



AMAZING ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

EXPLORE
20
WORLD-FAMOUS SITES

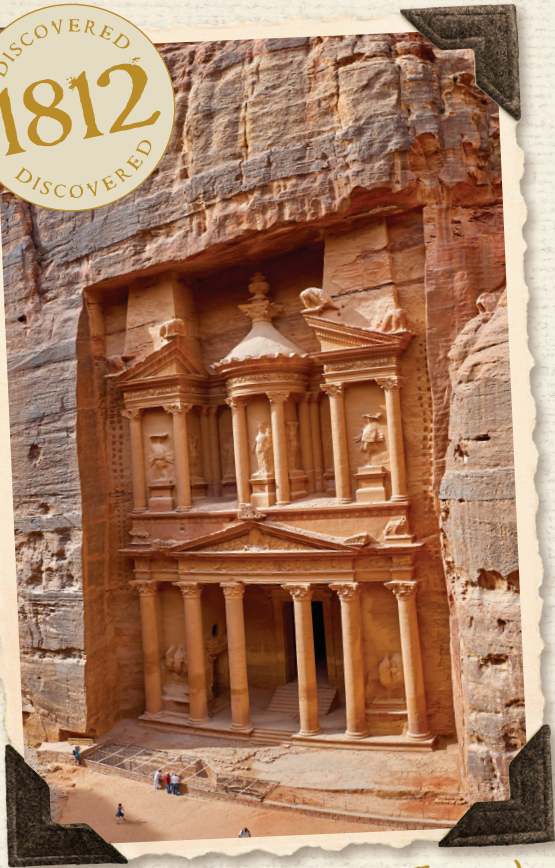
Written by The Good and the Beautiful Team



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DISCOVERED
1812
DISCOVERED



Al Khazneh (The Treasury)

PETRA, JORDAN

The Bible tells us about Moses passing through a valley and striking water from a rock while leading his people to the Promised Land. Hundreds of years later, groups of nomads began to settle in this same area, creating a powerful, independent kingdom through which international trade caravans carried gold, fine silks, and exotic spices. And then, in AD 106, Rome took possession of Petra, trade routes changed, and the ancient city was forgotten.

It was not until 1812 that the mysterious city was rediscovered by Swiss geographer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. News of his discovery began to spread, and more people began to seek out the ancient ruins.



Petra is one of the most well-researched archaeological sites in the world. Its rosy sandstone rock facades, tombs, and temples landed the once-secret city on the list of the Seven New Wonders of the World.



Structured research began in 1896. Many important sites were identified, towering rock facades were classified, and over 800 rock-cut items and inscriptions were documented. In 1929, George Horsfield and Agnes Conway began archaeological excavation work, uncovering many tombs and houses. They were joined by a famous American archaeologist, William Foxwell Albright, in 1934, and together they excavated a site in the northern part of Petra, known today as Conway Tower.

After WWII, additional excavation work began, uncovering the main street and many shops. The “Arched Gate” of the temple, parts of the city wall, and valuable pottery also were found. In the early 1960s, the main theater of Petra was excavated, followed by the “Temple of the Winged Lions.”



In the 1990s, the Byzantine Church was found with well-preserved floor mosaics. Excavations continue to be carried out by many researchers and archaeologists, many of whom have uncovered more history and new artifacts to be investigated.

Byzantine Monastery



Main Theater



Temple of the Winged Lions



Jordan postage stamp, 1954



MESA VERDE

Spiral petroglyph

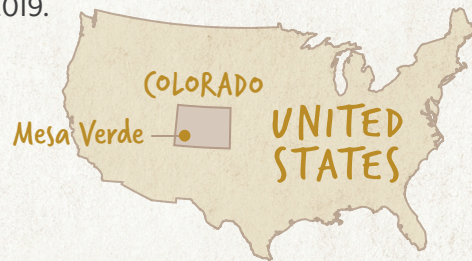


Nestled in the mountains of Colorado is a most impressive and fascinating sight: hundreds of cliff dwellings. These ancient buildings were made from wooden beams, sandstone, tiny bits of stone, and mortar made from ash, soil, and water. The Ancestral Pueblo people who inhabited these buildings were not very tall when compared to today's averages—only a little over five feet tall—and most adults lived to around just 33 years old.

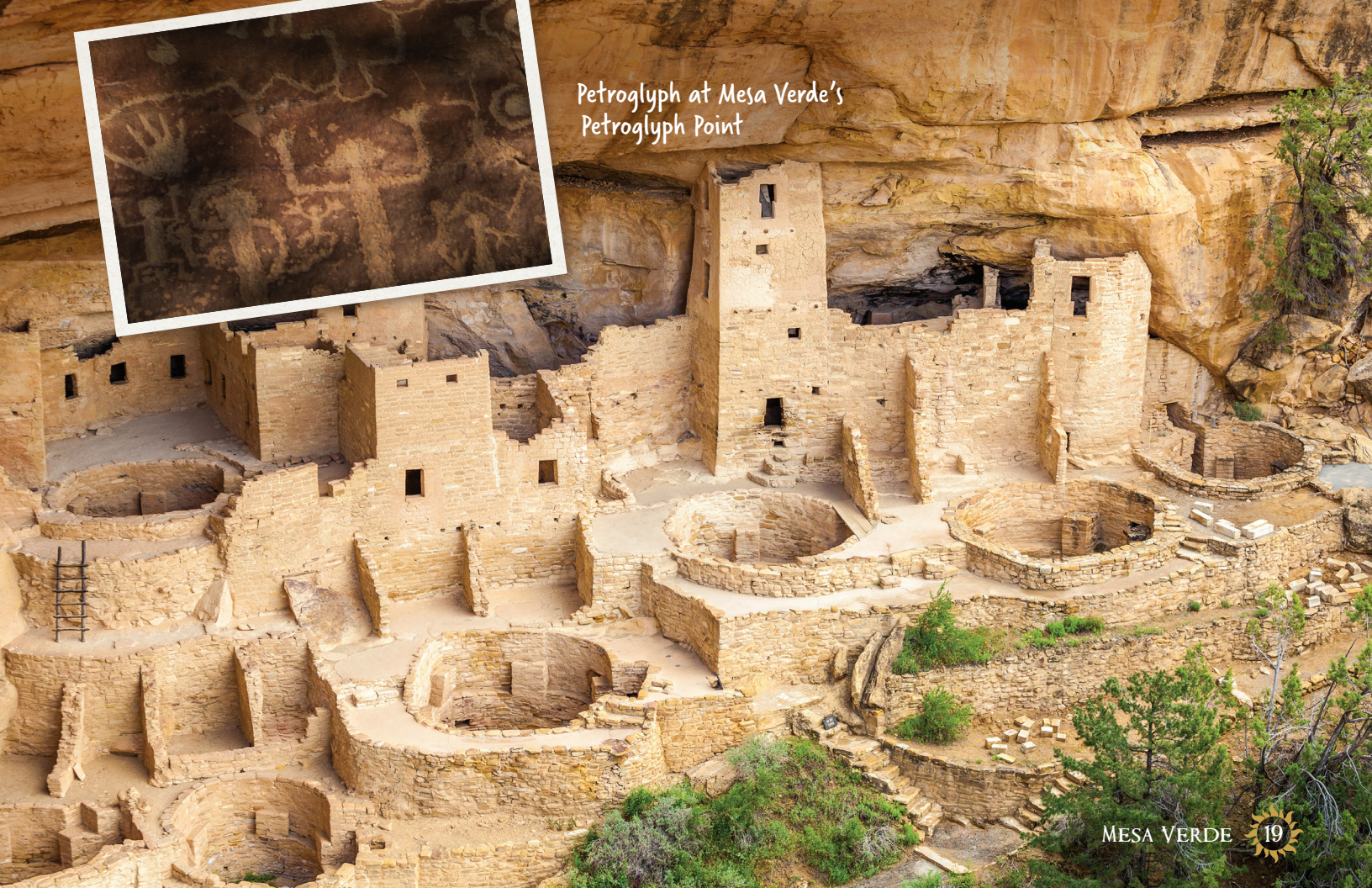
These cliff dwellings, now encompassed by Mesa Verde National Park, came to the attention of the general public toward the end of the 19th century. A large amount of interest resulted in quite a bit of damage to the curious site. The largest of the dwellings was given the name of “Cliff Palace.” This single dwelling has around 150 rooms! Circular excavated areas called kivas—23 of them—are also part of Cliff Palace.

In 1888, Richard Wetherill, a local to the area, began exploring the dwellings and searching for artifacts. Then Gustaf Nordenskiöld, a scholar who was visiting from Sweden, excavated around 24 dwellings, including Cliff Palace, in the summer of 1891. The artifacts that were discovered included human remains and objects used in funerals. Many of these artifacts were returned to local native tribes in 2019.

Excavation and preservation of Cliff Palace and the other dwellings continued throughout the 1900s. Today, efforts are focused on preserving this incredible historic site.



Petroglyph at Mesa Verde's
Petroglyph Point



DISCOVERED
1950s
DISCOVERED

LINDISFARNE

Lindisfarne Priory, located on Holy Island off the coast of current-day English Northumberland, was founded by Irish monks in AD 635. It has been particularly notable several times throughout history.

About 40 years after the priory's founding, a monk named Cuthbert arrived there. He became a bishop who was well-known for his pastoral and healing gifts. St. Cuthbert was canonized after his death, and this led to the island's rise in popularity as a pilgrimage site.

Lindisfarne's prominence increased, as did its distinction as a center of Christian scholarship. The emphasis placed on learning resulted in the creation of the Lindisfarne Gospels, one of the most incredible illuminated manuscripts to survive from early medieval England. This artistic masterpiece includes the four gospels, some associated texts, and several gorgeous full-page color illustrations.



Saint Aiden, founder of Lindisfarne

Unfortunately, Lindisfarne's fame and prosperity also attracted those with less noble motives. In 793 AD, Viking pirates attacked the island, pillaging the priory and enslaving or killing many monks. It was the first significant Viking raid in that part of Europe, and it shocked the entire continent. By the 9th century, the priory was virtually abandoned. The remaining monks took St. Cuthbert's coffin and other important artifacts inland, seeking security. Today, tourists can cross over to Lindisfarne Island during low tide and tour the ruins of the castle.



Lindisfarne
Priory ruins



Page from the Lindisfarne
Gospels



Lindisfarne Castle



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