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PTOLEMAIC & ROMAN PERIOD

Dendera Temple

The temple of the goddess Hathor, among the best-preserved in Egypt, famed for its astronomical ceiling and Hathor-headed columns.

Why it matters

Dendera Temple lies near the city of Qena, north of Luxor, and is dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love, music and the sky. The present temple was built in the late Ptolemaic period and completed under Roman emperors, on a site that had been sacred for much longer. The complex also includes a birth house (mammisi) and a sacred lake.

24

Hathor-headed columns in the hall

Zodiac

famous sky ceiling (original in the Louvre)

Cleopatra

shown on the rear wall with Caesarion

≈1 h 40

by car from Luxor

Plan your visit

Hours

Daily 07:00 – 17:00

Ticket

Foreign adult EGP 300
Student EGP 150 (valid ID)

Extra

Crypts and rooftop may need small extra tickets

Photos

Phone photography free

Time

About 2 hours

Best time

Morning, then on to Abydos for a full day

Where

Near Qena, about 75 km north of Luxor

Prices and hours checked October 2026. Always confirm at the ticket office. Card payment only at most ticket offices.



WALK IT IN THIS ORDER

Your route through Dendera

The bigger picture

The temple is known for its hypostyle hall, whose columns are crowned with the face of Hathor, and for ceilings decorated with astronomical scenes, including the famous Dendera zodiac; the original was removed to the Louvre in Paris and a copy is displayed at the site. Its walls hide crypts, and rooftop chapels were used for rituals of Osiris. A relief on the rear outer wall shows Cleopatra VII with her son Caesarion.

1 Hypostyle hall

Columns crowned with Hathor's face under a restored blue astronomical ceiling.

3 Rooftop chapels

Climb to the roof to see the Osiris chapels and a copy of the Dendera zodiac.

5 Birth house & sacred lake

The mammisi where Hathor's divine child was celebrated, and the temple lake.

2 The crypts

Narrow underground rooms with fine reliefs that once hid the temple's treasures.

4 Rear wall

Cleopatra VII and her son Caesarion making offerings to the gods.

Good to know

- Climb to the roof to see the Osiris chapels and astronomical scenes up close, and allow time to go down into the crypts. It can be visited as a day trip from Luxor by car.
- Bring a small torch for the crypts.
- Usually combined with Abydos on one day trip from Luxor.



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Sources: Luxor Guide narration script — Dendera Temple; Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities ticket listings (2026). **Photo:** Panegyrics of Granovetter, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.