

Arts & Culture

Kolonaki

A Guide to Kolonaki

A GUIDE TO KOLONAKI

experience type

Exploring the City

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the editor view

Once a reservoir built in the 2nd century AD by Hadrian, the area of Kolonaki began to thrive after the construction of the nearby Parliament building at Syntagma Square in the mid-1800s. Mansions were built and aristocracy began to move into the area. Alongside grand houses, nowadays Kolonaki is home to gentele cafés, unique green spaces and the highest hill point in the capital. You'll also find important historical museums, household fashion names such as Prada and Gucci and a selection of top-notch restaurants to choose from where you may find yourself rubbing shoulders with politicians and A-listers alike.

Spend the day exploring the neighborhood and visit Dexameni Square and underneath it, the incredible Hadrian's Reservoir which once served as the city's main water supply. Next head to the highest point in central Athens, Lycabettus Hill, here you can admire the impressive views of the city and out to sea and visit St George's Church, believed to be built on the same site as the Temple of Zeus. Stop at the top of the hill for a fine dining meal with a view at Orizontes Lycabettus or if you prefer a more casual option, head to Cafe Βιβλιοθήκη (Library), which is renowned for its excellent roast pork. After lunch visit Attica, Greece's largest department store before heading to Kombologadiko, which sells the famous Greek worry beads, made from amber and coral. Finish your day at The Benaki Museum, housed in a neoclassical-style building and home to Greek works of art from prehistorical to modern times.

Kolonaki has it all—designer shops among traditional Greek goods, top-notch gastronomy intermingled with the Greek café culture and nature in the center of a bustling city.



A GUIDE TO KOLONAKI



1

Historic Sights & Landmarks

Dexameni Square

Dexameni Square in Kolonaki was once the reservoir, Dexameni being Greek for Reservoir. Here you'll find pedestrianized cafes open year round with their outdoor heating and the popular Dexameni Café sharing its name with the square where you can drink the traditional Greek coffee and eat meze. Expect a younger crowd in their 20's and 3...

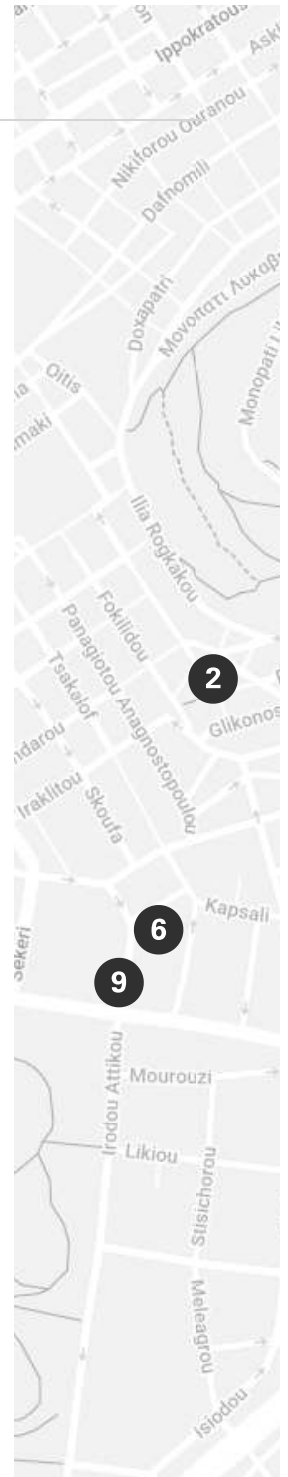
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2

Historic Sights & Landmarks

Hadrian's Reservoir

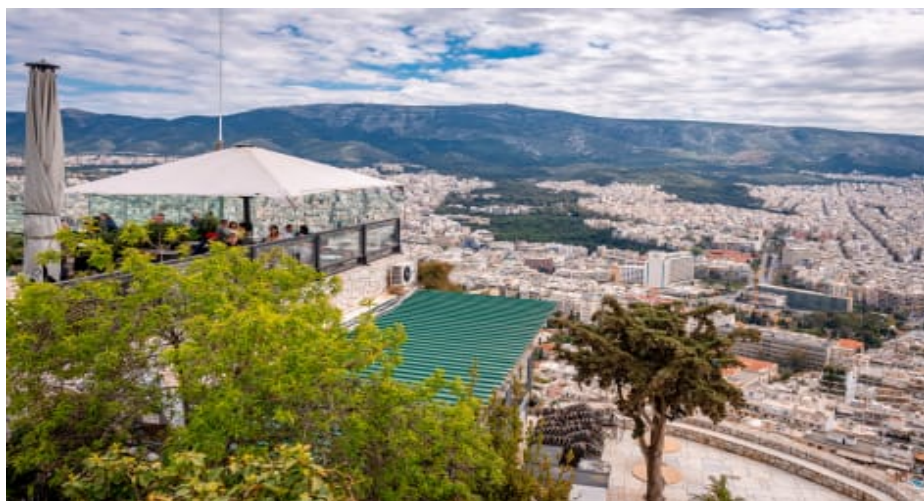


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Hadrian's 2,000-year-old Reservoir lies underneath Dexameni's open-air cinema. Abandoned during Ottoman rule when residents relied on wells for their water, today it's possible to see the aqueduct chambers from viewing portals. Epiphany—January 6th—is the best date to visit Dexameni as the Greek Orthodox ritual of the 'Blessing of the Waters' takes place...

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**3****Historic Sights & Landmarks****Mount Lycabettus**

Ascending its steep slopes, one embarks on a journey through ancient myth and modern marvel. At its summit, the city unfolds in all its grandeur, a breathtaking panorama of iconic landmarks and azure horizons. As the sun sets, Lycabettus transforms into a beacon of romance, casting a spell over lovers and dreamers who ascend to witne...

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4

Religious Interests**Holy Church of Saint George of the Rizareios School**

Atop Lycabettus Hill stands St George's Church. Dating back to 1870 and reminiscent of a Cycladic island church in its whitewashed style, it's still used for weddings and baptisms and is a very peaceful place to come and light a candle after your Lycabettus ascent.

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5

Restaurant**Orizontes Restaurant**

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Orizontes, meaning Horizons, is a restaurant for the romantics. Located atop Lycabettus Hill, this five-star restaurant has a terrace where you can enjoy the sunset with a birds-eye view of the Acropolis, the city sprawled below, and the Aegean sea beyond. The menu is eclectic, with a range of seafood, vegetable, and meat dishes to suit all tastes, such as oven-bake...

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6

Cafe

Library

Café – Βιβλιοθήκη, meaning 'Library' is the place to be seen in Kolonaki Square to have your coffee or an afternoon snack. Attracting a genteel, aristocratic crowd, expect to rub shoulders with politicians and business people alike either inside amongst their belle époque décor or at one of their pavement tables. Their omelets are a firm favorite but prices are...

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7

Fashion

Attica Department Stores

Forget Milan, Athens also boasts the top designers of the world, found in the Kolonaki neighborhood. If you want a spot of high-end retail therapy after your coffee break, head to Gucci on El. Venizelou Street, a 10 minute walk from Kolonaki Square, or Prada on Voukourestiou Street, also only 10 minutes from Kolonaki Square. Alternatively, nearby Attic...

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8

Artisan/Local Craftsmanship Markets

Kombologadiko -Κομπολογάδικο

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There's nothing more traditional than the Greek kombolois, the worry beads/rosaries you regularly see strung through the fingers of Greek men as they stroll the streets or sip their coffee. Kombolois are also found in other countries and cultures; hence Kombologadiko in Amerikis Street offers a fine range of hand made kombolois. Materials range from amb...

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**9****Museum****The Benaki Museum**

With its doors wide open to global travelers, it beckons with an irresistible allure. Each exhibit within its hallowed halls whispers tales of Greece's rich heritage, from ancient times to the vibrant present. The Benaki Museum is a timeless testament to the enduring beauty of human creativity, a must-visit destination for those seeking to explore the worl...

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