1-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.
Other Destinations
London, Barcelona, Paris, Boston, Athens, Amsterdam, Rome, Budapest ...and more

See all PromptGuides destinations >
Overview of Day 1

**LEAVE HOTEL**  [Tested and recommended hotels in Athens >](#)

Take Red Metro Line to Akropoli station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-11:30</td>
<td><strong>Acropolis</strong></td>
<td>UNESCO World Heritage Site</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk to Agora - 15’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45-13:05</td>
<td><strong>Agora</strong></td>
<td>Heart of ancient Athens</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk to Ermou Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:15-15:15</td>
<td><strong>Ermou Street</strong></td>
<td>Best known shopping street of Athens</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk to Syntagma Square</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15-15:45</td>
<td><strong>Syntagma Square</strong></td>
<td>The heart of Athens</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk to Parliament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:45-15:55</td>
<td><strong>Parliament</strong></td>
<td>Guards in skirtlike garments</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk to Kallimarmaro Stadium - 25’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:20-16:40</td>
<td><strong>Kallimarmaro Stadium</strong></td>
<td>Beautiful marble stadium</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take a walk to New Acropolis Museum - 20’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00-18:30</td>
<td><strong>New Acropolis Museum</strong></td>
<td>Beautifully presented ancient artifacts</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**END OF DAY 1**
Overview of Day 1
Attraction Details

09:00-11:30  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 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
- Acropolis of Athens is the starting point of antique Athens. It was populated 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 magnificent 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 >
**Attraction Details**

**Agora**  (Adrianou Street, Monastiraki)

**11:45-13:05**

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**
- 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 public 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

**Ermou Street**  (Ermou Street)

**14:15-15:15**

**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 ancient 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

**THINGS TO DO THERE**
- 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

**TIPS & INSIGHTS**

**MORE Info and Photos >**
15:15-15:45

**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 archaeological 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, Ermou Street, 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.

**MORE Info and Photos >**

15:45-15:55

**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.
- 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.

**THINGS TO DO THERE**
- Have a look at the neoclassical 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 >**
Attraction Details

16:20-16:40

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 marble), 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

17:00-18:30

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 New Acropolis Museum houses all the sculptures and fragments from the Acropolis of Athens. Some 4000 works are on display
- 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
- 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

**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**
- More Info and Photos >
Spice up your holiday
Turn your regular holiday into something extraordinary

See all fun activities in Athens. Click here >
Photo credits

Cover page
Cover photo #1: Photo by Alun Salt
Cover photo #2: Photo by Alberto Perdomo
Cover photo #3: Photo by Visit Greece

Map
http://www.bing.com/maps

Attraction details
Acropolis: Photo by Titans • Agora: Photo by PromptGuides.com • Ermou Street: Photo by flubberwinkle • Syntagma Square: Photo by namealus • Parliament: Photo by BrotherMagneto • Kallimarmaro Stadium: Photo by n.macca • New Acropolis Museum: Photo by Visit Greece
Like PromptGuides on Facebook [Click here]

facebook.com/promptguides