

# The Valley of the Golden Mummies

#### treasures underneath the sand

One of the greatest discoveries made by Egypt's legendary archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass has to be The Valley of the Golden Mummies, yet it is a site that is still closed to the world. When the discovery was made near the oasis of Bahariya, it quickly became apparent that it was an even more important discovery than that of King Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The cemetery of the Golden Mummies, which is thought to cover an area of approximately 2.3 square miles, has been estimated to contain more than 10,000 mummies, many of them completely covered with gold. Already during the first season of excavations a total of 108 mummies were found. "When the first tomb was opened, the brilliance of gold shone in the sunlight among the piles of sand", said Dr. Hawass.

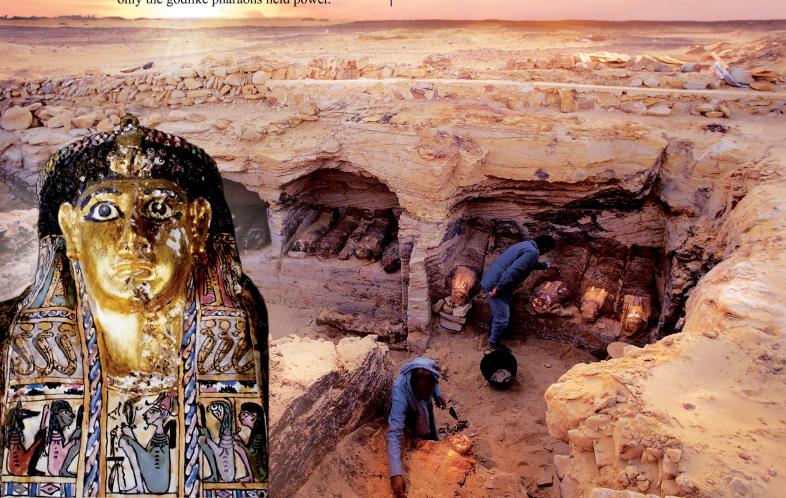
This discovery provides archaeologists with information on the life of the Egyptians in the Greco-Roman era and an insight that not only the godlike pharaohs held power.

The Valley of the Golden Mummies teaches us just how influential the rich merchants and nobles of Bahariya were at that time. The Valley with its amazing finds has never been open to visitors and it will be specially opened next spring for the very first time to an exclusive group of *Archaeological Paths'* guests led by Dr. Hawass.



**Dr. Zahi Hawass sums it up this way:** "When people ask me which of my discoveries has meant the most to me personally, I often think first of the Valley of the Golden

Mummies at Bahariya Oasis. Introducing this amazing site to the world propelled me into an international spotlight. I feel privileged to have been a part of this story, which is my own personal history as well as the history of Egyptian archaeology."



## **Abu Rawash and Abu Sir**

#### **Egypt's Forgotten Pyramids**

In proximity to the famous Giza Plateau, yet hidden from the view of the masses of tourists visiting Giza every day, the Forgotten Pyramids of Abu Rawash and Abu Sir answer many profound questions about the development of pyramids in Egypt.

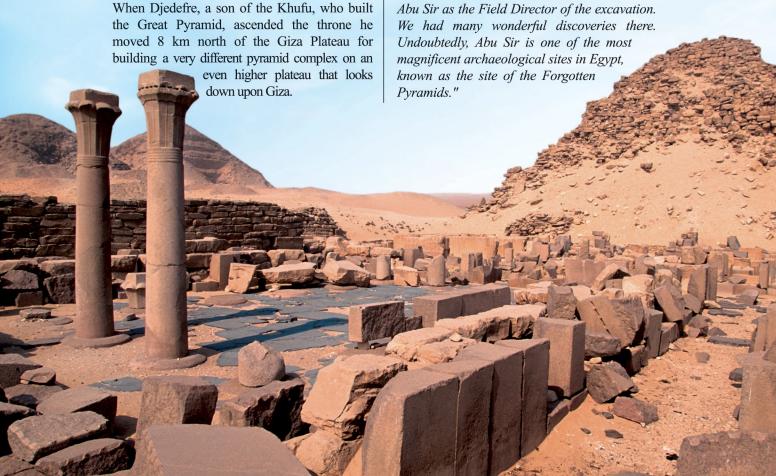
The pyramids are over 4500 years old and were built during the reign of the Fourth and Fifth Dynasty Pharaohs. Abu Rawash and Abu Sir are closed to visitors, however Archaeological Paths will have exclusive access for their guests for the very first time next year. The visitors will be joined by a world-class expert on the Egyptian Pyramids – Dr. Tarek El-Awady.

**Abu Rawash** – This is Egypt's most northerly pyramid, also known as the Lost Pyramid. Originally, it was thought that this pyramid had never been completed, but the current archaeological consensus is that not only was it completed, but that it was built about the same size as the Pyramid of Menkaure - the third largest of the Giza Pyramids.

When Djedefre, a son of the Khufu, who built the Great Pyramid, ascended the throne he Did he rebel from the family line? Within a decade or two. Khafre brought the court back to Giza to build the Second Pyramid and, probably, the Great Sphinx. Next year Archaeological Paths will make it possible for you to explore the mysterious Abu Rawash pyramid.

**Abu Sir** – the necropolis of Abu Sir contains the pyramids of the Fifth Dynasty Kings of Egypt, called the Kings of the Sun, because they were the first to build Sun Temples with obelisks dedicated to Ra, the sun god. The name Abu Sir came from the ancient word "Der Osir", meaning "the House of Osiris", the god of the underworld. The name of Abu Sir allows us to understand how important this site was to the Ancient Egyptians. Next to the pyramids, there is the largest Old Kingdom non-royal tomb of a high official called Ptahshepses. In the nearby mortuary temples one can admire elaborate sculptured wall reliefs and columns in the forms of palm, lotus, and papyrus plants.

There is no better person to present this site to visitors than Dr. Tarek El-Awady: "I worked in





# **Taposiris Magna**

### in search of Cleopatra and Mark Antony

Taposiris Magna is an active archaeological site located west of Alexandria. In the last eleven years, Dr. Zahi Hawass and Dr. Kathleen Martinez have been excavating the temple, searching for the tombs of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. The site is closed to all tourists. For many years this temple was considered insignificant, even unfinished, but at that time the researchers did not realize the importance of this site. Dr. Kathleen Martínez reopened excavations in Taposiris Magna and the results have surprised the archaeological world. New discoveries not only show that Taposiris Magna was one of the most important temples of the goddess Isis during the reign of Cleopatra, but it also renewed hope for finally finding the lost tomb of the last queen of Egypt. In the beginning of 2017 archaeologists found two big anomalies at the site that suggest underground tombs.

In 2018 Archaeological Paths is planning to take their visitors to this closed site to see the latest results of the excavations.



Dr. Kathleen Martinez tells us about her excavation: "I studied Cleopatra as a historical character for fifteen years and I think I deciphered one of the

greatest mysteries: where is the lost tomb of Cleopatra? I placed the tomb at Taposiris Magna. I will tell you why. Cleopatra was the human representation of the goddess Isis. Taposiris Magna was the most important temple dedicated to Isis during the Ptolemaic period and we were able to prove that. If it's so, there is no other place in Egypt that could be the final resting place of Cleopatra than Taposiris Magna."



There is always something new and exciting to discover in Egypt. In 2018 Archaeological Paths will take their tours of Egypt to a whole new level, opening a world of new possibilities to lovers of archaeology and Egypt's heritage. They will make your dreams come true by gaining exclusive access to sites closed to the general public and not possible to see on any other tour. The Valley of the Golden Mummies, Taposiris Magna temple, Abu Rawash and Abu Sir pyramids and many more highlights are waiting for you! Archaeological Paths' guests will not only see those sites, but visit them accompanied by legends of Egyptology such as:



**Dr. Zahi Hawass** – world's most famous archaeologist, Former Egypt's Minister of Antiquities. "I am glad that Archaeological Paths is doing this incredible tour. Even if

you have been to Egypt before, you are going to see major sites that you haven't seen before. You will have an exclusive access to wonderful pyramid sites - Abu Rawash and Abu Sir. I will accompany you to see the Temple of Taposiris Magna near Alexandria where we are searching for the tomb of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. I will take you to Tuna el-Gebel, the place where I started my career as a young man at the age of 19. And also you'll go to Amarna, the horizon of Aten, the city of Akhenaten to see beautiful tombs, temples and palaces of this great king who changed the religion in Egypt. I will bring the magic of the ancient Egypt to you. I will take you to the major, important discovery that I made at

Bahariya Oasis, the Valley of the Golden Mummies. We found a big valley of 10,000 Mummies covered with gold! No one else can tour Egypt like this and this is why I invite you to join me on this great tour."



**Dr.** Mostafa Waziri – Director General of Upper Egypt's Antiquities, Head of Luxor Antiquities Office. "It will be my honor to explain recent excavation work in

Luxor. Some of our new discoveries are already published, and some are not. So it is going to be my turn to explain what we discovered in the last couple of years, last couple of months and even last couple of days. Come and visit Egypt and you will never forget this tour. Come, the lovers of Egypt."



**Dr. Tarek El-Awady** – Director of Egyptian Museum in Alexandria; Egyptologist Inspector of excavations in Giza, Saqqara, Abu Sir and the Valley of the Kings.

"I am very happy that Archaeological Paths made it possible for people to come and visit closed sites which are not open for regular tourists – this is an adventure! After such a trip you can say that now you know something about Ancient Egypt and you know about these great people who built this wonderful civilization. If you join us I will tell you about my excavation in Abu Sir pyramids site and also we will talk about the story behind these monuments and the Sun Temples."

### **Egypt 2 – Undiscovered tour**

will be offered for the first time on **November 4-17, 2018** and on **February 10-23, 2019**.

For more information and travel brochures call us at **917-719-1974** or e-mail us at **contact@archaeologicalpaths.com** 

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