

Cultural Heritage in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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Jordan cultural heritage is unique and diverse, material cultural heritage (archaeological and traditional sites) is Jordan treasure, Natural heritage is another important part of Jordan heritage.

Jordan cultural Heritage is divided into Antiquities (Any object, whether movable or immovable ,which has been constructed, shaped , inscribed, erected, excavated, or otherwise produced or modified by humankind earlier than the year 1750 A.D) , which is protected by the Antiquity Law No. 21 for the year 1988 and its amendment . Recently on 2003, Interim Law No. (49) For the Protection of Urban and Architectural Heritage was approved. The law deals with heritage sites constructed after the year 1750 for its importance either with regards to the structural technique, or its relation to a historically important personality, or its relationship to important national or religious events. A new directorate was created at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to implement this law.

Ministry of Tourism has already announced the Tourism strategy for the year 2004-2010 concentrating on the sustainable development approach. Toward the implementation of the strategy many studies were delivered through the Second Tourism project funded by the World Bank , and now the ministry is looking forward to implement the outcome of these studies through the partnership between the ministry, municipalities, NGOs and the local community to revitalize the historic core of 5 Jordanian cities.

On the same approach the ministry is implementing the (Protection and Promotion of Cultural Heritage In The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan project)which is funded by the EU with the aim to maximize the benefit to Jordanians from the opportunities presented by the tourism sector and contribute to its development in a sustainable way. In general to improve the preservation and awareness of Jordan's cultural heritage through enhanced site management capacity as well as protection and integrated presentation of two neighboring sites , um Al- Rasas and Lehun.

A new approach on site management is under development, the ministry is now looking forward to a public private partnership on site management in a sustainable way , some successful cases were implemented and bylaws were approved for the management of the karak plaza and the baptism site .within this approach the ministry prepared the management plan for Petra (one of the world heritage sites in Jordan) , also the ministry is now part of the E-Government and is working on developing its IT system including the GIS system as a tool for management , as a start the system was developed for the Petra Archeological park , an inventory of all the important land marks of the park were conducted and all the information were included in the system , the development of the system was implemented with the help of Jordanian universities .

On the museums part, the ministry is now implementing the National Museum project in Amman downtown, which will be one of the most interesting attractions that present Jordan's Heritage from different ages , another cultural heritage museum will be on salt

city ; one of the old traditional houses (Abu- Jaber house) will be renovated and rehabilitated into the museum.

Um er - Rasas archaeological site has been listed on the year 2004 it contains remains from the Roman, Byzantine and Early Moslem periods (end of 3rd to 9th century AD). The nomination was according to the following criteria :*riterion (i)*: Um er-Rasas is a masterpiece of human creative genius given the artistic and technical qualities of the mosaic floor of St. Stephen's church. *Criterion (iv)*: Um er-Rasas presents a unique and complete (therefore outstanding) example of stylite towers. *Criterion (vi)*: Umm er-Rasas is strongly associated with monasticism and with the spread of monotheism in the whole region, including Islam.

