



## Practical Information

### Getting around the city

Walking around the centre of Athens is pleasant and safe. Most hotels will be within walking distance from the conference venue. Do try to explore Athens on foot, especially the area from Acropolis down to Thission and then up to Monastiraki via Plaka to Syntagma Square and then down to Klathmonos Square (next to the Conference Venue). Ippocratus street (next to the Conference Venue) separates two of the most well-known and very different neighbourhoods of Athens: Exarchia (on the left) and Kolonaki (on the right). Exarchia is the lovely quarter of students, intellectuals and bohemians. The Exarchia Square (one of the most famous of the city) has lovely cafes and tavernas. It's been known as the place where anarchists and ultra-leftists hang out (you won't fail to notice the presence of the riot police on various street corners) but it is a safe place to visit and explore. You won't have seen Athens unless you have visited Exarchia. Kolonaki is the neighbourhood of the old aristocrats and a lot of nouveau riche. Around Kolonaki Square there are plenty of trendy cafes and restaurants-mostly on the expensive side. There are also some very interesting galleries and museums. From Kolonaki you can easily reach mount Lycabettus and have a spectacular view of Athens from above.

**Taxi** (yellow cabs) is relatively inexpensive in Athens. There are not many taxi ranks, but you can always hail a taxi on the street. Make sure the meter is running and ask for a receipt. Tipping is optional but very welcome.

There is a reliable **metro** network with three lines: the blue/line3, the red/line 2 and the green/line 1. The green line is the oldest (mostly overground; we call it the 'electric') and runs from the port of Pireas to the northern affluent suburbs of Athens (Kiffisia). The blue line runs from the Airport to the western working class suburbs of Athens (Egaleo); the red line runs from the western working class suburb of Peristeri (Agios Antonios) to the mixed eastern suburbs of Athens (Agios Dimitrios).

Places you can visit by metro (though almost all are within walking distance from the Central Building of the University):

The new **Acropolis Museum** (Acropolis station, red line)-a 'must see'.

**Thision** (with a magnificent temple of Vulcan plus trendy cafes and restaurants. Another place you have to visit if you want to say you have visited Athens.) (Thision station, green line)

**Monastiraki** (a rather touristy but picturesque flea market; also next to Plaka and Psiri-a recently reclaimed area of Athens with lots of restaurant, bars and street life) (Monastiraki station, green and blue lines)

**Keramikos** (the ancient cemetery; next to a recently revamped and multi-cultural area with tavernas and trendy bars-known as Gasi, from the old Gas factory) (Keramikos station, blue line).

**Omonia Square** (the most famous square of Athens; it is an ugly square at the heart of Athens; but there you get a feel of the diversity and vibrant character of the city.) (Omonia station, green and red lines)

**Evangelismos Station** (for the national gallery and a number of smaller galleries and museums) (blue line)

The spectacular **Archaeological Museum of Athens** (Victoria station, green line)

**Athens' Concert Hall** (Megaro Moussikis station, blue line)

There are various types of **tickets** available. You can get an one-day travel card (4 Euros), but you can also get an ordinary ticket which you can use for 90 minutes on all means of public transport (except for the journey to and from the airport). This costs 1.40 Euros.

There is also a light rail system (**tram**), with two lines that connect the centre of Athens (Syntagma Square) with some of the affluent seaside suburbs of Athens).

There is a dense network of **buses** and **trolleys** in Athens. For information, go to the OASA site (Athens Urban Transport Organization). You will find right there, all the information you may need about routes, tickets and times regarding all means of public transport: metro, train, tram, buses, trolleys as well as information about traveling from Athens airport to the centre or port. Also, a useful route search.