

37°58'N 23°43'E

Athens

City Guide

ΟΥΔΕΜΙΑ ΣΧΕΣΗ
ΕΧΟΥΜΕ ΜΕ
ΑΛΛΟ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ

ΣΙΣΟΔΟΣ →



ABOUT THE CITY

Considered to be the cradle of Western Civilization and democracy, Athens has recently become a hub for artists, curators, young entrepreneurs and digital nomads. Young Greeks are opening pop-up restaurants, design collectives, hotels and many other exciting projects, giving new life to old buildings and forgotten areas. Athens is a city filled with energy, where up and coming art galleries, charming cafes and hip bars live alongside the world's most incredible ancient ruins. The best way to discover the city is to wander the streets and squares, taking in the vibrant scene. This guide is a collaboration with House of Shila, whose founders let us in on all the local city secrets.

VOCABULARY

Καλημέρα Kalimera and Καλησπέρα Kalispera / meaning "good morning" and "good evening"

Ευχαριστώ Efharisto / greek word for "thank you"

Ναι Ne and Όχι Ohee / meaning "yes" and "no"

Συγγνώμη Signomee / for "excuse me/sorry"

BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

While the city is generally a good year-round destination, the best time might be from March until early June or late September through early November, when the weather is warm and it's less crowded.

USEFUL INFO

Location: Greece

Language: Greek

Currency: Euro

Tips: not mandatory

Cash or card: bring some cash with you always.

HOW TO ARRIVE AND MOVE

Airport: Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos

Metro: 3 metro lines and a Tram line.

Taxi: SEBOGLOU TRANSFERS (Private)
+30 693 652 0682
Free now App
Uber App

KOLONAKI

Kolonaki is one of the most elegant neighborhoods in central Athens, with neoclassical and modernist buildings and numerous trendy restaurants and boutiques.

THISEIO

A historic neighbourhood, Thiseio boasts neoclassical buildings on hilly streets alongside open-air cafes, wine bars and rooftop restaurants with views of the Acropolis.

PSIRRI & METAXOURGEO

Psirri is the bohemian neighbourhood, with second-hand clothing shops and a buzzing nightlife. Metaxourgio still preserves its local atmosphere and it rarely feels packed.

PANGRATI & KALLIMARMARO

Pangrati is located right behind the Panathenaic Stadium, which makes it a perfect area for a relaxing afternoon in a park. Kallimarmaro is a small area inside Pangrati.

MONASTIRAKI

Monastiraki is an iconic and historic area. Between the Library of Hadrian and the lively flea market, the area boasts a combination of both ancient and modern.

SYNTAGMA

Syntagma is located in the very heart of Athens and is best known for being home to the iconic Constitution Square, situated in front of the Greek Parliament building.

EXARCHEIA

With graffiti-painted walls and vintage bookshops nestled in the area's streets, the Exarcheia neighbourhood has become known as Athens' underground area.

PLAKA & ANAFIOTIKA

Located at the foot of the Acropolis Hill, Plaka features neoclassical buildings that adorn its narrow cobblestone alleys. Anafiotika is an area within Plaka.

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ ME

MONASTIR

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

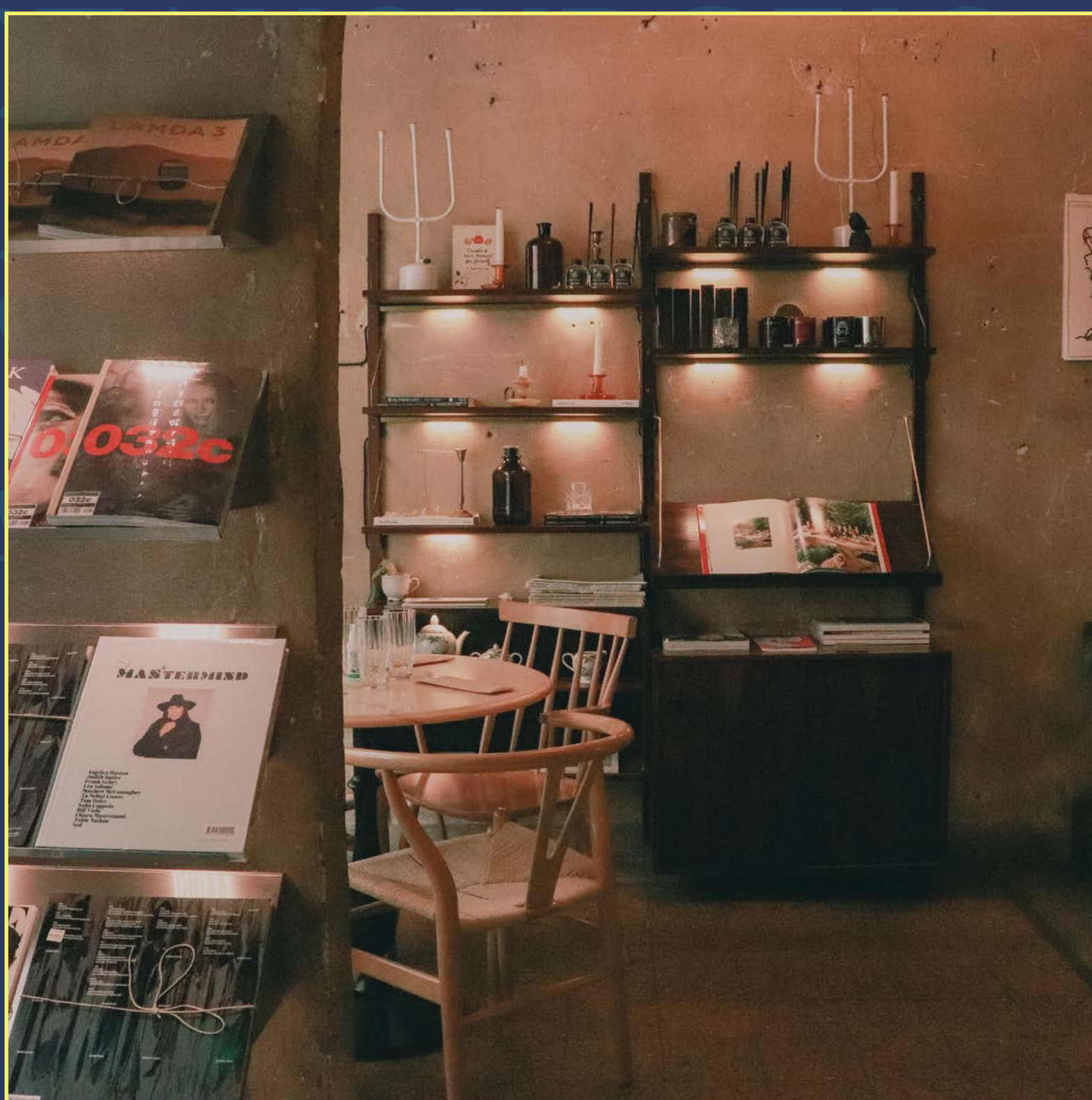
SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ ANAFIOTIKA

PETRALONA

PIRAEUS

DAYTRIPS



HOTEL

Shila

Set on a quiet street in the heart of Kolonaki district and housed in a late-1920s residence, Shila is a stunning boutique hotel where everything revolves around art and design.

[Mantzarou 10](#)

[@shila_athens](#)



RESTAURANT

Philos Athens

The best place for brunch. Housed in a 1930s building, Philos offers a thoughtfully curated menu featuring Greek-style eggs and more.

[Solonos 32](#)

[@philos_athens](#)

Kora

This bakery serves the best croissants and sourdough in town, making it an ideal spot for a sweet pause.

[Panagiotou Anagnostopoulou 44](#)

[@korabakery](#)



Jazz in Jazz

Jazz in Jazz is unique in its kind and a reference point in the neighborhood for an eclectic public. A family business created with love for the original jazz culture.

[Dinokratous 4](#)

[@jazzinjazz](#)

SHOP

Phāon

A curated selection of niche fragrances and flower arrangements nests in this thoughtfully designed concept store at the foot of Lycabettus Hill. A must stop to captivate your senses, in both scented matter and design aesthetics.

[Likavittou 29](#)

[@phaon.athens](#)



SHOP

Lito Cabinet de Curiosites

A tiny shop in the heart of the Kolonaki district with stunning and unique jewelry creations.

[Irodotou 25](#)

[@litofinejewelry](#)

GALLERY

Kalfayan Galleries

Since its opening in 1995, Kalfayan Galleries has been a pioneer in the expansion of the contemporary art scene in Greece.

[Charitos 11](#)

[@kalfayangalleries](#)

GALLERY

Eleftheria Tseliou Gallery

An art gallery that displays a carefully curated selection of contemporary Greek art spanning several generations with an emphasis on cutting-edge works using traditional media.

[Iraklitou 3](#)

[@eleftheriatseliou](#)

GALLERY

Gagosian

An international art gallery renowned across the globe, Gagosian is actually a global network of art galleries specializing in modern and contemporary art with nineteen exhibition spaces.

[Anapiron Polemou 22](#)

[@gagosian](#)

CULTURE

Museum of Cycladic Art

This museum hosts the world's largest collection of Cycladic art, which inspired Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalì.

[Neofitou Douka 4](#)

[@cycladic_museum](#)

CULTURE

The National Gallery

Only a few steps away from Syntagma Square, The National Gallery is an art museum devoted to Greek and European art.

[Vasileos Konstantinou 50](#)

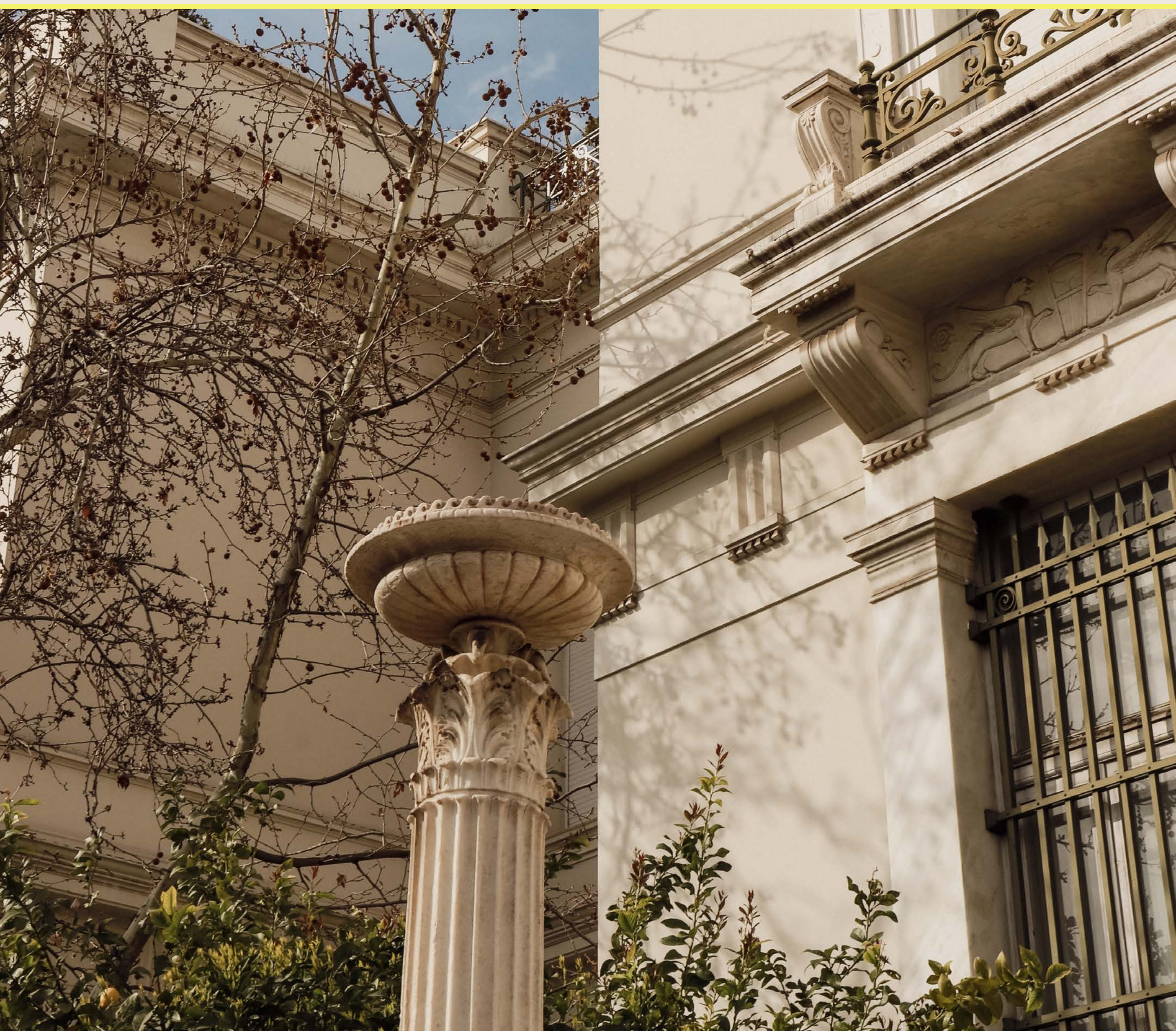
[@nationalgalleryathens](#)

Benaki Museum

A museum filled with Islamic art, Chinese porcelain and Byzantine paintings.

[Koumpari 1](#)

[@thebenakimuseum](#)



Lycabettus Hill

The highest point in the center of Athens, Mount Lycabettus is a Cretaceous limestone hill overlooking the Greek capital.

[Lycabettus Hill](#)

EXPLORING

Psirri/ Metaxourgeio

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ ANAFIOTIKA

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RESTAURANT

Diporto

One of the oldest Greek tavernas in downtown Athens – literally underground – where there is no menu and the owner, who doesn't really speak English, serves what he's prepared on that day.

[Sokratous 9](#)

RESTAURANT

Linou Soumpasis Kai Sia

One of the most celebrated new Greek restaurants offering fresh produce and natural wines, for some local flavours.

[Melanthiou 2](#)

[@Isandsia](#)

RESTAURANT

Seychelles

Serving greek soul food, wine and more, here you will try a carefully prepared array of greek “mezedes”, ideal for sharing among friends. They source their ingredients only from local producers and their location is ideal for enjoying a sunny lunch or laid back dinner.

[Keramikou 49](#)

[@seychellesrestaurant](#)

CAFÉ

Anana Coffee

Anäna is a sunny café where great coffee meets good vibes. With rotating single origins, homemade vegan treats, and a laid-back brunch crowd, it is a local favorite with global flair.

[Praxitelous 33](#)

[@ananacoffeeroasters](#)

WINERY

Wine Is Fine

An edgy newly opened place in Psirri, where you can spend your nights enjoying great wine accompanied by tasty food. You can't book a table, so make sure to go early!

[Vissis 6](#)

[@wineisfine.athens](#)

DRINK

Kennedy Vins Bons Vivants

Kennedy is an intimate audiophile bar where high-end sound meets exceptional wines. Owned by Greek photographer and founder of Kennedy Magazine, Chris Kontos, with his curated selection of Alsatian wines, specialty cheeses and rare records.

[Nikiou 9](#)

[@kennedyvins](#)

SHOP

Hyper Hypo

An art and design bookstore, which is also a project space and publication house specializing in art, design, photography and more.

[Voreou 10](#)

[@hyper.hypo.athens](#)



SHOP

L'ON

A shop with a curated selection of second-hand clothes, where you can find incredible vintage treasures.

[4th floor, Praxitelous 33](#)

[@lon.space](#)

Breeder Gallery

An art gallery considered to be one of the most influential in the field.

[Iasonos 45](#)

[@the_breeder_gallery](#)



Varvakios Food Market

A local open-air food market full of the freshest produce. Open every day except Sunday.

[Athinas Street](#)

EXPLORING

Monastiraki

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

SYNTAGMA

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HOTEL

Mona Athens

Mona, sister hotel of Shila Athens, is set in a renovated 1950s industrial building with 20 unique rooms. It includes a concept café lounge, bar, and a speakeasy basement. Its idyllic rooftop is a haven where you can enjoy a drink while overlooking the majestic Acropolis.

[Kakourgodikiou 4](#)

[@mona_athens](#)



RESTAURANT

Feyrouz

A Syrian and Lebanese street food restaurant, offering fresh Levantine staples with an artisanal twist.

[Karóri 23](#)

[@feyrouz_athens](#)

CULTURE

Hadrian's Library

An archaeological site built by Roman Emperor Hadrian in 132 AD on the north side of the Acropolis of Athens.

[K, Areos 3](#)

MARKET

Monastiraki Flea Market

A lively street market in the heart of Monastiraki, only a few steps away from some of the most important landmarks.

[Ifestou 2](#)



MARKET

Platia Avissinia Square Flea Market

An extremely popular venue in Athens, Platia Avissinias Square antique market has been part and parcel of Athenian life since the early 20th century.

[Abyssinia Square](#)

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

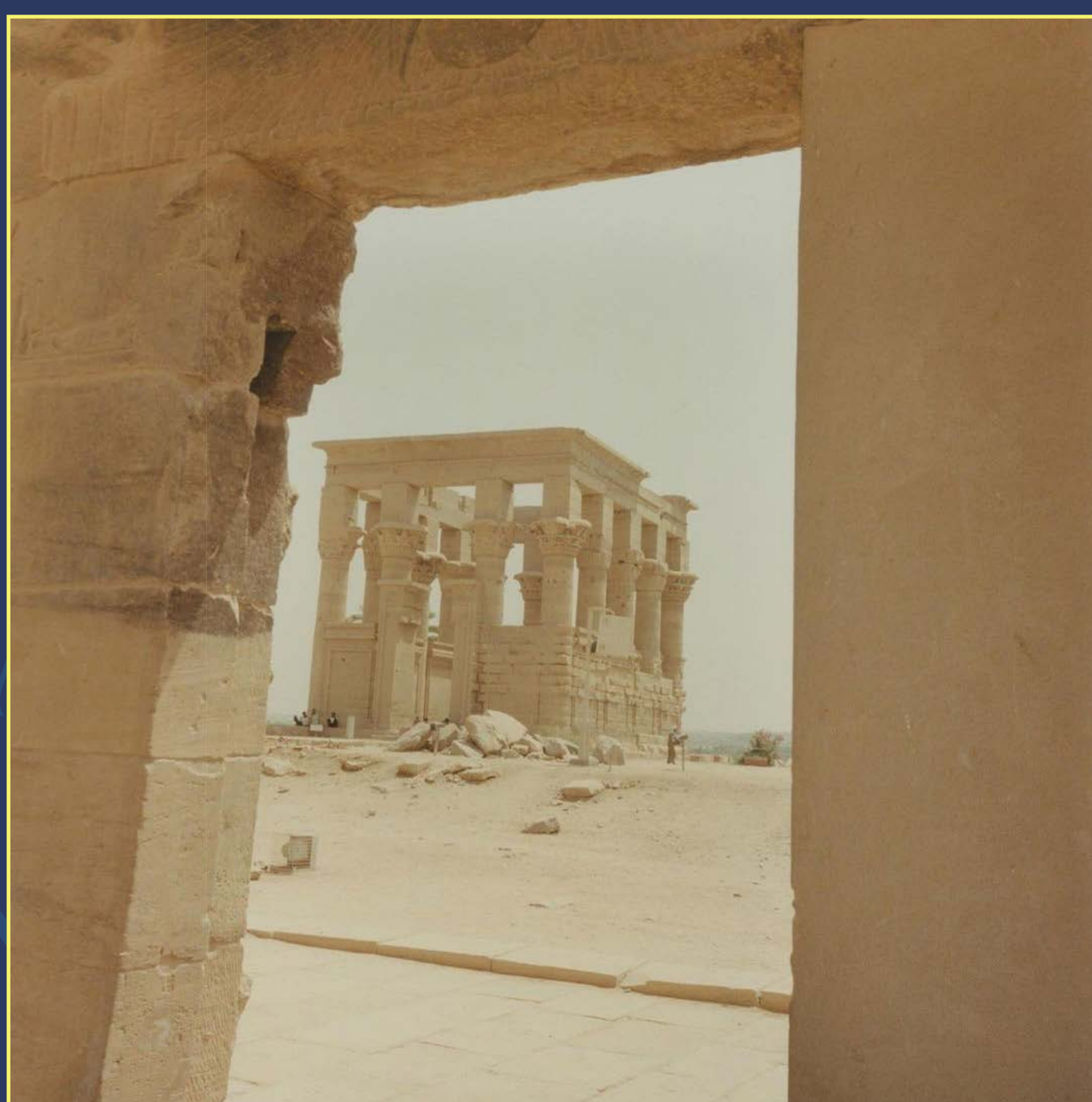
SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ AN

PETRALONA

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RESTAURANT

Pharaoh

One of the most exciting new entries, Pharaoh combines authentic woodfired Greek Cuisine, a killer wine list and a vinyl-only listening bar curated by some of the best DJs in town.

[Solomou 54](#)

[@pharaohathens](#)

RESAURANT

To Rini

Next to the Archaeological Museum, this small bistro serves Greek comfort food and handpicked Greek wines. Their seasonal menu, homemade desserts and open air patio make it an ideal spot for brunch, lunch or dinner.

[Rethimnou 8](#)

[@torini_athens](#)

HOTEL

Black Salami Microbakery

Right in the heart of Exarcheia, Black Salami is a microbakery where top-quality ingredients meet slow fermentation and a woodfired oven. Every loaf, focaccia, pizza slice and sandwich is crafted with care, drawing in locals during their lunch break.

[Zoodochou Pigis 71](#)

[@the_black_salami_microbakery](#)

DRINK

Santarosa

A bar with a hip atmosphere, which is also the favorite hangout of the Athenian art scene.

[Asklipiou 69](#)

[@santarosa.athens](#)

SHOP

It's a shirt

An interdisciplinary brand based in Athens, producing unisex handmade shirts and coats with European and deadstock fabrics.

[Asklipiou 67](#)

[@itsashirt](#)

Kopria

A beautiful flower and garden shop located in the edgy Exarcheia neighbourhood, between politically charged murals and many other independent shops.

[Eresou 30](#)

[@kopriastore](#)



National Archaeological Museum

A museum that hosts the most impressive collection of ancient Greek art. Displayed chronologically from 7000 BC to 500 AD.

[28is Oktovriou 44](#)

[@namuseumathens](#)

EXPLORING

Thiseio

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/ KALLIMARMARO

KOUKAKI

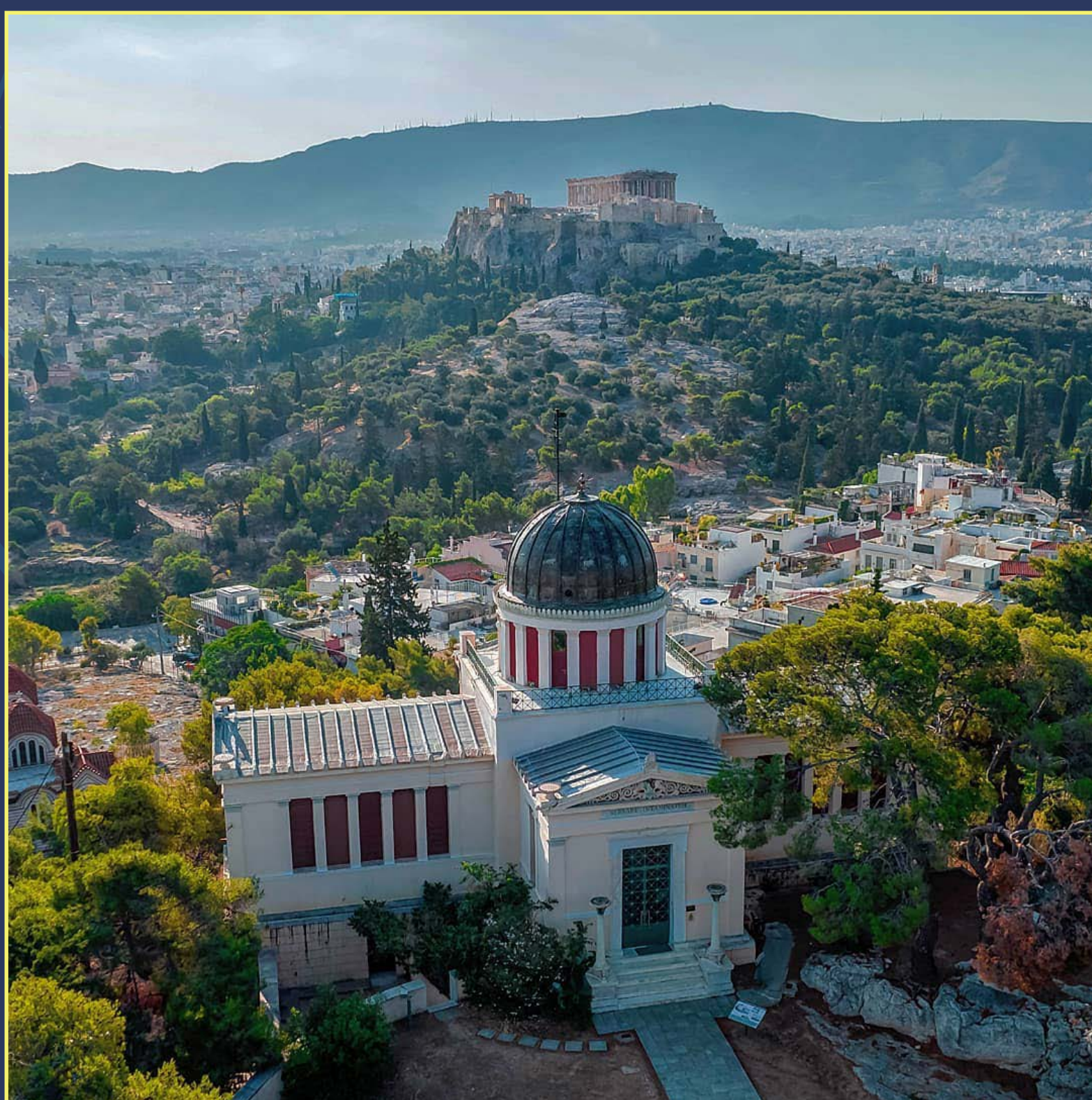
SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ AN

PETRALON

PIRAEUS

DAYTRIPS



National Observatory of Athens

Use the research institution's telescope to wander starry-eyed into the night sky.

[Akteou 11](#)

Thision Open Air Cinema

Built in 1935, this spring-summer outdoor movie theater features gourmet nibbles and Acropolis views.

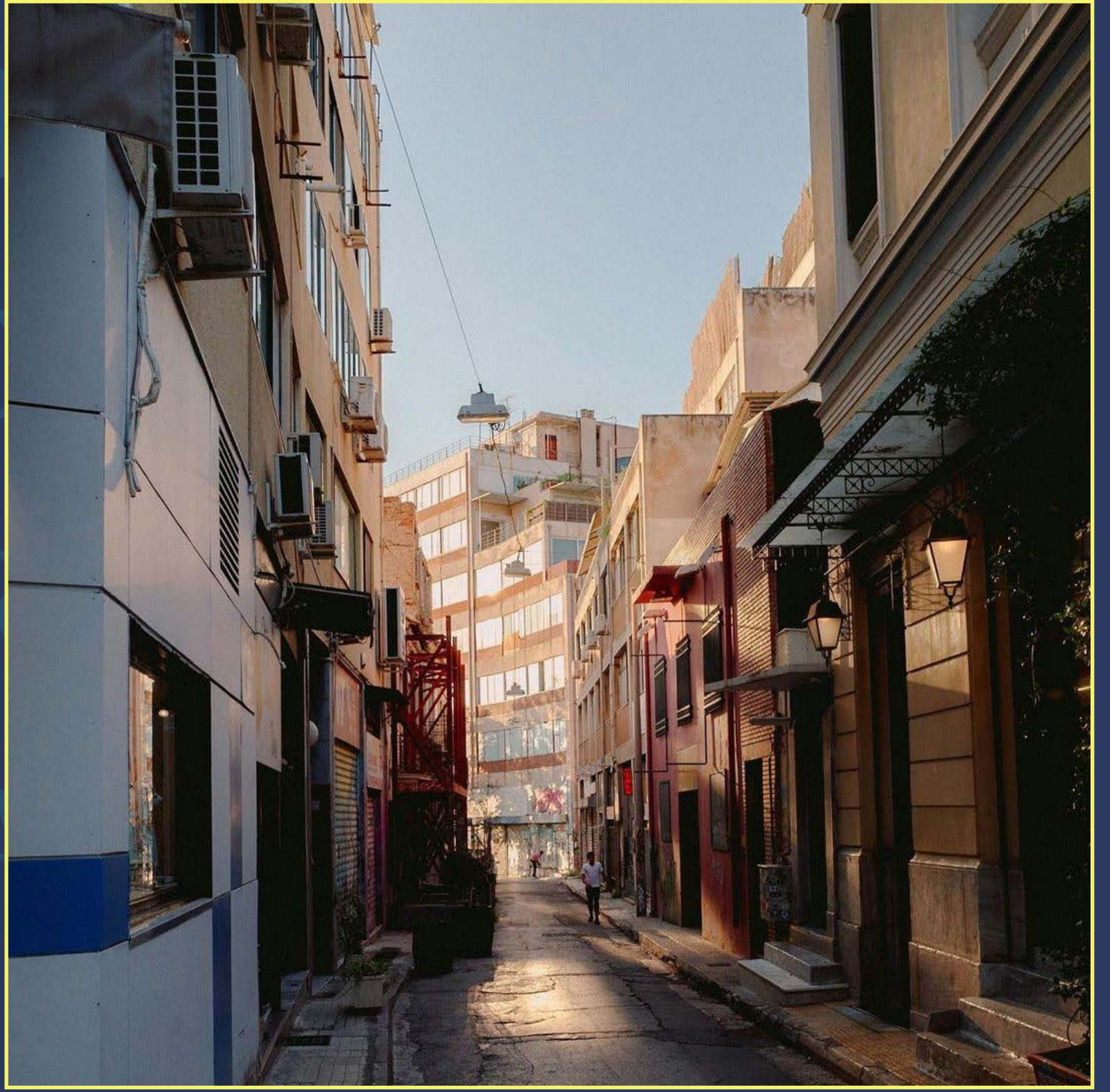
[Apostolou Pavlou 7](#)



EXPLORING

Pangrati/ Kallimarmaro

KOLONAKI
PSIRRI/ ME
MONASTIR
EXARCHEIA
THISEIO



PANGRATI/ KALLIMARMARO

KOUKAKI
SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ ANAFIOTIKA

PETRALONA

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DAYTRIPS

Akra

With a panorama of New Age green cuisine, Akra promises minimalist yet flavorful dishes and phenomenal desserts.

[Aminta 12](#)

[@akra_ath](#)



SHOP

Lexikopoleio

Lexikopoleio Vatrahonissi, or Frog Island Bookshop, is an independent bookstore offering Greek, French and English editions. Its name refers to a small river islet once inhabited by frogs between the Elassonas and Ilissos rivers. A charming spot with a nod to local history.

[Stasinou 13](#)

[@lexikopoleio](#)

CULTURE

B & E Goulandris Foundation

A contemporary art museum opened in 2019, displaying many of the works amassed by shipowner Basil Goulandris and his wife Elise Karadontis.

[Eratosthenous 13](#)

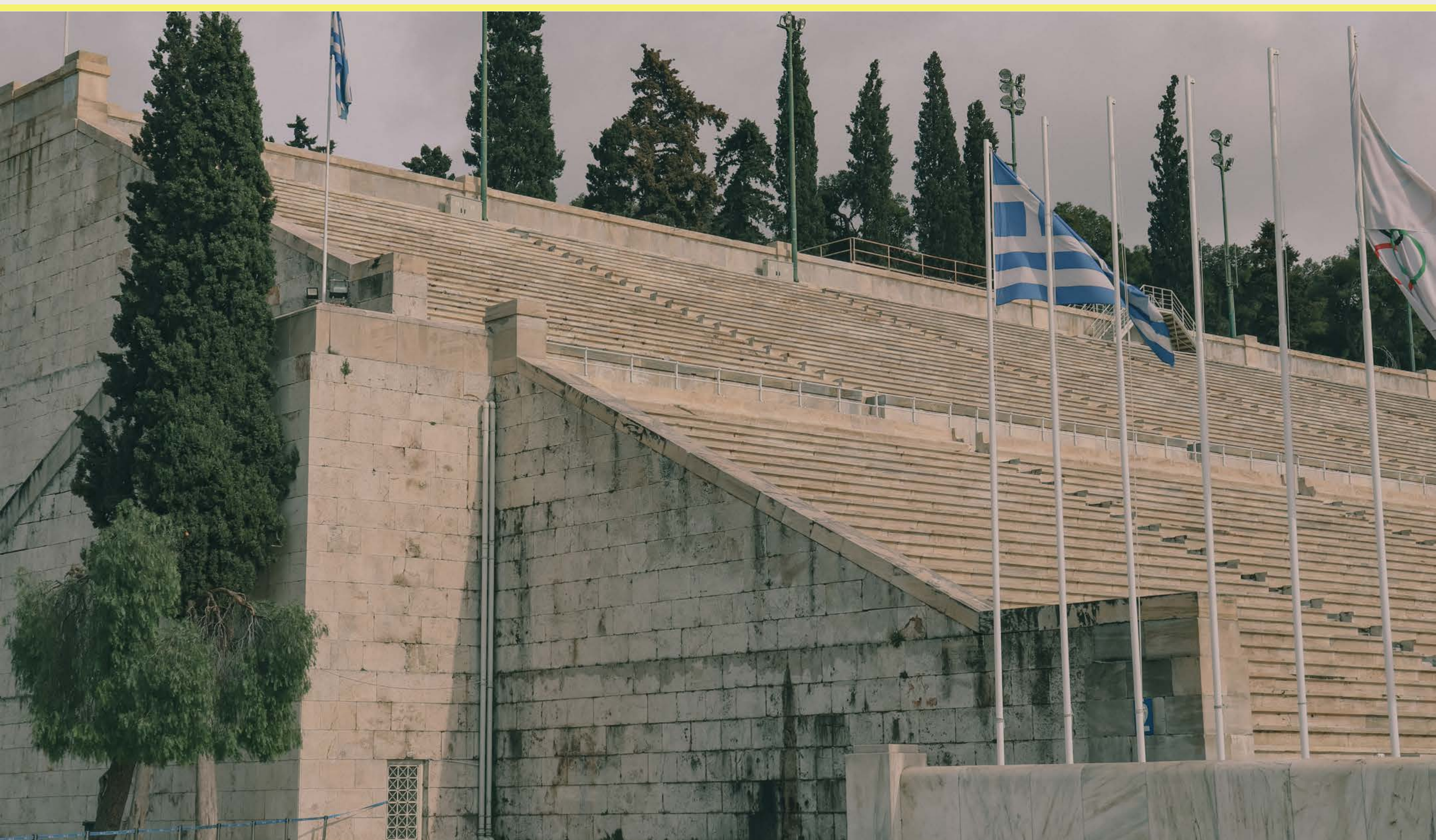
[@begoulandrisfoundation](#)

CULTURE

Panathenaic Stadium

A landmark originally used by the Greeks and later rebuilt by the Romans, which hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896. It remains the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble.

[Leof. Vasileos Konstantinou](#)



KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/ KALLIMARMARO

KOUKAKI

SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ AN

PETRALON

PIRAEUS

DAYTRIPS

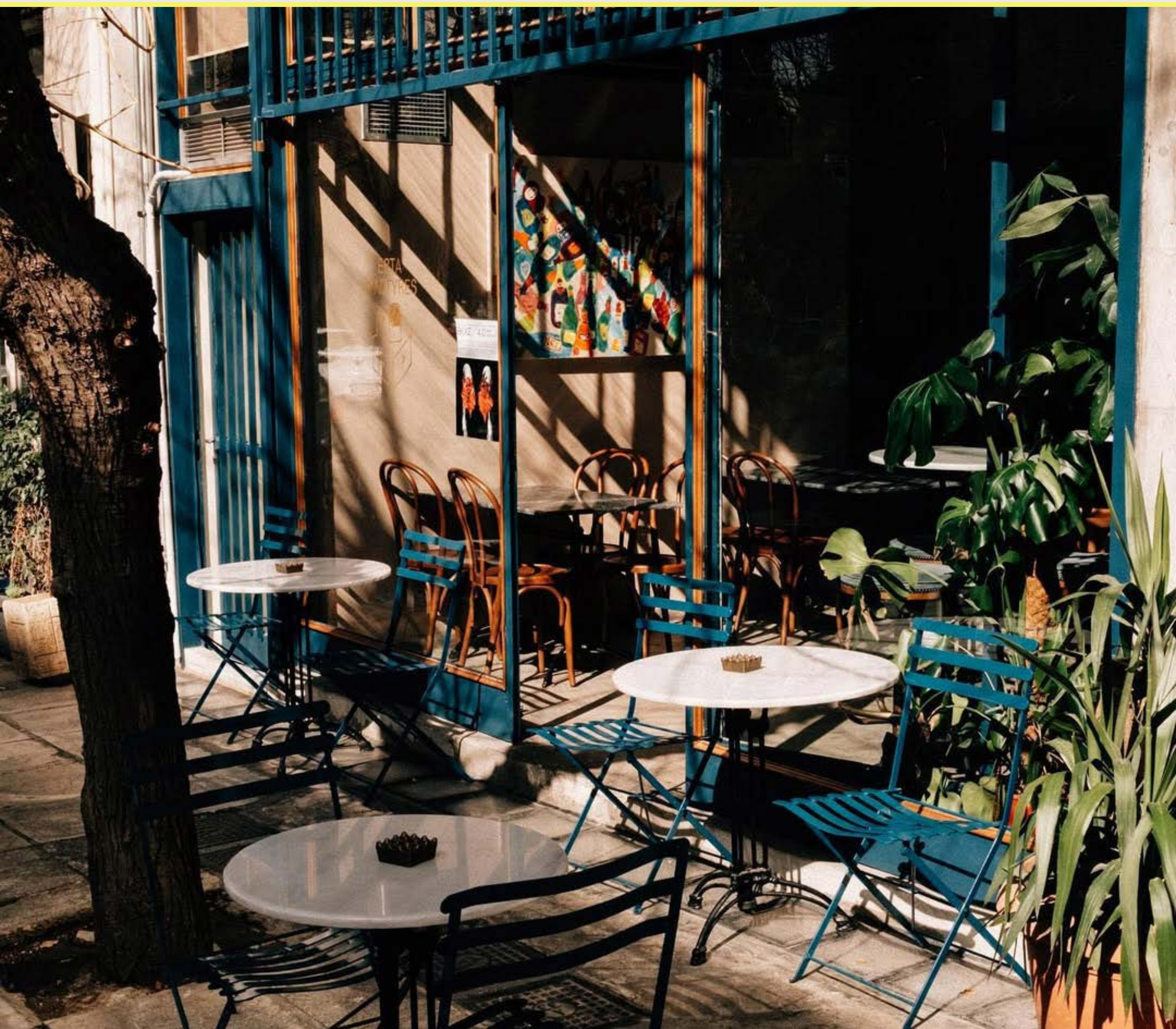


Epta Martyres

Located in Neos Kosmos, away from the city's hustle, Epta Martyres is a cozy wine bar known for natural and small-batch wines. It pairs each glass with fresh meze and a relaxed, welcoming vibe. A hidden gem that feels like a local secret.

[Menechmou 3B](#)

[@eptamartyres.athens](#)



Voulkanizater

Voulkanizater, a new listening bar in a former tire repair shop, offers a unique ambiance with natural wines and signature cocktails. Although it serves food, we prefer enjoying the atmosphere at the bar with a glass of natural wine or a signature cocktail.

[Odyssea Androutsou 71](#)

[@voulkanizater.ath](#)

SHOP

Guarantee

A family-run sandwich shop in Koukaki, open since 1988, beloved for its fresh, high-quality sandwiches. Run by the warm and welcoming Yannis and Charoula, it has its own loyal fanbase.

[Veikou 41](#)

ICE CREAM

Django

This artisanal ice cream from Syros Island uses local, seasonal ingredients for rich, refined flavors. Organic and fresh, it's best enjoyed the day it's made, with locals especially loving the creamy sorbets.

[Veikou 15](#)

[@djangogelato_ath](#)

CULTURE

National Museum of Contemporary Art

EMST hosts dynamic temporary exhibitions which support contemporary artists. It's a vibrant space for innovative art and thought-provoking experiences.

[Leof. Andrea Siggrou 51-53](#)

[@emstathens](#)



EXPLORING

Syntagma

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/ KALLIMARMARO

KOUKAKI

SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ AN

PETRALON

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DAYTRIPS



RESTAURANT

Manári Taverna

This classic gastro-tavern serves the standard Greek fare perfectly cooked with generous portions to share amongst friends. Ingredients are sourced from local producers.

[Pl. Agion Theodoron 3](#)

[@manaritaverna](#)



DRINK

Birdman

Birdman is an intimate Japanese bar and grill tucked behind an alley in Syntagma paying homage to late-night Tokyo eateries by serving yakitori and good drinks.

[Voulis 35](#)

[@birdmanathens](#)

RESTAURANT

Ekiben Kitchen

Birdman's sibling also pays homage to its Japanese roots with bento-style rice bowls and noodle dishes. But, most importantly, its "smash burger" is unanimously the best burger in town.

[Skoufou 15](#)

[@ekibenathens](#)

National Gardens

The former Royal Gardens commissioned by Queen Amalia in 1838, this large and peaceful retreat right in the bustling heart of Athens hosts a duck-filled pond and dozens of exotic plant species.

[Leof. Vasilisis Amalias 1](#)



EXPLORING

Plaka/ Anafiotika

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

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RESTAURANT

Saita Taverna

Navigating restaurants in the most visited part of Athens is a challenge, yet this traditional tavern offers classic Greek dishes that never disappoint. It remains family-owned to this day.

[Kidathineon 21](#)

[@taverna_saita](#)

SHOP

Mouki Mou

Mouki Mou's first store originally founded in London in 2013 features handpicked design items and its legacy continues today in a 1970s building nestled in the quaintest part of Athens. Owner Maria Lemos' aesthetic tastes are an energetic mix of old and new.

[Diogenous, 15](#)

[@moukimouathens](#)



SHOP

Ioanna Kourbela

At the brand's flagship store in Plaka, you'll find the designs of one of the leading Greek fashion designers, made using organic and environmentally sustainable fabrics.

[Adrianoy 109](#)

[@ioanna_kourbela](#)

Acropolis

The Acropolis of Athens is an ancient citadel located on a hill above the city which contains the remains of several ancient buildings of great architectural and historical significance. Most notable is the Parthenon, the ancient Greek architectural masterpiece.

[Athens 105 58](#)

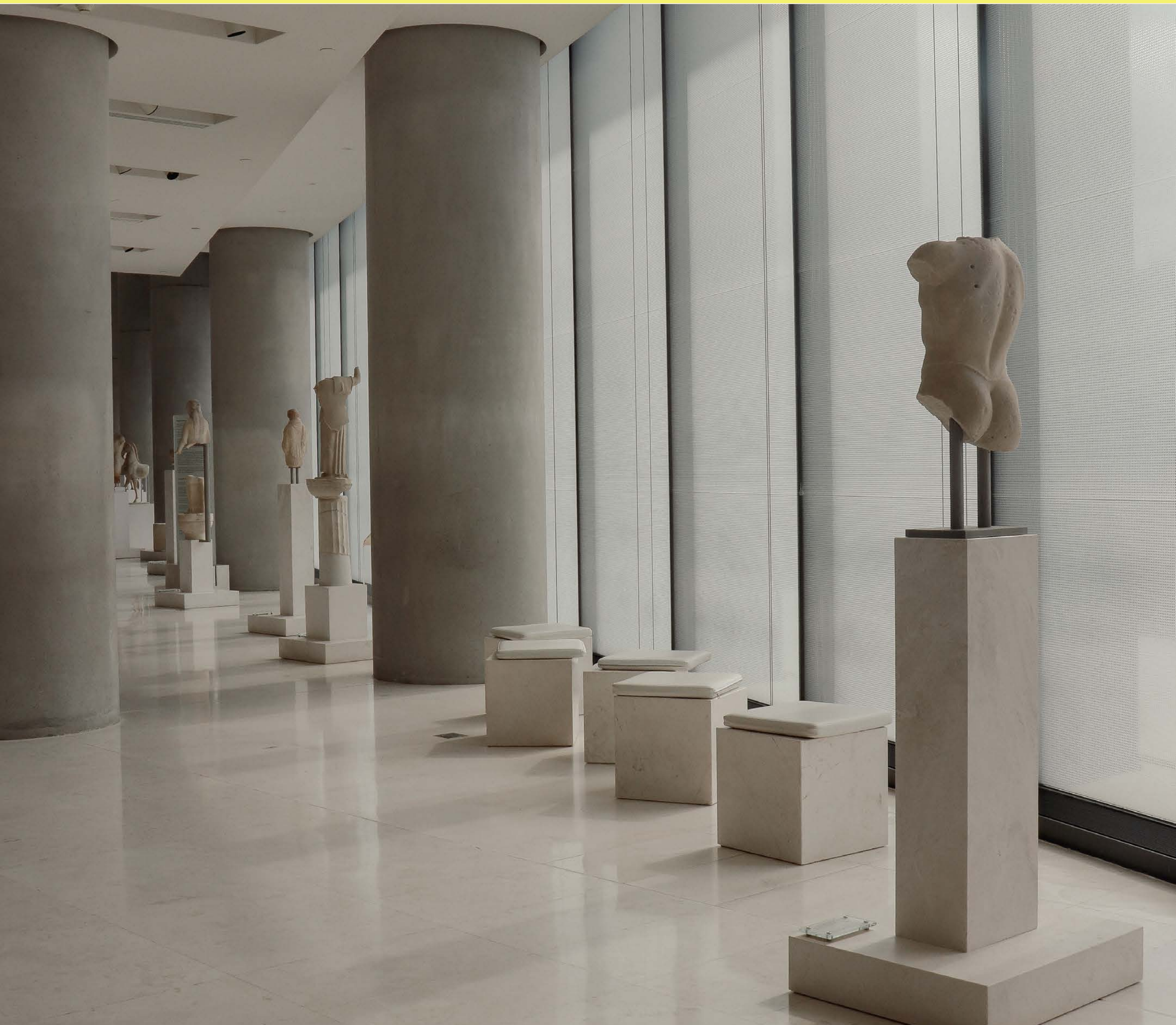


Acropolis Museum

A modern glass museum showcasing over 4,000 ancient artifacts, including the Parthenon, a temple once dedicated to Athena.

[Dionysiou Areopagitou 15](#)

[@theacropolismuseum](#)



Erechtheion

Also called Temple of Athena Polias, this is an ancient Greek Ionic temple-telesterion on the north side of the Acropolis, which was primarily dedicated to the goddess Athena.

[Athens 105 58](#)

EXPLORING

Petralona

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ ANAFIOTIKA

PETRALONA

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Taverna Oikonomou

A timeless taverna in the charming Petralona area, offering traditional “mama” food and an intriguing wine list. Perfect for a Sunday lunch or a casual dinner.

[Kidantidon 32](#)

[@taverna.oikonomou](#)



Aster

Born from two Cretan friends’ love for great food and good company, this is no frills, just quality local ingredients, creative dishes and a space that feels like home.

[Troon 48](#)

[@aster_athens](#)

Adad Books & Café

The perfect café to read, connect or browse visual art books, independent publications and art zines. Warm and inviting and across from Petralona’s main square.

[Anteou 1](#)

[@adadbooks](#)

Filopappou Hill

A green area to the southwest of the Acropolis which attracts hikers who want to get a better view of the city.

[Southwest of Acropolis](#)



EXPLORING

Piraeus

KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

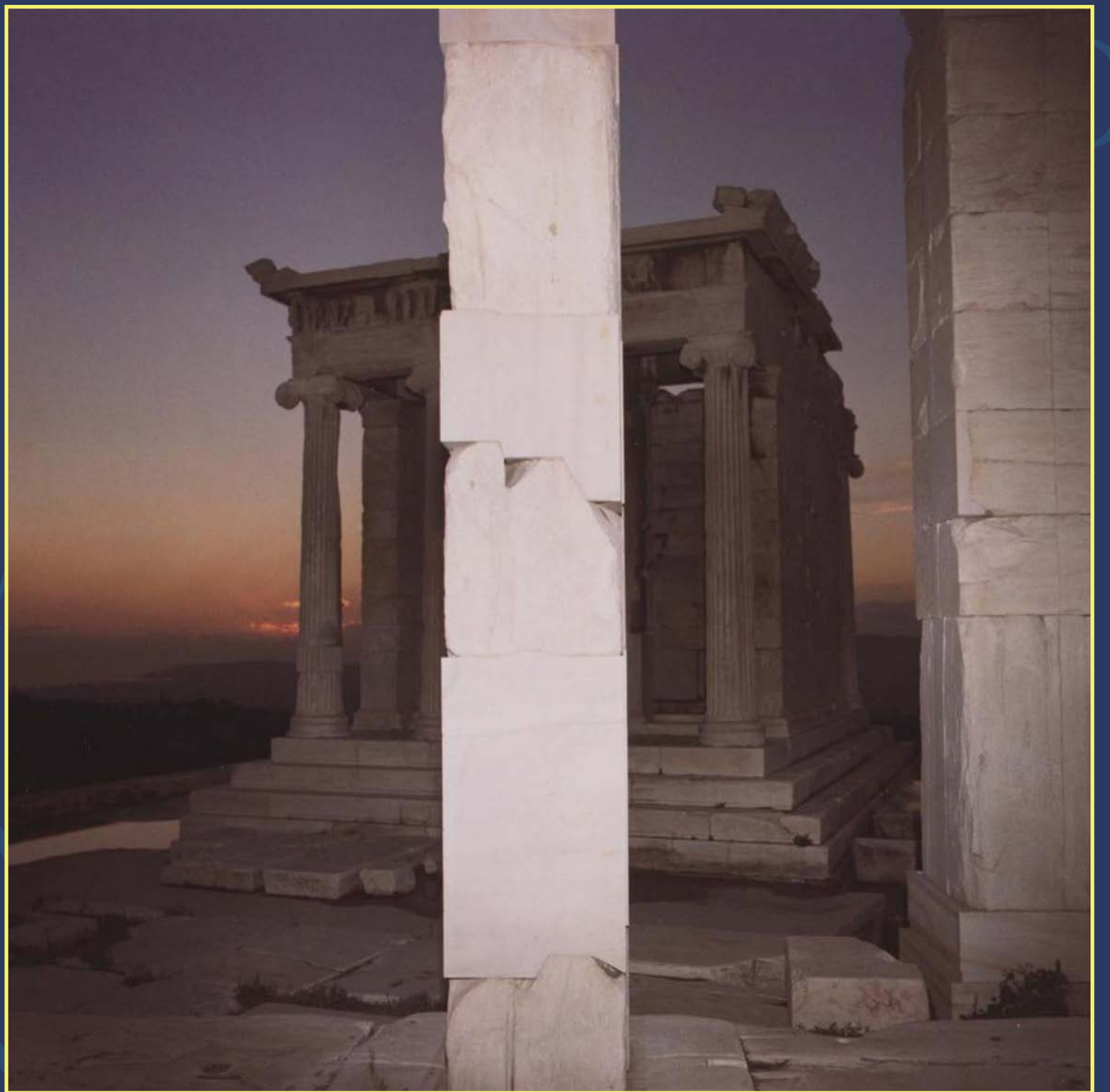
SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ AN

PETRALONAKI

PIRAEUS

DAYTRIPS



Dourabeis Restaurant

A renowned seafood taverna in Mikrolimano, celebrated for its fresh fish. With its nostalgic maritime ambiance, it has delighted a diverse clientele with high-end seafood for decades.

[Akti Dilaveri 29](#)

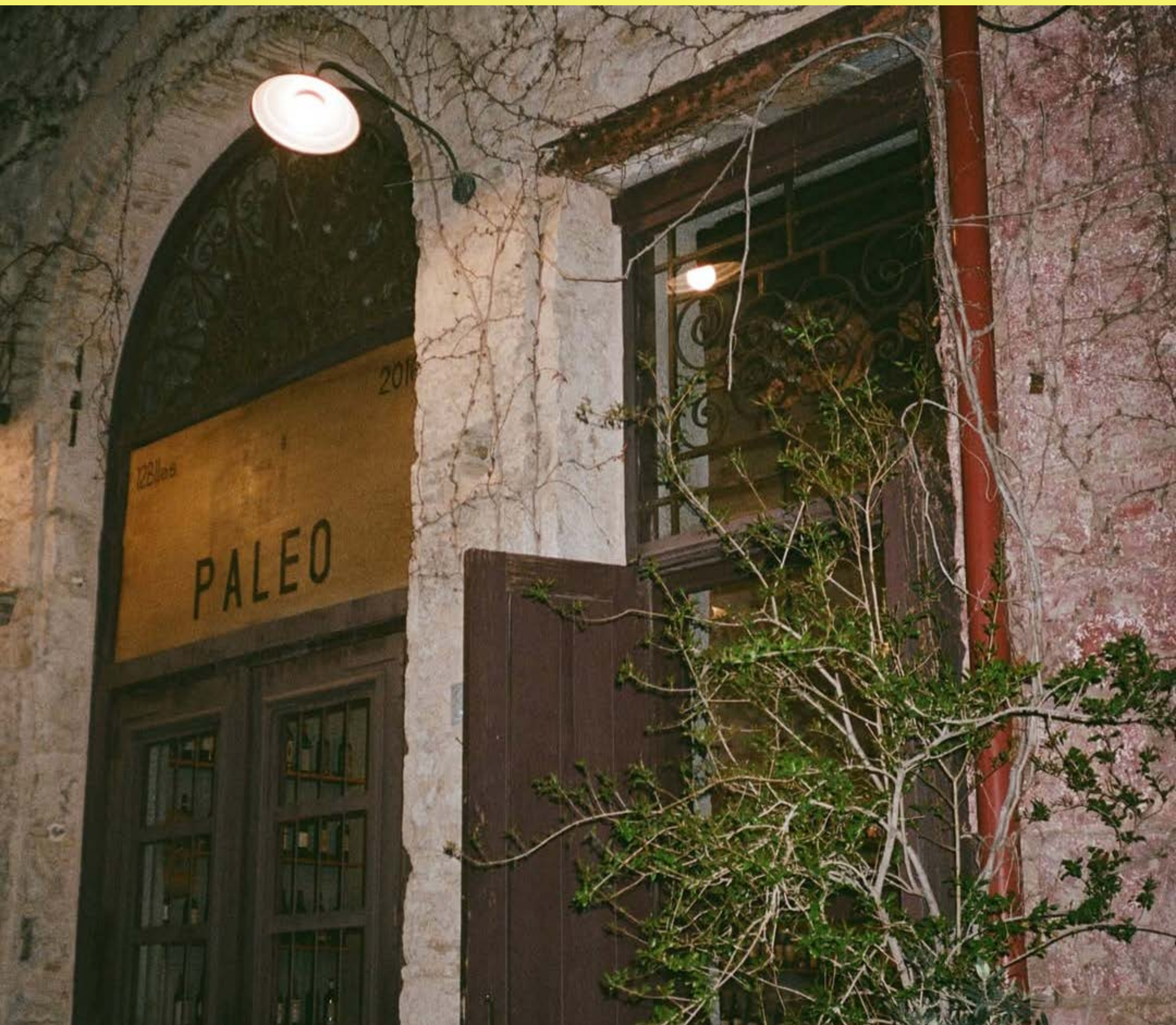
[@doureabeis.fish_restaurant](#)

Paleo Wine Store

The perfect spot for a casual night out with a selection of wines from around Europe.

[Polidefkous 39](#)

[@paleo_wine_store](#)



SHOP

Mandragoras

A legendary spice and delicacies shop that blends tradition with fine gastronomy since 1955. Offering rare herbs, spices, and premium Greek pantry items, it has become a trusted stop for food lovers alike.

[Dim. Gounari 14-16](#)

[@omandragoras](#)

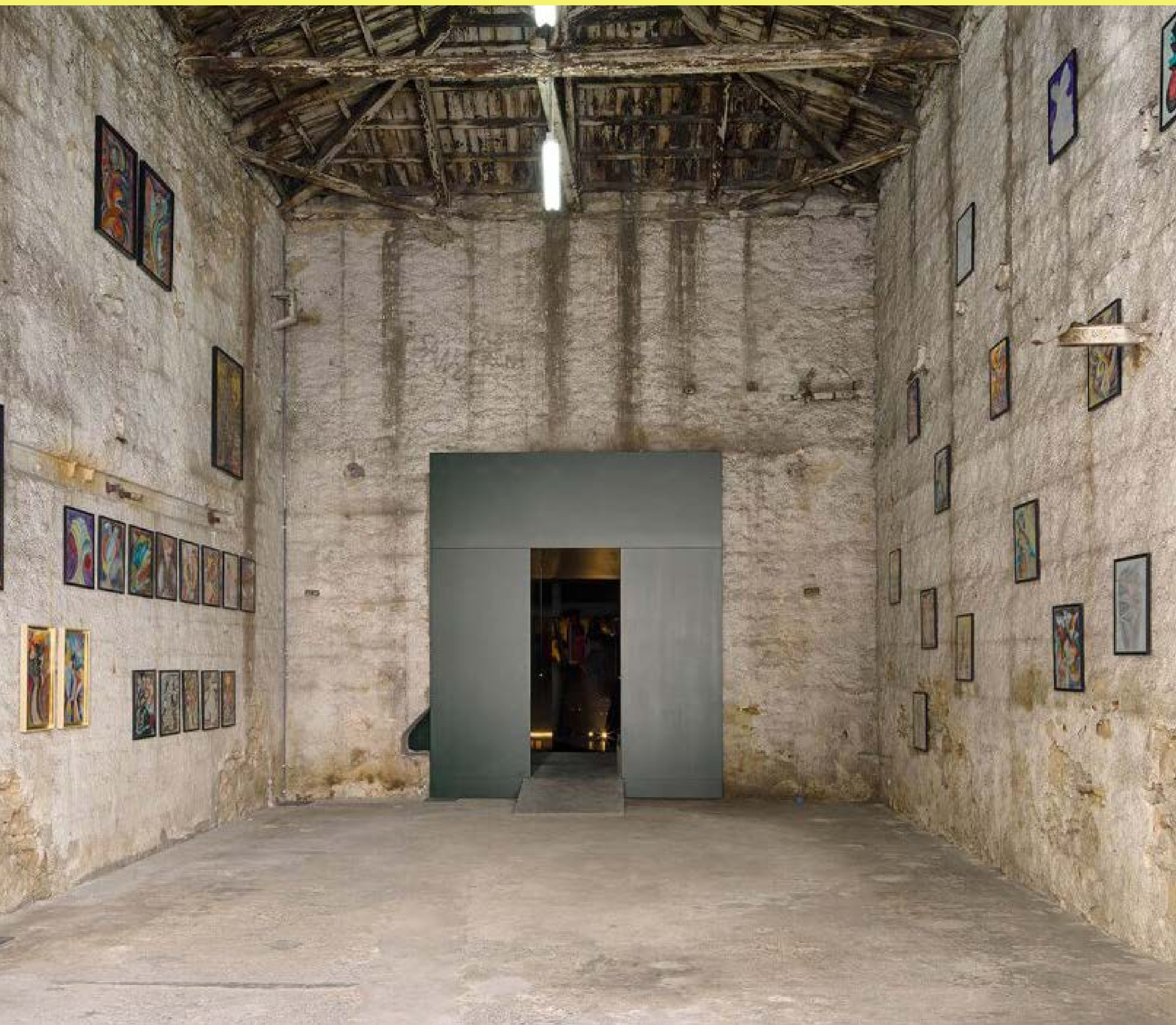
GALLERY

Rodeo Gallery

Rodeo, set in a restored early 20th-century warehouse in Piraeus, merges historic architecture with contemporary art. Its space invites site-specific works and dynamic exhibitions.

[Polidefkous 41](#)

[@sylvia_kouvali](#)



KOLONAKI

PSIRRI/ METAXOURGEIO

MONASTIRAKI

EXARCHEIA

THISEIO

PANGRATI/

KOUKAKI

SYNTAGMA

PLAKA/ AN

PETRALONA

PIRAEUS



DAYTRIPS

LAKE

Lake Vouliagmeni

Situated amidst an idyllic landscape, the lake's brackish waters are continuously replenished by the sea and the underground thermal springs offering a natural and unique thermal spa experience.

[South of Vouliagmeni](#)



PARK

Vouliagmeni Faskomilia

A 300-acre park from which you can see empty beaches, the calm waters of Lake Vouliagmeni and the Saronic Gulf stretching out into the distance.

[South of Vouliagmeni](#)



CULTURE

Temple of Poseidon

The Temple of Poseidon is one of the most important monuments from the Golden Age of Athens. It is perched on the edge of a cliff, located 70 meters above the sea in the Athens Riviera.

[Sounion 195 00](#)

CULTURE

Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Near the port, at the outskirts of the city, this building by Renzo Piano hosts the Greek National Opera, an impressive library and is surrounded by a 52-acre park.

[Leof. Andrea Siggrou 364](#)

[@snforg](#)

ABOUT US

The Maptique is a creative agency based in Milan, specializing in art direction and the production of both content and experiences. Our editorial product is our website, the result of our ongoing and meticulous research into a niche, editorial lifestyle. It offers access to premium content such as travel and city guides, a curated hotel collection, and unique experiences.

CONTACTS

Curator: [House of Shila](#)

Instagram: [@house_of_shila](#)

Photographer: [Rita Rivezzi](#) and official brand sources.

Contact us: hello@themaptique.com

Website: www.themaptique.com

Instagram: [@themaptique](#)