



Athens Municipality

 Attica · Greece

TRAVEL GUIDE



Overview

Athens is one of the world's oldest cities, with a written history stretching back more than 3,000 years. Ancient temples and marketplaces sit next to modern apartment blocks, cafes, and street art, so ruins from the age of *Pericles* and *Socrates* are never far from daily life. It suits travelers who want serious history without giving up modern comforts: markets, rooftop bars, and neighborhood restaurants sit a short walk from 2,500-year-old monuments.

Most visitors spend three to four nights here, using Athens both as a destination in its own right and as the gateway to the Greek islands.

When to visit

Spring (April–May) and autumn (September–October) are mild and the most comfortable times to visit. Summer is hot and dry, especially in July and August, while winter is cool and rainy but rarely freezing.

Plan around the Athens Epidaurus Festival, held from June to August, when ancient Greek drama, opera, and concerts return to the [Odeon of Herodes Atticus](#) under the Acropolis. Tickets for the best-known performances sell out early.

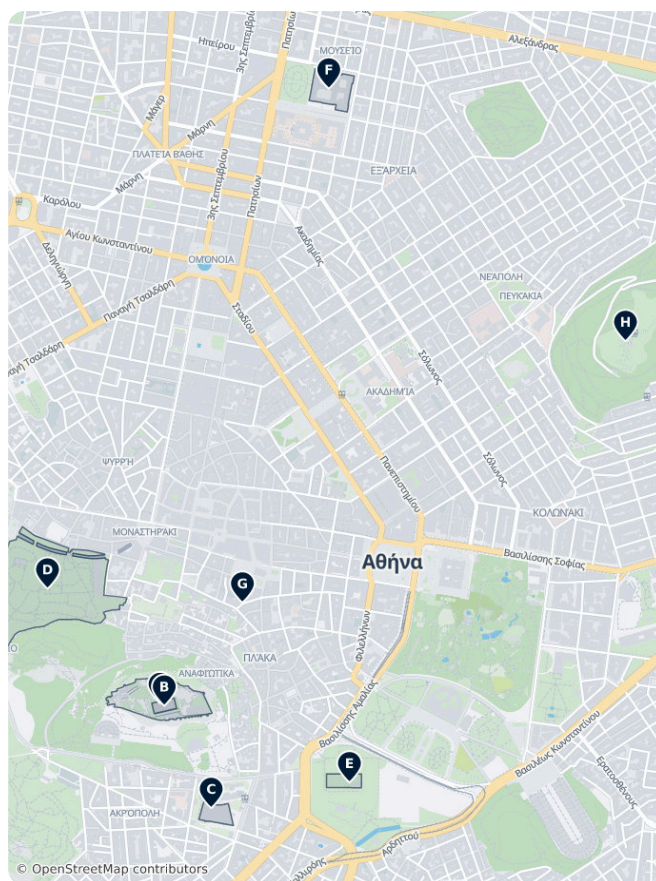
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	● Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 17° Feels like 9°	6° / 0°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	● Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 18°	6° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	● Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 22°	8° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	● Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	● Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 31°	15° / 12°	☀ 21 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	● Great Great for sightseeing	31° / 36°	20° / 16°	☀ 25 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	● Fair Fair for sightseeing	33° / 38°	23° / 20°	☀ 30 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 8 days above 35°
August	● Good Good for sightseeing	33° / 37°	22° / 20°	☀ 29 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
September	● Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 34°	19° / 15°	☀ 22 sunny days · Calm winds
October	● Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	15° / 11°	Calm winds
November	● Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 23°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	● Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 18°	8° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: April, May, June, September, October, November

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- **A** **Acropolis** rises above the whole city and holds the ruins of ancient Athens' main temples. Buy a ticket online in advance and arrive at opening time to beat the heat and the crowds.
- **B** **Parthenon** is the best-known building on the hill, a 5th-century BC temple to the goddess Athena and one of the most copied structures in the world.
- **C** **Acropolis Museum** sits at the foot of the hill and displays the statues and friezes found there, including a glass floor over an excavated ancient neighborhood.
- **D** **Ancient Agora of Athens** was the civic heart of ancient Athens, where markets were held and democracy itself first took shape.
- **E** **Temple of Olympian Zeus** took over 600 years to finish; only 15 of its original 104 giant columns still stand.
- **F** **National Archaeological Museum** holds the largest collection of Greek antiquities anywhere, including gold funerary masks from Mycenae.
- **G** **Plaka** is the oldest neighborhood in the city, with narrow lanes, neoclassical houses, and small squares below the Acropolis.
- **H** **Lycabettus Hill** is the highest point in central Athens; a funicular runs to the top for views over the whole city and the sea.



Athens Municipality – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play



Scan to download
the app

What to experience

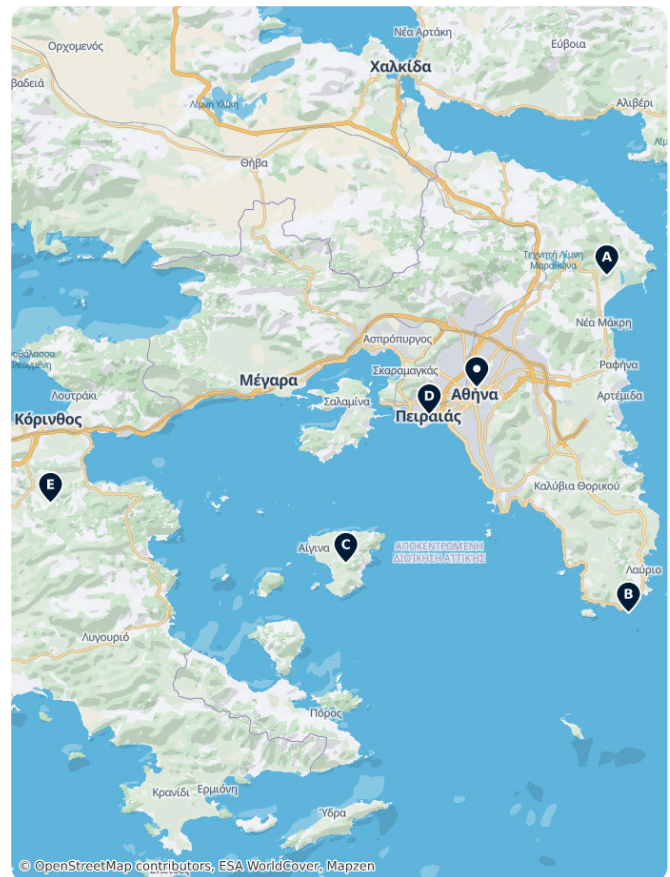
Athens has a few rituals worth timing your visit around, beyond the ancient sites.

- Watch the Changing of the Guard in front of the Greek Parliament on [Syntagma Square](#). The Evzones perform a slow, stylized march every hour, with a full band and a longer ceremony on Sunday at 11:00.
- Catch sunset from [Areopagus](#), a bare rock beside the Acropolis where locals gather with a drink to watch the light change over the city.
- Browse the Sunday flea market at [Monastiraki Flea Market](#) for antiques, records, and odd finds — it spreads well beyond the shops into the surrounding streets only on Sundays.
- Join a rebetiko (Greek blues) night in a small taverna in the Psiri neighborhood, with live bouzouki and singing that goes on late.

Day trips

Several worthwhile destinations sit within a few hours of Athens, from a quick countryside trip to a full day out.

- **A** [Marathon](#) — about 45 minutes by car, or around 1 hour by bus. Site of the 490 BC battle that gave the marathon race its name; a burial mound marks the fallen Athenian soldiers.
- **B** [Cape Sounion](#) — about 1 hour by car, or up to 2 hours by bus. The Temple of Poseidon stands on a cliff over the Aegean Sea, especially striking at sunset.
- **C** [Aegina](#) — about 1 hour by ferry from **D** [Piraeus](#). A relaxed island known for pistachios and the well-preserved Temple of Aphaia.
- **E** [Corinth](#) — about 1.5 hours by car or bus. Ruins of the ancient city sit beside the Corinth Canal, a narrow passage cut between the mainland and the Peloponnese.
- Delphi — about 2.5 hours by car or bus. A UNESCO World Heritage site in the mountains, once home to the most famous oracle of the ancient world.



Getting there

- **By air:** Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos" (ATH) is the main gateway, about 30 km east of the centre. Metro Line 3 runs directly to the centre in about 40 minutes for around 9 €; the X95 airport bus is a cheaper alternative, while the suburban rail (Proastiakos) costs about the same as the metro.
- **By sea:** Ferries from the Greek islands and other Mediterranean ports arrive at the port of [Piraeus](#), connected to central Athens by Metro Line 1 in about 20 minutes.
- **By train:** Intercity trains from Thessaloniki (about 4–5 hours) and other Greek cities arrive at Larissa Station, a short walk from the centre and linked to Metro Line 2.
- **By bus:** Long-distance KTEL coaches from across Greece arrive at the Kifisos and Liosion bus terminals, both a short taxi ride from the centre.

Getting around

- **Public transit:** The Athens Metro (3 lines), tram, and buses are run by OASA. Tap a contactless bank card or phone directly at the metro gates — a single fare covers 90 minutes across metro, tram, and bus. [Athens Metro & Tram \(STASY\)](#)
- **Taxi / ride-hailing:** Beat is the dominant local ride-hailing app; taxis are also easy to hail on the street.
- **On foot:** The historic centre — Plaka, Monastiraki, Syntagma — is compact and walkable, though many streets are cobbled and the area around the Acropolis involves stairs and uneven ground.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High



The historic centre is compact and easy to explore on foot, though it is hilly around the Acropolis and paved with cobblestones in places.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low



Athens has limited bike lanes and heavy traffic, so cycling is not a practical way to get around the city centre.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?:** No. Central Athens has heavy traffic, a confusing one-way system, and scarce parking — public transit and walking cover the sights better. Renting a car makes sense only for day trips outside the city.
- **Parking:** Paid street parking (blue-line zones) is metered by app or ticket machine; garages near Syntagma and Plaka are safer and easier for a short visit.
- **Restrictions:** A low-emission ring (Daktylios) limits some vehicles from entering the historic centre on weekdays; check before driving in if using a rental car.

Food & drink

Athens shares Greece's classic dishes — souvlaki, gyros, moussaka, and small fried fish called *marides* — but also has a strong taverna culture, with meals built around shared small plates (*mezedes*) rather than a single main course.

For an everyday meal, head to the backstreets of [Plaka](#) away from the main tourist strip, or the cluster of tavernas around Psiri. The area near Athinas Street and the Varvakios central market is a good spot for late-night grilled meat and fish.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Dolmades · Ντολμάδες

Vine leaves stuffed with rice and herbs, sometimes with minced meat, served warm or cold.

Greek Salad · Χωριάτικη σαλάτα

Tomato, cucumber, onion, olives, and a block of feta cheese, dressed with olive oil.

DINNER

Moussaka · Μουσακάς

A baked layered dish of eggplant, potato, and minced meat topped with béchamel sauce.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Souvlaki · Σουβλάκι

Grilled skewered meat, often served in a pita wrap with tomato, onion, and tzatziki.

Gyros · Γύρος

Spit-roasted meat sliced and wrapped in pita with fries, tomato, onion, and tzatziki.

Spanakopita · Σπανακόπιτα

A savory pastry filled with spinach and feta cheese, wrapped in flaky phyllo dough.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Baklava · Μπακλαβάς

Layers of phyllo pastry filled with chopped nuts and soaked in honey syrup.

DRINKS

Greek Coffee · Ελληνικός καφές

Thick, unfiltered coffee traditionally served in a small cup, often with a glass of water.

Ouzo · Ούζο

An anise-flavored aperitif, usually served with ice and small plates (*mezedes*).

Retsina · Ρετσίνα

A distinctive resin-flavored white wine, a Greek tradition dating back centuries.



Athens Municipality – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play



Scan to download
the app

Safety & health

Athens is generally safe for tourists, with low rates of violent crime. The main risks are pickpocketing on the metro (especially the airport line and around Monastiraki and Syntagma) and bar scams near busy tourist streets — walk away from anyone who insists on taking you to a specific bar or club.

Tap water in central Athens is safe to drink.

History

Athens takes its name from *Athena*, the goddess of wisdom, who — according to legend — won the city from Poseidon by gifting it an olive tree. The [Ancient Agora of Athens](#) was where Athenian citizens gathered to debate and vote, laying the groundwork for democracy as a system of government. The [Acropolis](#) and its temples were built in the 5th century BC under the statesman *Pericles*, funded partly by the treasury of the Delian League.

Nearby, the [Archaeological site of Kerameikos](#) served as the city's main cemetery and pottery district for over a thousand years, and the [Temple of Hephaestus](#) overlooking the Ancient Agora is the best-preserved Doric temple in Greece. Centuries later, in 1896, the [Panathenaic Stadium](#) — rebuilt on the site of an ancient stadium — hosted the first modern Olympic Games.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Greece at a glance:

 CURRENCY

EUR €

 EMERGENCY

112

 ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

 LANGUAGES

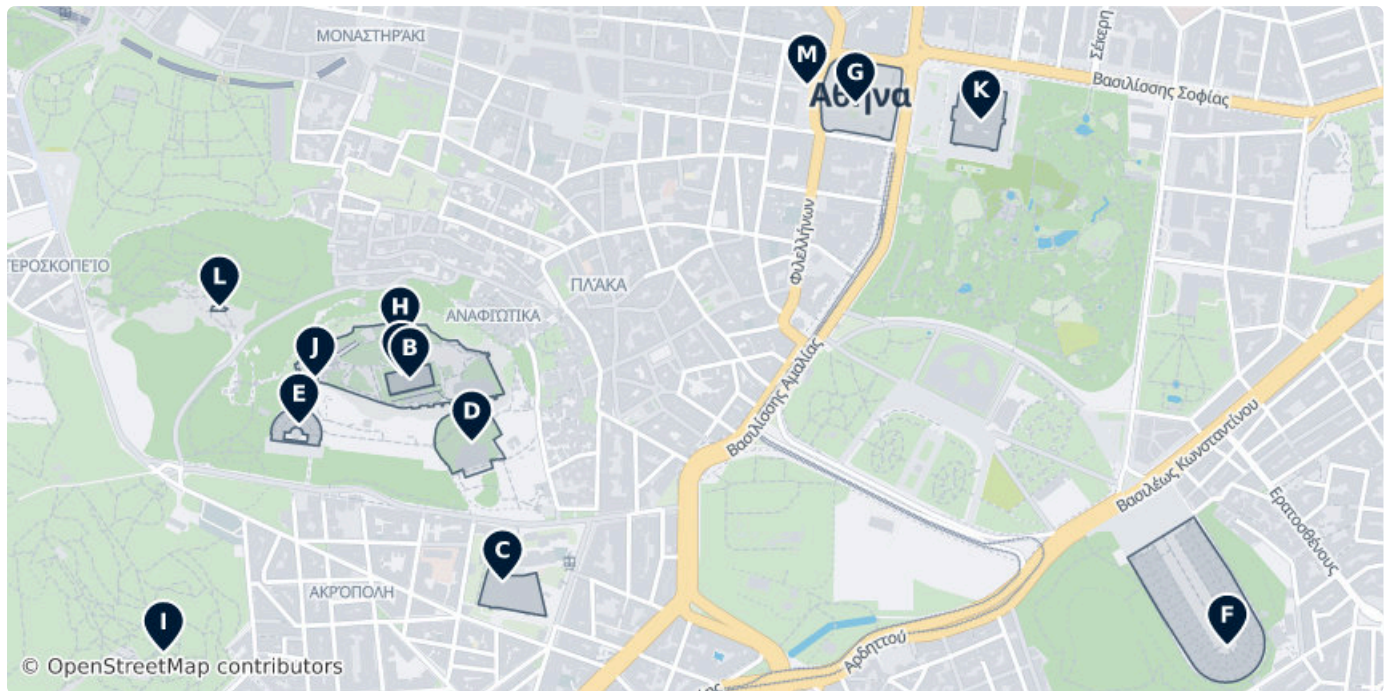
Greek

 TAP WATER

Use caution

Athens Essentials

Athens centers on the Acropolis citadel, home to the Parthenon, the asymmetrical Erechtheion, and the Temple of Athena Nike. This selection spans millennia, from the ancient Theatre of Dionysus and the marble Odeon of Herodes Atticus to the minimalist Acropolis Museum. Key civic sites include Syntagma Square with the neoclassical Greek Parliament and the all-marble Panathenaic Stadium, host of the first modern Olympics. The list also features the historic Areopagus hill, the panoramic Philopappos Hill, and Ermou Street, a premier shopping thoroughfare dating back to 1883.



A Acropolis

Ancient citadel featuring iconic Greek temples and ruins, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Theorias 12-18, Athens 10555, Greece (37.97158, 23.72647)

Mo-Th

09:00-17:00

Fr

09:00-22:00

Sa-Su

09:00-20:00

theacropolismuseum.gr/en, +302103214172



B Parthenon

Ancient Greek temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, known for its classical architecture and historical significance.

It is a major archaeological site and symbol of ancient Greek heritage.

Dionysiou Areopagitou 31-39, Athens 11742, Greece (37.97150, 23.72662)

Mo-Su

19:00

theacropolismuseum.gr/en, +302103214172





C Acropolis Museum

Archaeological museum showcasing ancient Greek artifacts and sculptures from the Acropolis site, including pieces from the Parthenon. The museum is noted for its modern, minimalist architecture by Bernard Tschumi and Michael Photiadis.



Διονυσίου Αρεοπαγίτου 15, 11742 Αθήνα, GR
(37.96859, 23.72831)

Mo	08:00–16:00
Tu–Th	08:00–20:00
Fr	08:00–22:00
Sa–Su	08:00–20:00

theacropolismuseum.gr, +30 21 0900 0900



D Theatre of Dionysus

Ancient Greek open-air theatre located on the south slope of the Acropolis, known for its classical architecture and archaeological significance.



Mitseon 25, Athens 117 42, Greece (37.97059, 23.72775)

Mo–Su	08:00–19:00
+302103224625	



E Odeon of Herodes Atticus

Ancient Roman stone theatre renowned for its classical architecture and cultural significance. It hosts concerts and festivals in an open-air setting.



Dionysiou Areopagitou, Athens 10556, Greece
(37.97084, 23.72459)

+302103241807



F Panathenaic Stadium

Historic marble stadium known for hosting the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and showcasing ancient Greek architecture.



Leoforos Vasileos Konstantinou, Athens 11636, Greece
(37.96766, 23.74153)

Mar–Oct Mo–Su	08:00–19:00
Nov–Feb Mo–Su	08:00–17:00

panathenaicstadium.gr/Default.aspx, + 30 210 75 22 984-6



G Syntagma Square

Central historic square featuring a large water fountain and green areas. Known for its proximity to significant buildings including the Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

(Unnamed Road), Αθήνα 10563, Greece
(37.97546, 23.73475)

cityofathens.gr



H Erechtheion

Ancient Greek Ionic temple known for its asymmetrical design and classical architecture. It is a significant archaeological site and part of a UNESCO World Heritage area.

Theorias 12, Athens 10555, Greece (37.97209, 23.72644)

Mo–Su

18:00

+302103214172



I Philopappos Hill

Historic hill featuring a monument dedicated to the Syrian prince Philopappos and archaeological sites, known for its scenic views of the city.

(Unnamed Road), Αθήνα 11851, Greece
(37.96756, 23.72212)



J Temple of Athena Nike

Classical Ionic temple built in the fifth century BCE, dedicated to Athena as the goddess of victory, featuring historic friezes and notable Greek architecture.

Acropoli, Dionysiou Areopagitou, Athens 105 58, Greece
(37.97152, 23.72489)

Nov–Mar Mo–Su

09:00–17:00

Apr 01–Sep 15 Mo–Su

09:00–19:30

Sep 16–Sep 30 Mo–Su

09:00–19:00

Oct 01–Oct 15 Mo–Su

09:00–18:30

Oct 16–Oct 31 Mo–Su

09:00–18:00

cityofathens.gr, +302103214172





K Greek Parliament

The building was originally used as the royal palace for king Otto I, but after he moved and the monarchy was abolished, it became the seat...

Plateia Syntagmatos, Athens 10563, Greece
(37.97521, 23.73704)

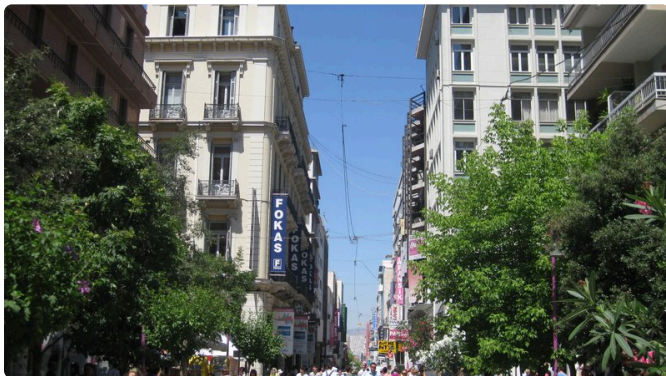
hellenicparliament.gr, +30 210 3707000



L Areopagus

Marble hill that used to serve as the seat of an institution called the Council of the Areopagus, which functioned as a court long before...

(Unnamed Road), Αθήνα 10555, Greece
(37.97253, 23.72314)



M Ermou Street

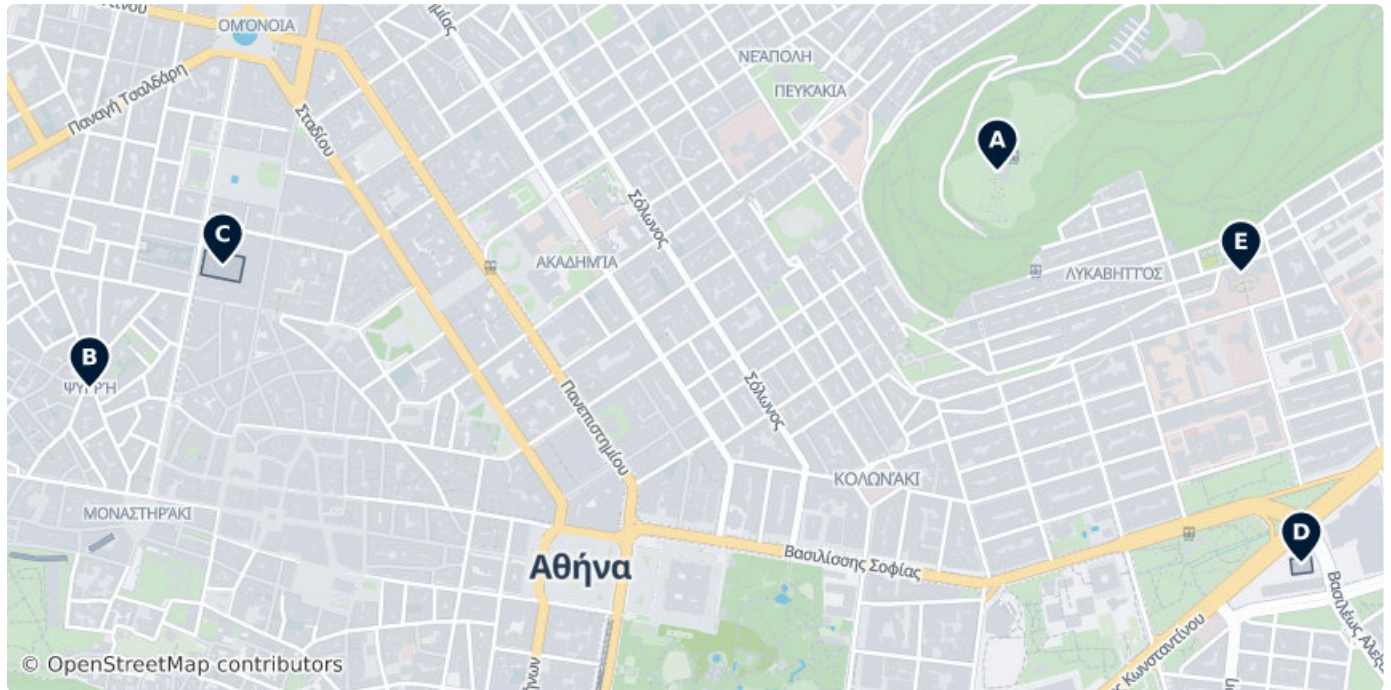
The most prestigious shopping street in Athens was remodelled for the 2004 Olympic Games, but it dates back to 1883 - it was one of the...

Athens 10563, Greece (37.97572, 23.73387)



Editor's Choice Athens

Explore Athens through its diverse cultural and scenic landmarks, from the panoramic limestone summit of Lycabettus Hill and the lively Psyrri nightlife district to the bustling Varvakios Market. Visit the National Gallery for classical and Renaissance art, and the Gennadius Library, a key repository of Greek historical volumes.



A Lycabettus Hill

Highest hill in Athens, reaching 270 meters, featuring panoramic views, a chapel, and an outdoor amphitheater.

(Unnamed Road), Αθήνα 10676, Greece
(37.98187, 23.74324)



B Psyrri

Boasting numerous restaurants, cafés and bars, this neighborhood is one of the many popular nightlife areas in Athens.

13 Αισχύλου, Αθήνα 10554, Greece (37.97842, 23.72494)





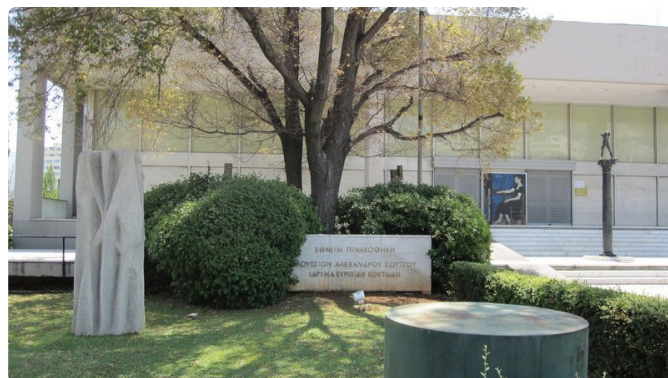
C Varvakios Market

Athens' central market specializing in fresh meat, seafood, and traditional Greek produce since the 19th century.

Αθηνάς, Αθήνα (37.98038, 23.72762)

Mo-Sa

07:00-18:00



D National Gallery - Alexandros Soutsos Museum

The National Gallery is an art museum located on Vasilissis Sofias avenue in the Pangrati district, Athens, Greece.

Βασιλέως Κωνσταντίνου 50, 11634 Αθήνα, GR (37.97564, 23.74937)

Mo

10:00-18:00

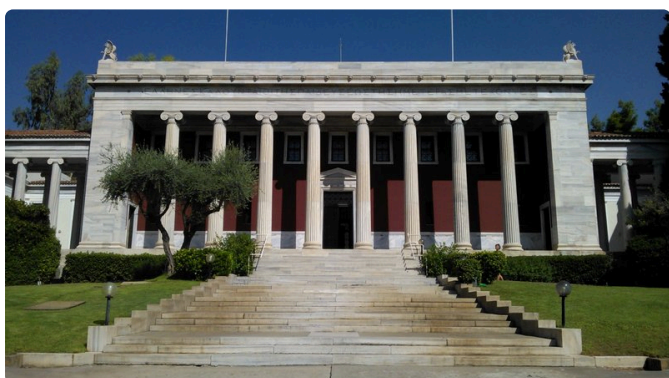
We

10:00-20:00

Th-Su

10:00-18:00

nationalgallery.gr, +30 21 4408 6201



E Gennadius Library

The Gennadius Library, also known as the Gennadeion, is one of the most important libraries in Greece, with over 110,000 volumes on Greek...

Δεινοκράτους, 106 76 Athens, Greece (37.98026, 23.74815)

Mo-We

09:00-17:00

Th

09:00-20:00

Fr

09:00-17:00

Sa

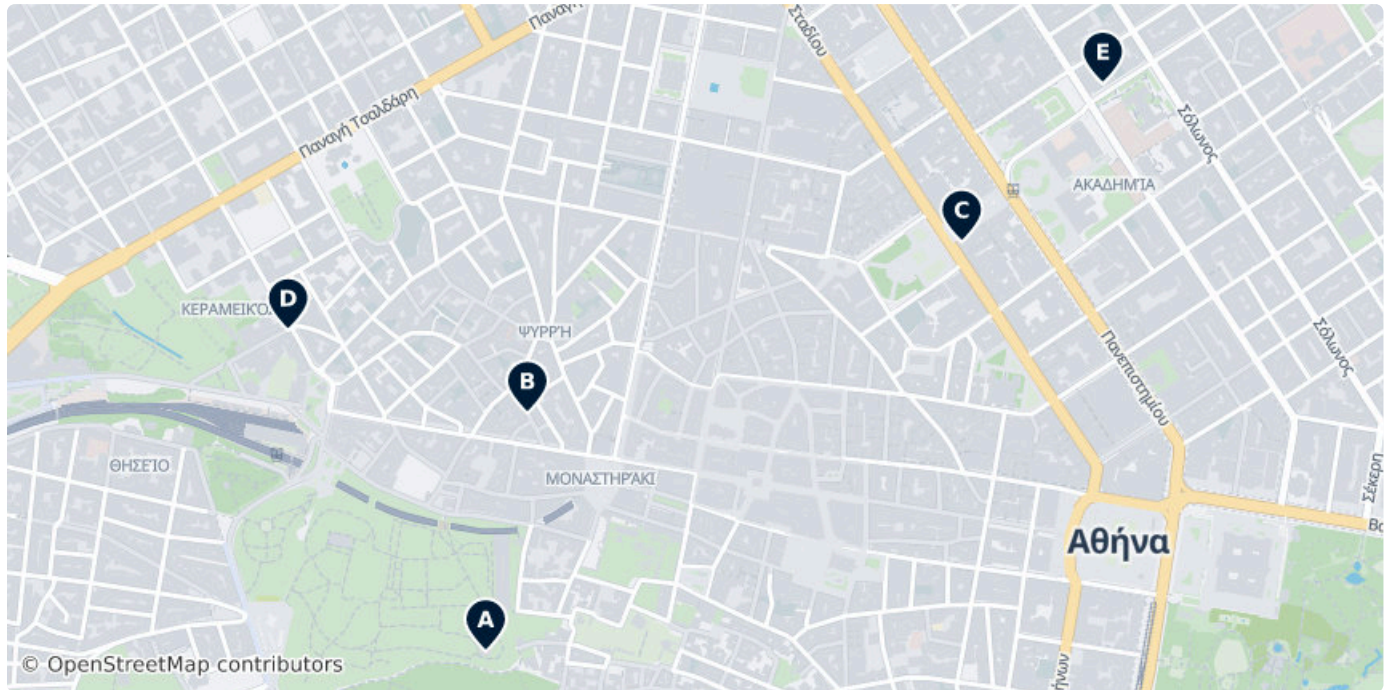
09:00-14:00

ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/, +30 210 7210536



Athens Hidden Gems

Explore five distinctive hidden gems in Athens, including the historic Holy Apostles church with Greek Orthodox heritage, the charming Pittaki Street known for its local character, a Zara store uniquely housing ancient ruins, the Hammam Baths offering traditional Turkish relaxation, and Politeia bookstore with an extensive English-language collection.



A Holy Apostles

Greek Orthodox church notable for its historic architecture and accessibility.

(Unnamed Road), Αθήνα 10555, Greece
(37.97409, 23.72393)



B Pittaki Street

A quaint street known for its local charm and atmosphere.

7 Πιττάκη, Αθήνα 10554, Greece (37.97733, 23.72465)





Zara

Visitors might think that this Zara store is just like any other in the world, but inside it hides a piece of ancient history.



32 Σταδίου, Αθήνα 10564, Greece (37.97965, 23.73213)

Politeia

A quite extensive bookstore with over two stores and has a nice selection of books in English.



Ασκληπιού, 106 81 Athens, Greece (37.98180, 23.73456)

Mo–Fr 09:00–21:00
Sa 09:00–18:00

politeianet.gr, +302103600235

Hammam Baths Athens

Traditional Turkish bath with a tasteful modern interior where you are free to relax and soothe after a busy day in the city.



17 Agion Asomaton Str. & 1 Melidoni Str., Thissio, 10553 Athens, Greece (37.97845, 23.72053)

Mo–Fr 12:30–22:00
Sa–Su 10:00–22:00

hammam.gr/en/, +30 210 3231073

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Places	OpenStreetMap, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official website
Climate data	NASA POWER, Copernicus ERA5-Land (CC BY 4.0)

IMAGE CREDITS

- Acropolis — "The Erechtheum, western side, Acropolis, Athens, Greece." by Jebulon, CC0
- Parthenon — "View from Philopappos Hill in Athens (Attica, Greece) — Acropolis of Athens" by A.Savin, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Acropolis Museum — "New Acropolis Museum, Athens. Ruins in the entrance." by Tomisti, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Theatre of Dionysus — "See filename" by sailko, CC BY 2.5
- Odeon of Herodes Atticus — ""Ἡρώδου του Αττικού", Ακρόπολη, Αθήνα." by Tilemahos Efthimiadis, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Panathenaic Stadium — "Greece-0061 (2215862380)" by Dennis Jarvis, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Syntagma Square — "View of Syntagma square, Nafplion, from its west end." by C messier, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Erechtheion — "The Erechtheum, western side, Acropolis, Athens, Greece." by Jebulon, CC0
- Philopappos Hill — "Vue de l'Acropole d'Athènes." by Jean Housen, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Temple of Athena Nike — "Acropolis of Athens, Greece. --- Ναός της Αθηνάς Νίκης. Ακρόπολη. Αθήνα." by Tilemahos Efthimiadis, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Greek Parliament — "The greece parliament in Athen." by Andreas Trepte, CC BY-SA 2.5
- Areopagus — "Areopagus from the Acropolis (Athens)" by //www.flickr.com/photos/ajbear/, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Ermou Street — "Ermou Street, Athens" by ChristosV, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Lycabettus Hill — "Mount Lycabettus is a Cretaceous limestone hill in Athens, Greece. At 277..." by Jorge Láscar, CC BY 2.0
- Psyrri — "Psyrri square, center of the quarter by the same name in Athens, Greece" by Badseed, CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Varvakios Market — "Central market-Varvakios Agora." by athenswalk, CC0
- National Gallery - Alexandros Soutsos Museum — "National Gallery of Greece, Athens." by Matti, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Gennadius Library — "Gennadius Library in Athens (September 2014)" by Neosmyrnian, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Holy Apostles — "View of Athens (Attica, Greece) from Acropolis hill – Church of the Holy..." by A.Savin, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Pittaki Street — "Athens, Greece" by houghtonme, CC0
- Zara — "Zara" by Mariosp142, CC-BY-SA

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI. Generated on October 7, 2026. Text and layout © Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.