Wadi Rum Protected Area – Jordan

Key facts
• Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in June 2011 at the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France for its scenically stunning and tightly interwoven natural and cultural attributes in a lived-in desert environment.
• Wadi Rum is recognized globally as a superlative desert landscape. Its desert scenery can be regarded as iconic, and illustrates a series of dramatic and varied landfoms that are excellent examples of the various components of desert geomorphic systems. The resulting landscape contains a range of narrow gorges, natural arches, towering cliffs, ramps, massive landslides, and dramatic cavernous weathering forms.
• Wadi Rum is one of the best known desert landscapes, and provides an internationally well known demonstration of a wide range of desert processes and landforms. Its landforms include many examples of the components of desert geomorphic systems, resulting from the interplay of changing environmental conditions, varied lithology, uplift, faulting, weathering and erosion over tens of millions of years.
• The Area is the product of millions of years of geological processes, and thousands of years of interactions between humans and nature in a hostile desert environment.

Key quote
• "Wadi Rum is composed of scenically stunning natural and cultural attributes in a lived-in desert environment where geology has been the ever-present artist," says **Allen Putney, Vice-Chair for World Heritage of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas**. "IUCN welcomes this inscription and hopes that it will lead to enhanced protection and management of the site."

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