

A photograph taken from the deck of a white sailboat, looking forward. The boat's white hull and silver metal railings are visible in the foreground. A large white sail is partially visible on the right side. The water is a deep blue with small waves. In the distance, a city with buildings and a bridge is visible along the riverbank under a clear blue sky.

EGYPT – ITS TEMPLES ALONG THE NILE

Egypt has many temples and it would take too long to share all of them.

So this presentation is a collection of the main ones down the Nile

List of main temples

Temple of
Hatshepsut

Luxor
temple

Karnak
temple

Habu

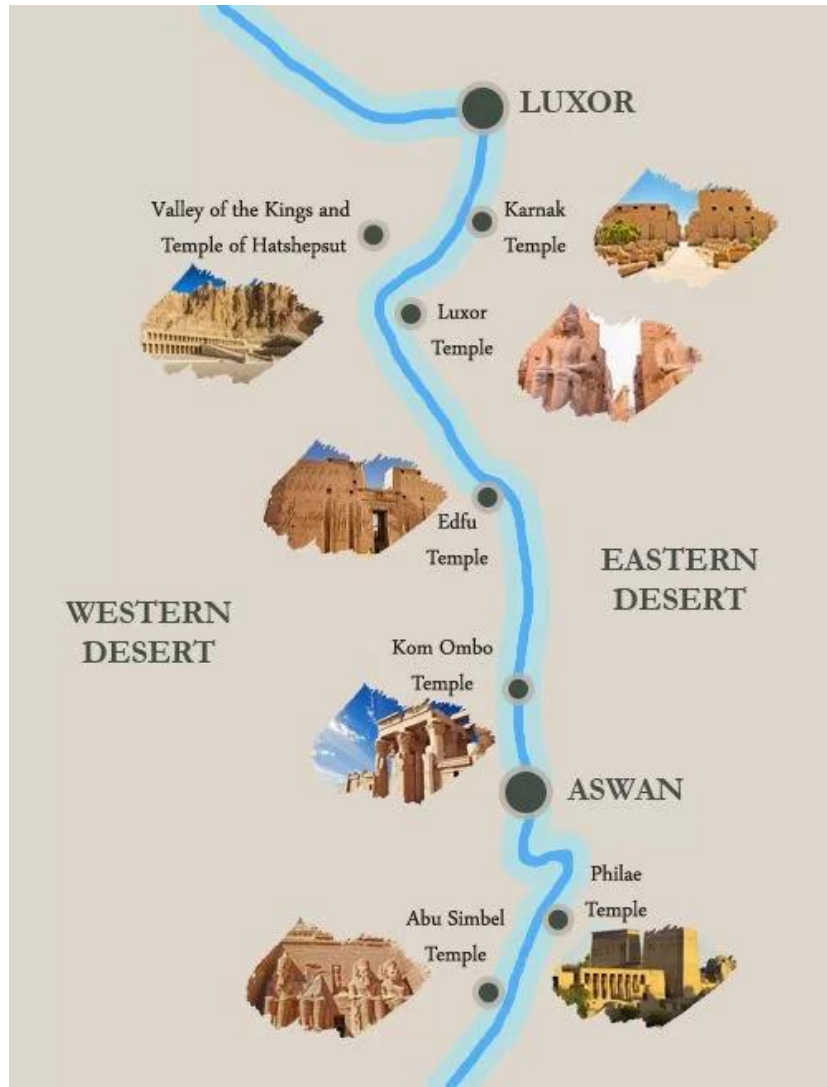
Edfu

Kom Ombo

Philae
temple

Abu Simbel

Map showing main temples down the Nile from Luxor



Temple of Hatshepsut

The mortuary temple of Hatshepsut is a mortuary temple built during the reign of Pharaoh Hatshepsut of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt. Located opposite the city of Luxor, it is considered to be a masterpiece of ancient architecture.



It is built into a cliff side

The temple was built into a cliff face, and its design is a mix of Ancient Egyptian and Classical Greek styles. The result is a truly unique building that looks, unlike any other temple in Egypt.



Who Excavated this temple?



During the Egypt Exploration Fund's (EEF) expedition, under Édouard Naville and his assistant Howard Carter, from 1893–1906, the entire temple was excavated.



It lies directly across the Nile from Karnak Temple, on the west back of Luxor.

The temple consists of three levels each of which has a colonnade at its far end. On the uppermost level, an open courtyard lies just beyond the portico. Mummiform statues of Hatshepsut as Osiris, the god of the dead, lean against its pillars.

Hatshepsut was born an Egyptian princess. Her father was the Pharaoh Thutmose I. She grew up in the great royal courts of Egypt with her sister and two brothers. Unfortunately, Hatshepsut's brothers and sister died while they were still young. Now she was an only child.





Hatshepsut
with a beard



Without a son to inherit the throne, Thutmose I was worried who would be pharaoh after he died. He decided to name one of Hatshepsut's step-brothers as heir. This is where things get weird. Hatshepsut was married to her step-brother in order to keep the royal line pure. This sounds really strange today, but it was common for Egyptian royalty.

Hatshepsut's father died a short time after she was married and her husband became the pharaoh Thutmose II. Hatshepsut was now queen of Egypt. Thutmose II, however, was a sickly man. He ruled for only a few years before he died. During this time Hatshepsut had begun to take an active role in running the country. Egypt faced a problem, though. Hatshepsut had not had a son with Thutmose II. Now what would Egypt do for a leader?



The only male heir to the throne was a young boy that was Hatshepsut's nephew Thutmose III. He was crowned the new pharaoh of Egypt at a young age, but Hatshepsut was named regent. She would run the country for him.

Hatshepsut was a powerful and intelligent leader. There were people in the government who were very loyal to her. After a few years of being regent, she decided to become Pharaoh. She had herself named Pharaoh. She took charge of the country.



So What became of the temple?



The temple was vandalised over the centuries: Tuthmosis III removed his stepmother's name whenever he could; Akhenaten removed all references to Amun; and the early Christians turned it into a monastery, Deir Al Bahri (Monastery of the North), and defaced the pagan reliefs.

What artifacts were found in Hatshepsut's tomb?



450 lamps, storage jars, dishware, stone tools, bone game pieces, and Osiris figurines,



New discoveries in tomb beneath Temple of Hatshepsut in 2021



Archaeologists conducting works at the Temple of Hatshepsut have made new discoveries in a subterranean tomb.

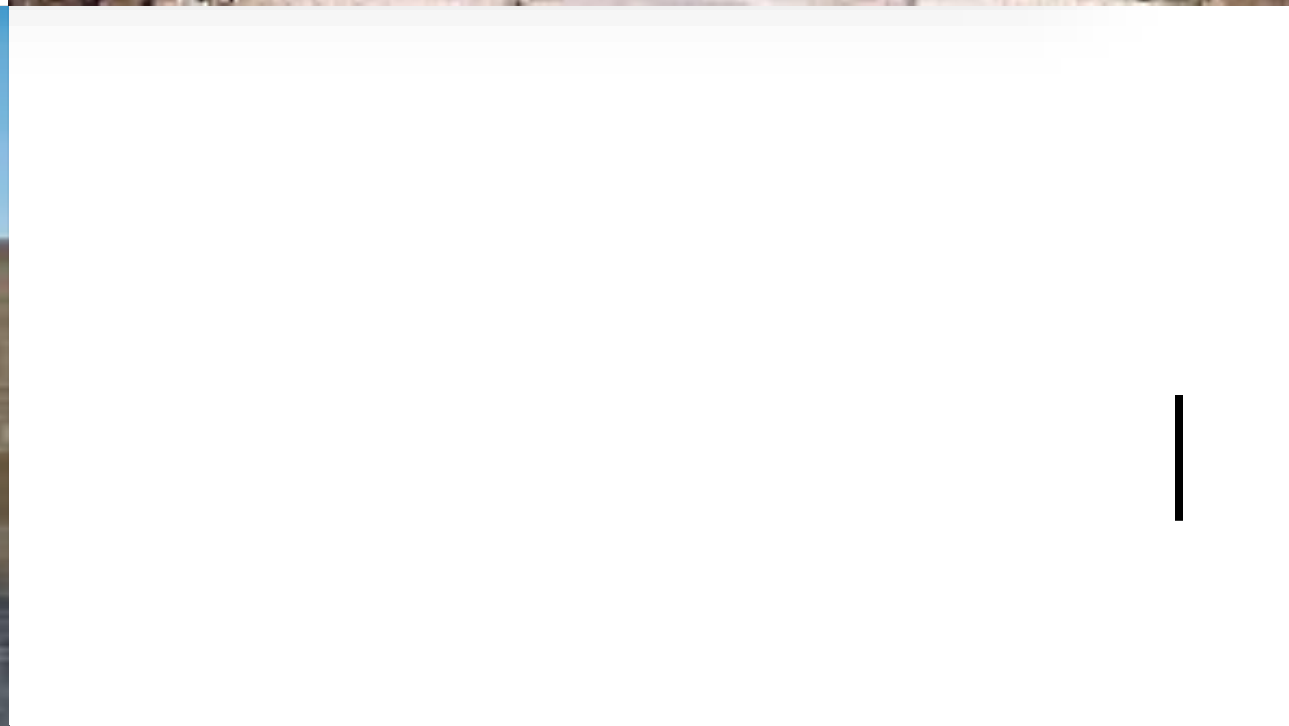
Within the debris, several hundred items were discovered – some of them are the remains of burial equipment from the beginning of the Middle Kingdom. Thus, it was older than the Temple of Hatshepsut by about 500 years.

Luxor temple

It is located on the east bank of the Nile River in the city today known as Luxor (ancient Thebes) and was constructed approximately 1400 BCE.



Unlike the other temples in Thebes, Luxor temple is not dedicated to a cult god or a deified version of the pharaoh in death. Instead, Luxor temple is dedicated to the rejuvenation of kingship; it may have been where many of the pharaohs of Egypt were crowned in reality





Excavation by Gaston Maspero

The excavations were sporadic until 1960. Over time, accumulated rubbish of the ages had buried three quarters of the temple

This started in 1884





This colonnade was designed to resemble bundles of papyrus, an important plant for the Egyptians, used to make paper, sandals and other essentials



What's hiding at the back of this temple?

Venture to the back of Luxor Temple to see statues of King Tut and Queen Ankhesenpaaten



Peristyle Courtyard

Featuring Rameses II statues



7 important facts about this temple



1.It's a coronation and a burial site

It was the burial site of almost all the kings (pharaohs) of the 18th, 19th, and 20th dynasties (1539–1075 bce), from Thutmose I to Ramses X



2. Luxor Temple was once connected to the Karnak Temple



Avenue of sphinxes



During Pharaonic Egypt, the two great temples were connected to each other via a two-mile (three-km) road. It was called the [Avenue of Sphinxes](#) because it was lined with over 1,350 human-headed stone sphinxes. You can still see part of the road today. The whole route is still undergoing excavation, with the hope that one day people will be able to walk along the whole route.

3. Each section of the temple serves a different purpose

Ramesses II built the entrance, known as the first pylon. He decorated this with scenes of his military triumphs

The Hypostyle Hall, named after the roof that once supported each of the columns, was restricted to pharaohs and priests. At one time, it became a Christian Church; you can still see the remains of another Coptic Church to the west of it.

To the east, you'll find Amenhotep III's 'birth room'. The walls depict scenes of his symbolic divine birth.

4. It's missing an obelisk

It is situated in the Place de la Concorde

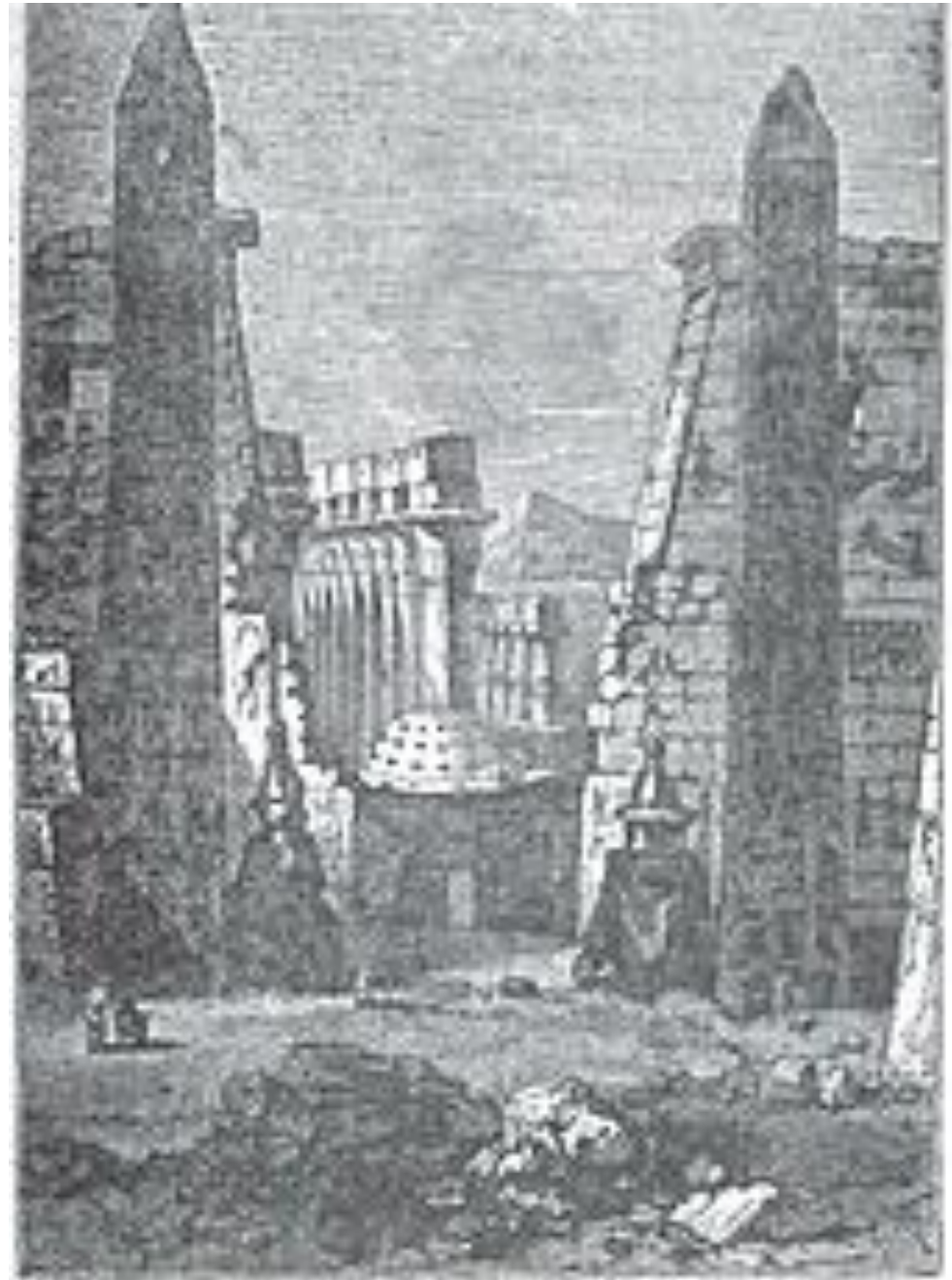
it took three years to transport the whopping 250-tonne monument to France.

The King of Egypt, Muhammad Ali Pasha, gifted it to the King of France, Louis Philippe, in 1829.

the original plan had been to give both obelisks to France. The second obelisk, which is even heavier than the one now in France, was too large to transport it.



the original two obelisks, as seen in 1832. The one on the right is now in Paris, known as the Luxor Obelisk.



5. Alexander the Great built a shrine in Luxor Temple

for centuries, the Romans used the building for their own cults and rituals, including Alexander the Great. At the rear, you'll find the Alexander the Great chapel, complete with frescoes of the king dressed as a Pharaoh.





Alexander the Great worships the God Amun Min

The original part of the Temple of Luxor consisted of a large peristyle court and a complex of halls and chambers beyond. In one hall is a granite shrine of Alexander the Great.

6. It played an important role in an annual festival

It played an essential role in the annual Opet Festival, which celebrated the annual Nile River floods. At the annual celebration, statues of Amon, Mut and Knonsu were carried out along the river by a large procession. The festivities celebrated rebirth, fertility and marriage



7. Luxor Temple has always been a sacred site

There was once an older temple on the site, built by the fifth Pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. This temple was dedicated to Amun, the God of Air. Then, when the Romans took hold of Thebes, they used it as a church and a monastery. The temple was buried beneath streets and houses as the city expanded, but technically it remained an important place of worship. In the 13th century, authorities built the Abu el-Haggag Mosque on top of it.



Karnak temple



The discovery of Karnak- photo from 1914



The Karnak temple complex is first described by an unknown Venetian in 1589, although his account gives no name for the complex.

Karnak ("Carnac") as a village name, and name of the complex, is first attested in 1668, when two capuchin missionary brothers, Protais and Charles François d'Orléans, travelled though the area.

Georges Lagrain

In 1903, Legrain made a momentous discovery at the Temple—he discovered a cache of nearly eight hundred stone statues and seventeen thousand bronzes, as well as other artifacts. They were buried in the north-west section of the courtyard of the Temple of Amun, in front of the Seventh Pylon.

Among those 800 stone statues, there were more than 350 Block statues





Karnak is currently the second largest ancient religious site in the world (smaller than only Cambodia's Angkor Wat).

It was built between 2055 BC and around 100 AD. It was built as a cult temple and was dedicated to the gods Amun, Mut, and Khonsu

HYPOSTYLE HALL OF KARNAK

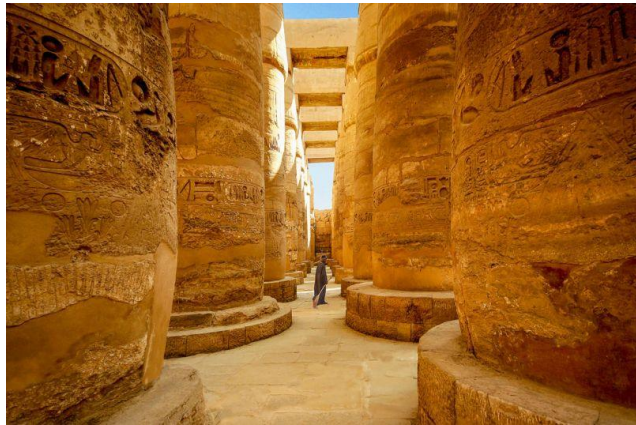
The columns did not always stand in the open air, though; at one point they held up a roof, which would have made the hall the largest covered building in Ancient Egypt.

Picture shows 1857





It is 54,000 square feet (16,459 metres) and featuring 134 columns, is still the largest room of any religious building in the world.



Constructing and positioning them took careful planning; in order to build them, crews placed foundational blocks where the columns would stand, filled the entire area with sand, and then dragged and layered additional blocks on top.



They repeated this to create 20 layers, at which point they dragged the roof beams across the sand and positioned them over the columns. Finally, they removed the sand that filled the space between the columns and smoothed them so they appeared to be single structures.



The columns and the roof were once painted in vibrant colours; although the hieroglyphs are still visible today,

Chapel of Ramesses III

Inside, the first court is lined with Osiride statues of the king; the west side wear the red crown of the south, while those on the east side wear the white crown of the north.



Sacred lake



In addition to the main sanctuary there are several smaller temples and a vast sacred lake – 423 feet by 252 feet (129 by 77 metres).

Sacred lake

The lake was used by the priests for ritual washing and ritual navigation. It was also home to the sacred geese of Amun

Karnak Temple Sacred Lake is the largest of its kind and was dug by Tuthmosis III (1473-1458 BC). It measures 393 feet (120m) by 252 feet (77m) and is lined with stone wall and has stairways descending into the water.



Habu temple





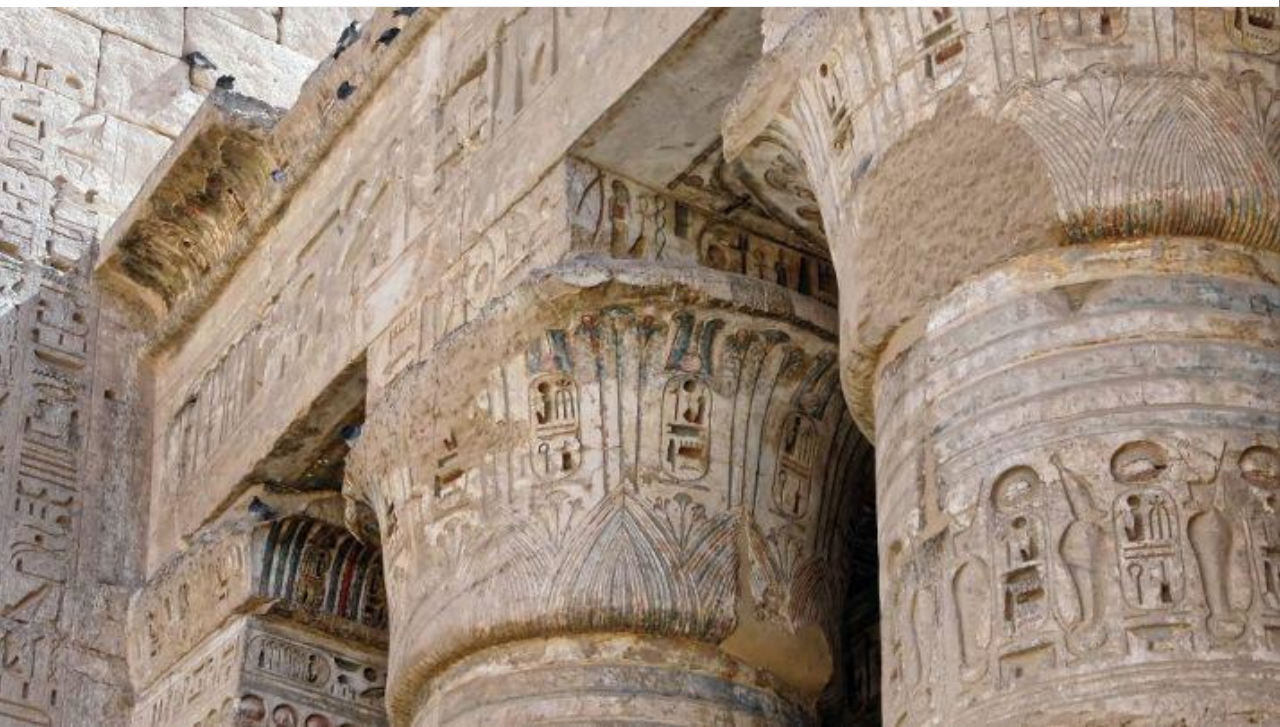
It is situated on the west bank opposite Luxor

The tower is in the form of a "migdol," a kind of fortified gate house.

Habu temple –
the mortuary
temple of
Rameses III

Although it is an Egyptian structure, its design was heavily influenced by Syrian migdol fortresses.

Migdol fortresses were built in Syria and Israel during the Middle Bronze Age (ca. 2000-1550 BC). The structures were typically rectangular, with two towers at each corner and walls up to four meters thick. The towers were usually higher than the walls and had sloping sides, making them difficult to climb or breach.



Rameses III may have seen similar structures while campaigning in Syria

Medinet Habu is known for its impressive architecture, featuring intricate carvings, impressive columns, and colourful hieroglyphics

Edfu temple



Edfu is the largest temple dedicated to Horus, one of Egypt's most important historic deities, statues of the falcon-headed god are found throughout the complex,





Edfu was one of several temples built during the Ptolemaic Kingdom, including the Dendera Temple complex, Esna, the Temple of Kom Ombo, and Philae.

The building was started during the reign of Ptolemy II and completed in 57 BC under Ptolemy XII

It fell into disuse

The temple of Edfu fell into disuse as a religious monument following Theodosius I's persecution of pagans and edict banning non-Christian worship within the Roman Empire in 391. As elsewhere, many of the temple's carved reliefs were razed by followers of the Christian faith which came to dominate Egypt. The blackened ceiling of the hypostyle hall, visible today, is believed to be the result of arson intended to destroy religious imagery that was then considered pagan.

Its rediscovery

Over the centuries, the temple became buried to a depth of 12 metres (39 ft) beneath drifting desert sand and layers of river silt deposited by the Nile. Local inhabitants built homes directly over the former temple grounds. Only the upper reaches of the temple pylons were visible by 1798, when the temple was identified by a French expedition. In 1860 Auguste Mariette, a French Egyptologist, began the work of freeing Edfu temple from the sands.





Horus Ark
inside the
Temple of Edfu

Kom Ombo



The Temple of Kom Ombo is an unusual double temple in the town of Kom Ombo in Aswan Governorate, Upper Egypt. It was constructed during the Ptolemaic dynasty, 180–47 BC. Some additions to it were later made during the Roman period.

Kom Ombo entrance
showing 2 entrances





It is dedicated to the god Sobek, the crocodile god, and the god, Horus, the falcon god.

The building is unique because its 'double' design meant that there were courts, halls, sanctuaries and rooms duplicated for two sets of gods. The southern half of the temple was dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, god of fertility and creator of the world. Meanwhile, the northern part of the temple was dedicated to the falcon god Horus



Sobek was considered a protective deity. His fierceness was able to ward off evil while simultaneously defending the innocent.

Likewise, crocodiles were raised for religious reasons as living incarnations of Sobek. Upon their deaths, they were mummified in a grand ritual display as sacred, but earthly, manifestations of their patron god.

Sobek





Philae Temple

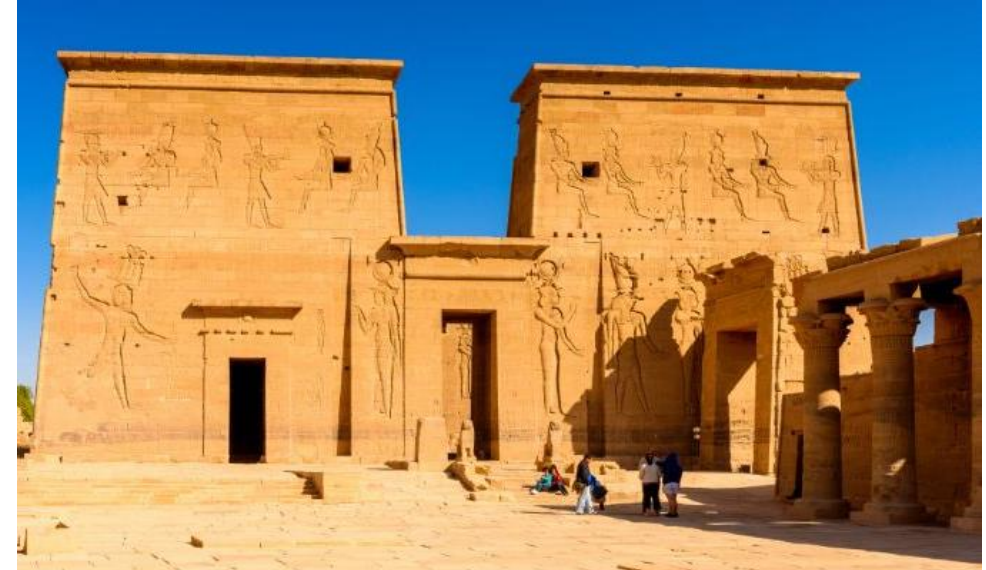
The Philae temple complex is an island-based temple complex in the reservoir of the Aswan Low Dam, downstream of the Aswan Dam and Lake Nass



The earliest known temple at Philae dates back to the reign of Pharaoh Nectanebo I (380-362 BC). This temple was dedicated to Isis and her husband, Osiris. During this time, Philae became a major centre for the worship of Isis and Osiris.

Philae became a major centre for the worship of Isis and Osiris.

It is also home to incredible artifacts, such as statues depicting various gods and goddesses from ancient Egyptian mythology and hieroglyphics telling stories about their lives and beliefs.




The discovery of the temples

With the passage of time, the temples fell into disuse and the Great Temple eventually became mostly covered by a sand dune. By the 6th century BC, the sand already covered the statues of the main temple up to their knees. The temple was forgotten by Europeans until March 1813, when the Swiss researcher Johann Ludwig Burckhardt found the small temple and top frieze of the main temple.

The Philae Temple Has Served Multiple Religions

The Philae Temple passed through several hands and religions, passing back and forth between the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, from Egyptian paganism to early Christianity.

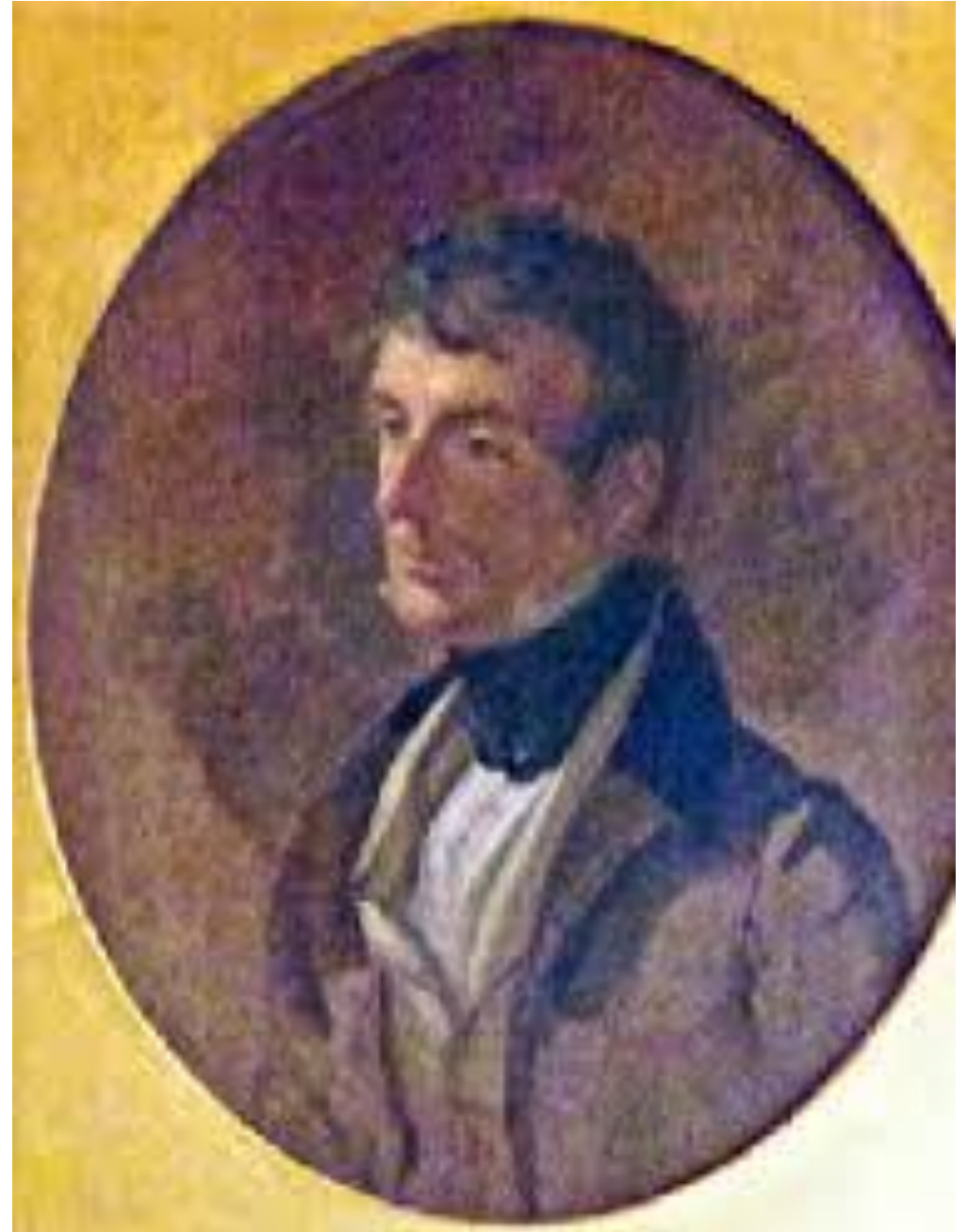
The temple's interior bears the mark of this changeable, at times violent, history. Early Christians destroyed or disfigured many of the Egyptian statues and hieroglyphs, transforming the temple into a church. There is also evidence of Roman and Byzantine remains, including two Coptic churches.



The significance of the Philae obelisk

William John Bankes was an English politician, explorer, Egyptologist and adventurer. He noticed the obelisk in 1815, while travelling in Egypt and believed that the bilingual inscription would help with the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs. He accordingly acquired the obelisk and a single, large broken piece of its twin found at Philae and had them transported to his estate at Kingston Lacy in Dorset, England. The obelisk arrived in London in December 1821, making it the first Egyptian obelisk to be brought to the United Kingdom.

Bankes studied the obelisk carefully, and found he could make out the names of Ptolemy and Cleopatra. He made lithographs of the bilingual inscriptions – both Greek and hieroglyphic - and this together with the Rosetta stone helped scholars in their understanding of hieroglyphics.



The Philae obelisk in Kingston Lucy Dorset



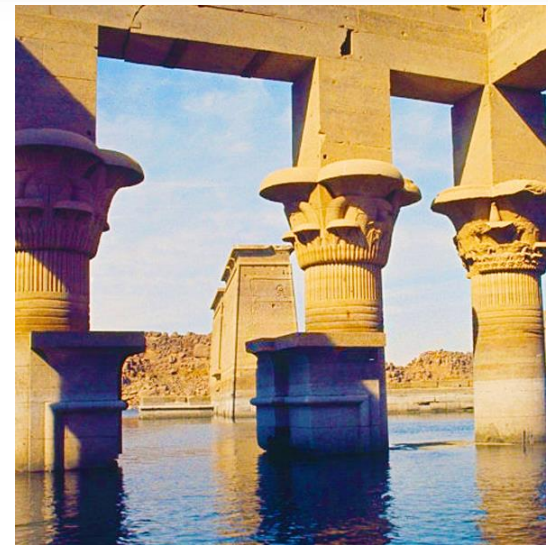
HOW THE PHILAE TEMPLE MONUMENT WAS ALMOST FLOODED BY THE ASWAN DAM & THE NILE RIVER

The Aswan Dam was built in 1960 and was designed to help control flooding along the Nile River. The dam also provided electricity to many parts of Egypt and Sudan. However, it threatened many historical sites along the river, including Philae Temple. The rising waters would have completely submerged this ancient monument if not for an international effort to save it.

In 1959, UNESCO launched an international campaign to save Philae Temple from being flooded by the Aswan Dam and Nile River. The campaign involved several countries worldwide coming together to raise funds for an ambitious project: moving Philae Temple away from its current location on an island in the Nile River to another nearby island that would be safe from flooding.



Before it was
moved



The project was successful, as engineers could move all of the temple's blocks without damaging them. They then reconstructed them on their new island home, Agilkia Island, which was located just 500 meters away from its original location on Philae Island. This relocation saved Philae Temple from being flooded by both the Aswan Dam and the Nile River.



Abu Simbel temples



Situated in the Aswan Governate near to the border of Sudan

There are two temples, the Great Temple, dedicated to Ramesses II himself, and the Small Temple, dedicated to his chief wife Queen Nefertari.



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Temple to Ramesses II



Construction of the temple complex started in c. 1264 BC and lasted for about 20 years, until 1244 BC.

During his reign, Ramesses II embarked on an extensive building program throughout Egypt and Nubia, which Egypt controlled. Nubia was very important to the Egyptians because it was a source of gold and many other precious trade goods. He, therefore, built several grand temples there in order to impress upon the Nubians Egypt's might



The single entrance is flanked by four colossal, 20 m (66 ft) statues, each representing Ramesses II seated on a throne and wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt. The statue to the immediate left of the entrance was damaged in an earthquake, causing the head and torso to fall away; these fallen pieces were not restored to the statue during the relocation but placed at the statue's feet in the positions originally found. Next to Ramesses's legs are a number of other, smaller statues, none higher than the knees of the pharaoh, depicting: his chief wife, Nefertari, his queen mother Mut-Tuy; his first two sons and his first six daughters

Solar alignment

It is believed that the axis of the temple was positioned by the ancient Egyptian architects in such a way that on October 22 and February 22, the rays of the sun would penetrate the sanctuary and illuminate the sculptures on the back wall, except for the statue of Ptah, a god connected with the realm of the dead, who always remained in the dark. People gather at Abu Simbel on these days to witness this



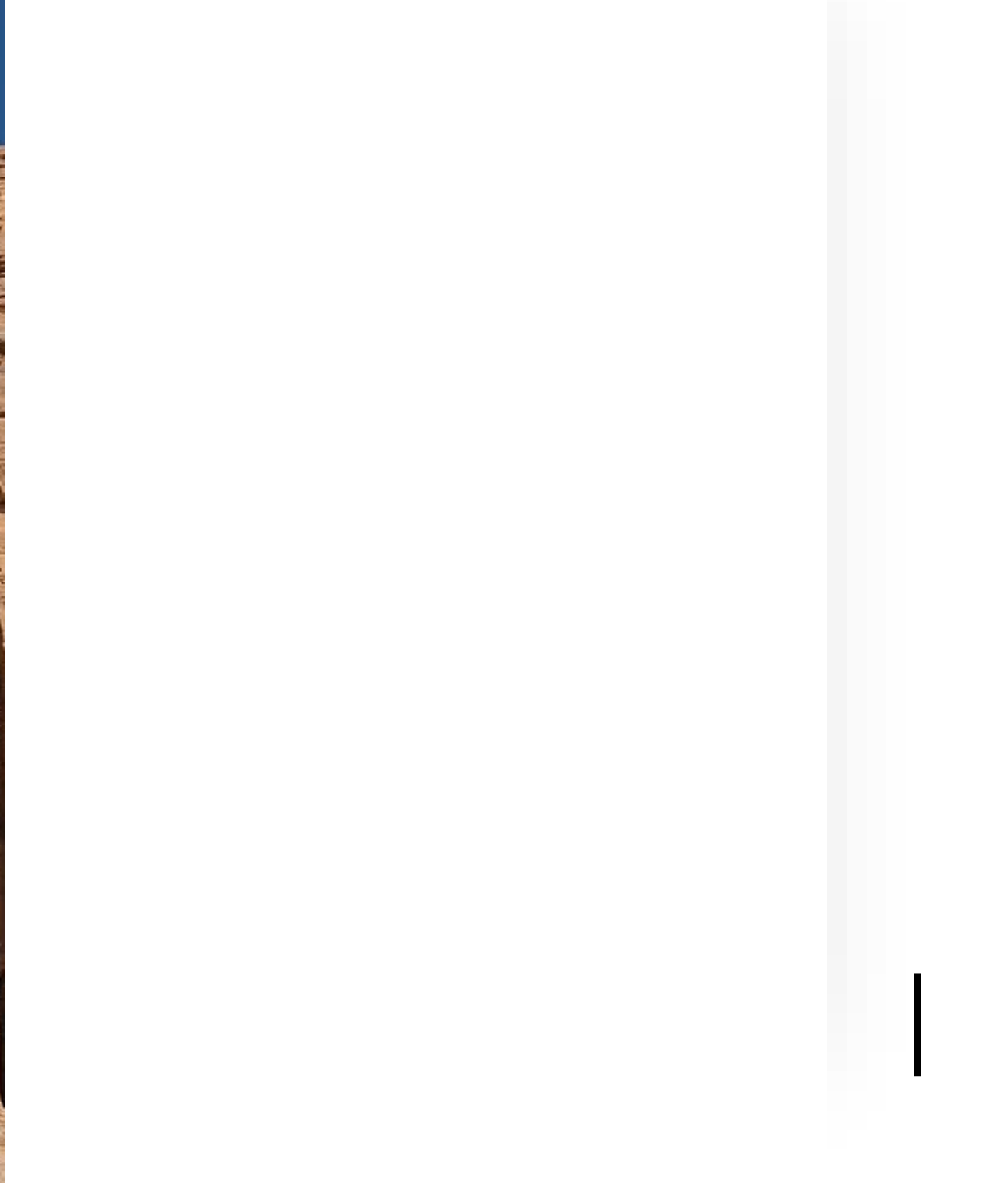
Interior of the temple before and after cleaning



The small temple at Abu Simbel

The Temple of Hathor at Abu Simbel was built by Ramesses II (circa 1279-1213 BCE) to honour both Hathor as the goddess of love/music and his wife Nefertari as a deified queen. The facade, resembling a pylon, has six standing colossal (over 33 feet/10 meters high) statues. The plan of the Small Temple is a simplified version of that of the Great Temple.

Remarkably, this is one of very few instances in Egyptian art where the statues of the king and his consort have equal size.



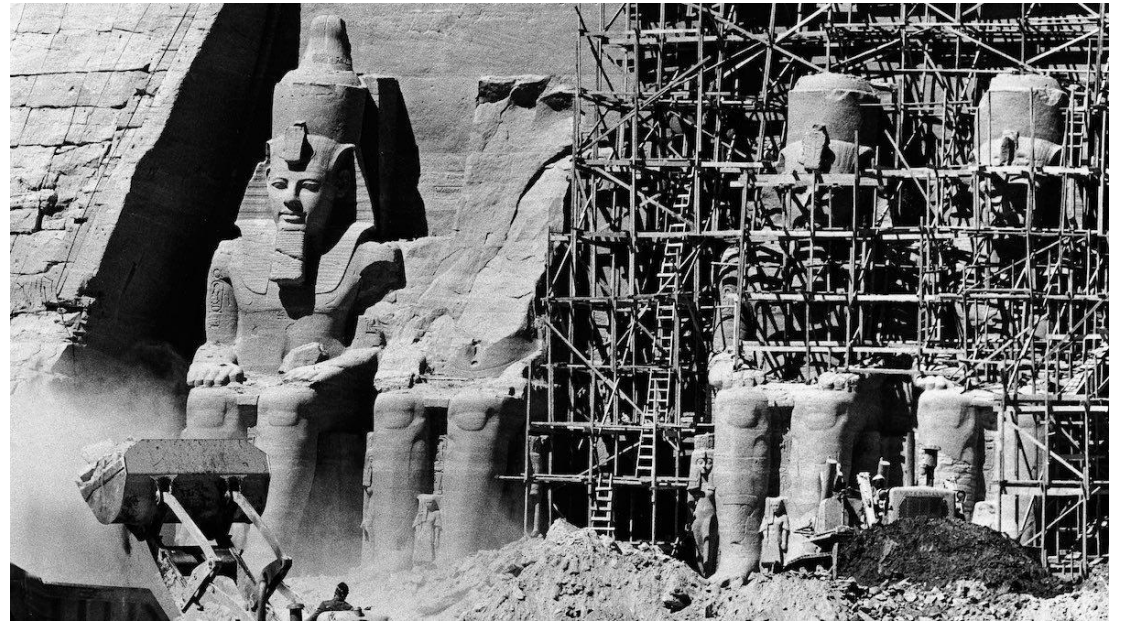
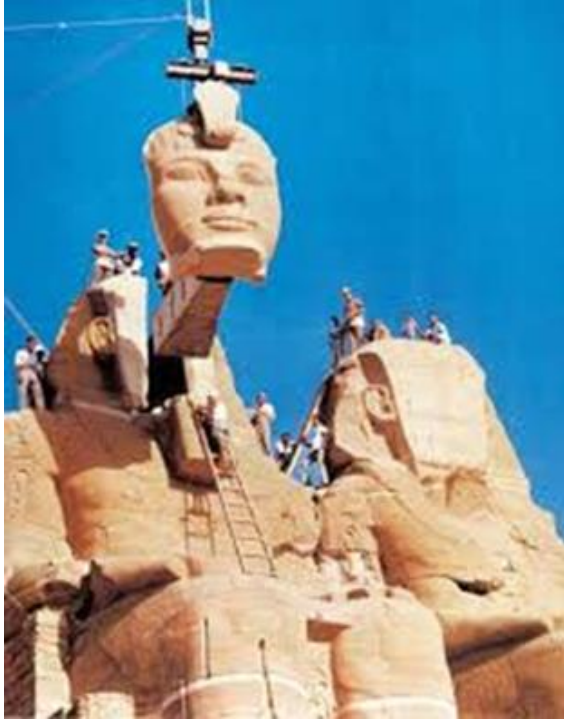
The salvage of the Abu Simbel temples began in 1964

a multinational team of archeologists, engineers and skilled heavy equipment operators working together under the UNESCO banner; it cost some \$40 million (equivalent to \$392.96 million in 2023). Between 1964 and 1968, the entire site was carefully cut into large blocks (up to 30 tons, averaging 20 tons), dismantled, lifted and reassembled in a new location 65 metres higher and 200 metres back from the river,

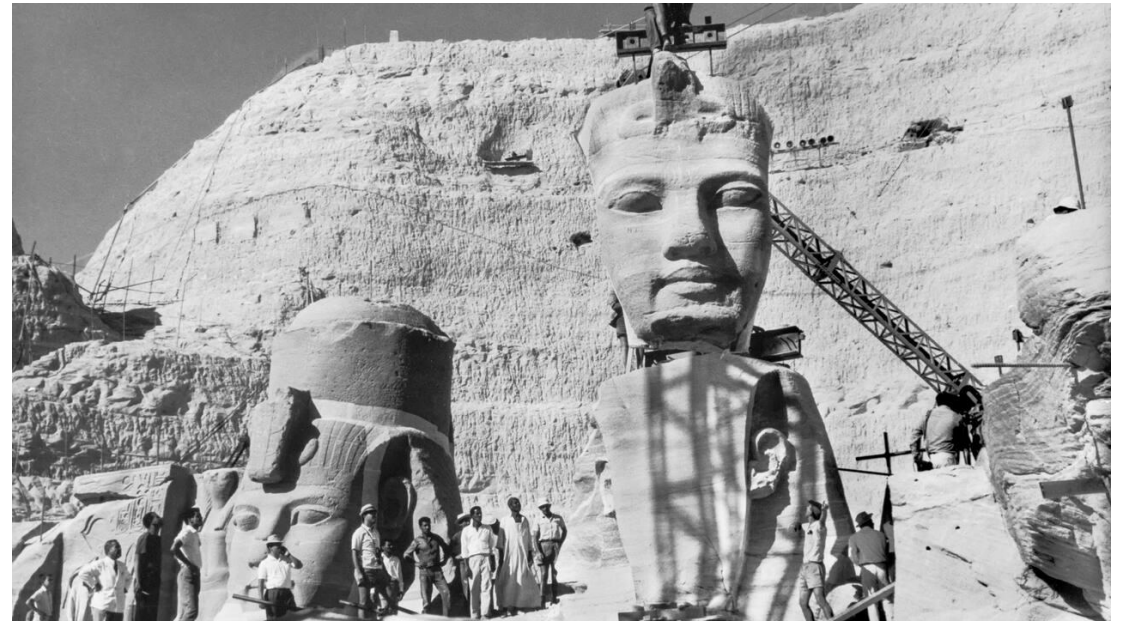
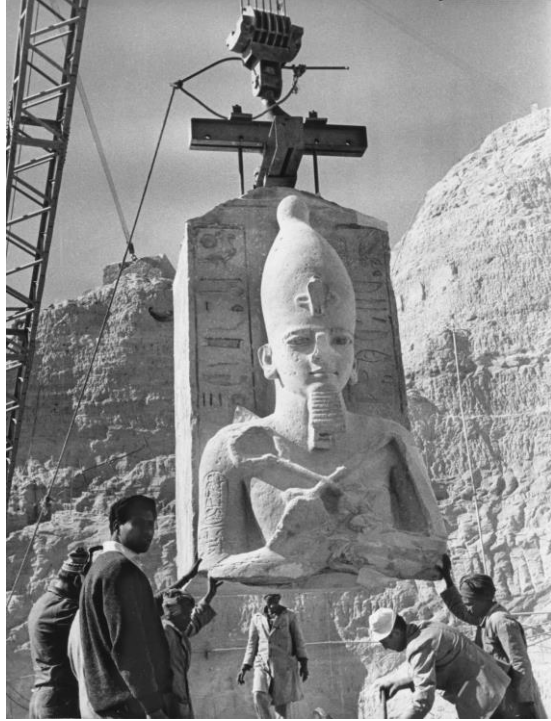
Original location













Work with relocating the Abu Simbel temples was concluded on September 22, 1968 with a large inaugural ceremony.



Over 50
countries
Contributed to
the Abu Simbel
Relocation



There are many more temples along the Nile.

Each of these temples shown tell a different story and served different purposes