ATHENS HALF DAY

⇒ Our expert guides will take you to see the Panathenaic Stadium -short stop

⇒ Continue and pass by the Prime Minister's residence guarded by the Euzones in their colorful uniform, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the National Library, the University, the Constitution Square –Syntagma

⇒ On the Acropolis visit the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens- The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally the Parthenon.

THE CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Paths of history, culture and a cosmopolitan ambience. **Athens**. The city that gave birth to democracy, the sciences and fine arts is ready to reveal its secrets. **Athens**: the city of history and ancient civilisation – the **Parthenon**, **Acropolis** and the **Ancient Agora**. At the same time a modern, vibrant megalopolis, full of energy, day and night. A city belonging to humanity and Mediterranean light. This mighty city has contributed to world history and culture time and again, making itself immortal; an actor beyond the constraints of time's usual boundaries. Through its charisma, it is reborn again and again. **Athen**s shares these priceless life lessons with its visitors. Under the bright Aegean sun and the blue **Attica sky**. Amid the graffiti that adorns its walls, and the laughter that fills its cafes. A youthful city, buzzing with life, it is confident, free and charming. A city that never sleeps. Full of flavour, desire and pleasure. A city that you must visit at least once in your lifetime. **Welcome to Athens.**

You are in **Athens**. Before you let its charm seduce you, and you start wandering through its streets, stand for a minute and consider: How does a city carrying the weight of so much history manage to simultaneously remain so modern and dynamic? **Athens** has the power to surprise you with its contrasts – a youthful elixir. Wise and carefree. Imposing and light. Old, and yet, so new. All at the same time, with the same intensity.The city with archaeological treasures, the cornerstone of Western civilisation, at night buzzing with life in the arty, industrial setting of **Psyrri**, the lively square of Saint Irini, and the bustling sidewalks of **Thiseio**. In the morning, there's shopping in the chic neighbourhood of **Kolonaki**, with its high-end boutiques. Later on, take a stroll in **Monastiraki**, with its stalls chock full of colourful spices. Lose yourself in the magic of the music festivals in **Gazi** and in the innovative art exhibits of Metaxourgeio. Stop for a coffee at the renowned cafe-restaurants in **Plaka** with a view of the **Acropolis**, leafing through books and newspapers you found at the local bookstore, followed by a bite with friends at a traditional taverna. At night, at a stylish terrace bar, cocktail in hand, take in the panoramic view of the illuminated city – from the **Parthenon** to the sea. Finally, if at some point you want to escape from the pace of urban life, and get a taste for summer holidays, hit the beach: Just a stone's throw from the historic centre, the **Athens Riviera** is a spectacular mosaic of summer dreams. A string of pearls unfolds along its coastline; sandy beaches, picturesque coves and crystalline water. The beat of the music pulses day and night.

There, near the luxury hotels, bungalows, spas and marinas, with a view of the **Argosaronic** gulf, the nightlife takes on a carefree vibe, as you dance barefoot in the sand at the beach bars and open-air clubs. And on a rocky promontory surveying the revelry stands the proud **Temple of Poseidon**, guarding **Cape Sounio** and giving the city an air of sophistication and timeless glamour.

Seize the opportunity and follow the thread of history that the experience of **Athens** unravels.The city of **Athens** is an open air museum of tremendous interest. Every step brings you closer to a piece of its history: world heritage monuments, archaeological museums, art galleries – **Athens** is overflowing with cultural stimuli.The first iconic encounter you'll have with **Ancient Greek** civilisation is more than enough to convince you; the **Acropolis**, and the world-renowned **Parthenon**. Experience the magic of the New **Acropolis Museum**, one of the best archaeological museums in the world and particularly impressive, not just for its cultural treasures on exhibit, but for the modern architecture and design of its building.Further down, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus will fascinate you – particularly the fact that a monument of such archaeological significance is still active in the city's cultural life, as every summer it hosts the Athens Festival, the city's most important cultural event. Next to it, the Theatre of Dionysus was the most important theatrical venue in ancient Athens in its prime. Continuing your journey through cultural Athens, near the Arch of Hadrian, you'll see the iconic Temple of Olympian Zeus and then the **Panathenaic Stadium** – **Kallimarmaro** (329 BC), which was rebuilt with marble by **Herodes Atticus** around the 2nd century AD. Throughout Athens, including the areas in and around the **historic centre**, from **Thiseio** to **Pnyx Hill**, the pedestrian avenue of **Dionysios Areopagitou**, **Plaka** and **Anafiotika**, and **Monastiraki,** you'll admire archaeological sites, **temples**, ancient and **Byzantine** monuments, as well as magnificent neoclassical buildings of historical and architectural significance. Note the impressive Old Parliament House, which you'll find crossing the commercial triangle towards **Syntagma**, then there's the **National Historical Museum**, housing a permanent collection dedicated to the history of **Modern Greece.** And if you love museums, you'll have many to discover in **Athens**. Museums emblematic of the Athenian capital house a wealth of exhibits for your perusal: The list starts with the **National Archaeological Museum**, the Museum of Greek Folk Art and of Greek **Folk Musical Instruments**, the **War Museum**, the **New Benaki Museum**, the **Numismatic Museum**, the **Museum of Cycladic Art** and the **National Museum** of Contemporary Art. And there are dozens more, such as the National Gallery, the **Planetarium**, the Foundation of the Hellenic World, as well as galleries and venues in the center of the city focusing on contemporary art, and all promising to enrich your cultural experiences in **Athens**. Follow the thread and let yourself get lost in the history on display in its museums. The Most Popular Cultural Attractions in Athens. 1. The Parthenon: The most comprehensive architectural creation of Athenian democracy, built during a golden age of prosperity for the city. 2. Propylaea: A monumental gateway to the Acropolis built of white Pentelic marble. 3. Erechtheion: A building complex from 420 BC, made of Pentelic marble, a unique example of the Ionic order.4. Temple of Athena Nike: A masterpiece of the Classical era, built by Kallikrates in the Ionic order, with a four-column structure. 5. New Acropolis Museum: Stunning exhibits and architecture; the complete modern museum. 6.

National History Museum: Permanent exhibition on the history of modern Greece.7. Museum of Cycladic Art: Superb exhibits from the ancient Aegean civilisations, with an emphasis on the Cycladic period. 8. National Archaeological Museum: The biggest in Greece and one of the most important in the world. 9. National Gallery: Contains more than 15,000 works.

Information: Price (without lunch) is **85 euro per person**.

Every Day

Dep.:**09:00** – Ret.:13:00

- **INCLUDING**

- Entrance fees
- Transport by luxury A/C bus
- Hotel Pick up and drop off service
- Services of a Professional – licensed guide
- Free wi-fi on coaches
- All taxes

- **NOT INCLUDING**

× Gratuities (optional)

√ Advice: Comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, hat and loose fitted clothing, sun cream are strongly recommended

GALLERY