

DID YOU KNOW?!

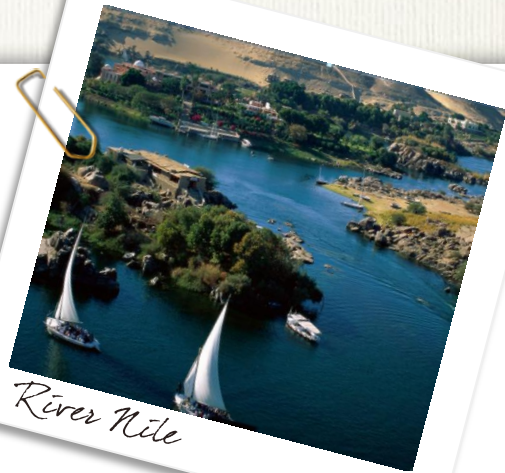
Aswan is the ancient city of *Swenett*, which in antiquity was the frontier town of Ancient Egypt facing the south. *Swenett* is supposed to have derived its name from an Egyptian goddess with the same name. Ancient Egyptians oriented toward the origin of the life-giving waters of the Nile in the south, *Swenett* was the first town in the country, and Egypt always was conceived to "open" or begin at *Swenett*. The city stood upon a peninsula on the right (east) bank of the Nile, immediately below (and north of) the first cataract of the flowing waters, which extend to it from Philae.

Elephantine Island

Elephantine Island is the largest of the Aswan area islands, and is one of the most ancient sites in Egypt. Elephantine is Greek for elephant. In ancient times, the Island, as well as the southern town, was called Abu, or Yabu, which also meant elephant. The town has also been referenced as Kom, after its principle god of the island, Khnum. It is believed that the island received its name because it was a major ivory trading center, though in fact, it was a major trading post of many commodities.



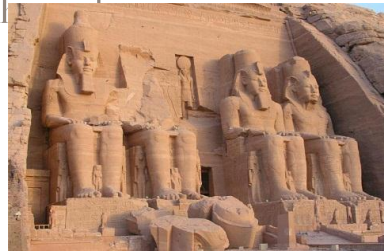
Elephantine Island



River Nile

Abu Simbel

Abu Simbel is one of the most recognizable ancient sites in Egypt which contains two temples, carved into a mountainside, that were built by pharaoh Ramesses II (1303-1213 B.C). The entranceway to the temple was built in such a way that on two days of the year, October 22 and February 22, the light would shine into the inner sanctuary and light up three statues seated on a bench, including one of the pharaoh.



Unfinished Obelisk

One of the most famous stones left behind is the 'Unfinished' Obelisk, taller than any known obelisk ever raised. Quarrymen apparently abandoned the obelisk when fractures appeared in its sides.