

Athens Routes

Second Route

Contents

Articles

Acropolis	1
Acropolis Museum	3
Theseio	10
Stoa of Attalos	11
Ancient Agora of Athens	14

References

Article Sources and Contributors	19
Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors	20

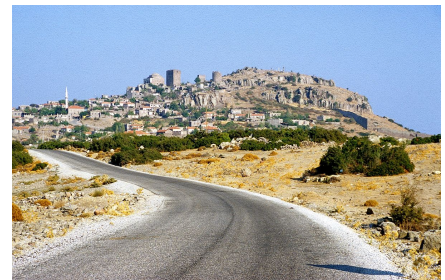
Article Licenses

License	22
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Acropolis

For the most famous example of an acropolis, see Acropolis of Athens. For the Swedish football team, see Akropolis IF. For other uses, see Acropolis (disambiguation).

An **acropolis** (Greek: ἀκρόπολις; from *akros* or *akron*, "highest", "topmost", "outermost" and *polis*, "city"; plural in English: *acropoles*, *acropoleis* or *acropolises*)^[1] is a settlement, especially a citadel, built upon an area of elevated ground—frequently a hill with precipitous sides, chosen for purposes of defense. In many parts of the world, acropoleis became the nuclei of large cities of classical antiquity, such as ancient Rome, which in more recent times grew up on the surrounding lower ground, such as modern Rome.



Assos Acropolis



Altar of Zeus, in the Acropolis of Pergamon



The Acropolis of Athens as seen from Mount Lycabettus (northeast). The wooded Hill of the Nymphs is half-visible on its right, and Philopappos Hill on the left, immediately behind. Philopappos Monument stands where, in the distant background, the coast of Peloponnese meet the waters of the Saronic Gulf.

The word *acropolis* literally means in Greek "upper city," and though associated primarily with the Greek cities Athens, Argos, Thebes, and Corinth (with its Acrocorinth), may be applied generically to all such citadels, including Rome, Jerusalem, Celtic Bratislava, many in Asia Minor, or even Castle Rock in Edinburgh. An example in Ireland is the Rock of Cashel. Acropolis is also the term used by archaeologists and historians to the urban Castro culture settlements located in Northwestern Iberian hilltops.

The most famous example is the Acropolis of Athens,^[2] which, by reason of its historical associations and the several famous buildings erected upon it (most notably the Parthenon), is known without qualification as *the*

Acropolis. Although originating in the mainland of Greece, use of the acropolis model quickly spread to Greek colonies such as the Dorian Lato on Crete during the Archaic Period.

Because of its classical Hellenistic style, the ruins of Mission San Juan Capistrano's Great Stone Church in California, United States has been called the "American Acropolis".^[Wikipedia:Citation needed]

Other parts of the world developed other names for the high citadel or alcázar, which often reinforced a naturally strong site. In Central Italy, many small rural communes still cluster at the base of a fortified habitation known as *La Rocca* of the commune.

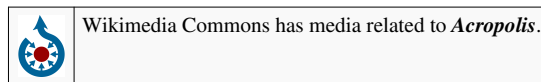
The term *acropolis* is also used to describe the central complex of overlapping structures, such as plazas and pyramids, in many Maya cities, including Tikal and Copán.

References

[1] . . .


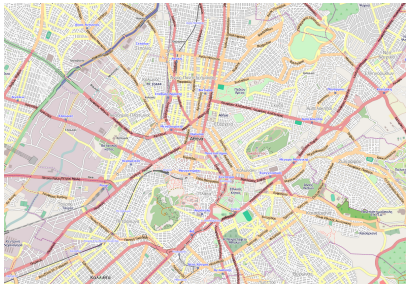



[2] World Heritage: Acropolis, Athens (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/404>)

External links



- The Acropolis of Athens (http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2384) (Greek Government website)
- The Acropolis Restoration Project (<http://ysma.culture.gr/>) (Greek Government website)
- The Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles (<http://odysseus.culture.gr/a/1/12/ea120.html>)
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre — Acropolis, Athens (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/404>)
- Acropolis Museum (<http://www.i-live.gr/news-akropolis-museum-internet/>)
- The Parthenon Frieze (<http://www.parthenonfrieze.gr>) (Hellenic Ministry of Culture web site)
- Acropolis: description, photo album (<http://travels.co.ua/engl/greece/athens/acropolis/index.html>)

Acropolis Museum

Acropolis Museum	
Μουσείο Ακρόπολης	
	
The entrance to the Acropolis Museum	
	
Location within Athens	
Established	June 20, 2009 ^[1]
Location	Dionysiou Areopagitou Street Athens, Greece 
Coordinates	37.968°N 23.729°E﻿ / ﻿37.968°N 23.729°E﻿ / 37.968; 23.729 ^[2]
Type	Archaeological Museum
Collection size	4,250+ objects
Visitors	1,036,059 (June 2012–June 2013) ^[3]
Director	Dimitrios Pandermalis
Owner	Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Public transit access	  Akropoli
Website	www.theacropolismuseum.gr ^[4]

The **Acropolis Museum** (Greek: Μουσείο Ακρόπολης, *Mouseio Akropolis*) is an archaeological museum focused on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens. The museum was built to house every artifact found on the rock and on its feet, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. It also lies on the archaeological site of Makrygianni and the ruins of a part of Roman and early Byzantine Athens.

The museum was founded in 2003, while the Organisation of the Museum was established in 2008. It opened to the public on June 20, 2009. Nearly 4,000 objects are exhibited over an area of 14,000 square metres. The Organisation for the Construction of the new museum is chaired by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, Dimitrios Pandermalis.

History

The first museum was on the Acropolis; it was completed in 1874 and underwent a moderate expansion in the 1950s. However, successive excavations on the Acropolis uncovered many new artifacts which significantly exceeded its original capacity.

An additional motivation for the construction of a new museum was that in the past, when Greece made requests for the return of the Parthenon Marbles from the United Kingdom, which acquired the items in a controversial manner, it was suggested by some British officials that Greece had no suitable location where they could be displayed. Creation of a gallery for the display of the Parthenon Marbles has been key to all recent proposals for the design of a new museum.

Competitions for the new museum

The first architectural competition to design a new museum was held in 1976 and was limited to participants from Greece. Both the 1976 competition and one that followed it in 1979 failed to produce any results mainly because the plots of land selected for the proposed constructions were deemed unsuitable.

In 1989, a third competition for the design of the new Acropolis Museum was announced that would be international. A choice of three possible sites was provided. This competition was won by the Italian architects, Manfredi Nicoletti and Lucio Passarelli. After delays throughout the 1990s, work on the construction of the museum based on this third design progressed to the stage of excavations for the foundations, but these were stopped due to apparently sensitive archaeological remains on the site, leading to annulment of the competition in 1999. In retrospect, the location of the new museum was rather straightforward: the large lot of the unused "Camp Makrygianni" gendarmerie barracks, opposite the Theater of Dionysus. The barracks were built on public land and a limited number of expropriations of surrounding private houses were needed to free up the necessary space. The main building of the old barracks, the neoclassical "Weiler Building", has been renovated and houses the Museum of the Center for the Acropolis Studies.

The fourth competition had made no provision for the preservation of the ancient site. These were met to a degree only after local and international (ICOMOS) campaigners exposed this oversight and it became the final competition. The new plans were adjusted so that the building was elevated above ground, on pillars. Competition was open only to architectural practices by invitation and it was won by New York-based architect, Bernard Tschumi, in collaboration with the Greek architect Michael Photiadis. Excavation has revealed two layers of modest, private roadside houses and workshops, one from the early



The archaeological site over which the new museum is built - the pink Weiler Building is seen top right, the two buildings scheduled for demolition are seen top left, with the hill of Lycabettus barely visible behind them



Earthworks in the archaeological site in Makrygianni, during the construction of the museum.

Byzantine era and another from the classical era. Once the layout and stratigraphy of the findings were established, suitable locations for the foundation pillars were identified. These traverse the soil to the underlying bedrock and float on roller bearings able to withstand a Richter scale magnitude 10 earthquake.

As construction work neared completion, the operation to move the historic artifacts the 280-meter (310 yd) distance from the Acropolis rock to the new museum started in October 2007, took four months, and required the use of three tower cranes to move the sculptures across the distance without mishap. Greek officials expressed their hope that the new museum will help in the campaign for the return of the Parthenon Marbles.^{[5][6]}

Location

The museum is located by the southeastern slope of the Acropolis hill, on the ancient road that led up to the "sacred rock" in classical times. Set only 280 meters (310 yd), away from the Parthenon, and a mere 400 meters (440 yd) walking distance from it, the museum will be the largest modern building erected so close to the ancient site, although many other buildings from the last 150 years are located closer to the Acropolis. The entrance to the building is on Dionysiou Areopagitou Street and directly adjacent to the Akropoli metro station, line 2 of the Athens Metro.



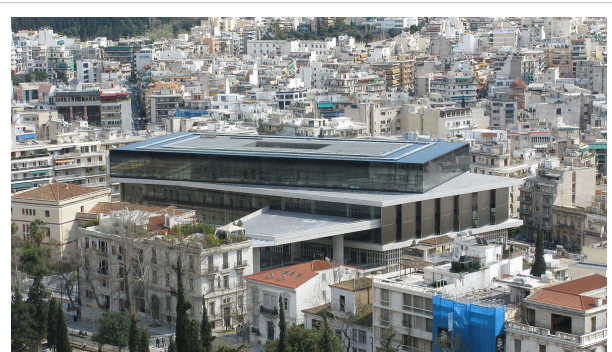
Parthenon (left) and Acropolis Museum (right).

The building

The design by Bernard Tschumi was selected as the winning project in the fourth competition. Tschumi's design revolves around three concepts: light, movement, and a tectonic and programmatic element. Together these characteristics "turn the constraints of the site into an architectural opportunity, offering a simple and precise museum" with the mathematical and conceptual clarity of ancient Greek buildings.

The collections of the museum are exhibited on three levels while a fourth middle level houses the auxiliary spaces such as the museum shop, the café and the offices. On the first level of the museum there are the findings of the slopes of the Acropolis. The long and rectangular hall whose floor is sloping, resembles the ascension to the rock. Then, the visitor is found at the large trapezoidal hall which accommodates the archaic findings. On the same floor there are also the artifacts and sculptures from the other Acropolis buildings such as the Erechtheum, the Temple of Athena Nike and the Propylaea and findings from Roman and early Christian Athens. However the visitor is intended to see the latter during descent so as to keep the chronological order because he will first be directed to the top level, which displays the Parthenon marbles.

The top level of the Museum sits askew on the lower levels to achieve the same cardinal orientation as that of the ancient temple on the Acropolis. The spacing of the columns of the Parthenon hall is the same as that of the ancient



Top level of the Acropolis Museum sits askew to align with the Parthenon above.

temple, and the use of glass walls on all four exterior walls allows the natural light to illumine the Parthenon marbles as they do on the ancient temple. The 48 columns in the Parthenon hall mark the outline of the ancient temple and form a colonnade for the display of the Parthenon marbles. For ease of viewing, the pediment marbles are displayed at eye level in front of the end columns; the metopes are displayed on the columns, two per column, but not as high as in the ancient temple; and the frieze are displayed behind the metopes, forming a continuous band around the walls of a rectangular space set inside the columns, as in the ancient temple but not as high, again for ease of viewing. From the north side of the Parthenon hall, one can see the ancient temple above on the Acropolis.

As the museum is built over an extensive archaeological site, the floor, outside and inside, is often transparent using glass and thus the visitor can see the excavations below. The museum also provides an amphitheatre, a virtual theatre and a hall for temporary exhibitions.

Controversy

A controversy erupted over the plans of the new museum and whether it was appropriate to build it on the archaeological site in Makrygianni. Another concern was whether a large modern building would fit well into the landscape.

In 2007, another controversy erupted over the proposed demolition of two historic buildings. These are in front of the museum, numbers 17 and 19, Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, facing the Acropolis (see picture, left). Bernard Tschumi has been showing photographic images of the space in front of the museum edited to remove the two buildings and nearby four-story-tall trees. The Greek Government has had the two buildings de-listed historically although one is Neo-Classical and the other an example of Art Deco architecture. Protests against the proposed demolition came from international agencies such as INTBAU and ICOMOS.



Archaeological site below the main entrance to the museum.

At the centre of the controversy is the composer Vangelis Papathanassiou, who is the owner of the neo-classical house targeted for demolition. According to Greek officials the house obstructs the view to the ancient Theater of Dionysus, which is located on the southern slope of the Acropolis. Vangelis Papathanasiou claims that the real reason for the demolition plan to include his house is because it blocks the view from the museum restaurant, and he has accused the Greek government of “architectural terrorism”. The latest proposal with regard to the impasse is a planned salvage and transfer of the facades of these two buildings to adjacent, newer buildings; this will allow demolition while preserving the facades, albeit, out of context to their original locations.

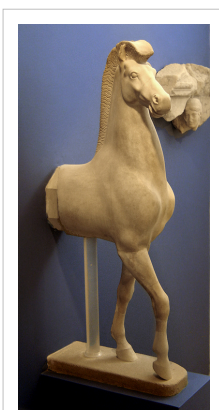
Awards

- On 13 May 2010, it was awarded the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) Award of Excellence and Sustainability.^[7]
- On 8 November 2010, the Museum won the British Guild of Travel Writers' (BGTW) award in Globe category for the Best Worldwide Tourism Project for 2010.^[8]
- The Museum received 2011 AIA (The American Institute of Architects) Institute Honor Award for Architecture.^{[9][10]}
- It was among the six finalists competing for the 2011 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – the Mies van der Rohe Award.^[11]
- On Friday 14 September 2012 the Acropolis Museum was awarded for its innovative program of the conservation and the restoration of the Caryatids by the International Institute for Conservation (IIC) in Vienna, with the Keck Award 2012.^{[12][13]}

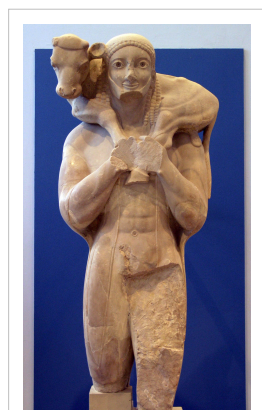
Other information

- The entrance fee to the museum was €1 for the first year and €5 thereafter.
- The excavation below ground level continues. The site and process are visible through the ground level glass flooring. The site will be available for visitation once the excavation is complete.
- The Acropolis Museum recently was selected as the motif for a commemorative Euro coin edition: the €10 Greek Acropolis Museum commemorative coin, minted in 2008 to mark the relocation of the museum. On the obverse is a panoramic view of the Acropolis and the new museum lies at the base.
- The recent years the Acropolis Museum, the night of the August full moon remains open until late the night and welcomes visitors for free. Also the same night concerts take place on the museum's courtyard.
- In the first two months since the museum opened, it was visited by 523,540 people (an average of 9,200 a day). Of these, 60 percent were foreign visitors. During the same two-month period, 409,000 hits by unique visitors from 180 countries were recorded by the museum's website.^[14]

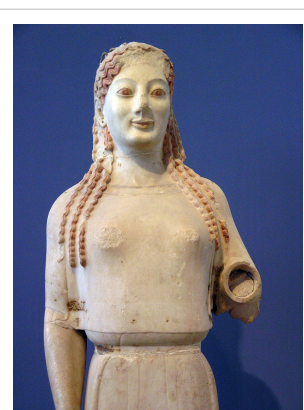
Gallery



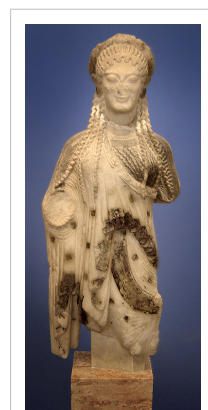
Horse (6th BC)



Moschophoros (560 BC)



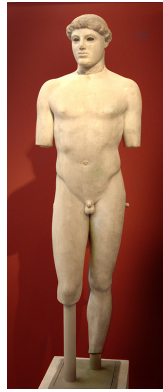
Peplos Kore (c.530 BC)



Acropolis Kore
(510 BC)



Detail of a Kore (530-520 BC)



Kritios boy (c.480 BC)



Caryatids of Erechtheum



Goddess Nike (1st to 3rd century AD)



Bust of Tiberius Julius
Sauromates II

References

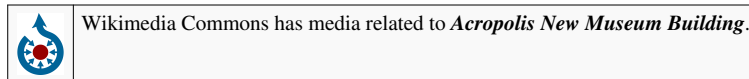
- [1] Wonderful Greece (http://video.minipress.gr/wwwminipress/Wonderful_Greece/WG_9_3)
- [2] http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Acropolis_Museum¶ms=37.968_N_23.729_E_type:landmark_region:GR
- [3] http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/sites/default/files/acropolis_gr.pdf
- [4] <http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/?pname=Home&la=2>
- [5] BBC News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7044407.stm>), *Cranes move Acropolis sculptures*, Retrieved on 2007-10-15.
- [6] Athens Press Agency, Macedonian Press Agency (<http://www.ana-mpa.gr/anaweb/user/selectlang?lang=el&currpageurl=/user/showplain?maindoc=5726043&maindocimg=5725562&service=6>), *New Acropolis Museum to open in stages in 2008*, Retrieved on 2008-10-18.
- [7] <http://www.iald.org/file.asp?c=awards\press&f=EB8F4AE1E7474B7CA5B8C155EC790C0D.pdf> The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) "Accepting the IALD Award of Excellence and Sustainability Award for the NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM was Florence Lam and Vasiliki Malakasi of Arup Lighting. "
- [8] <http://www.bgtw.org/tourism-awards-winners-2010.html> British Guild of Travel Writers "The winner of the Globe Category (receiving more than 250,000 visitors a year), nominated by Nigel Tisdall, was the new Acropolis Museum in Athens (www.newacropolismuseum.gr/eng), built to replace the old museum which has done an admirable job since 1865, but was short of space. "
- [9] <http://www.aia.org/aiaucmp/groups/aia/documents/html/aia089705.html> 2011 Recipients AIA Institute Honor Awards for Architecture
- [10] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfaKqoEzvwM>
- [11] http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc1103_en.htm European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture / Mies van der Rohe Awards
- [12] <http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/content/conserving-caryatids> Acropolis Museum "The Acropolis Museum was awarded for this innovative program by the International Institute for Conservation (IIC) in Vienna, with the Keck Award 2012"

- [13] http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/sites/default/files/press_release_keck_award_2012_acropolis_museum.pdf press release keck award 2012 acropolis museum
- [14] (http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_politics_2_28/08/2009_110210) Visitation numbers published by Kathimerini

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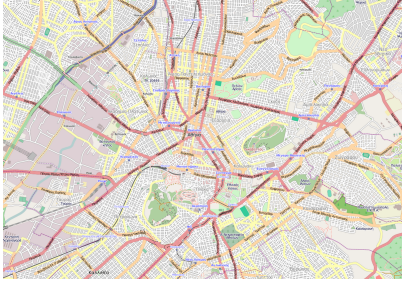
- Tschumi, Bernard; Pandermalis, Dimitrios; Aesopos, Yannis; Rutten, Joel (2009). *The New Acropolis Museum*. Skira Rizzoli. ISBN 978-0847834198.
- Tschumi, Bernard (2010). *New Acropolis Museum*. Ediciones Poligrafa. ISBN 978-8434312340.

External links



- Official site (<http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr>)
- Acropolis Museum - Ebook by Latsis Foundation (<http://www.latsis-foundation.org/megazine/publish/ebook.php?book=39&preloader=1>)
- The New Acropolis by C. Sandis (<http://www.theliberal.co.uk/artsandculture/sandis-acropolis.html>)
- A visitors look at the Acropolis Museum (<http://www.museumchick.com/museum-chick/2010/10/new-acropolis-museum-athens.html>)
- Review of the Acropolis Museum at UNRV.com (<http://www.unrv.com/museum/acropolis-museum.php>)
- New Acropolis Museum Receives 2011 AIA Institute Honor Award for Architecture (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfaKqoEzvwM>)
- A short visit to the Acropolis Museum (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_PwdyEnwnE&NR=1&feature=endscreen)
- New Acropolis Museum, Athens - Opening Ceremony Video Projections (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaGdJrbOKes>)

Thiseio



Location of Thiseio in central Athens

Thiseio (Greek: Θησείο, pronounced [θiˈsio]) is the name of a neighborhood in downtown Athens, Greece, northwest of the Acropolis, 1.5 km southwest of downtown; its name derives from the Temple of Hephaestus, also known as Thiseio, as it was, in earlier times, considered a temple of Theseus. The historical Agioi Asomatoi church is situated in Thiseio. The area has cafes and meeting points, which are most crowded during summer. Thiseio is served by the nearby ISAP Thiseio metro station.

Residential streets

Here is a list of residential streets in the Thiseio area:

- Acamantos Street
 - Aethras Street
 - Agias Marinas Street
 - Aixoneon Street
 - Aktaiou Street
 - Amphictyonos Street
 - Apostolou Pavlou Street
 - Avanton Street
 - Chloridos Street
 - Demophontos Street
 - Dimitriou Aeginitou Street
 - Efestion Street
 - Eptachalkou Street
 - Erysichtonos Street
 - Galateias Street
 - Hegiou Street
 - Iouliou Smith Street
 - Irakleidon Street
 - Kymaion Street
 - Lycomidon Street
 - Nileos Street
 - Otryneon Street
 - Phaedras Street
 - Phlamarion Street
 - Pnykos Street
 - Pouloupoulou Street
 - Pygmalionos Street
 - Thoricon Street
-

- Vassilis Street

Persons

- Vasilis Avlonitis (1904-1970), actor

References

Coordinates: 37.976°N 23.719°E﻿ (http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Thiseio¶ms=37.976_N_23.719_E_region:GR_type:city)

Stoa of Attalos

The **Stoa of Attalos** (also spelled **Attalus**) was a stoa (covered walkway or portico) in the Agora of Athens, Greece. It was built by and named after King Attalos II of Pergamon, who ruled between 159 BC and 138 BC.



The reconstructed Stoa of Attalos.

Description



Detail of the building.

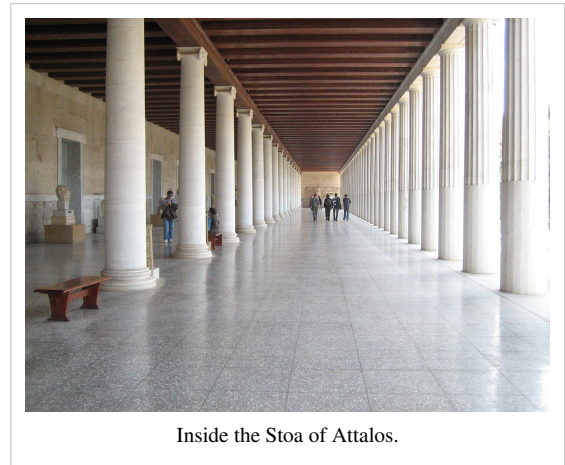
Typical of the Hellenistic age, the stoa was more elaborate and larger than the earlier buildings of ancient Athens. The stoa's dimensions are 115 by 20 metres wide (377 by 65 feet wide) and it is made of Pentelic marble and limestone. The building skillfully makes use of different architectural orders. The Doric order was used for the exterior colonnade on the ground floor with Ionic for the interior colonnade. This combination had been used in stoas since the Classical period and was by Hellenistic times quite common. On the first floor of the building, the exterior colonnade was Ionic and the interior Pergamene. Each story had two aisles and twenty-one rooms lining the western wall. The rooms of both stories were lighted and vented through doorways and small windows located on the back wall. There were stairways leading up to the second story at each end of the stoa. The building is similar in its basic design to the Stoa that Attalos' brother, and predecessor as king, Eumenes II had erected on the south slope of

the Acropolis next to the theatre of Dionysus. The main difference is that Attalos' stoa had a row of rooms at the rear on the ground floor that have been interpreted as shops.

History

The stoa is identified as a gift to the city of Athens for the education that Attalos received there. A dedicatory inscription on the architrave is engraved as built by Attalos II, ruler of Pergamon from 159 BC to 138 BC.

The stoa was in frequent use until it was destroyed by the Heruli in 267. The ruins became part of a fortification wall, which made it easily seen in modern times. In the 1950s, the Stoa of Attalos was fully reconstructed and the Ancient Agora Museum was created by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens,^[1] with funding donated by the Rockefeller family. The building is particularly important in the study of ancient monuments because the reconstruction of 1952–1956 faithfully replicates the original building. Wikipedia:Citation needed



Inside the Stoa of Attalos.

The ceremony of the signing of the 2003 Treaty of Accession of 10 countries – Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia – to the European Union was conducted in the Stoa of Attalos on 16 April 2003.

Museum of the Ancient Agora

The Stoa of Attalos houses the Museum of the Ancient Agora. Its exhibits are mostly connected with the Athenian democracy. The collection of the museum includes clay, bronze and glass objects, sculptures, coins and inscriptions from the 7th to the 5th century BC, as well as pottery of the Byzantine period and the Turkish conquest.

Gallery



Amphora with
bird procession.
Geometric
period, 750-725
BC



Casserole and
brazier (6th/4th
century BC)



Woman kneeling before an altar.
Attic red-figure kylix, 5th BC



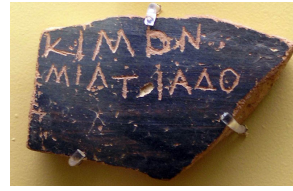
Statue of a
goddess,
probably
Aphrodite
(early 4th
century BC)



Acroterial statue of Winged Nike, flying to the right (4th BC)



The *Kleroterion* was used for the jury selection system in Athens



Ostrakon bearing the name of Cimon



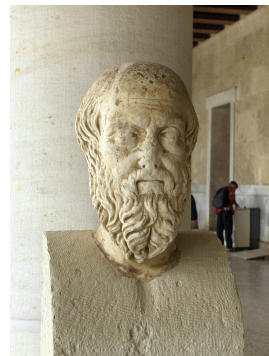
Theatre mask, dating from the 4th/3rd century BC



Statuette of a satyr



Statuette of Farnese Hercules



Bust of Herodotus (2nd century AD)



Bust of the Roman emperor Antoninus Pius



Byzantine plate (12th century)

Notes

[1] The Museum (<http://www.athensinfoguide.com/wtsmuseums/ancientagoramuseum.htm>)

External links



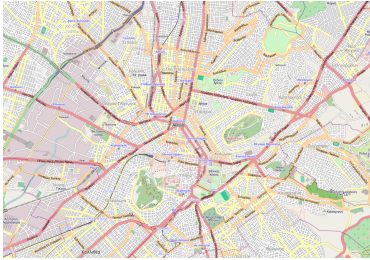

Wikimedia Commons has media related to *Stoa of Attalus*.

- fotopedia.com (http://www.fotopedia.com/en/Stoa_of_Attalos), Selected photos of the Stoa of Attalus
- Ministry of Culture: The Museum (http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/2/eh2540.jsp?obj_id=10303)
- The Museum (<http://www.athensinfoguide.com/wtsmuseums/ancientagoramuseum.htm>)
- Stoa of Attalos photos (<http://www.go-2-nice-places.com/2014/07/stoa-of-attalos.html>)

Coordinates: 37°58′30″N 23°43′27″E﻿ (http://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Stoa_of_Attalos¶ms=37_58_30_N_23_43_27_E_region:GR_type:landmark_scale:3000)

Ancient Agora of Athens

Not to be confused with the Roman Agora, the later Roman era Athenian market.

Ancient Agora of Athens	
Αρχαία Αγορά της Αθήνας	
 <p>Central Athens</p>	
Alternate name	Forum of Athens
Location	Greece 
Region	Attica
Coordinates	37.975°N 23.723°E^[1]
History	
Material	Marble
Founded	6th century BC
Periods	Classical era
Cultures	Ancient Greece
Site notes	
Excavation dates	1931 until today
Archaeologists	American School of Classical Studies at Athens
Condition	Ruined
Ownership	Public property
Management	Minister for Culture
Public access	Yes

The **Ancient Agora of Classical Athens** is the best-known example of an ancient Greek agora, located to the northwest of the Acropolis and bounded on the south by the hill of the Areopagus and on the west by the hill known as the Kolonus Agoraios, also called Market Hill.^[2]

History

Development

The agora was probably laid out in the center of the city as a public space in the 6th century BC,^[3] though Laurence Baurain-Rebillard has suggested that it dates to the 7th century.^[4] Earlier, a more primitive agora may have existed elsewhere in Athens.^[5] The final site was located at the intersection of three existing roads with the Panathenaic Way, the main road in Athens.^[6] It was organized by Peisistratus, who removed private houses from the agora, closed wells, and made it the center of Athenian government. He also built a drainage system, fountains and a temple to the Olympian gods. In the 5th and 4th century BC there were temples constructed to Hephaestus, Zeus and Apollo.^[7]

Starting in 480 BC, the Second Persian invasion of Greece caused many Athenians to flee the city, leaving it largely abandoned. The city was almost completely destroyed, but the Athenians returned following the defeat of the Persians in 478, and the Agora was rebuilt.^[8] There were no more major changes until the 2nd century BC when the east and south sides of the square were remodeled by wealthy foreign rulers.^[9]

After an unsuccessful alliance with King Mithridates VI of Pontus in 86 BC, the fortified walls of Athens were heavily damaged. They were never rebuilt to their full previous strength. The Agora remained the center of Athens until 267 AD, when it was once again sacked, this time by invading Heruli; the weakened perimeter wall was not a sufficient defense. After fighting had ravaged much of the city, the Athenians quickly reconstructed the wall, but enclosed a much smaller area. The agora and the acropolis were left on the outside of the wall and were susceptible to further damage. This reconstructed wall is of great archaeological importance because it contains pieces of ruined buildings including Hadrian's Library and the Stoa of Attalos.^[10] This event is documented by Dexippus, a historian and statesman from Athens. In 529, Pagan philosophical schools were closed by Justinian. After centuries of periodic barbarian invasion, the agora was abandoned after the Slavic invasion of the 6th century.^[11]

Use in Antiquity

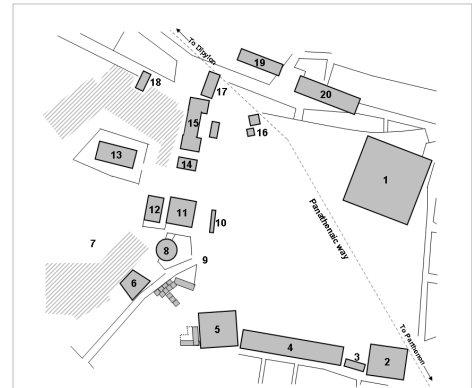
The agora was the center of political and public life in Athens. It was a large open area surrounded by buildings of various functions. The agora was utilized for commerce, political, religious and military activity.^[12] Meetings were held four times per month to enact legislation, to hear embassies, and deal with defense of the city-state.^[13] In addition, some public forums to discuss ostracism were held in the agora. The law courts were located there, and anyone who happened to be in the agora when a case was being heard would probably have been able to view the spectacle, though only those adult male citizens appointed by lot would have been able to serve as jurors. The agora was further the location of a temporary theater and of burial sites^[14]



View of the ancient agora. The temple of Hephaestus is to the left and the Stoa of Attalos to the right.

Buildings and structures of the classical agora

1. Peristyle Court
2. Mint
3. Enneakrounos
4. South Stoa I and South Stoa II
5. Aiakeion
6. Strategeion
7. Colonos Agoraios
8. Tholos
9. Agora stone
10. Monument of the Eponymous Heroes
11. Metroon (Old Bouleuterion)
12. New Bouleuterion
13. Temple of Hephaestus (Hephaestion)
14. Temple of Apollo Patroos
15. Stoa of Zeus
16. Altar of the Twelve Gods
17. Stoa Basileios (Royal stoa)
18. Temple of Aphrodite Urania
19. Stoa of Hermes
20. Stoa Poikile



Plan showing major buildings and structures of the agora of Athens as it was in the 5th century BC



Metroon

Other Notable Monuments

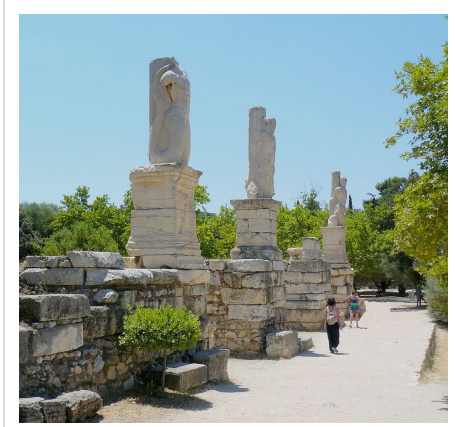
A number of other notable monuments were added to the agora. Some of these included:

- The Middle stoa which was the most extensive monument built during the 100's B.C.E.^[15]
- A small Roman temple was added in front of the Middle stoa.
- An Altar of Zeus Agoraios was added just to the east of the Monument to the Eponymous Heroes.^[16]
- The Temple of Ares, dedicated to Ares, the god of war, was added in the north half agora, just south of the Altar of the Twelve Gods.^[17]
- The Odeon of Agrippa and accompanying gymnasium were added in the centre of the agora.^[18]
- The substantial Stoa of Attalos was built along the eastern edge of the agora.^[19]
- A collection of buildings were added to the south-east corner: the East stoa, the Library of Pantainos, the Nymphaeum and a temple.



View of Heliaia

- There is evidence of a Synagogue in the Agora of Athens in the 3rd century.
- A statue of the Roman emperor Hadrian was located near the metreon.^[20]
- The Temple of Zeus Phratrios and Athena Phratria dated to the 300's B.C.E. and is located near the Temple of Apollo Patroos.^[21]
- The south end of what is believed to be a Basilica has been uncovered near Hadrian Street and is dated to the mid 100's C.E.^[22]
- The Monopteros was located south of the Basilica and also dated to the mid 100's C.E. It had no walls, was a dome supported by columns and was about 8 meters in diameter.^[23]



The entrance to the Odeon of Agrippa

- The Bema was a speakers platform and was located near the Stoa of Attalos.^[24]

Excavations

The ancient Athenian agora has been excavated by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens since 1931 under the direction of T. Leslie Shear, Sr. They continue to the present day, now under the direction of John McK Camp.^[25]

After the initial phase of excavation, in the 1950s, the Hellenistic Stoa of Attalos was reconstructed on the east side of the agora, and today it serves as a museum and as storage and office space for the excavation team.^[26]

Museum of the Ancient Agora

The museum is housed in the Stoa of Attalos, and its exhibits are connected with the Athenian democracy. The collection of the museum includes clay, bronze and glass objects, sculptures, coins and inscriptions from the 7th to the 5th century BC, as well as pottery of the Byzantine period and the Turkish occupation.

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- [19] Camp, *The Athenian Agora: Site Guide*, pg. 123.
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- [22] Camp, *The Athenian Agora: Site Guide*, pg. 93.
- [23] Camp, *The Athenian Agora: Site Guide*, pg. 118.
- [24] Camp, *The Athenian Agora: Site Guide*, pg. 122.
- [25] <http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/history.htm>
- [26] <http://www.agathe.gr/introduction.html>

External links



- Hellenic Ministry of Culture: The Ancient Agora of Athens (http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2485) - official site with a schedule of its opening hours, tickets and contact information.
- Agora Excavations (<http://www.agathe.gr/index.html>) - American School of Classical Studies Agora excavation project.
- Map of the Agora of Athens in Socrates and Plato's time (<http://plato-dialogues.org/tools/agora.htm>)
- Agora of Athens in 421 BC (<http://www.kronoskaf.com/vr/index.php?title=Agora>)
- The Athenian Agora: A Short Guide in Color (http://www.agathe.gr/Texts/pdfs/PB16_English.pdf)
- The Athenian Agora. A Guide to the Excavation and Museum (<http://www.agathe.gr/cgi-bin/text?lookup=siteguide;id=contents>)
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