

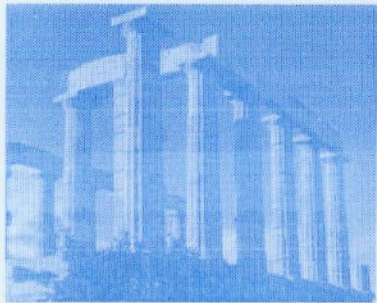


PRINCESS PATTTER

A daily guide to cruise activities 

ATHENS • SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008 • GRAND PRINCESS
Sunrise 7:19am • Sunset 7:13pm • Tonight's Dress: Smart Casual

Welcome to Athens



To experience Athens is to discover the pages of history coming to life. Drive down Syngrou Avenue before it curves around the Arch of Hadrian and see the majestic Temple of Olympian Zeus come into view. Turn a corner in Monastiraki and visit the Plaka market. Follow the Panathenaic Way and approach the Acropolis as centuries of Athenians have done before you. Here it is

easy to imagine the golden age of Greece when Pericles had the Parthenon built; when the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were performed in the Theatre of Dionysus below; and when democracy brought all citizens together to decide their common fate on the Pnyx Hill to the west. To explore Athens is to walk in the footsteps of those who planted the seeds of Western philosophy, science, culture and art. It is an experience one can never forget.

The Grand Princess Florists

Another enhancing quality onboard Grand Princess is our fresh-flower program. You may have seen Jimmy and Jason, our two full-time Florists at work around the ship, creating and freshening floral displays and tending to the many hundreds of plants aboard. They also produce beautiful arrangements for you to order for your stateroom or for special occasions. Anything from a single, delicate, long stemmed red rose to a beautiful orchid bouquet! Order forms are available 24 hours a day from the Purser's Desk.

FROM THE NAVIGATOR



In the early hours of the morning we will make our approach to Athens from the south, using the traffic separation scheme which controls the inbound and outbound traffic into the Bay. We will embark our pilot off the port and enter the harbor. Piraeus is the busiest port in Greece and everyday ferries depart for the Greek islands as well as Italy, Cyprus and Turkey. Upon departure we will thrust off the berth and back out into the harbor before turning to starboard and setting a course between the breakwaters. Once the pilot has disembarked we will set a Southerly course through the traffic separation scheme, as we build up speed for a slow run to Mykonos.

WEATHER:

Partly Cloudy
Wind: North east gentle breeze
High: 22°C

SHIP'S AGENT IN ATHENS

Cruise Vessel Operation,
ISS Cruise Services
Phone: (0030) 210 4146662
John Efstathiou
Mobile (0030) 6972288008

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Events and activities not to be missed

ENTERTAINMENT

PRINCESS THEATER

Promenade, Decks 6 & 7 Forward

7:00pm & 8:30pm

SPOTLIGHT SHOWTIME

Starring:

Passion and Pizzazz
with the Virtuoso Violinist

JACQUELINE ROCHE

MC: Cruise Director Paul

Music by the Grand Princess Orchestra

Audio or video taping is prohibited due to copyright.
No savings of seats please.

ENTERTAINMENT

VISTA LOUNGE

Promenade Deck 7 Aft

MOVIE NIGHT

7:30pm

ENCHANTED

Starring: Amy Adams & Patrick Dampsey

PG / Family • 1hr 48mins

10:30pm

ATONEMENT

Keira Knightly & James McAvoy

R • 2hrs 10mins

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WELCOME GUEST ARTIST ALDO LUONGO!

World renowned guest artist

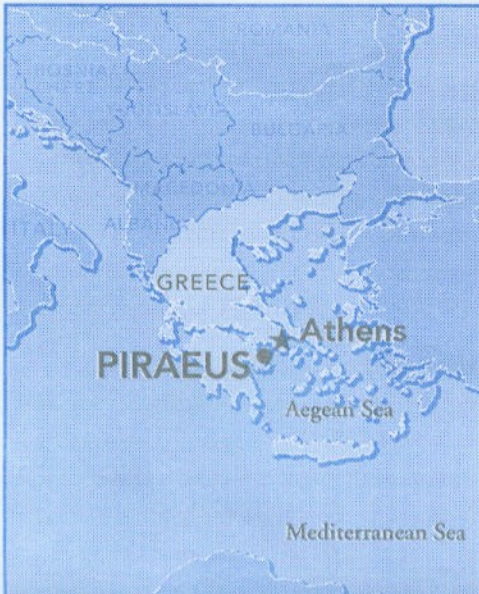
Aldo Luongo joins the

Art Connoisseur Program today!

Tomorrow night don't miss Luongo's

PAINTING DEMONSTRATION

in the MAIN ATRIUM DECK 5 at 7:30 p.m.!



GREECE AT A GLANCE

SIZE: 51,146 square miles, about the size of Alabama

POPULATION: 10,706,290
(July 2007 est.)

LANGUAGE: Greek

CAPITAL: Athens

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Presidential
Parliamentary Republic

CURRENCY: Euro

TIME ZONE: GMT +3

ABOUT YOUR PORT GUIDE

This is your guide to Athens, specially prepared by Princess Cruises. This guide is intended to assist you if you are on a shore excursion, touring independently or doing both.

Please note that the information provided is general in nature and is subject to change.

Athens: Where an Olympic Spirit Soars in the Winds of Democracy

Although it is a bustling modern capital city, Athens still holds the ancient Acropolis and all of its history high enough for everyone to remember.

The core of the city is built on a lofty hill with steep sides, providing an excellent defensive site. It is protected by a ring of lower hills, and by two rivers that flow into the sea nearby. Despite its many protections, Athens was far from isolated.

Very early in history, Athens gained attention among neighboring city-states for its strong maritime commerce and the wealth which that overseas trade generated. This commercial success, in turn, convinced the Athenians that an open-minded, tolerant approach toward all people was good for business, and frequently eliminated the petty causes of antagonism and warfare that might disrupt trade.

The basis for small-scale democracy was founded upon practical needs. Since there never seemed to be enough skilled workers to keep up with the demand for goods, the merchant classes saw that it was in their interests to form a working partnership with artisans, farmers, sailors and day-laborers. Those workers were granted political and civil rights, ensuring their loyalty to a city that protected them.

Slavery was uncommon during the first centuries of Athenian life, escaped slaves frequently found their way to Athens.

There was work available, and the steady influx of outsiders hoping to begin a new life was taken for granted.

Like many other Greek states, Athens exported its surplus population to colonize other parts of the region, spreading its own institutions and customs even further. Athenian settlements extend throughout the Aegean, Sicily, Southern Italy, Asia Minor and even the Black Sea.

Through Greek eyes, the unique traits of Athens disclosed a special relationship with both Poseidon, god of the sea, and Athena, goddess of wisdom. Athena's characteristic owl was a frequent symbol on Athenian coins and her olive tree, signifying peace and harmony, commonly appears on decorative works.

Though technically dedicated to the goddess, Athens did not want to neglect the powerful god of the sea, which dominated their commerce. The beautiful Erechtheion on the Acropolis hedges the bet quite nicely: shrines to Poseidon and Athena share the same temple building. There is also a stunning Temple of Poseidon atop the headland of Cape Sounion, overlooking the Aegean Sea.

The Golden Age of Athens began with the social reforms of the philosopher Solon and the strong direction of leaders like Peisistratos in the 6th-century B.C. Imposing public buildings and temples on the Acropolis replaced earlier ones, and the Agora or marketplace district expanded several times over.

During the Persian Wars (circa 400 B.C.), the city was captured and destroyed; but Athens and her allies ultimately expelled their Persian foes from Europe. The glorious battles of this period include the lopsided victory at Marathon, followed by the famous 26-mile run to communicate the news of victory.

Following the defeat of the Persians, the great statesman Themistocles built new fortifications to protect the city. There was also much to be rebuilt inside the city; the form of the Acropolis that we see today took shape at this time.

The shops and squares of the Agora and most of the lower town were also rebuilt and expanded during the same building program. Pericles also built the legendary Long Walls, a sort of fortified corridor connecting Athens with Piraeus.

Not far from the Acropolis is the Pnyx, a small crowded amphitheater where the Assembly met and debated political issues. Since each citizen had the right

to speak and vote, the Pnyx is the true home of Athenian democracy. The much larger Theater of Dionysus is one of the oldest and most impressive Greek dramatic structures.

After the city went into decline, it was ruled in turn by Sparta, Thebes, Macedonia, and Rome. The Roman Emperor Hadrian added a new walled quarter to the city, complete with library, gymnasium, new aqueducts, and the striking Hadrian's Arch. He also completed the Olympian Temple of Zeus, started centuries before by Peisistratos.

Athens remained part of the Roman-Byzantine empire even after the fall of Rome in the West. Along with the rest of Greece, it was conquered by the Turkish army in the 1450s and remained part of the Ottoman Empire until the 19th century.

Monuments in the modern city honor the memory of two non-Greeks: Lord Byron and Heinrich Schliemann. Byron supported the Greeks' struggle for inde-

pendence with his military skill, but even more with his writing. Although he died long before final victory, he is much loved even today.

Schliemann was a German businessman with a passion for ancient history. He shocked the archaeological world by discovering legendary sites, like Troy, which some scholars had dismissed as mythical. His efforts sparked a new wave of study, which brought to light previously unknown cultures like the Mycenaean and Minoan civilizations. His house in Athens is a museum today.

More modern additions to the city include the impressive Olympic Stadium, built in 1895. Syntagma or Constitution Square is an elegant space in front of the Parliament. Formerly built for the kings of Greece, also hosts the monument to the Unknown Soldier. One of the streets from there leads to the gracious buildings of the University, the Academy, the National Library, and ultimately to Schliemann's former house.



Acropolis

Places of Interest

ACROPOLIS

The Acropolis dominates the Athenian landscape. A walk up approximately 80 steep steps through the Propylea leads to the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, and the graceful Porch of the Caryatids.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The museum displays major archaeological finds including the statue of Poseidon and the Mask of Agamemnon.

THE PLAKA

The 19th-century shopping district at the foot of the Acropolis is home to one of the world's great flea markets; its cobbled lanes are lined with shops, boutiques, jewelry stores, tavernas and cafés.

ANCIENT AGORA

Located at the base of the Acropolis, this was once a sprawling market and public meeting place.

OLD OLYMPIC STADIUM

The marble stadium was re-built on the foundations of the stadium of Ancient Athens from the 4th century B.C. to host the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and more recently used in the 2004 Olympic Games.

TEMPLE OF OLYMPIAN ZEUS

Behind Hadrian's Arch lie the remains of the largest temple in antiquity; the temple took 700 years to complete.

CAPE SOUNION

This point offers dramatic views of the Saronic Gulf and the Temple of Poseidon.

TEMPLE OF POSEIDON

Dedicated to the sea god, this 5th century B.C. temple sits on the tip of Cape Sounion. The changing light and crashing waves once inspired Lord Byron.

ANCIENT CORINTH

Greece's wealthiest city in antiquity boasted a forum larger than Rome's. Its past grandeur is evident in the remains of the Lechaion Road and the ruins of the Doric Temple of Apollo.

CORINTH MUSEUM

The museum houses an impressive collection of Roman antiquities including superb mosaics. The original Greek city-state was destroyed by Rome in 154 B.C. and rebuilt as a Roman colony.

CORINTH CANAL

Like a deep gash in massive rock, the canal divides the narrow causeway linking the Peloponnese with the mainland. A bridge that towers 200 feet above the water spans the canal.

Practical Information

DOCKING

Your Princess ship will dock in the city of Piraeus. The drive into Athens is approximately 30 minutes each way, subject to local traffic.

SHORE EXCURSION DEPARTURES

Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to your tour ticket and the Princess Patter and tour tickets for the correct place and time.

TAXIS

Taxis are available pierside, beyond security gates. Drivers speak only limited English and all may not accept US currency. Confirm your fare with driver before departing.

SHOPPING

Many of the best souvenirs are inspired by Athen's ancient civilization. You'll find good buys in jewelry, high-quality gold and silver, leather, particularly sandals and bags, woodworks and pottery. The best places to shop are along Syntagma and the Plaka, in addition to the area bounded by Kolonaki Square. For last-minute shopping, the terminal building houses several stores.

OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

Banks: The nearest major banks are Alpha Bank, Euro Bank and HSBC, all of which are located along Akti Miaouli Street. They are generally open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Shops: Most shops are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Plaka area and tourist shops are usually open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

LOCAL CUISINE

Food Specialties

Meals in Greece are a time to indulge and enjoy. Some popular foods are:

Tzatziki: Well-known appetizer made with yogurt, cucumbers and garlic

Pastitsio: A baked dish of minced lamb and macaroni

Moussaka: Minced meat and vegetables served with rich cheese;

Gemista: Cooked tomatoes or peppers, usually stuffed with ground lamb.

Drink Specialties

Wine is a centerpiece of Greek life. Retsina, a strong, aromatic resonated wine, is the national taste. You may prefer the kokkino (red) and aspro (white) wines, which are inexpensive and quite satisfying.

Ouzo: A clear licorice-flavor liqueur, is a favorite aperitif. Sip it slowly over a plate of mezedes or appetizers.

You will also want to try Brandy, Botrys and Metaxa or Mavrodaphne, a heavy dessert wine.

It is always recommended that you drink bottled water while in port.

TIPPING

Suggested tipping is 15 to 20 percent for good service.

SOME USEFUL WORDS

Yes Malista or Ne

No Ochi

Please Parakalo

Thank you Efcharisto

Good morning Kalimera

CLIMATE

Athens is known as one of the sunniest cities in Europe, with a semi-arid climate and low average annual rainfall. The rain that does occur falls during the winter months, between mid-October and mid-April, usually as short, heavy showers. Summers are very hot, exacerbated by smoggy conditions, and heat-waves are common during July and August when the mercury soars to over 104 degrees. Winters are mild, although frost can occur and nights can be cold.

PRINCESS CRUISES AGENTS

In case of emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

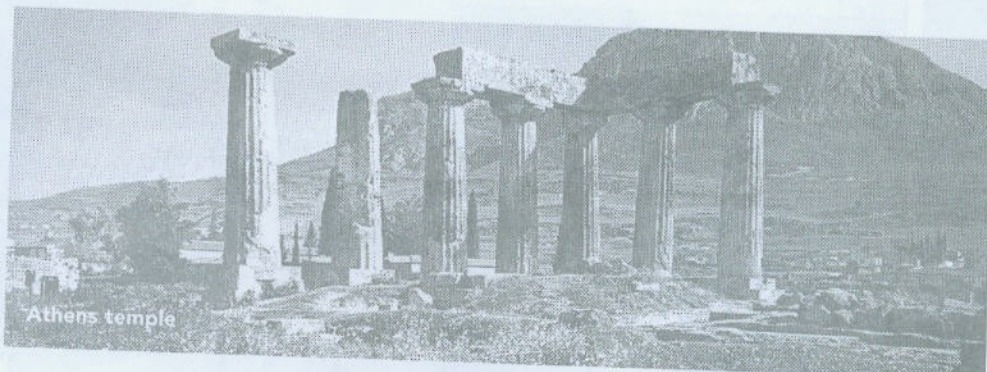
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Athens

