

FAYOUM



Fayoum



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A constant fact is whatever you do and wherever you go , you will be surrounded by warm friendly smiles. Fayoum is a natural depression in the western desert of Egypt about 96 k.m south west of Cairo . It enjoys unique natural characteristics and a variety of environment (rural , desert and coastal). Fayoum witnessed many eras of the Egyptian history . So it is extremely rich in archeological and tourist sites .It is a well representation of Egypt in terms of agriculture, tourism and environment .Its water comes from the River Nile via Bahr -Yossuf which leaves the Ibrahimeya canal at Assiut . The oasis is famous due to its all year round pleasant climate and beautiful scenery Fayoum occupies a total area of 6,068,70 k.m A population of over 2 million ,inhabit 165 villages affiliated to six administrative districts : (Fayoum - Sinuris -Tamia - Itsa - Ibshawai and -Youssef el _Seddik) It can be reached by bus or car in 1 hour from Cairo .The region contains many sites of interest .We wish you a very pleasant stay in Fayoum .



HISTORY OF FAYOUM



Throughout its long history, Fayoum had different names . The pharaohs called it Tash or the land of the lake . Once most of the land of Fayoum was reclaimed, during the Middle Kingdom , it was known as Shidt (meaning the reclaimed). When Herodotus ,the great Greek historian, visited Fayoum he called its lake {Moeris } which was derived from the old Egyptian word MR. WR . (i.e . The great sea) For its fertility and rich yield of wheat , the ptolamic kings considered it as the grainery of Egypt , and potlamy the second (philidiphus) called it Arsinoi in the honor of his beloved wife . The Romans paid much attention to Fayoum where they exported wheat to Rome via Alexandria and called it crocodopolis (the city of the crocodile) .The definite article (Al) was added to the Coptic word :pa -youm ; by the Arabs in seventh century to be Al Fayoum

NATURAL SITES

Lake Qaroun is 22 k.m. to the north of Fayoum city and occupies an area of 55000 acres . It is the Remaining part of the ancient lake Moeris and is an excellent place for fishing and recreation .



AL SILIYIN One of the most important tourist sites in the province . A park consists basically of natural hollow with twisting stream and luxuriant vegetation .One of the main attractions of Siliyin is the traditional water mill



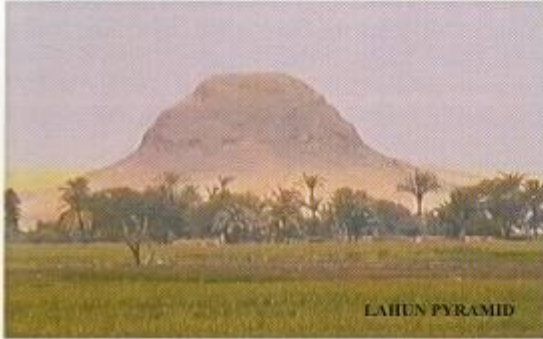
THE WATERWHEELS The famous waterwheels of Fayoum are said to be Running since the Ptolemic era. They are unique and peculiar to the place. As the land of Fayoum is gradient and needs a special irrigation system ,the old Fayoumi farmer developed his own waterwheel.Today it is the symbol of Fayoum Governorate and appears on the local flag .

WADI AL - RAYYAN

The Fayoum depression contains most of the richest fossil deposits in Egypt .The remains of nine species of primate , including the Darwin ape , have been found here .Other fossils include reptiles , land and sea mammals , crocodiles , tortoises , and petrified wood . The fossil richness of such areas as Whale Valley and Gebel Qatrani is evident even to non-experts and inspires awe in visitors .Today , both Wadi Rayyan and the area around Qarun Lake have been declared protected areas . A visit to the Center of Wadi Rayyan will give you the option to watch motion pictures of the protected area that contain small , but significant selection of fossils . Information and interpretation on the areas ,rich heritage can be obtained there .



PHARAONIC SITES



THE PYRAMID OF LAHUN

It lies about 17 k. m. to the south east of Fayoum . It was built by Senusert II of the XII Dynasty .The mud brick Pyramid is on a natural mass limestone rock covered with mud - bricks . It had once an outer limestone casing which is now entirely gone .

THE OBELISK 'MISALLAT ABGIG

It was moved out from its former site in the village of Abgig .The 13 m. obelisk is made of red granite and stands now at the entrance of Fayoum city .It was built in the honour of Senusert I of the XII Dynasty.

KIMAN FA'RIS

It is the ruins of the old capital of the Fayoum from the old kingdom to the Roman era..It was the cult center of the crocodile god {Sobek } .

HAWARA PYRAMID

About 9 k.m. to the south east of Fayoum city , lies Hawara pyramid. It was built by King Amenemhat III of the xlii Dynasty. It looks from a far as a hill covered with mud bricks . In the same area of the pyramid are the ruins of the temple Labyrinth;The mortuary temple of king Amenemhat III .The tomb of princess Nefruptah , the king's daughter, is only 2 k.m from the pyramid .

SEILA PYRAMID

The lime stone pyramid of Seila dating from the 3 rd Dynasty of the old kingdom. It has no burial chamber and is said to be built by king Senefru

THE PEDESTALS OF BIAHMU

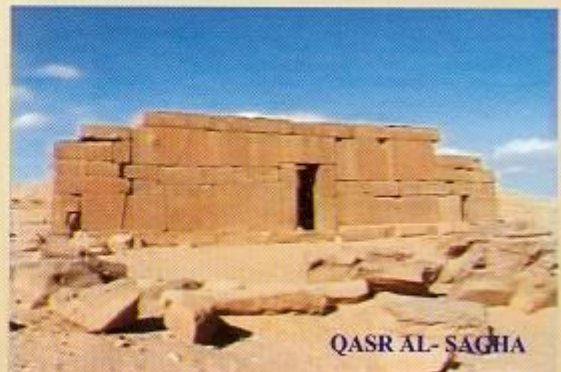
In the village of Biahmu , 7 k.m. to the north of Fayoum city , stand two giant stone pedestals that once supported the colossi of Amenemhat III

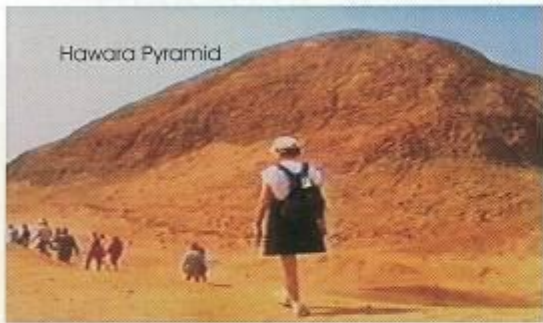
MADINAT MADI

It lies in the desert about 35 k.m. southwest of Fayoum. The stone temple of Madinat Madi was built by Amenemhat III and Amenemhat IV (XII Dynasty) and dedicated to Renenutet ,the Serpent goddess in conjunction with Sobek the crocodile god . There is an avenue of sphinxes and lions . Back to back with the main temple is a Ptolemaic addition , with an altar , some worn Greek inscriptions and a splendid relief of Sobek.

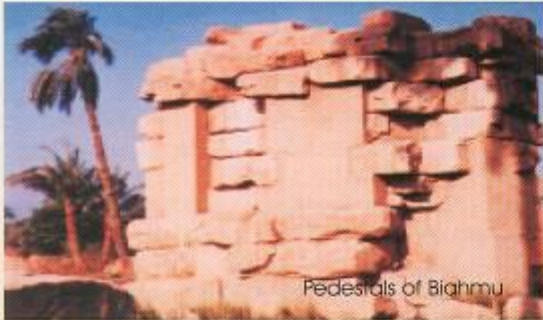
QASR AL-SAGHA

About 45 k.m. from Kom Oshim on the northern Side of lake Qaroun is a small temple that dates from the Middle Kingdom . The temple contains only one corridor with seven large recesses and few side apartments .

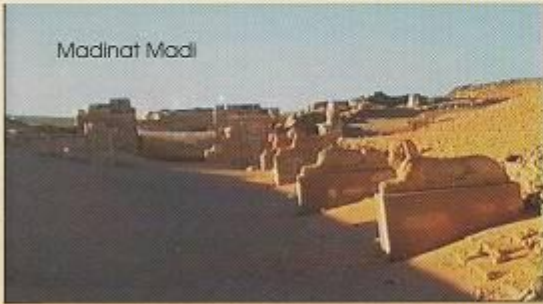




Hawara Pyramid



Pedestals of Biahmu



Madinat Madf



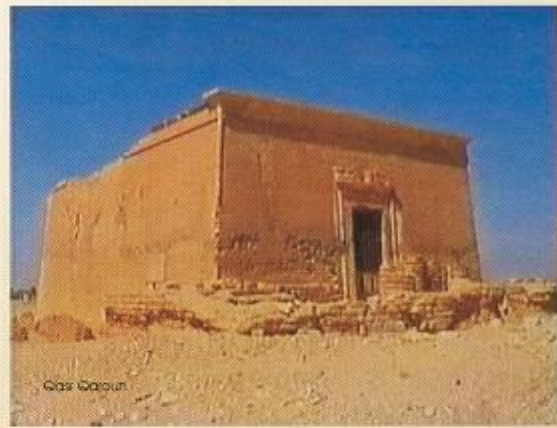
Karziy City



Um Al-Suqat



Um Al-At



Gazr Gazun



Dimah Al-siba

GREEK AND ROMAN SITES

KARANIS CITY

Karanis is about 35 k.m. from Fayoum city . The site contains a number of monuments , dating From the Roman , Coptic , and early Islamic eras . The city also contains a Roman bath and two temples dedicated to the god { Sobek } . A museum has been recently built to exhibit the large number of artifacts discovered on the site .

UM AL-ATL :

Um al-atl is the modern name for the ruins of the Ptolemaic village of Bacchias on the Northeastern edge of the Fayoum basin .It is 8 k.m. east town of Karanis (Kom-oshim) . It has a temple built entirely of mud brick

UMAL-BURIGAT :

Um al-burigat ` is the ruined town and temple of Tebtunis about 30 k.m. from Fayoum city on the southern edge of the province .The temple is not well preserved and

has the remaining parts of its original walls . As usual , it was dedicated to the crocodile god { Sobek } .

DIMEH AL-SIBA`

One of the most interesting old sites of Fayoum is the Ptolemaic city of Dimeh al- Siba.It is about 57k.m . From Kom - Oshim . The old city has the remains of a huge enclosur wall of mud bricks and the center is the ruined temple of Soknopaios, a form of Sobek and Isis.

THE TEMPLE OF QASR QAROUN

About 55 k. m . North west of Fayoum city lies the well-preserved limestone ptolamic temple and remains of the Graeco- Roman city of Dinysios .There is a winged sun disk decorating the entrance portal . It is remarkable for the absence of inscriptions

COPTIC SITES

AL AZAB MONASTERY

An old monastery From the thirteenth century.It lies in Al Azab village , 8 k.m. from Fayoum city. The monastery contains several old churches , and an impressive collection of icons .



AL NAKLOUN MONASTERY

An old monastery from the fifth century . It lies in the desert, south - west of Fayoum city . Behind it there are several caves , that were once inhabited by early Christian monks , in addition to two old chapels .

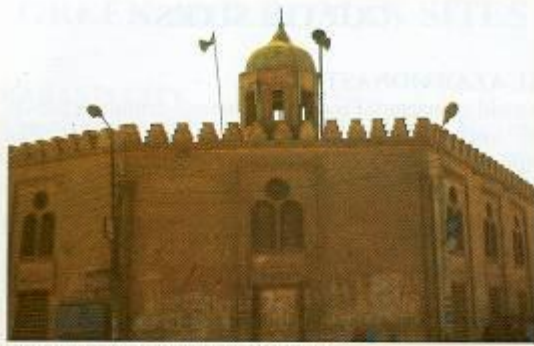
ISLAMIC SITES



AL - QANTARA Likes any other Egyptian town , Fayoum has its Suq , the traditional old - style trading area where all types of goods , produce and crafts are bargained and haggled over in the crowded narrow streets .This Area in Fayoum is known as al - Qantara .

AL LAHUN (BRIDGE)

It is an old bridge built by Mamluki Sultan Baybars I. It is about 19 k.m. from Fayoum city in Al-Lahun village , it was built from hard rock to diminish the pass of water and orgnize its entrance to Al Fayoum.

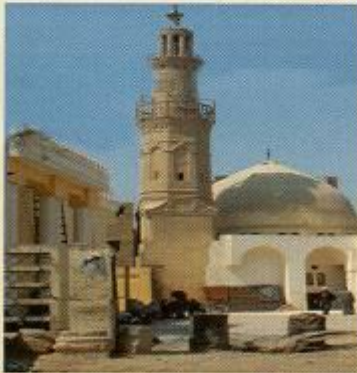


THE MOSQUE OF QAITBAY

It was built on the south bank of Bahr Yussif , in the honour of Qaitbay's wife { khund Aslbay } .The main door is decorated with carved blocks of Quran texts and the large minaret is an evidence on the excellent Islamic art . The most interesting part of the mosque is its minbar which is made of carved wood , inlaid with ivory

THE HAGING MOSQUE

It is found up a small side street to the north of Bahr Yu'su'f . It was built by prince Soliman , Fayoum Governor in the Memluki time (996 A.H) .



THE MOSQUE OF ALI EL - RUBI

Near to the Mosque of Qaitbay is the Mosque of Ali El - Rubi .The mosque still retains a mud -brick dome. It is said to be built by Memluki sultan Barqouk (785 A.H) in the paious of Sheikh {Ali El- Rubi } .

HANDICRAFTS

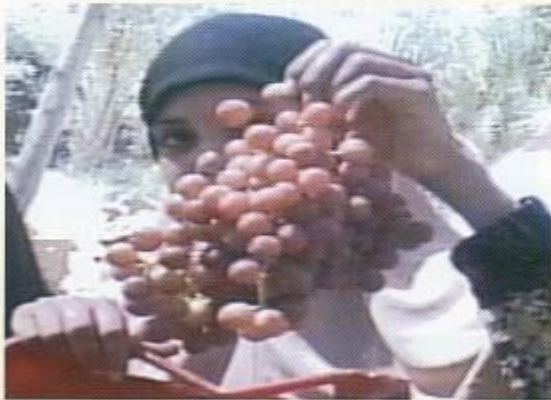
Being the most populated and fertile oasis in the western desert ,Fayoum has a thriving handicraft industry ,that reflects the ecological diversity of the region .

Baskets are mostly made of palm fronds in the village of El-Aalam and Agamiyin .A good collection of baskets are still being produced and sold . .

Pottery The picturesque village of Nazla produces most of the pottery in Fayoum . Many years ago in Tunis village a lady from Switzerland established a training center on pottery .Fine items of painted Pottery and clay are still being produced and sold .

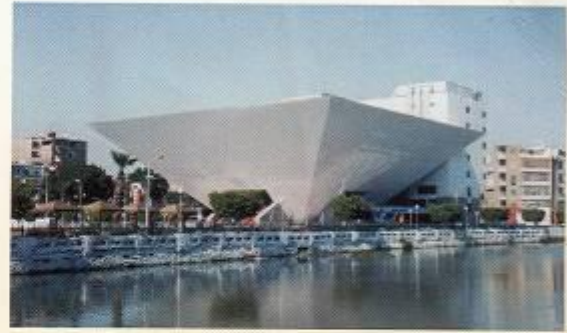


AGRICULTURE , FISHING AND INDUSTRY



Farming is the main occupation in Fayoum .There is plenty of water to allow the fertile land to be irrigated.The yield in the Fayoum is abundant there is no subsistence farming here . And the variety of crops is probably the largest in Egypt . The orchards , found mainly in the western part of the depression are among the finest in the country . Fayoum is well known for its domestic poultry whose stains are the best in Egypt.

Thanks to lake Qaroun and the large water areas , fishing is a major occupation . There are cotton mill , canning plants , a cocacola factory and the hydroelectric station . The industrialized zone in Kom-Oshim (30 k.m. from Fayoum city) which has been developed recently to promote small scale , modern industries is a landmark of development and investment in Fayoum Governorate



Want to know more? Please contact:

Fayoum Tourist Authority

Tel: (084) 342 313 -Fax: (084) 337 304

Lake Qarun and Wadi Rayan Protected Area:

Tel: (084) 830 535 Fayoum Antiquity Inspectorate Tel: (084) 337 339 Fayoum; Tourist Police Tel (084) 347 298 Fayoum

Tourist Information Centers

- Qaroun Square : 084 342586
- Syillin center : 084550549
- Lake Qarun Center 084572007

E mail: F_tourism73@hotmail.com

Hotels in Fayoum

Auberge du Lac. Lake Qarun. Tel: (084) 572 001

Panorama Shakshouk. Lake Qarun. Tel: (084) 830 314

Waha Village. Lake Qarun. Tel: (084) 830 666

Queen Hotel. Tel: (084) 346 819

Honeyday Hotel. Fayoum City. Tel: (084) 341 205

Montaza. Fayoum City. Tel: (084) 348 662

Palace Hotel. Fayoum City. Tel: (084) 311 222

Guesthouse of the Tourism Faculty.,

Tel: (084) Youth Hostel .Tel 310005