

## **Athens**

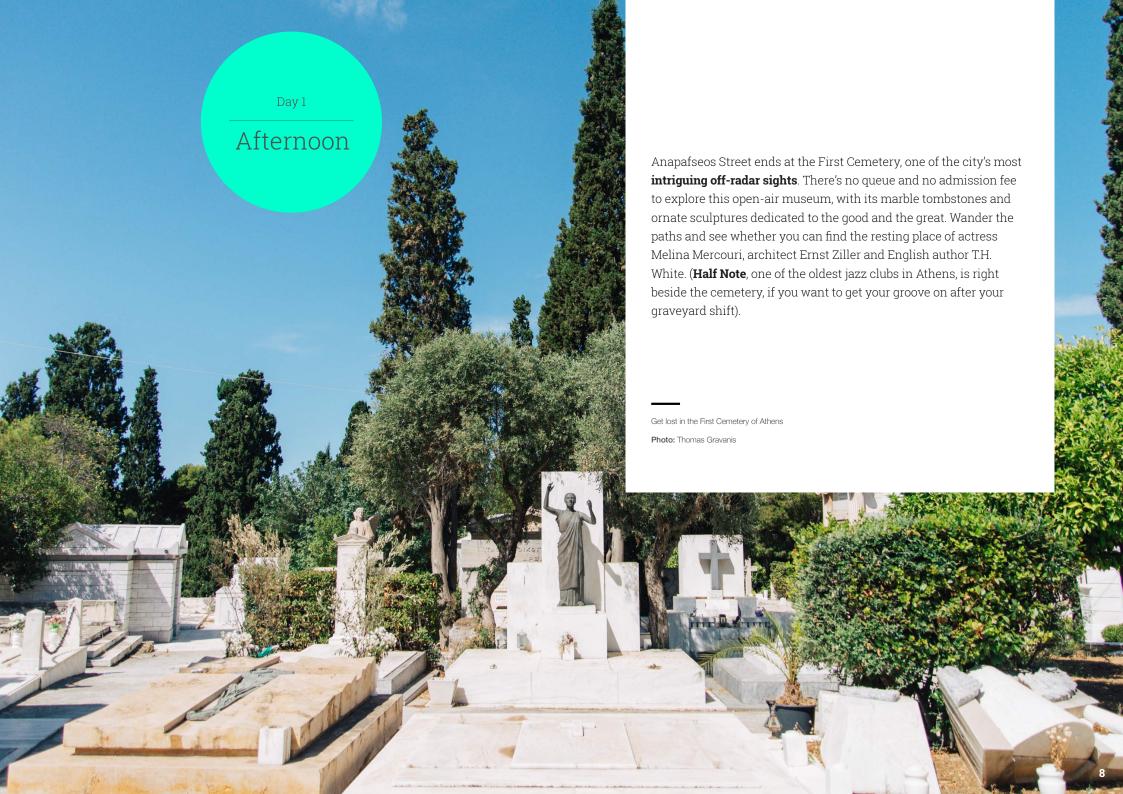
## off the Beaten Track

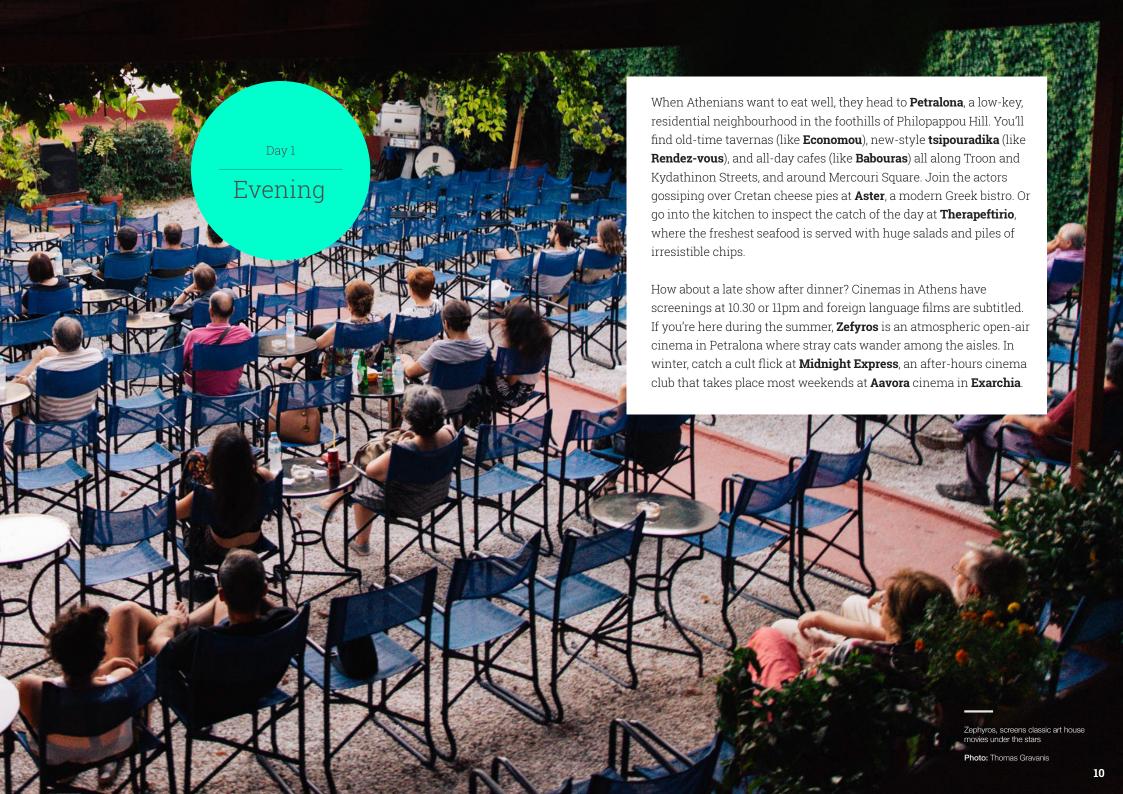
48 hours of insider sights and bites to help you experience Athens like a local.

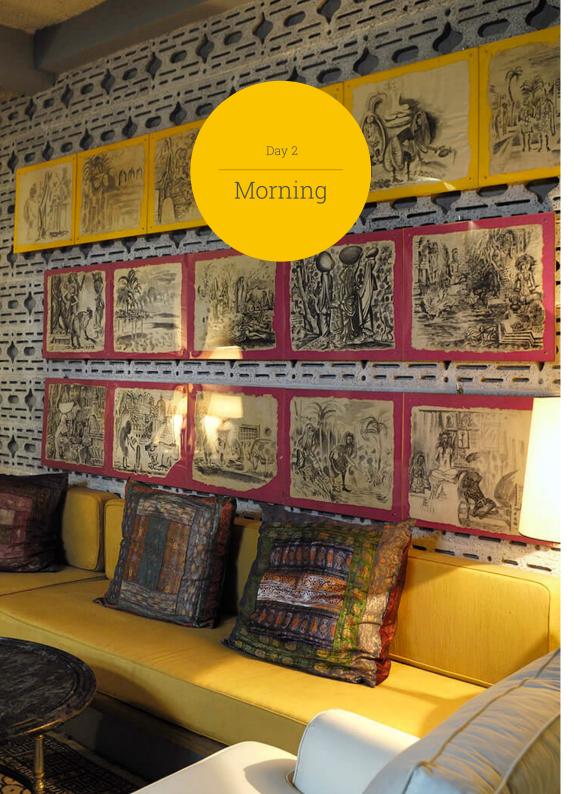
Athens is chock-full of must-see sights, but it's also wonderfully unpredictable. So if you hate going by the book, venture beyond the usual tourist attractions and selfie spots and you'll find unusual museums, avant-garde galleries, offbeat neighbourhoods and underground clubs. Follow our two-day guide to uncover Athens at its most authentic and unexpected.











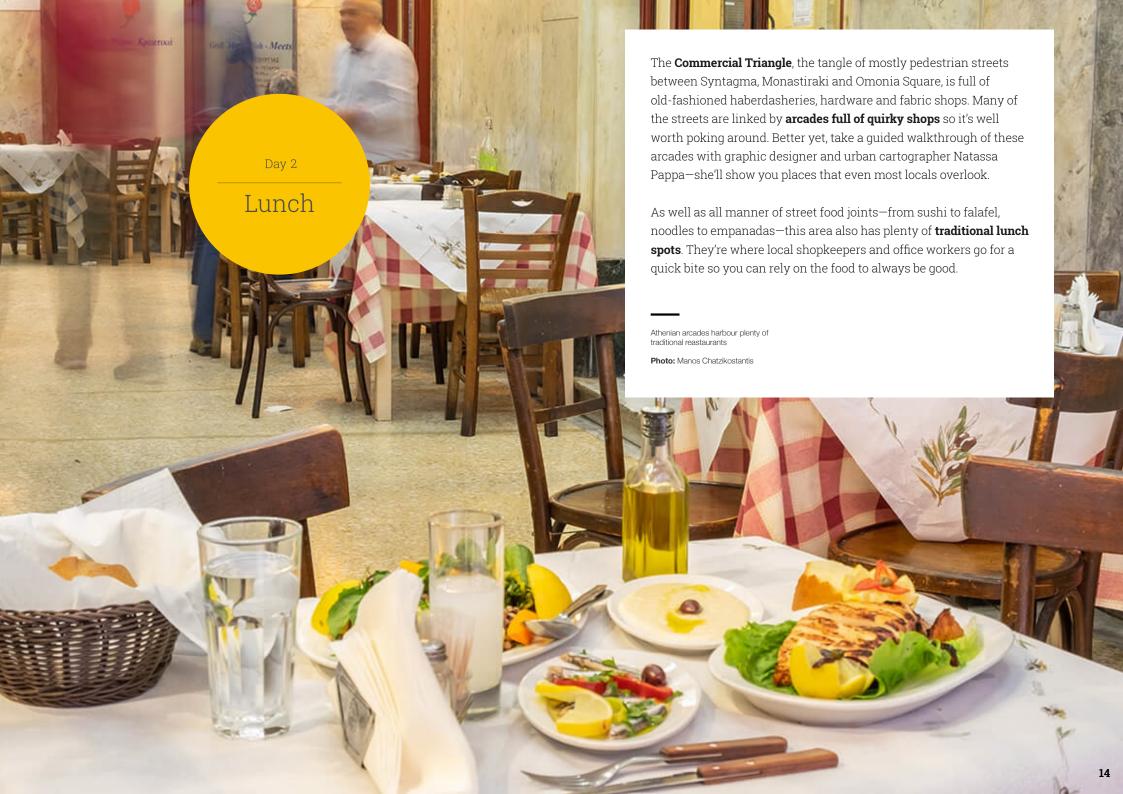
Checked off the ancient classics? Athens has plenty of **unusual museums** that explore aspects of Greek culture you may not know about. Seminal Greek painter Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika's own home—a stunning 1930s building in Kolonaki—is now a museum (**the Ghika Gallery**) devoted to his life and work. His studio is exactly as he left it.

The nearby **Katakouzenos Museum** is another museum in a private home. Angelos Katakouzenos and his wife Leto ran literary salons at this magnificent apartment filled with rare antiques, books, photographs and art—gifts from friends such as Picasso and Chagall. Visits are by appointment only, so call ahead.

Billed as the oldest house in Athens, the **Benizelos Mansion** is a rare example of Ottoman architecture smack in the heart of **Plaka's souvenir strip**. Entering the cloistered courtyard, complete with a wine and olive press, takes you back centuries.

Original artworks and decor at the Ghika Gallery

Courtesy: Benaki Museum





Kypseli Market, a meet up spot for social enterprises

Photo: Orestis Seferoglou

Once upper-class, now working class, **Kypseli**, is an intriguing hybrid of old-time Athenians, immigrants and young artists. This up-and-coming neighbourhood is full of wonderful mid-war architecture and alternative art galleries. Dip into the local art scene at **Victoria Square Project** and **Hot Wheels** gallery, or wander along pedestrian **Fokionos Negri Street** to the **Kypseli Municipal Market** for pop-up shops by social entrepreneurs.



