

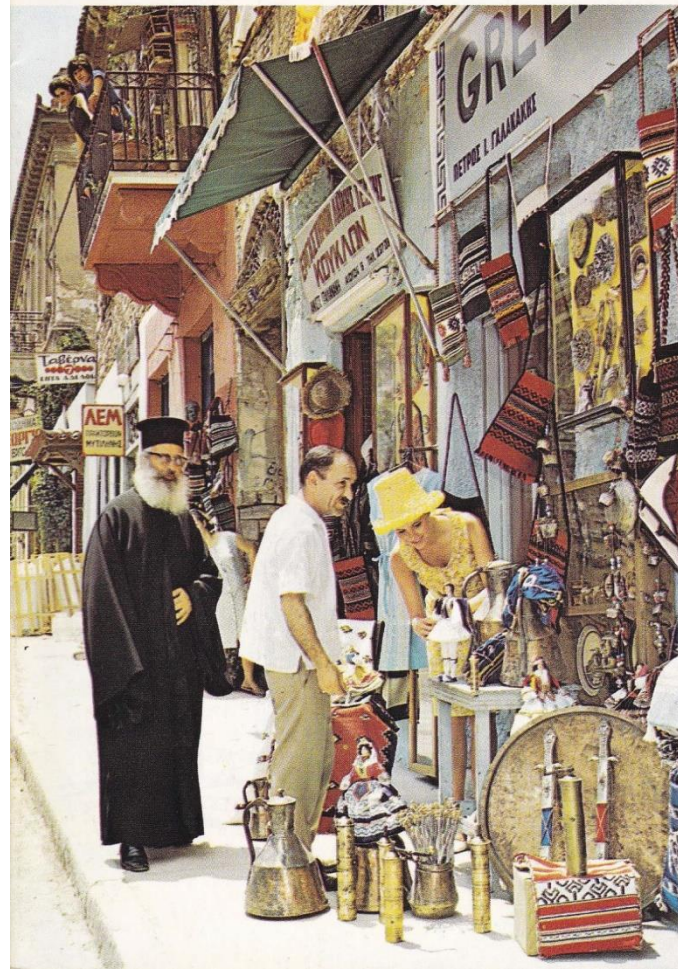


SAS CITY PORTRAIT

Athens

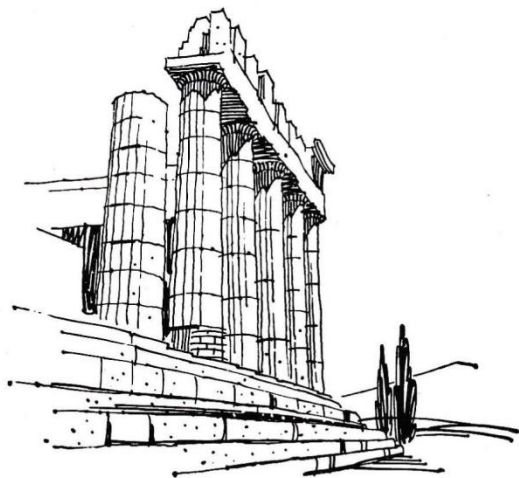
9th ed.

SAS SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES



Introduction	3	Tipping	16
Your arrival in Athens	3	Shopping	16
Entry regulations	4	Business hours	16
Hotels	4	Transportation	17
Restaurants and cuisine	5	Sports	17
Sights and excursions	7	Climate and clothing	17
City map and useful addresses	10	Language	18
"One hour's walk" suggestion	12	Religious services	19
Excursion map	13	Public holidays	19
Entertainment and night life	15		

The information given in this booklet is based on facts available in July 1974.



Front cover: Bargain shopping – see page 16.

Introduction

The city of Athens is steeped in four thousand years of eventful history. It is the cornerstone of western culture, filled with memories of Ancient Greek gods. This is the homeland of Plato and Socrates – men whose ideas so revolutionized the course of man's philosophies. Here you can visit those architectural marvels of the Old World – the Erechtheion, the Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus – and wonder at the many splendours remaining from the Golden Age of Hellas, twenty-four hundred years ago.

According to legend, King Theseus (who overcame the Minotaur) united the smaller states of Attica in about 1100 B.C., and was the founder of the Athenian constitution. The brightest glory was reached in the 5th century B.C., after victories over the Persians at Marathon (490 B.C.), Salamis (480 B.C.) and Plataea (479 B.C.). When your guide talks about the Golden Age of Pericles he is referring to that time. He will tell you how, while most of the world lay in savagery, the noble dramas of Sophocles, Aeschylus and Euripides were conceived, the comedies of Aristophanes born.

Alexander the Great expanded the influence of Athens deep into Asia, and his successors, and after them the Romans, ruled the city with considerable respect for its cultural heritage. The Romans made a major contribution to the city's development and Hadrian's Arch, remains of which can be seen today, marks the border between ancient Athens and the Roman city.

However, Athens' position as the intellectual center of the world ended in 529 A.D. when the Byzantine Emperor Justinian closed its philosophical schools. During these years of Byzantine rule, Athens became a provincial city and the seat of a metropolitan. Today the capital of Greece is a bustling modern city with a million and a half people, a cosmopolitan gateway to the East, and a popular Mediterranean tourist center.

Your arrival in Athens

Hellenikon Airport (East), 9 miles (14 km) from the capital's center, is the international air gateway to this ancient land. It contains restaurant, café, shops and banking facilities in the customs hall.

Currency. There are 100 lepta to one drachma. Favorable exchange rates make Greece one of the less expensive countries of Europe.

After passing through customs, point out your baggage to a porter who will convey it to the coach or taxi. Coach fare

to Athens town terminal at 10 Amalias Avenue is DRA18. Taxi fare DRA85.

The SAS office is conveniently located at the city's center (16 El Venizelou Street, H4 on your map) and any member of the SAS staff will advise you on any travel problems that may arise.

If you are flying on from Athens by SAS, one of the first things to do on arrival is to reconfirm your onward reservation by informing SAS of your intention to use the space reserved. Should you decide to delay your departure from Athens, it is equally essential that you inform the SAS office so that they can allocate you an alternative seat.

Entry regulations

Visas and Vaccination. Most nationalities do not require a visa for a stay of up to 90 days in Greece. Visitors arriving from Asia, Australia or Africa will need a certificate of vaccination against smallpox.

Customs regulations. You may bring in DRA750 in local banknotes and unlimited foreign currency to be exchanged as required. Amounts exceeding US\$500 or its equivalent must be declared. You may also take in duty-free 200 cigarettes (or 50 cigars) and one bottle of alcoholic beverage. On leaving Greece you may take along with you foodstuff and souvenirs up to an amount not exceeding US\$100 or DRA3,000.

Hotels

Athens has long been a much-visited city and consequently offers many excellent hotels. As with all popular resorts, however, it is essential to book well in advance through your travel agent or SAS. Either can offer you a detailed information on all classes of hotel – with immediate confirmation of accommodation in most. Should you arrive unaccommodated, the list below may assist you in your choice of hotel.

De luxe class

Amalia (H7)
10 Amalias Avenue.
Tel. 3237-301.

Athénéé Palace (H5)
1 Kolokotroni Square.
Tel. 3230-791.

Grande Bretagne (I6)
1 Vass. Georgiou I Street.
Tel. 3230-251.

Hilton (off L6)
46 Vass. Sofias Avenue.
Tel. 720-210.

King George (H6)
3 Vass. Georgiou I Street.
Tel. 3230-651.

King's Palace (I5)
4 El. Venizelou Avenue.
Tel. 623-231.

Royal Olympic (H10)
28 Diakou Street.
Tel. 9226-411/3.

First class

Astor (G6)
16 Kar. Servias Street.
Tel. 3224-971.

Electra (H6)
5 Hermou Street.
Tel. 3226-921.

Electra Palace (G7)
18 Nicodimou Street.
Tel. 3241-401/10.

Esperia (G4)
22 Stadiou Street.
Tel. 3238-001.

Olympic Palace (H7)
16 Philellinon Street.
Tel. 3237-611/15.

Standard class

Arethusa (H6)
Mitropoleos & Niki.
Tel. 3229-431.

Diomia (G5)
5 Diomias Street.
Tel. 3238-034/8.

Galaxy (I4)
22 Academias Street.
Tel. 632-831.

Ilissia (off L16 behind Hilton)
25 Michalakopoulou Street.
Tel. 744-051.

Lycabette (I5)
6 Valaoritou Street.
Tel. 633-514.

Tourist class

Omonia (F1)
Omonia Sq. &
3rd September Street.
Tel. 537-211/19.

Parnon (F1)
3rd September &
Halkokondyli Street.
Tel. 530-013/4.

Philippos (E7)
3 Mitseon Street.
Tel. 9223-611/15.

De luxe hotels will cost from DRA600 for a single room with bath, and from DRA800 for a double. First class hotels charge from DRA400 for a single room with bath, and from DRA600 for a double. Standard class hotels will cost from DRA300 for a single room with bath or shower, and from DRA500 for a double. Tourist class hotels charge from DRA200 for a single room, and from DRA300 for a double.

Breakfast and 15% service charge (in lieu of tips) are included in the rates quoted unless otherwise stated. Expect to pay a small municipal tax, and in some cases an extra 10% if you stay less than two days. Air-conditioning, where present, also entails a small surcharge: DRA45 per single room and DRA70 per double.

For some standard/tourist class hotels in Athens and for resort hotels in the islands, provinces and even the outskirts of the city one must make "half-pension" arrangements.

Note: The voltage in Athens is 220 volts A.C., 50 cycles; in the countryside it is often 110 volts.

Restaurants and cuisine

All the leading hotels maintain first-class restaurants, often with French cuisine, some with dancing and cabaret in the evenings. For local cooking, try one of the many taverns in the old district of Plaka beneath the Acropolis (see list under "Entertainment and night life"). If you're traveling on a very slender budget, the YWCA, not far from the SAS office, has self-service food at reasonable prices.

WHERE TO EAT

Byzantine Café (off L6)
In the Athens Hilton,
Sophias Ave.
Open 24 hours a day for meals
and snacks.

Corfu (I5)
Kriezotou St., near
Constitution Square.
Good food. Specialities from
Corfu.

Gerofinikas (J4)

Pindarou Street.

Greek specialities.

Dionyssos (E9)

Philopappos Hill, near Acropolis.

Greek and French cuisine.

Le Bistrot de Paris (E1)

Karolou St., near Ormonia Square.

French specialities. Closed Tuesday.

Lucullus (I5)

In Hotel Lycabette

Valaoritou St.,

off Constitution Square.

Greek and international food.

A/R-conditioned.

Steak Room (off L6)

Aeginitou Street.

Good steaks.

Ta Nissia (off L6)

In the Athens Hilton, Sophias Avenue.

Greek specialities and music.

Tudor Hall (H6)

In the King George Hotel, Constitution Square.

Dancing every evening.

Zonar's (I5)

El. Venizelou Street.

Continental food.

WHAT TO EAT

The adventurous traveler will want to try out some of the excellent Greek dishes provided at most restaurants and taverns. Here are some specialities to ask for: Dolmadakia (lamb served with vine leaves stuffed with seasoned rice and currants); Taramosalata (pâté of smoked cod's roe); Zatziki (cucumber, yoghurt and garlic); Baby lamb, suckling pig, stuffed chicken cooked on the spit or charcoal-grilled; Souvlaki (portions of meat grilled on skewers); Moussaka (layers of minced meat and eggplant or artichoke topped with a cheese sauce and baked).

Freshly-caught fish and shellfish are a speciality of Athens, or you can go down to the yacht harbor of Piraeus for a meal in an open-air restaurant where you can sample delicious lobster, shrimp, crab, oysters, crayfish, red mullet (barbounia), bass (lethrinia) and octopus (ktapodi).

At the end of the meal you should try one of the local cheeses. Feta, Manouri and Graviera are good. Fresh fruit in season is delicious. Alternatively, there are the tempting honey-filled pastries and, of course, Turkish coffee.

WHAT TO DRINK

Retsina (resinated wine) is perhaps the most famous local wine, but its raw, aromatic flavor is not to everyone's taste. Others to try are Pallini, which is dry and white, Samos, called



after the district, Kokinelli, and Mavrodaphne, which is sweet. Ouzo is an aniseed-flavored spirit reminiscent of absinthe.

Water in Athens is safe for drinking, but should you travel to the surrounding districts, ask for the local mineral water (nevo epitrapezio), which is very good and cheap, or drink boiled water. "International" beverages can be bought in most places, but be prepared to pay the price.

Sights and excursions**SIGHTSEEING BY COACH**

The morning and afternoon coach tours, staffed by multilingual guides, are recommended. Tours depart daily at 9 a.m. from Constitution Square between the Hotels King George and Grande Bretagne (H6) and also from the Athenee Palace Hotel (H5). Tickets are available at all travel agencies.

Morning visits include the Royal Palace (K7), Temple of Olympian Zeus (H9), Arch of Hadrian (H8), Byzantine Museum (L6), Benaki Museum (K6), Archaeological Museum and Byzantine churches. Afternoon tours, starting at 4 p.m. (3 p.m. in winter), will take you to the Lysicrates Monument (F8), Odeon of Herodes Atticus (D8), Acropolis (E8), Areopagos (C7), Socrates' prison (G8), Theseum (C6), Tower of the Winds (E7), and Ancient Agora (D6). Details of individual monuments and museums will be found on the succeeding pages.

In the evenings, at 8.30, you may join a coach party to see the dramatic presentation of Greek history in Sound and Light at the Acropolis, continuing afterwards to Philopappos Hill, and finishing with a display of folk dancing in the open air by the Dora Stratou group. Nightly from April 15th to October 15th.

As an alternative, there is a year-round evening tour which includes a drink by the seashore at Tourkolimano followed by dinner in a typical Greek taverna with bouzouki music and folk dancing.

MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS

Acropolis (E8). This sacred hill with its crown of classic temples dominates Athens, and can be seen from almost any point in the city. Entering the Acropolis (the most famous archaeological site in the Western World) you pass through the stairs leading to the Propylaea, a magnificent entrance built 437–432 B.C. with both Doric and Ionic columns. To the right of the Propylaea is the Niki Temple (E8), in Ionic style. This was constructed a few years earlier. Now walk over

the plateau, the Sacred Road taken by long-past processions, to the Parthenon and the Erechtheion.

The Parthenon (E8) was built 447–432 B.C. in honor of the virgin goddess Athena. It is considered the most perfect example of classical architecture in existence. During the Turkish regime the temple was turned first into a mosque and then into a gunpowder store, when it was blown up (1686 A.D.), later to be restored. There is a beautiful view from the Parthenon over the roofs of Athens towards the Lycabettus Hill opposite the Acropolis.

The Erechtheion (E8), built 421–407 B.C., has a beautiful porch supported by six female figures, or Caryatides. The third statue from the left is a copy, since the original was taken to England and can now be seen in the British Museum, London.

Behind the Parthenon lies the Acropolis Museum with its store of treasures from the area. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesdays 12 noon to 5 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. (No children admitted.)

The Acropolis opens every day from 7.30 a.m. to sunset, but a moonlight visit is a memorable experience, and this is possible between 9 p.m. and midnight during the period of the full moon. Entrance fee.

The view from the Acropolis is extensive and includes to the west the Pnyx (D8), a small hill used in ancient times as a platform for orators. Nearby is the Areopagos, once the seat of the highest tribunal – the place from which St. Paul exhorted the Athenians.

Somewhat lower, northwest of the Acropolis, you will see the beautiful Temple of Hephaistos, God of Fire and Metal. It is called the Theseum (C6) and is one of the best preserved temples in the Doric style, built in the fifth century B.C. The temple stands by the ancient market, the Agora (D6), excavated after World War I by members of the American School of Classical Studies. Archaeological finds from the Agora are exhibited in the restored Stoa of Attalus, an oblong gallery located east of the Theseum. This museum opens daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays and holidays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entrance fee. The Agora opens from 7.30 a.m. to sunset.

About 10 minutes' walk from the Theseum is the Kerameikos (B4), the cemetery of early Athenians. The original memorial stones are now in the Archaeological Museum, but copies replace them.

Also not far from the Agora, built in the opposite direction, is the octagonal Tower of the Winds (7), named from its symbolic reliefs.

Old Mitropolis Church (G6). This religious edifice is the oldest and smallest Byzantine church in Attica – a very fine building situated next to the main church of Athens in Mitropoleos Square.

Hadrian's Arch (H8). Southeast of the Acropolis, near the Temple of Zeus, stands Hadrian's Arch. This was built as a city gate by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, who placed it between ancient Athens and the new Roman city. Nearby is the Lysicrates monument, dating from the fourth century B.C.

Olympeion (H9). The Olympeion, temple of Zeus, was intended to be the largest temple in the city. Work began on it in the sixth century B.C., but it was not completed until the reign of Hadrian, eight centuries later. Today only a few of the majestic tall columns in Corinthian style are left.

The Stadium (K9). The Stadium, built in 330 B.C., was destroyed by the Turks. When the first Olympic Games of our time took place in Athens in 1896, a new and fine stadium was built of solid white marble on the same site, commanding a superb view of the Acropolis and Mount Lycabettus.

The Byzantine Museum (L6). Situated in Vass. Sophias Ave. (number 2), the Museum contains important collections of religious art, sculptures, paintings and mosaics. Open daily in summer 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Closed Mondays. Entrance free on Thursdays and Sundays to groups of less than five. Otherwise a small fee per person.

The Benaki Museum (K6). The Museum at 1 Koumbari Street, exhibits handicrafts from the Byzantine period to the present day, works of original art and a unique collection of regional costumes from various parts of Greece. Open 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. Closed Tuesday and Sunday afternoons. Admission fee.

The National Archaeological Museum (off F1). Situated at the junction of Tositsa and Patisision streets, the Archaeological Museum possesses a collection of beautiful vases of the Archaic and Classic periods, masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture, and historic Mycenaean treasures. Open daily in summer 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Sundays and holidays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Mondays. Entrance fee on Thursdays and Sundays to groups of less than five. Otherwise a small fee per person. The same building houses the Numismatic and the Epigraphic museums.

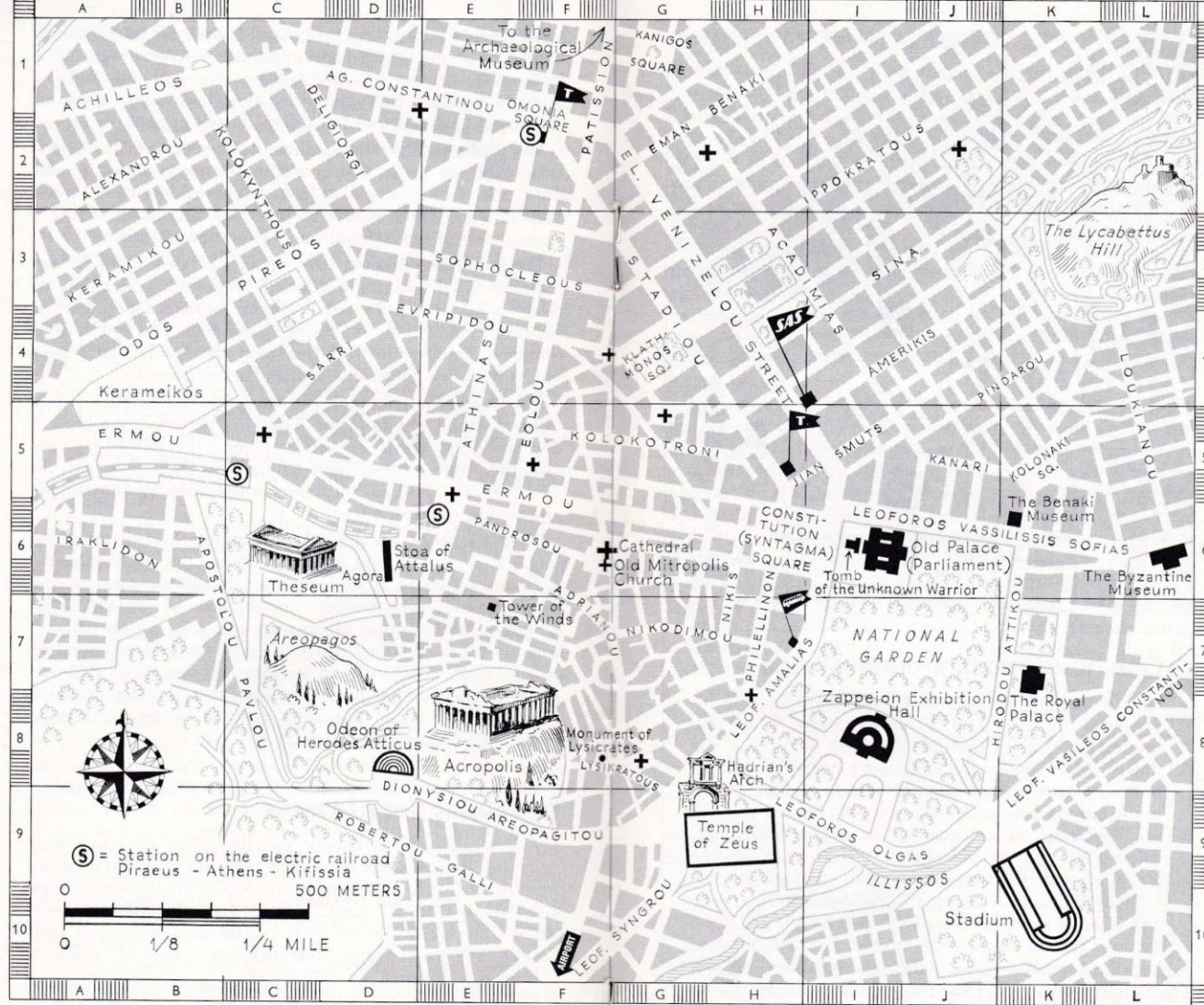
EXCURSIONS OUT OF ATHENS

Almost all parts of Greece can be visited by coach tour or cruise, though some excursions take you several days away from Athens. You might like to join one of the interesting trips arranged by C.H.A.T., A.B.C., KEY, or LUXURY, where all your worries are taken care of. Seats can be booked through your hotel or at a travel agency, and such tour companies will pick you up at your hotel.

For the more independent, there are car-hire firms to rent you a vehicle with or without chauffeur. Car ferries operate from Athens to Corfu, allowing visitors to break off for sight-seeing at no extra charge. If you want to do this, however, you must state your intention at the booking office.

For the experienced sailor, one of the best ways of visiting the islands would be by small boat, sailing as his fancy chooses on sunny summer waters. All shapes and sizes of boat, including luxury yachts complete with crew, can be chartered through your travel agent.

(cont'd on page 13)



Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (I4) is located where lines drawn from "1" and "4" cross each other.

Interesting sights in Athens

- (E8) Acropolis.
- (I/7) The National Garden.
- (L6) The Benaki Museum.
- (K6) The Lycabettus Hill.
- (L2) The Archaeological Museum (north of F1).

Useful addresses

- SAS** SAS Ticket Office:
16 El. Venizelou Street (corner Amerikis Str. - 14), tel. 634-444/9.
Open hours: Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
(summer: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.), Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Air Terminal**: 10 Amalias Avenue, in front of Amalia Hotel (H7).
- T** Tourist Information Office:
Omonia Sq. (in the subway station - H5), tel. 225-899.
Also 4 Stadiou Street (H5), tel. 3223-111.

Distance from city center to airport: 9 miles (14 km).

(cont'd from page 9)

WHAT TO SEE ON THE MAINLAND

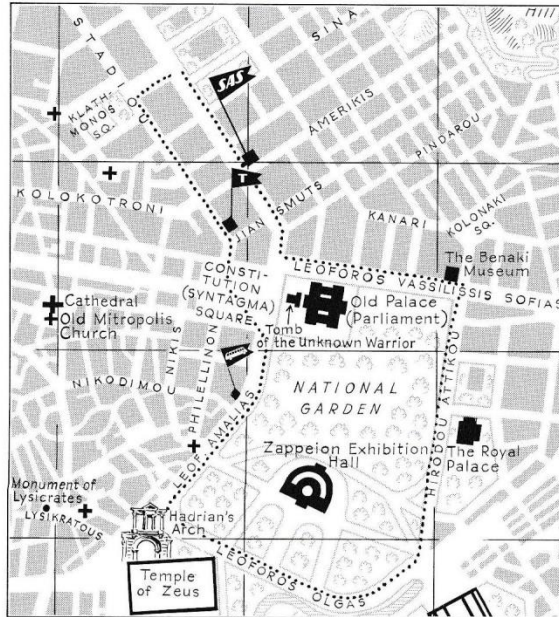
Ancient Corinth (64 miles – 100 km – from Athens). Prime attraction here is the ruins of the city dedicated to Aphrodite, Goddess of Love. See the Temple of Apollo (Sun God), the Fountain of Peireus and the Rostra, made famous by St. Paul's defence against the Roman governor (Acts XVIII). Climb the vast medieval fortress of Acrocorinth (1,885 ft. – 600 m) for the magnificent view from its summit. Half-day coach tours are available.

Delphi (110 miles – 174 km – from Athens). Delphi is the breathtaking site of Ancient Oracle, 2,000 ft. (650 m) up on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus. Eagles wheel over the mountain peaks. Sacred olive groves shine silver in the sun. Here you'll wander ruins of temples, theater, stadium, witness the famous bronze statue of Charioteer in the museum. Daily coach tours are available.

Epidaurus (110 miles – 174 km – from Athens). The highlights of Epidaurus include the best-preserved ancient theater in the world (4 centuries before Christ), boasting unequalled acoustics. Here every summer in June–July is staged a dramatic festival. See also the Shrine of Asklepius, God of Medicine, and a landscape of woods and ravines. Daily coach tours embody visits to Corinth, Mycenae, Tyrins and Nafplia.

Mycenae (86 miles – 130 km – from Athens). Mycenae is the home of mythical heroes of the Atreus clan, Agamemnon and Orestes. See the massive Lion Gate, the Royal Tombs, the ancient fortress towering over a rocky landscape. Tours as above.

Olympia (220 miles – 332 km – from Athens). This is the idyllic site of the first Olympic Games, exemplified by the ruins of a stadium once capable of housing over 20,000 spectators. Also available to the sightseer are the Temple of Zeus, Phidias workshop, and the statue of Hermes by Praxiteles in the local museum. Two-day tours include a visit to Delphi and full board.



One hour's walk around Athens

Start at the SAS office at 16 El. Venizelou Street (University Street). Follow El. Venizelou Street to the left, turning left again at Leoforos Vassilissis Sofias. Pass the flower shops (under the Parliament Building) and the National Garden. Turn right at Hirodu Attikou Street, in the fashionable residential area. On your left you will see the Royal Palace, guarded by the strikingly uniformed Evzones. At the end of the street stands the Stadium, and the reproduction of the statue, the "Discus Thrower". Turn right along Leoforos Olgas Avenue walking as far as Hadrian's Arch. Here, to the right, you will see the Zappeion Exhibition Hall and, on your left, the Temple of Zeus. Turn right again into Amalias Avenue, walking until you reach Constitution Square on your left. At this point, the Parliament Building and the Monument of the Unknown Soldier will be on your right. Cross Constitution Square diagonally and walk along Stadiou Street, lined with smart shops, to Klathmonos Square. Turn right into Korai Street. At the far end, you will face (across El. Venizelou Street) three imposing buildings: the National Library, the University and the Academy. A right turn into El. Venizelou Street will bring you back to the SAS office.



Meteora (245 miles – 369 km – from Athens). Meteora comprises a forest of gigantic rock-columns, many of which are crowned with a medieval monastery. Visit one of the five still in use for an intriguing glimpse of Orthodox monastic life, virtually unchanged in six centuries.

Mystra (138 miles – 221 km – from Athens). Situated at the foot of Mt. Taygetus (4 miles – 6 km – from Sparta), this complete Byzantine city is deserted by all except the nuns of Pantanassa. Empty palaces, houses and many churches with magnificent frescoes are on hand for the modern explorer to wander.

Sounion (53 miles – 80 km – from Athens). A scenic drive along the coast road to the tip of the mainland, Sounion is heralded by the Temple of Poseidon high on cliffs overlooking the Aegean Sea. Breathtaking sunsets add to the romance of an evening visit. Afternoon tours.

THE ISLANDS

The isles of Greece offer boundless opportunities for relaxation and pleasure. Although similar at first glance, each one has its own atmosphere, traditions, costumes and festivals. All can be reached by boat from Piraeus.

Aegina. See here blue-domed churches, painted houses, rolling countryside and the best-preserved Doric temple in Greece.

Hydra. Favorite of artists and writers, Hydra is often called the “Greek Capri” (a title which it disputes with Mykonos), perhaps on account of its boisterous bistros.

Both Hydra and Aegina are within easy reach of Athens, being visited daily in the summer by motor yachts “Marina” and “Meltemi”. Fare DRA450.

Corfu. Bathe in the crystalline waters of the beach where Odysseus was rescued by the lovely Nausicaa. Or gamble in the casino. Or shop for the exquisite local handicrafts . . . All are typical of a Corfu holiday.

Crete. Crete holds fascination for the visitor in the Palace of Knossos, center of Minoan civilization (legendary home of the ferocious Minotaur), largely restored in its labyrinthine complexity; in its wild and unspoiled scenery, caves and grottoes, surprisingly near to modern hotels. Cap it all if time permits with a shopping spree for an item of local handicraft – a hand-woven rug, delicate embroidery or sturdy basket.

Delos. Recently freed from the debris of centuries, Delos can be considered the Pompeii of Greece. Temples, theaters and great private houses with subtle mosaics can be seen almost as they were in ancient times, when the island was a center for the cult of Apollo, and commerce.

Mykonos. One of the most picturesque islands in the Greek archipelago, Mykonos is a fashionable and windswept place with square, dazzlingly white-washed houses, quayside taverns, and many thatched windmills.

Rhodes. Island of Roses or Bride of the Sun, Rhodes is the largest and most beautiful of the Dodecanese. Notable for its silverwork and pottery. The island’s superb scenery is enriched

by the building of successive civilizations – Greek temples, Roman baths, Turkish minarets, Frankish fortresses.

Melos. Peaceful island with miles of smooth, sandy beaches to bask on, clear blue seas to bathe in. Remarkable, whether you’re moved by history or not, are the catacombs built in the times of the early Christians.

Entertainment and night life

Changing of the Guard. This picturesque ceremony takes place every Sunday at 11 a.m. by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Constitution Square. The Royal Guard (Evzones), Commandos, Air Force, Navy and State Police each serve a week’s duty in turn. The evzones can also be seen every day of the year outside the Royal Palace (K8).

Music and Theater. Open-air performances in the Odeon of Herodes Atticus (D8), below the Acropolis, are major attractions in the summer months. Here, you may enjoy a variety of plays, ballets and concerts, both ancient and modern. Sometimes the works of foreign artists are performed. The National Tourist Organization produces a leaflet giving details of the Athens Festival every year, which includes events outside the city, such as the Epidaurus Festival.

“Son et Lumiere”. Every night, except at the time of full moon, a dramatic portrayal of Greek history in sound and light is given in the majestic setting of the Acropolis. Narration spoken in English, French and Greek.

Folk Dance and Song. For lighter entertainment, you should visit the gigantic outdoor theater on Philopappos Hill, where the Dora Stratou group performs nightly from April to October at 10.30 p.m.; also on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Wine Festival at Daphni. Join this hospitable gathering in September for a taste of the great variety of Greek wines and food, made more enjoyable still by vivacious folk music and dancing. Countries outside Greece have recently joined in this Festival, sending their own wines and dancers to add to the fun. And you can drink as much as you like without paying for it!

Tavernas and night clubs. Tavernas are much frequented by Greeks as well as tourists, and vary a great deal in quality. Some provide the nostalgic *bouzouki* music; some offer songs and dances; others concentrate on good food alone. Most serve only national dishes, often grilled over a charcoal fire, to be accompanied by the “wine of the house”. The decor is usually simple.

A few tavernas are listed below, all to be found in the old district of Plaka beneath the Acropolis.

<i>Acropolis</i>	<i>Fanaria</i>	<i>Taverna ton Theon</i>
<i>Assos Tou Krasiou</i>	<i>Kalokerinos</i>	<i>Vlachos</i>
<i>Calypso</i>	<i>Mostrou</i>	<i>Xynou</i>
<i>Epta Adelfia</i>	<i>Plaka</i>	

Nightclubs, on the other hand, tend to be more luxurious and correspondingly more expensive. Many maintain branches

at the summer beaches of Kalamaki and Kastella. "Green Park", in Mavromateon Street, has a two-hour floor show with international stars; "Donald Scotch Club" in Plaka is more of a discotheque; "Koukouyaya", also in Plaka, features international jazz.

A full list of recommended tavernas, nightclubs, restaurants and bars is published each week in "This Week in Athens".

Tipping

In hotels, restaurants and bars there is usually a supplementary charge of 15–20% intended to cover service and taxes, but your waiter and his young assistant will each hope for a small personal gratuity if they have looked after you properly. Taxis-drivers are usually given about 10% of the fare; luggage porters DRA5 per suitcase. Ushers in theaters and cloakroom attendants customarily receive DRA5 and DRA2 in cinemas for each person seated.

Shopping

Unless you're buying soap, toothpaste, toilet requisites, photographic films and British or American cigarettes, Greece is one of the cheapest countries in Europe to shop in.

There are tempting bargains in furs. Look along Mitropoleus Street, Voulis Street, Karageorgi Servias Street, and Philellinon Street – all on the outskirts of Constitution Square.

Strolling around town, you will notice displays of handicrafts sent from all parts of Greece; woolen blankets and rugs (flokates) from Arachova; gold, silver and bronze ware from Jannina and Corfu; earthenware and black pottery from Rhodes; weaving and embroidery from Mykonos, Hydra and Spetsai; woodcarvings and furniture from Skyros, Corfu, Vytina and Metsovo.

Handicraft shops are to be found all over Athens. Highly recommended amongst the many are "Their Majesties' Fund" shops in Voukourestiou Street. Another district to browse for objets d'art and second-hand finds, is the Monastiraki area (Pandrossou Street and the Flea Market). Small dolls dressed in the picturesque costume of the Royal Guard make particularly popular souvenirs.

Finally, do not overlook the local wines and spirits as possible gifts to take back home. Also Hymettos honey, currants, figs, cheese from Crete and Skyros, pistachios from Aegina, olives and Greek tobacco.

Business hours

Generally shopping hours from April to September are: 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Half-day Wednesdays and Saturdays. From October to March: 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 to 7.30 p.m. Half-day Saturdays.

Note: Shopping hours also depend on the season!

Banks are open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays, but the American Express, Commercial Credit Bank and National Bank of Greece also operate an afternoon service for the convenience of visitors.

Grocers, barbers and hairdressers shut on Wednesday afternoons. Confectioners and cafés open Sundays.

Transportation

The main streets of Athens are well served by trolley-bus, bus and taxi, and there are eighteen taxi stations.

Taxi fares are reasonable (DRA5 per kilometer), but after midnight you will have to pay a surcharge of DRA5 per ride, which is automatically added to the fare.

The Lycabettus funicular, starting from the top of Plutarchou Street (L3), provides an easy way to the top of the Lycabettus Hill and a panoramic view of Athens. It operates from 10 a.m. to midnight and costs DRA15 round-trip.

Those contemplating cruises may be interested in the subway that links Piraeus to Kiffissia via Athens.

Sports

Today's Greeks are as keen on sports as when their ancestors originated the Olympic Games. Athletic events, particularly football matches, are major national affairs. Soccer matches are held every Sunday at Panathinaikos Football Grounds.

Among the best-known clubs are: the Club Hippique at Halandri (horseback riding), the Lawn Tennis Club, and the golf club at Gylfada, some 8 miles (12 kms) south of Athens.

There is horse-racing every Wednesday and Saturday at Phaleron. Also yacht racing on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and all Sunday from the Tourkalimano Yacht Club which, together with the Aquatic Sports Club of Vouliagmeni, welcomes visitors.

Beautiful sandy beaches at Phaleron, Kalamaki, Alimos, Glyfada and Vouliagmeni invite the swimmer and sunbather, while the deeper waters provide unrivalled opportunities for fisherman and sailor alike. In fact, you may be sure that, whatever your favorite sport, Athens and its surroundings can provide it.

Climate and clothing

Athens is blessed with a wonderful climate and a generous share of crisp, sunny days. Spring and autumn are ideal for visiting Greece, the climate then being mild and temperate day and night. Even in summer the nights are reasonably cool, and winter temperatures seldom drop below 48°F (9°C).

Below are listed the average monthly high and low temperatures:

	High		Low			High		Low	
	°F	°C	°F	°C		°F	°C	°F	°C
January	54	12	42	6	July	90	32	72	22
February	55	13	43	6	August	90	32	72	22
March	60	16	46	8	September	83	28	66	19
April	67	19	52	11	October	74	23	60	15
May	77	25	60	15	November	64	18	51	11
June	85	29	67	19	December	57	14	46	8

Formal dress is rarely needed. A cardigan and overcoat will come in handy between November and March. Dry cleaning and laundry are excellent and prompt, and can best be arranged through your hotel.

Language

"The Greeks have a word for it" is not a saying that was born without justification. The Greeks, indeed, have their own alphabet. And whilst the characters may seem complicated at first, you should, in a surprisingly short space of time, be able to understand a great many words.

The names of the main streets in Athens (see map on page 10) are written as follows:

Panepistimiou (Venizelou)	Leoforos Vassilissis Sofias
Stadiou	Leoforos Amalias
Ermou	Philellinon
Athinas	Vassileos
Voukourestiou	Patission

The following words will prove useful:

ENGLISH	GREEK
Yes	<i>Nai</i>
No	<i>Ôhi</i>
Good morning	<i>Kaliméra</i>
Good evening	<i>Kalispéra</i>
How do you do!	<i>Háirete</i>
Please	<i>Parakaló</i>
Thank you	<i>Efharistó</i>
Where?	<i>Pou?</i>
Do you speak . . . ?	<i>Miláte . . . ?</i>
English	<i>Angliká</i>
French	<i>Galliká</i>
German	<i>Germaniká</i>
What is the time?	<i>Ti óra ine?</i>
Hotel	<i>Xenodohion</i>
What does it cost?	<i>Póso káni?</i>
Cigarette	<i>Tsigáro</i>
Stamp	<i>Gramatósimo</i>



Religious services

The following addresses may be helpful:

Anglican: St. Paul's, Philellinon Street (H7).

Protestant: Christus Kirche, 66 Sina Street (K2). St. Andrew's American, 66 Sina Street (K2).

Roman Catholic: St. Dennis' Cathedral, Panepistimiou Avenue (H4).

Hebrew: Jewish Synagogue, 5 Melidoni Street (D5).

Public holidays

Shops and offices are closed on the following official holidays:

January 1	New Year's Day.
January 6	Baptism of Christ.
40 days before Easter	First day of Lent. "Clean Monday".
March 25	Independence Day. Military Parade.
Easter	This may not coincide with the date set for Catholics and Protestants.
50 days after Easter	Holy Trinity Day.
August 15	Religious Holiday.
October 28	National Holiday. Parades in Thessaloniki.
December 25 & 26	Christmas, Boxing Day.

Easter is the most important religious event in Greece, and impressive ceremonies of the Greek Orthodox Church are held during Holy Week. A very picturesque procession is held on Good Friday, as "Epitafios" – Christ's Body – is taken around the churches at night, accompanied by crowds holding candles. On Easter Sunday, the people eat roast lamb cooked on spits out-of-doors, and hard-boiled eggs dyed red.

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier offers a colorful spectacle to the visitor (see page 15).

Edited by Mike Simon

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This extra SAS service allows you to preorder from eight different categories of special meals – 70 dishes, among which we are sure you will find a meal to suit your individual taste, or that of your children.

