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82

REASONS  
WHY YOU  
WILL NEVER  
FORGET  
ATHENS

A special edition  
by the weekly  
Athens City Guide

LIFO

ATHENS  
CITY  
GUIDE  
FOR VISITORS





# ALFA BEER

Enjoyed with Greek traditional specialties.



Authentic taste of Greece

Απολαύστε υπεύθυνα



**Ship**  
19th century  
Silver replica



**Head of Apollo**  
Attica (?), Roman period  
Plaster replica on a marble base



**Earrings**  
Late Hellenistic period  
Silver, gold-plated replica with cornaline and pearls



**Katerina Anesti**  
Bracelet : Inspired by the collections of the Benaki Museum, Silver, fabric and semi-precious stones



**Margarita Ekklesiarchou**  
Porcelain creations



## The Benaki Museum Shop is the first museum shop to have opened in Greece.

Having as its primary objective to produce and sell reproductions of the Museum's exhibits, the Shop pays its own way and covers a large part of its total budget.

Most of the items on sale are reproductions of representative samples of the Museum's exhibits, and are classic items as, in their majority, they were made using traditional techniques. Along with the classic reproductions, visitors can also find items made by young artists who have been inspired by the Museum's exhibits to make modern, innovative works.

The new Shop in the Benaki Museum on Pireos Street has a different rationale, providing original artistic creations rather than faithful reproductions of Museum exhibits.

The Pireos Shop is a centre for contemporary applications and offers the visitor access to selected works of exceptional aesthetics, masterfully made and of unique artistic inspiration.

The works, many of which are unique, are made of many varied materials in a wide range of items: ceramics, jewellery, textiles, lighting fixtures etc.

The Shop also contains a bookshop specialising in art books where one can find catalogues of museum exhibitions from abroad, and books on the exhibitions held at the Pireos building.

The Islamic Art Museum Shop sells objects Islamic art, made with traditional techniques, from countries such as Turkey, India, Pakistan and Egypt.

**Wreath**  
Macedonia (?) Hellenistic period  
Bronze, gold-plated replica



**Cup with representation of a dancer**  
Cyprus, 13th century  
Hand-made glazed clay replica



**Korinna Koutouzi**  
Earrings  
Creations made of various hammered metals



**Lili Frangaki**  
Brooch  
Silver and copper



**Early Helladic vial**  
Euboea, 3000-2800 BC  
Silver replica



**Maria Gregoriou**  
Brooches  
Silver & paper



**Theodora Panatazopoulou**  
Brooch  
Silver & paper



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Monday, Tuesday: Closed

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Online shopping [www.benaki.gr](http://www.benaki.gr)



# BENAKI *the shop* MUSEUM



## Welcome note 6

Athens at a glance by Dafne Papadopoulou

## Culture 9

Follow Lifo's guide for all the great masterpieces of Athens

## Shopping 35

Don't go back home without buying something from this section

## Outdoors 47

Extreme fun under the magnificent Athenian sky

## Night 53

Welcome to a city that never sleeps!

## Taste 63

How to have the gourmet experience of your life, while in Athens

## Usefull Tips 86

Telephone numbers and other usefull data that you might need during your stay and some things that require your extra attention.

## Dos and Dont's 90

Etiquette for visitors



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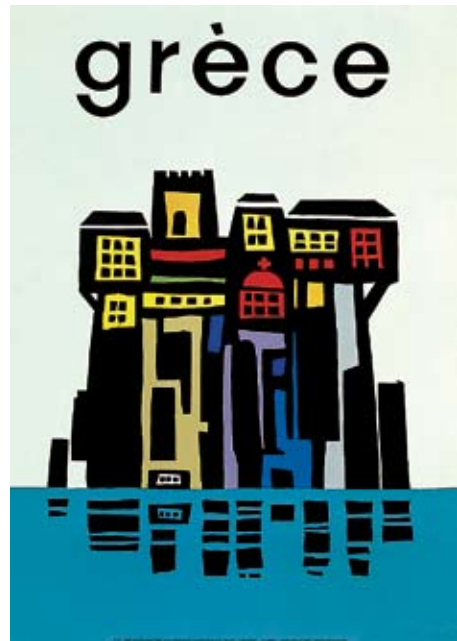
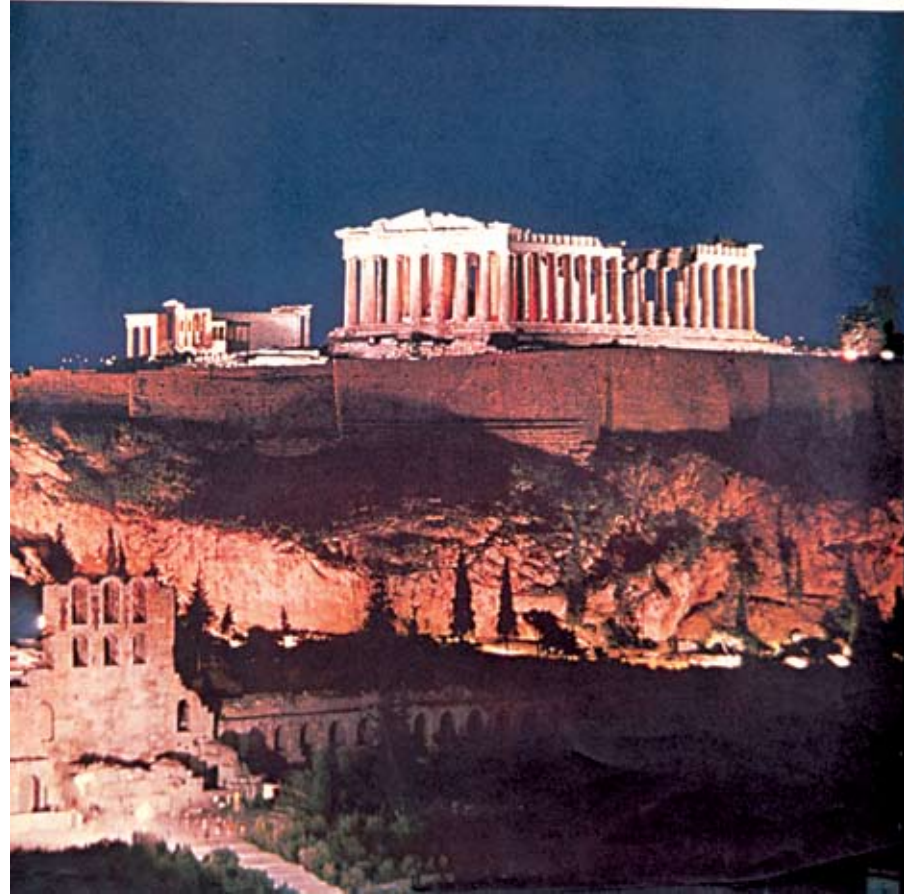


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If you only thought of Athens as a necessary evil of your trip on the way to the islands, it's time to change your mind. The modern city offers an amazing variety of activities and places of interest to keep you happy and busy - while you wait for the boat.

Admittedly, concrete-loving Athens is not the prettiest of cities, but within the urban sprawl you'll find great sites and museums packed with some of the most impressive artefacts in the world, excellent food, a vivid nightlife, an open, leisured lifestyle, clear blue beaches, the best of weathers and yes, the Acropolis.

The city is like a public experiment: It's always changing and reinventing itself. Constructions, renovations and excavations are taking place on a daily basis, giving you the opportunity to watch the city change before your eyes - and fill your shoes with dust.

As a result of the Athens 2004 Olympics, the basic public transport and road infrastructure has seriously improved, with the new airport and tube providing a much needed upgrade of services and faster commuting. If you're staying at the city centre, you'll find that most sites, museums and bars are within walking distance from each other and the tube will effectively get you anywhere you want to go. That said, traffic chaos and pollution remain an issue, as Greeks love to drive even for the shortest of distances.

One of the most impressive changes over the last years has come from the integration of the ancient city into the modern town. A pedestrian walkway created to connect the central archaeological sites around the Acropolis Hill has succeeded in uniting them with the new neoclassical houses, restaurants and cafés and everyday lives of its four million inhabitants.

No doubt, Athens is at its best in the summer, as cafés, restaurants and bars open up and serve customers on pavements, gardens and courtyards, allowing you to enjoy the balmy weather and moonlit sky.

**PICTURE PERFECT**  
Through the years, famous Greek graphic designers and artists have designed the promotional posters for the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO). Some of them, especially the older ones, are almost works of art!





Delphi

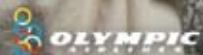
# Greece

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# CULTURE

## Athens culture

There is so much cultural activity in Athens nowadays that one cannot manage to see everything. But for the first time visitor things are simpler: start from the Acropolis!

**T**here's no doubt which site is the highlight of Athens. The Acropolis Hill crowns the sprawling city as a constant reminder of its celebrated past and the uninterrupted inhabitation of the city through the millennia. But Athens is not just a place where you admire dead history. Though still developing, modern art is making its mark on the city's cultural map. The unification of archaeological sites in the city centre has created a three kilometre pedestrian promenade, which connects the

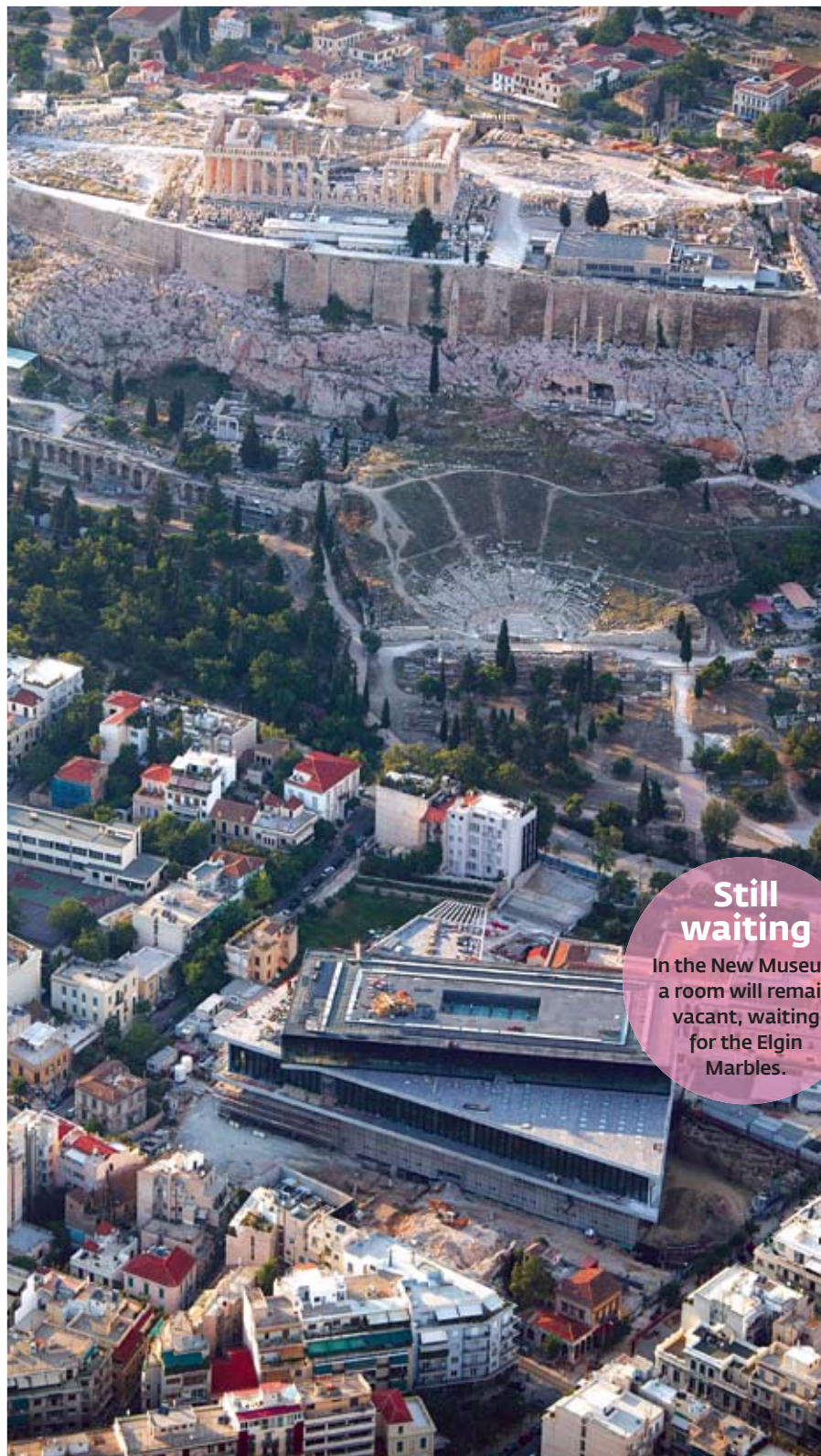
ancient sites around the Acropolis Hill with the neighbourhoods around it. Absolutely must-see sites include the Acropolis Hill, the Archaeological Museum, the pedestrianised centre, the Benaki, Cycladic, Islamic and Jewish museums, as well as the oldest stadium in Europe, the Panathenaic. The city is filled with festivals, galleries and contemporary cultural events that reach their peak during the summer season, when the Greek Festival (June-August) is in full swing and a series of foreign and Greek productions

of classic and experimental theatre, music, dance, concerts and opera take over the capital. Modern viewings are presented in ancient theatres, while classical theatre is played in modern venues. There are some seriously good shows this summer that will satisfy every taste. For all information concerning the Hellenic Festival, including program and ticket booking, check the festival's excellent website at [www.greekfestival.gr](http://www.greekfestival.gr).



National Archaeological Museum





## The New Acropolis Museum

The much awaited New Acropolis Museum (2-4 Makriyanni, Makriyanni, 210 9241043) is complete and all antiquities formerly housed in the small museum close to the Parthenon were transported during 2007 in a mammoth-sized operation. The last exhibits were placed into their new positions in April 2008 but at the time of writing, the new museum had still not opened its doors to the public. The exhibition rooms are still closed, but visitors are allowed to enter the ground floor and inspect the ancient city-beneath-the-city discovered during excavations. Archaeologists uncovered ancient roads, houses, bathhouses and workshops dating between 3000 B.C.-1200 B.C., all of which can now be seen in the temporary exhibition "The excavation and the museum". When completed, the exhibition rooms will house the most important artefacts of the classical period, as well as other treasures which were kept in storage for lack of space. Antiquities will be divided in parts, namely the findings from the slopes of the Acropolis, the archaic period, the classical period, the roman period and the recent findings underneath the building. A room will also be left vacant with the hope of one day housing the Parthenon (Elgin) Marbles, presently kept in the British Museum. The new museum was designed by Swiss architect Bernard Tschumi, who used stainless steel, glass and cement as his basic materials.

### Still waiting

In the New Museum a room will remain vacant, waiting for the Elgin Marbles.



MARKS & SPENCER

ERMOU - AIOLOU - KOLONAKI - GLYFADA - KIFISSIA - VRILISSIA - PSICHIKO - MAROUSI - PIREAUS - PATISION  
THESSALONIKI - PATRA - VOLOS - KAVALA - LARISSA - TRIKALA - RHODES - CORFU - IRAKLIO - CHANIA





## 2 Admire the “Spring” mural in the National Archaeological Museum

This mural dates back to the 16th century B.C., it extended on three different walls of a room in Thira, Santorini, and it is a masterpiece of ancient Greek painting. It pictures a row of volcanic rocks, coloured in blues, deep reds and yellows, with red lilies blooming on them. The lilies’ stems are bent, as if there was a light breeze, while in the sky above two pairs of swallows appear to be flirting with each other, while another one is trying to reach them. It is said that the mural used to decorate the walls of a room for religious purposes. A lot of similar murals were found elsewhere in Greece but none comes close to the beauty and level of craftsmanship of the “Spring Mural”.

**For more**  
If you liked the Spring Mural, take a two day trip to Santorini and check the museum at Thira.





Technopolis, Gazi

PHOTO: YIANNIS KOSTARIS

Culture spot

There is always something to see in Technopolis!

## 3 Visit Technopolis and Gazi for a taste of contemporary art

The industrial chic cultural centre of **Technopolis** (100 Pireos, Gazi, 210 3461589) in Gazi represents the capital's turn towards boosting contemporary architecture and art. The old gasworks building, dating from 1862, was converted into a complex of buildings refurbished to house exhibitions, festivals and concerts. The main building's slender chimney, beautifully illuminated with red lights in the evening, has become a local landmark, while other features like the furnaces and cauldrons testify to the industrial past of the area. Once a derelict working class village, the area of Gazi, known locally as **Gazohori** (village of Gazi) has transformed into a busy and funky neighbourhood. The local annex of **Benaki Museum**, home to all contemporary exhibitions, is only a few blocks from the metro station of **Keramikos**, adding to the cultural profile of the area. Another interesting feature of the area is the colourful graffiti painted by Brazilian artists Os Gemeos on the walls of the trolley depot station in Pireos street, right across Technopolis.



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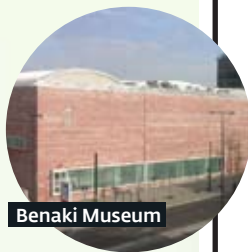


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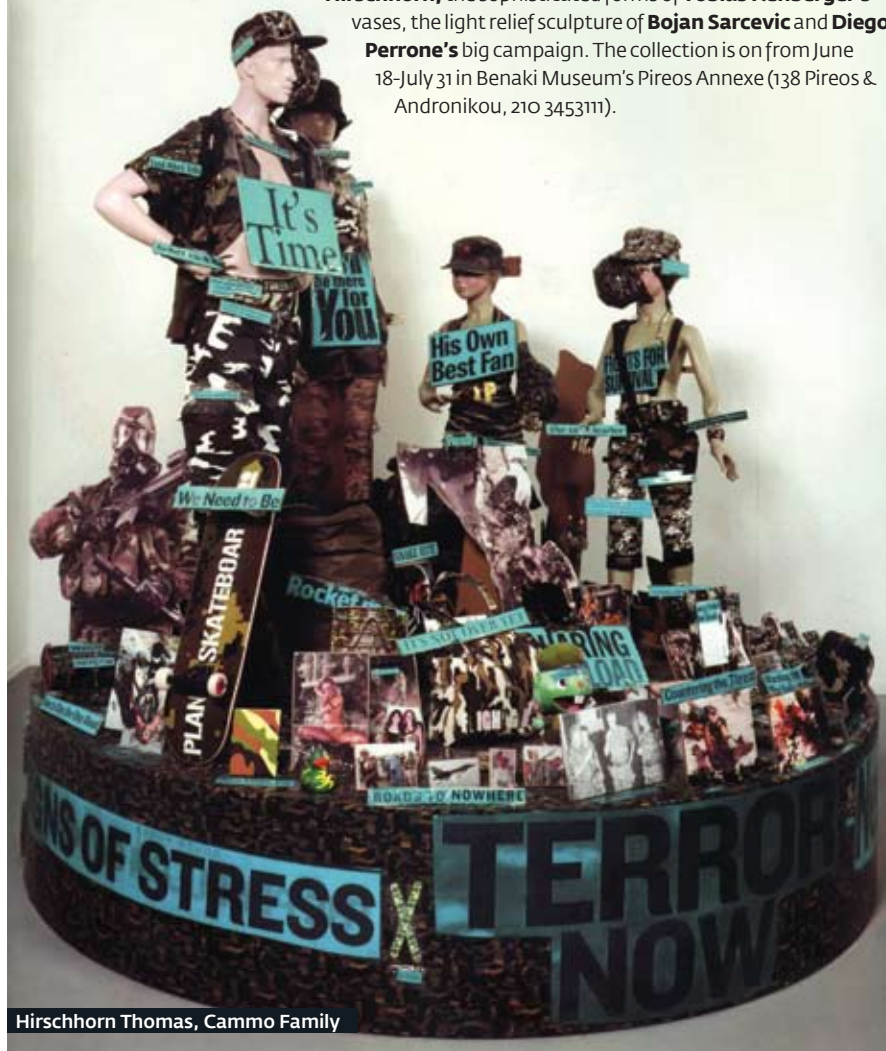


## 4 Collection of Sandretto Re Rebaudengo

Under the auspices of the **Greek Festival**, Athens presents for the first time 40 sculptures and installations from the great contemporary art collection of **Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**. Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, one of the most active and influential collectors of Turin and the international art scene, created in 1995 a foundation in her name to house her collection but also to support new artists and curators. Her famous collection includes works by artists such as **Charles Ray, Anri Sala, Cindy Sherman, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Douglas Gordon, Carsten Holler, Thomas Hirschhorn, Damien Hirst and Sharon Lockhart**. In Athens we will be seeing 40 contemporary sculptures by 35 famous artists, whose solid sculptures and installations are made of incongruous materials. We will have the chance to see the suicidal squirrel by **Maurizio Cattelan**, the anti-war memorial of **Thomas Hirschhorn**, the sophisticated forms of **Tobias Rehberger's** vases, the light relief sculpture of **Bojan Sarcevic** and **Diego Perrone's** big campaign. The collection is on from June 18-July 31 in Benaki Museum's Pireos Annexe (138 Pireos & Andronikou, 210 345311).



Benaki Museum

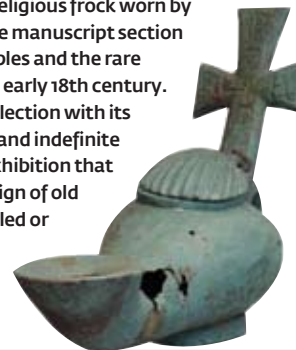


Hirschhorn Thomas, Cammo Family



**5 Full moon events**  
The **August full moon** is the biggest of the year and Athenians celebrate it accordingly. This year, the full moon is on **Saturday 16th**. On this night, the Ministry of Culture **opens up many archaeological sites** so that everyone can enjoy the full moon. Even if romance is the last thing on your mind, the idea of admiring antiquities under the starlit sky is unbeatable. As expected, the place where people are dying to enter is the **Acropolis Hill**, where the sight of the floodlit Parthenon against a giant bright moon is a major crowd-puller. Others opt for the serene **Temple of Poseidon** in Sounio, which is also a big hit, as well as the ancient **Keramikos cemetery**.

**6 The Byzantine Museum**  
One of the most impressive collections of Byzantine and post-Byzantine era artwork is stored in the Byzantine Museum (22 Vasilisis Sofias, Kolonaki, 210 7294926). Its aim is to acquire, save, conserve, record and showcase objects of early Christian, Byzantine, Medieval and modern religious art. Its 25,000 objects date from the 3rd until the 20th centuries A.D. and originate from Greece, Asia Minor and the Balkans. Collections include, among others, sculptures, icons, wall-paintings, ceramics, textiles, manuscripts, drawings and chalcography. Some of the most spectacular objects are the icons and the textiles, most of which are of unparalleled craftsmanship, like the 13th century Madonna Glykofilousa (Sweet kisser) and the silk religious frock worn by priests in the 17th century. Proceed to the manuscript section and admire the beautiful scrolls, Holy Bibles and the rare Etymologikon (grammar book) from the early 18th century. The museum also holds the Loverdos collection with its 660 religious artefacts for conservation and indefinite keeping. Don't miss the photographic exhibition that testifies to the original architectural design of old churches which have since been remodeled or rebuilt.



**7 Walk the ancient promenade**  
The recent plan to unify the archaeological sites around the **Acropolis Hill** by pedestrianising the streets and restoring monuments and listed buildings in the area has met with such success that Athenians have forgotten (or have tried to forget) how it was before. The great thing about it is that you can do it any time of the day; either in daytime by pausing to visit sites on the way, or in the evening, as part of your walk around the city centre, on your way to a restaurant or bar. You can start your walk from **Dionysiou Areopagitou Street**, across the Temple of Zeus in **Makriyanni** and follow the cobblestone path around the Hill. On your way you see the **Acropolis Hill** and the **Parthenon** (see 20), the ancient **Odeon of Herodes Atticus** and **Filopappou Hill** with stunning views of the Parthenon and the hills of **Imittos** and **Parnetha**. The street is then renamed **Apostolou Pavlou** and you reach the picturesque square of **Thisio**, which the cafés and restaurants making it one of the liveliest neighbourhoods. High up on Ermou street you find the vast **Keramikos cemetery**, where Athenians were buried from 3000 B.C.-6th century A.D. Continuing your walk, you end up in Monastiraki, from where you can either follow the route towards **Gazi** and **Keramikos**, or walk towards the sites of **Plaka**.



PHOTO: GERASIMOS DOMENIKOS

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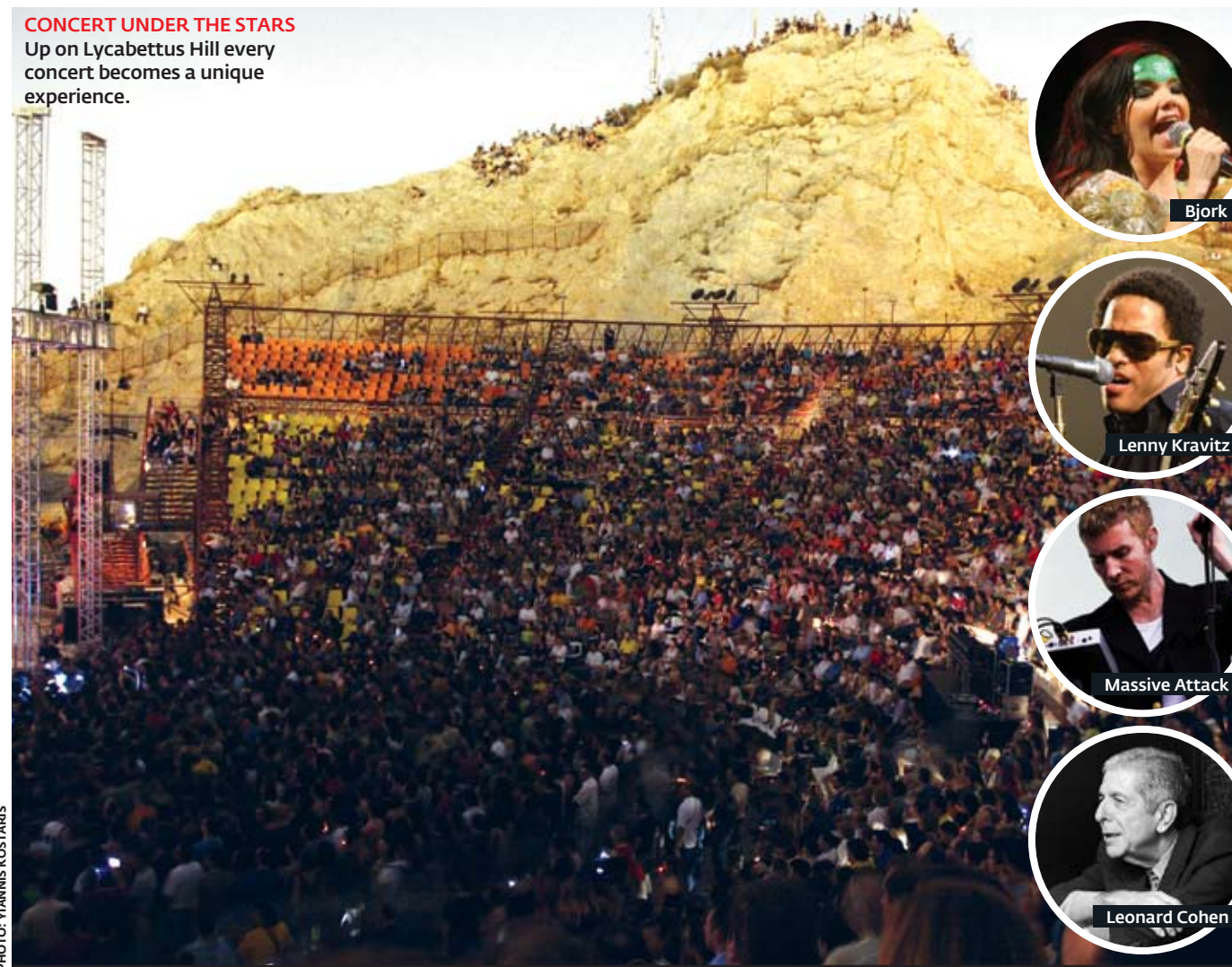


PHOTO: YIANNIS KOSTARIS

## 8 Top summer concerts

Apart from the Greek and Rockwave Festivals, there are additional important line-ups for the summer to please every taste. Iceland's pride and joy **Bjork** will be appearing on July 31st at the basketball stadium in the Olympic Stadium (OAKA), **Leonard Cohen** will be at **Terra Vibe** on July 30, Sandra will be back to life at Technopolis, Gazi, on July 23rd, **Lenny Kravitz** will be at Terra Vibe on August 1 and last but not least, **Iron Maiden** will rock at Terra Vibe on August 2nd. On September 13th **Garry Moore** will play the Lycabettus Theatre and on the 27th the queen of pop, **Madonna**, will give her first concert in Greece at the Olympic Stadium. Tickets for these concerts can be purchased from Ticket House (42 Panepistimiou, inside the arcade, 210 3608366, hours: Mon-Fri 10:30-18:30, Sat 10:30-16:00), or online at [www.ticketpro.gr](http://www.ticketpro.gr).



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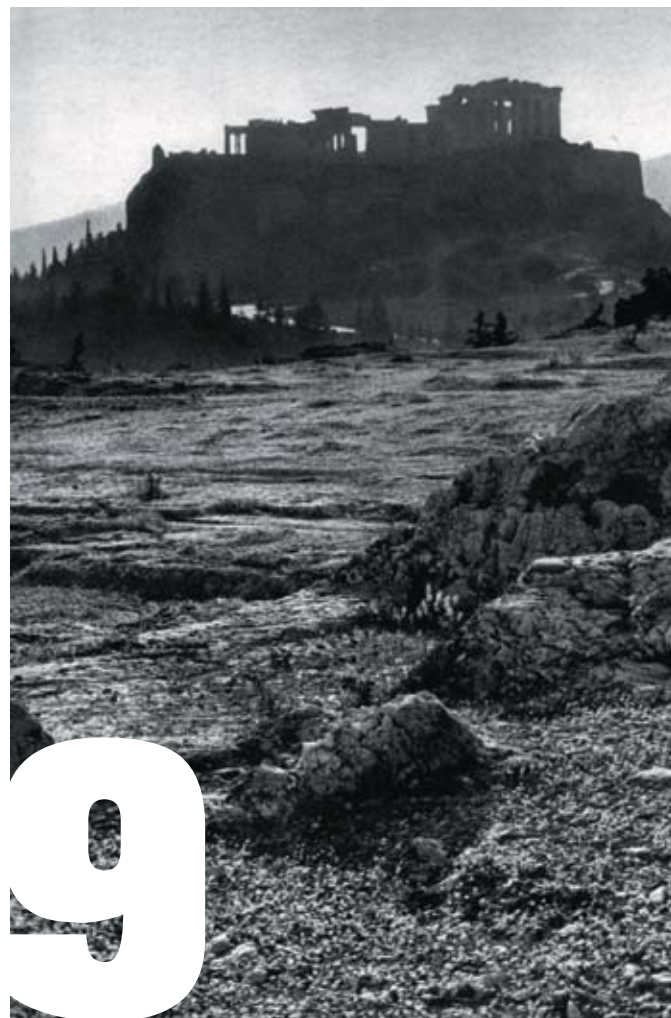
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9



**Greek Beauty**  
Spend a day in the Museum admiring the statues.

## Acropolis Hill and the Archaeological Museum

Let these two be the only things you visit in Athens. **It's a once in a lifetime experience.**

**A**gainst all odds, the **Acropolis Hill** (entrance from Dionysiou Areopagitou Street) dominates the Athenian skyline in a remarkable way. Climbing the 70-metre Hill, the history of the ancient city unfolds before you, starting from Neolithic times, when the first findings are dated. The first building you encounter when you enter is the Propylaea (437-432 B.C.), made from marble of mount Pendeli to mark the entrance to the religious complex. At the southwest is the elegant **Temple of Athena Nike** (426-421 BC), of Ionian order, and further down

the remains of two other temples. The **Erechtheion** (421-405 BC) is known for its spectacular six female figures functioning as columns, the **Caryatids**. Possibly named after the women of the city of Karyes, the originals have been transferred into the **Acropolis Museum**. The **Parthenon** (447-438 BC), built for virgin (Parthenos) goddess Athena, was made to honour her after she won the city over in a confrontation with Poseidon. It is built atop an older temple destroyed by the Persians, and Athenians spared no expense in rebuilding this sanctuary of unrivalled craftsmanship. The marble structure of Doric order

was 13.72 metres high and 69.50 metres long. The topic of the sculpted decorations was the myths regarding goddess Athena and the Persians defeat by Athens. After its recent much needed renovation, the **Archaeological Museum** (44 Patision, 210 8217717) houses the spectacular collection of art which flourished in Greece from Neolithic times until the age of the Roman Empire. The building itself was completed in various phases from 1866 until 1939 on plans originally made by Ludwig Lange. Start with the Neolithic and Bronze Age collection, where you'll find the first specimens of human presence in the country

(6800-3200 B.C.). The clay figurine of a man touching his head with his hand and the female voluptuous figurines are classics. As you marvel at the famous Cycladic figurines in the next chamber, don't miss the largest surviving avant-garde female figure from Amorgos Island, as well as the amazing "harpist", made from dazzling white marble. Proceeding to the Mycenaean exhibit, one is stunned by the spectacular findings made in Mycenae by German legendary treasure hunter Heinrich



Schliemann. The golden funerary masks, cups and jewellery are a major crowd-pleaser, as well as the detailed ivory objects found in the royal tombs and the Linear B inscriptions. Other masterpieces are found in the numerous statue galleries, where the visitor can trace the development of Greek sculpture from the 7th century B.C. to the early Byzantine period. Among others you will see the three-metre **Kouros** from the Temple of Poseidon in Sounio (see 76), the bronze two-metre statue of a mystery

**God (Zeus or Poseidon)** and the bronze masterpiece of the young rider on a horse. Visitors are very keen to see Santorini's frescoes, remarkable examples of painting from the 16th century B.C. Some of them have been transferred to the Archaeological Museum of Santorini, but the "Antelope" scene as well as "Spring" will dazzle you with their vitality and figurativeness. Finally, check out the excellent **Egyptian collection**, the fourth most important in Europe, opened recently, and the Stathatou collection, whose artefacts span from the 5th millennium B.C. until the post-Byzantine era.



# 10 Panathenaic Stadium

Originally built in the 4th century B.C., the Panathenaic stadium (Vasileos Konstantinou, Mets, 210 3251744) was remade in marble by **Lycurgus** in 329 B.C. for the athletic event of **Panathinaea**. During this annual athletic event, the stadium hosted racing, boxing, jumping, javelin throw, chariot and horse racing. It was expanded by Herodes Atticus in 144 A.D. to accommodate 50,000 people, while in Roman times it was used as an arena. Also known as **Kallimarmaron** (beautiful marble), it was rebuilt once again with funds provided by Athenian benefactor George Averoff to host the first modern Olympic Games of 1896. During these

Games, about 280 male athletes from 12 countries participated in 43 events, covering athletics (track and field), cycling, swimming, gymnastics, weightlifting, wrestling, fencing, shooting, and tennis. Its hairpin-like shape adds to its uniqueness, setting it apart from modern stadia. Up until the '50s, Ilissos River streamed in front of it. The remnants of the **Temple of Olympian Zeus** and **Hadrian's Gate** are a five minute walk from the venue. In the Athens 2004 Olympics, the stadium hosted the archery competition and the marathon finish line. Today it is a tourist attraction, used only for special events.

### Shop in a museum

In the Museum of Cycladic Art's giftshop you will find excellent replicas of the exhibits.



## 11 Cycladic Art museum

As its name suggest, this museum (4 Neofytou Douka, Kolonaki, 210 7228321) showcases the largest collection of the gorgeous white marble figurines of Cycladic art, which have influenced modern sculptors with their grace, abstractiveness and shape. Most of them were discovered in tombs but their meaning is still debated. These figurines are mostly female, have their hands crossed in front of them and slightly bended knees. The seated figure raising its cup in toast is of exemplary technique, as well as the violin-shaped ones representing body shapes of the third millennium B.C. Other displays show the marble vessels and basins used for religious and everyday activities. On the second floor you'll find artefacts from Mycenae up until the Roman era: Hydrias, glass vessels for oils, golden objects and amphoras from Attica. The third floor houses temporary exhibitions, while the fourth floor presents the Karolos Politis collection, a rich selection of about 120 artefacts covering all periods of Greek art until the 6th century A.C. The collection includes vessels, clay pottery, and beautiful bronze helmets. After your tour, don't forget to visit the gift shop with its beautiful replicas of the iconic Cycladic figurines.




The object of art is to give life a shape.  
**William Shakespeare**

©papacchino



τραμποκόπουλος

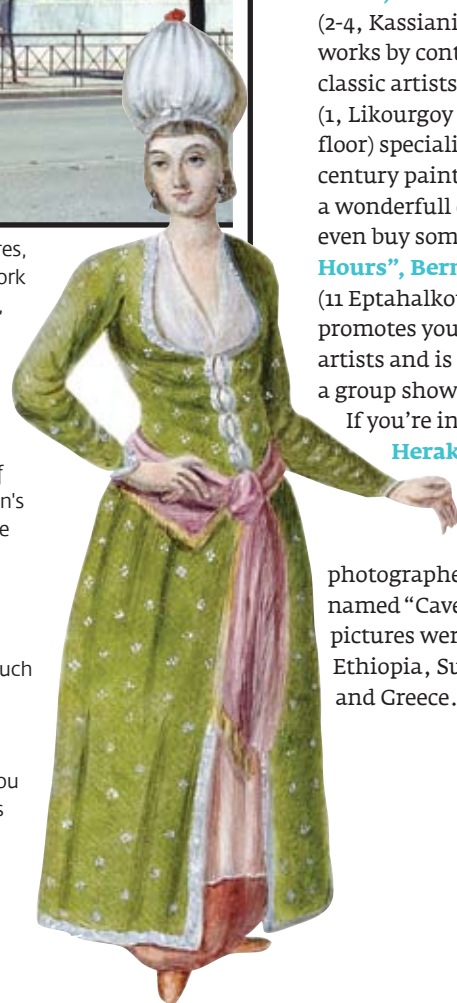
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**12 Benaki Museum**  
The private museum in the city's chic neighbourhood of Kolonaki (1 Koumbari, 210 3671000) is housed in a beautiful 19th century neo-classical mansion, donated by Greek benefactor **Antonis Benakis**. The first floor is dedicated to the Palaeolithic and Bronze Ages, the Cycladic, Mycenaean and classical eras. There is a vast collection of tools, marble vessels, golden jewellery and painted pottery, glassware, ceramics, funerary stelae, murals, Fayum portraits, as well as a large collection of Roman statues. There is an excellent collection of Byzantine icons and mosaics as well as beautifully knitted religious fabrics. The first floor offers a glimpse of 17th-18th century Greece, with a collection of

traditional festive and bridal attires, embroideries, jewellery, woodwork and items of daily use from Crete, the Dodecanese, Cyclades and Cyprus. The wooden Cretan loom is a masterpiece, as well as the wooden chests and the intricate golden jewellery. Don't miss the reconstructions of the interiors of regional noblemen's houses from the 18th century. The second floor showcases musical instruments and books, while the third is dedicated to post-revolutionary (post-1821) Greece. There are manuscripts by poets such as Dionysios Solomos, paintings, furniture, personal items of philhellens like Lord Byron and items of the first royal families. You can also find paintings by famous 20th century Greek painters like Egonopoulos, as well as items of Nobel Prize-winners Seferis and Elytis.



**History Channel**  
At the Benaki Museum you can go through the entire Greek history, in just a few hours.

**13 Contemporary art galleries**  
New galleries of modern art are popping up every year in Athens promoting painting, sculpture, installations, photography and graphic design. One of the most active ones is **DESTE Foundation Centre** (11 Fillelinon, & Emanuel Papa, Nea Ionia, train station Nea Ionia), established by art collector **Dakis Ioannou** in 1983. Striving to promote new as well as established artists, it currently features the exhibition "Fractured Figure" with works from the Dakis Ioannou collection until July 31. **Zoumboulaki Gallery** (20 Kolonaki square, 210 3631364) exhibits the colourful world of **Christina Darra**, while **Gallery Kourd** (2-4, Kassianis str.) is hosting works by contemporary and more classic artists. **"Syllogi" Gallery** (1, Likourgoy & Aioulou str, 2nd floor) specialises in 19th and 20th century painting by Greek artists, a wonderful chance to admire and even buy some Greek art. **"Opening Hours", Bernier-Eliades Gallery** (11 Eptahalkou, Thisio, 210 3413936) promotes young Greek and foreign artists and is currently exhibiting a group show of three artists.


If you're into photography, **Herakleidon Museum** (16 Herakleidon, Thisio, 210 3461981) presents the work of German photographer **Winfried Bullinger** named "Caves". Bullinger's pictures were produced in Ethiopia, Sudan, Peru, Germany and Greece.



## 14 Plaka and Monastiraki

The historic neighbourhood of Plaka embosoms the **Acropolis Hill** on all sides. Together with **Monastiraki**, they contain an endless variety of antiquities of all eras. Plaka is the last remaining neighbourhood of the city which retains the neoclassical architectural style of old Athens. A walk through its winding streets is a glimpse in the way people lived and interacted with one another in the **geitonía** (neighbourhood) when everyone knew their neighbours and a daily stop at the café was a ritual. Perched right under the Acropolis is the odd **Anafiotika** quarter, a quiet area with whitewashed Cycladic-style houses. These small houses were built by stone masons from the Cycladic island of Anafi in the mid 19th century, who arrived in Athens to build the royal palace after the country's independence. The beautiful white church of **Agios Georgios** marks the area from afar. Walking towards the train lines, you enter Monastiraki, the biggest open-air museum in the country. On **Adrianou Street** you will find the **Ancient Agora**, the centre of government in ancient Athens, while the amazing **Temple of Hephestos**, built in 449 B.C., is the best preserved Doric temple in Greece. At the corner of **Eolou** and **Adrianou** you see the Roman Agora and the octagonal Tower of the Winds that is said to have been a sundial and water clock. The beautiful **Fethiye Djami** (mosque) is one of the few examples of Ottoman temples that survive.

ART GALLERY

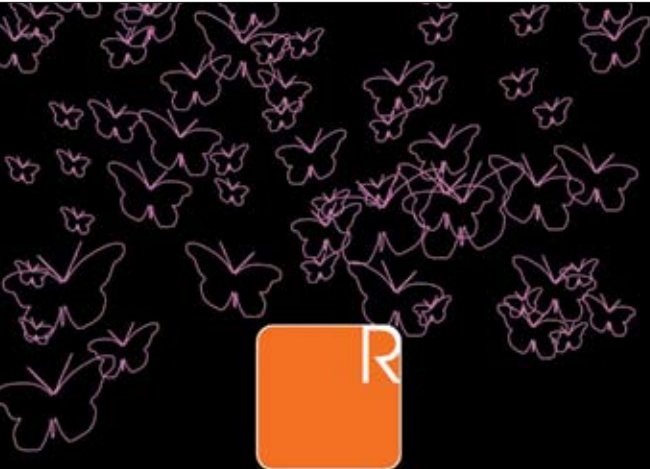


Georgios Smartzis (Corfu, 1868 – Athens, 1925)  
«Portrait of a Lady» Pastel on Paper (1919)

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# 15 Seven masterpieces to enjoy at the National Gallery



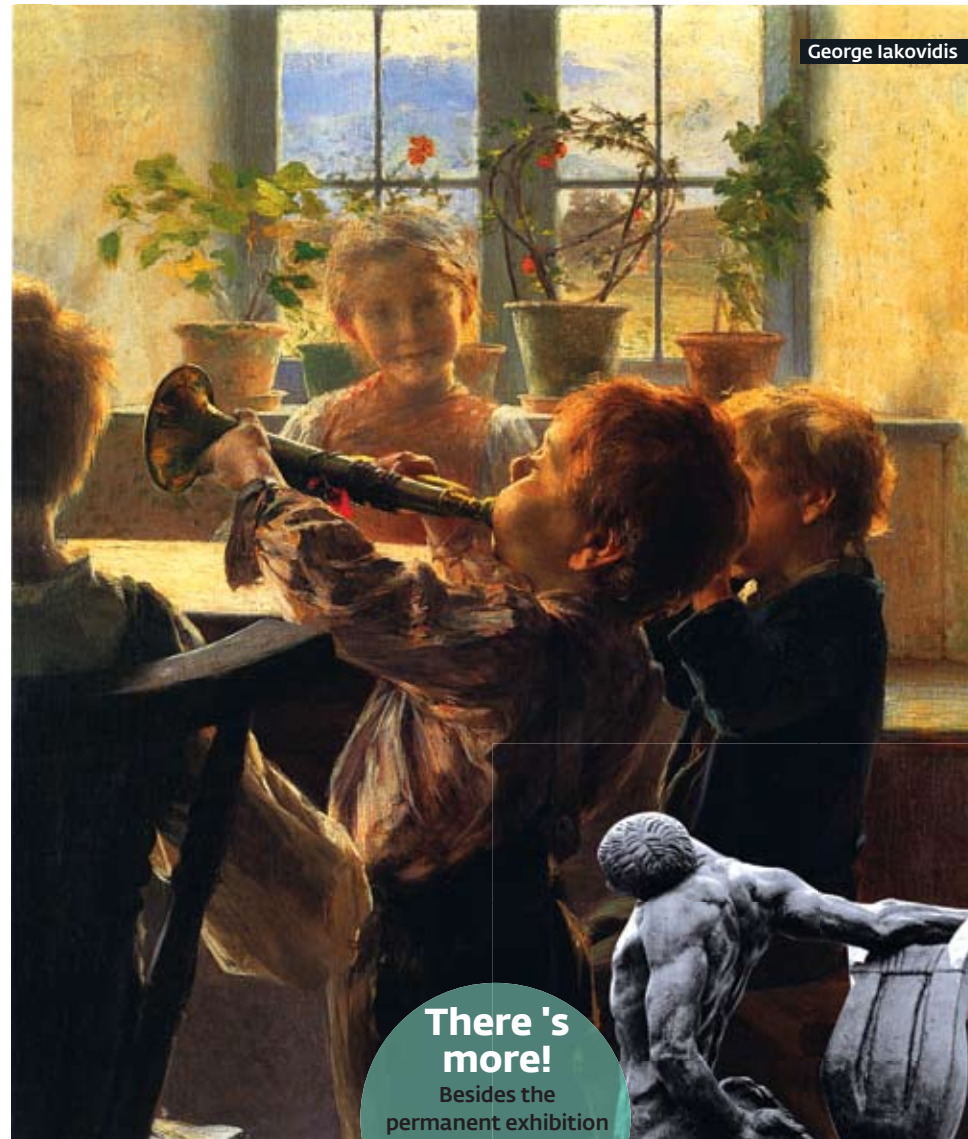
El Greco



August Rodin



Michalis Economou



George Iakovidis

**There's more!**  
Besides the permanent exhibition you can see Goya's engravings in the same building.

There are some real artistic treasures hidden in the city's museums, and the National Gallery is no exception. When you visit its premises, start from the courtyard, where you'll bump into August Rodin's "Man marching on a column". This is a unique work of Rodin and a recent acquisition of the Gallery. Headless and handleless, with the sculptural



Antoine Bourdelle

interest shifting to its stride and the pure idea of movement, it drastically influenced the work of later artists like Marcel Duchamp and the Italian futurists. Another important sculpture in the courtyard is Antoine Bourdelle's "Dying Centaur", made in 1914. It's an emotional work of high aesthetic virtue, elegiac air, transmitting an intense feeling of eternity and deep melancholy. Its creator said: "He's dying because they don't believe in him anymore." Inside the halls, don't miss El Greco's (Domenicos Theotokopoulos) "Burial of Christ". Strong and free drawing, rich colour and deep emotion characterise one of the most important works of the artist's Venetian period. Drawn on wood, it signifies its Byzantine influences and shows the first gains of Theotokopoulos in western art.

Another masterpiece in the Gallery is the "Children's Concert" by George Iakovidis, painted in 1900. Much talked about and always enjoyable, Iakovidis' painting focuses on the room of a German household, where a lively group of children puts together a makeshift band to entertain the young girl stretching out her hands. It's a well-balanced composition with colourful patches of light, wide nervous brush strokes and "vibrant" light pervading the room like music. In the same period, the "Engagement of Children" by Nikolaos Gyzis (1877) gives off a nobility of ideas and feelings of sweetness. A top artist of the "Munich school", Iakovidis manages to make an amazing use of light, of bright reds and whites, sensual blues and an admirable rendering of the objects and the human forms. In a totally different style, "Kalamata's Port" by Constantinos Parthenis (1911) belongs to the second creative phase of the modernist artist - he made it in Paris. The contact of the "aristocrat" cosmopolitan artist with the Parisian avant-garde influenced him greatly. "Kalamata's Port" focuses on the Greek light, while resonating the post-impressionists and the Fauves. Last but not least, Mihalidis' Economou's "Red Tent" (1927-1928) shows the artists' interest in landscapes. The "Red Tent", a fluid and light landscape that appears to be moving with the wind, shows a lonely figure and has all the signs of the artist's style, who used unusual materials.



# 16 Opera: Ballet de l'Opera National de Paris - Pina Bausch

One of the most interesting shows of this year's festival in Epidavros is the choreographed opera "Orfeo et Euridice" by Christoph Willibald Gluck, as it was interpreted by Pina Bausch in 1975. It is a choreographed synthesis of the German's early period, which dramatises the lyric work of Gluck by assigning equal weight to dance and song in a dialogue which quickens all our senses. Inspired by the tragic tale of Orpheus, the choreography is not afraid to summon fear, depression, desperation and pain onto the stage from the very start. Alternating mournful ensemble frescos of great plastic power with solos and duets exuding a dense energy, Pina Bausch's choreography produces dance that is vibrant and expressive and communicates the truth and purity of movement that draws on the inner self. In Epidavros the **Balthasar Neumann Ensemble and Choir** collaborates with the **Paris Opera Ballet**, the only company to which the choreographer has entrusted this classic masterpiece, under the conduction of Thomas Hengelbrock. Performances will take place on July 19-20 in the atmospheric main Epidavros theatre, giving you an opportunity for a tour around the ancient site. **Epidavros** is in the Argolis prefecture of the Peloponnese. It is a half-hour drive from Nafplio and approximately two hours from Athens. You can also get there by a boat which departs from Piraeus every Friday and Saturday in July (on performance days) at 17.00, and arrives at the harbour of Ancient Epidavros at 19.30. There are shuttle coaches to and from the theatre, while boats depart for Piraeus after performances. Tickets can be booked online at <http://www.greekfestival.gr/>.

**While  
in Rome!**  
Seize the opportunity  
to look around  
Epidaurus.



# 17 Islamic Art Museum

The Islamic Art Museum (22 Agion Asomaton & Dipylou, Keramikos, 210 3251311) of Athens is a must. It showcases one of the best collections of Islamic art in Europe and it is spread in two buildings, a two-storey and a three-storey neoclassical mansion. About 10,000 artefacts of the early Islamic and Ottoman periods have found their place in this modern museum. Its chambers are filled with artwork such as Iznik ceramics, wooden doors, prayer carpets, jars, bowls with intricate designs and bright colors. The first two levels trace Islamic art from the 7th -16th century, while the fourth level exhibits Iranian artwork of the Qajar period. The ceramic collection is one of the best of its kind, with beautiful items of the Fatimid era, detailed jewellery and calligraphic inscriptions. Unique pieces like the silk garments, brass chests, carved wooden doors and tiles are major crowd-pleasers, as well as the reconstruction of a 17th century interior of a Cairo mansion on the third floor. While reconstructing the old museum building, part of the ancient wall of Athens as well as a tomb were uncovered in the foundations. They've all been preserved and visitors can see them at the lower level.



Artefact from the Islamic Art Museum

# NUMISMATIC MUSEUM

The Numismatic Museum is housed in the Iliou Melathron (Mansion), once the house of archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, and is the work of architect Ernest Ziller. The permanent collection presents the history of coins from the ancient Greek world until modern times, showcasing the methods of production and control, the numismatic system, the symbolism of the depictions, the market value and the coin circulation, as well as the people's relationship with money.

Open daily (except Monday): 8.30am-3pm  
Admission: 3, 2 euros. Free audio guide.  
12 Panepistimiou street, Syntagma, Athens,  
210 3643774, Metro: Syntagma



# NUMISMATIC MUSEUM CAFÉ

An oasis in the city centre is the best way to describe this wonderful café located in one of the most secret and unexpected corners of Athens. It is inside the huge, beautiful, green garden of the Numismatic Museum. It is the ideal place for a shopping break and an escape from the daily grid and city noise – a place to read your daily newspaper or enjoy a chat over a reasonably priced coffee or light snack. It is a perfect start or end to your museum visit and it is open from 8 am until 11 pm, when you can switch your coffee for a drink before going to a movie or theatre. The garden covers about 800 m<sup>2</sup> filled with plant and flower specimens of the Greek flora as well as ancient Greek statue replicas. The surroundings are dominated by the museum building itself. Needless to say, summer is the best time to find yourself in the café, when you need to escape the boiling heat under the trees. Even cooler in the evenings, the venue makes for a romantic and impressive atmosphere. Musically, the café opts for fine movie soundtracks and cool jazz, which enhance the relaxing atmosphere of the surroundings, making it a truly special place.

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# 18 Five more priceless works of art in Athens museums and notable buildings



Theofilos



Fayoum Portraits



Theodoros Vryzakis



Byzantine Icons



Yiannis Tsarouchis

**Check in advance**  
Before visiting the museums or galleries call and check whether there are alterations on their timetable.



Yiannis Kounellis

The newly established National Museum of Contemporary Art (NMCA) (Temporary address: 14 Amvrosiou Frantzi, Fix, 210 9242111) houses the **"Unnamed" installation (2004) of Yiannis Kounellis**. For this, 600 square metres were intertwined with canted iron crosses. In the middle, there is a slightly elevated "altar" around which sacks of coal have been placed. It's a strong, stern installation offering multiple readings. In the Byzantine and Christian Museum, the famous icon of **"Archangel Michael"** (14th century) represents dedication in classical tradition. The exquisite quality of art reveals a close link to Istanbul's workshops of the first half of the 4th century. In the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus, the dominant **bronze statue of Apollo** is considered one of the finest of its kind and dates from 460 B.C. It was found in 1959 in Piraeus. Back in central Athens, don't miss the **Fayoum "Portrait of a Young Man"** exhibited in the Benaki Museum in Kolonaki. It's an expressive portrait of a male form from Antinoopolis of Egypt, painted with the encaustic method on linen. It dates from the 3rd century A.D. and many components of the new Greek painting have their roots in this. The same museum showcases **Theodoros Vryzakis's painting "The Oath at Agia Lavra"** (1851). A work of historic significance whose composition marks the beginning of the war for independence in Kalavrita on the 25th of March 1821 and turns it into myth. In the northern suburb of Marousi there is the **Yiannis Tsarouhis Foundation**, where you can admire the **"Sailor in the Sun"** (1968-1970). The sailor is painted with half his face in the shadow, in a characteristic posture, with his hands on his waist. He's one of many sailors painted by Tsarouchis, probably the most familiar, famous and fine figure among men with harsh characteristics. Last but not least, the amazing **"Painted Chamber"** by **Theofilos Hatzimichael** (1924-1930) is a classical example of naïf art that once decorated the official chamber of a house in Lesvos (Mytilini). It can be found in the Museum of Greek Folk Art (17 Kydathineon, Plaka, 210 3229031).



Bronze Statue of Apollo



## 19 The Jewish Museum

Housed in a beautiful 19th century mansion, the Jewish Museum (39 Nikis, Plaka, 210 3225582) traces the long history of the Romaniote and Sephardic Jewish communities in Greece, starting from the 3rd century B.C., through WWII till the present day. The vast majority of Greek Jews were killed in concentration camps during the WWII. Initially established in 1977, the museum collected jewellery, rare books and publications, textiles and domestic and religious artefacts in an effort to study, preserve and exhibit all aspects of the lives of Greek Jews. As the collection grew, the museum's activities expanded both in research and study of the Greek Jews and publishing. The exhibit moved to new grounds and the initial collections were enriched with added artefacts. The ground floor exhibits religious artefacts from synagogues that have been closed down and ritual textiles dating from the 14th-19th centuries A.D. A collection of items used in everyday and religious life are showcased next to costumes, photographs and documents. The photographic archive, consisting of original black-and-white or colour pictures as well as printed copies and slides, offers an invaluable glimpse of the everyday life of Greek Jews in various cities of the country.



Part of the murals

## 20 Visit Kesariani monastery

Inside the serene forest of Imittos stands Kesariani Monastery, built in the 11th century A.D. It was named after emperor (Ceasar) Hadrian who built an aqueduct on a nearby spring. The spring is still in the courtyard of the monastery and the myth has it that it has fertility powers. The church type itself is domed cruciform, with its dome resting on four ancient marble columns of Ionic order. Thankfully its frescoes still survive, all of which belong to the 16th century Cretan school of painting. The painting of the Madonna holding baby Jesus contrasts beautifully with its black background, while also quite impressive is the depiction of Christ on the dome. Outside the monastery there are secondary buildings like the residential quarters of the monks, an old bath-house and the kitchen. At the southwest of the monastery lie the remains of another church dating from the 10th century. The view from the hill is remarkable. >> To get there, take bus number 223 or 224 from Akadimias street. There's a two kilometre walk from the foothill to the monastery.



### GREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM CAFÉ

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## 21 Classic tragedy delight: Euripides's "Medea" and double "Oedipus"

Epidavros hosts the plays it was made to present with two classic tragedies approached in new ways. On the 8th and 9th of August, the **National Theatre of Greece** presents Sophocles' two **Oedipus** plays (Oedipus Rex, 420 B.C., and Oedipus at Colonus, 406 B.C.) in a single production featuring a hand-picked cast with **Michail Marmarinos** in the title role. The director **Roula Pateraki** takes an unconventional approach to the classic tragedy. Having found out the truth -that Oedipus is his father's murderer and his mother's husband- Jocasta hangs herself and Oedipus, "blind where he once could see and poor instead of rich, will head for a strange land". Accompanied by Antigone, he arrives in Athens and the grove of the Eumenides, where he is destined to die and be buried. Then on the 15th and 16th of August, a pivotal figure in the European theatre, the director, educator and academic **Anatoly Vasiliev** takes on Euripides' **Medea** (431 BC) for the first time. Vasiliev is a familiar figure to Greek audiences, having directed plays in Epidavros since 1994 and this time he has chosen a top Greek cast to work with. The director asks himself what drives the tragic figure of Medea to kill her children in an original way, without resorting to verbal and emotional stereotypes.



Ancient mask

## 22 Practise your Greek dance at Dora Stratou

**Dora Stratou** was an actress, choreographer and creator of a theatrical company. The **Dance Theatre** (8 Sholiou, Plaka, 210 3244395) was established in 1953 to preserve and promote traditional Greek dances. Dora Stratou collected for years traditional costumes from all over the country, managing to gather about 2,500 items, complete with jewellery and accessories. Every summer, the theatre organises folk dancing and traditional singing shows from various parts of the country, with a company of 50 dancers. The result is quite impressive, as the costumes are authentic, handmade and quite old, creating a very colourful show. If you're really into these costumes, they can even make you a copy! The shows take place on the beautiful **Philopappou Hill** in a 900-seat open-air theatre and you get to see some real zembekiko and kalamatiano. Performances take place from Tuesday to Saturday at 21:30 and on Sunday at 20:15 and tickets cost 15 euros.



## Athens for shopaholics

Refrain from sightseeing and beachhopping for a day and go shopping. You will be pleasantly surprised by the wide variety of choice for all budgets!

**A**thenians love to shop and a simple walk around the city will reveal stores selling everything from antiques to high fashion and art. The best way to discover the city's treasures is to begin with the flea markets of **Monastiraki** and **Thisio** and make your way towards **Syntagma** and **Kolonaki**, where you can find luxury boutiques, great art, jewellery and shops with traditional products. Streets in the "old city" -**Plaka**, **Thisio** and **Monastiraki**- are mainly lined with touristy shops and street vendors that stay open until late. **Ermou Street**, radiating from **Syntagma square**, is the main thoroughfare with big retail chains alternating with small quirky shops and international brands. **Voukourestiou street** is the big spender's pedestrianised paradise, while **Kolonaki** features every type of store you can think of. Stores operate on irregular hours and many close on midday, to reopen in the evening. As a general rule, stores on **Monday** and **Wednesday** are open from 9am to 3pm and on **Tuesday**, **Thursday** and **Friday** from 9am to 2.30pm and from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. On the weekends the stores are open from 9am to 3pm while all are closed on **Sunday**. In touristy areas such as **Plaka** and **Monastiraki**, some shops stay open until late, while only department stores are open all day (8am to 8pm on weekdays, 9am to 6pm on Saturday).







Kolonaki Square

**The place to be!**

For all label lovers, Kolonaki area is the ultimate shopping heaven.

## 23 Shopping spree in Kolonaki

The great thing about Kolonaki is that you can alternate shopping with coffee breaks in any of the zillion cafés you spot on your way. Your steps will unavoidably bring you to Tsakalof Street, aka the "catwalk", named after its strategically lined up cafés, packed with trendy people wearing shades, watching you go by. Observatory (Skoufa) is an upmarket six-storey boutique which sports clothes and accessories from designers such as Marc Jacobs and Ted Baker, but also sports casual wear and shoes. The clothes racks in Louisa (17 Skoufa, 210 3635600) are packed with high-end designer items from Chloe and Missoni. Greek duo Deux Hommes (18 Kanari, 210 3614155) make original and cutting edge clothes, while Parthenis (20 Dimokritou & Tsakalof, 210 3633158) is known for its signature understated clothes. Carouzos (14 Patriarhou Ioakeim, 210 7245873) has both men and women's well-known labels, while Sotris (41 Voukourestiou & Tsakalof, 210 3610662) houses Marni and Miu-Miu collections among others. If you're a shoe fanatic, Prasini's (7-9 Tsakalof, 210 3641590) window display is a sight for fetishist eyes. Quality Greek leather bags are just a five minute walk away from the main square at Thiros (21 Pindarou, 210 3628445). For all men who like to accessorise Duomo (56, Omirou str.) is the ideal place for men's accessories and watches! You will find unique pieces of faux bijoux at Izima (19, Didotou str.)

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Matia



## 24 Alternative shopping - Embroideries, matia and more

Hidden in Kolokotroni arcade, off Kolokotroni square, is the Society for the Education of Greek Women (3 Kolokotroni, Syntagma, 2103239693), a jewel of a store that sells Greek handmade embroidery. The Society was founded in 1872 to educate young girls and provide employment to destitute women. Tablecloths and napkins made by top quality white and beige linen are knitted with detailed floral motifs and vivid colours. The store is one of the last preserving the quickly disappearing art of embroidery and is a must for those looking for original items. In the flea markets and stores of Monastiraki and Thissio you find all sorts of oddities, one of which is *matia*, used as protection against the evil eye. Added in key chains, necklaces, lucky charms, or sold separately, the blue "eye" is a perky little gift appreciated by superstitious friends and folk art lovers alike. If spending time in Athens has made you a *bouzouki* fan, head to Mousika Organa (36 Efestos, Monastiraki), makers of Greek hand made musical instruments. Practise on the traditional *bouzouki* and ask to see the small *baglamadaki*, with its unique sound. Another Greek classic, worry beads or *komboloi*, made of amber, beads or coral, is sold in Kombologaki (6 Koumbari, Kolonaki, 210 3624267). Ask them to show you how to play with them.



Trambakopoulos

## 25 Goldfinger: Finding gorgeous jewellery

There are quite a few good jewellery makers in Athens and Fanourakis (23 Patriarhou Ioakim, Kolonaki, 210 7211762) is one of the most prominent. He has earned his reputation with his unrivalled skill in capturing details in gold, creating insects and flowers that seem as good as alive. Lalaounis's (6 Panepistimiou, Syntagma, 210 3611371) luxurious creations are inspired by

ancient patterns as found in Neolithic, Mycenaean, Byzantine and pre-Colombian art. Trambakopoulos (7, Stadiou str. and in Pireaus at A' 4 V. Georgiou Str.) is an excellent Jeweller with the most beautiful collections of fabulous jewellery and watches for men and women. While out shopping, check the fantastic jewellery lines of Greek artist Vally Kontides (they are available everywhere! Check [www.vallykontides.gr](http://www.vallykontides.gr), for the sales spots).

**Punch 45, navy.** Board case. 40cm x 55cm x 20cm. Zip closure, telescopic handle, 3 carry handles; zip pocket on back, outside zip pocket, front compartment with slash pocket and phone compartment, pen holders; inside cross straps. 44 litres. 180,00 Euro. For more information and bags of all kinds, visit BREE Athens, 10, Karagiorgi Servias Str., Syntagma, 10562 Athens, Tel +30-210-32-32403, [www.bree.com](http://www.bree.com)

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## 26 Find foreign language books

If you didn't have time to pick up something back home, you can do it here. Search your favourite writer on the wooden shelves of Kaufmann bookstore (28 Stadiou, Syntagma, 210 3255321). The bookstore has mainly French, but also German and English language books and an interesting selection of travel literature. Close to it, Ianos Bookstore (24 Stadiou, Syntagma, 210 3217810) is a modern, all encompassing bookstore, where you can find maps, guidebooks and literature, among many others. Eleftheroudakis (17 Panepistimiou, Syntagma, 210 3314180) showcases probably the largest collection of English language books on literature, poetry, design, history, archaeology and art. It also has books in Spanish and Italian. Ianos and Eleftheroudakis also have cafés on their top floors where you can sit comfortably and read your books while enjoying a drink. Close to Syntagma square is Compendium Bookstore (37, Panepistimiou, close to Korai square) where foreigners love to browse on English language books. On its shelves you'll find travel books and guides.

## 27 Sandalshopping

**Leather sandals** are a beloved shopping item for men and women alike. **Monastiraki** and **Psiri** are the ultimate **sandal markets**, which start right across the train station. Start your search at the classic **Melissinos Art** (2 Agias Theklas, Psiri, 210 3219247), where traditional Greek sandals are sold by poet-sandal maker **Stavros Melissinos** since 1927. According to Melissinos, his VIP customers include Peter O'Toole, who apparently wore his sandals in a play, as well as Barbara Streisand and Sophia Loren. **Ges** (Monastiraki square) and **Kokkas** (right across the metro station of Monastiraki) have an endless variety of sandals. The natural light colour of leather sandals darkens

with use, so don't bother buying the brown ones. Depending on the style and quality, leather **sandals cost** between 20-30 euros. All three stores remain open until 10pm.



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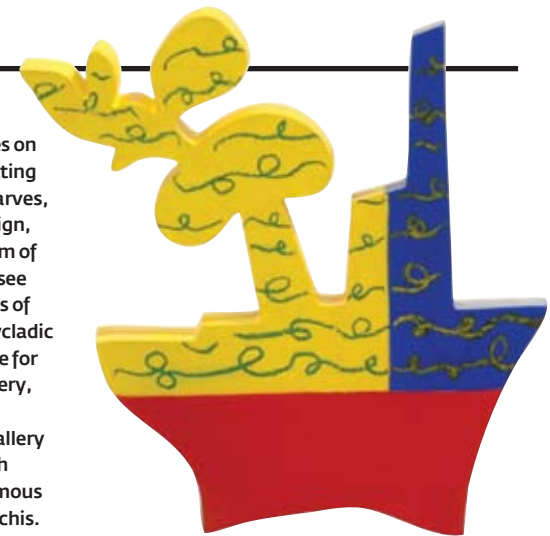
## 28 Music to your ears

Greek music is evolving in fascinating ways nowadays and apart from the recognisable bouzouki music, you can find anything from electronic, *entehna* (quality modern music), rap and hip-hop, old and modern *laika* (popular songs) and old *rebetica* (the equivalent of the blues). Metropolis (64 Panepistimiou, Omonia, 210 3830804) has a wide range of Greek and international music of every type, but the store in number 64 specialises in local music. Ask the staff to guide you through the various artists and genres. Choose between *rebetica* as well as *entehna*. In Music Corner (56 Panepistimiou, Omonia, 210 3304000) there's an extended collection of *entehna* songs. Some of the best composers of *rebetica* include Vasilis Tsitsanis, Giorgos Zambetas and Stelios Vamvakaris. In *entehna* music, apart from the famous composer Manos Hatzidakis, look out for artists Dimitra Galani, Haris Alexiou, Alkinoos Ioannidis, Savina Yianatou and Elli Paspala. In electronic music, Konstantinos B is a Greek success story, with his soundtrack for Dimitris Papaioannou's theatrical dance choreography "z" winning critical acclaim. Hip-Hop artists Imiskoubria, Active Member and Terror X Crew have put the genre on the map, while Stereo Nova, Goin' through, Envus and Gelly Groove are the new techno bands. Artists of modern *laika* – popular in nightclubs and often mixed with beat and Oriental sounds – include Elli Kokinou, Peggy Zena and Antonis Remos.

## 29 Buy classy souvenirs and replicas in museum giftshops

Forget the horrific plastic Parthenons and gold-painted Evzones you spot in tourist shops. If you're looking for seriously good souvenirs, head to the museums. In the past few years, museum stores have excelled in the art of replica making, producing items which you would proudly display on a shelf. Apart from its exquisite collections of Greek art, Benaki Museum (Koumbari 1, Kolonaki, see 21) houses an eclectic gift shop, with beautiful replicas of items seen in the galleries. Figurines, textiles, golden classic jewellery and religious icons are displayed in two rooms. There are also beautiful ceramic plates

with Islamic designs and colourful napkin rings. The gift shop in Benaki's Pireos's annexe (138 Pireos, Gazi, 210 3453111) focuses on contemporary design items, displaying cutting edge jewellery, but also clay sculptures, scarves, decorative items and books on graphic design, architecture and photography. The Museum of Cycladic Art (Neofytou Douka 4, Kolonaki, see 22) features a beautiful collection of replicas of the most famous marble figurines of the Cycladic period. Prices are very reasonable and make for great gifts. You will also find excellent pottery, miniature olive trees and silverware. For contemporary art, head to Zoumboulaki Gallery (7 Kriezotou, Syntagma, 210 3634454) which sells limited edition prints of artwork by famous Greek painters, such as Moralis and Tsarouchis.





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## 30 Something old, something new: Antique hunting

The flea market in Monastiraki is lined with shops that stock on all types of antiques, from furniture to glassware. Avyssia square and the surrounding area is the place to hunt for old wooden chairs, glassware and silverware, as well as other nick-knacks that add charm and character to your house. In Apostolos Fotiadis's (15, Pittaki, Psiri) store there's an interesting selection of Greek antiques in reasonable prices. Keep walking around Psiri neighbourhood and you will spot many little shops with old stuff at sale, such as old poster ads, vinyl records, lamps etc. You will need time to separate the wheat from the chaff, but you never know what small treasures you might uncover. If you're looking for selected 19th-20th century items and you're into the Versailles look, Corda Antiques (8 Haritos, Kolonaki, 210 7216792) is your store. It showcases a large collection of French crystal chandeliers, baroque mirrors, candle sticks, clocks, mainly gathered from England and France. Among other high-end brands, you'll find Christofle silverware and Baccarat crystals.

The cycadic sculptural art evolved around 3200 B.C. The statuettes of that period are characterized from geometric and abstractive elements. Contemporary sculptural art has contributed a lot in understanding Cycladic art.



glance at the art...



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## 31 All-including kiosks

Kiosks (*periptero*) were established as a state gift to disabled WWII veterans in order to support themselves. Since then, they've morphed into mini markets and information booths, present in every neighbourhood and often open 24/7. You might think these 2x2 metallic boxes cannot contain much, but you're wrong: There's everything, from bottled water, sodas and cigarettes, to international press, biscuits and condoms. Other useful nick-knacks to be found in kiosks are batteries, cigars, photographic films, chewing gum, chocolates, lighters, packaged fruit juices and chips. In touristy areas they also sell kitschy souvenirs. There's one near Omonia square that specialises in, well, leather belts and another that sells plastic sunglasses. You get the point. Their ever-present owner -or employee- means you can ask for info such as street names and directions. The ones on Syntagma square and Thisio stay open all night, while the kiosk on the corner of Kanari & Patriarhou Ioakim in Kolonaki has the most comprehensive list of international magazines and newspapers. Bear in mind that some kiosks close to touristy sites inflate the price of bottled water, so make sure you buy it before you get there.

All in one place

Check the South Polis shopping mall, where you can shop and have fun at the same time!



PHOTO: CHARLIE MAKKOS

## 32 Fine pottery in Vernardaki

Pottery has been practised in Greece since antiquity, but there's nothing antiquated about the **super stylish pottery** of well know artist **Eleni Vernardaki**. Her ADC store (Valaoritou, Kolonaki) showcases **hand-made** items of exquisite forms and modern designs. Her vases are lean, with bold colours such as white, black and red and **perfect shapes**. There's a variety of small and large plates, both ornamental and for everyday use. The cups, sugar bowls and teapots attract the eye with their bold but simple shapes that resemble the Japanese style. If you have money to spend, don't hesitate to get **the whole tea set or a set of vases** to place on your shelf. All-time favourites are the ornaments, especially her signature white doves, whose shape has evolved through her **50-year career**. For something more economical, opt for the beautiful clay insects in geometrical shapes and intense colours.

## 33 City Link for the big spenders

If you still have money left from your Kolonaki spree, head towards the City Link block, enclosed within Panepistimiou, Voukourestiou, Stadiou and Amerikis streets. The old 19th century building of the Army Share Fund has transformed into a modern complex which houses luxury brands, urban cafés, a bank, a sports centre and even exhibitions. Attica department store (7 Panepistimiou, 211 1802500) is a one-stop-shop for men and women alike, selling clothes, accessories, cosmetics and home equipment. On Stadiou's side you're blown away by the flashy Ferragamo, D&G and Bally window displays, while pedestrianised Voukourestiou keeps you on the same level with Hermes, Van Cleef & Arpels, Cartier and Tous. The complex is populated throughout the day, thanks to the right mixture of offices, cafés and theatres created inside. Zonar's café (see 11) is there and so is historic Pallas theatre, a grandiose venue hosting theatrical and dance events. Through the arcades you enter the atrium where you'll find a cigar store, the Montblanc store and a trendy café-restaurant. City Link also houses the Holmes Place gym for those determined to keep fit.



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Healthy Beauty

There is an amazing variety of choice in Greece when it comes to natural cosmetics.



34 Greek natural cosmetics

White tea cleanser? Red wine in a face mask? Watermelon for sunscreen? These and many more mixtures are made by Greek cosmetics brands Korres (8 Ivikou, Pangrati, 210 7560600) and Apivita (26 Solonos, Kolonaki, 210 3640760), whose natural products have taken the market by storm. Try Korres's amazing yogurt cooling gel, which is exactly what your skin needs after a day of sunbathing. Or try Apivita's instant avocado hair mask that nourishes your dried hair and the very useful chamomile face tissues for the long boat trip to the islands. Another favourite is Korres's watermelon sunscreen that really makes you smell like you rubbed watermelon on your skin. Apivita's shampoos are great, while Korres's strength is the body lotions. Its jasmine line -shower gel and body lotion- will remind you of Greece every time you use it. In Lesvos Shop you can also find soaps and cosmetics with olive oil. Korres and Apivita are also sold in pharmacies and in Attica department store (7 Panepistimiou, Syntagma, 211 1802500). If size -and weight- matters, go to Fresh Line (10 Skoufa, Kolonaki, 210 3644015) where face and body products are sold by weight. A maker of herbal products since 1992, Fresh Line boasts an impressive variety of fresh beauty products made with loads of imagination. The "breakfast buffet" offers a strawberry marmalade bath which looks delicious enough to eat. Everything is made in-store and comes with a short expiry date.

35 Find something chewy in Mastiha Shop

The ultimate place for all **mastiha lovers**, this trendy store sells Chios n a **multitude of variations and products**. The store is a treasure for those who want to add a new ingredient in their daily diet. The island's mastiha producers are behind the idea, claiming the tree's resin has medical properties as well. There's of course **mastiha chewing gum, mastiha desert or ipovrihio**, and **mastiha drink**, but the mastic tree's resin is also added to **biscuits, coffee, Turkish delights, thin sweet pies, spoon-sweets and cakes**. Favourites also include the sesame and **honey bars** (pasteli), marzipan biscuits and... uh...toothpaste. Unique drinks are also sold, like **soumatha, liqueur with mastiha and wine**.



Mastiha desert



PHOTO: FREDDIE F.

One of the perks of living in Athens is the sunny weather for most part of the year, a feature Athenians surely know how to take advantage of. Most aspects of life take place outside in the summer: Apart from cafés, bars, restaurants and cinemas, people overflow parks, hills, beaches, stadia and all public spaces. Discover the -few- green patches of the city by taking a walk in the National Gardens or the Athens Zoo. A visit at Athens's First Cemetery offers a chance to admire 19th century marble carving and learn about Greek history. Alternatively you can warm up for the Beijing Summer Olympics by attending a basketball qualifier at the Olympic Stadium in July, or you can join the hordes of city folk who flock the beautiful beaches around the capital.

Great Outdoors

Summer in Athens means spending most of your time outdoors. From day to night there is an alfresco spot to keep you out of your hotel room.





Athens Hilton

### 36 Swimming pools around Athens

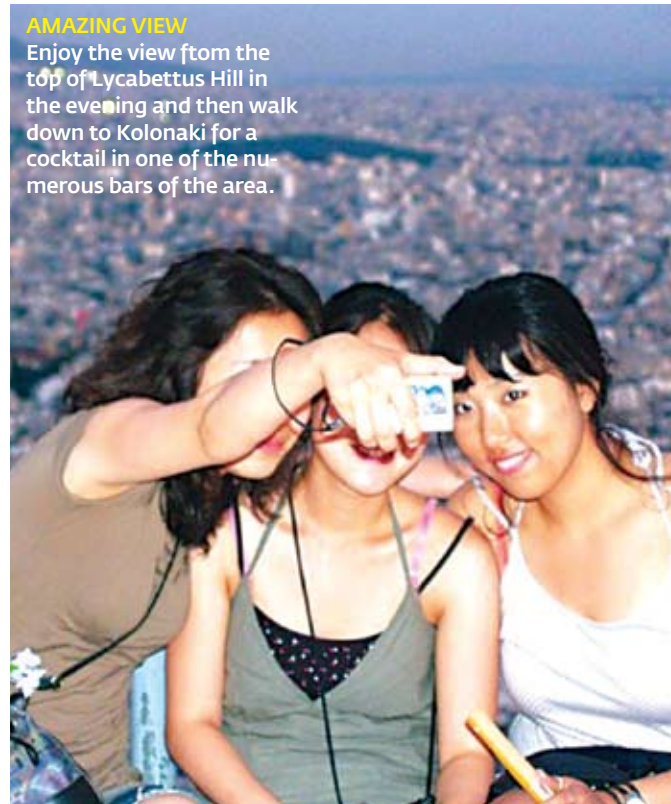
If you can't be bothered to take the bus to the beach, you can always cool yourself in a pool. If you're not lucky enough to be staying in a hotel which has one, you can find one that does. At a -sometimes hefty- price, some central hotels offer packages that include the use of the pool, a lounge chair, drinks at the bar and even a room. First comes the **Hilton** (46, Vasilisis Sofias, 210 7281000), where for 35 euros on Monday to Friday and 55 euros on the weekend you can use the pool, a lounge, towels and have a drink from the bar. **Saint George Lycabettus** (2 Kleomenous, Kolonaki, 210 7290711-19) sports a colonial-style pool which will set you back 30 euros; towels, lounges and umbrella included. **Athens Imperial Hotel** (1 Achilleos, 210 5201600) offers its pool for 25 euros including a soda drink and lounges. Funky **Fresh hotel** (26 Sofokleous, 210 5248511) has a small yet cute pool available for 20 euros, plus towel, drink and lounge chair. **Ledra Marriott** (115, Leoforos Sygrou 210 9300000) allows use of the pool if you book a room for eight hours. The bill for use of a room, single or double, climbs to 100 euros from 10am to 6pm and 132 euros on weekends.

### 37 Battleship Averoff

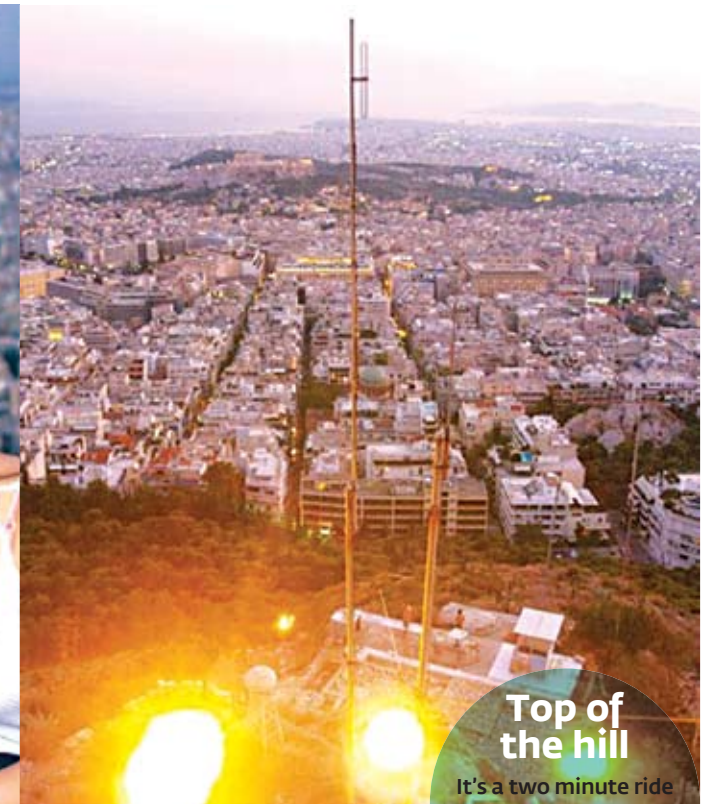
Battleship Averoff (Troadero Marina, Palio Faliro, 210 9836539) is the most historic ship in Greek history, having participated in several victorious sea battles. The 10.200-tonne, steel plated warship participated in the First Balkan War of 1912-13 and in WWII when it was dispatched to Bombay. Battleship Averoff, which was actually a cruiser, was decommissioned in 1952, and in 1984 the Navy decided to restore it as a museum to honour those who served and died during its time of active service. Today one can visit most of its quarters where its 690 crew-members and naval officers lived. The endless series of pistons and piping in the grand engine room explains why, at the time of its construction in 1910, it was considered the fastest and best equipped battleship. >> To get there, take the tram from Syntagma square towards SEF and get off at Troadero.

### 38 A walk around Kastella

The city of Piraeus is widely known as the gateway to the islands. One of its few neighbourhoods that retain a unique colour is Kastella, perched on a hill overlooking Mikrolimano. The bus 040 from Syntagma will drop you at Piraeus's Municipal Theatre (Dimotiko Theatro). From there take the trolley 20 towards Neo Faliro. To start your walk, get off at Naftikos Omilos or Skalakia station. The winding Papanastasiou road is dotted with neo-classical listed mansions which escaped the bulldozers. Epidavrou and Pafsilipou streets which begin below Papanastasiou road will lead you towards the seaside Akti Mikrolimano, filled with cafés and fish taverns. The best way to enjoy a quiet walk around Kastella is to go during the day, before the crowds swarm the seaside and local bars pump up the music volume.



**AMAZING VIEW**  
Enjoy the view from the top of Lycabettus Hill in the evening and then walk down to Kolonaki for a cocktail in one of the numerous bars of the area.



**Top of the hill**  
It's a two minute ride to reach the top of Lycabettus Hill with the funicular. Don't miss it!



PHOTO: THANOS MIRAS

### 39 Lycabettus Hill

Athens being hilly, there are several points where you can get superb view of the city. One of them is the **Acropolis Hill** and the other is **Lycabettus Hill**, a sharp limestone rock climbing 277 metres above sea level. The birds-eye-view from the top is incredible and covers **Mount Parnetha** in the north, the Acropolis Hill crowning the city centre and further south all the way to **Piraeus** and the Saronic Gulf. Perched on the cliff is the small white church of **Agios Georgios**, which is beautifully lit in the evening. There's also the **Lycabettus open-air theatre**, which hosts various theatrical performances and concerts during the summer, as well as the classy **Orizontes** café-restaurant where you can have some coffee and enjoy the view. The fastest -and hassle-free- way to reach the top is to take the two-minute ride with the **funicular**. The starting point is the corner of Kleomenous and Ploutarhou streets in Kolonaki. If you're set on doing it on foot, it's best to start from Loukianou street.



## 40 Animal Farm: Attica Zoological Park

Situated in Spata town near Venizelos International Airport and covering an area of 19 hectares, this private zoo (Yalou, Spata, 210 6634724) is Athens's real oasis - as well as the only zoo in Greece. It first opened in 2000 with a grand bird collection - the 3rd largest in the world - and since then it has expanded constantly to include more species and collections. It is a very well kept place, perfect to spend a couple of hours, especially if you have kids with you. At the moment it houses 314 species of reptiles, birds and mammals, separated in sections such as the "World of Reptiles", "African Savannah" and "Monkey Forest". Strolling through the beautiful park you are transferred to each of the world's five continents seeing macaws, owls, storks, pythons, white lions, tigers, pigmy hippos and many more. The landscape has been meticulously formed to resemble the animal's natural habitats, with large trees, ponds, and flowers. There's also a section focusing on Greek fauna, showcasing animals which are now rare in the country, such as wolves, foxes and the brown bear. >> To get there, take bus 319 from Doukissis Plakentias metro station.



PHOTO: FREDDIE F.



**ANIMAL KINGDOM**  
This is the only zoo in Greece and an ideal place to visit with your kids, while in Athens.

## 41 Swimming and people watching

Few European capitals can boast about beaches. Athens is blessed with an endless coastline, filled with hidden coves waiting to be discovered. Plan a day at the beach, taking with you only the basics (hat, towel and plenty of sunscreen), but remember that beaches are packed on the weekends, so it's highly advisable to go on the weekdays. Beaches like **Alimos**, **Glyfada**, **Voula** and **Varkiza** are run by the country's National Tourist Organization (EOT) and charge admission, while offering umbrellas, lounges, changing cabins, self-service restaurants. **Agios Kosmas** is one of the few remaining beaches where access is free. Gathering young and old alike, it has a lifeguard, free umbrellas and showers. To get there, take the tram towards Voula and get off at Agios Kosmas station. Further south, the **Lake of Vouliagmeni** is an unbeatable experience, as the dark blue waters pouring from some underground source are supposed to have healing properties. Going further south, you reach **Varkiza town**, where there's a choice between the pebbled beach and the flat rock, ideal for dives. From there onwards, there's a series of small coves and beaches to choose from. As most of these beaches bear no signs, the best way to discover your ideal cove is to stop at the side of the road (or cliff) and decide from above if it's worth it. In Sounio you'll find **Legrena beach** with its clear blue waters and the advantage of having Poseidon's Temple nearby. The easiest way to go there is by hiring a taxi.



### Snapshot

Watch the change of the guard outside the Parliament and take a photo with the Evzones!

## 42 A walk around Syntagma

Syntagma square is the **center of the city**. Formerly a palace, **the Parliament** building and the square in front of it have been the ground of many important political events in the country's history. At the front courtyard there's the **Monument to the Unknown Soldier**, paying tribute to the country's dead soldiers, as well as the colourful **Evzones** - traditionally dressed guards. Every hour the changing of the presidential guard gathers many spectators who enjoy seeing men in "kilts" performing a perfectly synchronised ceremonial. Behind the Parliament building, the **National Gardens** offer a much needed patch of green and shadow in the capital. The Gardens host about 47,000 trees and plants, a botanical museum, small ponds with fish and ducks, as well as a café. At the southern side of the Gardens you'll find **Zappeio Mansion**, a donation of the wealthy Konstantinos Zappas in the 19th century, used today as a conference center.



## 43 Catch a Basketball Qualifier game at the Olympic Stadium

Most men's basketball teams have already qualified for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, but there's room for three more. The remaining teams will be decided in the 12-team FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament. The event is bound to attract a lot of attention in Athens, as Greece is among the teams aiming to qualify for the Beijing Olympics. Action is taking place at the Olympic Stadium -known as OAKA (37 Kifisias, Marousi 210 6834060, www.oaka.com.gr)- from the 14 to the 20th of July. Tickets sales for the event start on June 15th and you can either buy them at kiosks inside the Olympic Stadium, online at <http://ticketquest.gr/BASKET/Default.aspx>, or in one of the Open24 stores (57 Akadimias, Exarhia, 210 9555739 or 10 Omonia square, 210 9555847).

>> **It's a 30 minute ride by taxi from Syntagma square if there's no traffic, though it's advisable to take the 20 minute ride by train instead and get off at Erini Station.**

### Info

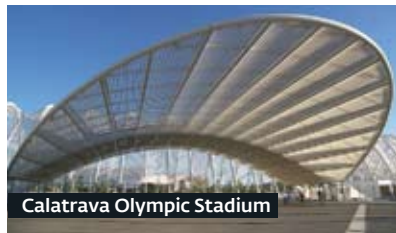
The Olympic Stadium's dome was designed by Santiago Calatrava in 2004.



The coastline

## 44 The Athenian seaside

Starting from Palio Faliro and ending beyond Sounio, the Athenian seaside is a site in its own merit. The tram runs two lines towards the south, one ending currently at the Trocadero in Palio Faliro district (towards Piraeus port) and the other line ending at the quiet suburban Voula (towards Sounio). The **Trocadero** area has been spruced up in recent years and transformed into a leisure park that includes a cinema complex, a beautiful open-air cinema, green walking areas, some cafés, a restaurant and a mall. In the evening it is popular with locals who enjoy their leisurely walks around the park. Going towards **Voula**, you can stop at the **Alimos Marina** for a walk by the sleek yachts and stop for coffee, lunch or dinner. Taking the tram once again, you can get off at the kart track in **Agios Kosmas** district and test your driving skills. On the way you'll see plenty of public and private beaches where you can enter at a fee - higher on the weekends. In **Glyfada district**, a slightly Americanized area with small malls and fast-food chains, you can do some great shopping or have lunch.



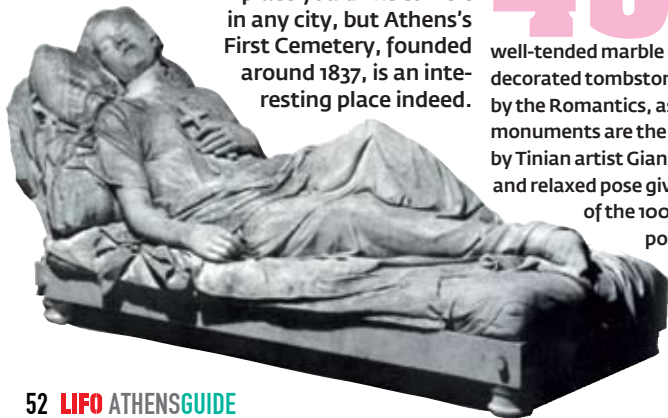
Calatrava Olympic Stadium

### A WEIRD PLACE TO VISIT

It may sound like the last place you'd like to visit in any city, but Athens's First Cemetery, founded around 1837, is an interesting place indeed.

## 45 Athens First Cemetery (Proto Nekrotafio Athinon)

Serving as burial ground for major Greek personalities and philhellenes, this garden-like cemetery is a peaceful place filled with pine and olive trees, with the well-tended marble graves scattered among them. Strolling among its lanes you see some lavishly decorated tombstones, revealing the excellent quality of sculpture in 19th century Greece, influenced by the Romantics, as well as the importance of the person buried underneath. Many of these monuments are the works of well-known sculptors, the most famous being *The Sleeping Maiden*, made by Tinian artist Giannoulis Halepas in 1878 for the grave of Sofia Afentaki. The girl's calm expression and relaxed pose give the impression that she's sleeping. Further in there's the haunting memorial of the 100,000 Greeks who died of hunger during the WWII. The grave of actress-turned-politician Melina Mercouri is near the entrance, while zigzagging among the lanes will lead you to the graves of archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, poet Giorgos Seferis, Oscar winning actress Katina Paxinou, as well as prime ministers and heroes of the Revolution of Independence. The Cemetery is open all day and admission is free.



# NIGHTLIFE



## Athens by night

Welcome to a city that never sleeps.

**A**thenians are night owls. That's part of the reason why there's always traffic late at night (the other is that they love their cars so much). People will usually start their evening in a restaurant and continue for drinks late into the night. The city offers an endless and ever-changing variety of entertainment, which reaches its height in the summer months, when the balmy weather takes most venues in open air. Even cinemas have adopted the culture of sitting outside, making a visit to the movies a unique experience. Each neighbourhood gathers its own "tribe", with fashionistas hitting the area of Gazi and Psiri like a hurricane, while students and intellectuals inhabit Exarheia. Plaka, Monastiraki and Thissio attract an even mix of tourists (you!) and casual crowds, while logo

chasers exchange compliments in Kolonaki. Summertime is also the season when the weight of nightlife shifts to the southern suburbs, as their proximity to the sea makes them an ideal hang-out spot. As the heat takes over, Athenians hit the city's coolest nightspots for a holiday feeling. The seaside neighbourhoods between Palio Faliro and Glyfada are where you will catch people strolling past the numerous beaches, bars and cafés in the evening. Posidonos avenue is packed with traffic at midnight, as cars bottleneck outside popular clubs. Watch the hordes of clubbers leaving the venues in the wee hours of the night. Keep in mind that some of these clubs have a strict dress code and will not let you in if you're casual, so dress up and smile to the doorman.





PHOTO: FREDDIE F.



R&b parties at Akrotiri Boutique

## 46 Club till you drop

Head to one of the seaside mega-clubs and sip your cocktail under the moonlight. Some nightclubs also function as restaurants, so you can have an early dinner and continue at the bar. The music in these venues is usually mainstream, while after 3am there's a good chance the play list will switch to Greek. **Akrotiri Boutique** (5 Vasileos Georgiou B, Agios Kosmas, 210 9859147) is an open air club with glitzy décor, idyllically set up next to the beach. Show off our new clothes at **Balux** (58 Posidonos, Glyfada, 210 8941620), where you feel like a guest to a rich man's pool party. Lounge chairs are set up around a beautiful pool and there's even canopied beds for you to lie down on. You can also sink your feet in the warm sand if you walk towards the beach. **Bocca Beach** (Alimos Beach, 210 98 50 118) is a fantastic beach bar that transforms into the place to be in the evenings. Check the special parties on Fridays with great music by guest djs.

## 47 Any bar, as long as it's open-air

If you're not too picky about trends, but only care about being in an **open-air bar**, then you're in the right town. All night venues in the city live double lives - in the winter they are trendy bars with lounging couches, packed to the point of madness. Then summer comes and space doubles, as owners make the most of **terraces, courtyards, balconies and pavements**. Apart from the seaside clubs who have the added advantage of the beach, city bars are quite cool indeed. The courtyard of the upmarket **Balthazar bar-restaurant** (27 Tsoha & Bournazou, Ampelokipi, 210 6441215) combines good food with a satisfying cocktail list. **Hilton hotel** houses the urban chic **Galaxy Bar** (46 Vasilisis Sofias, Hilton Hotel, 210 7281000), with its celebrated 180 degree view of the city. Similar view you'll get from **Vitrine Summer** (1 Markou Mousourou, Mets, 210 9242444), while hidden on the Arditou islet nearby is **BoBaYo** (1 Arditou, Mets, 210 9219397). In Gazi the classic hangout spot **Soul** (65 Evripidou, 210 3310907) opens its beautiful garden to the thirsty crowds, while others choose the colourful mosaic terrace of **Santa Botella** (115A Panormou, 210 6981032). One of the best spots in the centre is **Magaze** (Aiolou str, St. Irene square), for the absolute peoplewatching and great cocktails.

# The cosmopolitan way

**AKROTIRI Boutique** is the classic summer destination for all those looking for ultimate clubbing and dining. Located at a private peninsula, the breathtaking view and the glamorous ambient attract the most famous and fabulous people, while the venue is established as a must-visit for all VIP arriving in Greece.

**A**KROTIRI Boutique is the top representative of cosmopolitan Athenian night life, never failing to surprise its loyal fans and enhancing the venue's myth. Glam aesthetics and cosmopolitan ambient find their best location at the unique peninsula (AKROTIRI means peninsula in Greek), offering an exceptional experience.

The decoration matches luxury gold with the exceptional sea view, providing a venue that meets the highest expectations as far as dining and clubbing are concerned.

The restaurant area, with its exquisite location, combines a gourmet voyage under the stars, with a menu by the Executive Chef Metzelos Drosopoulos. The dishes are dedicated to Mediterranean flavors with a touch of creative modernity, while the service is ready at all times for ideal proposals

from the carefully selected wine list.

The most innovative trends are presented at the club of AKROTIRI Boutique, hosting at the decks the very best DJs. The climax of the beat assures that the party never ends, making more than 5,000 people dancing till the early morning hours. As for the bars, do not hesitate to ask for even the newest cocktail entries and be sure that soon enough complimentary shots will be served! During the party peak, the club becomes a hype playground of the most beautiful people of the Athenian nightlife.

## SPECIAL NIGHTS

AKROTIRI Boutique's agenda includes some of the most popular parties. **BOOTYCALL BY MAGNA ON WEDNESDAYS:** The oldest and most successful R&B party goes on leading... Famous DJs and celebrities around the world are special guests making the

night even spicier! The general rule for Wednesdays is to dress lightly and dance all night long!

### EMIGRE LIVE ON THURSDAYS:

One of the hottest Greek bands, Emigre, appears live at the club, at the most interactive concert - event of the week. The set combines mainstream hits from Gloria Gaynor to James and from Blondie to U2. An event that must not be missed!

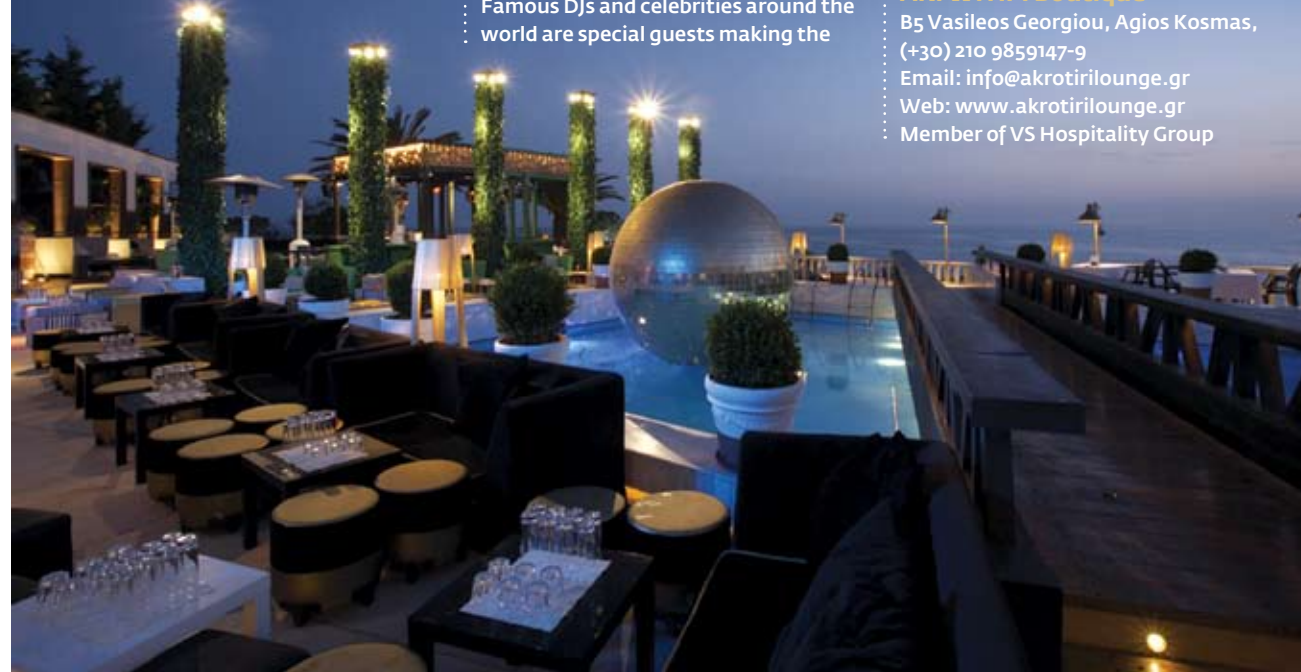
### GO GREEK ON SUNDAYS:

The authentic Greek nights continue at AKROTIRI Boutique, presenting the most upbeat DJ sets. Special appearances by famous Greek singers maximize volume and fun.

AKROTIRI Boutique will pump up adrenaline non stop during the summer until the end of September, with a brief break in mid August. Do not miss the experience!

### AKROTIRI Boutique

B5 Vasileos Georgiou, Agios Kosmas, (+30) 210 9859147-9  
Email: info@akrotirilounge.gr  
Web: www.akrotirilounge.gr  
Member of VS Hospitality Group



LIFOPUBLI



**Retro Movies**

Watch a classic movie under the stars. Check the cinema listings for all movie choices!

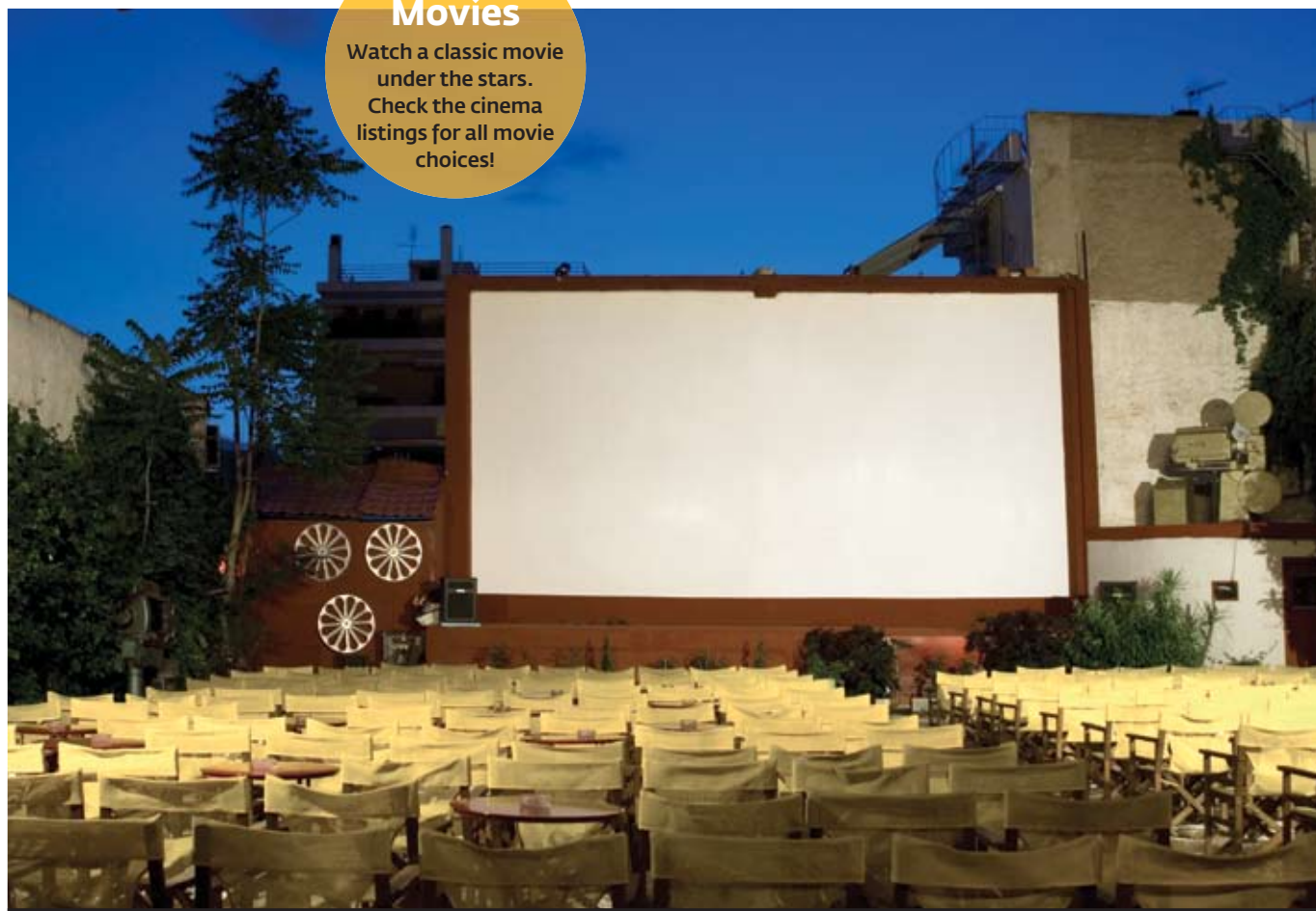


PHOTO: MARIANNA VERIGAKIS

**48 Catch a movie alfresco**

Cinemas were quick to catch up with the outdoor culture of the summer city. **Watching a movie while smelling jasmine** and staring at the stars beats cramming yourself in an anonymous multiplex anytime. Located on **rooftop terraces, gardens or jammed** between apartment blocks, they are the best bet for a quiet night out. Starting from Kolonaki, **Dexameni-Frame** (Platia Dexamenis, Kolonaki) is a beautiful cinema hidden within the lush vegetation of Dexameni square, while **Athinaia-Vitex** (50 Haritos, Kolonaki, 210 7215717) is favoured by local residents. **Cine Psiri** (44 Sarri, Psiri, 210 3215534), part of Kouzina restaurant, is a modern place which offers, except cinephile movies, a great strawberry water-ice. **Thision** (7 Apostolou Pavlou, Thisio, 210 3470980) screens classic movies, while **Riviera** (46 Valtetsiou, Exarheia, 210 3837716) gathers couples and students. **Cine Paris** (22 Kidathineon, Plaka, 210 3222071) is in the centre of popular Plaka and has an unbeatable view of the Acropolis. **Classy Aigli** (Zappeio Gardens, Syntagma, 210 3369369), one of the few open-air cinemas to show blockbusters, has the added advantage of having a café and restaurant nearby. All of them have canteens which sell anything from pop-corn to souvlaki and sangria.

**49 Kill three bars with one stone**

The secret is out. Monastiraki is the home of three and a half quirky little bars with great music. **Tit**, **Kinky** -its sibling **Kinky Kong**- and **Plastelini** (6-8 Avramiotou, 210?) are there to entertain young, trendy crowds. Hidden in the narrow Avramiotou street, they're literally only a three minute walk from Monastiraki square -and the metro station-, making it an ideal place to hang out after dinning in a nearby tavern. Despite the suggestive names, there's nothing kinky going on here and people are fully clothed - so fear not. The music is pop-freestyle, colours are bright and the atmosphere is relaxed. Two large beds on the pavement are taken over by those who arrive early, while the rest spill out across the street, taking over the benches. Service is fast, drinks are good and their proximity makes bar hopping almost accidental.



Avramiotou street



near the railway, the most chic cafe of the town... if you are lucky you 'll join there the most famous people of the nightlife of Athens and the most famous actors of the town...

Konstantinoupoleos 82 Gazi, Athina  
Tel: 210 34 52 751



**BEST PARTY IN TOWN**

www.s-cape.gr  
IERA ODOS & 139 MEGALOU ALEXANDROU str.  
GAZI, ATHENS





Galaxy Hilton

## 50 Great Bars

If you just flew in and you're still jetlagged but want to have a quiet drink anyway, then head to one of the following perfect little hangouts, guaranteed to lift your spirits in a no-fuss environment. **Platia Mavili** (Mavili square) gathers 30/40-somethings in bars like **Flower** (2 Doryleou, 210 6432111), which also serves lunch. In the area of Syntagma, **Galaxy** (10 Stadiou, 210 3227733) -not to be confused with the super trendy Galaxy Bar of Hilton- is a classic American bar and a haven for after-work drinks and quiet conversations. A bit more trendy but still perfect if you go early (before 10) is **Toy cafe** (10 Karitsi, Plateia Karitsi, 210 3311555), a bar that always plays great music and **Capu** (14, Lekka Stoa) is also a great spot that will keep you in the vicinity of the town. Following the Anglo-Saxon tradition, **James Joyce** (12 Astigos, Monastiraki, 210 3235055) is a classic Irish pub in a quiet side street of Monastiraki. With a long list of imported beers and tables outside to enjoy the cool air, it's great for a quiet night out. Below Omonia square is one of the oldest water holes in town, the classic -if slightly decadent- **Au Revoir** (136 Patision, 210 8223966) with well-priced drinks. Back in Monastiraki, the tiny **Inoteka** (3 Platia Avyssiinas, 211 3246446) serves great mojitos and hosts excellent DJ sets and happenings. In Plaka, **Vrettos** (41 Kydathinaion, 210 3232110) is one of the oldest distilleries in the city and one to respect its clientele. The wooden barrels and shelves packed with colourful bottles make it the best place to have a guaranteed good drink. You can also buy whatever you like.

## 51 Kolonaki by day - and night

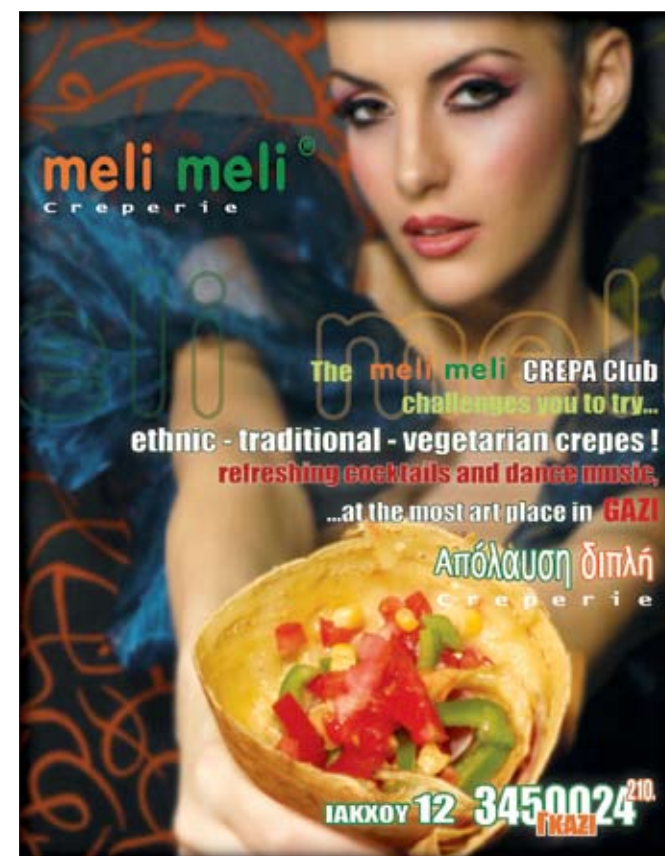
Walk past the Benaki Museum up Koumbari Street and you'll find yourself in Kolonaki square, the centre of the town. Officially called **Platia Filikis Eterias** (Friendly Society Square), it is unofficially known for its chic boutiques, society kids, overpriced coffee and preferred residence of the upper class. Kolonaki (little column) was named after an ancient column still standing smack in the square's centre. In spite of the area's posh profile, there are also a couple of taverns which serve Greek food in reasonable prices. Take a seat at **Filippou** (19 Xenokratous, 210 7216390) where you will be served oven dishes and great salads, or head to **Ouzadiko** (25-29 Karneadou, 210 7295484) for some ouzo tasting and home cooking. For a cup of coffee and some people watching, your choices are endless. If you find yourself there for an evening stroll or an early drink, head to the pedestrian **Haritos Street** where you can hop between bars like **Baila** (43 Haritos) and **City** (43 Haritos) and you can observe the latest fashions and sip cosmopolitans. For a second round of drinks, head towards **Rock 'n' Roll** (6 Loukianou, 210 7217127), famous for its juicy hamburgers, mainstream music, impromptu parties and tough door, or **Mommy** (4 Delfon, 210 3619682), favoured for its relaxed atmosphere.

**Top Floor**  
Search for the nearest terrace bar and spend an evening sipping great cocktails!

## 52 The non-conformists' delight - Exarheia

Exarheia was traditionally considered the black sheep in a family whose other kid is **the adjacent neighbourhood** of Kolonaki. Originally, its proximity to the Polytechnic University and the establishment of left-wing party headquarters **attracted students and intellectuals**. Unfortunately in recent times it also became known as a hangout spot for shady characters. **Nowadays the area is safe**, but its past has allowed it to retain a unique non-conformist character. The streets surrounding the area are also one of the **best open-air graffiti galleries**. The area has some of the **best taverns, souvlaki joints, cafés and bars**, all in close proximity.

Don't hesitate to try the funky tavern **Yantes** (44 Valtetsiou, 210 3301369) or the excellent food in **Cookou Food** (66 Themistocleous, 210 3831955). For an early drink, tiny **Kazu** (3 Mavromihali, 210 3602242) is a favourite bar, while rockers can head to **Mo Better** (32 Koletti & Themistokleous, 210 3812981), the ultimate after-hours bar with dedicated fans and wild parties.



## Bocca Beach: The summer hit

The new all day beach bar on Alimos beach is unquestionably the biggest summer surprise. Bocca Beach is the new venue of VS Hospitality Group, created with the cooperation of Bocca's team. Open throughout the day, at Bocca Beach one may enjoy coffee and light snacks; when the night falls, the restaurant attracts local celebrities who have already established Bocca Beach as a meeting point, while the most hype clubbing takes over, offering endless summer nights! The motto of Bocca Beach is "mingle". Mingle with all the beautiful people, sip a refreshing cocktail, taste Mediterranean cuisine and dance to the beat of DJ Simos Vita. Equally playful is the environment of the venue, mixing white, red and gold shades, offering cozy sofas and relaxing beds. Spacious parking and service of highest standards just make Bocca Beach the place to be!

### SPECIAL NIGHTS

Do not miss the Latin parties on Tuesdays and the hype parties every Friday, organized by the Fast Forward team, keeping up the adrenaline. At decks resident DJ Simos Vita.



**BOCCA BEACH**  
Alimos Beach, Tel (+30) 210 9850118  
Web: www.boccabeach.gr  
Member of VS Hospitality Group





Bouzoukia

# 53

## Bouzoukia - the ultimate frontier

For a taste of Greek subculture, head to the bouzoukia - large clubs where Greek singers perform live. They resemble large concert halls whose “arena” is packed with tables. There’s also a bar for those who prefer to stand - or want to avoid the steep booking price for a table. The shows usually include gigs by flashily dressed singers alternating with dancing act interludes. Also known as **skyladika** (doghouse), they attract a fiercely loud clientele. When spirits are at their highest, customers take over the stage

and indulge in a type of popular belly-dancing while the singer is showered with flowers. Keep in mind that the air can get quite stuffy, as smoking is part of the deal, while smashing plates is a thing of the past. Action starts after 11pm and the entrance fee plus a drink costs 15 euros. Booking a table (which includes bottles of whiskey) will set you back about 100 euros. There’s no such thing as overdressing for the bouzoukia, so be creative. Some of the most popular venues are **Asteria** (2 Grigoriou Lambraki, Glyfada, 210 8944558), **Romeo** (1 Ellinikou, Glyfada, 210 8945345), **Thalassa** (58 Posidonos), **Asteras** (210 8982979) and **Posidonio** (18 Posidonos).

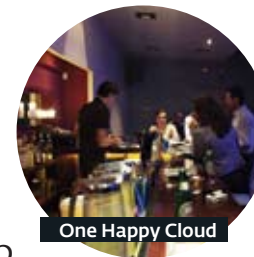
### Play Bouzouki

Don't miss a night at the bouzoukia. It's a unique experience!



# 54 Night time in Psiri

The initial impression as you enter the neighbourhood of Psiri through **Sarri Street** is one of apprehension, as you pass dilapidated buildings, **plagued with graffiti**. Fear not and continue walking until you reach **Iroon Square**, the buzzing heart of the neighbourhood. For the first drink, check out **One Happy Cloud** (12 Aristofanous, 210 3222256) and its acid jazz mixes. For a second round and maybe some salsa dancing, enter **Cubanita** (28 Karaiskaki, 210 3314605), where you feel like a guest in a house in Havana. The menu allows you to select among a range of cocktails, with mojitos being the most prominent. There’s also a restaurant but it’s closed for the summer. The band Cubanita Son plays live music every night except Mondays. If you want an Asian feel instead, **Guru Bar** (10 Platia Theatrou, 210 3246530) will dazzle your eye with its **eccentric Thai décor**. Arrive early to try its Thai food and grab a table to avoid being squeezed when the night owls arrive. Upstairs there’s a live jazz room appropriately named **“Jazz Upstairs”**, where international and local jazz bands lead the groove.



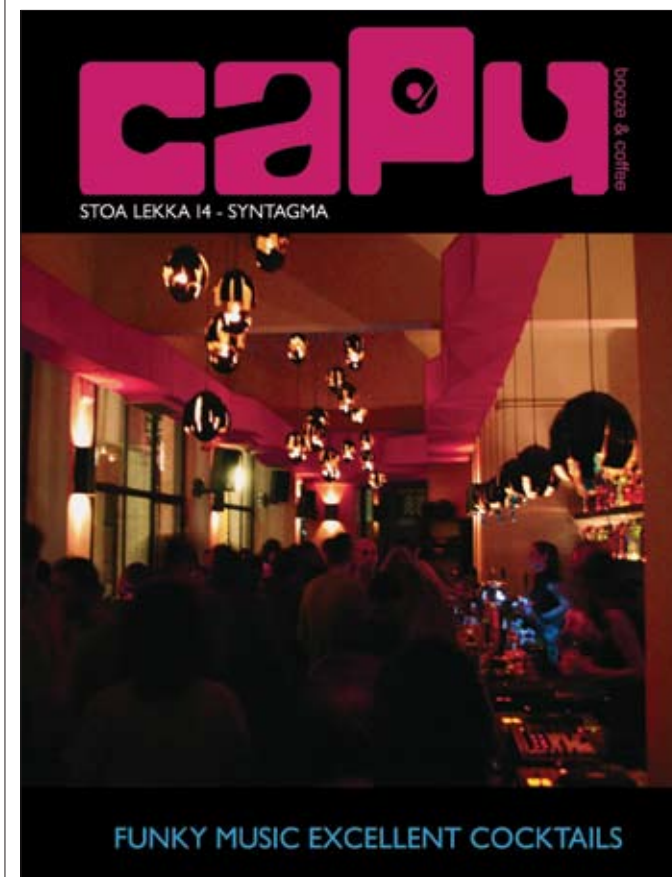
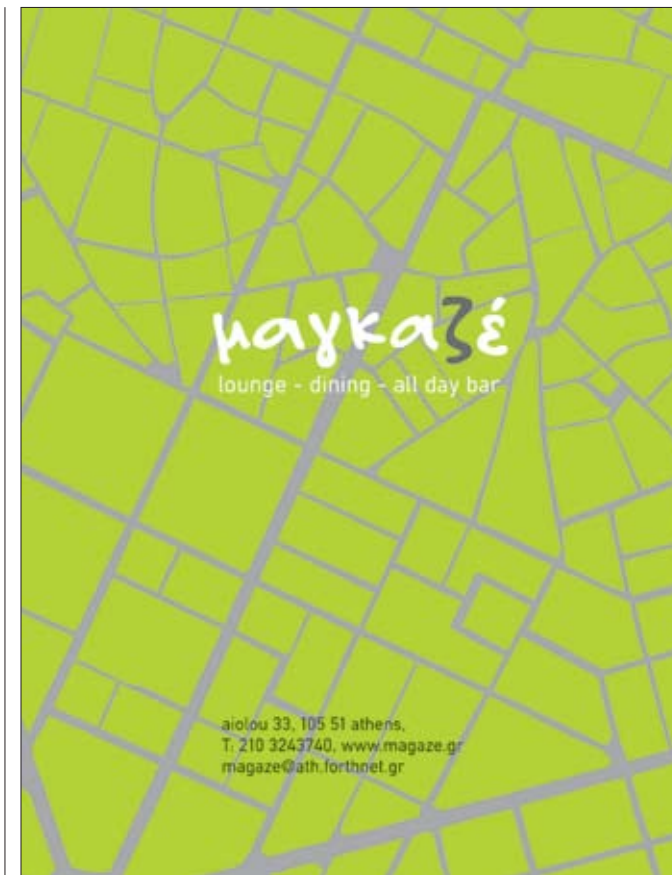
One Happy Cloud



Cubanita



Guru







Gazi

PHOTO: SPIROS STAVRIS

## 55 Bar hopping in Gazi

Gazi is a quiet neighbourhood during the day, but as the evening approaches, groups of people and couples emerge from the tube station to disappear in nearby **mezedopolia** and **bars** for an early drink. **At midnight, the streets fill with people** who run to grab a table at the bars. Walk inside the narrow **Sofroniou Street** and find oddly-spelled **A Lier Man** at number two. Jazzy music and its Mediterranean style décor -and food- make it a popular hangout spot. When you feel like moving again, head back into the main square and walk into **Hoxton bar** (42 Voutadon, 210 3413395), named after its namesake in London's Old Street. The backdrop is industrial, with leather couches and cement walls. It houses alternating artwork, gigs and parties. If it gets too crowded, head to **Micraasia** (70 Konstantinoupoleos) with its theatrical set up housed in an old-style building. After a dizzying climb up the red metallic staircase you're on a beautifully decorated rooftop with a view. For the gay crowd there is only one place to be: At **S-Cape** ( Iera Odos & Megalou Alexandrou str) you will party all night with excellent mainstream clubbing sounds, and for chill out, you can hop next door at **S-Cape into Rages Station** (82, Konstantinoupoleos str, 210 3452 751). While in the area, taste the absolutely fabulous crepes at **mele meli** (12, Iakhou str), they are considered the best in town!



Gazarte



PHOTO: SERGIOS SOUSOS

## Taste of the Med!

Greece's capital is a city that has something for every palate. Whether it is posh food, Greek cuisine or simply a souvlaki you are looking for, this is the place to eat!

**A**h, food. Eating is one of the favourite pastimes of Athenians and the city offers an ever-increasing variety of eateries. For a quick snack, Athenians will stop at one of the "fast-food" shops to get a cheese pie or a sandwich. If they have a craving for mum's cooking, they'll head for an inomageirio for oven-cooked specialties known as mageirefta. These places serve cheap but hearty meals which you usually select from a window display. Traditional dishes are eaten in taverns or mezedopolia, while funky new eateries are combining the tavern atmosphere with a 21st century design. Apart from breakfast, which usually consists only of coffee, Athenians regard every meal of the day as an opportunity to explore the endless possibilities of Greek cuisine, catch up with friends and relax. Although you might see people eating alone -especially during working hours- Athenians are social animals and eating out involves couples or groups of friends. Fridays and Saturdays are - like in the rest of the world- the busiest days of the week, so it's highly advisable to book ahead. High-end restaurants also require dressing up.



Royal  
 dinner

Enjoy haute cuisine and magnificent view at the King George Hotel, Tudor Hall in Syntagma Square.

# 56 Tables with a view

Athens is hilly, therefore an excellent candidate for restaurants with stunning views. Starting at Thision, the semi-casual restaurant **Filistron** (23 Apostolou Pavlou, 210 3467554) offers a perfect view of the Acropolis hill and reasonably priced Greek specialties such as zucchini balls and fresh salads. On the same street but much more upscale, **Pil-Poul** restaurant (51 Apostolou Pavlou, 210 342665) with its French cuisine and well-heeled clientele has the same view from its beautiful terrace. Back towards Kolonaki, at the top of the Lycabettus hill is the well-known **Orizontes** (Lycavitos Hill, 210 7227065), with an amazing birds-eye-view of Athens. The menu focuses on French and creative Greek cuisine and is open from noon. To get there, you have to take the funicular from the corner of Kleomenous & Ploutarchou streets (see Outdoors-Lycabettus Hill). **Benaki Museum** (1 Koumbari, 210 3671000) in Kolonaki is known for its collection of antiquities, as well as its fourth-floor café-restaurant which opens in a beautiful terrace with a unique view of the National Gardens and the Parliament. Its central location makes it an ideal place for a break after a long walk in the hot sun and refueling with tasty food. The menu offers salads, pasta, chicken dishes, but you can also have a coffee and a sandwich. Last but not least, **GB Roof Garden** (1, Vasileos Georgiou, Syntagma sq, 210 3330000) on the roof of the Grande Bretagne Hotel is a must for the best view of the city centre and a luxurious meal.



Orizontes

# 57 Join the crowd in the city's cafés

When you want to take a break from sightseeing and you feel crushed by the heat, take shelter in a cafés. Athens has almost one in every corner, often with tables taking over the pavement. Smack in the middle of **Kolonaki** square, **Da Cappo** is a meeting point for those who want to see and be seen. Its cappuccino is reputedly the best in town and there's a price to match it. Alternatively, head to Kolonaki's pedestrianised Milioni Street and choose among the numerous cafes. Further down, **Rosebud** (Skoufa & 60 Omirou, 210 3392370) is almost always full, while **Brazilian** (10 Valaoritou, Kolonaki, 210 3622845) is a historic hotspot with excellent coffee. **Filion** (34 Skoufa, Kolonaki, 210 3612850) has excellent service and serves Kayak ice cream (see 17). Head towards



Cafe Hartes

Exarheia and hang out with students and casual crowds in **Podilato** (48 Themistocleous) or **Hartes** (Valtetsiou 35 & Zoodohou Pigis). Cafés around Syntagma cater to a clientele of professionals who pop in for a light lunch or quick coffee on their way to work. **Nikis café** (3 Nikis, Syntagma) and **The7Jockers** (7 Voulis, 210 3219225) are standard choices. For a less-glam-more-atmosphere environment, take a seat at one of the cafés on **Adrianou Street** in **Thisio**. Order a freddo cappuccino (cold cappuccino), a frappé, or a fruit juice and watch the world go by. If you want to get away from the chaos of the streets, there's **Lallabai café** (Aigli, Syntagma), inside the quiet **Zappeio Gardens**.

# Lena's

BIO... snack, food, market

Lena Sfyroera Lena's Bio Snack, Food Market, 210 3241360  
 Sale of certified organic products :: Organic cuisine :: Preparation and sale of home cooked meals, snacks and deserts :: Delivery :: Catering



### Lena's Bio Food Market

We had missed the authentic flavour in food, while we have had more than our share of chemistry.

So we started in the spring of 2007 making careful steps. We had already completed a long itinerancy spanning from Evros in the northern Greek border all the way to Mani in the Peloponnese and from Epirus to Crete and from Lefkada Island to Mytilini (Lesvos), in search of authenticity in ingredients and recipes.

In the beginning we focused on the sale of organic products which were carefully selected. Demand quickly led us to prepare our own home made meals, snacks and deserts, using, as always, certified ingredients.

The marriage of taste and biology takes place at 11 Nikis street in Syntagma, at Lena's Bio Food Market. You can try all our products at our store or order take-away.

We recently expanded to catering in order to satisfy your every gourmet wish, all due to demand from our customers. We thank you for inspiring us to bring out all the aspects of organic cooking.

"It's been a long time since I tasted home cooked meal. Why don't you open a restaurant?" We will. When we're certain we can outdo your expectations.

11, Nikis str., Syntagma, Athens

Lena's BIO... snack, food, market



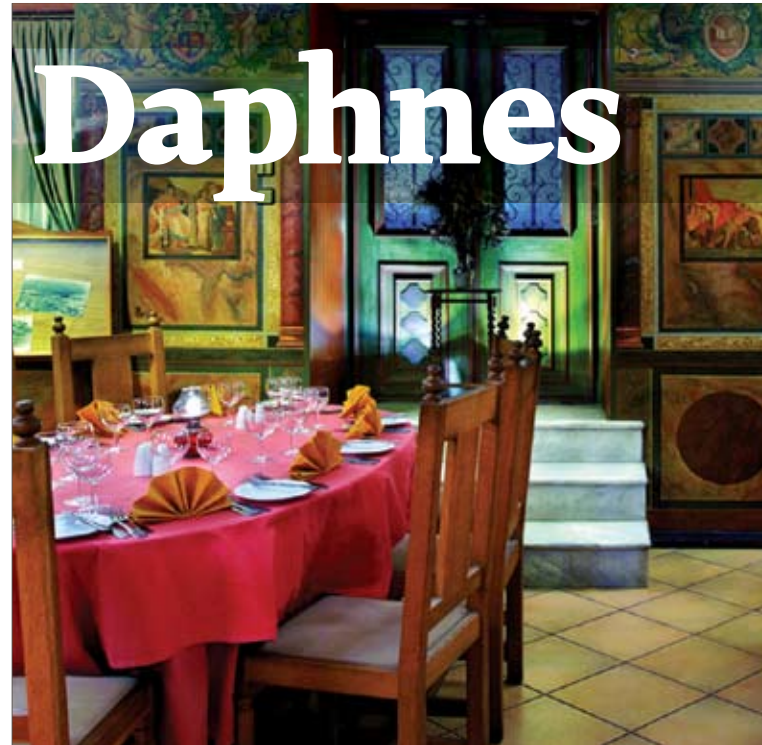


## 58 Eat in a tavern

No visit in Athens is complete unless you lunch or dine in a *taverna*, *oinomagirio* or *mezedopolio*, the informal eateries where you can taste archetypical Greek recipes such as *mousaka*, *gavros marinatos* (marinated anchovies), *gemista* (stuffed vegetables), *kokkinisto* (beef with tomato sauce), *pastitsio* (mousaka's alter ego with macaroni and minced meat) and many more. *Mezedopolia* offer the opportunity to order a variety of platters (*mezedakia*) to share and re-order the ones you liked best, while *inomagiria* have oven or casserole based food. Two places that never disappoint are cosy *Barbayiannis* (94 Emanouil Benaki, Exarheia, 210 3300185) with mouth-watering casserole dishes and *Rozalia* (Valtetsiou 59, Exarheia, 210 3302933) where excellent mezedes are brought on a tray to choose from. Don't miss *Ouzou Melathron* (10 Agiou Filipou & Astigos, Monastiraki, 210 3240716), whose super long menu will land you superb dishes. A new generation of hip taverns and *inomagiria* are taking over the city, catering to a demanding clientele. *Fasoli* (45 Emmanouil Benaki, Exarheia, 210 3300010), *Mamacas* (41 Persefonis, Gazi, 210 3464984) and *Kanella* (70 Konstantinoupoleos & Evmolpidon, Gazi, 210 3476320) serve traditional food with a twist, in a funky environment. One of the most atmospheric eateries is *Avyssinia café* (Avyssinia square, Psiri, 210 3217047) where old-Athens environment mixes with the smell of spices. The service is impeccable and so is the spinach mousaka. Wash it all down with generous amounts of wine, ouzo, or just a good old beer.

PHOTO: SOCRATIS SOCRATOUS

# Daphnes



**Plaka insight: When culture meets culinary tradition**  
Visiting the historic centre of Athens is a unique voyage through time, culture and gastronomic experience. Traditional taverns as Daphnes and Elaia prove that Plaka is much more than a tourist attraction...

**Elaia**  
16 Eretheos & Erotokritou, Plaka. Tel: (+30)210 3249512  
Hrs: Mon-Sat 5pm-1am, Sun noon-1am

**Daphnes**  
4 Lysikratous, Plaka. Tel: (+30) 210 3227971  
Hrs: Daily 7pm-1am

**W**alking around Plaka one gets carried away by the great stories being told by each and every alley.... The culture and the history of the area have created a myth around Plaka, a myth that until today surrounds its alleys with a magical air of mystery....

The emotions one gets by discovering Plaka's beautiful tile floored alleys cannot be easily described with words... Regardless of age and lifestyle, everybody loves visiting it at any given opportunity. During the day you walk by ancient monuments under the breathtaking historical Acropolis. During the night the most picturesque neighborhood of Athens is lighted and its beauty is brought out even more... The traditional stores selling anything you can think of add a surprisingly pleasant tone to your visit, while many ethnic details, like the barrel-organ that might pass right next to you, makes you think for a moment that you are in a past decade....

The alleys where Melina Merkouri made endless walks with Jules Dassen in the classical movie "Never on Sunday" host traditional taverns, as Daphnes and Elaia, that make your visit really unforgettable for all five senses. At Daphnes you will enjoy the most delicious Mediterranean dishes in a finely appointed space where frescos, terracotta and warm ochre hues dominate, creating a winningly attractive atmosphere. At the roof of Elaia, history meets traditional tastes and flavors. Staring at the unique view of Acropolis, the experience of a journey through time and senses is the trademark of its cuisine, offering selected Greek dishes.

Leaving Plaka, one thing is for sure, your "luggage" will be heavier with unforgettable images and taste delight.

# Elaia





**59 Digest with mastiha on the rocks**

The unique **mastic tree of Chios Island** in the eastern Aegean produces mastiha, the gummy resin dripping from the local mastiha tree. It's used to make **mastiha drink**, as well as the **sticky white ipovrihio desert**, a spoonful of mastiha dipped in water, but it's also added in a wide range of products, such as coffee and biscuits. Nowadays, mastiha drink is taking over as **the digestive of choice** in funky restaurants and tavernas. **Its sweet flavour** is perfect **after a long meal** and it's served cold and straight as a shot. Some restaurants offer it as a **complementary drink** after your meal, but even if they don't you may ask for **a glass of cold mastiha**. Another great way to enjoy it in a bar is to order it with **crushed ice**.



Fish market

**Frappe How to!**

The Greeks order a frappe and tend to sip it slowly, for hours, looking at the people passing by.

**60 Frappe coffee, a Greek institution**

A true Greek obsession, frappe coffee is the highest selling cold drink of the summer. Definitely not as sophisticated as cappuccino or espresso, it's made of Nescafe's instant coffee, water and ice. Shaken, not stirred. Sugar and milk are optional. You can order it in any café, or even buy it in DIY packages in kiosks. Keep in mind the frothy drink is not for the faint-hearted: Its flavour is intense and may prove heavy on the stomach, so you might consider accompanying it with a light snack from the menu. When ordering one, you should say if you want it sweet (*glikos*), medium (*metrios*) or without sugar (*horis zahari*) and also if you want it with milk (*me gala*), or black (*sketos*). Then sit back, drink it slowly over the next couple of hours and do some people-watching. Every café in Athens makes a decent frappe, but the best people watching can be done in Kolonaki, Thisio and around Syntagma square. You can also take one to go in small cafés such as Via Vai (Stadiou, Syntagma), Everest or Grigoris corner shops.

**61 Visit Athens's Central Market**

Athenas street is the heart of the buzzing Athens Central Market - also known as *Varvakeios* - where traders sell their merchandise in an area contained within Armodiou, Filopimenos and Aristogitonos streets. Products arrive daily from all over Greece and supply the entire city. Stroll past the meat market and observe the weird sight of beef, pork and goat carcasses hanging upside-down from the meat-hooks. Turn the corner and you're in the fish market. On the stools you find sea-breams, blackfish, red mullets, anchovies, salmon and shrimp gleaming on ice. There are three taverns around the market, one of which is in a basement next to the olive stores. The unpretentious Diporto taverna (1 Theatrou & Socratous, Theatrou sq, 210 3211463) offers fried mezedes and stewed dishes. Taverna Papandreou (1 Aristogitonos, Monastiraki, 210 3214970) makes excellent, hearty meals made with fresh ingredients from the market. The place is open from noon, but it's also worth showing up after a night out to join the clubbers who gulp the filling -if smelly- *patsa* soup. This meat-soup is made from innards of sheep and is considered to help your stomach cope with heavy alcohol consumption. Klimataria (2 Plateia Theatrou, Varvakeios, 210 3216629) is another hidden treasure, where you will be served traditional food at a bargain price. These places are very busy and you may have to wait to be seated, but it's worth it.

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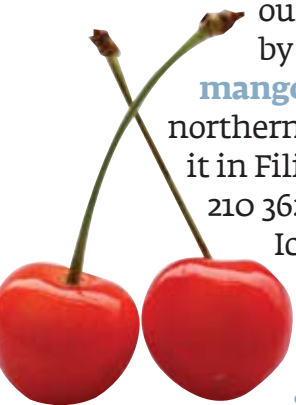




**Sweet tooth**  
Don't leave Athens without a taste of the wonderful baklava and galaktompourekoi!

## 62 Satisfy your sweet tooth

Nowadays, panacotta and chocolate soufflé are more common than still water in restaurants, but if there's a wider choice of deserts, go for the ones with the long names. **Galaktompourekoi** is a delicious type of **cream pie with syrup**, which is best served warm. **Rizogalo** is a **rice pudding with cinnamon** sprinkled on top and **ipovrihio** is a spoonful of **white soft mastiha dipped in cold water**, a **typical summer favourite**. If you're into fruit and really sweet deserts then don't miss the **traditional spoon-sweets** (gliko tou koutaliou). Mount Pelio in central Greece is the main origin of these but each area of the country has its own favourite. Try **rose** (triantafyllo), **grapes** (stafyli), **fig** (siko), **cherry** (kerasi) or **quince** (kidoni). Some restaurants put spoon-sweets over yoghurt or ice cream – yum. Then there's **ice cream**. Greek brands can be found outside kiosks (Delta, Evga) and in many cafés, but family-business **Kayak** is by far the best. They've excelled in originality with **flavours** such as **mojito**, **mango with ginger** and **jasmine** and **lemongrass**. The only Kayak store is in the northern Kifisia suburb (10 Kassaveti & Kiriazi, 210 8014329), but you can also find it in Filion café (34 Skoufa, Kolonaki), Degustation deli (5 Koumbari, Kolonaki, 210 3627744), as well as in selected delis (Vasilopoulos, see delis) and restaurants. Ice cream and other amazing sweets can be found in Fresh confectionery (12 Kriezotou, Kolonaki, 210 3625003). For traditional **chocolate lovers**, head towards **Aristocratikon** (9 Karagiorgi Servias, Syntagma, 210 3220546) where you'll have to make difficult decisions such as choosing between **screw-shaped dark chocolates** and **plums dipped in cocoa**.



## 63 Breakfast a la Greque

Greeks generally don't eat breakfast - not the classic protein and fibre-based breakfast of other Europeans. So while in Athens, do as the Athenians do and eat a pie! Pies offer a tastier and more filling alternative to toasted bread and come in many versions. There are small outlets scattered all over the city which offer pies and other snacks, like Everest and Grigoris, but the most comprehensive variety can be found in **Ariston** (10 Vouliis, Syntagma, 210 3227626), which makes pies with cheese - the house specialty - spinach, mushroom, leek and feta, sweet zucchini, meat and apple, to name but a few. There are no tables to sit, so you'll have to eat standing. If you prefer to sit you can head to any of the cafés around the city, where you'll most likely find a variety of cold sandwiches or baguettes and all types of coffee. Try also **Lena's Bio market** (11 Nikis, Syntagma, 210 3241360) where delicious organic snacks are on the menu, like the filling nettle pie. In Plaka there's a cute **galatadiko** (pastry shop specializing in milk products) called **Tristrato** (Dadelou & Geronda, Plaka) that serves milk pies, yoghurt with nuts and honey, chocolate mousse, cakes and great coffees. Needless to say, no Athenian breakfast is complete without a frappe coffee.



Cheese Pie



Vlahika

## 64 Visit Vlahika on Varis street - eat too if you're a serious meat lover

At the southern suburb of Voula there's Vlahika on Varis street, an area known for its traditional informal taverns. It's the place to go for a Greek interpretation of Sunday family lunch and a generous plate of meat. A prancing tout dressed as an **Euzone** -presidential guards in full uniform which includes a fluffy white "kilt"- greets customers on the street and shows them in the tavern. The food options exhaust the meat category: There are pork or beef hamburgers, rolled roast of beef liver and innards (**kokoretsi**), pork and lamb chops, T-bones, meatballs, all grilled on large roasting jacks or over charcoal. Cooked meat is displayed behind the glass kitchen divide to tempt customers - or freak them out if they're vegetarians. These restaurants are a big hit with families who swarm them on the weekends bringing kids and in-laws for a casual lunch. **Vlahos** (Leoforos Varis & 2 Panos, 210 8952485), **Tseligas** (24 Panos, Dilofo Varis, 210 8952371) and **Babis** (Varis & Paizi, Vlahika, Vari, 210 8951710) are traditional taverns offering their juicy dishes in generous servings and low prices.

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# 65 Visit the delis with local produce

**Vasilopoulos deli** (19 Stadiou street, Syntagma), part of the large supermarket chain, has a large **choice of cheese** and meat products, as well as **wholegrain crisps** - basic ingredient of the **Cretan dakos salad**. It also sells the delicious and seldom found **Greek Kayak ice cream**, as well as a small but educated list of **Greek wines**. Trusted brands include Boutaris, Gerovasileiou and Chatzimihalis. **Mesogaia** (52 Nikis & Kydathinaion, Plaka, 210 3229146) stocks on its wooden shelves delicacies from all over the country, like **tuna from Alonnisos island**, organic black beer from Crete, pulses, rice, cheeses and kneaded bread. **Pantopoleion Mesogeiakis Thiatrofis** (1 Sofokleous & 11 Aristidou, Omonia, 210 3234612) tempts you with over 1.500 regional goodies and organic food provided by farming associations and home industries. Choose between baked mushrooms, **olives from Kalamata**, **Kozani's saffron**, smoked trout and eel, **Mesollogi's roe** and regional **cheeses from Crete, Sifnos and Messinia**. Don't miss the traditional sweets and spoon sweets (gliko tou koutaliou). Every island in Greece takes pride in its unique products and Mytilini -also known as Lesvos- is no exception. **Lesvos Shop** (33 Athinas, Monastiraki, 210 3217395) sells ouzo, the island's most famous product, as well as honey, sausages, frumenty (trahanas), sea fennel and even cosmetic products.



## Delicious!

Things to take back home with you: Fish roe, paximadia, Cretan cheese and of course olive oil.

# 66 Try Messollogi's fish roe

Something fishy is going on in Messollogi. Athenians have discovered one of the best kept culinary secrets - Messollogi's fish roe. It's produced in the historic town of mainland Greece since ancient times, thanks to the thriving fish stock of its regional lagoon. It is said that during the Ottoman times, Greek fishermen gave it as rent to the Turks. The salty waters are a natural reserve where the migrating waterfowl nests, as well as the habitat of the female mullet, from which the roe is extracted. The roe is dried, salted and finally it's waxed with genuine bee's wax. Its gourmet flavour is natural without added preservatives or colours. The roe, rich in omega 3 fat, has a dazzling reddish colour and is wrapped in yellow wax. To enjoy it, remove the wax, cut it in thick slices and serve. You may also sprinkle olive oil and lemon on top. The best quality can be found in delis and makes a great gift for seafood lovers.




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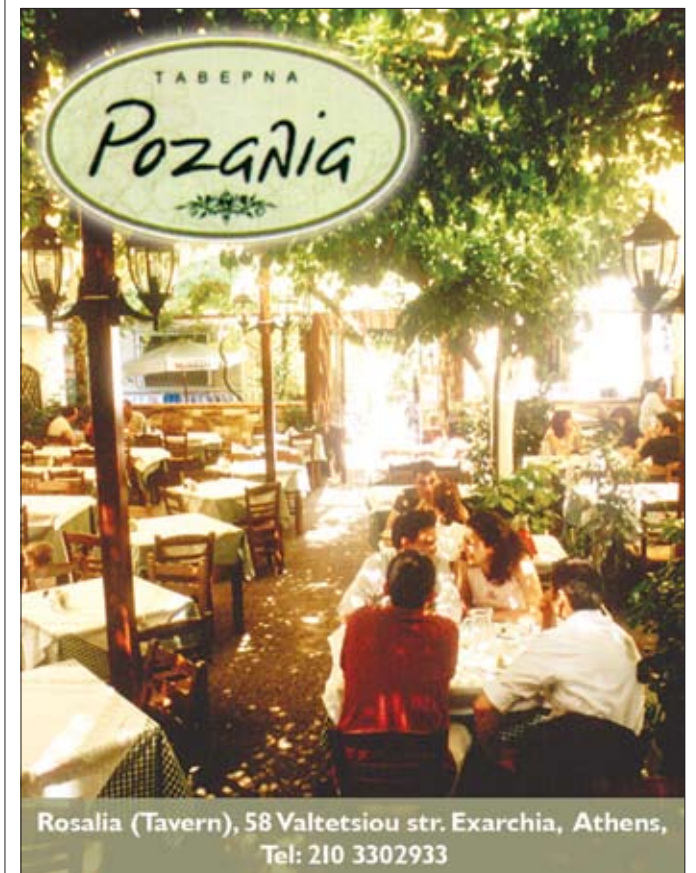
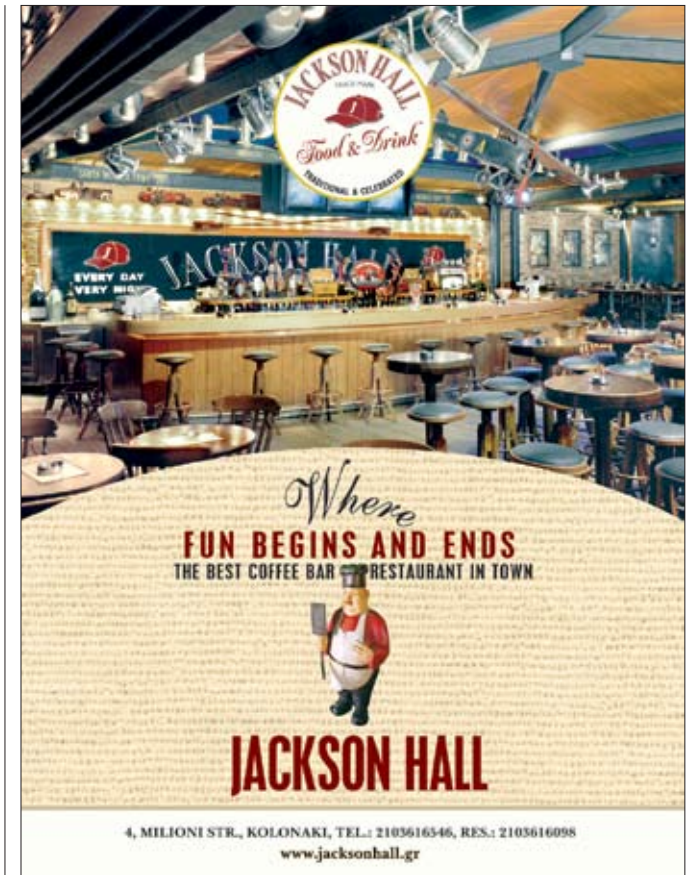
**Zonarology**  
Older Athenians were so obsessed with Zonar's they never stop comparing the old with the new!

**67 Meet you at Zonar's** "Old Athens" incarnated, Zonar's café (Panepistimou & Voukourestiou, Syntagma) is tightly **linked to the post war era** and **one of the last historic cafés** that have survived. The modern place you see today is the fully reconstructed version of the **old café**, which opened its doors in 2007 with huge success. The **original** Zonar's, built in **1940** by Karolos Zonaras who migrated from the United States, was a **historic meeting point** of politicians, poets, writers, movie stars and the high society. Some of its customers included **Manos Hatzidakis, Odysseas Elytis, Nikos Hatzikiriakos-Gikas, Evangelos Averoff**, while **Sophia Loren** and **Anthony Quinn** reputedly popped in whenever they were in town. Today it's frequented by executives of nearby banks and government offices, fast-moving lawyers, slow-moving housewives taking a break from their shopping spree, well-heeled 30-somethings who love to chat and pensioners who still like to think of Zonar's "as it once was". It's **strategic location** and popularity means you might have to queue for a table, so use the time to eye the **mouth-watering deserts** made daily in-store at the window display. Coffee is excellent in all its variations and so are its light snacks, but the prices are exorbitant. Remember, you're paying for **history!**



**68 Explore the spice shops in Evrpidou street** Known since 1922 as the market for "Oriental" products, atmospheric Evrpidou Street, behind Omonia square, remains today the spice shop district. Here you can find any herb under the Greek sun, like oregano, basil and mountain tea at bargain prices. The country's weather is the reason behind the gorgeous smell of its herbs, as the scarcity of water during the summer means the odour remains intense until you throw it in the casserole. **Bahar** (31-33, Evrpidou, 210 3217225) has native and Asian herbs, such as thyme, marjoram, cloves, cinnamon, fennel, curry and many tea varieties, while next door is the place to find cured beef and ham, as well as honey and vinegar. Join the curious passers by and take the time to stop and ask information on your favourite spices, open boxes and discover the ones you like best. Apart from the spice shops, the large concentration of immigrants in the area gives you a glimpse of the big demographic change of the inner city during the past decade. The area has become the commercial centre of the Chinese, Indian and Pakistani communities.

**69 Discover local open-air markets** Apart from Athens's Central Market, each neighbourhood has its own small open market on specific days where people stock up on fresh goodies. Producers unload fruit and vegetables on their stalls and cry out their fares. They're usually open from 7am till 2pm and it's great place to watch Athenians going about their daily lives, but also an opportunity to find fresh produce in exceptionally low prices. Buy some fruit to have a healthy and refreshing snack in your bag for those long walks under the scorching sun. There are juicy peaches -choose the lemonata variety if they have them-, apricots (Bebekou variety are top-notch), cherries - both dark red and crunchy petrokerasa-, great smelling melons, grapes and watermelons, which you may ask to taste before buying. In the city centre, there's the market in Xenokratous street in Kolonaki every Friday, in Kallidromiou street in Exarheia every Saturday, while in Agia Irini square, close to Ermou, there's a beautiful little flower market.





## 70 Street food: Souvlaki and more

Souvlaki is the king of Greek fast food. It's tasty, filling and super cheap and it's best enjoyed when you're starved or after a long drinking night. You'll find it in several variations but the main version is pita bread stuffed with beef or chicken skewers or stuffed with thin slices of beef/chicken (*gyros*) chopped off from a rotisserie. You may also stuff your pita with kebab and all the extras that include copious amounts of tzatziki, onion, tomato, sauce or even potatoes and you dig your teeth deep. To avoid getting a plate with two skewers on several pieces of pita, be sure to mention you want it wrapped (*tylihto*). Some of the best souvlaki can be found in *souvlatzidika* in the city centre and especially in Exarheia or Monastiraki. **Kavouras** (64 Themistocleous, Exarheia, 210 3837981) is a classic souvlaki joint open 24/7 and so is **Lefteris** (20 Satovrianthou, Omonia) behind the Hondos Centre building in Omonia square, known for its delicious meat. In Monastiraki, try **Thanasis** (69 Mitropoleos, Monastiraki) that serves the best kebab in town. Be sure to go early to get a table.



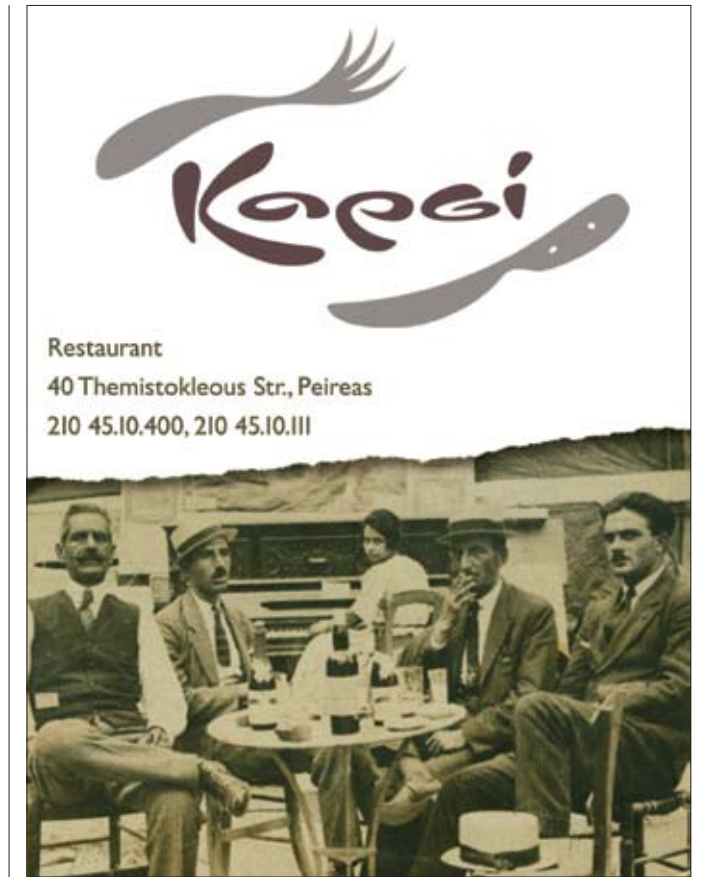
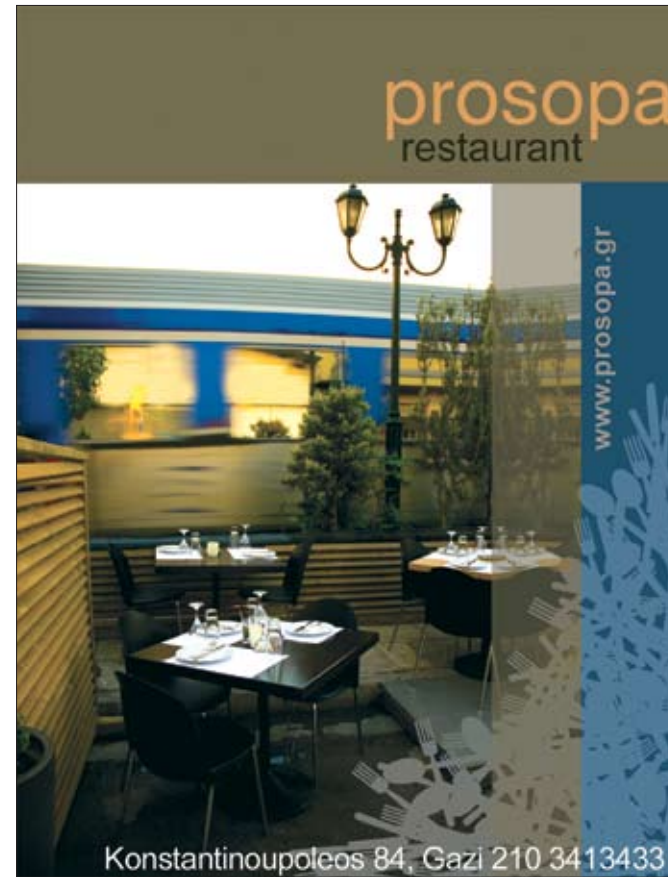
Greek souvlaki

## 71 Sip Dionysus's favourite drink

Wine making is a fast growing business in the country and native varieties are used to create excellent wines. **Asyrtiko, moshofilero, athyri, roditis, savatiano and robola** are only some of the white varieties, while xinomavro, limnio and agiorgitiko are used for red wine. Some of the best known -and well-trusted- brands include Averoff, **Antonopoulou, Boutaris, Chatzimihalis, Gerovasiliou, Lazaridis** and **Spyropoulou**. Keep in mind that restaurants price bottles much higher than stores, so alternatively you can buy one from a mini-market or deli in the city centre. **Vasilopoulos deli** (19 Stadiou, Syntagma) offers a selection of Greek brands, as well as **Cellier wine sellers** (1 Kriezotou, Syntagma, 210 3610040). Apart from dry wine, sweet, red, full-mouthed Mavrodafni is the Greek equivalent of Port and is usually drunk as an appetiser, or as a drink in bars. The city of Patra in the Peloponnese is the top producer, so ask for it with its name of origin. In tavernas and mezedopoleia you might also be offered retsina, known as wine's poor relation. It's a funny-tasting wine made of resinated white or even rose wine that has been produced in Greece since antiquity. Often sneered at by fans of high quality wine, retsina is now a product with protected designation of origin.



Greek Wineries





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# TASTE

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Grilled sardines

## 72 Feast on seafood

Having one of the longest coastlines in the world, Greeks are especially fond of seafood and know a dozen ways to cook it. Fresh seafood is getting harder to find, but the following restaurants are a sure bet. Piraeus port -the biggest of the country- has a tradition in seafood restaurants. **Dourambeis** (29 Akti Protopsalti, Piraeus, 210 4180160) with its modern decor is trusted for first class seafood and great salads, reasonably priced. **Istioploikos** (Akti Mikrolimanou, 210 4134084/184) is a more chic, upscale venue with a view to match the menu. After lunch you can go upstairs to the bar-café. In central Athens, **Milos** restaurant inside the Hilton hotel (46 Vassilisis Sofias, 210 7244400) serves excellent seafood and a variety of specialties from all over the country. The prices are steep, but you can also opt for the set menu for 20 euros. In trendy Gazi, book a table in **Sardelles** (15 Persefonis, 210 3478050) where the baked sardines are the house specialty and the grilled calamari is delicious. The shrimp souvlaki, which consists of grilled shrimp on a stick, garnished with lemon and olive oil, is a must. In the southern suburb of Kavouri, **Tou Garbi** (Selinis & 21 Iliou, 210 8963480) has a long tradition in fresh, well made seafood.

## 73 Blow your budget at Spondi or Varoulko restaurants

There's more to Greek cuisine than casual dining. If you want to dine in style and get a feeling of the local haute cuisine, then these two restaurants are a must. Michelin-rated **Spondi** (5 Pyronos, Pagrati, 210 7520658/210 3450803), housed in a beautiful mansion, has caused a stir in Athens's gastronomic scene. Its chef Arnau Bignon creates high level French and Mediterranean cuisine that pleases the eye as well as the mouth. In the summer, tables are set on a lovely terrace. In the up and coming Gazi district, **Varoulko** restaurant (80 Pireos, Gazi, 210 5228400) has arguably the best seafood in town. Chef Lefteris Lazarou, known for his ability to turn simple ingredients into gourmet dishes, performs miracles with fish and seafood, while monkfish remains his signature dish. The décor is understated; the terrace has an unblocked full view of the Acropolis and the service is brilliant. Needless to say, you should book ahead.

## 74 Ouzo!!

The celebrated **ouzo**, often compared with **absinth**, is best enjoyed with **seafood** and diluted with water to make it **lighter**. Some people like to add ice, but connoisseurs claim it destroys the flavour, plus they blame it for the **headaches** experienced after its consumption! The best varieties are made in **Mytilini Island** (Lesvos), **mount Tyrnavos** and **Kalamata**. Its "cousin", **tsipouro**, is the equivalent of Italian **grappa** and is drunk the same way as ouzo. Their difference is that ouzo is made from alcohol distillation with the addition of water and **aromatic**

### Goes with

Greeks like to eat a little something with their ouzo. Very often you will see them ordering a **Pikilia** - a plate with various delicacies

**herbs** such as **aniseed** -which gives it its signature smell- while **tsipouro** is made from the distillation of the mass that remains after the crushing of the grapes, plus some herbs. Drink with moderation, as they contain 40-50 degrees and **36-45 degrees** of alcohol, respectively. Trusted brands of ouzo include **Varvayiannis** and **Plomari** and for **tsipouro** **Tsantalis**, but you can also find rare local varieties in delis with Greek products.

**"Mythos" beer** is another Greek success story launched in 1997 and many Athenians prefer it to other brands. It's a light, gold-coloured lager, perfect for tavern food and you can order it almost everywhere. Last but not least, **Metaxa** five and seven-star **brandy** is highly recommended, being a major export product since the 1970's.



# SUBWAY

eat fresh.™



33, Athinas str., Athens, tel.: 210 3313 500  
5, Petraki str. & Pentelis str., tel.: 210 3250 081  
22, Syngrou Ave. & Kaleschrou str., tel.: 210 9229 648

For franchise information: [www.subway.com](http://www.subway.com)

# PALLS

Sandwiches, salads, juices & more

## Falafel

Freshly made for you

## Bagels

Vegetarian options too

30 Apollonos str., Athens Tel. 210 3246008

summer in the  
garden

# almaz

bar restaurant

12 Triptoleμου Str 118 54 Gazi 210 3474763 [www.almaz.gr](http://www.almaz.gr)  
[www.myspace.com/almazgazi](http://www.myspace.com/almazgazi)





Tzitzikas & Mermigas



Pil Poul



Salero



Paper Moon



Athiri



Seralia

## 75 Lifo's Choice. Places we tested before

### For lunch, a quick snack, coffee and desserts while in the town center

**Lena's Bio Market** 11, Nikis str. Syntagma. The ultimate bio food in Athens centre! Look for the homemade cooked food, its delicious, as well as the fresh sandwiches and salads.

**Politi.co** 3, Mitropoleos str., 210 3232 351.

If you want a taste of Middle Eastern and especially Turkish cuisine, here you will be amazed by the variety of kebabs, salads and other fantastic dishes from the Middle East.

**Miniatoura** 21, Romvis str., 210 3233459.

Small place with home made food that is different every day. Excellent choice at very low prices.

**Palls** 30, Apollonos str. Probably one of the best places to try excellent bagels, sandwiches and the one and only "pitta with falafel". It's a masterpiece.

**Subway** 36, Voulis str. Mega sandwiches with fresh bread and very good fillings. Excellent idea to grab one on your way to the Acropolis.

**Tzitzikas & Mermingas** 12-14, Mitropoleos str., 210 3247 607.

Greek cuisine, excellent friendly service, ideal for lunch with the locals who work in the area!

### For a chic lunch after shopping

**Paper Moon** Attica, City Link, 6<sup>th</sup> floor. Magnificent Italian cuisine served in a beautifully decorated hall. The service is sublime here and the wine list is extremely detailed.

**Jackson Hall** 4, Milioni str., Kolonaki, 210 3616 098. If you are shopping in Kolonaki make a stop at Jackson's and taste the excellent burgers, salads and pasta while sitting at one of the trendiest spots in Athens. In the evenings upstairs there is a party going on...

### For Greek cuisine under the Acropolis

**Elea** 16, Eretheos & Erotokritou str., Plaka. 210 3249 512. Fabulous restaurant with a long history. This is where Melina meets Jules Dassin in "Never on Sunday". An excellent place to taste Greek food.

**Dafnes** 4, Lisikratous str., 210 3227 971. Where Bill and Hillary Clinton came to eat in Athens. Excellent Greek food, with a creative twist.

**Pil Poul & Jerome Serres** One of the most spectacular terraces in Athens. Choose this place for an unforgettable dinner under the stars. The food is one of the best in town!

### If you are in Exarheia

**Yiantes** 44, Valtetsiou str., 210 3301 369. Beautiful garden in one of the hippest areas in Athens. The menu consists of real Greek food that the locals prefer and a very good wine list.

**Salero** 51, Valtetsiou str., 210 3813 358. Cool place with Mediterranean cuisine, very good tapas, wines from Spain, Italy and Greece and of course sangria. The tables on the pavement are magical.

**Rozalia** 59, Valtetsiou str. 210 3821 685. In a beautiful garden you can taste excellent meat and fish dishes. Ask for the tray with the sixteen hors d'oeuvres!

### Dinner in the wider Gazi area

**Athiri** 15, Plateon str., Keramikos, 210 3462983. The talented chef Alexandros Kardasis gives a recital on fine Greek cuisine.

**Almaz** 12, Triptoleμου str., 210 3474 763. Enjoy creative ethnic cuisine in a fantastic place with glamorous pop interiors at the center of the Athenian night life.

**Prosopa** Iera odos & 84 Konstantinoupoleos str. 210 3413433. Perfect scenery, with the restaurants tables lined right next to the railway. Great menu, with Mediterranean dishes and fantastic desserts.

**To Xontro Mpizeli** 34, Orfeos & Ikarieon str. 210 3477 833. It means the fat pea! The place will remind you of a beautiful courtyard. The food is traditional Greek, served immaculately.

### If you want to taste the authentic Greece

**Karsi** Themistokleous Beach, Freattida, 210 4510400, 210 4510111. Excellent location overlooking the harbor and interiors that resemble an old "bakaliko" (a small supermarket). There is also a backyard for the summer. All the food is Greek mezedes and it is truly very good.

**Seralia** 2, Vas. Dipla & Theognidos str., Agios Sostis, 210 9316 941. Homemade mezedes, fresh fish, contemporary Greek cuisine with flavors from Sifnos Island, and luscious desserts. What else do you need!

# ESCAPES

## Outside Athens

There are a thousand places to go around Athens. From small villages to fantastic beaches and the chic islands of Hydra, Aegina and Spetses, all of you who are visiting Athens this summer will be surprised at how diverse and beautiful the area that surrounds Athens is.



There's a satisfying variety of locations to choose from if you feel the city is getting the best of you. The prefecture of Attica, where Athens belongs, has shadowy forests in the north and an endless coastline in the south, while places of interest are only a two-hour drive or boat-trip away. When Athenians want to escape the daily grind, they board the hydrofoils and escape to nearby islands such as Poros, Hydra, Aegina and Spetses. Nearby attractions include the majestic Temple of Poseidon in Sounio and Marathon, site of the famous battle in the 5th century B.C. The little known lush gardens of Tatoi come in complete contrast with the noisy city, while picturesque Nafplio takes you back in time. Historic Olympia is a reminder of the first Olympic Games and full of archaeological treasures



## WEEKEND GETAWAY

Aegina's proximity to the capital (only 40 minutes away from Piraeus) has made it a permanent home for many Athenians who want to escape the smog and noise of the city.



PHOTO: SPYROS STAVERIS

## 76 Jump on the boat! Aegina & Poros

The Saronic Gulf islands of Aegina and Poros are so close to the capital they've virtually become a suburb. Poros is a quiet little place with a picturesque port lined with neoclassical houses contrasting with bright bougainvilleas. The island's highlights include the clock tower that projects from the ports hill and the lemon tree forest in Galatas village. Poros features beautiful sandy beaches in Mikro Neorio, Love Bay and Russian Bay, named after the first Russian ships which arrived to help the Revolution. Unlike other islands, life in Poros is focused on daytime, making it ideal for those who want to relax. Aegina's proximity to the capital (only 40 minutes away from Piraeus) has made it a permanent home for many Athenians who want to escape the smog and noise of the city. The main attraction of the place is the well-preserved Temple of Aphaea, built around 500 B.C. and dedicated to the mystic mermaid goddess Aphaea, as well as the in-site museum. Although Aegina is not renowned for its beaches, you won't be disappointed with Agia Marina, Kima and Perdika. Hotel Brown (Aegina Town, tel: 22970 22271) is a modern hotel near the town centre and ferries, hydrofoils and catamarans leave Piraeus several times a day. The best place to hang out and have a drink or a cup of coffee is Anassa (Souvala Port, 22970 53 530), with a great view.

### Where to stay

While at Sounio stay at the Cape Sounio Hotel and enjoy the magnificent view. [www.grecotel.com](http://www.grecotel.com)



## 77 Worship the sea at the Temple of Poseidon in Sounio

The beautiful temple dedicated to sea-god Poseidon is a popular attraction for locals and tourists alike, not only for the well-preserved ancient monument, but also for the clear blue beaches surrounding it and the picture-perfect sunset. The route leading to Sounio is a sight in its own merit, as you drive next to beautiful beaches and coves, small towns and cafés. The temple crowns a 60-metre-high rock and was built in the 5th century B.C., during Pericles's "Golden Age". The hill itself won its place in history when, according to mythology, king Aegeas jumped to his death from the cliffs, believing his son Theseas had died in Crete trying to kill the Minotaur. The temple is made of marble and originally had 34 Doric-style columns, though today only 15 survive. The ideal time to visit is in the evening, when most tourist groups have left and the light is softer. Watching the sunset from the cliff and the blue sea underneath is an unforgettable experience. >> To get there, take the tram from Syntagma towards Voula, from where it's best to hire a taxi. You can combine Sounio with a swim at Legrena beach and a bite at one of the local fish taverns.

## 78 Let the Games begin - Olympia

After Olympia's narrow escape from the devastating wildfires of 2007 which burnt the surrounding lush pine forests, the small city and historic site are slowly recovering. The fires burnt the Kronios Hill, the place where the rivers Kladeos and Alfeios branch off and was considered a holly site in antiquity. Known as the venue of the ancient Olympic Games in 776 B.C., it was an important sanctuary with a wide range of religious and secular buildings scattered around the site. One such building is the Temple of Zeus, built between 470-456 B.C., which reportedly housed the 12-metre-tall gold and ivory Statue of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The complex includes an ancient stadium about 212 metres long and about 30 metres wide, which is said to have accommodated 45,000 seating spectators. The Archaeological Museum of Olympia (Ancient Olympia, 26240 22742) showcases some of the most important archaeological findings in Greece, including a priceless collection of statues and a wide range of copper objects. One of the statues is Praxitelis's masterpiece Hermes, his only original surviving work, cut on marble at 343 B.C. >> To get there (it's 320 kilometres from Athens), take the KTEL bus from Kifisos (tel: 210 5134110, 210 5124910) or the OSE train (tel: 210 5297777).

# ANASSA

bar • restaurant • café • cocktails • wines



Anassa Bar-restaurant-café offers one of the best sea-views on the Island of Aegina. The exotic cocktails and fine cuisine - marinated meats and sea-food served on oilpaper, fresh pasta, risotto and imaginative salads, combined with any one of the 70 wine labels from around the world- are bound to satisfy your palate and lift your spirits! We are open every day from 10 am until late in the night when the club beats take over and swing you into a dancing mood. On weekends there are many live events, with music ranging from ethnic, rock and Latin to rebetika and light popular Greek music.

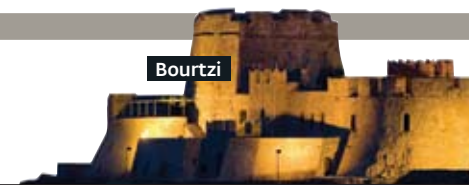
Souvalas Port (Limani), Aegina

[www.anassa-by-the-sea.gr](http://www.anassa-by-the-sea.gr)

Tel: 22970 53530, Mobile: 6977 577451, 6944 152749 • Wi-Fi available







Bourtzi

## 79 Fight your way to Marathon

The battleground of one of the most famous military confrontations in history is only 40 kilometres northeast of Athens. The battle of Marathon in 490 B.C., as described by historian Herodotus, is where the outnumbered Athenians defeated the Persian army, blocking their expansion towards Athens. On your way to the historic site you'll pass the artificial Lake Marathon and the dam, built in 1925-1929 to supply Athens with much needed water. Reaching Marathon, you will see a 10 metre tumulus where the 192 Athenians who died in battle are buried. About two kilometres away is the Archaeological Museum (114 Plateon, Vranas, Marathonas, 22940 55155) which is well worth the visit. It houses Neolithic findings from the surrounding area, tomb stelae and dedicated inscriptions. Marathon also gave its name to the long-distance run included in the Olympic Games. Myth has it that when the battle ended, a soldier named Phedippedes run the distance to Athens to announce the Athenian victory, after which he died.

>> To get there, you have to take a KTEL bus from Mavromateon street in Pedion tou Areos (tel: 210 8210872). The bus leaves every hour and drops you close to the site. Marathon and the museum are open Tuesday-Sunday from 8:30-3pm.

### Water Taxis!

While in Hydra, take a water taxi and visit the villages Kaminia and Vlichos.



## 80 Be chic at Hydra Island

Classy Hydra town, the Port of Hydra Island, mercifully escaped the "development attempts" of other nearby islands and today it is a fully preserved town, filled with old mansions and stone-paved narrow alleys. Thankfully, vehicles are banned from the island, making it an ideal place to relax. Hydra is not known for its sandy beaches, but the clear blue waters compensate for the rocky surfaces. The main beaches are Avlaki, Spilia, Hydroneta and Molos. Places of interest include the 19th century monastery of Profitis Elias and the mansion of 19th century politician George Kountouriotis that houses the island's history museum. There's also the village of Kaminia and Vlichos where you can go hiring a water taxi. The island's vivid nightlife centres on Hydra town, with bars and clubs crowding with tourists and weekend escapees alike.

To stay: The traditional stone mansion of Hotel Mistrial (tel: 22980-52509/53411) is fully equipped (air-con, fridge, bathroom) and only three minutes from the port. Miranda hotel (tel: 22980-52230) is another restored old mansion with excellent home breakfast.

>> To get there: Daily service by hydrofoil from Marina Zea's port in Piraeus takes about an hour and a half. Ferries leave Piraeus' main port daily and make the trip in almost four hours.

## 81 Set the trend in Spetses

Spetses is a small island located off the eastern peninsula of Peloponnesos. It's a very popular destination for trendy Athenians who storm the place on the weekends, but has managed, like Hydra Island, to retain its unique character, with stone mansions, cobbled alleys, clean green waters and a lush pine forest. Cars are not allowed here either, but you can hire a horse carriage which will take you from the port of Dapia to the Old Port. Spetses's trendy yet noble profile is the result of its history but also of the tourists who are set on living the good life in chic bars, great taverns and classy hotels. The island's history is reflected in its museum, once the home of the 19th century powerful lord Hatzigianni Mexi, as well as in the mansion of Bouboulina, a heroine of the Revolution. Discovering beaches to swim is part of the deal here, so it's best to hire a water taxi to circle the island and swim where you please. Some well-known spots are Vrellos beach and Agioi Anargiri, but you'll even find people diving from platforms in Dapia. Classic options for accommodation is the impeccable Orloff Resort (Old Harbour, 22980 75444-5). In Dapia, Armata Boutique Hotel is a beautifully renovated residence and a two minute walk from the port. For nightlife action, join the crowd at the Old Harbour where the fish taverns and bars are top-notch. There are daily hydrofoil, catamaran and boat services from Piraeus.



Greek Movie Star

## 82 Nafplio, the first capital of Greece

The picturesque old city of Nafplio is a favourite weekend adventure all year round. Situated on a peninsula in northeast Peloponnes, the city was the first capital of the newly established Greece in 1829 until 1834 when Athens was made capital. There's a lot of walking to be done here. The town centre is pedestrianised and all sites, shops, cafés and eateries are within walking distance from one another. Coming from the national highway, its outer suburbs look quite unimpressive, but as you head towards the old town, the cityscape changes drastically. The main Syntagma (Constitution) Square is paved in marble and it's the starting point for a walk around the city's streets. One of these streets still bears the mark of the bullet that killed the country's first Governor Ioannis Kapodistrias, at the Church of Agios Spyridonas. The seaside road is where people stroll in the afternoon and sit to watch the sunset. It is lined with restaurants and cafés and an open view of the islet of Bourtzi with its 15th century Venetian fortifications. However, the best panorama of the town is undoubtedly offered atop the Palamidi fortress, another Venetian work of 1714. Unless you're in top shape and hell-bent on climbing the 999 steps that lead to the entrance, hire a taxi to take you to the top and spare you the heart attack. The vista is glorious and worth every step. Book a room at beautiful Byron Hotel (2 Platonos, Nafplio, 27520 22351).



PHOTO: KATERINA KARALI



## EMERGENCIES

**POLICE:** 100  
**AMBULANCE:** 166  
**FIRE:** 199  
**TOURIST POLICE:** 171  
**DUTY HOSPITALS / PHARMACIES:** 1434

## HOSPITALS

**Evangelismos Hospital**  
45-47 Ipsilandou, Kolonaki, 210 7201000  
Major public hospital, centrally located.

**Aiginio Hospital**  
72 Vasilisis Sofias, 210 7220811-3  
Public hospital, centrally located.

**Ippokratio**  
114 Vasilisis Sofias, 210 7483770  
Public hospital, centrally located.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Greek National Tourist Organisation** (GNTO)  
Known as EOT in Greek.  
26a Amalias street, Syntagma, 210 3310392  
Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm

## AIR

**Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport**  
Flight Info (all airlines): 210 3530000  
Access: Metro line 3, trains to airport run every 30 minutes / Suburban line (proastiakos) also from Larisis metro station.  
www.proastiakos.gr  
Website: www.aia.gr

## BOATS

**Piraeus Port**  
210 4147800 for general information  
Main ferry and hydrofoil companies:  
All companies at www.

greekferries.gr  
Hellenic Seaways, 210 4131111, www.hellenicseaways.gr.  
Blue Star Ferries, 210 3226400, www.bluestarferries.com, Minoan Lines, 210 4145700, www.minoan.gr

## METRO

All information about the Athens metro at [www.ametro.gr](http://www.ametro.gr).

## BUSES

**Peloponese station**, close to Larisis station (metro)  
**Terminals A – 100**  
Kifisou street, 210 5124910  
**Terminal B – 260**  
Liosion street, 210 8317096

## TRAINS

**Greek Railroad** (OSE) – 6 Sina street, Syntagma, Tel: 1110, [www.ose.gr](http://www.ose.gr)  
Larisis train station (Larisis metro) – 210 5298740

## MUSEUMS

**New Acropolis Museum**  
Dionysiou Areopagitou & Makriyianni, 210 3210219  
The long-awaited museum that will house the famous Parthenon marbles and other exquisite artifacts from the Acropolis hill has opened its ground floor to the public and is expected to fully open at the end of 2008. Hrs: 10am-noon. Entrance: Free. Metro: Acropolis.  
**Museum of Cycladic & Ancient Greek Art**  
4, Neofytou Douka, Kolonaki, 210 7228

## 321-3

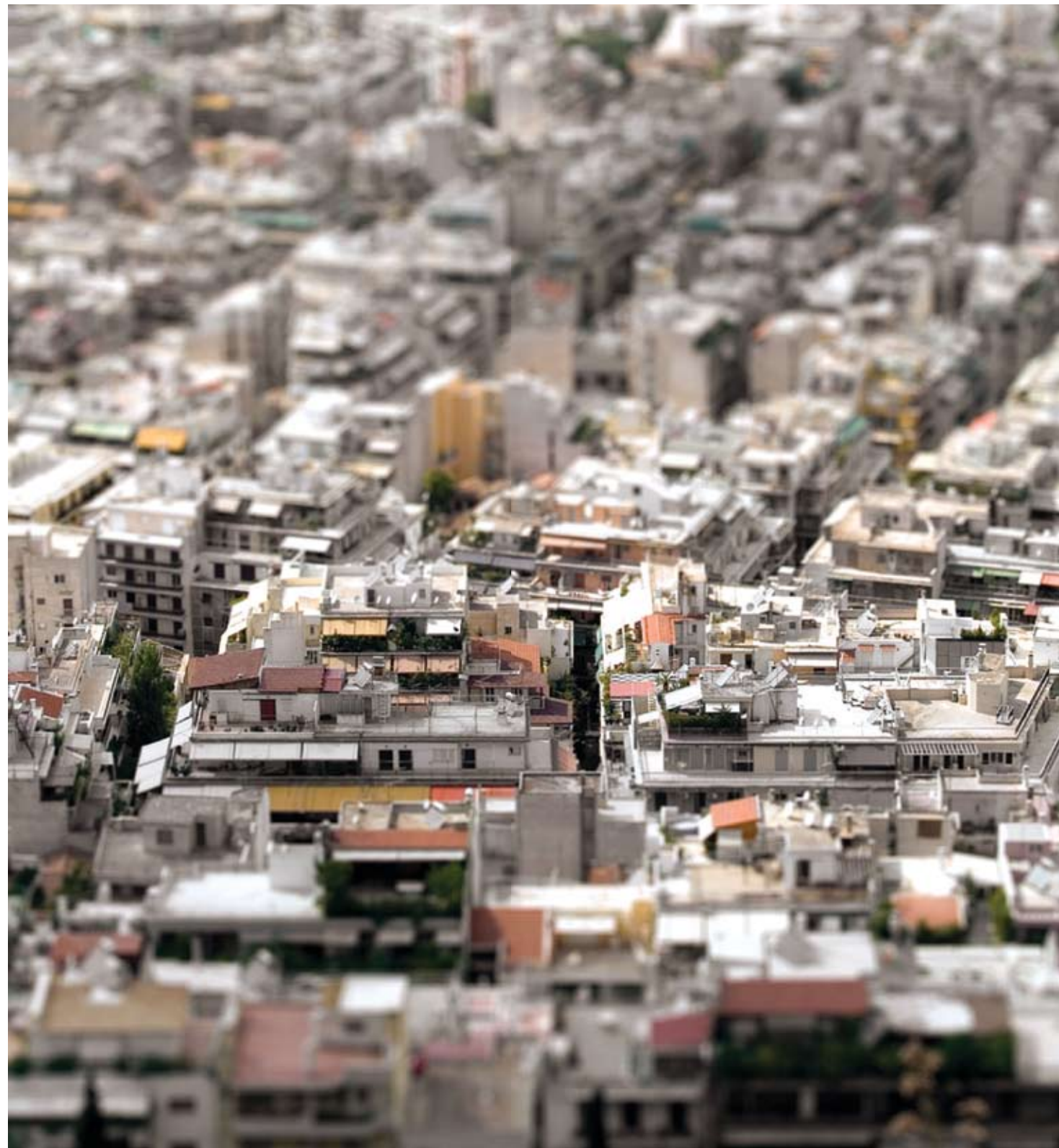
This is the place to admire the biggest and most impressive collection of Cycladic Art and other objects, in what is a historic building. The museum also has a brilliant souvenir shop where you can find well-crafted copies of the exhibits. Hrs: Mon, Thu, Fri 10am-4pm, Wed 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm. Entrance: 5 euros. Metro: Evangelismos.

**Benaki Museum**  
1, Koumbari & Vas. Sofias, Kolonaki, 210 3671000

The collections offer a panorama of Greek history starting from antiquity, through Byzantine and Ottoman times, ending in modern times (early 20th century). Hrs: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9am-5pm, Thu 9am-midnight. Sun 9am-3pm. Entrance: 6 euros for permanent exhibitions, 3 euros for temporary, Thu free. Metro: Syntagma

**Benaki Museum Pireos Annex**  
138, Pireos & Andronikou street, 210 3453111

Built in a previously derelict industrial area, the state-of-the-art museum houses exhibitions of contemporary art, including architecture, graphic design and photography. Its museum giftshop is a must. Hrs: Wed, Thu, Sun 10am-6pm, Fri, Sat 10am-10pm. Mon, Tue closed. Entrance: 2, 4, or 5 euros for temporary exhibitions. Metro: Keramikos



**National Archaeological Museum**  
44 Patision & 28th October street, 210 8217717

Spanning from the Neolithic to the Classical Era, this newly refurbished building houses a massive collection of Greek antiquities. Hrs: Tue-Sun 8am-7pm. Entrance: 7 euros. Train: Victoria.

**Byzantine & Christian Museum**  
22, Vasilisis Sofias, 210 7232178

Tucked away from the busy city center, the museum showcases more than 25,000 prime examples of Byzantine and post-Byzantine art, dating from the 3rd to the 20th century, from Greece, Asia Minor and the Balkans. Hrs: Tue-Sun 8.30am-6pm. Entrance: 4 euros for temporary exhibition. Metro: Evangelismos.

**Islamic Art Museum**  
22, Agion Asomaton & Dipylou 12, Keramikos, 210 3225550

A third annex of Benaki Museum, it houses a stunning collection of Islamic art dating from the 7th to the 19th centuries. It includes ceramics, textiles, glassware, silverware and wood carvings. Hrs: Tue & Thu-Sun 9am-3pm, Wed 9am-9pm. Entrance: 5 euros, Wed free. Train: Thisio.

**Centre of Folk Art & Tradition**  
6, Hatzimihali Ageliki, Plaka, 210 3243972

Experience the traditional way of Greek life in this

quirky little mansion, created to preserve old-school Greek arts such as embroidery, needlework, traditional costume creation and pottery. Hrs: Tue-Sun 9am-2pm. Entrance: 2 euros. Metro: Syntagma.

**Jewish Museum**  
39, Nikis street, Plaka 210 3225582

Housed in a beautiful neoclassical building, it tracks the history of Greek Jews since antiquity. Items include religious objects, jewelry, textiles, manuscripts, rare books and domestic objects salvaged from WWII. Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-2.30pm, Sun 10am-2pm. Entrance: 5 euros. Metro: Syntagma.

**Goulandri Museum of Natural History**  
13 Levidou street, Kifissia, 210 8015870

If you find yourself in the leafy northern suburb of Kifissia, make sure you visit the Natural History Museum, home to hundreds of thousands of botanic and animal specimens from around the country. Hrs: Mon-Sat 9am-2.30pm, Sun 10am-2.30pm, closed in August. Entrance: 5 euros. Train: Kifissia.

**Archaeological Museum of Piraeus**  
31, Harilaou Trikoupi, Pasalimani, 210 4521598

Findings originate from the wider Piraeus area and the Saronic Gulf and testify to the city's history since the Neolithic times. Hrs: Tue-Sun 8.30am-3pm. Entrance: 3 euros. Bus

040 from Syntagma.

**Nomismatic Museum**  
12 Panepistimiou, Syntagma, 210 3643774

See the massive collection of ancient coins from antiquity through the Byzantine and modern times in what was originally the impressive house of German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. Hrs: Tue-Sun 8.30am-3pm. Entrance: 3 euros. Metro: Syntagma.

**Ilias Lalaounis Jewellery Museum**  
12 Kallisperi & Karyatidon, Makriyianni, 210 9221044

A private museum established by Greek jewellery-maker Ilias Lalaounis, it showcases the history and art of jewellery-making from ancient times. Visitors can admire about 4,000 items designed by the museums' founder. Hrs: Mon, Thu-Sat 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-9pm, Sun 11am-4pm. Entrance: 4 euros, free Wed 3pm-9pm, Sat 9am-11am. Metro: Akropoli.

**Museum of Greek Popular Instruments**  
1-3 Diogenous, Plaka, 210 3254119 / 3250198

Greek music lovers will be enthused with the exhibit of 1,200 popular music instruments dating from the 18th century offering a glimpse in the variety of music sounds. Hrs: Tue, Thu-Sun 10am-2pm, Wed noon-6pm. Entrance: Free. Metro: Monastiraki.

**Battleship Averoff**  
Battleship turned museum, Averoff offers





a great opportunity for kids to explore the numerous cabins and areas where crew and captain spent their days and nights. Hrs: Mon-Fri 10am-1pm, 6pm-8pm Mon, Wed, Fri. Entrance: one euro. Tram (line 4): Trocadero.

## GALLERIES

**National Gallery**  
50, Vasileos Konstantinou, 210 7235937-8  
The gallery's permanent collection houses more than 15,000 works of painting, sculpture dating from the post-Byzantine period (second half of 15th century) until today, while temporary exhibitions are often on. Hrs: Mon & Wed 9am-3pm & 6pm-9pm, Thu-Sat 9am-3pm, Sun 10a-2pm. Entrance: 6.5 euros. Metro: Evangelismos.

**DESTE Foundation Centre**  
11 Filileinon, & Emanuel Papa, Nea Ionia, 210 2758490  
Established by art collector Dakis Ioannou in 1983. "Fractured Figures" running until July 31. Closes 1-24th of

August. Hrs: Wed, Thu 5pm-8pm. Train: Nea Ionia  
**Zomboulaki Gallery**  
20 Kolonaki square, 210 3631364  
Colourful paintings by "Christina Darra". Hrs: Tue-Fri 11am-2pm and 6pm-9pm, Sat 11am-2pm. Metro: Evangelismos.

**Astrolavos Dexameni**  
11 Xanthippou, Kolonaki, 210 7294342  
Currently runs "2007-2008 Exclusives", a group of retrospective artwork from this years' exhibitions. Hrs: Tue-Fri 10.30am-2pm and 6pm-9pm, Sat 10.30am-2.30pm. Metro: Evangelismos.

**Herakleidon museum**  
16 Herakleidon, Thisio, 210 3461981  
Presents the work of German photographer Winfried Bullinger named "Caves". Hrs: Tue-Sat 1pm-9pm, Sun 11pm-7pm. Train: Thisio.  
**Ileana Tounta Contemporary**  
20 Armatolon-Kleifton & 16 Argyroupoleos, 210 6439466  
Contemporary artists exhibit their work, call for present exhibitions. Tue-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat

noon-4pm.  
**Technopolis**  
100 Pireos street & 1 Persefonis, Gazi, 210 3461589  
Entrance is free, call for exhibitions. Hrs: Daily from noon-9pm. Metro: Keramikos.

**Frissiras Museum**  
3 & 7 Monis Asteriou Tsangari street, Plaka, 210 3234678  
Contemporary paintings are presented in this private museum. Hrs: Wed-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm. Entrance: 6 euros. Metro: Syntagma.

## HOTELS & GUESTHOUSES

**UPSCALE**  
**Grande Bretagne**  
1 Vasileos Georgiou, Syntagma Square, 210 3330000  
Grandeur is the word for this historic hotel smack in the middle of Syntagma square. Metro: Syntama.

**King George II Palace**  
Syntagma Square, 210 3222210  
Next to Grande Bretagne, it shares the luxury ambience. Metro: Syntagma.

**Grand Resort Lagonissi**  
40km Athens Sounio, Lagonissi, 229 1076000  
A resort in every sense, its location resembles an island. The only way to get there is by taxi.

**Athens Hilton**  
46 Vas. Sofias, 210 7281000  
All-time classic hotel, recently renovated. Metro: Evangelismos  
**St George Lycabettus**  
2 Kleomenous, Platia Dexamenis, Kolonaki, 210 7290711  
Beautiful views of the city.

**Electra Palace**  
18 Navarhou Nikodimou, Plaka, 210 3370000  
Strategically located in Plaka. Metro: Syntagma

**Periscope**  
22 Haritos street, Kolonaki, 210 7297200  
Modern and minimalist, it's situated in the shoppers paradise of Kolonaki. Mtero: Evangelismos.

**Semiramis Hotel**  
48 Trikoupi street, Kifisia, 210 6284400  
A hip hotel by design guru Karim Rashid at the northern suburb of

Kifisia. Train: Kifisia.  
**Hotel Pentelikon**  
66, Diligianni str. Kifissia, Athens 210 6230650-6, 210 8019223  
Beautiful, chic hotel in Kifissia ideal for anyone who wants to spend sometime in the northeast, most beautifull part of Athens.

**MID RANGE**  
**Central Hotel**  
21 Apollonos, Plaka, 210 3221553  
Contemporary style and great view. Metro: Syntagma

**Ochre & Brown**  
7 Leokoriou, Psiri, 210 3312950  
Small but hip, it's the only hotel within the trendy Psiri area. Train: Thisio

**Hera Hotel**  
9 Falirou, Akropoli, 210 9236682  
Classical style, with a view of the Akropolis Hill. Metro: Akropoli

**Twenty-One**  
21 Kolokotroni & Mykonou, Kifisia, 210 6233521  
Clever design and distinct atmosphere in northern Athens.

Train: Kifisia.

**Fresh Hotel**  
26 Sofokleous & Klisthenous street, Omonia, 210 5248511

An oasis in the rundown area of Omonia, close to everything. Metro: Omonia.

**Philippos Hotel**  
3 Mitseon street, Makrygianni, 210 9223611  
Excellent location and popular with weekend visitors. Metro: Akropoli

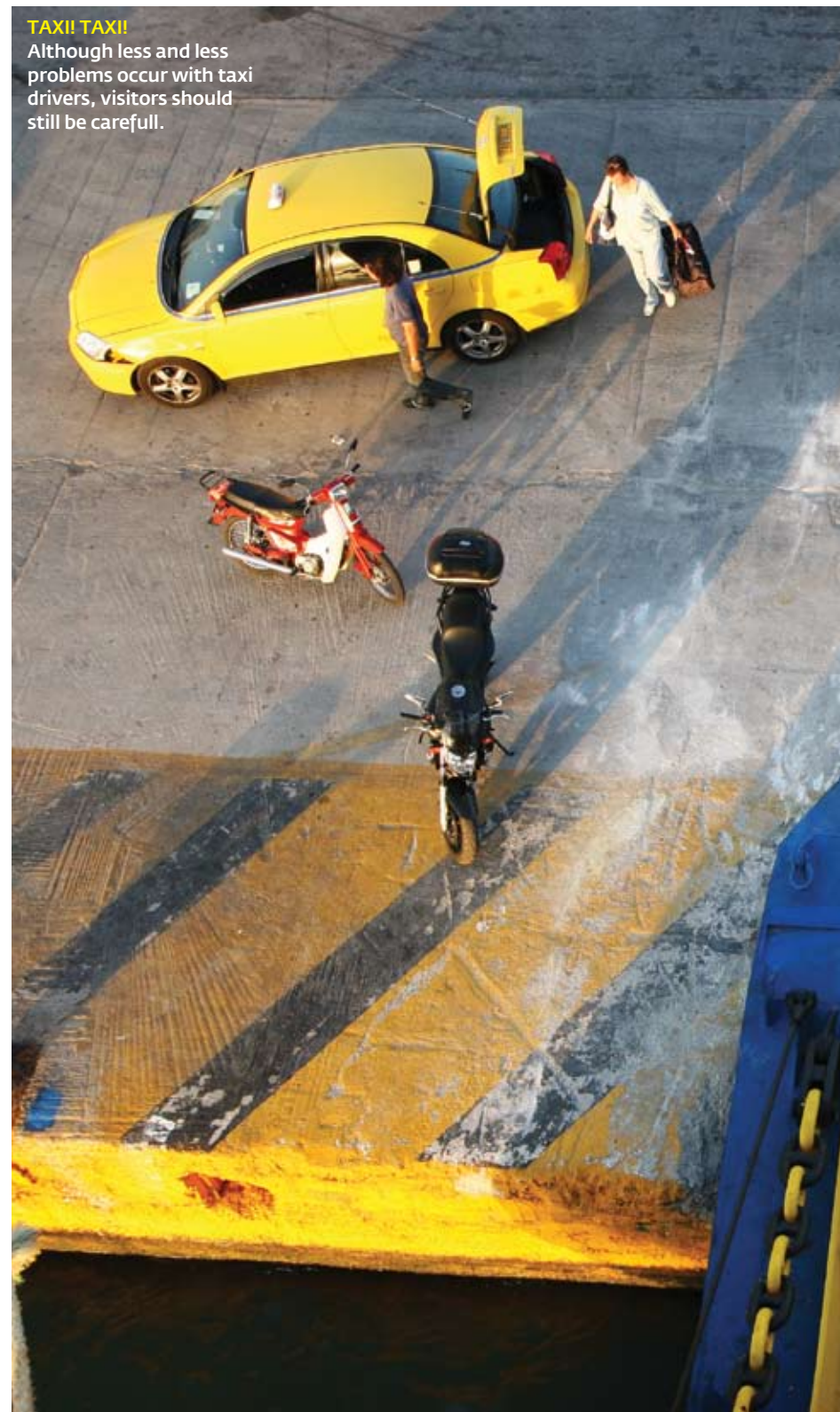
**BUDGET**  
**Art Gallery Hotel**  
5 Erechtiou street, Koukaki, 210 9238376  
Clean and cosy, it's a great choice for people who are on a tight budget. Metro: Syngrou-Fix.

**Acropolis House**  
6-8 Kodrou street, Plaka, 210 3222344  
Atmospheric and standard choice for young people. Metro: Syntagma

**Student & Travellers' Inn**  
16 Kydathineon street, Plaka, 210 3244808  
All backpackers end up in this cosy Inn. Metro: Syntagma.

# DANGERS PROBLEMS

**TAXII TAXII!**  
Although less and less problems occur with taxi drivers, visitors should still be careful.



- Athens is one of the safest cities in Europe, but it is advisable to take reasonable precautions to ensure your personal belongings, by keeping your handbag close to you and your wallet in a safe internal pocket.

- Greeks love to strike. Check with the concierge that civil servants are not on strike when you want to visit state-run museums and archaeological sites.

- Taxi drivers have significantly prepped up since the 2004 Olympics, but some of them might try to overcharge you. Ask in advance at the airport what would be a reasonable fare for a lift to your destination.

- Smoking has been banned in all public buildings, and restaurants are supposed to have a non-smoking area. However, Greeks are the heaviest smokers in the European Union and you'll often find that these rules do not apply. Although it's forbidden, taxi drivers often smoke, so it's best to tell them it bothers you before they light up.

- Make sure you dress modestly when visiting a church or monastery, which basically means keeping your chest and thighs covered.

- If you are a woman, avoid walking alone in deserted streets late at night, especially around Omonia square.

- Buy bottled water before you reach archaeological sites, as prices at on-site cafés and kiosks tend to be inflated.

- Athens is hilly and pavements are slippery and uneven. Wear comfy shoes!



# ATHENS MAP

Here are **the two most important** maps of Athens you will need. **The town center** and the coastline. **Happy navigating!**

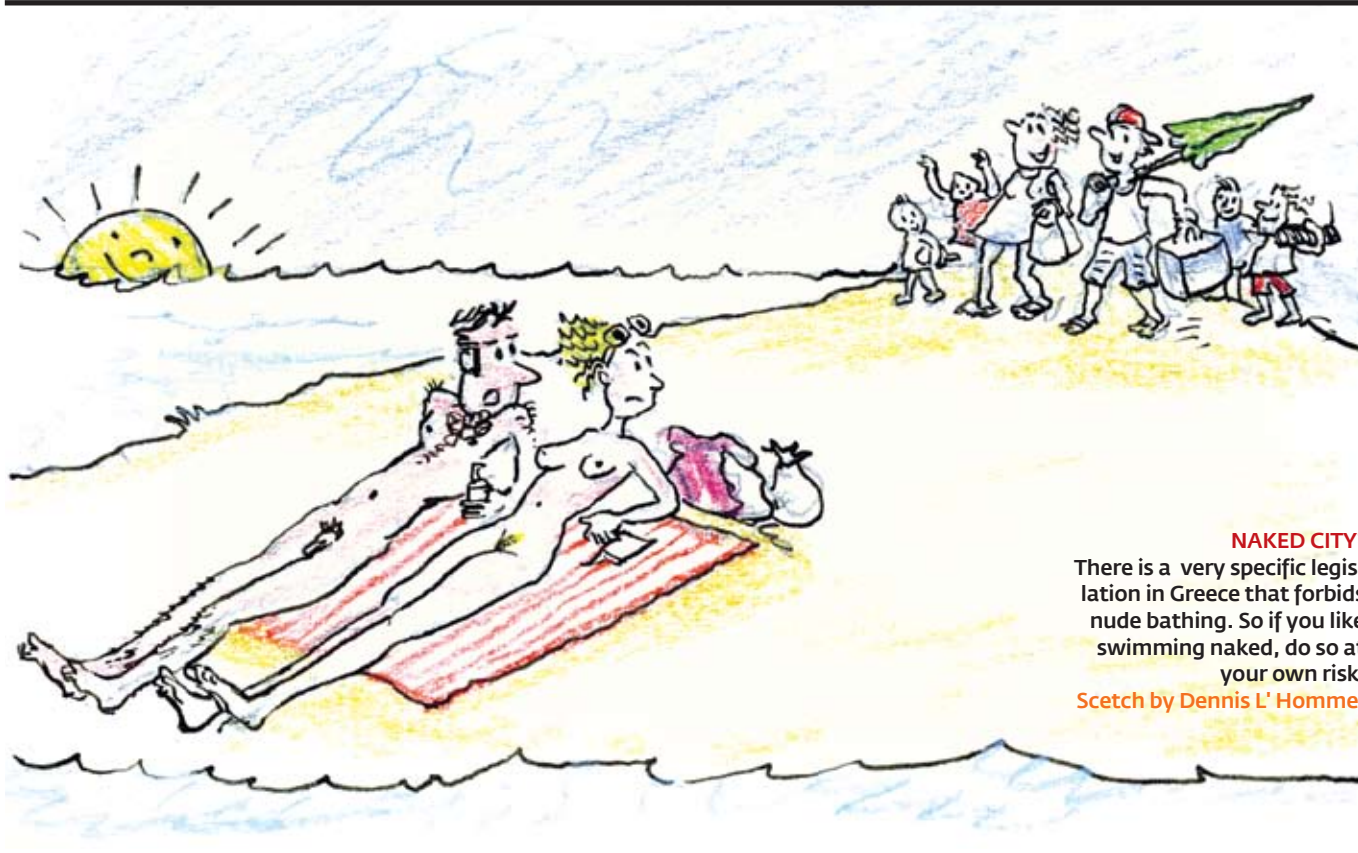




➤ **Pick the Tram from Syntagma Square**  
and head to the beach. It only takes half an hour!







**NAKED CITY?**  
There is a very specific legislation in Greece that forbids nude bathing. So if you like swimming naked, do so at your own risk!  
Scetch by Dennis L' Homme.

To paraphrase the well-known proverb, when in Athens, do as the Athenians and avoid sticky situations.

- Shake hands with everyone you meet. Don't be surprised if -once they get to know you a little bit better- they kiss you on both cheeks. It means they feel comfortable with you.
- Make sure you dress modestly when visiting a church or monastery, which basically means keeping your chest and thighs covered. It's also customary to drop a coin in the donation box and light a candle.
- When invited over to a house, it's advisable to bring a gift to the host, be it flowers, a bottle of wine or some desert. Arriving empty handed makes you look kinda cheap!
- We know it's said that Greeks don't mind being asked personal questions -as we ask some ourselves- but don't overdo it. Asking someone you just met how much money they make is plain rude. You might be asked about your marital status.
- Another myth buster: If you want a second serving from what you've been eating, just say so. If you're a guest you'll probably be asked once, so don't be shy. If you don't want more, say that too. In a restaurant, feel free to serve yourself and it's also nice to ask others if they want any.
- Its customary for people to arrive 30 minutes late for a dinner party.
- Bars, clubs and bouzoukia require formal dress, so keep your flip-flops for the beach! Cheap eateries like tavernas and smaller bars are casual.
- It is customary when eating in taverns, mezedopolia or oinomageiria to buy plates for everyone to share, rather than one plate for each person. However, if you still want a main course for yourself, feel free to get it.
- A 16% gratuity is included in some bills, but you're expected to leave something extra to round off the amount.
- Greeks often don't respect queues, so stay alert for queue jumpers!

Feel free to send your feedback, comments, curses and anything else to Daphne Papadopoulou at [daphnepa@gmail.com](mailto:daphnepa@gmail.com)

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## Forget us not!

Dear all,  
Thank you for using Lifo's Athens Guide For Visitors during your stay in Greece's capital. We hope you had a pleasant stay in this historical city. With this guide, the Lifo team attempted to give you an abridged version of a city that may be difficult, but it hides many beautiful secrets for anyone who tries to discover them. Wishing you a fantastic summer full of sun drenched memories from our beloved city.

*Michalis Michael*  
Special Editions Editor in chief



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