



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Newsletter

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President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi Inaugurates the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis



On 29 June, 2020, H.E President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi inaugurated the Baron Empain Palace in Heliopolis after the completion of the first integrated project for its restoration. The palace opened for visitors on 30 June.

Opening the Baron Palace is an important touristic, archaeological and cultural event through which Egypt sends several messages; the most important of which is that Egypt while building its future, cherishes its history.

The Baron Palace restoration project began at the end of 2017 and the tasks were entrusted to the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces and national companies such as the Arab Contractors Company, under the supervision of specialists, experts and consultants in the fields of restoration, archeology, architecture and construction, at a cost of 175 million. This amount included a contribution of LE 16 million from the Belgian government. The project took around two years of hard work following years of neglect.

The Palace was built by Belgian industrialist Baron Edward Empain and took five years from 1907 to 1911. The design of the palace was done by the French engineer Marcel Alexandre and inspired from Cambodian temples.



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Resumption of Inbound Tourism to Egypt

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Announces the Regulations for the Resumption of the Inbound Tourism to Egypt

In light of the preparations for the resumption of the inbound tourism to Egypt as of early July 2020 in the governorates of the Red Sea, South Sinai and Matrouh, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced on 19 June, 2020 the precautionary measures implemented in hotels and tourist establishments, airports, Egyptian airlines, archaeological sites, museums and various touristic activities to avoid the spread or infection of the coronavirus. The Ministry prepared a guide in this regard, in coordination with the ministry of Civil Aviation, the ministry of Health and Population, and the Egyptian Tourism Federation.

The World Travel and Tourism Council Commends the Egyptian Regulations and Grants Egypt a "Safe Travel Stamp"

The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) commended the hygiene safety measures issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for the resumption of inbound tourism to Egypt. The WTTC granted Egypt its "Safe Travel Stamp".

In a video conference, the President of the World Travel and Tourism Council congratulated the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities on the consistency of the Egyptian controls with the protocols issued by the WTTC, expressing her happiness to see countries and major tourist destinations like Egypt join the increasing list of international destinations that adopt the protocols of the Council.



Government Measures to Promote Inbound Tourism

In light of the country's preparations for the return of inbound tourism to Egypt, a package of incentives and discounts was given to tourism companies and major tour operators; the most important of them are:

- Tourists arriving directly to Red Sea, South Sinai, Matrouh, and Aswan governorates are exempt from Visa fees until 31st October, 2020.
- The current Aviation Incentive Program is extended until 29th October, 2020.
- Aviation fuel prices are reduced by 10 cents per gallon.
- A 50% discount on landing and housing fees in airports of touristic governorates until October 31, 2020 is granted.
- A 20% discount on ground handling fees in airports of touristic governorates is until October 31, 2020 is granted.

The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Accompanies Egyptian and Foreign Media in Touristic Cities

In preparation for the resumption of inbound tourism to coastal touristic governorates from 1 July, 2020, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, accompanied a delegation of Egyptian and foreign media to visit a number of touristic governorates. The visits were organized by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board to the governorates of the Red Sea, South Sinai, Alexandria and Matrouh to inform the media about the precautionary measures implemented in all places that will receive tourists, including airports, hotels, clinics, hospitals, and diving centers, in addition to archaeological sites and museums.



The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Inspects a Hotel

Hotels Continue to Receive Hygiene Safety Certificate

During the month of June, more hotels in Egypt received the hygiene safety certificates approved by the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities, Health and Population, and the Egyptian Hotel Association, after ensuring that they met all hygiene safety regulations. The total number of hotels that have received the certificate so far has reached 451 hotels in various governorates.

Within the framework of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' supervision and control on hotels, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities issued decrees to penalize three hotels for violating the regulations approved by the Ministry.



Resumption of Inbound Tourism to Egypt

Increase in the Occupancy Rate of Hotels that Meet Hygiene Safety Measures to 50%

As of 1 June, 2020, hotels that received the hygiene safety certificates have been allowed to work at 50% of their total capacity, in accordance with health safety measures issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and approved by the Cabinet of the Ministers, according to international standards.

Egyptian Firefighting Code for Hotels

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has prepared the checklist of the Egyptian firefighting code that are required from all hotel establishments and tourist restaurants, to protect them against fire hazards. This list was prepared in cooperation with the General Administration of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior, the National Center for Housing and Building Research, the Egyptian hotel Association and the Egyptian Travel Agents Association.

144 Touristic Restaurants and 8 Diving Centers Receive the Hygiene Safety Certificate

One hundred and forty-four touristic restaurants and cafeterias have received the hygiene safety certificate to allow them to re-operate, after ensuring that they meet all the regulations and requirements issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. All touristic restaurants are allowed to re-operate with 25% of their capacity as of 27 June, 2020.

In a related context, 8 diving centers, 6 yachts and 2 marine activities centers in the Red Sea and South Sinai governorates received hygiene safety certificates approved by the ministries of Tourism and Antiquities, Health and Population, and the Chamber of Diving and Water Sports.



Disinfection of Diving Equipment in one of the Certified Centers

"A Tourist's Journey in Egypt"

... A Promotional Video Launched by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities



The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has launched a promotional Video titled "A tourist's Journey in Egypt", in light of the announcement of the resumption of inbound tourism to Egypt starting July 2020. The production of this video is part of a promotional campaign launched by the Ministry under the title "Same Great Feelings". This video was launched on various social media platforms and websites in major markets exporting tourism to Egypt from the Arab Gulf countries, Asia and Europe, including Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic and Ukraine, as a first stage. The video played on a number of Arab and international TV channels such as CNN and Discovery Channel.

Miscellaneous News

The Prime Minister Issues a Decree to define the Organizational functions the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

After the approval of the Cabinet of the Ministers, the Prime Minister issued a decree for the organizational functions of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, after merging the tourism and antiquities portfolios. According to the decree, the Ministry includes bodies affiliated with the Minister, as follows: the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, the Tourism Development Authority, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the Grand Egyptian Museum Authority, and the Authority of the National Museum of the Egyptian Civilization.

Discussing the Draft Law on the Tourism and Antiquities Fund in Parliament

On 7 June, 2020, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities attended a session of the Joint Parliamentary Committees, including the committees of Media, Culture, and Antiquities; Tourism and Civil Aviation; and Planning and Budget, to discuss the draft law of the Tourism and Antiquities Fund. The draft law aims at supporting and financing activities to promote tourism internationally, developing services in touristic sites and stimulating inbound tourism, in addition to projects to restore, preserve and maintain antiquities.

The members of the committees have agreed in principle on the draft law of the Tourism and Antiquities Fund, with some amendments to some clauses and formulations concerning sources of funding.



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in Parliament

In response to the initiative of the Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, An emergency meeting of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism

In response to the initiative of the Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, an emergency meeting of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism was held, via video conference. The meeting was spearheaded by the Saudi Minister of Tourism, and the participation of Arab Tourism Ministers and relevant organizations, in the presence of the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Economic Affairs Sector of the League of Arab States. During the meeting, they discussed the repercussions of the Corona virus crisis on the tourism sector, and exchanged various visions on ways to overcome this crisis and measures to resume the tourism movement.

The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Virtually Meets the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization and the Director General of the ISESCO

The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities held a video conference with the Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). During the meeting, H.E. the Minister reviewed hygiene safety measures issued by the Ministry for operating hotel and tourist establishments, tourism activities, archaeological sites and museums in preparation for the resumption of the incoming tourism movement. In another context, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities met with the Director General of the Islamic World Organization for Education, Science and Culture "ISESCO", via video conference. An agreement to broadcast virtual tours launched by the Ministry during the past months on its official platforms on social media, on the ESICO Heritage Portal and the ISESCO Digital House was made.



Tweet of the Secretary-General of the UNWTO

... And his counterparts in Germany, Belarus and Cyprus

H.E. The Minister Tourism and Antiquities has conducted virtual meetings with his counterparts in Germany, Belarus and Cyprus to discuss ways of cooperation with them and preparations and precautionary measures to resume the tourist movement between their countries and Egypt. The meetings focused on Egypt's tourist destinations preferred by tourists coming from their countries, particularly the coastal touristic cities in the governorates of the Red Sea and South Sinai, which are visited by more than 90% of the German and Belarusian tourists.

Cooperation Protocol for Operating Services in the Bab Al-Azab

The Sovereign Egypt Fund signed a cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to provide and operate services in the Bab al-Azab archaeological site in Salah El Din Citadel. This step is considered the first project of Egypt's sovereign fund for investment in the tourism, cultural and service sector in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. This comes within the framework of the project to rehabilitate Historical Cairo and in light of the government's keenness to improve the quality of services provided to visitors.



Signing the Protocol

The Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board Prepares Next Year's Plans

The Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board was held in light of the preparation for the launch of the fiscal year 2020-2021 plan. During the meeting, various data and information on international tourism markets and the movements of competitors were reviewed, in addition to discussing strategic directions for the upcoming period, and laying out the outlines of a new integrated international marketing campaign including all studies, research, strategies and implementation plans.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Participates in the Virtual Launch of the Arab Travel Market in Dubai

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board participated in the virtual launch of the Arab Travel Market in Dubai. The exhibition management started a virtual launch this year with the participation of 12 thousand individuals and 148 countries, in the aftermath of the spread of the Coronavirus. The exhibition was held from June 1st to June 3rd 2020.

New Virtual Tour Every Wednesday

Within the framework of the online campaign "Experience Egypt from Home", which was launched by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities last March, new videos and virtual tours were posted every Wednesday at 8 pm during the month of June 2020.

This campaign launched on the ministry's websites and social media platforms, aims at sharing the wonders of Egypt with people in Egypt and around the world. A number of virtual tours were launched in cooperation with the Virtual Mid-East, including a tour of the "Ti" tomb in Saqqara, and the "Manasterly Palace" in Al-Rawda.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Celebrates the Anniversary of the Entry of the Holy Family to Egypt

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities celebrated the anniversary of the entry of the Holy Family into Egypt, which is on the first of June every year. This year the ministry launched a virtual tour of the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus known as the Church of Abu Sarjah. This church is one of the main destinations on the journey of the Holy Family within Egypt, which included more than 25 places in different parts of Egypt from the coast of Sinai in the east through the Nile Delta until the far reaches of Upper Egypt.



Inside the church of Abu Sarjah

The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Takes Initiatives to Promote Cultural Tourism

In the efforts of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to encourage inbound tourism to Egypt, the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities; in its last meeting held under the chairmanship of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities; took several decisions to promote and encourage cultural tourism; they included:

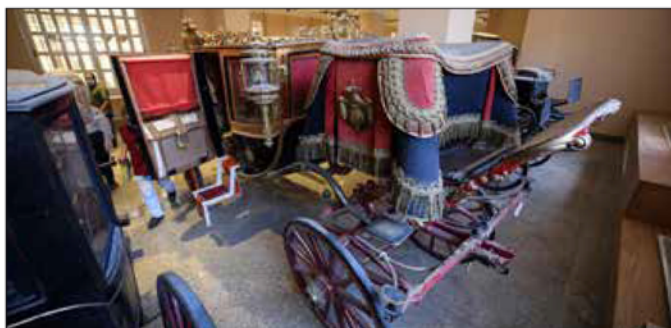
- Extending the "Summer in Upper Egypt" initiative, launched by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities several months ago, until October 31, 2020, giving a 50% reduction in the prices of entry tickets to archaeological sites and museums in the governorates of Qena, Luxor and Aswan.

- Postponing the annual increase in entry ticket prices of archaeological sites and museums until 1st May, 2021 (which was due to take place in November 2020). In a related context, it was decided to re-open a number of archaeological sites and museums as of early July; namely Nubia Museum, Luxor Museum, the Egyptian Museum in Al-Tahrir, the Museum of Islamic Art, and the Coptic Museum, in addition to 8 archaeological sites; which are the temples of Abu Simbel and Philae in Aswan, Karnak, Luxor, Al Deir Bahri and the Tombs of the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, the Giza Pyramids area, and Salah al-Din Citadel in Cairo.

Hurghada Museum in the Red Sea governorate, Matrouh and Roumel museums in Matrouh governorate, the Royal Jewelry Museum and Qaitbay Citadel in Alexandria were all opened in late June 2020.

The Museums of Sharm El-Sheikh, the Administrative Capital, and the Royal Vehicles are the most Notable Inaugurations during the Next Period

During a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities reviewed the plan of archeological openings during the coming period, which includes the museums of the new administrative capital, Sharm El-Sheikh, Kafr El-Sheikh, the Royal Vehicles of Bulaq, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat and Cairo Airport Museum.



Part of the Royal Vehicles Museum

The Cairo International Airport and Sharm El-Sheikh Museums Receive Artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Al-Tahrir



A Number of Pieces Received by the Airport Museum

Cairo International Airport Museum received 12 artifacts, from the storage areas of the Egyptian Museum in Al-Tahrir and the Suez National Museum, to be displayed in it. They included three mummies decorated with gilded cartoons and colorful drawings, canopic jars, a statue of the winged god Isis made of bronze, and statuettes from the Greco-Roman era.

Sharm El-Sheikh Museum also received three large artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Al-Tahrir, including two wooden Dahshur chariots belonging to King Senusert III.

In a related context, Kafr El Sheikh Museum received artifacts from Tal Al-Faraeen archaeological site in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate.

The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Visits the Administrative Capital Museum

The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities visited the New Administrative Capital Museum in order to follow up on the work progress. The Assistant President of the Republic for Financial Affairs received H.E. the Minister. It is worth noting that, the idea of the museum exhibition is based on highlighting the history of the different Egyptian capitals throughout the ages.

The Minister Follows up on the Progress in the National Museum of the Egyptian Civilization



The Minister Inside one of the Halls of NMEC

The Minister of Tourism and Antiquities followed up on the latest developments in the central exhibition hall of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Al-Fustat, in preparation for its forthcoming opening. After the visit, the Minister met the museum's archaeologists, restorers, and members of the Supreme Committee for the Museum's display scenario; where they discussed the ongoing preparations for the process of transporting the Royal Mummies from the Egyptian Museum in Al-Tahrir in a big royal procession and how they will be displayed in the hall designated for them in the museum.

Lighting the Domes of the Alaouite Dynasty Tombs

The General Administration of Historic Cairo in cooperation with the Imam Al-Shafi'i archeological site; has lit the domes of the the Alaouite dynasty tombs as part of the project to develop the area surrounding the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Al-Fustat. This project is carried out by the ministries of Tourism, Antiquities, Housing, New Urban Communities, and Cairo governorate. these tombs; known as Hosh al-Basha, were built by Muhammad Ali as a burial ground for him and his family in 1816 AD, however he was buried in his mosque in Salah El Din Castle.



Dome of the Alaouite Dynasty

Discovery of Ovens and a Huge Wall dating back to the Roman Era in Luxor



Part of the Discovered Ovens

The Egyptian archaeological mission discovered a number of round burning ovens of mud-brick with burning marks, which might have been used in the manufacturing of pottery or faience.

The discovery was made revealed during the work of the archeological mission on a project to restore the Kebash Avenue (Sphinx Avenue) in Luxor

A huge mud brick wall from the late Roman period was also discovered west of the Avenue of the Temple of Khonsu. The mission also found a wall that was built of sandstone blocks, an extension of the wall that was protecting the eastern bank of the Nile from changing river levels.

Stopping an On-line Selling of an Egyptian Vase from the Pre-Dynastic Era

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, represented by the General Administration of Retrieved Antiquities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, succeeded in stopping the on-line sale of an Egyptian vase dating back to the pre-dynastic era, which was taking place in the Czech Republic. The vase was handed over to the Egyptian embassy in the Czech Republic and will be transported soon back to Egypt.

A Journey to the Sands of Gold



South Sinai will remain one of the most beautiful parts of the world, and one of its most beautiful touristic sites is Dahab, located on the Gulf of Aqaba, about 100 km from Sharm El-Sheikh. It was named "Dahab" which is the Arabic word for gold because of its yellow, golden-colored sand.

In a pandemic sweeping the world, Dahab remains one of the purest places. A report of CNN international highlighted the status and attractiveness of this wonderful city, and stressed that it is one of the best places to enjoy a pure atmosphere, and advised tourists to go there.

The most important touristic areas there are:

- **Al-Asla area:** It is the popular village of Dahab, where 75% of its population live and it has a Bedouin character.
- **Laguna area:** it is the only sandy beach there, and represents a great attraction for divers due to its scenic water. The area contains a number of hotels and diving centers. It contains the "Tel Al-Mashraba" area, which is the only monument found there, and consists of a group of warehouses for one of the old ports, when the city of Dahab was used as a commercial port during different historical periods.
- **Coral Island:** It is located near the Palestinian border and contains remains of an ancient castle which was built by The Crusaders during the Crusades wars on this area.
- **Al-Masbat:** It is considered the main commercial area in Dahab city and has a large number of hotels, cafeterias, shops and diving clubs.
- **Eel Garden:** represents a great joy for diving enthusiasts, located in the north of the city of Dahab, and contains countless schools of colorful fish covering the seabed amid masses of wonderful breathtaking coral reefs.
- **Natural Reserves:** Dahab has two of the most beautiful natural reserves in Egypt; namely Nabq Reserve and Abu Gallum reserve. The Nabq Reserve is located on the Gulf of Aqaba, south of Dahab, and is characterized by flat coral reefs, some marine caves, and a rare mangrove plant that grows in the salty waters of the Red Sea where Lobsters, crabs and shrimps live in its roots.

It is also has many ecosystems and valleys rich in rare plants and their extended sand dunes, which include endangered plants, birds and wildlife. It is home to nearly 134 unique species. As for the Abu Gallum reserve, also located on the Gulf of Aqaba, in an area called Wadi Rasasa. It is characterized by its unique nature and integrated ecosystem that combines desert and mountainous terrain with wild life rich in animals, rodents and reptiles, in addition to its marine environment rich with coral reefs and colorful fish and contains a series of caves extending up to 100 meters under the water.

Ashwaq Musleh (Member of the Scientific Bureau of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities)



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