

Grand Egyptian Museum opens in Cairo

3rd November 2025



A stunning new museum has opened in Egypt's capital city, Cairo. The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) held an inauguration ceremony on Saturday attended by a host of dignitaries including kings and heads of state. Egypt's

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said GEM "is set to become an international cultural and scientific hub, contributing to enhancing tourism promotion in Egypt". Authorities hailed the museum, which cost more than \$1.2 billion to build, as "Egypt's gift to the world". A local tour guide hopes it will "usher in a new golden age of Egyptology". The location of GEM is also likely to attract visitors as it is situated in Giza and offers panoramic vistas of the Sphinx and the Pyramids.

The museum has been billed as the world's largest archaeological site dedicated to an ancient civilisation. It houses over 50,000 exhibits that have been relocated from the Egyptian Museum in central Cairo and from sites across Egypt. Dominating the entrance is a towering 3,200-year-old, 11-metre-tall granite statue of Ramesses the Great, one of Egypt's most celebrated pharaohs. GEM also houses the entire Tutankhamun collection in one place for the first time since 1922, when it was unearthed in the southern city of Luxor. Officials hope GEM will encourage the return of Egyptian antiquities held in other countries, especially the Rosetta Stone, which is currently on display at the British Museum.

Sources: arabnews.com / the guardian.com / phys.org

Writing

The Grand Egyptian Museum is the best museum in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

museum / capital city / Cairo / dignitaries / scientific hub / tourism / the Pyramids / archaeological / ancient / civilisation / entrance / statue / pharaoh / antiquities

True / False

- 1) A new museum in Cairo has a special exhibition on gems. T / F
- 2) Foreign dignitaries hosted the inauguration ceremony. T / F
- 3) The world gave many exhibits to the museum as a gift. T / F
- 4) The new museum is within sight of the Sphinx. T / F
- 5) The museum has more than half a million exhibits. T / F
- 6) There is a 3,200-year-old, 11-metre-tall statue on the museum's roof. T / F
- 7) The whole Tutankhamun collection is housed in the museum. T / F
- 8) An Egyptian artefact called the Rosetta Stone is in the British Museum. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. stunning | a. discovered |
| 2. inauguration | b. praised |
| 3. hub | c. culture |
| 4. hailed | d. centre |
| 5. vistas | e. remarkable |
| 6. billed | f. acclaimed |
| 7. civilisation | g. launch |
| 8. celebrated | h. treasures |
| 9. unearthed | i. views |
| 10. antiquities | j. described |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How important are museums?
- c) What do you know about ancient Egyptian history?
- d) What were your country's ancient civilisations like?
- e) What do you know about Tutankhamun?
- f) Are museums or art galleries best?
- g) Should all countries return Egyptian antiquities to Egypt?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the museum's boss?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. A stunning | a. largest archaeological site |
| 2. an inauguration | b. dignitaries including kings |
| 3. attended by a host of | c. at the British Museum |
| 4. an international cultural | d. vistas of the Sphinx |
| 5. panoramic | e. pharaohs |
| 6. billed as the world's | f. new museum has opened |
| 7. It houses | g. in the southern city of Luxor |
| 8. one of Egypt's most celebrated | h. over 50,000 exhibits |
| 9. it was unearthed | i. ceremony |
| 10. currently on display | j. and scientific hub |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of museums?
- What's the best museum in your country?
- How important are archaeological sites in Egypt?
- Would you like to go to the Grand Egyptian Museum?
- Are online or real museums best?
- What is your country's gift to the world?
- What do you think of Egyptology?
- How cool is an area with the museum, Sphinx and Pyramids?

Spelling

- held an tiuunaragoni ceremony
- attended by a host of ijasndirget
- nehaincgn tourism
- rishtauoiet hailed the museum
- uresh in a new golden age
- panoramic istsav of the Sphinx
- the world's largest ieochoacgaarl site
- an neincat civilisation
- terngia statue
- one of Egypt's most celebrated oshaprrha
- it was eethrndua in the southern city
- encourage the return of Egyptian tiinsatuqie

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. g	3. d	4. b	5. i
6. j	7. c	8. f	9. a	10. h

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What was held at the museum on Saturday?
2.	What kind of dignitaries were at the museum on Saturday?
3.	What is the museum set to promote?
4.	What did authorities hail the museum as being?
5.	What did a tour guide say the museum would usher in?
6.	How many items will be on display in the museum?
7.	What is the age of a statue in the museum's entrance?
8.	When was the contents of Tutankhamun's tomb discovered?
9.	What does Egypt hope the museum will prompt the return of?
10.	Where is the Rosetta Stone on display at the moment?

Speaking – Exhibitions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best museum exhibitions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Egyptian archaeology | • Climate change |
| • Middle Eastern cuisine | • The human brain |
| • History of manga | • World monarchies |
| • Future technology | • Oxygen |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 F	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.