

# AL-KHAZNEH

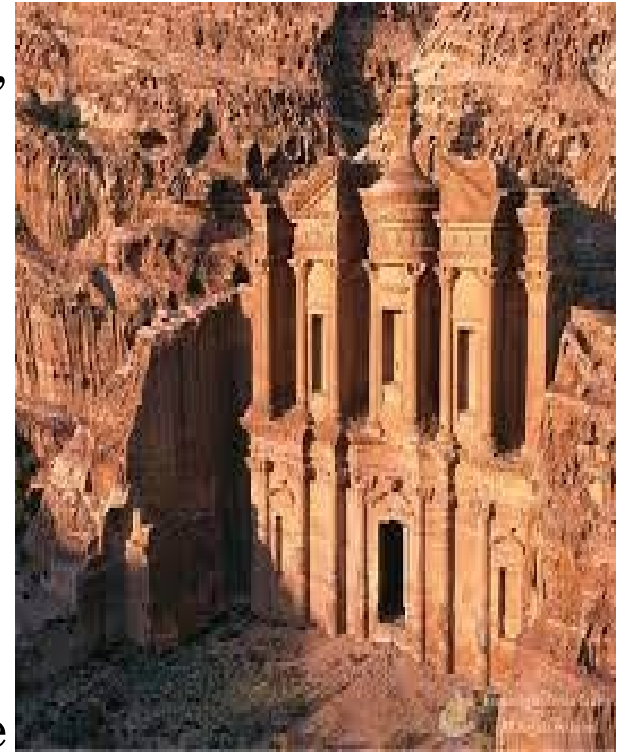


- **Al-Khazneh** is one of the most elaborate rock-cut tombs in Petra, a city of the Nabatean Kingdom inhabited by the Arabs in ancient times. As with most of the other buildings in this ancient town, including the Monastery Ad Deir, this structure was carved out of a sandstone rock face.
- It is thought that Al-Khazneh was built as a mausoleum and crypt at the beginning of the 1st century AD during the reign of Aretas IV Philopatris.



# NAME

- Al-Khazneh means "The Treasury" in Arabic, a name derived from legends regarding the decorative stone urn high on the second level, which in reality is solid sandstone. It became called "Al-Khazneh" in the early 19th century by the area's Bedouins as they had believed it contained treasures.
- One legend is that the Egyptian Pharaoh and some of his armies escaped the closing of the Red Sea, created the Khazneh by magic as a safe place for his treasury, and continued in his pursuit of Moses. This led to the name Khazneh el-Far'oun, "Treasury of the Pharaoh".



# DESCRIPTION



- Many of the building's architectural details have eroded during the two thousand years since it was carved and sculpted from the cliff. The sculptures are thought to be those of various mythological figures associated with the afterlife. On top are figures of four eagles that would carry away the souls. The figures on the upper level are dancing Amazons with double axes. The entrance is flanked by statues of the twins Castor and Pollux who lived partly on Olympus and partly in the underworld.
- View inside the primary chamber In contrast to the elaborate façade, the interior comprises a plain main chamber and three antechambers with an interior volume of around 2,000 m<sup>3</sup> (71,000 cu ft).

# IMPACT OF TOURISM

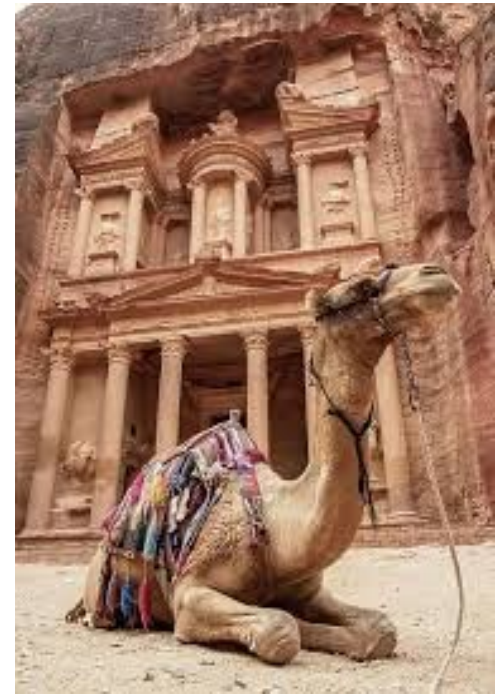


- In 1812, the city of Petra and Al-Khazneh were rediscovered by Swiss explorer Burckhardt. As Western Europe continued to explore the Middle East, tourism became more common, and by the 1920s, a small hotel had opened near Petra. While Petra was not as popular as larger, more central cities like Cairo, tourism started changing the economy and social structure of the nearby Bedouin people.
- Tourism is now a significant source of income in Jordan, comprising around 20% of the GDP. Hotels, souvenir shops, restaurants, and horse rental services are all found within a few-mile radius of Petra itself. While the economic effects have been largely positive, the site faces threats from increased tourism.



# IN POPULAR CULTURE

- The Treasury has appeared in many Hollywood films, gaining particular fame after being featured in climactic scenes in the 1989 film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, in which its façade is represented as the entrance to the final resting place of the Holy Grail. The interior scenes of the temple were filmed at Elstree Studios in England.
- PBS's Nova Special *Lost City of Stone* and *Ancient Megastructures: Petra*, television series from PBS and National, were dedicated to the Khazneh, and the theories of Nabatean construction techniques and engineering.
- Al-Khazneh features prominently in Frank Herbert's *Dune*, a 2000 SciFi miniseries based on the novel.
- The Treasury is also depicted in Hergé's *The Red Sea Sharks*.



# SOURCES

- Wikipedia
- Google
- Lonely Planet



Thank you for watching!!!!

