

KIFISSIA

history | art | greenery | culture | gastronomy | modern malls



MUNICIPALITY OF KIFISSIA

NEW EDITION 2018

MUNICIPALITY OF KIFISSIA

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION: Kifissia is situated at a 15 km distance northwest of Athens at the foothills of Mount Penteli.

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT: In 1925, Kifissia becomes a community and in 1942, it is recognized as a municipality.

AREA: 34.03 square km

POPULATION: 71.000

ACCESS: The city is at a 29 km distance from “EL. VENIZELOS” airport, it can be reached by car through Attiki Odos motorway and it's connected to the suburban railway. It's at a distance of 15 km from Syntagma square and 27 km from the port of Piraeus. One can easily access the center of the city and other suburbs of Athens, by train, bus and taxi.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Municipality of Kifissia: Dionysou & Myrsinis – 213 2007100

Kifissia Police Department: Othonos 93 – 210 8012544

Fire Department: 199

Ambulances: 166

ELECTRONIC ADDRESS: www.kifissia.gr

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WELCOME TO KIFISSIA

Our three cities, Kifissia with its history, Nea Erythraia with its Asia Minor origins and Ekali with its gardens, form a joint Municipality with rich Environment, Tradition and History.

The development of a Municipality is directly connected to culture and tourism. In addition to its beauty and natural environment, Kifissia can also be deemed as a notable Cultural Destination, since it has museums, venues that celebrate art, art galleries, etc.



Its listed buildings along with the old manors with their special architecture and aesthetic quality, are an integral part of the identity of Kifissia, and, together with the green areas and the beautiful environment, they offer unique opportunities for recreation.

Great personalities from the areas of education, art and entrepreneurship, as well as top political figures, Prime ministers and Presidents of Greece, have, and still live here.

Nea Erythraia was founded by Greek refugees from the area of Erythraia, a peninsula in Asia Minor, who found sanctuary in Kifissia after the Asia Minor Catastrophe in 1922. Modern Nea Erythraia, with a plethora of cultural and social activities, is always an undimmed beacon of the Asia Minor Greek Diaspora and its distinct tradition.

Both our cities, Kifissia, as well as Nea Erythraia, are an ideal destination for recreation, strolls, shopping, coffee, international and local cuisines. They offer a remarkable experience that combines relaxation with a sense of affluence, since visitors will find malls, large and small stores with all the brand names of the Greek market, as well as luxurious cafés and restaurants for a pleasant break after a stroll.

Kifissia also has an excellent transport network, with two ISAP (Athens–Piraeus Electric Railways) stations: “KIFISSIA” and “KAT”, as well as a plethora of OASA (Athens Mass Transit System) lines, in order to offer visitors and residents easy access to the other suburbs in Attica.

Our goal is to connect Tourism and Culture with our city. A different Tourist Guide, which will help visitors, offering them useful information, so that they can get to know the opportunities our Municipality offers for a walk or a stay to remember.

We are waiting for you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line.

GIORGOS T. THOMAKOS
MAYOR



Othonos Street, 1930

A BRIEF HISTORY OF KIFISSIA

Kifissia, a city with a long history of centuries. One of the most ancient cities in Europe, which has been continuously inhabited and bearing the same name for more than 2,500 years. As its name suggests, it is closely connected to attic river Kifisos (Cephissus).

Two writers refer to the city's distant past. **Philochorus (3rd century BC)**, who mentions it as one of the twelve cities **Theseus** and **Strabo (1st century BC - 1st century AD)** consolidated, who writes that it was founded by mythical Athenian king, **Cecrops I** (Str. IX, 397).

Kifissia, as an Athenian Demos, was part of the **Erechtheis phyle** (tribe).

Thanks to the waters and the fertile lands, Kifissians, as Athenian citizens, enjoyed high economic and social living standards, as findings of rich tombs that were brought to light during excavations in 2001, suggest.



«Vourou» Mansion, 1895

The inscriptions found at the Ancient Agora (market) of Athens, prove that, apart from participating in the highest offices of the Athenian state, they also showed great interest in literature and arts.



Melas Square, 1948

The most well-known citizen of Kifissia by the end of the 4th century BC, was **Menander, son of Diopieithes (342/1 - 293/2 BC)**, the best-known representative of Athenian New Comedy of single characters, “types” with their city life adventures, their love issues, their schemes and recognitions. With “**New Athenian Comedy**”, **Menander** became a model for Latin comedy writers, through whom he influenced New European Comedy and left his mark on international theater.



«PALAS» Hotel, 1936



Kefalari, 1888

The revelation of roman baths with hypocausts, on Tatoiou street, near «**Panagia Xydou**», reinforces the belief that it is a part of the majestic mansion of Herodes.

Herodes Atticus (101/2 – 177/8 AD), an extremely educated man, taught rhetoric and is considered the most notable proponent of the Second Sophistic, which characterizes the renaissance of Greek letters (2nd century AD).

Athenian aristocrats and sophists, delighted themselves with fine wine and tasty treats in the ideal environment of Kifissia. The descriptions made by **Latin Aulus Gellius** in «**Attic Nights**» (Noctae Atticae) about the gardens of the mansion (villa cui nomen est Cephisia) give the same idea.

Turkish explorer **Evliya Çelebi**, mentions in his «**Seyahatname**» (Book of Travel) in the 17th century AD: «**Kifissia is a picturesque village, in a rich flatland, with a hundred heavenly houses with red roof tiles, a lot of public buildings, a big mosque with a minaret, a madrasa (religious school), a Turkish bath (hammam), a great inn (Menzil), and 10 shops**».

We also have information about Kifissia in the 17th century from Englishman **G. Wheler** and Frenchmen **J. Spon**, **J. Giraud**, **S. Fourmont**.

A century later, European explorers **J. Stuart** and **N. Revett**, travelled to Greece (1751-1754) and together they wrote the monumental work «**The Antiquities of Athens**», where Kifissia is mentioned as «**the best village in Attica**», with a great production of oil, grain and wine.



«APERGI» Hotel

During Ottoman years, famous Danish novelist **Hans Christian Andersen**, fascinated by Kifissia's natural environment, writes in his «**Travelogue**» (1841):



«Pyrna» Mansion

«...In the village, one can find the remains of a Turkish mosque. The only thing remaining from the minaret were the foundations, but in front of it stood the most beautiful plane tree I have seen in my life.

Its heavy sinuous branches formed a foliage so thick, it shaded almost the whole square».

Its railway connection to Athens in 1885 (with steamed locomotive **«Thirio»**, «Beast»), marks Kifissia's thriving period. **«Since Kifissia was rendered approachable through the railway and featured European hotels, it can be considered as the most appropriate place to meet the capital's inhabitants' desire for the countryside»** (Emmanouil Roidis).

Platanos Square, 1920

In **1900**, Kifissia had 1,539 inhabitants, a telephone center, a post office, and about 12 tennis courts on the beautiful gardens of its mansions and hotels.

In **1925**, its population reaches 7,000 and it is now a self-governed Community.

Newly-founded countryside settlements of Nea Kifissia and Ekali, the refugee settlement of Nea Erythraia and Dionisos pertained to its administrative boundaries.

On January the 29th of **1943**, the Community of Kifissia was recognized as a Municipality.





*Kifissia railway station with «Thirio»
Photograph of Pavlos Melas (1890s)*

Kifissias Grove, 1901



Nea Erythraia was founded by Greek refugees from Asia Minor after the Asia Minor Catastrophe in 1922, who founded the Refugee Association of Kifissia (1923), which focused on urban regeneration.



In September 1927, Evangelistria Church was established, as well as and the building housing the 1st Primary School, which is, to this day, a reference point for all inhabitants of the area.

Asia Minor refugees, farmers and winegrowers for the most part, but also very proficient and skillful craftsmen, gave an even bigger boost to the economy of our small community.

Ekali was created in 1924. It was designed as a standard rural settlement by civil engineer **Spilios Th. Agapitos, who also was its first inhabitant (1877-1943)**. He conceived the idea of the creation of a garden city following British standards, which was presented at an international conference in London, titled **«Residence and garden cities»**.

Ekali slowly started developing and expanding *«around small round squares, where quiet and shady roads bearing the names of gods, mountains and plants, met»*. (N.V.)

Houses are built with local rocks following central-European influences. Others follow picturesque architecture, while the most modern ones are built according to Bauhaus principles.

As a vacation suburb, Ekali didn't fall short when it came to amenities. There were two hotels, **«Ariadni»** (later turned into a house), and **«Diana»** (was demolished in 1991).

The architectural and urban planning of Ekali created a unique suburb, **«with an architectural focus on the pedestrian and not the vehicle»** (G.K.)



«HOTEL DIANA», Ekali

KAZOYLIS MANSION



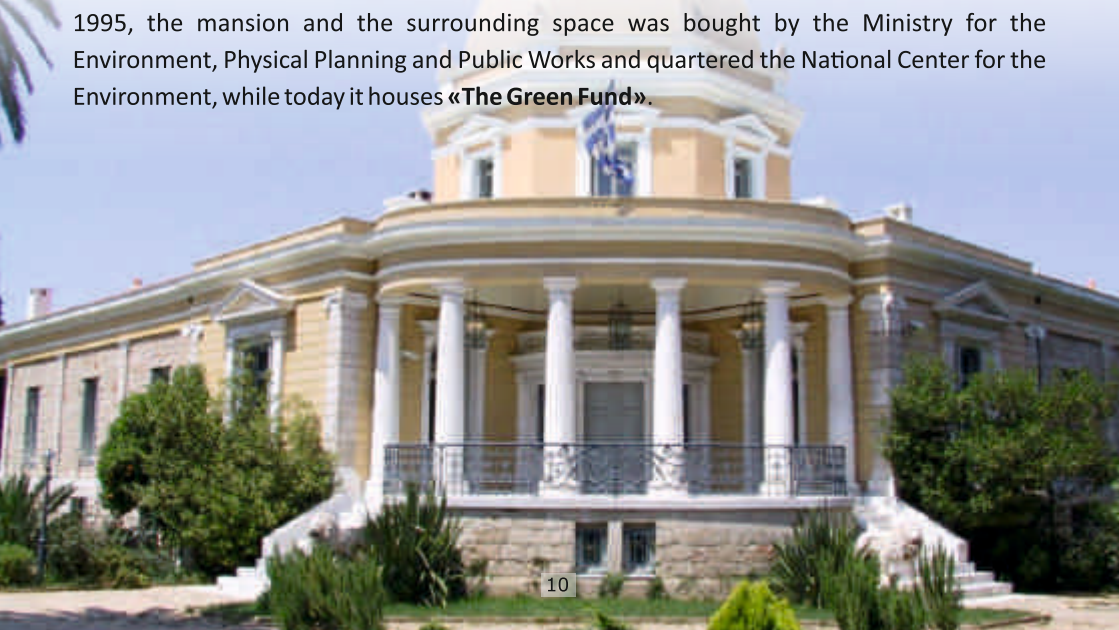
«Kazoulis Mansion» was built at the end of the 1890s in the entrance of Kifissia as a rural residence. It is Kifissia's «trademark» and one of the most significant buildings in Attica.

Nikolaos Kazoulis (1835 – 1902), a merchant from Alexandria in Egypt, bought a land of more than 12.5 acres and built his family's holiday residence, the formidable mansion that will be remembered as «Kazoulis Mansion».

Statues portraying themes inspired by rural life, works of famous Greek sculptor **Demetrios Philippotis (1834-1919)** stood in the garden. Most of those works are at the forecourt of Attica General Hospital (KAT). Only two lions now «guard» the entrance to the mansion.

In 1915, Ioanna Kazoulis called **P. Aristophronas (1889-1942)** from Alexandria, to decorate the mansion. As a result, she fell in love with him and later married him. It was him who added the dome with the persimmon, in 1932.

In the period 1945 – 1949, the mansion was turned into garrison headquarters of the Greek People's Liberation Army, and it later became property of the state. The first CENTER OF REHABILITATION FOR THE WOUNDED (KAT) was housed here. In 1964 it was bought by the Social Insurance Institute (IKA), and in 1976 it was characterized as a listed monument. In 1995, the mansion and the surrounding space was bought by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and quartered the National Center for the Environment, while today it houses «The Green Fund».





Skironio Center of Kifissia - Contemporary Sculpture Park

Skironio Center of Kifissia started operating in 1985. Placed in an olive grove of 9,500 square meters, full of over one hundred years old trees, linden trees, pomegranate trees and very tall cypresses, you can find the unique park of Contemporary Sculpture in the region of the capital.

The foundation's permanent collection consists of large works of both Greek and foreign sculptors, installations and interventions in the space. The old cottage of Kifissia was converted to a space suitable for exhibitions. The rest of the buildings also host minor exhibitions and the foundation's offices.

Since 1995, several educational programs take place, in the same space, in Kifissia, that combine aesthetics and environmental education, in total harmony with the uniqueness of the Park and its exhibits.

G. Lyra 73, N.Kifissia,
+30 2106206437
www.skironio.gr
skironio@otenet.gr

Georgios Drossinis's Museum

The Museum was established in 1997 in Villa «**Amaryllis**», where **Georgios Drossinis**, a poet, journalist, newspaper and magazine publisher, a man of national action with social sensibilities, who passionately loved Greece, spent the last years of his life.

His original books, studies on his literary, publishing and cultural work, belong to the «**Friends of Drossinis's Museum**» Society and adorn the building. The Society ensures that the exhibits are constantly enriched and sees after the regular function of the Museum, in agreement with the Municipality of Kifissia, which is in charge of the legacy of Drossinis.

The objects in the museum cover his versatile personal life. There are heirlooms, manuscripts, photographs, evidence of his offer to the Nation, and mostly to education, literature and culture.

Municipal Library of Kifissia

The Library of the Municipality of Kifissia was established in 1986. Since 1992, it shares the same building with the Georgios Drossinis's Museum.

Its collection consists of 18,200 volumes that are divided into three sections:

1. Lending library for adults
2. Lending library for children
3. Informative section with books that can be read within the premises of the library.

The largest part of the library has literature books, whereas there are also books on history, psychology, sociology, fine arts and traveling.

In a separate section you can find the collection of books published by the Cultural Foundation of the National Bank (M.I.E.T.)

Within the library there are computers accessible to the public, as well as free internet access.

Free University of Kifissia

Since 2004, the **Free University of the Municipality of Kifissia «Nikos Antonopoulos**, in the activities of the N.P.D.D. (Legal Persons Governed by Public Law) of culture and sports, «**Dimitrios Vikelas**» runs in the space of the Municipal Library. In an effort to widen the spiritual and cultural lives of the citizens, Free University offers the public the possibility to attend educational programs and lectures, given by University Professors and accomplished scientists and researchers, who voluntarily offer their knowledge on a large field of topics, such as Literature (there is a «**Book Club**»), History, Archaeology, History of Art, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Economics, International developments, Work and Entrepreneurship, etc.

Ag. Theodoron and D. Kyriakou, Kifissia
+30 2108012642
www.drossinismuseum.gr
drossini@otenet.gr

Centre for the Research and Studies of Asia Minor Erythrae (K.E.M.M.E.)

The purpose of this centre is collecting, preserving, conserving, communicating and promoting the elements of Greek history and culture, and especially that of the Peninsula of Erythrae in Asia Minor.

The centre deals with the collection, classification, studying and development of the historical archival material related to Nea Erythraia, a town established by refugees, where the Centre is located.

KEMME is housed in «**Villa Kosta**» (Kosta Mansion), built in 1930. It is one of the most characteristic houses of the area of Kastri, which was donated by Ekaterini Athanasiou Kosta in 1987 to the Municipality of Nea Erythraia.

Wander around the path of memory in the garden of Villa Kosta and enjoy a route full of historical material and photographs of the “unforgettable” homelands.

Other activities also take place in KEMME, such as:

- Events on the memories of Asia Minor that take place every September, under the title «**Bygone homelands**».
- Scientific symposium on topics related to Asia Minor that takes place every two years.
- Dance classes on folklore Asia Minor dances and chorus of Asia Minor music, which keeps the traditions of the people of Erythrae alive and communicates them to

Louki Akrita 4, Nea Erythraia, +30 , 2106206190
www.kemme.gr | pk_dne@otenet.gr

«Kosta» Mansion, 1930s



“Pilippos Tsichritzis” - Foundation of Visual Arts

The Tsichritzis' Foundation of Visual Arts (I.E.T.T.) was founded in 1999 by collector **F. Tsichritzis** and its main goal was to support and promote arts. I.E.T.T. is housed in a building designed by the civil engineer **Michalis Oros**, made in the primary years of modernism, in the centre of Kifissia (Kassaveti 18). Since its foundation, it has developed a systematic action in order to represent an effective and active cultural core in the wider area of the northern suburbs of Athens.



During its 19 years of function, I.E.T.T. has developed several initiatives. It has organized painting, photography and sculpture exhibitions of important Greek artists, as well as educational workshops for children and adults. The building can host artistic events, as well as all kinds of cultural activities, relevant to the purposes of the Foundation.

Its main goal is to provide artists with a space where they can create and exhibit first-born and original works, by presenting a freedom suitable to push them to new dimensions of creativity, with new perspectives.

Grigoriou Afxentiou 1 and Kassaveti 18,
Kifissia, +30 2108019975
iett.gr
info@iETT.gr

“Spyros Loverdos” Foundation

The neoclassical mansion of **Spyros Loverdos Foundation**, at the junction of 256 Kifissias Avenue and Othonos Street, exists thanks to a donation made by the collector's daughter, Mrs Ioanna Loverdou-Vasiliadi. Together with the **Spyros Loverdos Library**, which has 46 rare byzantine icons, we can now refer to another small museum in Kifissia.

These icons, as well as the ecclesiastical embroideries from the collection of Dionysios Loverdos, are of special importance for Spyros Loverdos Foundation, since, three generations later, the collections of the two brothers from Kefalonia island, the ever memorable **Dionysios** and **Spyros Loverdos**, and therefore their spirit, are housed in the same building.

256 Kifissias Avenue and Othonos, Kifissia
+30 210 6233579

Folk Museum of Asia Minor Greeks of Nea Erythraia

It was founded by the **Association of Asia Minor Greeks of Nea Erythraia**. Its goal is to house, preserve and promote the heavy history and culture of Asia Minor, and at the same time to develop it in order to educate the public.



It hosts 1,380 items and includes heirlooms (banners, clothes, linens, books, manuscripts, utility items, etc) from several parts of Asia Minor, donated by people originating from there, residing in Nea Erythraia or other parts of Greece.

Karastamati and 2 Ioannas Drimpeti street,
Nea Erythraia
+30 210 6209814



Mihalarias Art

Mihalarias Art in Kifissia was inaugurated in May 2005. Stavros Mihalarias, with his long experience in creating art exhibition spaces, such as the neoclassical buildings of Athens and the modern «**Art City**», renovated the listed building in the junction of Kifissias Avenue and Deligianni Str., in order to house a versatile arts complex.

This building, built in the beginning of the 20th century, is a jewel in the centre of Kifissia, and its surroundings are specially designed for outdoor sculpture exhibitions.



A permanent exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Greek and foreign artists of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as ancient artefacts, icons and objects of art, is presented in its halls. Along with the permanent collection, the building hosts exhibitions of both Greek and foreign contemporary artists, presentations on special topics, as well as exhibitions in collaboration with foreign institutions.

On a special floor, there is an art shop with art gifts, sketches, etchings, several small sculptures, etc.

260 Kifissias Avenue & Diligianni,
Kifissia, +30 2106234320-2
www.mihalarias.gr
art@mihalarias.gr

O.T.E. Group Museum of Telecommunications

The Museum is located, since 1990, in a proprietary two-floor building, in a quiet neighborhood of Nea Kifissia. In its space, it hosts permanent collections, educational programs, a small projection room, a library and a laboratory.

Outside, there is a specially designed space for welcoming the guests.

The Museum's collection has more than 4,500 items and a voluminous archival material. Rare telephone devices, difficult to find Morse telegraphs, a cable layer, telex and optical fibers, telephotography equipment, wireless and satellite telecommunications, together with the «contact» with objects from another era, magnetize the gaze, inspire the guest and create new experiences. A special and unique exhibit of the Museum is the first TV studio, which was «set» in our country in the distant 1965.

Modern reality is depicted in the new thematic hall of the Telecommunications Museum, where the history of mobile telephone unfolds from its very beginning, in a composition of today's image with the planning of the future.

The Actions of the Museum:

- **Educational programs for school groups**
- **Educational programs for families**
- **Group visits – Conducted tours**



They are addressed to school groups, social institutions, or other organized groups who wish to travel through the history of telecommunications, from antiquity to satellite communication and mobile communication. For groups' better service, we advise you to contact us in advance.

Proteos 25, Nea Kifissia, +30 2106201999, +30 2106201899
www.otegroupmuseum.gr



"Kouvoutsakis" Art Institute

«Kouvoutsakis Gallery» is a non-profit, public welfare institution founded in 1995 by the initiative of **Panayotis N. Kouvoutsakis**.

Its purpose is to develop, cultivate, promote and propagate fine art, with emphasis on Greek figurative painting and sculpture. It functions as a local cultural centre and a Museum of Painting, in a privately owned building, built by its founder in the junction of Levidou and Papadiamantis streets, in the centre of Kifissia.

The permanent collection of artworks covers an area of approximately 2,000 sq. m., subject to standard museum requirements. The premises are available gratis for cultural events and educational conducted tours.

Levidou 11, Kifissia
 +30 2106233682-3
www.kouvoutsakis-pinakothiki.gr
info@kouvoutsakis-pinakothiki.gr



“Goulandris” Museum of Natural History

Goulandris Museum of Natural History is a public welfare institution, devoted to the study, conservation and protection of the natural environment.

Ever since its foundation, in 1964, it has mapped a pioneer path, a new rapprochement between man and natural environment. It has developed efficient scientific activities for the confrontation and inhibition of environmental threats against the planet and for the rehabilitation of natural resources for the preservation of life.

In the meantime, it has formulated a new education of general interest for the re-integration of people into the functions and economy of Nature.

With the responsibility of the Greek geography, the Institution develops international activity pursuing our historical and cultural tradition and a universal consideration of the world.

The Museum hosts permanent and periodical exhibitions and educational programs for schools.

Retsinas Hall, 1875



Opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 09:00 – 14:30

Saturdays and Sundays: 10:00 – 15:00

Public holidays: CLOSED

Levidou 13 & Othonos 100, Kifissia

+30 2108015870

www.gnhm.gr | goul@gnhm.gr



“Gaia” Centre

«Gaia» Centre demonstrates to visitors of all ages the way planet Earth has been functioning for millions of years and its current condition, after all the human interventions. At its entrance, as well as throughout the whole exhibition, the figure of the ancient goddess Gaia is present, extending her offering hand to humans.



The unique “Geosphere” in the world

It is a hemispherical dome-monitor of 5m of diameter and of approximately 40 m2 of surface, in the central room of the Museum, which depicts the rotating planet in 225,000 high resolution images. «Geosphere» presents the geological evolution of the planet from its creation, 4.6 billion years ago, until now, in a brief and concise way.

The exhibition was conceived and implemented by the London Museum of Natural History in collaboration with Goulandris Museum of Natural History.



Levidou and Othonos 100, Kifissia
+30 2108015870
goul@gnhm.gr

DELTA HOUSE

Historical archives of Benaki Museum

Penelope Delta's house in Kifissia was built at the beginning of the 20th century by an architect, who still remains unknown. In 1912, the building was sold by its first owner, lawyer K. Lytsikas, to Penelope Delta's father, Emmanuel Benakis, who transferred it to his daughter, two years later. The Delta family first moved into the house in 1916, after settling permanently in Greece.

Penelope Delta lived in that house for 25 years, until her suicide, on the 2nd of May 1941, when the German Army entered Athens. There, she wrote her best known novels - **«The Mangas»**, **«In the Days of the Bulgarslayer»**, **«The Secrets of the Swamp»**, **«Crazy Antonis»**, **«The Life of Christ»**, etc. It was there that she kept her diary -parts of which have been published- with important testimonies about her life and the tumultuous events of that time. At that house she also carried out her correspondence about the contentious issue of education with **Yiannis Psycharis**, **Kostis Palamas**, **Manolis Triantafyllidis**, **Dimitrios Glenos**, etc. The Delta Family often hosted leading politicians and intellectuals in that house. **Eleftherios Venizelos** left from that house on the night of the 6th of June 1933, when there was an attempt on his life.

The building is a characteristic example of the late neoclassical architecture of the early 20th century, which borrows many selective morphological features from the medieval architecture. It has a typical tower-staircase, also known by other Athenian examples.

The interior is simple, with wooden paneling, without having, though, the fancy plasterwork of the bourgeois buildings of that era. At the southwest side of the building, Delta family built an addition, in order to extend the workspace of the author, and installed an outdoor elevator. These interventions do not affect the morphology of the original building, nor do they distort its character. The restoration of the building started in 1992, according to the architectural study by G. Plessas and A. Zannas.

Since 1994, the **Historical Archives Department of Benaki Museum** has been housed in the Delta house.



Researchers' hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00-15:00
(after arrangement)

Emm. Benaki 38 & Stef. Delta, Kifissia
Tel: +30 2108079878, +30 2108081896
E-mail: historical_archives@benaki.gr

SMALL CHURCHES IN KIFISSIA

There are small churches of architectural and archaeological importance in Kifissia.

Below, we refer to the most famous and accessible ones.



Aghios Andreas “St Andrew”

An Orthodox temple of gothic-like architecture, built during the last quarter of the 19th century, at the expense of the great Greek benefactor **Andreas Syggros**, in his estate.



Chapel of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Panagitsa Kifissias)

«...During the Turkish Occupation, there was a chapel in the edges of the village of Kifissia, where all the people came to celebrate» see **D. Kampouroglou** «The History of Athens». A beautiful small church in the shopping centre of Kifissia in the junction of Levidou and Kolokotroni streets. The mosaic icon of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary predominates on the exterior wall of the church. It was fully reconstructed in 1847 and celebrates on the 23rd of August.



Panaghia “Xidou” “The Birth of the Virgin Mary”

On 14 Tatoiou Street, close to the I.S.A.P. train station, among cypresses and over than one hundred years old oaks, there is the chapel of “the Birth of the Virgin Mary”, also known as «**Panaghia Xidou**», that celebrates on the 8th of September.

A small cruciform church, built in the post-Byzantine era and considered as the oldest small church of Kifissia. According to popular legends, during the Turkish occupation, an Ottoman transformed the chapel into a wine warehouse. He took down the icons, used them as selves and put barrels with wine on top of them. When he tried the wine, though, he realized that it had become vinegar.



That fact was considered a miracle by the Virgin Mary.

According to the prominent Byzantinologist **Anastasios Orlandos**, the temple, more likely, was named after its owner **Xidis**.

“Panaghia Helidonou” (of the swallows)

Panaghia Zoodohos Pigi, also known as «**Helidonou**», has a small cave which is the second most interesting byzantine monument in Kifissia. It is located in the slope of the valley of Kifissos river.



Many popular legends and traditions refer to its name. According to **Perrot**, the inhabitants of this area were in danger by conquerors and a swallow that flew from a cave was considered as a harbinger of the victory of the Greeks.

Chapel of “Aghios Nikolaos” (St Nicolas)

A single-nave, gable roof basilica, with a semi-hexagonal sanctuary apse that bears early Christian fragments was built in the «Xenakis Estate», 200 meters to the west of the train station in Kifissia.



Chapel of “Aghioi Saranta Martyres” (Holy Forty Martyrs)

A historical monument of the 16th century, in the park outside the Holy Temple of Aghios Dimitrios in Kifissia.

The widening of Kifissias Avenue imposed the unprecedented removal of the whole temple, in 1991-1992.



Chapel of “Aghios Georgios” (St George)

In the area of «Kokkinaras», at the northern part of Kifissia, there is a picturesque small chapel dedicated to Aghios Georgios.



It is a single-nave vault basilica, limewashed both inside and outside.

Its building is placed in the early post-Byzantine era, in the beginning of the 16th century.

CEMETERY OF KIFISSIA

The Municipal Cemetery of Kifissia was founded in 1890, according to the standards of garden cemeteries, at the edges of the town. It is dedicated to **Aghios Trifonas**, patron saint of the gardeners, the farmers and of plantations.

It has dense planting and many of its trees date from the time it was built, cypresses, European horse-chestnuts, cedar, tamarisks and Arizona cypresses, trimmed in a spherical shape.

The tombs present an architectural variety, influenced by the Greek antiquity, or more modern movements and create a unique image.

There are family tombs of diverse typology: chambered cist graves, framed floor mounted graves, fenced yards - precincts, cabins, shrines, most of them made by dazzling white marble.

Important figures of local and national range lie in the Municipal Cemetery of Kifissia.



It is recognized as a Significant European Cemetery by the Organization of Significant Cemeteries in Europe -ASCE.

Member of the Union of Significant Cemeteries in Europe ASCE (2017).

More info:

www.significantcemeteries.org



"DIMITRIS ZOMOPOULOS" KIFISSIA GROVE

The Platanos Grove and the Flower Shows

«**The Grove**», one of the most organized green spaces in Greece, following the standards of small recreational parks in Europe, was created in 1901, and was electrified in 1905. Spectacular tree lines, which we still enjoy today, were formed. The plan for the beautification and the development of the space between the railway station and Platanos square, carried out by Attica Railway Company, called for «...**creation of a park with small shady areas, fountains and small artificial waterfalls... etc.**».



The design of the Kifissia Grove reminded a French garden with a central axis of symmetry and curved parts on the sides with flowerbeds in kidney shapes, elements that discretely resembled an English garden.

The central alley with palm trees and wild chestnut trees connected the two main entrances of the train station and Platanos square. A majestic marble fountain still stands in the center of the Grove.

In 1985, floriculturists and gardeners in Kifissia, created the «**Brotherhood of floriculturists and gardeners**». Their goal was «**the promotion and development of works of floriculture, gardening and farming in general**».



In 1896, the year when the Olympic Games were hosted in Athens, a “Flower and fruit” market was organized on Platanos square, where products were displayed on counters and tables. The arrangers called the event «**Show**».



Of the history of old «**Flower and Gardening Shows**», the exhibition of 1902, which took place in the new asset of Kifissia, the Grove of Platanos square, is the one that stands out.

It was the first time individual stands were used.

In 1934, the **Local Tourism Committee of Kifissia**, led by lawyer **Konstantinos Goulimis (1866-1963)**, an amateur botanist, known for his scientific research on the field, undertook the planning of the established exhibition.





«In 1936, some ladies, such as Kriezi, Efklidi, Diomidi, who held truly spectacular gardens, took initiative and organized the first Flower Show.

The great love of the inhabitants of Kifissia for flowers was the driving force of the Flower Show, whose name became synonymous to that of the city». From the book ***«Lady Kifissia» («Αρχόντισσα Κηφισιά»)***, by Mary Simoni - Lioliou.

In 1937, the shows acquired a more formal nature and were organized yearly by the Tourism Committee.

The participation of exhibitors was great. Along with professional gardeners and cultivators, owners of rich private gardens in Kifissia also displayed their products.

The last prewar Flower and Gardening Show took place in 1939. In 1956, the gates of the exhibition reopened and the show now also had a social nature. The producers always exhibited their best products.

The Municipality of Kifissia has been organizing the Flower and Gardening Show since 1962. The exhibition now hosts stands where achievements of modern Greek and European floriculture are presented. The exhibits include plants for indoor and outdoor spaces, bushes, trees, fertilizers, pots and books that lovers of plants can buy.



Social bodies also hold stands among flowers, in order to inform citizens about matters pertaining to their scope.

Each year, in spring, ***«Kifissia will dress up and stand tall, proud, drowned in a fairytale world of flowers, and, for 20 days, it will be breathing the natural fragrances that will be filling the air».***



MUNICIPALITY OF KIFISSIA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



The Philharmonic Orchestra of the Municipality of Kifissia, one of the oldest in the country, was founded in 1965. It has an active presence in cultural events and it participates in artistic events and concerts at a local and a Pan-Hellenic level.

The conductor, Filippos Chiou, and its 18 members, take us on musical journeys of classical and modern repertoires of both Greek and foreign music. With more than 50 years of musical contribution, it has offered people countless hours of entertainment.

It participates in philharmonic orchestras' festivals, gaining the best reviews. It has taken part in films and television series.



WALKING ROUTES

The verdant Strofylí area with its historical listed houses



P. Protopapadakis Mansion, 1897



Stathatos Mansion, 1890

Seventy years ago, Kifissia was characterized as a «museum – suburb» for the most «pompous and eccentric architectural samples that have no match in Europe» from British writer, art critic and columnist for architectural magazines, **Sir Osbert Lancaster (1908–1986)**.

With a proliferation of all architectural styles of the era spanning from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, Pavlos Melas, banker Ioannis Pesmazoglou, politician Emmanouil Benakis, author Penelope Delta, banker Stefanos Streit, general Nikolaos Trikoupi, writer Renos Apostolides, publisher Dimitris Dimitrakos, and many other high profile and wealthy Athenians and expatriates built their summer houses here.

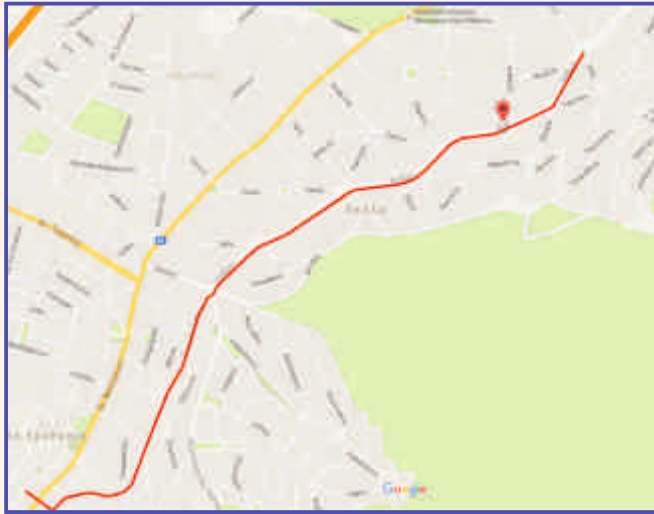
Up to this day, one can enjoy walking or biking on the routes among the old mansions and villas.



*«Atlantis» Villa, architect E. Ziller,
1897*



Voudouris Mansion, former Zoura (1872)

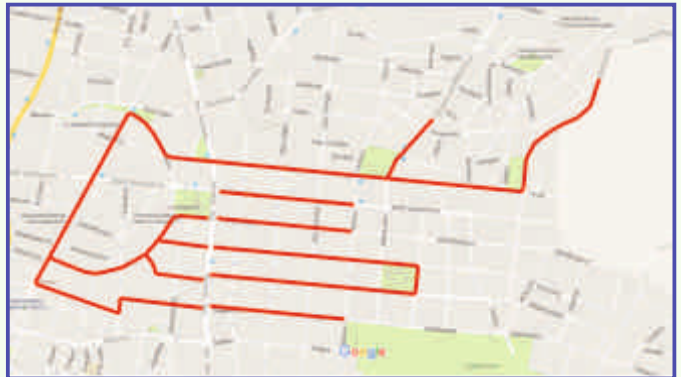


Bicycles at Rodon street

You will find the route from Kifissia to Ekali, via Rodon street, by bicycle, exhilarating.

Walk at Kefalari

The walk under the plane trees, while passing by glowing storefronts and elegant buildings, from the center of Kifissia, leads to cosmopolitan Kefalari square for a coffee.



The coaches of Kifissia



For those nostalgic of the times when carriages reigned the streets, Kifissia offers the vintage experience of a memorable ride on a carriage in its quiet neighbourhoods.

An ideal ride for children that rarely have the chance of watching horses, couples in love, and the hopeless romantics.



SYNGROU FORESTED LAND

Syngrou estate is the only natural forest so close to the city of Athens and also one of the last in Attica. Its 173 acres of wooded area are covered mainly of pine trees.

Its flora also includes cypresses, pistacia, kermes oaks, pink rock roses, and it offers haven to various forest fauna species.

The space is fenced and protected, open for visitors from sunrise to sunset.

The beautiful forest environment, the variety of routes, the soil's good quality and its easy access, render it an ideal destination.

During the summer, musical and theatrical shows are held at the open ancient Greek-type theatre, situated in the estate.

There are four main routes for walking and training.



The Red

Distance: 4,100 m.

Description: The red route follows the perimeter of the estate. Its northeastern part is specifically challenging, with steep hills and frequent variations in tilting.

The Blue

Distance: 4,000 m.

Description: Similar to the red one 2.4 km's in, where, turning left, it offers the chance for one to catch their breath. It then passes through the center of the estate towards the field, with frequent variations in titling.

The Green

Distance: 2,080 m.

Description: Downhill for the first kilometer and then the route... takes the *high* road. It is used by athletes for interval training or fast continuous running.

The Yellow

Distance: 1,250 m.

Description: It starts from the southern part and it consists of four large straight lines. It is definitely the easiest one, although not lacking uphill slopes, while the terrain consists mainly of tarmac.



24 HOURS IN KIFISSIA

Start your day with a nice coffee and a rich breakfast at one of the city's many elegant shops. Tasteful luxurious facilities are hosted in renovated buildings with distinct architecture.

Visit Kassavetis, Levidou, Panagitsa, Kolokotronis and Kyriazi streets. You will find a walk under the ancient trees delightful.

Continue with a stroll at the heart of the Kifissia Manors. Strofylίου, Pesmazoglou, Tatoiou streets await with the unique for their times architectural specimens.

Admire the house of Penelope Delta at Emmanoul Benakis street.

Hop on the coaches and feel like children once again!

Rest at the verdant Kifissia Grove.

Visit art galleries and museums.

Dine at the city's restaurants that will satisfy even the most demanding of tastes!

Open air cinemas, as well as a plethora of choices for dancing and drinking at the city's bars wait for you in the summer, for the day's end.



OPEN AIR CINEMAS

Cinema like in the old days

«Boboniera»



«Boboniera» cinema is a landmark for every citizen of Kifissia and not only. It has its own fanatic audience.

It functions since 1918, it is one of the first three cinemas in Greece and still remains a favorite place of entertainment within a small green oasis.

«Chloe»

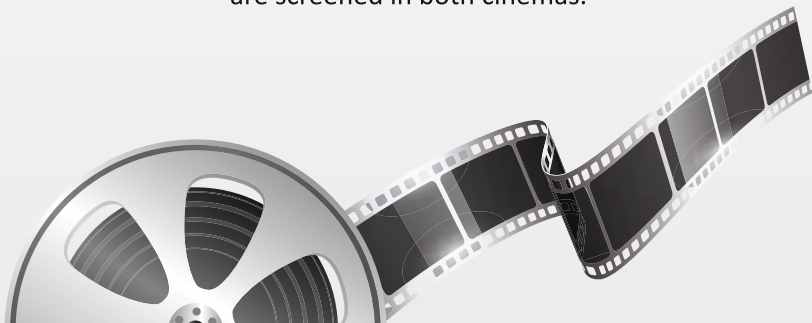
One of the most beautiful open air cinemas of the northern suburbs of Athens, «Chloe» ("Grass") was named after its environment and its freshness.



Papdiamanti 12, Kifissia
+30 2108019687

Kassaveti 17, Kifissia
+30 2108011500

Rereleases of emblematic classical films, as well as films in first run
are screened in both cinemas.





«VARSOS»

Vintage Greek sweets

Do you know of any other patisserie of over 120 years to still remain alive despite the difficulties of our times?

Varsos opened up in 1892 in Kifissia, and it is a meeting point and a necessary stop before every visit on Sundays. Sweets based on traditional recipes with pure ingredients. The ingredients have remained the same, but some new recipes have been added, to enrich the selection, always having tradition and quality as common ground.

The business was started by the great-grandfather of Antonis Varsos, who now runs the patisserie under very difficult circumstances.

Buns, galaktobourekio, nougats, crème, ricecream (rizogalo), macaroons (kourabiedes). Everyone has their own reason to visit Varsos.

But what people love the most, is to travel back in time. The sofas, the big refrigerators, full of birthday cakes, the old watch and the signs written in purist Greek.

In the building of 5 Kassavetis street, we are transferred to an era when everyone had their coffee in a cup with the logo of the patisserie, had pastry on their first date and looked at one another's eyes.

The space is a decorative compound, where you can enjoy music, sweets and good company.

Kassaveti 5, Kifissia
+30 2108012472

KIFISSIA - A HEAVEN FOR ALL SEASONS



Kifissia is an oasis distant from the noise of Athens. It has big plane trees and paved streets, and it is a point of reference for everyone who wants to have their coffee in nature, and do their shopping in famous chain stores. Kifissia belongs to the northern suburbs of Attica, and since 2010, through «**Kallicrates**» program, it has been united with the municipalities of Nea Erythraia and Ekali. If you want to walk through flowers in the spring, feel the chill in the summer, smell the rain in the fall and take a walk in the cold and have a hot coffee while watching the falling snow in the winter, then visit Kifissia. In all seasons! And enjoy it in all its versions.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Spring

Flower show

Every spring, for more than 60 years now, the flower show has an appointment with citizens from all over Athens.

A space of 20 acres full of colors and odors. More than 70 flower producers participate and more than 2,000 kinds of plants, aromatic plants and herbs can be found here. You will cook with fresh aromatic plants in the open air kitchen and you will participate in interactive workshops and music events for children and adults.

City run

It is not another “city marathon”. It is a unique marathon that has become an institution. Everyone participates here. There are races of 5 km, 10 km and a half marathon, in which runners of all ages and from all over Attica give their presence. The goal of this event is for runners to get to know the natural beauties of Kifissia, through the specially designed routes of the race.



Kid's athletics

Sport activities organized by the Hellenic Olympic Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, Hellenic Athletics Foundation SEGAS, Hellenic Basketball Federation EOK and Hellenic Volleyball Federation EOPE.

Spring of arts

Kifissia also flourishes artistically, since a feast of arts that hosts Greek novelists, poets and painters is being organized here, holding presentations, lectures, readings and recitations.

Kifisso-pechnidismata (Kifissia's games)

A big spring feast for children in the grove of Kifissia.

Summer

Find a shelter away from the heat of the summer, even during the hottest nights in the city, and feel the freshness of Kifissia, during the summer.

Kifissia's Festival

A new artistic event in the town, a special proposal to citizens and visitors. It offers a great range of musical and artistic events.

Chorus Festival

A festival with choruses from Greece and abroad.

Sports cultural summer

Meet classical sports and the principle of "fair play". Activities throughout the summer for children and young people of all ages.

Theatre awards

A new cultural and artistic institution, in which remarkable and pioneer amateur theatre companies take part.

A stroll in tradition

An institution-feast, which takes place every June.

Music and dances from all over Greece, with the participation of Dance Groups of the Municipality of Kifissia, as well as of other areas. A trip to Greek History and Music.

Going to Fritzes

A custom from the **Association of Asia Minor Greeks of Nea Erythraia**.

Fall

During the fall, leaves «cover» the streets and create images that remind us of the past, as well as of the most beautiful European cities.

Menandreia

Varied recreational events (theatre, music and dance) for children and adults, during September, in the atrium of the Town Hall and in other parts of the city.

Ehochromata (timbres)

A youth music festival in the Heroon Polytechniou Park.

Allotines patrides (Bygone homelands)

Every September, in Nea Erythraia, there are music and dance events, as well as traditional customs of the expatriated Asia Minor Greeks. The neighborhood of these people revives the customs of their homeland and keeps their tradition alive.



Winter

During the winter, when it snows, Kifissia is one of the first suburbs of Attica that gets «dressed» in white.

Documentary Festival

Three days of screenings of Greek and foreign documentaries on historical, social, political topics, etc in November.

Christmas events

Every year, events on several topics with a Christmas essence take place for all ages.
Christmas concerts in Churches.

Lighting up the Christmas Tree

A unique feast signals the opening of the holiday season.

During the whole year, the Municipality offers programs of Artistic Education.

Those programs, addressed both to children and adults, include among others, classes of hagiography (Byzantine painting), jewelry, folklore and modern dances, painting, chess, mixed choir and photography.



A WALK IN NEA ERYTHRAIA



Nea Erythraia has developed rapidly and it is now considered as one of the most commercial areas of the Municipality, which has preserved the finish of a past time. The original population from Asia Minor has been grafted with new inhabitants (especially from 1980 and onwards).

Next to the bustling centre, in the narrow alleys, small taverns cook traditional recipes from Asia Minor, enriched with the famous culinary habits of the Aegean islands or obviously influenced by the European cuisine. Ask a local and in a few minutes you will find yourself in a paradise of gastronomy and not only...

It's a destination suitable for all ages; for both quiet coffee breaks, and nightlife.



«Andreas Papandreou» Park Traffic Park

«Andreas Papandreou» Park (in the junction of Eth. Antistaseos and Od. Androutsou streets), is a space of about 10 acres for fun and leisure for the whole family, and especially for children. It has a refectory, a playing ground, extreme games, a skateboard ground and paths for walks.

Next to it is the Traffic Park, which educates children of pre-school and school ages. Its intension is to make them conscientious

and responsible citizens, drivers and pedestrians. It also educates them on how to circulate safely in an environment of great traffic.

The courses take place from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 to 13:00, except for holidays and days with bad weather conditions.

The park also provides bicycles to pupils and children.



THE ROMAN TOMBS IN KIFISSIA



The important funeral monument (excavation in 1866) is located in the junction of Kifissias Avenue with Kassavetis street and is a great architectural piece of the second half of the 2nd century A.C.

The square paved burial chamber and the first parts of the vaulted roof still exist.

Four big marble sarcophagi were found in the interior of the chamber, which have been related to members of the family of Herodes Atticus.

The sarcophagus cap has the shape of a gabled roof and the roof was arched. To the right of the sarcophagus with the garlands that was positioned across the entrance, there was a sarcophagus with relief representations of Erotides, and to the left, there was a smaller one without ornaments. Next to it, a fourth sarcophagus was added later, that depicted the myth of Leda and the Swan. The chamber was used as a pedestal for a small chapel, of which there are no remains.





Welcome



to Kiflssia