

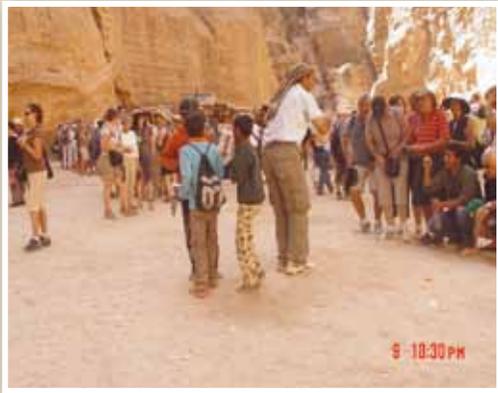
Negative impacts on the protection of the archaeological site

The children who work in the archaeological site often do not have sufficient awareness of the need for the protection of the archaeological sites and conservation of the historical and natural environments. Working children behave in ways that totally disregard respect for the environment, such as breaking off pieces of coloured rock for sale to tourists, writing on the rock and digging, climbing up the rocky high places, destroying trees and plants starting fires inside the archaeological site, using the monuments as toilets, and littering.

Our responsibility

- We have to work for the reduction of child labour in Petra, and encourage them to return to school.
- Not buy from the children who work in the antiques shops or public places.
- Not to use the forms of transport which are accompanied by a child.
- Do not buy rocks, postcards, and other souvenirs from small children because of pity. This only encourages the continued use of child labor.
- Report any violation by children of your rights or anything that affects the condition of the archaeological site.

THE RETURN TO SCHOOL PETRA FREE OF CHILD LABOUR



Putting these ideas into practice will contribute to these children's future and encourage them to complete their education as well as helping to preserve and protect their human heritage.



Negative impacts on tourism development

Some children may contribute their income from tourism to the family income, but the majority of working children come from families already working in tourism who are not affected by economic conditions. In these instances, the use of the children is motivated by greed rather than need. Tourists may get a negative impression from their observations of child labour which affects their enjoyment of their trip and leaves them with tainted memories.



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Volunteers: Protecting heritage & helping people



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Tourism Awareness



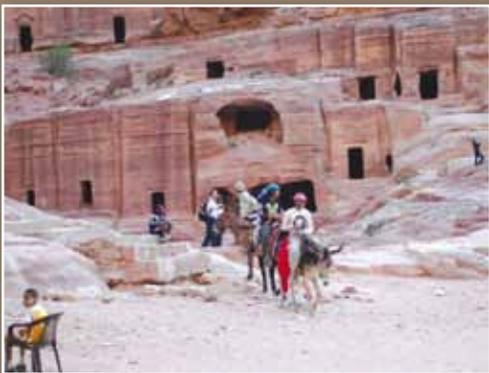
Introduction

For many years and over many generations, hundreds of children in and around the city of Petra were deprived of their rights to an education and a healthy childhood because they were lured into working in tourism.

Regretfully, this problem is still growing hand in hand with the prosperity of tourism. We are all – public authorities, local community, families and tourists – responsible for causing this problem, so we should also be responsible for putting an end to it and help to ensure that these children return to school.

Children at risk

The child employment rate in Petra is increasing above the national rate because of tourism activities. Half of those children who work in tourism do not go to school at all, which makes the rate of dropouts from schools close to tourism activities more than three times the national average. Many tourism activities attract school-age children to work as street vendors, horse and donkey leaders, assistants in beauty shops, sellers of souvenirs, and even beggars. These children work in difficult and harsh conditions that classify them as “vulnerable children”, working in an environment that is not appropriate for them, nor socially or psychologically healthy.



Children in the labour market



- ⌘ Children who leave school to work lose future opportunities due to a lack of education.
- ⌘ The working child often experiences the loss of a sense of hope and human dignity. This can create a perception of aggression that may lead to lawlessness and even violent crime.
- ⌘ Children who work away from their families are at risk of bad behaviour, including delinquency and exposure to sexual abuse or sexually inappropriate activities, theft, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.
- ⌘ Working children often suffer from depression, anxiety and fear, which carry over into their adult life.

Denial of the future

More than 60% of working children in Petra are unable to read and write. An estimated 85% of children who work on a seasonal basis, returning to school only during the low tourism periods, suffer from this gap in their education. Long experience of tourism in Petra has proved that young people from local communities who complete their education without the interruption of seasonal work have better chances of obtaining good employment in tourism with much higher incomes than those who started work at an early age.

Jordanian laws prohibit child labour and punish those who break these laws. Specifically, child labour is prohibited by the Labour Code. The issue is also affected by employment law, the law concerning tourism as well as the imposition of the law for compulsory and public education until the age of 15 years. The child labour situation has also been supported by Jordan's ratification of international conventions and declarations on children's rights in general and child labour in particular, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, The Minimum Age Convention and the International Convention (No. 182) in 1999 to ban the worst forms of child labour. In fact, Jordan was one of the first countries in the world to sign it.

Working environment of children in Petra

- The ancient city of Petra extends over a wide area of protected land (264 square km) and there are 14 tracks for the movement of tourists in the city, which makes the working conditions for children tremendously hard. Humanitarian workers have at times exposed the cruelty and suffering experienced by the children working in Petra, such as severe exhaustion due to walking long distances and working long hours, often with little food or water.
- Exposure to sunlight in summer, bitter cold in winter, experiencing thirst and hunger at work
- Lack of health facilities in the workplace
- Lack of personal hygiene
- Exposure to disease
- Exposure to abuse

