



Luxor Temple · Photo: Vyacheslav Argenberg / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0

NEW KINGDOM

Luxor Temple

The temple of royal coronation and renewal

Why it matters

Originally built by Amenhotep III as a temple dedicated to the renewal of the king's divine power, with later additions by Tutankhamun and Horemheb, before Ramesses II added the massive entrance pylon, his colossal seated statues, and his own courtyard. During the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, part of the temple served as a Roman military camp, and a shrine to Alexander the Great — regarded as a divine successor to the pharaohs — was built inside one of its halls.

Later, part of the temple became a Coptic church, and the Abu al-Haggag mosque was built above it, still standing today — making the site a rare witness to continuous sacred use across four different religions. One of the two obelisks that once flanked the entrance was gifted to France in 1830 and now stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris.

2.7 km

Avenue of Sphinxes to
Karnak

1830

its twin obelisk went to Paris

4

faiths worshipped on this
spot

2021

the Avenue reopened to
visitors

Plan your visit

Hours

Daily 06:00 – 21:00
(evening hours can
vary)

Ticket

Foreign adult EGP 500
Student EGP 250 (valid
ID)

Photos

Phone photography free

Time

1–1.5 hours

Best time

Late afternoon into dusk,
when the lights come on

Where

East Bank, on the
Corniche in the town
centre

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 Luxor Temple

The bigger picture

Luxor Temple was not just a place of daily worship; it was where pharaohs were crowned and their divine right to rule renewed through the annual Opet Festival rituals. It connected to Karnak Temple via the famous Avenue of Sphinxes, stretching nearly three kilometers, which was fully reopened to the public in 2021 after decades of restoration — allowing today's visitors to walk the same route pharaonic processions once took thousands of years ago.

1 Avenue of Sphinxes

The processional road that once linked this temple with Karnak, lined with human-headed sphinxes.

3 Court of Ramesses II

Look up: the Abu al-Haggag Mosque sits on top of the old court, its door high above the ancient floor.

5 Sun Court of Amenhotep III

A forest of elegant columns. In 1989 a hidden cache of statues was found buried beneath this floor.

2 First Pylon & obelisk

Ramesses II's great gateway, his seated colossi and the obelisk whose twin now stands in Paris.

4 Colonnade of Amenhotep III

Fourteen giant papyrus columns. The walls show the Opet Festival procession, carved under Tutankhamun.

6 Roman chamber & Alexander's shrine

Roman paintings over pharaonic reliefs, and a shrine where Alexander the Great is shown as a pharaoh.

Good to know

- Visit at night if you can — the temple's evening lighting reveals the carvings and columns in a completely different way than daylight does, and set aside time to walk along the restored Avenue of Sphinxes if it's open during your visit.
- Look for the Abu al-Haggag Mosque above the court — still in use after more than 700 years.
- It is right in town — easy to reach on foot or by horse carriage from the Corniche.



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