

Henry Allen Weston

HISTORY-ATHENS

GREECE

(IN BRIEF)

Athens, the capital of Greece, was originally inhabited 3000 years ago. It was called Cecrops at the time, after the founder. When all the surrounding city states were united into one state, Athens was the name chosen after the Greek goddess Athena.

During the Sixth Century B. C., Athens reached the peak of its power. Great writers, artists and philosophers like Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle who shaped the thoughts of our Western world, came from this golden period in Greek History. With the rise of the Roman Empire and the shadow it cast upon Greek culture came the decline of the Greeks. For the next 18 centuries the Greeks were to be dominated by outsiders, mostly the Ottoman Empire.

Since 1821, Greece has been an independent country. In World War I the Greeks threw in their lot with Great Britain. In the second World War the Greeks were again with the Allies. On October 28, 1940, when the Italian ambassador presented an ultimatum to the Prime Minister demanding the immediate capitulation of Greece to Italy, the Prime Minister's reply was the single word 'Ohi', which means 'No' in Greek. And since that time October 28 has been celebrated along with Independence Day, March 25, as the primary national day in Greece.

The Greeks were hard hit. From 1940 to 1944 they were occupied by the Germans, Italians and Bulgarians. It wasn't until 1951 that Greece could settle down to receive the foreign tourist--and the currency devaluation of 1953, which made her the biggest travel bargain in Western Europe, quickly opened the floodgates. Now she receives tens of thousands of outlanders who seek her natural and charming brand of holiday happiness. Blessed with the simple pleasures of dazzling sun, scintillating blue sea, and gentle air, Greece offers to the visitor an abundance of natural wonders. All these against a background of classical history unmatched.



THE ACROPOLIS

The Acropolis is not only the pride of Athens and all of Greece, but is also the center of attraction for educated people throughout the world. Whoever sets foot on its sacred rocks feels as if paying homage to the majesty of human achievement. It is said that Classical Art is difficult, because it is simple. This difficult simplicity, together with incomparable beauty, reigns over the Acropolis. The simplest Doric style has reached its zenith with the Parthenon (Temple of Virgin Athena), built in 447 B. C. The visitor looking at its columns, column tops, triglyphs, metopes, frieze and pediments, will see the most simple and majestic lines that have ever been made by human hand. The Parthenon is the symbol of classical beauty. Bathed in sunshine or stricken by storms for centuries, it continues to stand majestic, indifferent, immortal. The Acropolis is open every day from 0800 to sunset. Admission is 10 drachmae. In the evenings, open air concerts are presented. The text of the concert is in English, French or Greek. Admission is 20 or 30 drachmae with seating on the hill of Pnyx.



TOURS AND POINTS OF INTEREST

A great variety of tours are available in Athens. A half day tour of downtown Athens--including the Acropolis, the elevated section of the ancient city, the temple in Greece, and the Stadium with 50,000 seats where the World Olympics were revived in 1896--costs about two dollars. For about five dollars, you can have the same tour plus a luncheon and an excursion to Daphni and Eleusis. One day tours outside Athens can also be arranged.

Corinth, wealthy and powerful city in the ancient days, is about two hours drive west of Athens by way of the new highway which passes the wrecked shipyard at Skaramanga; the ancient cities of Eleusis, famous for its religious mysteries, and Megara, a former trading center and the newly opened Corinth Canal. The Athens-Eleusis full day tour is well worth the expense and time.



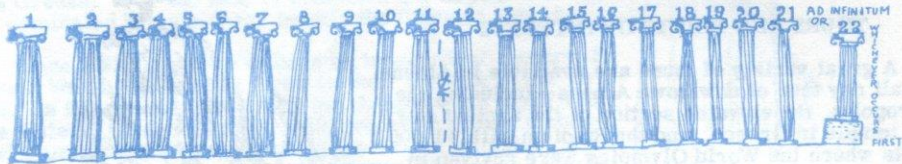
THE AEROPAGUS stands opposite to the Acropolis. It is a bare rock on which the ancient citizens of Athens used to solve their legal affairs with wisdom and justice. There, centuries later, Apostle Paul taught the pagan Athenians the religion of the one God of Love.



THE OLYMPIC STADIUM is near the Zapeion garden, it has been re-lined with marble by Herodes Atticus and was restored by a wealthy Greek and great benefactor of the Greek nation, George Averoff. The Athens torrent-river, Iliissos, passes in front of the Stadium, but is no longer visible, as it has been turned into a large covered sewer.

CERAMICUS: was the name of the ancient potters' quarter, so called because of fine art of ceramics practiced there. Outside the walls of Ceramicus, was the cemetery, where those who fell in battle were buried. Marvellous tomb-stones were found here, including that of Igisso, the girl who died without having tasted the joys of marriage, and that of Desileos, a brave man who was killed fighting for his country.

ATTALUS ARCADE: near the market, was built by Attalus, King of Bergama. It is 111 meters long and is divided into two sections by 22 Ionic style columns. The interior part is divided in turn into 21 square rooms, that served as shops, as this arcade, like all others served for commercial purposes.



THE TEMPLE OF LYSICRATES: is a masterpiece of the art of Attica dedicated by Lysicrates, a wealthy Athenian choragus in 334 B. C. Choragi in Athens were wealthy citizens, who at their own expense, provided one of the dramatic choruses. When successful, they offered charming tripods to the gods who aided them to victory. It is located at Tripods Street, so called on account of the many tripods which existed there, dedicated by donors.



THE ODEUM OF HERODES ATTICUS: it is an ancient theatre just below the Acropolis. It was built there by the patron of classical Greece in the Second Century A. D. It is so well preserved that the works of the greatest dramatic poets of antiquity are revived there every year, in an emotional atmosphere, in performances given by the Greek National Theatre.

THE TEMPLE OF OLYMPIAN ZEUS: its construction was begun by Pisistratus, but was completed by Hadrian seven whole centuries later. Its majesty is outstanding. It had a total of 104 columns, and its surroundings include many kinds of rich offerings. Today only a few but superb columns remain, which give a charm to the landscape, but look sad in their great loneliness.

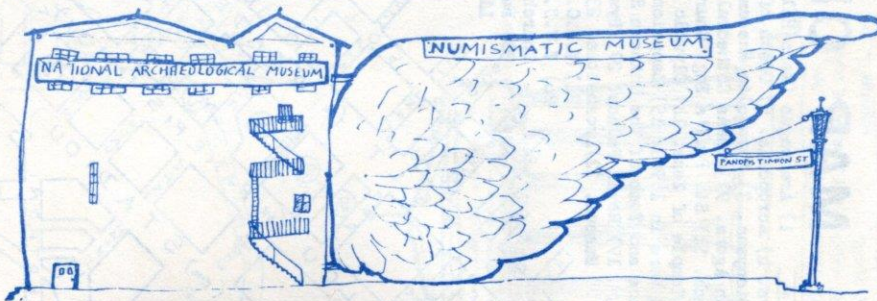
MUSEUMS

See all you can of Athens

THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM: is open daily from 0800 to 1400. It contains art treasures found in the Acropolis. It is on the citadel's sacred rock.

THE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM: (Patisision Street) it was built in order to house all the ancient works of art found in Greece. It is a modern building with large halls containing Mycenaean and Egyptian antiquities, sarcophagi and vases, relief motifs offerings and tombstone inscriptions.

THE NUMISMATIC MUSEUM: (Panopistimion Street) is a wing of the National Archaeological Museum. You will find there ancient coins, gems, engraved stones and coins from the Middle Ages until today.



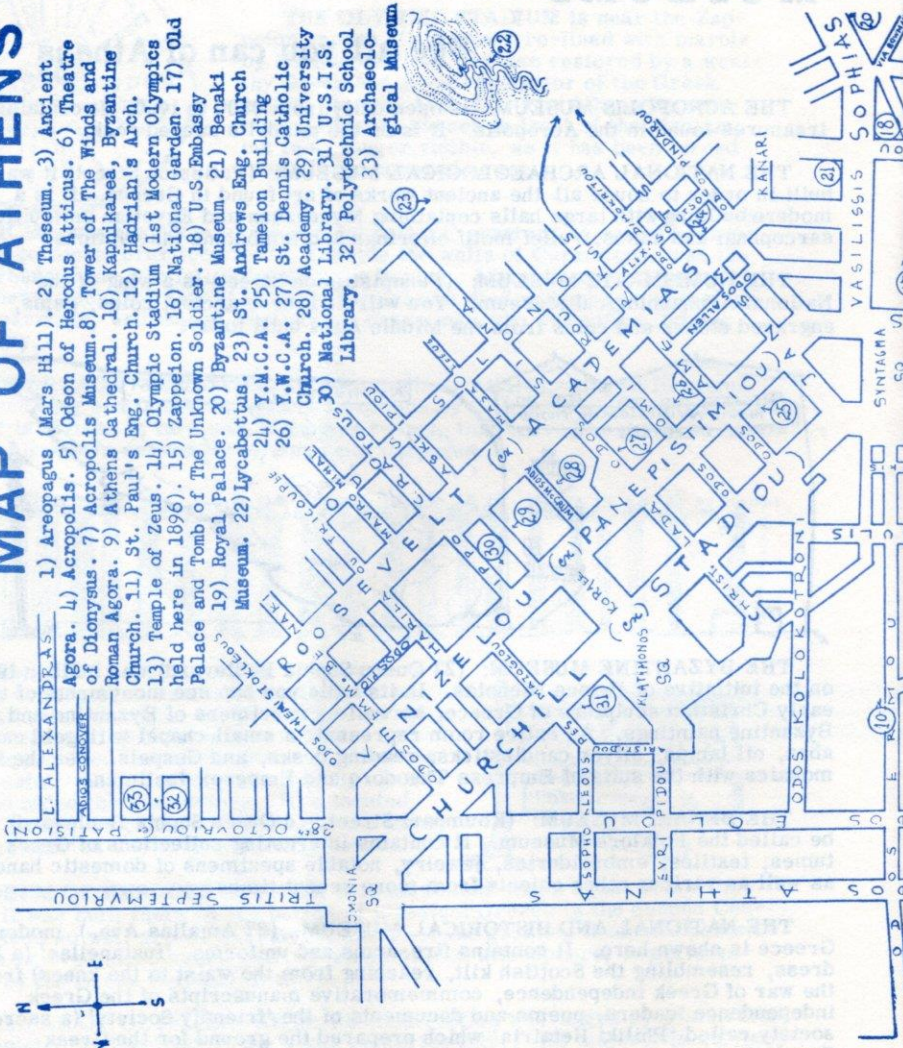
THE BYZANTINE MUSEUM: (22 Queen Sophia Boulevard) was built in 1914 on the initiative of Prince Nicholas. In its halls you can see monuments of the early Christian sculpture of Greece, as well as specimens of Byzantine and post-Byzantine paintings. An entire room represents a small chapel with gold candelabra, oil lamps, silver candlesticks, reading desks, and Gospels. See the Ravenna mosaics with the suits of Empress Theodora and Emperor Justinian.

THE BENAKI MUSEUM: (Koumpari Street and Queen Sophia Boulevard), could be called the Folklore Museum. It contains interesting collections of Greek costumes, textiles, embroideries, jewelry, notable specimens of domestic handicraft, as well as various other objects from more recent times.

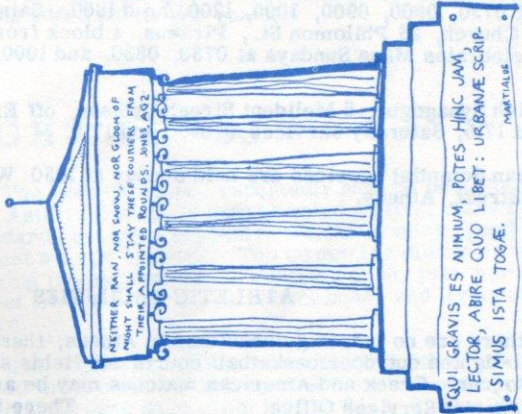
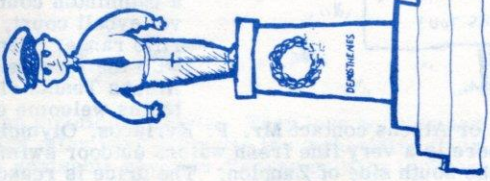
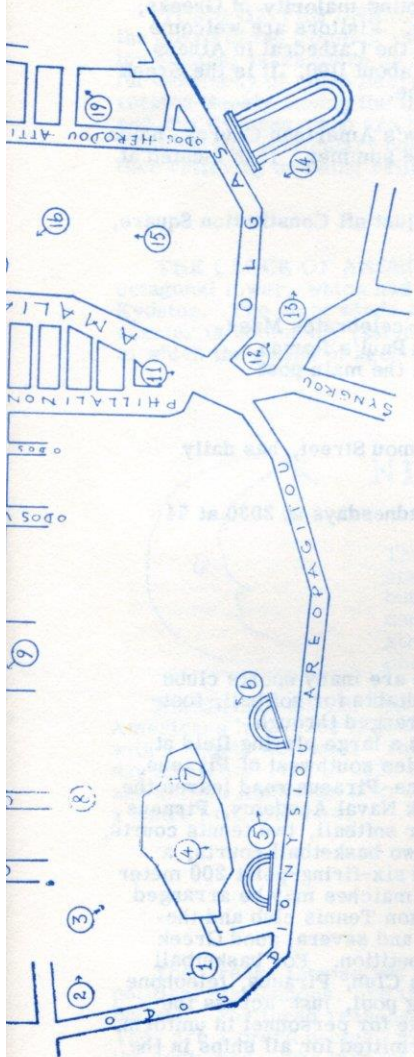
THE NATIONAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM: (37 Amalias Ave.) modern Greece is shown here. It contains fire-arms and uniforms, 'fustanellas' (a loose dress, resembling the Scottish kilt, reaching from the waist to the knees) from the war of Greek independence, commemorative manuscripts of the Greek independence leaders, poems and documents of the 'friendly Society' (a sacred society called 'Philiki Hetairia' which prepared the ground for the Greek Revolution).

MAP OF ATHENS

- 1) Areopagus (Mars Hill). 2) Theseum. 3) Ancient Agora. 4) Acropolis. 5) Odeon of Herocus Atticus. 6) Theatre of Dionysus. 7) Acropolis Museum. 8) Tower of The Winds and Roman Agora. 9) Athens Cathedral. 10) Kapnikarea, Byzantine Church. 11) St. Paul's Eng. Church. 12) Hadrian's Arch. 13) Temple of Zeus. 14) Olympic Stadium (1st Modern Olympics held here in 1896). 15) Zappeion. 16) National Garden. 17) Old Palace and Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. 18) U.S. Embassy Museum. 22) Lycabettus. 23) St. Andrews Eng. Church
- 24) Y.M.C.A. 25) Tameion Building
- 26) Y.W.C.A. 27) St. Dennis Catholic Church. 28) Academy. 29) University Library. 30) National Library. 31) U.S.I.S. Library. 32) Polytechnic School
- 33) Archaeological Museum



RELIGION



RELIGION

The Greek Orthodox religion is the faith of an overwhelming majority of Greeks, and churches of that faith are numerous throughout the area. Visitors are welcome during services. A continuous service is held on Sunday in the Cathedral in Athens (near Constitution Square) beginning about 0730 and ending about 1100. It is the Greek custom to attend for about forty five minutes during this time.

An interdenominational Protestant Church, Saint Andrew's American Church, holds weekly services at 1100 during the winter, earlier during the summer. It is located at 66 Sina Street, Athens; visitors are welcome.

Saint Paul's Anglican Church, Philhellen St. , Athens, just off Constitution Square, holds Sunday service at 1100, communion at 0800 and 1200.


Saint Dennis Roman Catholic Church, 33 Venizelos St. , celebrates Mass Sunday at 0730, 0800, 0900, 1000, 1200, and 1800. Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Church, 23 Philomon St. , Piraeus, a block from the main post office, celebrates Mass Sundays at 0730, 0830, and 1000.

A Jewish Synagogue, 5 Melideni Street, Athens, off Ermou Street, has daily services at 1715, Saturday services at 0730 and 1715.

Christian Scientist services are held Sunday at 1030 Wednesdays at 2030 at 54 Roosevelt Street, Athens.

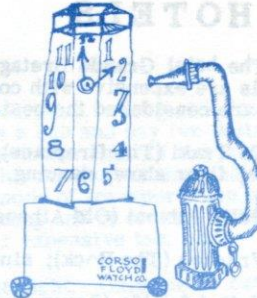
ATHLETIC FACILITIES

While there are no indoor gymnasiums in Athens, there are many sports clubs having well-lighted out-door basketball courts and fields suitable for softball, football, and soccer. Greek and American matches may be arranged through the ship's Special Services Office.



There is a large playing field at the race track, 2 miles southwest of Piraeus, where the main Athens-Piraeus road leaves the seacoast. The Greek Naval Academy, Piraeus, has a soccer field for softball, two tennis courts, a badminton court, two basketball courts, a volleyball court, and six-firing-point 200 meter rifle range. Tennis matches may be arranged with the Pan-Hellinikon Tennis club and the Athens Tennis club, and several good Greek teams welcome competition. For basketball in Piraeus or Athens contact Mr. P. Kyriacos, Olympiocus Club, Piraeus, telephone 52197. There is a very fine fresh water, outdoor swimming pool, just across the street on the south side of Zappion. The price is reasonable for personnel in uniform. The ban on public dancing has been lifted and dancing is permitted for all ships in the area.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: The relieving of the guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in Constitution Square, takes place on Sunday at 1030. This is a colorful ceremony of much interest to the tourist. The guard is rotated weekly among the three services, the gendarmerie, and the Evzones, who are the King's personal guards. The ceremony is particularly colorful when the Evzones are either relieving or being relieved.



THE CLOCK OF ANDRONICUS: is located at the end of Aeolou Street, it is a small octagonal tower, which had a water driven timepiece, constructed by Andronicus from Kydstos. The eight winds are represented on its eight sides, and for this reason this quarter is commonly called 'Aerides' (Winds). It is a work of the First Century B. C. to which the patina of ages has added particular charm.



NIGHT CLUBS

The Lido-Mocambo reportedly has the best floor show. The Asteria Beach Tavern is rated as first class by Athens standards but quite expensive for the country, good service, but not a Latin Quarter. Top choice for dinner or supper, dancing (no cabaret) is the Athinaia Club, just across the street from the 'G. B', excellent band, and lively atmosphere.

AMERICAN CLUB: All Naval Personnel- The American Club, an organization of Americans in Greece is located in Kifissia and extends the facilities of the club to all with a hearty welcome. The club is open daily from 1400 to 2330, Sunday thru Thursday and from 1400 to 0030 Friday and Saturday. The club has Commissary privileges and serves American Beer and excellent food at a reasonable price. There is usually a dance or floor show.

POLITICS

The Greeks themselves are an emotional people. They love politics and political discussions, and they are often very dramatic in emphasizing their beliefs. For these reasons it is advisable never to discuss politics in Greece. They are a proud people, with traditions and customs extending back through the centuries. The biggest single issue in Greek national life today is the Cyprus problem. The union of Cyprus with Greece--Enosis--is the determining factor of present Greek national behavior. In particular, any discussion on this problem should be avoided.

HOTELS

The hotel Grande Bretagne ('G. B. '), King George Hotel and Athenese Palace Hotels are expensive with continental bars and European style foods, no floor show, they are considered the best hotels in downtown Athens.

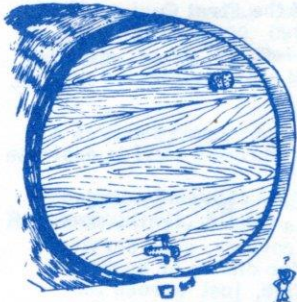
To Tzaki (The fireplace); about \$8 per couple for dinner and drinks, nice atmosphere, floor show, dancing, a block from the American Embassy.

Palia Athinal (Old Athens); similar in price, gaudier and noisier, good floor show.

Vrachos (The Rock); similar in price, much atmosphere, good floor show.

Epta Adelfia (Seven Brothers); about \$5 per couple for dinner and drinks, combo but no floor show, very Greek, good atmosphere, no dancing.

RESTAURANTS

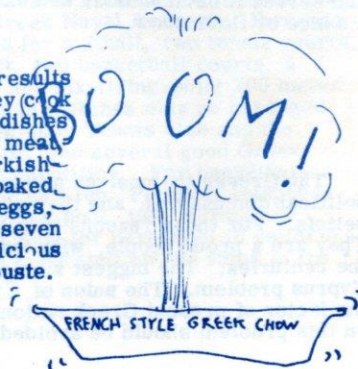


For a change of atmosphere and diet, every traveler should pay at least 1 visit to a typical Greek tavern. These famous institutions feature rotisseri-type grills, wine from huge barrels, folk music and informal family style hospitality.

For straight fare in straight foward surroundings, it is recommended you go to the venerable Costi (2 Korai Street): excellent cookery and ancient waiters who really know how to serve, in a serene, old fashioned setting. Zonar's (Venizelos Street) 1 block from the Grande Bretagne, might be called the Greek Schrafft's; coffee shop, confectionery, tearoom, bar and restaurant combined in a single operation; hot in summer; average in quality; popular with Americans. Pantheon (73 Venizelos Street) is highly recommended, a little commercial perhaps, with a 175-item menu; very cheap. Floca continues to uphold its good reputation; cafe restaurant aura similar to Paris' Marquise de Sevigne. For game during the various shooting seasons, Zapheri, just below the Acropolis, has no local rivals for variety and high quality.

FOOD

When the Greeks try to cook like Frenchmen, the results are usually disappointing, if not disastrous. When they cook like Greeks, they turn out interesting fare. Regional dishes worth trying are Dolmades (grape leaves stuffed with meat, rice, onion, and seasonings): Souvlakia (ask for "Turkish Style"): Moussaka (chopped meat with baked potato, baked pumpkin, veal, eggplant with tomato sauce, cheese, eggs, and spices): the magnificent red mullet, finest in the seven seas; Kalamaraki (tenderized squid): octopus (so delicious that it tastes like chicken-lobster); and the local langouste.



TRANSPORTATION

Athens presents a problem, as the Fleet Landing is in Piraeus, a long ride from Athens. If you lack adventurous spirit you can merely take a cab and pay two dollars (Never more.). Better, you can walk up the small incline to the right of the landing and catch a bus or you can take a local train found some 6 blocks east of the landing. The train is a little out of the way, however it is the best mode of transportation to and from the city. While in the city bus service is outstanding and of course there are plenty of cabs available, if you are willing to pay the rather expensive tab.



TAXIS are scarce at night. Only meter cabs should be used. All others are illegal. Each meter has a window below the fare window which reads '1' or '2'. This indicates whether single or double fare is being paid. Double fare is legal on long trips (e. g., from Piraeus to Athens), but for short trips within the city only single fare should be charged. The number of passengers has no bearing on the fare.

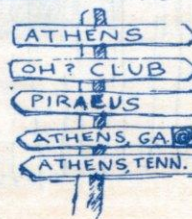
SHOPPING

Shopping hours are as follows: from 0800 to 1330 and from 1700 to 2000 (closed all Saturday afternoons). Only the kiosks, restaurants and transportation offices are open during the long afternoon siestas.

The Diacosmitiki (5 Stadium St.) has an enormous selection of contemporary Greek arts and crafts under one roof: hand embroidered blouses, skirts, purses, table linen, scarves, dresses, dolls, national costumes, everything which can hold a stitch-brass, ceramics, jewelry, woodcarving, postcards, water colours, children's knickknacks-the works for the foreign shopper. Highest quality obtainable: fair prices: transatlantic and other shipments guaranteed against breakage or loss: bank rate exchange on dollar.

Gold jewelry is excellent in workmanship and low in price. The Air Force has both an exchange and an O Club; both excellent. They are located on the main road between Piraeus and Athens, everyone knows their location---merely ask.

USO CANTEEN--A Fleet Canteen will be established at the Orpheus Theater, 44, Amerikas Street. It is sponsored by the YMCA, the American Colony of Athens (5,600), and the USO. The canteen will offer free refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs, coffee and cold drinks), nightly dances, games, shopping guide, information and postal facilities. Hostesses will be present.



TIPPING

In a restaurant be sure to leave two tips. One, about 10% for the waiter and two or three drachma (about a dime) for the boy who clears off the tables. Taxi drivers are usually not tipped. They will never ask you to remember them, but they will be grateful if you do.

ATTENTION

To avoid embarrassment and confusion, learn to recognize these two words; ΑΝΔΡΩΝ is "Ladies' Room" ΨΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ is "Men's Room".

