

**Ability Guidebooks  
presents  
Explore Rome!**



# **I Am Going To The Macuteo 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.



Adrian Pingstone

One of these is called the Macuteo Obelisk. This obelisk is in the Piazza della Rotonda in front of the Pantheon.

**At the base of the obelisk is a fountain created in 1711 by Filippo Barigioni. This is a famous fountain and many people come here to be in a picture.**



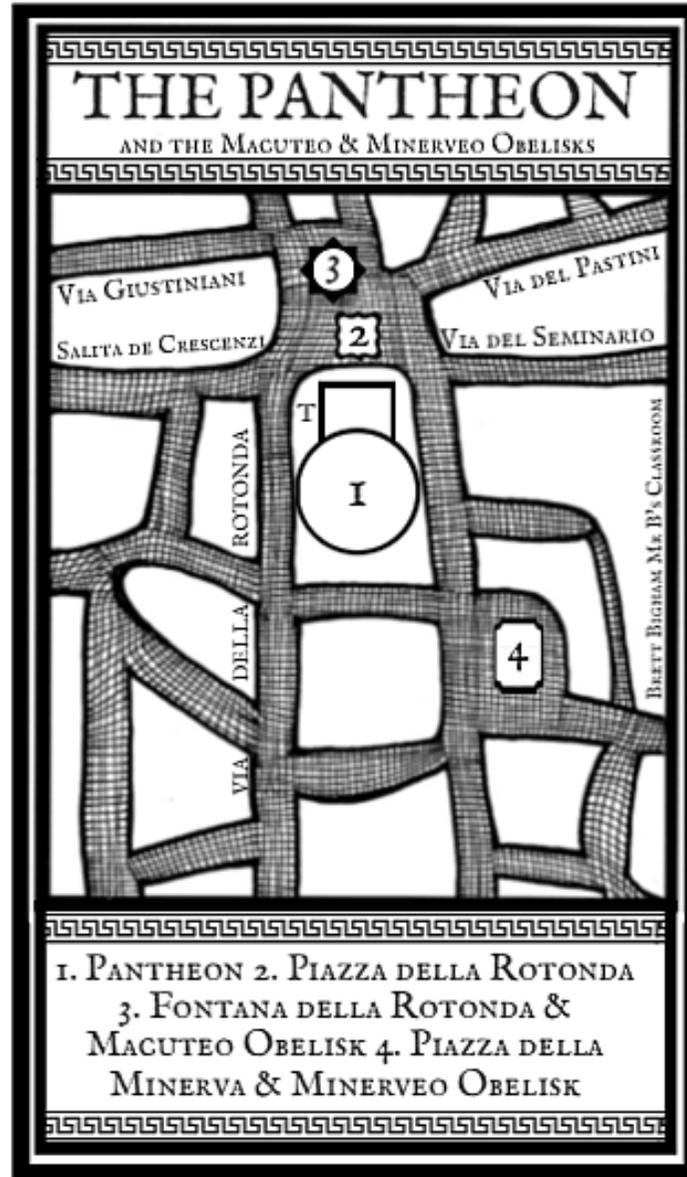
**This man came all the way from the United States to see the Macuteo Obelisk. He knows the fountain is very old and fragile so he does not climb on it. We always have to be careful around a fountain.**

**The obelisk is right in front of the Pantheon. This school group just saw the Macuteo Obelisk and are now walking across the Piazza della Rotonda to go catch a bus.**



**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 3 is where we will find the Macuteo Obelisk and the Barigioni Fountain.**

**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?**

## **History of the Macuteo Obelisk.**

**This Obelisk was created in ancient Egypt during the reign of the Ramses II (reigned 1279–1213 BC). It originally stood as one of a pair in front of the Temple of Ra in Heliopolis. It's mate, though having lost many feet of its height, now stands in the Villa Celimontana.**

**The Macuteo Obelisk was brought to Italy by the Romans to the Temple of Isis near Santa Maria sopra Minerva where it was buried by time and lost to history. In 1373, more than two thousand years after it was carved and a thousand years after it was brought to Italy, the Macuteo Obelisk was dug up near San Macuto.**

**In 1711 Pope Clement XI hired sculptor Filippo Barigioni to create a fountain to hold the Obelisk in front of the Pantheon in the Piazza della Rotonda. The Macuteo Obelisk has stood in this place ever since.**

# 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.**

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