

DISCOVERING THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF ATHENS

Could you imagine organising a trip that is both an immersion in the daily life of a community - an opportunity to reflect on its industrial heritage - and an experience of its best-known tourist values (artistic, archaeological or gastronomic)?

This was the intent of the itinerary developed by TrattoPunto in May 2024, which developed around Athens, between the districts of Lipasmata and Drapetsona, where the industrial vestiges of the great port industrialisation stand out imposingly, to the far east of the peninsula, an area rich in minerals and known since antiquity for its mining activity, with a visit to the important site of Lavrio, today a university technology park. A walk through the city, from its industrial heart, the Gazi district, the imposing Athens gasometer (now the city's Technopolis), to Piraeus and Elefsina where, halfway between wayfarers and explorers, the urban fabric was traversed in search of the many important industrial traces.

The industrial expression of a country is strongly intertwined with the other aspects of its development, so visits to sites of classical archaeology or contemporary cultural heritage could not be missed.

Visitors, not tourists: so that this motto is not just a figure of speech, what is needed? A group of people aware of the uniqueness of the trip and 'critical consumers' of it, such as the INCUNA group, and deep connoisseurs of Greece and its cultural and industrial heritage, such as the members of VIDA.

Organisational challenges, the opportunities of international cooperation, tourism as a key: these are the first steps towards the design of coordinated interventions for industrial heritage.