

CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly
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Profile

My Middle Eastern Journey through Jordan (4)



The Middle East is one of history's grand epics – a cradle of fascinating civilizations and a glorious, enigmatic land

destination; it is a place of my inspiration.

Jordan has a number of good walking paths. Trails thread through the northern forest reserves. Some of the adventurous routes lead above Wadi waterfalls. Local tour guides help visitors negotiate myriad trails in Petra and Wadi Rum. For inspiring walks in nature, a trip to Jordan promises lots of fun.

Ever since Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt rediscovered this spectacular site in 1812, the ancient Nabataean city of Petra has been drawing crowds. This is one of the Middle East's most treasured tourist attractions. History was brought alive at every turn.

Jordan has many world-class monuments, boasting some of the finest Roman ruins outside Italy's Rome. Some of the ruins are carefully preserved.

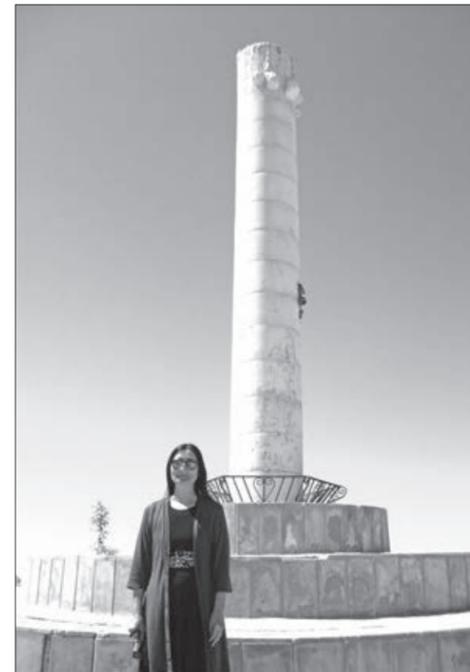
When I was wrapping up my visit to the main monuments in that area, the crimson sun set over the expansive landscape. I was deeply affected by its indescribable magic.

The Middle East is famous for its mighty deserts, such as the splendid Wadi Rum, the

Sahara, and green landscapes of exceptional beauty. The Middle East is also a land of mighty rivers, such as the Nile and the Euphrates. It occurred to me that this life is like a mighty river, we can scoop a pail or two out of it and it still keeps rolling along.

Jordan has delighted visitors from all around the globe for centuries with its World Heritage Sites, wonderful towns, and intriguing desert landscapes. A visit here is one of the most soulful travel experiences on earth for me. After going in search of T.E. Lawrence as a curious tourist, I sipped tea with rug-makers and played a shepherd among a herd of goats in the desert.

Traveling has helped me to renew my spirit and refresh my soul. Beautiful and blessed with a number of wonders, Jordan inspires my admiration primarily because of its spirit of generous optimism. When I was there, it opened its arms to strangers like me and shared its amazing history with me. Jordan was definitely becoming a friend of mine.



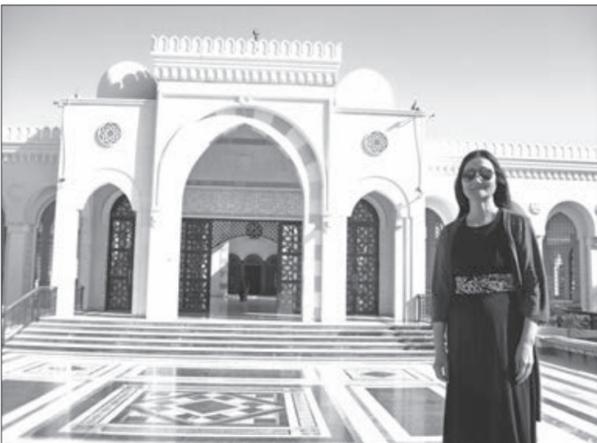
▲ Jordan boasts some of the finest Roman ruins outside Rome

that has some of the most gracious people I have ever met. The roads are wide and the landscape is vast. The blue waters of the Red Sea add to the region's appeal. The flatness of the ocean lets me see for miles in every direction.

In the Middle East, history is not something people just read about in books. Here, it is a story written on the stones in the region. The delicately carved temples are an awesome sight. In the Middle East, the past is always present because history is the heart and soul of the land. It was refreshing to see such an awareness of history.

Numerous sightseeing sites are filled with spiritual significance.

For me, Jordan is more than just a



▲ this pristine mosque in Jordan is an architectural masterpiece



▲ seeing palm trees in desert Jordan was a pleasant surprise



▲ in Jordan, history is the heart and soul of the land

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