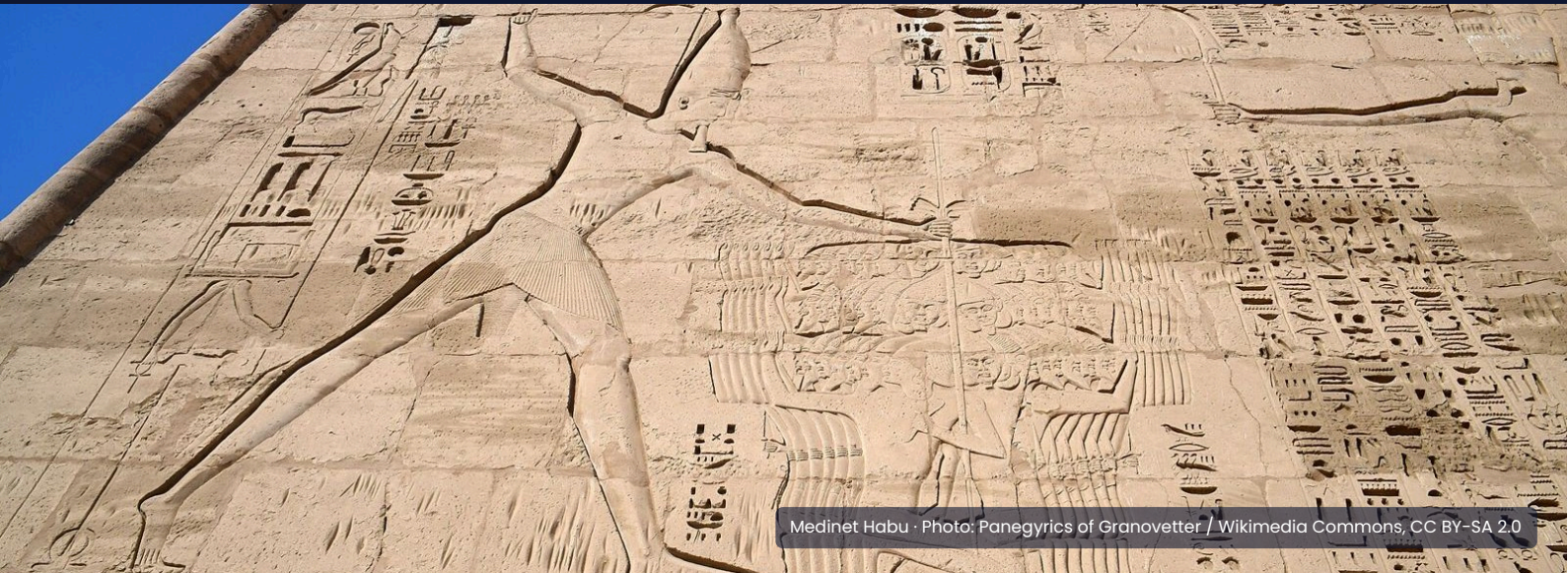




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20TH DYNASTY

Medinet Habu

Ramesses III's fortified mortuary temple

Why it matters

The mortuary temple of Ramesses III, and one of the best-preserved temples in all of Egypt, thanks to its thick walls and massive enclosure, which later saw it used as a fortress and fortified town during turbulent periods of Egyptian history — it even continued in use as a Coptic town known as 'Djeme' well into the medieval period.

The site also includes a smaller, older temple built during the reigns of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III, as well as the remains of a royal palace attached to the main temple, which included a 'Window of Appearance' from which the king would show himself to his people and reward senior officials with gold collars.

Ramesses III

built it as his mortuary temple

2

temples inside one great wall

Djeme

Coptic town that lived inside it

Colour

still visible on ceilings and reliefs

Plan your visit

Hours	Daily 06:00 – 17:00
Ticket	Foreign adult EGP 220 Student EGP 110 (valid ID)
Photos	Phone photography free
Time	1.5–2 hours
Best time	Afternoon — fewer groups and warm light
Where	West Bank, near the Valley of the Queens

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 Medinet Habu

The bigger picture

Its walls are covered with finely carved scenes documenting Ramesses III's land and sea battles against the Sea Peoples, invaders who threatened Egypt's stability — among the most important illustrated historical and military records from ancient Egypt.

1 Fortified gate

A gate built like a Syrian fortress tower — rare in Egypt.

3 First court & palace

Find the 'Window of Appearance' where the king rewarded officials with gold.

5 Sea Peoples reliefs

On the outer north wall: land and sea battles against the invaders.

2 First pylon

Ramesses III striking his enemies before the god Amun.

4 Second court

Columns and ceilings that still keep much of their original colour.

6 Small temple

An older temple from the time of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III.

Good to know

- Despite its importance, it's less crowded than other sites, making it a good spot to slow down, take photos, and study the details.
- Quieter than other sites — take your time with the details.
- Pairs well with the Valley of the Queens next door.



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Sources: Luxor Guide narration script — Medinet Habu; Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities ticket listings (2026); UNESCO World Heritage List — Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (1979). **Photo:** Panegyrics of Granovetter, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.