

*Art of the*  
Itinerary 

# 3-Days in Athens

Monastiraki • Ancient Agora • Philopappos Hill • Prison of Socrates • Hadrian's Arch  
Temple of Zeus • National Gardens • Tower of the Winds • Odeon of Herodes Atticus  
Acropolis at Sunset • Lycabettus Hill • National Archeological Museum • Craft Beer!

June 2018



## ATHENS, GREECE

This itinerary was created in June 2018 and all of the information included was correct at that time to the best of our knowledge. For a detailed post about this trip and our personal experiences read our blog post [3 Days in Athens – A Detailed Itinerary](#) We hope you enjoy your trip to Athens as much as we did, and we would love to hear feedback on how our itinerary worked for you. Good luck and Safe Travels!  
— The Hoffman Family

### The Best of Athens in 3 Days

Athens is regarded as the birthplace of civilization. Its recorded history spans more than 3,400 years, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. But, it's also a very modern city. One of the best things about Athens is that it's an incredibly easy city to visit. Even in a short amount of time. The ancient city is quite small in comparison to the modern metropolis. Many of the major archeological sites are centrally located and within walking distance of each other. Just wandering through the city's narrow streets will inevitably lead you to some of its most famous attractions.

**\*Combined ticket for archaeological sites in Athens** *There's a combined ticket, valid for five days from the day of purchase; It costs 30 Euro, and it allows you to visit the ticketed archaeological sites in central Athens, including: The Acropolis of Athens, The Ancient Agora of Athens and the Museum of the Ancient Agora, Kerameikos and the Archaeological Museum of Kerameikos, The Temple of Olympian Zeus, The Roman Agora of Athens and the Tower of the Winds, Hadrian's Library, Aristotle's Lyceum (Archaeological site of Lykeion). If you're planning to visit three or more sites, it makes sense to purchase the Athens combined ticket at 30 Euros. Student and senior discounts are available.*

### Athens Day 1: Arrive in Athens - Monastiraki, Ancient Agora, Kebab & Craft Beer!

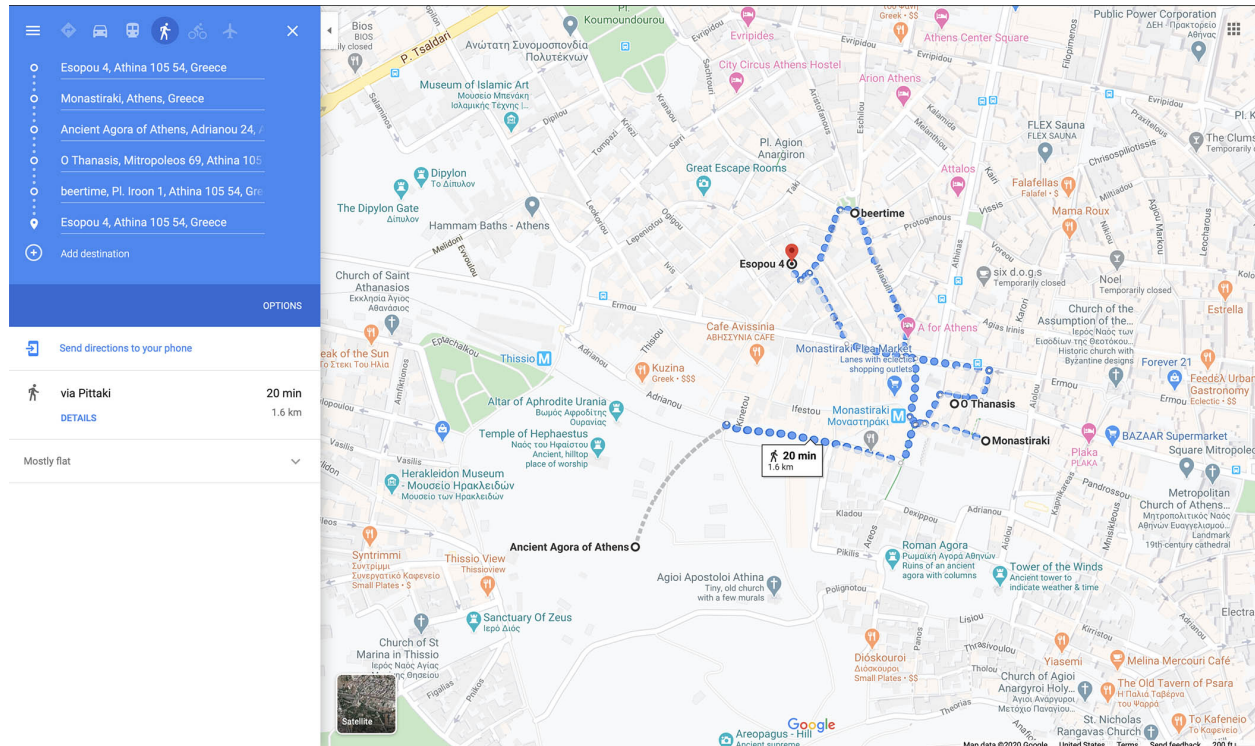
The itinerary for day one is minimal. Coming off a long, overnight commute it's hard to know what the attitude and energy level will be on the first day of any trip. Generally, It's a good rule of thumb to keep it simple. For this trip the plan was to check in to our AirBnB, do a little exploring nearby, and grab some dinner. We chose an [AirBnB in Monastiraki](#), in the heart of the historic city. Monastiraki is a great area because its walking distance to most major attractions, convenient to the metro (for arriving from the airport which is located about 15 miles outside of the city center) and there's a lot of restaurants (many with an Acropolis view), shops and groceries in the area.

We would recommend taking the metro from the airport to Monastiraki. Metro tickets costs 10 euros per person. Take the Blue line/Direct line to MONASTIRAKI or AGIA MARINA Station. It takes about 45 minutes. The metro departs every 30 minutes from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

#### • Check-in to AirBnB



## Walking Route OverView Day 1:



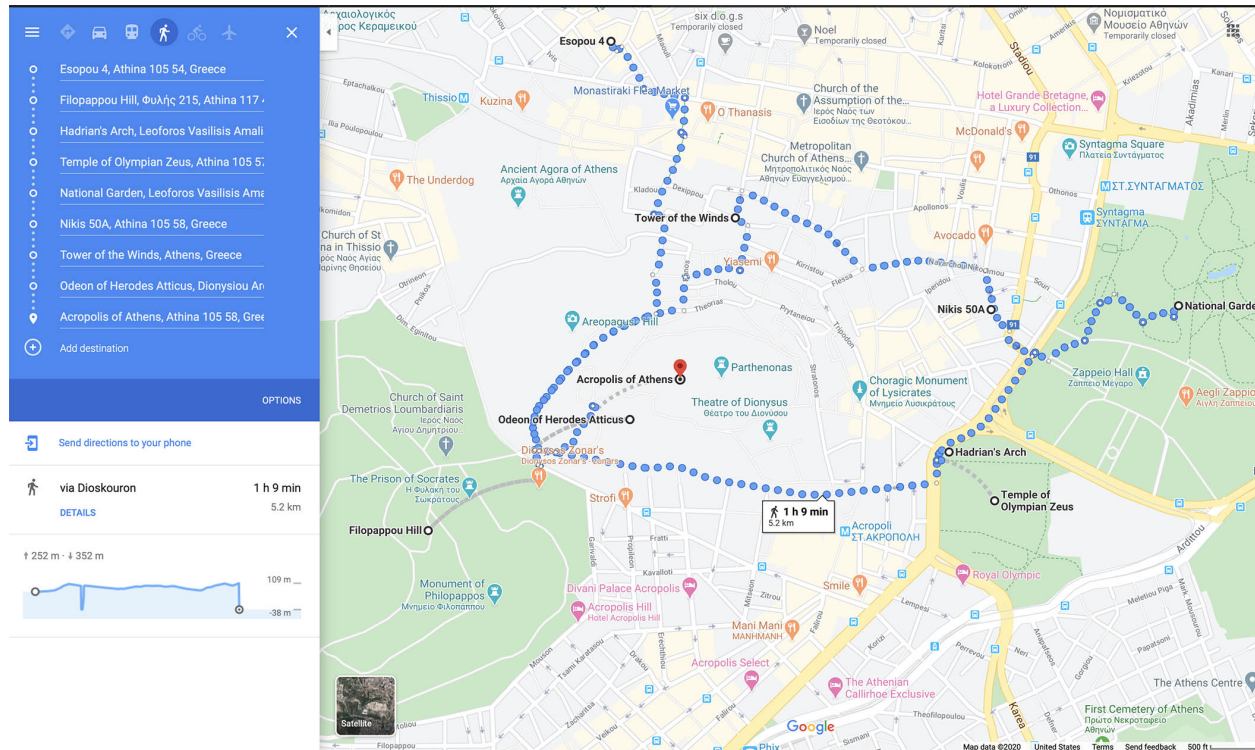
- **Explore Monastiraki** is known for iconic landmarks including the ruins of Hadrian's Library, the Ancient Agora and the rebuilt Stoa of Attalos. Monastiraki Flea Market is a jumble of shops selling artisanal soaps, handmade sandals and souvenirs. The surrounding area is crammed with, tavernas and restaurants, many with Acropolis views.
- **Ancient Agora:** The commercial hub of ancient Athens, the Agora was once lined with statues and expensive shops, a favorite strolling ground of fashionable Athenians as well as merchants and students. It's here that Socrates discussed matters with Plato, and Zeno expounded the philosophy of the Stoics. *\*Biblical Significance: Paul, who was trained as a young man in the art of debating in Greek – would have been delighted at an opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus in the cultural heart of the ancient world, among its numerous pagan temples, altars and monuments.*
- **Thanasis:** "Hands-down the best kebab/souvlaki in town since 1950" (5-minute walk from apartment) **Address: Mitropoleos 69, Athina 105 55, Greece**
- **Beertime** pub/restaurant is located in the trendy Psiri neighborhood, on the edge of a bustling plaza. It has plenty of outdoor seating and an impressive beer menu with a variety of greek microbrews. (2-minute walk from apartment.) **Address: Pl. Iroon 1, Athina 105 54, Greece**

**PRO TIP:** If you're like us, and you love good beer, you'll want to stock up in Athens if you're planning to visit other cities. You won't find much variety elsewhere. The demand for craft beers is growing in Greece, but like most warm-weather countries we've visited, mass-produced lager beers are still king.

## Athens Day 2:

Philopappos Hill, Prison of Socrates, Hadrian's Arch, Temple of Zeus, National Gardens, Tower of the Winds, Odeon of Herodes Atticus & the Acropolis at Sunset!

### Walking Route OverView Day 2:



- **Philopappos (*Filopappou*) Hill:** A morning walk along the marble roads of *Archaeological Site of Hills of Muses* to reach the trailhead is a great way to start the day. The hike to the top of the hill is relatively easy and the path is well marked. Crowning the *Filopappou Hill* is a 40-foot high monument from 114 AD that honors Julius Antiochus Filopappos, a prominent Roman consul and administrator. But the real reason to make the climb up the hill is the view. This vantage point offers some of the best views of the city, the Acropolis, and the Aegean Sea.
- **Prison of Socrates:** Heading back down the hill there's a marked detour that takes you to a prison. This small building carved into the bedrock of the hill is believed to be where Socrates spent the last month of his life before being executed on charges of "corrupting the youth" in 399 B.C.
- **Hadrian's Arch:** Just outside the entrance of the *Temple of Olympian Zeus* is *Hadrian's Arch*. A triumphal arch erected in 131-132 AD in honor of Roman Emperor Hadrian, a benefactor of the city of Athens. The arch once spanned an ancient road from the center of Athens to the eastern side of the city. Symbolically the arch marks the divide between the ancient Athens and Hadrian's new city.

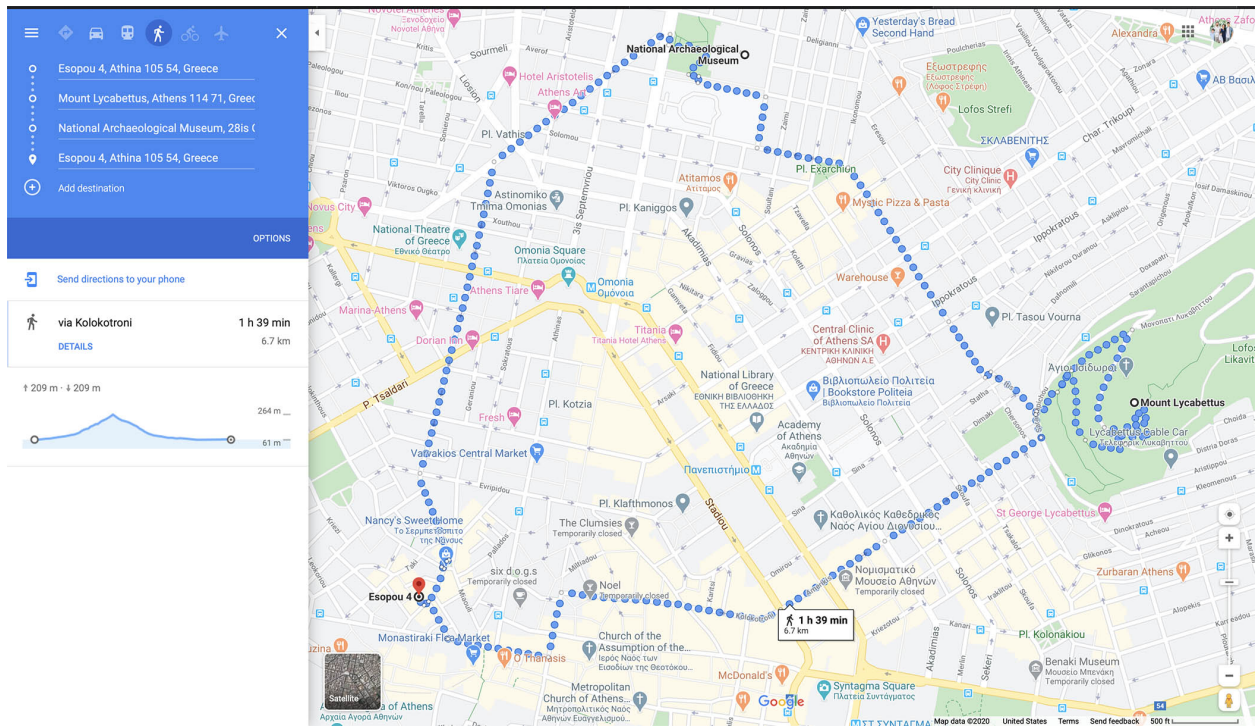
- **Temple of Olympian Zeus** Just opposite of Hadrian's Arch is one of Athen's grandest archeological sites. Also known as the *Olympieion*, the *Temple of Olympian Zeus*, was built by Roman Emperor Hadrian over several centuries between in 174 BC and 131 AD. Its unusually tall Corinthian columns and ambitious layout make it one of the largest temples built in the ancient world. Only 15 of the temple's original 104 columns are still standing. Like most ancient buildings its materials were re-used to build other projects across the city.
- **National Gardens** The *National Gardens* are a verdant oasis in a bustling metropolis. The gardens, together with the grounds of neighboring *Zappeion Hall*, comprise nearly sixty acres of trees and rare plants. The canopy of the trees offer a much needed reprieve from the sun and taking time to wander along the wide paths is a great way to slow the pace, unwind, and enjoy a bit of nature. The gardens are spotted with statues, fountains, and ponds that make for interesting stops along the way.
- [Beer Str.](#) Tucked into a small niche on Nikis street just outside of the entrance of the National Gardens is Beer Str. A well-stocked bottle shop offering a wide range of greek and international beers. Beer Str. is more of a take-away store than a pub, but it does have a small outdoor seating area for enjoying frosty beverages on the spot. **Address: Nikis 50A, Athina 105 58, Greece**
- **Tower of the Winds** The most well-preserved Roman monument in all of Athens. Constructed around 100-50 BC the *Tower of the Winds* is considered the world's first weather station. It features a combination of a sundial, a water clock, and a wind vane. Each of its eight sides represents a direction of the wind. Each side faces a point of the compass below. On the sides facing the sun are the lines of a sundial. It's still functional and has been keeping time since the 1st century!
- **Odeon of Herodes Atticus** Set just below the slopes of the *Acropolis* is the beautiful *Odeon of Herodes Atticus* theater. Built by the affluent benefactor of Athens, Herodes Atticus, between 160 – 174 AD. The original structure was destroyed during the invasion of the Erouloi, but it was restored and reopened in 1955 as the prime location for the Epidaurus Festival. It remains an active venue for concerts, ballets and plays. You must purchase a ticket to a performance in order to go inside.
- **Acropolis/Parthenon** (allot 3 hours for Acropolis, and 1 hour for museum) Definitely Athens's most remarkable and recognizable attraction. The imposing marble structures of the *Acropolis* are visible from nearly every point of the city. They're a universal symbol of Greek Antiquity. The Acropolis is most famous for the *Parthenon*, but it also includes several other impressive buildings. Most notable are the Temple of Athena Nike, and the Erechtheion. **PRO TIP:** *Plan to visit later in the day to avoid the largest crowds, and the mid-day heat, and take advantage of the last hours before sunset. Watching the sun paint the ivory columns in a golden glow is breathtaking! Definitely a unique sunset destination!*



## Athens Day 3:

### Lycabettus Hill, National Archeological Museum & Shopping

#### Walking Route OverView Day 3:



- **Lycabettus Hill** At 277 meters above sea level, *Lycabettus Hill* is the highest point in Athens, and like *Philopappos Hill* it offers sensational views across the city, beyond the Acropolis to the Aegean Sea. At the top, you'll find the charming St. George Greek Orthodox church and a small cafe with an outdoor terrace to admire the panorama while enjoying a meal or other refreshment. **PRO TIP:** *If you're in relatively good shape and you have the time, walking up Lycabettus Hill is the way to go. But, there is a funicular cable train that will take you to the top in about 5 minutes.*
- **The National Archaeological Museum** Considered one of the greatest museums in the world, The National Archaeological Museum contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity. The museum is huge and has multiple galleries spread over two floors of exhibition space. There's more than 11,000 exhibits dating back as far as the Neolithic period. You could have easily spent half a day making your way through the vast collection of art and artifacts.
- **Shopping** After touring the *National Archaeological Museum*, Let the rest of the day unfold as it will. Wander the streets back toward the apartment, stopping at shops and markets that pique your interest and enjoy your last hours in Athens unscripted.