Athens landmarks best of arts & culture, sites
A quick guide to some of the city's must see architecture.

Ancient Agora
[Date back to the 5th century, many of which found in Athens, many of which date back to the 5th century, to appreciate their architectural beauty.]

Syntagma Sq. [E3]
[1862, the first modern city square, a meeting point for tourists and locals alike.]

Herodus Atticus Theatre [C2]
[Located on the Acropolis Hill, tel: 210 3244395; www.theacropolismuseum.gr) [D1]

Filopappou Hill/Hill of the Pnyx
[An outdoor cinema is a must to enjoy films under the stars.]

Archaeological Sites & Landmarks

Other Religious Sites

The City of Athens

The Acropolis Museum
[The museum houses the Parthenon's ancient sculptures and Middle Ages Armory.

The National Museum of Archaeology
[The museum is home to archaeological finds from all over Greece, including artifacts from the Mycenaean, Roman, and Byzantine eras.]
Transportation

- **Metro Line 1 (ISAP)**: Includes the Electric Railway Company, and is one of the three metro lines in Athens. It has a dense network through the city and connects to the ferry port, the central railway station, and other main stations.

- **Metro Lines 2 & 3**: Two lines (Metro Line 2 and 3) serve 9 stations. Quick dial: 14511, 1110. The high-speed suburban railway line connects the airport to the centre & serves the railway line connects the airport.

- **Hellenic Railways Organization (OSE)**: Provides international departures from Athens with connections to major railways. Main station: Larissa station.


- **Car Rentals**: Check with your local embassy or consulate, or ask at the airport. There are numerous reliable car rental agencies in Athens and local agencies can operate only if licensed by the Greek National Tourist Organization (G.N.T.O.) and require a valid international drivers license.


- **Train**: Trains are a relatively cheap and environmentally friendly, with a view of the Saronic Gulf, the train connects Athens with the coastal neighborhoods of Glyfada, in the east, and Piraeus (near Athens Port), in the west. Other nationals should have an International Drivers License in addition to their valid driver’s license.
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OPAP S.A. is the leader gaming operator in Greece, exclusively conducting, managing, organizing and operating numerical lottery and sports betting games in Greece and Cyprus, through an extensive network, currently comprised of more than 5,000 licensed agencies.

OPAP was founded in 1958 in order to organize and operate PROPO (the Greek Football Pools game). In 1999, the company was incorporated as a Société Anonyme with the Hellenic Republic as the sole stakeholder. In 2000, OPAP acquired from the State a 20-year license to be the exclusive operator of lottery and sports betting games. In 2001, the company was listed in the Athens Stock Exchange (ATHEX) with the Hellenic Republic, following consecutive offerings, currently maintaining 34% of the company's shares.

OPAP S.A. is considered to be one of the leading Companies in the global gaming sector. In 2011, the Group's revenues reached €4.36bn while net profit stood at €537.5m. Prize payouts to lottery and betting winners reached €2.94bn, whereas taxes of €285m were paid to the Greek state. The distribution of a total dividend of €229.7m is subject to approval by the Shareholders' Annual General Meeting.

As an active member of international organizations and associations of games of chance (World Lotteries Association, European Lotteries, European Lotteries Sports, European Association for the Study of Gambling), OPAP maintains a dynamic stance in the international developments of the gaming sector.

Focusing to its key principal, OPAP continuously supports an extended Corporate Social Responsibility Program through which contributes in the fields of sports, culture, healthcare, education and environment. The company applies an Integrated Management System which addresses Quality (ISO 9001:2009), Environment Management (ISO 14001:2004) and Responsible Care (SA 8000:2008).
Sightseeing  a city with history
The Acropolis, Monuments and temples, interesting walks, architectural grace. Plus! What you will find on the sacred rock of the Acropolis and a checklist of must-see sites and museums.

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ATHENIAN CAPITOL, 3rd SEPTEMVRIOU, IOULIANOU & 28th OCTOBER Str., ATHENS
tel: 210 88 16 187
(between Victoria Metro Station and National Archaeological Museum)

www.hellenicmotormuseum.gr
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History unfolds with every step in Athens, from the Parthenon atop the Acropolis, to the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion on the tip of Attica. The establishment of Athens as a city dates back to mythological times. The modern capital encompasses ancient and medieval history interpreting it into the contemporary era.

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ATTICA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

This awe-inspiring zoo in Spata, hosting among others the 5th largest bird collection in the world, will leave your children wide-eyed with amazement. Near Athens International Airport, and just 18 km (11.2 miles), or 25 minutes away from the centre of Athens, this 32-acre wild kingdom wonder is crawling with over 2000 animals from 380 different species, such as lions, giraffes, dolphins, wolves, lemurs, penguins, chimps, rhinos, bears, sea lions, parrots, birds of prey, and many more. Not just a place for entertainment and relaxation, but also a site of education and species conservation, Attica Zoological Park attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors of all ages from all over the world, who come here to experience a unique five continent journey. A definite must – do during your stay in Athens, or at least on your way to the airport!

Yalou, Spata, tel: 210 6634724, website: www.atticapark.com; OH: daily, 9am-sunset; Admission: adults €15, kids up to 12 years old €11, children under 3 free; Access: by car a) exit 18 to Spata (from the airport), b) exit 16P to Rafina (from Elefsina), c) end of Attiki Odos towards Rafina (from Ymittos Ringroad) – by bus: take the 319 from Doukissis Plakentias Metro Station (Metro Line 3)
Explore the Acropolis

At this point, our guide focuses on the Acropolis and the monuments that are situated on the top of the Sacred Rock and at the surrounding archaeological park. Start at Hadrian’s Arch (at Vasilisis Olgas Ave.), a monument built as tribute to the Roman emperor Hadrian by the Athenians in 131 AD, and the adjacent ancient Temple of Olympian Zeus. Cross the avenue to Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, the pedestrian pathway that will get you to the Acropolis. Along the way you will find: the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, built by the Roman emperor in 161 AD for his wife Regilla. Known under the name of Herodion, the conservatory hosts cultural performances organised by the Athens Festival (www.greekfestival.gr) every summer. Further south, stands the Theatre of Dionysus, birthplace of the ancient drama and site of the Great Dionysia, that are religious celebrations in honour of ancient god Dionysus. The street to the right of Dionysiou Areopagitou leads up to the Acropolis, and constitutes a site of worship from as far back as the Neolithic Age.

What’s on the Acropolis Hill?

The first temples appeared in 650 BC and were built in honour of the goddess Athena. During the Golden Age of Greece, in the 5th century BC, the Athenian statesman Pericles commissioned a team of skillful architects, engineers and sculptors to build the monuments we see today. The entrance to the Acropolis begins at the Propylaea, a complex of buildings with two wings and the central entrance way used as the official gateway to the Parthenon. The Propylaea was built by the architect Mnesicles. The Propylaea lead your way to the Parthenon, whose ruins still dominate the centre of Acropolis. Parthenon is undoubtedly the most renowned monument and universal symbol of Athens, both in the past and in the present. Dedicated to goddess Athena, the Parthenon, made of Pentelic marble and of Doric order, was designed by the architects Iktinos and Kallikrates during the period 447-432 BC. Across the Parthenon, at the northern end of the hill, stands the Erechtheion, a temple of Ionic order. Built on two levels, the Erechtheion is most widely renowned by the Caryatids, the six graceful female statues that support the roof of the temple. As you leave, behind you, you meet on the way Rock of Mars (Areios Pagos): a limestone hill, 115m high, with steep sides and uneven summit. It used to be the meeting point of the aristocratic council and the courthouse of ancient Athens. South of the Acropolis stands the temple of Apteros Nike or Temple of Athena Nike, an example of the work of architect Kallikrates. It was built around 420 BC to honour the celebration of the victory of the Greeks over the Persians. For detailed information on places of interest, please visit our website at www.breathtakingathens.com

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, an area of 4.7 km (3 miles) located at the foot of the Acropolis hill – extending from Dionysiou Areopagitou, Apostolou Pavlou, Adrianou, Ermou and Vasilisis Olgas – includes the following ancient sites: The Acropolis, Theatre of Dionysus, Theatre of Herodes Atticus, Ancient Agora, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Philopapou Hill or Hill of the Muses, Aeropagus Hill, Pnyx, Hill of the Nymphs (Observatory), Monument of Lysicrates, The Roman Agora, Hadrian’s Arch, Hadrian’s Library, Tower of the
Winds, Tzizdaraki Mosque, Temple of Hephaestus and Kerameikos.

Other attractions nearby:
The New Acropolis Museum (15, Dionysiou Areopagitou street, tel: +302109000900, www.theacropolismuseum.gr) the church of Agios Dimitrios Loubadiaris and traditional Greek dance performances by Dora Stratou (www.grdance.org). While you are here, make a stop to discover the charm of the neighbourhoods that make up the historic centre: Plaka and the cycladic-styled Anafiotika, for traditional Greek food and culture. Monastiraki for its souvenir shops and flea market. Thissio for its bars, cafes and restaurants with a great view to the ancient ruins, Kerameikos and adjacent Gazi for more contemporary dining and amusement alternatives. Follow the signs to the Roman Agora, a large rectangular market surrounded by a colonnade, built in 132 AD. Stroll the charming cobbled streets of Plaka and browse the ancient, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman monuments that stand at every corner of the area. If you are ready to take a break, stop at one of the many traditional tavernas that adorn the quiet streets of Plaka. After lunch, head towards Monastiraki Square, one of the most picturesque parts of the city for must-take-home folklore souvenirs.

Did you know? The pillars of the Parthenon appear to be perfectly perpendicular to both the surface and roof of the temple. But they are not. If you were to position them straight up they would converge somewhere above the temple, forming a pyramid. Even though the columns appear absolutely cylindrical, they are wider at the base and narrower at the top. This is deliberate so that the columns appear straight to the eye.

Planes and sites of interest

National Archaeological Museum, one of the richest collections of ancient Greek art in the world (www.namuseum.gr). The New Acropolis Museum, “a masterpiece” and must-visit (www.theacropolismuseum.gr). It took years to construct the museum according to the “museum” interior design and the “technology”. The permanent collections exhibit findings and artefacts from the sacred rock of the Acropolis, while smaller “vignette” temporary exhibits offer insight to the permanent collections. The cafe and museum shops are quite popular and should be visited. Greek Parliament and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The first used to be a church transformed to the royal palace of King Otto in the mid 1800 and home of the Greek Parliament since 1935. The latter is a sculpture in low relief depicting a dying ancient soldier in full armor.
The National Garden, located southeast of the Greek Parliament, covers an area of 40 acres and contains over 7,000 trees and 40,000 plants of the Greek flora.
Zappeion Megaron: Built in 1850, it is an outstanding example of Athenian classicism with columns that create a vast, circular, open-air atrium. Today, it serves as an exhibition and congress hall. The pleasant Zappeion Garden, decorated with marble statues, remains a favourite place to meet your friends, enjoy a stroll, or a cup of coffee at its picturesque cafe. During the summer months, Athenians rush to visit its open-air cinema.
Panathenaic - Olympic Stadium or “Kalimarmaro” (which means “made of fine marble”). The ancient stadium was built in 330 BC Kalimarmaro was erected for the needs of the modern Olympic Games on the ruins of the ancient stadium between the years 1893-1896.
Lycabettus Hill: At a height of 277 metres (approximately 1,000 feet), Lycabettus is perhaps the best spot to get an aerial view of the city. If climbing does not appeal to you, take the cable car to the top and back down. The entrance is on the corner of Aristippou and Ploutarchou.
Ancient Agora, Monastiraki: It is befitting that this monument, the centre of commercial and business life in ancient times, would later give rise to the buzzing shopping district that surrounds it today. Of course, Monastiraki cannot compare to the milieu of the ancient agora, but it still continues to inspire those who live, work and visit the area.

Plaka: The winding pathways carry thousands of years of history. Walk amongst the buildings whose facades are dressed in 19th century neoclassical design and architecture. Notice the Cycladic-styled houses in the area known as Anafiotika, named after Anafiotes, who were builders from Santorini that lived in the area when they were building the palace of King Otto. Dine at one of its numerous restaurants. Explore the ancient monuments, contemporary museums and traditional souvenirs stretching throughout the area.

The Athenian Coastline: Athens is surrounded by pristine beaches, where you can swim for many months during the year. Visit a beach in Athens and you are likely to feel like you are on a Greek island, as you are greeted with stretches of fine sand, colourful pebbles and crystal, blue waters. The tram and bus take you to nearby, organized beaches (some have water sports facilities) in Faliro, Alimos, Kalamaki, Glyfada, Schinias and Varkiza in less than an hour. Ideal for the whole family is a walk on the Flisvos Marina (www.flisvosmarina.com) esplanade: a great destination for all ages, at any time of year.

Why not “POST” A PHOTO of you alongside the tall, commanding Presidential Guards, known as Evzones or Tsolias. Worth the wait in order to witness the changing of the guards, a ten-minute ceremonial procedure that takes place every hour on the hour.

Did you know? The foustanela or skirt that is part of their uniform consists of 360 pleats, symbolizing the 360 years of Turkish domination.

What’s on top of Lycabettus hill?

If you see a tiny, white church on top of one of the highest points of the city centre, you are probably looking at Agios Georgios (built around 1780), atop Lycabettus Hill. If you decide to take the pleasant climbing up, you will see that there are actually two churches (a smaller one, Agios Isidoros), a cafe and restaurant, and an open-air stadium (since 1964) that houses concerts in the summer months (www.greekfestival.gr).

Get inspired by the city's numerous fascinating museums, galleries full with contemporary and ancient exhibits. Below is a guide to some. More detailed information may be found online at www.breathtakingathens.com

Important Museums

Museums operating in Athens can be divided in two categories. On the one hand, there are the significant institutions hosting world treasures from antiquity. These include the Acropolis Museum, the National Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Cycladic Art, the Benaki Museum and the Byzantine Museum. Furthermore, there is a number of state, thematic museums such as the Museum of Contemporary Art and the War Museum. On the other hand, there is a large number of thematic, public or private museums, with smaller collections, covering a variety of fields ranging from history to pottery and from railway to music instruments.

Abbreviations: NM = nearest metro, NR = nearest rail, OH = opening hours
Make a contact before visit
ACROPOLIS METRO STATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION
Makriyanni Street, NM: Acropolis
Tel: +302105194717 OH: daily 6am-midnight
Admission: Free
While all of Athens' new metro (subway) stations, also act as mini museums, with classical...
and contemporary works of art, the Acropolis station is a special gem. The archaeological exhibit here is a clear indication of the modern, yet classical depth of contemporary Athens. This ultra – modern metro station boasts window displays from the Parthenon and showcases findings which were brought to light during the excavation works for the construction of the new Metro.

**ACROPOLIS MUSEUM**
15 Dionysiou Areopagitou street
**NM:** Acropolis  **Tel:** +302109000900  
**Website:** www.theacropolismuseum.gr

**ANCIENT AGORA MUSEUM - STOA OF ATTALUS**
24, Adrianou Street  
**NM:** Monasterion  
**NR:** Thissio  
**Tel:** +302103210185

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF KERAMEIKOS**
148, Ermou Street  
**NM:** Monasterion  
**NR:** Thissio  
**Tel:** +302103463552

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF PIRAEUS**
31, Charilaou Trikoupi Street, Piraeus  
**NR:** Piraeus  
**Tel:** +302104521598  
**Website:** www.sfs.gr

**ATHENS MUNICIPAL GALLERIES (in two locations)**
1) Kounoundourou Sq  
**NM:** Metaxourgio  
2) Leonidou & Myllerou str.,  
**NM:** Metaxourgio  
**NR:** Omonoia  
**Tel:** +30 210 5202420

**ATHENS RAILWAY MUSEUM**
4, Siokou Street  
**NM:** Sepolia  
**Tel:** +302105126295  
**Website:** www.sfs.gr

The museum's collection offers insight into Piraeus' significance throughout Greece's history. Four large rooms on the ground floor are dedicated to findings from several cemeteries. The top floor contains a multitude of exquisite bronze statues, among them the statue of Apollo, two statues of Artemis and one of Athena and the sole archaic bronze Kouros in existence. Do not miss the massive reconstruction of the mausoleum of Nikeratos and his son Polyxenos.

**ATHENS RAILWAY MUSEUM**
4, Siokou Street  
**NM:** Sepolia  
**Tel:** +302105126295  
**Website:** www.sfs.gr

A fun museum for all ages, the Athens Railway Museum takes you back to the days of the steam locomotives of the late 1800s, old-world trams, royal coaches...
of the Sultan, old-fashioned cars, tickets and memorabilia from the heyday of train transportation. Exhibits also simulate the various aspects of the full-scale railway, such as the function of signals and points. Works, photographs and designs of the modern fleet of railway cars are also displayed.

**B & M THEOCHARAKIS FOUNDATION FOR THE FINE ARTS AND MUSIC**

9 Vasilissis Sofias &1 Merlin Street, 
NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3) Tel: +302103611206 E-mail: info@theocharakis-foundation.gr
Website: www.thf.gr
OH: Mon, Tues, Wed 10am-6pm, Thu-Fri 10am-8pm, (July-Aug 10am-6pm) Sat-Sun 10am-6pm, Admission: Free

The B & M Theocharakis Foundation is primarily concerned with music and the fine arts in Greece and internationally, with a focus on the emergence of the Modern and its continuous development over the 20th and into the 21st century. The Foundation aims to encourage the public to enter into a wide-ranging and interdisciplinary dialogue with music and the visual arts, to promote the work of Greek artists abroad, to employ every means at its disposal to disseminate the content of its activities and to develop networks facilitating collaboration and exchange.

**BATTLESHIP “G. AVEROF” MUSEUM**

Marina Trokantero, Paleo Faliro
NR: Faliro, Tel: +302109888211, Email: abervf@otenet.gr, Website: www.bsaverof.com
OH: Summer season: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm /Winter season: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm, Sat-Sun-holidays 19am-5pm Admission: €2, reductions €1.50

The Battleship Averof, the most significant Greek naval vessel, played a crucial role in the history of the Hellenic Navy as the flagship ship during the Balkan War (1912-1913). It was commissioned in 1911 and remained in active service for a period of 44 years. Today, the ship serves as a monument commemorating Greece’s naval and modern history.

**BENAKI MUSEUM, KOLONAKI**

Koumpari Street & Vasilissis Sofias Avenue
NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3), Tel: +302103671000 Email: benaki@benaki.gr, Website: www.benaki.gr
OH: Wed, Fri-Sat 9am-5pm, Thu 9am-midnight, Sun 9am-3pm, Mon, Tue closed, Admission: €7, reduced ticket: €5

This group of collections comprises many distinct categories totaling in more than 30,000 items, illustrating the character of the Greek world, through a spectacular historical panorama: from antiquity and the age of Roman domination to the medieval Byzantine period and from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the subsequent centuries of Frankish and Ottoman occupation to the outbreak of the struggle for independence in 1821. From the formation of the modern state of Greece in 1830, up to 1922, the year in which the Asia Minor disaster took place. The museum’s annexes include: the Benaki Museum Pireos, the Islamic Art Collection, the Delta House, the N. Hadjikyriakos Ghikas Gallery and the Yannis Pappas Studios.

**BYZANTINE & CHRISTIAN MUSEUM**

22, Vasilissis Sofias Street
NM: Megaro Moussikis, Tel: +302132139572, Email: info@byzantinemuseum.gr Website: www.byzantinemuseum.gr
OH: Tue-Sun 9am-4pm Admission: €4, reduced ticket: €2

Over 25,000 artefacts organized into collections that date from the 3rd to the 20th century. The artefacts are drawn from the entire Greek world and other territories where the Hellenic spirit flourished. The number of collections and the quality of the exhibits make the museum a veritable treasure trove of Byzantine and post-Byzantine art and culture.

**CANELLOPOULOS MUSEUM**

12 Theorias Street
NM: Acropolis
NR: Monasterion
Tel: +302103244447 Email: info@canellopoulosmuseum.org Website: pakanellopoulosfoundation.org
OH: Tue-Sun 8:30am-3pm Admission: €2, reduced ticket: €1

A private collection donated to the Greek state. Housed in a neoclassical building at the foot of the Acropolis hill and above the Ancient Agora, the museum houses works of art from the Prehistoric Age until the
sightseeing a city with history

Byzantine Era.

**CYCLADIC ART MUSEUM**
4, Neofytou Douka Street NM: Panepistimio
Tel: +302107228321
Email: museum@cycladic.gr
Website: www.cycladic.gr

An extensive and unique private collection of prehistoric art from the Cycladic islands, as well as, ancient Greek and Byzantine art.

**DESTE – FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**
11, Filellinon & Em. Pappa Streets,
Nea Ionia, NR: Nea Ionia, Tel: +302102758490
Email: info@deste.gr
Website: www.deste.gr

The DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art was established in 1983 by the international art collector Dakis Joannou. DESTE is a non-profit foundation that organizes exhibitions and supports publications that explore the relationship between contemporary art and culture. It aims to broaden the audience for contemporary art, to enhance opportunities for young artists and to establish a dialogue through an exhibition program that promotes emerging, as well as, established artists. Through its exhibition and publishing program, the DESTE Foundation aspires to act as a host to innovative expressions, and operates as an open space for the redefinition of the current artistic production and emergent cultural realities.

**EPIGRAPHICAL MUSEUM**
1, Tositsa Street NM: Omonoia
NR: Omonoia, Tel: +302108232950
Email: ema@culture.gr
Website: www.epigraph.gr

The Epigraphical Museum, founded in 1885, comprises a collection of Attic inscriptions and a collection of inscriptions from other districts of Greece.

**EXILE MUSEUM**
31, Agion Asomaton Street NR: Thissio
Tel: +302103213488
Email: exile@museum@gmail.com
Website: www.exile-museum.gr

The island of Ai-Stratis is located in the northern Aegean Sea and is inhabited by 220 permanent residents. For a very long period of time, from 1926 to 1967, it became one of the many exile destinations of Greece. It is estimated that over 100,000 exiles, including men, women and children, were sent off to Ai-Stratis during that period. The Museum is dedicated to the exile experience, which is preserved through artefacts, documents, art work, photographs, newspapers, magazines and original oral history records.

**FRISSIRAS MUSEUM**
3 & 7, Monis Asteriou NM: Syntagma
Lines 2 & 3: Tel: +302103234678
Email: info@frissirasmuseum.com
Website: www.frissirasmuseum.com

The permanent collection is constituted by 3,000 works of painting and sculpture by Greek and other European artists on the subject of the human form. Other rotating exhibits of international caliber have made this museum one of the city’s finest.

**GREEK FOLK ART MUSEUM**
17, Kydathinaion Street NM: Syntagma
Lines 2 & 3: Tel: +302103229031
Email: melt@melt.gr
Website: www.melt.gr

A rich collection of Greek folk art dating from 1650 until today, including works of embroidery, weaving, costumes, masquerades, silver- and metal works, pottery, wood and stone carvings. The museum’s annexes include: the Tzidaraki Mosque (in its original location), where the “V. Kyriazopoulos Collection of Folk Pottery” is now housed and the building at 8 Kyrestou Str., known as the “Baths of Athena.” The newest building at 22 Panos Str., in Plaka, features historic items from various Greek trade professions of the 19th and 20th century.

**GREEK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MUSEUM**
1-3, Diogenous Street NM: Syntagma
Lines 2 & 3: Monasterion
Tel: +302103254119
Email: melmoke@otenet.gr
Website: www.instruments-museum.gr

The museum features a rich collection of Greek musical instruments, including cymbals, drums, guitars, lutes, lyres, and other traditional Greek instruments.
Over 1,200 Greek popular musical instruments depict the history and evolution of Greek music from the 18th century to the present. The musicologist, Fivos Anoyanakis, opened the museum in 1991 after 50 years of research. Audio capabilities allow the visitor to listen to the music depicted in showcases, including Dionysian rhythms of the zoura and melodies of the mandolin.

HELLENIC COSMOS CULTURAL CENTRE
254, Pireos Avenue, Tavros NR: Kallithea Tel: +302122540000 Email: hellenic-cosmos@ime.gr Website: www.hellenic-cosmos.gr OH: Summer season: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sun 10am-3pm / Winter season: Mon, Tue, Thu 9am-2pm, Fri 9am-8pm, Sun 10am-4pm, Sat 11am-4pm, Admission: €10, reduced ticket: €8

Culture, history and sciences come to life in front of the visitors at the “Tholos”, the grandiose Virtual Reality theatre, with shows regarding the ancient Agora of Athens or the environment. Do not miss the interactive exhibitions Meeting at the Ancient Agora and Is There An Answer To Everything? A journey to the world of Greek mathematics, but also the “travels” through space and time at “Kivotos”, wearing the special stereoscopic glasses.

HELLENIC MARITIME MUSEUM
Akti Themistokleous, Piraeus Tel: +302104516264 Email: nme@hmmuseum.gr Website: www.hmmuseum.gr OH: Tue-Sat 9am-2pm Admission: €1.50, reduced ticket: €1

The nautical history of Greece (from the prehistoric period until the present) comes to life in this museum, which was founded in 1949 in Piraeus. The collection stretches in nine rooms filled with models of ancient and modern ships, paintings of seascapes from the 19th and 20th century Greek painters (Prossalendis, Volanakis, Hadjis, etc.), as well as guns, maps, flags, medals and nautical instruments. There is also a specialized library with 10,000 volumes of rich archival material, including a photographic and film collection, which includes, among others, the archives of admiral Kriezis and, approximately 200 maps from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

HERAKLEIDON MUSEUM - EXPERIENCE IN VISUAL ARTS
16, Herakleidon Street NM: Monasterion NR: Thissio Tel: +302103461981 Email: info@herakleidon-art.gr Website: www.herakleidon.com OH: Fri 1pm-9pm, Sat, Sun 11am-7pm, Admission: €6, reduced ticket €4

The museum’s mission is to introduce visitors to the art of the artist him/herself, to show how the artist has evolved through the various important periods in his or her career, to explain the various techniques used by them to express their vision, and to help the visitors connect to both the artist’s life and their work. To accomplish this, works of the artist are on exhibit, as well as, their preparatory sketches, drawings, photographs and personal items. Audiovisual and other aids provide complete and detailed information on the life of the artist, each phase of his or her work, and their techniques.

JEWELLERY MUSEUM ILIAS LALAOUNIS
6, Karyatidon Street NM: Acropolis Tel: +302109221044 Email: jewelrymuseum@ath.forthnet.gr Website: www.lalaounis-jewelrymuseum.gr/en OH: Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat 9am-3pm, Sun 11am-4pm, Admission: €5, reduced ticket €4

A collection of over 4,000 jewels and small ornaments dedicated to the history and art of jewellery making by one of Greece’s most renowned jewellery designers, Ilias Lalounis.

JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE
39, Nikis Street NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3) NR: Monasterion Tel: +302103225582 Email: info@jewishmuseum.gr Website: www.jewishmuseum.gr OH: Mon-Fri 9am-2:30 pm, Sun 10am-2pm, Sat closed Admission: €6, reduced ticket €3

More than 7,000 objects, illustrating 2,300 years of Jewish life in Greece, are depicted in thematic exhibits. The museum highlights the history of the Greek-speaking Romaniotes Jews (whose presence in Greece dates back to the 3rd century BC), presents the Holocaust and the Jewish participation in the Greek
War of Independence.

**MELINA MERKOURI CULTURAL CENTRE**
66, Herakleidon str., NM: Kerameikos
NR: Thissio Tel: +30 210 3452150 OH: Tue-Sat. 9am-1pm and 5pm-9pm.
Admission: Free

The impressive “Poulopoulou” old hat factory now houses the centre that features two exhibitions. The permanent exhibition is an impressive representation of an Athenian neighbourhood of 1900, with houses, shops and a kafeneio (coffee house), while the second is the “Haridimos Shadow Theatre” puppet collection. The Centre also hosts various events, concerts and seminars.

**ELEFHERIOS VENIZELOS MUSEUM**
Vasilisis Sofias Avenue, Eleftherias Park NM: Megaro Mousikis Tel: +302107224238 Email: eleveniz@otenet.gr, OH: Tue-Sat 10am-1pm & 6pm-8pm, Sun 10am-1pm
Admission: Free

Library, photographs and personal items of Eleftherios Venizelos (1864-1936), the prominent Greek statesman, diplomat and former Prime Minister of Greece, declared to be one of the most significant politicians in the history of modern Greece.

**MUSEUM OF GREEK CHILDREN’S ART**
9, Kodrou Street, NM: Acropolis Tel: +302103312621 E-mail: contact@childrensartmuseum.gr Website: www.childrensartmuseum.gr OH: Tue-Sat 10am-2pm, Sun 11am-2pm, Mon closed Admission: €2

The Museum of Greek Children’s Art (M.G.C.A.) exhibits drawings and three-dimensional artwork made by children aged 4 to 14 years old. It focuses on the field of children's artistic creativity and is one of the few, worldwide, on the subject. The museum’s gift shop has books, postcards, posters, art games and a variety of gifts featuring children’s art inspired from its collections.

**MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART**
22, Ag. Asomaton & 12, Dipilou St. NM: Monasterion NR: Thissio Tel: +302103251311 Email: islamic_collection@benaki.gr Website: www.benaki.gr OH: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 9am-3pm, Wed 9am-9pm
Admission: €5, reduced ticket: €3

The Benaki Museum’s collection of Islamic Art ranks among the most important in the world. Housed in a wonderful building in the historic centre of Athens, near the ancient cemetery of Kerameikos, it consists of objects from India, Persia, Mesopotamia, the Asia Minor, the Middle East, the Arabic world, Egypt, North Africa, Sicily and Spain.

**MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF ATHENS VOIROS - EFTAXIAS**
5 – 7, Paparigopoulou Street NM: Panepistimio Tel: +302103231397 Email: mveathen@otenet.gr Website: www.athenscitymuseum.gr OH: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 9am-4pm, Sat-Sun 10am-3pm, Tue closed Admission: €3, reduced ticket: €2

The museum depicts the history, civilization and life of the newly-founded modern Greek State of 1832. Several specialized collections, memorabilia and typical living rooms of the Athenian 19th century aristocratic mansions offer a window into the rich life of Athens at the time.

**NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**
44, Patission Avenue NM: Omonoia NR: Viktoria Tel: +302108217724 Email: eam@culture.gr, Website: www.namuseum.gr OH: Mon 1:30pm-8:00pm Tue-Sun 9am-4:00pm Admission: €7, reduced ticket: €3

The National Archaeological Museum is a must-visit. One of the richest collections of ancient Greek art in the world, the exhibits are representative of all the cultures that flourished in Greece, from the prehistoric age until the period of Turkish occupation. Frescoes from prehistoric Thera and statues from the classical period, such as the bronze statue of Poseidon, are some of the museum’s highlights.

**NATIONAL ART GALLERY - ALEXANDROS SOUTZOS MUSEUM**
1, Michalakopoulou Street NM: Evangelismos Tel: +302107235937-8 Website: www.nationalgallery.gr OH: Mon-Sun 9am-3:30pm, Tue closed Admission: €5, reduced price: €3

The National Art Gallery is one of Greece’s main art institutions that features paintings from some of Greece’s and Europe’s famous artists of the 19th and
20th centuries. Emphasis is given to well-known Greek contemporary artists, such as Yannis Tsarouchis, Domenikos Theotokopoulos (or El Greco), Theodoros Vrizakis, Nikolaos Kounelakis, Nikiforos Lytras, Konstantinos Parthenis, Konstantinos Maleas, Yannis Moralis and others. 

**NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
13, Stadiou Avenue, NM: Panepistimio  
Tel: +302103237617  
Email: info@nhmuseum.gr  
Website: www.nhmuseum.gr  
OH: Tue-Sun 9am-2pm, Admission: €3, reduced ticket: €1.50  
Relics and rare historical archives and documents relating to modern Greek history, such as weapons used by revolutionaries that fought the Greek War of Independence can be seen here. It is the oldest museum of its kind and it includes rich collections that highlight the most representative phases of Neo-Hellenism, from the fall of Constantinople (15th century) until the present. The museum also functions as a research centre of modern Greek history. 

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (EMST)**  
17-19, Vas. Georgiou B’ and Rigillis street NM: Evangelismos  
Tel: +30 210 9242111-3, Email: protocol@emst.gr, Website: www.emst.gr  
OH: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, Thu 11am-10pm, Admission: €3, reduced ticket: €1.50  
The National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST) was founded in 1997. It aims to create collections of contemporary Greek and international works of art, to promote and present advanced and experimental artistic installations, to enhance the aesthetic and artistic cultivation of the people and to forge scientific research on subjects of contemporary art history and theory. 

**NUMISMATIC MUSEUM**  
12, Panepistimiou Avenue NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3), Tel: +302103632057, Email: protocol@nm.culture.gr, Website: www.nma.gr  
OH: Tue-Sun 8:00am-3pm, Admission: €3, Reduced ticket: €2  
The Numismatic Museum of Athens, with a history dating back to 1829, is one of the few of its kind in the world and the sole in the Balkans. It provides continuous educational support to Hellenism in the sectors of numismatics, history and history of art. The collection comprises approximately 6,000 coins, covering the ancient Greek world, the Roman and Byzantine periods, western Medieval times and modern times. The building that houses the museum, **Iliou Melathron**, is to be appreciated for its design by architect Ernst Ziller, who is credited with designing over 500 exquisite buildings in Greece. 

**POSTAL & PHILATELIC MUSEUM**  
5, Stadiou square & Fokianou Street NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3), Tel: +302107519066  
Email: postmuseum@elta-net.gr  
Website: www.postalmuseum.gr  
OH: Mon-Fri 8am-2pm  
Admission: Free  
The history of the postal services and philatelic bureaus. The collection includes postboxes, safes, postal stamp machines, seals, printing machines, bags and horns used by the postmen and other items of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services. The museum has a special date stamping machine bearing the representation of the head of god Hermes. 

**THEATRE MUSEUM & STUDY CENTRE OF THE GREEK THEATRE**  
50, Akadimias Avenue NM:  
Tel: +302103637453  
Email: info@theatremuseum.gr, Website: www.theatremuseum.gr  
OH: Mon-Fri 10am-3pm, Sun 10am-1pm  
Admission: Free  
The library stores 25,000 volumes of Greek and foreign books on theatre. Memorabilia of theatrical life, stage costumes, numerous photographs, models of stage settings, personal items of leading actors are all exhibited in the museum. The theatrical archives include 18th and 19th century manuscripts, programmes and posters. 

**THE HELLENIC CHILDREN’S MUSEUM**  
14, Kydathinaion Street NM:  
Tel: +302103312995,
Easter_email: info@hcm.gr, Website: www.hcm.gr OH: Tue-Fri 10am-2pm, Sat-Sun 10am-3pm, Admission: Free
The museum is dedicated to children and is housed in an old mansion. Its aim is to enhance learning through play and direct contact with various objects. The hands-on displays encourage children to explore, experiment, think and create. Among the displays, there is an exhibit called "Hello Pythagoras", which engages children in logic and geometry games, while similar initiatives exist for cooking, recycling, money, art and the family. Of course, there are lots of toys and games, as well as, computers here. A series of activities, such as, theatrical games, cooking lessons and seasonal preparations are organized every weekend. The museum is ideal for children up to 12 years old.

WAR MUSEUM
Vasilisis Sofias Ave. & Rizari St., NM: Evangelismos Tel: +30210-7252974 Email: info@warmuseum.gr, Website: www.warmuseum.gr OH: Tue-Sun 9am-2pm, Admission: €2
Collection of weapons and historic items document the struggles for freedom of the Greek nation from ancient times to the present days.

HELLENIC MOTOR MUSEUM
3rd September, 33-35 Ioulianou & Patission str., NM: Omonia NR: Viktoria Tel: +302108816187 Email: info@hellenicmotormuseum.gr, Website: www.hellenicmotormuseum.gr OH: Tue-Sat: noon-9pm, Sun: 11am-6pm Admission: adults €8, reduced ticket €5, Road Safety Program (for children 6-12 years old) €6
Do you like speed? At the “Athenian Capitol” complex, a multi-activity centre, strategically located between the National Archaeological Museum and Viktoria station, you can find one of the most fascinating car collections in the world, with the oldest vehicle on display being a 1895 Hungarian-made fire engine! Afterwards, you can try your racing skills in the F1 simulator, have a pit stop at the homonymous cafe and enjoy the collectible memorabilia in the museum store, while younger visitors (6-12 years old) have the opportunity to participate in an interactive road safety game. Fun for the whole family that is not to be missed!

Like! Onassis Cultural Centre (www.sgt.gr). The newest cultural destination of Athens, it presents a multitude of events from dance, theatre, music and visual arts, to literature. The centre pays emphasis on contemporary cultural expression, supporting Greek artists, cultivating international collaborations and educating people of all ages through life-long learning programmes.

Visit with your children!

THE MUSEUM OF GREEK CHILDREN’S ART (www.childrensartmuseum.gr) and THE HELLENIC CHILDREN’S MUSEUM (www.hcm.gr). Kids can experience museum hopping, too! Both offer a different aspect of interactive art seen through the eyes of a child. The former boasts an exhibition of paintings and works of art made by children and the latter a fun hands-on approach to Greek children’s culture.

SPATHARIO MUSEUM OF SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE (www.karagiozismuseum.gr): Puppet shows are a favourite children’s pastime. Shadow theatre is a unique puppet art form with a long history in Greece and Turkey. A visit in the museum sheds light on the story of shadow theatre and the set of characters and “instruments” used to narrate it.

GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND GAIA CENTRE (www.gnhm.gr): Reptiles, insects, and science-oriented interactive exhibits always enchant children! In addition, the museum’s extensive research on the flora, fauna and eco-system of Greece makes it a must-see destination for the entire family.

Education and fun

The New Digital Planetarium of the Eugenides Foundation (www.eugenfound.edu.gr) is one of the largest, state-of-
the-art digital planetariums in the world. It offers headsets in English for visitors and has several programmes for adults and children (ages 9 and up). Interactive and digitally-advanced technology explains Greek culture at the Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre (www.ime.gr) of the Foundation of the Hellenic World in a series of virtual reality programs that take all family members back to ancient Greece just with a touch of a button!

Architectural Miracles: Explore some of the city’s best:

The Academy of Athens, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the National Library on Panepistimou Avenue form the “neoclassical trilogy”, a truly beautiful stretch of 19th century buildings. The abovementioned cluster was built in 1887, designed by Theophilus Hansen and supervised by Ernst Ziller. The Numismatic Museum- Iliou Melathron, formerly the house of German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, built by the famous architect of the time, Ernst Ziller (1837-1923).

The City of Athens “Technopolis”: Housed in a former gasworks industrial plant, this vast area for events, concerts and exhibitions has contributed to the expansion and development of the area it inhabits, known as “Gazi” (Greek for gas).

Interesting Religious Monuments

Athens has many architecturally impressive churches and monasteries, some hidden, but all beautiful and spiritual. The Monastery of Kaisariani on Hymettus Hill, The Monastery of Dafni, Athens Cathedral, Mitropoleos Street, Agios Dionysius, Skoufa Street, Kolonaki, Panagia Kapnikarea, Ermou Street, The Church of the Holy Power (Agia Dinami), Mitropoleos Street.

Other religious sites

Holocaust Memorial near the Beth Shalom Synagogue (5, Melidoni Str, Kerameikos); The Anglican Church (Filellinon Str. and Amalias Ave.); The Russian Church (Church of the Saviour Lykodemos, Filellinon Str. and Amalias Ave); The Catholic Church of St. Dionysius (Panepistimou Ave. and Omirou Str); Agia Marina (Hill of the Nymphs, Thissio); The Church of

Custom bus tours

Take a tour with the Athens Hop On-Hop Off double decker bus (www.city-sightseeing.com and www.citysightseeing.gr), (www.athens-citytour.com). It encompasses most of Athens’ top sights, offering a pre-recorded commentary in several languages. Contact in advance for handicap equipped bus schedules. There are also nice passenger city trains that offer tours to the historic centre: Athens Sightseeing with the Happy Train (www.athenshappytrain.com) and Sunshine Express (www.sunshine-express.gr).

Libraries

Gennadius Library (54, Souidias str. Kolonaki, tel: +30 210 7210536, www.ascsa.edu.gr): Private collection of over 27,000 rare volumes about Greece. Ioanniiou Cultural Centre Library (59, Panormou str., tel: +30 210 6983905): The centre’s collections include over 7,000 titles covering the arts and sciences.

Athens Municipal Library (2, Domokou str., Larissa railway station, tel: +30 210 8847561): A large newspaper and photographic archive of Athens with more than 55,000 titles of books.
Do you only have a weekend to explore the capital of Greece? No need to worry! Spending three full days in Athens is a great way to begin feeling part of the city. The following recommendations provide you with useful tips on how to experience the best of Athens.
Discover the Acropolis and the Historic Centre

Day 1

We recommend that you dedicate your first day exploring - but in a little more detailed way – during the day the historic city centre (namely the Acropolis, Plaka, Monastiraki and Thisio) and save Psiri and Gazi for your evening explorations.

Morning (8:00 – 12:00)

Start by visiting the Acropolis and the Parthenon. To get there, take Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, whose pedestrian precinct starts opposite Hadrian's Arch and the Ancient Temple of Olympian Zeus, admire the sights that greet you on your way to Propylaea, that is, the main entrance of Acropolis with its main attraction, the Parthenon. Stroll around the great archaeological site, a 4.7 km (3 mile) oasis encompassing some of the world’s most significant ancient monuments such as the Theatre of Dionysus, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus and the Ancient Agora.

Next stop should be the New Acropolis Museum (www.theacropolismuseum.gr), a must-see attraction not only for its collection of artefacts, but also for its building design (see below). You can try a light meal or a cup of coffee at the museum’s restaurant while admiring the breathtaking view of the Acropolis surrounding you.

Noon & Afternoon (12:00 – 15:00)

Discover some of the city’s most historic neighbourhoods. You are now in the Makriyanni district. Head north towards Thisio and Prisi, enjoy a cup of coffee or a soft drink and continue walking southeast to the souvenir shops in Monastiraki, the famous Athenian flea market. Explore the enchanting cobbled streets of Plaka and the cycladic-style area of Anafiotika. Wander across the ancient Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman remnants such as the Ancient Agora and Roman Agora.

If you have children travelling with you, two worth visiting destinations are The Hellenic Children’s Museum and The Museum of Greek Children's Art.

Plaka is one of the liveliest places to eat and enjoy a traditional Greek meal or meze (a selection of small dishes) and an aperitif such as ouzo. Stop at one of the many little restaurants and tavernas. After lunch, head towards Monastiraki and Thisio for must-take-home souvenirs, exclusive shopping and even more sightseeing. Tour the city via its double-decker buses or hop-on-hop-off trains that will take you from Syntagma Square to and through the historic city centre.

The historic centre is filled with several small interesting museums and galleries. Check the “What’s On” section for current exhibitions and the complete list of museums and galleries at www.breathtakingathens.com

Midday (12:00)

One metro stop or a few minutes’ walk away is Syntagma Square, the heart of the city. Across the street, there is the Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Take a photograph alongside one of the rigorously selected Presidential Guards (evzones or tsoliades) that flank the monument. In this area there are many museums to choose from: The Museum of Cycladic Art (www.cycladic.gr), Benaki Museum (www.benaki.gr) or the War Museum (www.warmuseum.gr) which are all in...
close proximity. Furthermore, there is the new B&M Theocharakis Foundation for the Fine Arts & Music (www.thf.gr). What is more, you may prefer to visit the ancient Olympic – Panathenaic Stadium (www.panathenaicstadium.gr).

You can get there if you walk through the National Garden, which used to form part of the Palace’s royal gardens and Zappeion (www.zappeion.gr), located next to the Parliament building.

As for the fashion lovers, visit the shops along Panepistimiou and Ermou streets off to Syntagma Square or Voukourestiou Street towards Kolonaki.

Need a rest? Head to Valaoritou Street, Milioni Street or the streets around Syntagma (Voulis, Lekka, Kolokotroni Street) for a cup of coffee and people watching.

**Evening (16:00 – 21:00)**

Upon returning to the centre, enjoy a dinner and or cocktail ideally, with a view to the Acropolis, at one of the city centre’s many restaurants in Plaka, Psiri, Thissio, Koukaki or Gazi. Popular destination streets for dinner in Gazi include Konstantinoupoloulos, Voutadon and Triptolemou streets, while in Psiri you will find the most trendy bars and restaurants in Sarri and Lepeniou Streets. A pre- or after-dinner cocktail is also recommended at one of the bars around Syntagma, in Kolokotroni street and Karitsi square.

**Late night (after 23:00)**

Night owls will discover why Athens is a city that never sleeps! In the winter, choose among the bars and clubs of Psiri, Gazi or Kolonaki. In the summer go for one of the Athenian Coastline clubs, stretching down from Paleo Faliro to Varkiza.

### Day 2

**Discover Vibrant Downtown Athens**

Our second day’s itinerary is a delightful pot-pouri of things to see and do in the centre of Athens. The region between Syntagma Square and Vass. Sofias avenue may be referred to as the “museum area” since it is home to several of the city’s finest museums, all within walking distance from one another. The Athens open-top sightseeing buses are the best option to make the most of

*The New Acropolis Museum (www.theacropolismuseum.gr)* is considered to be an architectural masterpiece. The museum’s collections are exhibited in three levels and the spectacular usage of glass allows for the natural lighting of the area. The museum hosts a rich permanent collection of imposing sculptures and artefacts found at the excavations of Acropolis throughout the years. Smaller vignette exhibitions, video installations and the archaeologists of the museum themselves provide additional insight into the visitor’s understanding of the permanent exhibits and life in the ancient Sacred Rock of Acropolis, in general. Do not forget to look directly at the Acropolis and enjoy the panoramic view of Athens through the museum’s glass structure!
your museum hopping day.
Take the day to explore the museums, shops, department stores and restaurants of the city.

Start with a morning tour of The National Archaeological Museum (www.namuseum.gr) showcasing one of the largest collections of ancient Greek artefacts in the world.

When you return to Syntagma Square, take a few moments to wander around the Athens tube station museum, one of the many “Athens Metro museums in motion” that feature both ancient and modern art. Four stations in the historic center display mosaics and replicas of some of the thousands of archaeological findings, discovered during the tube’s construction. The above area and the streets extending from its major square offer a lot to the modern visitor. Around the square, there are several of the Athenian historic buildings, which house well-known hotels such as: The Grande Bretagne and King George. Syntagma Square is also the hub where several well-known Athenian streets and avenues start and intersect. Take a photograph with the Presidential Guards in front of the Greek Parliament or the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Clycadic Art are nearby, while both of them host wonderful cafes. Stroll around Zappeion and exit onto Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue to visit the ancient Panathenaic Olympic – Stadium also known as Kallimarmaro (in Greek, meaning made of the finest marble), which was the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Juxtaposed is the Postal and Philatelic Museum (www.postalmuseum.gr), great for stamp collectors, and, just a bit further northwest on Vassileos Georgiou B’ avenue is the National Museum of Contemporary Art (www.emst.gr)

A few bus stops north is another of Athens’ great museums, The National Gallery – Alexandros Soutzos Museum (www.nationalgallery.gr). From the gallery, you may walk over to three local Athenian neighbourhoods, namely, Hilton, Mets and Pagrati, each with its own great variety of bars, restaurants and tavernas. In the afternoon, save some time to explore the city’s shops and department stores. The starting point will be once again Syntagma Square, the hub of the city. Just around the corner, you will find Attica department store, housed in a historic building: with more than 360 shops in a shop and 860 different brand names, Attica can cover all individuals’ needs. Continue shopping in the chic neighbourhood of Kolonaki, at the foot of Lycabettus Hill, and its shop-filled streets: Skoufa, Tsakalof, Haritos and Patriarchou Ioakim.

Before stopping in one of the many cafes and restaurants, take a moment to admire the beautiful iconography inside the Catholic church of St. Dionysius the Areopagite. Give a twist to your evening by watching the sunset atop Lycabettus Hill (a cable car is available to help you with the trekking up) and finish off with a gourmet or casual dinner at one of the many restaurants of the area.

Alternative option, especially in the summer: If the beach and seaside bar motif is more of your style, choose to spend the afternoon in the Athenian coastline.

P.S. When in Athens ... Like many natives do, stop at one of the many outdoor vendors to buy a koulouri, a type of soft wreath-shaped sesame bread stick.
Day 3

Third day is the charm: a day in the Athenian Coastline.

Once you have seen how close the coast is to the centre of Athens, you may regret not having visited it first. Buses, trams and taxis will get you to the nearest stop in less than 30 minutes. If the weather is warm, pack your swimming suit, hat and sunglasses, as you might be tempted to take a dip in one of the many beaches that await you!

Dress casually so as to have the option to spend the evening here, on Athens’s breathtaking and vibrant south shore. First stop is the neighbourhood of Paleo Faliro, home to two of the “must-visits”: namely the Eugenides Foundation Planetarium and Flisvos Marina. The planetarium is accessible by bus or taxi, while the Flisvos Marina by tram, as well (If you want to visit both venues take the bus to the Planetarium and then go to the marina. Then hop on the tram to continue your ride further south along the coast.)

Destinations with cafes and restaurants that can be enjoyed all year-round include: Alimos Marina, Flisvos Park, Edem, Kalamaki. After getting a feel for the urban coastal living in Athens, get back on the tram and head to the popular municipality of Glyfada. The “alter ego” of downtown Kolonaki, Glyfada offers a luxurious shopping experience. Wide pedestrian sidewalks with numerous designer stores and places to eat that offer quality for a pleasurable stroll.

Stop in Glyfada any time of the day or night and you will be impressed by the number of good-looking people of all ages that live, work and play there. This neighborhood is home to the 18-hole Glyfada Golf Club of Athens (www.ggca.gr). If shopping is not your priority and you would prefer to prolong your coastal sightseeing journey, head back to Poseidon Avenue and hope on the E22 Express Bus serving the coastal districts of Voula, Vouliagmeni, Varkiza, Anavissos, Lagonissi, Saronida. Another cluster of delightful seaside food establishments can be found in each of the aforementioned areas. For a fascinating coastal drive, plan ahead and arrange a day trip to Cape Sounion with the Temple of Poseidon on site. For your evening entertainment choose to stay at the coast and let yourself be driven away by the many tropically-designed seaside cafes, clubs and restaurants, or head back to the centre and indulge the buzzing Athenian night.

Tip: Summer or winter, the Athenian sun can be quite strong. Always wear sunglasses, a hat and sunscreen.
No matter how long you stay in Athens, the time is never enough to discover the numerous pleasures the city offers. Well-known worldwide for its entertaining nightlife, Athens invites you to discover its bars, nightclubs, restaurants and cafes. Familiarize yourself with the city’s many shopping districts and do not forget to get information on the city’s cultural life.

Experience Athens by getting a taste of its culinary culture. The city and its municipalities offer a cornucopia of choices for every palate and budget, from Michelin star restaurants to underground eating places and charismatic urban street vendors. Hundreds of excellent restaurants and chefs await to impress. Rooftop bars compete with some of the most renowned clubs of the world. Can they claim a view of the Acropolis?

Here is a quick guide to taste Athens:

Yes, eat that souvlaki ap’ ola (with everything in it). However, why not try some grilled sardines or dakos, a Cretan salad with rusks of barley, feta cheese and tomato, or even a whole grilled fish, octopus or calamari? Taste some plain boiled greens (horta) with just a touch of lemon and olive oil. It is a laconic dish, yet so delicious and full of vitamins!

**TOP 10 WAYS TO TASTE ATHENS**

- Koulouri (sesame-topped bread twist).
- Tiropita (cheese pie) and/or Spanakopita (spinach pie).
- Products with Mastiha (healthy resin from the island of Chios).
- Kalamboki (roasted corn on the cob), a summer treat, and kastana (chestnuts) a winter specialty on the cob.
- Various kinds of cheese (Graviera, Kefalograviera, Feta, Anthotyro, Mizithra), pastourma (smoked meat) and fish, found at many specialty markets in downtown Athens and Piraeus.
• Greek *krasi* (wine) available at local supermarkets, mini-markets, cavas and vineyards in Koropi and Spata (areas near the airport).

• *Loukoumades* (fried donut-like sweets dipped in honey) and loukoumia, a jelly-like, sugar coated sweet in various flavours.

• Extra-virgin olive oil varieties (from Crete, Messinia, Lakonia).

• Go for a meze and try some ouzo and rakomelo (a potent alcoholic drink made with the Cretan spirit *raki* and honey) and then have an afternoon siesta.

• Coffee with *parea*! Athenians, like most Europeans, love their coffee routine and they usually enjoy drinking it outdoors with a group of friends (parea). Popular coffee hangouts are in the town’s plateia (central square) or along the charming side streets of Plaka, Thissio and Syntagma.

Also: Visit a vegetable and fruit market or “laiki” (an outdoor market held religiously once a week in every neighbourhood).

**Tasty neighbourhoods to explore:**
• Psiri, Plaka, Monastiraki and Piraeus for traditional Greek tavernas.

• Kolonaki, Koukaki, Petralona, Gazi for “white tablecloth” tavernas and Greek-inspired chic restaurants.

• Meat lovers can indulge in restaurants found in the suburbs of Athens: at “Biftekopoli” (literally “city of the beef patty”) in Glyfada, Paleo Faliro, Varibombi, Thrikomakedones, Likovrisi, Stamata, “Vlahika” in Vari, Kalibia (after the airport) and towards Thiva, in the village of Vilia.

• Vegetarians will be happy to know that many Greek dishes are meat-free. When ordering, try plates known as *ladera*, that are dishes made with vegetables, beans, stuffed tomatoes and lentils.

• Satisfy your *sweet tooth* at the many sweet and chocolate shops along Voulis Street and Karageorgi Servias.

• Fish lovers opt for restaurants in the coastal towns of Glyfada, Varkiza, Sounio, Lavrio, Mikrolimano and Pasalimani, the latter two in Piraeus.

**The Museum cafe**
Dining at a museum cafe has become very popular. Their chic interiors and impressive menus have put many of them on the map for dining. Put it on your list of things to do while visiting your favourite museum.

**Rooftop dining with a view to the Acropolis**
Indulge in a meal or a cocktail at one of Athens’ many rooftop venues. Summer or winter, they offer a spectacular view and some of them are so close to Acropolis that you can practically touch the Parthenon.

**A guide to dining by neighbourhood:**
• Kolonaki for stylish eateries, bistros, grills, international cuisine, cafes, people watching / *Style tip:* casual chic, comfortable • Syntagma area for hotel dining and after-work yuppie clubs / *Style tip:* professional, urban hip, comfortable • Historic centre & neighbouring areas for traditional tavernas with *bouzouki* and fine Greek-cuisine dining with beautiful outdoor gardens and no *bouzouki* / *Style tip:* casual chic • Monastiraki for meze, ouzeri, souvlaki / *Style tip:* comfortable • Gazi for multicultural contemporary cuisine and bars to match / *Style tip:* cool • Northern suburbs for international food and continental dining / *Style tip:* casual chic • Athens coastline and Piraeus for fish, continental dining, seaside bars and restaurants / *Style tip:* casual, summer chic, comfortable.

For a gastronomic tour of Athens, past and present, head to Varvakeios Agora and Evripidou Street. Amidst the butcher and fresh fishmongers stalls, one can find merchants selling fruits, vegetables, nuts, dried fruit, cheese and even small
houseware items. Open daily except Sundays.

**Greek supermarkets**
Often a visit to any of the popular Athenian supermarket chains is all one needs in order to see the range of products available to the Greek consumer. Also: The districts of **Kolonaki, Kifissia** and **Nea Erythrea** boast a variety of fine gourmet food shops offering Greek and international carefully-selected items.

**Shop, browse, shop, shop…**

Ancient and-yet-so-modern Athens provides an extraordinary shopping experience. Do not just confine yourselves to the truly amazing options for clothing, shoes, bags, souvenirs, jewellery, gourmet food and beauty products. Get inspired by just some of the suggestions mentioned here and then set out to discover the Athenian shopping paradise!

**10 Best Shopping Streets in Athens:**
Athens is a relatively small city with a big personality! Put your internal GPS on “shopping mode” and go to any of the following streets to enjoy a fabulous shopping experience.
- Ermou, Syntagma
- Voukourestiou, Kolonaki
- Skoufa, Kolonaki
- Tsakalof, Kolonaki
- Ioannou Metaxa, Glyfada
- Kassaveti, Levidou & Kolokotroni, Kifissia
- Iphestou, Monastiraki
- Pentelis, Chalandri
- Panepistimiou, Syntagma
- Shops at Athens International Airport.

**Kolonaki**, Best Neighbourhood for fashion lovers/Main shopping streets: **Voukourestiou, Skoufa, Tsakalof, Patriarchou Ioakeim, Haritos** and **Anagnostopoulou**.

**Historic Centre:** Best Neighbourhood for Traditional and Contemporary Souvenirs, Greek and Popular art/ Main shopping areas: **Monastiraki, Plaka, Psiri, Syntagma.**

**Constitution Square (Syntagma):** Best Neighbourhood for Chocolates and Diamonds. Affordable Fashion and Books/Main Shopping Streets: **Stadiou and Panepistimiou Avenues, Ermou**, the streets south of the square (Pericleous, Eolou, Mitropoleos), **Karageorgi Servias** and the streets towards **Kolokotroni Street.**

**Glyfada:** Best Neighbourhood for easy “Wide-sidewalk” shopping in Athens/Main shopping streets: **Ioannou Metaxa** and the streets around **Esperidon Square, Zisimopoulou Street** and **Kyprou.**

**Kifissia:** Best Neighbourhood for Opulent Items/Main Shopping Streets: **Kassaveti, Levidou** and **Kyriazi**. Take time out to indulge in the luxurious pastry shops and fun brasserie-style restaurants.

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*Summer or winter roof top dining offers a spectacular view*
in nearby Kefalari and Nea Erythrea.

**Plus:**

**Neo Psychico:** The top brands in fashion and cosmetics are all gathered here as are the after-shopping mandatory list of cafeterias and restaurants to check.

**Outlet designer shopping**

There are several stock houses to check out in Athens for discounts on designer labels. Many are found in the district of Nea Smyrni on Eleftherios Venizelos Street (accessible by tram) and others in fashion-oriented, central Kolonaki, as well as, in Spata and close to the Athens International Airport.

**Flea Markets and Bazaars**

**Farmers’ Markets**

For an earthy, organic Greek experience, spend some time at the Greek farmers markets, known as *laiki* agora. A cultural staple in Athenian daily life, the laiki is an outdoor market that spans several blocks. It is held on a designated day and designated street once a week. Most neighbourhoods in Athens have one, and the days vary. Ask any local resident, for more information on when laiki takes place in your area. The largest market in Athens is the Varvakeios Agora, located near the Ancient Agora in the Historic Centre, immediately following Evripidou Street. A must-visit shopping destination, especially on Sundays, is the Monastiraki Flea Market when additional vendors exhibit their wares on Avissinia Square. Moreover, on the southern coast of Piraeus, another large market with vendors takes place on Sundays, on Alepidou Street. Christmas Bazaars are also held throughout the city during the holiday season. Popular ones are usually held at the Attiko Metro Syntagma Station and Technopolis in Gazi. An annual holiday shopping block party event can be found on Haritos street in Kolonaki the second weekend of December.

**Ideas for Chic Greek Souvenirs:**

- **Sandals** and other leather items from the myriad of shops in Monastiraki and Plaka.
- **Cool t-shirts, mugs and other exclusively-designed Breathtaking Athens Products** at Athens International Airport (AIA) and in the centre, at our info point located at Dion. Areopagitou str & Vassilissis Amalias avenue.
- **Beautifully illustrated coffee-table books** are available at many leading bookstores including Papasotiriou at Athens International Airport (www.papasotiriou.gr).
- **Arty objects from the city’s many Museum shops.**
- **Designer Komboloi** (worry beads).
- **Greek popular Music CDs and DVDs.**
- **The Greek Post office** (www.elta.gr) at Syntagma Square offers a selection of commemorative items.

**Leisure**

Experience Athens like an Athenian does by taking part in some of the following leisure activities:

- **Go to the movies! Outdoors!** Think drive-in movie without the car and complete with side tables for your snack and beverage. The outdoor movie experience or *therino* cinema in Athens, during the summer months, is a must on your to-do-list. The movies, always the most current titles, are played in their native languages with Greek subtitles.
- **Take in a classical performance at The Athens Concert Hall** (www.megaron.gr). Every year renowned artists and composers gather to delight audiences and visitors of Athens. The concert hall, known for its luxurious interior and modern exterior design, definitely delivers the feeling and experience of “a night out at the opera, ballet, theatre...”!
- **Tee off in Athens!** Engage in a relaxing game of golf at
Glyfada Golf Course (+30) 210 8946459, (www.ggca.gr) in the nearby coastal town of Glyfada. The course is an 18 hole, par 72 course and is designed by Donald Harradine.

- **Casinos:** There are two casinos relatively close to Athens where you can test your lucky day: on Mt. Parnitha and in Loutraki.
- **Facebook and Twitter friendly:** Free wi-fi access can be found at many of the coffee-chain venues, malls and bookstores throughout the city. **Athens International Airport “Eleftherios Venizelos”** provides free access for a limited period of time. Several regions in Athens, offer free wi-fi access including **Syntagma, Technopolis in Gazi, Thissio, Kotzia square.** For a location near you, check www.free-wifi.gr.
- **Bicycle Riding** Although Athens boasts a traffic-busy centre, it also has surrounding hills and coastal promenades that do lend themselves to enjoying a bike ride. Mountain biking is also possible on Mount Parnitha and Mount Hymettus, where several tracks exist. Cycling events are sometimes organised by independent groups in the city centre. At the (available only in Greek) site www.polidates.gr you can find information about 30-60 km bike tours organised every Friday evening, that last 4-6 hours and are free of charge! Many Athenians take their bikes to enjoy rides outside the city, either along the southern or eastern coast of Attica or even to the marinas and parks.

  **Tip!** Prefer the lap of pool luxury! Several of Athens’ hotel pools come to your “a la carte pool visit” rescue. Contact your favourite hotel and ask for information and daily charges.

**Bars & clubs**

Quick list of Nightlife hot spots by Neighbourhood/Style/Popular Streets

- **Athens Coastline** modern bars and restaurants/for sea lovers, older crowd. Take the coastal road Poseidon Avenue, that begins at Paleo Faliro and continues up to the tip of the Athenian coastline (the tram takes you up to Voula).
- **Gazi** hip, trendy, bars, clubs and restaurants/for all ages, gay & lesbian/Konstantinoupolo, Triptolemou, Voutadon, Iera Odos
- **Glyfada** all-day cafeterias, fast-food chains, casual chic restaurants and bars/all ages/
- **Kifissia** older, sophisticated chic/very chic
- **Kolonaki** all ages, professionals, contemporary, chic/Haritos, Skoufa, Ploutarchou, Loukianou, Milioni, Valaoritou
- **Plaka-Monastiraki** nice mix of tourists, locals, all ages/Adrianou, Iraklidon, Agion Asomaton Square
- **Piraeus** for sea lovers, shipping professionals, locals, all ages/Akti Themistokleous
- **Psiri** mix of tourists and locals, all ages/various
- **Syntagma** old-fashioned clubs, classy hotel bars, new hip meeting places, urban professionals, contemporary, all ages/Voulis, Syntagma Square, Lekka, Anthimou Gazi
- **Voula-Vouliagmeni** tropical, seaside cafes, restaurants and clubs/chic, contemporary, for sea lovers/Leoforos Karamanli (Voula), Lemos Vouliagmenis.

**Nightlife**

**IT’S ALL GREEK TO ME! FROM OPA TO HIP HOP… ATHENS IS THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS**

- **Gazi** This area, surrounding the old Athens gasworks factory, know today as Technopolis and trademarked by the brilliantly-lit tower, is nightlife central.
- **Kolonaki** It is a classic dining and entertainment destination for the city’s working professionals.
- **Plaka – Monastiraki** Do not have big dance clubs and bars, but offer lively, traditional places to enjoy Greek culture all year-round.
- **Psiri** Venues with good food and an overall night crawl atmosphere. The mezedopoleia
serving Greek appetizers, wine, **ouzo**, (the anise-flavoured aperitif), and **rakomelo** (a potent alcoholic drink made with the Cretan spirit, **raki**, and honey) attract the young and the older ones.

**Syntagma** • The hotel bars that surround the square are very popular amongst visitors and natives. Interesting to note is the lively enclave of bars found at Karitsi square south of Kolokotroni square and the Old Parliament building (Palia Voulì).

**Voula-Vouliagmeni** • These two seaside neighbourhoods are ideal, urban resorts. The tram gets you to Voula where pristine beaches, tropical bars and exotic clubs await for you. Vouliagmeni has some of Greece’s finest hotels and spas.

**Dance the night away!**
Where to find Greek Nightclubs: At the industrial areas of Iera Odos and Pireos Street in Gazi, in the winter and fall, along Poseidon avenue and the coastal suburbs of Glyfada, Voula and Vouliagmeni, in the summer. Where to find the most trendy clubs: In the summer, along the coast and in the winter, in Kolonaki and Kifissia.

**What about Jazz and Karaoke?**
Talented musicians of Athens and well-known artists from New York and London can be found in Athens, as the list of artists that visit, especially during the fall and winter, is quite impressive.

Karaoke nights are usually held on pre-announced evenings at bars in general.

For more information on places of interest please refer to our website at [www.breathtakingathens.com](http://www.breathtakingathens.com).

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**Shopping malls**

The **Shopping Malls** are a relatively new phenomenon in the Athenian shopping scene. The ‘mall culture’ fascinated the Athenians and they seem to love every bit of it. The Shopping Malls in Athens are not only places to pick up a bargain, but they also act as gathering places and make a great way to spend a few hours. Athens is a city of malls with shopping centres conveniently located in almost every area of the city. So why not explore the plethora of stores by checking out our Athens Shopping Malls List?

**Athens Heart** is located on the cross between two of Athens main road arteries, Pireos and Hamosternas streets, right in the middle of the city’s historical centre. This multi-storey commercial and entertainment centre houses well-known clothing, shoes, accessories, technology and children’s brands, as well as, various spaces for dining and entertainment. Athens Heart’s trademark is its open roof, which offers plenty of light and a spectacular view towards Acropolis and Lycabettus Hill.

180, Pireos str., Hamosternas hub, tel: +30210 3414105, website: [www.athensheart.gr](http://www.athensheart.gr)

NM: Petralona (Line 1) OH: Stores Mon-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-8pm cafes & restaurants: Mon-Sun 8:30am-1am Supermarket: Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 8am-8pm.

**Athens Metro Mall** is ideally located right next to Agios Dimitrios underground station on Vouliagmenis Avenue, which makes it a shopping centre with great accessibility. It includes 85 stores with major brands covering every need, 18 restaurants, 5 cinema screens, a supermarket, a play area, a bank and 1,200 parking lots. One of Athens Metro Mall’s most characteristic aspects is its architectural design. Abundant light, water and green features create the ideal location for a relaxing shopping and entertainment experience.

276, Vouliagmenis ave., Agios Dimitrios tel: +30210 9769444, website: [www.athensmetromall.gr](http://www.athensmetromall.gr)

Email: info@athensmetromall.gr

NM: Agios Dimitrios (Line 2).

OH: Stores: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-8pm, Restaurants, cafes and cinemas until after midnight, Bank: Mon-Fri 9am-3:30pm.

**Avenue:** Relatively small but very cute and conveniently located in the heart of the Athenian business district, the Avenue mall houses many well-known brands, a supermarket, a post-office,
various restaurants and cafes, as well as a fun park which makes it very popular among kids – and their parents.

41-47, Kifissias ave. Marousi, tel: +30210 6100901, website: www.avenuemall.gr Email: info@avenuemall.gr NM: Nerantziotisa (Line 1). OH: Stores: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-8pm, supermarket: Mon-Fri 8:30am-9pm, Sat 8:30am-8pm Restaurants & cafes daily 9am-midnight, Fun Park: Mon-Fri 11am-10pm, Sat-Sun 10am-11pm, Post-office Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm.

**Golden Hall** aims at offering the utmost in shopping luxury and elegance. With a total surface of 41,000 m², Golden Hall is developed in 3 levels, hosting 131 national and international commercial fashion brands and elegant restaurants and cafes. Golden Hall’s parking is extended in 2 levels with 1,400 parking lots, thus offering a comfortable and safe visit.

37A, Kifissias ave., Marousi tel: +30210 6803450, website: www.goldenhall.gr NM: Nerantziotisa (Line 1). OH: Stores: Mon-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-8pm, Cafes: Mon-Sun until the early hours.

**The Mall Athens** was the first of its kind to be constructed in Greece. It is one of the largest shopping and leisure centres in Southeastern Europe bringing a whole new age of shopping and entertainment options to the Athenians. It has over 200 outlets for commercial and entertainment use, banks, a post office, a supermarket, a cinema complex, an amusement park, a restaurant/food court area and 2,100 parking lots.

35, Andrea Papandreou str, Marousi, tel: +30210-6300000, website: www.themallathens.gr Email: info@themallathens.gr NM: Nerantziotisa (Line 1). OH: Stores: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-8pm, Cafes: Mon-Sun until the early hours.

**The River West** shopping mall opened in April 2011 and quickly became a landmark for West Attica. It covers an area of 20,000 m² and together with the pre-existing “IKEA” retail store, they constitute the River West shopping complex. Apart from the many stores covering every need, River West features restaurants, cafes, a supermarket, 2,500 free parking lots and a free baby parking service!

96-98, Kifissou ave., Egaleo tel: +30 210 6630840, website: www.mcarthurglenathens.gr OH: Stores: Mon-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-8pm, Cafes: Mon-Sat 9:30am-10pm, Sun 10am-6pm, Restaurants: Mon-Fri 10am-midnight, Sat. 10am-am, Sun noon-8pm.

**Attica the Department Store:** It may not be a mall, but this department store qualifies as the perfect shopping destination if you want it all without leaving the city centre. It is housed in a historic building that combines the essence of modern aesthetics with the architectural elements of the 20s and extends to a whole building block. Syntagma square, and its underground station, are just around the corner, and some of Athens finest hotels are just a minute’s walk away.

In Attica Department Store you will find more than 360 shops in a shop and 860 different brand names, with all of the city’s amenities at your doorstep.

9, Panepistimiou str. tel: +30211 1802600, website: www.atticadps.gr NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3) OH: Stores: Mon-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-7pm
Athens Hotels

The accommodation infrastructure in Athens caters to all tastes and budgets, from luxurious suites to low-cost youth hostels. Lavishly adorned rooms with super spas, charming bed and breakfasts, can be enjoyed at any time of year. Many 5-star and other affordable new boutique hotels are located near the Acropolis, in Plaka, in Kolonaki, at Lycabettus Hill and in Syntagma. For those who prefer the sea and commute to the city, the Attica Coastline from Paleo Faliro, Glyfada, Kavouri, Voula, Vouliagmeni, Varkiza and Lagonissi are worth considering, winter and summer. Among the 500 hotels and the 29,000 rooms to be found in Athens there is surely one that accommodate your needs. Most hotels are within walking distance to the Metro or Tram. Here is a selection of the city’s finest:

City Centre

ATHENAEUM INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 89-93 Syngrou Avenue, 11745, Athens, NM: Syngrou-FIX, Tel: +30210 9206000, Fax: +30210 9206500, Email: athens@ithg.com
www.ichotelsgroup.com

ATHINAIS HOTEL
Hotel Category: 3 stars, Address: 99, Vasilissis Sofias Avenue, 11521, Athens, NM: Megaro Moussikis (Line 3), Tel: +30210 6431133, Fax: +30210 6461682, Email: info@athinaishotellgr, www.athinaishotel.gr

BEST WESTERN ILISIA HOTEL
Hotel Category: 4 stars, Address: 25 Michalakopoulou Avenue, 11528, Athens, NM: Megaro Moussikis (Line 3), Tel: +30210 7244051, Fax: +30210 7241847, Email: ilisia@ath.forthnet.gr, www.ilisiahotel.gr

CROWNE PLAZA ATHENS
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 50, Michalakopoulou Street, 11528, Athens, NM: Megaro Moussikis, Tel: +30210 7278000, Fax: +30210 7278600, Email: info@cpathens.com
Website: www.cpathens.com

DIVANI CARAVEL
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 2, Vasilios Alexandrou Avenue, 16121, Athens, NM: Evangelismos (Line 2), Tel: +30210 7207000, Fax: +30210 7236683, Email: info@divanicaravel.gr, www.divanis.com

DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 19-25 Parthenonos Street, 11742, Athens, NM: Acropolis (Line 2), Tel: +30210 9280100, Fax: +30210 9214993, Email: info@divaniacropolis.gr, www.divanis.com

ELECTRA PALACE
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 18-20 Nikodimou Street, 10557, Athens, NM: Syntagma (Line 2 & 3), Tel: +30210 3370000, Fax: +30210 3241875, Email: sales@electrahotels.com, www.electrahotels.gr

GRANDE BRETAGNE
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: A1 Vasilios Georgiou A Street, 10564, Syntagma Square, NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3), Tel: +30210 9235856, Email: info@grandebratgne.gr

HILTON ATHENS
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 46, Vasilissis Sofias Avenue, 11528, Athens, NM: Evangelismos (Line 2), Tel: +30210 7281100, Fax: +30210 7281111, Email: sales@hilton.com, www.hiltonathens.gr

LEDRA MARRIOTT
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 113-115 Syngrou Avenue, 11745, Athens, NM: Syngrou-FIX (Line 2), Tel: +30210 9300000, Fax: +30210 9358603, Email: athensmarr@marriott.com, www.marriott.com

METROPOLITAN
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 385, Syngrou Avenue, 17564, Athens NM: Syngrou-FIX (Line 2), Tel: +30210 9471100, Fax: +30210 9471010, Email: metropolitan@chandris.gr, www.chandris.gr

NEW HOTEL
Hotel Category: 4 stars, Address: 16, Filellinon Street, 10557, Athens NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3), Tel: +30210 3273000, Fax: +30210 3273100, Email: info@newhotel.gr, www.newhotel.gr

NOVOTEL ATHENS
Hotel Category: 4 stars, Address: 4-6, Michail Voda, 10439, Athens NM: Larissa Station (Line 2), Tel: +30210 8200770, Fax: +30210 8200777, Email: h0866@accor.com, www.novotelathens.gr

N.J.V. ATHENS PLAZA HOTEL
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 2 Vasileos Georgiou A Street, 10564, Syntagma Square, NM: Syntagma (Lines 2 & 3), Tel: +30210 3352400, Fax: +30210 3235856, Email: info@njvathensplaza.gr, www.njvathensplaza.gr

RADISSON BLU PARK HOTEL
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 10, Alexandras Avenue, 10682, Athens NM: Victoria (Line 1), Tel: +30210 8894500, Fax: +30210 8238420, Email: info@rathenspark.com, www.rathenspark.com

SAINT GEORGE Lycabettus HOTEL
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 2 Kleomenous Street, 106 75 Athens, Greece Tel +30 210 7416 000, Email: info@sgl.gr, www.sgl.gr

Coastal

Breathtaking blue seas that reach beyond the horizon. Tropical and exotic restaurants, cafes and bars that boast internationally-acclaimed chefs. Spas with Thalassotherapy treatments. The hotels along the coast begin with affordable three- and four-star along the start of the Attica Coastline and increase to include 5-star luxury as you head towards Vouliagmeni and Sounion. Wherever you choose to stay, the sea and city are close by.

ARION LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT & SPA - ASTIR PALACE RESORT
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 40, Apollonos Street, 16671, Vouliagmeni, Tel.: +30210 8902000, Fax: +30210 8962582, Email: astir.reservations@starwoodhotels.com, www.arionresortathens.com

DIVANI APOLLON PALACE & SPA
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 10, Agiou Nikolaou Street, 16671, Vouliagmeni, Tel.: +30210 8911100, Fax: +30210 9658010, Email: info@divaniapollon.gr, www.divanis.com

METROPOLITAN RESORT & SPA - ASTIR PALACE RESORT
Hotel Category: 5 stars, Address: 40, Apollonos Street, 16671, Vouliagmeni, Tel.: +30210 8902000, Fax: +30210 8962582, Email: astir.reservations@starwoodhotels.com, www.arionresortathens.com
Endless Blue, a city by the sea

Discover and explore Europe’s best-kept secret: the Attica Riviera & the Athenian Coastline
The Athenian Riviera boasts a series of high class restaurants, cafes, exciting music venues and modern sports facilities, as well as some of the best beaches and seaside destinations in the world! During summer, spring and early fall, the coastal waters of Athens are for swimmers, while its nightlife, fancy restaurants, shopping streets, yacht marinas and natural beauties are to be enjoyed year-round!

Little known fact: Athens is more than just the Acropolis. Undoubtedly, this city with its vibrant urban landscape, boasts some of the best beaches and seaside destinations in the world and offers a riviera just 30 minutes away from its heart. For native Athenians, the blue flag* awarded beaches are just part of their daily life, but for those who come from colder and cloudier climates, the sea that extends from the city is something to be highly appreciated. There are not many cities in the world where one can take a dip immediately after a long day at work or hours of sightseeing! Visitors of Athens can easily explore this side of the city just by getting on the bus (www.oasa.gr), (www.ktelattikis.gr) or the tram (www.tramsa.gr). So, no need to head to the Greek islands, at least not yet… Summer or Winter, the Athenian coastline is to be enjoyed all year-round!
Start by gazing the luxurious yachts docked at Flisvos Marina (www.flisvosmarina.com), the mega yacht marina filled with shops and dining venues within the municipality of Paleo Faliro. Enjoy a light meal or a cool drink alongside the docks at Alimos Marina, just a few tram stops away. Take a walk to the Battleship Averof museum site (www.bsaverof.com), or get on the bus and visit the renowned for its technology, Eugenides Foundation Digital Planetarium (www.eugenfound.edu.gr). The tram is the easiest and by far the most pleasurable way to see the coastline suburbs that make up the greater Athens region (Attica): Paleo Faliro, Alimos, Kalamaki, Agios Kosmas, Elliniko and Glyfada. Hop on in Syntagma, reach up to the beginnings of Voula and enjoy some of the all year-round seaside hotspots. After 30 minutes of ride, you will reach to the seaside suburb of Paleo Faliro. You can choose to continue south towards Glyfada and Voula or stop at Trocadero and head towards Flisvos Marina. If blue waters and curvy winding paths is your version of sightseeing, then get on the E22 Akadimia - Saronida Express bus for an awe-inspiring ride you will surely not forget. The E22 bus reaches a little further south compared to the tram route. Along the way, there is Vouliagmeni Lake, known for its therapeutic waters. Vouliagmeni is one of the wealthiest suburbs of Athens and its

Don’t miss!
The Maritime Museum for the documentation of Greece's nautical history from prehistoric times until today. Battleship Averof for its stout presence in the seas, even nowadays as a museum and educational site. Having served as the head of the Greek fleet, it played a crucial role in leading Greece and its allies to victory during the Balkan Wars (1912-1913), while it remained in active service for over 44 years.
accommodations serve the neighbouring suburbs of Voula, Varkiza and Glyfada. Just a little further down in Varkiza is Island, one of the best summer clubs on this side of the Mediterranean. Anavissos has many seaside tavernas and windsurfing cafes.

Lagonissi is a hot summer destination, as well. Perhaps that’s why every year, more and more twenty and thirty-something jet setters, choose to make Athens their home, opting to take advantage of the city’s sea and sun lifestyle choices, not to mention its vibrant nightlife and stylish designer and prêt a porter shopping.

Tip: To save some time, choose to take the underground from Syntagma, get off at Fix station and then take the tram heading towards Voula or Peace and Friendship Stadium (SEF). The E22 bus stops there, too.

Dine, Dance and Mingle. Don’t leave Athens before experiencing its coastline lifestyle, nightlife and gastronomy. Highlights for enjoying the beautiful, vast coast include: taking a swim at one of the beaches and enjoying an iced coffee (frappé or freddo) at the seaside cafes. Dinner can be casual or gourmet, luxurious or inexpensive, Greek or international cuisine. Dress in stylish summer clothes and choose between a romantic moonlit dinner or a night full of dancing!

Visit with your children:
The Archelon Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece (www.archelon.gr), Rescue Cen-

Did you know?
The seaside suburbs – from Paleo Faliro to Vouliagmeni – were once reserved by the Athenians for their holiday homes. Nowadays, they are considered to be part of the greater metropolitan area, with each municipality boasting a unique business, commercial and social activity.
tre: 3rd marina of Glyfada. Learn everything about the sea turtles and their habitats in Greece, as well as, their history, biodiversity and biology. Entrance: Free. Open on weekends.  

The Flisvos Park (tram stop: “Parko Flisvos”) is one of the largest open-air playgrounds for children. There is also an amusement park, where you can also enjoy a cup of coffee at the numerous cafes. The same applies for Kalamaki and Alimos Marina.  

Beach visits! The majority of the beaches close to downtown Athens are organised and offer amenities such as beach chairs and umbrellas, lifeguard services, children’s playgrounds, restaurants and water sports facilities for all ages.  

There are several organised beaches with an entrance fee, please visit our website www.breathtakingathens.com for more information.  

Beaches with no entrance fee on the southern coastline of Attica and accessible by tram:  

AGIOS KOSMAS BEACH  
Tram stop: 1st Agios Kosmas  

ELLINIKO BEACH  
Tram stop: Elliniko  

GLYFADA BEACH:  
Tram stop: Kolimvitirio  

BLUE FLAG BEACHES:*  
*(www.blueflag.org)  

MUNICIPALITY/BEACH OR MARINA:  
Marathonas/ Schinias, Karavi • Nea Makri/ Breksiza • Markopoulo/ Avlaki • Lavreotiki/ Pounta Zeza, Olympic Marine • Anavissos/ Mavro Lithari, Eden Beach, Kendriki •

Did you know?  
Every Sunday at Mavromihali and Dragatsaniou streets, Piraeus hosts a large flea market that is called the “Monastiraki of Piraeus”. Take a walk and have a glance at the many antiques and do not forget to bargain!
Kalivia/ Lagonissi 1,2 and 3 • Vari/ Varkiza • Vouliagmeni/ Asteras • Voula/ 1st Voula • Paleo Faliro/ Flisvos Marina • Kythira/ Kakia Lagada

* The Blue Flag is an exclusive eco-label awarded to beaches and marinas that meet strict criteria regarding cleanliness of the sea and the coast, good organization and safety, as well as, the protection of the coastal environment.

More Attica coastline beaches

South (towards Sounio) – Saronic Gulf

- Anavissos (50 km from Athens)
- Kavouri (16 km from Athens)
- Lagonissi: (36 km from Athens)
- Vouliagmeni Lake: (21 km from Athens)
- Legrena: (60 km from Athens)
- Palea Fokea: (50 km from Athens)
- Saronida: (42 km from Athens)
- Sounio: (65 km from Athens)
- Varkiza: (25 km from Athens)

West (towards Elefsina) – Saronic Gulf

- Kineta: (55 km from Athens)
- Megara: (41 km from Athens)
- Pahi (Megara): (40 km from Athens)

East (towards Rafina) – Evoic Gulf

- Keratea: Kakia Thalassa, Daskalio (60 km from Athens)
- Loutsa: (31 km from Athens)
- Mati: (29 km from Athens)
- Nea Makri: (40 km from Athens)
- Porto Rafti: Erotospilia, Avlaki Beach (35 km from Athens)
- Rafina: Marikes and Kokina Limanakia (30 km from Athens)
- Zoumberti: (26 km from Athens)

Tram makes transportation easy, especially along the south coastline.

Northwest (towards Loutraki) – Corinthian Gulf

- Alepohori: Psatha Beach (60 km from Athens)
- Porto Germeno: (62 km from Athens)

North (towards Malakasa) – Evoic Gulf

- Halkoutsi: (60 km from Athens)
- Kalamos: (45 km from Athens)
- Marathonas: (42 km from Athens)
- Oropos: (52 km from Athens)
- Schinias: (60 km from Athens)

Top 10 Things to see and do when in the Athenian coastline:

- Stroll around Paleo Faliero and its esplanade stretching from Flisvos Marina to Alimos Marina and up to Kalamaki.
- Take a daytrip to Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon.
- Dine or dance at one of the many seaside venues.
- Visit the Digital Planetarium of the Eugenides Foundation.
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- Pick a beach close by and take a swim or stroll.
- Visit the Battleship Averof (www.bnaverof.com).
- Go to Piraeus, visit the Piraeus Archaeological Museum and the Maritime Museum (www.maritime-museum.gr).
- Enjoy your dinner at a seafood restaurant in Mikrolimano, a taverna or cafeteria in Pasalimani.
- Enjoy a great lunch or dinner at the resorts of Vouliagmeni, Kavouri or Lagonissi.
- Play a round of golf at Glyfada Golf Course (www.ggca.gr).

Piraeus:

More than just a busy port. Life in Piraeus revolves around its three main ports: The Main port of Piraeus, Mikrolimano and Pasalimani (Zea). The latter two picturesque ports host many yachts, sailing boats and dozens of fish restaurants and tavernas. Just above Mikrolimano, lies the hill of Kastella or Profitis Ilias. Climb to the top and enjoy a beverage while admiring the breathtaking view of the Attica peninsula.
One of the greatest things when taking a trip to Athens is its proximity to the beautiful white-washed Greek islands, enchanting villages and ancient, historical cities. Even if you are in Athens for just a few days, we recommend that you spend a day or two at one of the following destinations. Each place has distinctive characteristics, archaeological treasures, unique culture and bright colours. Greeks, known for their ‘filoxenia’, that is their warm guest welcoming and hospitality, will greet you with a smile and invite you to try their local specialties.

**Cape Sounion** (1.5 hours)

*Why:* For the breathtaking seaside drive that gets you to this remarkable site. For the great sunset and for the **Temple of Poseidon (Sounio)**.

*Don’t miss:* The sunset at the Temple of Poseidon.

**The Vouliagmeni Lake** (40 minutes, tel: +30210 8962237, www.limnivouliagmenis.gr)

*Why:* To admire a spectacle of nature and for its therapeutic waters.

**Mount Parnitha** (30 minutes)

*Why:* If trekking and bird watching are more of your style, travel only 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Athens and you will find yourselves in Mt. Parnitha, the largest of the three mountains of Attica.

**Mainland**

**Arachova** (2-3 hours)

*Why:* Arachova is a small town built upon the slopes of Mount
Parnassos. If you prefer to visit Arachova in the summer time, you enjoy both mountain and sea activities. Itea and Galaxidi, pleasant summer resorts, are situated few miles away from Arachova.

Don’t miss: The handmade, multi-coloured carpets (including the white, fluffy “flokati”), the annual three-day fair (Panigiraki) (April 22 – April 25) to honour Saint George, Arachova’s patron saint, and the victory of the Greeks over the Ottomans in 1826.

Tip: “Mykonos” of the winter.

**Parnassos (3 hours)**

**Why:** For a ski weekend at Parnassos Ski Center, the largest ski resort in Greece, for enjoying the after ski social interaction, as well as for the wider area’s significant archaeological monuments.

**Did you know?** According to the Greek mythology, Mount Parnassos was the favourite hangout place of Apollo and Dionysus.

**Delphi (2.5 hours)**

**Why:** This enchanting area is famous for its archaeological sites, such as the ancient Oracle of Delphi and the Temple of Apollo, where the leaders of the ancient world sought spiritual guidance. Both sites are built on a hill that offers a magnificent view of the surrounding area. The newly-built Archaeological Museum of Ancient Delphi is exquisite and houses important findings from the area. Nearby, you can find the seaside resorts of Itea and Galaxidi.

**Did you know?** Delphi was considered to be “The Centre of the World” in ancient times.

**Peloponnese**

**Ancient Corinth, Corinth Canal & Loutraki (1.5 hours)**

**Why:** To visit the grandiose ancient ruins, dating back to the Roman period, such as the imposing ruins of the Archaic Temple of Apollo in ancient Corinth. To visit the Isthmus of Corinth, the narrow land bridge which connects the Peloponnesian peninsula with mainland Greece. To try your luck at the casinos of the nearby seaside resort, Loutraki.

**Don’t miss:** The Loutraki Folklore Museum, the Archaeological Museum of Ancient Corinth, the ancient settlement of Schinous (ancient port), the Roman villa at Katounistra, Loutraki, the medieval monasteries on the slopes of Gerania mountain.

**Argos, Epidaurus, Mycenae and Tiryns (2 hours)**

**Why:** To visit the ancient Theatre of Epidaurus and witness first hand the achievements of ancient Greeks as far as theatre construction is concerned. If you plan to visit Athens in the summer, arrange ahead of time to attend a theatrical performance in Epidaurus (www.greekfestival.gr). To visit Mycenae and Tiryns, the sites with the remains of two of the most ancient citadels in the world. In Mycenae, 50 km (31 miles) south of Corinth, you can admire the remains of the Palace of the mythical King Agamemnon (a leader of the Greeks in the expedition against Troy) and the Lionesses Gate. Tiryns was a fortress which started to exist the same date with Mycenae. However, there are findings which confirm a Neolithic settlement. Enough evidence survived from the settlement of the Early Bronze Age (2500-2000 B.C.) to prove the existence of a series of apsidal houses arranged round a very huge circular building on the summit of the hill.

To visit Argos, one of Europe’s oldest cities, continuously inhabited for the past 7,000 years.

**Don’t miss:** the Lionesses Gate, the entrance of the Mycenaean Acropolis, a theatrical performance in Epidaurus (www.greekfestival.gr) during the summer months, a visit to the nearby town of Ligourio for local gastronomic specialties.

**Nafplion (2 hours)**

**Why:** The first capital of modern Greece, Nafplion, has one of the nicest ports and marble-paved esplanades in Greece. It is a picturesque town lying at the foot of a cliff crowned by the Venetian fortress of Palamidi. There is also the small Bourtzi Fortress on the tiny island across the harbour. Nafplion can serve
as your ideal home base for daily trips to the nearby sites of Argos, Nemea, Mycenae, Tiryns, Epidaurus and ancient Corinth.

Don't miss: the Venetian Fortress of Palamidi and Bourtzi Fortress on the little island across the bay (short boat rides available in the summer), the Kombolói (Greek worry beads) Museum.

Must do: Eat a sweet or ice-cream at one of the many cafes of the Nauplian cobblestone esplanade.

Ancient Olympia (4 hours)

Why: One of the most sacred ancient centres for religious worship, built in honour of Zeus, Olympia was chosen to be the birth site of the Olympic Games.

Don't miss: The Stadium, the ancient Gymnasium, the Temple of Zeus, which is considered to be one of the finest and oldest examples of Doric architecture.

How to get there: By high-speed hydrofoil (also called, flying dolphins) from Piraeus. Connections are available from the neighbouring islands of Agistri, Poros, Hydra and Spetses.

Must try: The world-famous Aegina gourmet pistachios, homemade ‘rizogalo’ (rice pudding), marmalade and local cheese, mitzithra.

Don't miss: Aphaia Temple, the oldest surviving temple in Greece, the Folklore Museum, the Archaeological site and the museum of Kolona, Waterpark and nearby Moni Island, accessible in the summer by a small boat from Perdika.


Did you know? The pistachios of Aegina are famous for their fruity and juicy taste. The island minted the first Greek coins, known as silver “tortoises” that subsequently gained great financial importance throughout the Greek world. Nikos Kazantzakis translated the Odyssey from ancient to Modern Greek in this island and also completed a great work, the Greek-France dictionary. The great painter Morales as also Nobel laureates George Seferis lived on the island finding its natural environment inspiring.

Halkida, Evia (1 hour by car)

Why: For the drive over the swing bridge, crossing over the narrow Evripos Straits and subsequent view of the tidal current below (which Aristotle tried hard to explain in ancient times) and for the fresh fish tavernas and ‘ouzomezedopoleia’ (places that serve the anise-flavoured aperitif and small dishes).

Don't miss: the Archaeological Museum of Halkida, the Karababas Castle, built by the Turks in 1684, the Emir Zade Mosque, the Archaeological Museum and the Folklore Museum inside the castle, the Byzantine church of Agia Paraskevi.

Beaches: The seaside towns of Eretria and Kimi for crystal blue waters. Up to the north, one can have a swim in the healing waters of Edipsos.

Note: You can also get to Eretria (from Athens) by driving to Oropos and then taking a short ferry ride.
Kea or Tzia (1 hour)

Why: One more Cycladic island located so close to Athens.

How to get there: By high-speed hydrofoil (flying dolphins) from Piraeus. Connections are available from the neighbouring islands of Hydra, Aegina, Agistri and Spetses.


Must try: Locally produced lemonade.

Did you know? Prominent intellectuals, including George Seferis, Kosmas Politis, Kostis Palamas, Ioulia Dragoumi and Henry Miller have praised the beauty of Poros.

Tip: Visit during spring when the lemon trees bloom.

Poros (1 hour by hydrofoil, www.poros.com.gr)

Why: In close proximity to Athens, Poros offers a quiet, tranquil escape. The island is full of pine, lemon and olive trees and neoclassical buildings. Close to Peloponnese, Poros serves as an ideal base for visiting Epidaurus, ancient Troezen (modern Trizina), Nafplion, Mycenae, and Tiryns.

How to get there: By high-speed hydrofoil (flying dolphins) from Piraeus. Connections are available from the neighbouring islands of Hydra, Aegina, Agistri and Spetses.


Must try: Locally produced lemonade.

Did you know? Prominent intellectuals, including George Seferis, Kosmas Politis, Kostis Palamas, Ioulia Dragoumi and Henry Miller have praised the beauty of Poros.

Tip: Visit during spring when the lemon trees bloom.

Spetses (2 hours by hydrofoil, 3 hours by car and ferry boat)

Why: For the horse-drawn carriages that pass through the Venetian-style buildings, for its cosmopolitan nightlife and for meeting people of the Athenian upper-class.

How to get there: By high-speed hydrofoil (flying dolphin) from Piraeus. Connections are also available from the neighbouring islands of Hydra and Poros. If you opt to go by car, drive to Kosta (3 hours) in Peloponnese and take the 15-minute ferry ride across.

Don’t miss: The mystical Villa Bourani from the John Fowles novel *The Magus*. Spetsopoula, the small island opposite Spetses, Bouboulina’s historic 300-year old mansion, Spetses State Museum, housed at the Hadjiyannis-Mexis 200-year old mansion.

Special events: The “Armata” festival in September and the traditional “Burning of the ship” dramatization culminate a week full of festivities that commemorate the anniversary of the Spetses naval battle of September 8, 1822.


Did you know? John Fowles’s novel *The Magus* used the island as its setting. Spetses was the home of Laskarina Bouboulina, the legendary heroine of the Greek War of Independence.
Agistri (45 minutes)

Why: For its pristine and unspoiled island beauty and walks by nature. **How to get there:** By high-speed hydrofoil (flying dolphin) from Piraeus. Connections are available from the neighbouring island of Aegina. **Don’t miss:** A walk from Skala all around the island to Limenaria and the secluded Aponisos beach. There are beautiful trails to follow in the rich pine tree forest of the island where one can admire great view of the island. **Beaches:** Skala, Megalochori, Xekofti, Dragonera, Aponisos, Magisa, Bariama, Skliri, Chalikiada.

More nearby cycladic islands to discover

**Kythnos** by ferry from Lavrio port (2.5 hours) and **Andros** by ferry from Rafina port (2 hours).

**Ports**

**Piraeus Port:** (information hotline: 14541, www.olp.gr) Main port with year-round service to international destinations, as well as to the Saronic Gulf, Dodecanese, Ionian and Aegean Sea islands.

**Rafina Port:** (tel: +30 22940-22300 and +30 22940 28888, www.rafinaport.gr) 2nd largest port, approximately 45 minutes from Athens.

**Lavrio Port:** (tel: +30 22920 26859 www.oll.gr) Approximately 1 hour from Athens.

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