

# The VideoDance2007 Athens City Guide



Welcome to Athens! You are at the Eleftherios Venizelos airport!

The Athens International Airport is located 33km southeast of Athens and is easily accessible via Attiki Odos, a six-lane motorway connected to the Athens City Ring Road. It is a quite big airport since all flights from and to Athens take off and land there.

Please go to <http://www.aia.gr/EN/default.asp> for info on the airport and transport to and from there



Which hotel am I going to?

**Athinais Hotel (just opposite the venue)**

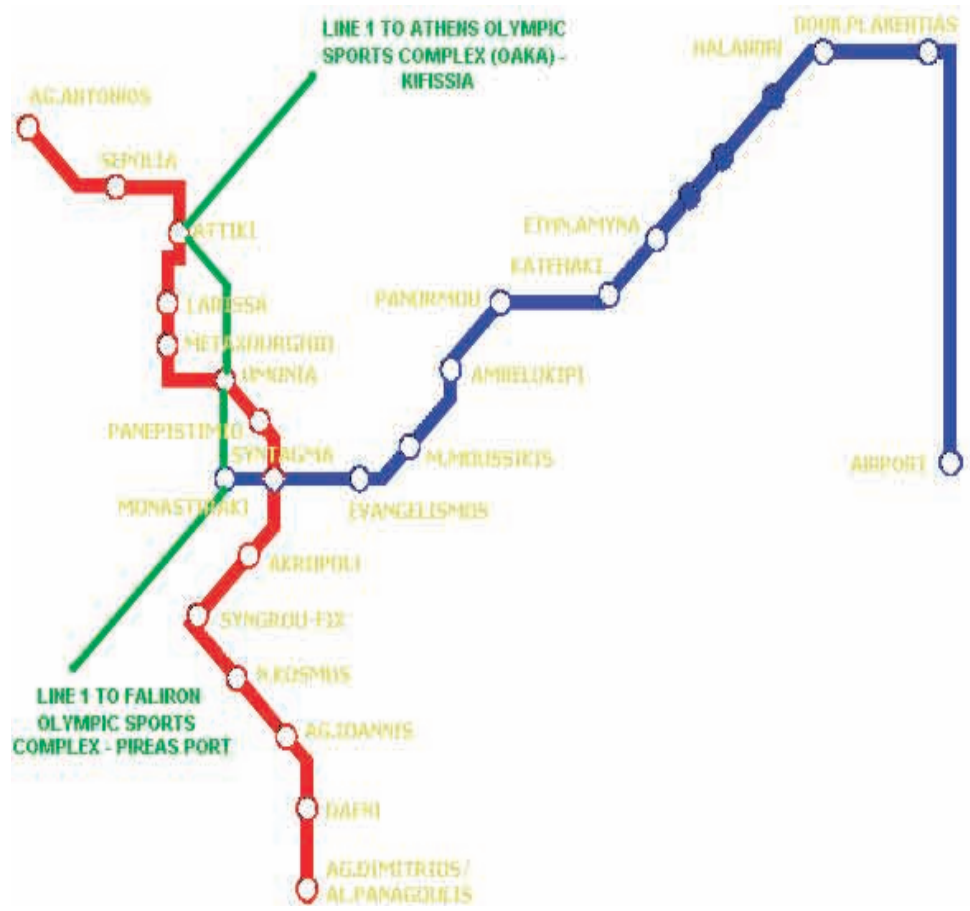
99, Vassilissis Sofias Ave.  
Athens, Greece  
Tel: +30 210 6431133  
Fax: +30 2106461682  
www.athinais.gr

**Hotel - Apartments Delice**

King Alexander 3 & Vrassida,  
115 28 Athens - Greece,  
Tel: +30210 7238311/313  
Fax: +30210 7238314  
www.delice.gr

**Hotel Centrotel**

Peoniou 11A (from Aharnon 71) • Athens - Greece  
T: 210 8258010 F: 210 8258015  
www.centrotel.gr



## How do I get to the hotel and to the VideoDance2007 venue?

Public transport from the Airport to Athens is provided by train, taxi and express airport bus connections on a 24 hour basis, ensuring efficient transport for air travellers.

**All information on Public Transport in Athens is here:**

**[http://www.ethel.gr/eng/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.ethel.gr/eng/index_eng.htm)**

Information on buses you may also find here: [http://www.ethel.gr/eng/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.ethel.gr/eng/index_eng.htm)  
and on metro here: [www.ametro.gr](http://www.ametro.gr)

### **METRO**

More specifically, there is the newest Metro line that connects the airport to the city centre. A single airport ticket is 6 euro, return within 48 hours is 10 euro. Two person airport ticket is 10 euro and three person is 15 euro. The airport ticket is valid for journeys to or from the airport only. For normal routes within the Metro system tickets are sold in all stations, 0.80 euro single, valid for 90 minutes from validation. For unlimited routes of 1h and 30 minutes with metro, buses, tram and Suburban Railway, there is a ticket at a fare of 1.00 €. A weekly ticket is 10 euro and it is valid for 7 days after the first and only validation, for unlimited journeys on the public transportation network.

From the airport you can take the Metro blue line (make sure the direction is to Monastiraki or Syntagma) and get off at Megaro Mousikis or Ampelokipi stations. The Hotel/Festival venue is located 5 minutes walk from the station.

1/ if you get off at Megaro Mousikis station: walk up Vassilissis Sofias Av. past "Venizelos" park and Megaron Concert Hall, the American Embassy (huge building next to the Megaron-can't miss it!) and past Mavili square and there you are!

OR

2/ if you get off at Ampelokipi station: you are on Alexandras Av. Walking back towards the big junction of Alexandras Av. with Kiffissias Av. and Vassilissis Sofias Av., you take a right at the big traffic light into Vas.Sofias Av. walking down towards Mavili square and the Am. Embassy. The hotel is on your right at No 99 Vas.Sofias Av., and the venue is on your left at 112 Vassilissis Sofias Av. (strange building, can't miss it, too)

Please go here for the metro map:

[http://www.ametro.gr/main/project/description/zoom/map\\_big\\_down.jpg](http://www.ametro.gr/main/project/description/zoom/map_big_down.jpg)

\*you can also pick it up from the airport

### **BUS**

There is also the bus number E95 that leaves from the airport every 8' to 15' (from 18:55 to 1:00) and every 20' (from 01:00 to 18:55). The buses leave exactly outside the exit of your arrival.

Please note that the ticket price of the airport express lines is €3.20. It allows for only one trip from and to the airport and unlimited travel by all other transport modes (bus, trolley, metro) for 24 hours starting on the time of its validation.

You can use **X94 > Ethniki Amyna metro Station - Athens International Airport** getting off at **Ethniki Amyna station**.

The journey takes 45' depending on traffic and the time of the day (peak hours usually between 7-10am, 1-3pm and 5-8pm) so it is a good idea to plan in advance. Once you reach Ethniki Amyna station, you can either take the metro (blue line towards Monastiraki/ Syntagma) and get off at Megaro Mousikis or Ampelokipi stations - or take a taxi: it will cost you around 3-4 euros including the luggage.

Alternatively you can use **X95 > Syntagma - Athens International Airport** getting off at Syntagma station. The journey takes 60' depending on traffic and the time of the day (as above).

Once you reach Syntagma you can either take the metro (line 3 - blue line-towards Ethniki Amyna /Doukissis Plakentias/ Airport) getting off at Megaro Mousikis station or Ampelokipi station - or take a taxi: it will cost you around 3-4 euros including the luggage.

Please go to <http://www.oasa.gr/> for more info on the bus system

## TAXI

You can take a taxi from the airport directly to your hotel. Taxis in Athens are rather cheap, and a very common means of transport. From the airport to your hotel you shouldn't pay more than 30 euro on a normal circulation hour, but it can get slightly more expensive if you fall on a jam. We strongly recommend the Metro and the Bus.

for stations and transfers pick a Metro map from any station and for detailed information on the Athens Metro system please have a look at [www.ametro.gr](http://www.ametro.gr)

Except from the above ways, here is a bus and trolleybus station just outside the venue. You can use all buses going up and down Vassilissis Sofias Av. And trolleybuses number 3, 8, 13, and 7 (stops opposite the venue)

## TRAMWAY

The tramway lines finished just before the Olympic Games and offer transport covering mainly the sea front of the south suburbs. The route connected Syntagma square to Faliro (Peace and Friendship Stadium) and Glyfada (the busiest area of the south suburbs) [see map below]

Tickets cost 0.60 euro for the entire route and 0.40 euro for a 5 stop route (15 min maximum) and for a transfer from any other transport medium (metro, bus, trolley). There are automatic ticket vending machines at each Tram stop.

There are Tram ticketing booths at the SEF, PIKRODAFNI, KOLYMVITIRIO, NEOS KOSMOS, VOULIAGMENIS and AGIAS FOTINIS (Nea Smyrni Square) stops.

For details also see: <http://www.tramsa.gr/html/en/index.php>

## What a labyrinth! How do I move in this city?

Athens's public transport system consists of the new Metro system, bus and trolley routes and the old electric rail system that now links up with the Metro, the Proastiakos train and the brand new tramway. You can take a map of the metro free from all metro stations, but we have enclosed one for you.

There are also maps posted in the metro stations indicating the bus and trolley links.

Tickets for buses and trolleys are sold in special booths at bus terminals and at selected "periptera" (street kiosks). A one-day travel pass for the entire system costs 3 euros and can be purchased in the Metro. Bus routes are often confusing so ask a local for assistance.

[ For details on metro, buses, trolleybuses and taxis see above ]



## MONEY

What you should bear in mind is that you'd better have some cash on you because many places - even some small restaurants - do not accept credit cards. For international calls it would be better if you make them from a metered phone at any OTE (Greek telephone company) office or by purchasing a calling card at any kiosk.

Most banks will exchange foreign currency and are normally open Mon-Thurs 8am -2pm, Fri 8am -1:30pm .

The NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE, Syntagma Square, Tel: 210 323 6481, has weekend hours for foreign exchange only, Sat. 9am -3pm, Sun. 9am -1pm.

But Visa distributors are everywhere.

A little bit of geography

Central Athens is made up of many districts and neighborhoods. Piraeus, once a separate city (and still separate administratively), has been absorbed by Athens with no distinguishable borderline remaining between the two. Kifissia to the north and Glyfada to the south were both formerly separate suburbs but now are part of the greater metropolitan area. The old center of the city remains the area bound by Syntagma, Omonia and Monastiraki Squares taking in Plaka and Psirri as well. The modern city centre includes also Kolonaki, Exarcheia.



## MUST in Athens!

There are many attractions and sites around

**ACROPOLIS** which consists of a number of structures including: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Parthenon, which is the largest building on the Acropolis and the icon of Western civilization, and the Erechtheion. All of the above are open daily 8:30am-6:30pm. Admission 12 euros adults, (free if under 18 years old) Sunday free entrance, includes archaeological sites and the museum. Tel: 210 321 0219

**THEATRE OF DIONYSUS** which was built in the 5th century BC and is able to accommodate 17,000 spectators. This is where the plays of Aristophanes, Euripides, Aeschylus and Sophocles were first performed.

**ODEON OF HEROD ATTICUS** that was built by the Roman ruler Herod Atticus in 161 AD. This is where the events of the Athens Festival take place. These sites on the south slope of the Acropolis are accessible for a separate fee of 1.50 euros and are open daily 8:30am-5pm.

**ANCIENT AGORA**, or marketplace, was the heart of ancient Athens –an “open space” which was the focus of political, commercial, administrative and social life for centuries. It is here too, that in 49 AD Paul the Apostle made the first converts to Christianity.

**HADRIAN’S ARCH.** That is located at the intersection of Vas. Olgas and Amalias Avenues, this Roman arch marked the boundary of ancient Athens and the new city.

**LYKAVITTOH HILL** (also written as Lycabettus), is the highest point in Athens, and from here you can see the central landmarks of the city (including the Acropolis and the Panathenian Stadium) as well as the sea and surrounding mountains. Take the teleferique or funicular railway from the top of Ploutarchou St. Fare: 4 euros round trip.

**TEMPLE OF OLYMPIAN ZEUS.** Once the largest temple in ancient Greece, its ruins lie just behind Hadrian’s Arch. The opening dates and hours are Tues-Sun 8am-2:30pm. At a fee of 1.50 euros. The entrance is in Vas. Olgas and Amalias Avenues. Tel: 210 922 6330

**GAZI >TECHNOPOLIS.** The former 19th century gas factory has become a major cultural attraction for the performing arts and installation works, thanks to the Municipality of Athens. It is in Pireos 100 and Ermou street in Gazi, Tel: 210 346 0981

## MUSEUMS / art galleries

You can also visit [www.athensartmap.net](http://www.athensartmap.net), an excellent Athens art map website !

**NATIONAL GALLERY** > Location: 50 Vas. Konstantinou Avenue. Dates : 09/06/2004 - 30/09/2004. Mon, Wed-Sat 9am-15pm, Sun 10am-14pm, Tue closed.Tel: 210-7235857. Tickets 6€

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MODERN ART [www.wmst.gr](http://www.wmst.gr)** > Location: Megaron / The Athens Concert Hall - Vas. Sophias & Kokkali 1.

**NATIONAL SCULPTURE GALLERY** > Location: Alsos stratou, Goudi, Metro: Katechaki. Mon-Sat 9:00-15:00, sun 10:00-15:00 and afternoon Mon and Wed. 18:00-21:00. Tickets 6 euro.

**ACROPOLIS MUSEUM** > Displays finds from the Acropolis dating back to the 6th century BC, including breathtaking sculptures. It is open daily 8am-2:30pm. The admission fee for the museum and archaeological site for adults is 12 euros, for non-EU students 6 euros and for EU students free. It is located behind the Parthenon. Tel: 210 321 4172

**NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM** > Location: 44 Patission street.  
One can visit today only the ground floor, with the prehistoric collections and the sculpture collection from archaic until roman times.  
Tickets 6 euro, opening hours Tue-Sun 9:00-14:00, Mon 14:00-20:30

**BENAKI MUSEUM** was established in 1931 in the stately home of the benefactors by the same. This stunning museum displays ancient and modern Greek art, traditional folk costumes as well as Islamic, Coptic and Byzantine treasures. It has a very nice rooftop café. It is open M-Sat from 9am-5pm, on Thursdays from 9am until midnight and on Sundays from 9am to 3pm and it is closed on Tuesdays. The admission fee for adults is 6 euros and for students 3 euros. Location: Corner of Vas. Sofias and Koumbari, Kolonaki. Tel: 210 367 1000

**NEW BENAKI MUSEUM** > Location: 183 Pireos street, Gazi area . Temporary exhibitions. One of the best cafés in town! Mon-Sun 10am – 8pm Tickets 3€. Tel: 210-3453111-3.  
[www.benaki.gr](http://www.benaki.gr)

**DESTE FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART** > Location: E.Pappa & Filellinon Street, N. Ionia. Tue-Sat 12am-21pm Mon, Sun closed. Tel: 210 - 27 58 490 Friday-Saturday 10am - 16pm, or appointment. [www.deste.gr](http://www.deste.gr)

**BYZANTINE MUSEUM** > Located in the former residence of the Duchess of Plaisance, this museum has the most important collection of icons and Byzantine art in the world and is a perfect starting point before visiting Byzantine churches. The opening hours are: Tues-Sun 8:30am-3pm. Admission 4 euros. It is in Vassilissis Sofias 22 avenue. Tel: 210 721 1027

**GOULANDRIS FOUNDATION MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART** > Founded in 1986, this small, elegant museum contains the immense private collection of Cycladic art of Nicolas and Aikaterini Goulandris. There is also an excellent museum shop. It is open on Mon-Wed-Fri from 10am to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 5pm. The admission fee is 3.50 euros for adults and 1.80 euros for students/ children. It is in Neofytou Douka 4 st, in Kolonaki.  
Tel: 210 - 722 8321

## ART GALLERIES

There are many private galleries in Athens. We recommend some of them:

**A.D. gallery, qbox, Xippas gallery, gazon rouge, Medusa gallery, Ileana Tounta.**

For full and detailed listings of all art galleries and cultural sites and events, please see [www.goculture.gr](http://www.goculture.gr) an excellent website on cultural listings and art life in general.

## If I want to eat something?

Finding a place to eat won't be a problem, and the food is really good. But we made a small catalogue for our guests, just in case you need it!

And some tips:

Athens is a city living late at night. Don't be afraid to ask for a late dinner after the screenings (and all through the night at Mavili Square, just opposite).

Some restaurants do not accept credit cards, so do keep some change with you

All waiters speak English. Most of the restaurants have English menus, too

### Around the VD07 Festival venue

There are many cafes and restaurants located around the venue of VideoDance Festival, as it is a business area, but also residential.

Right behind the building, on Evrou st. there are restaurants and a small café for a quick coffee to go and fresh sandwiches, but as you walk along Evrou st. on the left of the building towards Purgos (big office area) there are more cafes and small tavernas/restaurants for launch and early diners.

The closest to the building (just behind it across the small cafe) is To Arhontiko a modern taverna with good prices and also take-away facility until 6pm.

### Central Athens Greek kitchen!

-**Café Avissinia** is in plateia Avissinias, the most cult place of Athens, in the heart of the fleet market with view to the roofs of youssouroum and Acropolis. Very close to your hotel. (20-30 euro per person)

-**Mamaca's** is a modern edition of a traditional "taverna", very cool, with excellent home-made food. Open in the daytime for lunch, too.

-You could try **Giantes'** food, made from bio ingredients and whose recipes are from all over the country. It is located in the pedestrian street of Valtetsiou st, (44) in Exarhia, a quite old area of Athens. Excellent courtyard with beautiful colours, open in the daytime, too.

-**Platanos** is a "taverna" in Plaka, 4 Diogenous st,, next to Kyrillos Horologeion. Although it's cheap we are sure that you will enjoy your dinner.

-**Skoufias**, in Megalou Vassiliou 50 st. in Rouf area (behind the New Benaki museum), offers original Greek food in outstanding prices.

-**I taverna tou Iliia** (Iliia's tavern) at Eptakhalkou st., Thisseion, in a central but very quiet pedestrian street, is a very traditional restaurant and a meeting point for Athenians.

-**Chrysa** (81 Dimofontos st, Petralona) is a very traditional Greek restaurant hosted in an old building. Try to have a chat with the owner...

For trendy dinners, there are some excellent bar restaurants.

-**Soul Garden** is located in Evripidou 65 st., in an old commercial and now spooky area and surprising has one of most beautiful gardens in town where you can try interesting food and trendy cocktails.

-**Prosopa (Faces)** in Konstantinoupoleos 84 & Iera odos st, is the a very friendly place with really interesting food. The hint of this place that is literally by the train rails.

-**Fotaerio**, in Plateon 15 st, in Keramikos, is a detached house where you can try modern tastes in its cosy rooms and big garden.

-**To Kouti** (it means "the Box" in English) in Adrianou 23 st,, in Plaka, just opposite the ancient

Agora entrance except for the food offers an excellent view of Acropolis and Thisseion. Check the beautiful boxes they put the bread in...

There are many nice café restaurants for light meals around, perfect for a quiet business lunch, such as

- **To Parko** (the park), which is located in a park (parko Eleftherias) and is easily accessible -you get off at Megaro Mousikis tube station.
- Close to Syntagma square there is the **Niki's Café**, which is located in Nikis 3 st. and is next to the most commercial street of Athens (Ermou st.).
- If you would like a quiet place but also with interesting shops around, there is the **Brasserie Valaoritou** (15 Valaoritou st) that is on a pedestrian street and is close to galleries and jewellery shops.
- For a more glamorous lunch though, you could go to the **Kafeneio** (26 Loukianou st, Kolonaki) where many politicians, artists, shoppers or just neighbours have their meals.

And here are Restaurants with the best view that some may be quite costly but really worth the money...

- **Orizontes Lykavitou** (at the top of Lycabettus Hill) absolutely the best view of the city and Piraeus. It is one of the best and most expensive (more than 50 euros!) restaurants of Athens.
- **Pil Poul (Mister)**, on the pedestrian street Apostolou Pavlou 51, is another posh restaurant with really great view to Acropolis. It is expensive as well but the food is not that good.
- You could of course enjoy the view of Acropolis having a simpler meal at **Filistrion**, a few steps down the same pedestrian -in number 23. Many Mediterranean "mezes" are waiting for you!
- **Strofi**, in Robertou Galli 25 st, very close to Odeon Herod Atticus, has also nice view and Greek-Mediterranean food.
- **Trehantiria**, in Akti Koumoundourou 52 in Pireaus, offers fresh fish on the waterfront...

By the way, since you are in Greece, famous for the sea, the islands and the fish you may feel obliged to go to some fish restaurants...

- **Trata** is a very famous fish restaurant in Anagennisseos 7-9 square, Kaissariani, known better as plateia Kaisarianis (Kaissariani square). Try the soup!
- **Stelios 'I trata'** has also nice sea food and is 5 minutes walk from Athens Acrpol Hotel (in Themistoklous 8 st, close to Panepistimiou st).
- And if you cannot enjoy fish far from the waves, why don't you go to **Jimmy and the Fish** which is in Pireaus, in Akti Koumoundourou 46, Mikrolimano. It is the most tasteful restaurant in the area, rather expensive though (40 euros).

### Tips for vegetarians

As you might know, Mediterranean kitchen is very healthy, based on vegetables, so there are not many restaurants in Athens just for vegetarians. However, you can have vegetarian meals in all the places we have recommended, just by explaining that you are a vegetarian. They all serve excellent salads.

## And if I want to drink something?

We guess you will go for a drink after the screenings... The night will still be young, and late May in Athens is ideal for chill out nights!

- Briki** is a tiny but very popular bar with a very friendly atmosphere on Mavili Square, just opposite the venue.
- If you are tired of standing, you can sit at the tables of Mavili square, at the **Flower**. Very cheap, a hit in beautiful Athenian nights.
- Kinky Bar** one of the newest tiny bars in the Monastiraki area with great drinks and great music (some of the best alternative DJs in town!). Its size doesn't mean anything at all, as on the same street there 3 more bars located one next to each other creating the most amazing buzzing atmosphere with everybody having their drinks out in the street..located in 6-8 Avramiotou st. (behind Athinas st.)
- Pop** bar same atmosphere as in Kinky bar, only difference in creates the same atmosphere on its own(!) located inside the pedestrian area of the market, further up from Monastiraki towards Syntagma sq. in 10B Klitou st. (off Kolokotroni and Euaggelistrias st.) Very Pop-ular..!
- Inoteka** in Plateia Avissinias 3 in Monastiraki gives some life to the old and cult area in the evenings when all antiquities shops are closed. A real place to enjoy an Athenian night.
- Galaxy** which is in Stadiou 10 st, in the centre of Athens, is the place for people who are knowledgeable about drinking and like old classic situations.
- Skoufaki** is a funky jazz bar, the best in the Kolonaki area, at 47-49 Skoufa street. Very lively atmosphere.
- Gazaki** in Gazi (Triptolemou 31 st) is the oldest in the area with classic drinks.
- Soul** is one of the most beautiful gardens in a spooky area with trendy people and cocktails. Try the best Mojito and Daiquiri Margarita of the area! It is in Evripidou 65 in Psirri.

FOR LISTINGS ON ATHENS OUT AND ABOUT GENERALLY WE SUGGEST

[www.athinorama.gr](http://www.athinorama.gr)

## Fun and sun!

### GLYFADA AND VOULIAGMENI

South of the city along the coast are Glyfada and a bit further on, Vouliagmeni. Glyfada has an excellent shopping area on and around Ioanni Metaxa Street and smart restaurants and bars. There are also outstanding beaches and water sports facilities at the Astir Beach Club and the EOT Beach Club Vouliagmeni. You can reach those areas and most of the beaches very easily, by tramway, by taxi or by the buses A2E, which is Express and calls at all the nice beaches (it leaves from Syntagma every 20') and A2 which calls at the Voula beach and the EOT beach of Alimos and leaves from Syntagma as well every 20'.

## Going back to the airport

**Metro:** From Megaro Mousikis station or Ampelokipi station, back with the Airport line (blue line-line 3-direction "El.Venizelos" Airport)

**Bus:** There is a bus stop for the line Syntagma Square to Athens Airport- bus number: E95 **just outside the venue**, opposite Mavili Square! From 5:40 to 7:00 every 8 minutes and 10 minutes. From 7:00 to 5:40 every 15 minutes and 20 minutes

**Bon voyage, we really hope you enjoyed your stay in Athens and we to have you back here for the next VideoDance!**