



20
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**Tourism
and
Antiquities**

Table of Content

Introduction	4	Digital Transformation	27
Inbound Tourism	6	Upgrading Services in Archaeological Sites and Museums	28
Measures and Initiatives to Support the Tourism Sector	8	Training and Raising Awareness	29
Hygiene Safety Regulations	10	International Archeological Exhibitions	30
Revisiting Hotel Rating According to New Hospitality Criteria	11	Repatriated Artifacts	31
New Tourism Strategies	12	Archeological Discoveries	32
Marketing and Promotion	14	Openings and Ongoing Archeological Projects	34
International Tourism Exhibitions	24	The Grand Egyptian Museum Project	38
International Cooperation	25	Egyptian Tourism In the Spotlight	42



For the past few years, Egypt has given the tourism and antiquities sectors unprecedented support. This year, the government provided the tourism sector with incentives to help increase inbound tourism to Egypt's touristic destinations. Many decrees and measures were implemented to support the sector. Laws and legislations were issued to forge ahead the tourism sector, one of the main pillars of Egypt's economy.

In 2021, tourist numbers to Egypt, were steadily rising, from many countries and the demand for Egypt's tourist destinations increased, indicating the confidence of tourists in Egypt as a tourist destination and their confidence in the hygiene safety regulations implemented.

Air travel to Egypt resumed from many countries in 2021. Russia resumed flights to popular Egyptian Red Sea resorts of Sharm El-Sheikh and Hurghada on 9 August, after 6 years of suspension.

The Ministry introduced an integrated tourism product, merging beach and leisure tourism with cultural tourism, allowing tourists to visit more than one destination while in Egypt, thus enriching their experience, by linking the Nile Valley with the coastal cities, through domestic flight routes.

The Ministry adopted a new marketing approach, organizing tourism events, like the "Pharaohs' Golden Parade", "Luxor..Sphinx Avenue" Event, to showcase Egypt as a young vibrant welcoming tourist destination, in accordance with Egypt's tourism brand strategy put forward by the English-Canadian coalition.

In 2021, the Ministry prepared its sustainable development strategy "Vision 2030". The Ministry in cooperation with the Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF) are preparing an integrated national strategy for sustainable tourism in Egypt. In July, the ETF contracted an Italian expert house, which had previously prepared an integrated strategy for Egyptian tourism in 2009, to update this strategy.

Several promotional campaigns have also been launched in Europe and Arab countries, and the Ministry launched initiatives to encourage domestic tourism.

This year, the Ministry started sending committees to hotels all around the country to re-evaluate them according to the new Hospitality Criteria put forward in coordination with the UNWTO and to bring the classification of Egyptian hotels to the level of their international counterparts. This took place in parallel with implementing the ministerial decree to set minimum accommodation prices for five and four star hotels. The Ministry updates its hygiene safety regulations regularly in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Egyptian Tourism Federation

In digital transformation, the put forward a strategy based on three pillars: establishing websites, developing infrastructure, and creating databases. This year, the Ministry launched e-ticketing system in 32 archeological sites and museums, to substitute the manual ticketing system. Visitors can pay for the tickets, that are read via scanner readers, using credit cards. Smart electronic gates were installed in a number of sites, Many archaeological discoveries in various governorates took place in 2021.



In 2021, tourist numbers to Egypt, were steadily rising, from many countries and the demand for Egypt's tourist destinations increased, indicating the confidence of tourists in Egypt as a tourist destination and their confidence in the hygiene safety regulations implemented. Egypt's hygiene safety regulations were praised by officials from countries sending tourists to Egypt and from the Secretary-General of the UNWTO.

Tour operators confirmed that infection rates, with COVID – 19, among tourists upon returning to their countries is almost non-existent, which was confirmed by the negative PCR results conducted upon their return.



The Tourists n the first flight from London to Sharm El-Sheikh



First flight from Russia to Sharm El-Sheikh

Air travel to Egypt resumed from many countries in 2021. Russia resumed flights to popular Egyptian Red Sea resorts of Sharm El-Sheikh and Hurghada on 9 August, after 6 years of suspension. On November 9, restrictions on regular and charter flights from various Russian cities wishing to operate flights to Egypt were lifted.

On October 9th, Sharm El-Sheikh received the first flight coming from London, which had been suspended in 2015 until February 2020, and then again from March 2020, due to the spread of the Corona virus.

In February, Hurghada received the first flight of a German charter airline, coming from Frankfurt. In June, the first direct flight by Air Canada from Montreal arrived to Cairo, the first flight from Fly Dubai landed in Sharm El-Sheikh Airport arriving from Dubai, this was the second flight of Fly Dubai arriving to Egypt as the first one arrived at Borg El-Arab Airport. The first charter flight from Kazakhstan arrived in Matrouh International Airport. In July, the first charter flights from Spain and France arrived at Luxor Airport.

The Government Supports the Tourism Sector



In 2021, the Egyptian Government issued decrees to mitigate the effect of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the tourism sector. The most important of which were: extending the two initiatives of the Central Bank of Egypt to support the sector until the end of 2022, rescheduling of debts and arrears and postponing fees due to the government. Those decrees also included: extending the reduction on aviation fuel prices by 15 cents per gallon until 30 December 2022, launching a new aviation Incentive Program from 1 January 2021 until 30 April 2022. Entry visa fees for tourists arriving in touristic governorates were waived until 30 April 2021. Discounts on landing, housing and ground handling fees in airports of touristic governorates were extended until 30 April 2022.

On 8 August, the decree of the Cabinet, allowing tourists with valid (pre-used) visas from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Belarus, to obtain emergency entry visa, was effective (in addition to the previous decree that included USA, UK and Schengen states issued on 15 December 2020).

Important Laws and Bills Issued in 2021

On June 20th, the Law to establish the Egyptian Portal for Umrah was issued. The Joint Committee for Tourism and Civil Aviation, and Antiquities, Media and Culture of the Parliament, approved a draft law establishing the Tourism and Antiquities Fund on March 30.

On December 27, the Tourism and Civil Aviation Committee of the Parliament finished discussing the "Hotel and Tourism establishments" draft law. On September 29, the Cabinet had approved this draft law which aims at facilitating issuing licenses for these establishments.

Regulatory Procedures for the Tourism Sector

In 2021, the Minister issued decrees organizing work in the tourism and antiquities sector, the Ministry and its affiliated boards. They included: the decree to set a minimum accommodation price for 4 and 5 star hotels, issued in April. The decree stipulates that the minimum price for accommodations for an individual per night is set at USD 40 in five-star hotels, or its equivalent, and USD 28 or its equivalent in four-star hotels. The decree took effect starting 1 November.

In November, the Minister issued a Ministerial decree to develop the training system and the service quality in all hotel and tourism establishments and another to amend some provisions regarding diving centers, marine activities, yachts and tourist boats, and the conditions and procedures for licensing. In September, a Ministerial Decree was issued regulating Optional Trips for Tourists regulating optional trips for solo travelers as well as tourists traveling with travel agencies.

Among the important organizational measures implemented, was obliging tourism and tourism transport companies to replace GPS tracking devices on tourist buses with modern devices, and install tracking devices on minibuses, microbuses, and limousines.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities Supports Tourism

In 2021, the Supreme Council of Antiquities took several decisions to promote cultural tourism. This included: postponing the increase in prices of entry tickets to museums and archaeological sites until May 2022; extending the exemption for all cafeterias and bazaars located in museums and archaeological sites, from paying rents until October 2021, and a 50 % reduction until January 2022.

The Supreme Council updated regulations for hosting events and commercial photography in archaeological sites and museums, to be more attractive. It also agreed to waive the fees for shooting talk shows and TV programs in archaeological sites and museums, for Egyptian, Arab and foreign channels.



Hygiene Safety Regulations



Throughout 2021, the Ministry continued conducting regular inspections and dispatching committees to follow up on the implementation of Hygiene Safety regulations, and on the quality of services provided in hotels and restaurants and legal action is taken against those who violate them. The total number of hotels that received the Ministry's hygiene safety regulations certificate that is a pre-requisite for operations and receiving visitors is 940 hotels so far. The Ministry updates its hygiene safety regulations regularly in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Egyptian Tourism Federation.

In November, 5 international companies specialized in health and hygiene safety measures, in cooperation with the Ministry, the Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF) and the Egyptian Hotels Association (EHA) started visiting hotels to review the hygiene safety regulations implemented there.

This year 13 new hotels were opened in various governorates, with a capacity of 2,960 rooms, after meeting all operating regulations.

In August, the Ministry dispatched committees to follow up on travel agencies in the Red Sea Governorate and ensure their compliance with laws regulating their work.

During 2021, Egypt fully vaccinated all tourism staff working in touristic governorates, with COVID-19 vaccines.

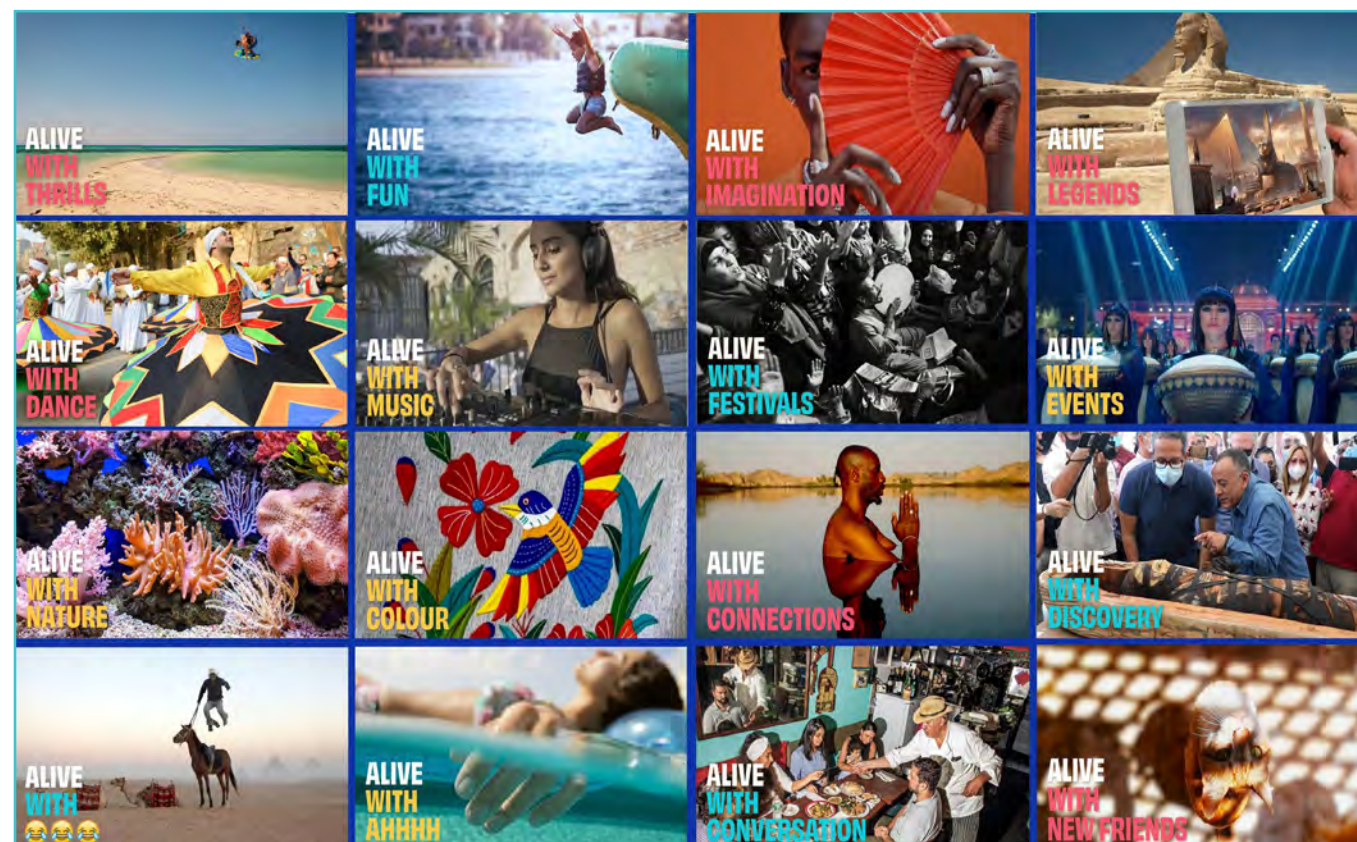


Re-Counting Stars: Revisiting Hotel Rating According to New Criteria

In July, the Ministry started sending committees to hotels all around the country to re-evaluate them according to the new Hospitality Criteria put forward in coordination with the UNWTO, to bring the classification of Egyptian hotels to the level of their international counterparts. It was according to the new hospitality criteria that minimum accommodation prices for hotels were set in April according to a Ministerial decree and it was effective in November.

In October, the Ministry completed re-evaluating hotels that received the hygiene safety certificate in South Sinai and the Red Sea. Upon re-evaluating hotels that received the hygiene safety certificate, some of them were devaluated.

Egypt Tourism Brand Strategy



On February 17, the Ministry contracted an English-Canadian coalition to prepare Egypt's tourism brand strategy. It was completed August 18. The most prominent feature of this strategy is to showcase Egypt as young vibrant welcoming destination, full of life and pride in its great civilization.

Organizing the “Pharaohs’ Golden Parade” on April 3, and the “Luxor... Sphinx Avenue” on November 25, were both part of this new strategy.

Integrated National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism in Egypt

The Ministry in cooperation with the Egyptian Tourism Federation are preparing an integrated national strategy for sustainable tourism in Egypt. In July, the ETF contracted an Italian expert house, to update the strategy they prepared this in 2009. A workshop was held with all concerned parties and the private sector, in December, to update all stakeholders in the public and private tourism sector about this strategy.

The Ministry’s Sustainable Development Strategy “Vision 2030”

In January, the ministry prepared a sustainable development strategy "Vision 2030", where the Ministry’s vision and mission were defined.

Vision: Strengthening Egypt's leadership as a modern and sustainable tourist destination that contributes to strengthening the country's national economy,

through its rich and diverse tourism, natural, human and archaeological resources, and preserving Egypt’s unique cultural heritage for future generations and for mankind.

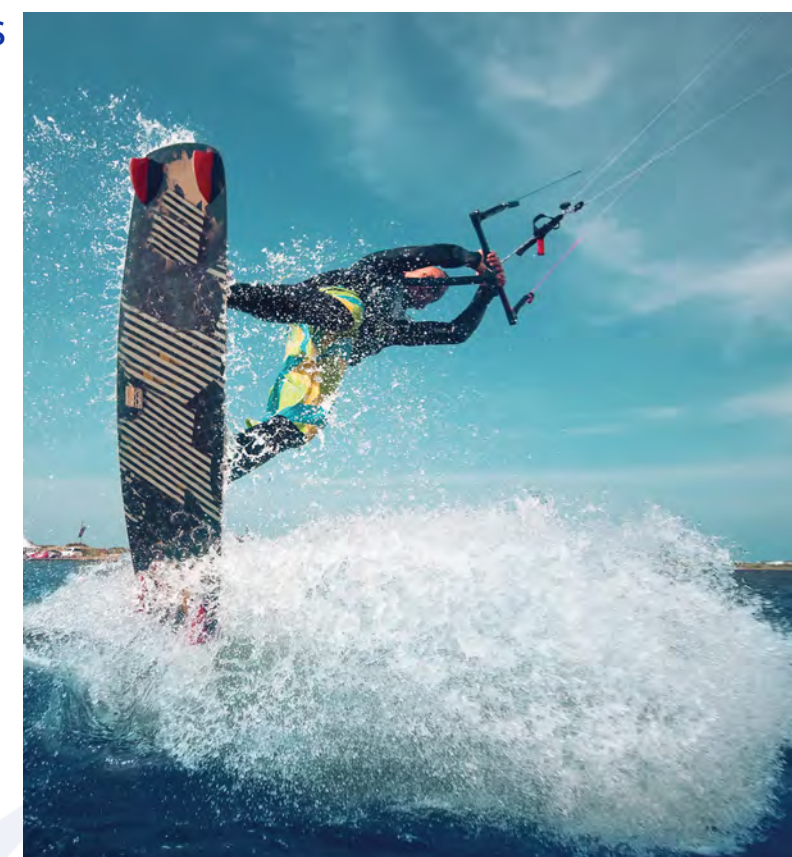
Mission: Advancing the tourism and antiquities sectors in Egypt and optimizing the use of Egypt’s tourism, natural, human and archaeological resources and work to ensure their sustainability, and provide distinct and advanced infrastructure and services to increase Egypt’s competitiveness, by encouraging investment opportunities, raising the efficiency of the human element and using modern technology, through Institutional and legislative frameworks to keep pace with global development, with the application of the best ways to promote and stimulate tourism locally and internationally to attract the largest number of tourists from different markets and all categories, especially those with high spending, encourage domestic tourism, increase tourism and archaeological awareness, carry out archaeological excavations and implement projects to secure, restore and preserve antiquities, build And develop museums throughout Egypt.

Diversifying Tourism Products

In 2021, the Ministry put a plan to offer an integrated tourism product, merging beach tourism with cultural tourism. In this context, Egypt Air operated the first flight from Sharm El-Sheikh to Luxor on 27 October, after a 6 year hiatus. This was part of the on-going cooperation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Egyptian Cabinet had approved launching a new Incentive Program for domestic flights between Red Sea Cities and Upper Egypt.

In line with HE the President’s directives, to put a strategic plan to boost yachting tourism, the Prime Minister issued a decree to form a ministerial committee to facilitate the procedures of yacht tourism in Egypt.

As part of the National project to revive the Holy Family Journey in Egypt, 3 restoration projects of sites along the path of the Holy Family Journey were opened this year.



The Ministry continued its promotional activities throughout 2021, to promote Egypt and attract tourists. The Ministry adopted a new approach by implementing tourism events to showcase Egypt as a young vibrant welcoming tourist destination.

Launching Promotional Campaigns



During 2021, the Ministry launched a number of promotion campaigns to attract inbound tourism from different markets. In May, the Ministry launched a promotional campaign targeting the Arab market on digital, social media and booking platforms, tapping on the success of the first part of the campaign, part 2 was launched in June.



the various Egyptian tourist, archaeological and cultural sites on their social media platforms and those of their embassies.

In December, the Ministry launched a digital marketing campaign in a number of European countries titled "Sunny Christmas". In July the Ministry launched a campaign under the title 'Egypt in the eyes of European Union ambassadors', where the ambassadors posted more than 20 videos to promote

The Ministry also launched, "Enjoy your winter in Egypt", an initiative to promote domestic tourism. It was activated on 15 January until 31 May. As part of this initiative, the Supreme Council of Antiquities granted a %50 reduction on the prices of entry tickets to Egyptians in museums and archaeological sites open to visits in Qena, Luxor and Aswan.

Egypt Wins Best Digital Promotional Campaign in Russia

Egypt won the best promotional campaign launched on social media platforms in Russia, according to global Ad colony platform, one of the leading platforms in evaluating electronic advertising campaigns.

The Ministry had launched this campaign in Russia to promote the Egyptian tourist destination.

Egypt is the only country that received this evaluation this year.



Promotional Videos



In 2021, the Ministry produced a number of promotional videos and documentary films, some were launched in conjunction with promotional campaigns in various markets, including the Arab market, and the initiative to encourage domestic tourism.

The Ministry released 27 short films highlighting the tourism potential of Egypt's governorates; a film to promote Luxor titled "Luxor...The Secret", which sheds light on the beauty and uniqueness of Luxor; a film showcasing the state's efforts in the field of antiquities; and a documentary film about conservators working in the temples of Luxor, Karnak, Esna and Dendera.

The Ministry also filmed testimonies of tourists, from different countries about their visit to Egypt, and posted videos of EU ambassadors showcasing their favourite places in Egypt, which they posted on their embassies media platforms.

Egypt Wins UNWTO Video Award for Exceptional Stories of Sustainable Tourism

In December, the UNWTO announced that Egypt won the award for best video for Exceptional Stories of Sustainable Tourism. Launched ahead of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly, held in Madrid.

The competition was designed to recognize the best visual storytellers from every global region. The best examples of destinations harnessing the power of tourism for sustainable development have been celebrated in the 2021 UNWTO Tourism Video Competition. The Ministry released this video to showcase Egypt's tourism potential and how the tourism sector is advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Hosting Bloggers and Influencers from Different Countries



In 2021, the Ministry hosted bloggers and influencers from different countries, and organized Trips and visits to them in various tourist places in Egypt.

The Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board also organized fam trips for tour operators, diplomats, journalists, local, international and regional television channels, from a number of countries, to promote the Egyptian tourist destination. Among them were: a delegation from Belarus that included representatives from the ministries of tourism, sports, transport and aviation, in addition to media delegations from various countries, including Ukraine, Russia, Saudi Arabia among others.



Archeological Sites and Museums Host Egypt's Guests in 2021



In 2021, archaeological sites and museums hosted, officials and VIPs from a number of countries, in addition to delegations participating in various events held in Egypt; among them are: the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, Crown Prince of Britain , accompanied by his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, Vice President of the Republic of Brazil, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development of Libya, Minister of State for Immigration of the Netherlands, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of South Korea, the crew of the French Mistral amphibious helicopter carrier, and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

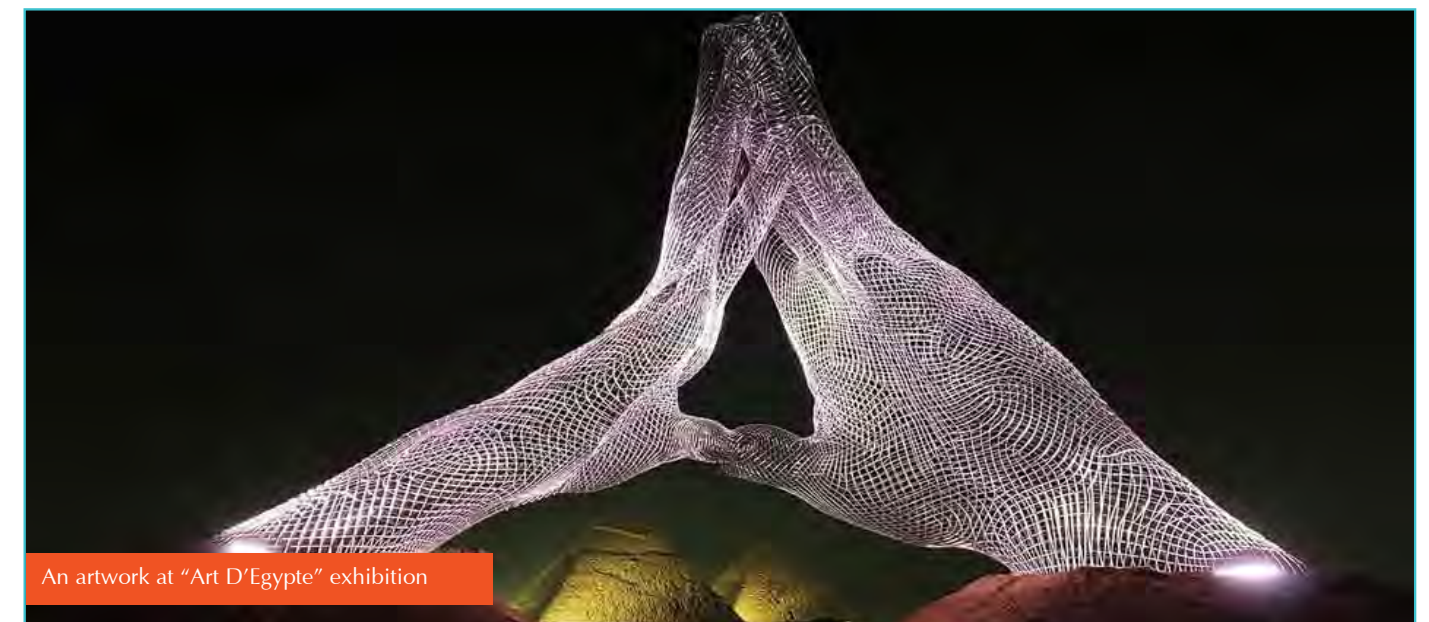
They also hosted Egyptian, Greek and Cypriot youth participating in the activities of the youth version of the presidential initiative “Reviving the Roots NOSTOS”, the Russian and Egyptian youth participating in the second edition of the Egyptian-Russian Youth Forum, which Egypt hosted early October, as part of the activities of the year of human exchange between the two countries. Teams participating in the 2021 World Men’s Handball Championship hosted by Egypt in January, members of the teams participating in the Shooting World Cup hosted by Egypt in February, and others also visited various archeological sites during their stay in Egypt.

Participating in International and Domestic Events



Under the auspices of the Ministry, 2021 was full of international, and domestic, events, festivals and sports championships that took place in Egypt. The most important of which were; Men’s World Championship 2021, Gouna International Squash Open, 2021, Cairo Film Festival, Gouna Film Festival, Luxor International African Film Festival, International Samaa' Festival for Spiritual Music & Chanting, among many others.

The Ministry also participated in events organized by the private sector, and hosted others in archaeological sites, as part of the new promotional strategy of the Ministry; these included “Art D’Egypte” exhibition, hosted at the Giza Plateau in October, the International Carnival for Tourism and Arts held in Hurghada on World Tourism Day, September 27, in cooperation with the private tourism sector.



The "Pharaohs' Golden Parade"



The royal journey of the "Pharaohs' Golden Parade" started at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir on 3 April, 2021, where 22 mummies of the kings and queens of ancient Egypt roamed the streets of Cairo and were greeted by 21 gun salutes that were fired marking their arrival at their permanent display place in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. His Excellency the President of Egypt personally received those kings and queens who ruled Egypt and made their mark in its great civilization.

Egypt organized a majestic procession, a pure Egyptian Parade in every detail; production, directing and design. Many state authorities participated to make this an unprecedented event.

This celebration was attended by prominent guests including the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary-General of UNWTO, and the



Ministers of Tourism of Greece and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and about 20 ambassadors from all over the world.

On the same day, H.E. the President inaugurated the Central Exhibition Hall and the Royal Mummies Hall, of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. The Royal Mummies were displayed to the public on 18 April.

Since the first day of its opening, the Museum has had a great turnout of Egyptian and foreign visitors, school children, official delegations and VIPs who visited Egypt during the year. It hosted many cultural and artistic events, throughout the year.



"Luxor..Sphinx Avenue" Event



On November 25th, H.E. the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the First Lady, attended "Luxor..Sphinx Avenue" event, which was attended by the Prime Minister, a number of ministers and state officials, and ambassadors of more than 35 countries in Cairo. The event was widely covered by local and international media and attended by more than 200 representatives of international news agencies, newspapers and television channels.

This event was to promote Luxor, as the largest open museum in the world, and showcase its diversity of touristic offerings, and rich history; especially



after the completion of the excavation project of the "Sphinx Avenue", the restoration project of the Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak temples, developing lighting systems, and restoring the hall of the 14 columns of the Great Colonnades hall of Amenhotep III, Luxor temple, in addition to developing Luxor's infrastructure.

The event, where many ministries participated, featured a march, inspired by the ancient Opet Festival. It also featured, artistic and musical performances and a documentary on Luxor titled "Luxor..The Secret".





In 2021, the Ministry represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB) participated in international tourism exhibitions; attending the ITB, Berlin and BIT, Milan, both were held virtually this year. The Minister headed the Egyptian delegations in ATM, Dubai, Leisure, Moscow, IFTM Top Resa, Paris and WTM, London. The CEO of the ETPB participated in UITT and UITM in Ukraine, The Ministry also participated in FITUR, Spain and TTG Rimini, Italy.

Promoting Egyptian Tourism in Expo 2020



The Ministry participated in the Egyptian pavilion in Dubai Expo 2020, displaying an original sarcophagus of "Psmatik". In addition to replicas representing treasures of King Tutankhamun and promotional material including photos and videos showcasing archaeological sites, the Grand Egyptian Museum and touristic destinations.

In 2021, the Ministry participated in a number of international meetings. Ministry heads went on overseas visits made to boost inbound tourism to Egypt.

A cooperation agreement was signed, in January, with EBRD and UNWTO for a technical support program. Two cooperation agreements were signed with the Kingdom of Jordan, or cooperation in the field of antiquities, museums, and tourism. Another one was signed, on 23 October, between the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and the National History Museum in the Republic of Albania.

Overseas Visits to Promote Egypt's Tourism



Meeting with officials in Moscow

The Minister went on visits in a number of countries to promote Egypt's tourism. He visited Berlin in June, and in September he visited Moscow after a month passed on the resumption of Russian flights to Egyptian resorts. He also visited, Paris in October, where he met the Director-General of UNESCO, and gave a presentation on Egypt's effort in the field of antiquities.



Meeting with the Director-General of UNESCO

The Minister participated in the 113th session of the Executive Council of the UNWTO, and its Crisis Committee in Madrid, Spain (January); in the “Tourism Recovery” summit and the 47th meeting of the Middle East Regional Committee of the UNWTO held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (May). Egypt won the presidency of the Middle East Regional Committee of the UNWTO for two years, and it was agreed that Egypt will host the meeting of the 48th meeting of the committee scheduled to be held early 2022.



The deputy minister in Serbia

He also headed the Egyptian delegation participating in the 24th session of General Assembly of the UNWTO and the 114th session of the its Executive Council in Madrid, Spain (November – December).

In July, Deputy Minister for Tourism Affairs participated in the 44th session of the UNESCO Committee for World Heritage, and in the activities of World Forum for the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which was held via video conference in November in Seoul, South Korea. She also visited the Ukrainian capital, Kiev in July.

The CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board participated in the International Tourism Recovery Summit, held in Nairobi, Kenya, and annual conference of the Organization of American Tourism Companies, in the United States.

In December, the Ministry participated in the meetings of the 24th session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism, where Egypt was elected president of its executive office for years 2021 to 2023.

Official Visits to Egypt

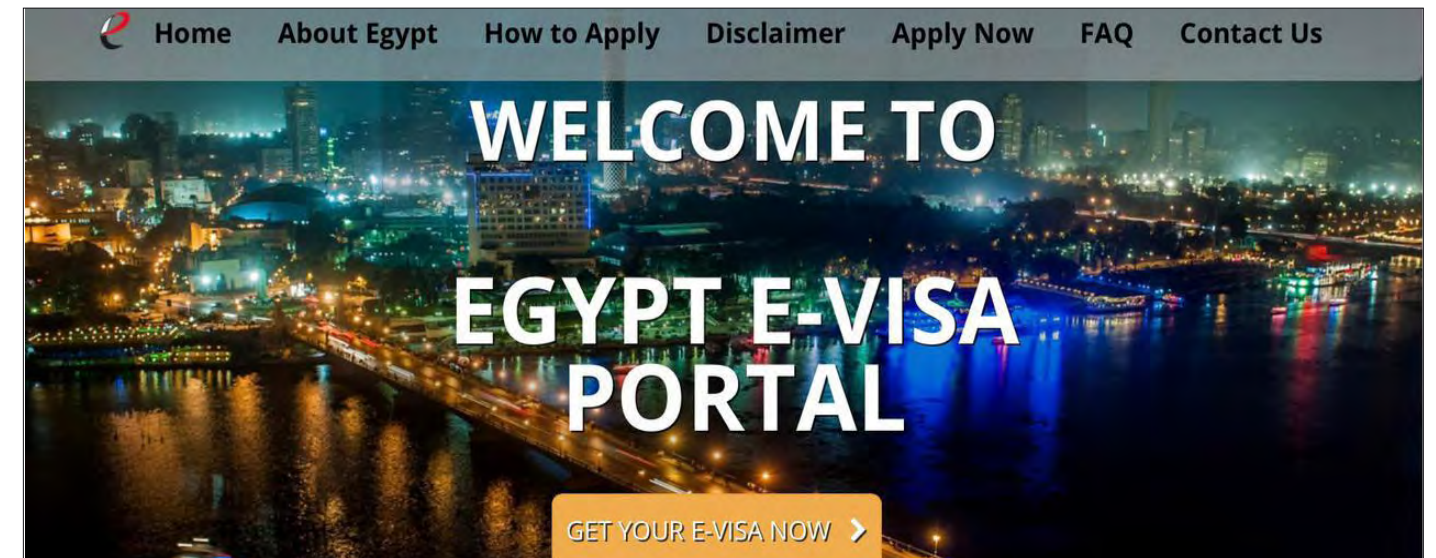
In 2021, the Ministry received officials from a number of countries, holding meetings to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism and antiquities.

Among them are: the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary-General of UNWTO, the Ministers of Tourism in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Greece, the Minister Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and Media of Serbia, Minister of Trade and Investment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Director of the World Heritage Center.



The Secretary-General of UNWTO at the Pyramids

Digital Transformation



The Ministry put forward a strategy for digital transformation; with three pillars: launching services and promotional websites, developing digital infrastructure, and creating databases.

This year, the Ministry launched e-ticketing system in 32 archeological sites and museums, to substitute the manual ticketing system. Visitors can pay for the tickets, that are read via scanner readers, using credit cards. Smart electronic gates were installed in a number of sites, including the Giza Plateau.

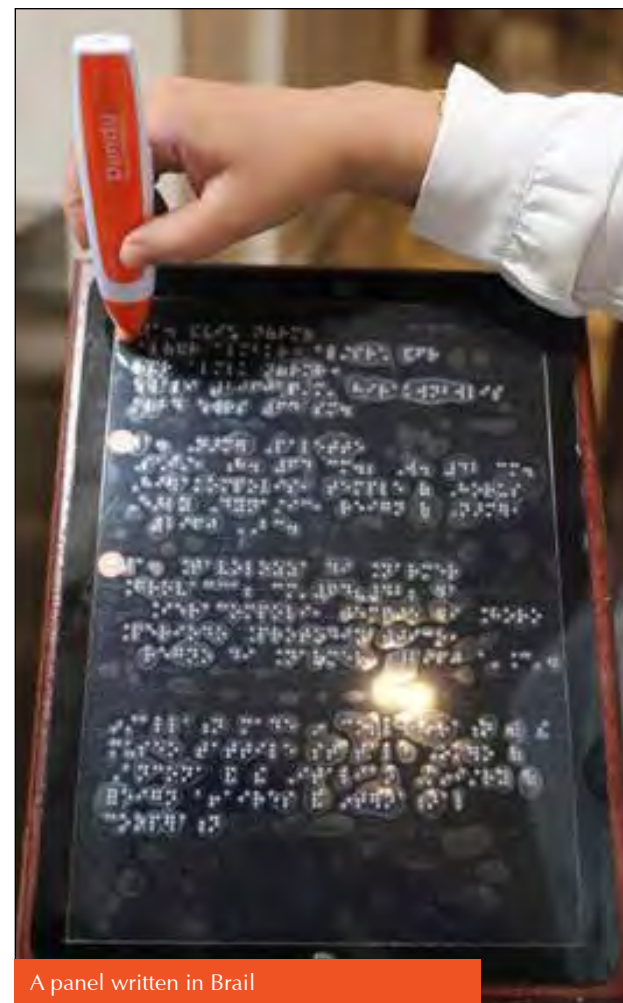
The Ministry is coordinating with the Ministry of Communications and the Armed Forces to raise internet speed in hotels, starting with Sharm El-Sheikh. It also started a project to connect the internet to all archaeological sites and museums. For the first time, a database system for workers in the Tourism sector was developed. In September, the Ministry launched a project to automate services of the Central administration for hotels and tourism activities and make them available via the Internet.

The Ministry introduced an SMS service to send to tourists upon their arrival with the Ministry's hotline number (19654), and other emergency numbers. In coordination with the relevant authorities, 30 additional countries were allowed to obtain the visa electronically through the portal. The total number is now 76 countries.

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization launched its website in April, and a mobile application in December. In November, the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir launched its new website.



Smart electronic gates installed at the Giza Plateau



A panel written in Braille



The Ministry put forward a plan to upgrade and develop services provided to Egyptian and foreign visitors in museums and archaeological sites, starting with the 30 most visited museums and archaeological sites.

This included making them accessible for people special needs by making special paths, providing brochures in Braille, subtitling films in visitor centers in sign language, in addition to other services to improve the visitor's experience.

In 2021, the Ministry completed upgrading services in a number of archaeological sites and museums, in Cairo, Giza, Fayoum, Sohag, Luxor and Aswan, and services in Beni Hassan necropolis in Minya, upgraded in cooperation with the Dutch Embassy in Cairo, the Dutch Flemish Institute and the Urban Thought Association.

The Ministry contracted specialized companies to provide and operate services at the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis, Salah El-Din Castle, Manasterly Palace, Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, Prince Muhammad Ali Palace in Manial, this year.

Training

In 2021, the Ministry trained more than 24,000 workers in the tourism sector and employees of the Ministry in several areas. This included training on: food hygiene and safety, quality inspection, environmental awareness, internal supervision, crisis management, heritage site management, sustainable tourism and modern marketing trends, among others. In addition to that, the Ministry trained tour guides, bazaar owners, and horse carriages and camel owners in the Giza Plateau and other archaeological sites (Tourism Ambassador Program).

Raising Awareness

Throughout the year, the Ministry launched and organized initiatives, programs, competitions and training courses to raise tourism awareness; especially among children and school students, as well as for homeless children. Awareness-raising workshops were organized to identify the needs to rehabilitate local communities in Historic Cairo and Luxor Governorate. The Ministry organized visits for 200 young men and women from border governorates, and a number of tours for participants of the "Youth Train", in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. A series of visits to museums and archaeological sites were also organized for children with special needs.



A visit of children with special needs to the NMEC

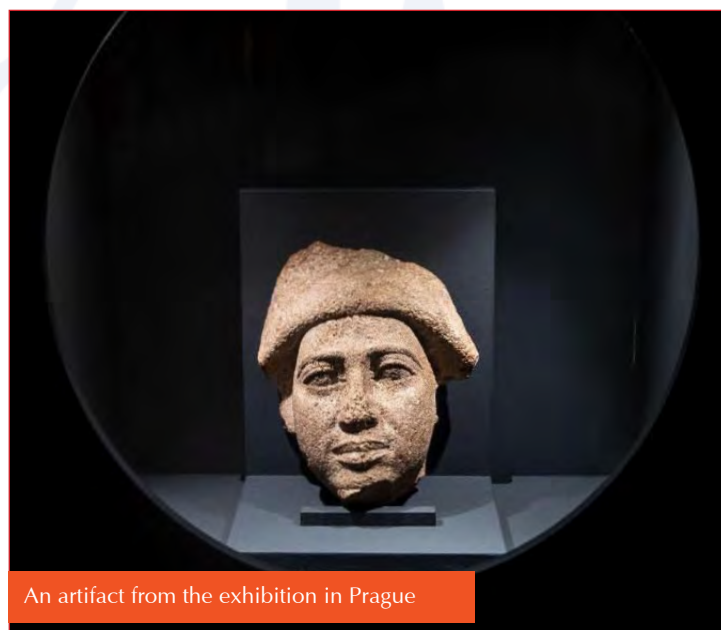


Participants from "Youth Train"

International Exhibitions

During 2021, the Ministry held temporary international exhibitions in a number of countries. In January, the Ministry inaugurated the first exhibition of antiquities in Saudi Arabia at Ithra Museum in Dhahran. On November 19th, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities inaugurated the temporary exhibition “Ramses and the Gold of Pharaohs” in Houston Museum for Natural Science, USA.

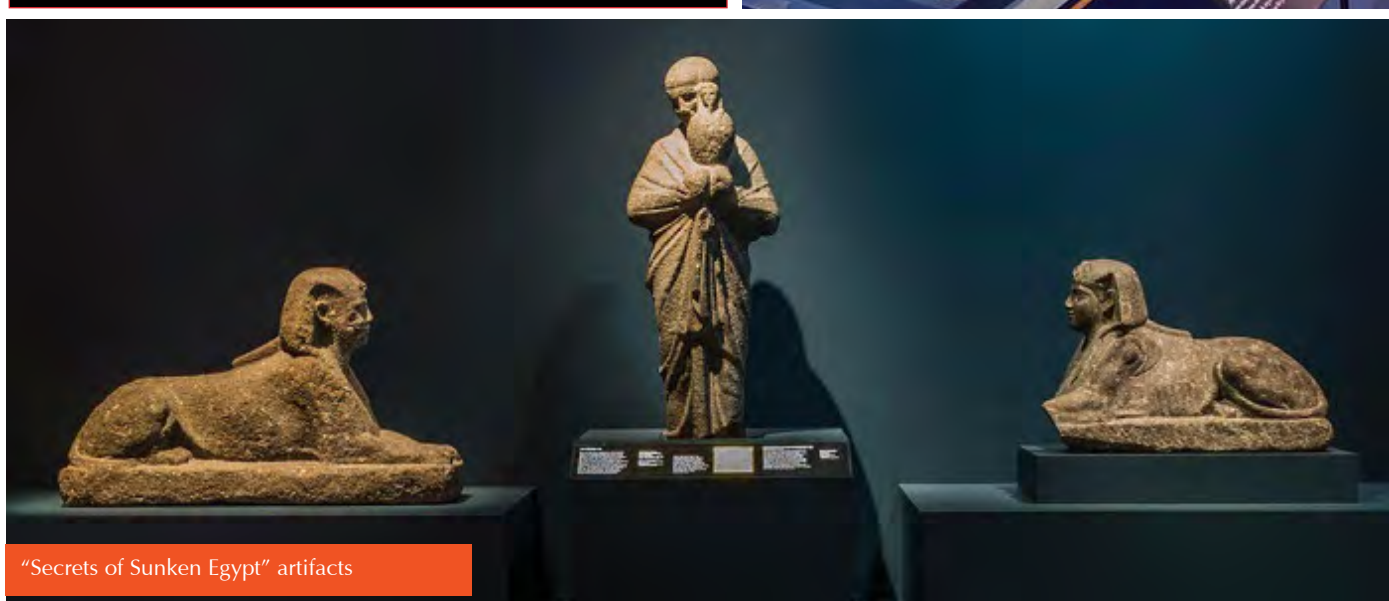
On 15 March, artifacts that participated in the exhibition “Secrets of Sunken Egypt” returned to Egypt, after the end of their tour in a major cities of the United States of America, and a number of European countries; namely France, UK and Switzerland. The exhibition was a great success in all the cities where it was held. On 14 October, artifacts of “Kings of the Sun” exhibition returned back, after the exhibition ended in Prague. This exhibition was held at the National Museum in Prague, from August 2020 , to September 2021. It witnessed a high turnout from Czech visitors and surrounding countries. The number of visitors to the exhibition reached half a million.



An artifact from the exhibition in Prague



“Ramses and the Gold Pharaohs” exhibition



“Secrets of Sunken Egypt” artifacts

Repatriated Artifacts



Bastet statue repatriated from Canada



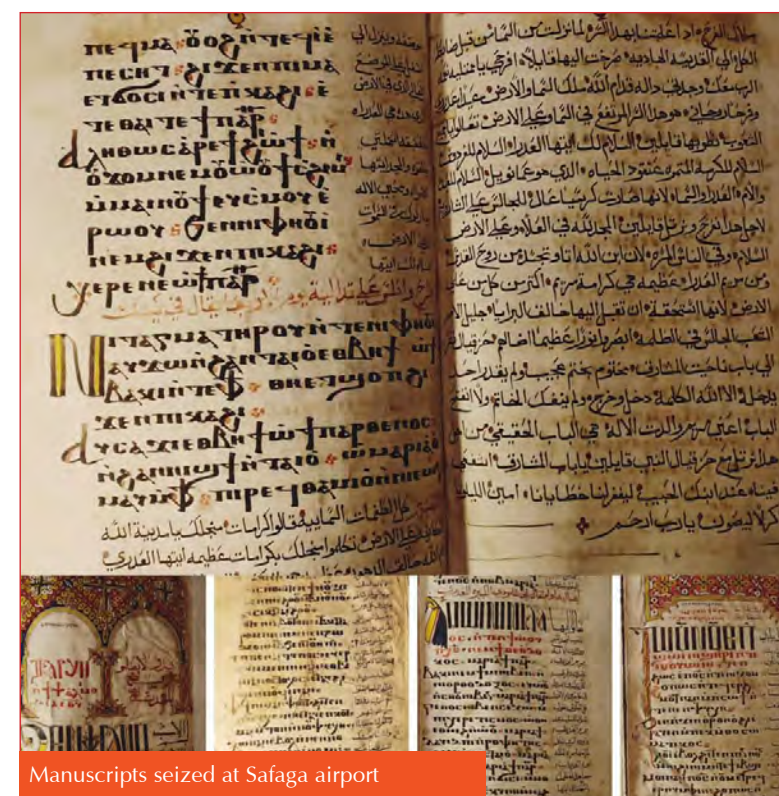
Funerary mask repatriated from USA



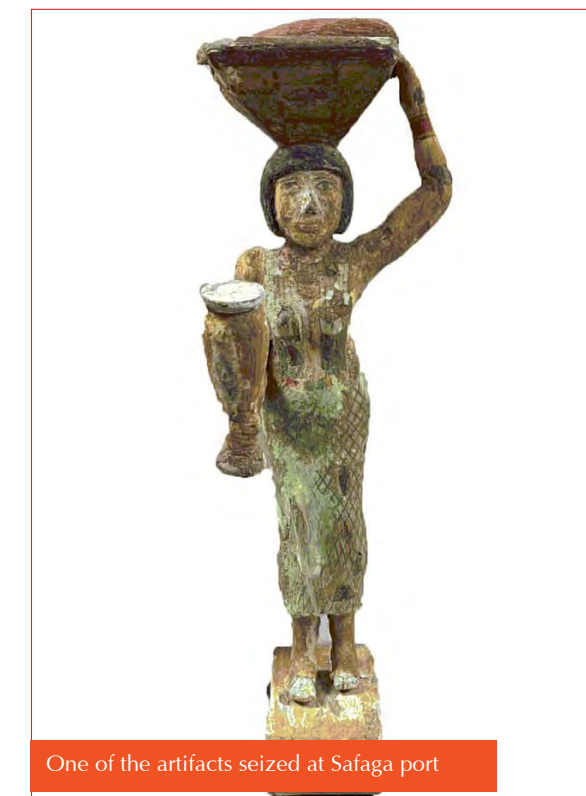
One of the artifacts repatriated from France

In 2021, the Ministry succeeded in repatriating Egyptian antiquities smuggled abroad from a number of countries, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In April, two artifacts dating back to the Greco-Roman era were repatriated from Italy. In June, 140 artifacts returned from France in cooperation with the Egyptian Public Prosecution office. 3 artifacts dating back to the Pharaonic and Greek eras were repatriated from London. In October two statues returned from Belgium and in December 95 artifacts were repatriated from Israel, and 36 from Spain.

In addition to repatriating Egyptian antiquities smuggled abroad, in 2021, the archaeological units at Egyptian ports foiled attempts smuggle around 813 artifacts.



Manuscripts seized at Safaga airport



One of the artifacts seized at Safaga port



In 2021, the Ministry announced archaeological discoveries in various governorates. The most important of which were: the discovery of the city lost under the sands called: The Rise of Aten, that dates back to the reign of Amenhotep III, on the western bank of Luxor. A number of amphorae and saddles from the Byzantine era were discovered under the house of «Yesi», known as the Palace of Tawfiq Pasha Andrew, adjacent to Luxor Temple. Three ram heads were unearthed at the Euergetes' gate in the southern part of Karnak Temple in Luxor.

In Abydos, Sohag, what is believed to be the oldest high-production brewery in the world was uncovered. In Al-Sheikh Hamad archaeological site in Tel Atribis a collection of 13,000 ostraca (clay vessel fragments) bearing engraved text in demotic, hieratic, Coptic, Greek and Arabic were unearthed, and rock tombs were discovered in Al-Hamdiya necropolis. In Aswan, remains of a roman fort with remains of a church from the early Coptic



era was discovered. A Greco-Roman pottery workshop was discovered in Beheira. 110 tombs dating back to three different civilizations were discovered in Daqahliya, and a collection of ancient tools used in religious rituals were unearthed at the Temple of the Pharaohs (Boto) in Kafr El-Sheikh.



In Saqqara necropolis the funerary temple of Queen Nearit, the wife of King Teti, was discovered, in addition to the plan of the temple, and 52 burial shafts, dating back to the New Kingdom. The tomb of Ptah-MWia, head of the treasury during the reign of King Ramses II, was also discovered in Saqqara. A sandstone stela dating back to the 26th dynasty was discovered in a citizen's farm in Ismailia. In Alexandria, 16 burials in the rock-cut tombs (burial shafts) that were popular in the Greek and Roman eras in Taposiris Magna temple.

In underwater excavations, archaeologists found rare remains of a military vessel and a Greek funerary complex at Thonis-Heracleion in an ancient sunken city that once served as Egypt's main Mediterranean port, and the front and middle part of a shipwreck by Saadana Island in the Red Sea, parts of which had been found in 1994.



In February, the Ministry launched an initiative to clean and restore archaeological and non-archaeological statues in main squares around Egypt in cooperation with the concerned governorates, the second phase of the initiative was launched in October. The cleaning and maintenance work is carried out by restorers of the Supreme Council of Antiquities to showcase the beauty of these statues, as part of the Egypt's efforts to add a cultural and aesthetic touch to main squares.

Openings and Ongoing Archeological Projects

Opening the First Factory in Egypt for Archaeological Replicas

On 27 March, an archaeological replicas factory was inaugurated in Obour City. It is the first of its kind in Egypt and the Middle East and established in cooperation with “Kenouz of Egypt for Archaeological replicas” company. Its aim is to keep pace with the demand of the local and global markets for archaeological replicas, and to contribute in protecting intellectual property rights of the Egyptian antiquities. The factory has manual and mechanized production units, and an exhibition hall. It employs around 150 experienced artists, restorers and craftsmen, most of them are from the ministry. Official sales outlets were opened in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and Karnak and Luxor temples.



Opening Two Airport Museums



The museum in terminal 2



The museum in terminal 3

On 18 May, the Ministry opened two archeological museums in Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 at Cairo International Airport. The idea behind them is to give travelers a glimpse of the unique treasures of the great Egyptian civilization. Terminal 2 Museum houses 304 artifacts and terminal 3 Museum displays 59 artifacts, all unique and carefully selected.

Opening Three Restoration Projects of Sites Along the Path of the Holy Family Journey in Egypt



In 2021, 3 restoration projects of sites along the path of the Holy Family Journey were opened; one in Samanoud, Gharbeya, the second in Sakha, Kafr El-Sheikh and the third is in Tal Basta, Sharkeya. Those three projects are part of the National project to revive the Holy Family Journey in Egypt.

Opening the Southern Tomb in Saqqara



On September 13, the restoration project of the southern tomb of King Djoser in Saqqara was opened. This restoration project started in 2006. The opening of the southern tomb grabbed worldwide attention and made international headlines in major newspapers and international news agencies..

Opening a Number of important Restoration Projects

In 2021, the Ministry opened several restoration projects, including: the first phase of the restoration project of Al-Tinbugha Al-Mardani Mosque in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, in cooperation with Aga Khan Trust Fund for Culture and funded by EU, and the restoration projects of: Wekalet Al-Geddawy in Esna, funded by USAID, Isis Temple, Athribis Temple in Sheikh Hamad, Hawawish Necropolis in Sohag, the dome of Abu Sa'id Qansuh, the mausoleum dome of Al-Imam al-Shafi', in addition to a number of "Sabils" and islamic monuments.

Moreover, the Ministry opened the first phase of the project of the Sphinx Avenue located behind the first pylon in the Temple of Amun Ra in Karnak temples.



The first phase of the project of the Sphinx Avenue



Conservation work at Al-Tinbugha Al-Mardani Mosque

In 2021, the Ministry fixed the famous clock of the mosque of Mohammad Ali Mosque in the Citadel of Salah El-Din, and for the first time it is now working time after its restoration.

Renovation Project of Eliahu Hanavi Synagogue Wins ENR Award

In September, the renovation project of Eliahu Hanavi Synagogue in Alexandria, won the award for the best international project, in the category of restoration and rehabilitation, at the 9th edition of the Engineering News- Record (ENR) Global Competition for the best construction projects.

The Egyptian Museum, Shali, Baron Palace on ISESCO's Heritage List

The Heritage Committee of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) approved registering the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, the city of Shali in Siwa Oasis, and the Baron Palace in Heliopolis on the ISESCO heritage list. In a similar context, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO included the Egyptian Museum in its tentative list of World Heritage sites in April.

Ongoing Archeological Projects



Egypt's Capitals Museum

Work continued on many archeological projects during 2021. Some of these projects are almost complete and due to open in 2022.

Egypt's Capitals Museum in the New Administrative Capital and Muhammad Ali Palace in Shubra are almost complete. Renovation work in the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria is underway, and the project to reduce groundwater in Abu Mina is near completion.



A visit of the PM to Mohamad Ali Palace in Shubra



The progress of work in the Grand Egyptian Museum continued steadily throughout 2021. President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi issued a presidential decree, in May, forming the board of trustees of GEM for three years, headed by H.E. the President. The Prime Minister issued a decision to form the Board of Directors of the Museum under the chairmanship of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and the first meeting of this Board was held on 11 January.

On 28 April, The Prime Minister witnessed on the signing of the contract for providing and operating services of the Grand Egyptian Museum between the authority of the Grand Egyptian Museum and an international coalition led by Hassan Allam Company for Construction, and handing over the first investment area in the museum, overlooking the Giza Pyramids, to the winning alliance in October. In October, the International Standards Certificate (Occupational safety and health management system ISO45001:2018) for the GEM's conservation center was renewed for the second year in a row.

In 2021, progress in the project reached %99; the concrete and metal structure of the Museum's buildings and its interiors are now complete, floors and landscape are %98 complete, Electro mechanic systems are %96 complete, work in surrounding roads is %92 complete, the facades



Statue of Meri Ra and his wife



Statue of the head-priests of Amun

of the Museum and Tutankhamun Halls are %99 complete.

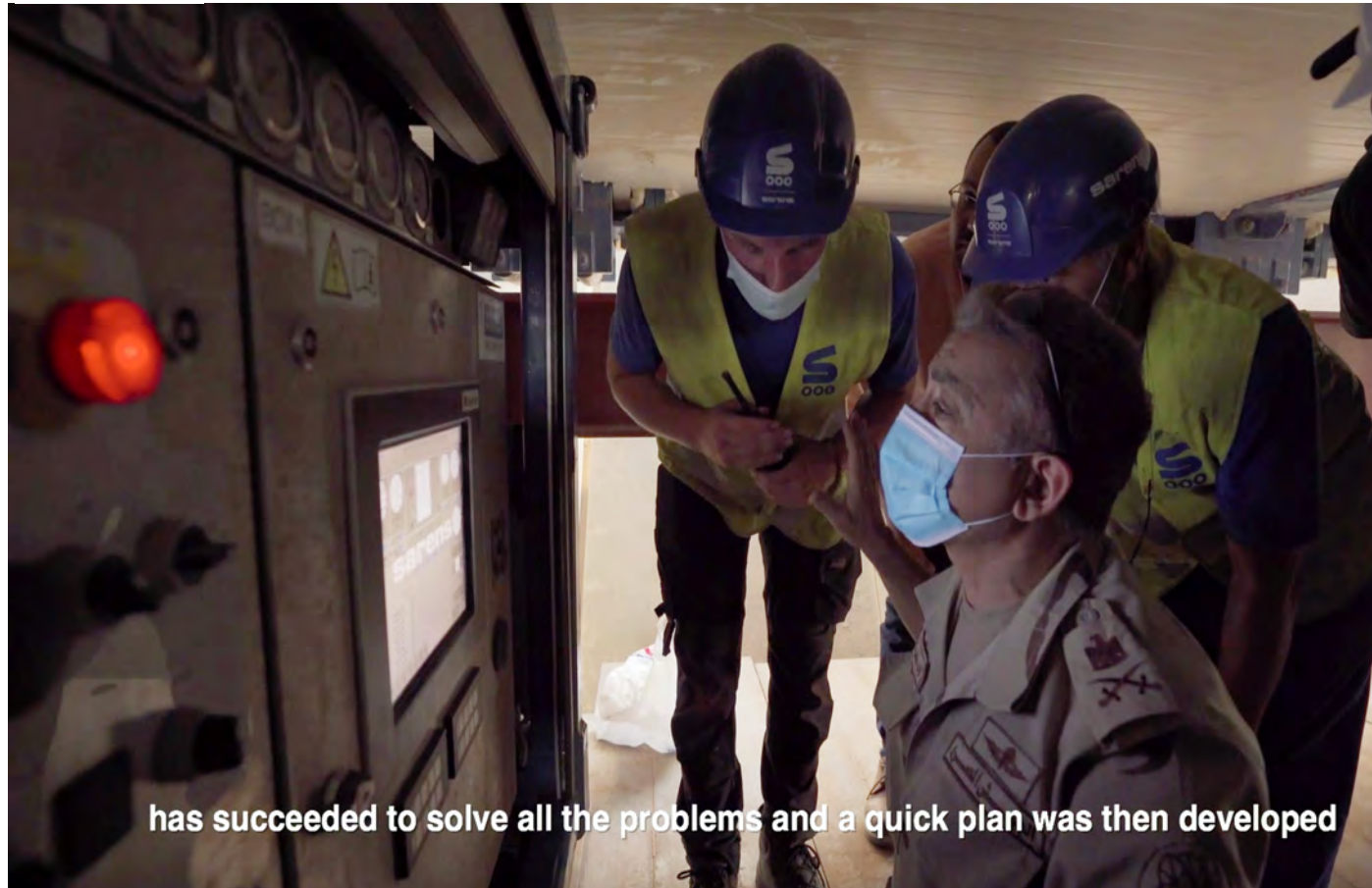
The GEM received and restored 55,000 artifacts, so far; including: artifacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun, the second, third, fourth shrines of the Boy King, 1700 wooden pieces from the second Khufu boat from the pit where it was discovered next to the pyramid of Khufu at the Giza Plateau.

All the heavy pieces in the atrium and the grand staircase have been installed, and more than 85 % of the Tutankhamun's collection is placed in their showcases.



Part of king Khufu's second boat

The Transfer of the First Khufu Boat from the Giza Plateau to the Grand Egyptian Museum



On August 7th, the first boat of king Khufu arrived safely at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), from its museum, at the Giza Plateau, after 48 hours of crossing the streets of Giza on a smart vehicle. Khufu Boat was transferred to the GEM to protect and preserve the biggest and oldest wooden organic artifact, in the history of humanity.

The transportation of the first boat of Khufu is considered one of the most important, challenging, and unique archaeological and engineering projects. It was meticulously organized to the last detail to ensure the safety and protection of the boat which was transported as one single object inside a metal cage, lifted on a smart remotely controlled vehicle especially imported from abroad for the process.

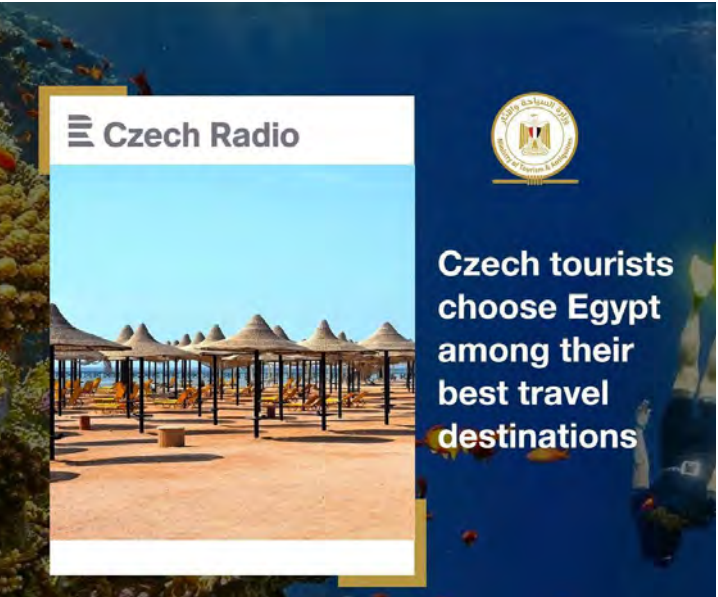
A team from the Grand Egyptian Museum successfully installed the metal structure containing the boat in its final display place; inside the building dedicated to the King's boats at the GEM. The boat will be preserved inside the metal structure until this building is complete. A tight environmental control system has been placed inside the metal cage to constantly monitor temperature and humidity.





In 2021, Egypt's touristic destinations gained a lot of international recognition. Positive articles appeared in internationally acclaimed media outlets showcasing various places to visit in Egypt, and others chose Egypt among the best tourist destinations to travel to in 2021.

They included: CNN Arabic, CNN Travel, the Guardian, Financial Times, the Telegraph, the Daily Mail, Trip Advisor, Time magazine, the Czech Radio website, and Travel magazine, the Swiss Travel Inside magazine, the Italian newspaper Comunicati Stampa, American travel websites "Travel Plus" and E-Turbonews, and Travel Weekly magazine, among others. "Lonely Planet", the largest travel reference in the world, chose Egypt among the top 10 tourist destinations to visit in 2022, and Forbes magazine published an article on the reasons for visiting Egypt in 2022.



With new and improved hotels and long-awaited cultural sites finally making their grand debuts, 2022 is a big year for Egypt.



Dive Magazine: Egypt is the 2nd Best Scuba Diving Destination in the World



For the third year in a row, British “Dive” magazine chose Egypt as the second best scuba diving destination in the world, according to its annual poll. Egypt has won the first, in 2009 ,2008 and 2010, and the second place in 2019 and 2020 and the third place in 2018.



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Watch "Luxor..Sphinx Avenue" Event



Watch The "Pharoahs' Golden Parade"

Egypt

