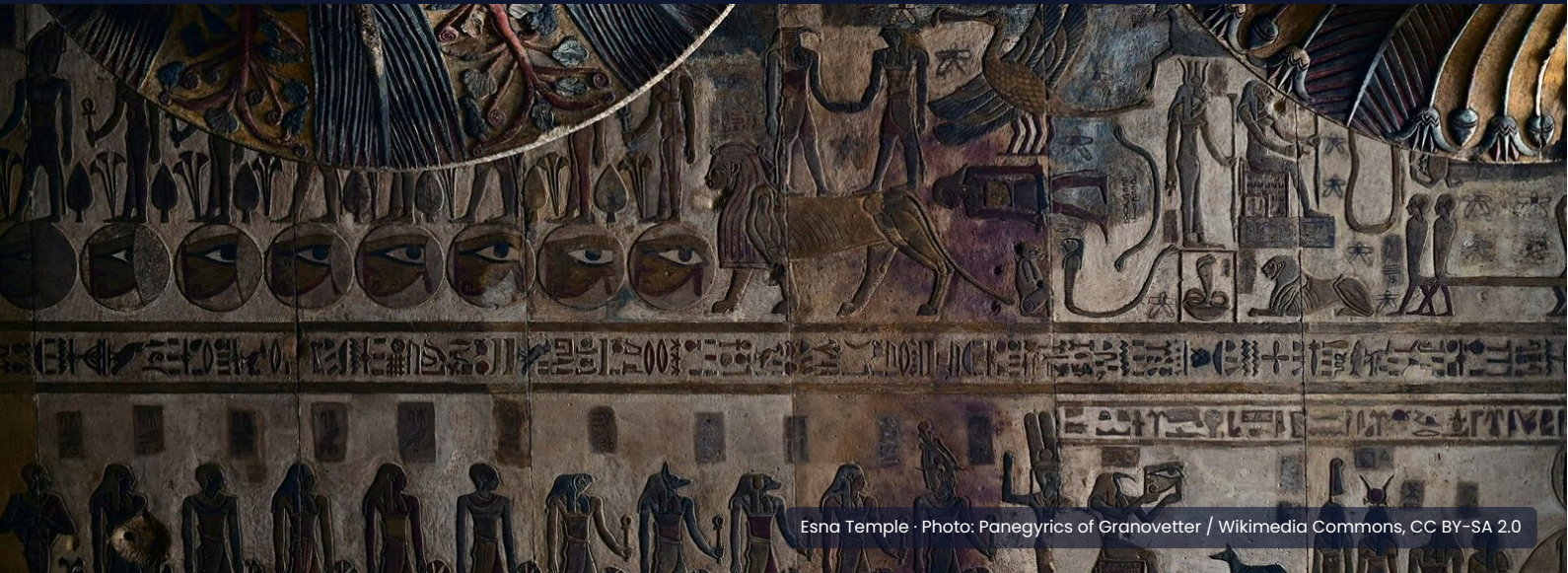




Esna Temple · Photo: Panegyrics of Granovetter / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

PTOLEMAIC & ROMAN PERIOD

Esna Temple

The temple of the god Khnum, sunk well below the modern town, with astronomical ceilings whose colours have been brought back to life.

Why it matters

Esna Temple was dedicated to Khnum, the ram-headed god shown shaping humans on a potter's wheel. Only the hypostyle hall, built in the Roman period, survives; the rest of the temple still lies beneath the modern town. The temple sits in a pit about nine metres below street level, and Esna is around an hour's drive south of Luxor.

≈9 m

below today's street level

24

columns in the hall

Khnum

the potter god of creation

≈1 h

drive south of Luxor

Plan your visit

Hours

Daily 07:00 – 17:00

Ticket

Foreign adult EGP 200
Student EGP 100 (valid ID)

Photos

Phone photography free

Time

30–45 minutes

Best time

As a stop on the way to Edfu

Where

Esna town centre, about 55 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

What to look for

The bigger picture

The walls and columns carry religious texts, including hymns to Khnum, and the columns bear the names of Roman emperors. Recent restoration revealed the original colours of the astronomical ceilings with their sky scenes and zodiac imagery, making it one of the most colourful temples in Egypt.

1 Down into the pit

Stairs lead down to the temple, buried for centuries under the town.

3 The columns

Each column ends in a different floral capital, covered in hymns to Khnum.

2 The facade

Roman emperors appear here as pharaohs, named in hieroglyphs.

4 The painted ceiling

Recently cleaned: zodiac signs and sky scenes in bright original colours.

Good to know

- A visit is short, around half an hour, so it fits well as a stop on the way to Edfu or Aswan. Look up to see the painted ceilings.
- Look up — the ceiling is the star of this temple.
- The walk from the parking passes through the old market.



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