



1st Levantine Heritage Foundation tour & meal gathering in Athens, with guide Nicolas Nicolaides

Traces of Levantine Athens

Join us on a tour that will focus on Levantine (Western European merchant) families living in 18th century Ottoman Athens but will also include the houses of some Europeans who settled in Athens during the reign of king Otto. This is a side of Athens history that is often overlooked, yet this small minority had a big influence on the architectural and cultural legacy of Athens still resonating in our times. Many of these Levantines had a colourful character and in some cases built up powerful business dynasties that survived for generations in an often very turbulent political map.

Buildings to be visited: Former Capuchin Monastery, Gaspari House, Mertrud House, Benizelos House, The Turkish Bath-house, The former French Consulate, the former Fauvel House, the Bazaar, the Madrassa, the Dervish Tekke, Richard Church House, Finley House.

The tour will end at the [Damigos' Taverna](#) one of the oldest in Plaka, or at nearby Saita. Guests may join us for a meal where each pays for their own.



The Choregic Roman Monument of Lysicrates seen from the court of the hospice of the Capuchin monastery, where it was situated and integrated into the building as its library. A Capuchin monk is seen sitting in the garden. This monastery like most of Athens was completely destroyed in the chaos of the Greek revolution of 1821. The engraving is from a book dating from 1808, *Les Antiquités d'Athènes*, J. Stuart and N. Revett.



Nicolas Nicolaides is a Ph.D. student at the Turkish Studies Department, University of Athens. He received his M.A. in South East European Studies at UoA. His research interests lie in the area of ethnic minorities in Greece and Turkey. His professional career outside of academia includes writing and editing. His freelance writing has been published in major Greek dailies and Culinary Backstreets.

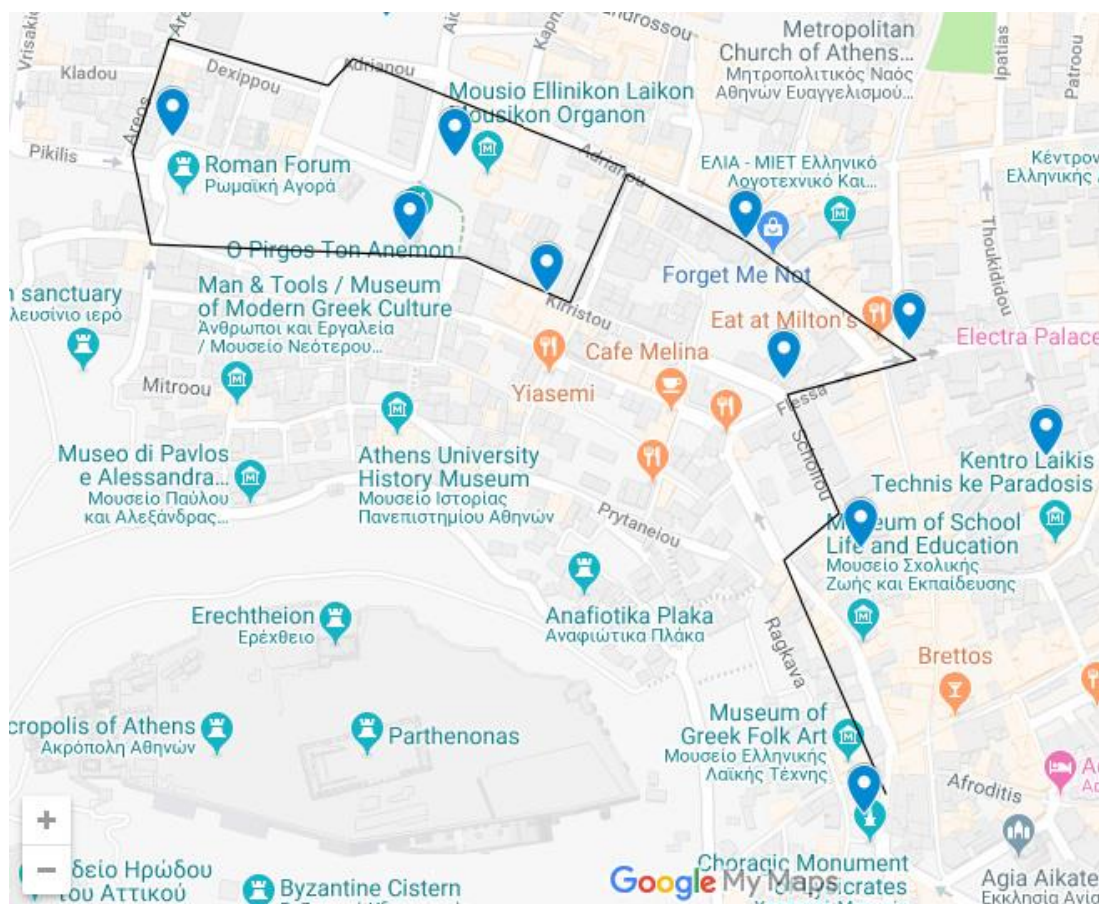
He is also a founding member of Asty Team, an interdisciplinary platform tracing Athens' urban topography. Nicolas is co-founder and experience designer of [Big Olive](#), a company offering cultural tours to Athens, Greece; featuring art, architecture, archaeology, history and fine food. Prior to joining Big Olive, Nicolas has been working for non-profit organizations, based either in Greece or Belgium.

Originally an Istanbulite, Nicolas has been transplanted to Greece as a child. He considers Athens one of his favourite places in the world but still has a critical case of wanderlust.

Saturday 4 May 2019, 3.00 pm start meet at The Choragic Monument of Lysicrates, Vyronos street, near the Acropolis of Athens

Tour is free but booking essential: <https://1st-lhf-athens-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Suggested voluntary donation to guide 10 euros.



[route of tour](#)