

Innovative Tours

PICK A TEAM OF INSIDERS AND GAIN FRESH PERSPECTIVES

BY ELEFThERIA ALAVANOU, MARIA ATHANASIOU



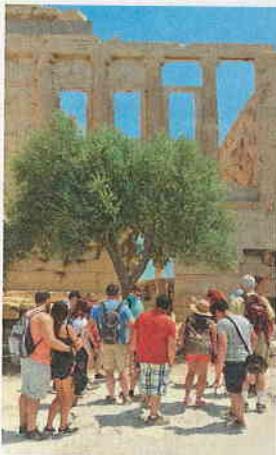
ATA (ALTERNATIVE TOURS OF ATHENS) www.atathens.org

Art walks from Omonia Square to the Metaxourgio and Gazi districts. Here's your chance to discover street art on building facades covered in spray paint, or to acquaint yourself with the major hubs of contemporary culture – from the Athens Concert Hall and National Museum of Contemporary Art to the Onassis Cultural Center and the (currently under construction) Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center. You will “dig around” in the city's flea markets, get a taste of life underground in the metro stations and familiarize yourself with the art works of Fassianos, Varotsos and Stephen Antonakos. With a focus primarily on art in public places, the team from ATA (comprising photographers, architects, musicians and visual artists) organize events aimed at showcasing the city's less orthodox beauty, as can only be perceived by the discerning eye of an artist.



ATHENS INSIDERS www.athensinsiders.com

In just four hours, Athens Insiders attempt to share with participants their knowledge of a city that has been inhabited for thousands of years. This tour has a little of everything: a visit to Syntagma and Monastiraki squares; views of the Acropolis and the ancient Athenian Agora; an unveiling of the city's Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman past; and a chance to re-energize with a Greek coffee or cup of “mountain” tea (Greek herbal infusion). The team also has other proposals for those interested in an experiential acquaintance with the city, such as the family tour dubbed “In the Time of Pericles” (which gives kids an opportunity to learn about Athenian history through games, combined with a picnic of local culinary delights) or a sightseeing tour followed by a tasting of four Greek wines and a hearty discussion on wine making.



ATHENS WALKING TOURS www.athenswalkingtours.gr

Their Athens Food Tour, as the name suggests, is focused on Greece's rich culinary heritage and the benefits of the Mediterranean diet, while also offering participants the chance to discover these merits for themselves – by trying olives, traditional feta cheese, halva, loukoumades with syrup, cream-filled bougatsa pie, sesame bread rings (from one of the dozens of street vendors who man their posts each day in the city center), as well as tsipouro or ouzo. The tour concludes with a visit to the colorful central market, the Varvakeios Agora, where one's ears are barraged by sellers' constant calls to attract customers and sharp smells tantalize the nose. Among Athens Walking Tours' many other options, visitors can take a close look at the city's historical center or focus exclusively on the secrets of the Acropolis.