

**Ability Guidebooks
presents
Explore Rome!**



I Am Going To The Minerveo Obelisk!

A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit One Of Rome's Wonders

by
Brett Bigham

Near the Pantheon are a couple of obelisks from ancient Egypt.



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One of these is called the Minerveo Obelisk. This obelisk is in the Piazza della Minerva.

The base of the obelisk is a giant carved elephant! It was carved by the famous Italian sculptor Bernini .



If you have never seen a real elephant, this is your chance to see a statue of one! You can stand on the base of the statue but do not climb on the elephant! It is very old and a fragile piece of sculpture.

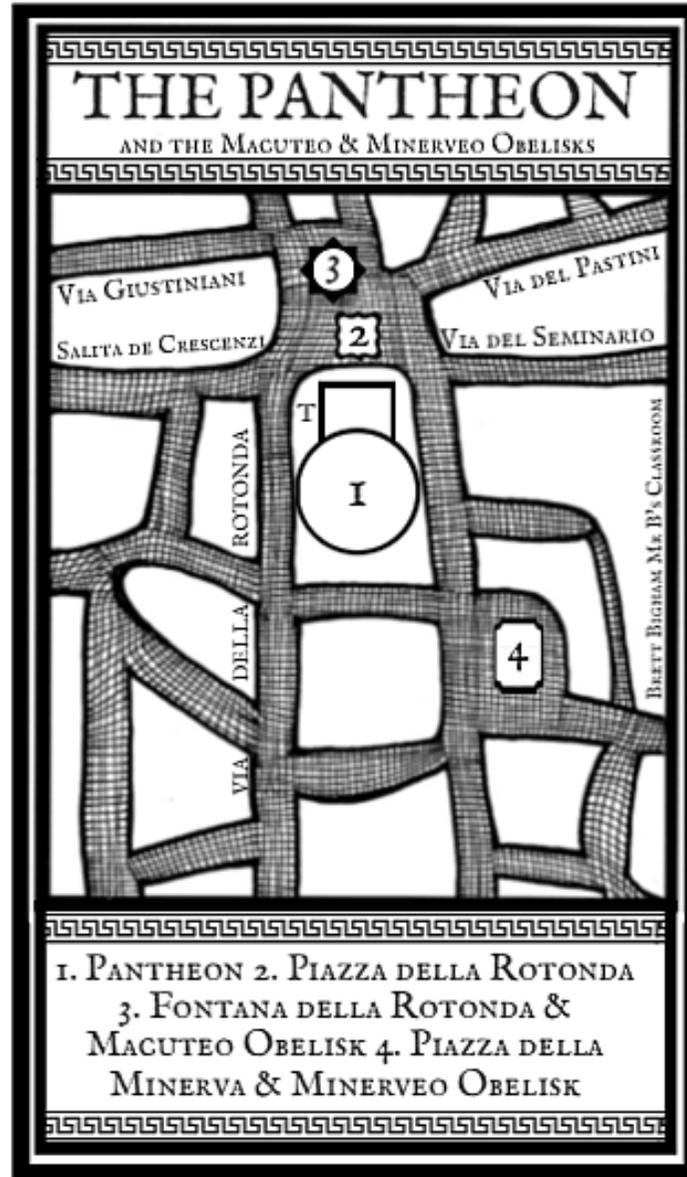
The obelisk is just behind the Pantheon. Many people visit this famous place. It is important to stay with your group.



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There can be a lot of noise outside the Pantheon. There are horses and wagons, people singing music, restaurants, taxis and a lot of tourists! Be ready for the noise. If loud noise bothers you, maybe you should wear headphones!

Here is a map of the area around the Pantheon.



The number 4 is where we will find the Minerveo Obelisk and the Piazza della Minerva.

Look! When you leave there is a taxi stand right next to the Pantheon. The taxi stand is marked with a "T" on the map.



We hope you enjoyed your walk around Rome! What other famous sites do you want to see?

Tips For Visiting The Pantheon Area

In the summer there are big crowds around the Pantheon and obelisks. In December there were still crowds but earlier in the morning there were almost no people.

There are stores and restaurants surrounding the Pantheon with some of the world's best gelato. Even in December it is delicious!

If someone in your group uses a wheelchair, be prepared for tough going. The cobblestone plaza and roads surrounding the Pantheon are difficult to manage. I would recommend having a taxi drop you off as near to the obelisk as possible if you can afford it. If you must walk in, I'd suggest you invite a good strong friend to help the chair across the cobblestones.

I will be adding a second book of sights around the Pantheon. For a first visit, the goal could be to visit the Macuteo Obelisk fountain in the piazza across from the Pantheon or the Minerveo Obelisk in the nearby Piazza della Minerva. Using one of these obelisks as your initial outing will familiarize your student or child with the trip to get to the Pantheon. By pointing out the Pantheon and letting them know you are coming back to visit they will be prepared for the next visit and only going into the building itself will be new.

Local musicians set up loudspeakers in the piazza and serenade the crowd with Opera and music. Just going to the piazza to hear the beautiful music is worth the trip. It can be very loud however so people with noise issues might want to bring earplugs.

There are horse-drawn carriages for hire. The horses are used to tourists touching them, but, as always, ask permission before approaching a strange animal.

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 Coliseum.



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. He has since made books for Athens, Greece and Rome, Italy.
Text and Photos by Brett Bigham unless otherwise noted. Thank you Wikipedia for your photo sharing.**

**Thank you to the city of Rome and the staff at the Pantheon.
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