

'BEST OF CAIRO'

1-, 2-, and 3-Day Options in Cairo

Before or After your Luxor or Aswan Tour

The Pyramids of Giza await!



Whether they are an appetizer or the icing on the cake, Giza's iconic Pyramids play a role in many travelers' feasts on Cairo's history. Let Insight Cruises set the table for your Cairo adventures. You can choose to see the Pyramids, with or without our other cultural options, before or after your Eclipse of the Century events.

You have three options for exploring the Pyramids and the other wonders of Cairo with one-, two-, or three-day adventures staying in our carefully selected 5-star hotels: the Hyatt Regency or Dusit Thani. For the one-day tour of the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx plus the

world's oldest pyramid, Saqqara, the airport hotel minimizes the fuss and muss. For our two- and three-day tours, our Giza Hotel is very convenient to the GEM Museum, The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

Pricing (on the following pages) includes 5-star accommodations, "Meet and Greet" services in the Cairo Airport upon arrival, all transfers (including back to the Cairo airport at the end), all meals, and cocktail parties each evening. Also included are entrance to all touring sites, tour leaders throughout the trip, and professional guides in Giza.

1

The one-day Cairo option 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 lunch at a very well known (and excellent) local restaurant.

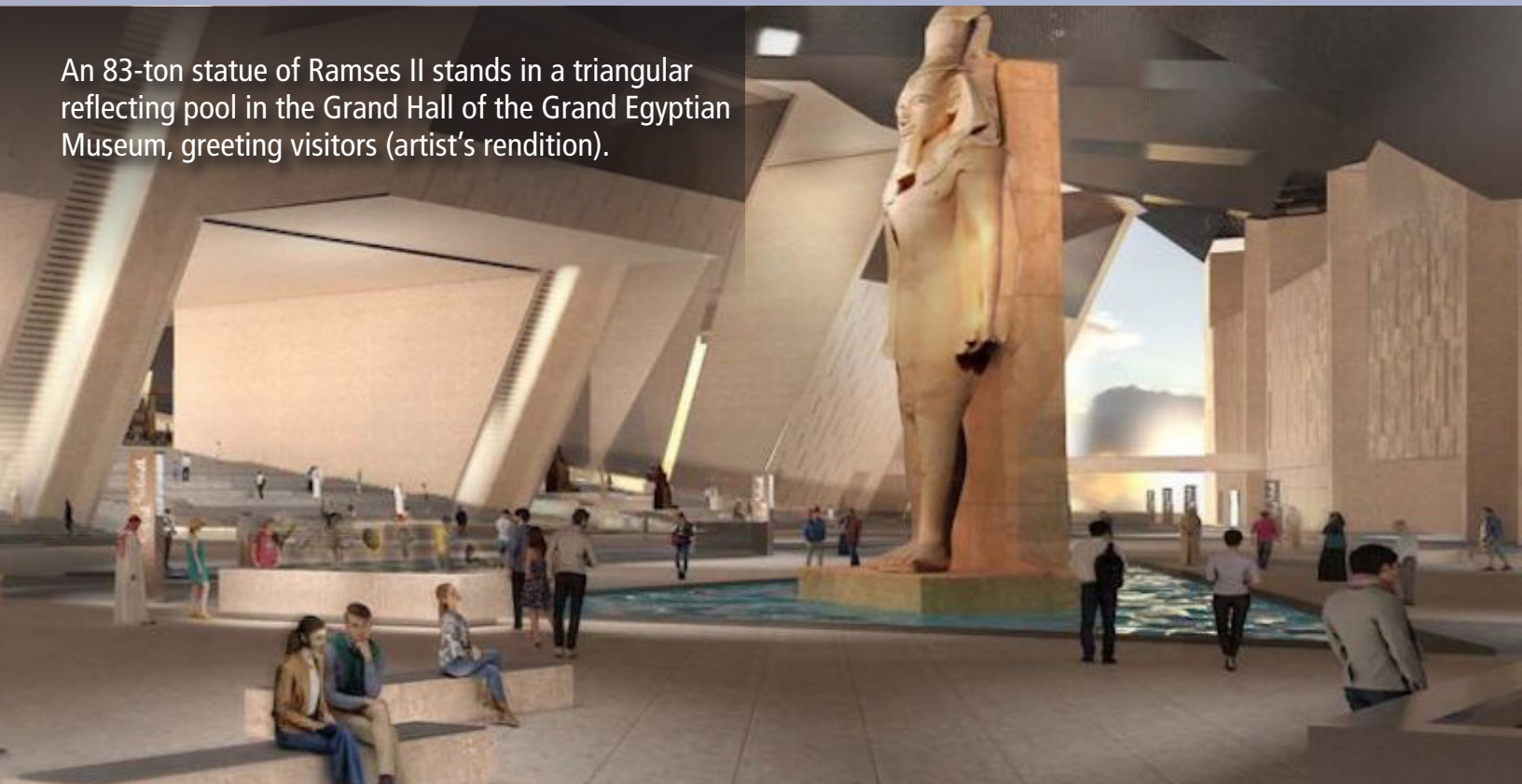
Price: \$1,875 pp (based on double occupancy); 40% surcharge for singles. Includes all transfers and transportation, seven (7) superb meals, cocktail parties each night, all gratuities, and two nights in the 5-star Hyatt Regency.

2

Your two-day option includes all the events of the one-day Cairo option, plus a second-day visit to many of Egypt's most precious pharaonic archaeological artifacts at the Grand Egyptian Museum, GEM. And what's the big deal about GEM? It houses ~50,000 Egyptian artifacts (not all on display) including the complete collection of more than 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. In addition to Tut's nether-worldly goods, GEM features objects from many of the Nile sites you'll visit during your Eclipse of the Century events. GEM is meant to embody and educate about the state, kingship, and eternity of ancient Egypt, and to give visitors a sense of the feelings and beliefs that led to the creation of the artifacts on view.

Price: \$2,775 pp (based on double occupancy); 35% surcharge for singles. Includes all transfers and transportation, ten (10) superb meals, cocktail parties each night, all gratuities, and three nights in the 5-star Hyatt Regency.

An 83-ton statue of Ramses II stands in a triangular reflecting pool in the Grand Hall of the Grand Egyptian Museum, greeting visitors (artist's rendition).



3

If you would like to experience downtown Cairo, a festive Egyptian luncheon feast, and a broad and deep look at Egypt's history from the pharaohs to the modern day, **consider the three-day Cairo option.** In addition to the outdoor explorations of the first two days, this option gives you a curated look at the key eras of Egyptian culture that shape the nation today. If you do this three-day excursion pre-eclipse, it will set the scene and enrich your visits to archaeological sites, and give you a broad context for your adventure. If you visit Cairo for three days after the eclipse, it will help you put faces to the names you've learned along the Nile, and let you linger a bit over elements of ancient Egypt that most appeal to you.

This three-day option includes all the activities of the one- and two-day options.

You'll visit the epic Egyptian Museum of Antiquities which has a vast array of world-class Egyptian antiquities and masterpieces. Plus you'll plunge in to the Cairo food scene between our two museum visits.

Then, a visit to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), which opened on April 18th, 2021, will give you a perspective of Egypt from ancient times through Greco-Roman, Coptic, Islamic, and contemporary times. Mummies Hall is the crown jewel of the Museum, with the remains of 20 New Kingdom (17th to 20th Dynasty) kings (including Moses' nemesis Ramses II and Thutmose III) and two queens (including Hatshepsut). After our day of touring, we'll gather together for a cocktail party and dinner.

Price: \$3,675 pp (based on double occupancy); 35% surcharge for singles. Includes all transfers and transportation, 13 superb meals, cocktail parties each night, all gratuities, and four nights in our 4- or 5-star hotels.



The coffin of Nedjemankh is a gilded Egyptian coffin from the late Ptolemaic Period, circa 150–50 BCE.

To National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) visitors today, Nedjemankh's coffin is noteworthy for two reasons: It is a very beautiful gilded coffin whose lid is covered with funerary spells and their related illustrations; the coffin was restored to Egypt in 2017, having been illegally removed from Egypt in the early 21st century.



OPTION 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10: PRE-Luxor or PRE- Aswan					
OPTION 1 & 6 — st19 or st24	1-day tour (2 nites)	\$1,775	Arrive Cairo: 26-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star airport hotel
			Day 1 tour: 27-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Luxor: 28-Jul-2027*	B, L, D	
	2-day tour (3 nites)	\$2,775	Arrive Cairo: 25-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 3 nites)
			Days 1 & 2 tour: 26-Jul-2027 & 27-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Luxor: 28-Jul-2027*	B, L, D	
	3-day tour (4 nites)	\$3,675	Arrive Cairo: 24-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 4 nites)
			Days 1, 2, & 3 tour: 25-Jul-2027 thru 27-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Luxor: 28-Jul-2027*	B, L, D	

OPTION 2 (aka "st20"): PRE-Luxor					
OPTION 2 — st20	1-day tour (2 nites)	\$1,775	Arrive Cairo: 26-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star airport hotel
			Day 1 tour: 27-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Luxor: 28-Jul-2027*	B, L, D	
	2-day tour (3 nites)	\$2,775	Arrive Cairo: 25-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 3 nites)
			Days 1 & 2 tour: 26-Jul-2027 & 27-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Luxor: 28-Jul-2027*	B, L, D	
	3-day tour (4 nites)	\$3,675	Arrive Cairo: 24-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 4 nites)
			Days 1, 2, & 3 tour: 25-Jul-2027 thru 27-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Luxor: 28-Jul-2027*	B, L, D	

OPTION 4 (aka "st22"): PRE-Aswan					
OPTION 4 — st22	1-day tour (2 nites)	\$1,775	Arrive Cairo: 24-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star airport hotel
			Day 1 tour: 25-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Aswan: 26-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
	2-day tour (3 nites)	\$2,775	Arrive Cairo: 23-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 3 nites)
			Days 1 & 2 tour: 24-Jul-2027 & 25-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Aswan: 26-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
	3-day tour (4 nites)	\$3,675	Arrive Cairo: 22-Jul-2027	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 4 nites)
			Days 1, 2, & 3 tour: 23-Jul-2027 thru 25-Jul-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly to Aswan: 26-Jul-2027	B, L, D	

Breakfast = B; Lunch = L; Dinner = D; some meals served in Luxor

Bookings for these tours will not be accepted after 1-Aug-2026

OPTION 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10: POST-Luxor or POST- Aswan					
OPTION 1 & 6 — st19 or st24	1-day tour (2 nites)	\$1,775	Arrive Cairo: 4-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star airport hotel
			Day 1 tour: 5-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 6-Aug-2027	B	
	2-day tour (3 nites)	\$2,775	Arrive Cairo: 4-Aug-2027*	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 3 nites)
			Days 1 & 2 tour: 5-Aug-2027 & 6-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 7-Aug-2027	B	
	3-day tour (4 nites)	\$3,675	Arrive Cairo: 4-Aug-2027*	D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 4 nites)
			Days 1, 2, & 3 tour: 5-Aug-2027 thru 7-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 8-Aug-2027	B	

OPTION 2 (aka "st20"): POST-Luxor					
OPTION 2 — st20	1-day tour (2 nites)	\$1,775	Arrive Cairo: 5-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star airport hotel
			Day 1 tour: 6-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 7-Aug-2027	B	
	2-day tour (3 nites)	\$2,775	Arrive Cairo: 5-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 3 nites)
			Days 1 & 2 tour: 6-Aug-2027 & 7-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 8-Aug-2027	B	
	3-day tour (4 nites)	\$3,675	Arrive Cairo: 5-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 4 nites)
			Days 1, 2, & 3 tour: 6-Aug-2027 thru 8-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 9-Aug-2027	B	

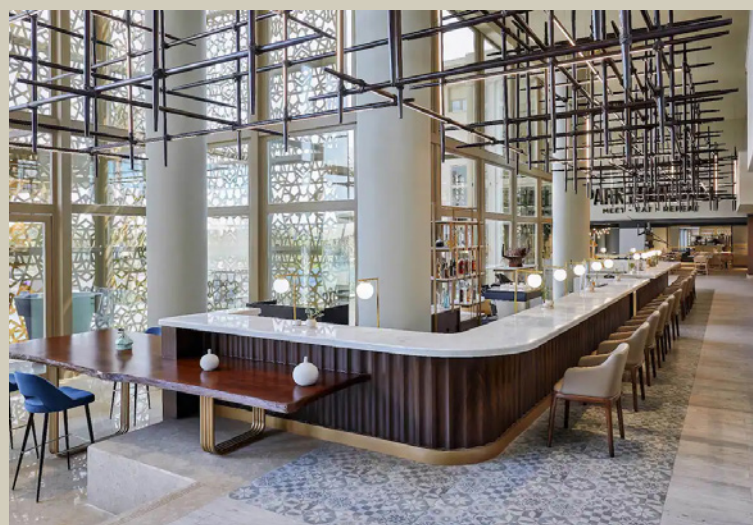
OPTION 4 (aka "st22"): POST-Luxor					
OPTION 4 — st22	1-day tour (2 nites)	\$1,775	Arrive Cairo: 3-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star airport hotel
			Day 1 tour: 4-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 5-Aug-2027	B	
	2-day tour (3 nites)	\$2,775	Arrive Cairo: 3-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 3 nites)
			Days 1 & 2 tour: 4-Aug-2027 & 5-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 6-Aug-2027	B	
	3-day tour (4 nites)	\$3,675	Arrive Cairo: 3-Aug-2027*	B, L, D	4.5-star Giza hotel (all 4 nites)
			Days 1, 2, & 3 tour: 4-Aug-2027 thru 6-Aug-2027	B, L, D	
			Fly home: 7-Aug-2027	B	

* Charter flight (add'l cost) from Insight Cruises available; details TBA

Pricing is per person, based on double occupancy. Singles add 35%



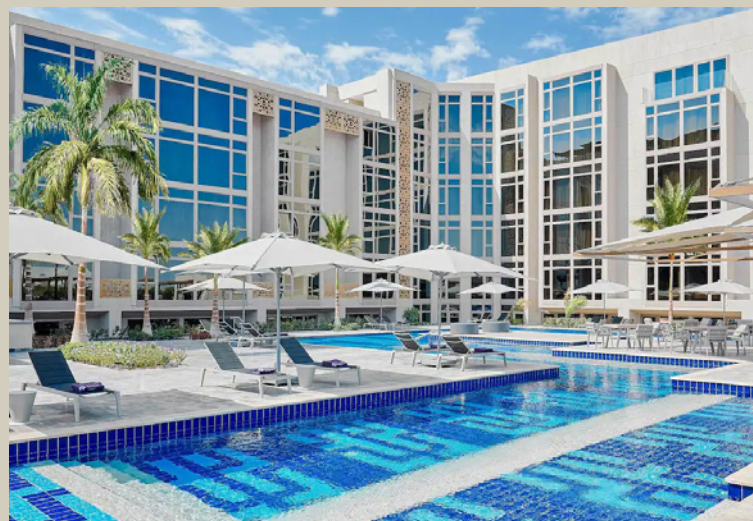
 **HYATT REGENCY**®



5-STAR HOTEL IN CAIRO'S CULTURAL HEART

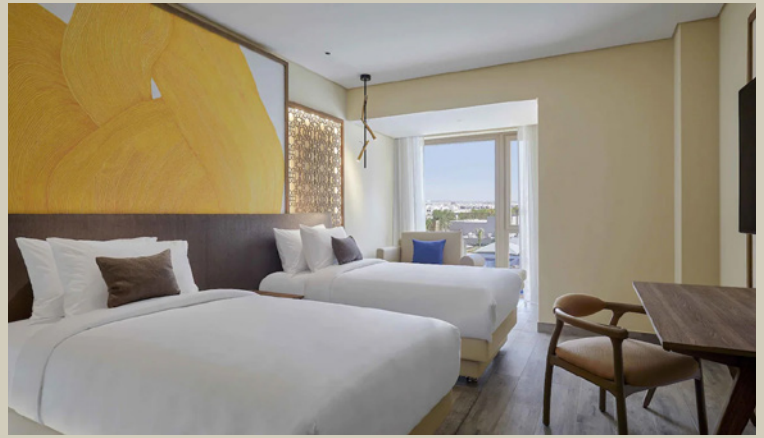
Hyatt Regency Cairo West
Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road
Pyramids Heights Business Park
Giza, Egypt, 8655

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/egypt/hyatt-regency-cairo-west/hberc>



CO-PRODUCED BY:

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



One King Bed or two Twins available

Guest room specs: spacious ~380 sq ft room. Featuring floor-to-ceiling windows, a relaxing window seat, and a marble bathroom with rain shower.

Amenities

- Hyatt Luxury Eurotop mattress
- 65" smart flat-screen HDTV
- Blackout curtains
- Hairdryer
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- In-room Espresso machine
- Minibar
- Iron and ironing board
- In-room safe

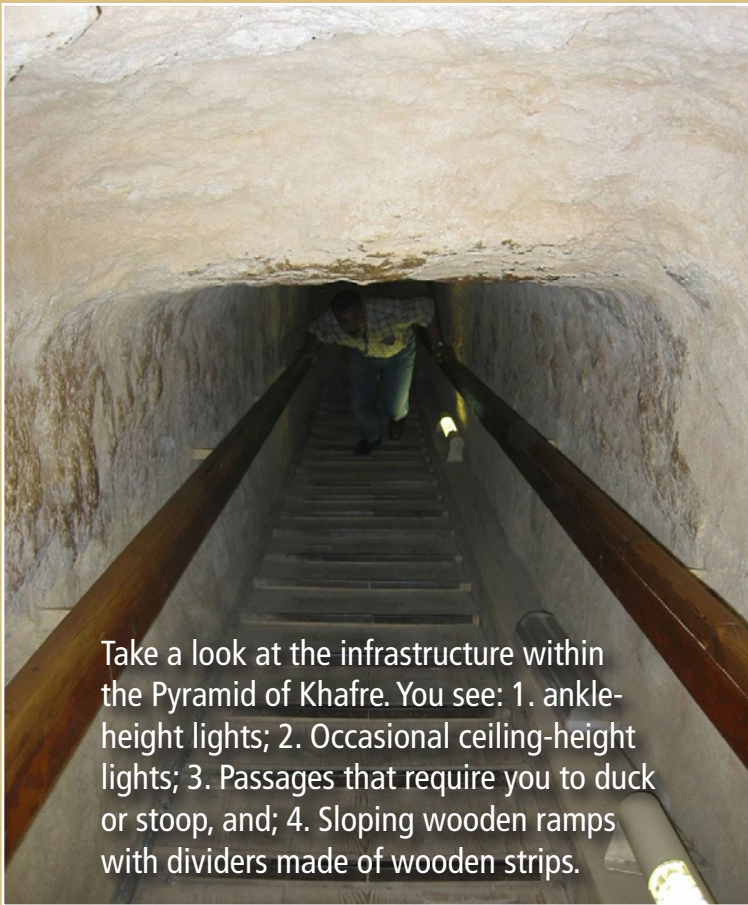


 **HYATT REGENCY®**

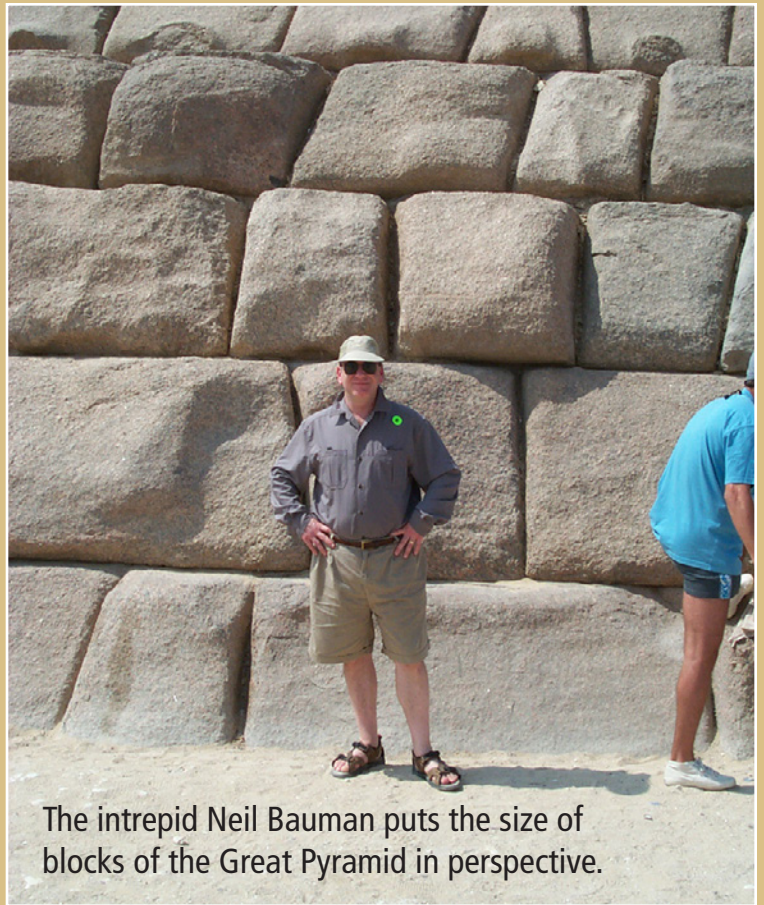
DAY 1 CAIRO: GIZA PYRAMIDS, SPHINX, SAQQARA

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.

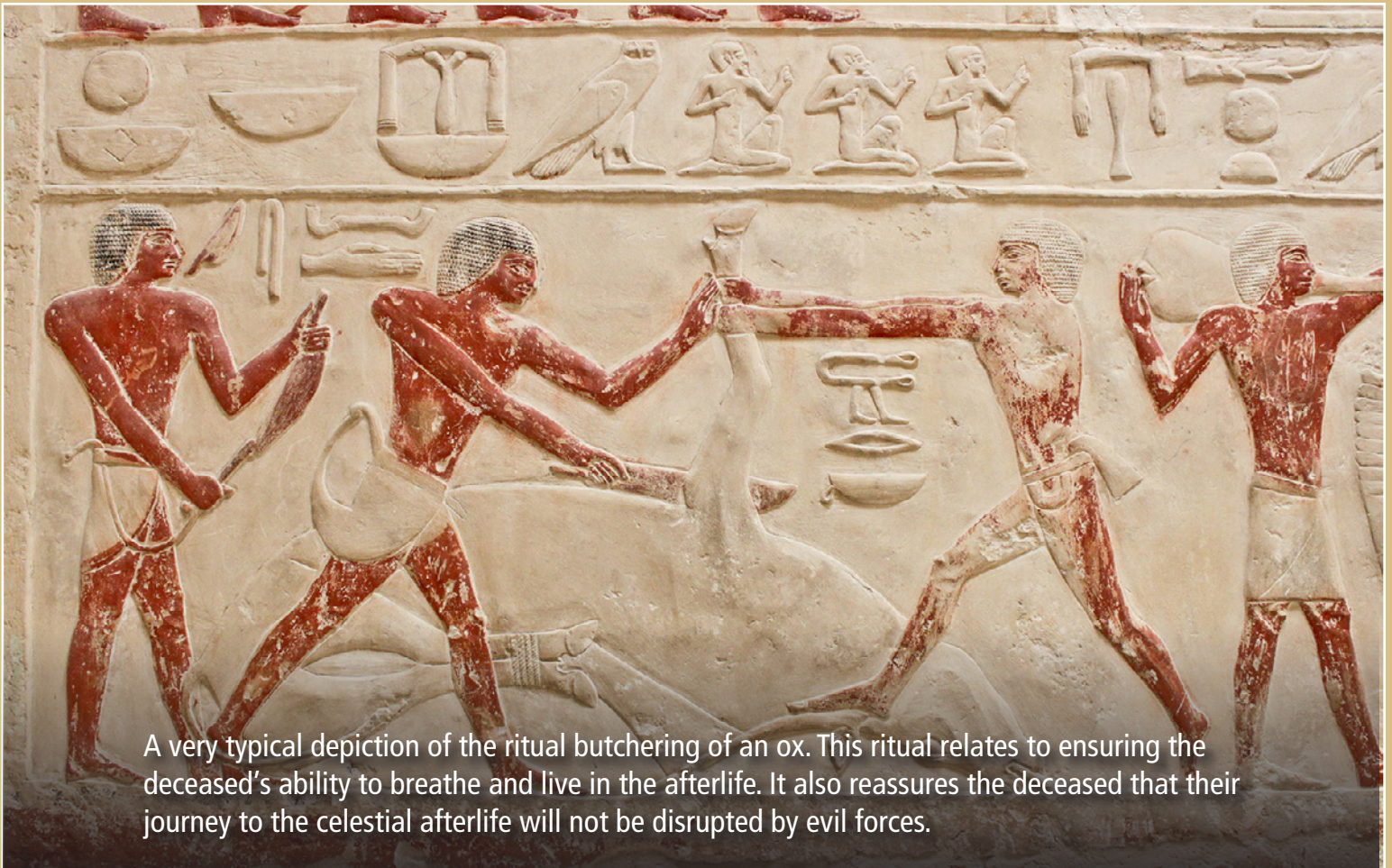


The Great Sphinx of Giza is thought to be a depiction of 4th Dynasty (circa 2500 BCE) pharaoh Khafre. You see the Sphinx here in front of the Pyramid of Khafre.



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.

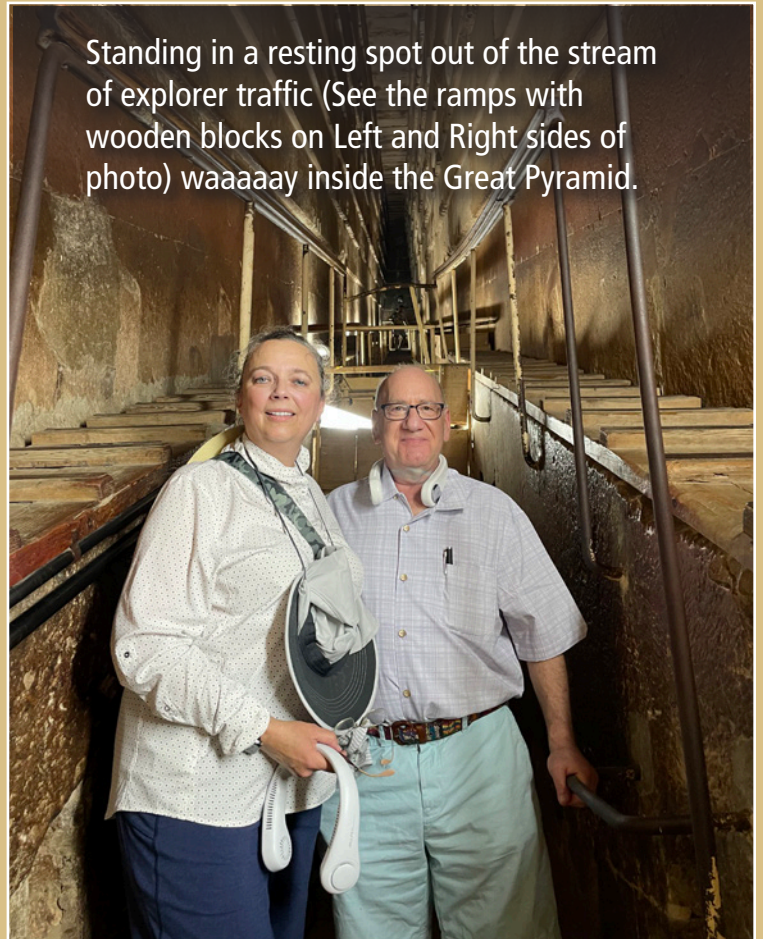


A very typical depiction of the ritual butchering of an ox. This ritual relates to ensuring the deceased's ability to breathe and live in the afterlife. It also reassures the deceased that their journey to the celestial afterlife will not be disrupted by evil forces.

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.



DAY 2 CAIRO: GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

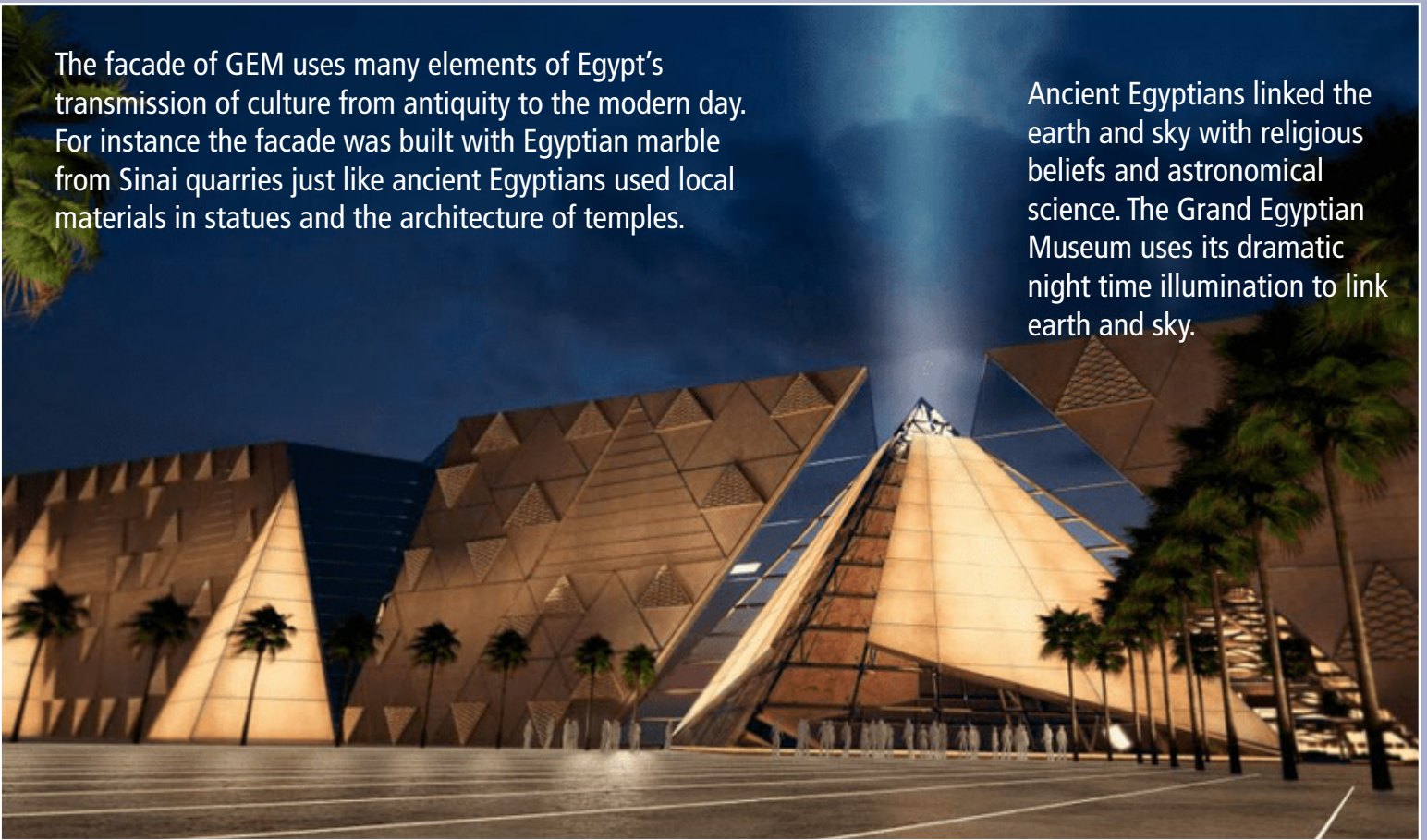
Today we visit many of Egypt's most precious pharaonic archaeological artifacts at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). It will house 50,000+ Egyptian artifacts (about half on display) including the complete collection of 5,000+ objects from King Tut's tomb. You'll be greeted by an 83-ton, ~33-ft tall, 3,200-year 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.



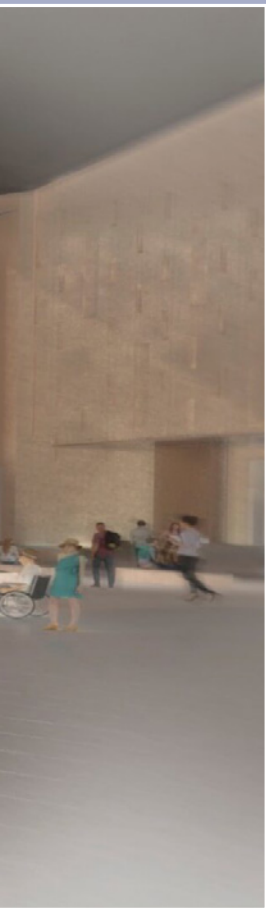
The facade of GEM uses many elements of Egypt's transmission of culture from antiquity to the modern day. For instance the facade was built with Egyptian marble from Sinai quarries just like ancient Egyptians used local materials in statues and the architecture of temples.

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.

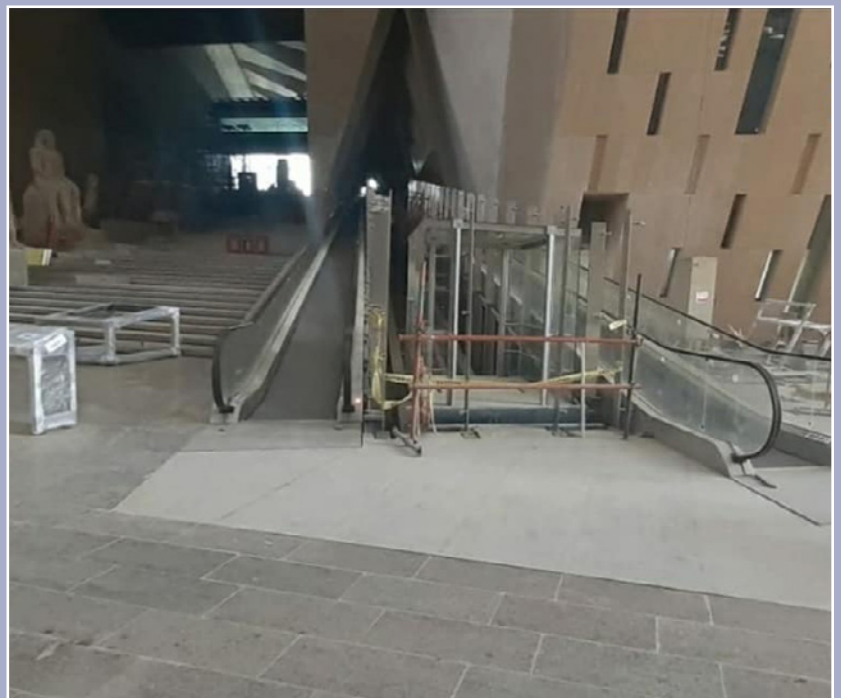
GEM's designers had the tough task of creating a welcoming space for Egyptian civilization's symbolic dwelling place. GEM's entrance also welcomes visitors to a display of Egyptian technical knowledge: the face of the 3,000 year-old statue of Ramses II will be illuminated by sunrise on his birthdays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



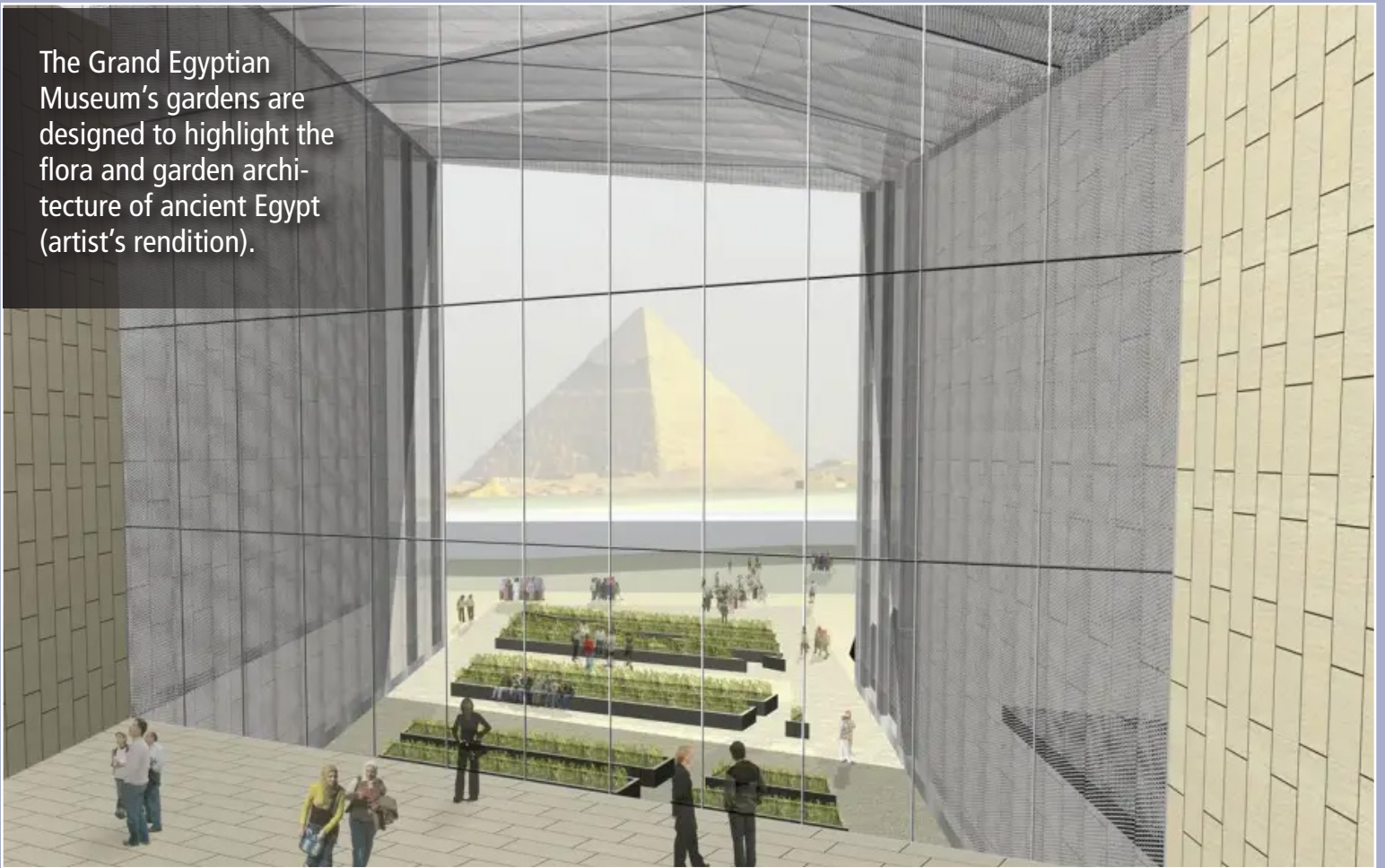


A flight of stairs (artist's rendition), adorned with 87 statues of ancient kings and gods, transports you from the Nile Valley entrance to the Giza Plateau level, where the four main galleries of GEM are located. Highlights among the royal statues include Kings Khafre, Menkaure, Senusret, Akhenaten, 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



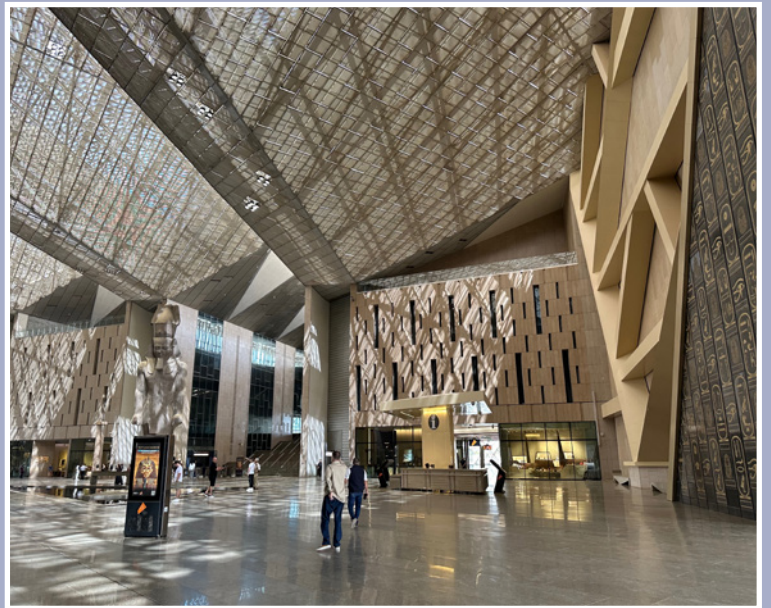
Entrance leads to a vast open-air atrium covered



Sloping panels help ventilation, natural light flow throughout GEM



Ramses II hold court in GEM's atrium reflecting pool



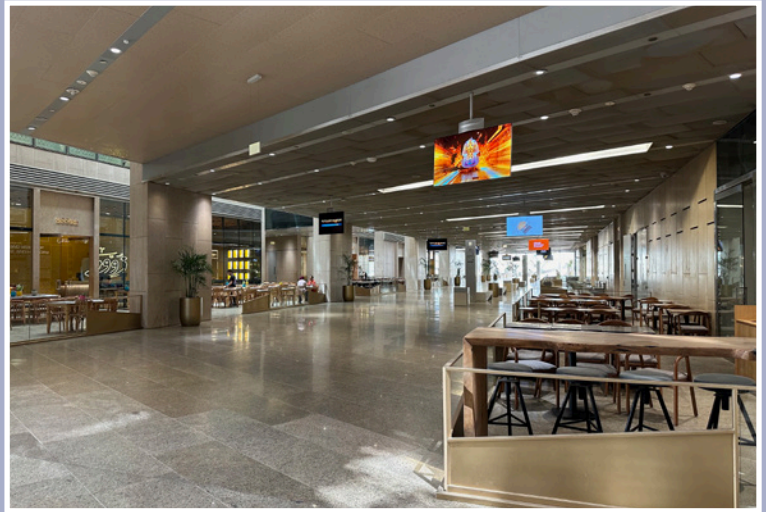
Changing sun and shadow flicker across the atrium



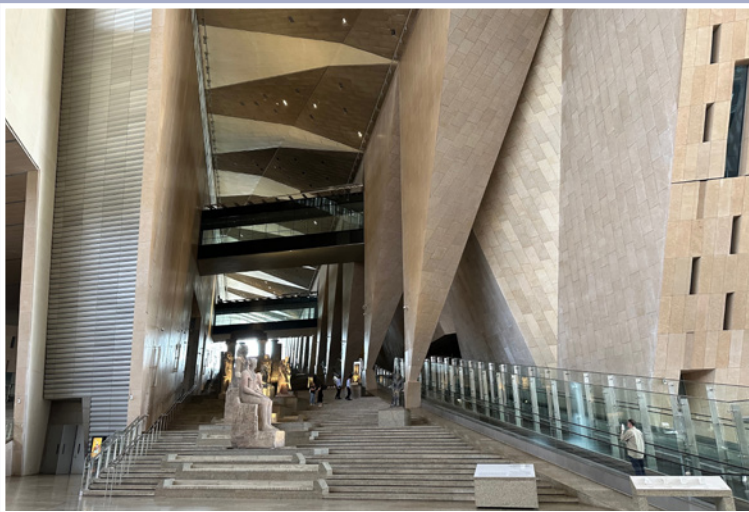
High-quality gift shops can round out a GEM visit



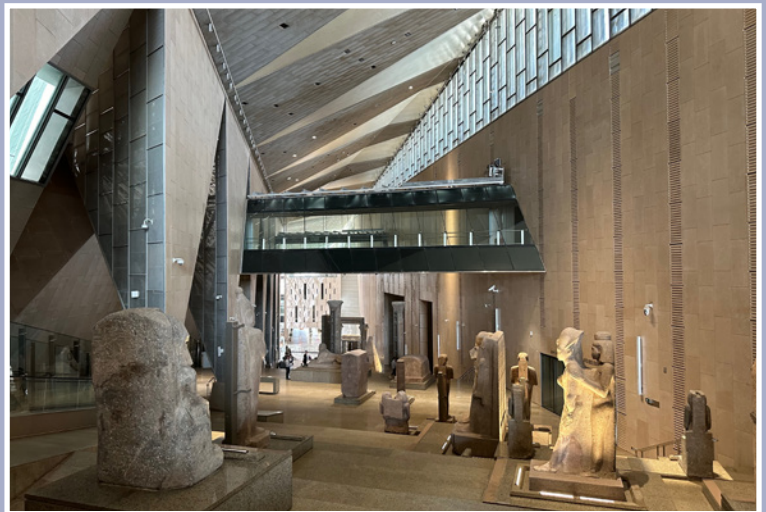
The main gift shop has a wide array of hard-to-find books on Egypt



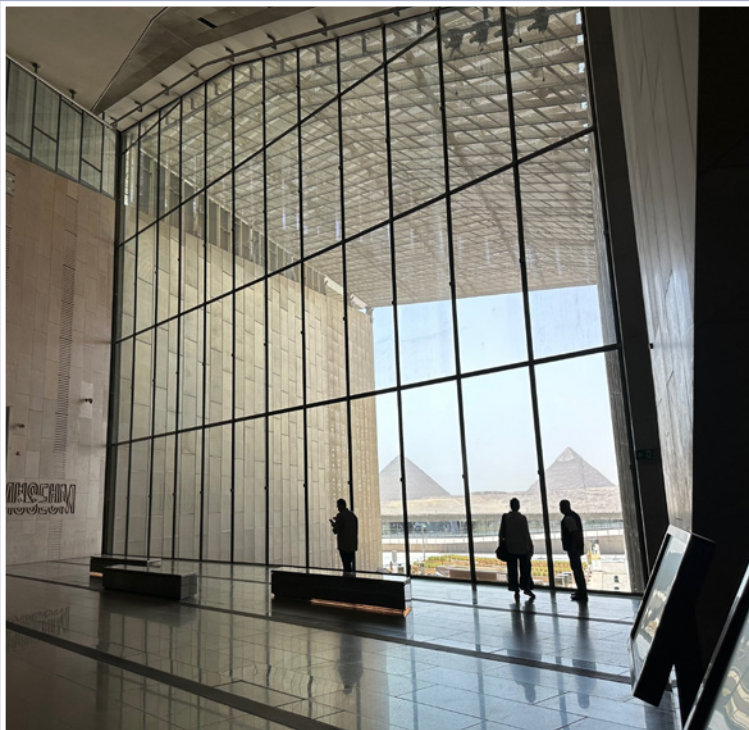
GEM restaurants cater to a range of meal types and cuisines



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



of Hatshepsut's Karnak obelisk tips looms



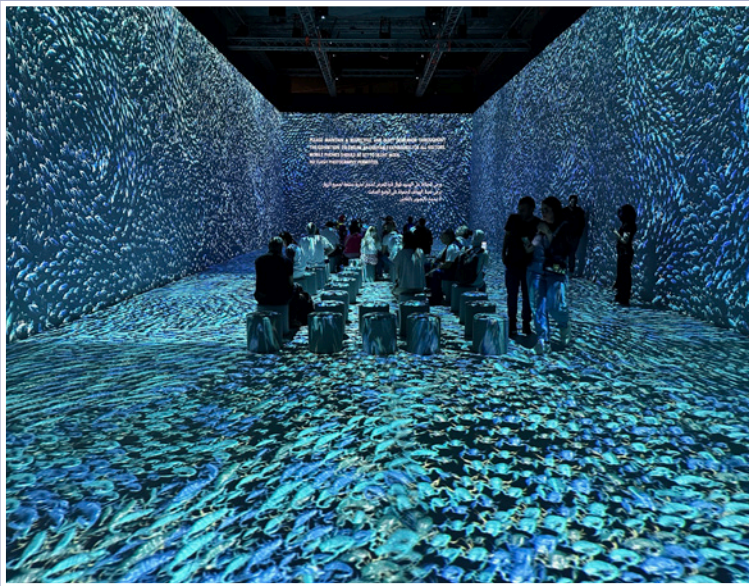
A sphinx of Amenemhat III glowers on the Grand Staircase



The wasp and reed indicate kingship of both Upper and Lower Egypt
Day 2



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



An unbelievable 3-D experiential theater



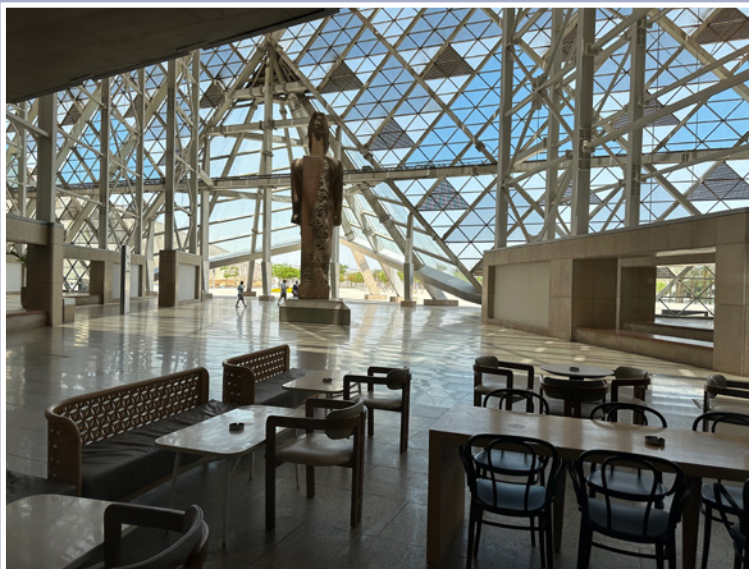
GEM provides context and history for the objects in its galleries



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

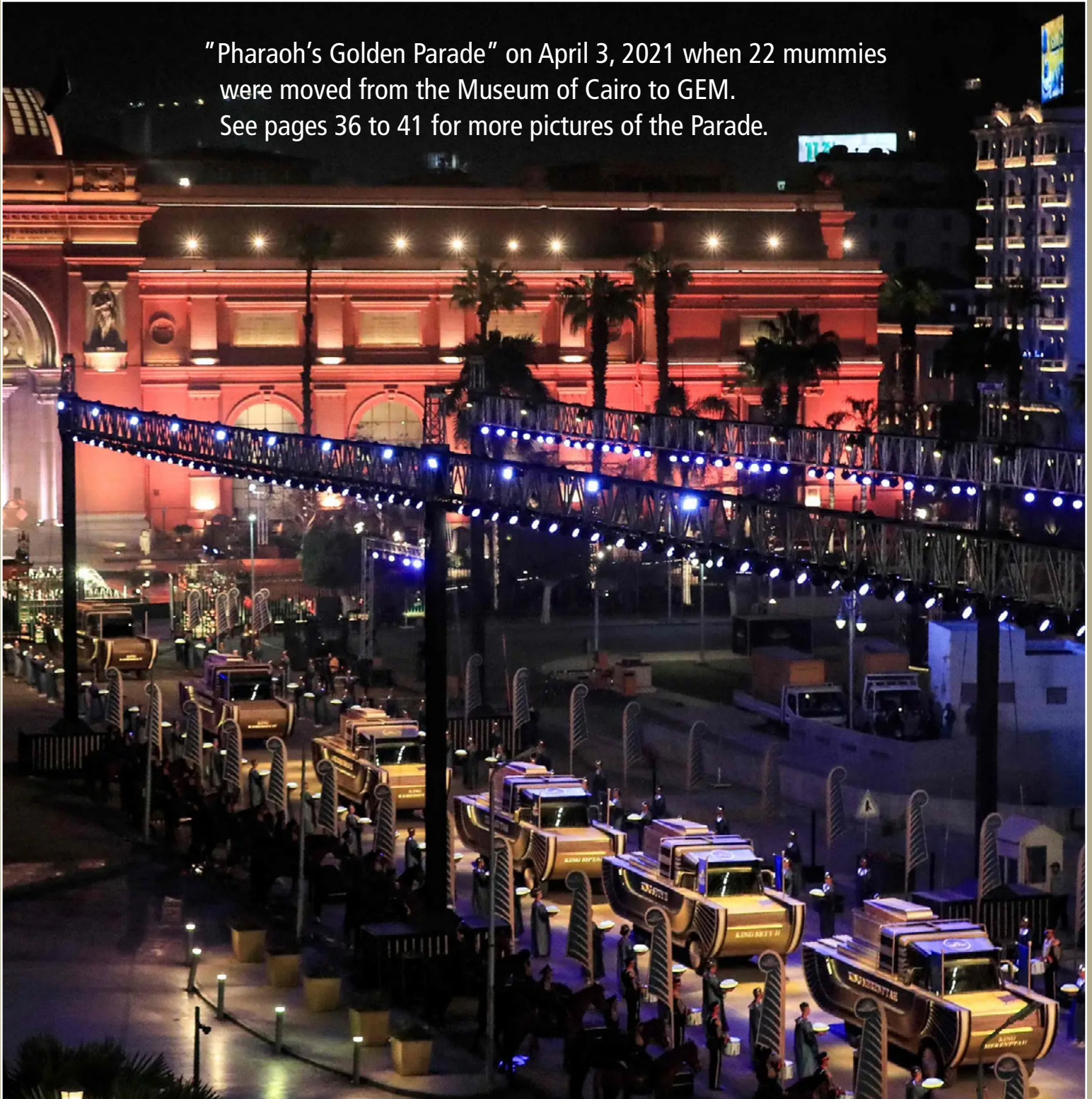


The museum is now open, but construction continues on the exhibits

DAY 3 (morning) CAIRO: 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 36 to 41 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.



نطاق كتان
تعددت أشكالها لتتنوع معها هذا النطاق (الحرير)
طويلة ومطوية بخطوط زرقاء، وطول النطاق يرجح أنه أكثر من
سبع أمتار. كانت الأشرطة الزرقاء والخضراء (1.30 - 1.50 متر) تعلق كحزام

The linen cloth is decorated with fringes and blue napion for the length of the sash is that it was the waist.

1965 BC / Tomb of Priests of Amun, Deir el-Bahari / Limestone

تمثال أخت حتب
وهو يرتدي زمام طويل وهارين بلقش يمثل المعبودة بات حادور، ومن خلال
لصميم السجاد نستطيع أن نعرف أنه كان يشغل وظيفة كاهن، وهو ما يدل أن
المصري القديم عرف التمييز من الأبناء وحدد لكل وظيفة ومهنة الزي الخاص مثل
الملك الكهنة والجنبة ...
التيها للعبادة الخاصة (1919-1921 في براسيليا) حجر صلب

Akhet- Hotep statue
Akhet-Hotep is wearing a long garment decorated with a representation
of the goddess Pat-Hathor. The design of the garment refers to the
wearer's priestly profession. It shows that Egyptians had distinct uniforms
for different occupations, such as that of kings, priests, scribes, etc.

Old Kingdom, 6th Dynasty (2485-2323 BC) / Giza / Limestone



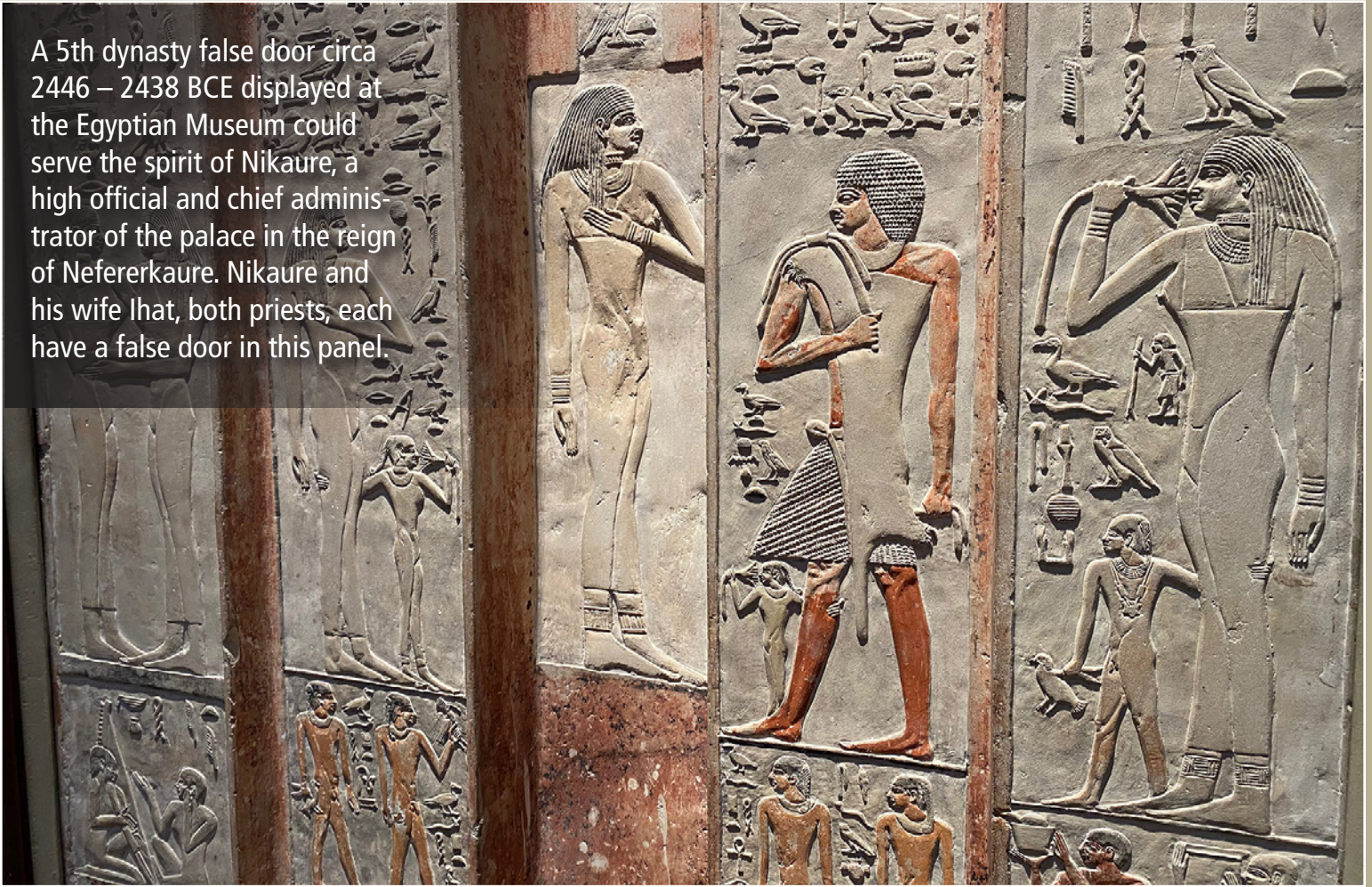
Akhenaten holds forth over a corner of The Egyptian Museum. The pharaoh appears in a traditional pose holding the crook (the curved item representing leadership and domination) and the flail (the tassel-like object on his right shoulder, a symbol of the fertility of the land.) In ancient times the crook and flail were attributes of the god Osiris, and eventually came to symbolize the pharaoh's authority.

The Egyptian Museum abounds in striking sculpture. Akhet-Hotep's gown shows he served as priest. He lived during the reigns of the late 25th-century BCE pharaohs Djedkare and Unas. The rod in Akhet-Hotep's left hand indicates that he wielded power.



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.



DAY 3 (afternoon) CAIRO: NMEC

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.

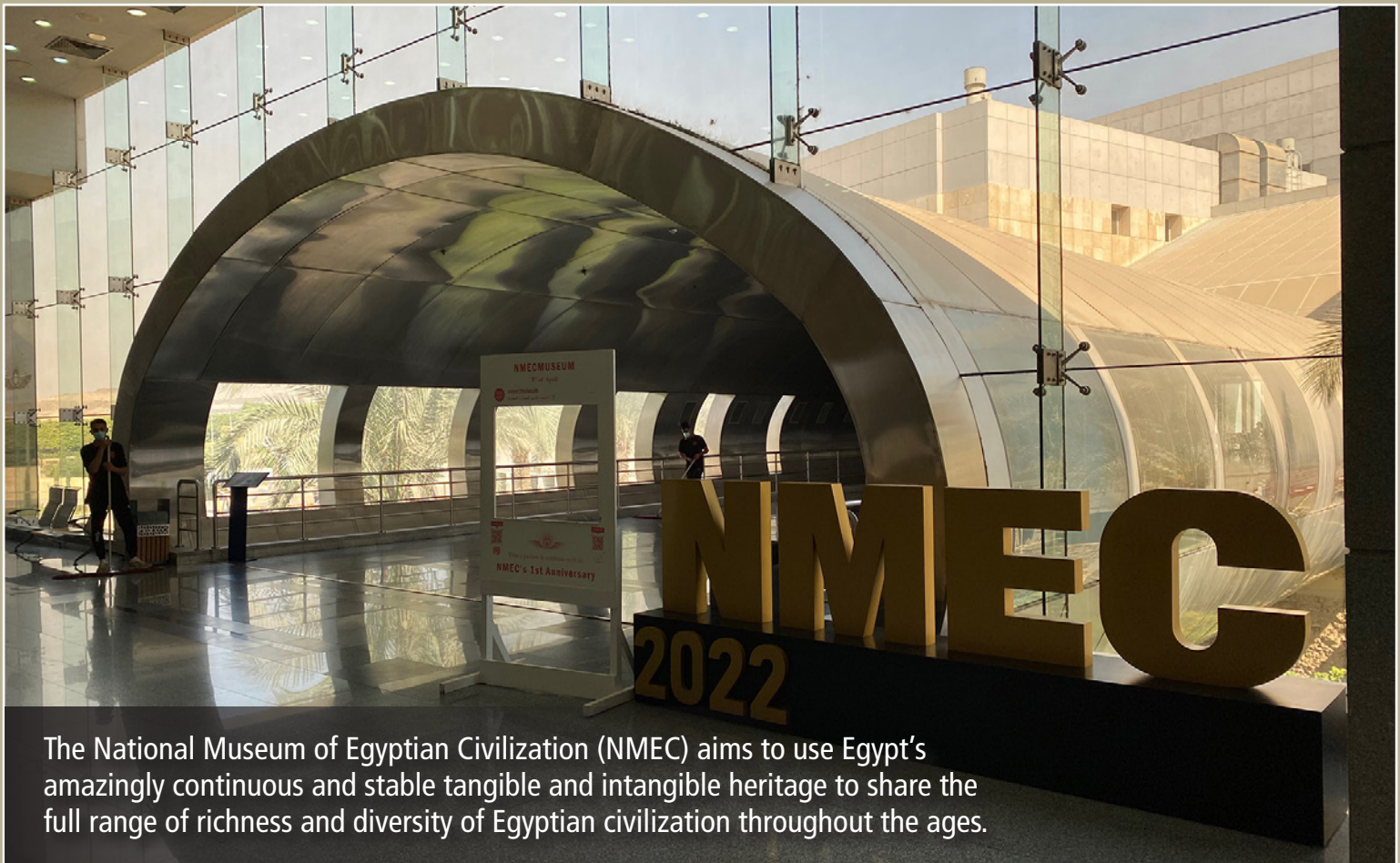
NMEC organizes its exhibits in six subject areas (The Dawn of Civilization, The Nile, Writing, State & Society, Material Culture, and Beliefs & Thinking) plus the Gallery of Royal Mummies.

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.



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.



Day 3 afternoon



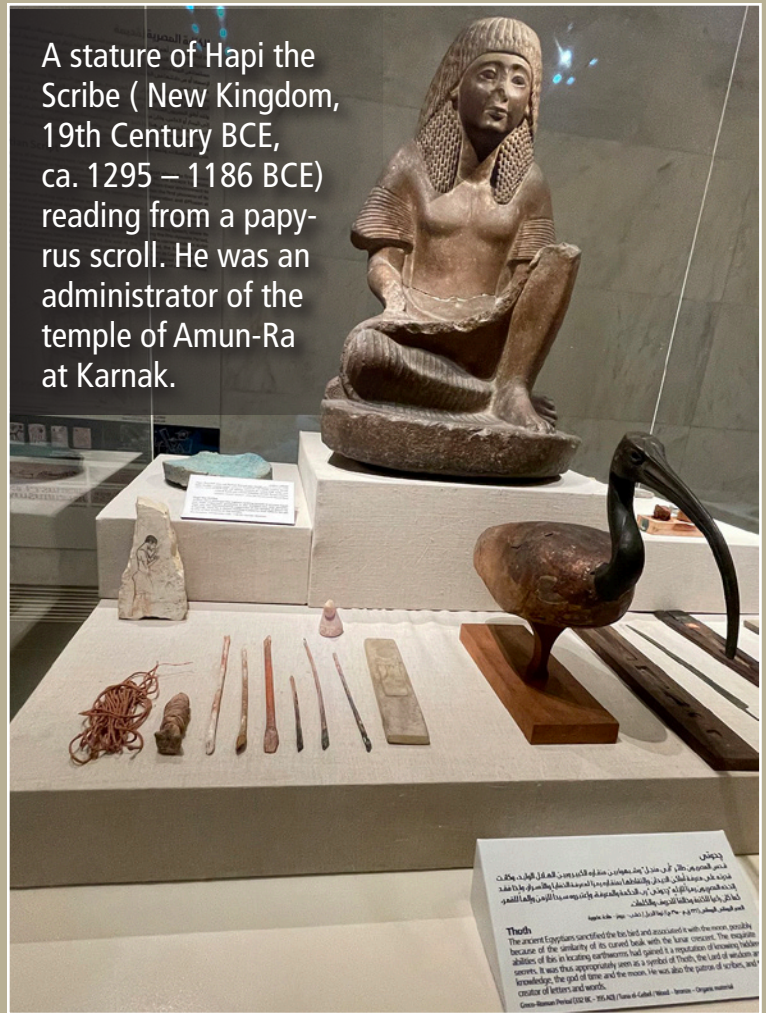
Queen Hetepheres I's life was intertwined with Old Kingdom, 4th Dynasty kingship. She was a wife of Sneferu, the pharaoh who improved pyramid-building techniques; mother of King Khufu (Cheops, builder of the Great Pyramid); and the grandmother of two kings, Djedefre and Khafre, and of queen Hetepheres 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.



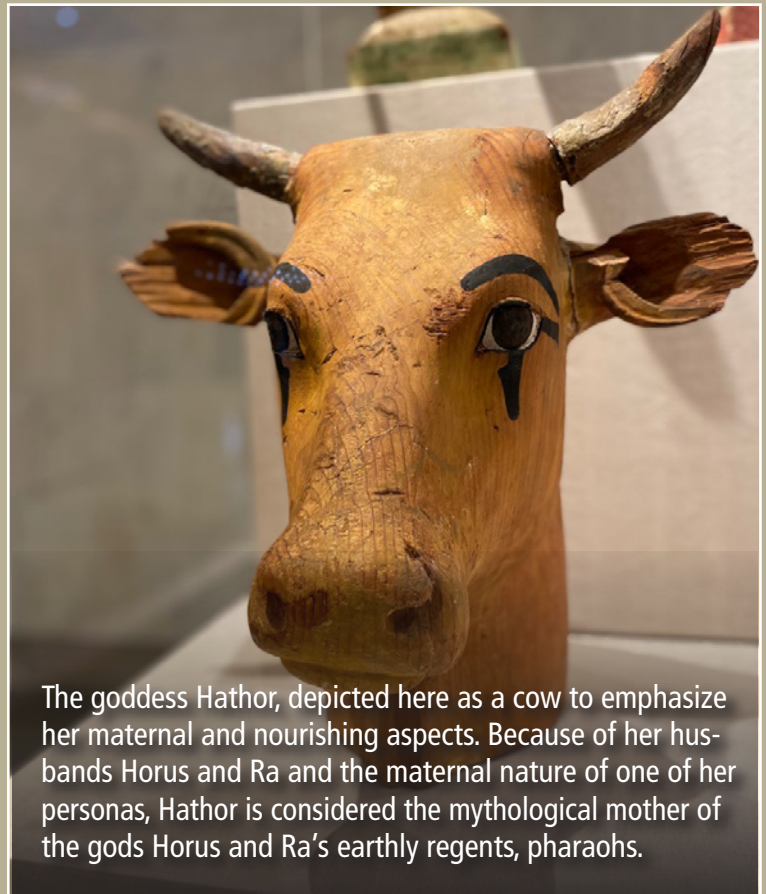
A granite statue of Thutmose III from Karnak in view at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.



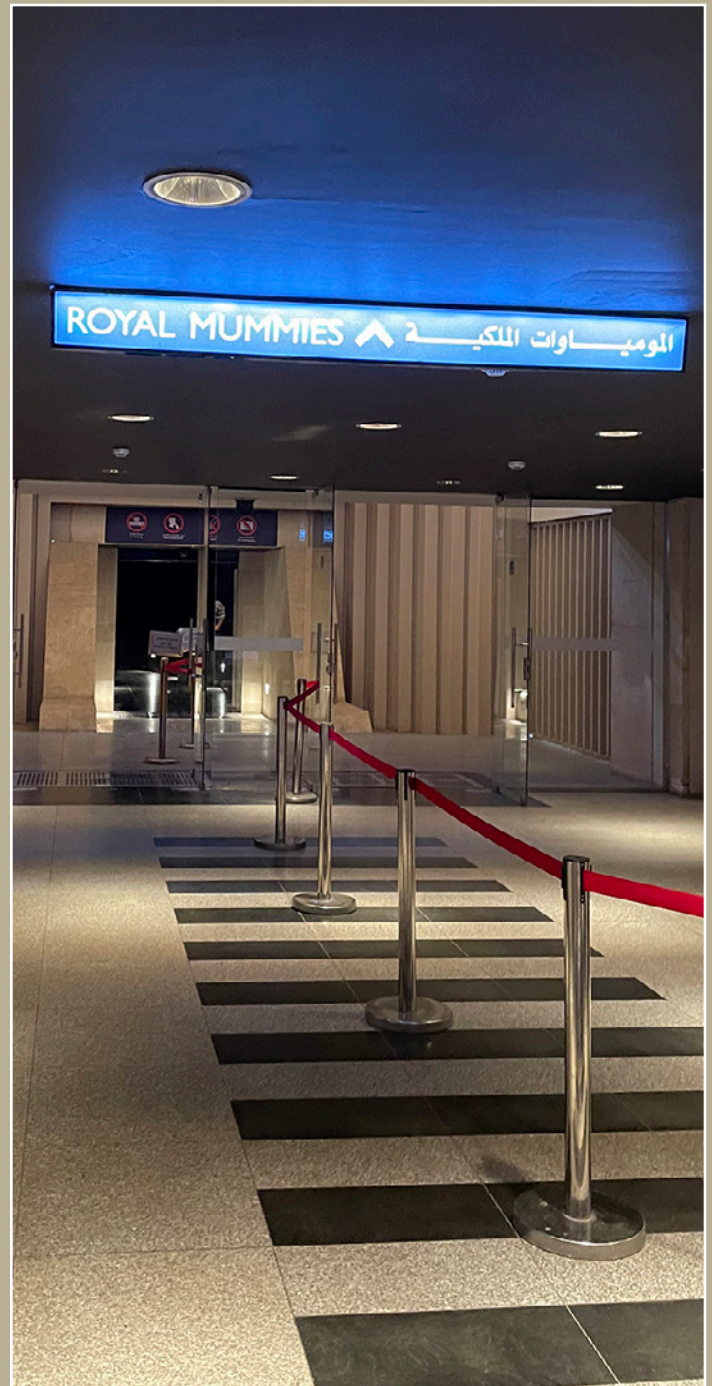
A stature of Hapi the Scribe (New Kingdom, 19th Century BCE, ca. 1295 – 1186 BCE) reading from a papyrus scroll. He was an administrator of the temple of Amun-Ra at Karnak.



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 Seqenenre 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.

PHARAOHS' GOLDEN PARADE: APRIL 3, 2021

