

# The great history of Petra

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## HISTORY

### ANTIQUITY



Around 1200 B.C. the Edomites were the first to occupy the present site of the city of Petra. Originally from the Kingdom of Edom (southern Jordan), these nomadic tribes were famous for their textiles, ceramics, and metalwork. Nowadays, their legacies on the site are traces of a series of forts above promontories to protect them from possible attack.

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### MIDDLE AGES



In the Middle Ages, the city was depopulated and in 700 it was only a small village, ignored even by the expansion of Islam.

The city falls step by step into oblivion.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES



The Nabatean city was rediscovered by the Western world in 1812 thanks to the Swiss explorer Jean-Louis Burckhardt. Unfortunately, the geopolitical situation at the time did not allow him to study the remains of the forgotten city in detail and he had to be satisfied with crossing it without even being able to take notes. However, he shared his discovery with the Westerners settled in Syria and Egypt. It was necessary to wait 6 years for a true expedition to take place, led by William John Banks, an English Egyptologist. He and his team stayed a few days and made sketches of the place. Thereafter, Petra was the subject of many expeditions and archaeological research.



The first constructions of the Nabateans were simply dug into the rock in a rather rustic way. Gradually, the inhabitants were inspired by the architectural styles of neighboring civilizations to create more complex facades. Traces of Hellenistic architecture can also be found in the appearance of the public buildings, be it the columns or the peristyle. The living and working places of the inhabitants are more of Arab inspiration.



## PETRA IN ART AND CULTURE

Since his rediscovery Petra subjugates and inspires, that's how many works saw the light of day. Several painters made representations of it.

The Nabataean city also made some appearances on large screen that it is in Indiana Jones and the last crusade, Transformers 2, The Return of the Mummy or Mortal Kombat: Final Destruction. The video game Overwatch also paid homage to him by recreating the city in a futuristic world.

