



Temple of Hatshepsut · Photo: Diego Delso / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

18TH DYNASTY

Temple of Hatshepsut

A terraced temple carved into the mountainside

Why it matters

A uniquely designed mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahari, built for Queen Hatshepsut, one of the few women to rule Egypt as a full pharaoh. Designed by the architect Senenmut, its facade rises in three terraces that blend dramatically into the cliff face behind it.

After her death, her successor Thutmose III attempted to erase her memory by destroying many of her statues and inscriptions, possibly for political reasons tied to securing his own line of succession — yet much of the temple survived regardless. The temple also includes two side chapels dedicated to the goddess Hathor and the god Anubis, decorated with columns shaped like Hathor's cow-eared head.

3

terraces rising into the cliff

≈20

years Hatshepsut ruled as pharaoh

2

side chapels: Hathor and Anubis

1st

detailed record of a sea trade voyage

Plan your visit

Hours

Daily 06:00 – 17:00

TicketForeign adult EGP 440
Student EGP 220 (valid ID)**Extra**

Electric shuttle from the car park: EGP 20

Photos

Phone photography free

Time

1–1.5 hours

Best time

At opening, before the cliff reflects the heat

Where

West Bank, at Deir el-Bahari

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 the temple

The bigger picture

The temple's reliefs depict her famous trading expedition to the Land of Punt, which brought back vast quantities of incense trees, ivory, gold, and rare animal skins — the first detailed pictorial record of a maritime trading voyage in history. The reliefs also reinforce her legitimacy as pharaoh through scenes showing her being suckled by the goddess Hathor herself, and others recounting her claimed divine birth from the god Amun.

1 The great ramp

Walk up the central ramp and see how Senenmut's three terraces echo the cliff behind.

3 Birth Colonnade

Scenes of Hatshepsut's divine birth from the god Amun, to prove her right to rule.

5 Chapel of Anubis

Some of the best-preserved colours in the temple, with Anubis and Hatshepsut.

2 Punt Colonnade

The famous trade voyage: ships, incense trees, exotic animals and the Queen of Punt.

4 Chapel of Hathor

Columns crowned with Hathor's cow-eared face, and the queen nursed by the goddess.

6 Upper terrace

Statues of the queen as Osiris, and the sanctuary cut into the mountain.

Good to know

- Sunlight reflecting off the cliff makes it very intense here, so bring plenty of water and a hat.
- Look for chiselled-out figures: Thutmose III tried to erase her memory.
- Great view of the balloons if you visit just after a sunrise flight.



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WhatsApp +20 100 050 6066

info@luxor-guide.com

Sources: Luxor Guide narration script — Temple of Hatshepsut; Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities ticket listings (2026); UNESCO World Heritage List — Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (1979). **Photo:** Diego Delso, delso.photo, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.