



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Newsletter

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The Inauguration of the First Antiquities Museum in Hurghada



The Prime Minister inaugurates Hurghada Museum



.. inside one of the museum halls

H.E. the Prime Minister inaugurated the "Hurghada Antiquities Museum", which is the first archaeological museum in the Red Sea Governorate, in the presence of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Ministers of Civil Aviation and Public Business Sector, amid wide local and international media coverage. This is in line with the new direction of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to merge culture with leisure, by highlighting the enormous potential of Egypt and its diverse and rich touristic products which cater to the different interests of tourists and travellers. The Museum contains 1791 artefacts that display Egypt's histories, including its Pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic cultures, and up to the modern eras. The Hurghada Museum is the first museum to be built in partnership with the private sector, while its management remains the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.



Bust of Merit-Amun



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The discovery of Predynastic Graves in Northern Delta

The Egyptian archaeological mission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities discovered 83 tombs, dating to Predynastic times, in Umm Al-Khilajan district, Dakahlia Governorate. Eighty of those tombs date to the first half of the fourth millennium BC, which is known as the Buto culture. These tombs take the form of oval pits cut in the sandy layer with deceased buried in a squatting position within. Funerary furniture was also found in these burials. This is the first time that pottery coffins dating to the Third Naqada period have been uncovered in the Dakahlia Governorate. The discoveries included a group of pottery vessels of various shapes, and some artefacts dating to the transition towards unification of Egypt.



One of the pre-dynastic tombs

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities receives Ambassadors at Abdeen Palace, inviting them to visit Al-Fath Historic Mosque after its inauguration in January 2020



The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities with ambassadors at Abdin Palace

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities received 40 ambassadors and a number of tourism investors on a visit to Abdeen Palace. They also visited Al-Fath Mosque, which was inaugurated last January after its restoration. They were accompanied by H.E. the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, H.E. the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and H.E. the Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Affairs abroad.

Preparations for the Royal Mummies parade from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities held a meeting with the company in charge of the process of transferring the mummies and royal coffins from their current place of display in the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir to their new place of permanent display in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat. The meeting was to follow up on the preparations of organising the ceremony of transporting of 22 royal mummies and 17 royal coffins.

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities visits Greece on his first overseas trip

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities visited Athens, Greece on his first overseas trip since merging the two ministries. This was upon invitation from the Greek government. During the visit, the Minister met with the Greek Ministers of Tourism, and that of Culture and Sports. H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and H.E. the Greek Minister of Culture and Sports held a joint press conference, attended by representatives of the Greek and international media, where they reviewed the results of bilateral discussions and ways of cooperating to combat illicit trafficking of antiquities. During his visit, H.E. Dr Khaled El-Enany held a number of press and TV interviews with several Greek TV channels and international news agencies, including the Associated Press, Reuters, the French Agency, and others. H.E. the Minister also visited major Greek museums and the Acropolis, which is registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. He also visited a workshop for the production of replicas in the Greek capital Athens.



The Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and the Greek Minister of Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities launches a Campaign to raise tourism awareness

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities held the first meeting to launch a local awareness campaign to inform Egyptians of the importance of tourism and of protecting their monuments and archaeological sites. The capacity building of the workforce in tourism has been discussed to elevate the workers' skills set and improve the quality of services provided to tourists.

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities participates in Dendara Music Festival and inaugurates the Panorama of the Temple

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities participated in the opening ceremony of Dendara Music Festival organised by the Ministry of Culture, in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. Prior to the opening ceremony, H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities inaugurated three catacombs and the rooftop panorama of the Dendara Temple in Qena Governorate, after the completion of the restoration and development project of the temple, in the presence of H.E. the Minister of Culture, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and the Governor of Qena.

The Administrative Capital's Museum receives part of the Cloth of the Kaaba

Within the framework of cultural cooperation between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities received, from the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Cairo a part of the cloth of the Kaaba as a gift from the Kingdom to the Antiquities Museum in the new Administrative Capital. The handover ceremony was attended by the Advisor to the President of the Republic for Financial Affairs and Deputy Minister for Tourism Affairs. Prior to the handover ceremony, the participants toured the museum which exhibits the history of the different Egyptian capitals.



Receiving part of the Cloth of the Kaaba

New laws issued for the Grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of the Egyptian Civilization

His Excellency the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt issued Law No. 9 of 2020, regarding the Grand Egyptian Museum, which stipulates that the Grand Egyptian Museum is considered an economic public body affiliated with the Minister concerned with antiquities' affairs, and it is an integrated international complex aiming at introducing the Egyptian civilization to the world, and providing services and cultural activities to visitors. H.E. President Abd El-Fattah El-Sisi also issued Law No. 10 of 2020 organizing the Authority of the National Museum of the Egyptian Civilization. The law defined the legal nature of the museum's authority, its headquarters and its affiliation, in addition to a description of the museum's authority as a cultural complex taking into consideration the special nature of the museum, as it is not limited to the museum's exhibition buildings and antiquities' storerooms only, but includes also cultural and recreational services to the visitors.



The Grand Egyptian Museum

Meeting of the Permanent Committee for Licensing Hotel and Touristic Establishments

H.E. the Prime Minister issued Decree No. 431 of 2020 regarding the formation of the Permanent Committee for Licensing Hotels and Touristic Establishments for the first time, and chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. The committee is concerned with examining and studying applications submitted by investors to obtain licenses to operate touristic and hotel establishments, renewing them, taking decisions regarding them, in addition to following up on operations of existing and new projects, and submitting a monthly report to the Ministerial Committee for Tourism and Antiquities, concerning all obstacles to their work, and outstanding requests. The committee met under the chairmanship of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities on 27 February.

Tighter Penalties to Protect our Heritage

The Parliament approved the amendments submitted by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities regarding the formulation of two articles in the Antiquities Protection Law No. 117 of 1983 to criminalise and punish with imprisonment for a period of no less than a month, and with a fine of no more than one hundred thousand pounds, or one of these two penalties, on whoever climbs Egyptian antiquities, or commits an act contrary to public decency or offending the country in museums or archaeological sites, or stealthily entering them. The penalty would be doubled if the aforementioned acts were connected. The Parliament approved also the amendment concerning criminalising and punishing with aggravated imprisonment and a fine of no less than one million pounds and not more than 10 million pounds, whoever possesses or sells a monument or part of a monument outside the Arab Republic of Egypt, unless he has an official document indicating its exit from Egypt in a legal way. Furthermore, it will be ruled to confiscate the monument in question.

Inaugurations and Restoration projects

The Obelisk of Ramesses II Decorates Tahrir Square



Al- Tahrir Square

In preparation for its inauguration, the finalization of the project of the development of Tahrir Square is currently underway. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities started this project in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing, and Cairo Governorate. By the end of February, the assembly and installation works for the obelisk of Ramesses II, that was brought from San al-Hagar (Tanis), Sharqia Governorate, to decorate the square have all been completed.

The Completion of the Restoration Project of the Temples of Abu Simbel and Village of Shali

The Ministry completed the restoration and development of the Abu Simbel temples in Aswan Governorate. This included providing the visitors' centre with new display screens, and a complete change of the temples' lighting. On a similar note, the Ministry is also completing a project to restore the archaeological village of Shali, in Siwa Oasis, Matrouh Governorate.



Restoration works in Abu Simbel temples

Exhibitions

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Participates in International Tourism Exhibitions in Italy, Belgium and Prague

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, participated in several international tourism exhibitions in the framework of promoting Egypt as touristic destination. The Ministry participated in the international tourism exhibition BIT, Milan 2020 in Italy, and in the activities of the 62nd session of the international tourism exhibition Salon des Vacances held in the Belgian capital, Brussels. The Ministry also participated in the 29th version of the international tourism exhibition "World Holiday" held in the Czech Republic capital, Prague, which is considered one of the largest professional and public exhibitions in Central Europe.

Egypt Selected as the Partner Country (Guest of Honour) in the 42nd version of Belgrade International Tourism Fair

Egypt was chosen for the first time as the partner country (Guest of honour) in the 42nd version of the International Tourism Fair which was held in the Serbian capital, Belgrade. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities participated in this exhibition with a delegation composed of members of the government and of the private sector. This exhibition is considered the largest tourism fair of South-East Europe.

Meetings

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities receives a number of ambassadors to discuss cooperation in the tourism and antiquities sectors



with ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Morocco



.. and ambassador of United Kingdom

In February, H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities received various countries' ambassadors, including: France, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Greece, Cyprus, and Republic of Ireland. H.E. the Minister also met a delegation of the French-Egyptian Friendship Group in the French Senate and the Director of the UNESCO Regional Office. When celebrating the Arab Tourism Day, H.E. the Minister received a number of ambassadors of Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Morocco in addition to representatives of Arab embassies, and a group of Arab journalists, in the Golden Hall of Prince Muhammad Ali's palace, where the Ministry held a dinner for them.

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and H.E. the Minister of Civil Aviation visit Cairo International Airport

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and H.E. the Minister of Civil Aviation had a field visit inside Cairo International Airport inspecting tourism offices of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. They also inspected the new halls designed for two future museums inside the airport. After the visit, the two Ministers met to discuss cooperation between both Ministries during the next period and discussed plans to encourage inbound tourism to Egypt and ways of upgrading capacities of Egypt's airports.



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and the Minister of Civil Aviation in Cairo International Airport

H.E. the Minister meets more than 100 Tourism Investors in Luxor

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the Governor of Luxor, and the chairman of the Egyptian Tourism Federation, met with more than 100 tourism investors and representatives of the tourism sector in Luxor to discuss problems facing the tourism industry in the governorate. The meeting is one of a series of meetings held by H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, since the merging of the portfolio of Ministries of Tourism and of Antiquities.

.. and attended the General Assembly of the Egyptian Tourism Federation

H.E. the Minister participated in the meeting of the General Assembly of the Egyptian Tourism Federation amid great optimism in the private tourism sector. For the first time in many years, H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Egyptian Tourism Federation, along with a number of senior officials of the Ministry, emphasising the close cooperation between the governmental and private tourism sector to push for more international tourism movement to Egypt.

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities meets TUI International Group and the President of the USTOA

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities met with officials of the TUI international group, to discuss ways of cooperating to increase tourists' number to Egypt, and also met the President of the USTOA, the United States Tour Operators Association, for potential cooperation to further promote Egypt's tourism in the United States of America. During the meeting, the President of the American Tour Operators Association expressed the desire of the Federation to hold its annual conference of 2021 in Egypt.

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities discussed the Promotion Plans of the Ministry for Upcoming Period with CNN Officials

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities met with the Commercial Affairs Officer in the Middle East and the Director of Customer Relations Management in the Europe, Middle East, and Africa region of CNN International to discuss the promotional campaign for the upcoming period, the necessity of adapting promotional materials in line with the developments achieved, and highlighting the imminent archaeological openings.

The Facilitation Committee of the Minya Museum held its first meeting

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities and the Director General of Cultural Affairs of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the first meeting of the Facilitation Committee for the completion of the construction of the Minya Museum in preparation for its opening. They discussed the steps required for the preparation of the file required for listing the Amarna archaeological site on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities held a commemorative ceremony

In February, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities held a commemorative ceremony for the great Egyptologist Dr. Ali Radwan, the former Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and President of the Union of Arab Archaeologists. The Ministry also held another ceremony for Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Bakr, former head of the Egyptian Antiquities Authority (25 February). The ceremonies were attended by H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the heads of departments of the Ministry, a number of Egyptologists, and professors of archaeology from various universities in Egypt, and directors of foreign archaeological institutes.

Flights Between Sharm El-Sheikh and Luxor are back

To link the sandy beaches of the Red Sea to the great monuments of the Nile Valley in Upper Egypt, EgyptAir started operating flights between Sharm El-Sheikh and Luxor. The first flight was on Thursday 20 February 2020. These flights will operate on a weekly basis, for the first time after their suspension for many years. This took place within the framework of coordination between the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities and Civil Aviation. To celebrate the first flight on this route, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities gave its passengers, a free visit to the beautiful tomb of Queen Nefertari on the west bank of Luxor (normal cost of entrance ticket 1400 Egyptian pounds).



Tourists of first flight from Sharm El-Sheikh to Luxor in Nefertari tomb

Promoting Tourism in Luxor during the summer

In line with the efforts of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to promote cultural tourism and increase the number of visitors to archaeological sites and museums in Luxor during the months of June, July, and August, the board of directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities decided on a 50% price discount on entrance tickets and the Luxor pass for foreigners to all the archaeological sites and museums in Luxor, Aswan and Qena for two years.

A Spanish Actress, a British press delegation, and a delegation of the Olympic African Regional Games visited different archaeological sites



The delegation of the Olympic African Regional Games at the Pyramids

The pyramids' archaeological site received a delegation of the Olympic African Regional Games. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities hosted a British press delegation on a visit to Cairo and Luxor. Famous Spanish actress and singer Victoria April visited the city of Aswan.

Wadi El-Gemal Reserve



Egypt is blessed with cultural sites as well as natural ones, making it a destination that attracts all segments of tourists. Ecotourism is an important type of tourism in Egypt also. There are nearly 30 natural reserves, among which Wadi El-Gemal Reserve, declared a natural reserve in 2003, due to its rare environmental and biological diversity.

Wadi El-Gemal or the valley of the Camels is located 50 km off the city of Marsa Alam, south of the Red Sea Governorate, on an area of more than 7 000 km². Its name derived from the camels owned by the Bedouin tribes inhabiting these areas. The camels used to escape to this valley to feed on a kind of plant that grew naturally in it. A large part of the reserve, overlooking the Red Sea, holds some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The famous "Lonely Planet" site, for tourism and travel, has identified Abu Dabab Bay, in Wadi El-Gemal, as one of the seven best beaches for snorkelling around the world, describing it as one of the few places in the world to spot the elusive dugong (abu dabab), a rare, lesser-known cousin of the manatee that inspired mermaid myths and legends across cultures. There are several small islands, in the reserve, where rare birds breed. Sea turtles are found on these islands' shores, and marine plants grow on them feeding a group of rare fish.



The richness of the wild part of the reserve varies according to the nature of the geological substrate, making it a geological museum. It is one of the largest and richest valleys of the Eastern Desert, where rare wild plants such as mountain tea, mangroves, and acacia trees grow. It includes a number of endangered animals such as mountain goats, Afari gazelle, Ariel gazelle, and a rare group of eagles and rabbits. Spring is one of the most beautiful times to visit this reserve. In addition, the reserve has a clear sky that allows meditation lovers to observe the stars and the Milky Way at night. Accommodation in the reserve include a diverse array of hotels and camps, all uniquely equipped.



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