

## The marble road to Acropolis

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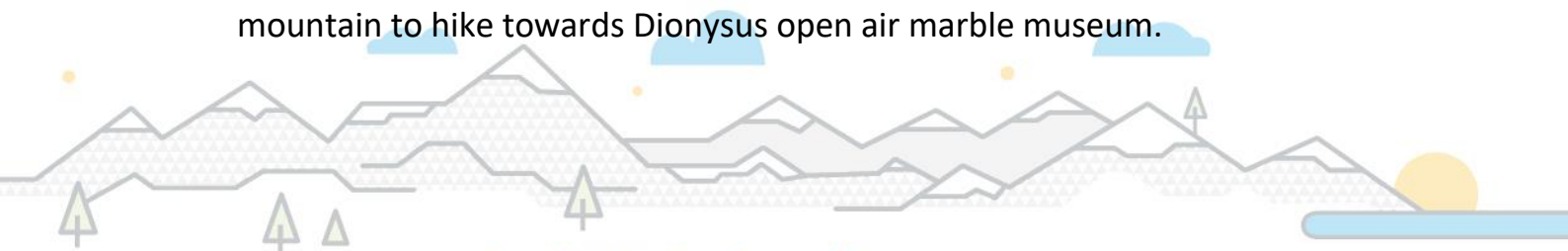
*There are few visitors to the Acropolis who have not paused to ponder how the large masses used for the monuments were originally hauled up the sacred rock...*

*...attention should be paid not only to the purely immaterial and intellectual part of the achievement, but also to the manual...*

*...certain stages of the work such as quarrying and transport were much more demanding than that of raising the marbles into position*

*Manolis Korres, Architect in charge of the restoration of Parthenon – Acropolis*

If you belong to the people who are not satisfied in the learning process until they gain insight behind the scenes, here is great news: We have created a prototype tour that suits you! We will leave the center of Athens and drive to Mt. Penteli, to visit one the most important ancient marble quarries, and learn in detail about the process of finding, cutting and transport the marble blocks. From there, we will head to the top of the mountain to overlook the area where the battle of Marathon, one of the most significant battles for the western world, took place. The Athenian victory secured the establishment of democracy and led to the building of the Parthenon. Next, we will head to the other side of the mountain to hike towards Dionysus open air marble museum.



## Trip Highlights

- Visit Spelia quarry and witness the evidence of the ancient extraction of the marble used for the building of Parthenon and other monuments on the Acropolis
- Stand on the top of Mt. Penteli and see the city of Athens and the whole Attika basin from eagle's eye perspective
- Hike on the northern part of Mt. Penteli
- Enjoy a picnic in the marvelous scenery of the Dionysus Open air marble museum

## Map



## Tour Details

**Dates:** All year around

**Days/Nights:** Day tour

**Theme:** Hiking/ Cultural

## Itinerary

Today, we'll leave behind the bustling center of Athens and journey to the southern slopes of Mount Penteli, where the ancient Spelia Quarry awaits. After a brief hike along a dirt path, the impressive quarry will come into view. Here, we'll explore the site and delve into the fascinating process of marble extraction, smoothing, and transportation—an operation that carried massive marble blocks 17 kilometers to the Acropolis construction site.

Afterward, we'll return to the car and ascend to the summit of Mount Penteli. From this vantage point, we'll relish the liberating experience of fresh mountain air and breathtaking views of Athens below, while also gazing toward the historic site of the Battle of Marathon.

Next, we'll drive to the northern side of the mountain to visit the Dionysus Open-Air Marble Museum. On foot, we'll admire this remarkable space, crafted by passionate architects and skilled traditional marble artisans. A refreshing picnic will follow before we conclude our adventure and return to Athens.

**Hiking distance:** 4,2 km / **Hiking Duration:** 2 hr

**Elevation gain:** 380 m

**Driving distance:**

Athens center to Spelia Quarry 30 km / 45 min

Spelia Quarry to start of the hike 13 km / 20 min

End of the hike to Athens center 45 km / 1 hour

## What's included

**Price includes:**



All transportation during the trip  
Services of a guide throughout the tour

**Included meals:**

Snacks during activities  
Picnic lunch

**Not Included:**

Gratuities for leader/guide or driver.  
Other items of a personal nature  
Anything not mentioned in above program

**Itinerary Changes**

We are constantly updating our unique itineraries based on new information and experiences available. The walks, accommodations, and visits listed may be adjusted. The itineraries presented are subject to modification and change by Tripin Adventures. We reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in our judgment, conditions warrant, or if we deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

**Condition Grading**

Easy active

Trips designated “Easy Active” are perfect for first-timers, or travelers looking for a mild physical challenge. A typical day will consist of 1-3 hours of activity.

**Starting point is:** Athens.

**Getting There & Away:** Athens airport Eleftherios Venizelos, is about 27km east of Athens. Athens is connected with direct flights with various cities in Europe, North America and Asia.

**Getting around:** We can arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel. If you want to come by yourself, the metro and the suburban rail provide quick connections to central Athens (1 hour / 10 euros ticket).



The bus option is cheaper though it takes longer (1h 30 min / 5 euros ticket). You can also take a taxi (1 hour / 35-50 euros).

## **Weather**

Athens has a Mediterranean climate with dry hot summers and mild winters. Over the course of a year, the temperature typically varies from 4 C to 32 C and is rarely below 0 C or above 35 C. Especially for hiking the only obstacles may be some snowy days in winter or some extremely hot days in summer.

## **Gear Checklist**

Greece has a temperate climate. Base your clothing on the “layering system”, if it is hot you can “peel off” layers quickly, if it is cooler and windy you can quickly “dress up”. The lighter you travel, the easier you travel.

Please consider taking along the following items on your tour.

### **Luggage**

- ✓ Daypack to carry camera, water bottle and snacks etc.

### **Clothing**

- ✓ Casual comfortable clothing made of light-weight fabrics

### **Clothing Accessories**

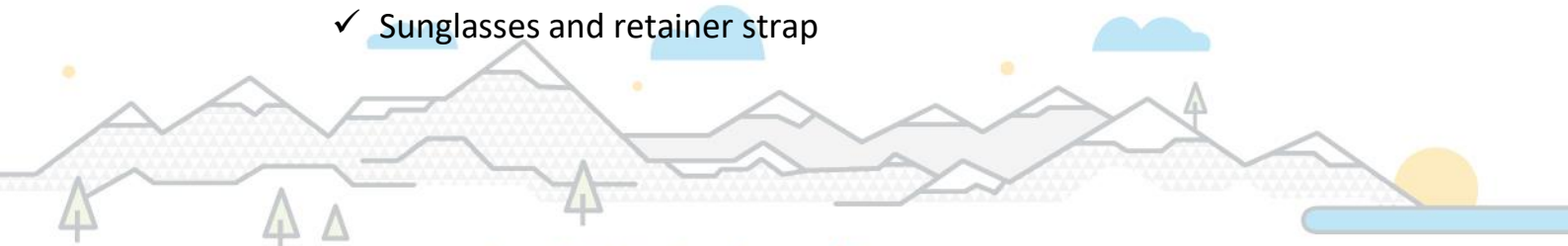
- ✓ Sun hat or baseball cap

### **Footwear**

- ✓ Casual, comfortable shoes

### **Accessories**

- ✓ Sunscreen and lip protection
- ✓ Sunglasses and retainer strap



### Optional Accessories

- ✓ Camera, memory and batteries

This is not a fixed list, but more of a guideline, so feel free to add and remove items as you see fit.

