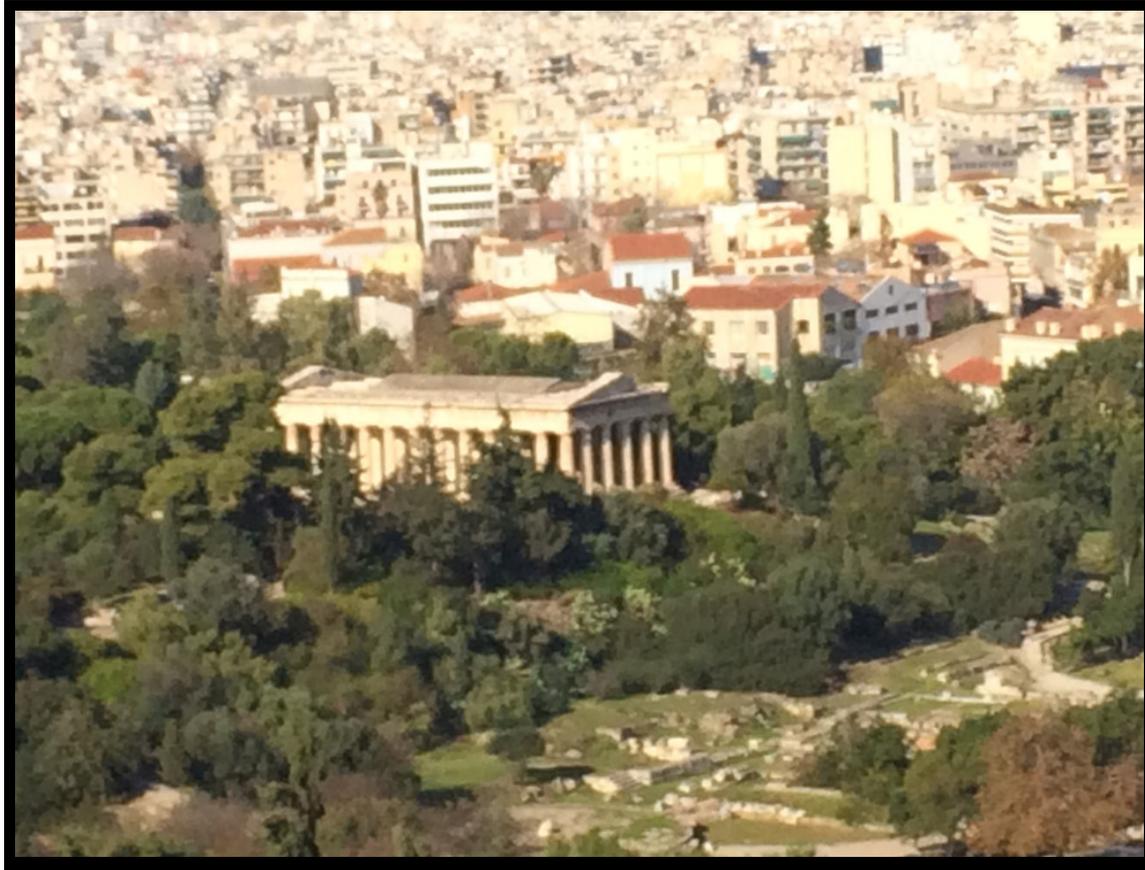


**Ability Guidebooks  
presents  
Explore Athens!**



# **I Am Going To The Ancient Agora of Athens!**

**A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit This Ancient City Center**

by  
**Brett Bigham**

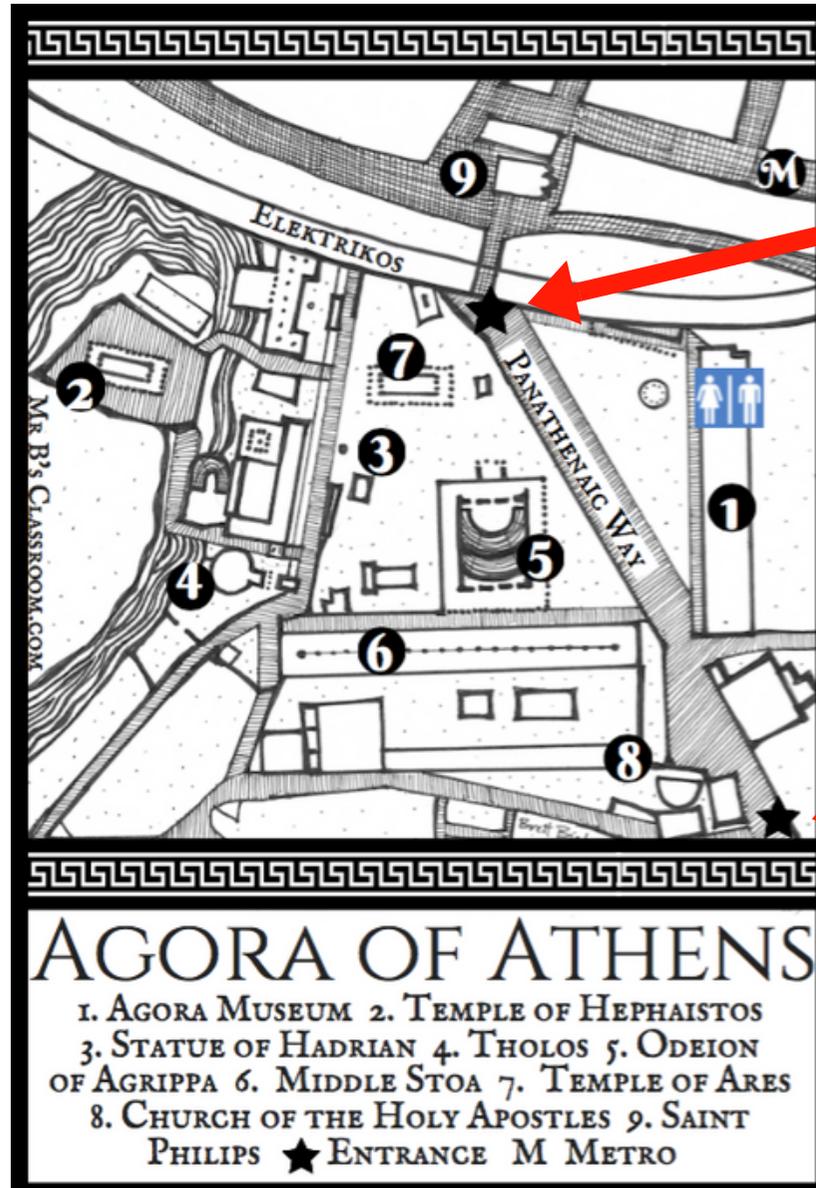
**The Acropolis looms up above the Athens. This is the center of the ancient city. People come from all over the world to climb to the top and visit the Parthenon.**



**At the base of the Acropolis is the Agora. The Agora is the marketplace of ancient Athens. This is where the Forum and many famous temples were built. Today most of these buildings are in ruins but they are still one of Athen's great destinations.**



**There are some free days to visit but most days you must buy a ticket. People under age 18 are free.**



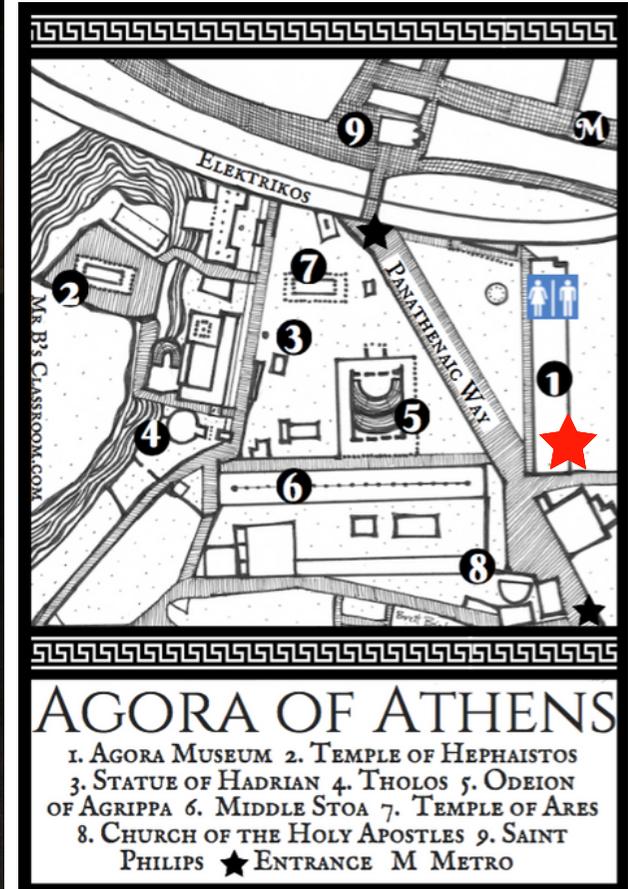
**Main  
Entrance**

**Acropolis  
Entrance**

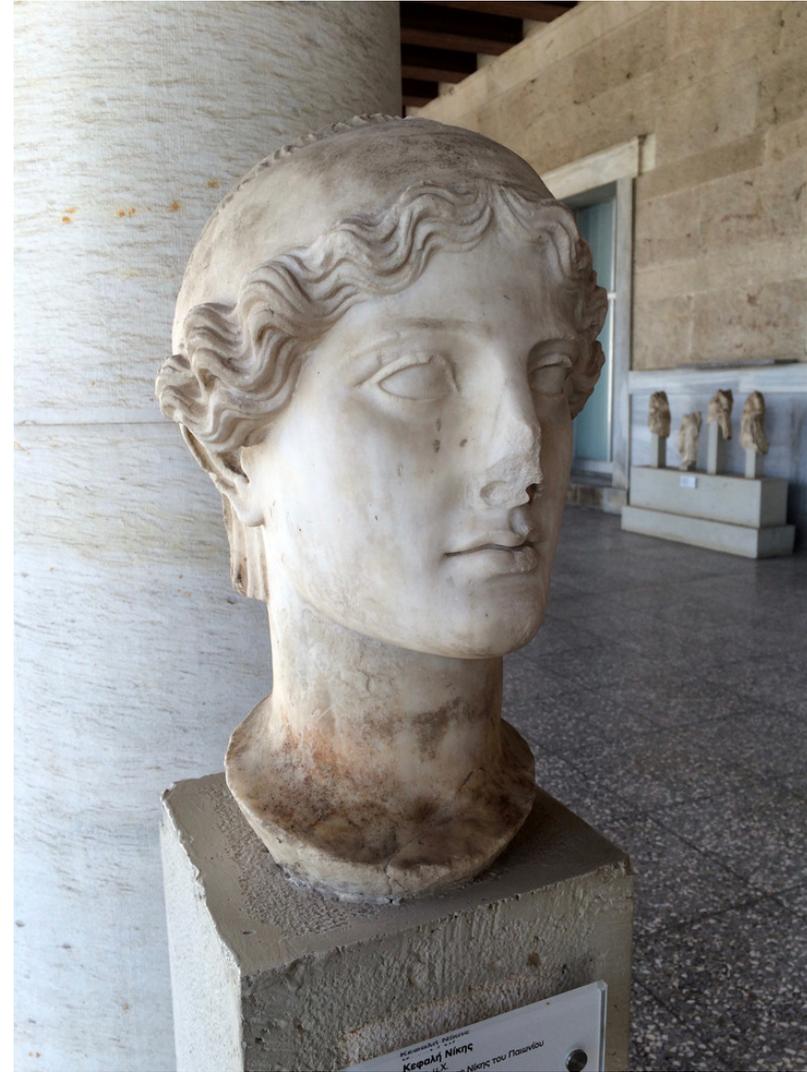
**There are many different famous buildings and ruins at the Agora. This is the Museum of the Ancient Agora. Inside are many statues, ceramics and building parts found by archaeologists in the nearby ruins.**



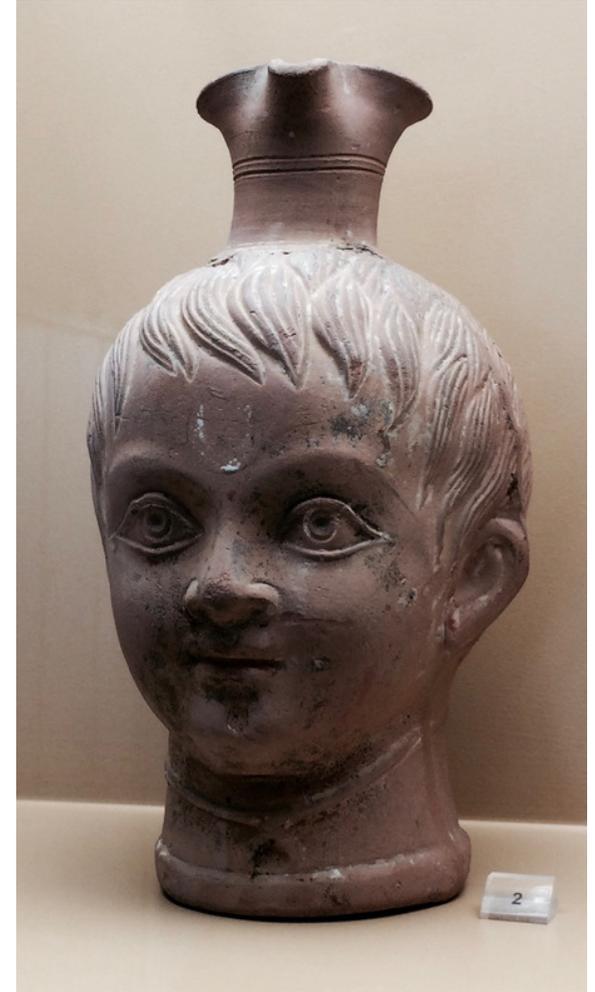
The Museum is a copy of the ancient Stoa of Attalos that stood on this very spot. A stoa is a covered walkway made with large columns.



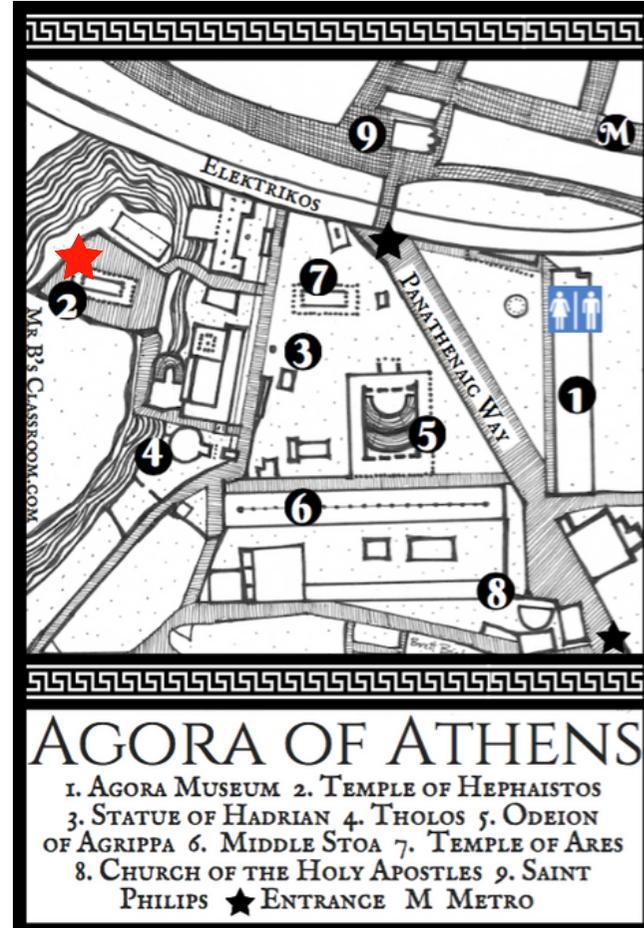
**There are many statues inside the stoa. You can look at them up close but do not touch them!**



**Behind the back wall of the Stoa are the galleries of the Ancient Agora Museum. This is where you can see the collection of ancient Greek pottery.**



**The Temple of Hephaestus is easy to see because it sits up on top of Agoraios Kolonos hill. This is one of the best preserved ancient temples in all of Greece.**



**You can walk all the way around the Temple of Hephaestus but you cannot go inside.**



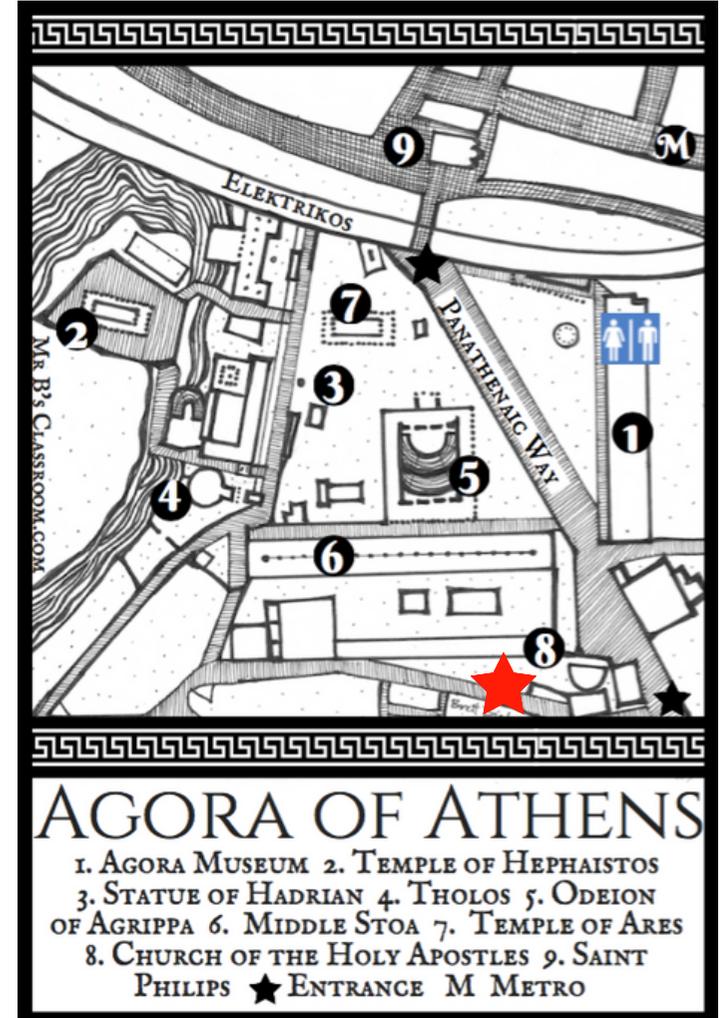
By Scott Ware-Wikimedia Commons

**This man really enjoyed seeing the Temple. He followed the rules and did not touch the stones.**

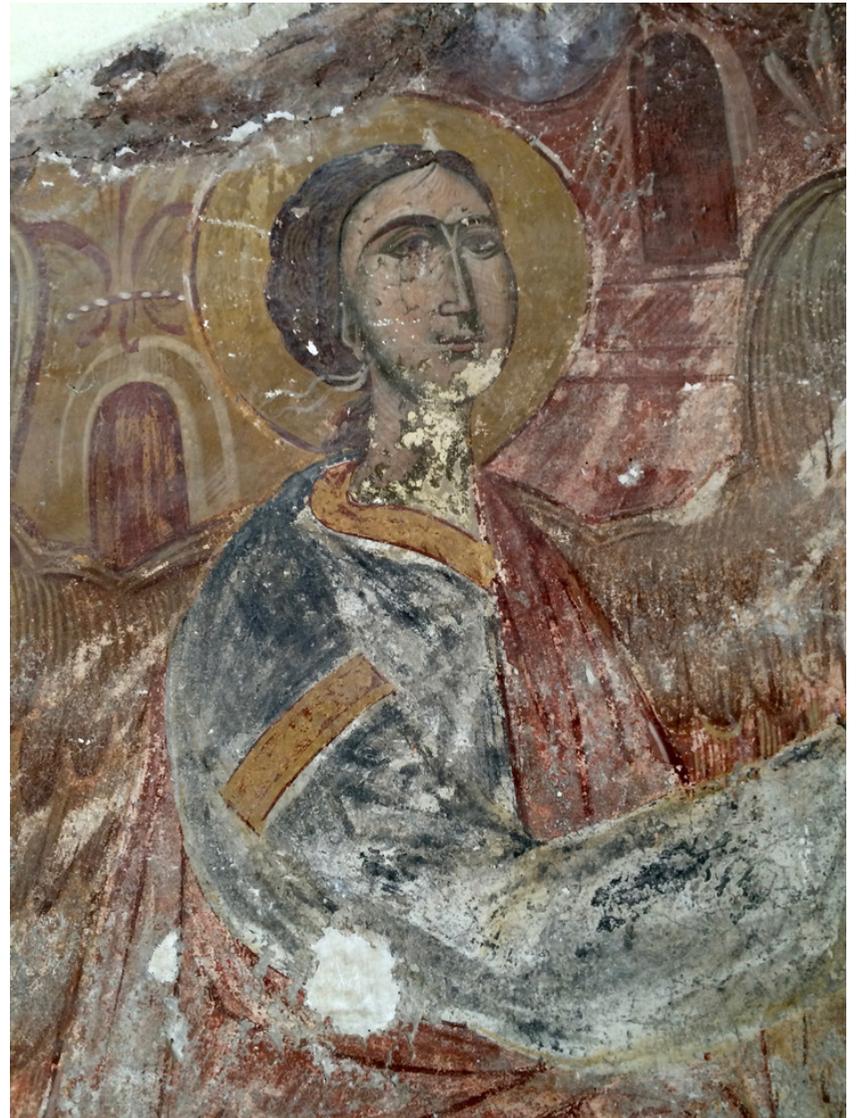
**He learned that Hephaestus was the patron god of fire, craftsmanship and of metal working. This building was built to honor Hephaestus in 415 B.C.E. Over 2400 years ago!**



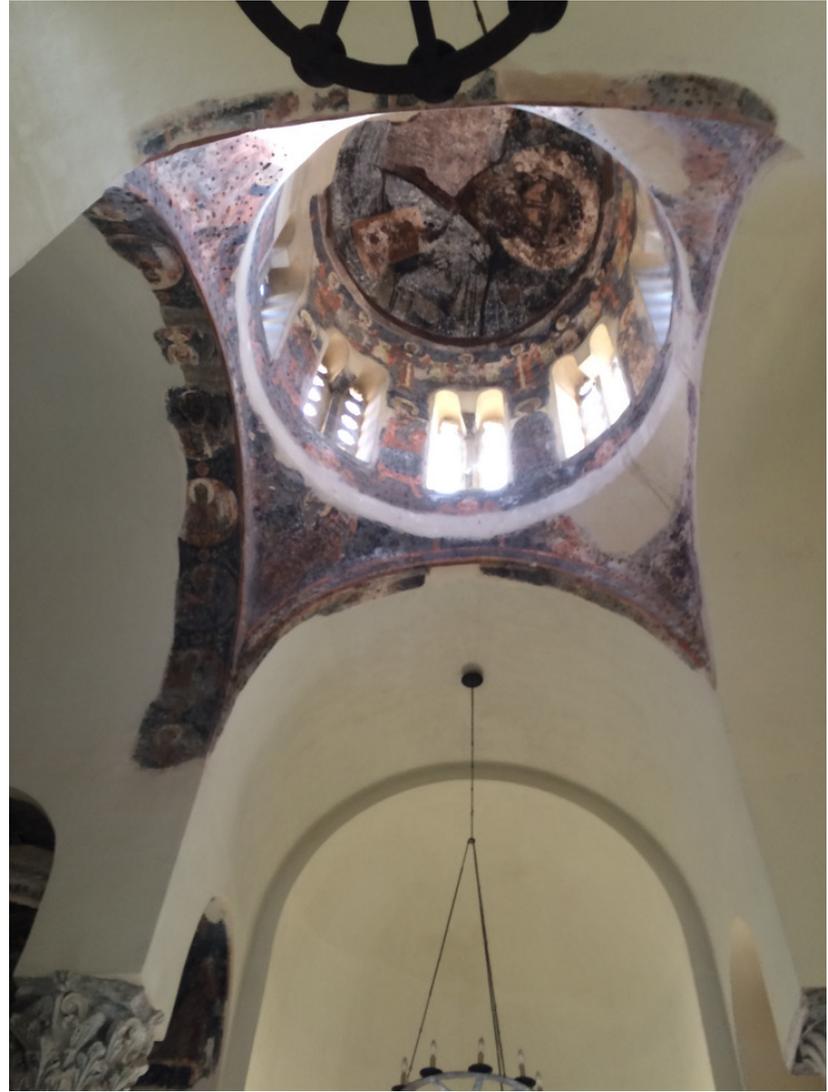
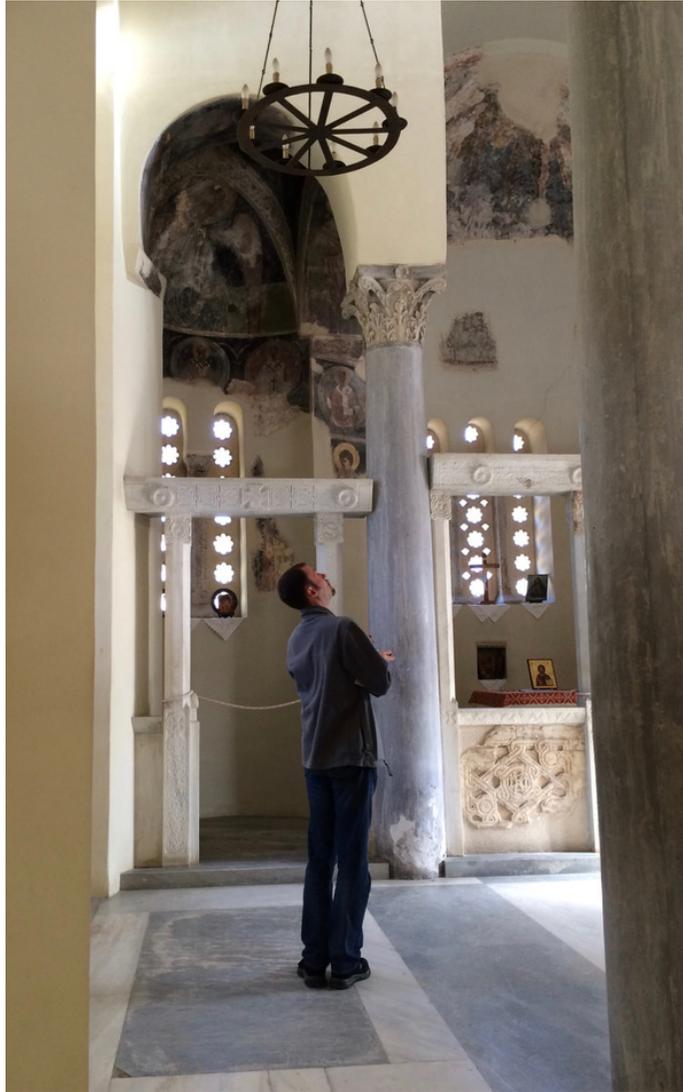
**This is the Church of the Holy Apostles. It is a Byzantine church built in the Agora during the tenth century.**



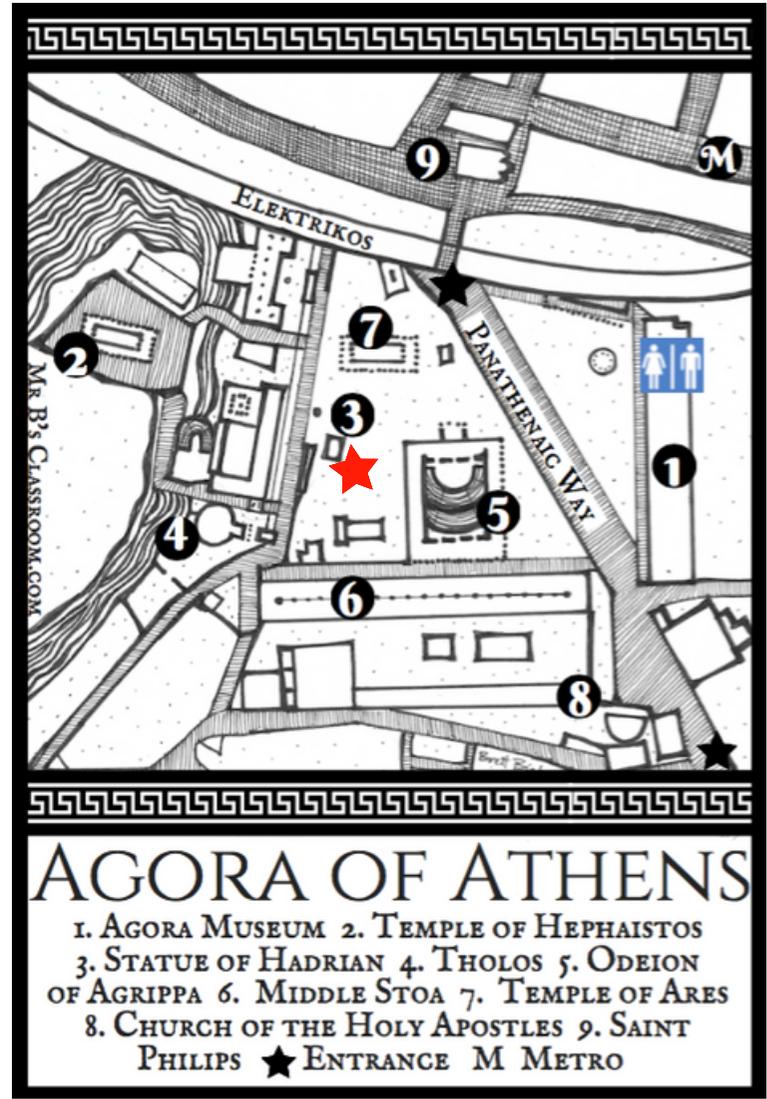
**You can go inside and look at the antique paintings. Do not touch the paintings! They are very old and fragile.**



**Don't forget to look up!**

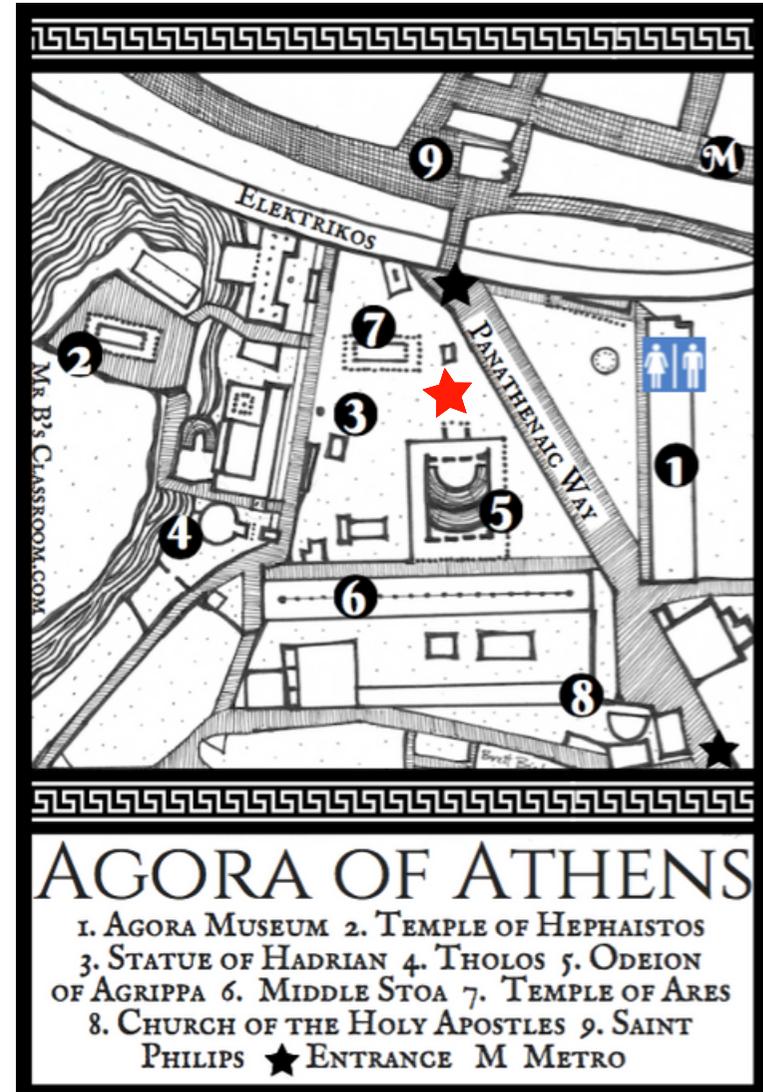


**This is the statue of Emperor Hadrian. In ancient times it was used to cover the nearby drainage ditch. Because it spent centuries upside-down it survived in incredible shape.**



**AGORA OF ATHENS**  
1. AGORA MUSEUM 2. TEMPLE OF HEPHAISTOS  
3. STATUE OF HADRIAN 4. THOLOS 5. ODEION OF AGRIPPA  
6. MIDDLE STOA 7. TEMPLE OF ARES  
8. CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES 9. SAINT PHILIPS ★ ENTRANCE M METRO

**Many of the buildings lie in ruin. This is the front of the Odeon of Agrippa. Most of the Odeon is gone but we can see from the remains that it was a grand building.**



**There are beautiful things to see at the Agora. These statues in the Agora Museum were my favorites! Have a great visit to the Agora! I wonder what you will like best?**



## **Things to know about visiting the Acropolis Area in Athens:**

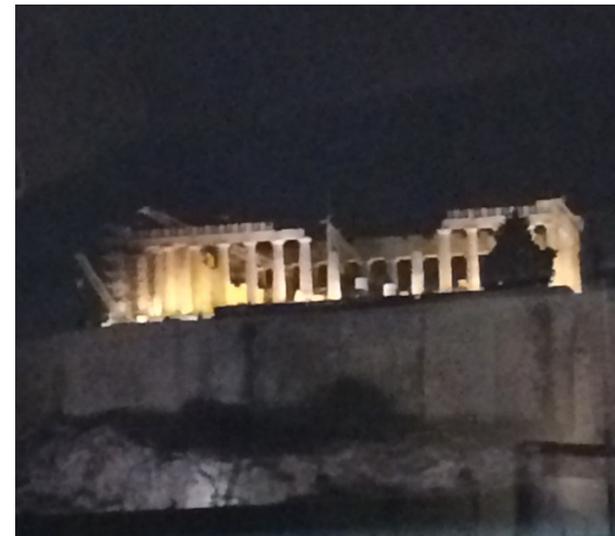
**The Acropolis and surrounding area, like many tourist sites in Europe, can be difficult places to visit if you are in a wheelchair. The ground is ancient stone and full of the pits and holes that thousands of years of traffic creates. There are paved areas that are easy to access, but not all areas are paved and many paths are gravel and dirt.**

**The Ancient Agora could easily be more than one outing and visiting all the buildings might be too much for a young visitor. This is why I have created several books for the Agora, including separate books for the Temple of Hephaestus, the Ancient Agora Museum and the Church of the Holy Apostles.**

**Enjoy your visit to the Acropolis and the surrounding area! These buildings and places of history are something that every person in the world should be able to see. My hope is that Ability Guidebooks will assist more people to see this cradle of civilization and democracy.**

**No visit to Athens is complete without seeing the Parthenon, the Olympian and the Temple of Hephaestus lit up at night. If you can't walk to them all, hop in a taxi and enjoy a loop around the Acropolis!**

**Check the Agora website for a list of free entry days as well as those people who qualify for free entry every day.**



**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 Agora.**



## **Can You Translate?**

**If you can translate this book into Greek or any other language I would love to hear from you!**

**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 Greece, Italy, Finland, the U.K., Latvia, Estonia and the Vatican.**

**Text and Photos by Brett Bigham unless otherwise noted. Thank you Wikipedia for your photo sharing.**

**Thank you to the city of Athens and the staff at the Agora.**

**Special thanks to Mike for giving up part of his weekend for proofreading.**

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