



# Syntagma & Plaka to Monastiraki

Monument-packed central Athens is best explored on foot. The main civic hub – Plateia Syntagmatos – merges into the historic neighbourhoods, making for an atmospheric stroll.

**Start** Plateia Syntagmatos  
**Distance** 2.5km  
**Duration** Three hours

**6 Hadrian's Library** (adult/child €4/free; ☀8am-3pm) was once the most luxurious public building in the city, erected by the eponymous emperor around AD 132.

**4 The 17th-century Bath House of the Winds** (adult/child €2/free; ☀8am-3pm Wed-Mon), a historic (but nonfunctional) *hammam* is one of the few remnants of the Ottoman Empire, and the only surviving public bath building.

**Take a break...** Chill out at **Klepsydra** (☎210 321 2493; Thrasivoulou 9, ☀9am-1am; Monastiraki), a cafe offering quiet respite in the busy downtown area.



**7 Monastiraki**, a colourful, chaotic central square teeming with street vendors, leads to a shopper's or people-watcher's paradise: the **Monastiraki Flea Market**.



**5** The expansive Plateia Mitropoleos is home to **Athens Cathedral** (☀7am-7pm) and its smaller, more historically significant neighbour, the 12th-century **Church of Agios Eleftherios** (pictured above).



**Classic Photo** *Evzones* (presidential guards) in Plateia Syntagmatos.



**1 Plateia Syntagmatos** is home to the parliament building (watch the changing of the guards, every hour on the hour) and the Peisistratos aqueduct, unearthed during metro excavations.



**2 Reliefs at the Lysikrates Monument**, built in 334 BC, depict the battle between Dionysos and the Tyrrhenian pirates, whom the god transformed into dolphins.



**3 The Anafiotika Quarter** is a picturesque maze of little whitewashed houses, the legacy of stonemasons brought in from Anafi to build the king's palace after Independence in 1821.

Filopappou Hill



0 200 m  
0 0.1 miles

