

# EXPLORING PETRA'S DIVERSITY

June 29, 2012 bupap Archaeological Prospection, Day of Archaeology 2012, Education, Excavation, Survey Al Khazneh, Allison Mickel, Ancient history, Andy Dufton, Archaeology, Archaeology falls, Brown University, Canada, Colombia, Excavation, Facebook, Germany, Great Temple, Italy, Jordan, Joukowsky Institute, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Linda Gosner, Macedonia, Malta, Petra, Siq, Tourism in Jordan, United States

This year's Day of Archaeology falls during the first half of the field season of the Brown University Petra Archaeological Project (BUPAP). Managed by the [Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World](#), BUPAP is a multi-disciplinary research project that hopes to understand the development of Petra and its surrounding landscapes diachronically, both through regional survey and excavation at individual sites.



*The Petra Area and Wadi Silaysil Survey in action (Photo by Linda Gosner).*

Portrayals of Petra have historically focused on the monumental city- images of the Siq, the royal tombs, the Treasury, and the Great Temple imbedded into popular culture through the likes of

Indiana Jones and countless other representations. BUPAP looks to build upon this past research and public interest, to contextualize our understanding of Petra's diversity, and to ask new questions of the city and its surroundings including periods and places that have generally received little academic attention. Our fieldwork is split into four interrelated projects: the Petra Upper Market Area (PUMA) involves excavation, geophysical survey, and architectural studies in the city center; the Petra Area and Wadi Silaysil Survey (PAWS) is an intensive and systematic regional survey focused on the area north of the city; the Bayda Islamic Village (BIV) features excavation and mapping of an Islamic settlement; and the Petra Routes Project (PRP) investigates local and regional communication and travel. These are four diverse and exciting projects which we hope will bring some new ideas to the study of the city.



*Our excavation team hard at work.*

The diversity of both the site and the project is also represented in our project team. We're lucky to work with an international group of established scholars, graduate students, and professional architects from the US, Jordan, Malta, Canada, Italy, Germany, Colombia, and Macedonia. We also rely on strong ties to the local community to understand the site in both its ancient and modern context. Besides the obvious academic benefits of such a broad range of contributors, our international team also makes for a lively and enjoyable workday and dig house.

Since Friday is our day off, we don't have much to report from site today- you can check out posts by our team members [Andy Dufton](#) or [Allison Mickel](#) to learn more about what our team gets up to during the break. You can also check in at our [Facebook page](#) if you're interested in learning more about the project, or keeping up with our latest finds and updates.