

A photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. The pyramids are made of golden-brown stone and are set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The foreground is a vast, flat desert of golden sand. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

**OPTIONAL 5 NIGHT**

**Plus 4 Night**

**August 3-12 (9**

**AVAILABLE WITH OPTION**



# CRUISE-TO-CAIRO

nts in Cairo

9 Nights Total)

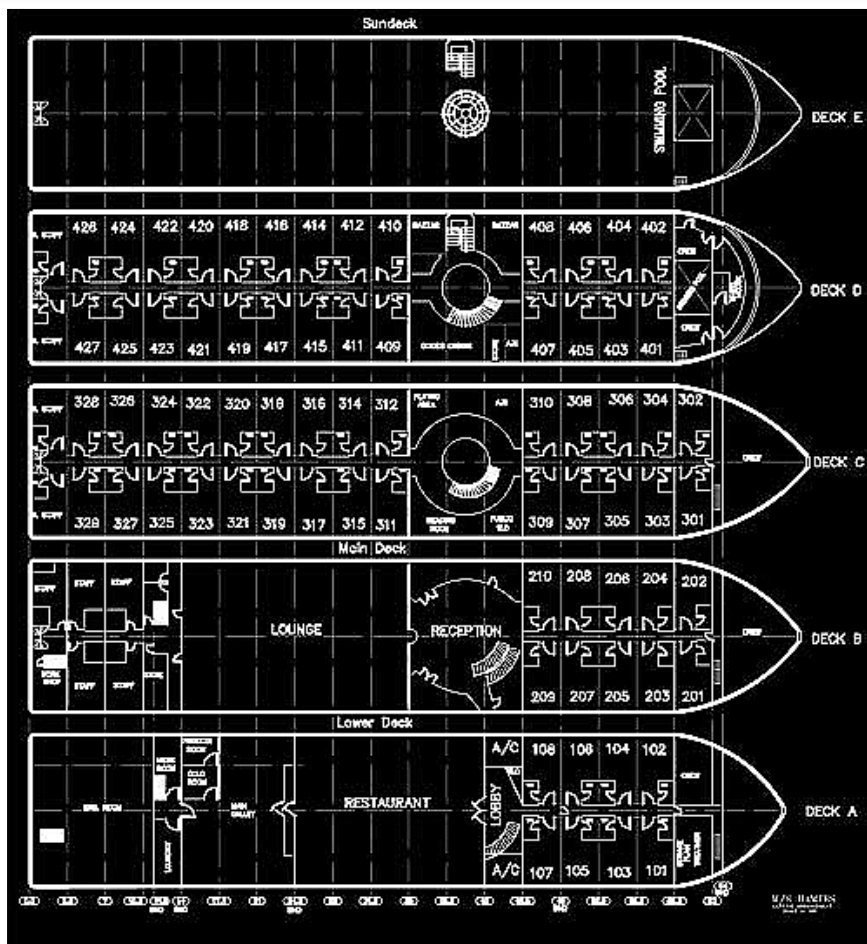
NS 1 2 4 6 7 8 9



**OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON** on the *ms DARAKUM* or on the *ms H*







*ms Hamees* deckplan

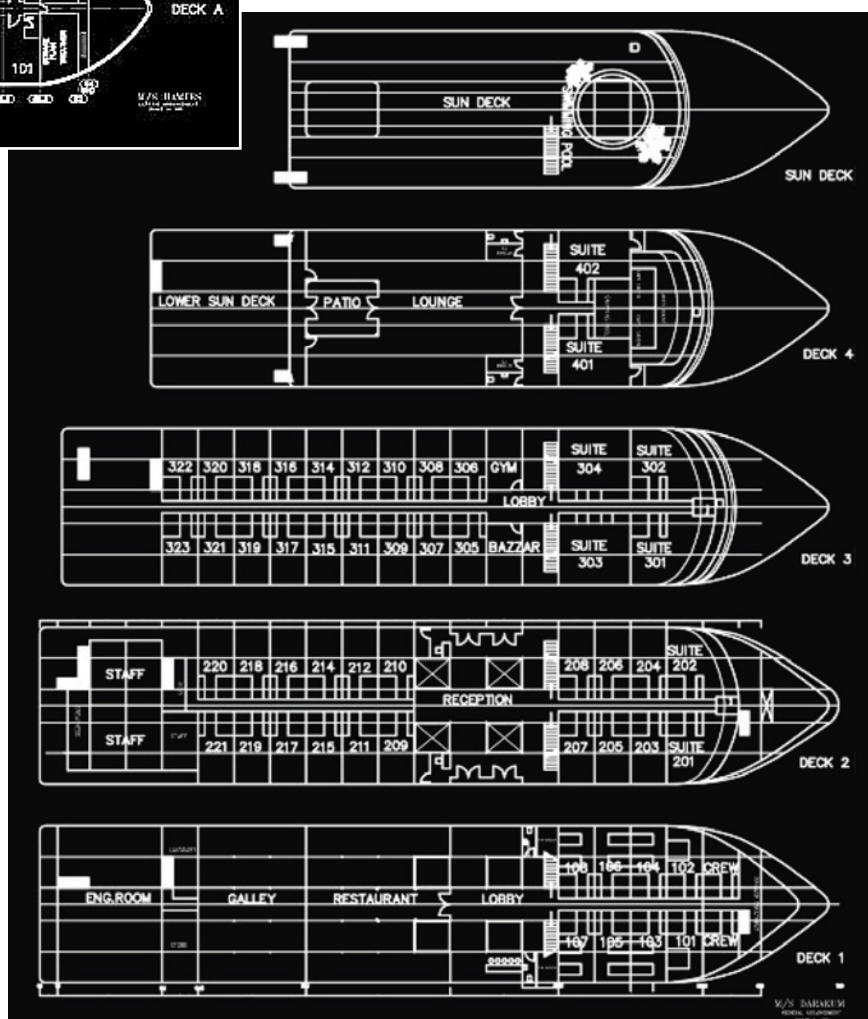


Join us August 3-11, 2027 for a 5-night Nile River cruise to Cairo and then **four (4) nights in Cairo** to experience the culture, archaeology, communities, and daily details that make Cairo the informal capital of the Arab world.

Cap your Luxor Eclipse adventure with a cruise north to Cairo where you'll spend *three full days* amidst the ancient treasures and modern bustle of the Cairo region. Visit the Pyramids at Giza and their ancestors at Saqqara; see Egypt's archaeological treasures in new and modernized comfortable settings.

Whether this is your first trip to Egypt or another chapter in your explorations as a confirmed Egypt buff, gain a sense of why ancient Egypt has such a powerful impact on the imagination through time.

*ms Darakum* deckplan





(...continued) **OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON** on the *ms DARAKUM* or o





in the *ms HAMEES*, available with options:

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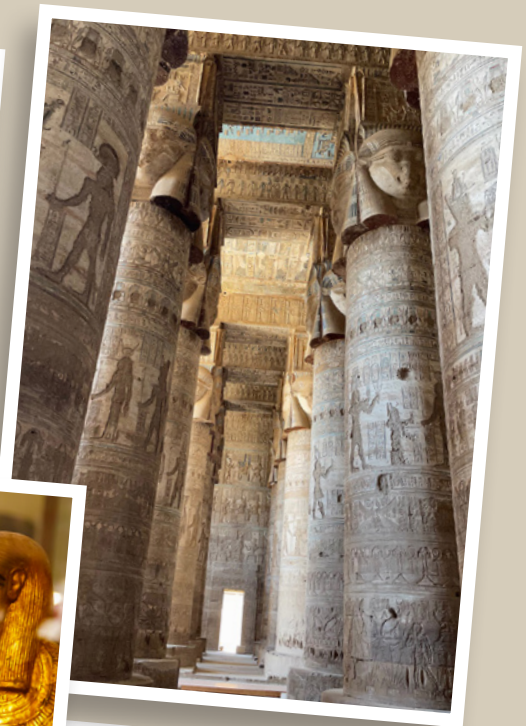
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(...continued) **OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON** on the *ms DARAKUM* or o



### OVERVIEW AND PRICING (*ms HAMEES*)

Price is \$6,499 (Standard cabin) or \$6,999 (Superior cabin) per person (pp) for nine (9) nights onboard the *ms Hamees* (add 50% premium for singles — or share and pay no premium!). Nile River cruise package price includes: 5-night cruise to Cairo and then four (4) nights onboard the *Hamees* while docked in Cairo; all meals (breakfast only on day of departure); our **TOURING PACKAGE**; our **EXTENDED LECTURE SERIES** (three lecturers onboard delivering about a dozen talks/Q&As); entrance to all touring sites and museums with all transportation to/from our ships; and all taxes, fees, gratuities, and port charges. Add a drink package for \$315, which includes an open bar at our nine (9) 90-minute cocktail parties. **NOTE: Program is subject to change. There are only 70 cabins on the Hamees.**



CO-PRODUCED BY:



**MÖVENPICK**  
HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES



n the *ms HAMEES*, available with options:

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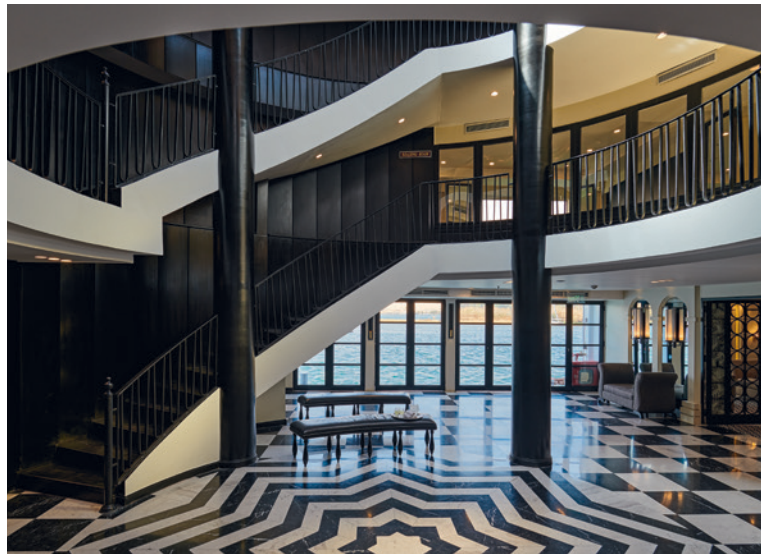
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(...continued) **OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON** on the *ms DARAKUM* or o



### OVERVIEW AND PRICING (*ms DARAKUM*)

Price is \$6,999 (Standard cabin) or \$9,999 (Panorama Suites) per person (pp) for nine (9) nights onboard the *ms Darakum* (add 50% premium for singles – or share and pay no premium!). Nile River cruise package price includes: 5-night cruise to Cairo and then four (4) nights onboard the *Darakum* while docked in Cairo; all meals (breakfast only on day of departure); our TOURING PACKAGE; our EXTENDED LECTURE SERIES (three lecturers onboard delivering about a dozen talks/Q&As); entrance to all touring sites and museums with all transportation to/from our ships; and all taxes, fees, gratuities, and port charges. Add a drink package for \$315, which includes an open bar at our nine (9) 90-minute cocktail parties. **NOTE: Program is subject to change. There are only 52 cabins on the *Darakum*.**



CO-PRODUCED BY:

**SKY & TELESCOPE** **Insight Cruises**  
THE JOURNEY WITHIN



n the *ms HAMEES*, available with options:

1 2 4 6 7 8 9

(continued...)





# OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON (...continued) **SPEAKERS** on the *ms D*

DAY	ACTIVITY	ARRIVE	DEPART	NOTES
TUE., AUG 3	DAY 7 (CRUISE DAY 1): <b><u>DENDERA</u></b>		1pm	Lunch onboard
WED., AUG 4	DAY 8 (CRUISE DAY 2): <b><u>ABYDOS</u></b>	—	—	Visit the Temple of Seti I
THUR., AUG 5	DAY 9 (CRUISE DAY 3): <b><u>AMARNA</u></b>	—	—	Amarna Site Museum & Visitor Center
FRI., AUG 6	DAY 10 (CRUISE DAY 4): <b><u>AMARNA &amp; TUNA EL GEBEL</u></b>	—	—	The Royal Tomb and the The Great Palace of Akhenaten, more
SAT., AUG 7	DAY 11 (CRUISE DAY 5): <b><u>BENI HASSAN</u></b>	—	—	Tomb of Khnumhotep II, more
SUN., AUG 8	DAY 12 (CRUISE DAY 6): <b><u>ARRIVE CAIRO</u></b>	1pm	—	Islamic Cairo
MON., AUG 9	DAY 13 (CRUISE DAY 7): <b><u>DAY 2 IN CAIRO</u></b>	—	—	The Great Pyramids, Sphinx, Saqqara
TUE., AUG 10	DAY 14 (CRUISE DAY 8): <b><u>DAY 3 IN CAIRO</u></b>	—	—	Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, more
WED., AUG 11	DAY 15 (CRUISE DAY 9): <b><u>DAY 4 IN CAIRO</u></b>	—	—	Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Cairo
THUR., AUG 12	DAY 16: <b>DISEMBARK</b>	9am		Fly home anytime



## J. KELLY BEATTY



Kelly Beatty joined the staff of *Sky & Telescope* in 1974 and served as the editor of *Night Sky*, a spinoff magazine for beginning stargazers, in 2004–07. He retired from full-time work in 2018 but remains actively involved in many *Sky & Telescope* articles, tours, and other projects. Specializing in planetary science and space exploration, Kelly has been honored twice by the Division for Planetary

Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society. In 2005 he received the Harold Masursky Award for meritorious service, and in 2009 he was honored with the inaugural Jonathan Eberhart Journalism Award. He is also a recipient of the American Geophysical Union's Cowen Award for Sustained Achievement in Science Journalism (2009).

You'll occasionally hear his interviews and guest commentaries on The Weather Channel and National Public Radio, and his work has appeared in numerous other magazines, newspapers, and encyclopedias. In fact, Kelly enjoys speaking to audiences of all ages and interest levels about his passion for astronomy. He observes when he can through one of his eight telescopes, and he is active nationally in the fight against light pollution.

Kelly hails from Madera, California. He holds a Bachelors degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. During the 1980s he was among the first Western journalists to gain firsthand access to the Soviet space program. Asteroid 2925 Beatty was named on the occasion of his marriage in 1983, and in 1986 he was chosen one of the 100 semifinalists for NASA's Journalist in Space program.

## JUAN ANTONIO BELMONTE, PH.D.



Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D. is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the "Carlos Jäschek" Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the *Journal*

for the History of Astronomy.

He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor of more than 20 books on these topics, among them *In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy* (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and *Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo* (2012, in Spanish); he is finishing, with José Lull, *Ancient Egyptian Astronomy: a Cultural Approach* (to be published by Springer in 2023).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the "Astronomy and World Heritage" initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 "World Heritage and Astronomy". A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.

## DENISE M. DOXEY, PH.D.



Dr. Denise M. Doxey is an Egyptologist and Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Denise received her M.Phil. in Classical Archaeology from Oxford University and her Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania. Her teaching experience includes Egyptology courses at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. She

has participated in excavations in Egypt at the sites of Abydos and Saqqara. In addition to numerous articles, she is the author or co-author of five books, most recently *Arts of Ancient Nubia* and *Jewels of Ancient Nubia*. She is a sought after lecturer for both academic conferences and public lectures. Currently, she is Vice President of the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, the leading North American organization promoting research on Egyptian history and culture. She also serves on the Board of the International Council of Museum's International Committee for Egyptology.

In her more than 25 years as a museum professional, Dr. Doxey has overseen the renovation of galleries for Predynastic and Early Dynastic art, Old Kingdom art, and Middle Kingdom funerary art. She curated special exhibitions, including co-curating *Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC* and serving as curator for *Ancient Nubia Now*. She is currently the curator for an international traveling exhibition featuring art of Nubia.



## OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON (...continued) TOURING PACKAGE, from the

On your optional 9-night add-on cruise from Luxor to Cairo, you will visit the 11 sites below. These site visits, as well as all entrance fees, are **included** in your optional (post-eclipse) Cruise-to-Cairo add-on package. Two (2) of these sites require “**Special Access**” which we have secured.\*



**DENDERA** — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



**ABYDOS** — Examine the superb bas reliefs and Cosmology of Nut and walk among some of the earliest astronomically aligned buildings. We hope the ruins of what may be the world's oldest brewery will be accessible on our visit, too.



**ROYAL TOMB OF AKHENATEN** — Akhenaten, one of the most famous of the Pharaohs, ordered: ‘Let my tomb be made for me in the eastern mountain.’

\*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.

CO-PRODUCED BY:





**TUNA EL GEBEL (Tomb of Petosiris)** — See the god Thoth's many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You'll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god's responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you'll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories.



**AMARNA (Royal Tomb, Palace, Temple of Aten, and more)** — Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti's city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten's new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten's bold initiative.



**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION** — Get the big picture of the world's oldest civilization at the NMEC. You can use its artifacts to chart the evolution of Egypt's culture through prehistoric, pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic, and Islamic eras. You'll have the opportunity to see the Royal Mummies Hall, resting place of 20 kings and queens of ancient Egypt's New Kingdom.

CO-PRODUCED BY:



## OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON (...continued) TOURING PACKAGE, from the



**GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX** — Visit the Great Pyramid and its Old Kingdom royal kin, the only surviving members of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Getting your bearings on the Giza Plateau gives you a sense of the precision (achieved with astronomical skills) with which the Egyptians aligned the Pyramids to the cardinal directions and to symbolic topographic features.

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



**BENI HASSAN (Tombs of Baquet III, Khety, Amenemhet, Khnumhotep)** — Time travel to the Middle Kingdom period of Egyptian history at Beni Hassan where regional governors and military figures were buried. Gain a sense of ancient life in the desert, and see scenes of life in the provinces — hunting, wrestling, weaving, baking, fishing, and wine-making.



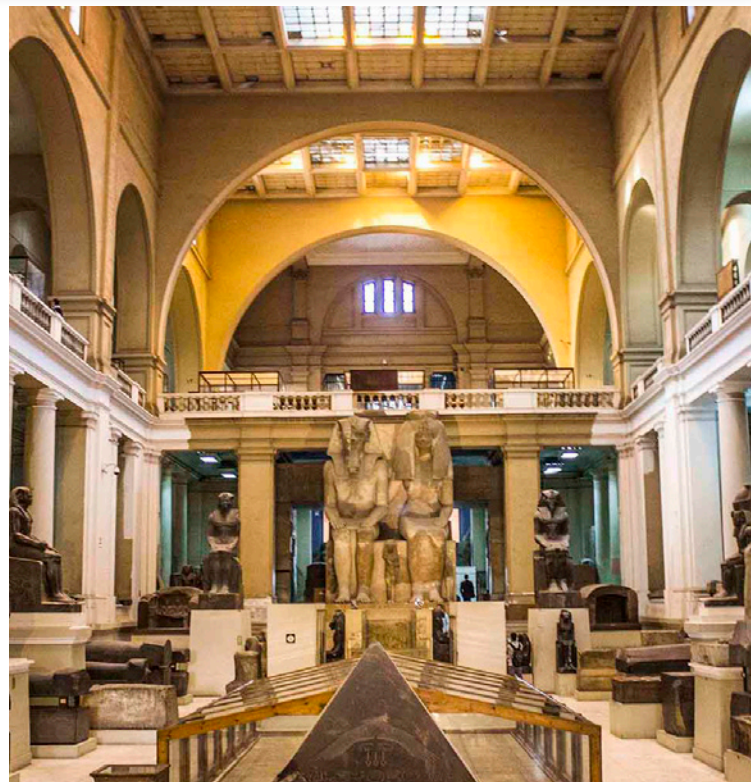
**SAQQARA WITH PYRAMIDS OF DJOSER, UNAS (Special Access Visit), AND TETI; AND MASTABA OF TI (Special Access Visit)** — Visit the ancestor of the Pyramids of Giza — the Step Pyramid complex of Djoser. Venture into the small Pyramid of Unas, and see the earliest known Pyramid Texts, spells guiding the pharaoh to the afterlife. The Pyramid of Teti offers you a written mention of Sirius, Orion, and the Big Dipper, solidifying your proof of the astronomical underpinnings of Giza and Saqqara.

CO-PRODUCED BY:





**GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM) AT GIZA** — GEM is home to 100,000+ artifacts of Egypt's ancient history! Immerse yourself in the richness of Egyptian culture and put a memorable concluding chapter on your eclipse adventure.



**EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AT TAHRIR SQUARE (aka Museum of Egyptian Antiquities)** — A fabulous collection of antiquities focused on Ancient Egypt. Dedicated guides will curate our visit so you can be assured you have seen the most important artifacts.

**In Egypt accessibility standards are lower** than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

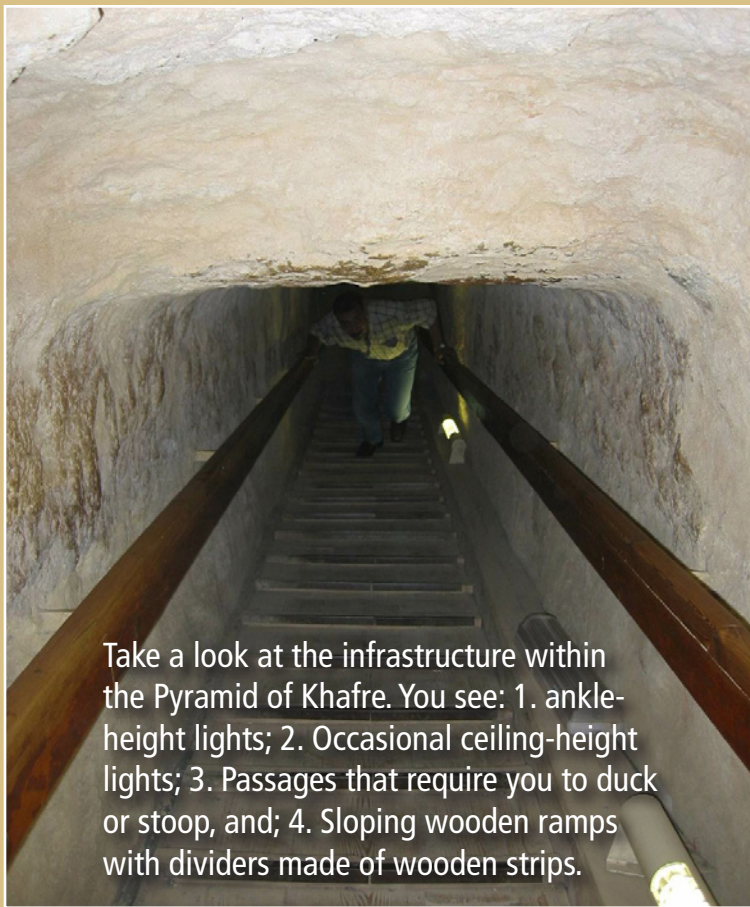


# GIZA PYRAMIDS, SPHINX, SAQQARA

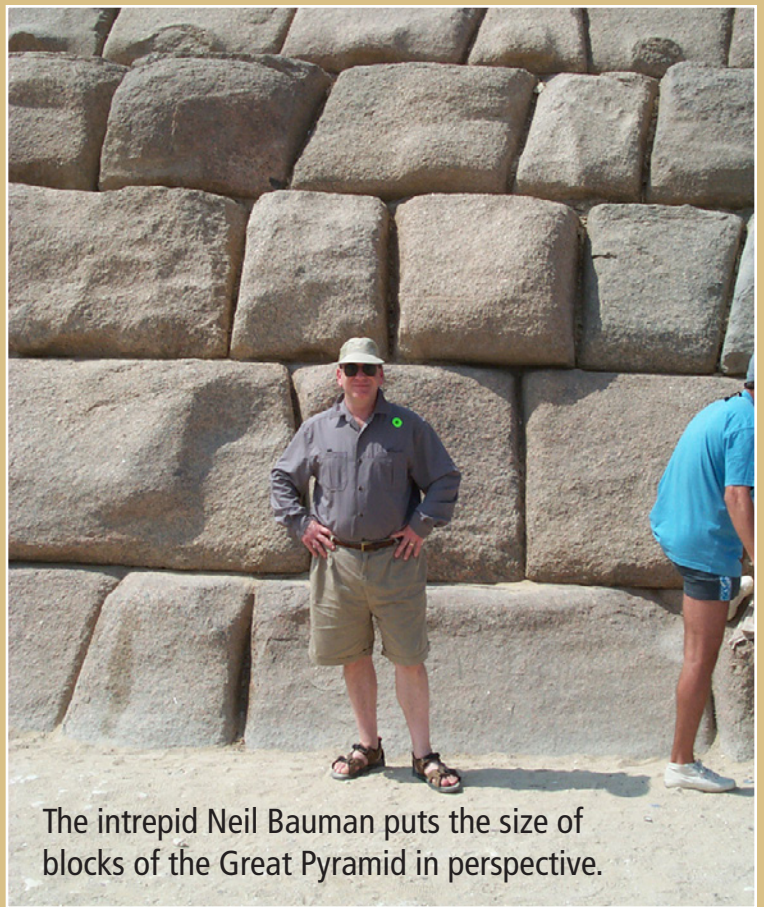
Today takes you to the Giza Pyramids with entry into the Great Pyramid of Cheops (Oh, go for it!). You'll visit the Sphinx (thought to resemble its builder Khafre) and the rest of the Valley Temple complex of Khafre, with its massive stone block temple and causeway decorated with bas reliefs. You'll also explore Saqqara, as well as view the Djoser Pyramid complex, with a visit inside the Pyramid of Unas. We'll have a mid-day lunch at a typical and very well known local restaurant. This evening relax at our cocktail party.







Take a look at the infrastructure within the Pyramid of Khafre. You see: 1. ankle-height lights; 2. Occasional ceiling-height lights; 3. Passages that require you to duck or stoop, and; 4. Sloping wooden ramps with dividers made of wooden strips.



The intrepid Neil Bauman puts the size of blocks of the Great Pyramid in perspective.



Walking deep within the bedrock at the base of the Pyramid of Khafre.





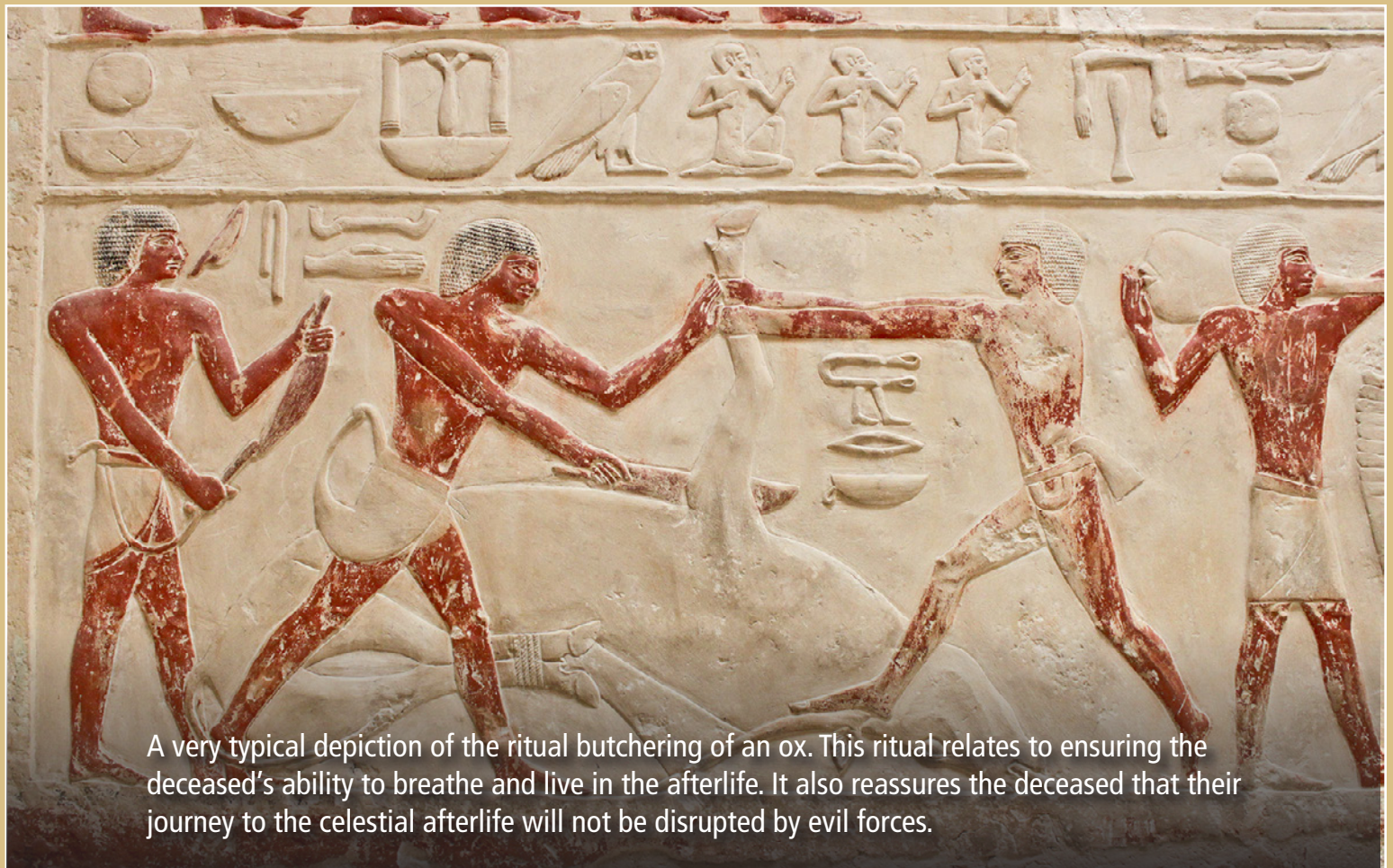
The Great Sphinx of Giza is thought to be a depiction of 4th Dynasty (circa 2500 BCE) pharaoh Khafre. You see the Sphinx here in front of the Pyramid of Khafre.



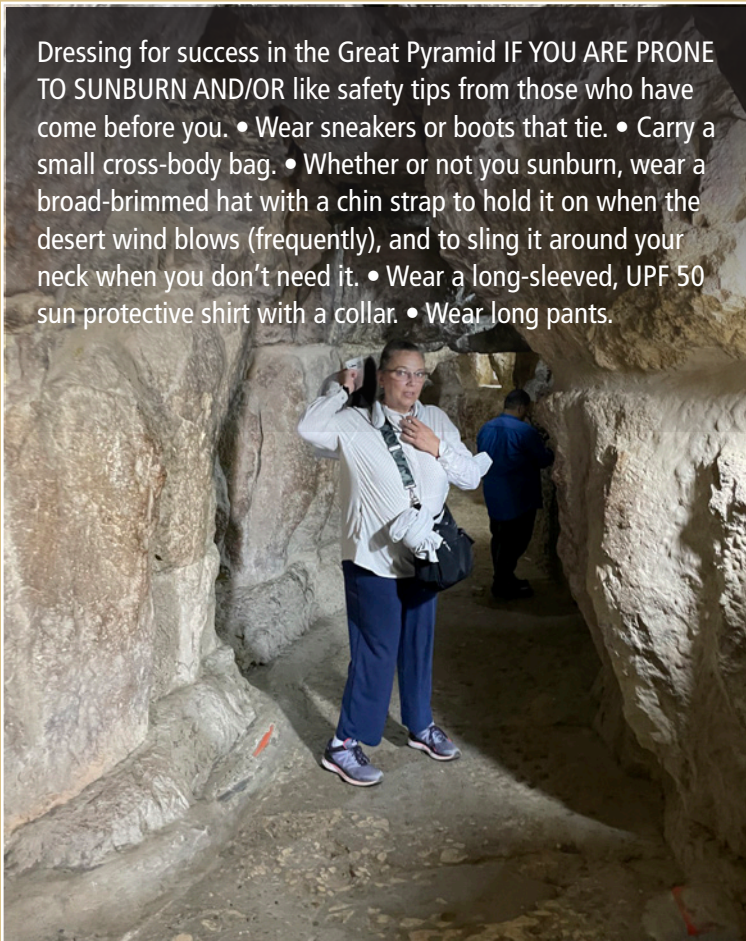
Djoser's Heb-Sed Court at Saqqara was a key part of his whole step pyramid complex. The pyramid complex symbolizes Djoser's royal palace enclosure, and the Heb-Sed Court provides the king with an appropriate infrastructure to eternally perform the rituals associated with kingship.

The Heb-Sed courtyard was the site of an Egyptian festival dating to pre-dynastic times. The festival had a pragmatic concept. When the pharaoh had ruled for 30 years, he conducted a series of ceremonial events showing that he was physically fit and vigorous enough to continue to reign and he had authority over all of Egypt. These physical feats signaled to the populace that the king was rejuvenated and reborn.

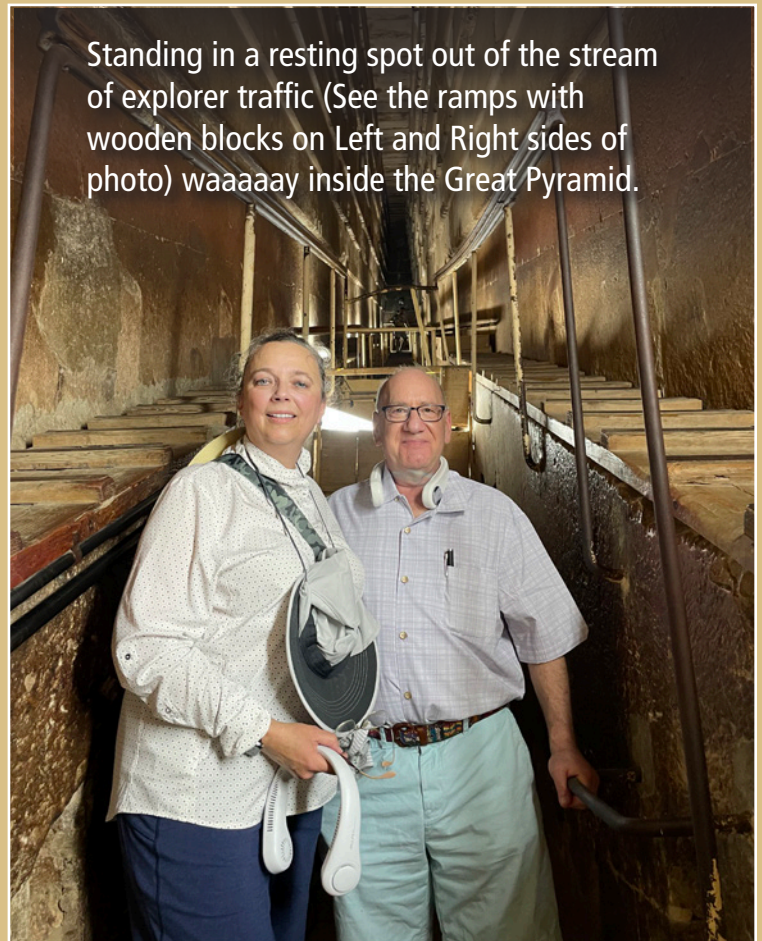




Dressing for success in the Great Pyramid IF YOU ARE PRONE TO SUNBURN AND/OR like safety tips from those who have come before you. • Wear sneakers or boots that tie. • Carry a small cross-body bag. • Whether or not you sunburn, wear a broad-brimmed hat with a chin strap to hold it on when the desert wind blows (frequently), and to sling it around your neck when you don't need it. • Wear a long-sleeved, UPF 50 sun protective shirt with a collar. • Wear long pants.



Standing in a resting spot out of the stream of explorer traffic (See the ramps with wooden blocks on Left and Right sides of photo) waaaaay inside the Great Pyramid.





# GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Today we visit many of Egypt's most precious pharaonic archaeological artifacts at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). It will house 50,000+ Egyptian artifacts (about half on display) including the complete collection of 5,000+ objects from King Tut's tomb. You'll be greeted by an 83-ton, ~33-ft tall, 3,200-year old statue of Ramses II. For well over a decade, Egypt has been building this state-of-the-art museum very near the pyramids. The Grand Egyptian Museum has so far cost over \$1 billion and its opening date has been repeatedly delayed (mostly due to Covid).

Ramses II built many high-profile projects during his reign and so is a natural patron of the bustling construction in GEM's Great Hall. GEM was designed and built by an international team of architects, engineers (structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing), general contractors, and project managers among other construction professionals. All the while, Egyptian archaeologists, conservators, and scientists worked behind the scene to prepare GEM's unparalleled treasures for prime time.





The facade of GEM uses many elements of Egypt's transmission of culture from antiquity to the modern day. For instance the facade was built with Egyptian marble from Sinai quarries just like ancient Egyptians used local materials in statues and the architecture of temples.

Ancient Egyptians linked the earth and sky with religious beliefs and astronomical science. The Grand Egyptian Museum uses its dramatic night time illumination to link earth and sky.

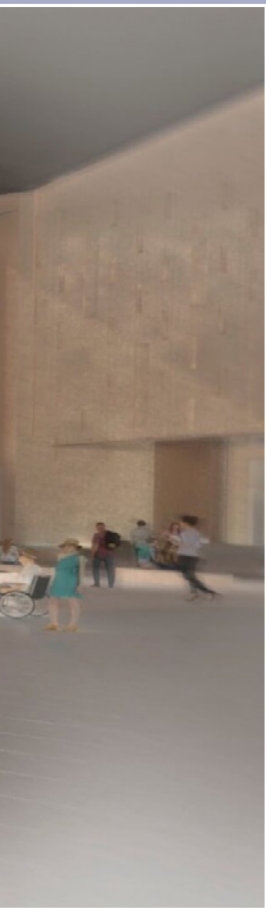


GEM's main entrance uses a facade of the cartouches of the pharaohs of 32 Egyptian dynasties to welcome visitors of all nations.









Ramses II's 36-ft high statue is emblematic of GEM. It greets guests in the Grand Hall of GEM, along with the column of his son, Merneptah, and a bust of King Psamtik I, aggressive and strategic first ruler of the 26th Dynasty, circa 664 – 610 BCE.

GEM's designers had the tough task of creating a welcoming space for Egyptian civilization's symbolic dwelling place. GEM's entrance also welcomes visitors to a display of Egyptian technical knowledge: the face of the 3,000 year-old statue of Ramses II will be illuminated by sunrise on his birthdays (see right), believed to be February 22, and coronation days, October 22 (artists' renditions left; actual photos at right and bottom).

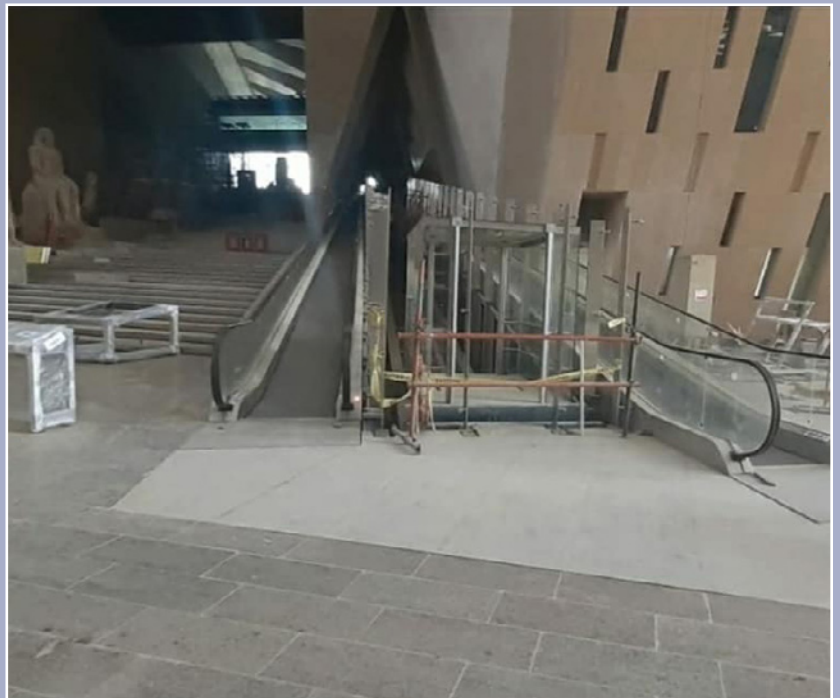






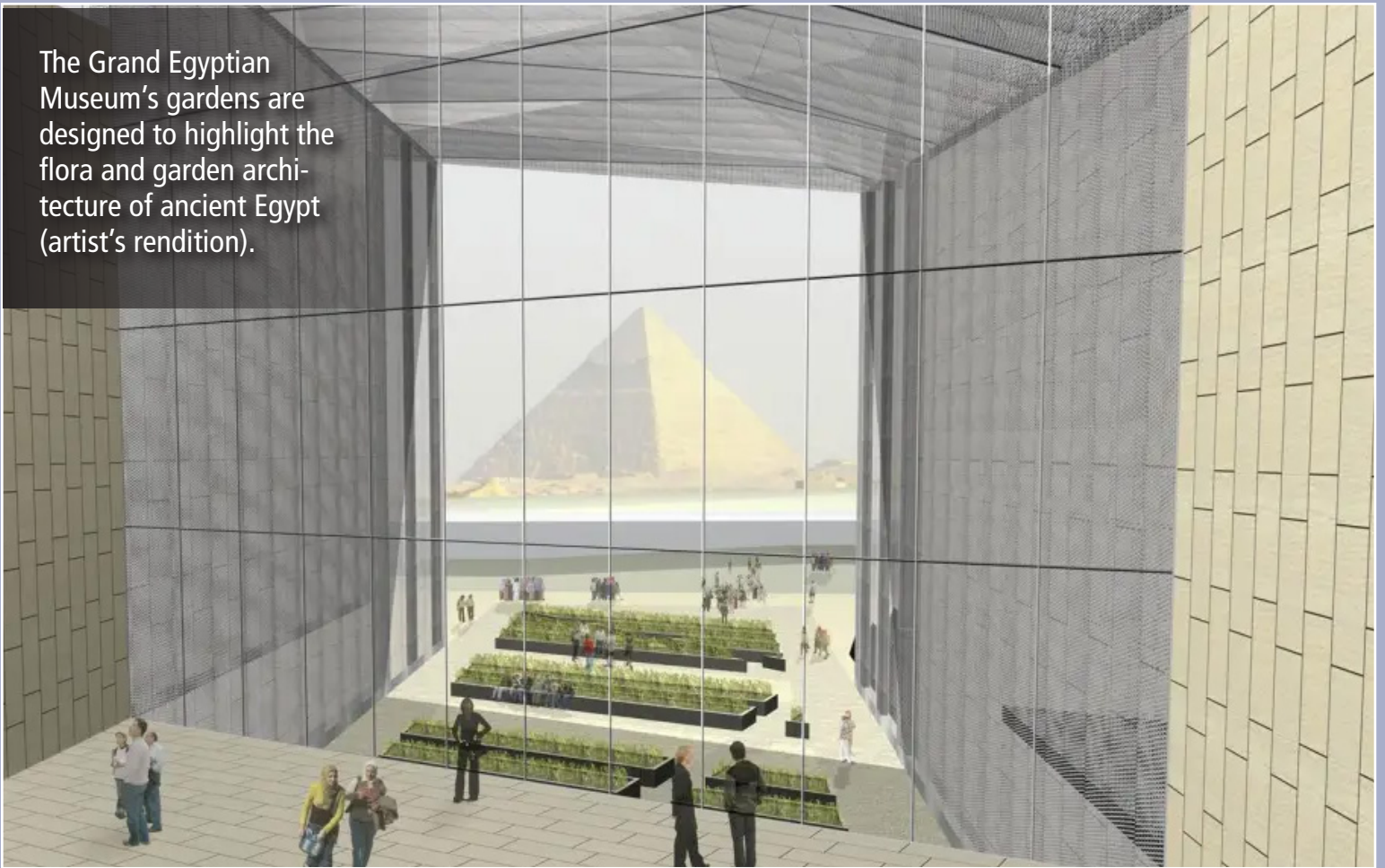
A flight of stairs (artist's rendition), adorned with 87 statues of ancient kings and gods, transports you from the Nile Valley entrance to the Giza Plateau level, where the four main galleries of GEM are located. Highlights among the royal statues include Kings Khafre, Menkaure, Senusret, Akhenaten, and Amenhotep III. Other familiar faces you'll see include King Hatshepsut and statues of the gods Ptah, Sekmet, and Hathor.

Construction picture (at right) shows this moving walkway under construction — when finished it will take you directly to the King Tut Gallery.





The Grand Egyptian Museum's gardens are designed to highlight the flora and garden architecture of ancient Egypt (artist's rendition).



King Tutankhamun Gallery: Save ample time to study the treasures in GEM's Tutankhamen Gallery. In contrast to many traditional museum settings where artifacts are individually displayed and interpreted, GEM has woven a narrative about groups of Tut's belongings, demonstrating how they were used in different aspects of his life (artist's rendition).





# Insight Cruises visits Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) on May 11, 2024



The museum is now open to the public! The only small issue is, *none* of the exhibits are open (yet). What you *can* see now inside:

- 1)** the Grand Staircase leading up to the yet-to-be opened 2nd and 3rd floor exhibits. The King Tut exhibit (currently closed) is at the very top of the (very cool) moving walkway
- 2)** the impressive gift shop
- 3)** a rather large food court (and serving delicious food!)

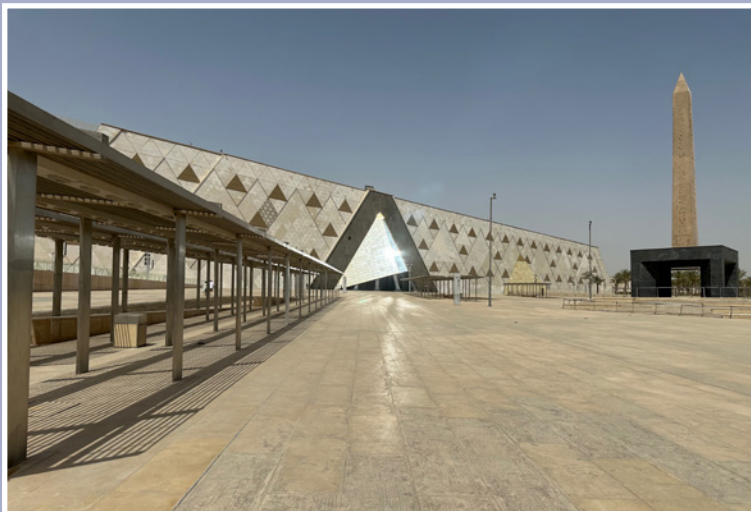




Turnstiles and security precede the doorless GEM entry



Ramses II's 50-foot, 110-ton hanging obelisk greets you



GEM's massiveness looms over visitors in the 7-acre courtyard



GEM's doorless entry links museum space to its desert context



Light and shadow impact the pyramid-themed stone face of GEM





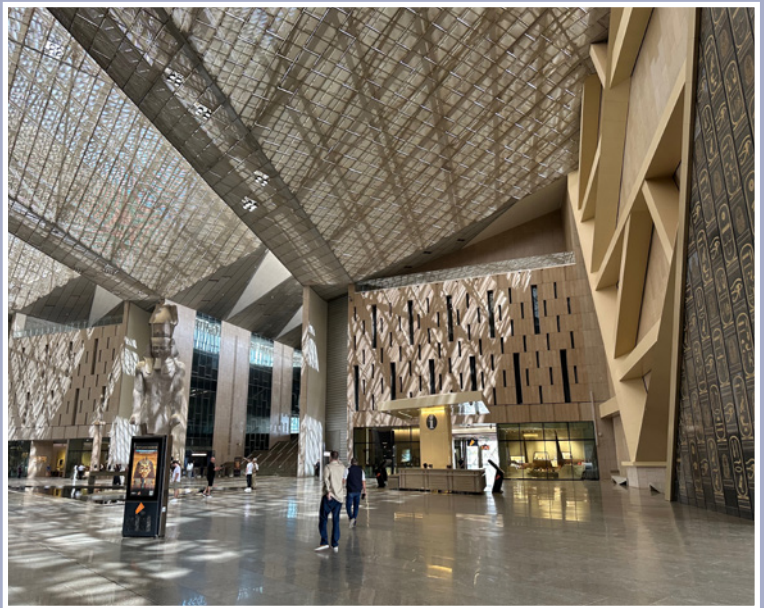
Entrance leads to a vast open-air atrium covered



Sloping panels help ventilation, natural light flow throughout GEM



Ramses II hold court in GEM's atrium reflecting pool



Changing sun and shadow flicker across the atrium

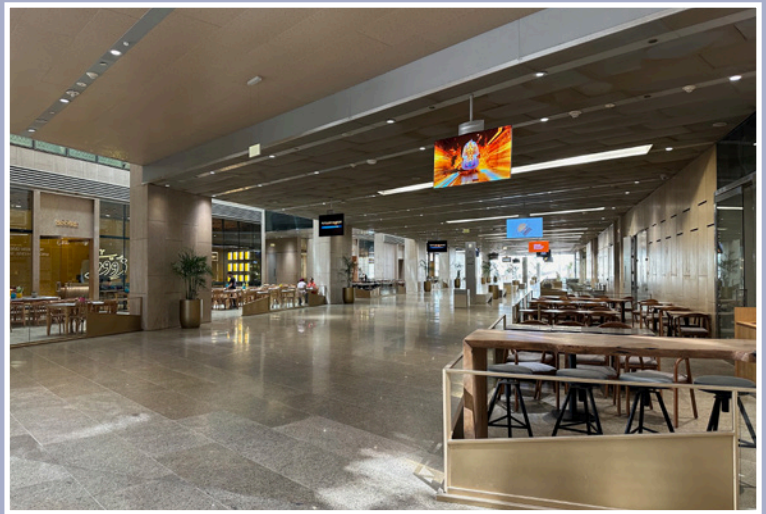


High-quality gift shops can round out a GEM visit

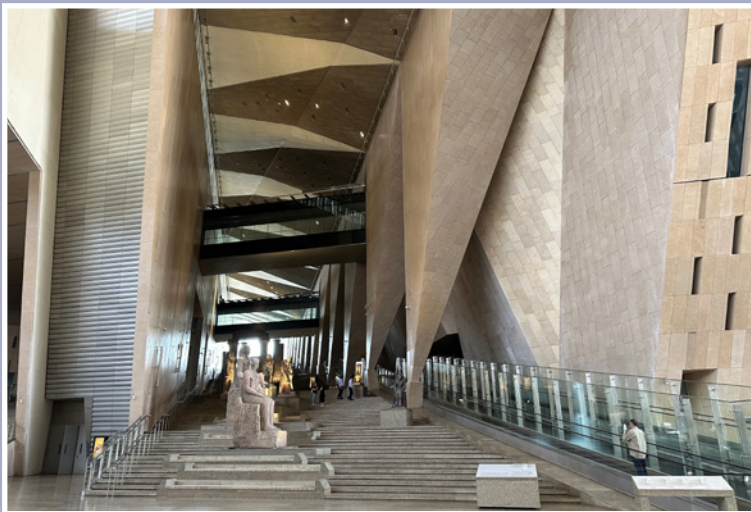




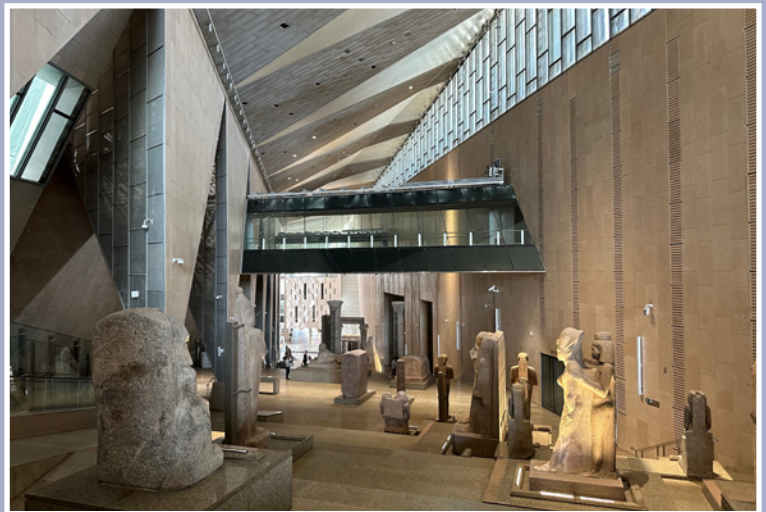
The main gift shop has a wide array of hard-to-find books on Egypt



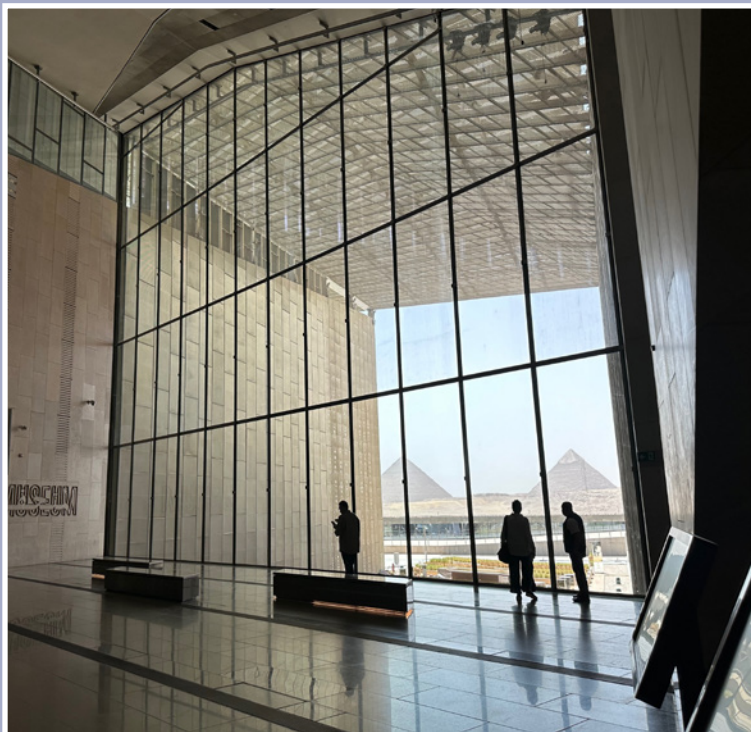
GEM restaurants cater to a range of meal types and cuisines



The Grand Staircase 255 ft wide at its base, 51 ft wide at its top



Overhead corridors link study, conservation areas and exhibits

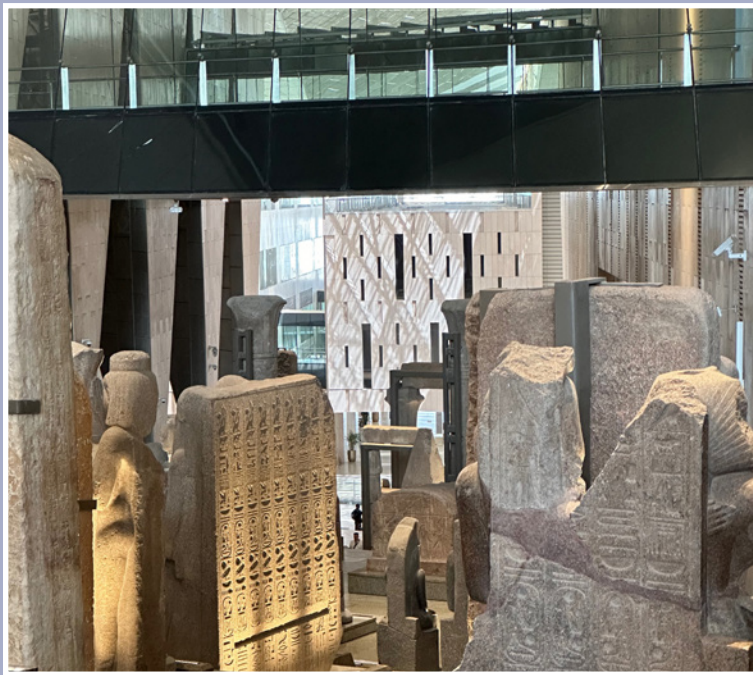


Top level of the Grand Staircase takes your gaze to the Pyramids

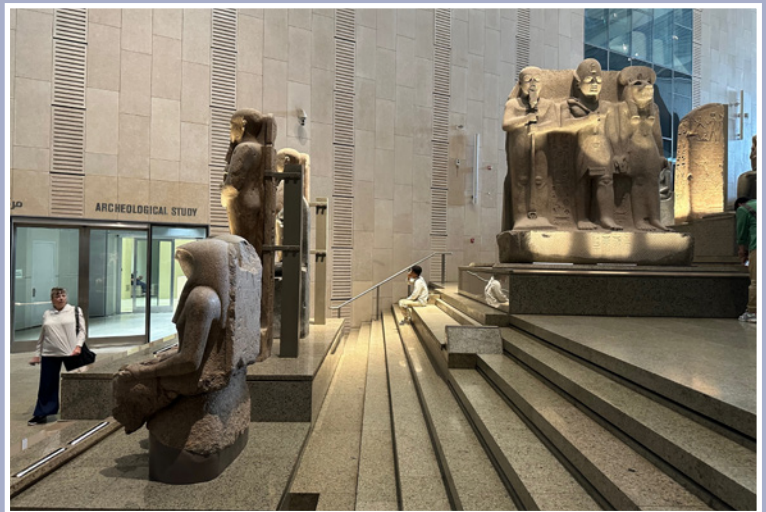


GEM's landscaping shows Egypt's agricultural and natural bounty





Use your hieroglyph-reading skills to decipher inscriptions!



Ramses II, the god Ptah, and the goddess Sekhmet share the spotlight



One of Hatshepsut's Karnak obelisk tips looms



A sphinx of Amenemhat III glowers on the Grand Staircase

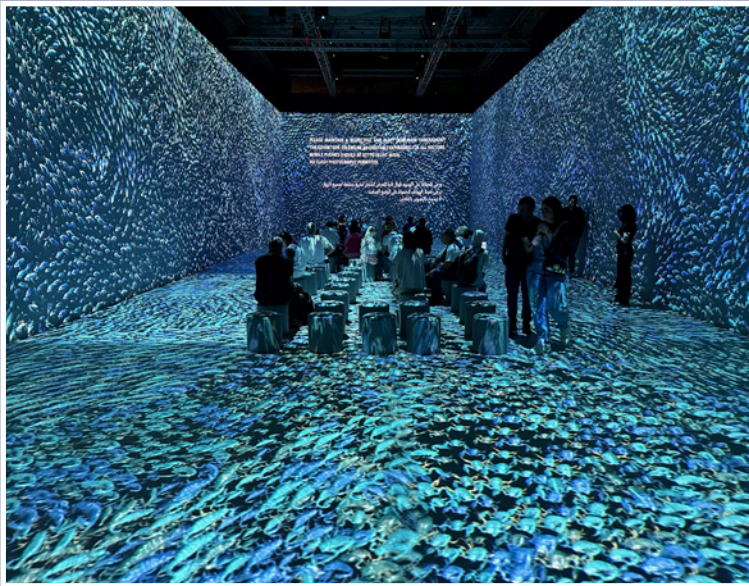


The wasp and reed indicate kingship of both Upper and Lower Egypt



The Victory Column of Merneptah (distorted by my lens) in GEM's atrium





An unbelievable 3-D experiential theater



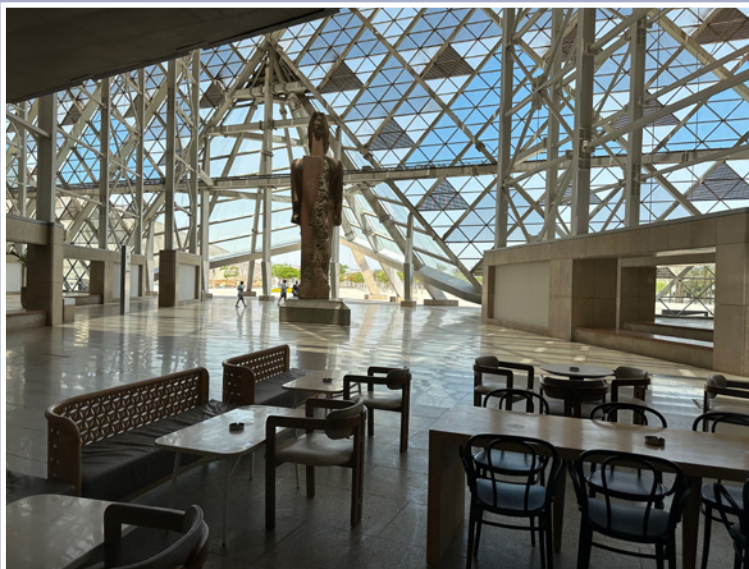
GEM provides context and history for the objects in its galleries



Zooba, an Egyptian cuisine restaurant, is one of 10 dining venues



Starbucks at GEM is ready to fulfill your caffeine needs



GEM's back lobby is open air, offering comfortable seats in the breeze



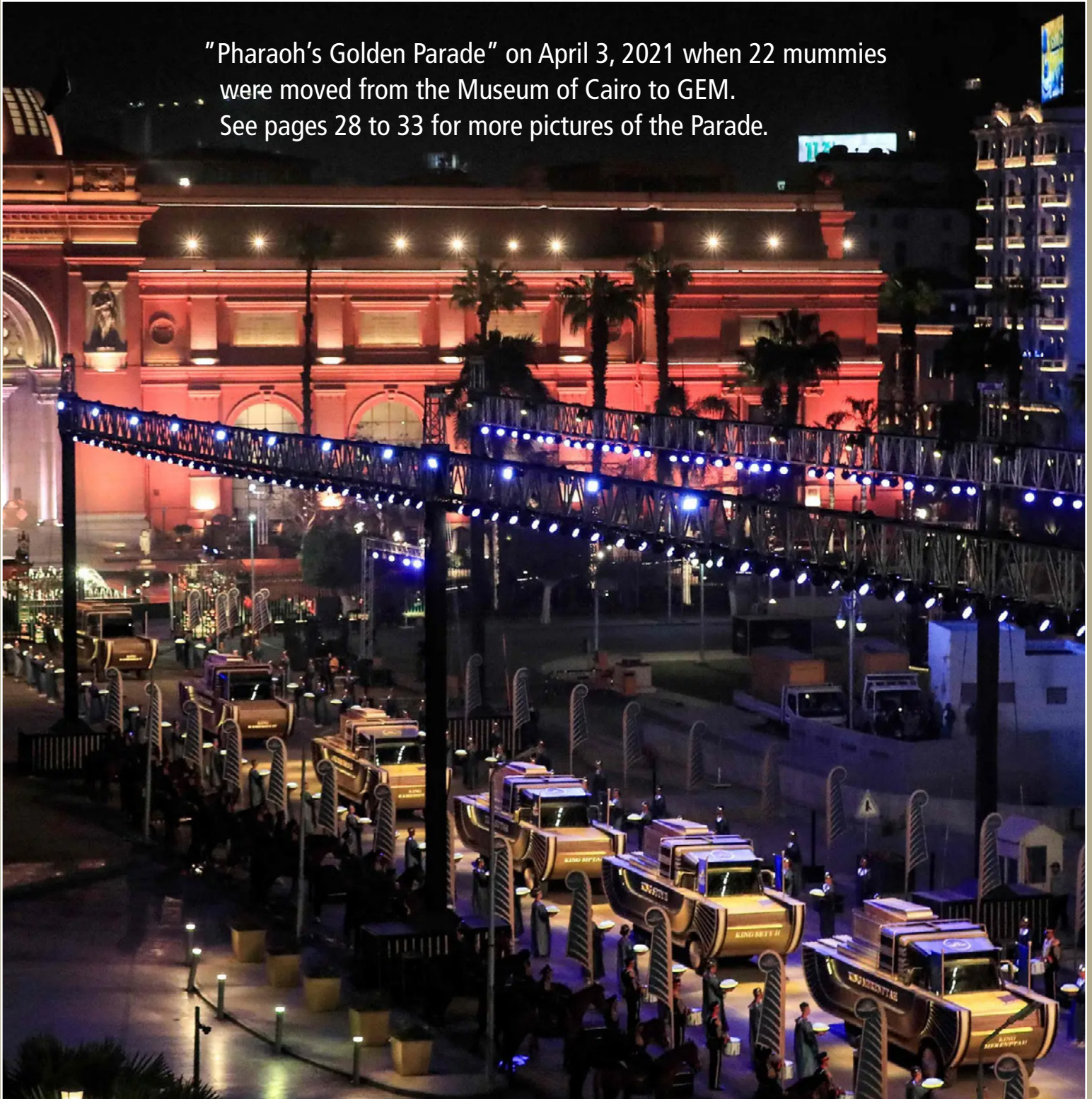
The museum is now open, but construction continues on the exhibits



# MUSEUM OF CAIRO

This morning we'll visit The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities (known commonly as the Egyptian Museum or Museum of Cairo), which has undergone extensive renovation since (all of) King Tut's artifacts moved to the GEM. Still, a vast array of world-class Egyptian antiquities awaits you here in the Museum of Cairo.

"Pharaoh's Golden Parade" on April 3, 2021 when 22 mummies were moved from the Museum of Cairo to GEM.  
See pages 28 to 33 for more pictures of the Parade.







This incredibly preserved scene on papyrus appears in a Book of the Dead created for King Tut's grandfather Yuya at the Egyptian Museum.



The Egyptian Museum displays a wooden raised chest from the tomb of Tutankhamun's grandparents, Yuya and Tuya. It is skillfully made with gilding and faience. Ceramic faience was thought to be magical and imbued with powers of rebirth.



The statue of Queen Iset or Isis (mother of King Thutmose III, second great royal wife of King Thutmose II) has been in the Egyptian Museum since its discovery as part of the "Karnak Cachette" in 1903 – 1907. The queen wears a large wig, with symbols representing the White Crown of Upper Egypt and the Red Crown of Lower Egypt. The statue dates to the New Kingdom mid-18th Dynasty, circa 1479 – 1425 BCE.





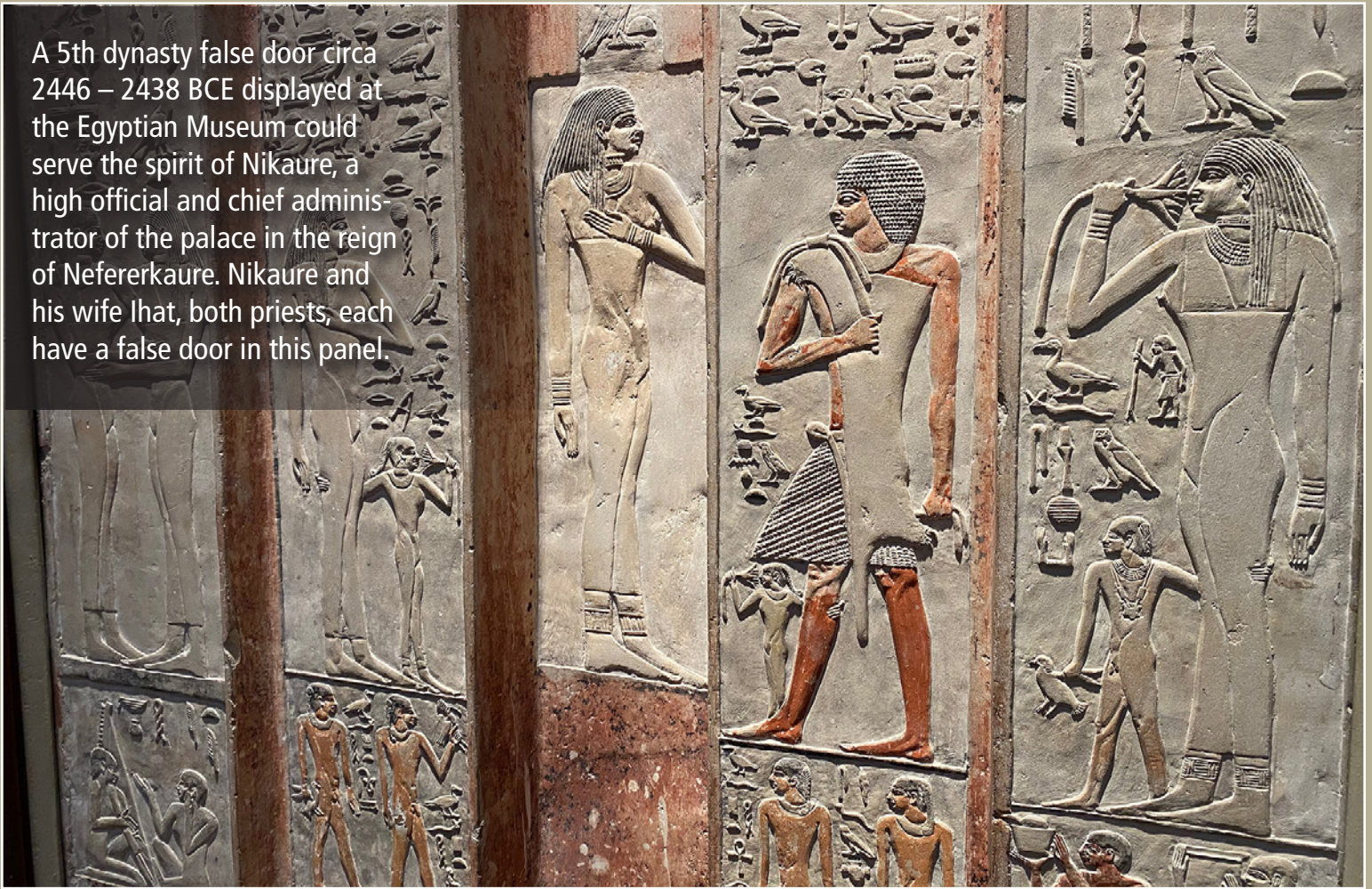




The Menkaure Triad statue (circa 2494 – 2472 BCE) holds court at The Egyptian Museum. King Menkaure stands center, holding a rod symbolizing the possession of power in his left hand. The goddess Hathor stands on Menkaure's right, wearing her crown featuring the sun disc between two cow horns. The goddess Bat is on Menkaure's left, wearing the symbols of the region where she is revered.



A 5th dynasty false door circa 2446 – 2438 BCE displayed at the Egyptian Museum could serve the spirit of Nikaure, a high official and chief administrator of the palace in the reign of Nefererkaure. Nikaure and his wife Ihat, both priests, each have a false door in this panel.



One of the artistic glories of ancient Egypt, this slab shows the pharaoh Akhenaten, his wife Nefertiti, and their family making an offering of lotus flowers to the Aten, the single sanctioned deity during Akhenaten's reign circa 1365 – 1349 BCE.



At the Egyptian Museum you'll see the ceremonial Narmer Palette, circa 3200 – 3000 BCE. It depicts the union of upper and lower Egypt. Among the many notable features of the Palette, it contains some of the earliest examples of hieroglyphs.







On February 20, 2023 Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities unveiled a renovated wing of its oldest museum, now home to a 16-meter-long papyrus scroll unearthed last year. The refurbishment marks the first stage of broader renovations for the 120-year-old salmon-colored palatial complex in downtown Cairo, opposite the capital's famed Tahrir Square. Part of the refurbishment includes new modern glass protections and new interior lighting.

In the picture above, Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council Antiquities, speaks in front of the scroll which contains inscriptions from the Book of the Dead dating back to 50 BCE.





# NMEC (Nat'l Museum of Egyptian Civilization)

We kick off our afternoon sojourn with a visit to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC). The institution takes on the imposing task of introducing guests to ~8,000 years of Egyptian life and times. In this way, NMEC is unique among Cairo's fabulous museums: it covers all of Egypt's history, not just its ancient periods.

NMEC organizes its exhibits in six subject areas (The Dawn of Civilization, The Nile, Writing, State & Society, Material Culture, and Beliefs & Thinking) plus the Gallery of Royal Mummies.

NMEC also serves as a conservation center with research and restoration facilities, training facilities, and a publishing house. It now contains 50,000 artifacts.

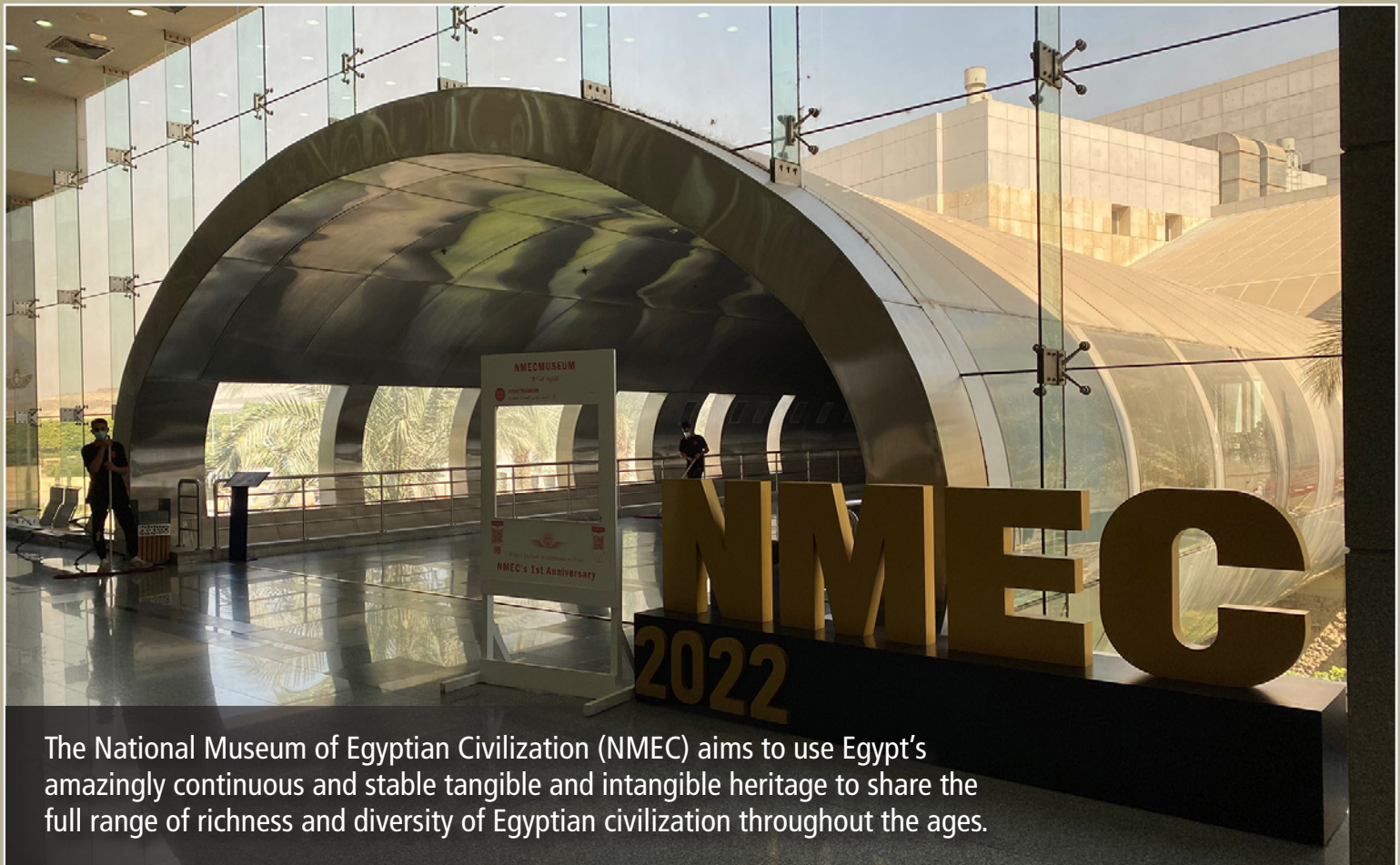
NMEC hosts the Royal Mummies, which were transported from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square to NMEC in the "Pharaoh's Golden Parade" (see last pages) in April 2021, when the museum was officially inaugurated by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.



Day 3 afternoon



Mr. Sadek and Mr. Khalid (from New Egylook Tours), highly-seasoned Egyptian travel industry professionals, stroll NMEC's cool, modern, wide-open welcoming spaces. Note that these Cairo natives were wearing long pants and sneakers during nearly all of their touring with Insight Cruises in August 2022!

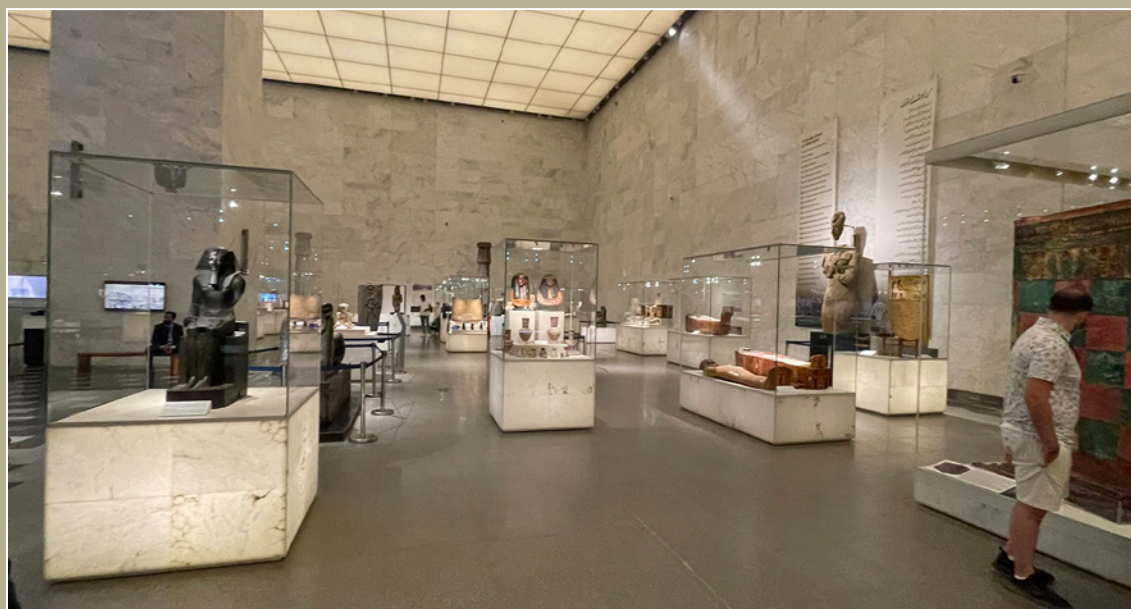


The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) aims to use Egypt's amazingly continuous and stable tangible and intangible heritage to share the full range of richness and diversity of Egyptian civilization throughout the ages.





Many museums, world wide, were built as places to store collections of archaeological artifacts. National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) is not one of them. It was designed to present material evidence of Egyptian civilization and its intangible heritage throughout history, from pre-history to the twentieth century. As you look at these photos of some of NMEC's galleries, you can see two of its prominent features: artifacts tracing Egypt's history, and space: comfortably lit overhead space. Space to move around uncrowded display cases. Spacious aisles. Space to host educational and cultural events. Space to be captivated by an artifact, step back from it to reflect, and encounter space.







Queen Hetepheres I's life was intertwined with Old Kingdom, 4th Dynasty kingship. She was a wife of Sneferu, the pharaoh who improved pyramid-building techniques; mother of King Khufu (Cheops, builder of the Great Pyramid); and the grandmother of two kings, Djedefre and Khafre, and of queen Hetepheres II. You can see Hetepheres' armchair, adorned with lotus flowers, in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.



Neferuptah's broad collar stands out among the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization's examples of Middle Kingdom jewelry. Princess Neferuptah is believed to be Amenemhat III's daughter, and so was a member of the 12th Dynasty, living circa 1860 – 1814 BCE.





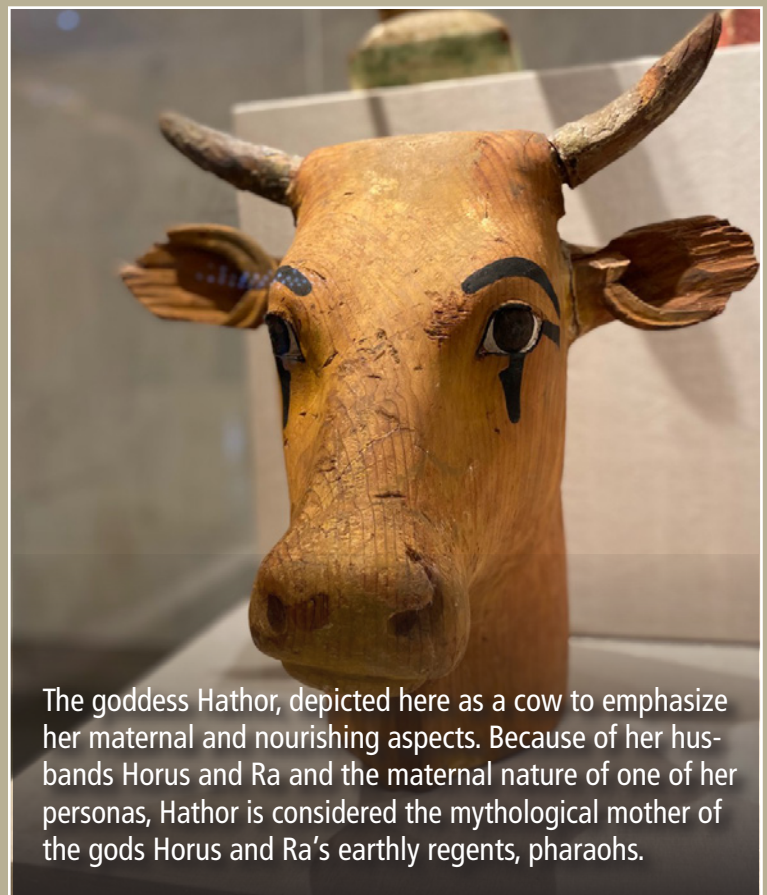
A granite statue of Thutmose III from Karnak in view at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.



A stature of Hapi the Scribe ( New Kingdom, 19th Century BCE, ca. 1295 – 1186 BCE) reading from a papyrus scroll. He was an administrator of the temple of Amun-Ra at Karnak.

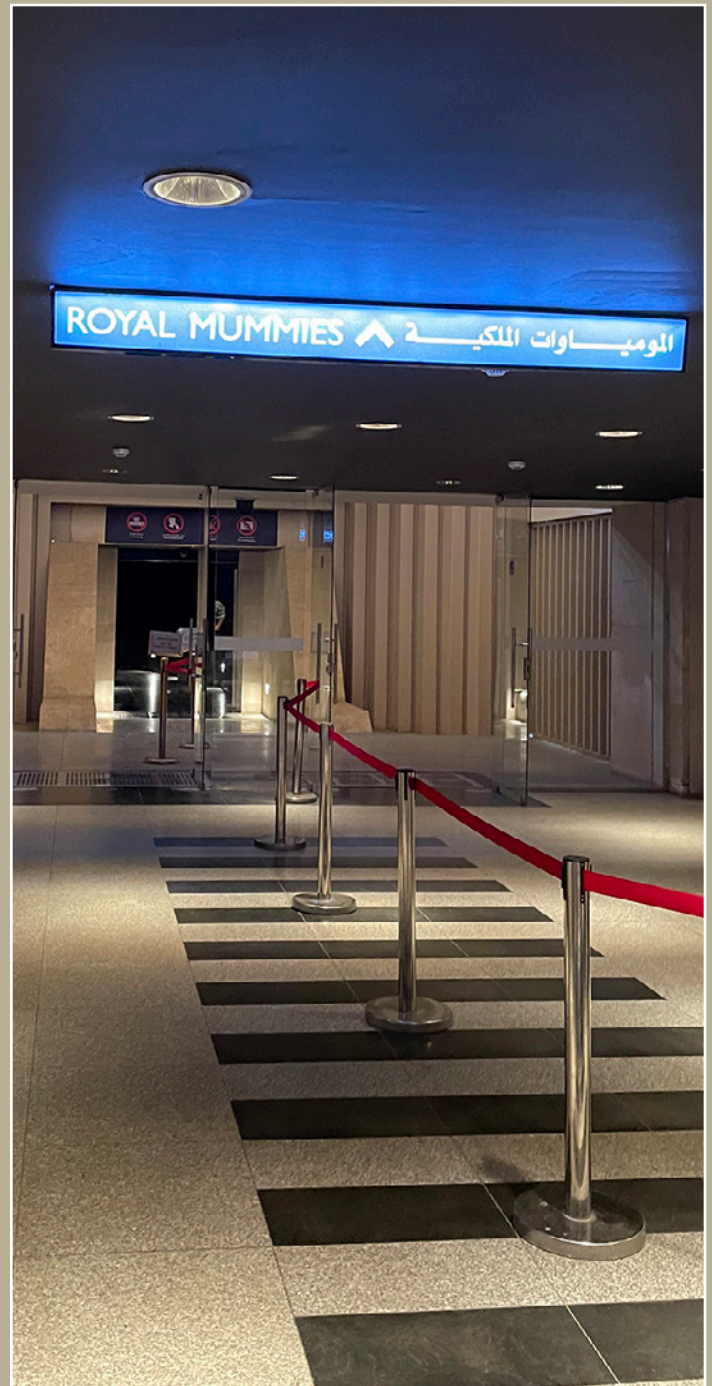


Highly detailed and richly symbolic, Coptic and Greco-Roman jewelry is a cherished artifact of Egyptian civilization.



The goddess Hathor, depicted here as a cow to emphasize her maternal and nourishing aspects. Because of her husbands Horus and Ra and the maternal nature of one of her personas, Hathor is considered the mythological mother of the gods Horus and Ra's earthly regents, pharaohs.





Considered the crown jewel of the museum, the Royal Mummies' Hall is specially designed to display the mummies of the ancient Kings and Queens of Egypt. The design aims to give the visitor the feeling of strolling down the Valley of The Kings, where most of these mummies were originally resting. The hall includes 22 Royal mummies (both Kings and Queens), from the 17th until the 20th dynasty. The most famous mummies are Hatshepsut (Maatkare), Thutmose III (Menkheperre), and Seneferibre Taa II.

The discovery of the Royal Mummies of the New Kingdom was one of the greatest and most unexpected discoveries in the history of archaeology. The discovery did not involve the usual architectural and artistic masterpieces, but the sacred bodies of the builders of Egyptian civilization during the New Kingdom. These were the same builders that believed in life after death and devoted a large part of their wealth to defeating death.

In accordance with their beliefs, they preserved their bodies for the sake of their souls. They constructed their tombs within the cliff of the valley on the West Bank of the Nile, near their capital at Thebes (now Luxor), and equipped them with all the necessary objects for life after death. The tombs' entrances were then blocked and the chambers were hidden in order to allow the mummies to be preserved for eternity and carry out their role as a home for the soul in the Afterlife.