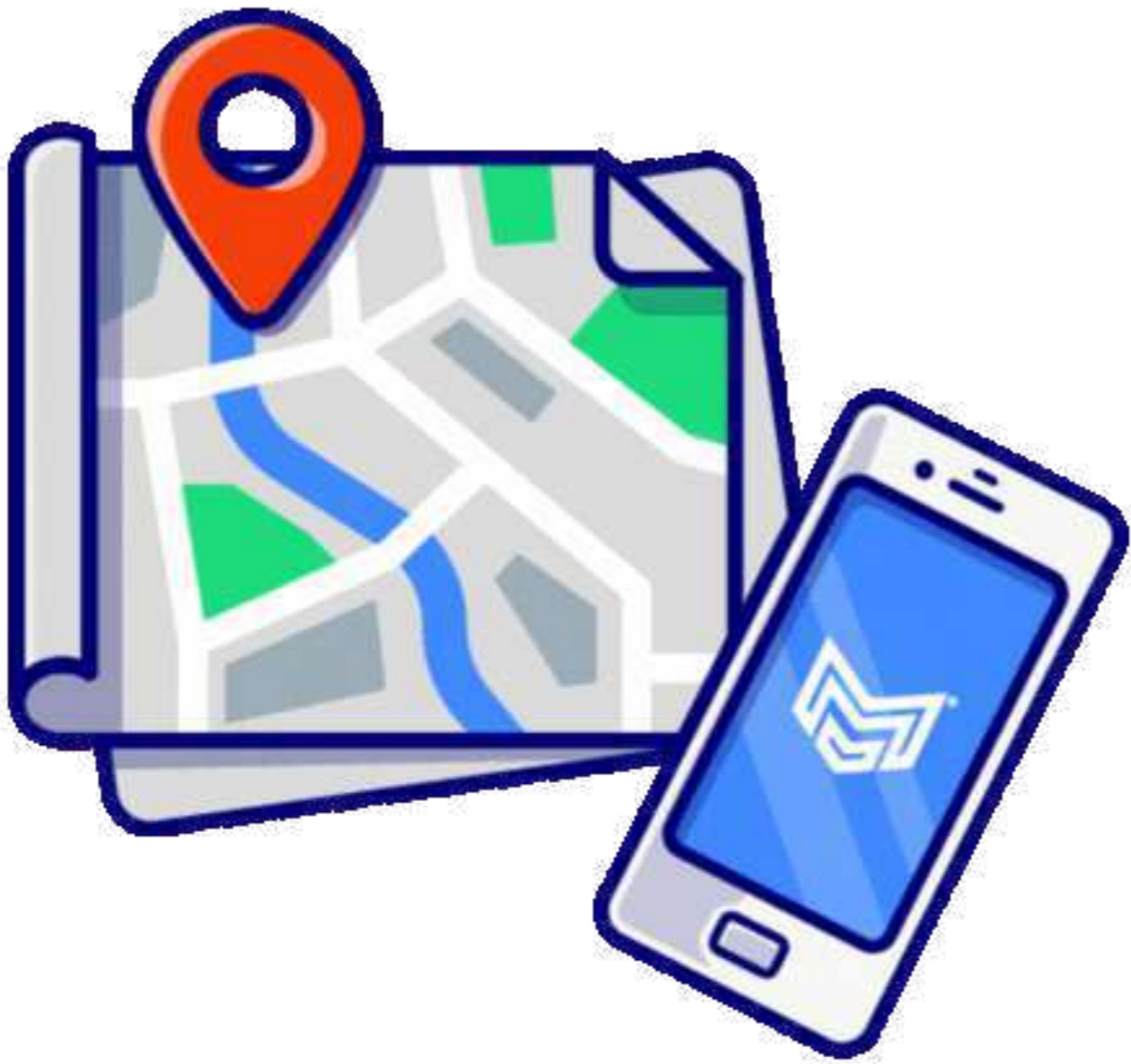


3-day travel itinerary

PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO ATHENS

John & Mary





Having arrived in Athens in the morning by plane and staying in an apartment in Koukaki, once settled, you will have half a day in front of you to discover the area you are staying in and its neighbouring famous Plaka.

Koukaki- Your neighbourhood

The Koukaki district is located next to Syngrou Avenue, one of the main thoroughfares in Athens, and only a short distance from the Acropolis and its museum. Koukaki, until the 1980s, was a middle-class neighbourhood with a strong sense of cultural identity due to the large number of artists who were born, raised, and employed there, including musicians, actors, playwrights, and other creatives. Since the region is close to the city centre and has a genuine sense of neighbourhood, it has been regaining its lost attractiveness and evolving into a bustling district where many Athenians choose to dwell. Although there are a lot of unique and comfortable stores, cafes, and restaurants in this area, Drakou and Geor. Olimpiou Streets are the main thoroughfare for pedestrians.

Before you start your walk around the city, you can replenish your energy with a rich breakfast or brunch at one of these places:

Neratzia Cafe Bistro
Zan Moreas 6, Athina

Hippy Hippo
Anastasiou Zinni 37, Athina

Peas Vegan & raw food
Falirou 40, Athina
Excellent vegan street food options.

Guarantee
Veikou 41, Athina
Best sandwich shop in Athens if you want to eat something on the go.

See the attached guide we provided you for recommendations on the most famous Greek street food, souvlaki, during your visit to Athens.

Day 1 - Afternoon / Night

Anafiotika - Plaka

Approx. 4,8km / 120 minutes
without stopping for dinner

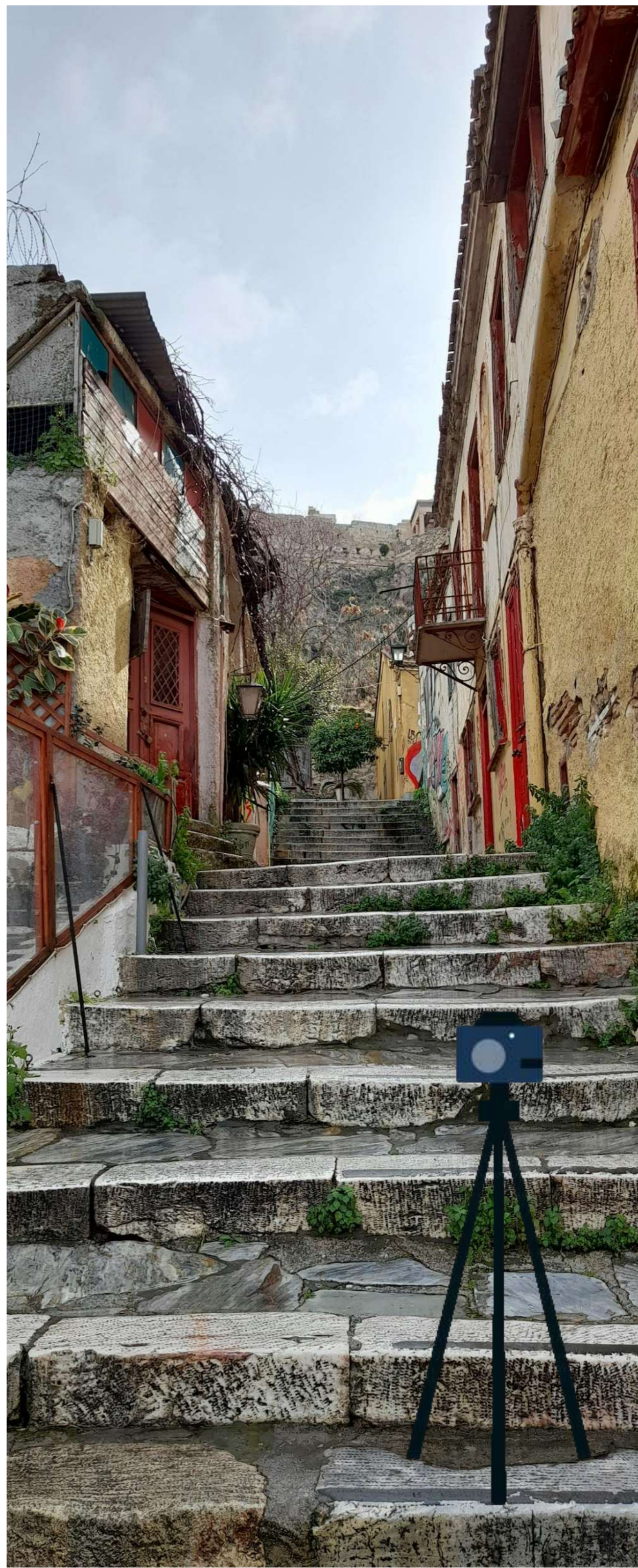
Starting from your apartment, follow Veikou Street to the left and continue straight on Makrygianni Street, which is parallel to the Acropolis Museum. At the end of it, turn left onto the pedestrian street of Dionysiou Areopagitou and immediately turn right towards Thrasillou Street, which continues as Stratonos.

This point is your entrance to **Anafiotika**, the most picturesque corner of Athens, a small island settlement in the centre of the city and, until a few years ago, a well-kept secret. Here it is worth a short stop to see the small commemorative column for **Konstantinos Koukidis** (in the slope next to the church) and to learn his story, which is a rather controversial historical event bordering on urban legend.



You can read about **Konstantinos Koukidis** on this [link](#) or listen to the [podcast](#).

If we give you specific instructions and a route to follow in Anafiotika, the magic will be lost. Tour the small neighbourhood at your own pace and discover, photograph, and admire this gem.



Anafiotika

Anafiotika is a scenic tiny neighbourhood of Athens, part of the old historical neighbourhood called Plaka. It lies on the northeast side of Acropolis. The first houses were illegally built during the reign of King Otto, in the second half of the 19th century, when workers from the island of Anafi, which were considered the best builders in Greece, came to Athens to work at the construction of the new king's palace. The workers built their houses in the architectural style of the Cyclades Islands. Nowadays, there are only 45 houses remaining. Most of them are still inhabited and few have been abandoned.

Mnisikleous Stairs

Once you have explored every inch of Anafiotika, take any path down to Prytaneiou Street. Turn right at the stairs after passing the church on the right side of this road.

Ascending the stairs will land you in the embrace of **Mnisikleous**, possibly Plaka's most photographed street and a local and tourist alike' preferred spot for coffee and a drink. **Yiasemi** is also a great option if you want to take a break for dessert or coffee.

From Mnisikleous, you move right to Lisiou Street, and you will essentially enter the heart of **Plaka**, the oldest and most picturesque neighbourhood of Athens.



Plaka

Nestled on the eastern and northern flanks of the Acropolis, Plaka featured winding alleyways and neoclassical buildings. It is constructed on top of the residential neighbourhoods of the ancient town. It is known as the "Neighbourhood of the Gods".

It formed the core of Athens when it became the capital of the new Greek state in 1834. Today, it is the main tourist area of the city, with numerous restaurants, cafes, bars, and shops. Despite the large crowds it gathers, it always manages to maintain its authentic character and hide small surprises.

Plaka is also home to the oldest surviving house in Athens, the **Benizelos Mansion** (Andrianou 96). Today, it is a museum worth visiting if you have time. It is open daily from 11:00 to 21:00, and there is no ticket (you can if you want to make a small donation at the entrance).

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Nikis and Voulis Streets

However, if you want to walk a few more metres and reach the end of Kydathinaion, you will find yourself in one of the most interesting and constantly renewed gastronomic neighbourhoods of Athens. Nikis and Voulis streets and the streets around them near Syntagma Square host some of the best restaurants in the city.



Okio Restaurant
Nikis 33 & Navarchou Nikodimou
3, Athina 105 57
tel. 2103311436

Among the best places in city to get affordable gourmet food. Greek cuisine blended with foreign influences is served in this restaurant, offering a perfect combination of familiarity and uniqueness. It is advisable to make a reservation through [Google](#).

Avocando
Nikis 30, Athina 105 57
tel. 2103237878

One of the greatest, oldest, and highest-quality vegan and vegetarian restaurants in Athens, with an extensive menu.

Spit Jack
Skoufou 10, Athina 105 57
tel. 2103316003

This is the place to go if you enjoy meat. A wide selection of excellent meats prepared by the chef in a neat, friendly setting. It is advisable to make reservation through [Google](#).

Mamacita - Taquería y Coctelería
Apollonos 9B, Athina 105 57
tel. 2103210240

Excellent restaurant with Mexican cuisine and cocktails. Bar atmosphere and loud music in a place that deserves your attention. They don't take reservations.

Nolan
Voulis 31 - 33, Athina 105 57
tel.2103243545

Run by the well-known Greek chef and Greek Master Chef judge Sotiris Kontizas, the eatery is a chic, airy space that offers a varied menu of sophisticated Asian fusion fare. Make your [Google reservation](#) many days in advance so you know exactly when you can visit the restaurant.

TIP

An easy return route to Koukaki is through Kydathinaion, Tripodon, Vyronos and Makrygiani Streets.

Day 2 - Morning

Acropolis & Acropolis Museum



Good To Know Before Your Visit

Approx.
5 hours



- Buying your ticket online for a certain time zone is mandatory
- Buy your tickets only through the official website: [hhticket.gr](https://www.hhticket.gr) (on this link you can also check prices and hours).
- You can buy a ticket only for Acropolis & Slopes or a combined ticket for Acropolis & Slopes, Ancient Agora, Hadrian's Library, Kerameikos, Aristotle's School [Lyceum], Olympieion and Roman Agora
- Please make sure to be at the entrance 30 minutes before your chosen time slot! Entrance is available 15' before to 15' after the time of your choice! Please note that from the previous rule the last entrance is excluded, since it is 30 minutes before closure.
- There are two entrances to the Acropolis: the main one which is in the west and the side entrance (known as Dionysus Theater entrance), which is located in the southeast (in the included itinerary map both entrances are indicated).

Acropolis

Along with your itinerary, we have also sent you the official brochure of the Acropolis, where you can find information about the monuments as well as a useful map. In addition to the Parthenon and the Erechtheion, do not miss the Herodeion and the Theatre of Dionysus on the south slope of the Acropolis.

TIP

Plan at least two hours to visit the Acropolis.

Areopagus

Just a few metres from the main entrance to the Acropolis, Areopagus (or Areios Pagos) is a stop you must make. What today looks like a rocky hill opposite of the Acropolis was, during the years of the Athenian Democracy, the seat of one of the highest courts. Murders, arsons, and religious crimes were put on trial here. Also around 51 A.D., the apostle Paul taught here for the first time the word of God to the citizens of Athens. Today, it is a wonderful place to sit, and admire the impressive view of the Acropolis, Lycabettus, Monastiraki, and the whole city.



Acropolis Museum

The best way to complete your visit to the Acropolis and to have a complete picture of this unique monument of global scope is to visit the Acropolis Museum immediately afterwards.

Buy your tickets from the museum's **official website** (where you can also check times and ticket prices) and skip the line, which is usually long during peak times. Along with your itinerary, you have received the official map of the museum. Spend another two hours in the museum and complete the visit at the museum's **cafe-restaurant** with a view of the sacred rock of the Ancient Athenians that takes your breath away.



If you choose not to stop at the museum cafe, **Little Tree Books and Coffee** (5 Kavalotti Street) is located quite nearby. A quaint cafe and bookshop that serves as a gathering spot for those in the neighbourhood.

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At the beginning of Ermou Street, it might be worth a short detour to the left to number 10 of Nikis Street, to the **Baklavas** pastry shop to sample the best baklava of the city.

A square that appears in the centre of the route is dominated by the significant Byzantine church of **Kapnikarea**.

Constructed in the eleventh century AD, the church is worth a quick visit if you can find it open, as it houses the icon of Platytera, a piece by renowned Greek painter Fotis Kontoglou.

Monastiraki

Follow Ermou without detours and you will find yourself in **Monastiraki square**.

Located in the old centre of Athens, Greece, Monastiraki is a popular neighbourhood for flea markets and shopping. This popular tourist destination in Athens is home to specialty shops, apparel boutiques, and souvenir stores.

The name of the neighbourhood comes from Monastiraki Square, which was given that name by the nearby Church of the Pantanassa. The main streets in the region are **Ifestou Street** and **Pandrossou Street**.



Andrianou Street

Once you've seen Ifestou Street and the square, proceed from the side of the Acropolis to the first parallel road. This is **Andrianou Street**, home to a large number of cafes and restaurants, running parallel to the **Agora of Ancient Athens**.

A tiny street named **Vrysakiou Street** is worth observing in the middle of Andrianou, where the fence of Agora's archaeological area starts. The street has a fascinating backstory, which you can read about in our [related post](#). It is the sole road that remains from the significant suburb of the older Athens known as **Vrysaki**, which was destroyed during the interwar years to expose the significant Agora archaeological site. It is situated directly behind the magnificent and well-restored ancient **Stoa of Attalos**.

Psiri

From Andrianou, follow Agiou Filippou street, cross Ermou street, and cross opposite to Karaiskaki street, which will bring you to the centre of **Psiri** (or Psyri or Psyrrri).

Psyri was once a poor neighbourhood that was home to craftspeople of all kinds. In the 1990s, it saw a major development as the centre of nightlife, but it quickly declined. Today, it is seeing a new boom that combines the touristic with the bohemian character, while the shops are obviously of a higher calibre than before.

The main square of Psiri is **Iroon Square**, at the end of Karaiskaki Street

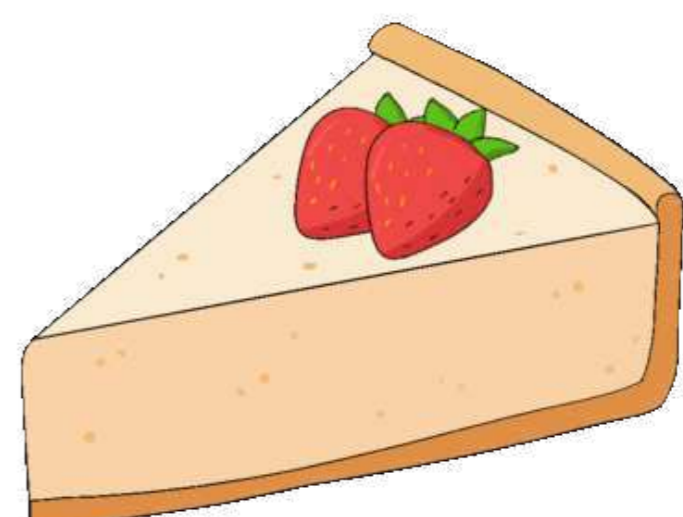
Furthermore, it is one of the most significant areas in the city to witness high-quality street art. Among the streets of Psiri, **Louka Nika Street** is a special case as it gathers many important street murals, which do not remain for long but are constantly being painted anew in a continuous dialogue between the artists and the city.



Continuing on Karaiskaki Street, we will come across the most famous and photographed cafe in the city. **Little Kook** spreads over three spaces and tables on the street and stands out for its impressive fairytalelike decoration, the theme of which changes according to the season. Little Kook offers sweet & savory crêpes & other treats.

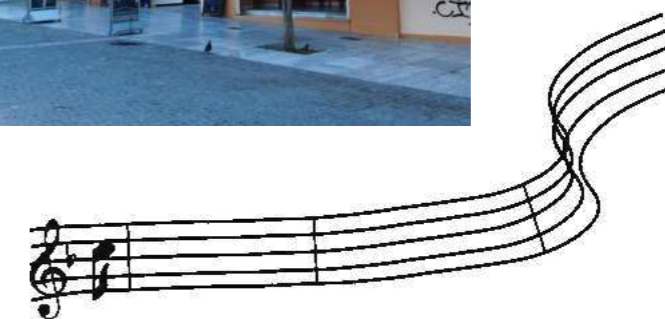


However the best place for excellent desserts in the neighbourhood of Psyri is undoubtedly the cafe **Ta Serbetia stou Psyrrri** (Eschilou 3) which offers a wide variety of traditional and original sweets.



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Two Other Options That Can Be Added To Day 2 Itinerary



Maria Callas Museum (Mitropoleos 44, Athina 105 63)

An interesting addition to the afternoon itinerary is a visit to the new museum in Athens dedicated to the world-famous opera diva, **Maria Callas**. The visit to the museum begins with three rooms, which represent scenes from three of her most famous performances, while the sound of her voice fills the space. Next, a room is dedicated to Callas as a teacher.

On the next floor, personal items and costumes are displayed in chronological order and describe her life and career. It is an interactive room that challenges the visitor to open drawers, read, listen, and browse, stimulating all the senses. In general, the museum is not an academic exhibition but an open dialogue with the visitor to introduce him to the world of Callas. The visit ends at the tasteful cafe and shop on the ground floor.

The museum is located a few metres from Ermou and is open in the afternoons (different hours depending on the season and the day). Information on opening times and tickets can be found on the museum's [official website](#).

Cine Thission (Apostolou Pavlou 7, Athina 118 51)



One of the few places in Europe where you can see a movie in an open-air cinema is Athens. This type of cinema, known as "therino" in Greek, is present in many of the city's neighbourhoods and signifies summer. The Athenians have traditionally loved going there on a summer night. As long as you enjoy a cold beer and a snack while watching, the movie doesn't always matter. Not far from Acropolis lies one of the most attractive outdoor movie theatres: Cine Thission, on Apostolou Pavlou Street in Thisio, which provides an amazing perspective of the hill of Acropolis.

A visit to the open-air cinema is perfectly paired with your visit to Psiri. Through Ermou and Apostolou Pavlou Streets, you will easily get here. To see which films are playing and what time they start, [visit the cinema site](#).

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