

# THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

ATHENS





**F**ew things make Athenians so proud (maybe their metro system) as the modern new Acropolis Museum, inaugurated in 2009, designed by Bernard Tschumi. Built exactly opposite the holy rock, it is structured so that the visit simulates an ascent to the Acropolis. Everything here comes from the ancient rock: architectural sculptures, free-standing sculptures, ceramics, miniature art. The tour begins on the ramp leading from the ground lobby to the first floor and the Archaic works (7th c. B.C. – 480 B.C.) with architectural sculptures and dedications from the holy rock and exhibits from the Propylea, the temple of Athena Nike and the Erechtheion, the main monuments of the Acropolis of classical years. What is shocking is on the third floor: the architectural sculptures of the Parthenon exhibited ingeniously:



the frieze is embodied in the rectangle core of the building which has the same dimensions as the cella of the Parthenon, while the metopes and the pediment sculptures are placed in analogy with their true position on the ancient monument. This, completed by copies of parts found in other museums (British Museum Louvre) allows the visitor to have an immediate perception of the whole sculptured decoration on the Parthenon.

The 14,000 sq. m. of the museum hosts countless other ancient masterpieces, such as the Erechtheion Caryatids, the Blonde Boy, the Moscophoros, the Kritios Boy, the sandaled Nike, and a lot of other evidence of the history of the holy rock and Athens, such as the Column of the Epistates, an inscription with information on the gold and the ivory bought for the construction of the golden-



ivory statue of Feidia's Athena, which is lost today, or the Callimachus Nike, a monument for general Callimachus who died in the battle of Marathon. Callimachus went down in history because his was the decisive vote for going ahead with the battle of Marathon against the almighty Persians.

The museum restaurant boasts one of the best views in Athens.