

French archaeologists unearth pharaoh boat

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In this undated picture provided by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities an archaeologist is seen working on the skeleton of a wooden boat at the Abu Rawash archaeological compound, west of Cairo. French archaeologists discovered the roughly 5,000-year-old pharaonic solar boat.

French archaeologists have discovered a roughly 5,000-year-old pharaonic solar boat in an expedition in Abu Rawash, west of the Egyptian capital, the antiquities ministry said on Wednesday.

The [antiquities](#) minister, Mohammed Ibrahim, said the boat was up to 5,000 years old. "It goes back to the era of Pharaoh Den, one of the First Dynasty kings," he said in a statement.

The six-metre (19.6 feet) long and 1.5-metre wide boat "is in good condition," he added. Its planks are now undergoing renovation before it is put on display in a museum.

The pharaohs believed that solar boats, buried close to them at death, would transport them in the afterlife.

In 1954 an Egyptian archaeologist discovered what may be the [Pharaoh Khufu's](#) 43-metre solar ship, made of cedar, in a Giza pyramid. The 4,500 year-old intact vessel is on display near the pyramid.

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