

**Ability Guidebooks
presents
Explore Athens!**



I Am Going To The Parthenon!

A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit The Acropolis

**by
Brett Bigham**

The Parthenon is one of the most famous buildings in the world!



This girl has come a long way to see the Parthenon. She knows the rules about visiting. She knows the Parthenon is a serious place and she is going to act grown up.

The Parthenon is on top of the Acropolis. You will have to follow the path to the ticket booth to buy a ticket.



After you buy a ticket walk up the hill to the stairs.

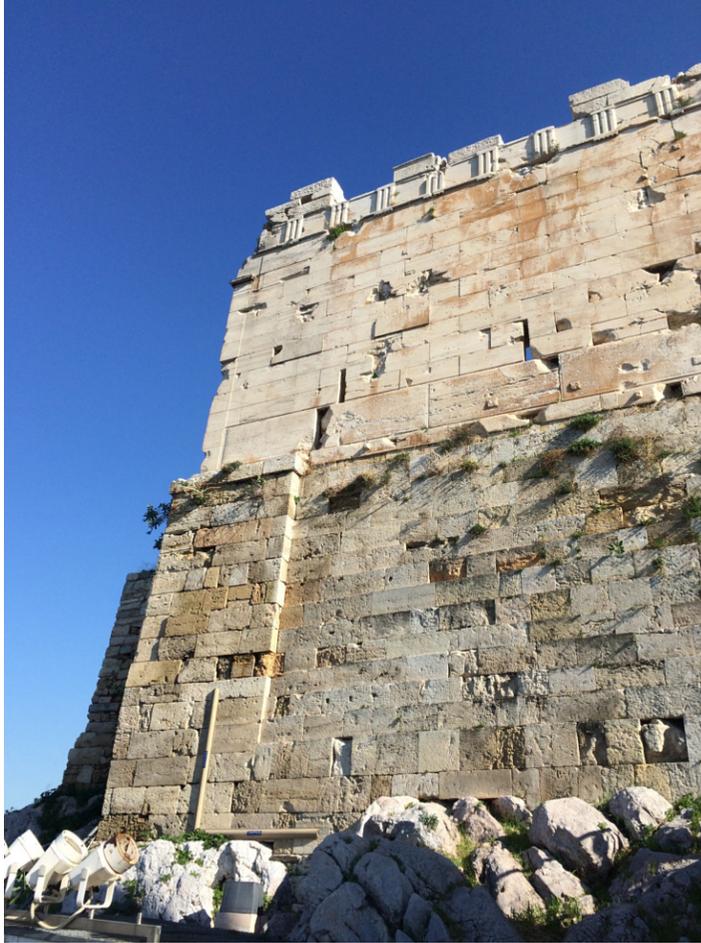
People have been going up these stairs for thousands of years!

This person is taking a break on the stairs.



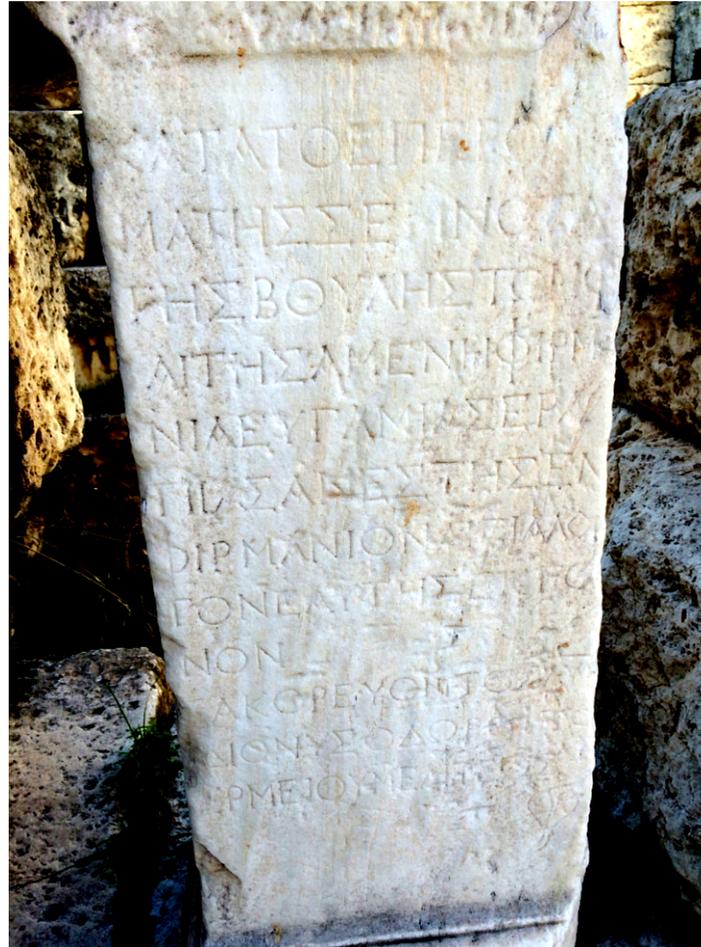
Sometimes there are a lot of people visiting the Acropolis so it can be kind of crowded. This person saw a quiet spot and took a moment to relax.

There is a lot to see as you walk up the stairs. These walls and buildings are some of the oldest in the world!



It is important not to touch the carved stones! Workers are fixing buildings and they have put stones everywhere. Please don't touch the carved stones.

Here is a piece of marble carved with words in ancient Greek. It is very, very old. It is attached to the wall so you can get very close and look at it.



Just remember, look, don't touch!

This is an important thing to know about the Acropolis. There are workers fixing many of the buildings. Do not go in the areas where they are working!



These men are working high up on the scaffolding. They want everyone to be safe. They do not want you to come into the work area.



Remember this girl? She climbed the stairs and is now on top of the Acropolis. She is staying on the path as she walks to the Parthenon. It is a big building!

Notice the girl is walking. People don't run on the Acropolis.

You can walk all the way around the Parthenon but you are not allowed to touch it. There is a rope around the building that keeps people from getting too close.



These people stopped at the rope and didn't get too close. They are doing a great job following the rules.

This man is also doing a good job staying behind the rope.



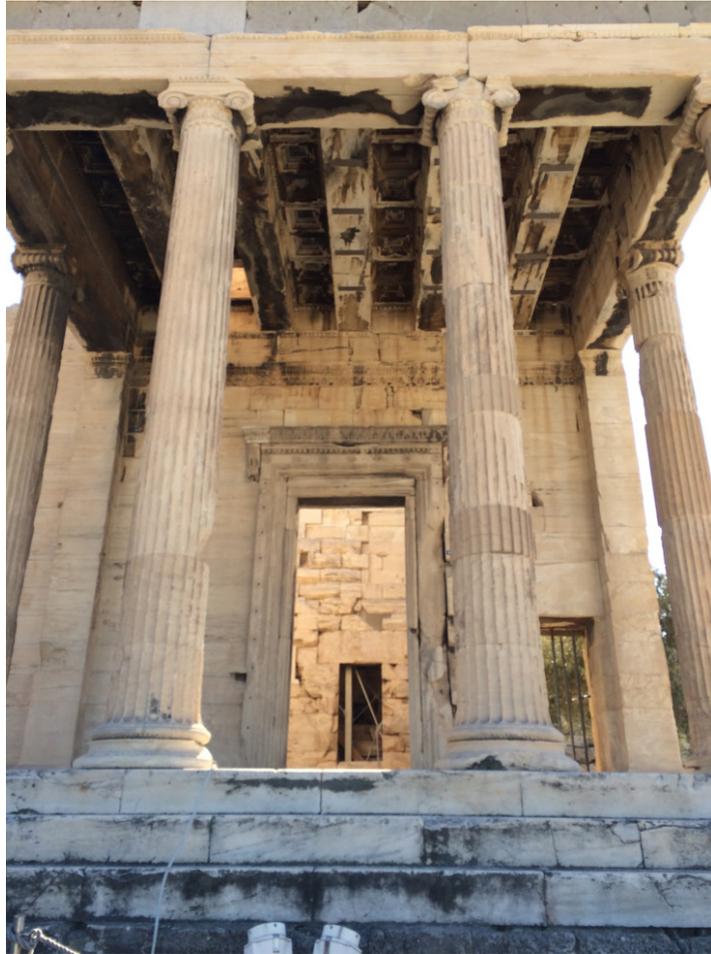
He has looked at the Parthenon, and now he is going to look at the other buildings on the Acropolis.

This building is called the Erechtheion. It is famous because of the Caryatids. A Caryatid is a column in the shape of a woman.



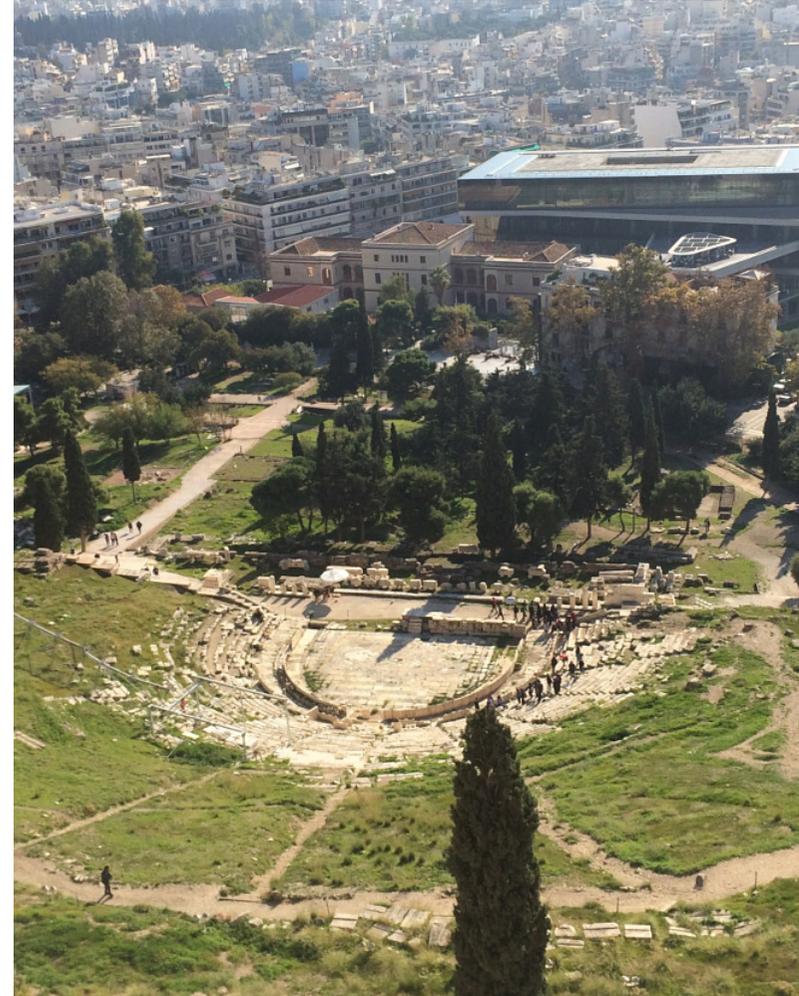
These Caryatids are copies. The ancient originals are in the Acropolis Museum at the base of the Acropolis. Maybe you will visit the museum and see the originals!

You can walk all the way around the Erechtheion.



Make sure you look up!

There are stone walls all around the edge of the Acropolis. You are not allowed to climb on the walls. These people are being safe while they look at the view.

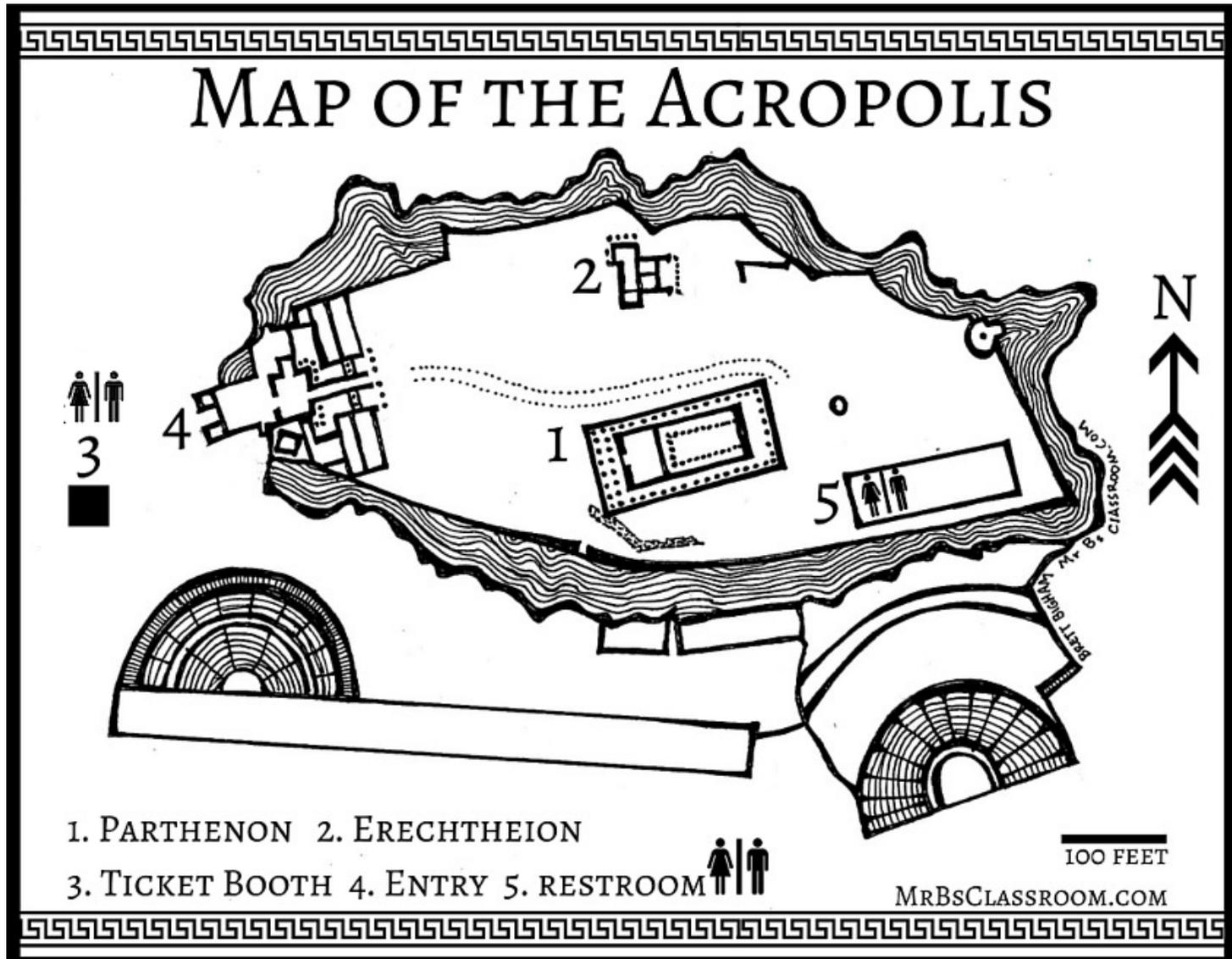


**Make sure you look down!
Remember, you cannot climb on the wall.**

Everywhere you walk there are carved pieces of marble.



These are parts of columns from different buildings. Workers have put them here while they work. Eventually they will put the pieces back together to fix the buildings on the Acropolis. It is almost like a giant puzzle and these are the pieces. Please don't touch the carved marble!



There are restrooms near the ticket counter and on top of the Acropolis.

These people enjoyed seeing the Parthenon. They followed all of the rules and stayed with their group. Going down is the same as going up. Use the stairs!



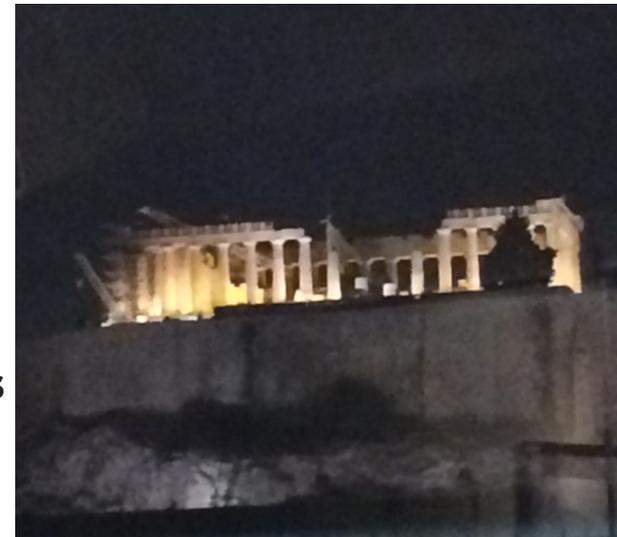
Have a great time visiting the Parthenon. It is an amazing place that everyone should visit!



Things to know about visiting the Acropolis in Athens:

The Acropolis, like many tourist sites in Europe, is a difficult place to visit if you are in a wheelchair. The ground is ancient stone and full of the pits and holes that thousands of years of traffic creates. From my research I have these tips to share if someone in your party is using a wheelchair:

- 1. Call ahead to the ticket office to inform them of your intended time of visit. (Search online for the phone numbers for the Acropolis elevator and for the rules of who can use the elevator). Call again the morning of the visit.**
- 2. The hill up to the ticket booth is difficult for anyone with mobility issues. You can have a taxi deliver you to the ticket booth area to avoid the climb. This will also help you avoid some of the cobblestone areas in the approach to the Acropolis.**
- 3. There may be a discount for visitors in wheelchairs. Go to the ticket booth and they will get you your ticket and then guide you to the elevator. A guard will escort you to the top.**
- 4. The most beautiful view of the Parthenon is at night when they turn on the floodlights. A taxi ride looping around the Acropolis and the Temple of Zeus would be one of the highlights of your trip!**



Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism and neuro-diversity, new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help prepare people for new experiences. This is why I emphasize the places to sit and areas to relax.

This book will also help general ed teachers prepare their young students for a visit to the Acropolis.



Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and is a 2015 National Education Association Educator of Excellence from Oregon. Bigham is the first Special Education teacher to win these awards.

Bigham was named a Global Fellow by the NEA Foundation and traveled to Peru as an ambassador of that program. This allowed Bigham to create his first international Ability Guidebook for the Museo de Inka in Cusco, Peru.

**Thank you to the city of Athens and the staff at the Acropolis.
Special thanks to Mike for giving up part of his weekend for proofreading.**

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