

VAT Most stores participate in the **Value Added Tax** program in which Non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the taxes paid (depending on the total purchase price). It is your responsibility to inquire as to whether or not the store participates in VAT refund program if the purchase qualifies for a refund.

GLOBAL BLUE Shop where you see this **Global Blue - Tax Free** Shopping sign and ask for your tax refund receipt. To qualify, there are minimum amounts, per store, per day, so please ask the retailer for details. Show your purchases and Global Blue receipts to Customs officials when leaving the EU. Have your Global checks stamped and collect your cash at the Global Blue cash refund office.



The LOOM

94 Adrianou Street

Exquisite Rugs
Taxi service to pier



20 Mitropoleos Street
near Syntagma Square



3 Benizelou Street
87 Adrianou Street
71 Adrianou Street

KONSTANTINO

20 Pandrossou Street



Hard Rock Café
at 18 Filellion Street
Rock Shop
at 67 Adrianou Street

**Xenia
Ino
Propylea**

Shops located below Acropolis



Look for this sign or flag in all of our preferred shops.

Beware of "similar" signs at store fronts.

If the store is not mentioned on this map, then the store is not part of our program!

PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING MAP GUARANTEE Shop with confidence as all the merchants on our **Preferred Shopping Program** have been carefully selected and that each offers a 60 day guarantee to our cruise line guests. This guarantee is for repairs and exchanges. Please note the following conditions apply to the guarantee: Guest negligence or buyer's regret is excluded. Price paid for merchandise or verbal claims/agreements between merchant and guests will not be grounds for returns. Only jewelry appraisals from gem laboratories or independent graduate gemologist appraisers not affiliated with jewelry retailer, or rug appraisals from certified non-commercial carpet experts will be considered for valuation claims. Watches and other brand merchandise may not be returned as they carry International brand warranties. Guests are responsible for all postage returns and appraisal fees.

Please contact us at Europeshopping@rccl.com if any queries arise after your purchase from our preferred shops on shore. We will do our best to facilitate a solution on your behalf.



Athens (Piraeus), Greece

PORT EXPLORER and SHOPPING GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION Throughout history, Athens has been one of the most important and influential cities of the western world. The peak of this civilization occurred during the 70-year Golden Age in the fifth century BC. It was during this period that great strides were made in architecture, literature, math, science, philosophy and medicine. History gave witness to some of the most celebrated men of our time including Sophocles, Euripides, Hippocrates, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Despite its vast history, the Athens of the 20th century is a bustling modern city with overcrowded streets, traffic jams, pollution, and characterless modern cement buildings. The city has been criticized for lack of overall planning during an enormous population growth in the 19th and 20th centuries. When Athens became the Capital of Greece in 1834, it was a mere village of 6,000 residence. The Athens of today is home to 4.5 million people and covers an area of 165 square miles.

Located 7 miles from the center of Athens, Piraeus has been Athen's port since the early 5th century BC. The city became an economic center in the 1920's with the construction of over 75 steam powered factories. The population has now reached 600,000.

HISTORY Athens grew to a city of historic importance around the 8th century BC when it became the artistic center of Greece. It continued to flourish and reached its zenith in the 5th century BC. This period was known as the Golden Age of classical Greek culture and produced some of the most influential historical figures of the Western world. Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides wrote tragic masterpieces while Aristophanes satirized contemporary ideals with his comedies. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle debated the fundamental questions of knowledge and meaning, and early historians such as Herodotus challenged the assumption that gods, not human beings, governed history. Hippocrates developed the science of medicine, and classical architecture and sculpture reached new heights with the construction of the Acropolis and Parthenon.

The end of the Golden Age began with the Peloponnesian War (431 – 404 BC) between Athens and Sparta. Athens continued to be a notable cultural center until the 2nd century when the Roman Empire took control of Greece. The city remained the center of Greek education until the fall of Rome to the Byzantine Empire in 476 AD. Emperor Justinian closed Plato's Academy in Athens and the dark ages (Medieval Era) prevailed for the next 500 years.

Athens experienced a pseudo-renaissance around the 12th and 13th centuries but then fell under Turkish rule for the next four centuries. The Greek War of Independence (1821 – 1829) brought the city out of cultural hibernation and in 1834 Athens was proclaimed the capital of the new, independent Greece.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the best of your visit to Piraeus and Athens we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Tipping: There are no absolute rules for tipping. A 10% tip is expected in most restaurants, and a taxi fare should be rounded up to the nearest Euro.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES For a starter you will most likely find these three favorites on most menus; taramasalata (a dip or spread made from fish roe), melitsanosalata (made from smoked eggplant), and tzatziki (a yogurt cucumber and garlic dip usually used with bread). The traditional main entrees include moussaka (baked dish of minced lamb, potatoes and eggplant), gemista (stuffed tomatoes or peppers). Fast-food in Greece consists of the giro (slices of grilled meat with tomato and onions in a pita bread), souvlaki (shish kebab), and pastries filled with a variety of stuffings including spinach, cheese, or meat. A meal is not complete without a piece of baklava (a very sweet phyllo pastry filled with walnut and honey) for desert.

Ouzo, a clear licorice-flavor drink, and brandy (Botrys and Metaxa) are the national aperitifs of Greece. Wine is drunk at almost all meals and social gathering and is relatively inexpensive. Bottled water is recommended.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main Post Office is located on the corner of Mitropoleos Street and Syntagma Square.

The OTE (International telephones) office is located at 15 Stadiou St.. Many payphones operate by telephone cards that can be purchased at the OTE office and some kiosks.

TOURIST INFORMATION Tourist information is available in the terminal.

TRANSPORTATION There are plenty of taxis available at the pier. However, please ensure that the meter is turned on in order to avoid being overcharged. Taxi drivers prefer to take tourists on a city tour with a preset price instead of dropping off in the shopping district. A regular bus service (green bus) runs into Athens approx. every 10 mins. For Athens and its suburbs use the "Blue bus".

There is also a subway system with connections between Piraeus and Athens. The main station is located at Omonia Square in Athens.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

- Yes • Ne
- No • Ochi
- Good Day • Kalimera
- Good-bye • Adio
- Thank-you • Efharisto
- You're Welcome • Parakalo



SHOPPING and DINING in ATHENS

PLAKA SHOPPING & DINING

A LITHOS BY MICHELE - 20 Mitropoleos Street near Syntagma Square
Unique jewelry in 18k and 22k devoted to Ancient Techniques. Greek-American owner, uses colorful enamel, black platinum, Byzantine designs and Cellini favorites. Tax-Free and service oriented. Taxi service available to the pier. ENTER OUR RAFFLE TO WIN A SPECIAL PIECE OF JEWELRY.



B KONSTANTINO 20 Pandrossou Street
Timeless jewelry with remarkable artisanship featuring designs in sterling silver and 18k. gold, inspired by art, architecture, mythology and people of Greece. All items are individually handcrafted in Athens and are available only at the authentic Konstantino boutique.

KONSTANTINO

C THE LOOM - 94 Adrianou Street
Meet Theo and Susie. Enter the world of beautiful rugs, tapestries, kilims, Greek flokati, pillow cases and unique tribal finds. Rug designs range from classic to contemporary. All sizes available including runners and round rugs. Prices start at 5 Euros. Worldwide shipping. Taxi service to pier. Try the lucky dip with prizes up to 5,000 Euros.

The Loom

D ARTIN JEWELS 18 Mitropoleos & 24 Voulis Street
Wholesale prices on 18KT traditional Byzantine, museum and Greek Key pieces • Designer pieces available with a vast selection of precious stones. • New collection of silver and gold jewels with rare semiprecious stones. • In-house goldsmith, stone setter, designer, and gemologist. • Multi-lingual, friendly staff • Tax refunds available. Taxis to the pier are available.

E DIMOS JEWELRY - 3 Locations EA - 3 Benizelou Street EB - 87 Adrianou Street EC - 71 Adrianou Street
Greek by Birth, American by Choice! Family owned since 1968. Steve Dimos, an award winning designer has been creating authentic Greek jewelry with 14K, 18K, 22K and gemstones. There is extended service available through their Houston, Texas location. Direct savings and friendly Greek hospitality is found at Steve's shops. Inquire about taxis to the pier from their locations.



F OLIVE TREE - 67 Adrianou Street
Fine Greek hand made olive wood products ranging from kitchen gadgets to unique decorative items. Find a collection of hand made board games and organic olive oil soaps made with the finest herbs and plants found in Greece. Receive a free gift with purchase.

G ADONIS FINE JEWELS 71 Adrianou Street
Special Jewelry for Special People! 50 years in the industry with a great reputation for service, quality and incomparable prices. Watches: Official Rolex dealer, Porsche design, Vogue and many more. Jewelry: Yellow and white gold; Byzantine museum copies. Precious and colored stones. Specialists in reversible Greek and classic jewelry.

H GEORGES JEWELRY - 7 Pandrossou Street near Cathedral Square
All of their jewelry is designed and manufactured at their workshop, saving you money by cutting out the middle-man. Extensive collection of gold Greek key designs. You can find jewelry with diamonds and precious stones as well as their new collection in sterling silver.

I ITHAKI BBQ RESTAURANT 46 Mitropoleos Street across from the Cathedral of Athens
This traditional Greek restaurant offers you a wide selection of charcoaled grilled items, such as Gyros, Kebabs, Ribs, and Chicken as well as the classics like Moussaka and Stuffed Tomatoes and Peppers. With an award given to them from the Greek National Tourism Organization, you can count on friendly service and home made meals using the best products available from the region. Open from 9am to 1am. Free ice cream with lunch purchase.

J ATLANTIS FINE JEWELRY 77 Adrianou & 2 Paleologou Benizelou Streets
You can find friendly and experienced staff at this store offering traditional and modern designs in all price ranges and selections of gold. International warranties and duty free pricing available. Watches: Official retailers of Cartier, Vacheron Constantin, Omega, Tag Heuer, IWC, Longines, Hublot, Baume et Mercier, Rado and Tissot.

K PANDORA ART GALLERY 70 Adrianou Street
This fine art gallery was established in 1975 and is famous for its original paintings, ceramic pieces, bronze statues and museum quality copies. Local artists display their contemporary work at their gallery. Worldwide, fully insured, door to door shipping is available.

L D. ANAGNOSTOPOULOS JEWELRY STORE - 6 Voukoutrestiou Street
Specializing in Art Nouveau and Art Deco pieces, this jeweler founded their company in 1930. With an in-store GIA expert as well as manufacturing most of their pieces in their workshop, you will be guaranteed a timeless piece at a great price. They are the exclusive retailer for Elle Amber jewels, Chanel watches, Chaumet and Carrera y Carrera.

M HARD ROCK CAFÉ - 2 Locations MA - 18 Filellinon Street MB - Rock Shop: 9 Miniskelous Street in Plaka
Great American food in a Rock 'n' Roll atmosphere with a Greek twist! Enjoy specialties such as Greek salad, Souvlaki and pastas aside from your Hard Rock favorites. Rock shop has a variety of collectible items, such as t-shirts, hats, magnets and pins. Show your map for a 10% discount on food, beverage and retail items.



N GES SHOES - 86 Adrianou Street
Here you can find handmade leather sandals designed and produced in their own workshop. You'll find a vast selection at either of their three locations. Providing great service and wonderful prices, be sure to stop by for one of their famous designs

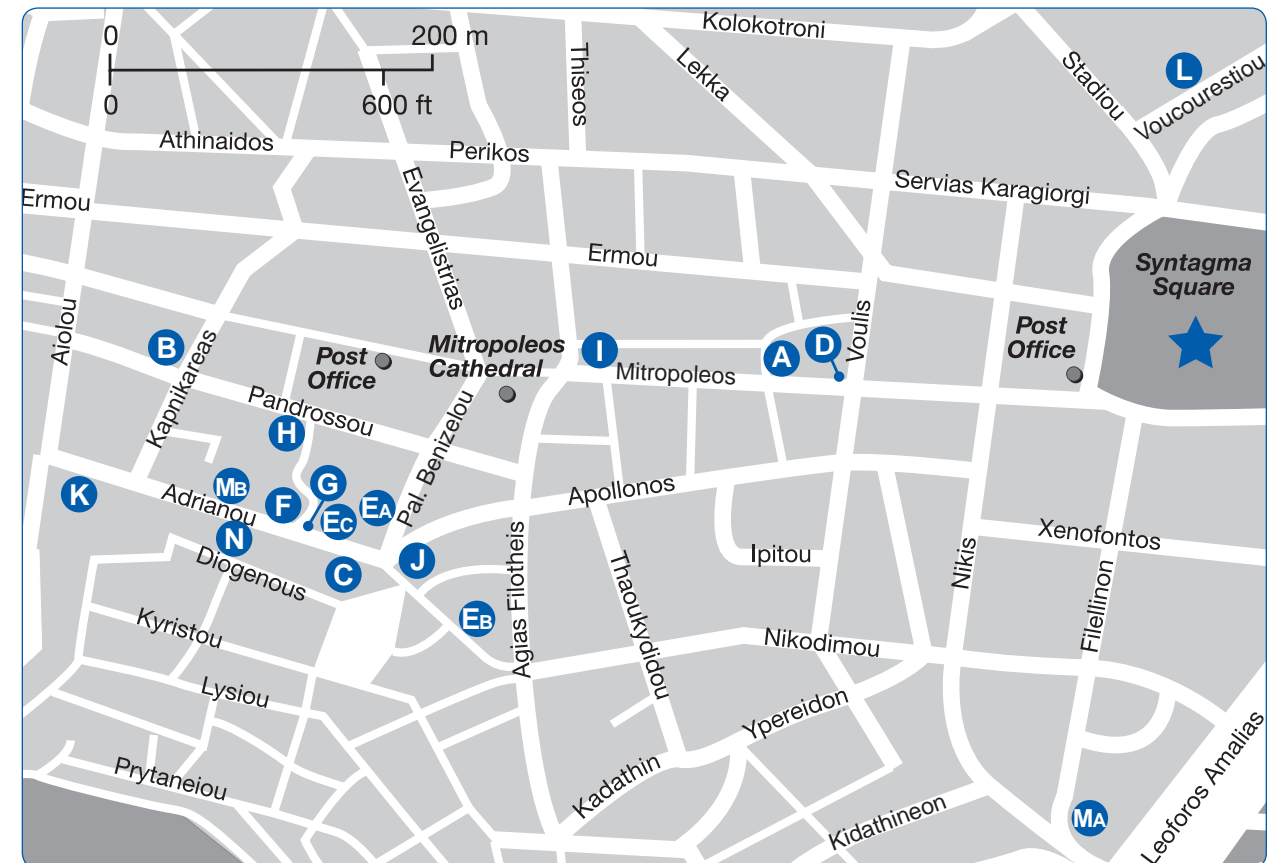
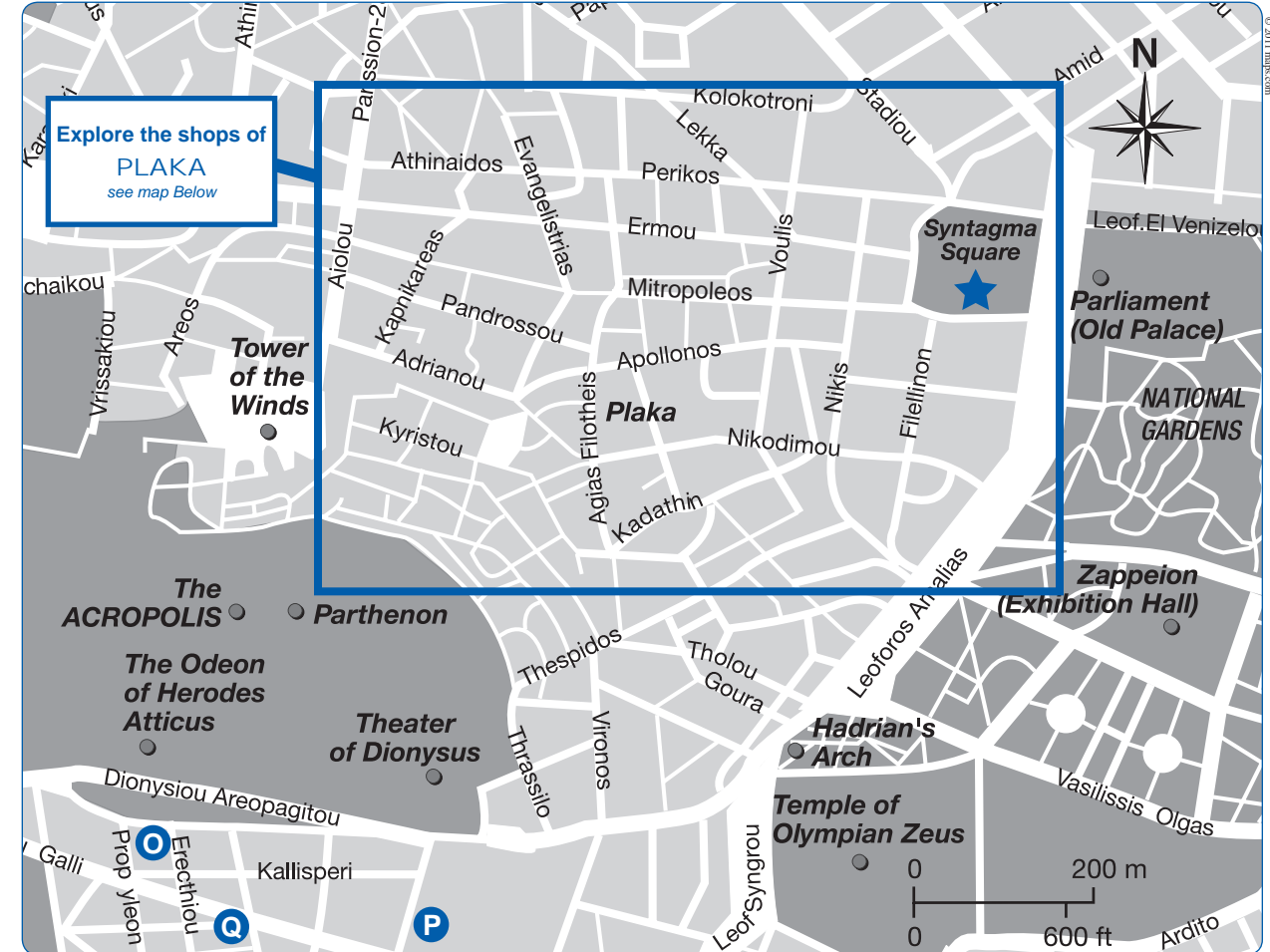
SHOPPING BENEATH THE ACROPOLIS

O XENIA - 57 Erechthiou
This family owned and operated shop boasts a wide variety of souvenirs for any budget. Their friendly staff awaits and will assist you in the purchase of fine handmade icons and archaic jewelry inspired by Greek Mythology among your traditional souvenir selections.

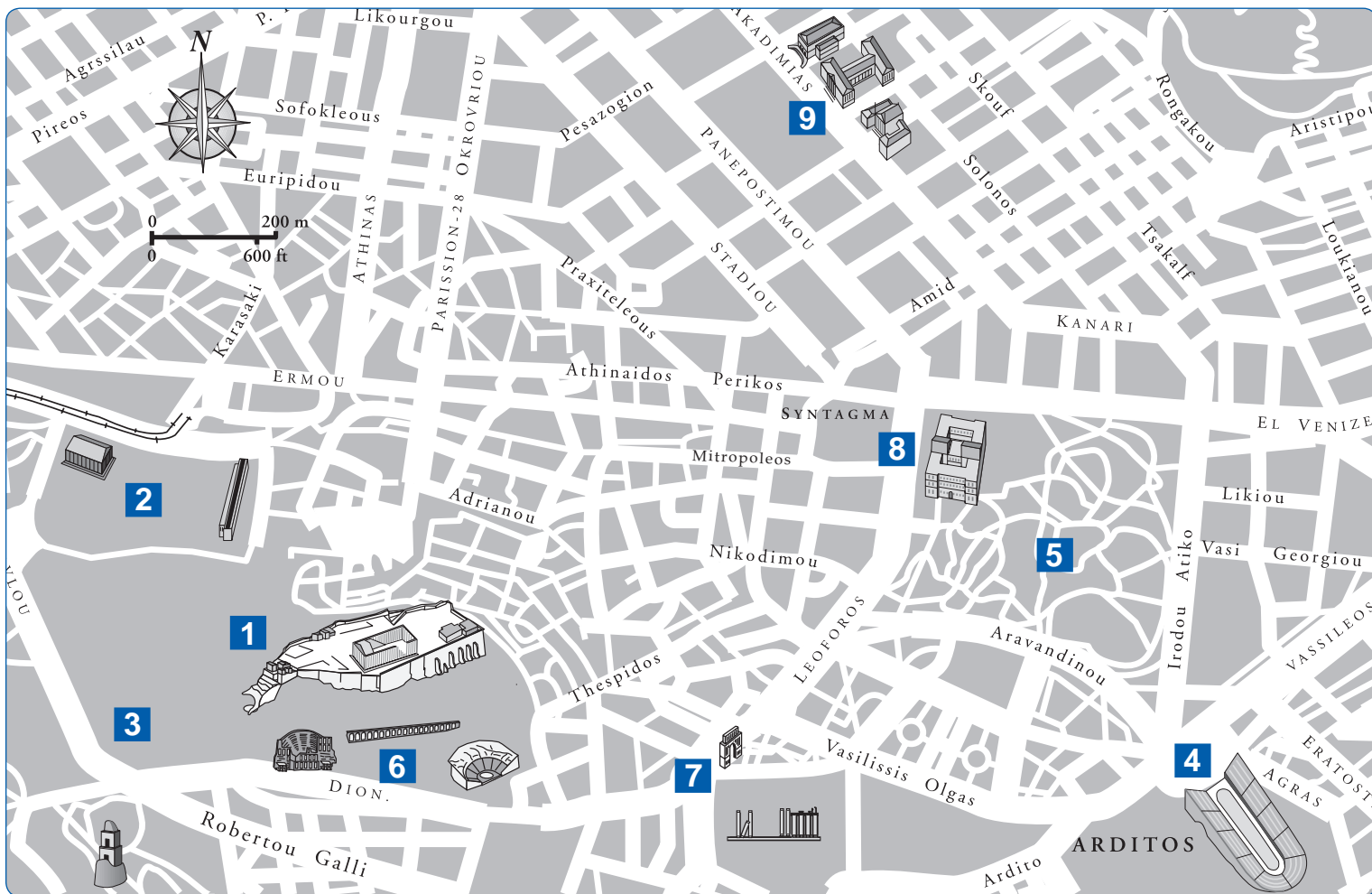
P INO - 29 Parthenonos
Exceptional Greek handicrafts. Monastery icons and replicas of museum statues are available. Silver and Gold Filigree, and one-of-a kind jewelry pieces make this store unique.

Q PROPYLAEA 43 Erechthiou & Fratti Street
Handmade Greek items available with a staff that is always ready to please. You can find scarves, decorative ceramics, souvenirs and handmade silver and gold jewelry at this store located near the Acropolis.

★ TOUR DROP-OFF LOCATION



The SIGHTS of ATHENS



1 ACROPOLIS, one of the great wonders of the world, actually consists of four ancient buildings; the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike &, the Erechtheion, and the Propylaea. The acropolis was built during the apex of Greece's Golden Age in the 5th century BC. Throughout history, it has served as a military fortress and religious center. The entrance is on the southwest side at Dionysiou Areopagitou street. It is a 5 minute climb to where tickets can be purchased. The Acropolis Museum is located on the Acropolis and contains sculptures found in the Acropolis. Areopagus is the ancient supreme court from which St Paul addressed the Athenians in 54 AD, and converted Senator Dionysius who became the first bishop of Athens.

2 ANCIENT AGORA was the administrative center and marketplace of Athens from the 6th century BC to the 6th century AD. This archaeological site features three remarkable constructions: the Temple of Hephaestus, the best preserved classical temple in Greece; the Odeon of Agrippa the concert hall; and Stoa of Attalos, a multipurpose building now housing the Agora Museum. Pnyx, also located in the Ancient Agora, was the meeting place of the general assembly during the Golden Age. A quorum of 5,000 citizens was necessary to take a vote. It now serves as the location of the Sound and Light show as well as an excellent photo opportunity of the Acropolis.

3 PLAKA is the older area of the city located on the north slope of the Acropolis. You can walk the narrow cobblestone streets with winding staircases and old mansions, or take a rest in one of the numerous tavernas. There are also a number of tourist shops as well as a few ancient sites worth visiting. The Tower of the Winds, located in the Plaka area, is one of the

most well preserved monuments in Athens. It was built in the 1st century BC and used as a water clock, sun dial, and weather vane. Each of the eight sides of the octagon has a relief depicting the wind that blows from that direction.

4 PANATHINION STADIUM was constructed in 1896 for the first modern Olympiad.

5 The **NATIONAL GARDENS** are open from Sunrise to Sunset and are located adjacent to Syntagma Square. This delightful garden is a retreat from the noise and heat of the city.

6 DIONYSOS AND ODEON THEATERS, are located just below Acropolis Hill. Dionysos once hosted plays of Euripides, Aristophanes, Sophocles, and Aesculus and could hold up to 17,000 spectators. The Odeon of Herold Atticus amphitheater was built in the second century AD. It has been reconstructed and is used during the summer to host Athens Festival performances.

7 HADRIAN'S ARCH was built by the Roman ruler in the 2nd century. The architectural remains as seen from the outside are well preserved.

8 The **PARLIAMENT BUILDING** near Syntagma Square has a changing of the guard every hour on the hour. The guards friendly demeanor is as delightful as their attire – Pom-pom-laden clogs, short pleated skirts (foustanela), and pony-tail-tasseled hats. This is the location of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

9 Along the impressive street of **AKADIMIAS** you will find the Athens University, National Library and Hellenic Academy.

Other sights in Athens

MONASTIRAKI SQUARE is the core of the market area and a great place to bargain for souvenirs. The flea market is located next to the Monastiraki metro station just off Monastiraki square. The best time to visit is Sunday morning.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM at 44 Patission St., is one of the largest and best museums of Greek artifacts in the world. It contains archaeological finds from all of Greece, from prehistoric times through the Byzantine period. Descriptions are listed in Greek, English, French, and German.

LITTLE METROPOLIS, dating back to the 12th century, is one of the most charming churches in Athens. Above the entrance you will find reliefs of figurines and interesting displays of zodiac signs. Beautiful frescos on the outer walls are covered with reliefs dating from the Classical to Byzantine periods.

MT. LYCABETTUS, the highest hill in Athens, offers an excellent panoramic view of the city from all sides. The summit, at 912 feet, can be reached by foot, car or funicular which operates from the Kolonaki side of the hill. On the top you will find a tiny 19th century chapel of St George as well as a restaurant.

BENAKI MUSEUM contains ancient Greek and Byzantine art, icons, costumes and folk crafts from the islands, and relics from the War of Independence. Descriptions are in Greek and French.

BYZANTINE MUSEUM is the only museum in Europe concentrating exclusively on Byzantine art. Each room is arranged to look like Greek churches of different eras and the outer wings contain mostly icons. The outer grounds are also worth a visit with beautiful rose gardens, a fountain, and fragments of statues. Descriptions are in Greek and French.