

Geographic Information

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Qena

Qena is one of the South Upper Egypt region's governorates that include Luxor, the Red Sea, Qena, Suhag, and Aswan. Qena is an agricultural and also industrial governorate. It ranks first in production of hibiscus, sesame, bananas, tomatoes and sugarcane.



Qena

It is most famous for its proximity to the ruins of Dendara. Along with that, the governorate has Islamic shrines like as the mosques of Seedy Abdel Rehem el-Qenae, and the omari mosque in Qoos, and also as Coptic monasteries in Naqada markaz.

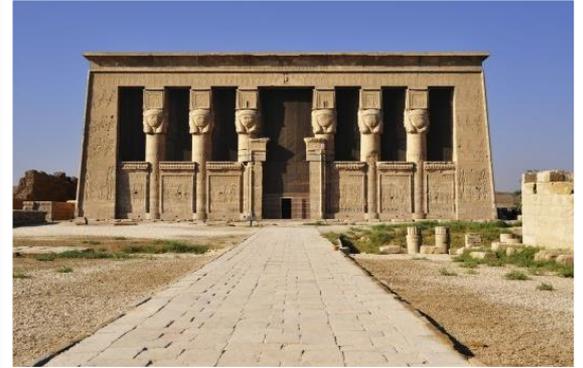
It owes its modern prosperity to the opening of the Wadi Qena towards the Red Sea, which is a major traffic route between Upper Egypt and the Red Sea.



Temple of Dendara

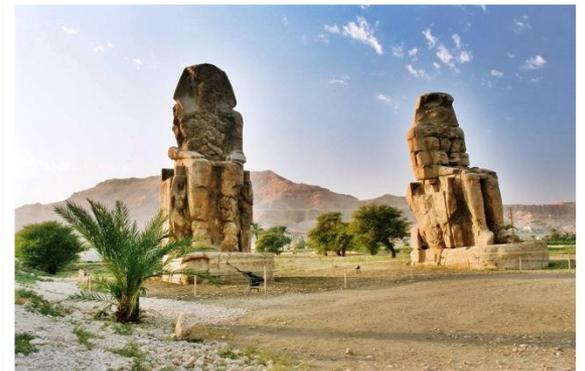
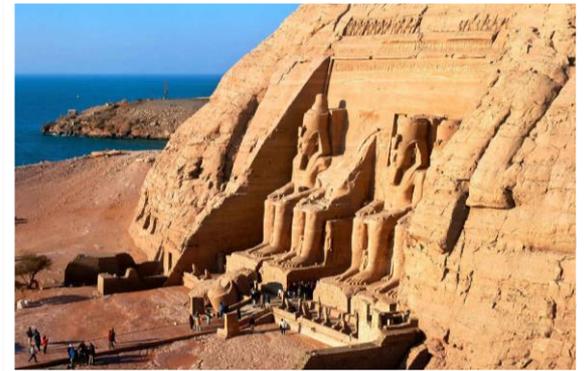
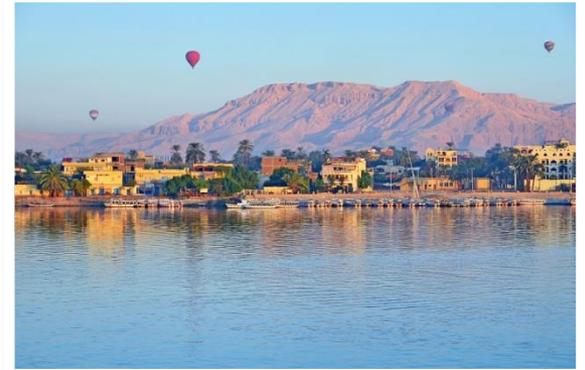
It is one of the best-preserved temple complexes in Egypt.

The entire complex covers some 40,000 square meters and is surrounded by a hefty mud brick enclosed wall. Dendera was a site for chapels or shrines from the beginning of history of ancient Egypt. It seems that pharaoh Pepi I (ca. 2250 BC) built on this site and evidence exists of a temple in the eighteenth dynasty (ca 1500 BC).



Luxor

The number and preservation of the monuments in the Luxor area are unparalleled anywhere else in the world. Actually, what most people think of as Luxor is really three different areas, consisting of the city of Luxor on the east side of the Nile, the town of Karnak just north of Luxor, and Thebes, which the ancient Egyptians called Waset, which is on the west side of the Nile across from Luxor.



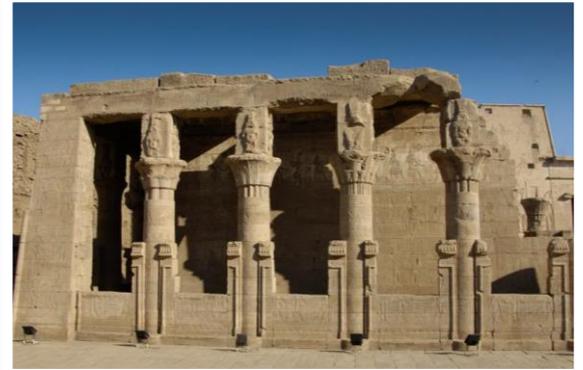
Luxor

In ancient times, the city was known as home to the god Amun, a deity who became associated with Egyptian royalty. In turn, during Egypt's "New Kingdom" period between roughly 1550-1050 B.C., most of Egypt's rulers chose to be buried close to the city in the nearby Valley of the Kings.



Temple of Esna

The Temple is dedicated to the ram headed God Khnum, the God of creation. Tuthmosis III laid the foundations of the Temple in the 18th Dynasty, but Ptolemaic and Roman Emperors, from 40-250 A.D, completed it, and their names are recorded all over the Temple walls.



Temple of Kom Ombo

The temple at Kom Ombo is about 30 miles (48 km) north of Aswan and was built during the Graeco-Roman period (332 BC AD 395). There was an earlier structure from the 18th dynasty but little remains.

The temple is unique because it is in fact a double temple, dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. The layout combines two temples in one with each side having its own gateways and chapels.



Aswan

Aswan's name is derived from the ancient Egyptian word "Swan", which means "the market"! This is because it was located on the main trade route between Egypt and the southern lands; with gold, slaves and ivory passing into Egypt. It was also the major source of granite, sandstone and quartzite used in the construction of the various monuments throughout Egypt.



Abu Simbel temples

The Temples of Abu Simbel are amongst the most interesting Pharaonic Temples. Located close to the southern border with the Sudan, it is 280 km south of Aswan and consists of two, rock-cut Temples, which both date back to the reign of King Ramses II (1290-1223 BC). Unfortunately these unique Temples suffered from the raising water of Lake Nasser while the High Dam was being built.

