

CHECK IN

YOUR GUIDE AROUND

Athens

DINING

NIGHTLIFE

SHOPPING

CULTURE

SERVICES



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ATLANTISH SCARF. GREECE IS FOR LOVERS. © GREECEISFORLOVERS.COM. PHOTO NIKOS ALEXOPOULOS

Shopping

If shopping is a sport you are really good at, in Greece you could well become a champion. The Athenians are very fashion-conscious, as you'll discover during your stay, and their city has all the luxury shopping havens to prove it.

After visiting the Acropolis, a shopping spree is the next "must" on your to-do list in Athens. Top-of-the-line fashion, jewellery and design can be found at the city's upmarket shopping areas, with Kolonaki, Kifissia and Glyfada at the forefront of the Greek market. Pieces from the world's most prestigious brands are here to be admired and acquired. Haute couture and prêt-a-porter designers and larger-than-life labels, not to mention international high-street chains, all have branches in the city. First and foremost, pay a visit to Voukourestiou Street, where flagships of the world's premium fashion, jewellery and luxury timepiece stores are located. Fine jewellery is a field in which Greece has form, as proven by the treasures of ancient Crete and

Mycenae, and today the country's pre-eminent jewellery houses export their precious items and enjoy a distinguished global following. From Voukourestiou, it's only a short stroll to the alluring boutiques of Kolonaki, chiefly along Tsakalof, Patriarhou Ioakim, Anagnostopoulou and Kanari streets. Meanwhile, closer to Syntagma Square, Ermou Street is a mid-range shopping mecca. Heading north, Kifissia is your obvious choice, where Levidou, Panagitsas, Kolokotroni and Kassaveti streets show off some of the world's most upscale brands. Also in northern Athens, Psychico and Halandri offer a fine shopping experience. And to the south, Glyfada's array of emporia is sure to satisfy even the most demanding of shopaholics.



AMEN TABLEWARE. GREECE IS FOR LOVERS. © GREECEISFORLOVERS.COM. PHOTO NIKOS ALEXOPOULOS

Dining

Forget everything you thought you knew about Greek cuisine; now moussaka arrives deconstructed on your plate, tzatziki comes in the form of a food-foam and horiatiki salad is served in a sphere that explodes with taste in your mouth.

Greece has always been a place to enjoy good food, and over the last decade it has evolved into a fine-dining, Michelin star-winning destination. The Greek culinary scene has changed drastically in the past 15 years, making an entry on the international gastronomic map and closely following each global food trend. Cuisine in Greece has tried its nouvelle cuisine era, passed through its molecular gastronomy phase, and now celebrates its cuisine de terroir epoch, which plays to the country's strengths since the Greek land and seas are blessed with top-quality produce. As Greece relishes this gourmet reincarnation, offering what is known as Modern Greek Cuisine, a number of prominent celebrity chefs have emerged - some

of whom have studied and worked under world-renowned chefs like Ferran Andria - and the city now has five Michelin-starred restaurants to prove their expertise. Names such as Lefteris Lazarou, Christoforos Peskias and Nikos Karathanos may be hard to pronounce, but they are leading this trend, with their alimentary adventures filtering down through neo-tavernas and neighbourhood eateries to flavour your Greek dining experience. Matching this gastronomic evolution, you'll also notice an aesthetic revision of the traditional tavern, with sleek, white, minimal decoration. Now, more than ever, is the time to savour the pleasures of the mouth-watering delicacies that Greece has to offer.



THE HARDER THEY COME. GREECE IS FOR LOVERS. © GREECEISFORLOVERS.COM. PHOTO NIKOS ALEXOPOULOS

Socializing

If you think that New York is the only city that never sleeps, then you have never visited Athens. Greeks really know how to have fun, and their unique "going out" culture proves it, with entertainment on offer 24/7, from dusk till dawn till dusk again.

Most people have a very particular idea of Greek nightlife, often associated with "partying on Mykonos". Nothing wrong with that, those parties are indeed legendary, but a stopover in Athens will show you that this city has the greatest day- and night-life in Europe (you just need to know the right places and the right people). Plus, "partying" is only one of many things you can do here. Athenians party, rock, drink coffee, sip cocktails, dance, chill, lounge, nibble, stroll, catch a movie and flirt in a way that is pretty much unique. But let's take it from the top. "Going for coffee" is a whole ritual that includes friends getting together and spending hours in all-day café-bars, beginning with a cup of coffee and continuing with drinks and shots until the early-

morning hours. And where is all this happening? The answer is simple: Nearly everywhere in the city, from the stylish bars lining Skoufa Street in the upscale area of Kolonaki to the crowded hangouts on the small streets parallel and vertical to Ermou below Syntagma Square, including Karytsi and Agias Eirinis squares, which have become hotspots. At the pavement café-bars around the foothills of the Acropolis, from Monastiraki and Thissio to Petralona and Gazi. Of course in the trendy bar-restaurants of the northern suburbs, particularly Psychico, Halandri, Kifissia and Erythrea. And last but by no means least, in the southern suburbs, where Glyfada, with its open-air nightclubs and cool coastal bars, is the epitome of Athens' summer nightlife.



Greekness with a twist

A talented designer duo, Thanos Karampatsos and Christina Kotsilelou, sharing similar aesthetic influences, formed "Greece is for Lovers", a creative group focusing on the design of domestic utility products. Introducing a new sense of "Greekness" to contemporary product design, by mixing up a concoction of their country's spiciest ingredients, they really made it happen, as their work is presented worldwide. Inspired by the stereotypical notion of what is widely considered to be "Greek", their designs comment on habitual activities and behavioral patterns of both the past and the present, always with their own unique trademark aesthetic.

Showroom: 50-52 Valtetsiou St. - Athens
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e-shop: www.greeceisforlovers.com/shop www.greeceisforlovers.com

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