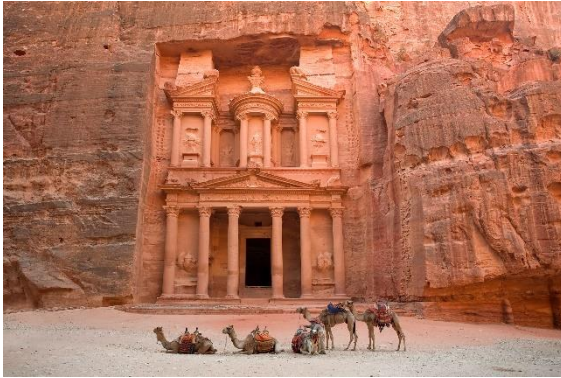




Petra

Jordan



Petra, originally known in Aramaic as **Raqmu**, is a historical and archaeological city in **southern Jordan**. The city is famous for its **rock-cut architecture** and **water conduit system**. Another name for Petra is '**The Rose City**' owing to the color of the stone out of which it is carved, and which makes it into one of the **New 7 Wonders of the World**. Petra was established as early as **312 BCE** as the capital city of the **Nabataeans**, a group of nomadic Arabs who took advantage of Petra's proximity to regional trade routes so as to make it into a **major trading hub**. The Nabataeans were known in antiquity for their great rock-carving ability, which is well-displayed on this archeological site. Petra lies on the slope of **Jebel al-Madhbah** (identified by some as the biblical **Mount Hor**), in a basin among the mountains which form the eastern flank of **Wadi Araba**, the large valley running from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba. It has been a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since **1985**, but the site had remained unknown to the Western world until **1812**, when it was made known to Europeans by Swiss explorer **Johann Ludwig Burckhardt**. Soon after its discovery, Petra was made immortal by the description "a rose-red city half as old as time" in a Newdigate Prize-winning poem by **John William Burgon**, dated **1845**.

Click on the Pictures for two **VIDEOS** on Petra