

# CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly  
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## Profile

# Ancient Capital of the Nabataeans Empire: Petra, Jordan (2)



When I was visiting Jordan, the name of our tour bus was "Sultan." I liked the name. Originally, Sultan was an Arabic abstract noun meaning "strength," "authority," or "power." Although the air-conditioning may not be to North American standards, the vehicle was the highest quality local transportation. Our tour guide had a strong accent, but I understood everything he said.

The ancient city of Petra in Jordan is a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1985, and it was announced as one of the new Seven Wonders of the World in 2007. The day before I was to visit Petra, my mind was full of anticipation.

For the exterior walking portions of the tour, I was advised to take the appropriate weather gear and wear comfortable walking shoes. I found out that dress in layers also helped me to

adjust to the different temperatures in different areas I was visiting.

The Visitor Center is our first point of entry to the ancient city of Petra. From here I purchased my ticket, booked a tour guide, and got information about visiting the site. Horses can be booked from the Visitor Center to the entrance of the Siq. Camels can be booked from Qasr Al-Bint to the Treasury. There is a museum at the Visitor Center.

The main trail includes Bab Al Siq, the Dam, the Treasury, High Place of Sacrifice, the Theatre, the church, the Great Temple, the monument of Qasr al-Bint, Ad Deir (the Monastery), and the Royal Tombs. The Bab Al Siq is Arabic for gateway to the "siq." The Siq is a narrow gorge leads visitors into Petra. The Siq was resulted from a natural splitting of the mountain and it is 1.2 km long.

Founded by Nabataeans more than 2,000 years ago at the crossroads of Arabia, Egypt, and Syria-Phoenicia, Petra derived its wealth from the caravan trade. Petra's remote mountain location kept it hidden for centuries.

Petra is also called the Rose Red Desert 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.

In addition to the awesome 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.

Petra is a fascinating and beautiful city. This ancient fortress city was half-built and half-carved from rock. The towering cliffs in the Shara Mountains added to the breath-taking scenery.

After my amazing visit to Petra, I knew how lucky

I was to have discovered the wonders of one of the world's most famous archaeological sites. Having witnessed the incredible natural beauty of Petra puts a twinkle in my eyes. I must take that light and let it guide me along the intriguing path of discovery.



▲ the ancient city of Petra in Jordan is a UNESCO World Heritage Site



▲ today, Petra is a tourist attraction with modern accomodation



▲ our tour bus is named "Sultan" which means "power" in Arabic language



▲ Jordan's legendary Petra is also known as the Rose Red Desert City

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