

## **Tour of Athens**

The tour of Athens uses public transport as this is the easiest way to get around. We will not normally accompany you on the excursion, but have prepared this detailed itinerary for anyone who wants to use it.

If you choose to stay overnight, we recommend  
Student & Travellers Inn, 16 Kydathineon, Plaka, Athens  
Tel: 210 32 44 808 or 210 32 48 802. [www.studenttravellersinn.com](http://www.studenttravellersinn.com)

### **Summer Itinerary (May to October)**

- 9.10 Bus from Vrahati
- 10.40 Bus arrives in Athens. Metro to Acropolis
- 11.00 – 1.00 Visit Acropolis and Ancient Agora
- 1.00 – 3.00 Visit to the historical Monastiraki and Plaka areas & lunch
- 3.18 – 4.45 Bus tour of Athens from Monastiraki terminating at the Archaeological Museum
- 4.45 – 6.45 Visit Archaeological Museum
- 6.45 Walk from Archaeological Museum to Omonia to catch the local bus 051 to the bus station
- 7.40 Bus from Athens
- 9.10 Bus arrives in Vrahati

*The Acropolis and the Archaeological Museum close at 7.30 in the summer.*

### **Winter Itinerary (November to April)**

- 9.10 Bus from Vrahati
- 10.40 Bus arrives in Athens. Metro to Acropolis
- 11.00 – 1.00 Visit Acropolis and Ancient Agora
- 1.30 – 3.00 Visit Archaeological Museum
- 3.00 – 4.20 Bus tour of Athens starting at the Archaeological Museum getting off at Syntagma Square (stop 18)
- 4.20 – 5.45 Visit to the historical Plaka and Monastiraki areas
- 5.45 Walk from Plaka to Omonia to catch the local bus 051 to the bus station
- 6.40 Bus from Athens
- 8.10 Bus arrives in Vrahati

*The published closing time for the Acropolis and the Archaeological Museum in the winter is 3.00 but they are sometimes open until 5.00.*

## Bus from Vrahati to Athens and back

The bus from Vrahati departs from the stop in front of the ticket office adjoining the “Stasi” café, phone 27410 55263.

There's a bus every hour, currently 5.05, 6.10

Then 10 past each hour until 19.10

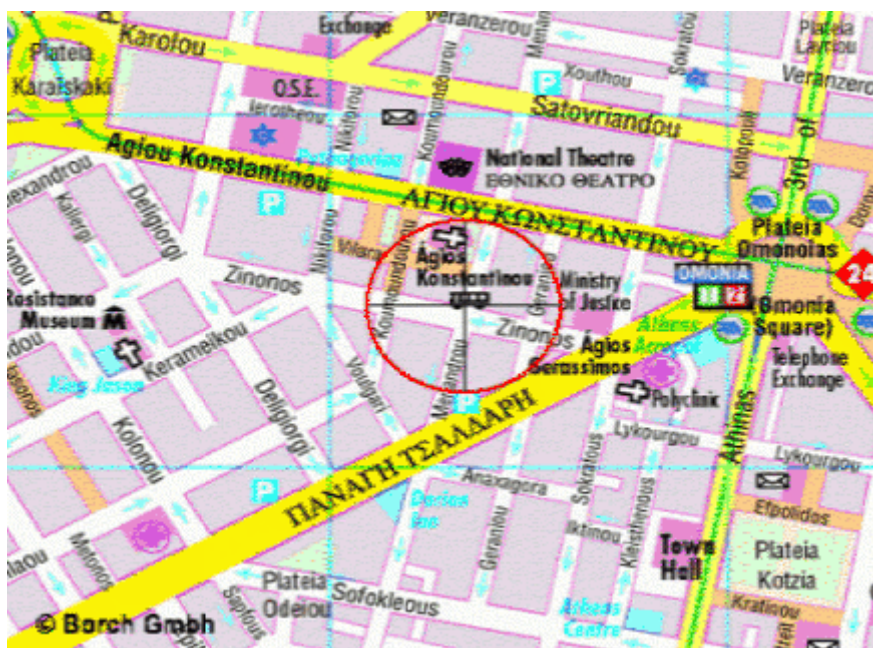
There's no service at 20.10

The last bus is at 21.10

A return ticket costs 15.50 euros. The journey time is 90 minutes. The bus from Vrahati stops at Metaxourgio metro station at Karaiskakis Square.

On the way back from Athens to Vrahati, you need to catch the bus from the main bus station, KTEL Kifissou. It doesn't pick up at Karaiskakis Square.

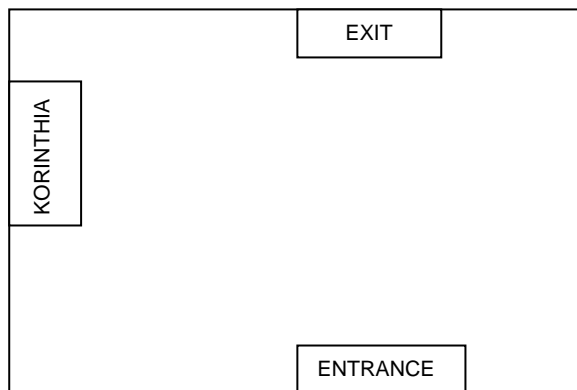
You can get to the bus station on the 051 bus, which departs from the corner of Menandrou and Zinonos Streets every 15 minutes. From Omonia Square, go down Agiou Konstantinou Street and take the third left, after the Hotel Diros, which is Menandrou Street.



If you have already done the Athens bus tour on the 400 bus, the same ticket is valid on the 051, otherwise buy a ticket from the kiosk at the bus stop. The journey time is 15 minutes.

By taxi simply ask for “KTEL Kifissou”.

When the bus or taxi arrives at the bus station, the ticket office is on your left. Even if you have a return ticket, you still need to have a seat allocated at the Korinthia window.



Buses from Athens to Vrahati – terminating at Derveni or Xylokastro – are at 6.10 and then 40 minutes after each hour until 22.30.

Exit the ticket office on the opposite side from which you entered, cross the road in front of you by the taxi rank and continue straight ahead with the snack bar on the corner to your left, past the snack shop and newsstand to the Korinthia bays numbered 27 – 24.

## Metro to Acropolis

The journey by metro from Metaxourgio to the Acropolis only takes five minutes.

A single metro ticket costs 80 cents, or you can get a day ticket for 3 euros if you're not planning to get the 400 bus and will be using the metro.



At the Acropolis station, take the exit to the left, and turn left again when you come out. You might want to buy water from the kiosk on the other side of the road before turning into the pedestrian street that leads to the entrance to the South Slope of the Acropolis.

## **Visit to the Acropolis**

General admission is 12 euros

Students 6 euros

EU students free

Admission is free for all on Sundays from 1 November to 31 March.

The same ticket also covers:

- The Ancient Agora
- The Theatre of Dionysos
- The Roman Agora
- Kerameikos
- The Temple of Olympian Zeus

The ticket is valid for four days.

Once inside the site, it's quite a climb for about fifteen minutes until you reach the Parthenon. There are no refreshments available but there is a drinking fountain next to the old museum building by the entrance to the toilets.

From the viewpoint where the Greek flag flies, you can see:

- Ahead to the left, Lykavitos Hill
- Straight ahead, the creamy brown parliament building next to Syntagma Square
- Ahead to the right, the stadium, reconstructed for the 1896 Olympic Games, Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus.

The visit to the Acropolis – excluding the museum – takes about one hour.

From the exit gate, the path straight ahead leads to the souvenir shop, snack bar and main ticket office.

The metro is back to the left.

The path down to the right leads to the Ancient Agora.

## **Visit to the Ancient Agora (Forum)**

As you leave the Acropolis, the rocky hill ahead on the left is the Areopagus. Enter through the little gate just to the right of the Areopagus and walk straight down through the Eleusinion to the Ancient Agora. Admission is included in the ticket from the Acropolis.

The benches just past the ticket office on the left make a good meeting point / picnic spot.

The Ancient Agora is quite extensive and can easily take an hour or more to explore, but if you continue straight along the Panathenaic Way it's a five-minute walk to the exit gate. The street running next to the perimeter of the Ancient Agora is Adrianou, one of the main streets running up through the Plaka, and is lined with restaurants and cafes.

Down to the left, a two-minute walk brings you to Thisseo metro station, and the path continuing beyond the station leads to the Kerameikos Archaeological site (also included in the ticket from the Acropolis).

## **From the Agora to the Archaeological Museum**

In the summer, when the museum is open till 7pm, we suggest spending a couple of hours in the Monastiraki and Plaka areas, and then taking the 400 bus which will eventually bring you to the Archaeological Museum.

In the winter, you will need to get to the Archaeological Museum first.

It's quite easy to get there on foot, although it isn't a particularly scenic route, and takes about fifteen minutes. From Monastiraki Square, walk straight up Athinas Street to Omonia Square, and continue straight across the square along 3 Septemviou Street. Take a right along any of the side streets and then left into 28 Oktovriou Street (also called Patission). The museum is on the right next to the Polytechnic.

Alternatively, you can get the metro from Monastiraki to Victoria Station. Walk back three short blocks towards Omonia on 3 Septemviou Street. Take a left into Ipirou Street for one block which brings you to 28 Oktovriou Street and the museum.

## **Visit to the Archaeological Museum**

General admission is 7 euros

Students 3 euros

EU students free

Admission is free for all on Sundays from 1 November to 31 March.

Any bags larger than a lady's handbag must be left in the free cloakroom.

Allow at least 90 minutes for a fairly cursory visit.



## **Bus tour of Athens**

Our summer itinerary suggests getting the Athens sightseeing bus number 400 from Monastiraki terminating at the Archaeological Museum.

Across the square from Monastiraki metro is the corner of Ermou and Athinas Streets. A few yards down Ermou Street, outside the Intersport shop, is the bus stop for the 400 bus, due here at 18 minutes past each hour.

Alternatively, if you've left Monastiraki behind and made it as far as the Temple of Olympian Zeus, you'll find it more convenient to pick up the bus at Plaka (stop 15) or Syntagma Square. Stop number 9 is on the side of the square in Othonas Street and stop number 18 is outside the parliament building on Amalias Street.

In the winter, when you'll need to visit the Archaeological Museum earlier, we suggest getting the 400 from there after your visit. There is a departure every hour on the hour. In the winter, the last service departs at 4pm. The stop is in Vas Irakliou Street, the street next to the museum, on your left as you stand facing the museum.

There is a bus every 60 minutes from November to April and every 30 minutes from May to October.

The ticket, which costs 5 euros, is valid for 24 hours and is also valid on all means of public transportation within Athens. You can get on and off as many times as you like, but due to the limited frequency of the service it's probably better to do one complete tour and then use the ticket on the metro for subsequent travel. The bus tour is a nice way to get a feel for the layout and atmosphere of central Athens, but there are few real sights to see apart from the stretches between stops 5 – 7 and 15 – 17. Recorded announcements in Greek and English announce upcoming stops and give information about the surrounding area.

As the bus is an ordinary single-decker, it's quite difficult to get a good view. Try to get seats on the right, both because the bus drives on the right and because the view on the left side is obscured by the driver's cab. Look out on the left side for the Olympic Stadium (stop 14) and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, on the left as we go down (stop 15) and then on the right as we return (stop 17).

Updated April 2009