



NEIGHBORS



Priest Psamtik, 'the son of Pediosir'

Ancient Pharaonic coffin on display at Dubai Expo 2020

The ancient coffin of Priest Psamtik has arrived in Dubai to be displayed for Egypt Pavilion visitors at Expo Dubai 2020.

The coffin of priest Psamtik, 'the son of Pediosir' is one of the colored wooden coffins that were recently discovered in the area of Saqqara by the archaeological mission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

The coffin is decorated with a large necklace that ends with the heads of a falcon, with the goddess of sky "Nut" appears spreading her wings, carry-

ing the two feathers of 'Maat' (the goddess of truth and justice).

The center part of the coffin is decorated with religious incantations. Around its sides are two rows of "Was" deities holding a scepter in her hands. At the lower part of the coffin, two figures of the god of afterlife Anubis appear above his cottage standing in front of the deceased.

A group of modern replicas of King Tutankhamun have also arrived to be displayed at Egypt pavilion.

The collection of King Tutankhamun replicas include his golden mask, his own sarcophagus, the 'Ka' guardian statue of the king, the special festive chair as well as the golden king's throne.

The notion of coffins in the ancient Egyptian civilization is of great significance from a religious and symbolic point of view, as it is the most important phase in the burial process and the place where the body of the deceased is prepared for the process of judgment in the afterlife.



Alif — The Mobility Pavilion visitor experience



UAE's space programme among highlights

Arab world's role in advancing global mobility showcased

Pavilion takes visitors on a journey through time, space

Expo 2020 Dubai has revealed details of the eye-grabbing visitor experience at Alif – The Mobility Pavilion, where visitors will be taken on a voyage through time and space to discover how people, goods, ideas and data are interacting in ever more complex ways. Bringing the story of global mobility to life in immersive and inspiring ways, the Mobility Pavilion showcases the pivotal role the UAE and the entire Arab world has, and continues, to play in advancing human progress, in a journey that encompasses everything from ancient exploration to the Emirates Mission to Mars and beyond.

The visitor experience begins 4,500 years ago in Saruq Al Hadid, a settlement in the Dubai desert that had extensive relations with areas of the Gulf, the Levant and West Asia, demonstrating the enduring strategic importance of this region. Visitors are then invited aboard the world's largest elevating platform, which transports them to the House of Wisdom in ninth-century Baghdad.

Next, they will encounter towering nine-metre-tall photo-realistic figures from the Golden Age of Arab Civilisation – including ancient navigator Ibn Majid and celebrated explorer Ibn Battuta – whose innovations helped drive forward global mobility throughout the centuries. The stories of these historical giants are used to explore the concept of mobility, its power and far-reaching influence, as well as highlighting innovations from the Arab region that have catalysed advances in human exploration and mobility.

The experience subsequently leaps forward in time to the 21st century, entering a virtual world brimming with data, before moving into the city of future, where visitors will be given a glimpse of where mobility may potentially

evolve to in the years and decades to come.

Inextricably linked to the visitor experience is the story of Dubai, and the role the emirate and the UAE have always played in connecting people on a global scale. Visitors will be shown the incredible progress the UAE has enjoyed in the past 50 years, especially in mobility-related fields such as airlines, logistics and smart cities, extending into the solar system through the UAE's space programme and the Hope Mission to Mars.

Marjan Faraidooni, Chief Experience Officer, Expo 2020 Dubai, said: "Representing our desire to explore and progress, Alif – The Mobility Pavilion will take visitors on a journey of discovery, exploring new horizons and discovering how making connections, together with developing new technologies, is the basis for human progress."

"We are proud that this must-see pavilion celebrates the Arab world as a leading light in mobility across the ages, changing perceptions of what this region has achieved. We hope that visitors, especially young Arabs, will leave this experience inspired – realising that anything is possible, motivated to make a difference in our world and looking with optimism to a future when we connect and work together on a global scale."

One of Expo 2020's signature attractions, Alif – The Mobility Pavilion was made possible through the work of local and international collaborators. The UAE Space Agency and Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center provided expertise and content for the space segment. Global experience design agency MET Studio, decorated New Zealand movie and television creatives Weta

Workshop and Academy Award-winning Los Angeles-based experience company Magnopus have also all worked with Expo 2020 to create the pavilion's inspiring visitor experience.

The pavilion was designed by award-winning British architectural design and engineering firm Foster + Partners. Its ribbed and curved shape was devised to evoke movement, with its highly polished stainless-steel cladding inspired by chrome fenders and aircraft wings, reflecting movement from the surrounding areas.

The pavilion and its grounds feature a partly underground, partly open-air 330-metre track that allows visitors to see cutting-edge mobility devices in action, alongside an amphitheatre and second stage, and a plaza around the building that will host mobility-related performances, events, symposiums and demonstrations.

Alif – The Mobility Pavilion is one of three Thematic Pavilions that explore Expo 2020's key subthemes – Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability. Terra – The Sustainability Pavilion was revealed to the public in January 2021, while details of Mission Possible – the Opportunity Pavilion was revealed earlier this week.

One of the first global mega-events to take place since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Expo 2020 runs from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, inviting visitors from around the world to join the making of a new world and experience a six-month journey of human creativity, innovation, progress and culture.

editor's choice

