



**Petra**  
Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority  
ساحل الأردن - إقليم البتراء

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Petra site opening hours**  
*Summer:* 6am to 6pm  
*Winter:* 6am to 4pm

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority 00962-3-215 7093  
Petra Archaeological Park 00962-3-2157763  
www.petrapark.com  
Visitor Center 00962-3-2156044  
Tourist Police 00962-3-2156441  
Civil Defence 00962-3-2154399  
Queen Rania Hospital 00962-3-2150628



**6. The Theatre**  
Carved into the side of the mountain at the foot of the High Place of Sacrifice, the theatre consists of three sections of seating rows separated by passageways. Seven stairways ascend the auditorium, which can accommodate 4000 spectators. The back wall of the stage was rebuilt by the Romans when they later occupied Petra. An earthquake completely destroyed the theater in 363 AD.

This is the name given to the row of monumental Nabataean tombs carved into the southern cliff face; the facades are crowned with corner crow-steps, pilasters and cavettos. Tomb 67 is remarkable for its upper cave, which was probably used to store the tools of the workers who built these tombs. Tomb 825 is a Nabataean funerary monument that is topped by a stepped design (half crow-steps) and a concave molding referred to as an Egyptian cavetto.

**5. The Street of Facades**  
The Siq opens up onto Petra's most magnificent façade; the Treasury, or Al Khazna, which rises to almost 40 meters high. The Treasury is intricately decorated with Corinthian capitals, decorative bands, figures and more, and is crowned by a funerary urn, which according to local legend conceals a pharaoh's treasure. Although the original function is still a mystery, the Treasury is believed to be the mausoleum of the Nabataean King Aretas IV (9 BC- 40 AD).

**4. The Treasury (Al Khazna)**  
The Siq also holds many relics from Petra's past, including a paved road, and Nabataean sacred stones known as baetyls. channels run along both sides. As well as presenting a dramatic entryway into Petra, the Siq also holds a narrow gorge, which resulted from the natural splitting of the mountain, leads visitors into Petra. It is just over 1km long and reveals the vividly colored geology of the area. A triumphal arch once spanned the entrance to it. Two rock-carved water channels run along both sides. As well as presenting a dramatic entryway into Petra, the Siq also holds many relics from Petra's past, including a paved road, and Nabataean sacred stones known as baetyls.

**3. The Siq**  
The Nabataeans were masters in hydrological engineering and they built this dam to divert the flash floods of Wadi Musa from the Siq to Wadi Al Mudhlil and Wadi al Mataha. A tunnel, which is 88m in length, was cut in the rock for this purpose.

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**1. Bab Al Siq**  
'Bab' is Arabic for gateway and the Siq is the spectacular gorge that leads into the ancient city. As you approach the Siq you will see three massive Djinn blocks, which are squared monuments carved from the rock. You will then come to the Obelisk Tomb, which the Nabataeans carved in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Above the tomb are four pyramids (called 'naresh') and a niche with a statue carved in bas-relief that is a symbolic representation of the five people buried there. Below it is the Triclinium (a banqueting hall).

**The Visitor Center**  
The Visitor Center is your point of entry to the ancient city of Petra and its world-renowned monuments. Here you can purchase tickets, book guides and obtain information before visiting the site.

It is not known precisely when Petra was built, but the city began to prosper as the capital of the Nabataean Empire from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, which grew rich through trade in frankincense, myrrh, and spices. Petra was later annexed to the Roman Empire and continued to thrive until a large earthquake in 363 AD destroyed much of the city. The earthquake, combined with changes in trade routes, eventually led to the downfall of the city which was ultimately abandoned. By the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> century Petra appears to have been largely deserted and it was then lost to all except local Bedouin from the area.

In 1812 a Swiss explorer named Johannes Burckhardt set out to 'rediscover' Petra; he dressed up as an Arab and convinced his Bedouin guide to take him to the lost city. After this, Petra became increasingly known in the West as a fascinating and beautiful ancient city, and it began attracting visitors and continues to do so today.

Petra is also known as the rose-red city, a name it gets from the wonderful color of the rock from which many of the city's structures were carved. The Nabataeans buried their dead in intricate tombs that were cut out of the mountain sides and the city also had temples, a theater, and following the Roman annexation and later the Byzantine influence, a colonnaded street and churches.

In addition to the magnificent remains of the Nabataean city, human settlement and land use for over 10,000 years can be traced in Petra, where great natural, cultural, archaeological and geological features merge. There is so much to see and learn in Petra, and each time you visit you will discover something new.



**7. The Royal Tombs**  
This is the name given to the four magnificent adjoining facades on the right side at the end of the central route through the city. The four structures are:

**The Urn Tomb** - This tomb derived its name from the jar that crowns its pediment. A Greek Byzantine inscription records that the hall, which was originally a royal tomb, was converted into a church by Bishop Jason in 447 AD.

**The Silk Tomb** -This tomb is remarkable for the swirls of vividly colored rock that make up its façade.

**The Corinthian Tomb** - The upper part of this tomb is similar to that of the Treasury, but it has been severely eroded over time. The tomb combines various elements of Nabataean and classical architectural styles.

**The Palace Monument** - This dates to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and has a grandiose five-storey façade. A dam and water reservoir located behind the monument were used to drain rainwater into a pool cut into the area near the podium at the back of the tomb. The monument was probably used for banqueting or funerary ceremonies.

**8. The Nymphaeum**  
This is a semi-circular public fountain near the junction of Wadi Musa and Wadi al-Mataha. Six Nabataean columns decorated the façade and it received water from a tank located on the opposite side of the valley. It is shaded by a wild pistachio tree that is 450 years old.

**9. The Church**  
This church was probably built around the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD and it is thought to have been destroyed in the following century either by a fire or by an earthquake. Much of the building material such as the capitals, door jambs and relief were re-used from earlier monuments in Petra. The quality of the well-preserved floor mosaics, which pave both side aisles, attest to the church's significance.

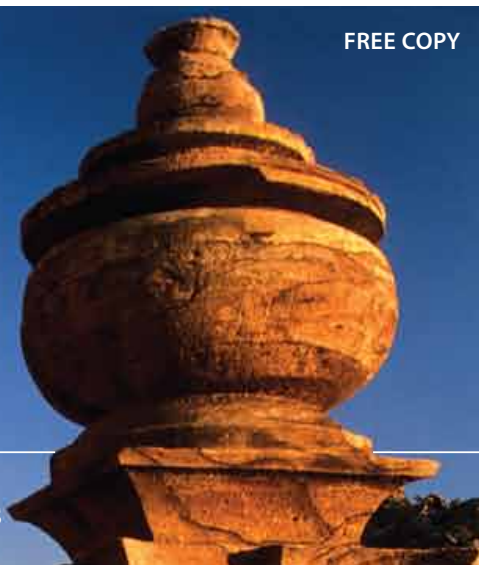
**10. The Colonnaded Street**  
This street represents an original Nabataean creation, later refurbished during the period of Roman occupation. It would have been one of the principal shopping streets of ancient Petra.

**11. Great Temple**  
The Great Temple Complex is one of the major archaeological and architectural monuments of central Petra. It comprises a monumental entryway, a lower temenos, an

upper temenos, and the temple itself. The temenos is a holy area or sacred enclosure in front of a temple where the worshippers would be as only priests were allowed to be inside the temple.

Approximately 15m high, the columns plus the entablature they carried would place the original temple height at a minimum of 18m. The style and quality of the temple's elaborate floral decorative bands and limestone capitals laden with acanthus leaves suggest that this sanctuary was constructed by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC by the Nabataeans who combined their native traditions with the classical spirit.

**12. Qasr al-Bint**  
This monument is almost square and is set on a podium. It was the main temple of Petra and still stands 23m high. The temple is approached by a flight of 26 marble steps. The rear of the sanctuary is occupied by three distinct elements; the middle one protects the altar platform that housed baetyls (stone blocks) representing gods and goddesses and the two others had balcony terraces. It is believed that the goddess al-Uzza/Aphrodite and Baal shaman were the main gods of this temple. The temple dates to the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.



**FREE COPY**

**Petra**

A World Heritage Site and *one* of the *New* Seven World Wonders



## SERVICES


The following services are available inside Petra:

- Soft drinks (only at some kiosks)
- Hot food (Basin and Nabataean Tent restaurants)
- Toilets
- Guiding services
- Horses - only from the Visitor Center to the entrance of the Siq
- Carriages - from the Visitor Center to the Treasury
- Camels - only from Qasr Al-Bint to the Treasury
- Museums (one next to the Basin Restaurant, and a second inside a Nabataean cave above the Nabataean Tent Restaurant)

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) To ensure a safe and enjoyable visit stay on the marked trails.
- 2) Place all litter in the trash cans available throughout the site and keep the area clean.
- 3) Avoid getting near to cliff edges, slippery rocks and other steep or sheer faces and supervise all children closely.
- 4) Help preserve the archaeological site; do not take or purchase any colored stones, pottery shards or plants and do not graffiti.
- 5) Purchasing and trading in antiquities is illegal and prohibited in accordance with the provisions of the Antiquities Law of Jordane Do not attempt to do that.
- 6) Allow plenty of time to finish the tour in daylight; sleeping inside the park is prohibited.
- 7) In hot climates wear a protective hat, appropriate clothing and comfortable footwear.
- 8) If you are lost, stay calm. Sit down and figure out where you are. Four repetitions of any signal are a sign of distress, e.g. shouts, whistles, or torch or camera flashes when it gets dark, etc.
- 9) Camping is only allowed at designated campsites.
- 10) Only the animals listed for transport along the designated trails are permitted in the park; riding other animals is under your own responsibility.
- 11) During rainy days avoid areas and wadis that are subject to sudden flooding. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream and stay in a safe place.

## MAP LEGEND

- Main trail
-  Visitor Center
-  Tickets
-  Toilets
-  Parking area
-  Restaurant
-  No Entry
-  Emergency

Main trail distance: 4 km



Petra main trail