Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis

Area: 74km²

Inscribed: 1979

Criteria: (i) a creative masterpiece (iii) cultural tradition (vi) association with belief system

Thebes, the city of the god Amon, was the capital of Egypt during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms. With the temples and palaces at Karnak and Luxor, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, Thebes is a striking testimony to Egyptian civilization at its height.

The magnificent monuments of Ancient Thebes stand proudly near the banks of the Nile around the modern city of Luxor in Upper Egypt, about 500 km south of Cairo. They include the Temples of Luxor and Karnak within the city, and the Colossi of Memnon, the temples of Deir al-Bahri and Medinat Habu and the concealed tombs of the Valleys of the Kings and Queens on the west bank. Today Thebes has some of the finest monuments, and most precious relics of ancient Egypt, including the extraordinary collections of art and artefacts in the tombs of the kings and queens, notably that of the young pharaoh Tutankhamun.
Memphis and the pyramids - Egypt
Website Category: Ancient Civilisations of the Lower Nile
Area: 164km²
Inscribed: 1979
Criteria: (i) a creative masterpiece (iii) cultural tradition (vi) association with belief system

Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur

The capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt has some extraordinary funerary monuments, including rock tombs, ornate mastabas, temples and pyramids. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Nubian Monuments – Egypt
Website Category: Ancient Civilisations of the Lower Nile
Area: 4km²
Inscribed: 1979
Criteria: (i) a creative masterpiece (iii) cultural tradition (vi) association with belief system

Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae

This outstanding archaeological area contains such magnificent monuments as the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and the Sanctuary of Isis at Philae, which were saved from the rising waters of the Nile thanks to the International Campaign launched by UNESCO, in 1960 to 1980.

Historic Cairo
Website Category: Egypt after the Pharaohs
Area: 5.2 km²
Inscribed: 1979
Criteria: (i) a creative masterpiece (v) interaction with the environment (vi) association with belief system

Tucked away amid the modern urban area of Cairo lies one of the world’s oldest Islamic cities, with its famous mosques, madrasas, hammams and fountains. Founded in the 10th century, it became the new centre of the Islamic world, reaching its golden age in the 14th century.

The world heritage property of Historic Cairo comprises five separate areas of the old city, tucked away in the heart of the sprawling modern metropolis. Established in the 10th century, Historic Cairo is one of the world’s oldest Islamic cities and became the centre of the Islamic world. The old city is packed with classified monuments – about 800 in all - spanning a period of 1300 years from the 7th century. These include ancient mosques, madrasas, hammams and fountains, the city’s huge enclosure walls and the mighty Citadel with its collection of mosques and palaces.

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Saint Catherine Area - Egypt

Website Category: Egypt after the Pharaohs

Area: 601 km²

Inscribed: 2002

Criteria: (i) a creative masterpiece (iii) cultural tradition (iv) icon of an era (vi) association with belief system

The Orthodox Monastery of St Catherine stands at the foot of Mount Horeb where, the Old Testament records, Moses received the Tablets of the Law. The mountain is known and revered by Muslims as Jebel Musa. The entire area is sacred to three world religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The Monastery, founded in the 6th century, is the oldest Christian monastery still in use for its initial function. Its walls and buildings of great significance to studies of Byzantine architecture and the Monastery houses outstanding collections of early Christian manuscripts and icons. The rugged mountainous landscape, containing numerous archaeological and religious sites and monuments, forms a perfect backdrop to the Monastery.

Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley)

Website Category: Earth’s Crust

Area: (unknown) Inscribed: 2005

Criteria: (viii) Earth’s history

Wadi Al-Hitan, Whale Valley, in the Western Desert of Egypt, contains invaluable fossil remains of the earliest, and now extinct, suborder of whales, Archaeoceti. These fossils represent one of the major stories of evolution: the emergence of the whale as an ocean-going mammal from a previous life as a land-based animal. This is the most important site in the world for the demonstration of this stage of evolution. It portrays vividly the form and life of these whales during their transition. The number, concentration and quality of such fossils here is unique, as is their accessibility and setting in an attractive and protected landscape. The fossils of Al-Hitan show the youngest archaeocetes, in the last stages of losing their hind limbs. Other fossil material in the site makes it possible to reconstruct the surrounding environmental and ecological conditions of the time.

Saint Catherine Area - Egypt

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Saint Catherine Area - Egypt

Wintry landscape with snow-covered trees and a lake in the background. Text about the Saint Catherine Area in Egypt, including its classification as an Orthodox Christian monastery and its significance as a holy site for three world religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.