



Jordan : 2000 years of History



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French Version
English Version

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A documentary of 52'

High Definition
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The Kingdom of Jordan is strewn with the traces of its fertile history, the influence of Greek, Roman and Muslim rulers.

Amann, the capital, is dominated by the 'citadelle,' the name given to the Umayyad palace which sits on a hill in the centre of the city. The domed wooden structure dates back to the 8th century. Archaeologists have discovered both Greek and Nabatean relics here.

Not far away, looking out over the Dead Sea, is Mount Nebo, where Moses is said to have passed away, as well as the town of Madaba, with its churches full of ancient mosaics.

The country's Roman past is visible to this day, especially at Jerash, one of the best preserved ancient cities, where emperors such as Hadrien are known to have invested in ambitious architectural projects.

Jordan is full of monumental sites which bear testament to its rich history. A stunning example is Petra, which represents the Nabatean period.

Cut into the rock of the cliffs, PETRA, « the pink city » was the capital of the Nabateans, a caravan people who transported myrrh, incense, and other precious commodities of the far East towards the Mediterranean.

In the South, is the Wadi Rum desert, the largest and most majestic of the Jordanian deserts. It is a large valley which sits on a plateau of granite, closed in by the grey-red cliffs that line the sides of the valley over a stretch of roughly 70km.

Still surrounded by the fortifications of the old city, the ancient crusader stronghold of Kerak, stands on the top of a hillside at some 900m above sea level. A simple glance at the extraordinary forms of this city and of its fortified castle, leaves you in no doubt as to why, for thousands of years, the fates of Kings and nations were decided here.

In the desert, however, the over-riding influence is that of the Muslim princes, who built houses in this once fertile land, where they came to hunt. Castles such as Quasr el Kharaneh , and Quasr al- Amra once stood amongst orchards in a land rich with game.

The Jordanian desert, is characterized by its castles, the Al Azraq castle, fortress of Diocletian, for example, was rebuilt by the Mamluks at the start of the 13th century. It is an impressive structure built out of black basalt rock, with an Umayyad mosque in the centre.