



Ramesseum · Photo: Marc Ryckaert / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

19TH DYNASTY

Ramesseum

Ramesses II's "House of a Million Years"

Why it matters

The mortuary temple of Ramesses II, once known as the 'House of a Million Years,' built with the goal of immortalizing the pharaoh's name forever.

It holds the remains of one of the largest royal statues in Egypt — a colossus of Ramesses II that once weighed over a thousand tons before being toppled by earthquakes and time; the broken head of a similar statue was taken to the British Museum in London, where it is known as the 'Younger Memnon.' The site also included a library the ancient Egyptians called the 'House of Life,' as well as massive vaulted granaries whose remains are still clearly visible today. Joint French-Egyptian archaeological missions continue to work at the site, regularly uncovering new details about its original layout.

1,000 t+

weight of the fallen
colossus

1818

Shelley's poem
"Ozymandias"

Vaults

mud-brick granaries still
standing

'House of Life'

its temple library

Plan your visit

Hours	Daily 06:00 – 17:00
Ticket	Foreign adult EGP 220 Student EGP 110 (valid ID)
Photos	Phone photography free
Time	About 1 hour
Best time	Late afternoon, soft light and few visitors
Where	West Bank, near the Colossi of Memnon

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 Ramesseum

The bigger picture

The fallen statue inspired the English poet Percy Shelley to write his famous poem 'Ozymandias,' a meditation on how even the greatest kings are humbled by time — one of the most well-known Western literary works about ancient Egypt.

1 Pylon & battle scenes

Ramesses II tells his version of the Battle of Kadesh.

3 Second court

Pillars with statues of the king as Osiris.

5 Granaries

Huge mud-brick vaults behind the temple — still standing after 3,000 years.

2 The fallen colossus

Pieces of a giant statue of Ramesses II — the 'Ozymandias' of Shelley's poem.

4 Hypostyle hall

A forest of columns, with scenes of the king before the gods.

Good to know

- Smaller and less crowded than other temples, it pairs easily with a quick visit to the nearby Colossi of Memnon.
- Combine with the Colossi of Memnon, a few minutes away.
- Rarely crowded — great for photos.



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Sources: Luxor Guide narration script — Ramesseum; Egyptian Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities ticket listings (2026); UNESCO World Heritage List — Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (1979). **Photo:** Marc Ryckaert (MJJR), CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.