

## Peripatoi - Athens Walks

*David Rupp*

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**David Rupp : Peripatoi - Athens Walks** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peripatoi - Athens Walks:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Athens DeconstructedBy PONTEVECCHIOThis is an extremely well written series of walks giving one an extensive and in depth look at Athens during a series of walks. We did manage to walk almost all the walks and we think we learnt something extra beyond what the other Guides tell you. Yes, the edition is quite old. That does not take away from its strengths. One has to make allowance for changes since the book was written.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Come away with an understanding of AthensBy booktrotterI just returned home from Athens, unarmed with any tour books, and found this book (in its 2nd edition) as one of the only English language books on the shelf in a bookstore at the top of the Hondos 'mall' on Omonia Square (this after the bookstore people told me they had no books in English). The book's primary purpose is to allow you to wander beyond the obvious destination points, to the layers that connect these destination points to larger historical and contemporary gestalts. I found this wandering profoundly satisfying, because, as much as I spun around at a few different points trying to figure out which way to go, I was later able to get lost in the city and have the pleasure of finding myself somewhere that I recognized from my previous walks. If you don't have a friend to guide you through the city, I'd very much recommend this technique of guided wandering, and hope to find resources like it for subsequent visits on my part to other great metropoli.I had the Blue Guide for Rome, which was great once you managed to find one of the artistic treasureholds that the book analyzed so resourcefully (example: the Sistine Chapel, which it warns you the Vatican has made difficult to access, but doesn't prevent you from making the obvious mistakes in trying to find--keep your eyes open for the signs directing you away from St. Peter's OUTSIDE of the Vatican City walls, and open the Blue Guide up once you get there). I didn't have a Blue Guide for Athens, and I think I'm lucky I didn't. Athens is a city buried in sprawl, dismaying for travelers who arrive expecting to find the classical city surrounded by some infrastructure for 21st century tourists. This book, with its 3 peripatoi, helps you to find your way within the seeming chaos to the multiple historical layers of the city.I did part of one walk--modern, post-British mandate Athens--with my sixteen year old daughter, and she of course wanted to bail before we were all the way through. The book gives you resting points, as well as 'pause points' where you can end your journey and jump on the different transportation options back to a different point. I was able to keep her going because of the book's recommendation of different refreshment points, and she saw much more of Athens than she would have if we had just hit the main tourist destinations. And I was able to pull up and halt at a logical point that left her with a sense of having accomplished something.Subsequently, I visited the Akropolis with her and my older son, and then after that visit I did this book's walk around the Akropolis, which gave me a sense of how history had played with the resources of this center of Athenian life, how it had expanded and contracted as Athens grew and was subsequently overrun by different groups. And once I had a sense of the fact that there was even another layer below this one, a pre-classical Agora that archaeologists had a long-standing argument about the location of, I ran back up the hill to the Akropolis museum and found the astonishing art from the pediments that graced the parthenon that these pre-classical Greeks had built, which was replaced by the Parthenon that you'll see there today, which is being restored (to some romantic tourists disgruntlement) to something closer to its classical, Periclean grandeur.In sum, if you want to take a path less followed, this book offers you some choices for doing so. If only you could get restaurant guides for cities that were as reliably satisfying as this book of walks is! Now I'm ready to read Thucydides, I think, and also to look further into Rebecca Solnit's A FIELD GUIDE TO GETTING LOST.