Jordan: A destination steeped in history, culture and religion (VIDEO + PHOTOS)



The baptismal site of Bethany Beyond the Jordan; Elijah's Hill, the place where the Old Testament Prophet ascended to Heaven; Mt. Nebo, where Moses ascended to view the Land of Canaan from afar, and, of course, world-renowned Petra, are just a few of the well-known pilgrimage sites found in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Peaceful Jordan's eponymous sites, mentioned with the Old Testament, or spectacular archaeological monuments, such as the "lost city" of Petra, were showcased this week by officials from the country's Tourism Board to travel sector professionals in Athens and Thessaloniki.

The Jordanian delegation, in fact, included the Jerusalem Patriarchate's Metropolitan of Philadelphia, His Eminence Benedict.

The Greek Orthodox hierarch was instrumental in the construction of the Cathedral of St. John the Forerunner, at the grave site of Mary of Egypt, the patron saint of penitents.

His Eminence has also backed the building and restoration of several churches in the region and in opening a health clinic, a nursery school and a museum in Amman, Jordan's capital.

A video that follows includes sights and sounds from the striking Mideast country.

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