



Edfu Temple · Photo: Steven C. Price / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD (237–57 BC)

Edfu Temple

The temple of Horus, the second-largest temple in Egypt after Karnak and the best preserved.

Why it matters

Construction of Edfu Temple began under Ptolemy III in 237 BC and continued for roughly two centuries, finishing under Ptolemy XII. It is dedicated to Horus in his falcon form. It lies about an hour and a half's drive south of Luxor.

237 BC

construction began

30 m+

height of the great pylon

≈180

years to finish it

2nd

largest temple in Egypt

Plan your visit

Hours

Daily 07:00 – 17:00

Ticket

Foreign adult EGP 550
Student EGP 275 (valid ID)

Photos

Phone photography free

Time

About 1.5 hours

Best time

Early morning, before the heat and the cruise groups

Where

Edfu, about 110 km south 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 Edfu

The bigger picture

The temple is known for its massive pylon, over thirty metres high, and the granite falcon statues of Horus at the entrance. Its walls carry long inscriptions describing the temple's construction and rituals, and scenes telling the conflict between Horus and Seth. Having lain buried under sand for centuries, it survives almost complete.

1 Great pylon & falcons

Granite statues of Horus the falcon guard the huge entrance.

3 Hypostyle halls

Two halls of columns leading into the darkness of the temple.

5 Outer corridor

Long reliefs of the fight between Horus and Seth.

2 Court of Offerings

A wide colonnaded court where offerings were brought to Horus.

4 The sanctuary

A granite shrine and a replica of the sacred boat of Horus.

Good to know

- Horse-drawn carriages run from the town quay to the temple. Agree the price before boarding and avoid the hot midday hours.
- Avoid the midday hours; there is little shade outside.



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WhatsApp +20 100 050 6066

info@luxor-guide.com

Sources: Luxor Guide narration script — Edfu Temple; Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities ticket listings (2026). **Photo:** Steven C. Price, "Edfu-Relief", CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.