

Athens and Thessaloniki: Greece's ideal short break cities

While its most visible landmark is the fabulous Parthenon, which stands high on top of the Acropolis, the Greek capital is also a place buzzing with more contemporary delights: in the evenings you will fall in love with its stimulating mix of designer bars, stylish clubs and modern restaurants.

And with the coast just a short drive away, you can combine city life with the chance to chill out by day at great resorts or dance the night away at unforgettable beach parties.

Athens boasts some extraordinary historical treasures - top of the list is the magnificent new Acropolis Museum, purpose built to house the archaeologi-

cal treasures related to the Acropolis Hill. In order to discover the real heart of the city, however, it's worth strolling around the old neighbourhoods of Athens.

You will find a unique mix of beautifully preserved mansions, luxurious department stores and small intimate shops, chic restaurants and traditional taverns.

Thessaloniki, the capital of the Macedonia region and Greece's second city, is also a perfect destination for a short break.

The city has been the home of Greece's greatest musicians, artists, poets and thinkers. It has some of the most beautiful beaches and the finest hotels and best restaurants in northern Greece.

Here you will discover Roman remains, Byzantine glories, Ottoman alleys and a rich culinary tradition.



TOP: Sunset city: Thessaloniki's beauty and history rivals that of Athens



LEFT: Fish for dinner: Athens' coastal location makes it an excellent city for diners



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΗΛΕΙΩΝ "Ο ΕΡΜΗΣ"
279 Forest Rd., Bexley NSW 2207

Εκδρομή • Προσκύνημα

Το Δ.Σ. και η Γυναικεία Επιτροπή διοργανώνει

Προσκύνημα στην εκκλησία του Αγίου Αποστόλου στο Newcastle την Κυριακή 5 Ιουλίου 2009.

Τα λεωφορεία θα αναχωρήσουν μπροστά από το Coles Earlwood

και από το παλιό κτίριο του Συλλόγου, 11 Rossmore Ave., Punchbowl.

Ώρα αναχώρησης 7 π.μ. Τιμή εισιτηρίου \$30.

Μετά το πέρας της Θείας Λειτουργίας θα μεταβούμε με τα λεωφορεία στο Κλάμπ του Entrance. Για φαγητό τρώς ότι θέλεις και όσο θέλεις με τιμή \$17.50.

Επίσης στις 2 Αυγούστου, Προσκύνημα στην εκκλησία του Αγίου Παντελεήμονα στο Goulburn.

Κλείστε θέσεις στο τηλέφωνο του γραφείου μας από ώρα 9 π.μ. έως 6 μ.μ.

Δευτέρα έως Σάββατο 95676005

ή στον κ. Μπεκρή 9558 8676 κ. Αδαμόπουλος 9599

4662, κ. Μιλιπούλου 9708 1321 και στην κα Ρένα 9558 5997.

Μην χάνεται τις εκδρομές μας.

Τόσο οι πολυήμερες όσο και οι ολόήμερες εκδρομές μας είναι απόλαυση.

Εκ των Δημοσίων Σχέσεων
Δ. Ψαρρός

NAFPLION, GREECE: My kind of town

The author James McCreet offers a guide to Nafplion, one of mainland Greece's most beautiful destinations.

WHY NAFPLION?

I lived and worked as a teacher here for a year in 1998 and have returned every summer since. Even the Greeks recognize that it's the most beautiful of all mainland towns, with its numerous Venetian and Turkish buildings, twisting labyrinthine streets and a sophisticated atmosphere that's a million miles from a tourist resort. Athenians flood the place at weekends to preen and pose in the cafes.

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST WHEN YOU ARE AWAY?

The gentle pine-scented breeze and the view from the seafront cafes across the Argolic gulf (with its island castle - the Bourtzi) towards the mountains of Arcadia. I used to spend every morning there dreaming of the book I'd write one day. The book is now real, but the location still inspires dreams.

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU RETURN?

I go to Kondogiorgos caft on Miaouli street facing the Bourtzi, order a sweet Greek coffee (ellinikos glykos) and drink in the view to recharge my memory of it for another year... or at least until I can return for good.

WHERE WOULD YOU MEET FRIENDS FOR A DRINK?

If not Kondogiorgos caft on the seafront, then Kentriko caft beneath the large plane tree in Syntagmatos Square. With a mosque-cum-cinema at one end and the Venetian warehouse-cum-museum at the other, this marble-paved hub has to be one of the most attractive squares in Greece. The other mosque nestling unobtrusively by palms in one corner was the first Greek parliament.

WHERE WOULD YOU SEND A FIRST-TIME VISITOR?

There's a gorgeous walk around the headland west along the



seafront from Kondogiorgos caft that swings you through a rocky arch into a stunning view of the eighteenth-century Palamidi fortress towering 216

metres above the town.

Take a taxi up there (rather than the 857 steps) and look down on the patchwork of Venetian terracotta roofs. Then spend an hour or two getting lost in the alleys before eating your way towards a balmy siesta.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM TO AVOID?

New Nafplio on the road to Athens is an identikit Greek town of tedious white concrete, poor road surfaces and mess. That said, it's undeniably authentic.