

**Ability Guidebooks  
presents  
Explore Athens!**



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# **I Am Going to the Church of the Holy Apostles!**

**A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit This Byzantine Treasure**

by  
**Brett Bigham**

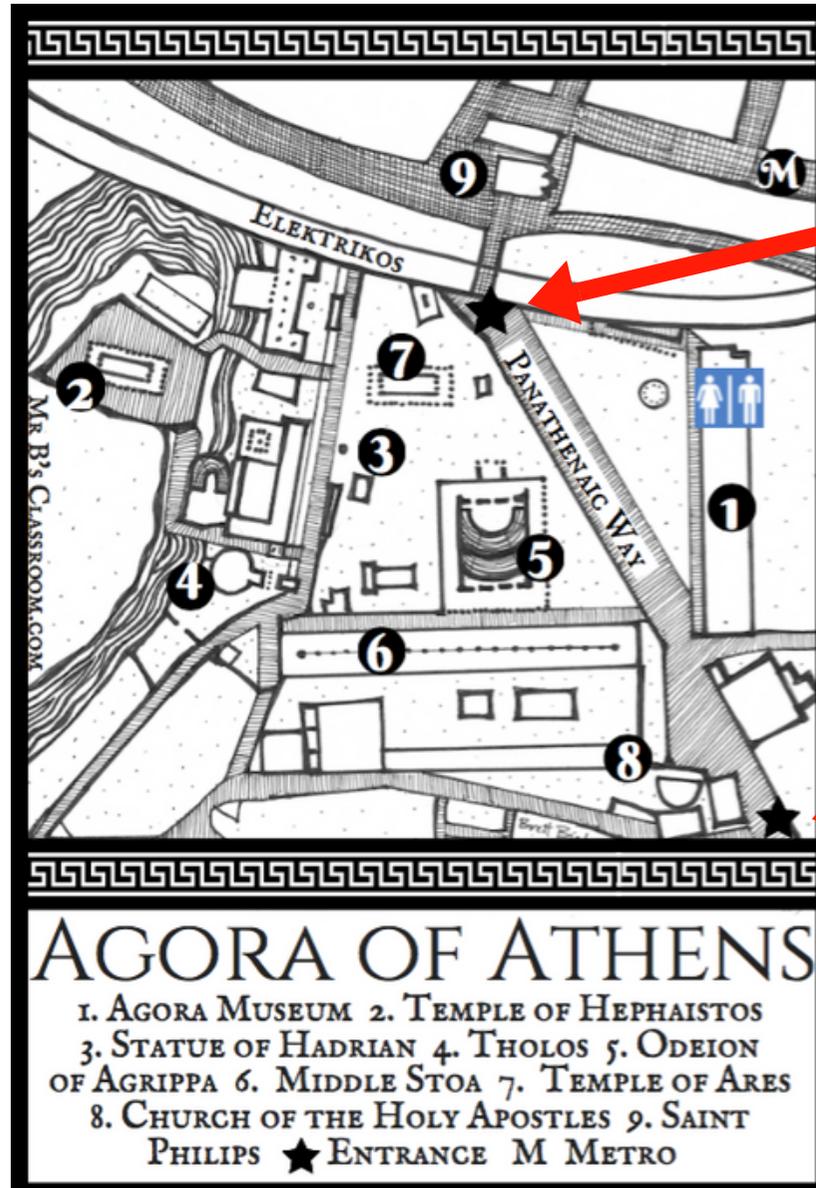
**The Acropolis looms up above the Athens. This is the center of the ancient city. People come from all over the world to climb to the top and visit the Parthenon.**



**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.**



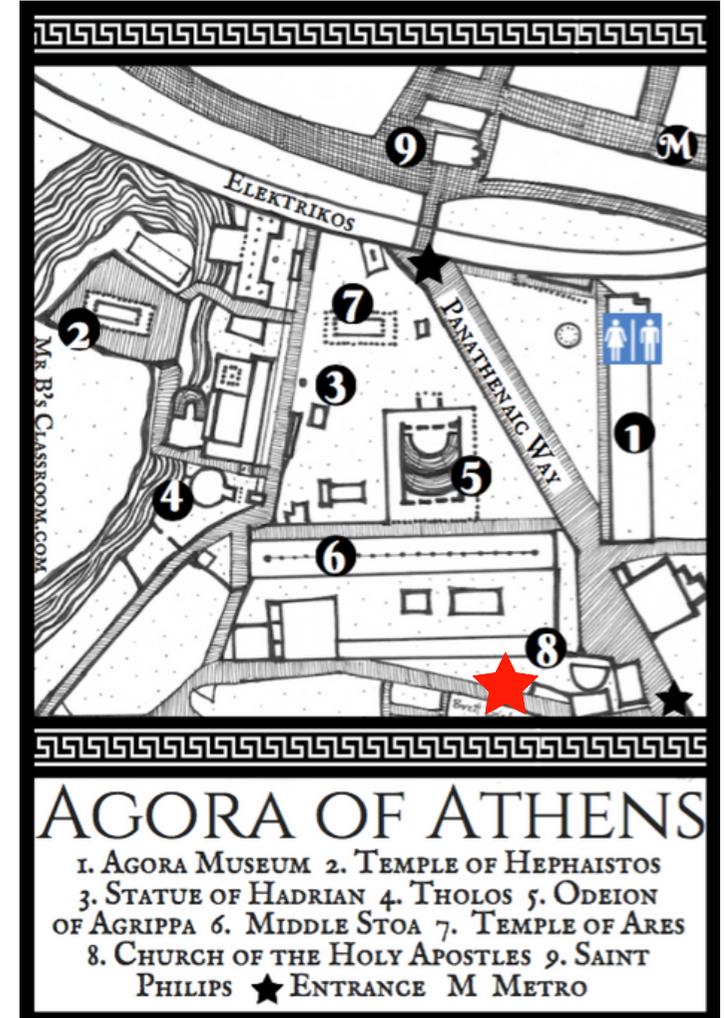
**Main  
Entrance**

**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.**



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



**Many of the Byzantine decorations still survive both inside and outside of the church. This is the brick archway over the main entrance.**



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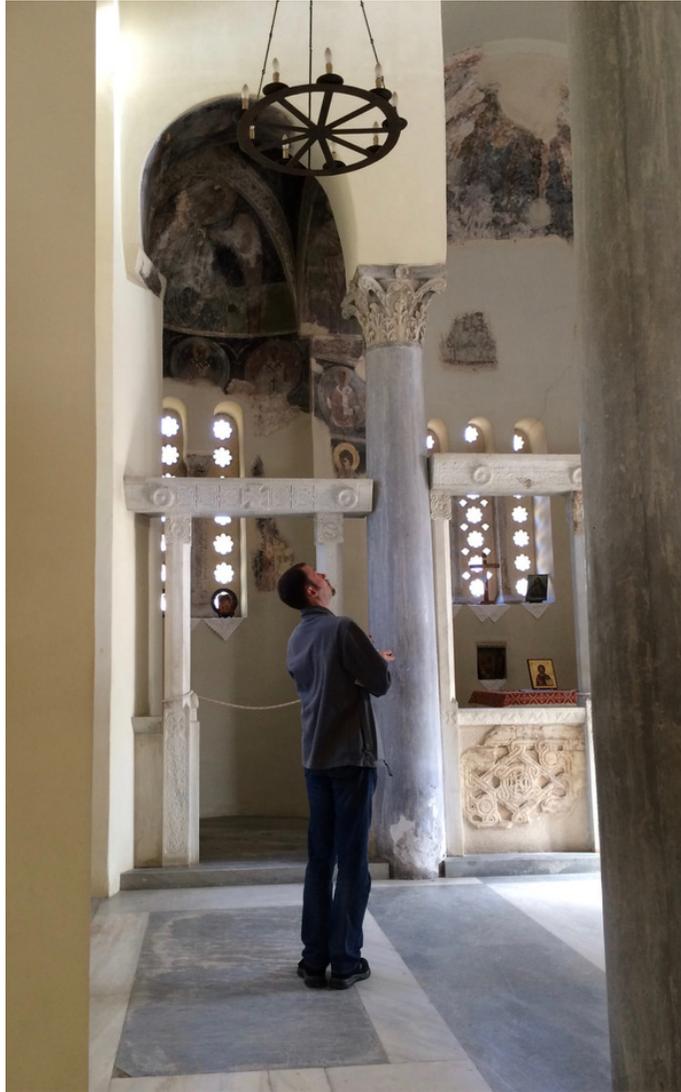
**You can go inside and look at the antique paintings. Do not touch the paintings! They are very old and fragile.**



**Remember, this is a church. It is a serious place. Do not run and use a quiet voice while you visit.**



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



**Surrounding the church are ancient ruins of the Athens Agora. Take some time to wander around the Agora. This is a nice place to sit in the sun and enjoy the ancient stonework. I hope you enjoy your visit!**



**There are beautiful things to see at the Agora. These statues in the Agora Museum were my favorites! Maybe on your next visit you can visit the Museum!**



## **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.**

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