

PETRA

CAPITAL OF THE NABATAEANS

More than two thousand years old, Petra was built by the Nabataeans in the heart of the Shara Mountains. It prospered in the first centuries BC and AD and was a vital part of a major trading route connecting ancient, Mesopotamia and Egypt. Today intricate facades sculpted into the sandstone cliffs of the area can still be seen, along with other remarkably preserved structure and monuments of this fascinating civilization.

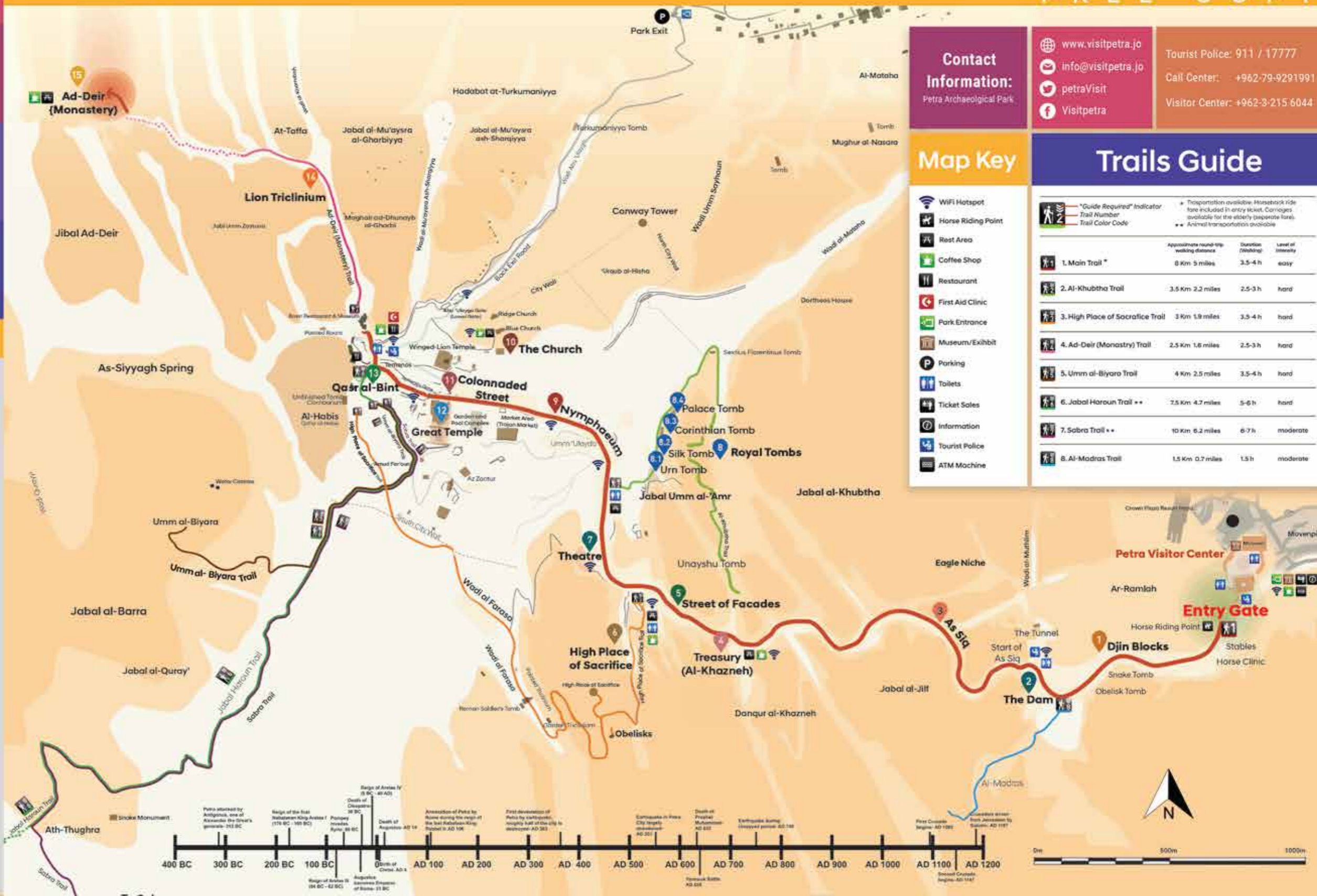
Services

The following services are available inside Petra:

- **Soft drinks:** Only at some kiosks.
- **Hot food:** Basin and Nabataean Tent restaurants.
- **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.
- **Museum:** At the Visitor Center.
- **Toilets.**

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ENGLISH



Rules

- Purchase ticket from the Visitor Center only and keep your ticket stub for the length of your stay within the park, don't resell your ticket to other tourists.
- The ticket is valid from the date of issue without interruption and doesn't include the Petra by night events.
- Preserve the archaeological site, don't collect colored stone pottery shards or plants. Graffiti is prohibited.
- Please report any mistreatment of animals to the Visitor Center, tourist police or park rangers. Riding unlicensed animals is at your own risk.
- Sleeping inside the park is prohibited. You are kindly requested to leave the site before sunset.
- If you are lost stay calm and try to figure out where you are. Four repetitions of any signal are a sign of distress (e.g. shouts, whistles or torch/camera flashes).
- On rainy days avoid wadis and narrow areas subject to sudden flooding. Don't attempt to cross a flowing stream and stay in a safe place.
- Stay on the marked trails. Kindly place all litter in the trash cans.
- Avoid getting near steep and slippery edges. Supervise children closely.
- Petra is a geo-archaeological site where natural hazards (e.g. flash-floods, landslides, earthquakes) can occur unexpectedly.
- Please do not encourage child labour, park roamers and any other illegal trading within the park.
- Please ask for permission to take photos of individuals/locals.
- The Siq slopes are prone to crack fall it's currently monitored by experts. Please don't remove any devices installed. Climbing is not allowed.

PETRA

MORE THAN A WONDER

It is not known precisely when Petra was built, but the city began to prosper as the capital of the Nabataean Empire from the 1st 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 in the 4th century AD. 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 7th 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 colour 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 theatre, 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.

The Visitor Center



The Visitor Center is your first point of entry to the ancient city of Petra. From here you can purchase tickets, book guides and get information about visiting the site.

The Museum



The Main Trail

1 Djinn Blocks



Here you will see three massive Djinn blocks, which are squared monuments. You will then come across the Obelisk Tomb, carved by the Nabataeans in the 1st century AD. Above the tomb are four pyramids (nafesh) and a niche with a statue in bas-relief that symbolizes the five people buried there. Below is the Triclinium, a banqueting hall. On the opposing cliff face there is a double inscription in Nabataean and Greek that refers to a burial monument. Written by "Abdomanochos", it indicates that the tomb was to be used for himself and his family, probably in the reign of Malichus II (40 - 70 AD).

2 The Dam

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

3 The Siq



This narrow gorge leads visitors into Petra. The Siq resulted from a natural splitting of the mountain and it is 1.2 km long. A triumphal arch once spanned the entrance to it. Two water channels run along both rock sides. As well as presenting a dramatic entryway into Petra, the Siq also holds many relics from Petra's past, including a paved road, Sabinos Alexander Station, and Nabataean baetyls (sacred stones).

4 The Treasury (Al Khazna)



The Siq opens up onto Petra's most magnificent façade: the Treasury, or Al Khazna. It is almost 40 meters high and intricately decorated with Corinthian capitals, friezes, figures and more. The Treasury is crowned by a funerary urn, which according to local legend conceals a pharaoh's treasure. The Treasury was probably constructed in the 1st century BC.

5 The Street of Facades

This is the name given to the row of monumental Nabataean tombs carved in the southern cliff face that lies past the Treasury and adjacent to the outer Siq. The facades are crowned with corner crow-steps, pilasters and cavettos. Tomb 67 is remarkable for its upper cave, probably used to store the tools of the workers who built them. Tomb 825 is a Nabataean funerary monument topped by the side half crow-steps and an Egyptian cavetto.

6 High Place of Sacrifice



A place of worship on a mountain plateau, you can reach the High Place of Sacrifice by climbing rock-cut steps to the top where you will be rewarded with spectacular views of the ancient city below. The High Place was used for important religious ceremonies.

7 The Theatre



Carved into the side of the mountain at the foot of the High Place of Sacrifice, the theatre consists of three rows of seats separated by passage ways. Seven stairways ascend the auditorium and it can accommodate 4000 spectators. The back wall of the stage was rebuilt by the Romans. This is the only theatre in the world carved into the rock.

8 The Royal Tombs



This is the name given to the four magnificent facades adjacent to each other on the right side at the end of the main path through the middle of the city. The four structures are:

- 8.1 Urn Tomb**
This derived its name from the jar that crowns the pediment. It was probably constructed around 70 AD. The tomb is preceded by a deep courtyard with colonnades on two sides. High up in the facade there are three niche that open into small burial chambers. In 446 AD the tomb was adapted to serve as a Byzantine church.
- 8.2 Silk Tomb**
This tomb is remarkable for the swirls of different coloured rock that make up its façade.
- 8.3 Corinthian Tomb**
The upper part of this tomb is similar to that of the Treasury, but it is severely eroded. The tomb combines various elements of both Nabataean and classical architectural styles.
- 8.4 Palace Tomb**
This dates to the early 2nd century AD and has a grandiose five-storey façade. A dam and water reservoir are located behind the monument drain rainwater to a pool cut to the north of its podium. The monument was probably used for banqueting or funerary.

9 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.

10 The Church



This church was probably built around the end of the 5th century AD and was destroyed by a fire or probably an earthquake in the following century. 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 floor mosaics, which pave both side aisles and are well preserved, attest to the church's significance.

11 The Colonnaded Street



The 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.

12 Great Temple



The Great Temple Complex represents one of the major archaeological and architectural monuments of central Petra. It is estimated to cover an area of 7000 square meters, including the north and south of the monumental entryway, or lower temenos (holy enclosure), and an upper temenos - the sacred enclosure for the temple itself. 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 friezes and acanthus-laden limestone capitals suggest that the sanctuary was constructed by the end of the 1st century BC by the Nabataeans who combined their native traditions with the classical spirit.



13 Qasr al-Bint



The monument is almost square and is set on a podium. It was the main and most important temple of Petra, dedicated to Dushara. It still stands 23m high today. 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 gods and goddesses and the two others had balcony terraces. The temple dates to the first half of the 1st century AD.

14 The Lion Triclinium



This can be seen on the way to Ad Deir and is so-named because of two lions carved on both sides of the entrance. The façade is decorated with a band of grooves (triglyphs) and spaces (metopes) with the head of Medusa at each end. There are two benches inside, and a baetyl (God block) in a niche is carved to the left of the doorway.

15 Ad Deir



Ad Deir, or the Monastery, is one of the largest monuments in Petra measuring 47m wide by 48.3m high. The interior is occupied by two side benches and an altar against the rear wall. This space was used as a triclinium for the meetings of religious associations.

The Monastery dates to the early 2nd century AD, during the reign of King Rabbel II. The hall was later re-used as a Christian chapel and crosses were carved into the rear wall, this is how the structure got its name.

Petra is a UNESCO world heritage site since 1985, and it was announced as one of the new Seven Wonders of the World during a star-studded event held on July 7th, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.



www.visitpetra.jo