



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Newsletter

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2020

Announcement of a New Archaeological Discovery in Saqqara



Amidst extensive international and local media coverage, and in the presence of approximately 36 foreign, African and Arab ambassadors in Cairo and a number of Egyptian public figures and celebrities, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced, on 14 November, a new archaeological discovery in Saqqara. The Egyptian archaeological mission working in Saqqara uncovered 100 sealed wooden coffins, from the Late Period and the Ptolemaic era, in their initial condition inside three burial shafts about 10 to 12 meters deep, and 40 statues of the deity Ptah Soker, God of the Saqqara Necropolis, Guided statues and 20 wooden boxes of the god Horus, and two statues of "Phnomus", made of acacia wood were among the findings. This is In addition to the unveiling of a number of Ushabti statuettes and amulets and 4 Golden masks of gilded cartonnage.

During the announcement of the discovery, one of the coffins was opened and X- Ray was done on the mummy found inside. The uncovered coffins will be transferred to the Grand Egyptian Museum, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, the Egyptian Museum at Al- Tahrir, and



Doing an X-Ray for the mummy



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Aswan Hosts the International Kayaking Championship



Part of the race

The city of Aswan hosted, from 21 to 23 November, the International Kayaking Championship, which was organized under the auspices of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board and in cooperation with the Egyptian Federation of Canoe & Kayak, Aswan's Water Sports Festival and the Governorate of Aswan. The sports event started near the Temple of Philae in Aswan. Egypt, especially Aswan, was chosen to hold this race because of its characteristic warm and sunny weather at this time of the year compared to Europe.

The First Lady of Congo Visits the Pyramids of Giza

On 5 November, the First Lady of the Republic of the Congo visited the Pyramids of Giza. She expressed her admiration of the progress achieved by the ancient Egyptians in building the pyramids and the Sphinx with this magnitude.

The Brazilian Olympic Football Team Visits the Pyramids and the Egyptian Museum

On 18 November, the Brazilian U-23 Olympic team visited the pyramids of Giza, where they visited the Great Pyramid, the Sphinx, and the panorama area. The members of the Brazilian team also visited the Egyptian Museum at Al-Tahrir, where they had a tour around the museum galleries and they admired King Tutankhamun's collection.



The Brazilian Olympic team inside the Egyptian Museum

Inaugurations

The Inauguration of the Shali Fortress and the Aghurmi Mosque in the Siwa Oasis

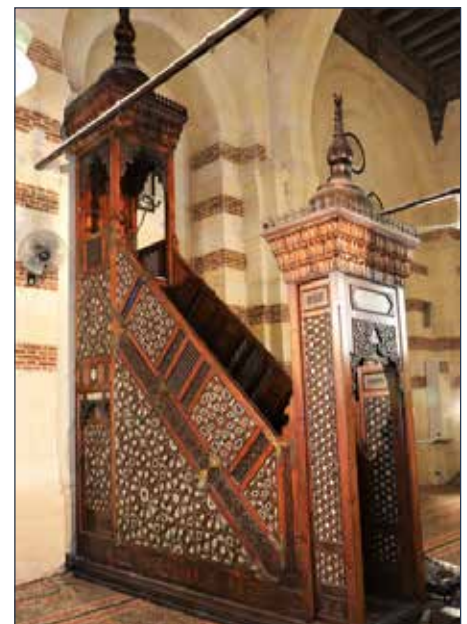


The village of Shali

On 6 November, the Minister participated in the inauguration of Shali Fortress and Aghurmi Mosque in the Siwa Oasis in Matrouh Governorate, after the completion of their restoration project, as part of the project to revive the historic village of Shali. This project provides an opportunity for visitors and tourists to wander around the city of Shali and its various arcades, and move between houses and mosques to see the distinctive architecture of the city which dates back to more than 800 years. The opening was attended by the Ministers of Environment, International Cooperation, the Governor of Matrouh, the Head of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Sector at the Ministry, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Environmental Quality Development Company for Small and Medium Enterprises, in addition to a representative of the European Union, and 20 ambassadors from around the world. It is noteworthy that, the project to revive the historical village of Shali is funded by the European Union (90%) at a cost of around 600 thousand euros, and the International Environmental Quality Development Company for Small and Medium Enterprises contributed with 10% of the project value. To encourage traditional crafts made by the people of Siwa, the tenants of the shops selling authentic products in Shali Fortress were exempted from paying rent till the end of the year, as part of the efforts of the Ministry to mitigate the economic effects resulting from the Corona virus crisis.

Opening Imam Al-Shafi'i's Mosque after restoration

The Minister and the Minister of Endowments and the Governor of Cairo participated, on Friday, 20 November, in the inauguration of Imam Al-Shafi'i Mosque, after the completion of its restoration and maintenance project, and Friday prayers were held there. The two ministers and the governor visited the project of restoring and raising the efficiency of the "Quba" of the Imam Al-Shafi'i, which began in March 2017 under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, with funding from the American Ambassadors Fund at an estimated cost of 20 million Egyptian pounds. The first phase of the restoration project was completed in 2018. The second phase of the project started in 2019, and nearly 65% of it was completed. It is worth mentioning that, the Imam Al-Shafi'i Mosque was built during the reign of Khedive Muhammad Ali Tawfiq in 1399 AH/1892 AD. It follows the style of covered mosques and is constructed of limestone with a wooden roof and a square sistle in the middle. Attached to the mosque is a Quba dating back to the Ayyubid era.



Minya Receives the First Group of Tourists from Brazil

During the month of November, the first tourist group from Brazil visited Minya Governorate. This is the first group from Brazil to visit Egypt since the resumption of inbound tourism last July. Members of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board's office in Minya followed up on the implementation of all precautionary measures and the approved hygiene safety regulations and ensured that they were implemented. The visit program included visiting Tel Al-Amarna and Bani Hassan archeological sites. The group also visited Cairo, Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel.

Amending the Contractual Form of a Number of the Temporary Employees at the Supreme Council of Antiquities

The Ministry of Finance agreed to amend the contractual forms of 2949 temporary employees at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, to be moved to wages. In addition to agreeing that the Council submits a proposal to provide them with a long term employment contract after six months of the date of the contract. It is decided that a committee will be formed to write contracts for the aforementioned employees who were included in the approval.

Events

Screening of the Documentary "The Path of the Holy Family in Egypt"

On 7 November, the Minister delivered a speech on behalf of H.E. the Prime Minister, at the screening of the documentary film "The Path of the Holy Family", which was held at the theater of Anba Ruiz in St. Mark's Cathedral in Abbasia, to commemorate the passage of the Holy Family through Egypt. The film was prepared by the Nuns of St George Convent in Old Cairo.



The ceremony was attended by His Holiness Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of Saint Mark Episcopate, Minister of Immigration and Egyptians Affairs Abroad, a number of statesmen, ambassadors, church bishops and priests. In a related context, on November 26, the Minister attended the celebration of the special screening of the documentary film "Papal Central Library" at the Coptic Cultural Center at Cathedral.

During the special screening of "Papal Central Library"

50 Ambassadors Celebrate the opening of the Royal Carriages Museum

The Ministry organized a celebration at the Royal Carriages Museum in Boulaq on the occasion of its inauguration among three museums that were inaugurated by His Excellency President Abd El-Fattah El-Sisi. These inaugurations included the museums of Sharm El Sheikh and Kafr El Sheikh. A number of ministers, officials, some celebrities and about 50 ambassadors in Cairo from various countries and their families attended the celebration. During the celebration, a number of promotional videos were shown; including a short film about the Royal Carriages Museum, another about the three museums that were inaugurated, in addition to the "A Tourist Journey in Egypt" video that was launched by the Ministry as part of its Same Great Feelings campaign. Alongside this celebration, an exhibition called "Egypt's Heritage" for traditional crafts and handicrafts was held.



Egypt Wins Second Place in the "Best Diving Destination" in the World for 2020



Regulating Working Hours of Touristic Shops

In light of the government's decision to set fixed hours for opening and closing of public stores, the Minister issued a decision to regulate the working hours for touristic shops, as of December 1, 2020.

It has been decided to open restaurants, cafeterias, and tourism-licensed bazaars daily from 5:00 AM until 1:00 am in summer and till 12:00 am in winter, and working hours will extend during the winter on Thursdays and Fridays and on official holidays until 1:00 am. "Take-away" and "Home delivery" for restaurants and cafeterias are allowed 24 hours a day in summer and winter. Summer months start from the end of April until the end of September of each year. The decree included giving permission to amend these working hours for touristic shops and restaurants located in coastal and touristic governorates based on a decision from the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities after coordination with the Minister of Local Development.

Hotels Continue to Obtain the Approved Health Safety Certificate

During the month of November, hotels and floating hotels in Egypt, continued to obtain the hygiene safety certificate approved by the Ministry, the Ministry of Health and Population, and the Egyptian Hotel Association, after making sure that they meet all health safety regulations set by the Ministry in accordance with international health safety standards. Until Now 687 hotels in 23 governorates and 43 floating hotels (Nile Cruises) have obtained this certificate.

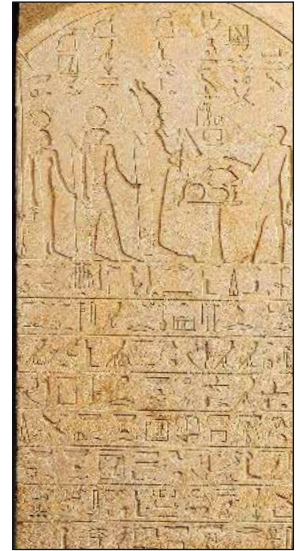
Closing Violating Tourist Facilities and Diving Centers

The Ministry's inspection committees visited by more than 155 tourist establishments in Greater Cairo that had the approved hygiene safety certificate during the previous period. The Ministry detected violations in about 55 of them, and legal actions were taken against them to have them closed. In a related context, the Ministry issued decisions to close seven diving centers and marine activity centers in South Sinai governorate for violations, including working without a license.

Retrieved Artifacts

Retrieving An Ancient Pallet from USA ... and an Artifact from Italy

Within the framework of Egypt's relentless efforts to repatriate Egyptian antiquities smuggled abroad, the Ministry, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, succeeded in retrieving a pallet that was put out for sale in an auction hall in New York in the United States of America. This pallet was a result of illegal excavations and was smuggled outside of Egypt. It is a limestone funerary pallet of "Ba de Sina" dating back to the late period, representing the god Horus and the goddess Hathor. In a related context, the efforts of the Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs succeeded in retrieving an artifact from Italy that had been seized by the security authorities in Cagliari, Italy in 2018. It is part of the cover of a wooden coffin dating back to the late period.



The retrieved pallet

9 Ancient Coins Seized before being Smuggled out of the Country

The archaeological unit at the land port of Rafah, in cooperation with the customs authorities, succeeded in seizing 9 ancient coins that were about to be smuggled outside the country. The seized coins date back to the Greco-Roman era from the period of the reign of Alexander the Great.

Meetings

A Tripartite Meeting to Support the Tourism Sector and Increase Aviation Activity



On 24 November, the Minister met with the ministers of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth and Civil Aviation to discuss a number of important issues to support the tourism sector and Increase aviation activity, in light of the government's continuous support to the tourism sector and the efforts maintain Egypt's position as a desired travel destination. During the meeting, a number of new proposals and initiatives were reviewed. The ministers discussed mechanisms for implementing those initiatives to support the flight incentive program for Egyptian tourist destinations.

...And Another with the Minister of Environment to Promote Eco-Tourism

The Minister met with the Minister of Environment to discuss ways to support ecotourism and organize ecotourism activities outside the scope of protectorates to promote Egypt's environmental tourism product in local and international markets. During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the cooperation protocol agreement to be signed between the two ministries for tourism development outside the protectorates and preparing tourism investment opportunities in order to ensure the sustainability of the tourism industry. The meeting also discussed ways to legalize the conditions of workers in the environmental tourism services sector, in order to ensure providing occupational health and safety standards for tourists and tourism services in Egypt.

Discussing the Egyptian Pavilion at the Expo Dubai 2020 with the Minister of Trade and Industry

On 28 November, the Minister received the Minister of Trade and Industry at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, where they held a meeting to discuss the content that will be displayed in the Egyptian pavilion participating in the Expo 2020 Dubai, which is scheduled to be held during October 2021 and will last for a period of 6 months. The meeting was attended by representatives of the ministry, the ministries of housing, finance, higher education, culture, immigration, tourism and antiquities, and a number of concerned authorities. Coordination is underway with all concerned parties to define the topics and activities that will be focused on during the exhibition, so that different content is displayed every week.

Meeting with Members of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Federation and Investors

The Minister held, in November, two meetings with members of the board of directors of the Egyptian Tourism Federation and number of investors. The meetings discussed a number of issues related to the tourism sector and identified the challenges and obstacles facing this vital sector in light of the crisis of the second wave of Corona Virus worldwide. In addition to submitting proposals and reviewing future visions to develop Egyptian tourism products.

Celebrating the 118th Anniversary of the Egyptian Museum in Al- Tahrir



Handing over the coins to the ambassador of KSA



The "Cachettes: Hidden Treasures" exhibition

The Ministry celebrated the 118th anniversary of the opening of the Egyptian Museum in Al- Tahrir .The celebration included the opening of two exhibitions: one permanent titled “Cachettes: Hidden Treasures”, showcasing 50 colored coffins, including two from the recent archaeological discovery in Saqqara and 48 coffins from the stores of the Egyptian Museum in Al- Tahrir, including 15 displayed for the first time. The other exhibition is a temporary one, displaying artifacts seized at Egyptian ports. The ambassadors of the United States of America, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the People’s Republic of China, and the Attaché of the Indian Embassy attended the celebration. During the celebration, Ambassadors of the Saudi Arabia, China and India were handed over 100 ancient coins, belonging to their countries, which were seized at the Egyptian ports.

...And the Discovery of the Tomb of King Tutankhamun

In celebration of the anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamun, the Minister agreed, on 4 November, 2020, to grant a 50% discount on the prices of entry tickets to his tomb in the west bank in Luxor for Egyptians and foreigners, This commemorates the day Howard Carter discovered the tomb.

Celebrating the 23rd Anniversary of the Opening of the Nubia Museum

The Ministry celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the opening of the Nubia Museum, on 23 November, by granting visitors free entry to the museum. The Nubia Museum is a unique architectural masterpiece and contains more than 5,000 artifacts representing the stages of development of Nubian civilization and its heritage.

Charles University of the Czech Republic Honors Dr. Zahi Hawass

The Minister participated in the honoring ceremony of Dr. Zahi Hawass, archaeologist and former Minister of Antiquities, by Charles University of the Czech Republic. The ceremony was held in the Egyptian Museum in Al- Tahrir. During the ceremony, Dr. Hawass presented the minister with one of his best books, in honor of the minister's efforts in the antiquities sector since he took office.



Exhibitions

Egypt Participates in This Year’s Virtual World Travel Market

Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, participated in the London World Travel Market (WTM), which launched its activities virtually this year during the period from 9 to 11 November with the participation of 150 countries, 1290 exhibitors, 135 representatives of tour operators, international airlines, international tourism unions and organizations and the World Tourism Organization. A virtual pavilion for the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board was set up on the website of the WTM, and was linked to the website of the ETPB and all its social media platforms.

An Exhibition of Traditional Crafts in Manial Palace and another for Medical Tools in the Museum of Islamic Art

In celebration of the 145th birthday of Prince Muhammad Ali Tawfiq, founder of Prince Muhammad Ali Palace in Manial, the Palace Museum organized a temporary exhibition of traditional arts and handicraft under the title “Our Country's Heritage” from 17 to 23 November. The Museum of Islamic Art at Bab Al-Khalq is also organizing a temporary archaeological exhibition titled "Disease and Medicine" throughout the month of December. The exhibition includes a collection of 50 artifacts illustrating medical and surgical tools from the Islamic civilization.

Discovery of Gold Coins from the Abbasid Era in Fayoum

The Egyptian-Russian mission working in Deir Al-Banat site in Fayoum governorate discovered, in November, a roll of linen tied to a clay seal bearing unclear symbols. When opening this roll of linen, 28 gold dinars and 5 small fragments of dinars were found inside it, all of which date back to the Abbasid era. The discovered collection consists of 16 dinars from the era of the Abbasid Caliph Al-Muqtadir Billah, 10 dinars from the era of the Caliph Al-Radi Billah, and two dinars from the era of Caliph Al-Mu'tasim Billah, in addition to five parts of gold dinars from the era of the Caliph Al-Muqtadir Billah.



New Museums

The Museum of the Capitals of Egypt Receives more than 100 Artifacts



During the month of November, the Supreme Committee for the Scenario of Museum Exhibition of the museum of the Capitals of Egypt, in the City of Culture and Arts in the New Administrative Capital, placed mummies of the priests and priestesses of the god Amun, in their display windows. During this month, the museum received more than a hundred artifacts coming from a number of museums and archaeological stores. They were chosen to enrich the museum's display scenario to tell the history of the Egyptian capitals through the ages. They include artifacts from Luxor Museums stores, the Royal Carriages in Bulaq, Suez, the Egyptian Museum at Al-Tahrir and the Mitt Raheinah archaeological site. Final preparations are underway for the museum's opening.

Preparations for the Opening of the Airport Museums



The Ministry is making final preparations for all works in the halls dedicated to the Airport Museums in Terminal 3. Artifacts have been placed and distributed inside the two exhibition halls, and the lighting systems and labels are now finished. The museum includes about 70 artifacts, carefully selected by the Supreme Committee for Museum Exhibit Scenario, from the stores of a number of museums, including the stores of the Egyptian Museum at Al -Tahrir, the Suez Museum and the Greco-Roman Museum, to reflect the different aspects of the ancient Egyptian civilization from the ancient Egyptian to the Coptic and Islamic eras.

Participation in the Closing Session of the Virtual “Egypt Week” Conference

On 12 November, the Minister delivered a speech before the Egyptian-British Chamber of Commerce, during the closing session of the virtual conference "Egypt Week: The Road Toward Sustainable Economic Growth" organized by the British Egyptian Business Association BEBA and the Egyptian-British Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the United Kingdom and the British International Trade Administration in Egypt. During the session, the hygiene safety regulations implemented by Egypt in hotels and tourism facilities, museums and archaeological sites, to resume the inbound tourism since July 1, and the resumption of cultural tourism since last September, were reviewed.

Cooperation Agreements Developing the Ministry's IT Infrastructure

On 12 November, the Minister and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology attended the signature of a cooperation agreement between the two ministries to develop the Information Technology infrastructure of the Ministry. The agreement was signed by the Vice Minister of Tourism and Antiquities for Tourism Affairs, and the Vice Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Infrastructure Affairs. The duration of this protocol is three years. It aims at achieving digital transformation to develop and improve tourism services. It also aims at documenting and digitalizing information about Egyptian antiquities. In addition to raising archaeological awareness and introducing the services provided by the Ministry, and its activities to the local and international community.



Signing of the protocol

A Cooperation Agreement to Hold an Exhibition in Saudi Arabia

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the President of the Saudi Company “Aramco” signed a cultural cooperation agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to hold a temporary archaeological exhibition called "Towards the Mosque" at the Ithraa Museum in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, starting the end of this month for a period of 24 months.

Training Introducing Sharm El-Sheikh Museum to Tourist Guides

Sharm El Sheikh Museum in South Sinai Governorate organized, during November, a lecture and a guided tour for a group of tourist guides to inform them about the museum and the artifacts displayed in it, to help them better explain the story of the museum and its display scenario to tourists in an interesting way. The philosophy of the display scenario of the galleries is to showcase the diversity and richness of the Egyptian civilization through different historical eras.



Sharm El-Sheikh Museum

Training Workers at the Baron Palace and the Curators of Kafr El Sheikh Museum

Training of employees in archaeological sites and museums continues as part of the program of "tourism ambassadors" to develop the capabilities of employees of the ministry dealing directly with tourists. This training program that was given to workers at the Baron Palace aims at developing their capabilities in a way that contributes to improving the quality of services provided to tourists and visitors. In another context, the Ministry is working on the improvement of the professional and technical performance of the curators of Egyptian museums, especially the newly opened ones. In that respect, a delegation of the directors of the Museum of Islamic Art in Bab Al Khalq met with a number of the curators from the newly opened Kafr El Sheikh Museum. The meeting aimed at experience sharing, between one of the largest and most important museums in Egypt and a new one.

The Conservation and Restoration Project Wins the "Yomiuri" Prize



The Egyptian-Japanese team

In November, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency team (JICA), "The Egyptian-Japanese Joint Project for the Preservation and Restoration of Antiquities" in the Grand Egyptian Museum, won the Yomiuri International Cooperation Prize, in its 27th edition, due to their efforts in restoring and preserving artifacts. This award is given under the auspices of the Yomiuri Newspaper, one of the leading Japanese newspapers, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as having the largest circulation in the world, with about 8 million copies per day. This prize is widely known in Japan, and awarded to Japanese people and groups making notable achievements in international cooperation.

Three ISO Certificates for the Museum in Less than 60 Days

On 29 November, the museum, represented by its Conservation Center, obtained two certificates of accreditation of international standards (ISO) in both the environmental and quality management systems. This means that the museum has obtained three ISO certificates in three different fields in less than 60 days, as it had obtained another ISO certificate last September in "Occupational Safety and Health" management system. This is the first time a museum obtains these three certificates in such a short period of time.



Discussing Work Progress in the Museum in Several Meetings

During the month of November, a series of meetings were held to discuss the progress of work in the museum in preparation for its opening in 2021. The Minister met with the Committee of Specialized Experts, the Evaluation Committee, the alliance responsible for the preparation of documents for operating the services of the Grand Egyptian Museum, and the technical advisory offices, in order to discuss the latest progress of work in preparation for the coalition that will provide and operate the services at the Museum. The meeting was attended by the General Supervisor of the Grand Egyptian Museum project and the surrounding area, assistant minister for archaeological affairs at the museum, and the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. On 3 November, a meeting was held with representatives of ICT Company, implementing the communication and information technology systems in the museum to discuss the museum's website. On 10 November, another meeting was held to discuss the first stage of the pre-set plan set for transporting heavy artifacts and the installation of 107 show cases for the treasures of Tutankhamun.

The Minister and the Head of the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces Visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and the Grand Egyptian Museum

The Minister and the Head of the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces visited the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat, the Grand Egyptian Museum, and the restoration project of Muhammad Ali Palace in Shubra, to follow up on the progress of work there.

The visit began at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fostat, where they oversaw the progress works of Ain Sira Lake and the area in front of the museum, the main exhibition and the mummies galleries, which will be opened soon. In addition to watching the museum's multimedia presentation, which is an integral part of the museum's display scenario. They also visited the temporary exhibition gallery and the glass pyramid.

Then they visited the Grand Egyptian Museum in El-Remaya Square, where they saw the museum façade, the atrium, the grand staircase and the two exhibition galleries of the treasures of King Tutankhamun, in addition to the multi-purpose building. The visit ended at Muhammad Ali Palace in Shubra, where they checked the Gabalaya stall, which was completely restored by the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces and the Fountain Villa, where 76% of its restoration work was completed.



The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

The Museum Receives a Statue of King Merenptah and the Goddess Hathor

In preparation for the opening of the central and mummies exhibition galleries of the Museum, it received a statue of King Merenptah, son of King Ramses II and the fourth king of the nineteenth dynasty, and the goddess Hathor, coming from Met Rahina. It will be showcased as part of the display scenario of the museum's central gallery.

This statue is one of the largest statues of King Merenptah ever found. It weighs more than four tons.

The statue is carved from pink granite cut from the quarries of Aswan. It depicts King Merenptah holding the goddess Hathor's hand, standing to his left, and wearing a double crown. The statue is decorated with inscriptions of hieroglyphs on all four sides with the titles of the king and the goddess Hathor. The Museum will also receive the Mummy of King Merneptah during the majestic parade that will take place from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir to the Museum to be displayed in the Royal Mummies gallery.

From the Museum's Exhibits



Canopic jar in the form of a coffin - Sengem Cemetery in Deir al-Madina - Nineteenth Dynasty - modern kingdom



A seated statue for the supervisor of the Karnak Temple - al-Karnak - Nineteenth Dynasty - modern kingdom

Siwa... An Oasis of Magic and Beauty

Siwa Oasis is one of the most important touristic and archaeological places in Egypt. Located in the Western Desert of Egypt, Siwa is an oasis with diverse touristic offerings. It is part of the Governorate of Matrouh. The people of Siwa are unique. They have a special dialect, traditional clothes, and their very own traditions and customs.

Siwa is also unique for its distinctive architecture built from the kruchev stone, which is a mixture of salt and soft sand mixed with clay. It is characterized by doors made of olive tree and palm tree wood. Siwa is rich in its history. Its archaeological sites vary, dating back to different eras. They include the Temple of Amun, from the Twenty-Sixth Dynasty. Alexander the Great chose to visit this temple when he entered Egypt because its priests were very well known for their ability to predict. There is also the "Mountain of the Dead", which is a mountain with a number of tombs carved into the rock dating back to the late period, including the tomb of 'Si Amun'. Siwa is home to the ancient village of Shali. 'Shali', which means city in the Siwi dialect, is an ancient fortress that was built between the 12th - 13th centuries AD in order to deter any attack from the mobile tribes in the desert. The city was surrounded by a wall with one entrance, and over time a second one was opened from the south side of the wall and was called (Bab Atrat), meaning the new door. Then a third entrance called (Bab Qaduha) was opened for women. In the oasis, there is the ancient mosque, which was the first mosque opened in the tenth century AD, as well as the Tandi mosque, which dates back to the thirteenth century AD, and the ancient Aghurmi Mosque. Siwa is famous for wellness tourism, as its sand contains natural elements that are used in alternative medicine purposes, in addition to water from lakes and sulfur springs that are used for therapeutic purposes, the most famous of which is "Ain Cleopatra", also known as Ain Juba. Siwa Oasis was declared a natural reserve in 2002, due to its environmental diversity, as it was called the land of palms and olives. It is characterized by the cultivation of natural herbs of high purity and quality. It has 200 natural springs from which 190 thousand cubic meters of water flow daily, hot and cold; fresh and salty. There is the island of "Fatnas", which is considered one of the most beautiful islands. It was dubbed 'The Island of Imagination', where its picturesque mix of water with the desert and the palm trees from an exquisite painting, especially during sunset.



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