To celebrate World Tourism Day, the Ministry invited ambassadors from Arab and foreign countries in Egypt to a trip to Sharm El-Sheikh from 24 to 26 September. The ministries of Environment, Civil Aviation and the Ministry of State for Media also participated in the visit. Thirty ambassadors from different countries participated in this trip, including the ambassadors of Germany, France, the European Union, Spain, Japan, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Morocco, Cameroon, Slovenia, Cuba, Portugal, Bulgaria, and South Korea among others. During the trip, they visited Sharm El Sheikh International Airport and Sharm El Sheikh International Hospital; to learn about the precautionary measures and health safety regulations applied there. The trip also included a visit to Sharm El-Sheikh Museum (due to open soon), where they expressed their admiration for the artifacts displayed, and the idea of having a museum in this coastal city.

During the visit, the Ministry of Environment launched the "EcoEgypt Campaign" from Ras Mohammed protected area as the first campaign to promote natural protectorates in Egypt and support ecotourism.

The Ministry also organized a bicycle marathon for the ambassadors in the streets of Sharm El Sheikh, and a sea cruise, where they went scuba diving.
The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Adopts the Initiative of the WTTC on World Tourism Day

The Ministry adopted the initiative launched by the World Tourism and Travel Council (WTTC) on World Tourism Day, 27 September, where the Ministry posted a video produced by the WTTC on its social media platforms inviting the world to share travel experiences that have made a difference in their lives. The Ministry invited its followers on social media platforms to share their favorite experiences of travel, especially in Egypt.

The Arrival of the First Flights from Kazakhstan and Armenia to Sharm El-Sheikh

On 14 September, the city of Sharm el-Sheikh received the first flight from Kazakhstan with 239 tourists on board, and on 17 September, the city received the first flight from Armenia, with 70 tourists on board, including 10 representatives of media outlets in Armenia. The office of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board in Sharm El-Sheikh provided the tourists with all facilities they needed and handed out souvenirs.

Inspection of Hotels and Tourism Establishments Continues

The joint inspection committees between the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities, Health and Population, and the Egyptian Hotel Association continued, during the month of September, to inspect hotel establishments that applied for a hygiene safety certificate to start operating. 12 hotels received this certificate during September, bringing the total number of hotels that obtained the certificate, so far is 679 hotels in 23 governorates nationwide. In a related context, touristic restaurants and cafeterias continued during the month of September to obtain a hygiene safety certificate to start operating. 1022 touristic restaurants and cafeterias obtained this certificate, after ensuring that they met all the regulations issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in accordance with international hygiene safety standards.

Allowing Floating Hotels to Resume Nile Cruises in October

In preparation for the resumption of Nile cruises of floating hotels as of October, the joint inspection committees from the Ministries of Tourism, Antiquities, Health and Population and the Egyptian Hotel Association began on Tuesday, 29 September the inspection work on floating hotels, in Luxor governorate, that applied for a hygiene safety certificate. Floating hotels acquiring the hygiene safety certificate will be allowed to operate with an occupancy rate of 50% of their capacity.

Parties and Social Events are Allowed

Parties, social gatherings and events were allowed in outdoor areas in hotels, as of 21 September, with a maximum capacity of 300 people, taking all the precautionary hygiene safety measures. Indoor meetings and conferences were also allowed provided that the attendance is 50% of the capacity of the hall, with a maximum of 150 attendees, taking all precautionary hygiene safety measures.
Participating in the 112th Session of the Executive Council of the UNWTO in Tbilisi

The Minister participated in the activities of the 112th session of the Executive Council of the United Nation’s World Tourism Organization in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. He attended the opening session of the Council on 16 September, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Georgia and 170 ministers and officials from the tourism sector in 24 countries, in addition to the participation of other countries via video conference.

The Minister delivered Egypt’s speech, during the session where he proposed forming a committee to unify the hygiene safety regulations related to tourism and travel among countries. He also recommended using and activating the slogan “Travel Today” instead of the organization’s current slogan “Travel Tomorrow”, in order to support this important industry which provides tens of millions of jobs. The Minister also participated in the official dinner party attended by the Georgian Prime Minister, tourism ministers and tourism officials participating in this session from around the world. The Minister made several visits to the touristic places in Georgia, including the Georgia National Museum. It was agreed to organize a temporary exhibition of ancient Egyptian artifacts in Georgia.

The Minister also held a number of meetings with the ministers of tourism of Romania, Greece, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Morocco, and also met with the ambassadors of Senegal and France and the head of tourism promotion at the French Foreign Ministry. Those meetings discussed enhancing cooperation between Egypt and these countries in the field of tourism and antiquities, and exchange experiences in light of the resumption of tourism. He also held a number of press and media interviews.

Meetings Held in the German Capital Berlin to Promote Tourism to Egypt

On 18 September, after his trip to the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, the Minister went on a short visit to the German capital, Berlin. This was the first visit of an Egyptian official to Germany since the coronavirus pandemic.

The Minister met with the Minister of State for Tourism Affairs, the Chairman of the Tourism Committee in the German Parliament, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Germany and Chairman of the Corona Crisis Committee in Germany. In addition to that the Minister held a press conference attended by representatives of German news agencies, newspapers and TV channels.
Important Meetings in the Polish Capital, Warsaw

On 2 September, the Minister went to the Polish capital Warsaw for a short visit to promote tourism between the two countries and discuss ways to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism and archeology. The Minister met with the President of the Federation of Tourism Chambers in Poland, representatives of its major tour operators, and members of the media. During those meetings many points and proposals were discussed, that would contribute to attracting more Polish tourists to visit Egypt. He also met with the Vice President of the Polish Scientific Academy, to discuss ways of cooperation in the scientific and archaeological fields, in addition to meeting the Polish Deputy Minister of Higher Education, the President of the University of Warsaw, and the President of the Polish Institute of Archeology and Mediterranean Studies.

A Meeting with Officials of the Major Tour Operators in Yerevan

On a short visit to the Armenian capital Yerevan, on 15 September, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Armenia organized a meeting for the Minister with more than 30 officials of the major tour operators and tourism companies in Armenia, in the presence of representatives of the media and news agencies. This visit came in light of the resumption of flights between Armenia and Egypt as of 17 September. Tour operators and tourism companies praised the health safety regulations implemented by the Egyptian government to resume tourism, emphasizing that Egypt has become the first tourist destination for Armenian citizens.

Meeting and Visits

A Meeting with Tourism Investors in Luxor and A Visit to the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Hurghada

On 10 September, the Minister held a meeting with a number of investors, representatives of cultural tourism and hotel managers in Luxor, to discuss the conditions of the tourism sector in the governorate and listen to their demands and proposals to resume cultural tourism. During his visit to Luxor, the Minister inspected the Karnak temple and the restoration work of the ram-headed sphinxes. There, he met with groups of tourists who expressed their admiration for the Egyptian civilization, and the hygiene safety measures implemented. The Minister visited Luxor Museum and saw the new artifacts the museum received from Tuna Al-Jabal and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. They include a collection of colorful coffins, in addition to 1000 Ushabti figurines. He visited the Mummification Museum and followed up on the museum’s training activities of the "Ambassadors of Tourism" program, which aims at building the capacity of all those dealing with tourists in archaeological sites. Then, he went to Hurghada, to visit the temporary exhibition of the treasures of King Tutankhamun, which is displayed for the first time in Hurghada Museum.

A Visit to the Museum of the New Administrative Capital

On 20 September, the Minister visited the Museum of the New Administrative Capital to follow up on the progress of work there in preparation for its opening. More artifacts from various ancient Egyptian, Coptic and Islamic eras will be added to enrich the museum display scenario.
Tourism in the Governorates of South Sinai and the Red Sea

On 10 September, the Minister met with the Governors of South Sinai and the Red Sea. They discussed the return of tourism to Egypt, in addition to a number of important issues that would contribute to promoting inbound tourism to these two governorates.

Finding Solutions to Problems of Tourism Establishments operating on the Nile

On 14 September, the Minister met with the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation to discuss problems related to the tourism establishments operating on the Nile, in the presence of the President of the Egyptian Tourism Federation. The two ministers agreed on continuing providing support to tourism establishments operating on the Nile and rescheduling debts.

Phone Calls with Tourism Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan

In continuation of the phone calls the Minister makes with tourism ministers in different countries, he had a phone call with the Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism in Sudan on 13 September. He had another phone call with his counterpart in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss strengthening ways of cooperation in the field of archaeology and tourism.

The Board of Directors of the Tourism Development Authority Discusses Postponing Financial Obligations for Tourism Projects ... and The Third Meeting of the Permanent Licensing Committee is Held

On 10 September, the Minister chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Tourism Development Authority, in the presence of the Governors of South Sinai and the Red Sea governorates, the Chairman of the Tourism Development Authority, and members of the Board of Directors.

During the meeting, many issues were discussed to give support to the tourism sector, most notably the agreement to postpone payments of financial obligations on tourism development and investment projects that were operating and receiving visitors during the period from 1 March to 30 September, 2020.

In another context, the Minister chaired, on 10 September, the third meeting of the Permanent Committee for Licensing Hotel and Tourist Establishments.

Enhancing Cooperation between the Ministry's Local Offices and those of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board

On 10 September, the Minister held a meeting with the directors of the local offices of the Ministry and those of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, to discuss mechanisms for enhancing cooperation between them. Ideas and proposals office managers were discussed, in order to develop the mechanism and system of work and overcome all obstacles that hinder the workflow.

Meeting with Members of the Committees of Internal Events and Promotion and International Exhibitions

On 10 September, the Minister met with members of the Internal Events Committee, where the events calendar of Egypt for the year 2020/2021 were discussed. In addition to that, they discussed the conditions for the Ministry to support and sponsor events and KPIs for sponsorships.

The Minister held another meeting with members of the Promotion and International Exhibitions Committee. They discussed the plan of participation in international exhibitions, determining major exhibitions that the ministry should participate in and the expected return of participation. In addition to that, they discussed regulations of co-marketing and the mechanisms for evaluating the performance of tourist offices abroad.
Meeting the New Chairman of the Egyptian Travel Agents Association

On 14 September, the Minister met the new chairman of the Egyptian Travel Agents Association to discuss their work plan for the upcoming period. The meeting was attended by the chairman of the Egyptian Tourism Federation and the Chairman of the Egyptian Hotel Association. It is worth mentioning that the Minister had issued a decision on 14 September to cancel the decree concerning the results of the elections of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Travel Agents Association that was held on 31 October, 2018. In a related context, the Minister received, on 21 September, the former Chairman of the Egyptian Travel Agents Association. During the meeting, the Minister thanked him and the members of the previous Board of Directors for their efforts during the previous period especially that they worked in a difficult period during which they were able to perform aptly.

Meeting with the French Ambassador, Cultural Advisor and the Director of the French Institute for Oriental Archeology

On 23 September, the Minister met with the French ambassador in Cairo, the French cultural advisor, and the director of the French Institute for Oriental Archeology (IFAO), to discuss strengthening ways of cooperation between the two countries in the field of tourism and antiquities. Many topics were discussed to develop a mechanism to promote inbound tourism to Egypt from France. They also discussed the Egyptian-French cooperation project to develop the Tanis (San El-Hagar) archaeological site and how to raise the efficiency and enhance services in the region, in addition to preparing files for registering archaeological sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

...And the Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Cairo

On 3 September, the Minister met with the ambassador of Kazakhstan in Cairo, who was keen on meeting the minister before the end of his term as his country’s ambassador to Egypt. He thanked the minister for the fruitful and effective cooperation between the two countries in all fields, especially archaeology and tourism. The ambassador praised the efforts of the ministry to resume tourism that resulted in the return of air traffic between the two countries after a period of suspension due to the Corona Virus pandemic, stressing that all tourist destinations in Egypt are safe and ready to receive tourists.

Important news

The Cabinet Extends its Support Tourism

The Cabinet decreed, in its meeting on 30 September, to extend the exemption of visa fees for tourists arriving at South Sinai, the Red Sea, Luxor and Aswan airports until 30 April, 2021. It was also decided to continue granting a 50% discount on landing and housing fees and a 20% discount on ground handling fees in airports of touristic governorates (South Sinai, the Red Sea, Luxor and Aswan) until 30 April, 2021. The cabinet approved the extension of stipends from the Manpower Ministry’s emergency fund, which will continue to be paid out to workers of the tourism industry till December 2020. The Cabinet also renewed its previous approval of postponing payment of dues on tourist companies and hotel establishments for electricity, gas and water consumption until 31 December, 2020, as well as other government dues (for periods before the start of the Corona Virus pandemic) and start paying them in January, 2021.

Exempting Cafeterias and Bazaars in Museums and Archaeological Sites from Paying the Rent until the End of October

The Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, in its last meeting chaired by the Minister, decided on exempting all cafeterias and bazaars in museums and archaeological sites affiliated to the Council from paying the rent until the end of October 2020. This decision comes as part of the Ministry's efforts to mitigate the economic implications of the Corona Virus pandemic.

LE 500,000 from the Egyptian Hotel Association to Support Owners of Stagecoaches and Feluccas

The Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, in its session on 29 September chaired by the Minister, approved the proposal made by the Chairman of the Egyptian Hotel Association to allocate an amount of LE500,000 to the governorates of Luxor and Aswan equally, in order to support the owners of stagecoaches and feluccas. This is to provide veterinary care and food for animals and to raise the efficiency of stagecoaches, as part of the social responsibility of the Hotel Association.
Expediting Disbursement of financial Support to Tour Guides and their Steering Committee Takes over the Syndicates Headquarters

The Ministry, sent data on licensed tourist guides to the Ministry of Social Solidarity, in order to expedite the disbursement of financial support to them for a period of four months. This initiative comes within the framework of cooperation and coordination between the Ministry and the Ministry of Social Solidarity to support workers in the tourism sector from the repercussions of the Corona Virus pandemic.

In another context, the Tourist Guides Syndicate's Steering Committee took over the headquarters of the Tourist Guides Syndicate on 22 September, to conduct inventories and extradition, according to the judicial rulings, after the stages of appeal and complaint against them have exhausted, and they have become legally protected.

Organizing a Training Course to Educate Workers at the Giza Pyramids archeological site ... and a Children's Drawing Competition

The Ministry organized a training course to educate workers in the Giza pyramids archeological site, including owners of horses and camels and venders, on how to deal with visitors and tourists under the hygiene safety measures implemented.

In another context, the Ministry, through the Office of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board at the Pyramid area, honored the children who won the "Draw the Giza Pyramids" competition from the age of 5 to 12 years old, with the aim of educating children about their cultural heritage through art.

Miscellaneous News

The First French Tourist Group to Visit Saqqara after the Resumption of Tourism

On 14 September, the Saqqara archeological site received the first tourist group from France, two weeks after the resumption of cultural tourism. The tourist group enjoyed a tour in the site, and after that they went to visit Dahshur archeological site.

The Promotional video "A Tourist's Journey in Egypt" is Played in Egyptian Airports

Within the framework of cooperation between the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities and Civil Aviation, the promotional video "A Tourist's Journey in Egypt" played on screens at Cairo International Airport as of 12 September.

This video was launched by the Ministry, as part of its "Same Great Feelings" campaign. It aims at promoting various Egyptian touristic destinations, while shedding light on the hygiene safety measures implemented at airports, hotels, archaeological sites and museums.
The Ministry participated, with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in the draw ceremony of the 27th World Handball Championship for men, which was held on 5 September, in front of the pyramids, in the presence of the Prime Minister and a number of ministers, senior officials and public figures. During this ceremony, the video "A Tourist's Journey in Egypt", launched by the Ministry on social media platforms in late June, was played. Egypt will host this championship from 13-31 January 2021. It will be the biggest sporting event in the world in the upcoming period with the participation of 32 countries for the first time in the history of this championship.

**The Royal Carriages Museum is Ready for Inauguration**

The Ministry, represented by the Supreme Council of Antiquities, has completed all the work of the Royal Carriages Museum in Bulaq. All artifacts are displayed in their places according to the museum’s display scenario, and the museum is ready for inauguration. The museum includes rare and distinctive artifacts that illustrate the various means of transportation and carriages that were used in various occasions during the reign of the Muhammed Ali dynasty.
The excavation work of the Egyptian mission in Saqqara resulted in the discovery of two burial shafts. In the beginning of the excavation work the first shaft revealed 13 human sealed coffins dating back to more than 2,500 years, and the other 14. Preliminary studies indicate that these coffins have not been opened since they were buried and it is likely that there will be more of them inside the niches on the sides of the shafts, where a number of archaeological finds and wooden sarcophagi were found. So far, the identity and positions of the owners of these coffins and their total number have not been determined.

A Burial Shaft Dating Back to the Pharaonic Era, Discovered in Al-Ghuraifah

The excavations of the Egyptian archaeological mission at the Al-Ghuraifa archaeological site in Tuna Al-Jabal, Minya Governorate resulted in the discovery of a 5 meters deep burial shaft. Inside this shaft a limestone coffin, with illustrations representing the four children of Horus was found in good condition, in addition to a number of ushabti figurines made of faience.

The archaeological mission operating at the Al-Ghuraifa had succeeded, during its previous three seasons, in uncovering many family graves belonging to senior priests of the God Jahoti and senior officials in the fifteenth region of Upper Egypt and its capital, Ashmonin, and 19 tombs containing 70 stone sarcophagi of various sizes and shapes and funerary furniture.
Decisions

The Minister issued a decision to delegate Counselor Abdul Mohsen Shafi’i to supervise the Central Administration for Public and International Relations at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. He also issued a decision to organize the process of following up on the elections of the Egyptian Automobile and Touring Club Board of Directors, in accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic, which was scheduled for 24-25 September.

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

Discussing the Final Preparations for the Parade of Royal Mummies

On 22 September, the Minister held a meeting with the company working on the process of transferring royal mummies from the current place of their display at the Egyptian Museum in Al- Tahrir to the place of their permanent display in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat. It is planned to take place amidst a royal parade befitting the greatness of the Egyptian civilization.

During the meeting, the company showcased the scenario of the event and all the artistic and decorative elements of the parade, in addition to the music accompanying the parade.

On 24 September, the Minister visited the museum to see the progress of work and the preparations of the hall where the royal mummies will be displayed, in addition to the central exhibition hall in preparation for the imminent opening.

From the Museum’s Exhibits

A limestone statue of a woman grinding grain dating back to the Old Kingdom
The Grand Egyptian Museum is the First Museum to Obtain ISO Certification for Occupational Health and Safety

On 27 September, the museum, represented by its conservation center, received the ISO certification of the International Standards for Occupational Health and Safety Management System. This is the first time, a museum, receives an ISO certification for 3 consecutive years and have it renewed annually for monitoring performance and applying international occupational health and safety standards.

The Museum Receives New Artifacts

On 19 September, the museum received 2000 artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the museum store in Tal al-Judaia in Qalyubia governorate and the pyramids archeological site. Those artifacts will be showcased as part of the museum’s display scenario. Among the most important of these pieces are two columns of pink granite of King Ramses II, that will be placed on the grand staircase, and 54 artifacts from the King Tutankhamun’s collection. So far, 54,000 artifacts have been transferred to the Museum.

Restoration of A War Armour from King Tutankhamun’s Collection for the First Time

A team of restorers of the Organic Laboratory in the Conservation Center succeeded in restoring King Tutankhamun’s war armour, which has not been restored since its discovery. It is one of the rare artifacts that have not been displayed before due to its condition. Its restoration took about two months.

The Minister Visits the Exhibition Halls of the Grand Egyptian Museum

On 8 September, the Minister visited the museum to follow up on the work progress and the museum’s exhibition scenario. This included the atrium, the grand staircase and the exhibition halls of King Tutankhamun. The Grand Egyptian Museum is the largest museum in the world devoted to one civilization, the ancient Egyptian civilization, and the museum will exhibit, for the first time together, in one place, the complete collection of Tutankhamun’s treasures.

Completing the Entertainment Park and the Study of the Solar Boat Transport Route

The entertainment park, which is located on an area of 5,000 square meters, has been completed. This park includes 53 trees and 237 palm trees, and overlooks a number of restaurants to meet the needs of museumgoers during the visit. In another context, a meeting was held to discuss the final stages of transporting the Khufu Solar Boat from its current place at the Giza Solar Boat museum to the Grand Egyptian Museum. The general director of the GEM project met with the Belgian company specialized in unconventional transportation, and the consultancy offices responsible for the construction designs, where the detailed study of the boat route was reviewed. A simulated boat travel path was demonstrated to ensure the safety of the boat's transfer.
World Tourism Day

On 27 September of each year, the world celebrates World Tourism Day, which is the anniversary of the adoption of the statute of the United Nation's World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on this day in 1970. The adoption of these Statutes is considered a milestone in global tourism. This date also coincides with the anniversary of the day when the French scientist Jean-Francois Champollion deciphered the Egyptian hieroglyphs.

The official celebrations of this day began for the first time on 27 September, 1980. Its celebration aims at increasing awareness in the international community of the importance of tourism, especially as it is one of the most important economic activities in the world and has a role in rapprochement between peoples.

The World Tourism Organization chooses a different slogan every year, and the Secretary-General of the organization sends a message to celebrate the occasion, and presides over the official celebrations every year in a different city.

This year, the organization chose the slogan “Tourism and Rural Development” as an opportunity to enhance the potential of tourism in providing and creating jobs, and to highlight the unique role of tourism in preserving natural and cultural heritage around the world.

Egypt has a great tradition in the field of tourism, as it used to receive tourists to see the greatness of the pyramids since the Greco-Roman era. Poems by a Roman tourist were found praising the pyramids while visiting them.

In the modern era, the ruler of Egypt, King Fouad I, received a gold cup, in the International Tournament for Tourism Promotion that was founded in 1933. The cup is round and engraved with four paintings representing different scenes from Egypt. King Farouk I also received a gold cup in the form of a Pharaonic temple decorated with the royal crown and the name of King Farouk I. Egypt won this cup in the world tourism race and kept it for eight consecutive years, from 1940 to 1948. These two cups are showcased in the Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandria.

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