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E-Newsletter

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**Experience
Jordan Now!**

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'RACE' NOW PERFORMING IN AMMAN

Throughout history, the ancient city of Jerash, located fifty minutes drive to the north of Amman, has witnessed the rise and fall of different civilizations, making it a must-see site for every tourist visiting Jordan.

As a living testimony to its majestic past, The Roman Army and Chariot Experience 'RACE' stages regular performances at the hippodrome of Jerash, the Circus Gerasa. The show features 35 fully armed Roman legionaries showing battle formations and warfare techniques as well as gladiators' fighting it "to the death" and seven authentic lap races with Roman chariots.

In addition to this daily shows, and due to their popularity, the 'RACE' is now performing regular evening shows in the Roman theatre in downtown Amman. These spectacular renditions are part of the Amman Summer Festival organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Jordan Tourism Board.

The theater setting, with its roman architecture and acoustics in combination with advanced light and sound effects makes the show truly striking, and reaches its climax with a deafening cheering and shouting of the audience deciding on the fate of the losing gladiators.

So take your seat, get ready to feel the pulse and let the games begin!

For more information, please go to www.jerashchariots.com.

THREE NEW 'EXPRESS BY HOLIDAY INN' HOTELS TO BE DEVELOPED IN JORDAN

Amman, Jordan: An agreement was made between Jordan Dubai Capital (JD Capital) and Ishraq Gulf Real Estate Holding to develop three 'Express by Holiday Inn' hotels in Jordan extending the hotel chain in the region.

The hotels will be constructed in Jordan's major cities at the cost of JD 30 million and will form a part of a five year roll-out plan to develop over 36 Express by Holiday Inn hotels in the Middle East. "We are delighted to partner with Jordan Dubai Capital on this project, which is our first venture outside the GCC region and a sign of our strong commitment to the Middle East market," said Sami Al-Ansari, C.O.O. of Ishraq Gulf Real Estate Holding Co.

Hospitality Management Services, who are the master franchise developer and operator of 'Express by Holiday Inn' in the Gulf states, will operate the Express by Holiday Inn hotels in Jordan. The hotels will contain up to 500 rooms to satisfy demand for affordable quality lodgings in Jordan.

Developed by Intercontinental Hotels Group, 'Express by Holiday Inn' is the world's largest budget brand and is growing rapidly. Worldwide, there are more than 1,500 'Express by Holiday Inn' properties with more than 120,000 rooms.

This exciting development will sure please budget travelers seeking branded value hotel accommodations throughout the region.

PROJECT SEEKS TO MAKE WADI RUM 'WORLD CLASS' TOURISM DESTINATION IN JORDAN

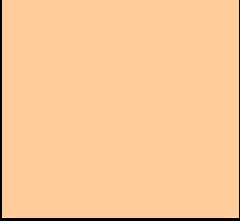
An initiative is under way to develop Wadi Rum as a "world class tourism destination," through empowering the local community to provide "authentic" tourism services and products among other plans.

The USAID-funded Tourism Development Project, Siyaha, will work with community-based and governmental organizations over the next two years to provide training for those committed in the tourism field and sponsor tourism-based ventures.

Siyaha will work with the local community to make genuine local handicrafts and products out of the region's natural materials, improve local camp sites and provide training to make sure tourists have a "safe, nice and clean camping," according to Ibrahim Osta, Siyaha chief of party.

Wadi Rum is probably best known because of its connection with the British officer T.E. Lawrence, who was based there during the Great Arab Revolt of 1917-1918.

The tourism industry enjoyed a 7.1 per cent increase in visitor arrivals during the first five months of this year. Total visitor arrivals pushed



tourism receipts up by 8 per cent, generating JD 359.1 million in revenues during the stated period, compared to JD 332.6 million in the first five months of 2005.

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