

# 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:

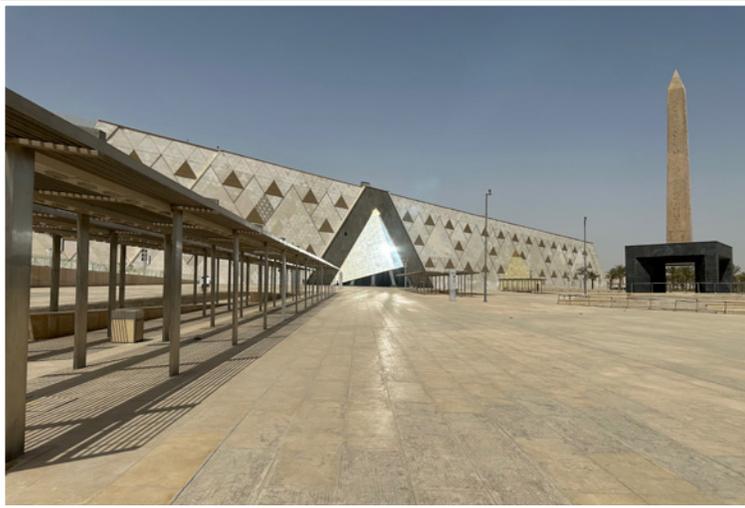
- 1)** the Grand Staircase leading up to the yet-to-be opened 2nd and 3rd floor exhibits. The King Tut exhibit (currently closed) is at the very top of the (very cool), and working, moving walkway
- 2)** the impressive gift shop
- 3)** a rather large food court (serving delicious foods!)



Turnstiles and security precede the doorless GEM entry



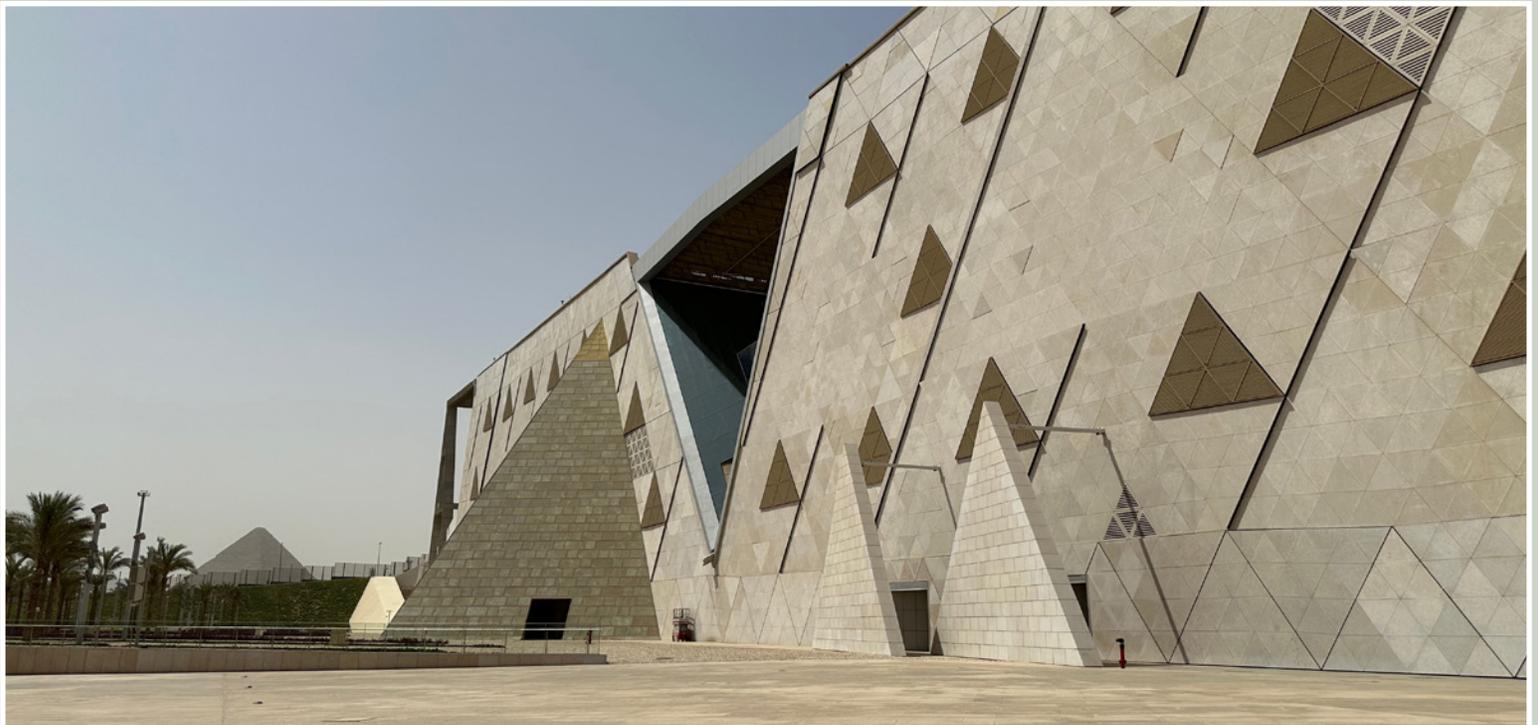
Ramses II's 50-foot, 110-ton hanging obelisk greets you



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



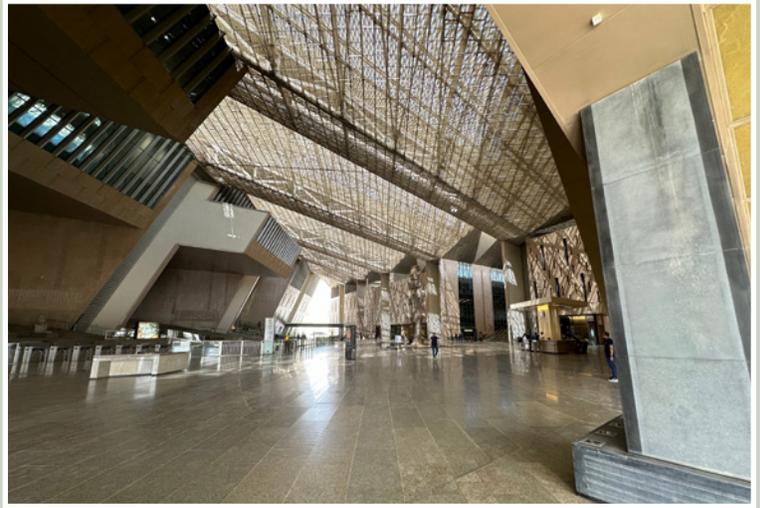
GEM's doorless entry links museum space to its desert context



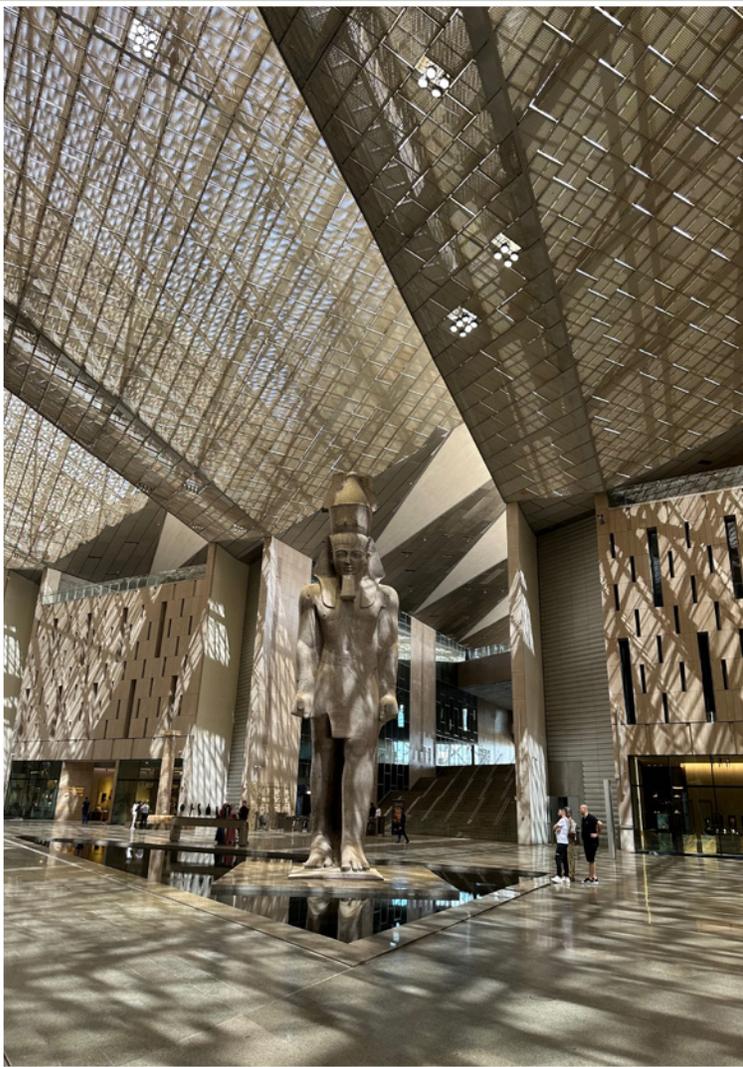
Light and shadow impact the pyramid-themed stone face of GEM



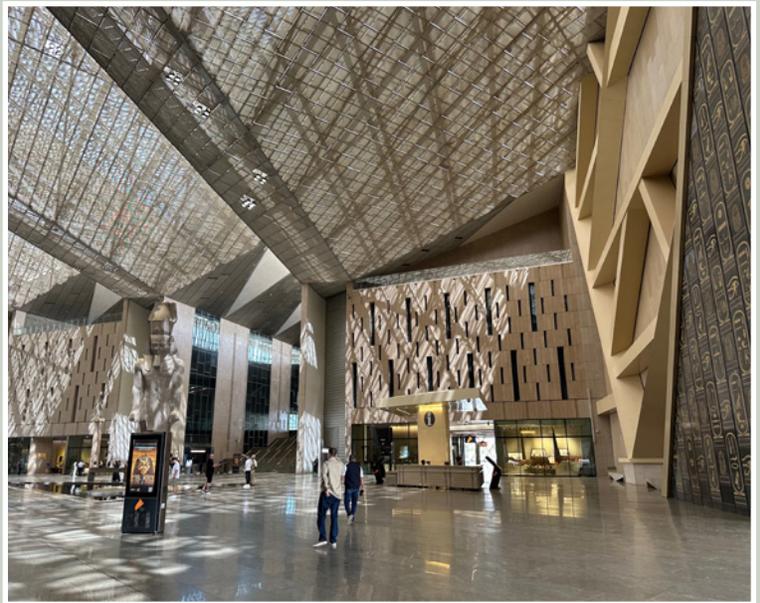
Entrance leads to a vast open-air atrium covered



Sloping panels help ventilation, natural light flow throughout GEM



Ramses II hold court in GEM's atrium reflecting pool



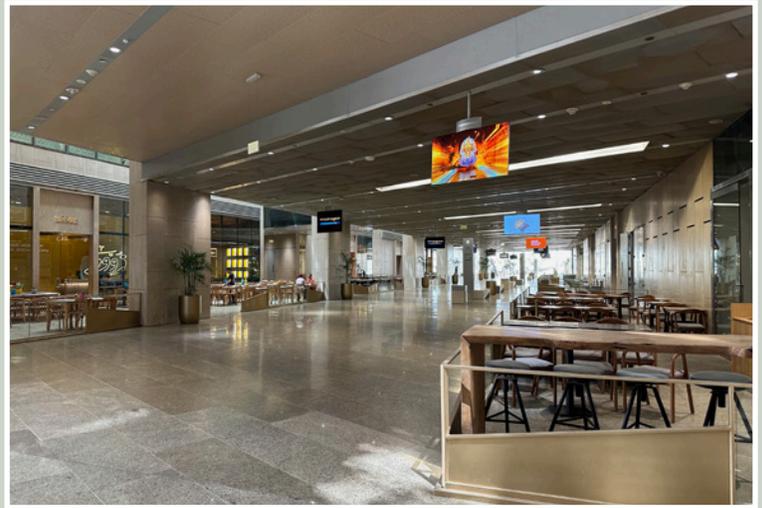
Changing sun and shadow flicker across the atrium



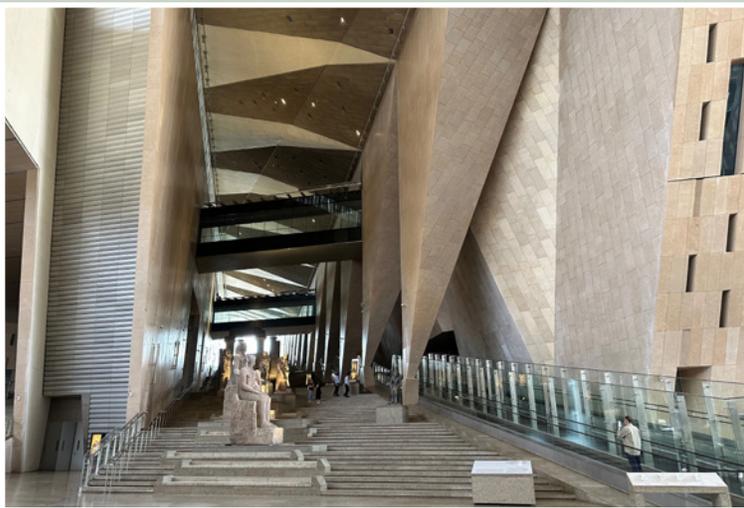
High-quality gift shops can round out a GEM visit



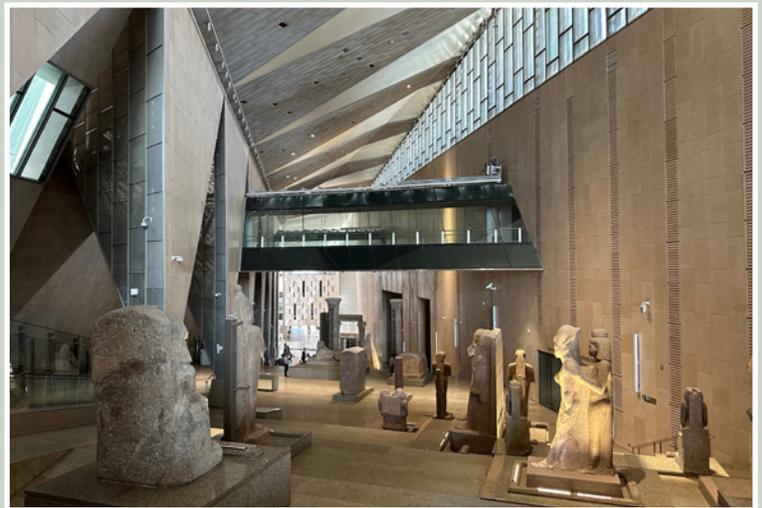
The main gift shop has a wide array of hard-to-find books on Egypt



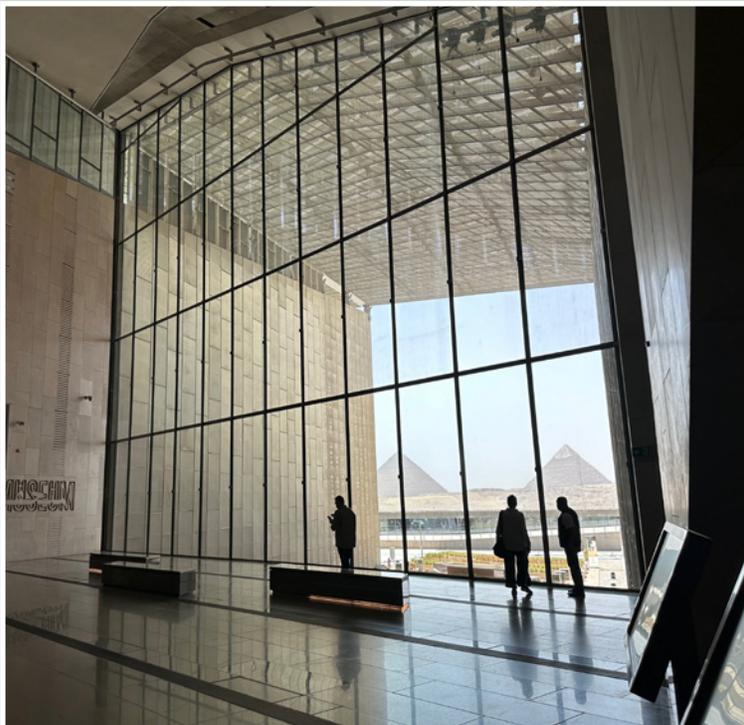
GEM restaurants cater to a range of meal types and cuisines



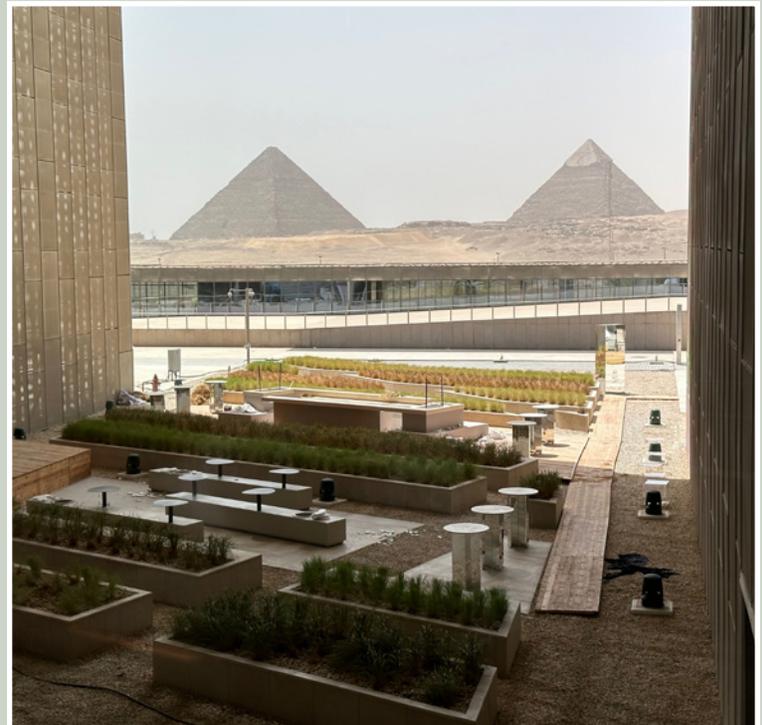
The Grand Staircase 255 ft wide at its base, 51 ft wide at its top



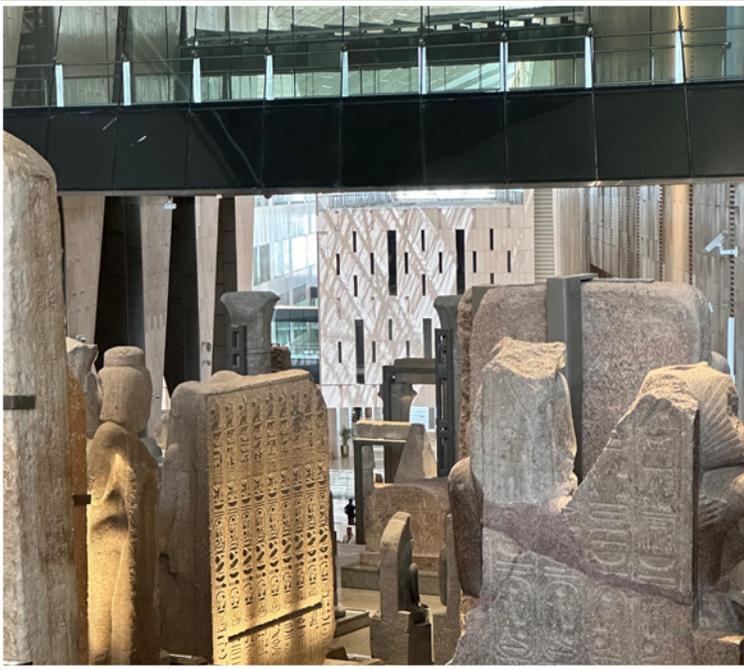
Overhead corridors link study, conservation areas and exhibits



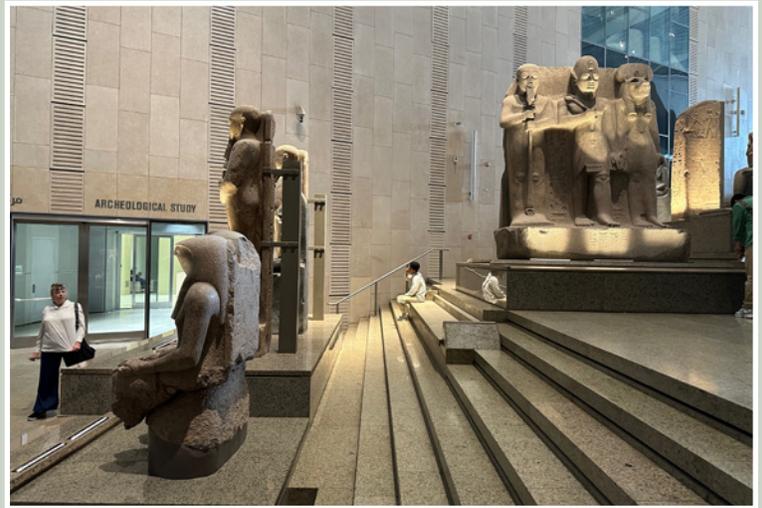
Top level of the Grand Staircase takes your gaze to the Pyramids



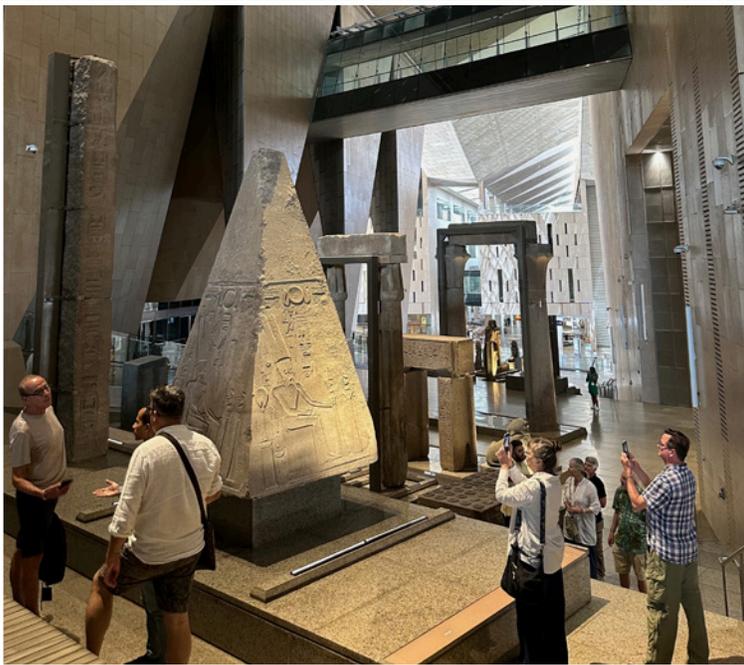
GEM's landscaping shows Egypt's agricultural and natural bounty



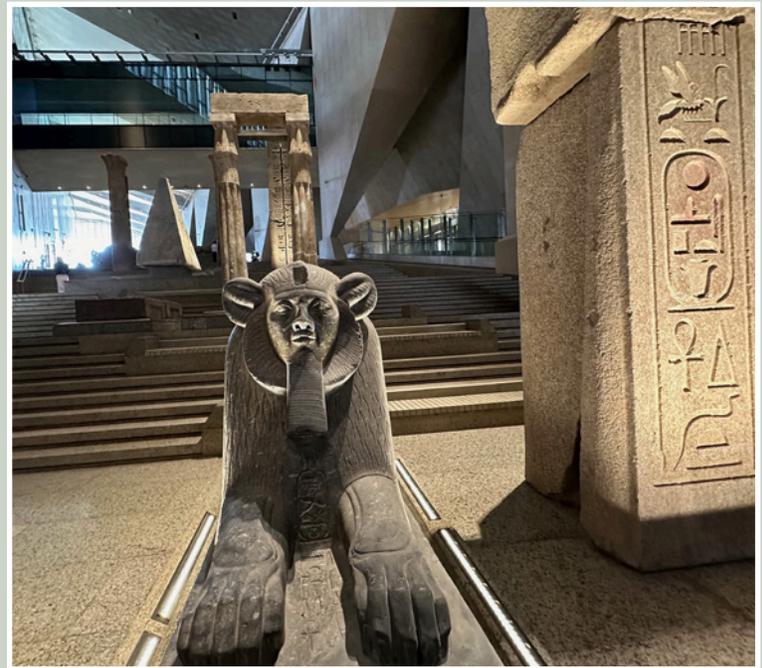
Use your hieroglyph-reading skills to decipher inscriptions!



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



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



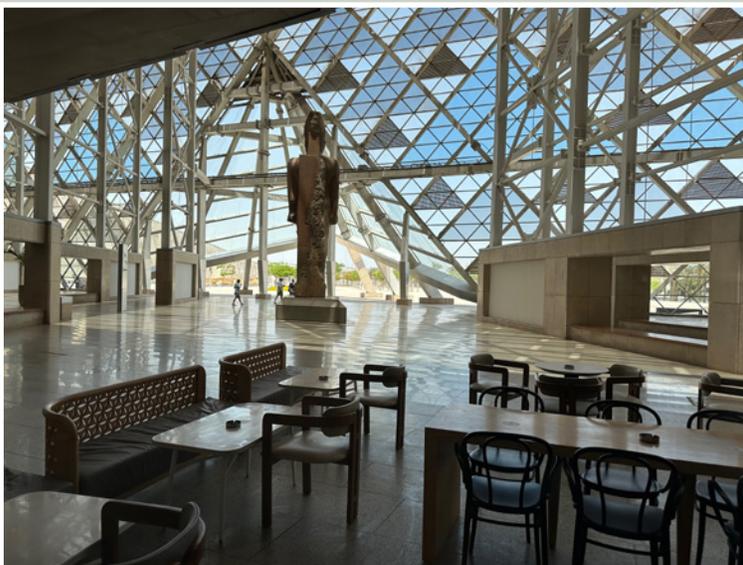
GEM provides context and history for the objects in its galleries



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