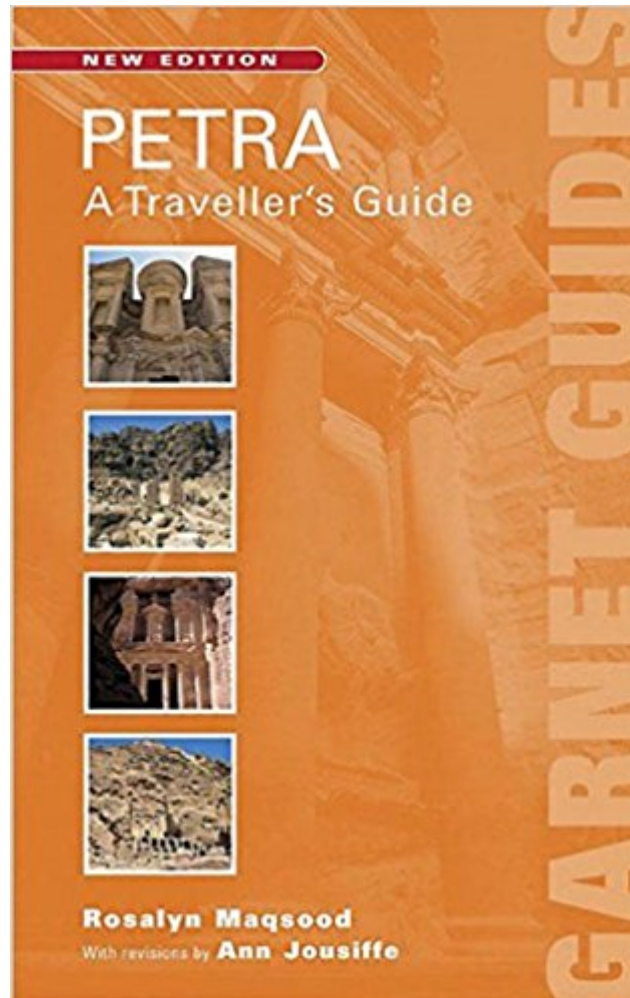




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Petra: A Travelers Guide



Synopsis

This completely updated and revised third edition includes: detailed maps of walks around the city; comprehensive tours of monuments, tombs and ancient religious sites; practical advice on where to stay and what to take; and a complete account of the city's Nabatean, biblical and Roman history. Petra is a symbol of the hidden treasures of the Near East and one of the world's most spectacular and popular travel destinations. Its famous rose-red cliffs in which its ancient inhabitants carved lavish funeral monuments were hidden for many centuries, until their rediscovery in 1812. This long desertion means that the ruins are well preserved, and the visitor can now enjoy exploring the many hectares covered by the city. The Nabateans' remarkable civilization was enriched by their sustained power in commerce and war, and was reflected in their capital. The Romans added to Petra's glory by building a theatre, an aqueduct and colonnades. With the help of this guidebook, the visitor can relive the wonder. Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, the 'discoverer' of Petra, must have felt when he looked for the first time on this most famous lost city.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Petra: A Traveller's Guide is a comprehensive key to the ancient abode of the Nabateans, one of the lost cities of the ancient world. This handsomely illustrated paperback offers history, help in planning your trip, how to get there from Amman or Aqaba, useful phrases and addresses, and 12 walking tours, plus an overnight itinerary. Also practical advice how to survive: using the non-existent toilet, dealing with insects, going Bedouin, resisting romantic encounters with the natives, and proper behavior and dress. -- 15MinutesMagazine.com, 2009/01

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Rosalyn Maqsood has travelled widely through the Holy Land and the Middle East, but has a particular affection for Jordan and its people. She has travelled extensively around Petra as the guest of a generous Bedouin, and so has a detailed knowledge of the area. She is the author of numerous books on Islam and religious studies, and has a particular insight into Jordan's local history, culture and traditions. As an Englishwoman abroad, her practical tips and advice will be particularly welcome to Western travellers. Ann Jousiffe was an experienced journalist, photographer and writer of travel guides. Her previous publications include Lebanon (Lonely Planet, 1998) and contributing chapters to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (Lonely Planet, 1999) and North Africa (Lonely Planet, 1998). Sadly, she passed away before this book was published.

This was a very good book to read right before my trip to Petra Jordan. It gave a lot of historical background information about Petra and its history. I would recommend you read this book before visiting Petra (ie. on the plane) or a few days prior to arriving. This is not a book that you would want to read while actually in Petra (1) because Petra is huge place - a lot to see and explore (2) Since the writer gives a lot of in depth information it might distract the visitor from experiencing and absorbing Petra. Regardless, the book does not do Petra justice. Truly an amazing place. I've been to many great places in the world. Petra ranks up there with the Taj, Angkor Wat etc . . . and it's over a 1000 year old.

Sorry but too much chit chat and color commentary when what I was looking for was information. I found "Rough Guide to Jordan" much more helpful in regards to Petra specifically and Jordan in general.

By far the best travel guide to Petra I've ever come across! Rich in historic background and incredibly helpful maps. I wish Maqsood had cited her references. I liked to have followed up on some of her info.

Family loved Petra and enjoyed the background information provided at the beginning of this book (60+ pages). The author has a definite point of view. The actual walking tours were reasonably well described, but that was definitely not a strong point of the book. However, am not aware of any other book that is better. Also, do not expect this to be a picture book.

I'm fascinated by Petra and its history. I loved the travelers guide.

A little too formal and not detailed enough about how to actually get there from Amman, Jordan

If you are planning to actually travel to Jordan and visit Petra this book is invaluable. The first part is devoted to the history of Petra. The second part provides walking tours with detailed directions for walking step by step to the various sections of Petra. The advice is from a writer who has obviously been down each of these trails many times. Advice is given about how strenuous each section of each trail is. You are told what to bring, where to eat, what time of day is best to walk each trail to avoid the hot sun, how to deal with the local residents, phrases in Arabic that could be of practical use. and each trail has an individual carefully marked map with all the tombs, temples, wadis and paths shown. This is a very practical and useful book to bring with you. While there are photos of the primary sights in Petra that is not the most important part of this book.. I have read many other books about Petra and they primarily are photo books where this is more useful while you visit.

I took this book to Jordan with me. It was the perfect guide. The book was in good condition and arrived promptly.

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