



Tour Name

Private Athens: New York Times Journeys - The Chronicles of Athens: See, Taste, Do

Tour City

Athens

Tour Snapshot

Immerse yourself in Athenian culture by exploring ancient masterpieces and mingling with hipsters in trendy neighborhoods on an itinerary inspired by The New York Times's "36 Hours" series. Go behind the scenes at a jewelry workshop, and meet the locals. The city that invented cities has survived for 5,000 years and remains a world-class destination for travelers. Taste it, see it and experience it with an Urban Adventures local guide. Sure, the ancient monuments are exciting, but wait until you taste the savory pies hot from the oven and shake up your own cocktail.

Highlights

- Stroll the historic neighborhoods of Makrygianni, Plaka, Anafiotika and Philoppapos Hill and marvel at ancient monuments and neo-Classical mansions.
- Savor freshly baked pastries and homemade sweet bread at a family-owned bakery and a neo-Classical gem.
- Boost your energy with a freddo espresso or frappé coffee, the famous Greek-style iced coffees.
- Dig into the country's largest open-air market for undiscovered "antiques."

New York Times Exclusives

- *Behind the Scenes Access*: Go behind the scenes at Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum, and learn about the adaptation of traditional techniques of metalsmithing as well as decorative arts like ceramics, woodcarving, ivory and ceramics, using industrial materials like acrylic or plastic.
- *Hands-on Element*: Try at wrapping your own gyros, at one of the city's oldest establishments.
- *Local Interactions*: Meet local shop owners who have been continuing their family businesses, including a sandal maker who is also a poet and who has had customers such as the Beatles, Barbra Streisand, Lily Tomlin and Sarah Jessica Parker.

Inclusions: Local, English-speaking guide, one freddo espresso or frappé coffee, one local Koulouri or Tsoureki, one large portion of Greek pie, one gyros, two hands-on Greek experiences, one behind-the-scenes access at Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum.

Exclusions: Guide gratuity

Schedule details

- Duration: 4.5 Hours
- Meeting point:
Outside of the Acropolis Metro Station (Makrigianni street entrance/exit), at street level, next to the Metro sign.
37°58'08.6"N 23°43'46.7"E
Google Maps Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/8zeiGyw7iRsfCdxN8>
- {label-what3words-location}
- Starting time: Various
- Ending point:
Monastiraki Square

Full Itinerary

Begin just off the Acropolis Metro Station in Makrygianni, where you can see 5,000-year-old city remnants nestled beneath the new Acropolis Museum. Stroll around Koukaki, one of Athens's hippest and liveliest neighborhoods. Stop at Taki's Bakery, which has been satiating neighbors since 1962, for a koulouri sesame ring or tsoureki, sweet Greek bread.

Immerse yourself in Athenian coffee culture by sipping a freddo espresso or frappé coffee. In Greece, iced coffee drinks are popular year round. Next, go behind the scenes at Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum. Take a lesson on traditional techniques of metalsmithing and decorative art, combined with industrial materials like acrylic or plastic.

Then, head to Philopappos Hill. Follow the trail with the marble monument of Philopappos, completed in 119 A.D., and the monument of Pnyx, where ancient Athenians like Pericles and Themistocles spoke. There's a great view of the Acropolis. More great views await as you stroll Anafiotika, with its cobblestone alleys and the white-washed homes nearly stacked on top of one another.

Wander around the historical neighborhood of Plaka and stop for a delicious variety of local pites, or Greek homemade savory pies. Continue to the country's largest open-air market for treasures, some billed as "antiques" but probably not. Meet a sandal artisan and poet in his workshop. Three generations of his family have served celebrities like Sarah Jessica Parker, the Beatles and Barbra Streisand. Perhaps order a pair for yourself.

Then, try wrapping your own gyros at one of the city's oldest establishments. It's not so easy to get the pita filled with meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie, tomato, onion, tzatziki sauce and, sometimes, French fries. It's cocktail hour, so we'll finish up at a hipster bar's rooftop which has breathtaking views of the Acropolis, the Roman Agora and Hadrian's Library. It's a perfect spot to say "yiamas" to your new friends.

The New York Times Reading List:

- [Great Retsina, an Oxymoron No More](#)
- [From Wine to Sweets, Greek Goodies at a New Athens Market](#)
- [Athens, Rising](#)
- [Five Places to Go in Athens](#)
- [Stelios Faitakis: How Greece Inspires His Art](#)

Additional information

Inclusions: Local, English-speaking guide, one freddo espresso or frappé coffee, one local Koulouri or Tsoureki, one large portion of Greek pie, one gyros, two hands-on Greek experiences, one behind-the-scenes access at Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum.

Exclusions: Guide gratuity

Confirmation of booking: If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We'll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Child Policy: This is a child-friendly tour. Children between the ages of 6 and 11 inclusively are permitted on this tour at the rate listed above. Please select 'child' above when booking. Children under the age of 6 are permitted to join this tour free of charge. Please inform us at the time of booking if you'll be bringing a child under the age of 6. You can do so in the special request box on the checkout page.

Dietary Notes

We can accommodate vegetarians and other dietary restrictions. Please notify us in advance if you have any dietary requests. You can do so in the 'Additional information' box at checkout, or by emailing us at info@athensurbanadventures.com

Local contact

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