

Egypt says another trove of ancient coffins found in Saqqara

October 19 2020



This undated photo provided by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities shows a trove of ancient coffins and artifacts that Egyptian archaeologists unearthed in a vast necropolis south of Cairo, authorities said Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, in Saqqara, south of Cairo, Egypt. The Tourism and Antiquities Ministry said in a statement that archaeologists found a "large number" of colorful, sealed sarcophagi buried more than 2,500 years ago. (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities via AP)

Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed another trove of ancient coffins in a vast necropolis south of Cairo, authorities said Monday.

The Tourism and Antiquities Ministry said in a statement that archaeologists found the collection of colorful, sealed sarcophagi buried more than 2,500 years ago at the Saqqara necropolis.

Mostafa Waziri, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said more than 80 coffins were found.

Archaeologists also found colorful, gilded wooden statues, the ministry said. Details of the new discovery will be announced in a news conference at the famed Step Pyramid of Djoser, it said.

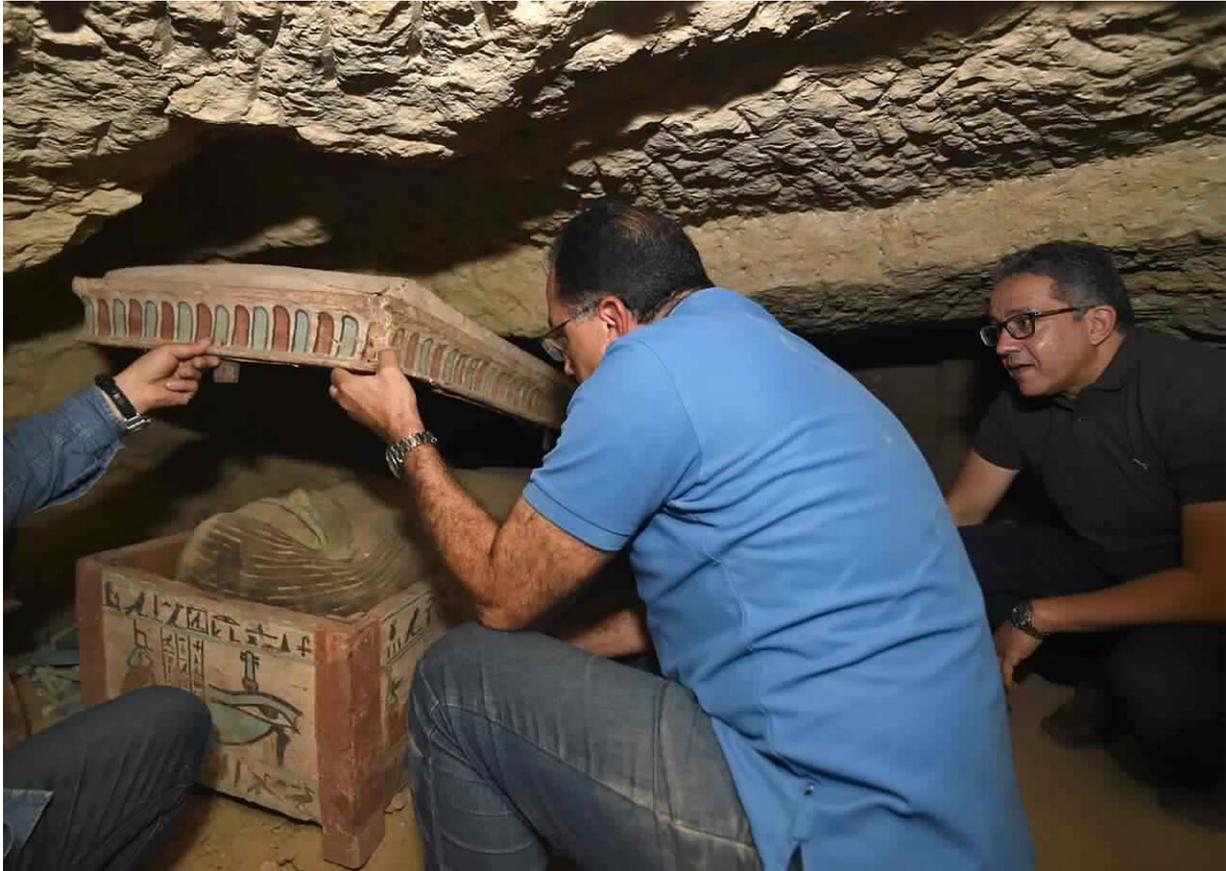
Egypt has sought to publicize its [archaeological finds](#) in an effort to revive its key tourism sector, which was badly hit by the turmoil that followed the 2011 uprising. The sector was also dealt a further blow this year by the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly and Tourism and Antiquities Minister Khalid el-Anany toured the area and inspected the new discovery, which came just over two weeks after the ministry revealed 59 sealed sarcophagi, with mummies inside most of them, in the same area of Saqqara.

The Saqqara site is part of the necropolis at Egypt's ancient capital of Memphis that includes the famed Giza Pyramids, as well as smaller pyramids at Abu Sir, Dahshur and Abu Ruwaysh. The ruins of Memphis were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1970s.

The plateau hosts at least 11 [pyramids](#), including the Step Pyramid, along

with hundreds of tombs of ancient officials and other sites that range from the 1st Dynasty (2920-2770 B.C.) to the Coptic period (395-642).



This undated photo provided by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities shows archeologists opening a sarcophagus unearthed in a vast necropolis south of Cairo, that is part of a recent discovery authorities announced Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, in Saqqara, south of Cairo, Egypt. The Tourism and Antiquities Ministry said in a statement that archaeologists found a "large number" of colorful, sealed sarcophagi buried more than 2,500 years ago. (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities via AP)

© 2020 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Egypt says another trove of ancient coffins found in Saqqara (2020, October 19) retrieved 21 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-10-egypt-trove-ancient-coffins-saqqara.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.