PROMPT





3 days



3-day Athens City Guide

A preplanned step-by-step time line and city guide for Athens.

Follow it and get the best of the city.

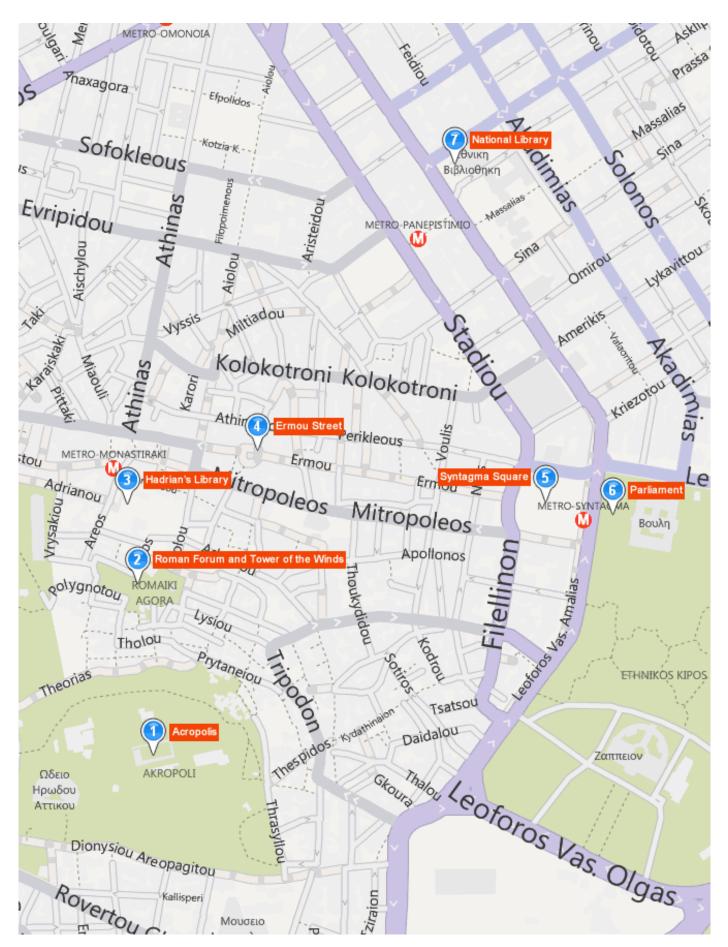


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	Take Red Metro Line to Akropoli station		
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	Lunch time Take a walk to Ermou Street		
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	Take a walk to Parliament		
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	Take a walk to National Library - 20'	garments	
17:10-17:20	National Library -	Fine example of Neoclassical	Page 7
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09:30-12:00

Acropolis (Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, Athens 10558)

Opening hours: April 1 - Oct 31, daily: 8am - 8pm, Nov 1 - March 31, daily: 8:30am - 3pm, Public holidays: Closed • Admission: 12 €





- Acropolis of Athens is the starting point of antique Athens. It was polulated for the first time around 3000 BC
- The word 'acropolis' means citadel or high city. The Athenian acropolis is located on a flat-topped hill rising 150 m (490 ft) above the city
- Today the site is scattered with magneficient ancient Greek temples, squares, buildings and theaters
- Highlights are the Parthenon, Erechtheion, Theater of Dionysos, and Areopagus
- The temples of the Acropolis influenced Western architecture to the extent like nothing else and are considered to be among the most important monuments in the Western world
- Parthenon is the most important monument of the site. It is a colonnaded, all-marble temple dedicated to Athens' patron, Athena Parthenos (Athena, the Virgin). It was built in the 5th c. BC
- Theater of Dionysos is Athens' first theater (built 6th c. BC) dedicated to the god of pleasures, Dionysos. Ancient dramas were performed here by Aristophanes, Sophocles or Euripides

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Start your tour at the ruins of the ancient theater of Dionysos at the lower level
- Walk towards Herodes Atticus Theater, the venue of the Athens Festival
- Walk to the upper level through the Beulé Gate. Beyond lies the Propylaia the monumental 5th c. B.C. entranceway
- Walk around, admire the view, and soak up the atmosphere
- The highlight is the beautiful structure of the Parthenon
- Finish your tour at the Areopagus Rock where trials were held in classical times

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Save some money by buying a combined ticket that gives access to Akropolis, Agora, Roman Forum, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Kerameikos
- Wear comfy shoes
- Be prepared for a crowd all year through

MORE Info and Photos >

12:15-13:00 Monastiraki)

Roman Forum and Tower of the Winds (Aiolou and Diogenous,

Opening hours: April 1 - Oct 31, daily: 8am - 8pm, Nov 1 - March 31, daily: 8am - 5pm, Public holidays: Closed • Admission: 2 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



- Julius Caesar founded the Roman Forum in 51 B.C. and moved Athens' marketplace here from the old Agora. It used to be larger than what we see today
- The old marketplace was not sufficient to fulfill its purpose. Athens-loving Romans moved into the old Agora site and crowded out the merchants
- The new forum overtook the old Agora's role of being the city's commercial and administrative center until the 19th century
- The octagonal Tower of Winds was built in 50 B.C. It depicts the eight winds on its sides. A waterclock was operated inside the tower by a stream from the Acropolis
- Gate of Athena Archegetis used to be the Western entrance of the marketplace. The columns are made of marble
- The picturesque Fetiye mosque was built in 1458 to commemorate the Turkish sultan's, Mehmet II the Conqueror's visit to Athens

 Other highlights: Agoranomeion (Office of the Market Officials), Vespasianae (68-seat Public Latrine), Byzantine Grave Markers, East Gate, Courtyard and the Fountain

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the small area and admire the ancient site
- Do not miss the main ruins: the gate entrance to the market and the Tower of the Winds

TIPS & INSIGHTS

 Save some money by buying a combined ticket that gives access to Akropolis, Agora, Roman Forum, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Kerameikos

13:05-13:15

Hadrian's Library (Aiolou and Diogenous, Monastiraki)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Roman Emperor Hadrian built this luxurious library in AD 132 on the north side of the Acropolis
- It followed the architectural style of a typical Roman Forum. It had one entrance with high walls surrounding a courtyard
- The showy central courtyard took up much of the space. It was decorated with mosaic floors, marble, gardens and a pool. Fancy Corinthian columns surrounded the central area
- Along with the library, the building accommodated lecture rooms, music rooms and a theatre

- Later the library was seriously damaged in military invasions. Thanks to extensive excavation and restorations, part of the site survived
- Other highlights: remains of three temples erected during Byzantine times

THINGS TO DO THERE

Discover the ruins of the library

TIPS & INSIGHTS

MORE Info and Photos >

15:00-16:00

Ermou Street (Ermou Street)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Ermou Street is a pedestrian shopping street in Athens. It is one of the busiest streets in the city
- The street starts at Parliament and runs all the way into the acient Kerameikos district. The area closer to Parliament is more upmarket while the lower (western) end is a bit funkier
- Designer boutiques and all the main chain department stores are present here
- Greek shoemakers are a vital part of the street. It is an excellent place to buy a pair of stylish Greek leather shoes or the emblematic Greek sandals

- Beyond the street are loads of used-furniture, antique and speciality shops
- Sunday's Monastiraki flea market at the lower end provides a truly unique experience

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk along the street and take in the atmosphere: the bustle and the stunning architecture of the street's buildings
- Do some shopping

TIPS & INSIGHTS

MORE Info and Photos >

16:00-16:30

Syntagma Square (Syntagma Square, Athens)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Syntagma Square is Athens' main square. It lies in the historic center in front of Parliament
- The square is named after the Greek Constitution (Syntagma). King Otto was forced to issue the document in 1843 after public demonstrations taking place at the square
- Highlights include the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, top of the Ermou Street and the Syntagma subway station
- Syntagma subway station is both a transport hub and an archaelogical museum. Finds excavated while building the station are displayed as if in a museum
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument to Greek soldiers died in battles.
 Traditionally dressed soldiers guard the memorial 24/7 and engage in ceremonial exercises on the hour

 Athens' main shopping street, <u>Ermou Street</u>, leads off from the square. Designer boutiques and major department stores are both present there

THINGS TO DO THERE

 This is a good place to stop for a rest or for a coffee near the central fountain

TIPS & INSIGHTS

 If you use the subway system do not miss the glass wall overlooking the archaeological site

16:30-16:50

Parliament (Amalias Avenue and Vas. Georgiou Street, Athens)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Hellenic Parliament is located at Syntagma Square in central Athens. It is the most notable landmark in the city center
- The building was built in 1842 as
 Bavarian-born King Otto's royal palace. Otto
 was Greece's first king after Greece won its
 independence from 4-century Turkish rule
- Otto hired architects from Munich to design his palace. Hence the building's plain neoclassical design
- The palace gives home to the Hellenic parliament since 1935. Greece has a unicameral legislature of 300 members
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier fronts the palace. Two soldiers guard the tomb in traditional Greek outfit (foustanellas) and perform ceremonial exercises on the hour

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have a look at the neo-classical palace
- Do not miss the elaborate ceremonial of the two guards

TIPS & INSIGHTS

 You must make time on Sunday to see the Ceremonial Parade of Changing of the Guard

MORE Info and Photos >

17:10-17:20

National Library (Panepistimiou 28-29, Athens)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The National Library of Greece is located in central Athens. The building is a fine example of mature Neoclassicism
- Danish architect Theophil Freiherr von Hansen designed the library, as part of the Neoclassical Trilogy of Athens including the Academy of Athens and the Athens University
- The library was built between 1887 and 1891

 It does not lend books. Its holdings can be viewed in a large reading room

THINGS TO DO THERE

Admire the beautiful building from outside

TIPS & INSIGHTS













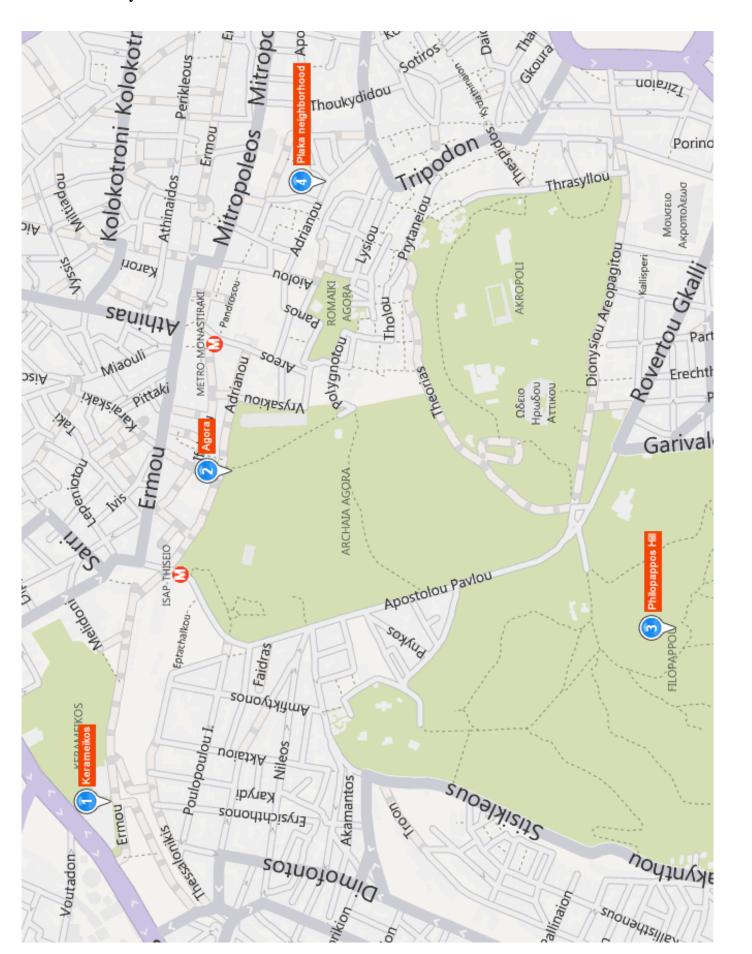
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•	LEAVE HOTEL Tested and recommended hotels in Athens >		
	Take Green Metro Line to Thissio station		
09:30-11:00	Kerameikos -	Peaceful walk among the ancient ruins	Page 11
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09:30-11:00

Kerameikos (Ermou 148, Thissio)

Opening hours: April 1 - Oct 31, daily: 8am - 8pm, Nov 1 - March 31, daily: 8:30am - 3pm, Public holidays: Closed • Admission: 2 €





- Kerameikos used to be ancient Athens' pottery district. The word 'ceramic' stems from the name of the district, Kerameikos
- The ancient Athens' outer city wall (built in 478 BC) ran through the district. It was built in haste and all materials that could be found in the city, including marble from temples and tombs, were incorporated
- Athens' main entrance, the Dipylon Gate, stood here. It was a so-called corridor gate: a long interior court (41 by 22 m) with four towers acting as death trap to attackers
- The lera Odos ('Sacred Road') passed through the Sacred Gate gate. The sacred road led to Demeter's temple (goddess of harvest and fertility) in ancient Eleusis
- Along the road important statesmen and heroes were buried beneath imposing tombs. Highlight is the tomb of Dionysios of Kollytos with a marble bull

 The Oberlander Museum displays a wild range of finds from the area. The collection includes many of the original tombs

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Enter the museum that houses exhibits mainly related to burial customs, such as urns and monuments
- Walk around the site littered with ancient remains

TIPS & INSIGHTS

 Save some money by buying a combined ticket that gives access to Akropolis, Agora, Roman Forum, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Kerameikos

MORE Info and Photos >

11:15-12:35

Agora (Adrianou Street, Monastiraki□)

Opening hours: April 1 - Oct 31, daily: 8am - 8pm, Nov 1 - March 31, daily: 8:30am - 3pm, Public holidays: Closed • Admission: 4 €





- The Agora was Athens' market place, the heart of city, and the birth place of the world's first democracy
- The marketplace was laid out in the 6th c. BC. It served as the center for all civic activities (politics, religion, philosophy, commerce, arts and athletics)
- Such historic figures addressed the pulic here as Socrates, Aristotales, or St. Paul
- The Temple of Hephaistos (god of technology, blacksmiths and craftsmen) is the best preserved Greek Temple. It dates back to the 5th c. BC
- Stoa of Attalos is the reconstruction of its 2nd c. BC version. It houses a museum that displays all the finds excavated at Agora
- Stoa is a covered colonnaded walkway open to public usage. Merchants sold their goods, artists displayed their works, and religious gatherings took place here
- Other highlights are: ruins of Middle Stoa, Agii Apostoli Solaki, Tholos (first Athenian parliament), and Odeon of Agrippa (a large concert hall)

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around and explore the ancient sites, statues, ruins
- The Temple of Hephaestus is an absolute must-see
- Do not miss Stoa of Attalos, Odeon of Agrippa, Altar of Zeus Agoraios
- Relax on a bench in a shady spot under old olive trees and be impressed by the surroundings
- Enjoy the stunning view over the acropolis

TIPS & INSIGHTS

 Save some money by buying a combined ticket that gives access to Akropolis, Agora, Roman Forum, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Kerameikos



15:00-17:00

Philopappos Hill



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Philopappos Hill is a pine-and-cypress-covered hill right next to Acropolis to the southwest. Winding shaded paths make the area ideal for taking strolls
- The hilltop offers one of the best views of the city. This place used to be the favorite vantage-point of generals
- Socrates' Prison, the cave where the ancient philosopher was held captive after his death sentence, is located here. Socrates died here after drinking a poisenous liquid
- Philopappos tomb and monument, on the peak of Hill of Muses, was erected in honor of Roman senator Philopappos, a lover of Greek culture. He spent his retirement here and died in Athens in 114 AD
- Church of Agios Dimitrios Loumbardiaris is a charming 15th c. Byzantine church decorated with some fine frescoes. A lightnign prevented a Turk commander from demolishing the temple with his cannons, hence its name 'Saint Dimitri the Bombardier'

 On the first day of Lent, hundreds of Athenians gather here and fly kites

THINGS TO DO THERE

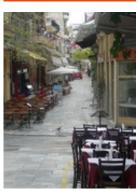
- Walk around the hill following the winding paths and discover the various monuments
- Enjoy the sweeping views from the Acropolis to the sea
- Relax on a bench after the tiring sightseeing
- Do not miss Agios Dimitrios church, Socrates' Prison and the Philopappos Monument

TIPS & INSIGHTS

MORE Info and Photos >

17:45-18:45

Plaka neighborhood



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Plaka is the oldest and most charming district in Athens. It lies right below the Acropolis
- Winding medieval alleyways with romantic narrow steps, neoclassical mansions and houses with red tiles and balconies with colorful flowers characterize the negithborhood
- The Greek literature often called Plaka the neighbourhood of the Gods
- Typical Greek taverns and street cafés serving icecold frappés are also characteristics of the area

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Wander the winding, narrow alleyways, pedestrian only streets with many outdoor bars and restaurants, and of course millions of souvenir shops
- Relax by having a drink in an outdoor café and watch the world go by

TIPS & INSIGHTS

 Don't go there for bargain shopping or overall authenticity

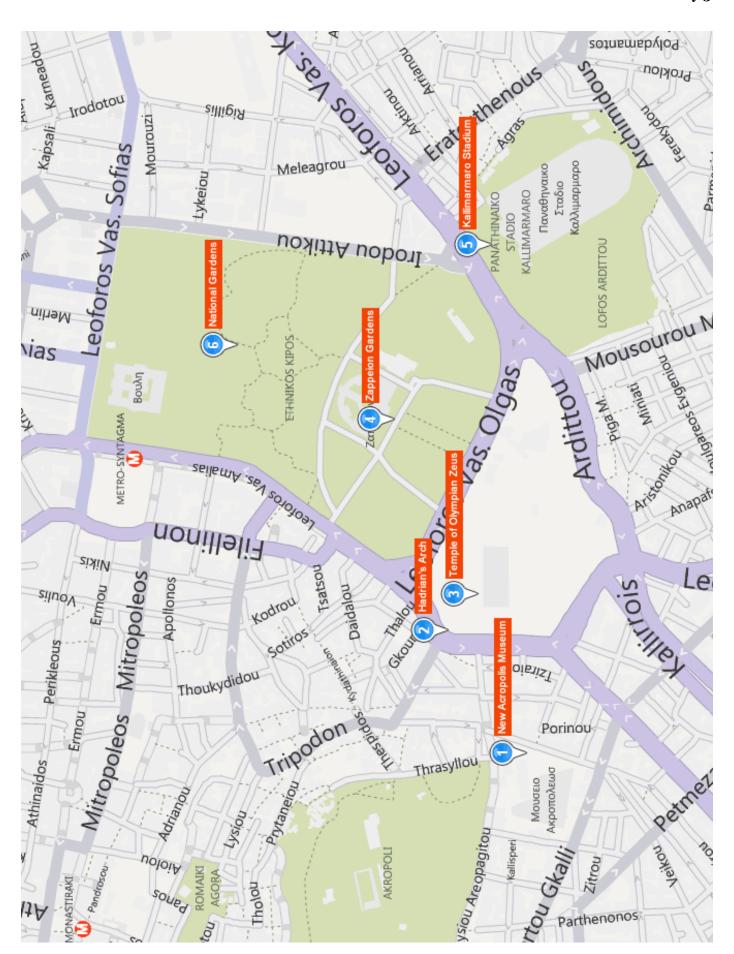


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•	LEAVE HOTEL Tested and recommended hotels in Athens >		
	Take Red Metro Line to Akropoli station		
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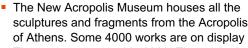


09:30-11:00

New Acropolis Museum (15 Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, Athens 11742)

Opening hours: Tue - Thurs, Sat, Sun: 8am - 8pm, Friday: 8am - 10pm, Monday: Closed, Jan 1, March 25, Easter Sunday, May 1, Dec 25 and 26: Closed • Admission: 5 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



- The museum opened in 2009. The original Old Acropolis Musuem (1874) became too small to house all the new artifacts uncovered in successive excavations
- The museum was built on an archeological site. The glass floor gives a view over the ruins of Roman and early Byzantine Athens
- Four of the original 6 Caryatids (female shaped columns) from the Erechthion (an ancient temple in the Acropolis) are displayed here
- Lord Elgin removed one of the Caryatids to decorate his Scottish mansion. It was later sold to the British Museum. The other Caryatids disappeared during Ottoman rule
- Multiple unsuccessful requests were made to reclaim the statue form the British Museum. An area is reserved for the return of the Elgin marbles

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the impressive modern building from the outside
- Upon entering the museum do not miss the occasionally transparent floor that provides a view of the archaeological excavation
- Follow the well marked exhibition route. It will take you all the way up to the third floor and guide you back to the ground floor
- Watch the informative video in the third floor video area
- Enjoy the splendid view from the top floor
- **.** !

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- It is not allowed to take photos inside
- If you do not have the time for a full visit you can get a free ticket that only gives access to the second floor restaurant area. You can enjoy the view of the Acropolis from the terrace of the restaurant

MORE Info and Photos >

11:15-11:25

Hadrian's Arch (Leoforos Amalias Street, Athens)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Hadrian's Arch is a monumental gateway southeast of the Acropolis. It reminds of a Roman triumphal arch
- The arch stood on a road that connected Athens' city center and the site of the Temple of Olympian Zeus
- Citizens of Athens built the arch to honor Roman Emperor Hadrian for his many benefactions to Athens (e.g. finishing Temple of Olympian Zeus)
- The monument was erected in 132 AD. It is made of Pentelic marble

 It bears two inscriptions: "This is Athens, once the city of Theseus" (facing east towards the old city) and "This is Hadrian's, and not Theseus's city" (facing west toward the new city)

THINGS TO DO THERE

 Admire the 2nd-century gate and try to read the two inscriptions on it

TIPS & INSIGHTS

11:25-12:55

Temple of Olympian Zeus (Vas. Olgas Street and Amalias Avenue, Athens)

Opening hours: April 1 - Oct 31, daily: 8am - 8pm, Nov 1 - March 31, daily: 8:30am - 3pm, Public holidays: Closed • Admission: 4 €



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Temple of Olympian Zeus was the largest in mainland Greece. It measured 96m by 40m (315 by 131 ft.) featuring 104 17m-high columns
- Its construction started in 515 BC but, due to political turmoil, completed only some 600 years later in AD 124. The temple was finished by Roman Emperor Hadrian
- The temple housed two colossal gold and ivory statues: Pheidias's statue of Zeus and the statue of Hadrian
- Out of the original 104 columns 15 are still standing
- Pheidias's statue of Zeus was one of the seven wonders of the acient world
- Athenians erected a two-storey arch for Hadrian next to the temple to thank him for completing the temple and offered the city to him
- Other hightlights nearby: Ruins of Ancient Houses, Law Court at the Delphinion, Themistoklean Gates and walls

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the area to see the ancient ruins that surround the remains of the temple
- The highlights are the temple's 15 remaining columns

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Save some money by buying a combined ticket that gives access to Akropolis, Agora, Roman Forum, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Kerameikos
- To get the best light for photographs of the columns, visit between 3pm and 4pm
- It is one of the few uncrowded Athens attractions

MORE Info and Photos >

15:00-15:30

Zappeion Gardens



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Zappeion Gardens is a public park adjacent to the National Gardens. It is a 14 ha (35 ac) garden with shady tree-lined promenades
- Zappeion, the imposing edifice in the middle of the park, was the first building constructed specificly for the revival of the modern Olympic Games. It opened in 1888
- One of the main characters behind the Olympic movement was businessman and philanthropist Evangelias Zappas, hence the name of the building and the garden
- During the 1896 Summer Olympics
 Zappeion was used as the main fencing hall.
 Today it hosts both official and public meetings and ceremonies

Next to the Zappeion is Aigli, Athens' oldest open air cinema

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Stroll through the park
- Relax on a bench

TIPS & INSIGHTS

15:30-15:50

Kallimarmaro Stadium (Vas. Konstantinou Street, Athens)



Opening hours: March - Oct: 8am - 7pm, Nov - Feb: 8am - 5pm • Admission: 3 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Originally the stadium was built in the 4th century BC to host the Panathenian games held every 4 year. Herodes Atticus rebuilt the stadium in marble in AD 143-44
- The stadium's official name is Panathinaiko or Panathenaic Stadium. It is the only major stadium in the world built entirely of white marble
- It was able to hold 50,000 people, the same as the Roman Colosseum
- The building measured 1 stade (600 Greek feet) in length; hence stems the word stadium
- For a long time the building was neglected and it deteriorated

- After excavation the stadium was rebuilt for the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. In 2004 the Olympic Marathon Race finished here
- Today it is more commonly known as 'Kallimarmaro' (meaning beautiful marbel), and serves as a venue for major events and concerts

THINGS TO DO THERE

 Take an audioguide (included in the admission fee) and tour the Stadium

TIPS & INSIGHTS

MORE Info and Photos >

16:00-16:45

National Gardens (Leoforos Amalias Street, Athens)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The National Gardens of Athens is located in the city center behind the parliament. It used to be the Royal Palace's (now Parliament) gardens
- Queen Amalia, King Otto's wife, commissioned the gardens in 1839. Otto was Greece's first king after its independence from Ottoman rule
- More than 15,000 exotic trees, plants and flowers were imported from all over the world and planted here. Many of them are still alive
- The government nationalized the park in 1923 and opened it to the public

- It spans 16 ha (40 ac). Its maze of shady paths with quiet dead ends, duck and turtle ponds, benches, playground and numberous statues make it an ideal place for relaxation
- The estate gives home to a Botanic Museum and a small zoo with birds, wild goats and a donkey

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Stroll through the park
- Relax on a bench

TIPS & INSIGHTS



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Map

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