



RIPE67

Your guide to

ATHENS | GREECE

14 - 18 OCTOBER 2013
ripe67.ripe.net





Introduction

Welcome to RIPE 67 in Athens! We've gathered recommendations for restaurants, nightlife, souvenir shopping, and "must-see" spots for outside of the meeting. We sought advice from local Athenians, including Greek colleagues and professional travellers – and they haven't disappointed!

You'll be making your way around Athens' hot spots in no time, using our handy tips on travel (don't miss out on the integrated public transportation tickets) and if you get lost, have no fear! We've created a handy Greek phrase guide... so at least you'll be able to say "ka-thika".

If you're looking for some delicious Greek grub, or a fancy cocktail to enjoy on a terrace in plain sight of the Acropolis, look no further - we've compiled the best bars and restaurants for you to peruse.

If you're a bit lost by all the Greek fare on offer, or are simply baffled by baklava, we've also included a handy cheat sheet explaining some of the most common Greek foods.

Culture vulture? Then you're all set in Athens, the birthplace of democracy, brimming with historical and cultural places of interest. And if you fancy something a little more obscure, we've got that covered, too. Whether you're in the mood for ogling 1920s cars, bathing in thermal pools, or simply enjoying yourself with a glass of ouzo, there's something for everyone in our RIPE 67 guide.

We hope you have a brilliant RIPE 67!



Index

Health and Safety	4
--------------------------	----------

Getting Around	5
-----------------------	----------

Greek Phrases	6
----------------------	----------

Places to Eat	7 - 10
----------------------	---------------

Map	8
------------	----------

Greek Gastronomy	11
-------------------------	-----------

Places to Drink	12 - 13
------------------------	----------------

Shopping	13
-----------------	-----------

Things to See & Do	14 - 15
-------------------------------	----------------

Useful Info	16
--------------------	-----------

Health and Safety

Athens is one of the safest cities in Europe, although pickpocketing is very common. When in Greece, do as the Greeks and keep your hands on your valuables, bag, and/or pockets while out and about. Be particularly wary on the metro, at queues for attractions, and in downtown Athens – these areas are popular with skilled pickpockets and bag-snatchers. Visitors are also advised to avoid the areas around Omonoia Square, the back streets of Piraeus, and Sofokleous Street, which have developed a reputation for crime and drugs.

Smoking

Smoking has been prohibited since 2010 in all workplaces, transportation stations, public transportation, and enclosed public spaces (including restaurants, nightclubs, bars and casinos). Smoking is permitted in outdoor seating areas.

Medical Services

We hope you all will be happy and healthy during RIPE 67! However, should you become ill or need medical attention while in Athens, there are private hospitals and clinics available.

Metropolitan Hospital

<http://www.metropolitan-hospital.gr/>
Ethnarchou Makariou & El. Venizelou 1,

Neo Faliro

Tel: +30 (0)210 4809 000

Iatriko Kentro Palaioi Faliroi

<http://www.iatrikofalirou.gr/>

Areos 36, Palaio Faliro

Tel: +30 (0)210 989 2100

Pharmacies in Greece are generally open from 8:00-14:30 on Monday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, they are usually open from 8:00-14:30 and 17:30-20:00. At least one local pharmacy will be open at any time of day. The details of this “duty pharmacy” can be found in every pharmacy window, in local newspapers, and by telephoning 14944.

Important Numbers

In case of emergency, dial 112.

Getting Around Town

It is not advised to drive in Athens due to heavy traffic, lack of parking spaces, confusing road signs, impatient drivers and one-way streets in the city centre. However, Athens is host to an inexpensive, integrated public transportation network.

Cheap Tickets

You can purchase an integrated ticket for under €2. This ticket is valid for 90 minutes of travel in any direction when using transport in an urban zone, and applies to buses, trams, the metro and suburban trains. This ticket is not valid on express bus lines to the airport. The ticket can be purchased at metro, tram and railway stations, at blue/yellow ticket offices, and at many newsstands. Don't forget to validate your ticket.

Tram

With a tram stop on either side of the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel Athens (tram line 10), we recommend the tram system as your most convenient transport option. Trams are relatively fast, air-conditioned, extremely clean, and are generally the easiest way to access all that Athens has to offer. The tram operates from 05:00-midnight Sunday to Thursday, and on a 24-hour schedule on Fridays and Saturdays.

Bus

Using the bus is not advised, as destinations are listed purely in Greek and the routes can be confusing for tourists.

Metro

The metro (underground) is not the easiest system to navigate, but if you want to quickly get to the “haggling” shopping district of Monistiraki, then this is your best bet. The metro operates from 05:00-midnight.



Taxi

There are two types of taxis in Greece. Radio taxis are pre-booked by telephone, and don't stop unless booked. You have to pay an up-front fee when they arrive (usually around €3-4). They are ideal if you want to travel in comfort and privacy, or if you have lots of luggage or shopping bags. Street taxis are cheaper and far more common – these are taxis that you can flag down in the street. You shout your destination to the driver, and he decides whether he will take you. Should you choose to hail a taxi, we advise you give a main road or tourist attraction as your destination so that the driver won't drive off if he doesn't recognise the location you provide.

Greek Phrases

While Greek is the main language used in Athens, most Athenians also speak English. Greek people are aware that their language and alphabet are difficult for foreigners, but if you attempt a few phrases, you're bound to impress the locals with our handy pronunciation guide!

Hello (formal)	Yah-sas
Hello (informal)	Yah-soo
How are you?	Tee kah-nis
I'm fine/well	Ee-meh kala
What is your name?	Pos seh leneh
My name is Nikos	Meh leneh Nikos
Pleased to meet you	Harika pou sas gh-norisa
Please / You're welcome	Pa-ra-kah-lo
Thank you	Ef-hari-sto
Yes	Neh
No	Oh-hee
Excuse me	See-ghno-mee
Goodbye	Ahn-dee-oh
I can't speak Greek	Then mee-low eh-lee-nee-kah
I don't understand	Then katala-veh-no
How much is this?	Poso kos-teezi af-toh?
I want that	Theh-lo af-toh
I don't want that	Then thelo afto
One beer please	Ah-lee me-a bee-ra, pa-ra-kah-lo
Cheers!	Yamas!
Bon appetit!	Ka-li or-exi
I would like...	Tha ee-the-la
It's delicious	Ine nostimo!
I don't eat meat	Den troo kreas
I am lost	Ka-thika
Where is the toilet?	Poo ee-neh ee tooa-leh-tah?
The bill, please	Toh lo-ghareeaz-mo, pa-ra-kah-lo

TIP: Don't be meek when speaking Greek. Speak confidently!



Places to Eat

Athens is packed with enticing eateries. Tavernas (restaurants), bars, and cafés litter the city centre and are easily accessible from the meeting venue. Whether you want a quick bite or fantastic feast, there's something to whet your appetite. We advise contacting restaurants in advance to be sure of a seat, and remember – not all establishments in Athens accept credit cards, and some restaurant names will use the Greek alphabet.

Klimataria (1)

klimataria.gr

Plato Theatrou 2, Athens 10552

+30 (0)210 321 6629

€ €

Savour some traditional Greek food in an atmospheric, century-old taverna. In the evenings, the band plays Greek folk songs to a largely Greek crowd (who love to sing along!). The food is presented on large trays, so you can easily choose your meal. The owners, Mario and Pericles, will be happy to help you in navigating your menu choice. Also open for lunch. Reservation recommended.

Gostijo (2)

gostijo.gr

Esopou 10, Athens 10554

+30 (0)210 323 3825

€ € €

Athens's first Kosher restaurant, specialising in Sephardi Mediterranean dishes in a beautiful neoclassical building in Psiri.

Occasional musical evenings are arranged, featuring Mediterranean and Ladino songs, so that guests can take in the full Sepharic cultural experience. Open daily from 17:00 until late, except on Saturdays, when the restaurant closes one hour after sundown. Friday Shabbat dinner and Saturday Shabbat lunch are by reservation only.

Strofi (3)

strofi.gr

Rovertou Galli 25, Acropolis, Athens 11742

+30 (0)210 921 4130

€ € € €

If you're looking for dinner with a side of show-stopping location, this is it! Strofi boasts dramatic views of the Acropolis (which is lit up at night), a beautiful rooftop garden terrace and fantastic service. Closed on Sundays; doesn't serve lunch. Reservations are a must (you can also reserve online and specify where you want to sit).

Average cost for three courses (excluding drinks):

€ € € € = €80+ € € € = €60 € € = €40 € = €20+

View the map online: <http://bit.ly/1aNP4uf>

Melilotos (4)

melilotos.gr

Kalamiotous 19, Monastiraki, Athens 10560
+30 (0)210 322 2458

€ €

A great place for foodies. Unassuming, traditional Greek food, with daily specials that will have you hankering for more!

Open daily for lunch and dinner except on Mondays, when the restaurant closes at 18:00. Outdoor seating available.

Stamatopoulos Tavern (5)

stamatospoulostavern.gr

Lyssiou 26, Plaka, Athens
+30 (0)210 322 8722

€ € €

Stamatopoulos is a gem that's frequented by many an Athenian. There's a quaint rooftop terrace adorned with trees, with the Acropolis visible in the distance. Inside, you can dine surrounded by gorgeous hand-painted murals. This tavern is the perfect place if you want to experience a delicious Greek meal in a cozy setting with live, traditional music and – if you're lucky – dancing!

To Kafeneio (6)

tokafeneio.gr

1 Epicharmou Street, Athens 10558
+30 (0)210 324 6916

€ €

A small restaurant on a quiet street. Cheap, delicious food, a variety of Greek wines, and service with a smile. Open for lunch as well as dinner; outdoor seating available. We recommend the meatballs!

Avocado (7)

avocadoathens.com

Nikis 30, Athens 10557
+30 (0)210 323 7878

€ €

Athens' only fully vegan restaurant – but

it doesn't stop there! Praised by veggies and carnivores alike, Avocado also features delicious gluten-free and wheat-free dishes. There's also a staggering variety of beverages, from freshly-squeezed juices to almond-milk cappuccinos. Open Mon-Sat from 11:00-22:00; Sundays 11:00-19:00.

Oroscopo (8)

oroscopo.gr

42-44 Antinoros street (Caravan Hotel Square), Athens 16121
+30 (0)210 723 8567

€ € €

Acclaimed restaurant, often filled by Athenians – a testament to its delicious food and friendly service. Whether you're after a pizza or more traditional Greek fare, Oroscopo is an excellent choice. Try the pork chops – you won't regret it.

Funky Gourmet (off-map)

funkygourmet.com

13 Paramithias Street and Salaminos, Keramikos, Athens 10435
+30 (0)210 524 2727

€ € € €

Gourmands and artistes, this one's for you. This Michelin-starred dining experience doesn't come cheap, but is worth every cent. Funky Gourmet offers carefully-designed, contemporary menus in an art deco setting showcasing the works of renowned vogueish artists. Available are degustation menus from €68 per person or €89 with wine pairings (at the time of publication). Reserve well in advance.

Varoulko (9)

varoulko.gr

80 Piraios, Athens
+30 (0)210 522 8400

€ € € €

One of the best seafood restaurants in Athens – if not *the* best. It comes at a price,

but offers a stunning view of the Acropolis. And for those of you who aren't fish fans, there are also meatier meals available including sweetbreads and goat stew. Reservations recommended several days in advance. Closed on Sundays.

Chez Lucien (10)

Trtoon 32, Petralona, Athens, Greece
+30 (0)210 346 4236

€ € €

Cozy French bistro, tucked away in a charming Thissio side street. Gallic dishes galore and popular with tourists and locals alike, this restaurant doesn't accept reservations – be prepared to arrive early, wait, and even share a table. Your patience will be rewarded with fantastic French onion soup and dreamy crème brûlée. Open from noon until late, Tuesday to Saturday.

Godzilla (11)

godzilla.gr

Flisvos Marina, Building 6, Athens
+30 (0)210 982 2220

€ € €

Overdone the ouzo? Sick of souvlaki? Ready for something a little lighter? Godzilla is a Japanese restaurant offering sushi and small dishes. This cozy place is decorated in a Japanese subway theme. And if you're not necessarily looking for lighter fare, go on Sunday, when you can indulge in the all-you-can-eat buffet for €27 per person (at the time of publication).

Fish Cafe (11)

fishcafe.gr

3 Veikou St, Makrigrani, Athens 11742
+30 (0)210 923 5813

€

Great fish and chips in an inexpensive, cheerful restaurant – the perfect stop for a weary traveller seeking comfort food. Excellent burgers, too. We recommend the big fish platter for a group of 2-3 hungry people.

Fresko Yogurt Bar (12)

freskoyogurtbar.gr

3 Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, Athens
€

Enjoy fresh Greek yoghurt the way the Greeks love it! Try a smoothie or adorn your yoghurt with nuts, a drizzle of honey or fresh fruit. The jams are also highly recommended. Open daily from 8:00 to midnight.



The word on the street: souvlaki!

Souvlaki is a popular street food, sold on street corners from carts and small shops. Small pieces of meat and vegetables (usually tomatoes and onions) are grilled on a skewer and served either on the skewer itself or in a pita, along with garnishes and sauces. If you want your meat in a pita with garnish and veggies, be sure to order a "souvlaki sandwich" – if you simply order "souvlaki" you can end up with a (more expensive) dish of mostly salad, with small amounts of meat and slices of pita.



Greek Gastronomy

Mixing up moussaka with Metaxa? Puzzled by pastitsio? Here's a quick cheat sheet to help you out when dining and imbibing in Athens.

Avgolemono

A soup (also a sauce) enriched with eggs and lemon juice

Baklava

A sweet dessert consisting of layers of filo pastry and nuts, drenched with honey syrup

Dolmades

Rice (plain or mixed with lamb) wrapped in grapevine leaves

Greek Coffee

Black, strong and (typically) sweet

Metaxa

A brandy widely drunk in Greece

Moussaka

A casserole composed of layers of eggplant and minced lamb, topped with a white sauce

Ouzo

Anise-flavored liqueur that turns milky white when water is added

Pastitsio

A pasta and lamb casserole bound by a cheese-infused white sauce

Retsina

White wine flavoured with pine resin

Spanakopita

Spinach in a triangular flakey filo pastry jacket

Taramosalata

A spread made with fish roe, bread crumbs and olive oil

Places to Drink

Athens is full of a variety of drinking establishments and we've rounded up a selection for you to choose from (or visit them all – we won't tell!). Cocktails, beer, wine, hard liquor, or even coffee – whatever your tipple, you can find a watering hole that meets your needs in a city that has developed a worldwide reputation for its nightlife. The districts of Psirri and Plaka, in particular, host a variety of great venues, with the former showcasing an international feel and the latter showcasing more traditional hotspots, playing Greek folk and pop music (known as bouzouki).

James Joyce Irish Pub (13)

jjoyceirishpubathens.com

Astiggos 12, Athens, Greece

+30 (0)210 323 5055

For those of you pining for the pints of Guinness synonymous with RIPE 66 in Dublin, you may find solace in the James Joyce Irish Pub - in Athens! This pub is located in the city's historical centre, and is a great spot for casual dining and a pulled pint. But if you're after a traditional Greek drinking experience, this is not it - the James Joyce is usually filled with tourists and expatriates.

BeerTime (14)

facebook.com/beertime.gr

Platia Iroon 1, Psirri, Monastiraki,

Athens 15565

+30 (0)210 322 8443

Fantastic pub with a wonderful selection of beers of varying strengths. The staff are always happy to help and if you're unsure as to which brew to test, they will be more than happy to recommend your perfect pint. If you really can't decide, samples are available for the discerning drinker who asks nicely (but you didn't hear it from us). Greek snacks and chips are also on the menu.

A for Athens (15)

facebook.com/aforathenscocktailbar

Miaouli 2-4, Athens 10554

+30 (0)210 324 4244

A for Athens is an acclaimed cocktail bar with minimalistic design and tunes, in contrast to the extensive drinks list. On the top floor is an urban terrace with a breathtaking view of the Acropolis, Plaka and Monastiraki Square. Arrive early to beat the crowds, and try to time your visit with the sunset to really take advantage of this bar's glorious view.

Tailor Made (16)

tailormade.gr

Platia Agias Irinis 2, Athens 10560

Located under the St. Irene Church, Tailor Made is in a relatively hidden, quiet area of the city. (Mostly) undiscovered by tourists, this trendy little place serves arguably the best coffee in Athens. At night it transforms into a hip bar boasting great cocktails.

Baba au Rum (17)

babaaurum.com

Kleitou 6, Athens

+30 (0)211 710 9140

Tucked away in a quiet corner of Athens, this eclectic, mellow bar is perfect for rum aficionados and cocktail lovers alike.

Black Duck (18)

blackduck.gr

9 Christou Lada 9A, Athens 10561
+30 (0)210 323 4760

Black Duck is more than just a great place to drink. It's a cozy space on three levels, with a restaurant and gallery. Whether you fancy a coffee and some classical music in the morning, or want to get down with spinning DJs in the evening, Black Duck has something for everyone.

Brettos (19)

brettosplaka.com

Kydathinaion 41, Plaka, Athens
+30 (0)210 323 2110

Brettos is the oldest distillery in Athens with a great, low-key atmosphere. Decorated by hundreds of colourful bottles and lights on the wall, this is the perfect place for an escape from everyday life, and the menu itself showcases a wide variety of drinks – from Greek wines, to ouzo, to liqueurs and brandies. An absolute must-visit, Brettos's gorgeous decor and charming atmosphere will impress boozehounds and non-drinkers alike.

Aegli Zappiou (20)

aeglizappiou.gr

Zappion Gardens, Kipos Zappiou, Athens 10557

If you're after a more sophisticated evening, Aegli Zappiou is the place for you. A hidden oasis in the heart of Athens, here you can sit back and relax with a cocktail at the comfy lounge. There's even an outdoor cinema, so you can enjoy your drink with a dash of Hollywood. Aegli Zappiou is also open during the day for lunch and snacks (try the pastries).



Souvenir Shopping

If you're looking for something nice to take home as a gift for yourself or someone special, here are some places you might want to visit.

Monastiraki Flea Market (21)

The easiest way to get to the Monastiraki Flea Market is to go to the nearest metro station and take the train to Monastiraki. Much of the "action" is located behind the metro station. You'll be spoilt for choice by the curiosities, with everything on sale from clothing to handbags to jewellery.

The Gazi District (22)

Gazi is fast becoming the new, cool place to be in Athens. A busy neighbourhood lined with shops, restaurants and bars, with Ermou being the main pedestrian shopping street, beginning at Syntagma.

Things to See and Do

Hamman Baths (23)

hammam.gr

In the Greece of yesteryear, Hammam-style baths were renowned for their healing properties using steam. The only authentic Hammam baths in Athens, these offer you the ultimate relaxing experience.

The Acropolis of Athens (24)

acropolisofathens.gr

The Acropolis is the most iconic monument of ancient Greek civilisation and, 2,500 years after it was built, remains one of the most enduring symbols of democracy. There's a great museum, too, for those who prefer their history indoors or have limited mobility (as the Acropolis itself is up a relatively steep hill). The Acropolis is an ancient citadel of ruins that includes various ancient structures and buildings of great architectural and historical significance. The most famous of these is the Parthenon, the largest temple on the Acropolis, which was originally dedicated to Athena, the patron deity of the city. Hephaiston, another ancient Greek temple, is also well worth a look.



Plaka (25)

At the base of the hill the Acropolis sits on lies a small historic neighbourhood called Plaka. Enjoy the old city by taking a stroll through the narrow streets, where you can also grab a bite to eat, enjoy a drink or shop for souvenirs.



Benaki Museum (26)

benaki.gr

The Benaki Museum presents the historical and cultural development of the Greek nation from the age of Roman domination through to the struggle for Greek independence in 1821.

Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art (27)

cycladic.gr

This small but prestigious archaeological museum houses some of the most celebrated collections of Early Cycladic culture in the world, with more than 3,000 objects dating from the fifth millennium BC to the sixth century AD. Closed on Tuesdays and Sundays.

The Ancient Agora of Athens (28)

Now in ruins, the agora was once the centre of political and public life in Athens. The agora (meaning “forum”) was a large open area, used for commercial, political, religious and military activity in ancient Greece. The Temple of Hephaestus in the agora is particularly impressive. Situated on a small hill and a favourite of Socrates himself, the Temple of Haphaestus is the only structure of its kind to still have a roof after thousands of years.



Panathenaic Stadium (29)

The old Olympic Stadium, built of granite in the late 19th century. This was the site built for the inauguration of the modern Olympic Games. Built entirely of white marble, this inspiring site also marks the end of the 42km marathon for modern-day runners.

Byzantine and Christian Museum (off map)

byzantinemuseum.gr

Leoforos Vas. Sofias 22, Athens

Founded in 1914, this art museum is home to more than 25,000 exhibits with rare collections of pictures, scriptures, frescoes, pottery and artifacts dating from the third century AD to the late medieval era.

Hellenic Motor Museum (off-map)

hellenicmotormuseum.gr

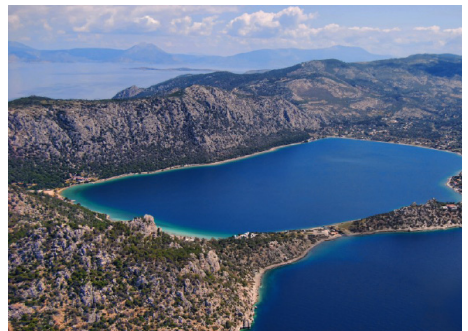
Iouliauou 33, Athens

For those with slightly more modern tastes, don't worry – you don't need to miss out. The Hellenic Motor Museum is a famous car museum in Athens. Here you can learn about the evolution of the car in the midst of 72 unique displays dating from 300 BC to the end of the last century, including some spectacular motors dating from the early 20th century onwards. Closed on Mondays.

Lake Vouliagmeni (off map)

limnivouliagmenis.gr

While this is quite a trip from Athens, those who make the journey rave about the wonders of Lake Vouliagmeni and its revitalising properties. The lake has thermal waters and a constant temperature of 28°C. Go during the day for a swim, or in the evening to one of the surrounding bars or restaurants. You can get there from the E22 bus that leaves Syntagma Square, and the journey will take approximately one hour, as the bus gets very busy.



Useful Info

RIPE 67 takes place at the Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel Athens

Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel Athens
Syngrou Avenue 89-93
Athens 11745
Greece
T: +30 (0)21 0920 6000

For more information about RIPE 67, visit:

ripe67.ripe.net

Social Media



facebook.com/ripemeetings
facebook.com/RIPENCC



@ripemeeting (use #RIPE67)
@RIPE_NCC



Look for the RIPE community group!