

Billion dollar museum

The institution that could change history, Egypt's Giza Mega Museum is considered another of the world's wonders itself – preparing to become the world's largest facility devoted to a single civilisation

Egypt's long-awaited Giza Mega Museum, officially known as the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), is one of the largest and most ambitious cultural projects of the 21st century. This major project has been in development for decades, demonstrating Egypt's strong commitment to preserving its ancient heritage. With a cost of around a billion dollars, GEM is set to become a landmark, offering a unique and unforgettable experience for visitors from around the globe. The museum will celebrate Egypt's rich history

and is sure to attract people keen to learn about one of the world's most fascinating civilisations.

CONSTRUCTION AND OPENING

The Grand Egyptian Museum has been in the making for nearly two decades, with its construction beginning in 2002. Situated just two kilometres from the iconic Pyramids of Giza, the museum's location offers a breathtaking backdrop that blends ancient and modern wonders.

Designed by the Irish architectural firm Heneghan Peng, GEM's structure is a wonder in

itself. The building covers over 480,000 square metres, making it one of the largest museums in the world. Its design features a translucent stone that reflects the golden hues of the surrounding desert, creating a visually stunning effect.

The museum's opening has been delayed several times, mainly due to the project's complexity and the challenges faced in Egypt during the early

Below: The Grand Egyptian Museum has taken almost 20 years to create

2010s. However, the opening date is now set for late 2024, and excitement is growing. Upon completion, GEM is expected to host over five million visitors annually, solidifying Egypt's status as a top cultural and tourism destination.

WHAT'S TO SEE?

The Grand Egyptian Museum will house the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities in the world, with over 50,000 artefacts. Among its most notable treasures is the complete collection of Tutankhamun's relics.



This will be the first time that all of the young pharaoh's artefacts are displayed together since their discovery in 1922.

In addition to Tutankhamun's treasures, the museum will showcase a wide array of artefacts from various periods of ancient Egyptian history, spanning over 7,000 years. Visitors can expect to see colossal statues, such as the 83-ton statue of Ramses II, which greets visitors in the museum's grand atrium.

The museum is also set to include advanced technology to enhance the visitor experience. Interactive displays, virtual reality experiences, and state-of-the-art exhibition spaces will bring ancient Egypt to life in ways never before possible. The museum's design also incorporates vast conservation labs, which will play a crucial role in the preservation of Egypt's priceless artefacts for future generations.

The museum will feature temporary exhibition spaces, a children's museum, and extensive educational facilities.

This combination of permanent and rotating exhibitions will make sure that there will always be something new for visitors to discover.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Grand Egyptian Museum's proximity to the Pyramids of Giza makes it easily accessible from various parts of Cairo. For international visitors, the Cairo International Airport is the closest major airport, located

about 50 kilometres away from the museum. From the airport, visitors can reach GEM by taxi, private car, or organised tour.

Public transportation options include buses and taxis, although many visitors may find it convenient to book guided tours that include transportation to and from the museum. Additionally, plans include the construction of a new metro line that will connect central Cairo to the museum, further improving accessibility.



Above and below: Amazing Mummies and monuments inside the incredible Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM); the largest archaeological museum in the world – soon set for completion near the Giza pyramid complex on the outskirts of Cairo

The Grand Egyptian Museum will be more than just a museum, it is set to be a testament to Egypt's long legacy and a symbol of the country's commitment to preserving its ancient heritage. Set against the backdrop of the Pyramids, this monumental institution will offer visitors a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in the wonders of ancient Egypt.

Whether you're a dedicated history enthusiast, a scholar or simply a curious traveller, a visit to GEM is sure to be an unforgettable experience, providing a deeper understanding of one of the world's oldest and most fascinating civilisations. grandegyptianmuseum.org