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CULT HERIT 16
RELEX 1580
CULT 131
DEVGEN 201
COASI 204
COEST 724
COAFR 437
MAMA 249
COLAC 185
CIVCOM 331
CFSP/PESC 1783
JAI 1847
ENV 1204
GLOBAL GATEWAY 39

INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Creating access to Cairo's Islamic cultural heritage phase I and phase II - presentation given by a representative of the Aga Khan Foundation at the RELEX Horizontal Questions (International Cultural Relations) meeting of 6 December 2024

Delegations will find in the annex a presentation given by an external stakeholder (a representative from the Aga Khan Foundation) at a meeting of the WP RELEX-HQ (International Cultural Relations) on 6 December 2024. The views expressed in the presentation are solely those of the third party concerned. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council and it does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



Aga Khan Trust for Culture - AKTC
An Agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

Creating Access to Cairo's Islamic Cultural Heritage

Phase I & Phase II

2018-2024



The Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Has played a major role in developing the historical districts of Islamic Cairo, not only by restoring and maintaining the priceless monuments around every corner of that fascinating area, but also by improving the quality of lives for people living within the surrounding community .



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Brief Introduction about AKTC's Intervention Projects in Cairo, Egypt

Al-Azhar Park 1995-2004

In 1984, His Highness the Aga Khan announced his decision to create a park for the Cairene to commemorate the foundation of Cairo by his ancestors, the Fatimids, in 969. The selected location was the derelict Darrassa site, a 30-hectare mound of rubble between the eastern edge of the 12th century City Walls and the "City of the Dead". Al-Azhar Park opened to the public in 2005.



The Heritage Conservation Programme

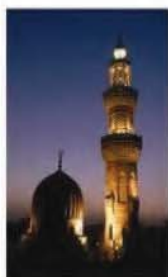
- Umm al-Sultan Sha'ban Madras and Mosque (1358-69)
- Minaret of Zawyat al-Hunud
- Khayer Bek Mausoleum and Madrasa / Mosque (1502-1520)
- Alin Aq Palace (late 13th / early 14th century)
- Ottoman Houses (17th century)
- Aslam al-Silahdar Musque (1344-45)
- Tarabay Mausoleum & Ribbat of Azdumur (early 16th century)
- Aqsunqur (Blue) Mosque(1346-47) later Ottoman interventions (1652)
- Historic Ayyubid Wall (late 12th century)
- Al Maridani Mosque (1338 – 1339 14th century)



Historic Ayyubid
Wall



Khayer Bek



Umm al-Sultan
Sha'ban



Zawyat al-Hunud



Aslam al-Silahdar



Tarabay Mausoleum



Aqsunqur (Blue)
Mosque



Al Maridani



Abou Heriba the upcoming
restoration Project



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Restoration projects in the Historic City of Cairo.



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Boosting Heritage Tourism in Islamic Cairo Project – Funded by the EU



The Aga Khan Trust for culture & The EU's commitment to conserve and promote the restoration of cultural heritage, working in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities in Egypt, and contributing to a sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, aiming specifically at providing opportunities of sustainable economic growth around the restored heritage sites.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture has designed and carried out the project in Darb el Ahmar setting out a touristic path and the rehabilitation of this jewel of a mosque, the Mosque of Amir Altinbugha al Maridani.

The EU/Aga Khan contribution to the project is around 1.8 € million divided 90/10 respectively over a period of around 5 years (April 2018-October 2024). The projects' aim is to preserve and celebrate Cairo's rich Islamic cultural heritage, as well as promote cultural tourism as a major stimulus for local socio-economic development.



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Al Maridani Mosque - Phase I, *Cairo Egypt*





Before Conservation

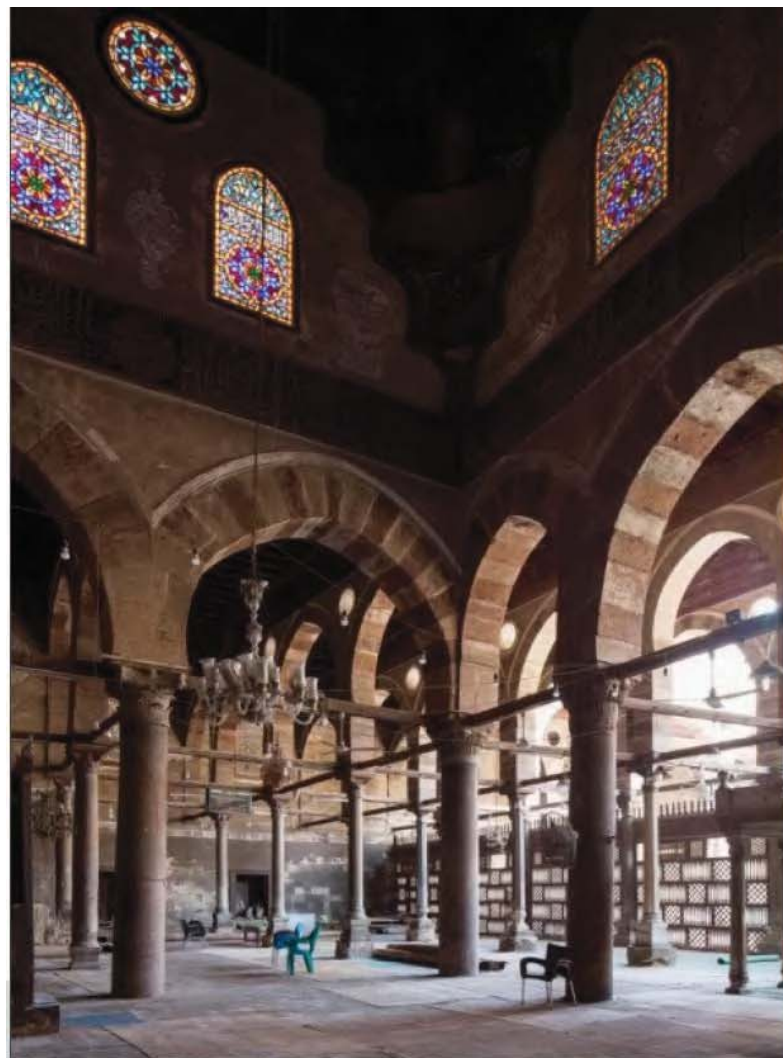


After Conservation

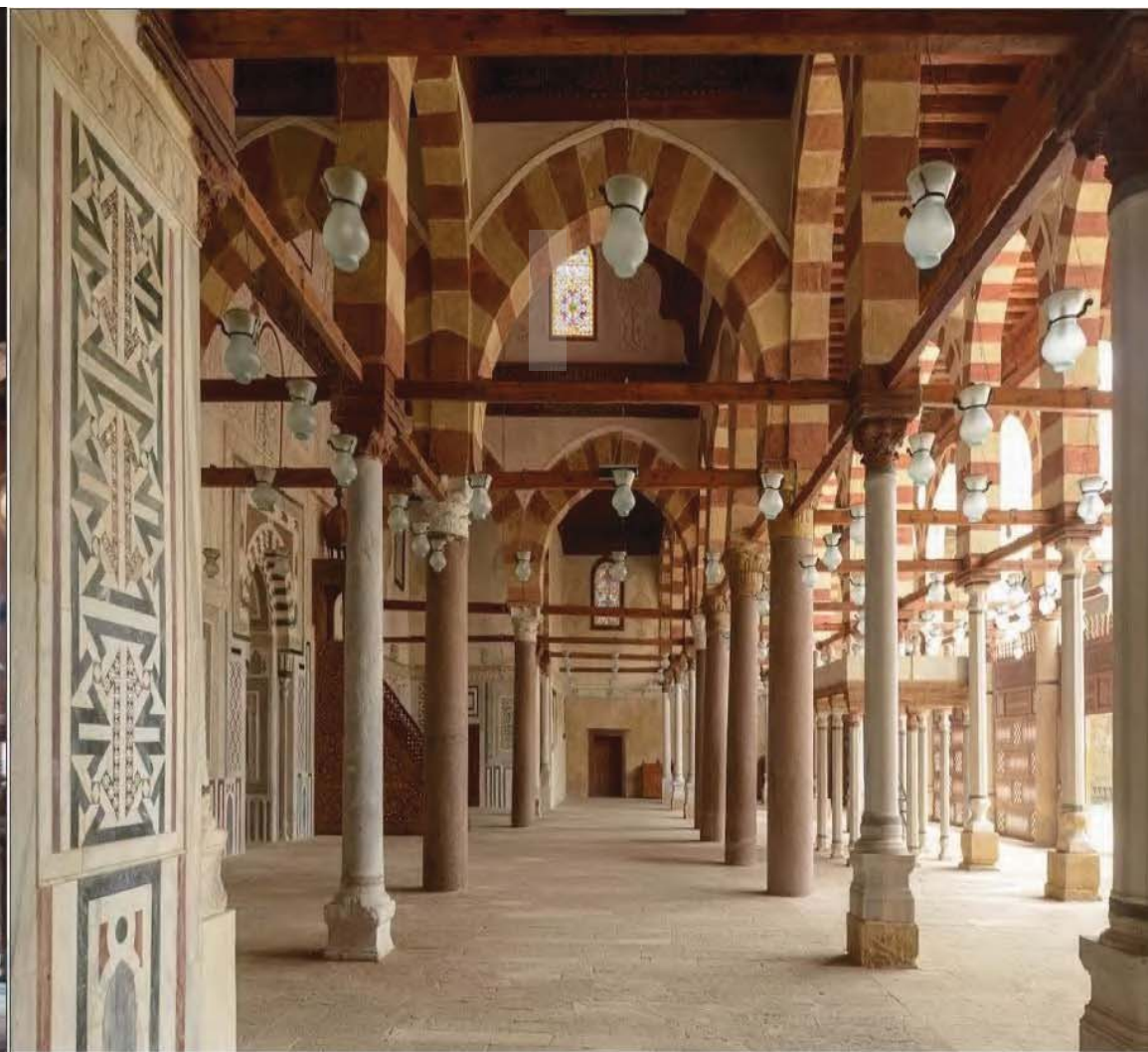
Amir Altinbugha al-Maridani Mosque

Altinbugha, one of the favorite mamluks of Sultan al-Nasir Muhammad, was given a daughter of the sultan in marriage and had a mosque constructed under his name in 1338-40. The building includes the reuse of antique granite columns and capitals that support pointed stone arches, and a dome. The exterior facades are decorated with recessed panels crowned with stalactites. Restoration of the eastern section of the mosque by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture started in 2018 with European Commission funding.





Before Conservation



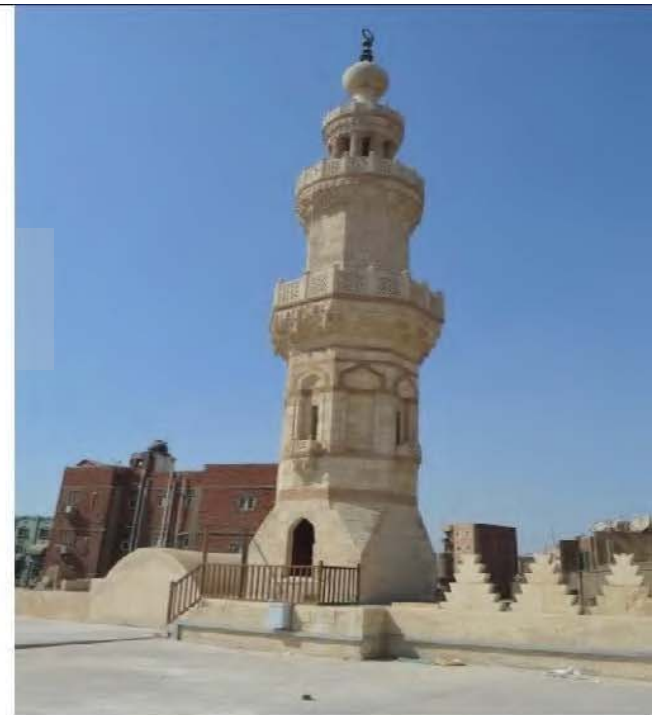
After Conservation



Before Conservation



During Conservation



After Conservation

MARDMIN

The Minaret:

The minaret's conservation works include:

- Mechanical cleaning of the brass crescent using soft brushes and scalpel.
- Mechanical cleaning of the minaret's body and (bulb) using sand blasting technique.
- Repointing of stone courses joints using lime-based mortar.



Before Conservation



After Conservation

MARDQIBLA

- The walls- Marble elements, mosaic panels
- Insulation of bearing walls by applying several layers of Sika 105 on wall's surface
- Chemical cleaning of the marble / mosaic panel using paper poultice.
- Dismantling and Reassembling of mosaic dados in in order to guaranty the integration between the new and the original pieces according to the original design



During Conservation



Before Conservation



After Conservation

MARDQIBLA

Decorative items-The wooden Hijab

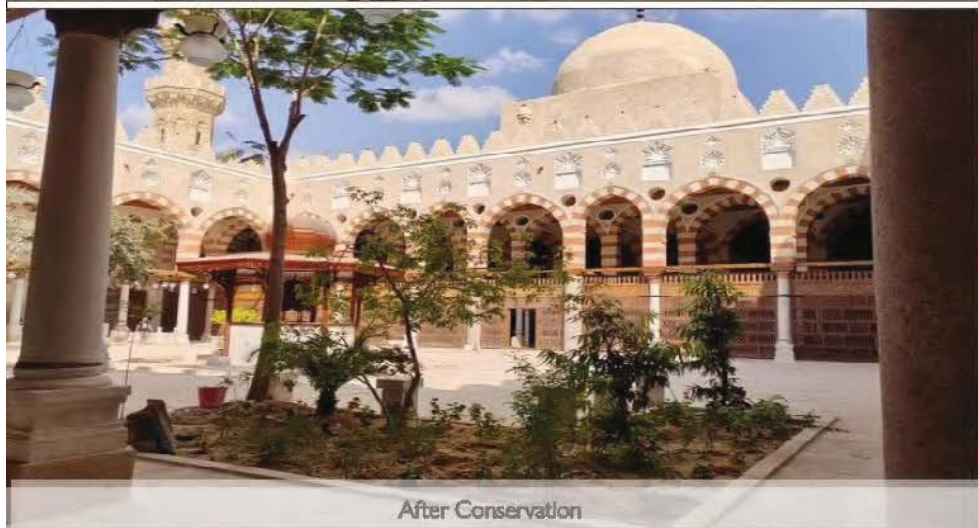
- Removing of the old paintings applied on the wooden hijab using paint remover.
- Consolidation of the wooden hijab using slyer.
- Manufacturing and installation of missing turned wooden Panel using replica made of pitch pine as per original pattern's design .

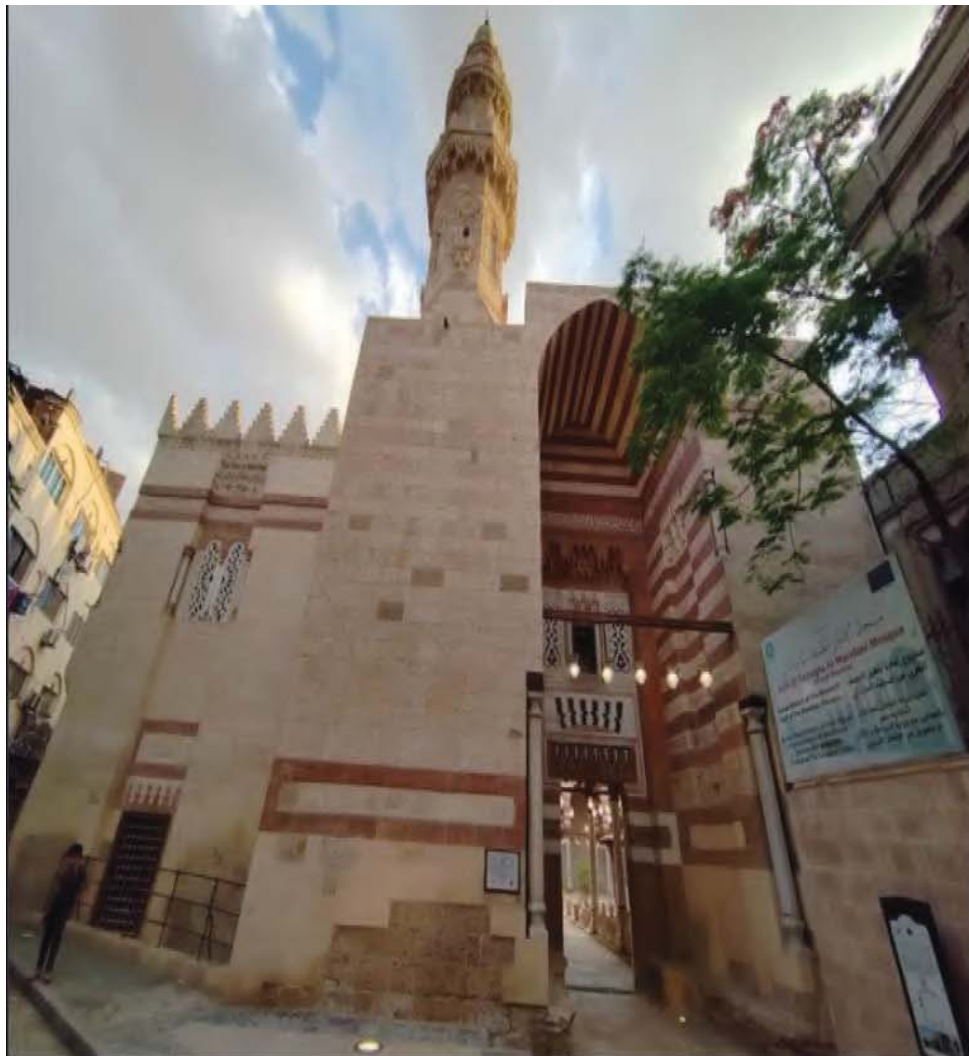


Al-Mardani Team work



The Inauguration of Al Maridani Mosque - Phase I – September 2021





After Conservation



Before Conservation



The Inauguration of Al Maridani Mosque – Phase II – May,2024



The Touristic Route

A magical tour that takes the visitors in approximately 2 hours to go through the heart of Al Darb Al Ahmar main streets to visit more than 16 mesmerizing monuments of Islamic Egypt from the Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk eras.

The monuments include mosques, schools, complexes, palaces and even 700-year-old ancient handicraft markets whose owners are as talented and skilled as ever.



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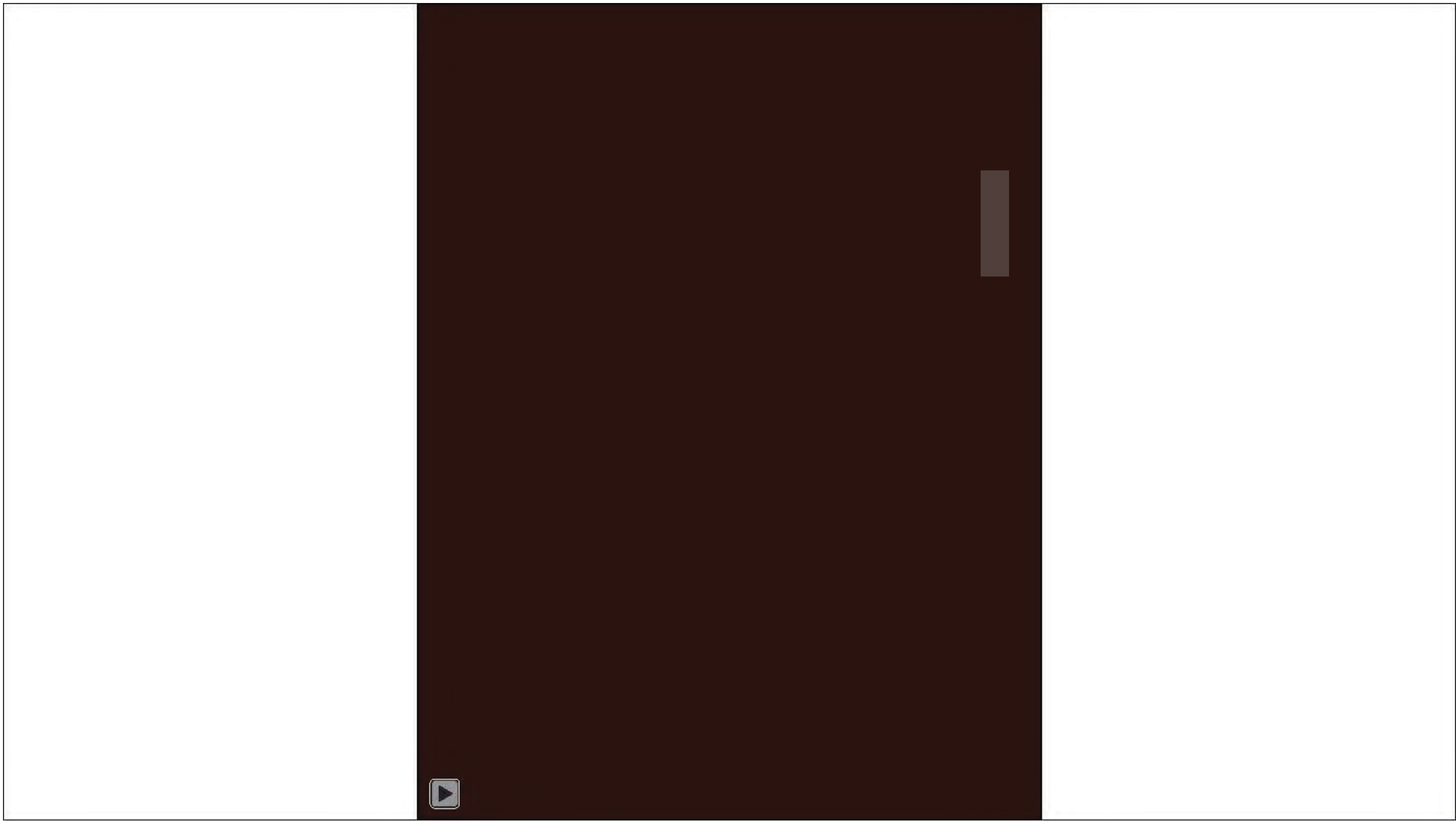


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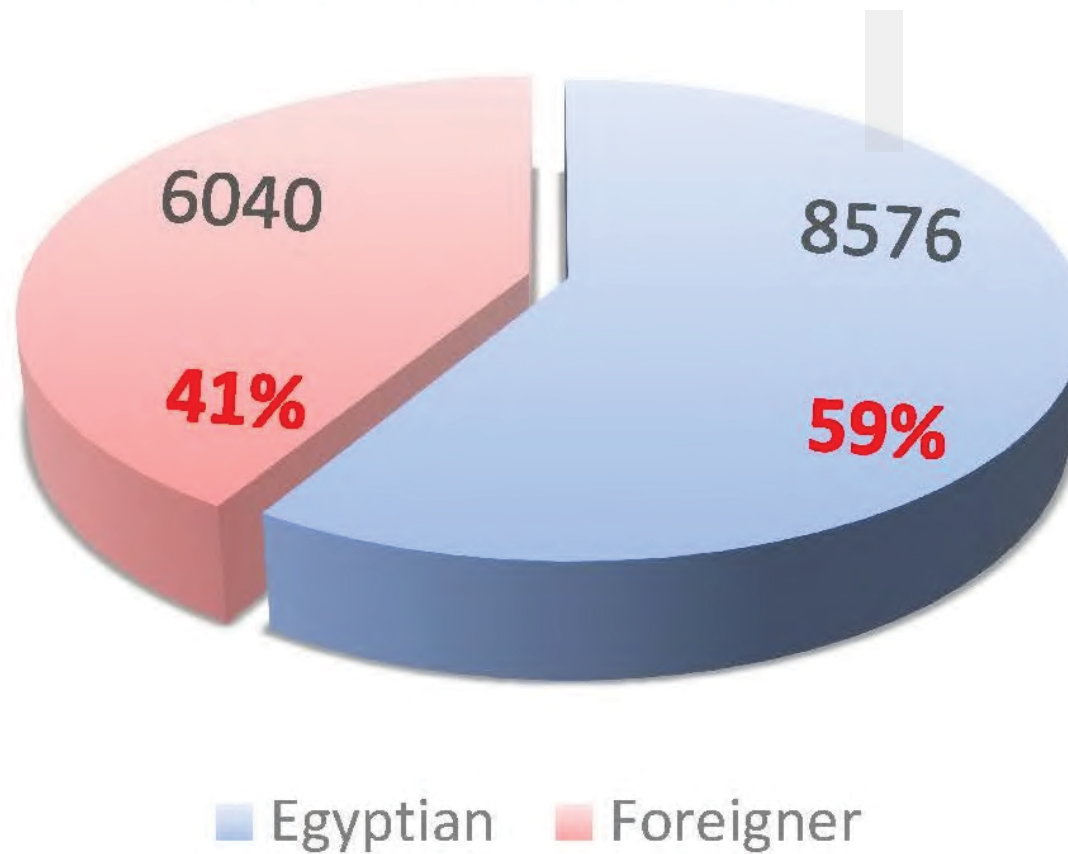




Promote the Touristic Route in International Fairs ITB Berlin, Germany & the World Travel Market in London.



Total of visitors from September 2022 – till November 2024 Total



The Website

<https://oldarbalahmar.com/explore>



Our touristic route of Al-Darb al-Ahmar will take you on a trip down history's lane, where we will be taking you to see 16 of the most mesmerizing monuments of Islamic Egypt from the Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk era throughout Egypt's Islamic history. The monuments include mosques, schools, complexes, palaces and even 700 year old ancient handicraft markets whose owners are as talented and skilled as ever.

Al Darb Al Ahmar

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Al Darb Al Ahmar

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1050
people are
checking in
Aslam al-
Silahdar
Mosque



The Social Network



<https://www.facebook.com/darbalahmar/videos/213793967213035>

<https://www.facebook.com/darbalahmar/>

<https://www.facebook.com/darbalahmar/videos/485771602556390>



Training , Marketing & development of Local organization



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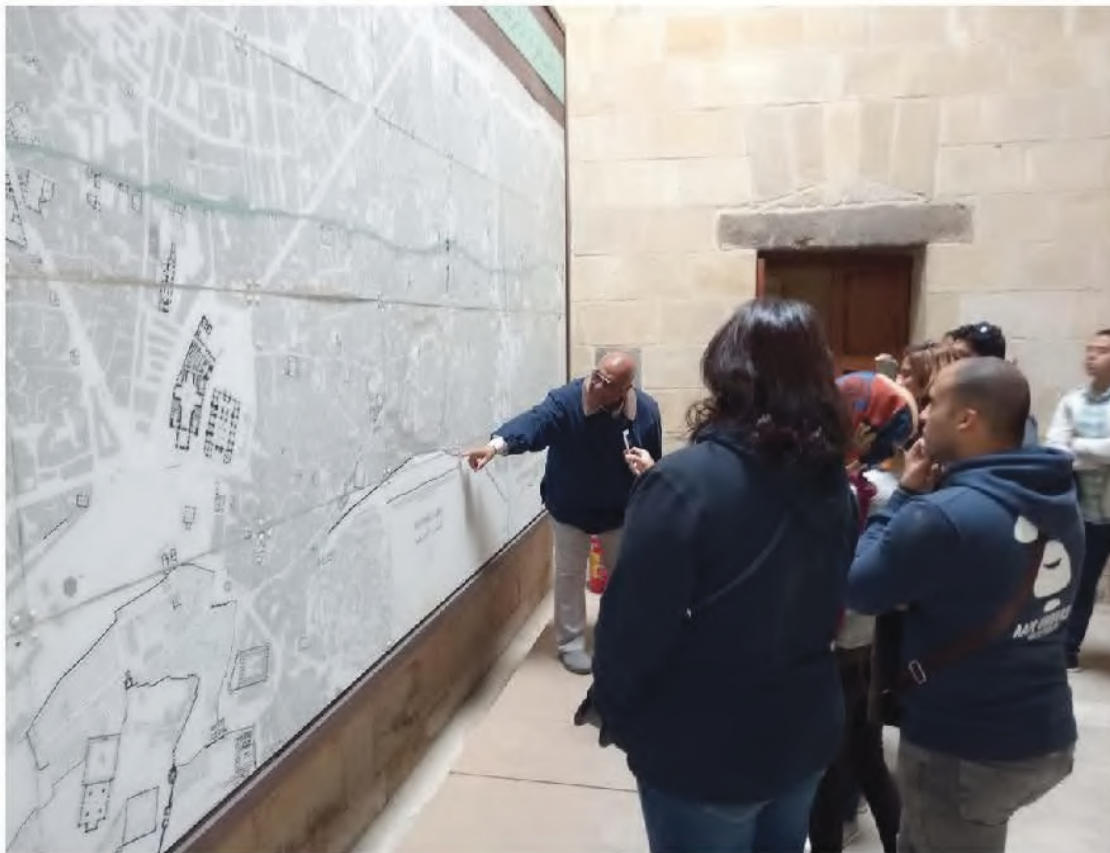
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Hospitality training for Tuk Tuk drivers around the Touristic route for handling tourists.

Although the TukTuk is an unauthorized means of transportation, but it is widely spread in the Al-Darb Al-Ahmar area.

TukTuk drivers lack the basics of how to deal with foreigners, teaching them the importance of tourism and how it could affect their lives by showing the tourists how we respect traffic rules , better general hygiene with good appearance , fixed pricing for the ride ...etc.



More than 70 Tour guides were trained and provided with information by licensed doctors specialized in Islamic archeology.

According to the grant, it was required to train 40 tourist guides from the neighborhood and around it but due to the request of SCA 70 guides were trained, the training course lasted 5 days for each group.

- A training curriculum was prepared and printed in a brochure in addition to a CD that includes all the data and pictures about the archaeological buildings.



Souq al-Khayamiya



Weaving Workshops in Al Darb Al Ahmar



Arabesque & wood workshop in Al Darb Al Ahmar



Some tourist visiting the Turning Metal workshop In Al Darb Al Ahmar



Craft Shop in Al Darb Al Ahmar



Upgrading the route

New signage along the route





Special Ramps for Handicap visitors



EU Ambassador to Egypt Christian Berger

The new crafts kiosk at the main gate





Oriental fast-food outlet Renovation



After

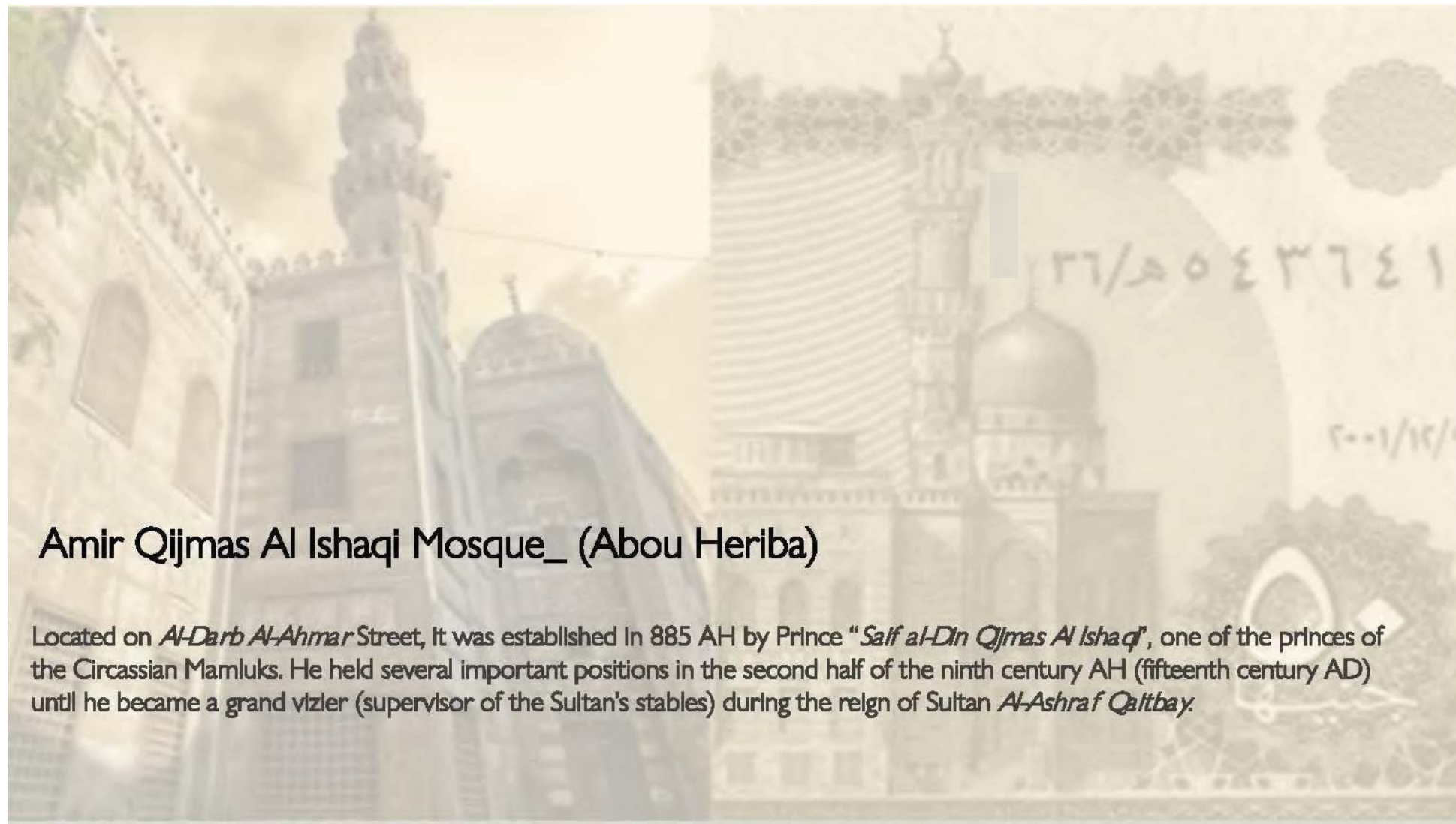


Before

Foul & Falafel local Shop Renovation







Amir Qijmas Al Ishaqi Mosque_ (Abou Heriba)

Located on *Al-Darb Al-Ahmar* Street, It was established In 885 AH by Prince "*Salif al-Din Qijmas Al Ishaqi*", one of the princes of the Circassian Mamluks. He held several important positions in the second half of the ninth century AH (fifteenth century AD) until he became a grand vizier (supervisor of the Sultan's stables) during the reign of Sultan *Al-Ashraf Qaltbay*.



Thank You...



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