Welcome to the Acropolis!

1. To the left, you see the Erechtheion (421-406 BC), the Ionic temple that was dedicated to Athena Polias, protector of the city, and to Poseidon-Erechtheus, from whom the temple took its name. Here according to myth, the two gods had quarreled over the protection of the city. For this reason, the temple had been divided into two parts and had two entrances, one in the north and one in the east side.

2. Passing through the Propylaea, you have a general view of the Acropolis site. During ancient times there were many inscriptions and votive offerings in the sanctuary. Particularly impressive was the nine-metre high statue of Athena Promachus, a work by the sculptor Phidias, which has been lost.

3. Did you know that the ten ancient Athenians saw was different from the present, which has been shaped by the excavations?

4. Did you know that the six carpenters that support the roof of the south porch, instead of columns, are copies?

5. On the right, you can see the Parthenon (447-438 BC), the largest and most glorious of the temples of Athena on the Acropolis. It was designed by the architects Iktinos and Kallikrates, while the sculptor Phidias had the general supervision of the project. The temple, of the Doric order with many Ionic elements, was famous for the perfection of its construction and its rich sculpture.

Looking around, you can enjoy the view of the city to the sea, and you can see the neighbouring islands of Aegina and Salamis. You can also see the mountains of Attica, Pentelikon, Hymettus and Parnitha, as well as the Pnyx, the Philopappos Monument and the hill of the Observatory.

When you stand on the southeastern side of the Rock you can see in front of you the old Acropolis Museum but also the New Acropolis Museum where the original sculptures of the monuments are exhibited.

Did you know that, a few years ago, the whole temple was dismantled, its architectural members were restored and the temple was then reassembled.