

ACCESS: The Museum is just a few metres from the Evangelismos Metro station and at a 15-minute walk from Syntagma Square.

An electric wheelchair is available.

The gardens
OF THE BYZANTINE MUSEUM

Vass. Sophias 22, 106 75 Athens,
Tel.: +30 213 213 9500, +30 213 213 9572
Email: info@byzantinemuseum.gr
www.byzantinemuseum.gr

BYZANTINE & CHRISTIAN MUSEUM
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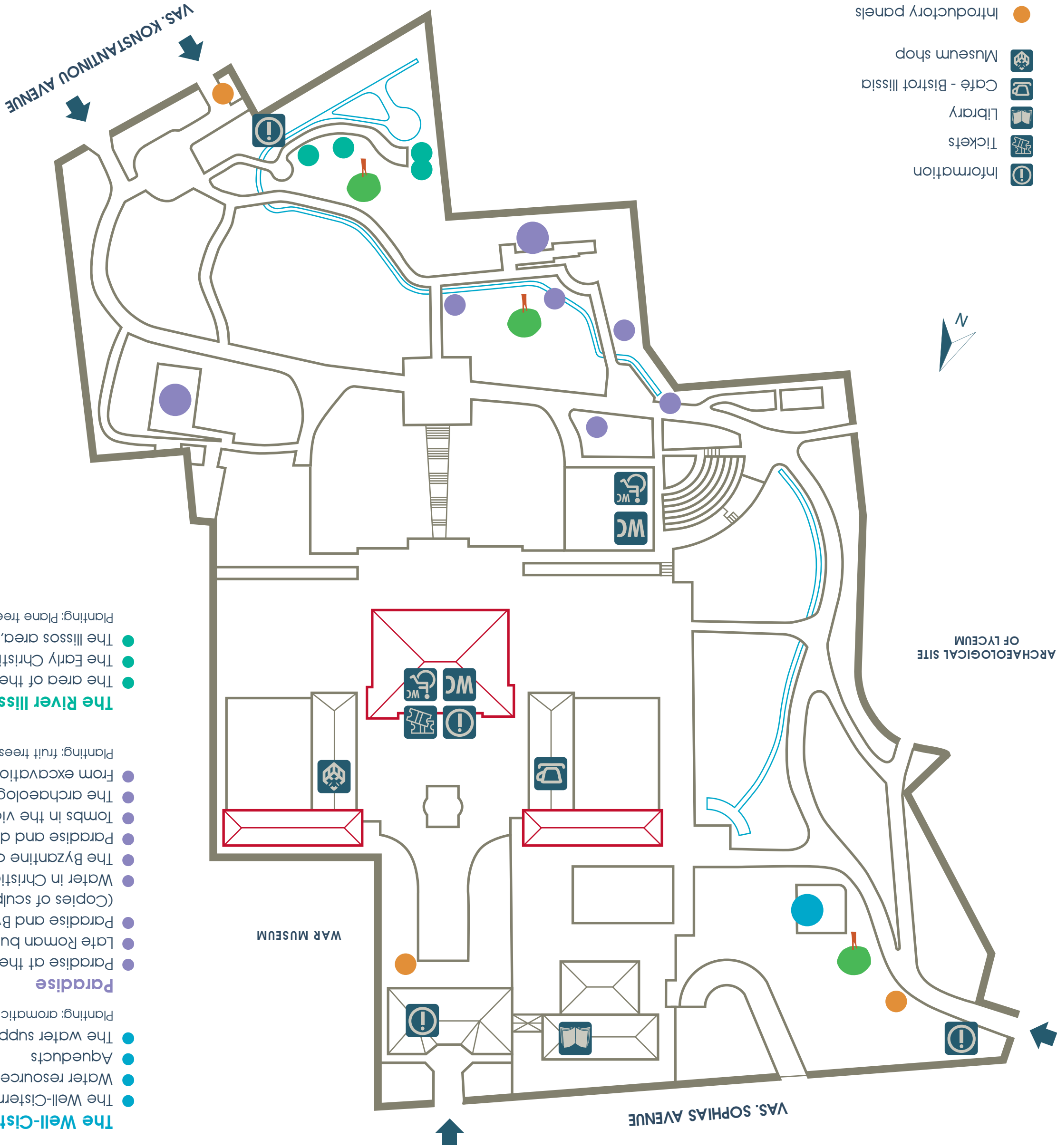
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Plan of the Byzantine Museum Gardens,
with exhibition sections and other hotspots marked.

- The Well-Cistern**
- The Well-Cistern at the Byzantine Museum
 - Aqueducts
 - The water supply of Athens post 1834
 - Planting: aromatic herbs
- Paradise**
- Paradise at the Byzantine Museum
 - Late Roman burial
 - Paradise and Byzantine Monumental Art
 - (Copies of sculptures)
 - Water in Christianity
 - The Byzantine church: a foretaste of Paradise
 - Paradise and death
 - Tombs in the vicinity of the Ilissos River
 - The archaeological excavation at the Petmeza Shaft
 - From excavation site to museum
 - Planting: fruit trees, olive trees, cypress trees
- The River Ilissos**
- The area of the River Ilissos in ancient times
 - The Early Christian Ilissos Basilica (5th-6th century)
 - The Ilissos area, 18th-21st century
 - Planting: Plane trees and willows



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
OF LYCIUM

WAR MUSEUM

VAS. SOPHIAS AVENUE

The Well-Cistern and how Athens was supplied with water from ancient times to the present

The well-cistern with its arch-shaped foundation was hewn into the rock at some point in the past. It is presently covered by a 19th century masonry barrel-vault. Water was drawn from the well mouth, marked by four slate slabs.

The well-cistern was either used as a well or a local water management unit to supply drinking water and/or provide irrigation. However, no clear indications exist as to whether it was connected to other water supply systems of the area.

The same themed exhibition provides information on the water resources of Attica, on the aqueducts of Athens, as well as on the water supply of the city post 1834.

Paradise: the Byzantine concept of Paradise in life and the afterlife

Paradise, a walled garden, with abundant water and lush vegetation, was a concept familiar to many different cultures from ancient times.

Nature, abundant vegetation, exquisite gardens and groves – common features of cities in antiquity, were highly appreciated in the Byzantine era as well.

In a religious context, the idea of Paradise, closely related to the Christian expectations for salvation and eternal life, was prevalent in Byzantine churches and cemeteries.

The River Ilissos: the evolution of the fluvial landscape from antiquity to modern times

A major religious centre grew in the valley formed on both sides of the river Ilissos banks, on the eastern side of the Akropolis hill, with sanctuaries dedicated to deities related to the forces of nature.

A large Christian church (Basilica) was built on the small Ilissos isle in the 1st half of the 5th century. Copies from the mosaic floors of the three-aisled Basilica are on display in the Gardens while the original detached mosaics are presented in the Museum's permanent exhibition.

The idyllic landscape on the banks of the Ilissos, which is depicted in drawings made by travellers who visited Greece during 18th and 19th century, changed dramatically in mid-20th century, when the river was entombed and Vassileos Konstantinou and Kallirroes Avenues were constructed over the river bed, following its route.



The gardens
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The gardens of the Byzantine Museum are an oasis in the heart of the city where visitors can take an imaginary journey through history and art.

Seating areas are provided under the fruit trees, surrounded by aromatic herbs and fountains.

Three small themed exhibitions of historic and archaeological interest are presented in the gardens: *The Well-Cistern*, on how Athens was supplied with water from ancient times to the present; *Paradise*, on the Byzantine concept of Paradise in life and the afterlife; and *The River Ilissos*, on the development of the fluvial landscape on the banks of the Ilissos from antiquity to modern times.

FREE ADMISSION