

37°58' N 23°43' E

# Athens

## City Guide



HOUSE  
OF SHILA.

THE  
MAPTIQUE

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        |                                                                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABOUT THE CITY      | Considered to be the cradle of Western civilisation and democracy, Athens has recently become a hub for artists, curators, young entrepreneurs and digital nomads. Young Greeks are opening pop-up restaurants, design collectives, hotels and many other exciting projects, giving new life to old buildings and forgotten areas. Athens is a city filled with energy, where upcoming art galleries, charming cafes and hip bars live among the world's most incredible ancient ruins. The best way to discover the city is to wander the streets and squares, taking in the vibrant scene. This guide is the result of a a collaboration with the House of Shila, whose founders let us in on all the secrets of the city and made us discover it like true locals. |                        |                                                                             |
| VOCABULARY          | καλημέρα Kalimera and Kalispera / meaning “good morning” and “good evening”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | USEFUL INFO            | Location: Greece                                                            |
|                     | ευχαριστώ Efharisto / greek word for " thank you"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                        | Language: Greek                                                             |
|                     | Ναι and Όχι Ne Ohee / meaning "yes" and "no"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                        | Currency: Euro                                                              |
|                     | Συγγνώμη Signomee / for "excuse me/sorry"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                        | Tips: no mandatory                                                          |
| BEST TIME TO TRAVEL | While the city is generally a good year-round destination, the best time might be from March until early June or late September through early November, when the weather is warm and it’s less crowded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | HOW TO ARRIVE AND MOVE | Cash or card: bring some cash with you always.                              |
|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        | Airport: Athens International Airport & all ports (Piraeus, Rafina, Lavrio) |
|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        | SEBOGLOU TRANSFERS (Private)<br>+30 693 652 0682                            |
|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        | Metro: 3 metro lines and a Tram line.                                       |
|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        | Taxi Apps: FREE NOW, Uber                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>KOLONAKI</div> <div>Kolonaki is one of the most elegant neighborhoods in central Athens, with neoclassical and modernist buildings and numerous trendy restaurants and boutiques.</div>                               | <div>THISEIO</div> <div>A historic neighbourhood, Thiseio boasts neoclassical buildings on hilly streets alongside open-air cafes, wine bars, and rooftop restaurants with views of the Acropolis.</div>                    |
| <div>PSIRRI &amp; METAXOURGIO</div> <div>Psirri is the bohemian neighbourhood, with second-hand clothing shops and a buzzing nightlife. Metaxourgio still preserves its local atmosphere and it rarely feels packed.</div> | <div>PANGRATI &amp; KALLIMARMARO</div> <div>Pangrati is located right behind the Panathenaic Stadium, which makes it a perfect area for a relaxing afternoon in a park. Kallimarmaro is a small area inside Pangrati.</div> |
| <div>MONASTIRAKI</div> <div>Monastiraki is an iconic and historic area that nowadays combines the old with the traditional, between the historic Library of Hadrian and the lively flea market.</div>                      | <div>SYNTAGMA</div> <div>Syntagma is located in the very heart of Athens and it's most known for being home to the iconic Constitution Square, lying in front of the Greek Parliament House.</div>                          |
| <div>EXARCHEIA</div> <div>With its graffiti-painted walls and vintage bookshops nestled in the area's streets, the Exarcheia neighbourhood has become known as Athens' underground area.</div>                             | <div>PLAKA &amp; ANAFIOTIKA</div> <div>Located on the foot of the Acropolis Hill, Plaka features neoclassical buildings that adorn its narrow cobblestone alleys. Anafiotika is an area inside of Plaka.</div>              |

EXPLORING

Kolonaki

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI

METAXO

MONAST

EXARCHI

THISEIO

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HOTEL

## Shila

Set on a quiet street in the heart of Kolonaki district and housed in a late-1920s residence, Shila is a stunning boutique hotel where everything revolves around art and design.

[Mantzarou 10, Athina 106 72, Greece](#)

[@shila\\_athens](#)



RESTAURANT

## Philos Athens

The best place for brunch. Housed in a 1930s building, Philos has a great menu with some Greek-style eggs.

[Solonos 32, Athina 106 73, Greece](#)

[@philos\\_athens](#)

BAR

## Bar 56

A bar with a great speakeasy atmosphere and an extensive single malt whisky collection. It's a bit hidden on the top of the hill but worth a visit.

[Ploutarchou 56, Athina 106 75, Greece](#)

[@thebar56athens](#)

BAR

Jazz In Jazz

Jazz in Jazz is unique in its kind and a reference point in the neighborhood for an eclectic public. A family business created with love for the original jazz culture.

[Dinokratous 4, Athina 106 75, Greece](#)

[@jazzinjazz](#)

BAKERY

Kora

A bakery that prepares the best croissant and sourdough in town, which makes is the perfect spot for a sweet pause.

[Panagiotou Anagnostopoulou 44, Athina 106 73, Greece](#)

[@korabakery](#)

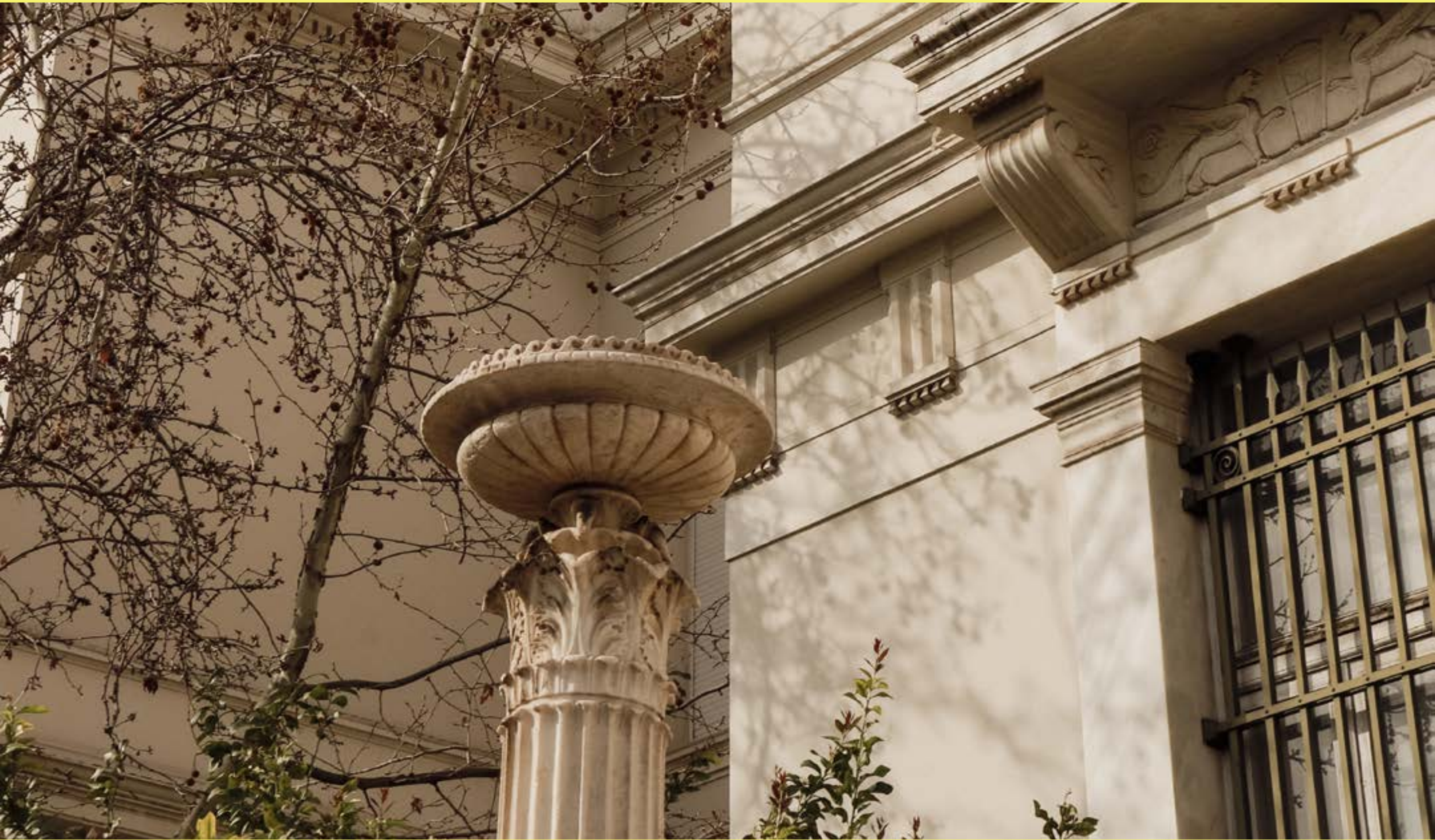


MUSEUM

Benaki Museum  
A museum filled with Islamic art, Chinese porcelain and Byzantine paintings.

[Koumpari 1, Athina 106 74, Greece](#)

[@thebenakimuseum](#)



MUSEUM

Museum of Cycladic Art  
This museum hosts the world's largest collection of Cycladic art that inspired Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí.

[Neofitou Douka 4, Athina 106 74, Greece](#)

[@cycladic\\_museum](#)

MUSEUM

The National Gallery  
Only a few steps away from Syntagma Square, The National Gallery is an art museum devoted to Greek and European art.

[50 Vasileos Konstantinou str., 116 34, Athens](#)

[@nationalgallery](#)

ART GALLERY

## Kalfayan Galleries

Since its opening in 1995, Kalfayan Galleries have been a pioneer in the expansion of the contemporary art scene in Greece.

[Charitos 11, Athina 106 75, Greece](#)

[@kalfayangalleries](#)

ART GALLERY

## Eleftheria Tseliou Gallery

An art gallery that displays a careful edit of contemporary Greek art spanning several generations with an emphasis on cutting-edge works using traditional media.

[Iraklitou 3, Athina 106 73, Greece](#)

[@eleftheriatseliou](#)

ART GALLERY

## Gagosian

An international art gallery renowned across the globe, Gagosian is actually a global network of art galleries specializing in modern and contemporary art with nineteen exhibition spaces.

[22, Anapiron Polemou Street, Athina 115 21, Greece](#)

[@gagosian](#)

SHOP

## Lito Cabinet de Curiosites

A tiny shop in the heart of Kolonaki district with stunning and unique jewelry creations.

[Irodotou 25, Athina 106 74, Greece](#)

[@litofinejewelry](#)

KOLONAKI

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RESTAURANT

## Diporto

One of the oldest Greek tavernas in downtown Athens – literally underground – where there is no menu and the owner, who doesn't really speak English, serves what he prepared on that day.

[Sokratous 9 &, Theatrou, Athina 105 52, Greece](#)

RESTAURANT

## Linou Soumpasis Kai Sia

One of the most celebrated new Greek restaurants offering fresh produce and natural wines, for some local flavours in the edgy Psirri area.

[Kalamida 9, Athina 105 54, Greece](#)

BAR

## Anana Coffee

A favorite coffee hangout.

[Praxitelous 33, Athina 105 60, Greece](#)

[@ananacoffeefood](#)

BAR

## Wine Is Fine

A 90s inspired bistro and the latest dwelling spot for Athens' coolest crowd. The minimalistic menu focuses on classic French dishes, whilst the wine selection is frequently updated with natural wine labels. You can't book, so make sure to go early!

[Vissis 6, Athina 105 51, Greece](#)

[@wineisfine.athens](#)

GALLERY

## Breeder Gallery

An art gallery considered to be one of the most influentials in the field.

[Iasonos 45, Athina 104 36, Greece](#)

[@the\\_breeder\\_gallery](#)

MARKET

## Varvakios Food Market

A food market where locals come everyday of the week except Sunday to find the freshest produce.

[Athinas Street](#)

SHOP

## Hyper Hypo

An art and design bookstore, which is also a project space and publication house specializing in art, design, photography and more.

[Voreou 10, Athina 105 51, Greece](#)

[@hyper.hypo.athens](#)

SHOP

## L'On

A shop with a curated selection of second-hand clothes, where to find incredible vintage treasures.

[4th floor, Praxitelous 33, Athina 105 60, Greece](#)

[@lon.space](#)



KOLONAKI  
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HOTEL

Mona Athens

Shila Athen’s sister hotel, Mona is staged in an eight-story industrial factory from the 1950s and features 20 characterful rooms, a concept cafe lounge & bar, and a speakeasy basement venue.

[Kakourgodikiou 4, Athina 105 54, Greece](#)

[@mona\\_athens](#)

RESTAURANT

Cafe Avissinia

The perfect place for a dinner with a view of the Acropoli, Cafe Avissinia is a quaint restaurant in the heart of the antique market with a nostalgic and artsy interior vibe, and live music.

[Kinetou 7, Athina 105 55, Greece](#)

[@avissinia\\_cafe](#)

RESTAURANT

Feyrouz

A new arrival in the Athenian street food scenery,with many different influences from Syria and Libanon.

[Karori 23 & Agathonos 1,Athina 105 51, Greece](#)

[@feyrouz\\_athens](#)

LANDMARK

Hadrian's Library

An archaeological site built by Roman Emperor Hadrian in AD 132 on the north side of the Acropolis of Athens.

[K, Areos 3, T, Athina 105 55, Greece](#)

SHOP

Monastiraki Flea Market

A lively street market in the heart of Monastiraki, only a few steps away from some of the most important landmarks.

[Ifestou 2, Athina 105 55, Greece](#)

EXPLORING

Exarcheia

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI

METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

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BAR

## Santa Rosa

A bar with a hip atmosphere, which is also the favorite hangout of the Athenian art scene.

[Asklipiou 69, Athina 106 80, Greece](#)

[@santarosa.athens](#)



RESTAURANT

## Pharaoh

One of the most exciting new entries, Pharaoh combines authentic Greek cuisine solely cooked in wood fire, a killer wine list and an audiophile bar with eclectic vinyl-only music, curated by some of the best DJs in town.

[Solomou 54, Athina 106 82, Greece](#)

[@pharaohathens](#)

MUSEUM

## National Archaeological Museum

A museum that hosts the most impressive collection of ancient Greek art displayed chronologically from 7000BC to AD 500.

[28is Oktovriou 44, Athina 106 82, Greece](#)

[@namuseumathens](#)

ART GALLERY

## Hot Wheels Athens

A project that provides space for a new generation of Greek and Cypriot practitioners alongside international practitioners, seeking to engage with the local community.

[28is Oktovriou 41, Athina 104 33, Greece](#)

[@hot\\_wheels\\_athens](#)

SHOP

## It's a Shirt

An interdisciplinary brand based in Athens, producing unisex hand-made shirts and coats with European and dead-stock fabrics.

[Asklipiou 67, Athina 106 80, Greece](#)

[@itsashirt](#)

SHOP

## Kopria

A beautiful flower and garden shop located in the edgy Exarcheia neighbourhood, between politically charged murals and many other independent shops.

[Eresou 30, Athina 106 80, Greece](#)

[@kopriastore](#)



KOLONAKI  
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OBSERVATORY

## National Observatory of Athens

A research institution where to get starry-eyed and wander into the night sky through its telescope.

[Lofos Nymphon - Thissio, Athens](#)

CINEMA

## Thision Open Air Cinema

Built in 1935, this spring-summer outdoor movie theater features gourmet nibbles and Acropolis views.

[Apostolou Pavlou 7, Athina 118 51, Greece](#)



KOLONAKI

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RESTAURANT

## Akra

With a panorama of new-age Green cuisine, Akra promises minimalist yet flavorful dishes and phenomenal desserts. The vibrant dining room features an open fire where yoy can observe all the chef action.

[Aminta 12, Athina 116 35, Greece](#)

[@akra\\_ath](#)



MUSEUM

## B. & E. Goulandris Foundation

A contemporary art museum opened in 2019, displaying many of the works amassed by shipowner Basil Goulandris and his wife Elise Karadontis.

[Eratosthenous 13, Athina 116 35, Greece](#)

[@begoulandrisfoundation](#)

LANDMARK

## Panathenaic Stadium

A landmark originally used by the Greeks and later rebuilt by the Romans, which hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896. It is also the only stadium built entirely of marble.

[Leof. Vasileos Konstantinou, Athina 116 35, Greece](#)

[@panathenaic](#)



SHOP

## Lexikopoleio

An independent bookstore selling Greek, French and English editions. You can have a coffee eland browse for hours, getting lost between the smell of the pages and the colourful covers.

[Stasinou 13, Athina 116 35, Greece](#)

[@lexikopoleio](#)

EXPLORING

Syntagma

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI

METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHI

THISEIO

PANGRAT

KALLIMA



SYNTAGMA

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RESTAURANT

## Nolan

Chef Sotiris Kontizas has drawn from his Greek and Japanese roots to create a fusion menu that’s earned this place a well-deserved spot in the Michelin Guide.

[Voulis 31 – 33, Athina 105 57, Greece](#)

[@sweet\\_nolan](#)



BAR

## Birdman

Tucked away behind an alley in Syntagma, Birdman is an intimate Japanese bar and grill that pays homage to late-night Tokyo eateries, serving yakitori and good drinks.

[Voulis 35, Athina 105 57, Greece](#)

[@ekibenathens](#)

PARK

## National Gardens

Not far from the city centre, the National Gardens are a nice option for a walk away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

[Leof. Vasilisis Amalias 1, Athina 105 57, Greece](#)

KOLONAKI

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MUSEUM

## Acropolis Museum

A glassy modern temple for ancient art with more than 4,000 objects and artifacts on display.

[Dionysiou Areopagitou 15, Athina 117 42, Greece](#)

[@theacropolis](#)



LANDMARK

## Parthenon

The ancient Greek architectural masterpiece, a former temple in the Acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena.

[Athens 105 58, Greece](#)

LANDMARK

## Erechtheion

Also called Temple of Athena Polias, it's an ancient Greek Ionic temple-telesterion on the north side of the Acropolis, which was primarily dedicated to the goddess Athena.

[Athens 105 58, Greece](#)

LANDMARK

## Acropolis

The Acropolis of Athens is an ancient citadel located on a hill above the city and contains the remains of several ancient buildings of great architectural and historical significance.

[Athens 105 58, Greece](#)



SHOP

## Mouki Mou

Nested in a 1970s building in the quaintest part of Athens, Mouki Mou continues its legacy of curated handpicked design items, which began in 2013 at the first store in London. Owner Maria Lemos’ aesthetics is an energetic mix of old and new.

[Diogenous 15, Athina 105 56, Greece](#)

[@moukimouathens](#)

SHOP

## Ioanna Kourbela

At the brand's flagship store in Plaka, you’ll find the designs of one of the leading Greek fashion designers, made using organic and environmentally sustainable fabrics.

[Adrianoy 109, Athina 105 58, Greece](#)

[@ioanna\\_kourbela](#)

EXPLORING

Furthermore

KOLONAKI

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RESTAURANT

## Herve

An award-winning restaurant offering a unique gastronomic journey; headed by a French chef, it is the perfect example of fine dining as an expression of culinary art.

[Trion Ierarchon 170, Athina 118 52, Greece](#)

[@herverestaurant](#)

RESTAURANT

## Paleo Wine Store

A perfect wine-place for a casual night out with a selection of wines from around Europe.

[Polidefkous 39, Piraeus 185 45, Greece](#)

[@paleo\\_wine\\_store](#)

RESTAURANT

## Oikonomou

This restaurant offers you nice food and a place to rest after a long walk around Vravron Archaeological Site.

[Kidantidon 32, Athina 118 51, Greece](#)

RESTAURANT

## Yperokeanio

This restaurant is one of the best places to enjoy top-notch seafood at reasonable prices.

[Marias Chatzikiriakou 48, Piraeus 185 38, Greece](#)

RESTAURANT

## Vezené

A bistro-style high end culinary experience, set in an impressive glass porch with wood stove cooking. Although the à la carte is particularly focused on rare quality meat, it does also serve exceptional fish and seafood dishes

[Vrasida 11, Athina 115 28, Greece](#)

[@vezene](#)

RESTAURANT

## Fita

In the more residential neighborhood of Neos Kosmos, Fita is an unassuming and totally gratifying experience. A minimalist space serving mostly seafood, but also few meat options, this is fresh and creative Greek cuisine at its best.

[Ntourm 1, Athina 117 45, Greece](#)

[@phitathens](#)

RESTAURANT

## Theodoros & Eleni

A quality typical Greek seafood taverna in the Athens Riviera. A Greek-British husband-and-wife team serves delicious dishes of fresh fish and seafood.

[Leof. Legrenon, Lavreotiki 195 00, Greece](#)

ICRE CREAM

## Django

Exceptional locally made ice cream and specialty coffee. They prepare fresh, all natural gelatos & sorbets everyday in their open kitchen.

[Veikou 15, Athina 117 42, Greece](#)

[@djangogelato\\_ath](#)

MUSEUM

## Carwan Gallery

A leading international contemporary design gallery with a focus on promoting and producing cutting-edge collectible design from the Near East region and beyond.

[Polidefkous 39, Piraeus 185 45, Greece](#)

[@carwangallery](#)

LAKE

## Lake Vouliagmeni

Situated on an idyllic landscape, the lake’s brackish waters are continuously replenished both by the sea and the underground thermal springs offer a natural and unique thermal spa experience.

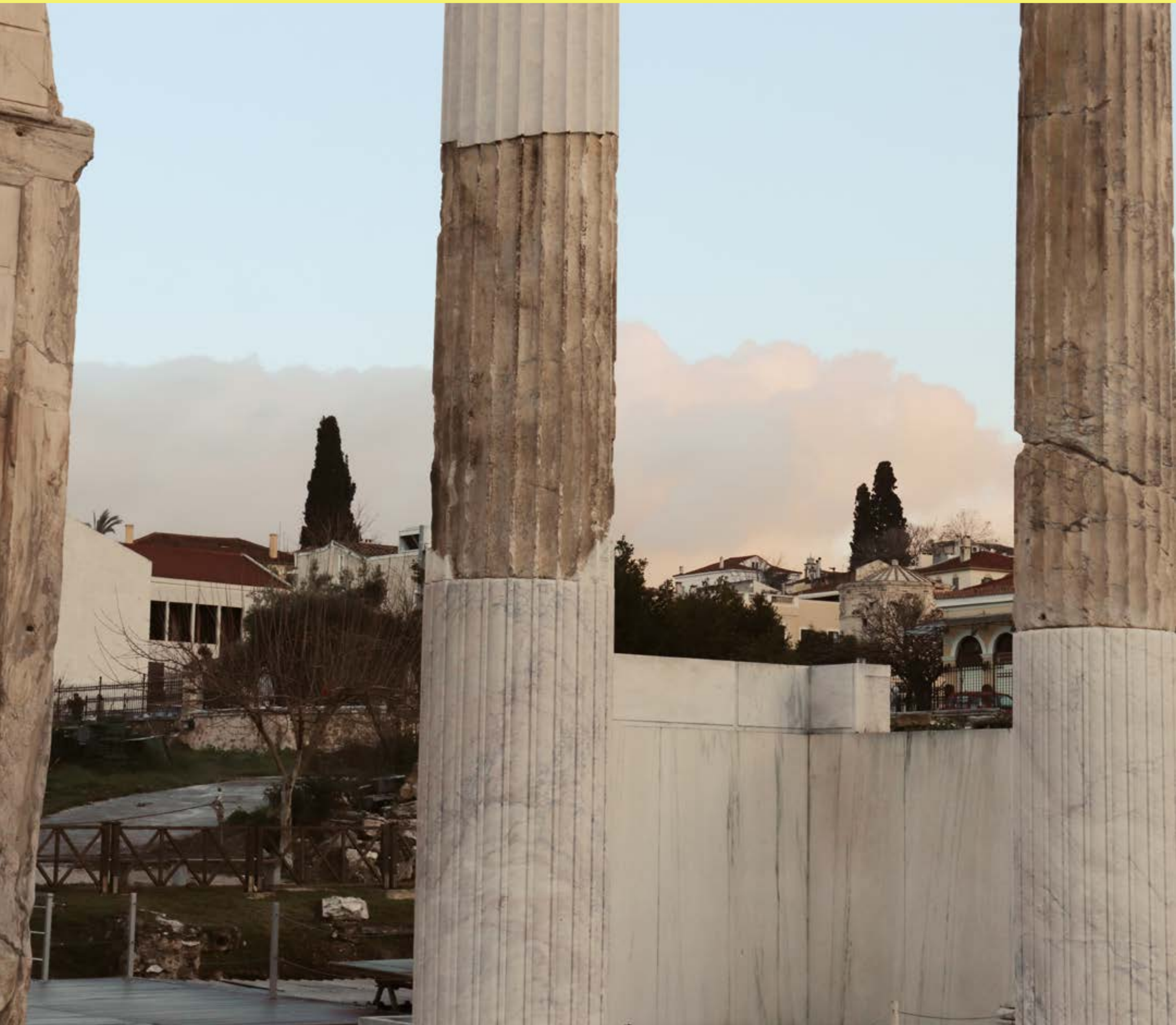
[Lake Vouliagmeni](#)

LANDMARK

## Temple of Poseidon

The Temple of Poseidon is one of the most important monuments from the Golden Age of Athens. It is perched on the edge of a cliff, located 70 meters above the sea in the Athens Riviera.

[Cape Sounio, Sounio 195 00, Greece](#)



PARK

## Vouliagmeni Faskomilia

A 300 acre-park from where you can see empty beaches, the calm waters of Lake Vouliagmeni, and the Saronic Gulf stretching out into the distance.

[Vouliagmeni Faskomilia](#)

HILL

## Filopappou Hill

A green area to the Southwest of the Acropolis which attracts hikers who want to get a better view od the city.

[Filopappou Hill](#)

HILL

## Lycabettus Hill

The highest point in the center of Athens, Mount Lycabettus is a Cretaceous limestone hill in the Greek capital.

[Lycabettus Hill](#)

FOUNDATION

## Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Near the port, at the outskirts of the city, this building by Renzo Piano hosts the Greek National Opera and an impressive library and is surrounded by a 52-acre park.

[Leof. Andrea Siggrou 364, Kallithea 176 74, Greece](#) [@snforg](#)

MARKET

## Platia Avissinias Square Flea

An extremely popular venue in Athens, Platia Avissinias Square antique market has been part and parcel of Athenian life since early 20th century.

[Avissinas Square, Athina 105 55, Greece](#)

ABOUT US

The Maptique is a travel project at 360°: get your membership to access premium contents reading our travel and city guides, book your hotels and experiences, buy limited edition capsule collections. If you don't find what you're looking for, get in touch.

CONTACTS

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Instagram: [@themaptique](#)