

Athens: city dominated by ruins of the Acropolis

By DUFFY MUNROE
The Silhouette

When you drive along the road from Corinth, the first view of Athens you get is of a city surrounded by hills, covered with mist, and dominated by the ruins of the Acropolis.

It seems strange that after such an introduction so many people could pass by Athens with just a cursory glance. In fact, it is a city with much to see, a relaxed pace and casual atmosphere that makes it easy to like.

For anyone at all interested in history or art, Athens will provide days of exploration in the ruins of ancient Greek and Roman architecture, including many of the most famous and well-preserved that Greece has: the Acropolis, seat of the ancient Athenian government, with temples, libraries, a dramatic entrance and a perfect view of the city below; the Agora, which was the centre of commerce; the Roman Agora with its famous Temple of the Winds, where the Romans carried on their business; the theatres of Bionysius and Herodicus Atticus nestled at the base of the Acropolis hill.

These are only the popular of the many sights for the tourist, but don't shy away from them just because they are touristy.

As well as the ruins, Athens has museums that are crammed full of treasures found in all the major sites of Greece. The most valuable and interesting finds from any site in Greece must be sent to Athens, and are on display at the National Museum. However, the ruins in Athens itself all have their own museums on the site. The National

Museum is a must, and really a day or two should be spent to see it all. If you have the time, spend a few hours over several days, because it is so intense that it can be exhausting to visit for a long period.

This is where many people decide they have seen Athens and leave. If you can help it, don't.

There are so many more things to see. Near the ancient Agora there is the old flea market where you can get either fantastic bargains or fantastic rip-offs, depending on how quick you are. Even if you don't buy anything, and possibly especially if you don't buy anything, the flea market is really an interesting place. There are all sorts of strange little alleyways that are worth exploring. If you don't want to get constantly hassled, again, go at lunch time - then everyone is too busy with cards to worry about customers.

On the mainstreet leading from Omonia Square to the Acropolis, is the huge meat market, and across from it, the vegetable market. Even if you have no reason to buy or no way to cook, both these are worth visiting just for the experience of a complete immersion in chaos. Around the same area, too, are the cheap "souvlaki" shops, where you can get a whole meal for less than thirty cents.

For a quiet walk on a hot day, the zoo park is beautiful. It is a large park, the wooded, not the greasy type, so it is nice and cool, and there is a duck pond where you can sit on a chair and feed the ducks.

But watch for the little man who comes around as soon as there is a

crowd - he collects money for the use of the chairs.

On full-moon nights there is a special treat that is expensive but worth the money. On the three days around the time of the full moon, the Acropolis is open, and you can walk around the ruins just by the light of the moon.

If it's swimming you want, there is a lovely beach at Loutsa, 30 kms. away to the east of the city, which has nice white sand, and is deserted on week days, because few tourists go there.

Seeing Athens, however, is only seeing one part of Greece. The rest is very different, much more rural, and even has a slower pace. If you are coming from Italy on the boat, you will have the option of staying over at Corfu at no extra charge. It is well worth while. Especially after the rather hectic, competitive pace of Italy, Corfu allows a nice breathing spot. The town of Corfu itself is nice, but very small and certainly the countryside is very interesting. There are all sorts of tiny rocky roads, especially in the interior and you can rent a small scooter to explore with. The highest peak on the island, Pontacrator, is at the north point, and gives a fantastic view over the water to the snowy and orange mountains of Albania.

From Corfu there is a boat to either Igoumenitsa right across the strait, to Patras, or to Athens. Or, for only \$12 you can take a bus from Corfu to Athens. Unless it is a matter of absolute urgency that you hustle to Athens at once, take the time to see Greece.

There are two roads out of Igoumenitsa: one to the east which

will take you to Janina and then south through the mountains of the mainland, and one which follows the coast south to the Peloponesian peninsula. Here are some of the most famous ancient cities, some of them now extremely interesting sites to visit, both for their historical significance and for their beauty. Olympia, site of the ancient sacred olive grove, and of many beautiful temples, is where the Olympic games were started. At the very southern tip is Pilos, to the east of there is Sparta, then to the north, Tripoli, Epidaurus, Nafplion, Argos, Tiryns, Mycenae, Corinth. All these places have ruins that have been excavated and are extremely interesting to visit. And the drives from one to the other, especially from Olympia across the middle of the peninsula, through the mountains to Tripoli, are just breath-taking.

Aside from the Ancient ruins, the Peloponnese has tiny mountain villages, lovely beaches, fantastic scenery, and hardly any other tourist. Only one word of caution. It

is a very useful rule in Greece that it is legal to camp anywhere at all, as long as you get permission to do so if the land is obviously owned by someone. This can be a great way to save money, but unless you have a van or other good facilities, it can be inconvenient. If you are planning to stay in a hotel, get the standard Tourist map given out free at almost any office, and believe it when it marks only a tiny number of hostels and motels. There really aren't any more, so plan your trip accordingly.

Of course the islands are beautiful. Crete is perhaps the most popular haven for young American travellers, but that does not mean that it is over-run by them. It is a fantastic place to visit, to lie in the sun, to live on almost no money, and to sleep on the beach.

It would be hard to rave too enthusiastically about Greece. It has beautiful scenery, fascinating history, friendly people, and a great pace of life.

U of Manitoba faculty try to get agent certified

WINNIPEG (CUP) - The University of Manitoba Faculty Association has applied to the Manitoba Labor Board for certification as bargaining agent for the university's academic and library staff.

The application follows the refusal of the board of governors Jan. 25 to grant the association voluntary recognition as bargaining agent. The board offered to enter discussions with the association on matters of concern to the academic staff, including salaries and pensions. But the association said the offer was totally unacceptable.

In its application, the association

says it wants to represent all 1,134 full-time academic and library staff members at the university. It now has 770 members. The association also wants to include university president Ernest Sir-luck, his four vice-presidents, and faculty deans in the bargaining unit. All are association members. The move is designed to make the unit "truly representative of the interests of a community of scholars", the application says. If the Labor Board approves the application, the University of Manitoba would become the first English-speaking Canadian university with unionized teaching staff.

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