

# ARRIVAL TRAVEL OPTIONS

## **BY COACH (recommended option)**

Patras is connected with Athens by regular coach services (<http://achaiaktel.gr/>). In Athens, the main coach station is called "KTEL Peloponissou – Kifissos" located at Kifissou 100 str. The coach station is connected by regular bus service from/to Athens airport (line **X93: Airport-Kifissos**). All buses depart from the Arrivals Level, between Exits 4 and 5 (there are departures every 20-30 minutes). Tickets can be found in the kiosk next to the buses and their cost is 5 Euros. The **Map 1** below shows the area of the departing busses to Kifissos.

Upon arrival in **Kifissos** coach station, tickets to Patras can be bought from the desks of **KTEL ACHAIAS** inside the main building. There are buses departing to Patras every 30 minutes and it takes up to 3 hours (regular service making stops) and 2hours and 30mins (express service) to reach the Patras coach station, costing approx. 20 Euros (See **Map 2**). **Choose the fast express service coach option, departing every hour at xx30'.**

In Patras, the coach station is located at the centre of Patras. The University, the Conference Venue and Rio-Patras suburb where the conference hotels are located is approximately 8Kms from the city centre and Coach station. It is more convenient to use taxis to reach the University and any hotels located in around Rio-Patras area, at a cost 6-7 Euros.

## **BY TRAIN AND COACH (not all arriving trains have correspondence coach available at Kiato station)**

Normally, there are regular train services from Athens to Patras. However, during the Conference period the railway lines are **under construction**, so there is no direct train connection from Athens to Patras.

However, there are suburban ("proastiakos") train services directly from Athens' airport to Kiato (approximately half way between Athens to Patras) from where there is a direct bus service to Patras. The **Map 1** shows the location of the Metro / Suburban train in Athens airport. The travel duration between airport and Kiato station is approx. 1hour and 30minutes and the ticket costs 14 Euros. See below for timetable of the airport to Kiato train service. **Map 2** shows the stations between airport and Kiato.

From Kiato station, there is a direct coach link to Patras train station. **There is correspondence coach service to arriving trains only at 7.20 (express), 9.40, 12.40, 15.40, 17.40 and 19.40 (express).** The duration of travel to Patras is approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes for the express coach service and up to 2 hours for the other cases since the coach stops at intermediate locations.

In Patras, the train station where the coach is arriving is located at the centre of Patras. The University, the Conference Venue and Rio-Patras suburb where many hotels are located is approximately 8Kms from the city centre. It is more convenient to use taxis to reach the University and any hotels located in around Rio-Patras area, at a cost 6-7 Euros.

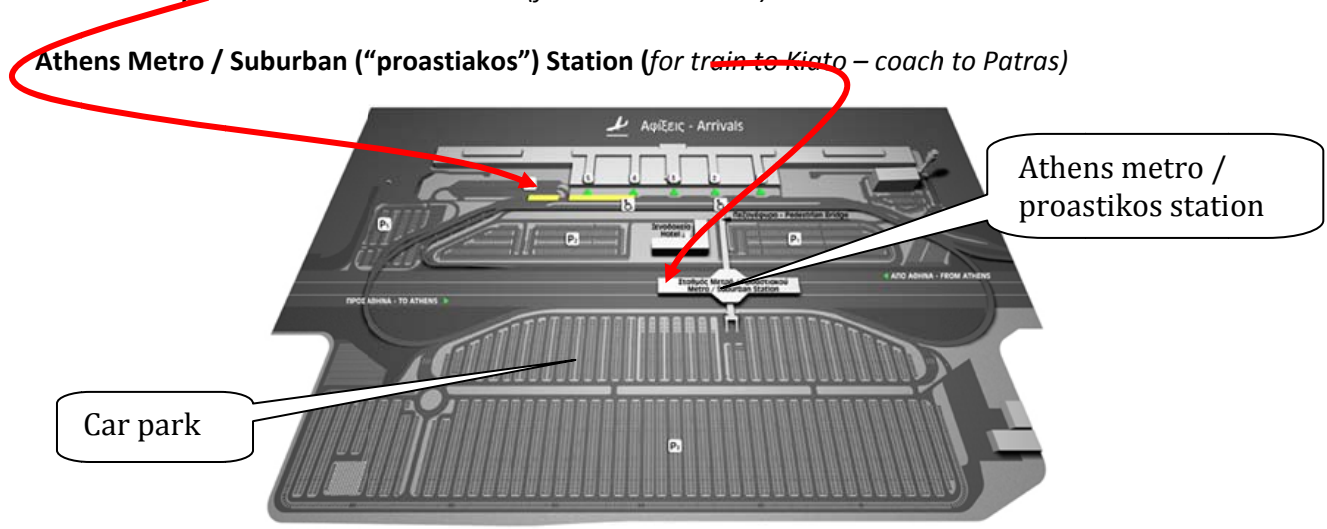
## **BY CAR**

The circular road providing access to Athens International Airport is **Attiki Odos**, a high-speed toll motorway, connecting the airport to Eleusina (or Elefsina) and then to the main Athens to Korinthos / Patras road. Reaching Patras via this national road, **you must take the first exit right after the toll posts.** There are signs leading to the University Hospital, the University Campus and the Conference Center.

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**bus X93: Airport - Kifissos Coach Station** (for coach to Patras)

**Athens Metro / Suburban ("proastiakos") Station** (for train to Kiato – coach to Patras)



**Map 1:** Athens airport arrivals, with location for connecting bus service to Athens Kifissos Coach station and Metro / Suburban train station.



**Map 2:** the Athens Airport to Coach Station bus service for travelling to Patras by coach



## DEPARTURE TRAVEL OPTIONS

The final day of the Conference, the afternoon **Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>**, is allocated to a visit – workshop at Epidaurus theatre. For the return trip, and following the itinerary shown in **Map 4**, the participants may choose from the following options:

### **OPTION 1 – Return to Patras by coach**

The Conference coach will return to Patras at approx. 22.00. The participants may stay at the same hotels as those used for the Conference and return next day to Athens, following the reverse of the incoming trip (see Arrival Travel section). Alternatively, any participants choosing to return to Italy by boat may depart from Patras port.

**PROS:** cheaper hotels. Convenient spot for subsequent excursions to ancient Olympia, Delphi, etc.

**CONS:** longer overall travelling by coach

### **OPTION 2 – Return to Athens - airport by train, after visiting Epidaurus**

Returning from Epidaurus and on the way to Patras, the Conference coach will stop at Kiato station at approx. 20.15. From this station, there is a direct connection “*proastiakos*” (suburban) train to Athens and the airport (duration of travel to airport: 1hour, 35mins). Trains leave each hour at xx.26’, so potentially participants may catch the 20.26 train and arrive at the airport at 22.00. Given that it is unlikely to have departure flights at that late time, participants may choose, either to stay at the airport hotel (e.g. <http://www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-3167-sofitel-athens-airport/index.shtml>), or use the subway connection at *Doukissis Plakentias* station for overnight stay in Athens (see **Map 5**). Convenient hotels close to subway stations are the *President hotel* (<http://presidenthotel-athens.h-rez.com/index.htm?lbl=ggl-en>) and the *Crowne Plaza hotel* (<http://www.cpathens.com/>).

From there, participants may choose to stay in Athens or return by convenient flight next day (September 22<sup>nd</sup> flight).

**PROS:** chance to visit Athens. Fast and efficient *proastiakos* train service for return trip.

**CONS:** expensive hotels in Athens.

### **OPTION 3 – Return to Athens - airport by train, before visiting Epidaurus**

On the way to Epidaurus from Patras, the Conference coach will stop at Kiato station at approx. 15.15. From this station, there is a direct connection *proastiakos* train to Athens and the airport (duration of travel: 1hour, 35mins). Trains leave each hour at xx.26’, so potentially participants may catch the 15.26 train and arrive at the airport at 17.00. It is therefore possible for participants to book return flights at the evening of September 21<sup>st</sup> and catch such a flight, without ‘though visiting Epidaurus. Alternatively, participants may also opt for staying that evening in Athens (see Option 2, above).

**PROS:** chance to catch evening return flight or visit Athens. Fast and efficient *proastiakos* train service for return trip at more convenient trip.

**CONS:** miss the Epidaurus visit, expensive hotels in Athens.

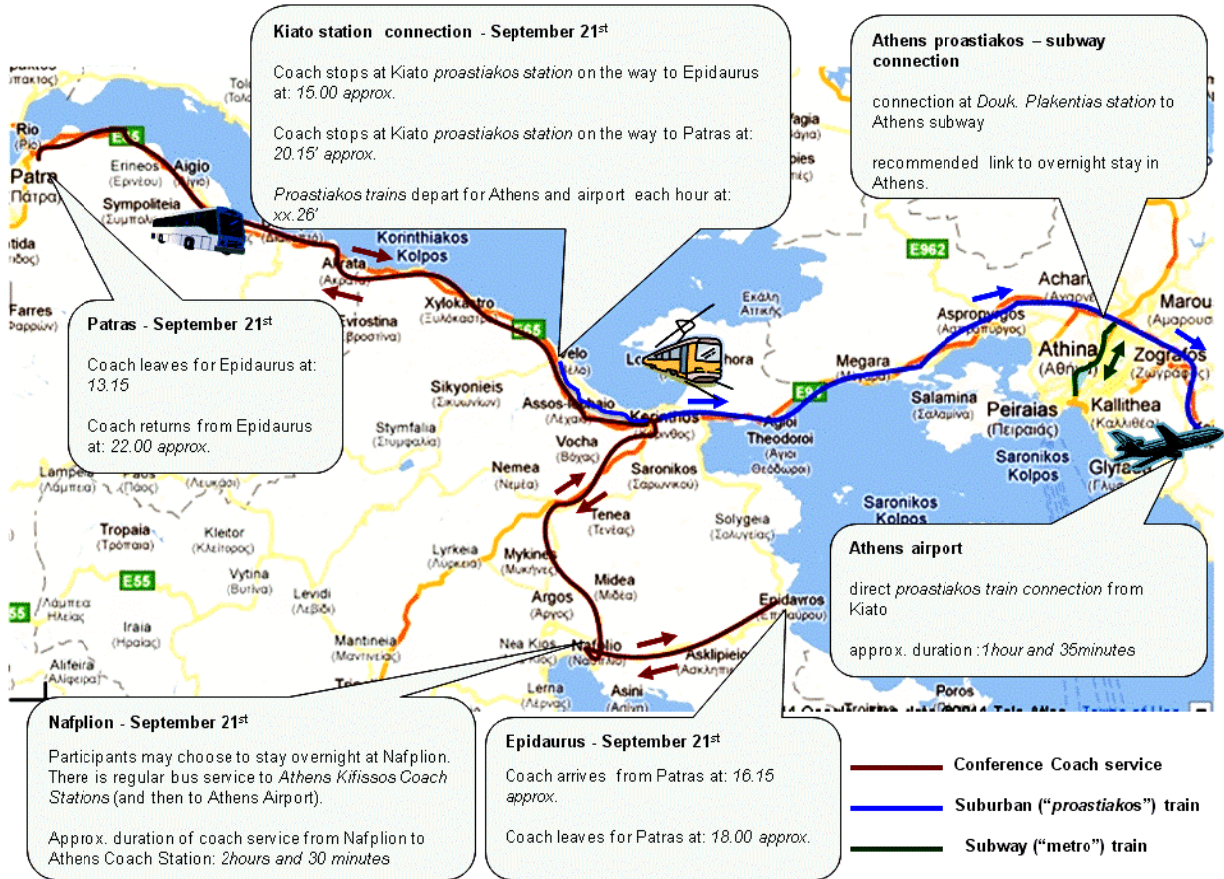
### **OPTION 4 – Stay overnight at Nafplion town**

Returning from Epidaurus and on the way to Patras, the Conference coach will stop at Nafplion, 20Kms from the theatre, at approx. 19.00. Participants may opt to stay overnight there and travel next day to Athens by using a regular (one every hour) coach service to Athens *Kifissos Coach Station* (duration of travel: 2hours, 30mins). From this coach station there is a direct bus connection to Athens airport (see Arrival Travel section).

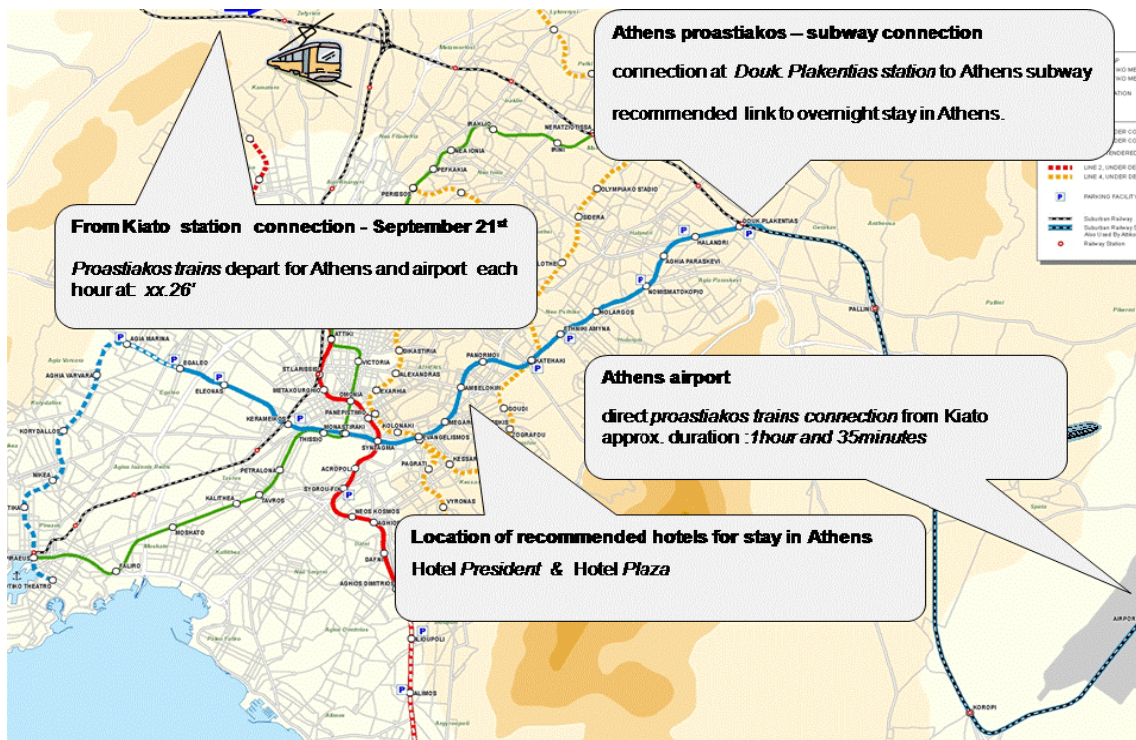
Nafplion is an attractive town (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nafplion>) with access to Mycenae and Argos.

**PROS:** chance to visit Nafplion and for extended stay, Mycenae and Argos. The more relaxing schedule for September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**CONS:** next day return trip to Athens by coach.



Map 4: travel itinerary for September 21<sup>st</sup>



Map 5: Athens suburban train / metro network with hotels for overnight stay