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Things to Do in Petra by Lek Boonlert

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There is so much to see in Petra that a day excursion is not long enough for history lovers to take in the best of the city. For this reason itâ€™s a good idea to plan to stay for a night or two in a Petra hotel to get the most out of your visit.

This remarkable UNESCO World Heritage site is huge, with 800 notable sites to visit. Two of the best include:

The Al Dayr Monastery

This is one of Petraâ€™s most impressive sites â€“itâ€™s an hourâ€™s climb on foot from the city centre. plenty of rest stops en route and donkeys are available for hire. The 800 steps may seem daunting but itâ€™s worth the effort. Try to visit in the afternoon when the route is in the shade; at this time of day the sunâ€™s position will be ideal for photographs.

The Treasury

Film buffs will recognise this as the â€˜secret templeâ€™ in the last scenes of the block-buster â€˜Indiana Jones and the Last Crusadeâ€™. Set in a natural square, the building is an awe-inspiring 40 metres tall. For hundreds of years it was hidden from the world until its discovery in 1812. It has to be seen to be believed, especially in the early evening sunlight.

Other places not to be missed include:

The Palace Tomb â€“ One of the biggest monuments in Petra, resembling a Roman palace.

The Obelisk Tomb â€“ A 7 metre tomb containing 5 graves, this famous resting place was built in the 1st century BC by the Nabateans.

The Corinthian Tomb â€“ Resembling the palace of the Roman Emperor Nero, this is a spectacular sight.

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Lek Boonlert - About Author:
Lek Boonlert is an editor and content reviewer at DirectRooms and is responsible for all a Hotels in Petra content.

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