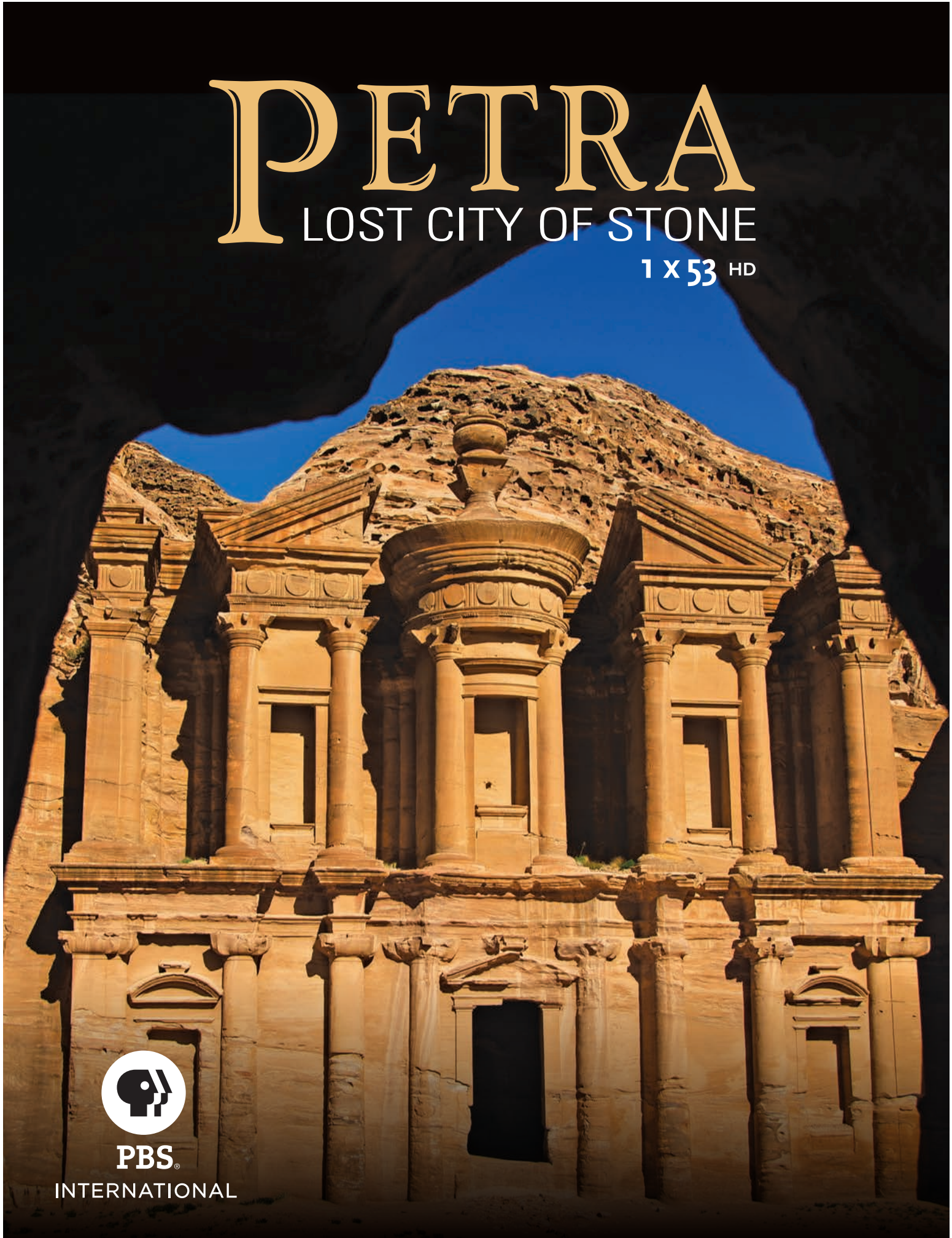


PETRA

LOST CITY OF STONE

1 X 53 HD



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CONTACT

Tom Koch, Vice President
PBS International
10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL: +1-617-208-0735
FAX: +1-617-208-0783

jtkoch@pbs.org
pbsinternational.org

Over 2,000 years ago, a mysterious tribe constructed a thriving city with spectacular temple-tombs carved into rose-colored cliffs in one of the driest countries in the world, Jordan. As mysteriously as Petra emerged from the desert, it disappeared—lost to most of the world for over a thousand years. Equipped with remote sensors and digital imagery, archaeologists and engineers wade deep into the sands of time to unlock the ancient secrets of Petra. And, in a daring experiment, archaeologists and sculptors team up to recreate a Nabataean tomb against a sandstone cliff face to find out how the ancient people of Petra built their city of stone. Could they uncover the key to Petra's tombs?

For over a millennium Petra was lost to the western world, but in 1812, a Swiss adventurer disguised himself as a Bedouin and caught the first long-awaited glimpse of the ancient marvel after a treacherous pilgrimage through the Middle East. Two hundred years after Johann Burckhardt's rediscovery of Petra, less than one percent of it has been explored, but now groundbreaking discoveries are happening daily. Explorers are revealing how the Nabateans used simple hand tools to build this oasis of culture in one of the harshest climates on earth, who actually created Petra, and ultimately, why it disappeared.

Beyond Petra's city of the dead, archaeologists are working to unearth the city of the living. Petra's location in this desert terrain made the nomadic Nabataeans the gatekeepers to the ancient trade routes. Although frankincense and myrrh made the Nabataeans rich beyond belief, how were they able to sustain a city of over 20,000 people in the searing heat?

Archaeologists think the answer may be hidden in plain sight. Investigations are uncovering massive waterways spreading throughout the central city and the surrounding canyons.

Alongside the tombs for the dead, chiseled into the same sandstone cliffs, the Nabataeans produced ingenious tunnels and cisterns that collected the scarcest of rainfall and distributed water through a vast network of gravity-fed pipes. These ancient builders were capable of filling bathhouses, fountains, and a massive central pool complex to such abundance that some scholars believe Petra may have been the Las Vegas of the ancient world.

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CREDITS

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