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Currency

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Sat 9 a.m-3 p.m. Other opening times may be found.

Internet

www.gnto.gr

www.gtp.gr

www.thegreektravel.com

Newspapers

Athens News is an English-language newspaper published every Friday.

Emergency numbers

Police 100

Fire 199

Ambulance 166

Tourist information

Tsoha 24, Athens

Tel: +30 210 870 70 00

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m-3 p.m

www.eot.gr

ATHENS

PUBLISHING DATE: **2012-03-05** | COUNTRY CODE: **GR**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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Of all Europe's capitals, Athens is probably the one that has changed the most in recent years. But even though Athens has become a modern metropolis, it still retains a good deal of its old small town feel. Here antiquity meets the future, and the ancient monuments form a classical backdrop to a new and trendier Athens – and it is precisely these great contrasts that make the city such a fascinating place to explore.

THE CITY



© taver

Athens' heyday was around 400 years BC—that's when most of the classical monuments were built. During the Byzantine and Turkish eras, the city decayed into just an insignificant little village, only to become the capital of newly-liberated Greece in 1833. Ahead of the 2004 Olympics, almost the entire infrastructure was transformed—the Metro, trams, new ring roads and viaducts have eased the pressure of the heavy traffic. Athens is still a rather messy and chaotic place—it wouldn't be Athens otherwise—and despite all the improvements, still retains a great deal of its oriental charm. The whole coastal stretch from Piraeus to the old Hellenikon airport has been improved with new plantings, viaducts and paths for walking. The Plaka quarter is becoming more popular and is on the way to catching up with Psyri, Gazi and Rouf as regards restaurants. Discover the right places in the Anafiotika district, at the feet of the Acropolis, and you will find it still has a village feel in the midst of the city. In Exarchia, there is still a somewhat in-your-face anarchic atmosphere around the Technical University. Meanwhile, Kolonaki is becoming more and more chic.

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DO & SEE



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National Archaeological Museum

The museum houses Ancient Greece's most spectacular pieces. One room contains Schliemann's finds from Mycenae. The famous frescoes from Santorini are on display. There is also a fine collection of idols from the Cyclades, and ceramics.

Address: Patission 44, Museo
Phone: +30 21 08 21 77 17
+30 21 08 21 77 24
Internet: www.namuseum.gr

The Acropolis and its surroundings

The Parthenon, the temple of Athena, is the major attraction. There is also the Erechtheion, whose columns are statues of the female Caryatids, though the original statues have been replaced by copies due to air pollution.

On the southern slopes of the Acropolis lies the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, a Roman theatre with room for as many as 5.000 spectators. It is used during the annual Athens Festival for world-class ballet and music performances. The Dionysus Theatre lies beside Herodes Atticus, and almost all the tragedies and comedies of Ancient Greece were written for this theatre.

Address: Acropolis

Agora

This was both a marketplace and a political centre. The Agora is dominated by the Stoa of Attalus and the

Theseion, or Hephaisteion, dedicated to the God of metalworking and also to Theseus, one of the heroes of Greek mythology.

Address: Monastiraki

Benaki

Benaki is a history museum with many objects from the Stone Age up to the War of Independence against the Turks. In the annex there are often very interesting separate exhibitions.

Address: Koumbari 1
Phone: +30 210 367 10 00
Internet: www.benaki.gr

Mount Lycabettus

Mount Lycabettus (in Greek: Lykavittos, Λυκαβηττός) lies right in the centre of Athens, rising 277 meters (908 feet) above sea level. Getting yourself up to this altitude gives you an exquisite view over the Aegean sea and the ships in Piraeus. When the sky is clear, you can see all the way to the mountains in Peloponessos. Apart from the view, there is also a café/restaurant, a 19th century Chapel and an amphi theatre up there.

Address: Mount Lycabettus
More Info: To get there, you can hike up the path that starts at Aristippou Street in Kolonaki. The somewhat easier option is taking the funicular Railway that leaves from Ploutarchou Street, also in Kolonaki.

The Acropolis Museum

Well worth visiting and at the foot of the Acropolis lies the new Acropolis Museum. Brief presentations by Museum Archaeologists-Hosts are held in Greek and English every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The museum restaurant offers panoramic views of the Acropolis and a 700 square meter public terrace commanding a breathtaking view of the historic hills of Athens.

Address: Dionysiou Areopagitou Street
Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m and Friday's until 10 p.m.
Internet: www.theacropolismuseum.gr

EATING



© caribb

In the Psyrri district, the former handicraft workshops have been converted to trendy restaurants and cafés, and this has continued out to Gazi and Rouf. Many chefs came 'home' from Australia or America, carrying granny's recipes in their luggage, and were appalled at the Turkish menus. You can still find simple taverns serving good home fare, but it is the "new" Greek cuisine that has been winning all the laurels.

To Kioupi

Traditional taverna sandwiched between all the trendy cafés, down some steps, and you point to the food you want on the counter. Reasonable prices, and a complete contrast to life in the Kolonaki Square above.

Address: Plateia Kolonakiou 4, Kolonaki
Phone: +30 210 361 40 33
Internet: www.tokioupi.gr

Psaras

Psaras is a centrally located seafood taverna, dating from 1898. Paintings by the painter Savakis can be seen on the bare stone walls. The open-air restaurant winds its way up and down the narrow alleyway.

Address: Erechtheos 16, Plaka
Phone: +30 210 321 87 33
Internet: www.pсарas-taverna.gr

Spondi

The best restaurant in Athens – and in Greece, according to many visitors. A French chef has put together the menu, and created a renowned wine cellar. Simplicity is the motto at this restaurant, which for years has been winning all the prizes there are to

be won.

Address: Pyrronos 5, Pangrati
Phone: +30 210 756 40 21
Internet: www.spondi.gr

To Zeidoron

A mezedopoleio, serving delicious food on one of the most popular street corners in Psyri. The restaurant is also very popular because of its nice atmosphere.

Address: Agion Anagyron 17/Taki 10, Psyri
Phone: +30 21 03 21 53 68

Taverna Xinos

A musical taverna that ought to have a preservation order on it! A rickety shed in a backyard, with fantastic wall paintings. It is as crazy as the musicians who perform there, but utterly genuine—just like the home cooking they serve.

Address: Geronda 4, Plaka
Phone: +30 210 322 10 65

To Kati Allo

To Kati Allo is a simple family owned tavern in the area next to the new Akropolis museum. A real tavern, with friendly staff which is open until 3 a.m – 4 a.m when Plakas waiters will come and make you company.

Address: Hatzichristou 12, Makroyanni
Phone: +30 21 09 22 30 71

CAFES



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Athenians love to sit in a kafeneion, sipping Greek

coffee or frappé, iced coffee. But these days the new fashion for caffè latte and cappuccino is gaining ground. Try also an ouzerie- an establishment specializing in small dishes (mezes), mostly served with greek ouzo, hence the name. They are not that common any more, usually they come in combinations such as mezedopolio-ouzerie (more like a restaurant), Café/ouzeries or kafeneion-ouzerie (serving coffee and ouzo). The sign of an authentic ouzerie will say ουζερί.

Plaka

Around the central square in Plaka, there are lots of similar cafés where you can have a frappé, read a newspaper and watch the world go by.

Address: Kydathineon

Caffé Peros

Caffé Peros is Kolonaki Square's central point, where sooner or later everyone you know will pass by. A place for ladies and gentlemen partaking of coffee under a canopy.

Address: Plateia Kolonakiou, Kolonaki
Opening hours: Open all year

Joker's Coffee & Cocktail Bar (The)

This popular café offers coffee, cocktails and homemade pies. Joker has a lovely décor where the walls are decorated with Rolling Stones posters and there is also a jukebox!

Address: 7 Voulis Street
Subway: Train: Syntagma metro
Opening hours: Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m to 4 a.m
Phone: +30 210 32 19

Glykis

Glykis is an ouzerie in a cozy sidestreet ideal for cooling off on a hot summer day. You can have an ouzo lunch and sample a variety of small dishes (mezze), also nice for drinking coffee. Glykis is often visited by locals and students.

Address: Angelou Geronta 2
Subway: Metro station: Monastiraki

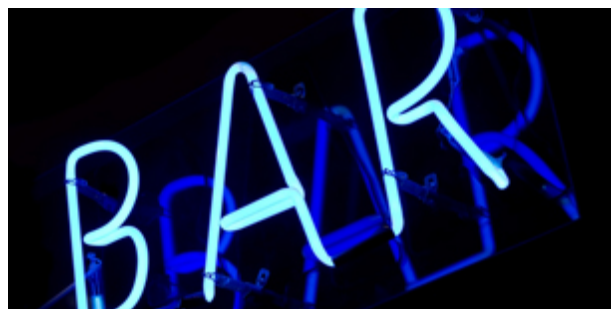
Phone: +30 210 322 39 25

Museum Internet Cafe

An internet café is a great way to keep in touch with people at home during your vacation. Make them jealous with your gorgeous pictures! Museum Internet Cafe was the first internet café ever opened in Greece. They offer good service and internet connection. In addition, they offer a variety of coffee, ice cream, beer and refreshments.

Address: Patision Avenue 44
Opening hours: 9 a.m - 3 a.m
More Info: Next to the Archaeological Museum.

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© *trelikardia*

Athens is not really a city of fine bars – for that you should visit some of the international hotels. On the other hand, there are lots of combined bars/cafés that serve both. Often combined with some food, as it is the Greek custom to eat a little snack to go with drinks. In the summer, much of the night life moves out to Glyfada and Vouliagmenis along the coast.

Grand Bretagne

This bar in the classic old hotel has a genuine turn-of-the-century, well-to-do feel, and has had a facelift, making it one of the top meeting places in Athens.

Address: Constitution Square
Phone: +30 210 333 00 00
Internet: www.grandebretagne.gr/en/Alexandersbar

Galea

Galea has for a long time been considered one of the

hottest night clubs in Athens. Here you have a great atmosphere, a cocktail bar, great service and the latest mainstream music.

Address: 9, Zisimopoulou st
Phone: +30 210 89 44 990
Internet: www.galea.gr

Palenque

Even in Athens you can get in the mood for Latin music. If you do this is the place to be, they even offer dance lessons.

Address: Farantaton 48
Phone: +30 210 775 23 60
Internet: www.palenque.gr

Psyri, Gazi, Rouf

The area beyond Monastiraki has livened up with many restaurants, bars and clubs going on well into the night. Look out for Astron, Taki 3, or Bee.

Address: Miaouli & Themidos

Exarchia

The area around the Technical University has got rock clubs such as An, Solomon 13 and Rodon, Marni 24. Here you can find good prices in the bar.

Address: Exarchia

SHOPPING



© *alexandra_z*

The best shopping streets are Voukourestiou, Patriarhou Ioakim, Skoufa, Tsakalof, Kanari and the side streets around Kolonaki. There are many designer

clothes, expensive boutiques and jewellers. Try, for example, Emporiko Centro, an exclusive galleria of several floors with gold, ties, clocks and watches, glasses and a Gucci boutique. In this area is also Old Athens—a shoe and handbag shop with a 1960s flavour, when ladies wore gloves and pearl necklaces à la Jackie O and Maria Callas. The shop owner was a fashion editor before setting up on his own, putting Greek handmade accessories on the map.

In the middle of Athinas street which runs between Monastiraki and Omonia square is the covered market hall which occupies a whole block, with a fish market in the middle. All around are butchers and spice shops, and around the market are several simple but good places to eat. Like onion soup in the Paris markets, here you eat patsa or tripe soup to ease the effects of ouzo. You will also find little shops selling specialties like Pastourma (a kind of Pastrami) and Armenian and Russian specialties brought here by the Greeks who once resided in the Black Sea region and now belong to the Greek cuisine. This is the area to go if you are a foodie.

SLEEPING



© spinksy

The standard of hotels has markedly improved thanks to the Olympics – and was certainly needed. The prices shown are for the high season; prices are lower in the low and intermediate seasons.

Grand Bretagne

This famous old classic has been fully renovated and restored to its former glory. This is where people on State visits and other celebrities stay when they are in town. Even so, you can visit the bar and restaurant GB Corner without burning a hole in your wallet.

Address: Constitution Square
Phone: +30 210 333 00 00
Internet: www.grandebretagne.gr

Cecil

Cecil is newly renovated, but still retaining its pre-war charm with high ceilings and period furnishings. Near the market hall, and within walking distance of the restaurant scene in Psyrri. A value-for-the-money alternative.

Address: Athinas 38
Phone: +30 210 321 70 79
Internet: www.cecil.gr

Adonis

Adonis is centrally located in a quiet area surrounded by pedestrian precincts and near Syntagma. From the terrace on the roof, you have a lovely view of the Acropolis and the rest of the city. Simple and functional with shower, central heating and TV. AC costs extra.

Address: 3 Kodroy & Voulis St
Phone: +30 210 324 97 37
Internet: www.hotel-adonis.gr

Electra Palace Hotel

Electra Palace is named after an ancient Greek character. This five star hotel is located right in the heart of the commercial and business district giving you great access to shopping, food and entertainment.

Address: 18-20, N. Nikodimou Str.
Phone: +30 210 337 00 00
Internet: www.electrahotels.gr

Hotel Plaka

Hotel Plaka is a three star hotel, located only five minutes walking distance from Syntagma square. Better location you would have to look for as the Acropolis, museums and the shopping area Plaka and Emou street is just around the corner.

Address: 7, Kapnikareas & Mitropoleos Street
Phone: +30 210 322 27 06
Internet: www.plakahotel.gr

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

Eleftherios Vernizelos is at Spata, 33 kilometres (20 miles) southeast of Athens. A taxi ride to the centre will cost a flat rate of € 35 between 5am and midnight, and € 50 between midnight and 5am. The fixed fares include the basic fare, VAT, extra luggage charges and road tolls.

The Metro goes to the centre and costs € 8. The journey to Syntagma takes 27 minutes. There are

airport buses to Syntagma (X95) and Piraeus port (X96). Travel time to Syntagma takes around 1 hour, to Piraeus port around 1,5 hours and cost € 5 for a single journey. There is no direct metro connection to Piraeus from the airport.

Phone: +30 210 353 00 00

Internet: www.aia.gr

Public Transport

The new Metro stations are well worth seeing, and are kept spotlessly clean. At the Syntagma and Acropolis stations you will find a large collection of antiquities on display. There is a tram from the centre (Syntagma) running along the coast to Glyfada (50 minutes) and Voula (60 minutes).

Buses, trolley buses and the Metro run until around midnight. The tram runs between 05:30 and 1:00 and until 02:30 on Friday and Saturday. Airport buses all run on a 24 hour schedule. The airport bus tickets are not valid on other public transport services but only for a single journey.

Ferries out to the island leave from the harbor in Piraeus or from Rafina. Boat timetables at www.gtp.gr.

Internet: www.gtp.gr

Taxi

There are lots of taxis, but it is normal to share a taxi, so don't be surprised if the driver picks up additional passengers along the road who are going in the same direction. The drivers have taximeters and fixed prices.

Post

Stamps can be bought in most tobacconists and kiosks selling postcards.

Pharmacy

Doctor on duty, pharmacy 1434

Dentist

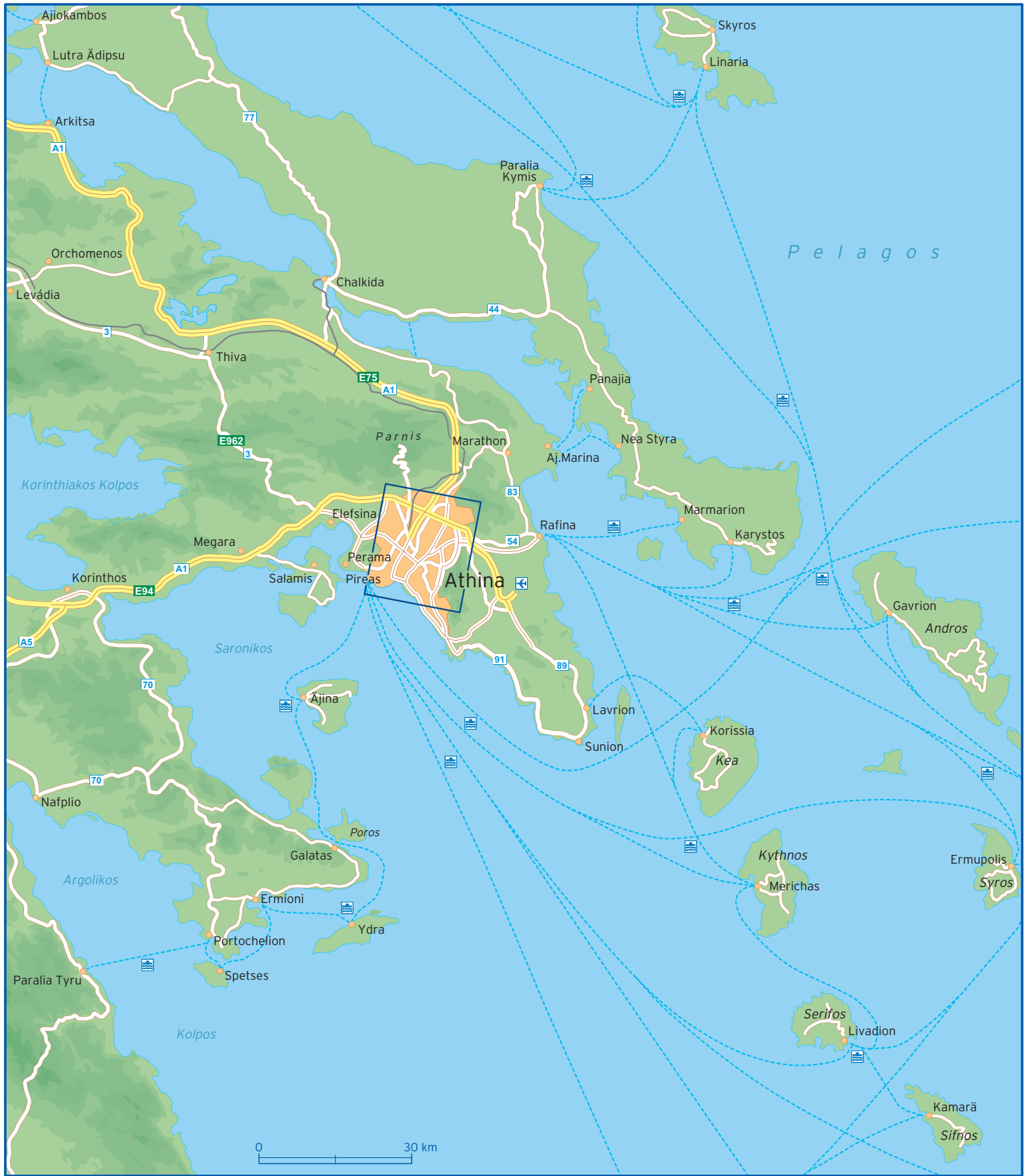
Doctor on duty, pharmacy 1434

Telephone

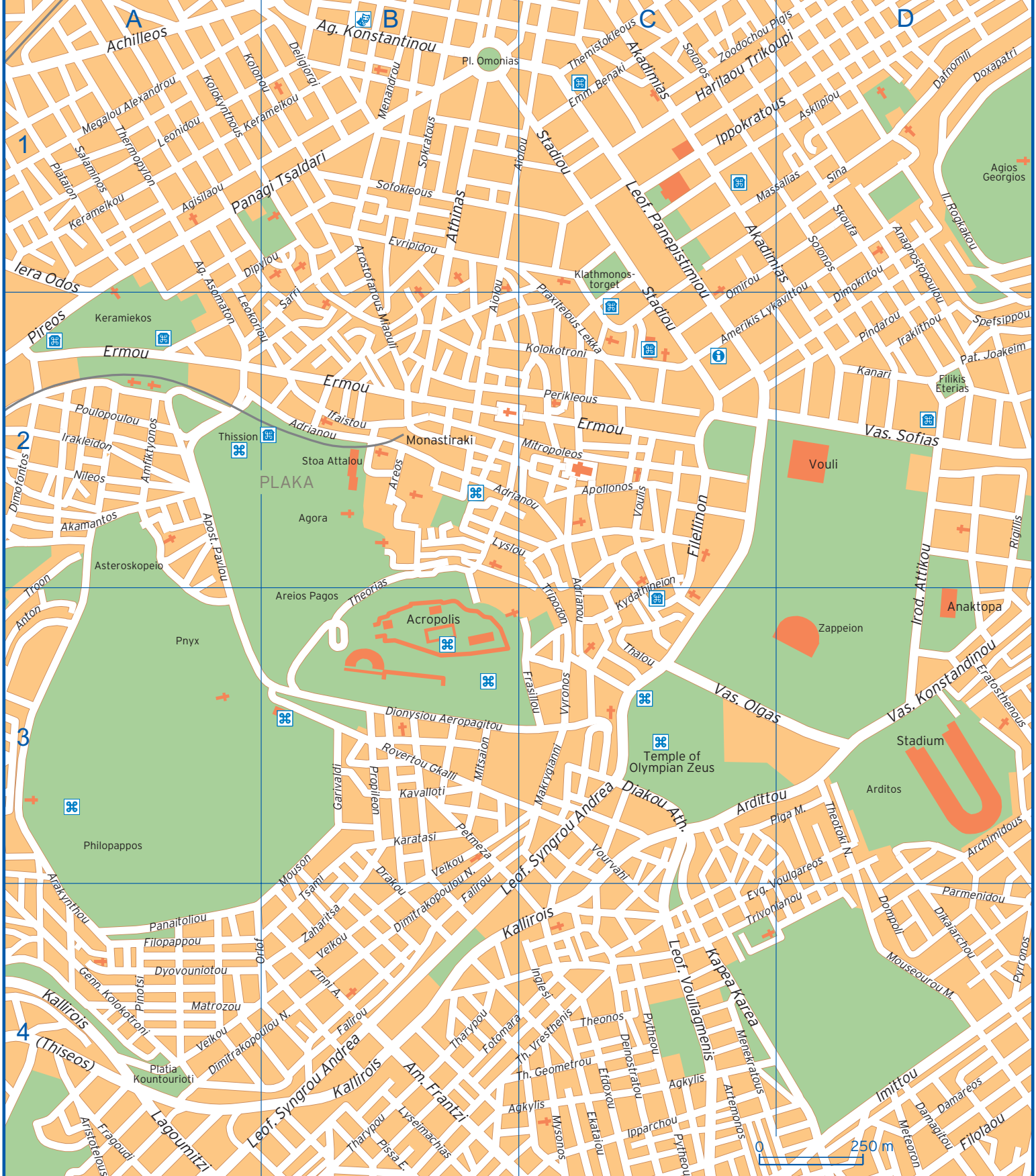
Country code: +30 for Greece,
Area code: 210 for Athens

Electricity

230 volts







(Theseos)	A4	Filikis Eterias	D2	Parmenidou	D4
Achilleos	A1	Filolaou	D4	Pat. Joakeim	D2
Adrianou	B2 C2 C3	Filopappou	A4	Perikleous	C2
Ag. Asomaton	A1 A2	Fotomara	B4 C4	Petmeza	B3
Ag. Konstantinou	B1	Fragoudi	A4	Philopappos	A3
Agios Georgios	D1	Frasillou	C3	Piga M.	C3 D3
Agisilaou	A1	Garivaldi	B3	Pindarou	D2
Agkylis	B4 C4	Genn. Kolokotroni	A4	Pinotsi	A4
Agora	B2	Harilaou Trikoupi	C1 D1	Pireos	A2
Aiolou	B1 B2 C1	Iera Odos	A1 A2	Pissa E.	B4
Akadimias	C1 D1	Ifaistou	B2	Pl. Omonias	B1 C1
Akamantos	A2	Il. Rogkakou	D1	Plataion	A1
Am. Frantzi	B4	Imittou	D4	Platia Kountourioti	A4
Amerikis Lykavittou	C2 D1	Inglesi	C4	Pnyx	A3
Amfiktyonos	A2	Ipparchou	C4	Poulopoulou	A2
Anagnostopoulou	D1 D2	Ippokratous	C1 D1	Praxitelous Lekka	C1 C2
Anton	A3	Irakleidon	A2	Propileon	B3
Apollonos	C2	Iraklithou	D2	Pyrronos	D4
Apost. Pavlou	A2 A3	Irod. Attikou	D2 D3	Pytheou	C4
Arakynthou	A3 A4	Kallirois	A4 B4 C4	Rigillis	D2
Archimidous	D3	Kanari	D2	Rovertou Gkalli	B3
Arditou	D3	Kapea Karea	C4	Salaminos	A1
Ardittou	C3 D3	Karatasi	B3	Sarri	B2
Areios Pagos	B3	Kavalloti	B3	Sina	D1
Areos	B2	Kerameikou	A1 B1	Skoufa	D1
Aristotelous	A4	Keramiekos	A2	Sofokleous	B1
Arostofanou Miaouli	B1 B2	Klathmonosorget	C1	Sokratous	B1
Artemonos	C4	Kolokotroni	C2	Solonos	C1 D1
Asklipiou	D1	Kolokyntous	A1	Spefsippou	D2
Asteroskopeio	A2	Kolonou	A1 B1	Stadiou	C1 C2
Athinas	B1	Kydathineion	C2 C3	Stoa Attalou	B2
Dafnomili	D1	Lagoumitzi	A4	Th. Geometrou	B4 C4
Damagitou	D4	Leof. Panepistimiou	C1 C2	Th. Vresthenis	C4
Damareos	D4	Leof. Syngrou Andrea	A4 B4 C3	Thalou	C3
Deinostratou	C4	Leof. Vouliagmenis	C4	Tharypou	B4
Deligiorgi	B1	Leokoriou	A2 B2	Themistokleous	C1
Diakou Ath.	C3	Leonidou	A1	Theonos	C4
Dikaiarchou	D4	Lyseimachias	B4	Theorias	B2 B3
Dimitrakopoulou N.	A4 B3 B4	Lyslou	B2 C2	Theotoki N.	D3
Dimofontos	A2	Makrygianni	C3	Thermopylon	A1
Dimokritou	D1 D2	Massalias	C1 D1	Thission	A2
Dionysiou Aeropagitou	B3	Matrozou	A4	Tripodon	C2 C3
Dipylyou	A1 B1	Megalou Alexandrou	A1	Trivonianou	C4 D4
Dompoli	D4	Menandrou	B1	Troon	A2 A3
Doxapatri	D1	Menekratous	C4	Tsami	B3 B4
Drakou	B3 B4	Meteoron	D4	Vas. Konstandinou	D3
Dyovouniotou	A4	Mitropoleos	C2	Vas. Olgas	C3 D3
Efdoxou	C4	Mitsaion	B3	Vas. Sofias	D2
Ekataiou	C4	Mouseourou M.	D4	Veikou	A4 B3 B4
Emm. Benaki	C1	Mouson	B3 B4	Voulis	C2
Eratosthenous	D3	Mysonos	C4	Vourvahi	C3
Ermou	A2 B2 C2	Nileos	A2	Vyronos	C3
Evg. Voulgareos	C4 D3	Omirou	C1 C2	Zaharitsa	B4
Evrupidou	B1	Orlof	B4	Zappeion	D3
Falirou	B3 B4	Panagi Tsaldari	A1 B1	Zinni A.	B4
Filellinon	C2	Panaitoliou	A4	Zoodochou Pigis	C1 D1