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ATHENS 2004



ATHENS OLYMPICS

2004



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EVENT = LASTING LEGACY OR NOT !!??

Athens 2004

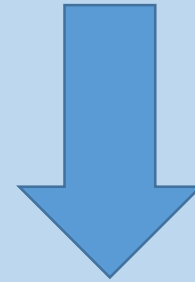
13th - 29th of August (Main Games)

17th – 28th September (Para-Olympics)



ATHENS 2004

- OLYMPIC GAMES
- WHITE ELEPHANTS



Helliniko Complex, Olympic Bridge, Faliron Complex – (Tae Kwon Do and Beach Volley Ball Events), Olympic Village, 20,000 Seater Tennis Stadium, Olympic Diving Areas, Hockey Facilities
OLYMPIC VANITY????

Pictures following, show what is currently left of the newly developed stadiums / facilities for the Greek Olympics!











Issues of the Athens Olympics

- Heightened pressures of cost – significant increases in budget (NB: much funded by the EU – Brussels).
- Lack of planning / management. Building of the stadiums / facilities only started in 2001, 4 years after securing the Games.
- Many venues completed with hours to spare prior to the games.
- No legacy plans - - has resulted in many facilities being left derelict.
- Lack of positive social impact – poor interest generated following the Games.



“The Olympics has failed to inspire a generation of kids”
(Barney Spender Editor of SportingGreece.com – 2005)

Issues of the Athens Olympics

- 21 out of the 22 Olympic stadiums were left abandoned.
- Even though many stadiums / facilities are left derelict they still require maintenance costs = estimated at £500m since the event.
- Failed to secure buyers for the Olympic facilities.
- Borrowing for the Games is predicted at around £35Billion.
- Olympic legacy issues still dominate political life in Greece / Athens 8 years on - as discussions continue as to bailouts!!
- Issues at the time of the Athens Olympics fiasco was compounded by a change in Government = Conservative Govt took over from the Socialist party 4 months before the Games.

Positives of the Athens Olympics???

Updated transport networks – benefitting locals



- £20 Billion pumped into the Athens Metro system.
 - Tramlines introduced along the waterfront
 - Improved roads.
 - New Airport
 - Main stadium - used for key events – eg; pop concerts.
 - Some general usage for certain venues (but tends to be small scale)
- *NB: IT IS ARGUED THAT SUCH IMPROVEMENTS COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE OLYMPICS STAGING.*