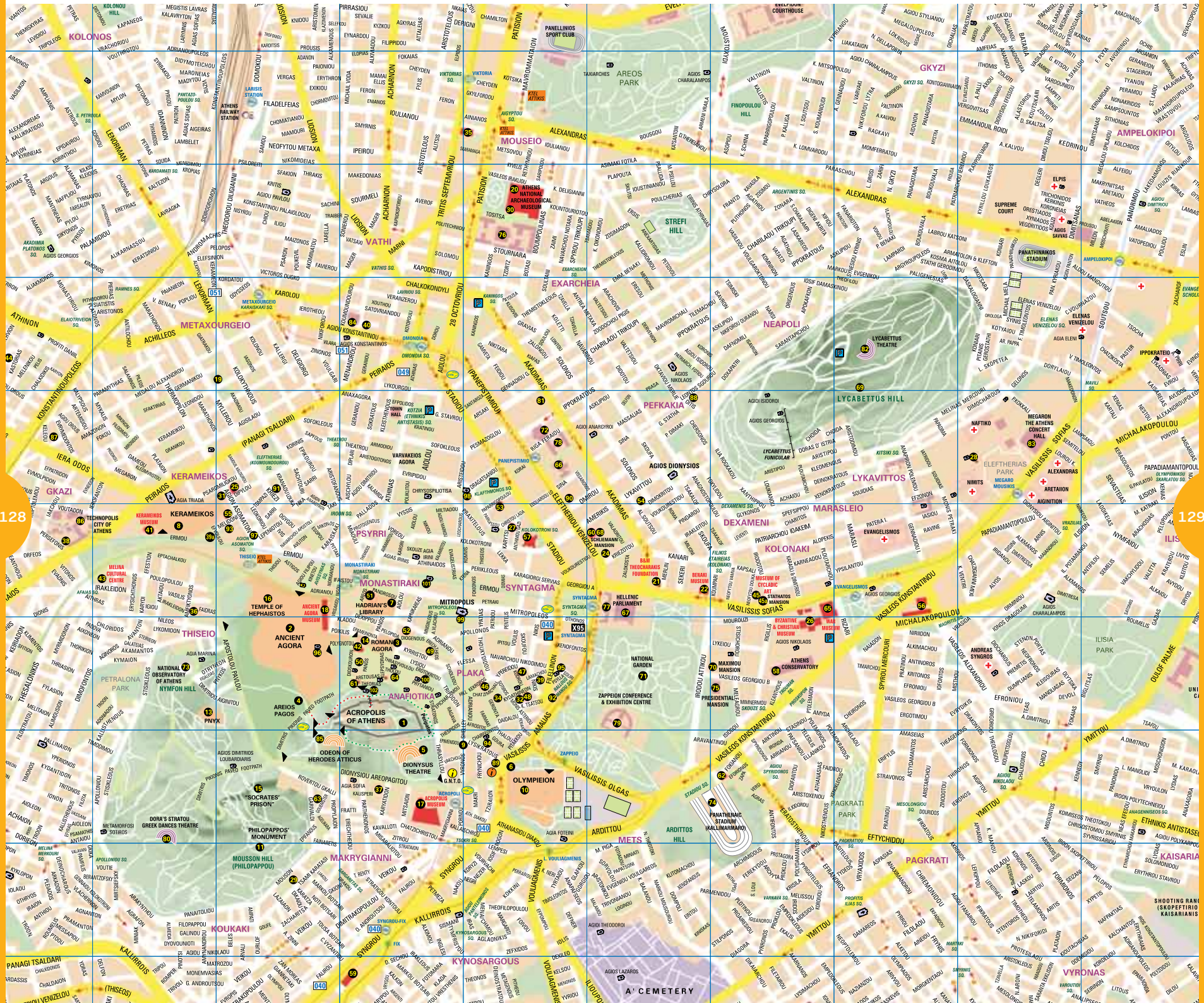
***Athens & Macedonian News
 Agency:** www.amna.gr

***Air 104.4 FM – Athens
 International Radio:**
 www.athina984.gr/1044fm

***Athens Spotlitged free
 discount city card:**
 www.athensspotlitged.gr

***Hellenic National Meteorological
 Service (weather forecast):**
 www.hnms.gr

THE MAP OF ATHENS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & MONUMENTS

- 1 ACROPOLIS OF ATHENS
- 2 ANCIENT AGORA
- 3 ANDRONICUS KYRRISTUS CLOCK (TOWER OF THE WINDS)
- 4 AREIOS PAGOS
- 5 THEATRE OF DIONYSOS & SOUTH SLOPE OF THE ACROPOLIS
- 6 HADRIAN'S ARCH
- 7 HADRIAN'S LIBRARY
- 8 KERAMEIKOS
- 9 LYSIKRATES MONUMENT
- 10 OLYMPIEION
- 11 PHILOPAPPUS MONUMENT
- 12 PLATO'S ACADEMY
- 13 PNYX
- 14 ROMAN AGORA
- 15 PRISONS OF SOCRATES
- 16 TEMPLE OF HEPHAISTOS (THESEION)
- 27 ELEFThERIOS VENIZELOS HISTORY FOUNDATION
- 28 ELEFThERIOS VENIZELOS MUSEUM
- 29 EMOTIONS MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD
- 30 EPIGRAPHICAL MUSEUM
- 31 EXILE MUSEUM
- 32 FRISSIRAS MUSEUM
- 33 G. GOUNAROPOULOS MUSEUM
- 34 HELLENIC CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
- 35 HELLENIC MOTOR MUSEUM
- 36 HERAKLEIDON MUSEUM - ART & MATHEMATICS
- 37 ILIAS LALAOUNIS JEWELLERY MUSEUM
- 38 INDUSTRIAL GAS MUSEUM
- 39 JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE
- 40 KATINA PAXINOI MUSEUM
- 41 KERAMEIKOS MUSEUM
- 42 MELINA MERCOURI FOUNDATION
- 43 MELINA (MERCOURI) CULTURAL CENTER
- 44 MUSEUM OF DIACHRONIC ART OF "ATHINAIS"
- 45 MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART
- 45a MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART - STATHATOS MANSION
- 46 MUSEUM OF FOLK ART & TRADITION
- 47 MUSEUM OF GREEK CHILDREN'S ART
- 48 MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK ART
- 49 MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK ART
- 50 MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK ART
- 51 MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK ART
- 52 MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
- 53 MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF ATHENS VOUROΣ-EUTAXIAS

MUSEUMS – GALLERIES – FOUNDATIONS

- 17 ACROPOLIS MUSEUM
- 18 ANCIENT AGORA MUSEUM (STOA OF ATTALUS)
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