



CITY OF
ATHENS

LGBTQI+GUIDE



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thisisathens.org/lgbt



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LGBTQI+ Athens

Volunteers at the Pride parade.

Photo
Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens

Yasss, Athens

Whether you are planning on visiting Athens, or are already strolling its streets, **the City of Athens warmly welcomes you**. Athens has always been a captivating and intimate destination, thanks to its cultural history and the openness of its people. The word you may have heard to describe **our renowned hospitality is *philoxenia*** - which literally translates as “friend to a stranger”. It means much more than that to Greeks. Hosting a visitor and treating them as a friend is both an honour and pleasure that desires nothing in return. **Our hotels live by the same creed**: regardless of whether or not they fly the rainbow colours outside their entrance; the same heartfelt hospitality and service is extended to all. The blossoming of Athens into a cosmopolitan crossroads of the Mediterranean has not tempered any of this pride Athenians take in welcoming their guests either. On the contrary, **Athens has evolved into an open-minded and modern metropolis** - a multicultural playground where traditional and contemporary influences blend seamlessly into daily life.

From the moment you set foot in Athens, our **legendary nightlife, much-loved cuisine**, mighty monuments, and **world-class museums** are all at your fingertips - along with the sun-soaked beaches and glamorous attractions of the Athens Riviera. This guide will help you cut through the noise and strategize for your trip to Athens, so that you can **enjoy the absolute best our diverse city has to offer every LGBTQI+ visitor**.



Getting flirty.

Photo

Thalia Galanopoulou | This is Athens


2.1 Athens Embraces its Queer Heritage

In Ancient Athens, homosexuality was not just tolerated, it was elevated. Today, open-minded Athens still celebrates diversity and acceptance.

You cannot talk about a gay utopia without mentioning ancient Greece - and Athens specifically. **Same-sex love flourished in ancient Athens** and was the subject of philosophical texts that are of great interest still today. In his *Symposium*, Plato talks about “men who take pleasure in having sex with men and uniting with them”; Aristophanes castigates all misogynistic views and speaks of three sexes, original androgynous forms, and **the normality of homoeroticism**.

This liberalism carried into all aspects of everyday life in ancient Athens. Visitors to Athens today can easily find traces of this free-thinking landscape of the past. **The city’s museums and archaeological sites bear witness to the acceptance and equality of ancient Greek society.** Theatrical plays, manuscripts of orations in the Agora, sculptures, statues, and amphorae (yes, those graphic ones) all remain as testament to the freedom of thought, speech and choice in classical Athens.

Above all, love was raised on an idealistic pedestal and worshipped as the truest form of human connection - regardless of gender and sexual preference. **Ancient Athenians did not feel guilt for sexual activities** or for exploring the limits of



Athens embraces many definitions of love.

Photo

Thalia Galanopoulou | This is Athens

philosophy. Love was not just one concept but had different forms and expressions; hence there were many **words created to describe all aspects of love:**

- **Agape** (charitable love)
- **Eros** (sexual, passionate love)
- **Ludus** (playful love)
- **Mania** (obsessive love)
- **Philautia** (love of the self)
- **Philia** (affectionate love)
- **Pragma** (long standing love)
- **Storge** (familiar love)

In recent years, modern Athens is moving to embrace these inviolable values once more: by legalizing civil partnerships, supporting Athens Pride, Greece's biggest Pride celebration and walking the talk with multiple LGBTQI+ events across the city. In doing so, **Athens is ensuring that “acceptance” is not just another PC word.** And while there is still work to be done before full equality is achieved, **Athens has committed to a future that honours the open-minded utopia of the past** - rather than consigning it as an ancient artifact.

2.2 Recent history

Art

Contemporary Greek LGBTQI+ history has no shortage of public figures and people of intellect who have stood up against sexual discrimination. **Yannis Tsarouchis**, a stage designer and painter, is known for his homoerotic aesthetic and his depiction of fragile masculinity. **Oscar-winning composer and poet Manos Hadjidakis**, of *Never on Sunday* fame, was openly gay and engaged in social affairs during the Greek junta, opposing populism, conservatism, fascism and the immodesty of political power. **Constantine Cavafy**, one of the most important figures in Western poetry, drew as much inspiration from old tales of the Hellenic world as he did from his encounters with beautiful young men. **The novels of Kostas Tachtsis** not only touched on Athens' political and historical traumas, but also shone the spotlight on the queer community's repressed sexuality.



Master poet Costantine Cavafy.

Photo
Cavafy Archive



The LGBTQI+ community is widely supported.

Photo
Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens

LGBTQI+ Movements

As was the case elsewhere around the world, the LGBTQI+ community in Greece took root and gained visibility in previous decades, in the wake of numerous activist movements, demonstrations and clashes with the police.

The first Pride was organized in 1981 by the Liberation Movement of Homosexuals in Greece and the Greek Transgender Community, and was disproportionately repelled by police brutality. Sexuality took centre-stage during the 1980s as HIV/AIDS appeared, marking a decade of discrimination, oppression and resistance.

The *Hellenic Homosexual Community* was founded in 1988 in order to claim basic LGBTQI+ human rights. In 2000, the Lesbian Bloc of Athens was created and during the next few years, a wave of new groups and organizations emerged, **strengthening the community's voice, demanding equal rights and creating safe spaces** - in tandem with LGBTQI+ media and, of course, high-profile Pride festivals. **In 2005, Athens Pride** - in the form that we know it today - **was organized for the first time**, and has grown year-on-year ever since. Today, there are dozens of LGBTQI+ groups, organizations and initiatives who advocate for equality, support the community and inspire visibility.

LGBTQI+ Rights in Greece

LGBTQI+ rights in Greece have significantly improved over the past few decades, and since 2015, there have been giant legislative leaps to ensure equality for the LGBTQI+ community. **Athens' LGBTQI+ organizations are among the most active in Greece;** directing their resources at the legal aspect of state transformation, as well as on improving public opinion and awareness concerning LGBTQI+ issues. **The LGBTQI+ community has undoubtedly become more visible over the last decade.** The Pride marches and events are torch bearers of this accomplishment, drawing massive crowds each year: 2019's event entertained more than 100.000 people. **Present day Greek society is generally much better educated on LGBTQI+ issues;** younger generations especially being greatly more accepting and open-minded.

Homosexuality in Greece has been decriminalized for decades, and the freedom of expression as well as the freedom to assemble are core democratic ideals of the Greek people. **In place are legislative acts and anti-discrimination laws that protect against hate speech regarding sexual orientation and gender identity,** as well as the provision of goods, services, and employment for LGBTQI+ persons.

Civil partnership for same sex couples was voted as law of the state in 2015, allowing them to form a family and assume the foster care of a child. **The gender identity recognition law was passed in 2017, making the process of legal gender change significantly easier for Trans people.**



Love is love.

Photo

Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens

Useful Info

If you need to get in contact with the LGBTQI+ activist community for help, advice or support while in Athens, here is a list of city-based LGBTQI+ organizations.

→	ATHENS PRIDE	contact@athenspride.eu	athenspride.eu
→	COLOUR YOUTH LGBTQ	+30 6945583395	colouryouth.gr
→	TRANS ASSOCIATION	+30 6944820441	transgender-association.gr/
→	ORLANDO LGBT	contact@orlandolgbt.gr	
→	11528 LINE – PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT	11528	11528.gr
→	RAINBOW FAMILIES	ouraniotoksofamilies@gmail.com	
→	POSITIVE VOICE	+30 210 86 27 572	positivevoice.gr
→	RED UMBRELLA	redumbrellathens@gmail.com	
→	PROUD PARENTS	+30 6977839037	
→	PROUD SENIORS	+30 6973355124	



Travel and HIV

People with HIV travelling to Greece are free to enter the country. There are no border checks and no testing is required. Additionally, being HIV+ will not lead to deportation. **Antiretroviral medication can also be brought into the country accompanied by a doctor's certificate.** Greek people and foreigners with a work permit are entitled to free HIV treatment in specific hospitals. **HIV medication cannot be bought in pharmacies without a doctor's prescription.**

Non-Greek citizens who live in Greece can access antiretroviral treatment by visiting a hospital (preferably one with a Special Infections Unit like Syggros Hospital). Ask to talk with an infectious disease specialist or physician and provide them with all the necessary information: such as whether you are a European citizen; whether you have a European Card; what kind of treatment you are receiving, etc. **If you encounter any difficulties, ask the physician to contact the HIV office of the National Public Health Organization.** Alternately, you may phone them directly yourself on +30 210 521 2124 or contact Positive Voice (see below).

Free, confidential and rapid HIV tests are conducted at Checkpoint in the centre of Athens. Call in advance to schedule an appointment.

mycheckpoint.gr

+30 210 331 0400

Looking for more information on HIV in Greece?

Contact the following organizations.

Positive Voice (for people living with HIV)

www.facebook.com/thetikifoni/

Kentro Zois

www.kentrozois.gr/en/

Praksis

www.praksis.gr/en-about/

Eody

www.eody.gov.gr/en/



Together no matter what.

Photo

Pinelopi Gerasimou | This is Athens

Main LGBTQI+ events in Athens

5.1 Athens Pride

Athens Pride is the largest LGBTQI+ festival in southeastern Europe and an influential social movement vehicle that's great fun for everyone - whether you're participating or merely cheering from the sidelines. In recent years, **the visibility of the LGBTQI+ community has increased**, resulting in greater acceptance from Greek society and more mainstream interest in Pride events. Thus, a single day of celebration was not enough. Enter "**Athens Pride Week**": seven full days of events taking over the city, paving the way to the main Pride day. **Over the past few years, hundreds of happenings have been hosted in Athens**; most of them free admission, including theatrical plays, DJ sets, street parties, art exhibitions, performances, drag shows, movies, talks, walks, workshops and seminars.

Holding the flag at the parade.

Photo

Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens



Every year, the colourful **Pride Parade is held on the second Saturday of June**, while the weekdays preceding it make up “Pride Week”, with dozens of events to choose from. On the main day, **Syntagma Square “wears” its rainbow flag**. LGBTQI+ organizations, social initiatives, branches from the government and private corporations set up kiosks, creating a “Pride Village”. The square also serves as a start and finish line for the Pride March, giving over later to an **annual live concert in which famous singers unite their voices with the LGBTQI+ community** to support its cause.

For more up-to-date info visit:
athenspride.eu

TIP

Want to get the biggest bang out of Athens Pride?

Come a few days before the second Saturday of June and stick around as the Athens Pride Parade sets sail from Syntagma Square.



Main LGBTQI+ Events in Athens

5.2 Outview Film Festival

Outview Film Festival is a **well-known international LGBTQI+ film forum**, staged in Athens since 2007. Athenians can enjoy a diverse roll-out of movies and cinema events over a couple of days. **This popular festival usually takes place during spring**, but always check the website for its programme and schedule at outview.gr

5.3 Queer Archive Festival

This annual newcomer is **dedicated to queer art**, with a wide range of events generally held in downtown Athens, **in support of local and international LGBTQI+ artists**.

For information:

thequeerarchive.com/festival

5.4 Other Events (parties or festivals)

Athens is often billed as a “party city” - and with good cause. **Athenians like to stay out late** - and to the average Greek, it's a case of: the more the merrier. All year long, you'll find pumping events, festivals and parties to let your hair down at. Many of **these events attract diverse crowds and are greatly popular among the younger LGBTQI+ community** of Athens. Each month, there are numerous friendly parties firing up across town, but **keep an eye out for the exclusive LGBTQI+ parties** organised by the Banana Boys, QReclaim and Slam Athens. Visit ThisisAthens.org or ask a like-minded local to find out more about what's happening when you are visiting.



Be yourself all day and night.

Photo

Pinelopi Gerasimou | This is Athens

Culture is a major ingredient in the recipe of Athens and its people. **Athenians dwell in a city with over 3,000 years of accumulated history; leading to today's contemporary landscape.** Cultural hubs flourish in ancient quarters and evolve in urban neighbourhoods: writing their own roles in the **never-ending story of Athens**, and adding to the unique soul and character of this world-famous destination.

One such hub is the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre** (snfcc.org). The SNFCC hosts the **National Opera House** and the **National Library of Greece**, both integrated into a vast open park with a canal and glass-fronted viewing platform. Its stellar design, created by Renzo Piano, **is a true contemporary masterpiece** that has enhanced the city's skyline and aesthetic. At SNFCC, visitors can rent a bike and move around the park, or join in the many free events and activities held all year. Nearby, at **Onassis Stegi**, you can enjoy some of the city's most progressive contemporary arts. **There's always something exciting to dive into at Stegi**, no matter when you visit. For a chance to attend one of their exhibitions, performances, visual arts, workshops, theatrical plays, or cutting-edge cultural events, check out their site at onassis.org/onassis-stegi, and don't forget to book tickets up front. **Both Stegi and SNFCC openly support LGBTQI+ rights** and participate during Pride week by illuminating their buildings with rainbows and hosting LGBTQI+ events. Just across from the SNFCC on Syngrou Avenue, you can explore the workings of the universe at the **Eugenides Foundation Planetarium**, the first planetarium in southeast Europe. Check out what's on and when at eef.edu.gr



Showing pride everywhere.

Photo
Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens



The Acropolis Museum.

Photo
Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens

The outstanding **Acropolis Museum** on the foot of the Acropolis Hill is another must. Housed in an impressive contemporary structure, this acclaimed museum displays **findings from the archeological site of the Acropolis**, with riveting artefacts **spanning centuries** (don't miss the ingenious Parthenon Gallery on the top floor). Book your tickets at theacropolismuseum.gr. From the **National Archaeological Museum** with its rich trove of Greek artefacts from neolithic to classical times, to the world's only all-marble arena, the **Panathenaic Stadium**, birthplace of the modern Olympic Games, ancient Athens has an archeological treasure for every aesthetic or appetite. Find your inspiration on thisisathens.org/museums-and-antiquities.

Meanwhile, the compelling **National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST)**, is Athens' newest cultural debut, officially launched in February 2020, in the iconic Fix Brewery building. Read up on its permanent and temporary exhibitions at emst.gr. For classical opera and dance with superb acoustics, the Athens Concert Hall, **Megaron**, is another city landmark well worth a visit (view their schedule at megaron.gr). As is the **Benaki Museum**, with several diverse outposts across Athens offering hours of immersive exhibitions, artworks, and events, covering contemporary and Islamic art to traditional Greek culture (Benaki.org). Another vital culture lab is the **Technopolis City of Athens**, in the old gasworks plant of Athens. **This multi-tasking urban space draws more than 1,000,000 visitors per year** with its exciting bill of concerts, exhibitions, gigs, festivals, alternative arts and markets. Check out athens-technopolis.gr to see what grabs your fancy.

No cultural round-up of Athens would be complete without a mention of the **Athens and Epidaurus Festival**. One of the oldest active festivals in Europe, with over 65 years of history, it unfolds each summer. **You can catch big international names and some of the brightest stars of Greek song and stage**, performing at legendary open-air venues such as the 2,500 year-old **Odeon of Herodes Atticus** and the **Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus**. Tickets get snapped up fast so be sure to check out the program at greekfestival.gr before you hit town.



48 Hours in Athens

A walk around Athens.

Photo

Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens

How to Enjoy 48 Hours in LGBT+ Athens

From hot gay and lesbian clubs to flirty beaches and alternative arts, Athens is a welcoming and gay-friendly destination. Here's where to taste the queer side of the Greek capital.

Seek and you shall find. Sultry Athens may not wear its rainbow hues as loudly as Mykonos or Amsterdam; but **the Greek capital has a booming gay and lesbian scene** that's waiting to welcome you with open arms, all year round. Whether your inspiration to visit Athens is the Acropolis, our sunny beaches or a contemporary Greek God/Goddess you've been following on Instagram, **the city's vibrant spectrum of activities and sights**, history and culture, flavours and events, will make you understand why Athens has moved to the top of the list of LGBTQI+ destinations over the last few years.

Athens is a welcoming and open-hearted destination, full of LGBTQI+ people, especially in June, when the city celebrates Pride with a saucy line-up of parties and awareness-boosting events. To taste the queer side of the Greek capital, from its **racy nightlife, activated arts and stylish shopping, to its cheeky bars and beaches**, here's how to spend an unforgettable 48 hours in non-stop Athens.

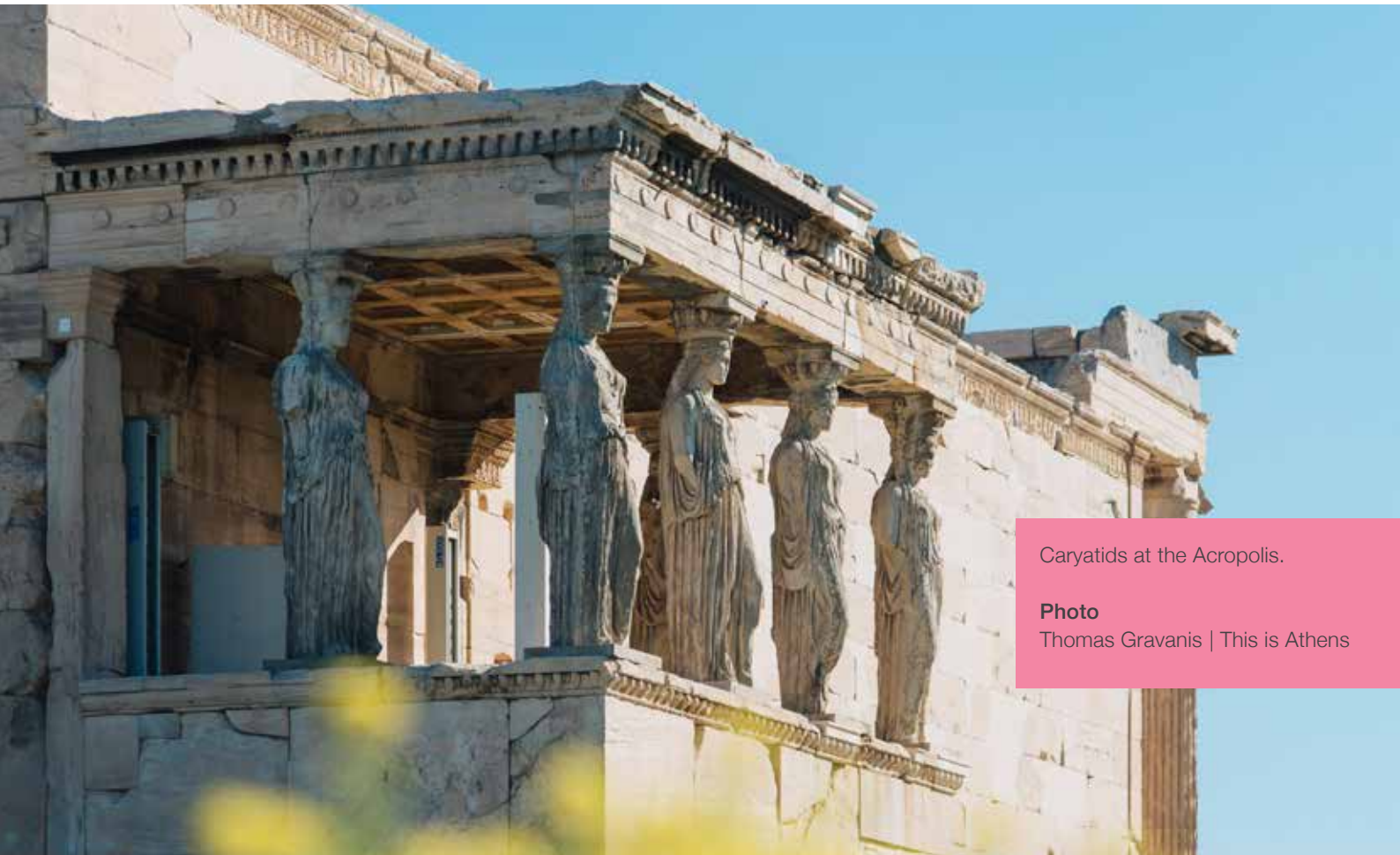
DAY 1 Athens Realness

MORNING

Fire your engines with a high-octane Greek coffee at **Rooster**, a short walk from Monastiraki metro. This roaring all-day haunt launched the gay colonization of pretty **Agia Irini Square**. Join the local peacocks who admire passersby out on the pavement tables (and indulge in the sinfully good banoffee pie).

Once caffeinated, hit the road. Our world-famous **Acropolis** is non-negotiable - and the walk from Monastiraki is one of the loveliest routes in town (you'll pass ancient wonders like **Hadrian's Library** and the **Roman Agora**). Archeology nuts can save with a multi-site ticket that grants entry to other heavy hitters nearby, including the **Ancient Agora** and **Keramikos Cemetery**.

Next to the Acropolis Hill, the state of the art **Acropolis Museum** provides a gripping modern context to Athens' monumental past – so that's going on the list too! Cap off your history lesson with a stroll of the surrounding area and clock mighty relics and poetic sights: such as the **Odeon Of Herodes Atticus**, the **Philopappou Monument** on the Hill of the Muses, and **Anafiotika**, a peaceful Cycladic village hugging the Sacred Rock in **Plaka**.



Caryatids at the Acropolis.

Photo

Thomas Gravanis | This is Athens



Take a breather, have a coffee.

LUNCH

Head out of the **historic centre** to experience the urban beat of gay-friendly Athenian neighbourhoods: **Gazi**, **Keramikos** and **Metaxourgio**. Follow central Ermou Street all the way down until you hit the old gas factory at **Technopolis** or take the metro to **Keramikos**.

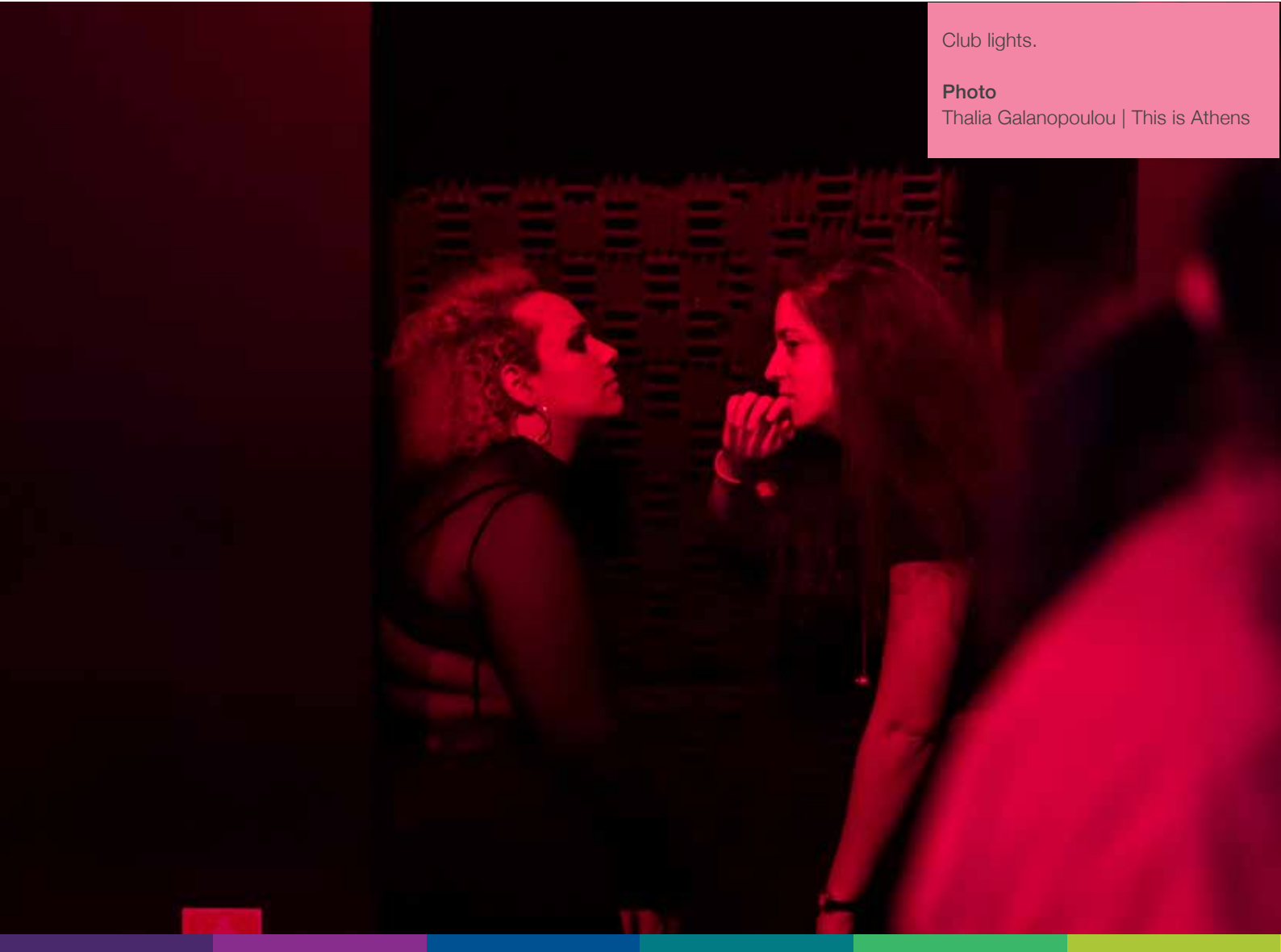
Lots of steps equals a Herculean appetite. Slay it at **Myrolovos**, an LGBTQI+ hangout on **Avdi Square**, especially popular with women. Order a run of small Greek plates (*meze*); it's a great way to play the field and try a bit of everything while you soak up the laid back cool of Avdi Square. Craving Athens' most famous street food instead? Groovy **MyPlate** in nearby **Keramikos Square** does superior souvlaki. Or refuel at **Beaver**, a cosy café and bar run by a women's collective.

DAY 1 continued

AFTERNOON

It's not all ancient marble in Athens. The city's contemporary art scene is electric. Ignite your afternoon with a visit to the impressive new **National Museum of Contemporary Art** (EMST), right near **Syroun Fix metro**, and ponder arresting works from the likes of Arte Povera master Jannis Kounellis and Greek-American light art pioneer Chryssa, in the iconic Fix Brewery building. Want more? While you're in **Gazi**, pop over to **Technopolis** to check out what's shaking at this vibrant multi-space venue (they host LGBTQI+ friendly exhibitions, concerts, markets and pop-up parties all year).

If art's not your bag, how about some **retail therapy, Athens-style**? The city's snappiest chaps make a beeline for **Kolonaki** and stylish boutiques such as **Mah Jong** and **Bespoke Athens** - or hit up street fashion kings like **Pitch**, **Dangerous Minds** or **He-m-n-oid** to score hot urban labels (and maybe even a party invite or two).



Club lights.

Photo

Thalia Galanopoulou | This is Athens



Drag Shows take central stage in Athens.

Photo

Thalia Galanopoulou | This is Athens

EVENING

Athenians like to kick-off their (long) nights out with an evening stroll, stopping at their favourite watering holes along the way. Get started at **Shamonette** in **Syntagma**. This gender-neutral sibling to the well-known Shamone is a winning spot for delicious cocktails, pizza and burgers. Similar is **Enodia** in **Gazi**, where you can get loose with an older crowd in a small summer garden and listen to all kinds of music. If you want to meet Greek bears, **Big Bar** nearby serves up a mellow mood, welcoming staff, gay anthems and themed nights – along with rivers of beer.

Don't be a Cinderella. **Athenian nightclubs rarely get cracking before midnight** and you'll have to wait until after 1am to appreciate queer hotspot, **Be Queer**, a current favourite for queer Millennials (think Brooklyn drag, not Manhattan). Or go to old-school classic **Koukles Club** to see archetypal Greek drag in a grunge setting.

Noiz will keep you dancing until the early morning with a mostly lesbian crowd; while **Sodade2** is one of the most established gay clubs in town with a mainstream mob and two stages. Celebrities' choice **Shamone** hosts stellar events, shows and parties. Looking for a younger, more mixed audience? **S-CAPE** has your name on it. Extreme night owls can listen to gritty Greek music at doll-sized **Moe** club in Gazi after 4.30am (it's literally 10sqm).

Also emerging on the Athens circuit are techno parties, with their sole goal of uniting revellers. Throwing some of the best beats and most diverse soirees around right now are **Qreclaim**, **Slam Athens** and **Strap On Unicorns** so be sure to check out their social media accounts if you're coming to town.



DAY 2 Kiki by the Sea

MORNING

The cherry on top of your Athens city break? **The Greek capital has a sun-drenched 50km coastline sprinkled with alluring sandy beaches and glam bars.** There's no better place to blast away a hangover (and start work on your next one!).

If you dare to bare, explore Athens' most famous gay nudist swimming spot at Limanakia. **Anything goes at flirty Limanakia**, a series of rocky bays with knockout waters and hidden corners, about 30 minutes from Athens, **between Varkiza and Vouliagmeni**. You can also let it all hang out at the northern end of **48**, a craggy cove just after the Mavro Lithari hotel, in **Saronida**. (Top tip: if you're going to non-organized beaches like these, remember to take the essentials: water, snacks, sunscreen and hat.) Locals like to pick up a morning coffee to go and some koulouria (those crunchy bread rings with sesame seeds you'll find everywhere) before they hit the beach.

If you'd rather keep your kit on, join the bronzed and beautiful at a buzzy all-day beach club like **Bolivar**, just ten minutes from the city in **Alimos**, or **Balux House Project & Balux Pool Seaside** further down the coast, in cosmopolitan **Glyfada**. Both are top picks for a reviving coffee and seaside lunch or brunch (Balux also has a slinky adults-only seafront pool open during summer).

LUNCH

Stick around to witness the chilled morning mood morph into a Miami-style beach bash with live DJ sets on the sand. Or if you're visiting between May and October, pretend you're in Mykonos with a long, rosé-fueled lunch at **Krabo**, a classy Cycladic-inspired hotspot on a secluded sandy bay in **Vouliagmeni** (the marinated crab and the beef carpaccio always hit the spot).



Make a splash.

Photo
Manos Chatzikonstantis

DAY 2 continued

AFTERNOON

Enrich your final day with some cultural highlights. **The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre**, designed by Renzo Piano, is a modern architectural masterpiece of sustainability, close to the **Athens Riviera**. Home to the National Library and Greek National Opera, you'll also find a free year-round menu of progressive entertainment and activated open-air spaces, including Mediterranean gardens and a canal (don't miss the epic view from the solar-powered Lighthouse). Another proud supporter of LGBTQI+ rights is the Onassis **Cultural Centre** (Stegi) - who stage cutting-edge performances and exhibitions saluting diversity and queer aesthetics - while the **Benaki Museum**, with several outposts across town, champions both contemporary and traditional culture. (Top tip: the terrace of the **Benaki Museum of Islamic Art** is a super spot for a coffee break).

EVENING

Keep things spicy with an authentic Thai curry at kitsch **Tuk Tuk**, an instant hit since it landed in the cool **Koukaki** neighbourhood a few years ago. Or tuck into some Japanese souvlaki, paired with a fiery Japanese whiskey, at hip **Birdman** in **Syntagma**.

Got an appetite for cruising? Try **Adult Theater** at Metaxourgio, **ATTRAXX** in the Gazi area, or **Lamda Video and Cruising** on Syngrou Avenue. Or turn up the heat at a sauna: **Alexander** is a four-storey cruising playground in **Gazi**, while more modestly-sized **Flex** in **Monastiraki** has a rooftop lounge and a Muscle Mary clientele.

Get under the skin of authentic Athens by vibing with locals at non-touristy spaces like ultra-urban **BIOS** in **Keramikos**, the lush hidden courtyard of **Six d.o.g.s** in **Monastiraki/Psirri**, or nostalgic **Mple Papagalos** (Blue Parrot) on Avdi Square (you'll love the flirty atmosphere and mellow groove).

Or stay on the move. That's another popular nocturnal pastime for restless Athenians. Wander beloved neighbourhoods and lookouts - like **Plaka**, **Thissio**, **Monastiraki**, **Psirri** and rocky **Areopagus** - talking, stargazing, and drinking in the unpredictable fizz of Athens. Who knows what new friends or encounters might await you around the next corner?



Dancing the night away.

The background of the image is a vertical rainbow gradient. A white rectangular box is positioned on the left side, containing the text "LGBTQI+ Places".

LGBTQI+ Places

Listings

There are a multitude of places for you to explore and discover in the Greek capital beyond this guide, but keep in mind that Athens likes to go with the flow. So if you plan on hitting any of the spots mentioned in our guide, check the website or facebook page before heading out for the most up to date opening times and special events.

CAFÉ/BARS

Beaver

A cosy café and bar in Tavros managed by a women's collective. The space has a very casual DIY feel with an alternative crowd and can get loud after hours.

46 Megalou Vasileiou Str & 10 Andronikou Str, Tavros

T: +30 211 210 3540

FB: facebook.com/collectivabeaver

Big

Athens' first - and most popular - dedicated bear bar for bears, cubs, otters, wolves, and admirers. Free entrance, affordable drinks and a friendly, dive bar vibe make it a great place to start the night.

12 Falesias Str, Votanikos

T: +30 694 628 2845

FB: facebook.com/bigbarathens2004

BIOS

Bios is a cultural organization promoting modern art. Their industrial-style quarters at Pireos 84 have a beautiful terrace with Acropolis views, cultural spaces and a ground floor café.

84 Pireos Av, Metaxourgio

T +30 210 342 5335

FB facebook.com/biosathens

Blue Parrot

This city-centre oasis on Audi Square has a retro fit out and mood, and is an LGBTQI+ hotspot all year round. Go for inspired cocktails, snacks and homemade desserts.

31 Leonidou Str, Metaxourgio

T: +30 211 012 1099

FB: facebook.com/BlePapagalos

Del Sol

One of the most popular gay-friendly cafés in Athens since 2007. It has a stylish and chatty atmosphere with a rich menu of snacks and drinks.

44 Voutadon Str, Gazi

T: +30 210 341 8169

FB: facebook.com/delsol.cafebar

Enodia

A greek-styled café/bar in the heart of LGBTQI+ stomping ground Gazi. It has a private outdoor terrace at the rear and frequently hosts special events.

1-3 Keleou Str, Gazi

T: +30 210 924 1574

FB: facebook.com/Enodia-bar-445809098868280

Klostirion

An all-day café bar that mixes vintage with modern industrial and serves everything from breakfast to your last drink of the night. During summer you can sit outdoors on the square.

17 Myllerou Str, Metaxourgio

T : +30 210 524 8496

FB: facebook.com/klostirion

Myrovolos

A laid-back bar and restaurant in Metaxourgio that's particularly popular with women. In the summer, tables are brought out onto the square, creating a lovely urban setting for an evening out. If you're dining with friends, the mixed grill is a favourite.

12 Giatrakou Str, Metaxourgio

T: +30 210 522 8806

FB: facebook.com/myrovolosmetaxourgeo

Rooster

Rooster is a gay-friendly, all-day café with tables out on buzzing Agias Irinis Square. An ideal meeting spot for locals and visitors.

4 Agias Irinis Sq, Monastiraki

T: +30 210 322 4410

FB: facebook.com/rooster.ath

Shamonette

Athens' latest queer joint located downtown. Young crowd, loud music, serves coffee, drinks and brunch.

23 Nikis Str, Syntagma

T: +30 210 331 6158

FB: facebook.com/Shamonette-107752973979934

Listings

Six D.o.g.s.

An all day/ all night cultural hub where a gig space, project space, bar, foyer and garden combine to offer a great escape in the city centre.

6-8 Avramiotou Str, Monastiraki

T: +30 210 321 0510

FB: facebook.com/sixdogsathens

CLUBS

BeQueer

Athens' quintessential queer clubbing experience prized for its themed events and drag shows.

10 Keleou Str, Gazi

T: +30 213 012 2249

FB: facebook.com/bequeerathens

Bizzar

Flirty fun in the centre of Athens. Hot happenings & shows every Friday & Saturday.

20 Derigni Str & Patission Av, Victoria

T: +30 6906409463

FB: facebook.com/Bizzar Club

Koukles Drag Show

One of the oldest drag show bars in Athens. A beautiful space with a 40s-50s cabaret theme. Go for the ultimate lip sign and drag performances.

32 Zan Moreas Str, Koukaki

T: +30 6947557443

FB: facebook.com/Kouklesclubathens

Moe

When all other bars and clubs shut, Moe powers on. Your "after" choice in Gazi.

1-5 Keleou Str, Gazi

T: +30 6955263015

FB: facebook.com/moeclub2018

Noiz

Noiz is all about girl power. Fabulous parties fueled by great music for all tastes. In recent years, the male audience has also claimed it as a hangout.

78 Konstantinoupoleos Av, Gazi

T: +30 210 346 7850

FB: facebook.com/noizclubATH

S-CAPE

S-cape is a legendary gay bar, where the night is forever young and so is the crowd.

32 Iakchou Str, Gazi

T: +30 6978195598

FB: facebook.com/S-Cape

Cape-28327700849078

Shamone

Athens' fanciest spot for theme nights, big parties, drag shows & wild dancing. Celebrities' choice & straight-friendly.

46 Konstantinoupoleos Av, Gazi

T: +30 210 345 0144

W: shamone.gr

SODADE2

Athens' ruling LGBT+ nightspot for over 20 years. Sodade2 has three dance floors with DJs playing mainstream hits, house, and Greek tunes. Always fun.

10 Triptoleμου Str, Gazi

T: +30 210 346 8657

FB: facebook.com/Sodade2

SAUNAS - CRUISING AREAS

Adult Theaters (AT)

A unique Adult Cinema with films addressed to all sexes, genders and orientations, whether you visit alone or accompanied.

8 Karolou Str, Metaxourgio

T: +30 210 522 5038

W: adulttheaters.gr

Alexander

The premium gay sauna of Athens where you can be as relaxed or active as you want. Hot parties, featuring the world's best porn stars, and a dark room labyrinth that will have you hunting for a Minotaur, rather than trying to escape him.

134 Megalou Alexandrou Str, Gazi

T: + 30 210 698 0282

W: alexandersauna.gr

ATTRAXX

Close to the central square of Gazi, Attraxx cruising and movie areas offer 220 sqm of newly-built space with mirrored hallways, glory holes and dark rooms.

36 Iakchou Str, Gazi

T: +30 210 341 2078

W: attraxx.gr

Listings

Flex

Flex is the oldest men-only sauna in Athens, where you can immerse yourself in the jacuzzi, relax in the warm sauna or enjoy a roof-top refreshment.

6 Poliklitou Str, Monastiraki

T: +30 210 321 0539

W: flexsauna.com.gr

Lamda Video & Cruising

Sex shop, Private Cabins, Glory Holes, Dark Room, Movies, and hot boys cruising. What else do you need really?

9 Syngrou Av & 15 Lembesi Str, Makrigianni

T: +30 210 923 2583

FB: facebook.com/lamdavideoandcruising

RESTAURANTS

Andaman

A top choice for fans of Thai cuisine and decoration that also does cut-above cocktails. During the summer months, the terrace offers beautiful sunsets to the beat of city sounds.

65 Alopis Str, Petralona

T: +30 211 210 4939

FB: facebook.com/andamanThaiAthens

Birdman

A Japanese pub near Syntagma square with New style yakitori, straightforward liquor, analogue tunes.

35 Voulis Str, Syntagma

T: +30 210 321 2800

FB: facebook.com/birdmanathens

Edw & Ekei

Want to have a traditional bite before a night out? Visit for classic Greek cuisine in small portions (meze) along with Greek music. Located close to Gazi area. Open from 5pm daily, except Sunday.

124 Megalou Alexandrou Str, Gazi

T: +30 6945397982

FB: facebook.com/Εδώ-Εκεί-meze-bar-106824594098616

Lime Bistro

A cheery and hospitable choice for all budgets with a strictly vegetarian menu (vegan). Expect to find an emphasis on healthy macrobiotic-alkaline diet, ecological lifestyle and a love for all living creatures.

23 Dekeleon Str, Gazi

T: +30 6980083866

FB: facebook.com/limebistro23

My Plate

A modern take on the traditional greek grill house, offering new age souvlaki as pop art.

43 Persefonis Str, Gazi

T: +30 210 345 1606

W: myplate.gr

Prosopa

A modern & friendly environment with Mediterranean flavours where everyone is welcome. In summer, there's outside seating, next to a small garden.

4 Konstantinoupoleos Str, Rouf

T: +30 210 341 3433

W: prosopa.gr

Tuk Tuk

Delicious traditional Thai food in a small space that's big on vibrant colours and playful Thai decoration.

40 Veikou Str, Koukaki

T: +30 211 405 1947

W: tuktukthaifood.net

BY THE SEA

Balux House Project & Balux Seaside

A friendly rendezvous point in glitzy Glyfada with multiple spaces and vibes - from an adults-only pool, to chill-out lounges, beach parties, fine dining, and barefoot cocktails in a Tiki-style grotto.

58 Vasileos Konstantinou Av, Glyfada

T: +30 210 898 3577

W: baluxcafe.com

Bolivar

A buzzy all-day beach club ten minutes from the city, in Alimos, famous for its pumping open-air DJ events and dance nights.

Akti tou Iliou, Posidonos Av, Alimos

T: +30 210 983 1018

W: bolivar.gr

Krabo Beach

A sleek and stylish all-day hangout on a secluded sandy bay in Vouliagmeni with a Mykonos mood and mindset. Go for elevated beach cuisine, killer cocktails and loose DJ sets between May and October.

Thespidos, Vouliagmeni

T: +30 210 896 3309

W: krabo.gr

EXPERIENCES

This is Athens with a Local

Book a walk with a local volunteer who can introduce you to the LGBTQI+ scene of Athens, and recommend cafes, bars, and beaches, as well as suggest drag shows and nightlife spots to visit.

thisisathens.org/withalocal

ACVB Experience Providers

Athens is a city of a thousand faces and spaces. The Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau has an extensive list of service providers to cater to all your needs - from guided tours to insider experiences.

thisisathens.org/acvb/meeting-planner/experiences

CULTURE

Athens and Epidaurus Festival

One of Greece's oldest and most prestigious summer festivals, snaring international stars and Greek legends. The two main venues—the Odeon of Herodes Atticus and the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus—are as high-impact as the performances.

Multiple Venues

T: +30 210 928 2900

W: greekfestival.gr

Atopos CVC

A nonprofit arts organization, respected for its innovation and contemporary culture focus.

72 Salaminos Str, Gazi

T: +30 210 883 8151

W: atopos.gr

Benaki

A dynamic hive of prominent city museums showcasing everything from traditional Greek history and contemporary culture to Islamic Art and vintage toys. Visit benaki.org to acquaint yourself with their various Athens venues.

Multiple Venues

W: benaki.org

The Breeder (Gallery)

Breeder is one of the best-known and most influential contemporary art galleries in Athens.

45 Iasonos Str, Keramikos

T: +30 210 331 7527

W: thebreedersystem.com

EMST, National Museum of Contemporary Art

Athens' shiniest new modern art showcase, housed in the striking former Fix Brewery Building, with almost 20,000 sqm of permanent and temporary exhibitions to explore.

Kallirrois Av & Frantzi Str, Koukaki

T: +30 211 101 9000

W: emst.gr

Megaron, Athens Concert Hall

Enjoy world-class orchestras and live musical performances in an acoustic setting equal to the best in Europe at this landmark cultural venue.

87 Vassilis Sofias Av & Kokkali Str, Ilissia

T: +30 210 728 2000

W: megaron.gr

Onassis Stegi

Stegi is Athens' progressive hub of contemporary culture with theatre, music, science and cutting-edge digital productions all year long.

107-109 Syngrou Av, Neos Kosmos

T: +30 210 900 5800

W: onassis.org

Planetarium

One of the biggest planetariums in the world, the Eugenides Foundation Digital Planetarium projects 3D, 360-degree screenings under its 25 metre in diameter dome.

387 Syngrou Av, Palio Faliro

T: +30 210 946 9600

W: eef.edu.gr

Romantso

A former printing house, Romantso now rules as a modern incubator office space for new startups and a culture hotspot with a happening bar and daily events.

3-5 Anaksagora Str, Omonia

T: +30 216 700 3325

W: romantso.gr

Listings

SNFCC, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre

A contemporary space providing free public access to a diverse rota of cultural, educational, athletic and recreational activities and events. Also home to the Greek National Opera, the National Library of Greece, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park, one of the largest green areas of Athens.

364 Syngrou Av, Kallithea

T: +30 216 809 1000

W: snfcc.org

Technopolis

The old gasworks plant of Athens is both a leading culture lab and the focal point of the Gazi landscape. All year round, it hosts events such as concerts, performances, exhibitions, jazz festivals, screenings and markets.

100 Pireos Av, Gazi

T: +30 213 010 9300

W: athens-technopolis.gr FB: [facebook.com/andamanThaiAthens](https://www.facebook.com/andamanThaiAthens)

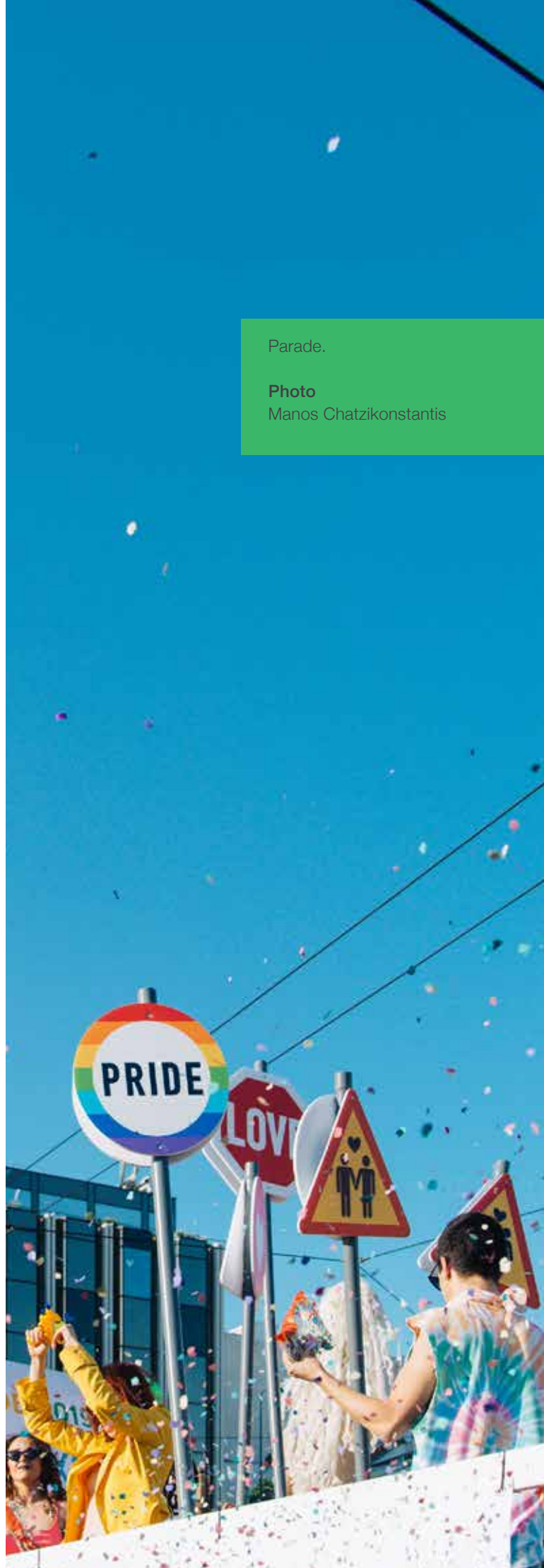
OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS/SERVICES

Police	100
National Emergency Aid Center	166
European Emergency Number	112
Fire Service	199
Athens Municipality	1595
Drug Prosecution Service	109
Touristic Police	171
Poisoning Center	210 7793777
Daily Public Hospitals	1434
Anti-terrorist Service	170
Athens International Airport	210 3530000
Public Transport	11185
Piraeus Port	14541
Trains Service	14511

Parade.

Photo

Manos Chatzikonstantis



THIS
IS
ATHENS

thisisathens.org/lgbt

