

TRIP TO ATHENS, ANDROS, TINOS AND MYKONOS 21st – 31st OF MAY 2009



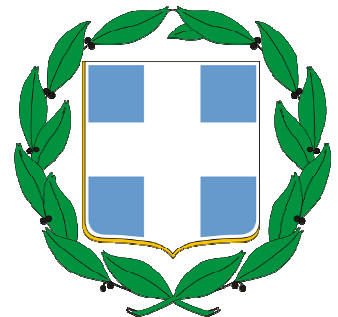
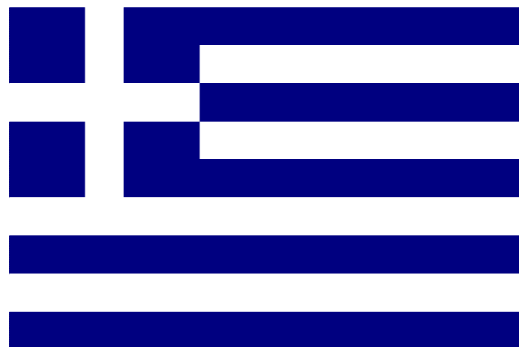
This time the trip went to Greece.

Greece is localized to the southeastern Europe and borders to Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria and Macedonia. The area amount to 131.944 square kilometer, and can be divided into a mainland and an island part. About a third of the area consists of islands. Altogether there are 1425 islands. It is to these islands we Scandinavians travel to most often.

Perhaps this country is the one that has most ancient history to show in Europe. The ancient history of Greece can be dated back to 3000 BC when powerful Minoan and Mycenae civilizations had much influence. Alexander the Great spread Hellenism over most of the known world just before 300 BC.

The Roman Empire conquered Greece in 168 BC. Greek culture had then for a long time had influence on the Romans. The eastern parts of The Roman Empire were dominated by Greek culture.

When the Roman Empire was divided in two parts, Greece landed in the centre of the eastern parts. With Constantinople as centre The East Roman Empire spread Greek culture. Constantinople fell in 1453, and the area was afterwards dominated by the Ottoman Empire. Greece was a part of the Ottoman Empire until the 1820's. The Greek then revolted and after the signing of the Constantinople treaty in 1832, Greece was approved as a sovereign state.



The position of Greece in Europe

The Greek flag

The Greek coat of arms

The 21st of May 2009



We went from Moss Airport, Rygge that is situated about 6 kilometers southeast of Moss, just besides E6. The airport is owned by the Military. The 19th of November 2004 they got a license to construct and operate a civilian airport at Moss airport, Rygge.

We parked the car at the parking lot at the airport.

The plane departed at 14.50 and we arrived in Athens at 19.50.



The airport in Athens is named Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport. It was put into operation the 29th of March 2001, and is functioning as a civilian airport for Athens.

It lies near the little town Spata, 20 km east of Athens. It has been acknowledged as one of the worlds most modern and luxurious airports, with natural internal lighting, stylish architecture and magnificent interior. More than 16 million travelers visit this airport annually. It is named after the Greek politician Eleftherios Venizelos.



When we had got our luggage we took the bus over to Rafina that is on the east coast. It is the biggest harbor next after Pireus.

Here we had booked at Hotel Corali for one night.



The hotel seen from outside

View from the balcony towards the harbor



This is at a Greek restaurant in Rafina



Here Anne Berit is waiting for the food



Afterwards we went down the harbor area to have a look where the ferry departed. Then we went to café there and had octopus and ouzo. Kjell is eating with delight.

The 22nd of May 2009

This day we were about to leave early for Andros. The ferry departed at 08.05.



First a view from the balcony at Hotel Corali



The boat was named Superferry II, and it needed 2 hours to Gavrio on Andros. The boat was crammed full I was told but we got tickets after some arguing.



Here Anne Berit is standing astern while leaving Rafina.

We are impressed over how the ferries are handled in and out of narrow and small harbors at the islands in Greece. The ferries are coming in, turning on the spot and reverse to the quay. When it is in the right position, the landing apron is lowered on to the quay, passengers and cars are unloaded and new ones loaded in a few minutes. They certainly have modern navigation facilities, but we are equally impressed each time.

There was some wind, but there were not much sea to speak of, so the trip was OK.



Andros (Greek: Άνδρος) is an island in the Cycladic archipelago. It was from (in cooperation with Khalkis) these islands the Greek colonies Akanthos and Stageira on the Aegean northern coast were founded in respectively 654 and 655 BC.

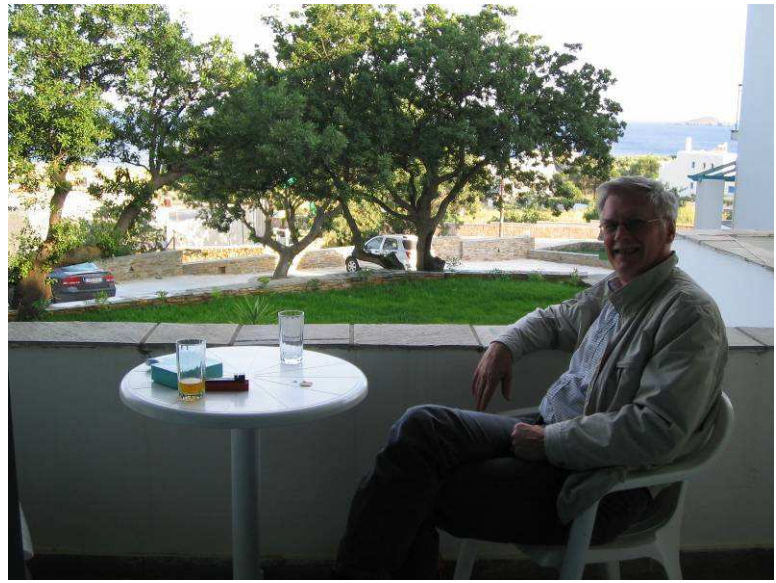
The island is the most northern in this archipelago. It is almost 40 km long and at the widest 16 km. It is mountainous with many lush valleys.

The administration center is also named Andros and lies on the east coast with about 2 000 inhabitants.

The island had about 18 000 inhabitants in 1900 and today just above 10 000. The tourism is as on most of the islands the most important industry.



We had booked at Hotel Ostria in Gavrio. It was only some hundred meters from the harbor and was easy to find.



Here Kjell is sitting on the terrace right after arriving. The terrace was god and large.



We had to go down to the harbor almost at once to have something to eat because we were hungry. After that we looked at the small boats in the harbor.



Here are more views from the terrace



In the evening we had dinner at this typical Greek fish restaurant

The 23rd of May



Here we have breakfast at the terrace at the hotel. They had a quite decent breakfast.



After breakfast we went for a stroll along the sea. We took then a lot of flower pictures. Here are some of them. It was so early in the year that not all were withered. In July / August everything is usually brown.





Here we went past a kind of monument

Here we went past a little beach



Here we see the beach towards Gavrio

When we turn around and look in the opposite direction, we can see another beach. We went a little past it.



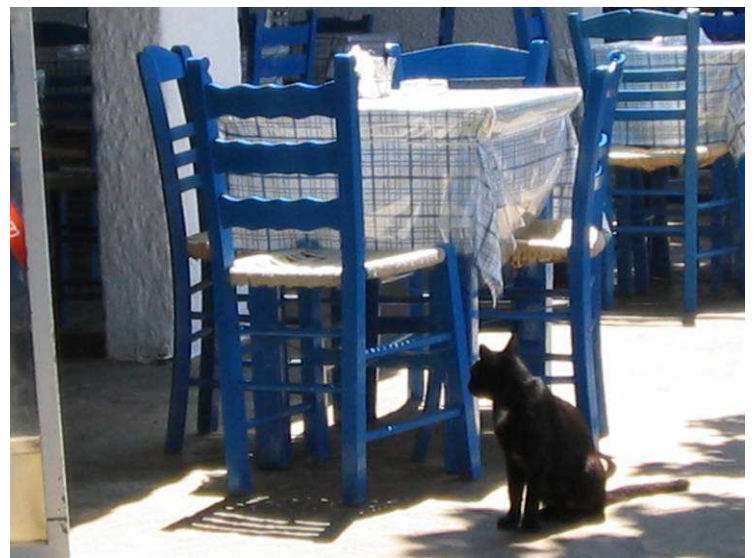
Here we went past a furniture dealer. He had arranged the furniture as on a restaurant, and her Kjell is sitting, waiting for "service". The days before we arrived, there had been a heavy wind that had swept everything flat.



Here we have come to the right tavern where Kjell got service



Anne Berit also thought it was good with a beer in the heat



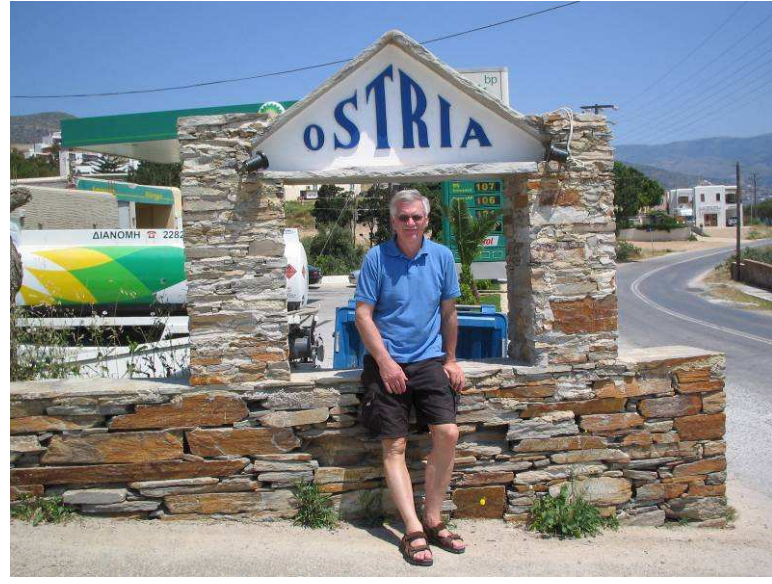
The cat was also there



We thought this tavern was so nice that we took some more pictures before we left.



Flowering cactus



Here we are back at the hotel



This is at the same fish restaurant as the night before. Today we had lunch here. Kjell had fish and Anne Berit had Greek salad.



When we went back to the hotel, we went past this church



After lunch we had a short siesta. Then we went down to a stone beach just below the hotel. It was nice and hot.



In the evening we should celebrate Kjell's birthday. We ventured to try a specialty from Andros. The dish was called Fourtaka. It showed to be an omelet with potatoes and sausages. It was quite good.



This day we are moving further on to Tinos. Here comes the boat.



A picture from the boat of the harbor area.



Tinos lies just south of Andros. Tinos is a holy island, a place for pilgrimage equivalent to Lourdes in France. In 1822 the nun Pelagia had a sight when Virgin Mary showed her where an icon was buried. After the nuns directions there were in 1823 made excavations that uncovered the icon with a message from the Archangel Gabriel. It was unharmed after 850 years in the soil. The icon is now in Panagia Evangelistria Church in Tinos town and attracts many orthodox Christians. The island has by the way over 800 chapels. There is living about 10.000 people on the island.

15. august er den store dagen i året på Tinos. Da strømmer det hundretusenvis av pilegrimmere til den hellige katedralen Panaghía Evangelístria.



Tinos is also known for all the dove cots.

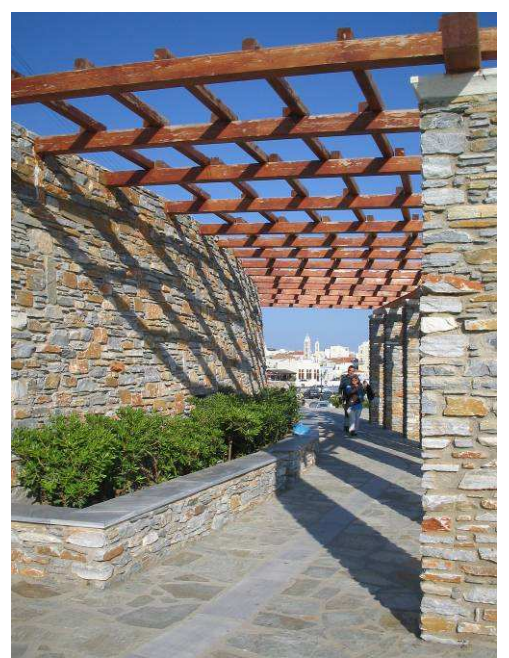
They are placed mainly on slopes in certain directions in relations to the wind and the surrounding terrain to make the take off and landing as easy as possible for the pigeons.

There are none who quite certainly knows the number of these dove cots, but there are quite certain over 600.





Here we have arrived at Tinos. There is a bigger boat besides our boat.



There were nice stone walls on the quay



We had booked at Leandros Hotel that was just above the harbor.
This is in the reception



A flower plant just outside our room.



This is our terrace



Here we see from the rerrace in direction our room



There were fishing boats in Tinos too



Here the fishing nets is lying to dry in the sun



Here the fishermen are cleaning the nets to make them ready for the next night's catch



After we had been strolling a while in the harbor we went up on the town's promontory and took a picture in the direction of the town.



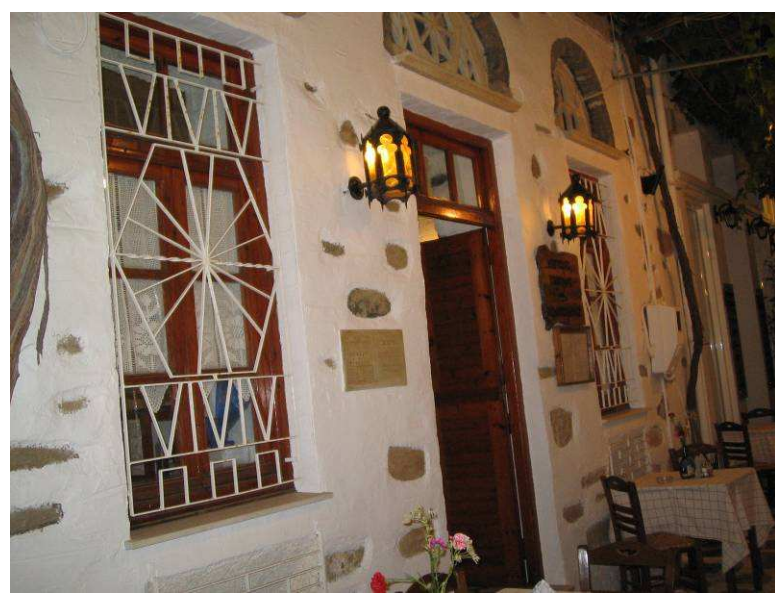
There was a monument on the top of the promontory



On the way down again we took a picture of this small church



In the evening we had dinner at this restaurant in the city. They had managed to ruin steak in our opinion, but we think it was their meaning was to make it that way.



There were quite nice and elaborate outside, but that didn't make any difference to the steak.

25. mai



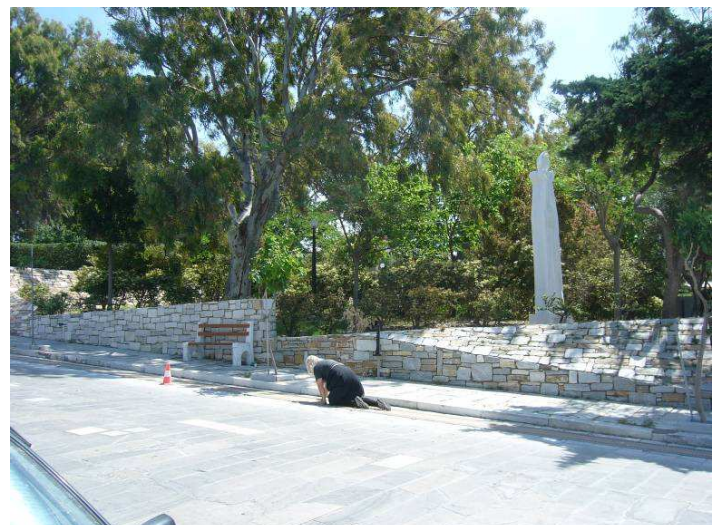
We had booked hotel at all the islands through Windmills Travel. After breakfast we went to their office and paid to Sharon Turner



Afterwards we had a beer at an outdoor restaurant



Afterwards we had a look at the Panagia Evangelistria Church. Here we can see along the street upwards to the church. We also see the carpet where they crawl.



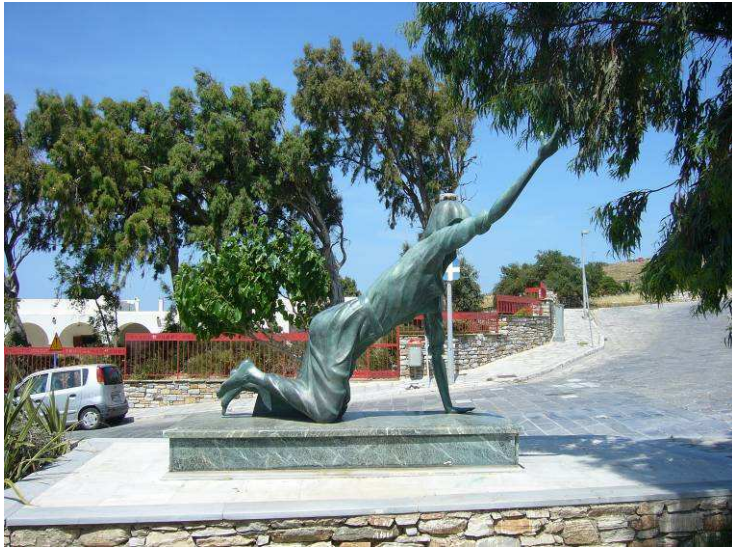
Here is one who is going to crawl all the way up to the church



Outside the church. Here is one who is almost there.



The church



A statue of one who is crawling



Here we are in the shop to buy beer to have in the room. We had a refrigerator there.



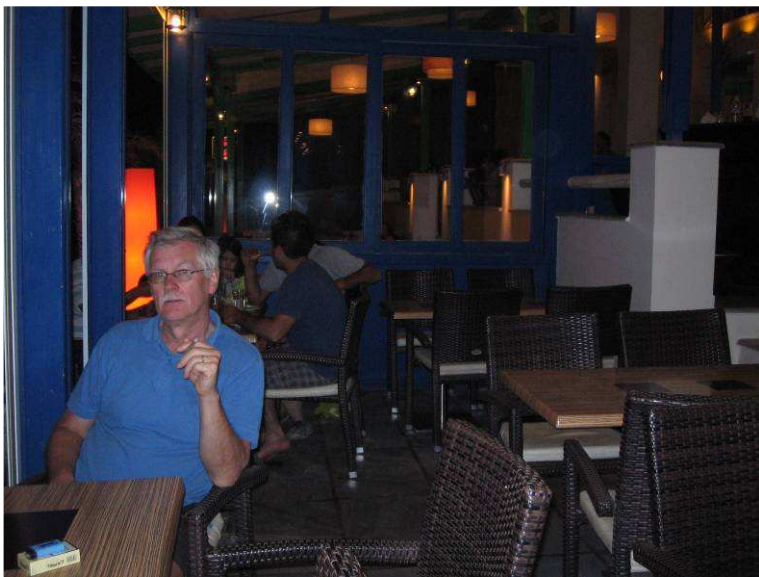
Here we have lunch, looking at boats come and go.



In the evening we had dinner at a restaurant, which lies at a little square just beside this church.



We had Stifado (rabbit and onions cooked in a pan) and Greek salad. The food here was delicious.



When we went back to our hotel, the landlord beckoned to us from a small café just outside the hotel.

We sat down there for ouzo before going to bed.

When the landlord saw that we took pictures he wanted to take pictures of us together, but when we would look at it afterwards, there was no picture.

We heard besides that the winner of the Eurovision Song contest, Fairytale, was played all over, also on the mobile phones as ring tones, so it was quite clear that it was very popular. It was especially nice for us to hear since it was Norway that won the contest.

The 26th of May

This day we had planned to go on to Mykonos.

We heard before we went that they was doing maintenance work on the old quay in Mykonos. Therefore it was closed, so the boat would go to Tourlos, a bit further north on the island. From there we had to take taxi or bus. It turned out that there was a bus and we therefore took this. It went to the old harbor in Mykonos, and we had to walk from there. We didn't know exactly where the hotel was in relation to the harbor, so we had to ask on the way.

Mykonos, (Greek: Μύκονος) also belongs to the Cyclades. The island lies between Tinos, Siros, Paros and Naxos. It is 364 meters at its highest.

The island consists mainly of granite. It has very little of natural fresh water and is dependant of desalting of sea water to cover the need.

There lives just above 6 000 inhabitants on Mykonos, and the biggest village is also called Mykonos, but is also sometimes called Chora (which means "the town" in Greek).

Mykonos town lies on the west coast. It is believed that the island is called after a local hero, who is considered as one of the grandchildren of the god Apollo and which was worshipped locally in the antiquity.

The island is one of the big tourist destinations in the Aegean sea and is known for the teeming night life.



The inhabitants claim by the way that there are 700 churches and chapels on the island; almost every burial place is regarded as a church and all families build its own as defense against the sea and as a thank you for every time one came home from a voyage!

On a hill above the town are standing majestic wind mills, and in the center of the town we can see Tria Pighadia ("then place with the three wells") were the towns water supply came from until 1956.

It is said that Mykonos is a free place for the gay, but we didn't notice anything.



Here we are on our way from the harbor to the center of the town



We had problems finding the place, but here we are at the entrance. The name was Andromeda Apartments.



Here we are on the way to where we are going to stay



Here we see from the stairs towards the entrance



It was nice planted, but many places plants and trees had grown too big.



Here is the view from our stairs. The bed to the right was used as a toilet by all the cats in the neighborhood.



The first thing we found out was that our terrace was very unpleasant. It was quite overgrown by vines and it was very dark. We thought it was so bad that we didn't want to use the terrace at all.



Another picture from the terrace



There was a pool there too, but we didn't use it



Later we went down to the sea. Here were several restaurants. This one had tables quite down to the water.



Like this



There were churches here too



These are the famous windmills



This is the view from the hill at the windmills



This is "Little Venice". Here the houses stand on piles. We had lunch at the restaurant the right.



Here we are going to have lunch



This is the staff



Kjell is still waiting for the food



The pelican Petros was a white pelican and was the official mascot of Mykonos.

It was found outside the coast in 1958 by a fisherman. It was wounded, but he nursed it until it was recovered. He tried to return it to the nature, but it came back and stayed in the town. It was very popular both by both the inhabitants and the tourists.

The inhabitants named him Petros.

To a big sorrow Petros was hit by a car 2. December 1985 and died.

3 new pelicans were given by various people as a replacement for Petros, and they are staying around in the city.



Then we strolled through the narrow streets



A small church



This church was a bit special?



There were flowers here too



Down in the harbor there was also a little church



It was like this inside



Here we are sitting non the stairs



Here Kjell is making the dish of the day: rice, corned beef, chopped tomatoes and mixed vegetables.
Mmmmmm.....

The 27th of May



After breakfast we were sitting outside for a while. Since the terrace was so grisly we moved the terrace furniture to the front.



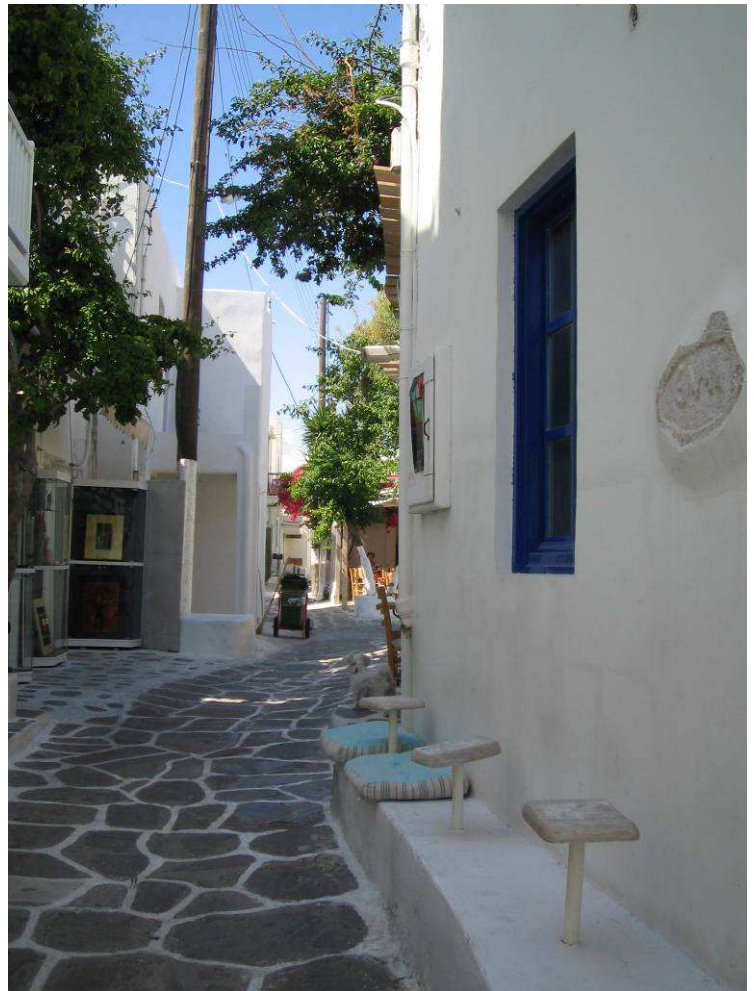
After lunch we went to buy boat tickets back to Rafina.
Here we have a beer at restaurant



Here we are looking across where the ferry used to dock



Here we are on the say home again



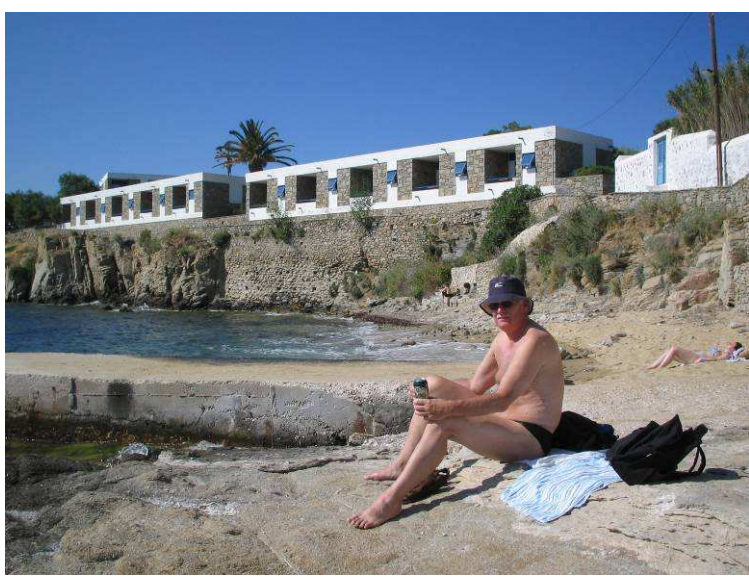
Tables an chairs out in the street



Here Kjell is buying various groceries in the super market



On the way out of the shop



Then we went to the "beach". There were a lot of stones there, but it would have been OK to bathe there if not for the waves.



Just across the bay there were another little beach

Just above the beach we saw a scraped "rocking rooster"



When we came from the beach we had some refreshments here

The food was so good that we promised "Mom" that we would come back in the evening



Here we are back in the evening and Kjell is ordering



To finish we had ice

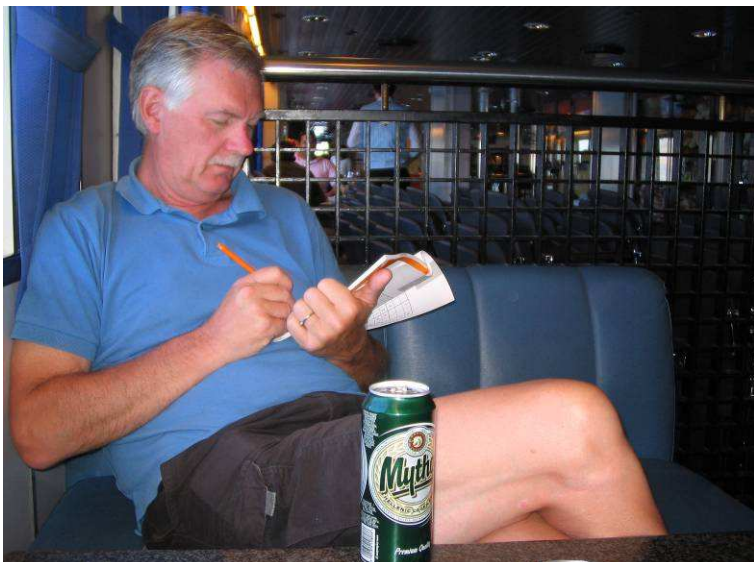


Time went by and it was time to leave



Before we went Kjell was permitted to take a picture of Anne Berit and "Mom"

The 28th of May



This day we were going back to the mainland. We took the bus over to the new quay.

We had the same boat as we had had before. It took about 5 hours back to Rafina.

On the way we bought Sudoku books and solved Sudoku.

From Rafina we took the bus to the first Metro station, Ethniki Amyna. Then we took the Metro to Syntagma.

From there it was not far to walk to the hotel, which we had booked.

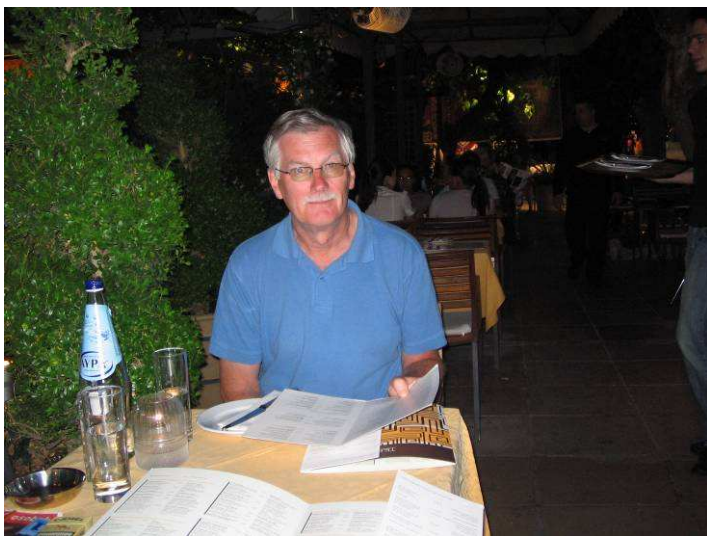


Athens (old Greek Αθήναι, Athenai and new Greek Αθήνα, Athina) is the capital in Greece. One theory is that the name comes from the town's tutelary goddess Athene, but that can not be proved. The town is the birth place of the Western World's culture.

Greece was a part of the ottoman empire until the decade of 1820. In 1821 heavy revolts against the Turkish dominion started on Peloponnese. The revolt soon spread to the islands and further north, and during the summer of 1822 Athens was captured. After the signing of the Constantinople treaty in 1832 Greece was regarded as a sovereign state.

Athens became then the capital. The town was at that time not much more than a cluster of houses just below Acropolis, where Plaka is today.

Today's Athens is a metropolis with almost 4 million people. The Olympic summer games were arranged here and outside the city the summer of 2004.



When we got to Myrto hotel it turned out that there had been trouble with the booking process and the hotel was quite full. They said they were sorry and they saw to that we got a room at another hotel nearby. After having installed ourselves there we had dinner at a restaurant nearby.

The 29th of May



There were breakfast on the roof of the hotel with a view across to Acropolis



After having breakfast we went over to Hotel Myrto and got the deposit back.

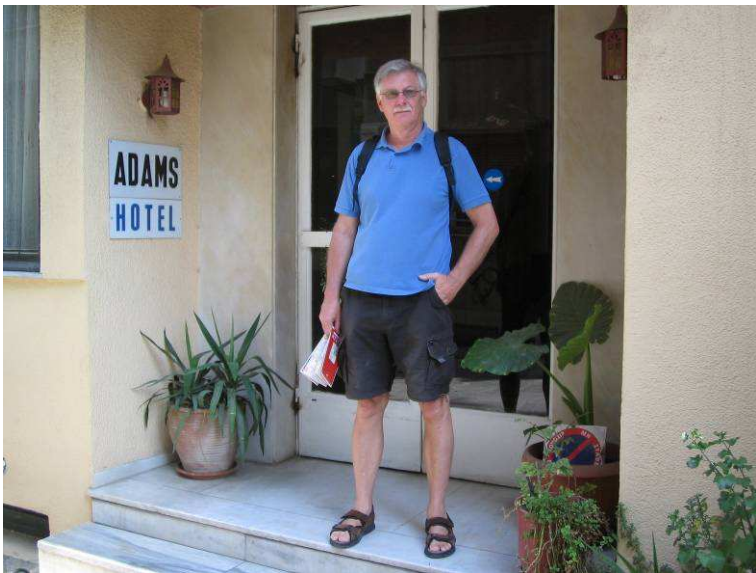
There were a bit mess but at least we didn't loose any money



The Lysikrates monument. This is a 6,5 meter high stone pillar of almost 3 meter in diameter with Greek inscriptions from 335 BC. There are copies of this monument both in England and USA.



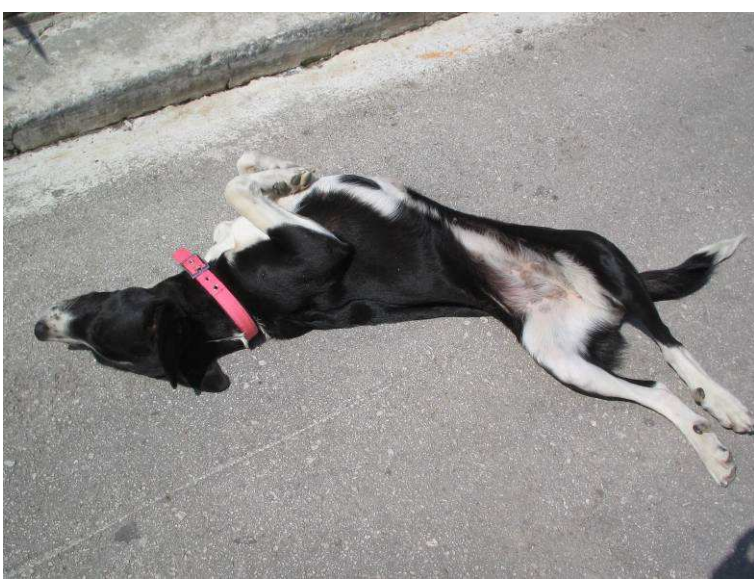
Picturesque restaurant in the slope up to Acropolis



Here we by chance came by a hotel were Kjell had stayed before some years ago



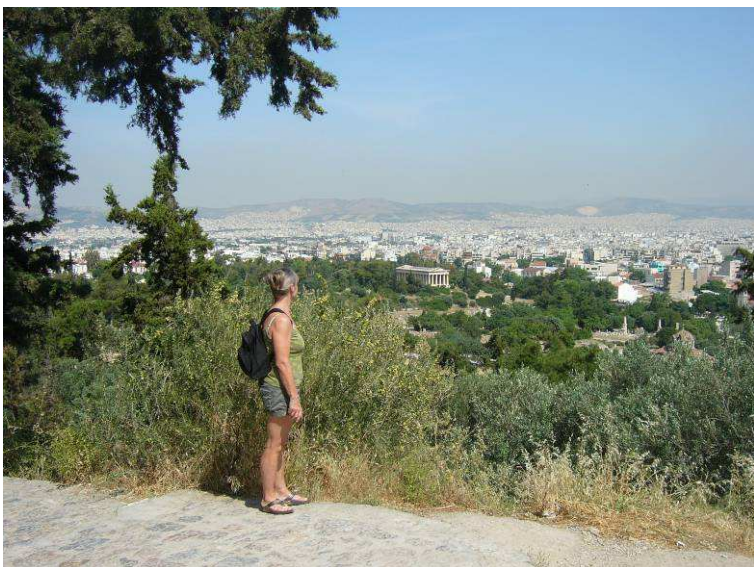
Tourist train went through the streets



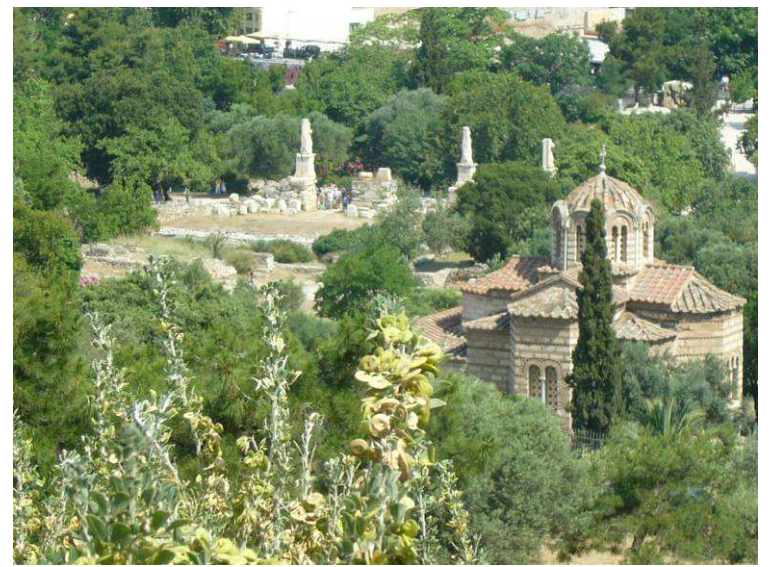
This dog was lying in the broiling sun in the middle of the street



Hefasteion is counted as the world's best preserved Doric temple. It was erected about 449 BC.



Here we have a good view over Athens old Agora.



Down to the right we see Agii Apostoli, which is one of the oldest churches near Athens old agora.



Just outside the entrance to Acropolis this musician in Greek national costume was sitting playing a Greek stringed instrument.



Here is Kjell buying tickets for Acropolis



The first we saw was Herodeion. It is like an amphitheater. It is not a true theater, but is called an Odeon. This building is the last one that was made in connection with Acropolis, and it was erected as late as in 160 AD. The architect of it was Herodes Atticus, and it was to be used for artistic and more general culture events.

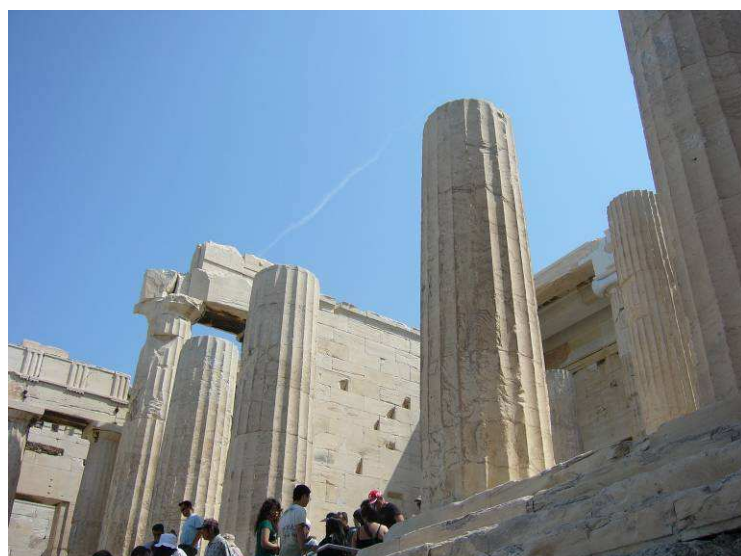
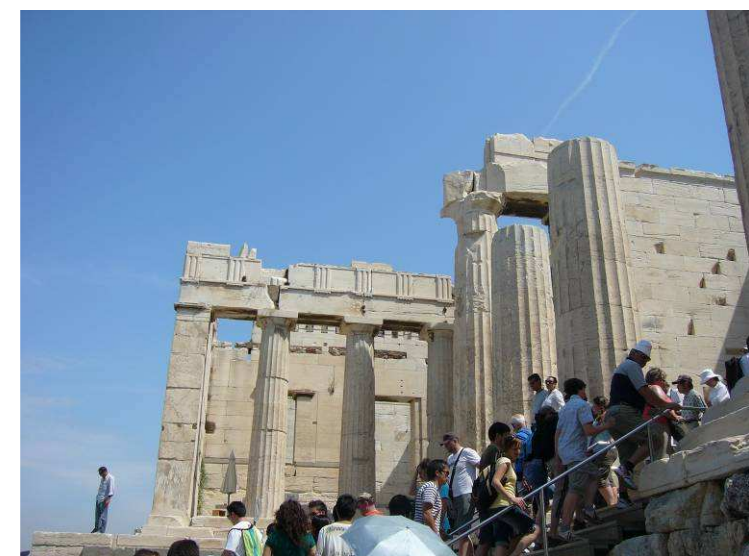


A detail from the last picture

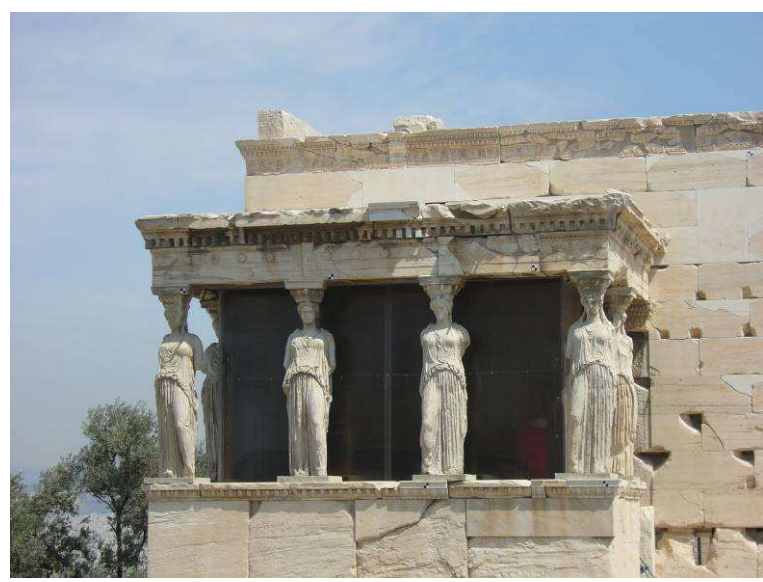


Here we see a section of the theater in both directions

They are working with restorations everywhere



Here we are on our way to the top. This is Propylaea, which is the gate building on Acropolis. It is built of marble and commenced in 437 BC. We thought it was quite impressive.



The first we see on the left side when we are up is Erechtheion, which was built the years 420–407 BC and dedicated to Athene, Erekhthevs and Poseidon, who according to myth was Athena’s rival to the command over the town. With its Med sin Kore hall, with roof that is carried by girlish figures, the so called caryatides, Erekhtheion is one of the pearls in classic architecture.

Likewise this shall be the place where Poseidon planted his spear when he fought for the Athenian’s favor against Athena, and where there emerged a large spring. There is also a mark here after Zeus’ stroke of lightning at this spot.



Here we are at Parthenon, the most famous of all Greek temples, built 447–432 BC. The architects were Iktinos and Kallikrates, while Feidias was in charge of the decoration.

Under Parthenon lies the remains of a temple, the so called Pre-Parthenon, which probably was commenced before the Persian wars and destroyed during these?

Because of air pollution, mass tourism and earth quakes in the 1980’s, there is started extensive restoration work to save this and Acropolis’ remainder buildings.



It was quite crowded up here



Here is a outlook platform



Here Anne Berit is standing on the lookout platform with Lykabettos height in the background



Here we are looking down at the Dionysus theater. It is the oldest of the Greek theatres. It was here the antique drama came into being. The theater had its first performances in the 600th decennium BC.



Here we can see the remains of the Temple of the Olympic Zeus. The first part is dated back to the 6th decennium BC, while the latest extension was done during emperor Hadrian's reign. The temple was in the Hellenistic-Roman period the biggest in Greece.



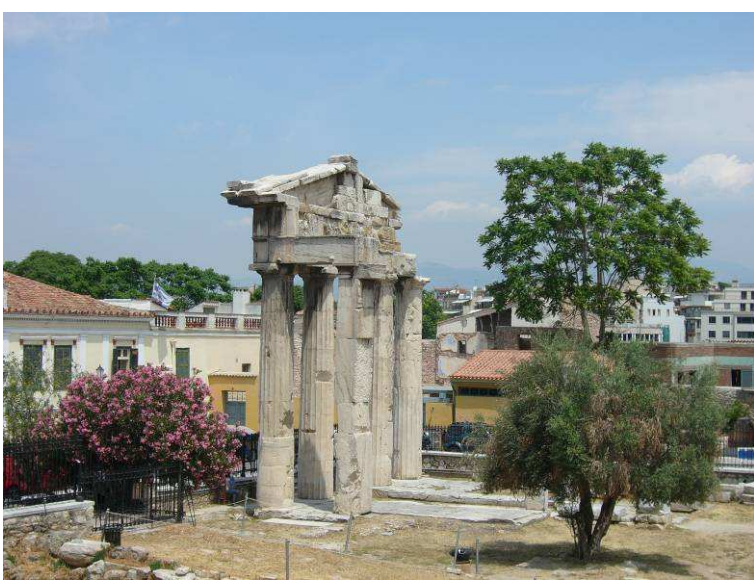
Here we see in direction of the Filopappos height with the Filopappos monument on the top. The monument was built in honour of the Roman senator Filopappou.



Here we have descended to the Roman agora (square) that lies just east of the old classic agora. At the back we can see the tower of the winds.



Here we look across the Roman agora over to a mosque, the Fethiye Mosque, from the 15th year hundred AC.



This is the remains of the western entrance gateway to the roman agora. It is from the 2nd year hundred BC.



There were street musicians here too



Here we are in the flea market street in Monastiraki. This is on a Friday, but it is on the Sundays there is buzzing here.



This guy is trying to sell Greek violins



This is Tzistarakis Mosque, named after the governor in Athens, who built it in the middle of the 1800th year hundred. It lies just besides the Metro station in Monastiraki.



On the Monastiraki square there were a lot of "figures" trying to earn some money



After this we needed a little lunch



Just before we came back to our hotel we went past a little church where there were a wedding later in the night.



Here we are back at the hotel. On the top we can see where we had our breakfast in the morning. Now we needed a little siesta after having been walking so far.



When we came out again there was going to be a demonstration and the police had mobilized fully to control that everything went peacefully



Here there are more police going to their stations



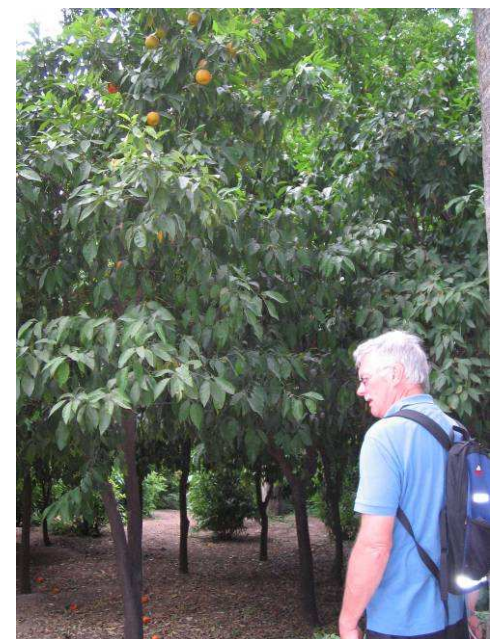
The sightseeing bus went



Here we found out where the bus to the airport departed.



Afterwards we went to the National Gardens



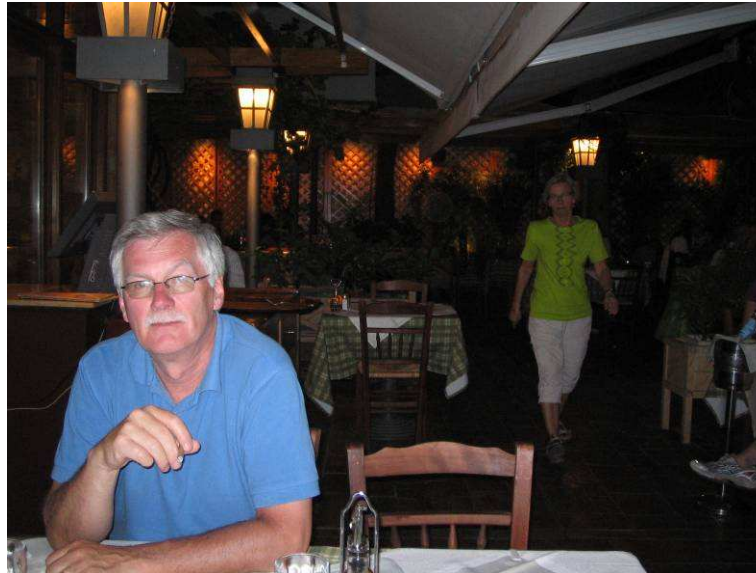
Kjell is on his way inside



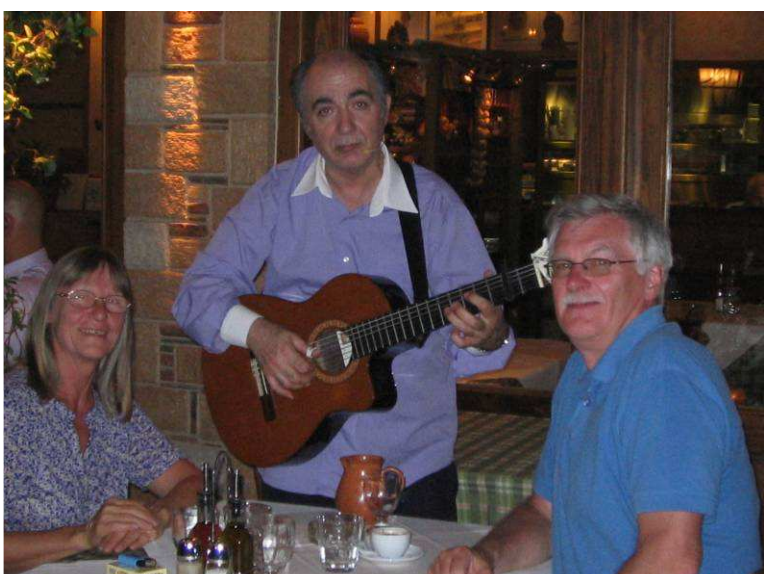
Here we have arrived at Zappeion Hall from the 1870s with the Zappeion park in front. The hall is a conference- and exhibition center in connection with the Olympic institution. It is named after Evangelis Zappas, who restarted the Olympic games in modern times.



Here we found out that we needed an Ouzo



Here we are at a restaurant in the evening



This guy walked around among the guests and played and sang all the time.



Here he sings for other guests



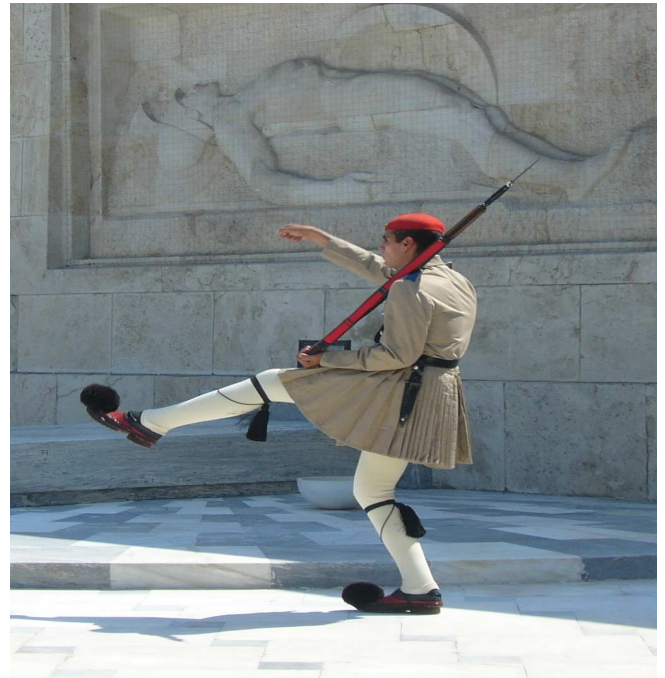
We started then day by taking pictures of these pigeons. They were sitting outside this bakery all the time. We can see baker dimly. He throws out crumbles sometimes.



Here we are outside the Parliament building. This was earlier a royal castle.



Here the monument of the unknown soldier is garded day and night by the taut Evzones, the Greek royal guard with their traditional uniforms. The guard changing, like here, is done every whole hour.



In place in front of the guard house



Afterwards we went up to the Lykabetos height. On the way up there were a lot of flowering cactus



Here we look down at the big Panathinaiko Stadium, which is not the home arena for the football team Panathinaikos, but a stadium building, which has been used for sports arrangements since 330 BC. This stadium construction was totally restored for the Olympic games in 1896, and during the summer games in 2004 it was used for archery and goal area for the marathon race. This is the world's only stadium build completely in white marble, and has place for around 80.000 spectators sitting on long landings.



Here we are up on Athens highest point, Lykavittos, with a top 270 meter above sea level.

There is a church here too.

On a clear day it is possible to see all the way to Pireus.

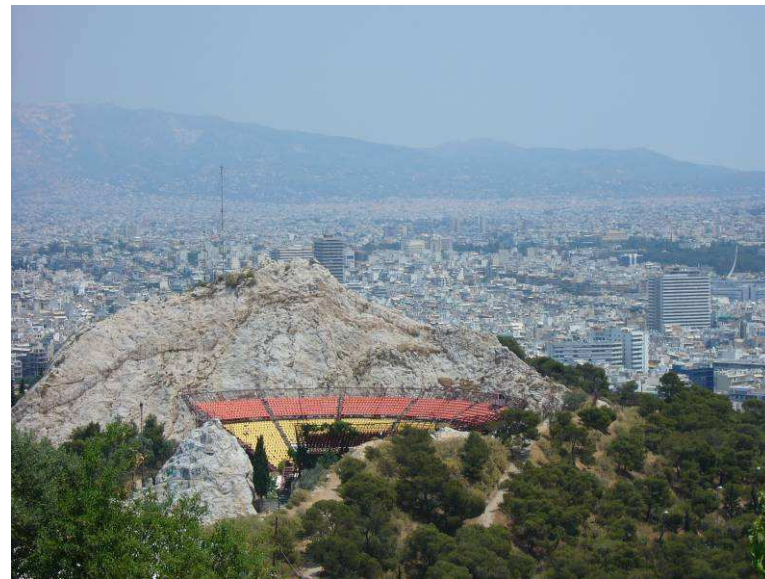
It is possible to take a rail up and down, but we chose to walk.



There is an expensive restaurant, Horizons, at the top. We wanted a beer as a reward for our struggles up to the hill.

It is the most expensive beer we have bought, 14 € for two small beers. If we had taken the rail and were able to show the tickets, then we had got a price reduction

Kjell looks a bit dissatisfied



At the other side of the top there were an amphi scene



More flowers. The cactus was popular among the bees



There were a cat here too



Down in the city again we saw this organ grinder

The 31st of May



This day we were going home. Here Kjell is paying the hotel.

We took the bus to the airport.

NICE TRIP !!!!!!!!