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APRIL 2021 ISSUE

# Pharaohs' Golden Parade

Egypt Mummies Pass  
Through Cairo in  
Ancient Rulers  
Parade



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# NDA NEWS

## Pharaohs' Golden Parade

On Saturday, April 3, 2021, citizens of Cairo, Egypt, witnessed a spectacular sight. A procession of ancient rulers made their way through the city streets - Called The Pharaohs' Golden Parade, 22 mummies of Egyptian kings and queens were taken to their new home in the soon-to-open National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. This transfer required much technical planning by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities; and instead of keeping the move quiet, the organization created a celebration of Egyptian history and heritage.

The lavish, multimillion-dollar spectacle saw these 22 mummies - 18 kings and four queens - transported from the peach-coloured, neo-classical Egyptian Museum to their new resting place 5km (three miles) away.



With tight security arrangements befitting their royal blood and status as national treasures, the mummies were relocated to the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation. They were transported with great fanfare in chronological order of their reigns - from the 17th Dynasty ruler, Seqenenre Taa II, to Ramses IX, who

reigned in the 12th Century BC.

Although the institutions are only three miles apart, transporting the mummies was no easy



feat. To ensure the preservation of Egypt's ancient royals, sections of streets were repaved to ensure smooth surfaces. The mummies were also placed in nitrogen-filled boxes for stability. The vehicles carrying the coffins were even equipped with special shock absorption to protect the mummies from heavy jostling.

To honor the ancient rulers and celebrate Egypt's heritage, The Pharaoh's Golden Parade was created as an outdoor spectacle to surround the necessary transfer. With production design by Mohamed Attia, teams of skilled craftsmen, and the vocals of Egypt's leading ladies, the parade covered many aspects of Egyptian culture. The vehicles of the parade contained the names of each ruler emblazoned on the



sculpted decorations of each modern “chariot.” These decorated vehicles were fitted with special shock-absorbers and surrounded by a motorcade, including replica horse-drawn war chariots. Performers in ancient dress and a full orchestra completed the parade. The



magnificent spectacle was well-received across the world—even becoming one of the most talked-about topics on Twitter.

One of the main attractions of Saturday's event was King Ramses II, the most famous pharaoh of the New Kingdom, who ruled for 67 years and is remembered for signing the first known peace treaty. Another was Queen Hatshepsut, or Foremost of Noble Ladies. She became ruler even though the customs of her time were that women did not become pharaohs. Among these mummies were also King Seti I, Seqenenre, and Tuthmosis III, in addition to three other queens: Ahmose-Nefertari, Tiye, and Meritamun. 17 royal sarcophagi were also transported in the procession, which moved along the Nile River and were also accompanied by chariots and horses.

While ancient mummification techniques originally preserved the pharaohs, for the move they were placed in special nitrogen-filled boxes to help protect them against external conditions.

The royal mummies arrived safely and will be on view beginning April 18, 2021, at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. The hall has been designed so that visitors will experience the illusion of being in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor. Accompanying each mummy will be any belongings discovered alongside them, including their coffins. Displays will also show CT scans which reveal what is beneath the wraps, and sometimes any breaks in bones or diseases that afflicted the royals. Egypt's authorities are hoping that the new museum, which opens fully this month, will help revitalise tourism – a prime source of foreign currency for the country. Separately, a new Grand Egyptian Museum which will house the famous Tutankhamun collection is due to open next year, close to the Great Pyramids at Giza.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi had the following to say before the event on Twitter: "This majestic scene is new evidence of the greatness of [the Egyptian] people, the guardian of this unique civilisation that roots back into the depth of history. I invite all Egyptians and the whole world to follow this unrivaled event --





evoking the spirit of the great ancestors who preserved the homeland and created a civilization in which all humanity takes pride -- to keep on our path that we have started: the path of construction and humanity."

"By doing it like this, with great pomp and circumstance, the mummies are getting their due," said Salima Ikram, an

Egyptologist at the American University in Cairo. "These are the kings of Egypt, these are the pharaohs. And so, it is a way of showing respect."

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