

A Guide to Aswan's
Museums and Archaeological Sites

ASWAN

أرض الذهب ◆ LAND OF GOLD



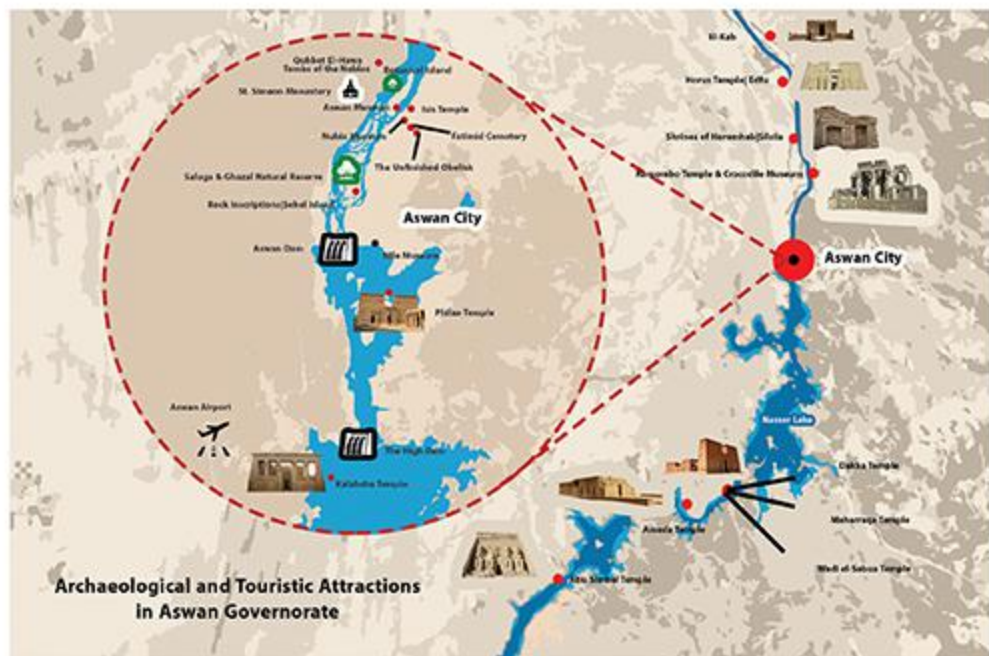
General Administration of Services
for Touristic and Archaeological
Sites and Museums

ASWAN

أرض الذهب + LAND OF GOLD

Aswan, called Sunu by the ancient Egyptians, is one of the most important cities in the south of Egypt, and acted as its southern gateway throughout history. As a necessary stop for all traders and merchants coming from Nubia through the Nile, it was the link between Egypt and Africa. Aswan is the site of many archaeological sites and important landmarks such as the island of Elephantine, the ancient Egyptian granite quarries including the Unfinished Obelisk, the Coptic monastery of St Simeon, and the Nubian Museum.

Travelling a short distance to the north, you will find yourself in the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo. To the south of Aswan, get on board a boat that will take you to the temples of Philae on the island of Agilkia. Farther to the south lies the Aswan High Dam and, beyond it, you can explore the many great monuments of New Kalabsha Island. A southward journey of around 300 km will take you to the legendary temples of Abu Simbel.



Al-Kab



This is site of the ancient city of Nekhbet. As the cult centre of the vulture goddess Nekhbet, the tutelary deity of Upper Egypt. Here, you will find many important monuments dating all the way back from the Predynastic Period to the Graeco-Roman Period, most notably the remains of the temple of Nekhbet and the walls of the ancient city.

Do not miss the beautifully decorated New Kingdom tombs and especially the biographical inscriptions carved into their walls like those of Paheri, Ahmose Pennekhbet, and most famous of all, Ahmose, son of Abana, who fought against the Hyksos just in the New Kingdom.

Address : East bank of the Nile, north of Edfu

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	150 EGP	75 EGP



Temple of Edfu



By visiting the temple of Edfu, which lies on the west bank of the Nile, you can explore one of the most completely preserved ancient Egyptian temples. Built during the Ptolemaic Period (305–30 BC), it is dedicated to the gods Horus, his wife Hathor, and their son Harsomtus (HorusSema-Tawy 'Horus-Who-Unites-The-Two-Lands'). One of the reasons for the exceptional preservation of this temple is the fact that most of it was buried under sand, until Auguste Mariette cleared it in 1860, and restoration of some parts. Fascinating scenes adorn the walls, including those in the inner and outer hypostyle halls that show the temple foundation rituals being performed by the king. And make sure you don't miss the scenes depicting the Beautiful Feast of Behdet, for which the cult statue of the goddess Hathor sailed along distance from her temple of Horus in Edfu.

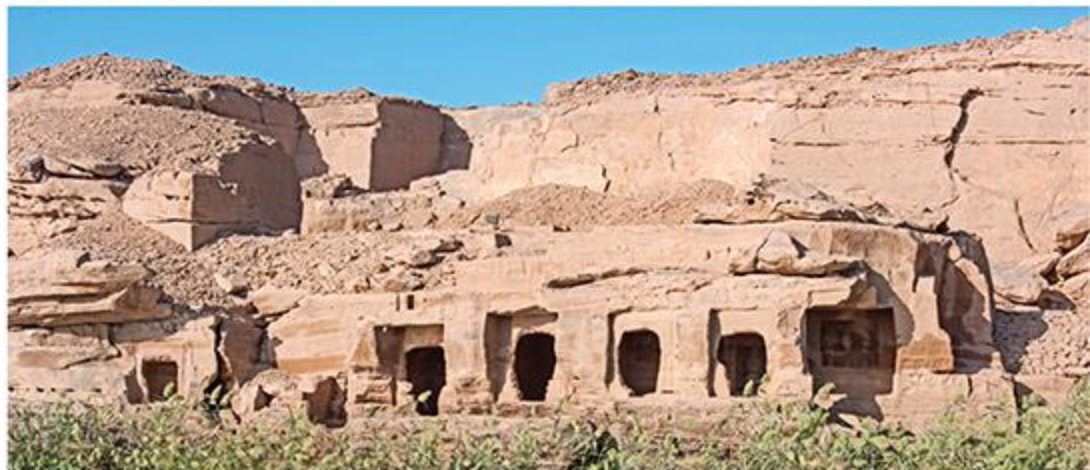
Address : West bank of the Nile, between Esna and Aswan

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
On Sunday and Wednesday from 6:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	450 EGP	230 EGP



Gebel Al-Silsila



If you find mountain landscapes captivating, then you have to visit Gebel al-Silsila. This is the site of major sandstone quarries on both sides of the river, and it was from here that the stone blocks used to build many of ancient Egypt's famous temples were extracted. The tool marks and workers' inscriptions can still be seen today.

many carved monuments to see here, including the beautiful rock-cut temple known as the Speos of Horemheb, the so-called Nile Stelae of Kings Sety I, Rameses II, Merenptah, and Rameses III, and many more shrines and stelae, both royal and non-royal.

Address : East and west banks of the Nile, About 70 km north of Aswan

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	100 EGP	50 EGP



Temple of Kom Ombo and Crocodile Museum



Kom Ombo gets its name from Arabic kum 'mound' and 'Ombo', which ultimately derives from the ancient Egyptian name of the city Nubt 'the Golden (City)'. The city's temple is dedicated equally to two deities: the crocodile god Sobek, and the falcon god Harwer (Horus the Elder). Because of this, it has a unique design, in that it has two parallel axial passages running through its columned halls, terminating in two sanctuaries, one for each of these two deities. There are many things to see in this temple, but perhaps most noteworthy are the scene in which surgical instruments are depicted, and the calendar, which is carved on the right side of the central vestibule. Don't miss the Crocodile Museum, where mummified crocodiles discovered during archaeological excavations are displayed.

Address : East bank of the Nile, About 45 km north of Aswan

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 9:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	360 EGP	180 EGP



Elephantine



A short boat ride will take you to the island of Elephantine, which was the gateway into Egypt for all traders entering from Nubia.

Many different monuments await you here, including the remains of ancient houses that belongs to the temple of the god of the annual Nile flood Khnum, and the temple of the goddess who guarded Egypt's southern frontiers, Satet, who was also associated with the annual Nile flood. Make sure you don't miss the Nilometer or the nearby museum, where the objects discovered by the German archaeological missions that works on the island are on display. The Island of Elephantine was inscribed on UNESCO'S World Heritage List in 1979.

Address : South of the noblemen's tombs in the Qubbit al-Hawa cemetery, opposite the Cataract Hotel, Aswan

Opening Hours : 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	200 EGP	100 EGP



Temple of Isis



This small temple was built by Kings Ptolemy III (246–221 BC) and Ptolemy IV (221–204 BC), who dedicated it to the goddess Isis. Discovered in 1871 when the railway tracks in the city of Aswan were being extended, it is remarkably well preserved; even its roof has survived. Two gargoyles in the form of lion heads, which kept rainwater from accumulating on the roof, can be seen on its north exterior wall. Wall reliefs show the king performing rituals before a variety of deities. In addition to Isis, her husband Osiris, and their son Horus, these include the triad of Elephantine consisting of Khnum, his wife Satis, and their daughter Anuket, all of whom were highly venerated in this region. The temple was converted into a church in Late Antiquity, and several Coptic inscriptions can be seen. It was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979.

Address : Neighbourhood of Koka, Aswan, near the Broadcast and Television Building

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	150 EGP	75 EGP



Qubbat Al-Hawa Cemetery



On the west bank of the Nile, across the river from the northern tip of Elephantine Island, you can visit several tombs cut into the rocky slopes of the cliffs that offer an enchanting panorama that reveals the beauty of Aswan.

These tombs are those of local governors and high dignitaries from the Old to Middle Kingdoms. This cemetery site, which remained in use from the Old Kingdom to the Roman Period, is named after the domed tomb of Sheikh Aly Abu al-Hawa (qubba meaning 'dome' in Arabic), which stands at the top of the cliffs above the tombs.

Address : West bank of the Nile, across the river from the northern tip of Elephantine Island

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	150 EGP	75 EGP



Nubian Museum



The idea for a Nubian Museum was conceived during the international salvage campaign of the ancient Nubian monuments launched by UNESCO upon the request of the Egyptian government in 1960. The museum, completed in 1997, has a unique architectural design that reflects traditional local Nubian architecture, which earned it an Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2001. While making your way through the Exhibition halls, you will see thousands of artefacts, including statues, stelae, and forms of Nubian heritage that represent stages in the development of Nubia's archaeological, historical, and cultural heritage. Also noteworthy is the diorama that presents the traditions and handicrafts of Nubia. In addition to the exhibition hall's, the museum also holds a lecture hall, library, educational department, theatre, and an open amphitheatre for the presentation of Nubian folklore.

Address : East bank of the Nile, north of Aswan

Opening Hours : 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
On Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Ticket prices :

Visitor	Student
300 EGP	150 EGP



Monastery of St Simeon



While looking at the west bank of the Nile from the island of Elephantine, up to the top of the high hills, you will see one of the largest monasteries in Egypt. This historic building, originally named after St Hatre, the Bishop of Aswan in the late 4th century. The earliest wall paintings representing saints in the monastery's grotto date to the 6th or 7th century, and the current church was built in the 11th century. Visiting this site will give you a clear idea of what monasteries were like in medieval Upper Egypt. The whole monastery is surrounded by an impressive enclosure wall 6.5 metres high. It includes a church with a baptistery, cells for the monks, a refectory, a kitchen, several workshops, and many rooms for pilgrims. However, what is unique is that, due to the geography of the site, a cliff divides the monastery into two terraces. The lower terrace comprises the original rock caves of the saints, the church and baptistery, and the pilgrims' rooms. As for the monk's cell, refectory, kitchen, and workshops are located on the upper terrace. The monastery was inscribed on UNESCO'S World Heritage List in 1979.

Address : West bank of the Nile, north of the cemetery of Qubbat al-Hawa

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket prices :

Visitor	Student
100 EGP	50 EGP



Unfinished Obelisk



The quarry in which the Unfinished Obelisk is located was one of Egypt's most important sources of granite, an extremely important building material used by the ancient Egyptians. The Unfinished Obelisk is this site's most prominent landmark. Believed to have been commissioned by Hatshepsut (c. 1473–1458 BC), work on it unfortunately had to be stopped because of flaws in the stone and the appearance of multiple fissures. Had it been completed, it would have weighed 1168 tons and would have had a height of around 42 metres, standing taller than any other ancient Egyptian obelisk. A visit to this quarry will allow you to get a much deeper appreciation of the ingenuity of the ancient Egyptians in making obelisks and extracting massive blocks of stone.

Address : Dr Abd al-Rady Hanafy St, near al-Masalla Hospital, Aswan

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	200 EGP	100 EGP



Sehel Island



One of the largest islands on the Nile upstream of the First Cataract, Sehel was a quarry for granite, one of the hardest stones used by the ancient Egyptians in construction.

A short boat ride will take you to this island, where you can admire over two hundred inscriptions carved into the rock, many of them featuring the triad of Elephantine consisting of Khnum, his wife Satis, and their daughter Anuket.

Most noteworthy of all is the Famine Stela and its fascinating text.

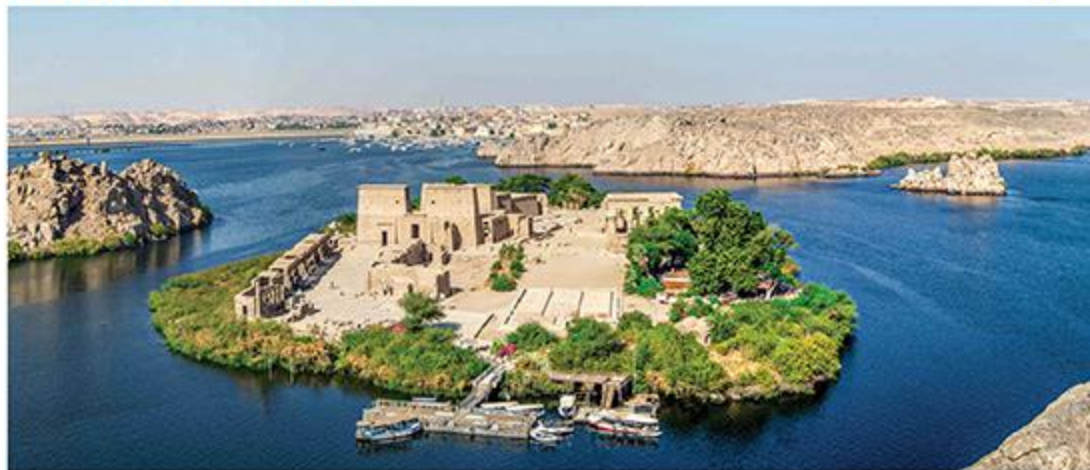
Address : South of the city of Aswan, reached by boats hired for the purpose.

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	100 EGP	50 EGP



Temple of Philae



All the many monuments of Philae await your exploration on Agilkia Island, most prominently the Great Temple of Isis, most of which was built and decorated in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, in the Ptolemaic Period. Other monuments include the island's earliest surviving structure, the Kiosk of Nectanebo I (380–362 BC), the Kiosk of Trajan, the so-called Gate of Hadrian, and the temples of Hathor, Imhotep, and Augustus.

The monuments of Philae were inscribed on UNESCO'S World Heritage List in 1979.

Address : Agilkia Island, south of Aswan, reached by boats hired for the purpose

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student	<i>Panorama of Temple Roof</i>	Visitor	Student
	450 EGP	230 EGP		200 EGP	100 EGP



New Kalabsha



This island is the home of a variety of monuments that were rescued in the 1960 by UNESCO from submersion by the rising waters of the Nile after the construction of the High Dam. These are now inscribed on UNESCO'S World Heritage List, and have been since 1979.

In addition to the beautiful and remarkably well-preserved temple of Kalabsha, the largest free-standing temple of Lower Nubia, monuments on the island include the kiosk of Qertassi, the large rock stela of Qasr Ibrim, the temple of Garf Hussein built by Rameses II (c. 1279–1213 BC), and the beautiful temple of Beit al-Wali, which was also built by this same king.

Address : Banks Lake nasser – south Aswan

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	150 EGP	75 EGP



New Wadi Al-Sebua



Three major monuments were rescued and relocated to this site in the 1960 during UNESCO'S salvage campaign, and they were inscribed in 1979 on its World Heritage List. Preceded by an avenue of sphinxes, the impressive temple of Wadi al-Sebua, built by Rameses II (c. 1279–1213 BC) was dedicated to the gods Amun-Ra and Ra-Horakhty.

The other two monuments located here are the Graeco-Roman Period temple of Dakka dedicated to Thoth; and the unfinished Roman Period temple of al-Maharraqa dedicated to Isis and Serapis.

Address : Banks lake nasser - behind the Aswan high dam around 150 km south of Aswan.

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	150 EGP	75 EGP



New Amada



Here in New Amada, you can visit two temples: the temple of Amada built during the reigns of Thutmose III, Amenhotep II, and Thutmose IV (c. 1479–1390 BC) and dedicated to the gods Amun-Ra and Ra-Horakhty, and the temple of al-Derr built by Rameses II (c. 1279–1213 BC) in which the Ra-Horakhty was held in special prominence. And make sure not to miss the decorated tomb of Pennut, a high official from the reign of Rameses VI (c. 1143–1136 BC). Because of their immense historical value, these ancient monuments were rescued by UNESCO's campaign to salvage the monuments in Nubia in the 1960, they were dismantled and relocated from their original sites to their new home in New Amada. Since 1979, these beautiful monuments have been on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Address : Banks Lake nasser behind the Aswan high dam.

Opening Hours : 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student
	150 EGP	75 EGP



Abu Simbel



Upon your visit to Abu Simbel, you will be awe-struck by its two rock-cut temples. One of these, the aptly-named Great Temple, was built by Rameses II (c. 1279–1213 BC), and dedicated to four gods: Amun-Ra, Ra-Horakhty, Ptah, and above all, to a deified version of himself. This temple is famous for how, on the 22nd of February and the 22nd of October, the sun's rays enter the it, cross the main hall, a second hall, and a vestibule before illuminating the faces of Amun-Ra, Rameses II, and Ra-Horakhty in the sanctuary. The other monument here, the Small Temple, was also built by Rameses II, this time in honour of his wife Nefertari and Hathor, the goddess of motherhood, love, fertility, and music.

At the invitation of the Egyptian government, UNESCO started an international salvage campaign. The aim was to rescue the monuments in Nubia, most famously the two temples of Abu Simbel, which were threatened with submersion under the rising waters of Lake Nasser as a result of the beginning of construction work on the Aswan High Dam in 1960. After being successfully relocated to their current location, the temples of Abu Simbel, along with the other Nubian monuments from there to Philae, were inscribed on UNESCO'S World Heritage List in 1979.

Address : West bank of Lake Nasser, around 290 km south of Aswan

Opening Hours : 6:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket prices :	Visitor	Student	<i>The Sun Alignment</i>	Visitor	Student
	600 EGP	300 EGP		900 EGP	450 EGP



Welcome to Egypt



For complaints and suggestions, please call us on 19654
We wish you a pleasant visit



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