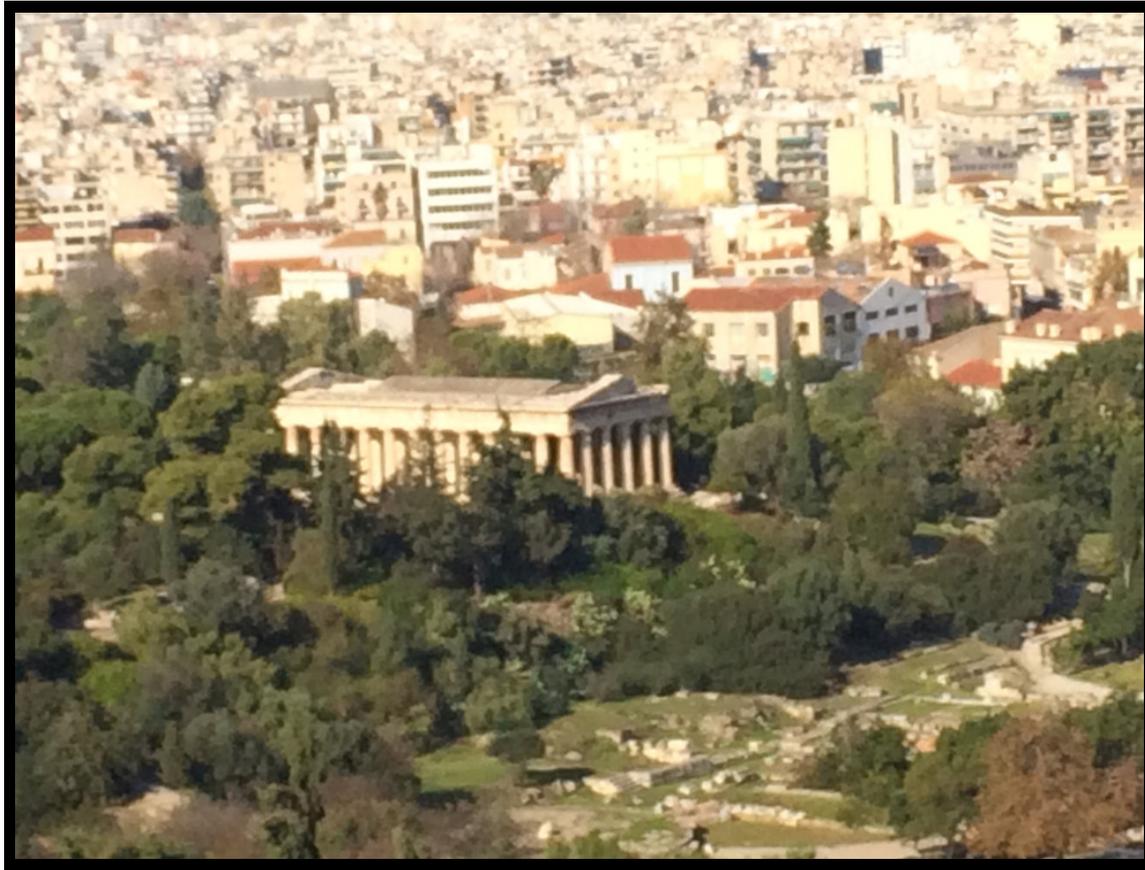


**Ability Guidebooks
presents
Explore Athens!**



I Am Going To The Temple of Hephaestus!

A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit This Ancient 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.



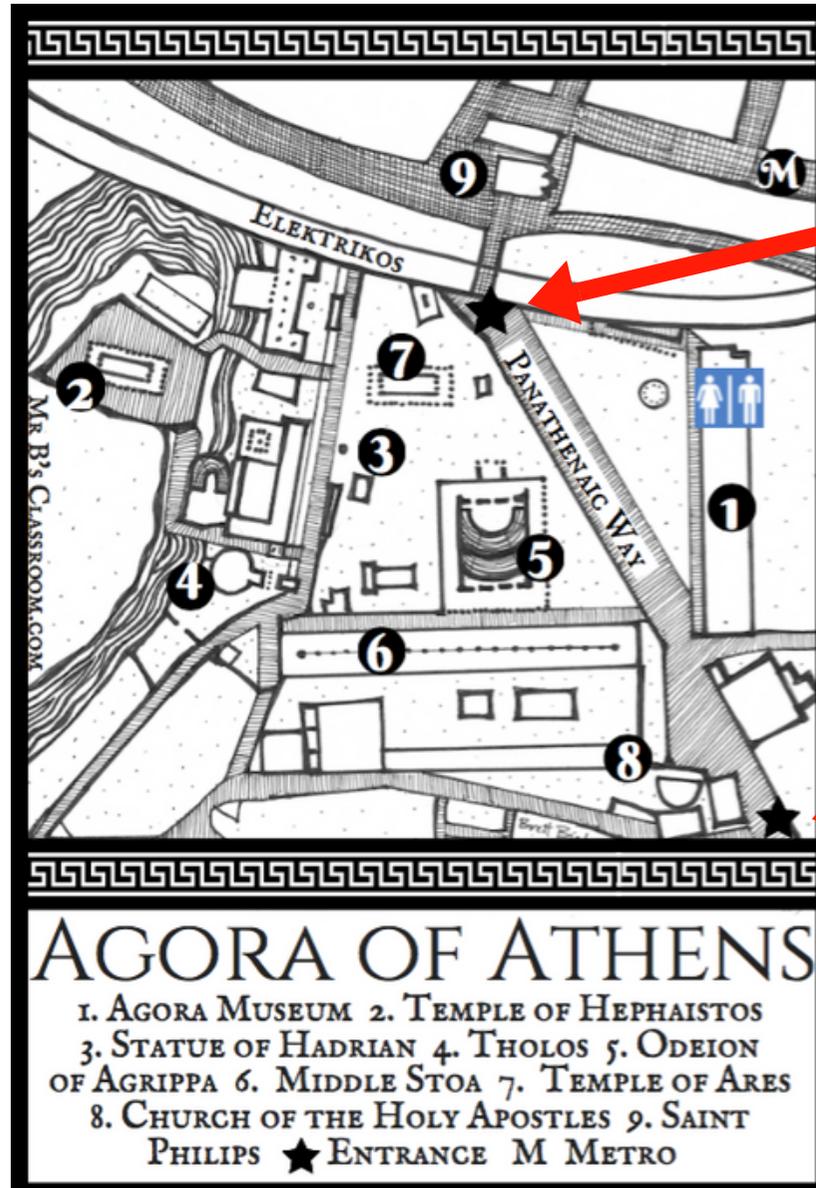
At the base of the Acropolis is the Agora. The Agora is the marketplace of ancient Athens. This is where the Forum and the Temple of Hephaestus were built. Today most of these buildings are in ruins but they are still one of Athen's great destinations.

The Agora



The Acropolis

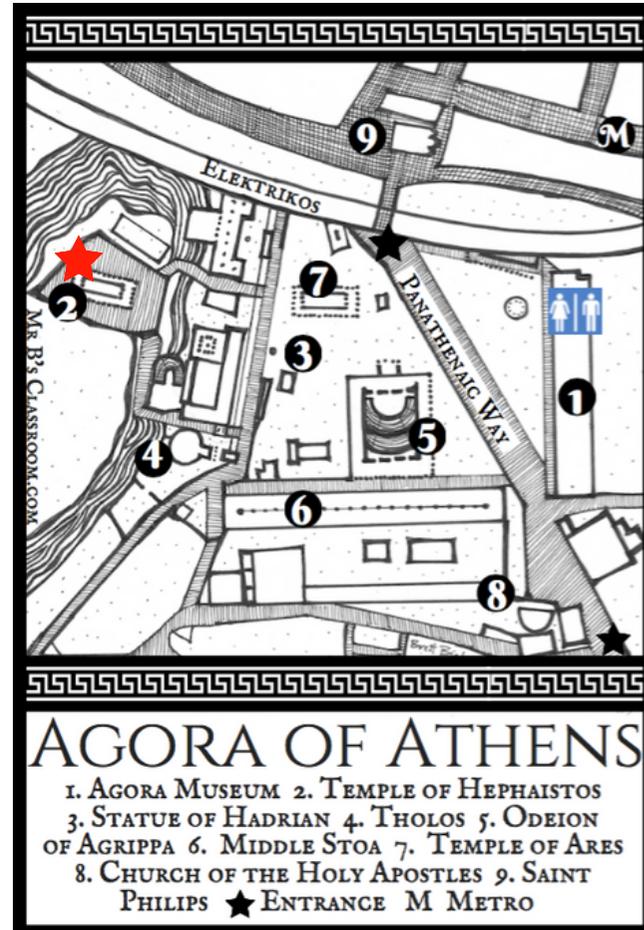
There are some free days to visit but most days you must buy a ticket. People under age 18 are free.



**Main
Entrance**

**Acropolis
Entrance**

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.



Follow the pathway up the hill. 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!



You can see the Parthenon from the front of the Temple.



Make sure you look up! Many of the original carvings are still on the Temple. This type of column top makes this a Doric temple.



You can look through the center of the Temple. Few temples have survived from ancient times. The Temple of Hephaestus is one of the best preserved.



I hope you enjoy your visit to the Temple of Hephaestus. There are many places in the Agora to sit and rest. Find a bench and enjoy the beautiful scenery.



Come back and visit the Agora. You can go to the Church of the Holy Apostles or the Museum of the Ancient Agora of Athens. The Museum has some of the Agora's most famous statues and archaeological finds.



Things to know about visiting the Acropolis Area in Athens:

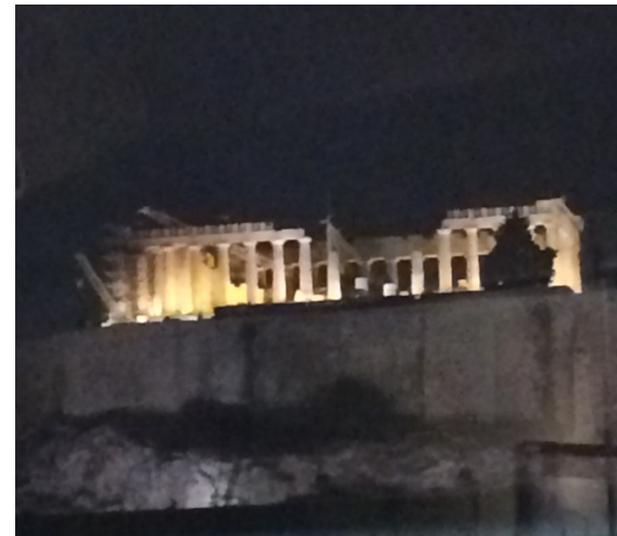
The Acropolis and surrounding area, like many tourist sites in Europe, can be difficult places to visit if you are in a wheelchair. The ground is ancient stone and full of the pits and holes that thousands of years of traffic creates. There are paved areas that are easy to access, but not all areas are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