

一座失落的古城,一棟棟雕琢在山崖之上的精美建築,孤獨高貴的於大漠夕陽下,閃爍著玫瑰色的光彩,滿懷

期待地靜候著下一次輝煌的到來。

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想要進入入佩特拉古城,西克峽谷是必經之路。騎馬走在長度為1.2公里的亂石路上,這條最窄處僅有2米左右的狹窄通道,被兩旁高達80米的石崖小心翼翼地呵護著。沿著迤邐幽暗的小路前行,兩旁石壁上的雕像如列隊的衛兵一樣守護著我們。沿著導遊手指的方向,一條陶製的管道曾經將水源引入這座城市。那些造型精美優雅石灰岩柱似乎將我們帶回了古羅馬時代,他們曾經是這座古城的統治者之一。

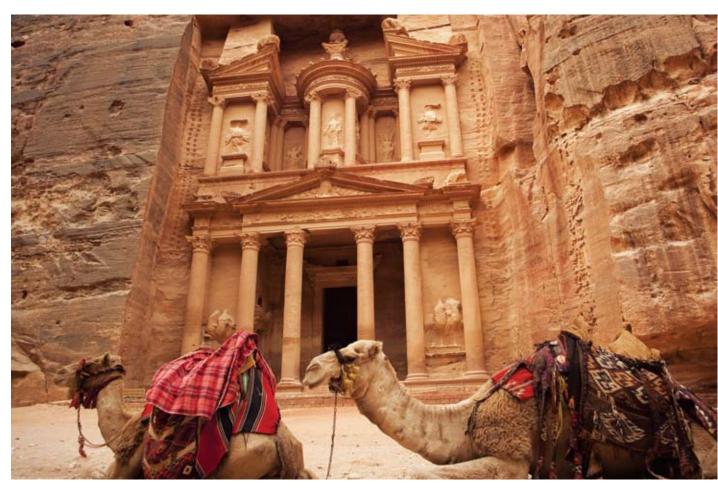
驀然間,一座嵌在岩石山中的龐大建築出現在眼前,這便是佩特拉舉世間名的建築——「寶庫」(Treasury)。陽光落在這座上下兩層,高度超過40米的恢宏建築之上,精美的石柱、門楣,矗立在石柱間的神像,歷經千年時光,你仍可以輕易想像出當年的壯麗輝煌。很難相信這樣一座龐大的建築居然完全由人工在岩石上——一斧地擊刻出來。

然而,這還不是奇蹟的全部,當我們左轉向下走,在 沙漠山谷間的一片開闊地帶,數百處建築物依山壁雕鑿而成,歷代國王的墓葬、神殿、巨大的神廟,以及民宅不知 於何時便隱藏在這裏,甚至還有一座依山坡而建的古羅馬 式戲院。 azing up at Petra's monuments – feet sinking into soft red sand and dust swirling about – you can't help but be amazed by the genius of its ancient Nabatean builders. Wealthy traders and masterful sculptors, they chiseled a vast city of beautifully carved royal tombs, sacred halls, mammoth temples and cave houses out of rose-and-peach rock in the Jordanian desert. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Petra today ranks alongside the Great Wall of China as one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World."

To reach Petra, a horse carries you along a stony track to the "Siq," the narrow 1.2-kilometre canyon snaking through one of the mountains guarding the metropolis. Sandstone cliffs soar 80 metres on either side as you walk the Siq's twists. Stone idols line the passage, and guides point out clay pipes that fed water into the city. Limestone slabs you're walking on date back to Roman times.

Suddenly, the Treasury, carved into a sheer rock wall, comes into view. Sunlight glows on this monument's façade: double rows of 12 Corinthian columns, crowned by a giant stone urn. Left, down a colonnaded street, hundreds of royal tombs, sacred halls, cave houses and even an amphitheatre sprawl before you in a desert valley.

The Nabateans started building Petra around the 5th century B.C. While they likely chose its site for easy



在穿越了狹窄的西克峽谷之後,壯麗精美的,雕鑿在岩石之內的「寶 庫」會躍入您的眼簾。這處據說曾經埋藏有寶物的墓葬,被認為是佩特

另一處讓現代人感到驚奇的建築是修道院(Monastery),當 落日的餘暉照進這座修道院時,一個石獅雕像頭部的影子會 gold were taxed by the Nabateans when they made safe passage through Petra's corridors.

投射至對面的岩石上,而獅子是納巴泰文明中的神聖動物。 不過,想要探訪這處神奇的修道院並非易事,在氣喘吁吁地 爬上850個花崗岩石階之後,你可以在頂端享用一杯貝多因人 據推測,佩特拉古城是由納巴泰人興建於公元前六世

紀之後,當初選擇此處建築城市的主要原因是易守難攻, 入口處的西克峽谷是天然的屏障,真可謂一夫當關,萬夫 莫開。在公元前一世紀前後,佩特拉曾做為連接死海和阿 卡巴海峽的東西方商路而盛極一時。載滿香料、絲綢和黃 金的駱駝商隊,會向納巴泰人繳納通關費,確保商隊安全 通過西克峽谷。

至公元後三世紀,隨著新的海上和路上商道的興起, 佩特拉古城逐步走向衰落。至七世紀,當阿拉伯人來到這 裹時,已是空城一座。此後,直到1812年,在瑞士探險家 J.L.伯爾克哈特(Johann Ludwig Burckhardt)重新發現這 裹之後,佩特拉古城才再次走入了歐洲人的視線。到目前為 止,佩特拉僅有60%的遺址被發掘出來,關於這座失落古城 的傳奇必將在今後不斷延續。

defence, the stronghold stood at the crossroads of ancient trade routes linking East and West. Travellers on caravans of camels loaded with spices, incense, silks and

After passing through the city's narrow entryway, the intricately carved "Trea-

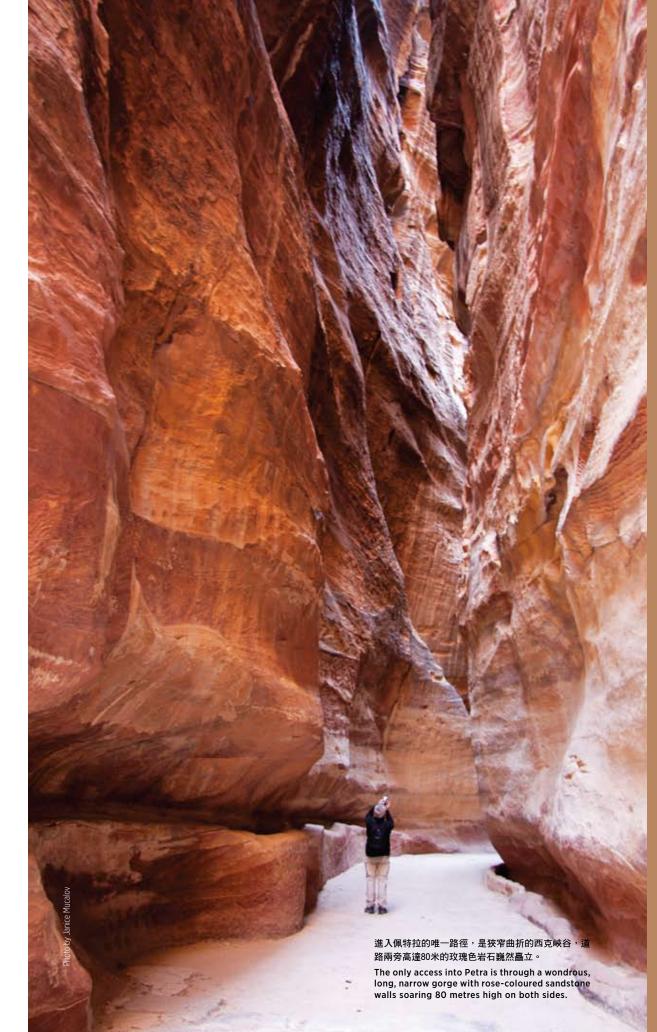
sury" suddenly bursts into view. It's believed the stone urn crowning Petra's

most famous monument once hid treasure.

Researchers have discovered the Nabateans sculpted their monuments to capture key celestial events and create images with sunlight. The setting sun etches a sacred lion's head near the Monastery.

Petra's grandest edifice, the Monastery, perches atop 850 sandstone stairs that twist through even more otherworldly canyons. Enjoy a respite inside its awe-inspiring architecture, take in polychrome views and enjoy a refreshing tea from a simple Bedouin shack up top.

Petra at its height was a glory of the ancient world, only fading away in the 4th century A.D. when the Nabateans left. Perhaps earthquakes or shifting trade routes led to its decline; no one knows for sure. Lost to the modern world until a Swiss explorer rediscovered it in 1812, only 60% of the city has been unearthed again. Who knows what other secrets this ancient kingdom may yet reveal?



旅行路線

道院時,可雇頭毛驢代步。

住在哪裹

健康安全

吃飯。佩特拉是砂石地,所以

How to visit

Where to stay

Best time to go

Health and safety