



PHOTO FIND EXCLUSIVE

Head Case

The Labit Museum in Toulouse, France, has had this Egyptian mummy of a 35-year-old woman since 1848, when she arrived with a label dating her to the seventh or eighth century B.C. But scientists now think she could be 1,000 years older. Dating of tissue samples from her neck should clear up her “age issue.”

Medical Mural

A recently excavated tomb fresco may be the first painting to show in great detail how Chinese medicine was practiced 1,000 years ago. Discovered by archaeologist Sun Bingjun of the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology in the eastern Chinese city of Hancheng, the mural dates to the Northern Song Dynasty (A.D. 960–1127) and is exceedingly well preserved.

The mural (above) is about 12 square feet and depicts a seated man, believed to be the tomb’s occupant. He is surrounded by servants, as well

as numerous jars and bottles. While some servants attend to the tomb’s owner, others seem to be brewing herbs. Two men, who Sun thinks are physicians, stand at a table to the right of the mural making medicines. Other murals in the tomb show a 17-person troupe staging an opera, and a scene representing nirvana, the Buddhist state of peace.

Although Sun found two skeletons on a small wooden couch, the burial contained no artifacts. The entire tomb was removed to the Shaanxi Cultural Relic Bureau for conservation. —JARRETT A. LOBELL

Rome in a Day

In April, artist Liz Glynn challenged the notion “Rome wasn’t built in a day” at the New Museum in New York, presenting a live performance piece: the construction and destruction of a



OFF THE GRID



If you want to add some archaeology to your Hawaiian vacation, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Nancy McMahon says you should plan a visit to the site of Pi'ilanihale Heiau on Maui's eastern coast.

The site: Standing almost 50 feet high, Pi'ilanihale Heiau is a stepped lava rock platform the size of two football fields. Archaeologists believe the heiau, or

temple, was constructed in four stages, beginning as early as the 12th century. The platform served as a ceremonial site for the Pi'ilani noble family, who ruled Maui until the 19th century. Restored in 1999, the temple is thought to be the biggest in the Polynesia.

Don't Miss: The heiau is on the grounds of the nearly 300-acre Kahanu Gardens, which are overseen by the nonprofit National Tropical Botanical Garden. The “Canoe Garden” next to the temple features crops, such as taro, sweet potato, and banana, that were introduced to Hawaii by Polynesians settlers. A mile-long trail snakes through the largest collection of breadfruit-tree varieties in the world.

Keep in Mind: Pi'ilanihale Heiau is a living cultural site used by native Hawaiians for ritual purposes. Access to the top of the temple is restricted, so you'll have to enjoy the site from below.



450-square-foot model of the ancient city. "It can be done!" says Glynn. "It's really a question of scale."


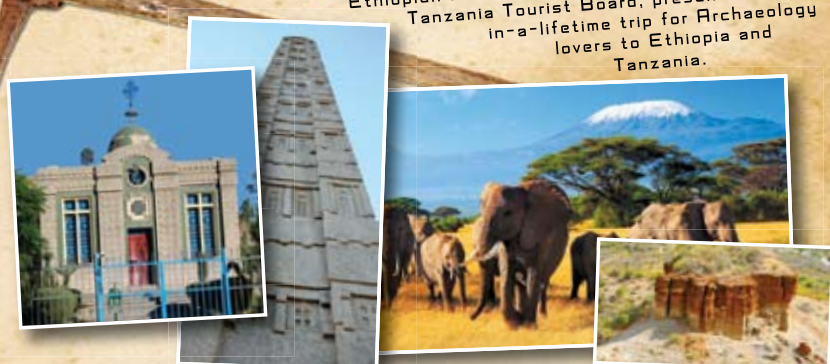
Glynn researched the architectural and military history of Rome for six months, scouring everything from modern topographical dictionaries to ancient sources, including the historian Livy (59 B.C.–A.D. 17). On the day of the project, she enlisted 120 volunteers, among them archaeologists, architects, and classicists.

The cardboard and wood buildings mostly ranged from several inches to four feet high, and were erected over a 24-hour period, beginning with Romulus's hut on the Palatine in 753 B.C. Each subsequent minute represented the passing of 1,238 years; in the following hours, forums, temples, and monuments went up, got renovated, or were torn down in chronological order. "During the era of Augustus, a lot gets built," says Glynn. "We managed to get a little bit off track around then, which was about 9:00 in the morning. Everyone was on the ground building different things."


To signify the final sacking by the Visigoths in A.D. 410, Glynn and the volunteers stomped on the buildings, some participants brandishing cardboard weapons. Rome fell in only two minutes. —ETI BONN-MULLER
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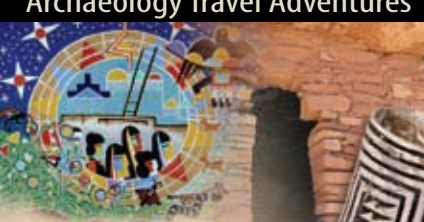
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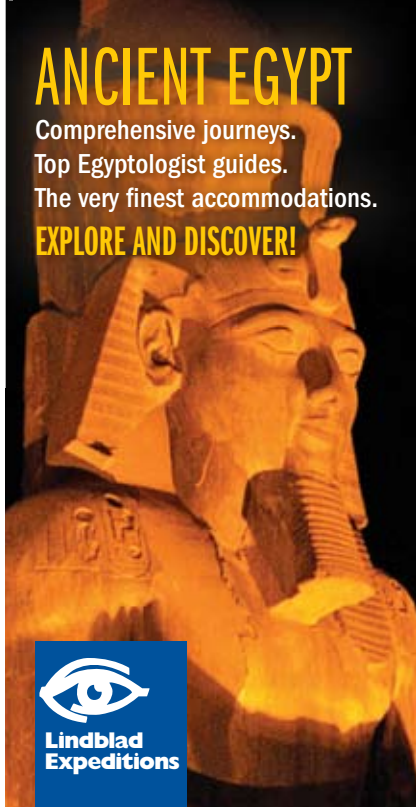
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