

JORDAN PAVILION  
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR  
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

FACT SHEET

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Location: Avenue of the United Nations.

THE PAVILION:

"WELCOME TO JORDAN, THE CRADLE OF RELIGION,  
THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION. JUST AS PEACE  
COMES THROUGH UNDERSTANDING, SO UNDERSTANDING  
COMES FROM KNOWLEDGE. MAY YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF  
US AND OUR KNOWLEDGE OF YOU INCREASE AS YOU  
PASS THROUGH THIS BUILDING."

This is the message of His Majesty King Hussein  
I of Jordan to the visitors of the Jordan Pavilion at the  
New York World's Fair.

The Pavilion is a continuum of more simple domes  
surmounted by a "Tower of Religions" symbolizing the mono-  
theistic faiths that sprang from and flourished in this  
Middle Eastern country. Designed by a Jordanian architect,  
Victor H. Bisharat, the free-form pavilion is an attempt  
to express the continuity of relationship between "the  
space of this world and the space of the Kingdom of Heaven".

"We who have in our heritage such greatness as Abraham,  
Jesus, and Mohammed," said Mr. Bisharat in explaining his  
design, "must be represented by something that reflects  
our belief in that our physical life is nothing but a detail  
in the greater concept of existence. The flowing character  
of the building in a continuum of domes, above which rises  
a symbolic tower of Monotheistic faith, is my truly humble  
attempt to express that concept."

Complementing the structural symbolism of the  
building itself are the stained glass windows in the  
arches. Designed by Antonio Saura of Madrid, Spain, they  
are abstract representations of the events of Christ's  
journey along the Via Dolorosa on the day of His crucifixion.

Also on the exterior of the pavilion are three bas-relief sculptures: The Dome of the Rock, the great Moslem shrine in Jerusalem; the ancient Nabataean capital of Petra in south Jordan; and the Graeco-Roman city of Jerash north of the capital city of Amman. They are the work of Yusuf Ghossoub of Beirut, Lebanon,

Outside the pavilion building stands a column from Jerash which was presented by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan to the New York World's Fair and to the city of New York. The column dates back to 135 A.D. and has been brought from the Temple of Artemis in the city of Jerash, the Graeco-Roman well-preserved city.

The principal attraction of the Jordan exhibition itself is a small museum devoted to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Here findings of the most sensational discovery of this century are displayed. The six fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls together with its translation attract many visitors, who come to see the two thousand old Scrolls.

The exhibition area is on two levels, the upper devoted to ancient and modern Jordan, and the lower level to other attractions, including the Dead Sea Scroll Museum, a gift shop, an oriental restaurant, and a motion picture theater showing films on Jordan.

The ground floor exhibition area is divided into three sections, the first of which is devoted to the Holy Places in Jordan. Colour photographic murals showing the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the church of the Nativity, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, a Panorama of Jerusalem and other religious landmarks are exhibited. One side of this area is occupied by a replica of the Nativity hand-made of mother-of-pearl; and the center of the area is occupied by a large scale model of the Dome of the Rock in mother-of-pearl together with a model of the old city of Jerusalem, which houses the important holy places.

Separating this area from the next, which is devoted to the archaeological and ancient history of Jordan, is an exhibition of the fabulously beautiful embroidered folkloric costumes of the country.

The theme of the second section is "Jordan - the cradle of Civilization." Recent excavations have established, with reasonable certainty, that man's conversion from the nomadic life of a hunter to one based on the domestication of animals and the cultivation of food, occurred in the Jordan River Valley for the first time. The same evidence indicates that the first wall inhabited city on earth was Jericho. Beginning with these early signs of civilization, the exhibition portrays man's development in Jordan up to the Islamic era.

The last of the three sections endeavours to show the tremendous advance which this country has made. Displays showing Jordan's industrial and agricultural development are depicted, together with displays showing the rapid progress in health, education and social-welfare.

On the level below, adjacent to the Dead Sea Scrolls Museum is a gift shop transplanted from the Old City of Jerusalem. On display and on sale is a wide variety of Jordanian handicrafts. Between the gift shop and the oriental restaurant is a small motion picture theater showing films on the religious, archaeological and historic sites of Jordan.

The oriental restaurant serves dishes of Jordanian or other Arabic origin. On some days, for example, "Kharouf Mahshi" (stuffed lamb) with a spicy mixture of rice, ground meat, pine seeds and almonds is served. On other days, the principle course is "Makloubeh" (upside-down) of richly spiced mixture of rice, eggplant and lamb cooked in olive-oil and garnished with pine nuts. "Kifta", "Felafel", "Hommus" and other dishes are always served.