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# Athens Travel Guide

*"From Bucket lists to boarding passes!"*

## Make Sure to Pack

**Walking Shoes:** Essential for navigating the slippery, ancient marble steps of the Acropolis and cobblestones of Plaka.

**Sun Protection:** Sunglasses, a hat, and high-SPF sunscreen—Athens gets extremely bright and hot, especially in summer.

**Clothing Layers:** Modest clothing (shoulders and knees covered) if visiting monasteries or active churches.

**Day Pack:** A secure, zipper-closed cross-body bag or backpack to keep belongings safe in crowded areas.

## First-Timer Must-Sees

**The Acropolis & Parthenon:** Explore the iconic ancient citadel; go early in the morning to beat the crowds and heat.

**Acropolis Museum:** A state-of-the-art museum housing artifacts retrieved directly from the sacred rock.

**Plaka & Anafiotika:** Wander the charming, picturesque neighborhood right under the Acropolis with island-style white houses.

**Ancient Agora & Temple of Hephaestus:** Walk where Socrates and Plato once debated in the heart of ancient civic life.

**Syntagma Square:** Watch the traditional Changing of the Presidential Guard in front of the Hellenic Parliament.

## What NOT To Do (Don'ts)

**Don't skip advance tickets:** Avoid long ticket lines at the Acropolis by booking your timed-entry slots online ahead of time.

**Don't wear smooth-soled shoes:** Ancient marble and limestone steps become very polished and slick over centuries of foot traffic.

**Don't flag down random street taxis:** Use official taxi ranks, pre-booked rides, or ride-hailing apps like Beat/FreeNow to avoid scams.

**Don't drink tap water in outer areas:** While Athens tap water is generally safe in the center, bottled water is cheap and preferred by most travelers.

## Cruising & City Hacks

**Combined Ticket:** Buy the multi-site archaeological ticket if you plan to visit multiple ruins over consecutive days to save money.

**Metro Navigation:** The Athens Metro is clean, fast, and connects the airport directly to the historic city center (Syntagma/Monastiraki).

**Rooftop Dining:** Book a dinner table at a rooftop restaurant in Monastiraki or Syntagma for stunning, illuminated views of the Parthenon at night.

**Siesta Hours:** Many smaller shops outside major tourist zones close in the mid-afternoon (around 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM).

*Practical note: Attraction hours, ticket rules, and transit details can change—verify information before your trip.*