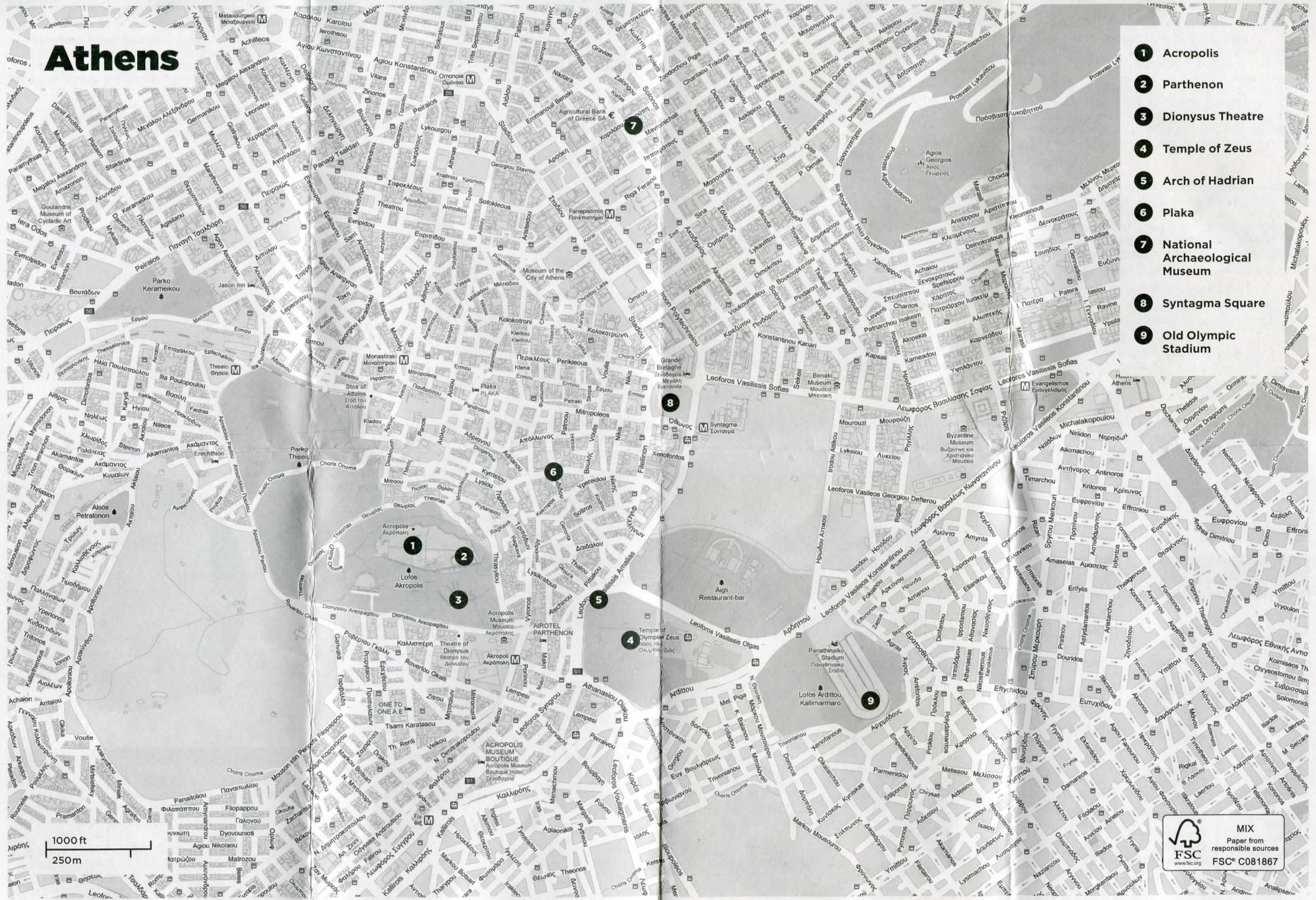


Athens



All through Athens is a huge city, nearly everything of interest to travellers is within a small area bounded by Omnia Square to the north, Monastiraki Square to the west, Syntagma Square to the east and the Plaka district to the south. The Plaka is the oldest section of Athens. Most of the streets have been closed to traffic, though keep a watchful eye for a delivery truck. The area is full of restaurants, tourist shops and cafes.

Walking
Although Athens is a huge city, nearly everything of interest to travellers is within a small area bounded by Omnia Square to the north, Monastiraki Square to the west, Syntagma Square to the east and the Plaka district to the south. The Plaka is the oldest section of Athens. Most of the streets have been closed to traffic, though keep a watchful eye for a delivery truck. The area is full of restaurants, tourist shops and cafes.

Food
Greek food is delicious and has quite a unique taste. Many of the High Street stores do not open on Sundays. However, for a more cultural shopping experience, head to the Plaka district. There are lots of markets here selling all sorts, from food and drink to souvenirs. You'll even see street merchants selling vine leaves or hollow out a zucchini!

Drinking
Many Greeks like olives until you've tried them here! That you don't like olives until you've tried them here! Olives (ili-vi-yes) there are hundreds of varieties. Don't say Saganaiki (Sagga-nah-ki): deep fried cheese, Kefedes (kef-the-dees): Deep-fried meatballs.

Shopping
Greek wine is called Retzina and has quite a unique taste. Many Greeks like olives until you've tried them here! Olives (ili-vi-yes) there are hundreds of varieties. Don't say Saganaiki (Sagga-nah-ki): deep fried cheese, Kefedes (kef-the-dees): Deep-fried meatballs.

Money
Taramosalata (Tah-rah-mah-sal-ah-tah): again, best eaten on bread. This is rope of carp - Greek caviar. Don't be afraid to try it - it is much nicer than it sounds!

Pastitsio (Pah-sti-sio): layered mince and macaroni. Best served deep-fried before meals.

Melitzana Salad (Me-li-tz-zan-a Sal-ah-ta): salad of lots of garlic eaten on fresh Greek bread. Tzatziki (Shah-zee-keey): yoghurt, cucumber and local cuisine. Some of the most popular dishes are: surrounding areas. Don't be afraid to try some of the local cuisine. Some of the most popular dishes are: Melitzana Salad (Me-li-tz-zan-a Sal-ah-ta): salad of lots of garlic eaten on fresh Greek bread.

Eating & Drinking
There are plenty of restaurants in the Plaka and surrounding areas. Don't be afraid to try some of the local cuisine. Some of the most popular dishes are: Melitzana Salad (Me-li-tz-zan-a Sal-ah-ta): salad of lots of garlic eaten on fresh Greek bread.

Sundays
Many of the High Street stores do not open on Sundays. However, for a more cultural shopping experience, head to the Plaka district. There are lots of markets here selling all sorts, from food and drink to souvenirs. You'll even see street merchants selling vine leaves or hollow out a zucchini!

Plaka
Athens has plenty of banks and exchange bureaux in a Sunday because many will be closed. There are plenty of ATMs in Athens.

Coinage
The official currency of Greece is the Euro (€). Euro banknotes are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros while euro coins come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 euro cent and 1 and 2 euro denomination coins.

Change
Greek coins are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros while euro coins come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 euro cent and 1 and 2 euro denomination coins.

Quick Talk Greek

The official language of Greece is Greek.
The following are a few words to help you out.

Yes
Ne

No
Ohi

Hello
Yasou

Goodbye
Adio

Please
Parakalo

Thank you
Efkharisto

Open/Closed
anoixte/ klysoi

Anoikti/
Klysto

Toilets
toulaleta

Exit
éxiððos
ΕΞΙΔΔΟΣ

Entrance
enððos
ΕΙΣΟΔΟΣ

Men
Andras
ΑΝΔΡΕΣ

Women
gyneika
ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ

How much?
Poso kani?

Do you speak English?
Milas Anglika?

One
Ena

Two
Dhio

Three
Tria

Four
Tesera

Five
Pende

Six
Eksi

Seven
Epta

Eight
Okhto

Nine
Enea

Ten
Dheka

Topdeck.
trips for 18 to 30 somethings

City Guide
Athens

Things to do in Athens

Acropolis

Approx €12

The Acropolis is the symbol of Greek antiquity and home to some of the period's most important monuments.

Open: Apr to Oct, Mon 11am - 7.30pm, Tues to Sun 8am - 7.30pm

Parthenon

Approx €12

(includes entry to Acropolis Museum and Agora)

Sitting atop of the Acropolis, the Parthenon was built in the 5th century BC. It was originally built as a temple of the Greek goddess Athena, and is considered to be the most important surviving building of Classical Greece.

Open: Tue to Sun 8am - 8pm, Mon closed,
Friday open til 10pm

Temple of Olympian Zeus & Arch of Hadrian

Construction began in 15BC of this monumental temple which was not finished because of the fall of the tyranny in Athens. It was finally completed by the Roman emperor Hadrian, in 125AD.

Inside the temple, it is thought that a colossal gold and ivory statue of Zeus stood.

National Archaeological Museum

Approx €7

The most important museum in Athens, covering the highlights from every period of Ancient Greek civilization. It includes sculpture, ceramics and many other artistic finds.

Open: Tue to Sun 8am - 3pm, Mon 1.30pm - 8pm

Syntagma Square

This is the traditional heart of the city, bordered by hotels, cafes and shops. At the top of the square is the Parliament which used to be the Greek Royal Palace. It is here that you can watch the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier. The most elaborate ceremony is on Sundays at 11am when the young guards wear their 'Foustanelas' (kilts) with 400 pleats, one for each year of the Ottoman Occupation.

Changing of the Guard happens daily every hour on the hour

Old Olympic Stadium

Originally built of wood, then upgraded to Marble in 329BC, the stadium has featured for centuries in athletics and other sporting competitions. It even held the archery and the finish of the marathon in the 2004 Olympics.

Remember! Entrance fees and opening times in Europe can change at any time.

Topdeck Top Tip: There's a risk of pickpocketing on the Athens metro and around the popular Plaka district. By no means should you be put off, just be aware of your belongings and exercise caution with your bags. Make sure they're strapped diagonally across you, not hanging off one shoulder.

Getting around Athens

Athens has a great metro system. The lines include the green line from Pireus to Kifissia, the red line from Aghios Antonios to Aghios Dimitrios and the blue line from Egaleo to Douk Plakentias. Trains run from 5am to midnight and cost approximately €0.50 - €1 per journey (prices depend on distance). 24 hour ticket costs €3.