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## Part IV.1. Introduction

The visitor management and interpretation assessment for the Valley of the Queens gathered information on visitor services and infrastructure, site presentation and interpretation, and the visitors themselves. The findings have been used to develop a plan that will provide a better visitor experience, promote good practice, and contribute to preserving the site's significance. The assessment incorporates the following components:

**Visitor numbers and patterns of visitation:** Visitor numbers are key to understanding past and current visitation trends to QV, specifically seasonal, monthly, and weekly patterns. Statistics on visitors were gathered for a 10-year period (1997-2007), not only for QV but also for the Luxor area to better place QV in its larger context.

**Visitor and guide surveys:** Surveys of visitors and guides were undertaken in the winter and summer periods of 2007 in order to establish baseline information on visitation to the Valley of the Queens and explore visitors' perceptions of their experience at the site and specific issues such as the closure of the tomb of Nefertari to general visitation. Egyptian visitors were targeted in a separate survey during the Egyptian holiday period.

**Observations of visitors and guides:** Over a two-year period (2007-2008) the visitor management team spent time observing and recording visitor behavior at the site and inside the tombs. The purpose was to gather a general idea of visitor flow inside the tombs as well as areas of visitor concentration and congestion on site during specific days and times of day. Different types of tour groups were also observed throughout their visit to the Valley in order to understand current interpretive and educational practices used by tour guides.

**Stakeholder consultations:** In addition to surveys of visitors and guides, focus groups were held with QV vendors, West Bank inspectors and tour guides and meetings convened with the Luxor Tourism Syndicate to solicit opinions and provide a mechanism for key stakeholders to have input to the planning process. Additional assessment and inventory of vendors and their merchandise were also undertaken.

**Visitor services and infrastructure:** The services and infrastructure for visitors affect not only the visitor experience but also the setting of the tombs and site. Services and infrastructure relating to visitation at the QV includes access and ticketing, seating and shelters, circulation on site, signage, restrooms, parking, and souvenir shopping, as well as installations for presentation and protection of the tombs.

**Visitation and interpretation potential:** With only three tombs open for general visitation and no interpretation of site features, it was important to assess whether there was opportunity for additional tombs and site features to be visited and interpreted without endangering the integrity of the resource. Potential was assessed using criteria such as accessibility, safety, and educational value, as well as the ability to contribute to telling the whole story of Queens Valley. Educational opportunities for young Egyptians within an interpretation plan were also evaluated.

**Review of literature and other initiatives:** In undertaking the visitor management assessment, other related studies from the literature were consulted, as were the planning and proposals for the King's Valley (Site Management Master Plan for the Valley of the Kings, 2006) and the Abt study (Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Luxor, Egypt, Dec 1999). These and other sources from the literature are cited in the Site and Visitor Management Bibliography in Part II.5.

## Part IV.2. Visitor numbers and patterns of visitation

### Collection of visitor statistics

During the 2007-2008 assessment at QV, statistics were collected on visitors to QV and the Luxor area for the 10-year period 1997-2007 in order to analyze the number of visitors and patterns of visitation to QV in the context of other sites on the East and West Bank. Specifically, data was collected and compiled as follows:

Visitors to Egypt: These statistics represent all foreign tourist arrivals to Egypt (i.e. those arriving on a 'tourist' visa), which includes people coming for reasons other than visiting cultural sites.

International visitors to the Luxor area: Based on international visitor numbers to the sites drawing the greatest number of visitors, namely Karnak temple (representing East Bank visitation) and Valley of the Kings (representing West Bank visitation); these data use the highest number of visitors from either site for each month to approximate the total number of visitors to the Luxor area (there are no obtainable independent data for visitors to Luxor; data on hotel residents are problematic).



Karnak Temple: based on international visitors and students, assumed to represent total East Bank visitors



Valley of the Kings: based on international visitors and students, assumed to represent total West Bank visitors



QV visitors: international visitors and students to the three tombs open to general visitation (excluding Nefertari)

Tomb of Nefertari: visitor numbers for the two periods of special ticketing from 1995-2007

Egyptian visitors to Luxor: these data were often statistically problematic and inconsistent and can only be used to provide a general picture.

Source of data: For visitors to Egypt: Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS). All Luxor area visitor data are based on ticket sales and were obtained from the Luxor SCA Office (East Bank), which compiles visitor data from all the Luxor area sites

Limitations on data: All visitor data (daily, monthly, etc.) compiled at site ticket offices and again at the SCA Luxor office are manually entered (in Eastern Arabic numerals), which inevitably results in cumulative errors over time. All of the data sets contained missing numbers or anomalies. These were checked with the SCA office and corrected when possible (original daily records were checked to correct monthly figures). Where corrections could not be made, the statistical technique of interpolation was used to smooth the inconsistencies (e.g. for Karnak Temple a total of 42 figures from 9 years were interpolated), or by taking the percentage increase or decrease of good data during the particular time period as the basis for correcting suspect data. The data collected by the QV team have been entered into Excel spread sheets and two SCA team members were trained in basic data entry.

## Impacts on visitation to the Luxor area

One of the principal factors affecting visitation to the Luxor region over the past 20 years has been security issues arising from a number of terrorist attacks. A related factor has been wars in the Middle East and events well beyond those borders that have affected the stability of the region. Heightened security impacts both annual visitor numbers and patterns of visitation as tour groups must travel in police-escorted convoys at set times (the convoy system was stopped in December 2008). The table summarizes the main events that have affected visitation in the Luxor region beginning with the Gulf War in 1991. The global economic downturn beginning in 2008 may well have consequences for visitor numbers in 2009 and beyond.

Date	Events (1991-2006)
1991	Gulf war (1)
1992	Numerous small terrorist incidents, mainly in the Qena region
1993-1994	'Wave of terrorism' in Egypt, mainly Cairo in 1993 and Asyut in 1994, caused annual number of visitors to drop from 3.3m to 2.5m (1)
1996 (Apr 18)	Attack by al-Gamaa al-Islamiya on foreign tourists; opened gunfire on group of Greek tourists near Giza, killing 17 tourists
1996 (Aug) -1997 (Oct)	Eleven reported terrorist attacks, most in El-Minya; 7 German tourists were among those killed (1)
1997 (Nov17)	Attack by al-Gamaa al-Islamiya at Hatshepsut Temple (Deir el-Bahari); 62/68 killed, mainly foreign tourists. (1, 3)
2001 (Sept 11)	Attacks on World Trade Center and other US targets
2003 (Mar)	Invasion of Iraq
2004 (Oct 7)	Truck with explosives rammed into Hilton Taba resort, Sinai, targeting holiday makers (2, 3) ("there was an immediate downturn in tourism but the rebound was almost as fast")
2005 (April)	3 related attacks in Cairo (Khan al-Khalili; tour bus; and behind the Egyptian Museum) (3,4)
2005 (July)	Series of attacks on hotel and market in Sharm el-Sheikh; 80 killed (2, 3)
2006 (April)	3 bombs exploded in resort city of Dahab; 23 killed (2, 3)

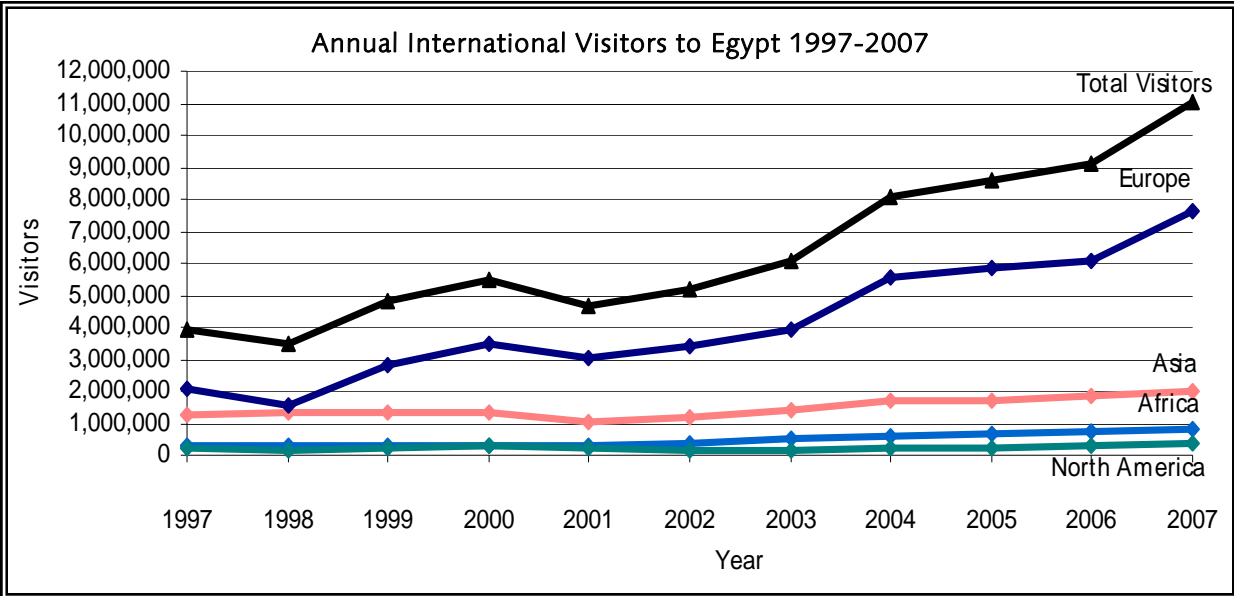
### Sources

1. P.B. Sinha, Strategic analysis: a monthly journal of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (Nov 1998; vol XXII, no 8) <http://www.idsa-india.org/an-content.htm>
  2. Killian Clarke, Tourism trumps terrorism in Sinai (CDNN-Cyber Diver News Network)
  3. [Wikipedia.or/wiki/Terrorism\\_in\\_Egypt](http://Wikipedia.or/wiki/Terrorism_in_Egypt)
  4. Chronology of Attacks on Tourists in Egypt: a detailed history for 1992 to the present (Reuters Limited and US Dive Travel Network. 1997-2008 (<http://usdivetravel.com/T-EgyptTerrorism>))
- [Note: there are some inconsistencies in numbers of victims among sources]

## Summary of visitor numbers and patterns of visitation

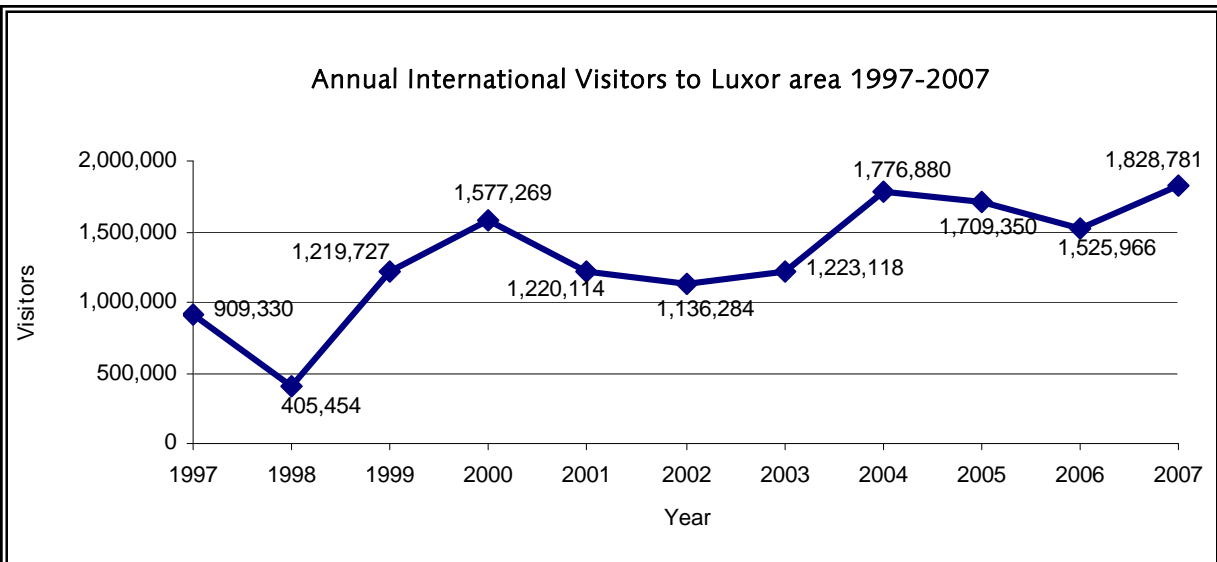
### Annual Visitors to Egypt 1997-2007

Annual visitors to Egypt over the ten-year period 1997-2007 have shown a steady increase; 2007 figures (11m) indicate a growth of approximately 180% since 1997 (4m). European visitors (7.6m) constitute the largest share, while North American visitors are comparatively few (344K).



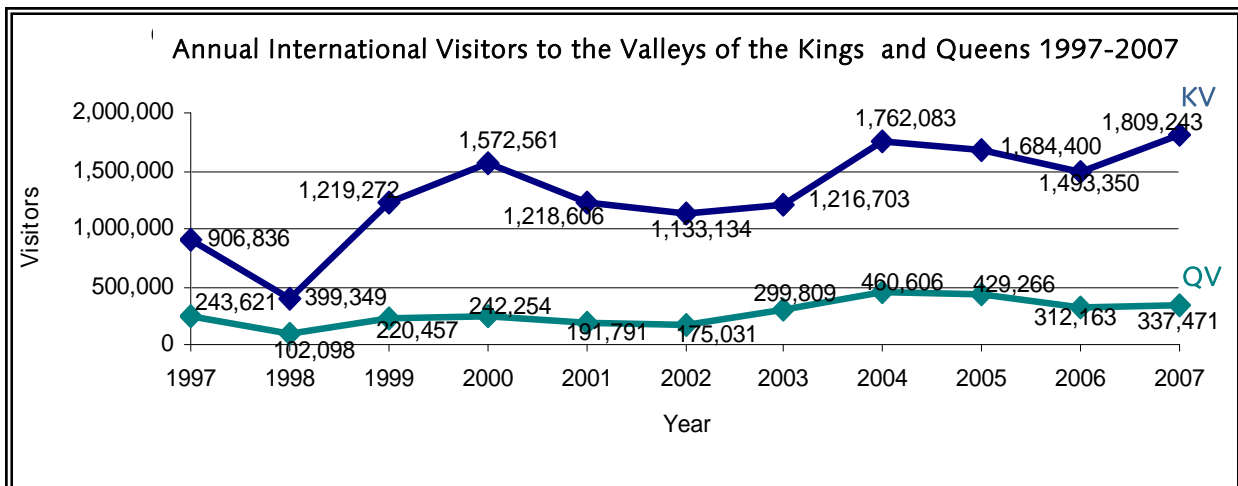
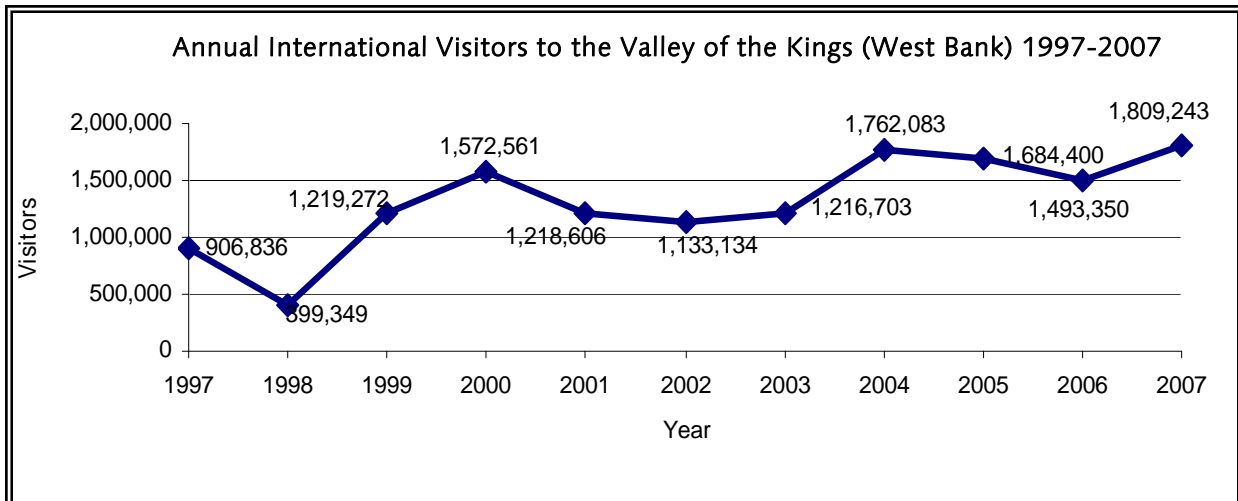
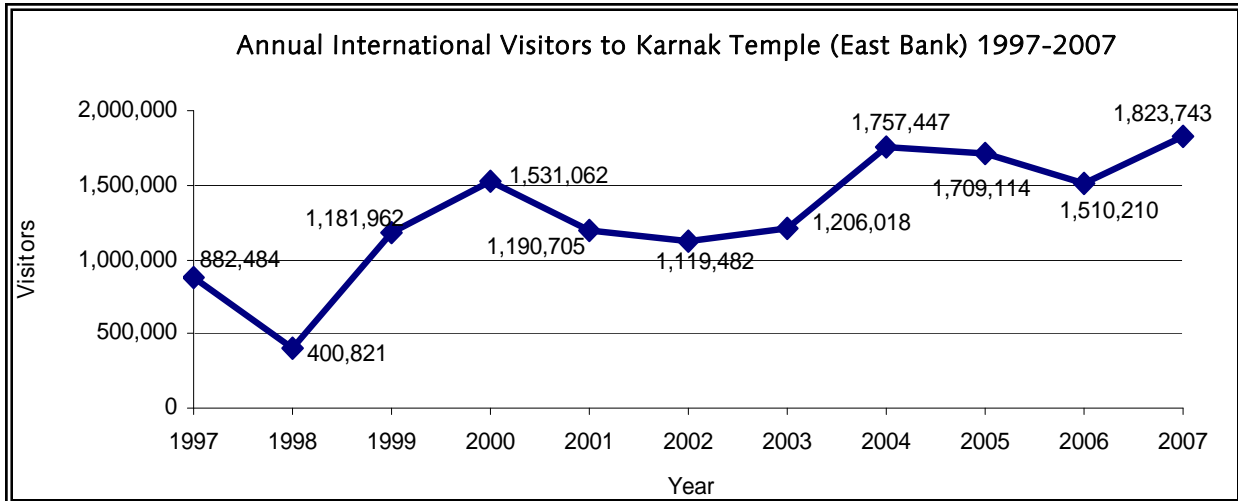
### Annual Visitors to Luxor area 1997-2007

Based on the highest visitor numbers to the major monuments of East and West Bank, the data from 2007 indicate just under 2m tourists in the Luxor area, approximately one-fifth of tourist arrivals in Egypt. International visitors show a repeated pattern of downward turns during periods of crisis such as after the terrorist attacks at Hatshepsut in 1997, when international visitors fell precipitously. Less dramatic drops occurred after the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks in 2001 and the Sinai attacks in 2004. The 1999 Abt study (Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Luxor, Egypt), based on 1997 data, projected tourism growth would reach 4m in 20 years (p 128), a prediction that seems unlikely to be met, possibly as a result of continuing instability in the region. Since current visitor numbers at peak periods are unsustainable, it is fortunate that such growth has been somewhat slowed.



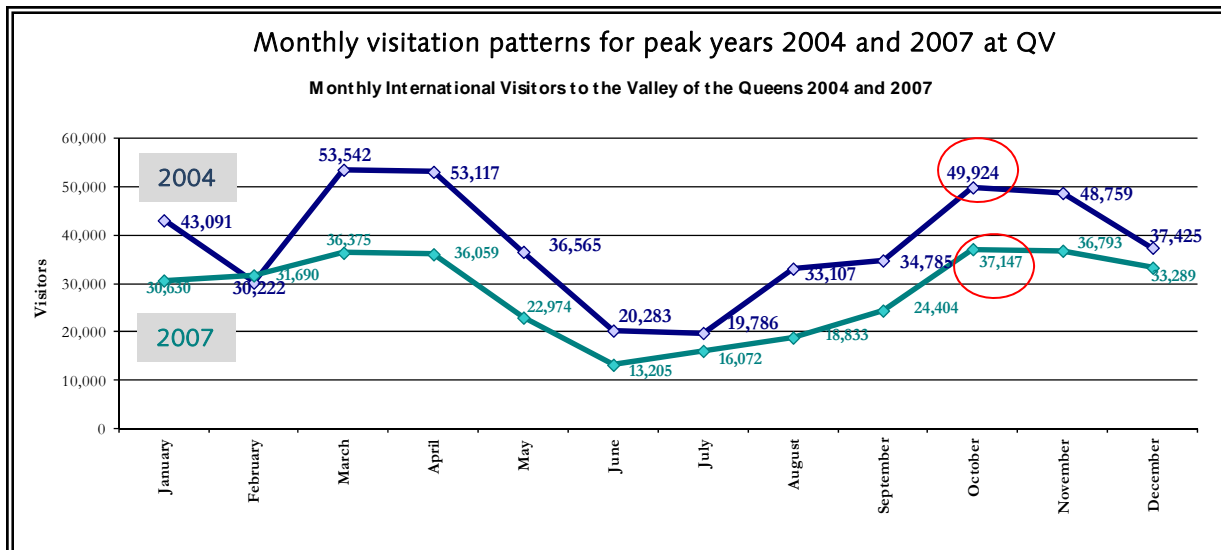
## Visitors to the East and West Banks

Comparison of data from the East and West Bank indicate that almost all visitors to Luxor visit the major monuments on the East Bank (i.e. Karnak Temple) and the West Bank (i.e. Valley of the Kings). With only three tombs open for general visitation, QV receives far fewer visitors than KV. All three sites, however, show a similar pattern of visitation over the decade with peaks in 2000, 2004, and 2007 and troughs presumably representing impact of terrorist events.



## Visitors to the Valley of the Queens

There are only three tombs open to general visitation at QV (Nefertari is restricted and dealt with separately). While international visitor numbers have increased over the 10-year period, growth has been much slower (approximately 40% increase) than at other Luxor sites and QV has been slower to recover from the 2004 peak visitor year (KV recovered and surpassed its 2004 peak).



Monthly visitation during the peak years of visitation at QV in 2004 and 2007 show typical seasonal patterns of visitation. High visitor months at QV are October through April with the hottest summer months of June and July having the lowest numbers.

Weekly patterns of visitation were also tracked. These fluctuate fairly consistently with the convoy system in place from the red Sea; even without the convoy system in place, patterns of visitation fluctuate with the arrival and departure of river cruises. Typically, Thursday is the quietest day and Sunday the busiest. Patterns remain the same in summer although total visitor numbers are much lower.

## Visitors to the tomb of Nefertari

### Period of limited visitation (Nov 1995 – Jan 2003)

With the completion of the GCI-EAO project to conserve the tomb of Nefertari in 1992, the SCA subsequently made a decision to open the tomb to limited visitation. Based only in part on environmental monitoring in the tomb undertaken by the GCI, the SCA established a policy of selling a maximum of 150 tickets per day. Only the year 2000 exceeded the theoretical maximum annual total of 54,750 visitors.

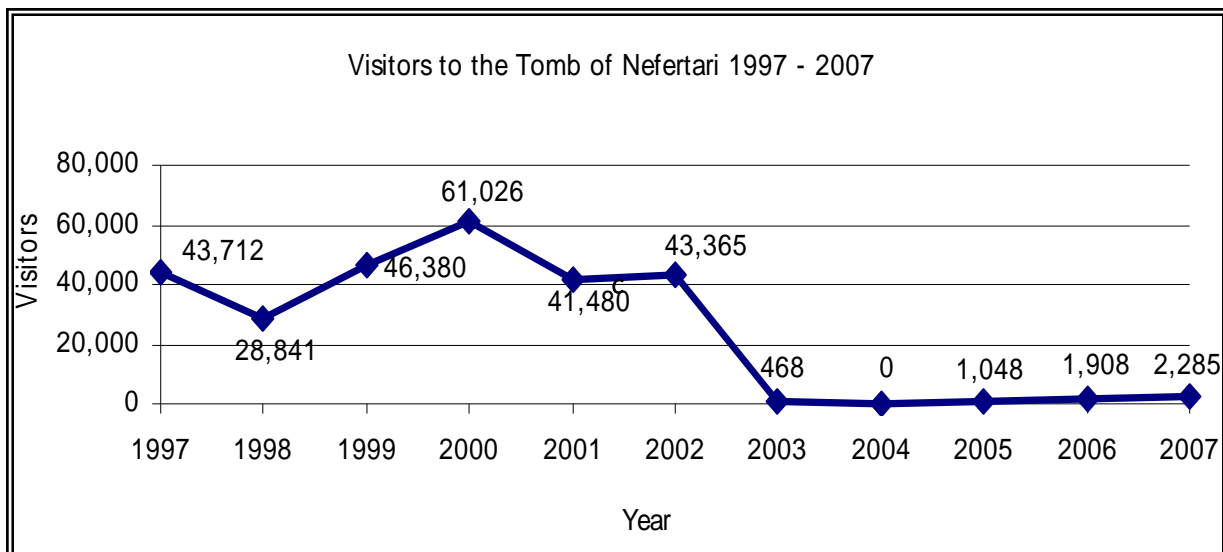
Year	International Visitors
1997	43,712
1998	28,841
1999	46,380
2000	61,026
2001	41,480
2002	43,365
2003	468 [Jan only]

### Period of special visitation (2005 – Present)

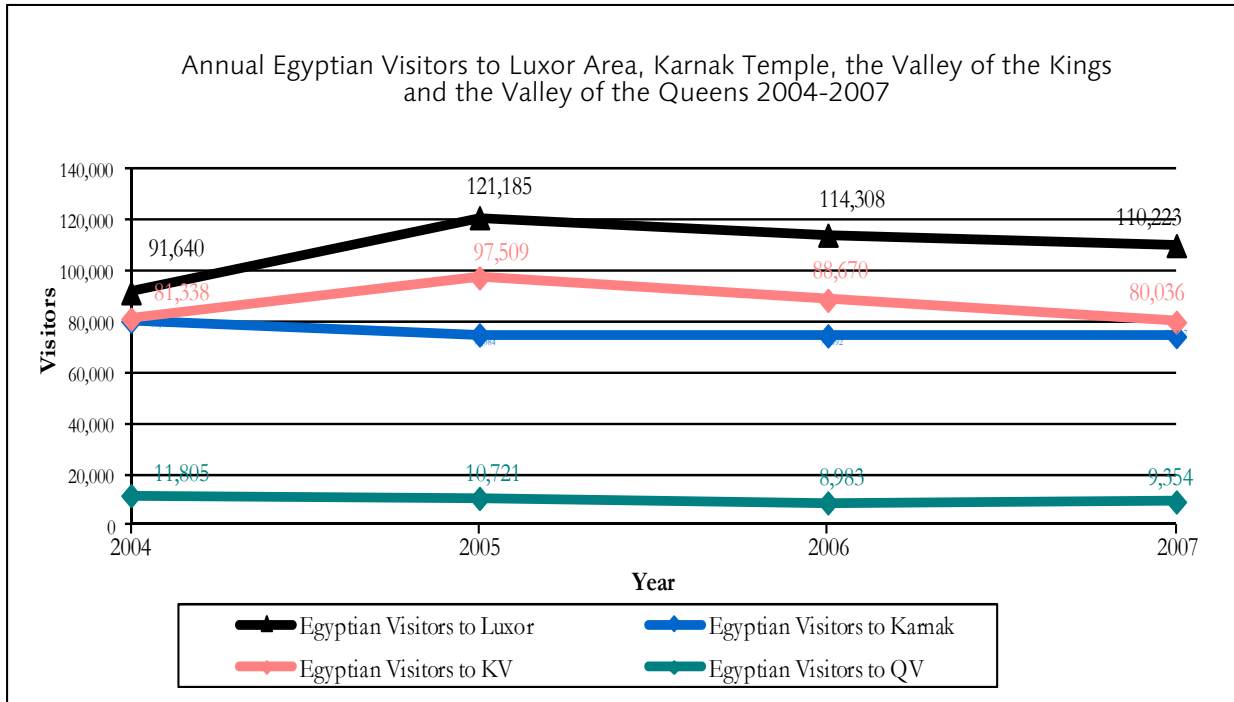
In January 2003, the SCA policy for Nefertari was changed to open the tomb only to special tour groups, and film and television crews, and photographers. Only tour groups are reflected below. The policy did not go into effect until 2005.

Year	International Visitors
2004	None [tomb closed]
2005	1,048
2006	1,908
2007	2,285
2008	2,400

The graph shows clearly the deep reduction in the number of visitors to the tomb of Nefertari as a result of the new SCA policy instituted in 2003 and in effect as of 2005. It remains to be determined the ideal visitor capacity of the tomb for its long-term preservation, but the financial implications of the new policy are discussed in Part III:11, Management Assessment; see Part IV:6 for ticket pricing related to change of policy.



## Egyptian visitors to Luxor



The 1997 Abt study data indicated that Egyptian visitors constituted only 7% of total visitors to Luxor; in 2007 Egyptian visitors were 6% of the total. Thus over this 10-year period there has been no growth and an evident decline since a peak in 2005. Visitation to QV is far less than other sites but shows a similar pattern of decrease from a high in 2004-2005; Egyptian nationals constitute only 3-4% of total visitors to QV.

The results of visitor surveys (see Section 3, Visitor and Guide Surveys) suggest some of the reasons for low Egyptian visitation to pharaonic cultural sites in the Luxor region. Egyptian visitors who do come are most attracted to the monuments (on the East Bank), rather than the necropoleis (on the West Bank) and this is reflected in the visitor statistics. A further reason for the larger numbers at Karnak Temple is that this monument, unlike the West Bank sites, receives thousands of school children each year. School groups in general are not allowed to visit the tombs. There are good reasons for this policy – large groups of school-age children in small fragile tombs – but there is a clear need to encourage greater understanding and interest in the ancient past of Egypt among its young people (see also Part IV:8 on school programs for young Egyptians).

## Part IV.3. Visitor and guide surveys

### Introduction

An important component of the GCI and SCA conservation and management planning for the Valley of the Queens (QV) has been an assessment of visitor management and site interpretation. This includes establishing baseline information on visitation to the Valley through visitor surveys, focus groups with relevant stakeholders, and observations of visitor behavior in order to assess the impact of visitation and develop strategies for the future. Through the assessment process, we are also exploring visitors' perceptions of the closure of the tomb of Nefertari to general visitation and their response to possible alternative methods of visiting or interpreting the tomb. The ultimate purpose is to factor these findings into the visitor management, presentation, and interpretation component of the GCI-SCA collaborative project.

The visitor and guide questionnaires were developed by the GCI and SCA; field surveys, focus groups and data processing were carried out under the direction of Dr Ramadan Hamed Mohamed of the Social Research Center (SRC), American University in Cairo. In addition to the English version, the visitor questionnaire was translated into Arabic, French, German, Russian and Japanese for the February survey; Italian and Spanish were added for the June survey. A QV postcard (above) was designed with photos and information about QV and given to all participants in the survey. Two surveys were undertaken as follows:

- February 5-16, 2007: survey of 748 international visitors and 100 guides; survey and interviews of 294 Egyptian visitors.
- June 23-30, 2007: survey of 748 international visitors and 132 guides.

The methodology and questionnaires developed for the surveys are detailed in the final report of the surveys (*Valley of the Queens. Visitor and Guide Surveys and Focus Groups. February and June 2007. Final Report. December 2007*). In developing the approach and survey instruments, and in the summary of findings that follows, the 2004 visitor survey at the Valley of the Kings (KV), undertaken by the Theban Mapping Project and the SRC, were taken into consideration.

### Characteristics and travel patterns of visitors and guides to QV

#### Characteristics of visitors

A total of 748 foreign visitors and 294 Egyptian visitors were surveyed during the winter (February); the same number of international visitors (748) were surveyed in the summer (June). The Valley of the Kings survey, conducted in June 2004, involved 610 visitors.



Postcard given to visitors who participated in survey.

**Country of origin:** The majority of international visitors in February and June were from Europe, but distribution differed as shown in Table 1. Great Britain provided the largest number in both seasons but by a far larger percentage in the summer (34% vs 19% in winter). The greater number of Italians and Spanish in the summer survey are likely the result of having the questionnaires translated in those languages. The overall decrease in European travelers in the summer suggests that Continental Europeans are less likely to travel to Egypt in the summer and this may also apply to Russian and Japanese visitors, who constituted far fewer numbers in the summer. By comparison, the greatest number of visitors to KV in the summer were from Germany (17%) and Great Britain (14%) followed by Italy (12%) and France (11%) with the USA representing only 4%.



Visitors answering survey questions.

<b>Table 1: Characteristics of international visitors to QV</b>					
<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Winter (%)</b>	<b>Summer (%)</b>	<b>Age Category</b>	<b>Winter (%)</b>	<b>Summer (%)</b>
Great Britain	18.8	33.7	- <15	2.5	3.4
France	17.0	8.4	- 15-24	9.6	17.9
USA	12.2	11.1	- 25-34	14.9	24.5
Russia	7.3	0.4	- 35-44	12.9	17.8
Germany	7.1	1.3	- 45-54	17.2	18.2
Japan	4.8	0.7	- 55-60	14.9	12.2
Belgium	4.1	3.2	- Over 60	28.0	6.1
Netherlands	4.1	0.8			
Australia	0.8	2.5	<b>Gender</b>		
Spain	0.7	3.9	- Male	43.8	45.9
Italy	0.7	11.9	- Female	56.2	54.1
Other	22.4	22.1			

Most Egyptian visitors, who represented about 2.5% of the total number of visitors (not the survey sample), were residents of Lower Egypt, with Cairo and Alexandria forming the bulk of visitors. This is likely attributed to the larger population, greater cultural awareness and/or better financial situation of the residents of Egypt's principal cities.

**Gender and age:** Both winter and summer samples of international visitors were fairly evenly distributed by gender, with slightly more female visitors in both periods. The percentage of older visitors is greater in winter than in summer (only 18% are above 54 years of age compared to 43% in winter). This is most likely due to avoidance of the summer heat by older visitors.

**Education:** A generally high level of education is an attribute of international visitors, with the majority having at least an undergraduate degree. The KV survey gave a similar educational profile.

## Characteristics of tour guides

In addition to the 232 guides surveyed (winter and summer surveys), a focus group was conducted with seven active members of Luxor's Tour Guide Syndicate. The KV survey encompassed 208 tour guides.

**License area:** More than half the guides have licenses issued to work in Luxor, indicating that they are local residents; while most of the others have their license issued in Cairo. A noticeable number of KV tour guides (approximately 13%) have licenses issued to work in the Red Sea Governorate pointing to the large number of convoy tours and visitors. At QV many of the convoy groups from the Red Sea could not (or would not) participate in the survey due to time limitations and are therefore underrepresented.

**Gender, age and education:** The majority of tour guides are male, are in their 30s (followed closely by younger guides in their 20s), and hold a degree in Hotel Management and Tourism (67%); only 12% indicated archaeology as their degree. The KV survey also showed just over half the guides with degrees in Hotel Management and Tourism or Tour Guiding and only 9% in Archaeology.

**Language of guides:** More than two-thirds of surveyed guides speak English in their work with tourists, followed by (winter/summer survey) French (21/16%); Italian (12/11%), German (10/4%), Japanese (2/2%) and Russian (3/2%).

## Travel and visitation patterns

**Time of visit:** Contrary to the survey sample, most visitors to the Valley of the Queens come during the beginning of the week (Sunday-Tuesday) with the highest concentration of visitors, both national (Egyptian) and international, coming on Sunday (see Section 2 for visitor patterns at QV). The difference is due mainly to the convey tours that come to the West Bank at the beginning of the week, many of whom did not participate in the survey.

**Group size:** The group size in summer is smaller (average 9.3) than in winter (average 13.7). In summer, three quarters of the groups have 10 or fewer tourists and only 3% have over 30 tourists. It is important to note, however, the underrepresentation of the larger Red Sea convoy groups.

**Frequency and duration of visit:** Although the majority of international visitors were first-time visitors to both Egypt and QV, approximately 17% of foreign visitors and nearly 14% of Egyptian visitors had come to Egypt or Luxor (in the case of Egyptians) previously without visiting QV. This compares with only about 7% of KV visitors who had visited Egypt previously without touring KV. Guides reported more frequent visits to QV during the winter than during the summer. Nearly half of Egyptian visitors said they made repeat visits to cultural heritage sites in their hometown, with 15% repeating visits to sites outside their hometown.

Both the QV and KV surveys show that the majority (69%) of international visitors stay less than two weeks in Egypt and less than one week in Luxor. The duration of their QV visit is one hour or less, which was confirmed by the tour guides during their focus group. In the focus group tour guides stated that the duration of the visit depends in part on the nationality of the visitors, their culture and knowledge, the number of groups already present at the Valley, as well as the scheduled time available for them to spend in Luxor in general and the West Bank in particular.

**Mode of travel:** Since the majority of QV international visitors organized their tour with a travel agency and were accompanied by a tour guide, the mode of transportation to and from the Valley was mostly by coach or van. On the other hand, almost 40% of Egyptian visitors traveled independently and half that number organized their tours via a travel agency. Many Egyptians expressed difficulty in locating or being able to afford a tour guide.

**Source city:** Almost 50% of the international groups were coming directly from either Cairo or Aswan, with 15% coming from Hurghada on the convoys; however, this may not reflect an accurate picture since most convoy tours did not take part in this study.

**Site visits and preferences:** As shown in Table 2, the vast majority of surveyed visitors and guides go to the Valley of Kings (90% of visitors and 93% of guides), Karnak temple (88% of visitors and 95% of guides) and Luxor temple (82% of visitors and 91% of guides). Relatively few visitors or guides go to the Mummification Museum (13% of visitors and 12% of guides) and the Ramesseum (14% of visitors and 22% of guides). Differences between visitors' and guides' responses (e.g. only 15% of visitors go to Medinet Habu vs 50% of the guides) may suggest different preferences among independent travelers and guide-led groups or the fact that visitors are not well versed in their itinerary and the names of some sites. The main difference between national and international visitors is that more Egyptian visitors went to the temples in Luxor while more foreign visitors went to the Valley of the Kings on the West Bank.

<b>Table 2: Percentages of visitors and guides by sites visited</b>		
<b>Sites visited in Luxor and West Bank</b>	<b>Visitors (%)</b>	<b>Guides (%)</b>
- Valley of the Kings	90	93
- Karnak Temple	88	95
- Luxor Temple	82	90
- Temple of Hatshepsut (Deir el-Bahari)	61	84
- Colossi of Memnon	54	85
- Luxor Museum	38	35
- Tombs of the Nobles	32	43
- Sound and light show (Karnak Temple )	27	33
- Deir el-Medina	16	38
- Medinet Habu	15	50
- Ramesseum	14	22
- Mummification Museum	13	12

**Perceptions of the visit to the valley of the Queens**

Visitors were asked a series of questions concerning the reasons for their visit to the Valley of the Queens, and their overall assessment of the level of conservation and maintenance and specific services and amenities.

**Reasons for visiting:** More than 50% of the visitors came to QV as part of their tour program or at the suggestion of their guides, as confirmed by 85% of the tour guides, indicating little intentionality on the part of visitors in the choice of sites visited.



Group of visitor listening to a guide on site.

More than 70% of Egyptian visitors preferred visiting Luxor over recreational winter resorts for reasons indicating an interest in cultural heritage and education (it may also reflect a disparity in disposable income). Most Egyptian visitors felt awed by the grandeur of ancient Egyptian civilization, yet only 10% expressed an interest in their ancestors' way of life and none knew about the ancient workers' village at Deir el-Medina. When asked why they thought most visitors to archaeological heritage sites were non-Egyptians, the majority (67%) attributed it to the Egyptians' lack of cultural knowledge and awareness.

**Aspects of visit most liked:** The majority of QV visitors favored the artistic quality of the wall paintings as opposed to other aspects, such as iconography, tomb history and tomb architecture. In the summer survey, visitors were asked two open-ended questions about what they enjoyed most and least. The majority of those who responded (approximately one quarter) enjoyed most the information and history of the Valley and tombs (36%), the paintings (30%) and the place itself (12%); visitors disliked most the harassment of vendors and guards (41.5%) and the hot weather (36.6%).

In general, Egyptians favored monuments over tombs. More than 40% preferred Karnak temple, compared to less than 15% who were impressed by the Valley of the Kings and the Tombs of the Nobles. Almost 40% of Egyptians thought that their visit to Luxor satisfied their curiosity about their ancestors and another 30% thought that it somewhat answered their questions about ancient Egypt.

### **Conservation and maintenance**

Most QV visitors, whether national or international, appreciate the need to protect the tombs' wall paintings. However, not all were happy with the glass barriers currently in use. Some (30% Egyptians and 10% other nationalities) felt that it lessens the visitor's experience, while others (5% Egyptians and 4% other nationalities) expressed a desire for cleaner glass.

Despite the fact that most QV visitors seem to have a fair understanding of the principal threats to the tombs' wall paintings, such as weathering, erosion, touching, and graffiti, the majority has no clear idea about the role of conservation. When asked to rate the level of conservation and maintenance at the site generally, 62% of international visitors found it to be good. This compares with only 24% of guides, who are in a better position to assess QV against other sites over a much longer period of time.

The attitude of Egyptians was explored in more depth through interviews. When asked what conservation means to them, all those who answered (33%) defined it in terms of restoring what has been destroyed to its original condition. In addition to this basic misunderstanding of the meaning of conservation, 40% of Egyptian visitors thought that the work of preserving a site is mainly concerned with the provision of facilities and developing it for tourism purposes. On the other hand, an interesting 19% expressed their dislike of any kind of intervention on historic sites as it would diminish the site's authenticity.

### **Visitors' assessment of services and amenities**

To explore expectations of specific services and amenities commonly found at cultural sites and how they assessed these at the Valley of the Queens, visitors were asked to rate the importance of specific items. As shown in Table 3, on a 1-10 scale, well trained guides, cleanliness, and security ranked highest in importance in both the winter and summer surveys (more than 8), with shelters for shade ranking highest in the summer and less highly valued in the winter. These were followed by toilets, interpretive signs, and limited impact of modern construction on the landscape, with an average score of more than 7. Visitors considered short distance from parking, handicapped access, first aid station and refreshment kiosk moderately important (4.4-5.7) in the winter but these items jumped a full point in the summer. On-site interpretive center (5.4/5.4) and self-guided audio tour (5.1/4.4) were less important and least important was a souvenir shop (2.7/2.5).

<b>Table 3. Visitors' perceptions of specific services and amenities</b>				
<b>How important to you are the following when you visit sites?</b>	<b>Importance</b>		<b>QV rating</b>	
	<b>Mean Winter</b>	<b>Mean Summer</b>	<b>Mean Winter</b>	<b>Mean Summer</b>
- Cleanliness (lack of litter)	8.9	8.8	8.4	7.8
- Shelter / shade	7.0	8.1	7.4	5.8
- Security	8.3	8.5	7.9	7.6
- Short walking distance from parking area	5.4	6.5	7.5	5.9
- Handicapped access	5.7	6.1	-	-
- First aid station	5.7	6.6	-	-
- Refreshment kiosk / café	4.4	6.1	-	-
- Toilets	7.9	7.6	5.3	4.8
- Limited impact of modern construction on the landscape	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.1
- Shops to buy souvenirs	2.7	2.5	5.1	5.1
- Interpretive signs	7.6	7.5	5.0	5.7
- Well trained guides	8.7	9.0	6.1	7.5
- Self guided audio tour	5.1	4.4	-	-
- On- site interpretive center	5.4	5.4	-	-

Visitors rated the Valley of the Queens high (greater than 7) for cleanliness, security, and limited impact on landscape, although mean scores did not attain the highest rating. Well trained guides were rated higher (7.5) in the summer than winter (only 6.1). The rating for QV regarding distance from parking differed markedly between winter, when the distance seemed reasonable (7.5), and summer, when the same distance clearly seemed longer (5.9). The greatest discrepancy between high value placed on an item (8.1) and its rating at QV (5.8) was in shelters for shade during the summer. The rating of QV was also notably lower than expectations for toilets, and interpretive signs. Only the souvenir shop rated higher at QV than the importance visitors assigned to having such shops at the sites they visited.

Most Egyptian visitors, who came with no or little prior knowledge about QV, were passive about or unsatisfied with their tour guide. The desire for good interpretation was made clear from the number of requests by Egyptian visitors for well-trained Arabic speaking guides and better interpretative signage.

### **Improving the visitor experience**

Visitors were asked to select from a list of enhancements that would have made their visit to QV a better experience. Table 4 summarizes the findings from the winter and summer surveys. Seeing more tombs and better ventilation were ranked highest in both seasons but were particularly emphasized in the summer. These were followed by better signs (27% in winter; 21% in summer), more information beforehand (24% in winter; 17% in summer), better lighting (24% in winter; 12% in summer), fewer people in the tombs (23% in winter; 14% in summer) and a longer time in the tomb (21% in winter; but falling significantly in summer to 10%). Although the relative ranking remained somewhat constant between summer and winter, the percentages varied markedly on some items and there was generally less enthusiasm for all options in the summer, plausibly a result of fatigue and discomfort due to heat. A similar percentage of visitors in both seasons felt the 'tour was perfect' (17/19%). Ventilation showed a significant discrepancy between winter and summer, which is likely the result of the heat in the summer and resulting uncomfortable conditions in the tombs.

<b>Table 4. Items that would have made the visit better</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Winter survey (%)</b>	<b>Summer survey (%)</b>
Seeing more tombs	43	50
Better ventilation	34	45
Better signs	27	21
More information beforehand	24	17
Better lighting	24	12
Fewer people in the tombs	23	14
Longer time in the tombs	21	10
Nothing, the tour was perfect	17	19
More opportunity to ask questions	16	6
Less waiting time	11	5
Less noise	9	3
Extended visitation hours	6	6
Other	4	3
Seeing fewer tombs	2	1
Shorter time in the tombs	1	1

From the requests of Egyptian visitors, it was clear that they placed the highest importance on well trained Arabic speaking guides (29%), good interpretive signs (19%), access and navigation within the site (33%), and respectful treatment of Egyptian visitors (19%).

## Planning for the Future

### Information and site features

Table 5 shows visitors' and guides' responses on enhancing a visit to the Valley (respondents could check as many options as applied) for the winter and summer surveys. Both guides and visitors responded most favorably to more information as a means of enhancing their visit, although only a third of visitors selected conservation as something they wished to know more about. This may in part be attributed to a lack of understanding of conservation. The desire for an information brochure about the site ranked highest among both international visitors and guides.

The majority of Egyptian visitors, however, preferred having a tour guide or interpretive panels (both 48%), or an on-site documentary (38%), over receiving information booklets (33%). Only 0.5% of KV visitors wanted to have an information booklet. This may reflect the greater availability of information about the Valley of the Kings.

While not as popular as the desire for more information, the options for visiting other features at the site appealed to many visitors and guides. The feature most requested by QV international visitors as well as guides (38% and 30% respectively) is that they be able to visit the ruins of the Coptic monastery in the Valley. Only 25% of international visitors (and 28% of guides) expressed interest in visiting tombs with no decoration or less well-preserved wall paintings. This compares with 57% of Egyptian visitors who expressed an interest in visiting tombs with other features of interest.

<b>Table 5. Visitor and guides opinions on enhancing a visit to the Valley of the Queens</b>				
<b>What would enhance your visit?</b>	<i>Winter</i>		<i>Summer</i>	
	<i>Visitors</i>	<i>Guides</i>	<i>Visitors</i>	<i>Guides</i>
More information about the site and its history including the re-use of tombs in post-Pharaonic times.	58	64	54	57
More information about the occupants of the tomb.	52	65	45	45
More information about the methods of tomb construction and decoration.	44	52	59	32
More information about the conservation of the site and its tombs.	36	47	39	29
A brochure with information and a map of the site.	58	48	71	45

<b>Visits to other site features or areas</b>				
Self guided walks to vista points overlooking the Valley of the Queens.	31	22	24	18
Visits to tombs with no decoration or less preserved wall paintings, but with other features of interest.	25	28	34	24
Visit to the ancient workers sanctuary to Ptah and Meretseger on the path to Deir el-Medina.	33	21	36	27
Visit to ruins of the Coptic monastery in the Valley of the Queens.	38	30	38	33

A third of international visitors (and only 21% of guides) thought that a visit to the ancient workers sanctuary to Ptah and Meretseger on the path to Deir el-Medina would enhance the QV visit. This was closely followed by the interest of both international visitors and Egyptian visitors in self-guided walks to vista points overlooking QV, while only 22% of guides were interested in this option.

The overall low rating by guides, as compared to visitors, for more information or opportunity to see other sites or features is not surprising. The guides are expected to be the conveyors of information, and the areas where they expressed interest in having more information—re-use of the site and occupants of the tombs—probably reflects the lack of accessible information that exists about these subjects. The guides' lack of enthusiasm for other features to visit likely links with their restrictive tour programs and the fact that any self-guided tours would effectively eliminate the need for guides.

### **Suggestions for tombs closed to visitation**


The questionnaires provided two solutions to solve the problem of tombs that are closed to general visitation for their protection, with Nefertari being the cited example. The first option was to restrict number of visitors either by using a reservation booking system, charging a very high price for tickets, or using a lottery system that would randomly select a limited number of groups each day. The second option was to prohibit any visitation and either make a replica of the tomb off-site, create a 3D computer simulation, or provide on-site information and visual displays.


Table 6 shows that guides clearly prefer the first option to restrict the number of visitors (67/56%); visitors were less consistent, with summer visitors preferring this option (52%) and winter visitors preferring to prohibit any visitation (44%). Among those who selected restricting the number of visitors, the majority of both guides and visitors preferred to do this using a reservation system (although guides in the summer were less inclined to favor reservations). Guides were significantly more in favor than visitors of a high ticket price for entry. Least acceptable to both visitors and guides was the use of a lottery system.

Of interest was the preference of winter visitors for not allowing any visitation to fragile tombs. Both visitors and guides who favored this option showed a preference for creating a replica of the tomb off site.

<b>Table 6. Visitor and guide opinions on visitation to fragile tombs</b>				
<b>Options</b>	<b>Winter survey</b>		<b>Summer survey</b>	
	<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Guides</b>	<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Guides</b>
<b>Restrict number of visitors using....</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>56%</b>
- A reservation booking system	75	60	82	42
- Charging a very high price for tickets	15	39	8	54
- Using a lottery system	10	1	10	4
<b>Prohibit any visitation and....</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>44%</b>
- Create replica of the tomb off-site	42	54	45	42
- Create 3D computer simulation	31	17	30	20
- Provide on site information and visual displays	27	29	25	38

# Sample visitor survey, Summer 2007


 معهد جيتي للحفاظ على التراث الثقافي  
 The Getty Conservation Institute


 المجلس الأعلى للآثار  
 The Supreme Council of Antiquities

## Visitor Survey – June 2007

### Valley of the Queens

Dear Visitor,

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to the Valley of the Queens today.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt and the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles are working together to develop and implement a conservation and management plan for the Valley of the Queens. We would like your opinion so that the visitor's experience can be improved.


Thank you.


Questionnaire ID:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:     / 06 /2007

*Note: Any information gathered during this survey will be treated in confidence and will be used only for research purposes*


 معهد جيتي للحفاظ على التراث الثقافي  
 The Getty Conservation Institute


 المجلس الأعلى للآثار  
 The Supreme Council of Antiquities

### General Information

**Question 1.** Where are you from?

1. Egypt    2. Australia    3. Belgium    4. France    5. Germany    6. Spain  
 7. Great Britain    8. Italy    9. Japan    10. Netherlands    11. Russia    12. USA  
 13. Other .....

**Question 2.** Which age group and gender are you?

1. Male	Age Group
2. Female	1. Under 15 years
	2. 15 --- 24 years
	3. 25 --- 34 years
	4. 35 --- 44 years
	5. 45 --- 54 years
	6. 55 --- 60 years
	7. Over 60 years

**Question 3.** How did you travel to the Valley of the Queens?

1. Bus  
 2. Car / taxi  
 3. Donkey tour  
 4. Walked  
 5. Other .....

**Question 4.** Where did you travel from to come to Luxor?

1. Aswan    2. Cairo  
 3. Hurgada    4. Sharm Al-Shaikh  
 5. Home Country    6. Other .....

**Question 5.** How many times have you visited?

A. Egypt		B. Valley of the Queens	
1. First visit	1. First visit	2. 1 previous visit	2. 1 previous visit
3. 2 or more visits	3. 2 or more visits	3. 2 or more visits	3. 2 or more visits


### Your visit to the Valley of the Queens


Question 6. How important to you are the following when you visit sites?	A. How important?			B. How does the Valley of the Queens rate?		
	Very	Moderately	Not	High	Average	Poor
1. Cleanliness (lack of litter and clean toilets)	1	2	3	1	2	3
2. Shelter / shade	1	2	3	1	2	3
3. Security	1	2	3	1	2	3
4. Short walking distance from parking area	1	2	3	1	2	3
5. Handicapped access	1	2	3			
6. First aid station	1	2	3			
7. Refreshment kiosk / café	1	2	3			
8. Toilets	1	2	3	1	2	3
9. Limited impact of modern construction on the landscape, such as parking areas or service buildings	1	2	3	1	2	3
10. Shops to buy souvenirs	1	2	3	1	2	3
11. Interpretive signs	1	2	3	1	2	3
12. Well trained guides	1	2	3	1	2	3
13. Self-guided audio tour	1	2	3			
14. On-site interpretive center	1	2	3			

**Question 7.** What aspects of the tombs did you like most? (circle one only)

1. Artistic quality of wall paintings    2. Tomb history  
 3. Iconography of the wall paintings (the scenes depicted)    4. Tomb architecture  
 5. Other .....

June 2007    1


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 The Getty Conservation Institute


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 The Supreme Council of Antiquities

**Question 8.** A. What did you enjoy most about your visit?    B. What did you like least about your visit?

.....

**Question 9.** Did you speak or interact with any site staff or guards?

1. Yes    2. No

If yes, do you have any comments?

.....

**Question 10.** Which of the following would have made the visit a better experience for you? (circle all that apply)

A. Less waiting time	B. Better signs
C. Longer time in the tombs	D. More information beforehand
E. Shorter time in the tombs	F. More opportunity to ask questions
G. Better lighting	H. Seeing more tombs
I. Less noise	J. Seeing fewer tombs
K. Better ventilation	L. Extended visitation hours
M. Fewer people in the tombs	N. Nothing, the tour was perfect
X. Other .....	

### Planning for the future

**Question 11.** In your opinion, what would enhance a visit to the Valley of the Queens? (circle all that apply)

A. A booklet with information and a map of the site.  
 B. Self-guided walks to vista points overlooking the Valley of the Queens.  
 C. Visits to tombs with no decoration or less preserved wall paintings, but with other features of interest (such as evidence of historical re-use, tomb construction, and how walls were painted).  
 D. Visit to the ancient workers' sanctuary of Ptah on the path to Deir El-Medina.  
 E. Visit to the ruins of the Coptic monastery in the Valley of the Queens.

**Question 12.** What information would you like to know more about during your visit? (circle all that apply)

A. Site and its history including the re-use of tombs in post-Pharaonic times.  
 B. Occupants of the tombs.  
 C. Methods of tomb construction and decoration.  
 D. Conservation of the site and its tombs.

**Question 13.** Some important tombs, such as that of queen Nefertari, are closed to general visitation for their protection. In your opinion, how should management deal with tombs that are fragile and will likely be damaged by large numbers of visitors? (circle one only)

A. Restrict numbers of visitors by ...	Or, B. do not allow any visitation and ...
1. Using a reservation/booking system.	1. Create a replica of the tomb off-site.
2. Charging a very high price for tickets.	2. Create 3D computer simulated tours.
3. Using a lottery system that would randomly select a limited number of groups each day.	3. Provide on-site informational and visual displays.

**Suggestions or Comments:**

.....

.....

June 2007    2

## Part IV.4. Observations of visitors and guides

### Observations during Winter 2007

Observations of visitors were undertaken by the SRC and QV team members during the February visitor survey at the following points in the Valley.

- Inside the tomb of Amenherkhepshef, QV 55, and under the shelter near the tomb.
- Inside the tomb of Tyti, QV 52, and under the shelter near the tomb.
- Inside the tomb of Khaemwaset, QV 44, and under the shelter near the tomb.



Observations are summarized in Tables 1.1 and 1.2.

Tomb Shelter	Amenherkhepshef (QV 55)	Tyti (QV 52)	Khaemwaset (QV 44)
<b>Observation</b>			
<b>Sequence of visit</b>	90% of the groups started QV visit at this tomb		when other tombs are too crowded this is the first and only stop of their visit
<b>Shelter's capacity</b>	most crowded	-less crowded -usually used when the shelter at tomb 55 was too crowded -since this is the first shelter after the entrance, groups with seniors and children usually stop here to rest -not all groups visited Tyti -when already occupied by group, guide takes his group to the tomb's entrance (rather than waiting under shelter) -when too crowded, guide leads group to tomb 55 and most of those never visit other tombs	-least crowded -usually visited only by small groups or individual visitors -when group size exceeds 15 visitors the space becomes insufficient to hold all visitors -not all groups visited the tomb, usually only when the other tombs were too crowded and were directly lead by their guides up to this tomb
<b>Waiting time to enter tomb</b>	-guide made 'reservations' with guard for his group's entrance into the tomb -visitors waited at the tomb entrance or near Tyti's tomb -a few visitors took photos while waiting to visit the tomb -individual visitors or small groups entered the tomb without waiting at the shelter unless the tomb was already occupied by a large group	some seniors declined to visit the tomb or complete the visit and waited at the shelter for the rest of the group to finish their visit	-since some guides give their talk at the bottom of the hill, their groups do not stop at the shelter -guides with German groups gave a longer talk -some visitors took photos of the site around the tomb

Table 1.1 Observations under tomb shelters – Winter 2007 cont.					
Tomb Shelter	Amenherkhepshef (QV 55)			Tyti (QV 52)	Khaemwaset (QV 44)
Observation					
Average duration of guide's talk	5 min			5 min	5 min
Content of guide's talk	-construction of tomb -mummified fetus -sometimes also Nefertari's tomb -photography inside tombs is prohibited (some guides took cameras from visitors)			-QV in general and all three open tombs -a little about the mummified fetus (3 different stories were told) -a little about Nefertari -most guides referred to tomb 44, but did not suggest visiting it; some advised the seniors in their groups not to visit -guides direct their groups to first visit tomb 55 -photography inside tombs is prohibited (some guides took cameras from visitors)	
Interaction with tour guide	-questions raised about why Nefertari could not be visited -some visitors took notes while guide gave his talk -guides waited at the shelter for their groups to finish their visit inside the tomb			few questions were raised	few questions were raised
Attention to Signage	-most visitors did not notice the tomb's signage -even visitors who noticed the sign, read it very quickly -some took photos of sign			-most visitors did not notice the tomb's signage -guides complained about the sign being old and needing replacement	majority of visitors read sign if unaccompanied by guide
Other actions or remarks	-visitors who toured Nefertari did not visit any other tomb -one guide remarked: "German visitors read about the places they visit and are keen to know more so they ask and want to see everything they read about. Whereas the Spanish do not read (as much) and want to enjoy everything they are seeing, so they don't ask any questions." -some visitors looked at other nearby closed tombs and shafts				

### Observations inside tombs

Table 1.2 Observations inside tombs – Winter 2007					
Tomb	Amenherkhepshef (QV 55)			Tyti (QV 52)	Khaemwaset (QV 44)
Observation					
Time spent inside	Average	Min*	Max**	Average	Average
	6 min	3 min	9 min	3 min	6 min
Peak time	From 10:30 am to 2:00 pm				
Atmosphere inside	some visitors took off jackets or sweaters and others fanned themselves			comments on the humidity inside the tomb	

Table 1.2 Observations inside tombs – Winter 2007 cont.			
Tomb	Amenherkhepshef (QV 55)	Tyti (QV 52)	Khaemwaset (QV 44)
Observation			
Points of interest	-mummified fetus -sarcophagus -wall paintings were mostly looked at very quickly	-ceiling -pit	-ceiling --the prince's hair and clothing -color of wall paintings
Touching	-few people touched the walls -visitors touched the sarcophagus when guard was not looking		some visitors touched the wall paintings on the low ceiling and where glass was broken
Photography	visitors did not try to take any photos inside	some visitors tried to take photos, but guard did not allow it	some visitors took photographs
Interaction with tour guide	although prohibited, on rare occasions, guides accompanied groups inside tomb		
Interaction with guard	-guard followed groups and offered information about mummy and sarcophagus -guard used flashlight to illuminate the mummy and sarcophagus -visitors gave guard tips although he did not request any -guard clapped hands to indicate that visitors need to leave the tomb for others to visit		
Lighting	complaints about poor lighting	complaints about poor lighting	complaints about poor lighting
Glass barriers		comments on glass barriers (not clean enough)	comments on glass barriers (broken and not clean enough)
Other remarks		comments on the bad state of preservation of tomb	a few visitors returned to visit on the same day; tomb less crowded than others, so small groups took more time

\*Usually for large or medium groups. \*\*Usually with smaller groups or individual travelers who spend more time at the site

### Observations during Summer 2007

Observations of visitors were undertaken during the June visitor survey at the same points as observed during the winter (inside the tombs and under the associated shelters). Observations were undertaken for one hour every day; after three days of observations with no groups visiting Khaemwaset (QV 44), this tomb was dropped as an observation point.

These observations are summarized in Tables 2.1 and 2.2.



Table 2.1 Observations under tomb shelters – Summer 2007		
Observation	Tomb Shelter	
	Amenherkhepshef (QV 55)	Tyti (QV 52)
Sequence of visit	Almost all groups started their visit here	
Shelter's capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-most crowded</li> <li>-usually used when the shelter at tomb 52 was too crowded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-less crowded</li> <li>-always used in summer since this is the first shelter after the entrance</li> <li>-groups with seniors and children usually rest here</li> <li>-when group size exceeds 25 visitors the space becomes insufficient to hold all visitors groups</li> <li>-when already occupied by group, guide of the other group takes them to the tomb's entrance</li> </ul>
Waiting time to enter tomb	individual visitors or small groups immediately entered the tomb without waiting at the shelter unless the tomb was already occupied by a large group	some seniors declined to visit the tomb or complete the visit and waited at the shelter for the rest of the group to finish their visit
Content of guide's talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-construction of tomb</li> <li>-mummified fetus</li> <li>-sometimes also the Nefertari tomb</li> <li>-photography inside tombs is prohibited (some guides took cameras from visitors) but some guards encouraged visitors to take photos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Valley of the Queens in general and all three open tombs</li> <li>-a little about the mummified fetus in tomb 44 (3 different stories were told)</li> <li>-almost all guides mentioned Nefertari tomb</li> <li>-very few guides mentioned QV 44, and when they did, advised their groups not to visit</li> <li>-all guides directed their groups to first visit QV 55</li> <li>-photography inside tombs is prohibited (some guides took cameras from visitors)</li> </ul>
Average duration of guide's talk	7 min	5 min
Interaction with tour guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-questions raised about why Nefertari could not be visited</li> <li>-guides waited at the shelter for their groups to finish their visit inside the tomb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-questions raised about why Nefertari could not be visited</li> <li>-guides waited at the shelter for their groups to finish their visit inside the tomb</li> </ul>
Other actions or remarks	<b>QV 55 and QV 52</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most of the tomb's signage had been removed [by SCA]</li> <li>- Most of the visitors did not notice the available signage and those who did read it quickly</li> <li>- Some visitors noted with disapproval that the guards told them they could take photos</li> <li>- Few visitors looked at other nearby closed tombs and shafts</li> <li>- Some visitors took photos of the site around the tomb.</li> <li>- Guides with French groups gave a longer talk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most of the tourist guides have books with them and used them during the explanation.</li> <li>- Most of the time the Valley very quiet.</li> <li>- Most of the visiting groups are small.</li> <li>- Very few groups visited the Valley on Thursday</li> <li>- 6:00 AM – 7:30 am and 10:00 am – 12:00 pm were the most crowded times in the valley</li> <li>- It was noted that a cart with donkey entered the Valley three times during the field work week. This cart is used to deliver water for the guards. All the way from the main entrance to Amenherkhepshef's tomb (55) there is donkey excrement on the path.</li> </ul>

Table 2.2 Observations Inside Tombs – Summer 2007						
Observation	Tomb					
	Amenherkhepshef (QV 55)			Tyti (QV 52)		
Time spent inside	Average	Min*	Max**	Average	Min*	Max**
	5 min	3 min	8 min	4 min	3 min	5 min
Peak time	from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm			from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm		
Atmosphere inside	it was very hot and most visitors fanned themselves			it was very hot and most visitors fanned themselves		
Points of interest	-mummified fetus and sarcophagus -wall paintings mostly looked at quickly			-ceiling -pit		
Touching	a few people touched the walls and some visitors touched the sarcophagus			some visitors touched the wall paintings on the low ceiling		
Photography	some visitors took photos after the guard informed them they could					
Interaction with guard	- guard followed groups and offered information about mummy and sarcophagus - guard used flashlight to illuminate the mummy and sarcophagus -visitors gave guard tips although he did not request any			visitors gave guard tips although he did not request any		
Lighting	complaints about poor lighting			complaints about poor lighting		
Glass barriers	comments on the state of the glass barriers (not clean enough)			comments on the state of the glass barriers (not clean enough)		
Other remarks	Time in the tomb depends on the number of visitors inside it. If the number is large the visiting time decreased to 3 minutes and this always happened at peak time. Some visitors complained to the guards and they allowed them to take photos inside the tomb.					

\* Usually for large or medium groups. \*\*Usually with smaller groups or individual travelers who spend more time

### Observations of visitor groups (2008)

Following on the initial observations undertaken in 2007, more focused tracking of groups visiting the Valley of the Queens were carried out in February 2008. The objective was to discern visitor, guide and vendor behavior, both in the parking area and inside the QV site, and to record comments by visitors and guides overheard while following the groups. The observation team consisted of the two SCA trainees, Fatin Bushra and Shaymaa Mahmud, and GCI consultant Dania El-Iraqi.

In the parking area, all vehicles arriving and departing QV were recorded and everything each group did from the moment of arrival until its departure, including the time spent in vendor area, was observed. In the Valley, at least four groups each day over a week were observed, during slow periods and at times when the site was quite crowded, for a total of 48 groups. The groups were categorized as follows:

- unguided groups of individual visitors
- small guided groups (1-10)
- medium guided groups (10-20), and
- large guided groups (>20).

Observations took place during the winter period when temperatures are relatively mild but when visitation is at its peak and which also coincided with the 2-week Egyptian holiday period.

## Observations in Parking and Vendor Area

### Visitor Numbers

The highest number of QV visitors during the week of observations was on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>: 1,977 (1,781 international visitors, 196 Egyptian visitors), the third highest recorded number of visitors during February 2008.

### Vehicle and Group Numbers

The daily average number of vehicles and groups that visit QV is 140 each. On peak days the number of vehicles and groups may reach 155 and 150 respectively, while on slow days these numbers may reach 110 and 130 respectively.

### Group Classification and Distribution

Most groups are small, averaging 100 groups per day. Medium groups (11-20 visitors) average 10 per day regardless of busy or slow days. Large groups (>20 visitors) average between 20 to 30 per day, barely exceeding 10 groups on slow days.

### Vehicle Classification and Distribution

- Most vehicles bringing visitors to QV are vans, between 60 to 70 per day.
- Cars range between 35 to 40 per day, reaching 20 on slow days.
- Coaches vary greatly between slow and busy days, ranging from 15 to 60 respectively and averaging 30 per day.
- Bikes may reach up to 20 per day, regardless of whether it is a slow or busy day.
- There are occasionally groups on any day that use other modes of transportation such as horse, donkey and even camel. Additionally, there are hikers who come over the mountain from other nearby sites as well as those who simply walk to QV.

### Patterns of Vehicle Use

- Vehicles with a special tourism license park in the main parking area, unlike taxis and private cars which use the side parking area.
- Due to a shortage of coaches (according to guides), most groups are distributed over a number of smaller vans, sometimes with a separate guide for each subgroup.
- Coaches usually drop off visitors in front of the main parking area entrance or in front of the ticket office.
- Some vehicles, especially taxis and a few vans, just drop off their visitors and come back later to pick them up. Taxis that drop off individuals rarely wait, while taxis that drop off groups with a tour guide wait in the side parking area.
- To save time, some drivers or tour leaders leave during their group's visit to buy tickets to other sites at the ticket office behind the inspectorate.
- Since the QV ticket office closes at 16:30, some drivers or tour leaders buy QV tickets in advance while their groups are visiting elsewhere so that they can visit QV on the same day.
- Most coaches leave the motor running during visitors' boarding and dismounting of vehicle, with an average of up to 5 minutes each time. Some coaches and a very small percentage of vans leave the motor running during all or most of their group's visit to QV.
- Coaches usually arrange themselves so that those whose turn it is to leave the parking area are first in line facing the road.
- Drivers get their vehicles ready for pickup and departure at the entrance of the main parking area or in front of ticket office either when they see their group leaving QV entrance or when the guide informs them via a mobile call.
- When the main parking area is busy coaches park in a line on the side of the road or in the side parking area. This causes bottlenecks and the road blocks with no space for buses to leave or enter.

- 11:00 am to 1:00 pm is usually the busiest time of day: The average number of vehicle arrivals and departures is 30 per hour, reaching 40 per hour on busy days and dropping to 20 per hour on slow days.
- The number of vehicles parked in the main parking area is 30 per hour on average and may drop to 10 per hour on very slow days during the busiest time of day.

### **Group Behavior and Patterns**

- It takes guides less than 3 minutes to buy tickets while their groups gather at the vendor area entrance where vendors try to sell them their products; guides then gather their groups and move towards QV entrance, thereby preventing bottlenecks at the ticket office.
- Sometimes visitors accompany their guide to the ticket office, especially with small groups.
- Sometimes a few members of a group do not visit QV and prefer to wait in their vehicles until the end of their group's visit.
- On average, one group per day departed without visiting QV.
- Visitors waiting for pick-up have no place to wait in the main parking area so they stand and sit on the side of the road near ticket office. There is no toilet for visitors outside the site, which can present problems (for example, a visitor waiting inside a van in the parking area needed a toilet and after finding that it was too far inside QV for her to walk there, the driver decided to take her in the van to the nearest accessible toilet)

### **Vendor Behavior and Patterns**

- Vendors generally do not target small or individual travelers to buy their products, focusing on medium or large groups.
  - Vendors rarely bother with Egyptian visitors and when they do, they usually entice them to buy inexpensive products with a more practical use like hats and scarves.
  - Vendors are not allowed within the boundaries of the main parking area, which makes them resort to calling to customers in loud voices, in addition to tagging along with visitors up to the QV entrance.
  - Some vendors are assertive in approaching visitors, sometimes touching or pulling them to look at their merchandise.
  - When groups leave, vendors try to sell their products more aggressively, accompanying visitors during their exit and sometimes even boarding their vehicles to finish a sale.
  - Some guides help vendors, allowing them to board their vehicles or waiting for them to complete a sale.
  - The following products are of highest demand among visitors: books, shawls and statues.
- On most days vendors start closing their shops at ~16:00 hours and on slow days not all vendors open their shops and those that do start closing at ~15:00, with most shops closed by ~15:30.

### **Visitor Interest in Products from QV Vendors**

- More small and medium groups than individual travelers and large groups showed an interest in the products sold by QV vendors. Approximately half of the small and medium groups stopped to buy from vendors, usually on their way out from their QV visit. Although only 3 of the observed large groups stopped to buy from QV vendors, the number of buying visitors from large groups is greater than that of other groups. However, only two groups of individual visitors bought products from QV vendors, one being a family of Arabs spending approximately 30 minutes.
- Individual and small groups spent an average of 5 minutes in the vendor area, while medium and large groups stayed there for an average of 7 minutes.

### **Observations of Groups on Site**

A total of 48 groups were observed during the week as follows: 16 groups of individual travelers; 7 small groups; 10 medium groups; and 15 large groups.

### **Duration of Visit**

Most groups (~65%) stayed between 30 to 60 minutes at QV; 15-20% stayed less than 30 minutes (the shortest time was 19 minutes including time spent in the parking lot); and a similar number (15-20%) spent more than 60 minutes (the longest time was 97 minutes including time spent in the parking lot). Up to 60% of those groups that spend over an hour at QV are groups of individual visitors.

Groups of individual visitors typically spent more time at QV than did the other groups. On average, individual visitors spent 40 minutes inside QV with the duration of the whole visit reaching 50 minutes, including time spent in the parking and vendor area. Surprisingly, medium groups came next, with an average of 36 minutes spent inside QV and 47 minutes for the whole duration of their visit. The difference between small and large groups is negligible. Small and large groups spent an average of 35 and 34 minutes, respectively, inside QV, while the total duration of their visit reached an average of 43 and 44 minutes respectively.

### **Following the Main Path**

Almost all visitors were curious about the shaft tombs on the sides of the main path near QV gate and many wandered off the path to look inside them.

Most guided groups did not have the time to wander around, exploring the site. Visitors from only 2 medium and 2 large groups have been observed doing that. On the other hand, half of the groups of individual visitors roamed around the site, climbing rocks and the mountain slopes, exploring the workers' huts and the kiln, as well as the area near the Cascade.

### **Tombs Visited and Sequence of Visit**

- QV 44 is the least visited tomb. However, when the site is very busy and crowded, it was at times the only tomb visited. When QV 55 is too crowded, guides head towards less crowded tombs first.
- All individual groups, with one exception, visited all three tombs. The sequence of visit would equally be either QV 55, QV 52, QV 44, respectively, or QV 52, QV 55, QV 44, respectively.
- Half of the small groups visited all open tombs and the other half excluded QV 44 from their visit. The usual sequence was QV 55, QV 52, QV 44.
- Most medium groups visited all open tombs and those that did not excluded QV 44. The predominant sequence was QV 55, QV 52, QV 44.
- Large groups followed the same sequences and preferences, except, sometimes, extra-large groups were subdivided into smaller subgroups that visited QV 55 and 52. Unlike medium groups, however, most large groups excluded QV 44 from their visit.

### **Visitation Time Inside Tombs**

The average visiting time in QV 55 and 52 was 5 and 3 minutes. The visitation time for QV 44, however, varied between different types of groups: individual and medium groups stayed the least amount of time, an average of 6 minutes, small and large groups stayed an average of 8 and 7 minutes, respectively.

### **Waiting Time**

Most groups, especially individual travelers did not have to wait to enter any of the tombs, even during the busiest time of the day at QV. Sometimes, however, when QV was quite busy, large groups had to wait an average of 8 minutes to access QV 55 and an average of 3 minutes to enter QV 52 – although waiting was more common for QV 55.

### **Use of Shelters**

- Most individual visitors only used the shelter of QV 55; none used that of 52 and only a few that of 44.
- All small and medium groups, while only half of the large groups, used the shelter of QV 55.
- All medium and only half the small groups used the shelter of tomb 52. Large groups, however, only used this shelter during noon and the busy times at QV.
- Neither medium nor small groups usually sat under the shelter of QV 44. Half of the large groups, however, sat under this shelter.
- Generally, when QV and tombs are crowded, groups do not wait under shelter, but wait in lines in front of the entrance and the guide makes a 'reservation' with guards to enter the tomb. At certain times of the day the shelters do not provide shade for the seated areas; at such time visitors often preferred standing under the shade that these shelters threw, rather than sitting in the sun. Additionally, guides do not like to share shelters with other guided groups lest the voices of the guides' narrations interfere with each others.
- Some individual visitors visit all tombs first and then take a (long) rest under the shelter of the last tomb visited.

### **Use of Information Panels**

- Half of small and individual groups read or took photos of the panel of QV55. None of the visitors of large groups and only a few visitors of medium groups made use of this panel.
- The panel of QV52 was not paid any attention by any group. And only a few visitors from all types of groups read or took photos of the panel of QV44.
- Rarely do guides use QV signage in their explanation of the site or its tombs. However, some guides do use illustrations and drawings from guide books during their narration, which are sometimes provided to them by vendors during the group's entrance as a promotion for their merchandise.
- Many individual visitors bring their own guide books and sit under shelters to read them before visiting the tombs.

### **Guide's Narration**

- Not all guides give their narration under the shelter; some gather in the open space at the Y-junction of the wadis or in front of the tomb's entrance to provide their narration about QV and its tombs. Sometimes, when it is seen that a tomb is becoming crowded, guides let their groups visit the tomb first and then explain it under the shelter.
- A few guides provided explanation to their groups only once during their visit. Most guides, however, stopped more than once to explain different aspects of the site. Guides of small and medium groups spent more time explaining to their groups about QV and its tombs. The average time spent on their narration was 8.5 and 10 minutes respectively. The average narration time of large group guides was 4.5 minutes.
- Some guides left their groups after explanation to wait for them in their vehicles in the parking area.

### **Observations Related to Nefertari**

- On the days when Nefertari's tomb was opened for special visitation, the guards removed the rope that closes off the path to the tomb. This induced individual visitors to take the path to Nefertari's tomb.
- Groups with permission to visit Nefertari rarely visit other QV tombs; only when the group is too large and must be divided into smaller groups are the other tombs visited.
- Groups express interest in the conservation of the tomb and guides generally inform them of aspects of the conservation. Frequently, however, information is incorrect or misleading.
- Among guides who are not leading groups to Nefertari, the reason given for its closure is generally that the tomb is 'closed for conservation.'

### **General Observations**

- During mornings, when QV is the first stop and when the day's program is not too full, large groups are more relaxed, like smaller groups, taking their time during visitation.
- Late afternoons are usually very relaxed with visitors taking their time to explore the site, climb rocks and parts of the mountain, sit on walls and take photos of the general landscape as well as personal photos.
- During busy times, gathering of groups at tomb entrances and stairs does not permit easy entrance or exit, creating bottlenecks.
- Sometimes guards allow extra-large groups (exceeding 45 visitors) entry to a tomb together, which might be the reason why the average visiting time inside tombs was greater for larger groups.
- To prevent excessive crowding inside tombs and to ensure a better visit for their groups, some large group guides request guards not to allow entrance of other groups into tombs while their groups are visiting.
- Some elderly and handicapped visitors cannot easily walk up the path to QV 44 so they prefer waiting for their groups, sitting at the bottom of the wall that leads up to the tomb or under the shelter of QV 52. However, an equal number make the extra (although strenuous) effort to visit QV 44.

## Part IV.5. Stakeholder consultations

### Focus groups

In 2007 three focus groups were conducted with selected stakeholders who have an interest in visitor related issues: QV vendors, tour guides, and SCA archaeological inspectors. The discussions were wide ranging but the main insights that emerged are summarized below; a full account of the focus groups are detailed in the final report of the surveys and focus groups (*Valley of the Queens. Visitor and Guide Surveys and Focus Groups. February and June 2007. Final Report. December 2007*).

### Tour guides

The focus group with tour guides involved seven members of Luxor's Tour Guide Syndicate working with Japanese, French, Italian, Spanish and British groups.

- Most of the guides said they visit the Valley of the Queens only once a week or once every two weeks, preferring to visit Deir el-Medina or Medinet Habu instead. Their reasons included closure of the tomb of Nefertari; the desire to introduce different aspects of ancient Egyptian life (the royal and affluent way of life versus that of the workmen); the paucity of tombs open at QV; the absence of mummies; and harassment of visitors by vendors.
- All guides mentioned that Amenherkhepshef's tomb (55) is the most interesting because of the fetus mummy. Because they are visiting the Valley of the Queens they must also show the visitor a queen's tomb, so they take them to QV 52 (Tyti). The third tomb (Khaemwaset, QV 44) is often neglected because of its location at the end of the side wadi.
- The guides in the focus group all graduated from faculties of Archaeology (whereas the guide surveys indicated that most guides had graduated from the Hotel Management school). They get their information about the sites from books and scientific magazines published in Egypt or outside. They urged the Supreme Council of Antiquities and Ministry of Culture to publish good quality books at a suitable price for the guides and were especially interested in an Arabic-language book, written by an Egyptian Egyptologist. They wished these books could be available at their syndicate in Luxor or at the Suzanne Mubarak Library in Luxor where they could access them. They also pointed out the importance of having books that introduce the information in an easy way, not theoretical and scientific. For this reason they like the 'writing style of Dr. Zahi Hawass.'
- On the question of Nefertari's tomb, the guides had no consensus. Some suggested opening it in summer to increase visitors to the Valley of the Queens; others suggested building a replica of Nefertari's tomb, or reopening the tomb for two hours daily. One of the guides was totally against reopening the tomb, whether following a new system or the previous one.

### Meetings with Luxor tour guide syndicate

In addition to formal focus groups, the GCI team met with representatives of the tourist syndicate in Luxor in 2006 and 2008. Recommendations below from the 2006 meeting were summarized by El Tayeb Abd Allah, Vice President of the Luxor Tour Guide Syndicate.

Tour Guide Syndicate Official Recommendations for the West Bank area

1. Increase signage in various sites, specifically around hiking trails.
2. Place interpretive signage at the beginning of the trail from the Valley of Kings to Hatshepsut, and the Valley of the Queens to Deir el-Medina.
3. Repair and maintain WC facilities in all the sites at the West Bank especially the Tombs of the Nobles, Deir el-Medina, and placement of WC at the Ramesseum.

4. Focus on tourism at Temple of Seti I through the increase of advertising in order to attract tourists and visitors
5. Speed the process of opening Carter House for visitation.
6. Place New Qurna on tourism maps.
7. Speed the renovation process of the Qurna Hospital in order to better deal with medical emergencies in town instead of transferring serious cases to Luxor hospital, with consequent delays for ambulances. In addition, the Syndicate asks for an increase in the number of ambulances in front of highly visited archaeological sites. One ambulance should be stationed in front of each site.
8. Ban bazaar vendors from selling merchandise inside the boundaries of the sites, especially in the Valley of the Kings.
9. Open important archaeological sites for evening visitation in the West Bank during the summertime, especially the Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple.
10. Change the appearance and shape of the visitation ticket, as well as how the guards at the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens mark it. Many tourists prefer to keep their ticket undamaged as a keepsake.
11. Place a large interpretive sign at the entrance of Qurna village near the inspectorate office that clearly shows all archaeological sites in the area.
12. Build two entrance gates at the Valley of the Kings instead of one in order to relieve congestion at entrance.

Recommendations specifically for the Valley of the Queens:

1. Increase number of shelters on site, especially near the Valley entrance.
2. Potentially open Nefertari or create an educational/interpretive program in the desert area behind the Valley.
3. Increase the number of open tombs in the Valley
4. Improve the WC situation at QV

### **Archaeological inspectors**

Eight archaeological inspectors attended a focus group discussion, which took place on the West Bank. A summary of those discussions follows.

- When asked about management related issues, the inspectors noted the problems of visitors' behavior, especially Egyptian students. Some participants opposed visits of Egyptian student groups to the tombs and proposed to limit their visits to the museums, which are less affected by great numbers of visitors. Other participants stated that it is impossible to stop Egyptians from visiting historic sites; the answer is to increase the cultural awareness of youth about the importance of preserving their monuments instead of hindering them from visiting the sites.
- It was furthermore noted that security men in these sites are unaware of the importance of the monuments and unintentionally cause problems. Security men are unwilling to help archaeological inspectors in stopping the deterioration of monuments by visitors. Participants stated that although they are on good terms with security personnel and local officials, security men sometimes break the rules and interfere in the work of the site, for instance causing problems when vehicles with work materials arrive at the site.
- Also raised was the inadequate and decreased number of tomb guards, due to the absence of new recruitment to replace those who leave. In addition, most guards work on a seasonal basis and earn very low salaries. As a result they allow visitors to take photos inside the tombs and take tips from them to increase their income.

- When asked about Nefertari's tomb, all attendees rejected the system for limiting the number of visitors by using a reservation booking system or by a lottery or even by charging a very high price for tickets. They preferred the option that would allow visitors to see the tomb on a display screen and hear information on the tomb, as well as watching a film of work in the tomb.

### **Vendors and bazaar (2007)**

Six vendors attended the focus group discussion, which took place in the parking area of the Valley of the Queens adjacent to their shops.

- All the vendors indicated that they had been very satisfied with their business when their total number was small (only 16), but an increase in their numbers to 32 after moving vendors from Deir el-Bahari to the Valley of the Queens created problems. Furthermore, the rent for the bazaar shops was increased from L.E.55 to L.E.110 per month, which put pressure on the vendors to have partners to share the rent. As a result, the number of vendors (including partners) has increased to 64.
- There are no toilets for the vendors (the only available one is for tourists); so when they need to use the toilet they go 'to the mountain'. Furthermore, there is no shelter near their shops.
- The vendors felt especially strongly about what they characterized as mistreatment by the tour guides, who advise the tourists only to buy from those factories or shops whose owners have a relationship with the guides. The vendors also acknowledged, however, that they have difficulty dealing with the tourists because they (and others who deal with tourists, such as tourist police) do not have a 'tourism culture.' They suggested that the Supreme Council of Antiquities should organize training courses to teach the vendors how to deal with tourists.
- When asked why they are so persistent with tourists when trying to sell them something, the vendors said it was because they have no other source of income, visitors are relatively few, and competition is fierce. It was acknowledged that all vendors sell the same goods and it would be better for all if they organized themselves to sell different types of merchandise. When the discussion moderator asked why this idea was not applied, they answered that it would have to be by official regulation otherwise some vendors would not agree to do it.
- When asked whether they would welcome more Egyptian visitors, most of vendors said they would, in part because Egyptians and Arabs are often without a guide and thus no one can dissuade them from dealing with vendors; even when there is a tour guide it was felt the Egyptians always make their own decision. They also noted that Egyptians know that the prices are cheaper at the sites than other places so they will buy from the vendors, but they will also seek the lowest prices, leaving little profit for the vendors.

### **Vendors and bazaar (2010)**

In order to assess the circumstances of the vendors and the bazaar, the GCI conducted interviews and surveyed the inventory of individual vendor's stalls on Sunday, December 13, 2009 and Sunday and Monday, March 7 and 8, 2010.

There are 32 vendor stalls in the bazaar building, each of which has been assigned a number, starting from the northwestern end of bazaar building, closest to the security station, and running consecutively to the southeast end closest to the ticket office. Vendors currently pay L.E. 250/month to rent one of these numbered stalls. They must pay an additional, annual fee of L.E. 150 to renew the lease on a given stall. As of November 2008, the SCA is the authority responsible for maintaining

the site and collecting rent, though previously it was administered by the Luxor City Council. Each stall is generally open from 7:30 am to 4 pm (winter hours), though there are no fixed hours of operation. Apparently, not all of the shops are open everyday (e.g. 14 were open out of 32 shops on Friday, December 4; 30 were open on Sunday, December. 13; 28 were open on Monday, March 8).

There is little product differentiation amongst the stalls (see Appendix 1: Inventory of merchandise). Vendors at each stall sell goods that are similar to the goods available at other stalls in Queens Valley, other sites on the West Bank, and other shops in Luxor bazaar. Some of these items are manufactured in local workshops whereas others are produced as far away as China, and profit margins vary accordingly. Vendors claim that average daily sales are about L.E. 10-30, though on the whole, vendors with better language skills appear to have better business. Most of the vendors live in nearby communities on the West Bank, such as Sheikh Abd el-Qurna. Given the relatively modest sales at Queens Valley, many of them also have additional sources of income like farming or producing curios in their own workshops and they choose to staff their QV stall with young family members, finding that other income sources are more important priorities.

Currently, visitors to Queens Valley must pass through the bazaar area twice, once as they enter the site and again as they leave. Most of the vendors stand in the middle of this passage with products in hand, trying to convince visitors to buy. In this way, visitors feel like they are running a gauntlet and vendors must jostle with each other to try to secure a sale; all parties involved are often left dissatisfied by this interaction. Nevertheless, the prevailing concern expressed by the vendors was that any change to their current business model would fatally cripple their ability to earn an income. According to the vendors, if the QV parking area was changed to be like that of KV and Deir el-Bahari so that visitors passed by the bazaar only once, income would drop precipitously. Furthermore, they claimed that after renovation of the bazaar area at these two sites, stall rental fees at both of these sites increased considerably. In any case, it is clear that rental fees have also increased at QV since the time of the focus group discussion conducted by SCA inspectors in June 2007, at which time rent was L.E. 110/month (it has since climbed to L.E. 250/month).



General view of bazaars on a quiet day (upper left); visitors emerging from buses are led directly into the bazaar area (upper right), and must pass through the bazaars again on their return (lower left).

At the same time, vendors complained about a general decline in business. Citing the "global economic crisis" beginning in 2008, vendors claim that there have been fewer visitors to the Queens Valley, and that the visitors who do come have been less interested in buying merchandise. Moreover, since the tomb of Amenherkhepshef was closed for conservation treatment from November 2009 to March 2010, vendors claim that there has been less interest in visiting Queens Valley, and they strongly advocated reopening that tomb as quickly as possible, as well as opening the tomb of Nefertari to a greater number of visitors, to increase interest in the site.

Given these pressures, some vendors were wary of the interview and occasionally refused to show the contents of their shops or allow photographs. According to the vendors, their apprehension stemmed from concerns that the survey might incite difficulties with local authorities, leading to the loss of their shops. Indeed, at the time of these interviews, there was an ongoing confrontation between the bazaar vendors and the local government. Two documents, a petition by the vendors and a related news item documenting their threat to go on hunger strike to fight for lower rental fees for their shops, are included below (translated from the Arabic by W. Reynolds):

Petition

*To: President of the Council of Ministers  
President of the Policy Committee of the National Party  
President of the Luxor City Council*

*From: The Owners of 32 Bazaars in the vicinity of Queens Valley on the West Bank of Luxor*  
*We appeal to you, sirs, concerning the rise in the price of rent for our bazaars near the Valley of the Queens. Contrary to the instructions of President Mubarak who understands that sovereignty rests on the shoulders of those with low-income, our rents have increased by 150%. Therefore, we ask you to maintain rents at their current level, particularly because the number of visitors to the Valley of the Queens has diminished along with our incomes. We, the owners of the bazaars, all have big families to support and children at various stages of their education. We are among the first to feel the effects of the economic crisis currently gripping the world and we remind you that we have no other means of income besides our bazaars. Therefore, we kindly request that you show us compassion and mercy and implement the instructions of President Mubarak, President of All Egyptians.*  
*[Signatures of bazaar merchants]*

Proprietors of Luxor bazaar threaten hunger strike

*March 6, 2010 Al youm as Saba'*

*"The owners of bazaar stalls in Queen's Valley on the West Bank of Luxor threatened to go on a hunger strike following the increase in rent by 100%, a decision which they claim runs contrary to the instructions of President Mubarak, who is always keen to support low-income families.*

*Mohamed Hasan Ibrahim Hassan, the owner of one of the stalls explained that the physical conditions of the bazaar were inadequate, and most vendors sold items while walking on foot rather than renting a shop space. During a visit by President Mubarak to the Valley of the Queens, he ordered the establishment of stalls for the vendors, to be paid for by the City Council of Luxor. The rent was originally 50 L.E. a month. Then the rent was increased to 100 L.E./ month to be paid directly to the SCA rather than the municipality of Luxor, following a disagreement between these two entities over jurisdiction at the site.*






*Roughly a year and a half ago, a local resolution increased the rent again, this time by 150%, so that vendors must now pay 250 L.E. a month. Given that the global financial crisis has led to a decrease in tourism in Luxor, vendors in the Valley of the Queens are more burdened than ever before by this rent increase.*


*Mr. Mohamd Abbas, another vendor at QV, says that there have always been fewer visitors to QV as compared to Valley of the Kings and Deir el Bahri, but added that visitor numbers in QV had been particularly low since the onset of the financial crisis. He emphasized that most vendors have no other source of income besides the bazaar and that most of them have not completed their educations. The bazaar owners hoped that officials and the President would consider their case with compassion."*

<http://www.youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=197652>


Accessed April 13, 2010


## Inventory of merchandise carried by vendors at QV (March 2010)


<b>Special Stall (no number)</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vendor uses wooden display shelf located at the eastern end of the barrier between the bazaar and parking areas</li> <li>- This stall is called the "special" shop by the bazaar owners</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone statues; heads of queen</li> <li>- Plastic statues of gods, made in China</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 1</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The vendor also owns shops in the East Bank Luxor and Sharm el-Sheikh</li> <li>- Has worked at QV for about 20 years as a vendor</li> <li>- Sales L.E.20-25/ day in average</li> <li>- "Statues are L.E 40-60. They are hard to sell. Visitors only buy cheap things, like postcards (L.E. 10)"</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: vases, jars; statues of ancient gods and pharaohs; painted tablets; obelisk; ushabti; canopic jars; necklaces with scarabs; scarabs</li> <li>- Plastic sculptures of ancient gods and pharaohs</li> <li>- Books: QV; tomb of Nefertari (<i>House of Eternity</i>, L.E. 40); tomb of Ameherkhepshef; KV in different languages (English, French, Italian etc.)</li> <li>- Sets of post cards</li> <li>- Clothing: hats; bags; scarves; galabayya</li> <li>- Stuffed animal (camel)</li> <li>- Baskets</li> <li>- Wooden model of ancient boat</li> <li>- Potteries, Papyrus, Sheesha</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 2</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vendor from Qurna, also has a farm</li> <li>- Usually working with his son,</li> <li>- Sales L.E. 30-40/day</li> <li>- Shop does not stock many products because "there is not much business here"</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: canopic jars; carved and painted tablets; obelisks; scarabs; statues and heads of ancient gods, queens and pharaohs</li> <li>- Sets of post cards of Luxor and West bank Luxor</li> <li>- Book about tomb of Nefertari</li> <li>- Papyrus</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 3</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Same owner as Stall 1</li> <li>- Owner of shop also worked as a social worker at a local school</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: painted and carved stone tablets; obelisk; statues of Thoth; scarabs</li> <li>- Painted wooden models of ancient boat</li> <li>- Clothing: scarves; a galabayya</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 4</b>		
<b>Vendors and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality of products are relatively high compared to other QV shops</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of gods, pharaohs and scribes; variety in size and colors of scarabs; ushabti; obelisks; alabaster jars, vases and sets of wine; necklaces of stone beads</li> <li>- plastic sculptures of ancient goddess, made in China</li> <li>- A wooden, painted statue of ancient god</li> <li>- Batteries, disposable cameras</li> <li>- Hats</li> </ul>	

<b>Stall 5</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	- Stall itself is empty - Portable step shelf opens up in front of the stall is used to display products	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- Stone products: painted limestone jars; painted carved stone tablets; statues of pharaohs, ancient gods and scribe; canopic jars; ushabti; small obelisk - plastic statues of ancient gods and pharaohs, made in China - Sets of post cards of West bank Luxor and East Bank of Luxor	


<b>Stall 6</b>		No photo
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	Closed on December 13, 2009 & March 7-8, 2010	
<b>Merchandise</b>	N/A	








<b>Stall 7</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	- Shop itself was relatively empty and shutter was kept half-closed to provide more shade in the interior	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- 7 carved and painted limestone tablets	


<b>Stall 8</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	No information available.	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- Stone products: pyramids; pots; scarabs; ushabti; painted stelae; painted statues of pharaohs and ancient gods; ancient amulets; alabaster jars, pyramids and pots with a lid - Clothing: hats; scarves; bags; beads-work of belly dance costumes - Necklaces of stone or glass beads - plastic statues of ancient gods, made in China	


<b>Stall 9</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	- Vendor expressed disapproval of any changes to the parking-bazaar area	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- Stone products: statues of ancient gods, pharaohs and scribes; variety in size and colors of scarabs; ushabti; obelisk; painted jars; alabaster jars and bowls - painted plastic sculptures of ancient gods, made in China - Scarves and bags	


<b>Stall 10</b>		No photo
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	- Shop has many glass shelves inside - Closed on March 7, 2010 - No photo available	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- Stone products: pyramids; sphinxes; scarabs; ushabti; carved stone tablets; statues of ancient gods; painted statues of pharaohs; alabaster jars - Metal products: plates, amulets - Clothing: hats; scarves; galayya; bead work headdresses - Plastic statues of ancient gods, made in China	


<b>Stall 11</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	- Vendor was not communicative	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- Stone products: statues of gods, pharaohs and scribes; variety of scarbs; ushabti; canopic jars; obelisk; painted carved stone tablets; necklaces of stone beads; alabaster jars, wine cup and plates - Plastic sculpture of ancient gods, made in China	


<b>Stall 12</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- According to other vendors, this vendor has the greatest sales in the QV bazaar</li> <li>- The interior of the shop is empty</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of gods, pharaohs and scribes; pyramids; scarabs; ushabti; obelisk; painted jars</li> <li>- Painted plastic sculptures of ancient gods, made in China</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 13</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shutter of the shop was kept half closed to create shade</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of gods and pharaohs; ushabti; painted carved stone tablets; alabaster jars and plates</li> <li>- Painted plastic sculptures of ancient gods, made in China</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 14</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closed Dec 13, 2009</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of gods; pharaohs; scarabs; ushabti; obelisk; painted canopic jars; alabaster jars</li> <li>- Painted plastic sculptures of ancient gods, made in China</li> <li>- Sets of postcards of Luxor</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 15</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small amount of merchandise inside shop, though relatively good comparing to the material on display in front of the shop</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of gods, pharaohs and scribes, pyramids; scarabs; ushabti; obelisk; painted carved stone tablets; alabaster jars</li> <li>- Plastic sculptures of ancient gods, made in China</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 16</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shop shutter remained entirely closed</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: painted and unpainted heads of pharaohs</li> <li>- Books about KV in different languages</li> <li>- Ushabti (not on display)</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 17</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sales L.E. 5-10/day</li> <li>- Vendor does not speak much English</li> <li>- Vendor's son helps on occasion</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: canopic jars; painted and curved stone tablets; obelisk; scarabs; statues and heads of ancient gods and pharaohs</li> <li>- Sets of postcards: Luxor and West Bank Luxor</li> <li>- Book on QV 66</li> <li>- Papyrus</li> </ul>	
<b>Stall 18</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No information available</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: canopic jars; painted and curved stone tablets; obelisk; scarabs; pyramids; statues and heads of ancient gods and pharaoh; alabaster jars and bowls</li> <li>- Statues of ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses, made in China</li> <li>- Books: about QV, KV and Egypt in different languages</li> <li>- Clothing: scarves; shirts; hats; cotton bags</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 19</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The vendor has additional income source other than QV business; manufactures stone curios</li> <li>- Vendor's English is relatively good</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: hand and machine-made alabaster jars; miniature canopic jars; painted and curved stone tablets; obelisk; scarabs; statues and heads of ancient gods and pharaohs; chess pieces</li> <li>- Statues of ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses, made in China</li> <li>- Scarves; cotton bags</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 20</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vendor was one of the shop owners who sent the petition to government officials in March 2010, and was interviewed by the TV station</li> <li>- Sales about L.E. 35/ day</li> <li>- Vendor's English is relatively poor</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: hand and machine-made alabaster jars; miniature canopic jars; ushabtis; painted and curved stone tablets; obelisk; scpharaohs; chess pieces</li> <li>- Plastic statues of ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses, made in China</li> <li>- Hats, beads-work headdresses</li> <li>- Books about QV; tomb of Nefertari; KV; Luxor;</li> <li>- Maps of Egypt and Luxor in different languages (English, Russian, Arabic , Japanese)</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 21</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A step shelf posted outside the stall</li> <li>- Closed on March 7-8</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: alabaster jars; limestone stelae and scarabs</li> <li>- Clothing: galabayya; scarves; shirts, children's T-shirts</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 22</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	No information available	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: painted statues of pharaohs and goddesses; unpainted statues; painted and curved stone tablets; two alabaster jars; canopic jars; obelisk</li> <li>- Scarves; a shirt</li> </ul>	

<b>Stall 23</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	No information available.	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of pharaohs and goddesses; painted and curved stone tablets; jars; miniature canopic jars; ushabtis; obelisk and scarabs</li> <li>- Clothing: shirts (for adults and children); bags and hats</li> <li>- A stuffed camel made of leather</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 24</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relatively small amount of merchandise</li> <li>- Closed on March 7 -8, 2010</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues; painted and curved stone tablets; scarabs</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 25</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two fridges in front of the shop</li> <li>- Only shop selling drinks and snacks in the QV bazaar</li> <li>- No other merchandise inside of shop</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bottles of water (500ml and 1.5L.)</li> <li>- Cans of Coca Cola, Fanta orange, Sprite, Pepsi</li> <li>- A few bags of chips (13 Dec., 2009)</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 26</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vendor has no other source of income but from the QV shop and claims he cannot marry due to poor business.</li> <li>- In the two weeks prior to survey, vendor had only sold two sets of postcards, each worth 5 L.E.</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: alabaster jars, bowls, ashtrays, statues, sphinxes, obelisks, balance scales and bowls with lids; stone statues of pharaohs, queens, scribes, ancient gods and cobras; painted statues of ancient gods; obelisks; scarabs; stelae; camels; painted and curved stone tablets depicting queens and a scene of the Book of the Dead</li> <li>- Wooden statues of camels</li> <li>- Papyrus</li> <li>- Books: QV; Luxor (3 types); Egypt</li> <li>- Sets of postcards</li> </ul>	


<b>Stall 27</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vendor originally from Qurna, moved to new el-Taref ten years ago</li> <li>- Many products in the shop continue to be made in Qurna</li> <li>- No sales in the 20 days prior to March 8, 2010</li> <li>- Until 5 years ago, business was better, sometimes 20 to 40 L.E. sales per day</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: painted and unpainted statues of ancient gods, pharaohs and queens; heads of queen and pharaohs; canopic jars; painted jars; obelisks; scarabs; painted and curved stone tablets; pyramids; alabaster jars, bowls, bowls with lids, wine cups</li> <li>- Clothing: large and small scarves; huts; caps</li> <li>- Books: about QV and KV in different languages</li> </ul>	

<b>Stall 28</b>		No photo
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No products inside the shop</li> <li>- Closed (March 7-8, 2010)</li> <li>- No photo available</li> </ul>	
<b>Merchandise</b>	- Modest stone products displayed on an exterior shelf : statues and scarabs	

<b>Stall 29</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	- Interior display space sometimes supplemented with a wooden shelf in front of the shop (not in photo)	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: candle stand; statues of pharaohs, ancient gods and scribes; miniature canopic jars; obelisk; alabaster cups and ashtrays; painted and curved stone tablets</li> <li>- Plastic painted head of pharaoh, made in China</li> <li>- Scarves</li> </ul>	

<b>Stall 30</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	No information available	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of pharaoh, scribe a model of bread-making women, ancient gods; heads of pharaohs; painted and curved stone tablets; obelisks; a pyramid</li> <li>- Wooden model boat with wooden figurines; painted/unpainted wooden sculptures in shape of ibis</li> <li>- Plastic statues of heads of pharaohs and queens, statues of ancient goddess, scarabs, made in China</li> <li>- Books: QV</li> <li>- Necklaces of stone beads</li> </ul>	

<b>Stall 31</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	No information available	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of ancient gods and goddesses; heads of pharaohs and queens; jars; painted and curved stone tablets; scarabs; pyramids; canopic jars; alabaster jars, cups, plates; a mortar and pestle</li> <li>- Plastic statues of ancient gods, made in China</li> <li>- Clothing: shirts; scarves; hats; caps; bead-made head dress; knitted hats; bags with ancient Egyptian-theme print; a Boston bag</li> <li>- Stuffed-camels; leather-made camel figurines</li> <li>- Books: QV, House of Eternity; Nefertari (two kinds); KV (three kinds); Luxor; Egypt (two kinds) in different languages (English, Russian, Italian, Japanese, French etc.)</li> <li>- Maps</li> <li>- Sets of postcards</li> <li>- Necklaces of stone beads</li> </ul>	

<b>Stall 32</b>		
<b>Vendor and Business</b>	No information available	
<b>Merchandise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone products: statues of ancient gods and goddesses; heads of pharaohs and queens; jars; painted and curved stone tablets; scarabs; pyramids; canopic jars; a coffee pot and cups; small stone cups and jars</li> <li>- Clothing: galabayya; belly-dance costume; scarves</li> </ul>	

## Part IV.6. Visitor services and infrastructure

### Ticketing and access (as of 2008)

#### Hours of visitation

Summer: 6:00am – 6:00 pm

Winter: 6:00am - 5:00pm

#### Ticket pricing for QV 44, 52 and 55

##### Ticket pricing prior to Nov. 2006:

Foreign visitors (L.E.20); Foreign students (L.E.10)

Egyptian visitors (L.E.2); Egyptian students (L.E.1)

##### Ticket pricing as of Nov. 2006:

Foreign visitors (L.E.25); Foreign students (L.E.15)

Egyptian visitors (L.E.2); Egyptian students (L.E.1)

##### Ticket pricing as of Nov. 2008:

Foreign visitors (L.E.35); Foreign students (L.E.20)

Egyptian visitors (L.E.2); Egyptian students (L.E.1)

New 'souvenir' tickets with a picture of Nefertari were issued with the increased price.

#### Restrictions on visitation and guiding

There are no restrictions on the number of visitors to QV. SCA policy is to allow a maximum of 12 persons in the tombs for 10 minutes.

The number of visitors inside the tombs is routinely higher; the duration of the visits rarely exceed 10 minutes. Guides have not been allowed to provide narration inside the tombs since 2002 (this is done under the shelters).



Ticket office



General ticket (Nov 08)



Sign restricting visitor numbers to tombs

#### Ticket pricing for Tomb of Nefertari (QV 66)

The tomb of Nefertari has been subject to special tickets and limited visitation since its conservation and environmental monitoring was completed and the tomb re-opened by the SCA in 1995.

##### Period of limited visitation (Nov. 1995 – Jan. 2003)

From late 1995 until Jan. 2003, the SCA set a maximum of 150 tickets per day at a price of L.E.100 for adults and L.E. 50 for students. At an unknown time during that period the price of adult tickets was increased to L.E.150.

Visits were restricted to 10 minutes.

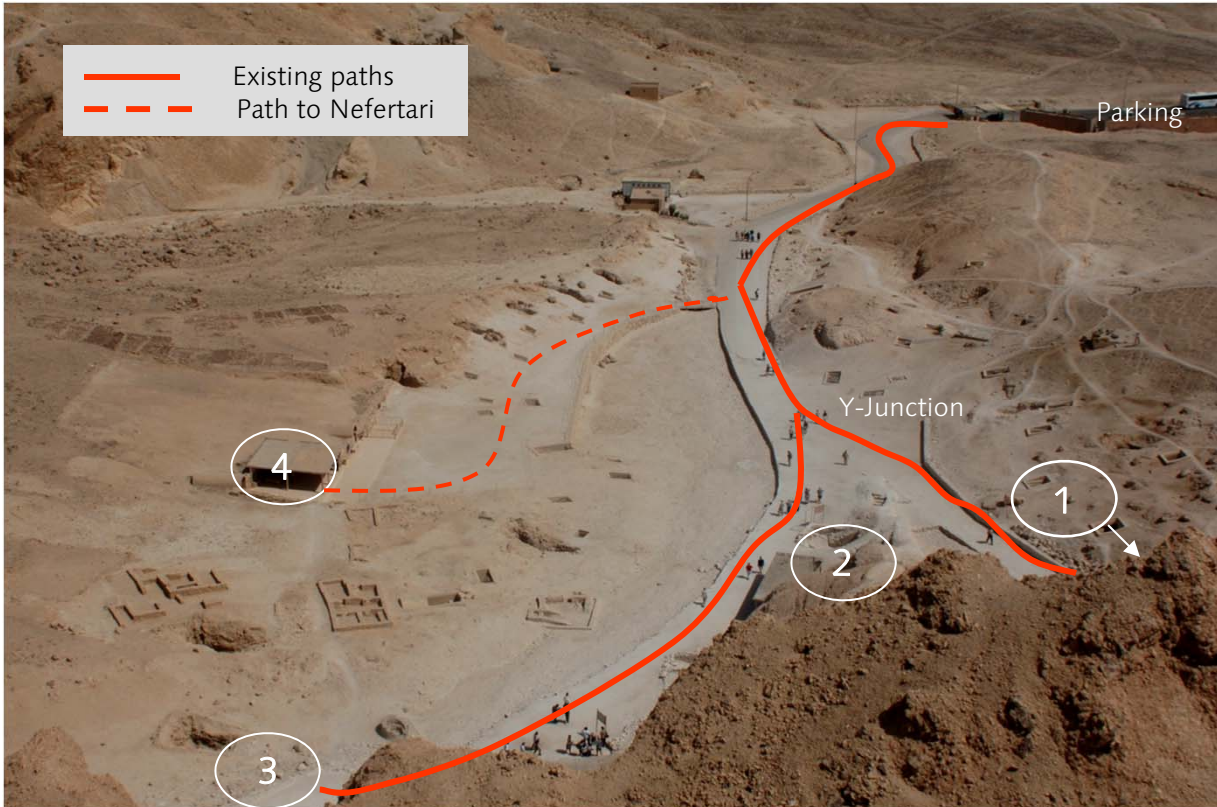


##### Period of special visitation (2005 – Present)

In January 2003, the SCA policy for Nefertari was changed to open the tomb only to special tour groups and film and television crews, and photographers (the visitor policy did not go into effect until 2005). Special tour groups currently pay L.E. 20,000 for up to 20 visitors for 10 minutes, in addition to L.E.100 per person ticket fee. There is no daily limit on the number of visitors. Film crews pay L.E. 5,000 per hour in the tomb.

Tickets must be purchased and film crews must receive permission in advance from the SCA in Cairo. An SCA inspector accompanies all groups into the tomb.

## Visitor paths and circulation

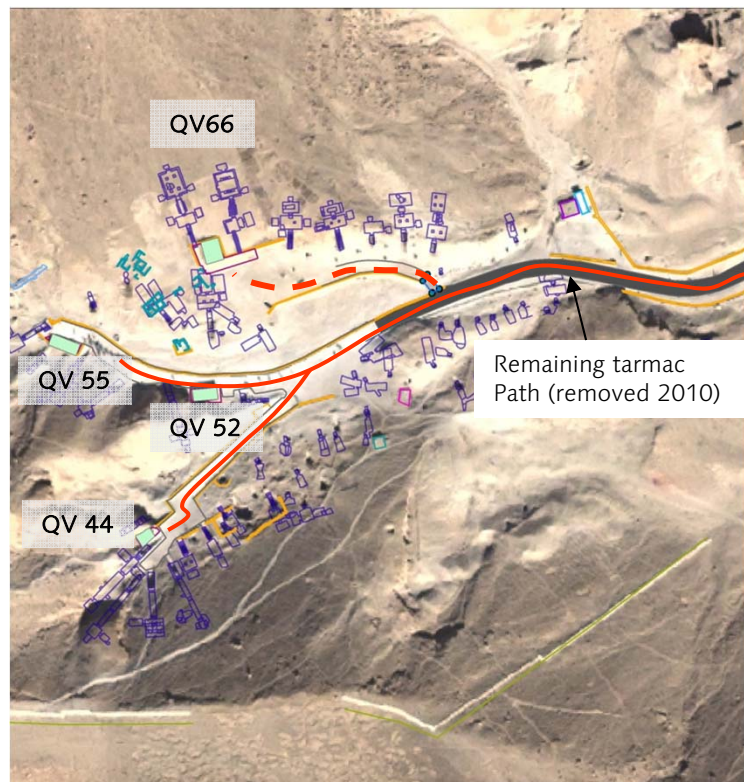


Main wadi with current routing and shelters

Currently, visitors enter the Valley on the tarmac road from the parking area and make their way to the Y-shaped junction where they can continue along the main wadi to tombs 52 and 55 or take the side wadi to tomb 44. There is an unpaved pathway from the main path to the tomb of Nefertari that is normally roped off to prevent access to general visitors. Thus, the routing is one way in and out.

Along this route are 4 shelters, one for each of the open tombs (QV 44, QV 52, QV 55) and Nefertari (QV 66).

Through early 2010, the main visitor path was still partially paved with tarmac, having been removed from the area of the Y-junction after the 1994 flood; the remaining tarmac was removed after February 2010.



(Satellite Image: 2006 DigitalGlobe)

## Visitation infrastructure

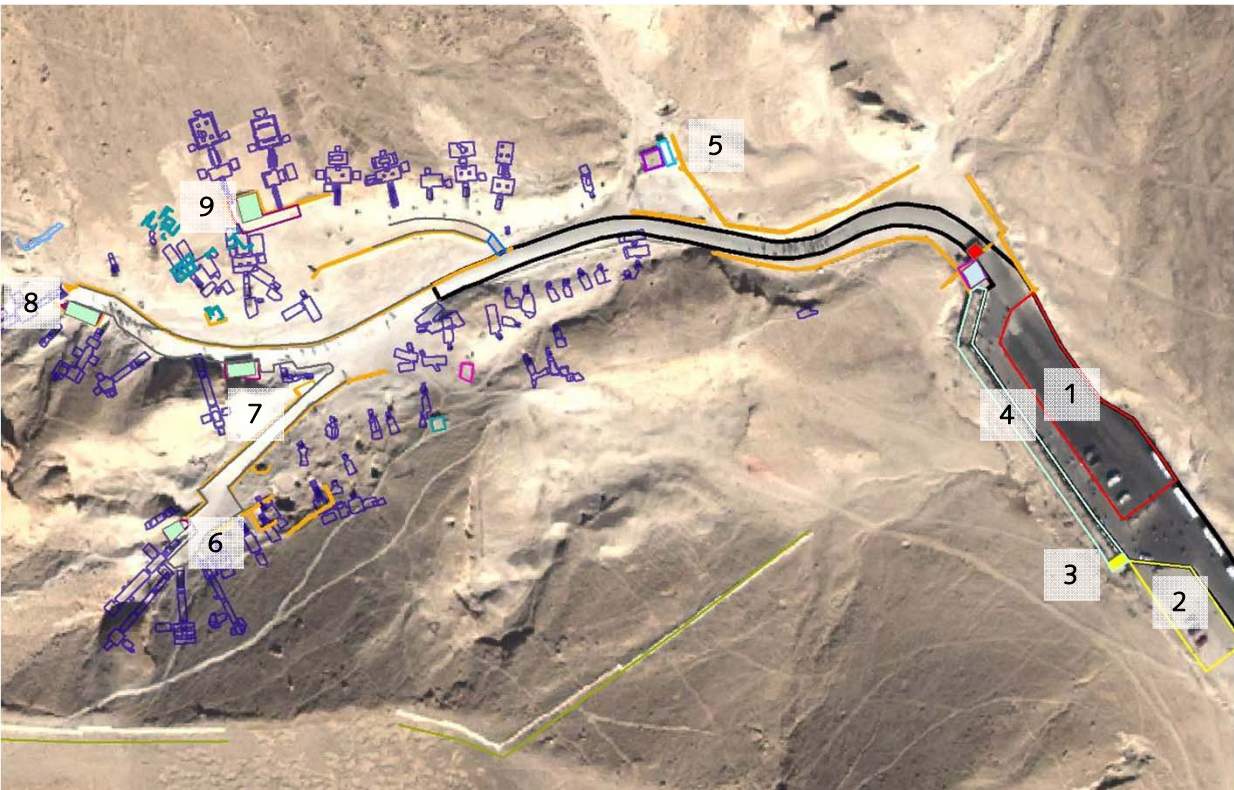
Visitor infrastructure constitutes the greatest modern intervention to the Valley. The assessment therefore begins with a brief overview of the development of the site for visitors, in order to better understand how the Valley has changed over time as a result of these interventions starting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is followed by an inventory and assessment of current infrastructure and facilities relating to visitation, which was conducted in 2007 and 2008. Changes to some of the infrastructure undertaken by the SCA after 2008 are noted (see also Part II, Appendix 4).

Current visitor infrastructure consists of the following (shown on satellite image below):

1. Parking areas for coaches
2. Parking area for private vehicles
3. Ticket office
4. Shops for souvenirs
5. Toilet trailer
- 6.-9. Four shelters providing shade near tombs open to the public
10. Signage and interpretive panels (not shown on satellite image), and
11. Miscellaneous furnishings, such as benches, bag checks, and trash receptacles (not shown on satellite image)

(Security related infrastructure is covered under Management Assessment, Part III)

Most of this infrastructure was built in the late 1980s and early 1990s. As the inventory and assessment makes clear, all categories of visitor infrastructure are inadequate to meet visitor requirements, are poorly maintained, and often unsightly. This is especially the case for the infrastructure in the parking area.



Plan of QV with major visitor infrastructure numbered (Satellite Image: 2006 DigitalGlobe)

### Historical development of infrastructure at QV

The Italian mission of E. Schiaparelli laid out the first pathways and signage to the tombs in 1903-1905, although the Valley was visited by travelers well before then (see History of Visitation in Section 8). The paths followed the natural course of the main wadi and SW side wadi of the Valley. Infrastructure development in the form of parking lots, bazaars, shelters and so on did not begin until the mid 1980s with the excavations of the Franco-Egyptian mission at QV, followed by efforts at site presentation in the 1990s. The photos below show the development of the site from Schiaparelli's time to the present.



General view of the Valley with paths at the time of Schiaparelli's expedition (left) (Image: Museo Egizio) and today (right), as seen from the trail to the Sanctuary to Ptah, looking west.



General view of the road leading to the Valley at the time of Schiaparelli's expedition (left) (Image: Museo Egizio) and today (right) with parking, security and bazaars, looking north with Schiaparelli camp and Deir er-Rumi at center of photo (arrow).



General view of the road leading to the Valley at the time of Schiaparelli's expedition (left) (Image: Museo Egizio) and today (right) with rear wall of bazaars in center, looking east.

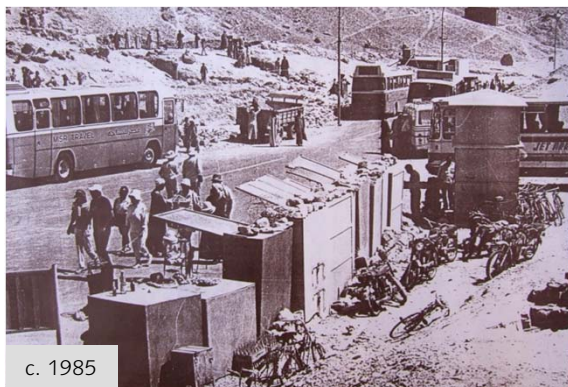
## Parking and bazaars



View over the span of a century of the road to QV with agricultural fields in the distance to the south. The main impact has been the parking area and shops at the bottom of the Valley, which began to be used in 1989-90 (lower left) while vehicles were still allowed in the Valley. (1905 image: Schiaparelli 1923; pre-1989 image: CNRS)



Tarmac in Y-junction within the Valley (left, foreground) was used for parking and bazaars until the early 1990s. The tarmac was removed from the Y-junction area (right; Image: CNRS) after the 1994 flood.



In the 1980s the bazaars consisted of a motley assemblage of metal containers where items were stored and used for display during the day (left; Image: CNRS). These were located in the Y-junction in the Valley, along with pedestrian and vehicle traffic and parking. The vendors were moved to their current location in the parking area in the early 1990s, first in a temporary situation and by 1992 in the existing structures (right).

## Roads and paths in the Valley



c. 1988



2008

General view of vehicle road into QV c.1988 (left; Image: CNRS) and as it looks today (right). The tarmac road has been removed in 2 stages: around the Y-junction after the 1994 flood and the remainder in July 2010.



c. 1905



c. 1985

Path to the SW wadi with marble plaque set up by Schiaparelli (upper left; Image: Museo Egizio) recording the Italian Archaeological Mission's work at QV (The sign reads: *La Missione Arch. Italiana Esploro Questa Necropoli Negli Anni 1903-1905*).



2008

The same path and rock is visible in the photo from c.1985 (upper right; Image: CNRS) during the CNRS mission (plaque no longer in situ) and as seen today (left), after renewal of the paths with edging walls in the late 1980s and again in 1994.



c. 1905



2008

The paths at the Y-junction of the main wadi and SW wadi as laid out by Schiaparelli (left; Image: Museo Egizio) and current view (right).

## The main wadi



The main wadi with paths at the time of Schiaparelli's excavations (left, Image: Museo Egizio) and during CNRS excavations c.1988 (right) (Image: CNRS). In the 1980s vehicles were allowed to drive into the Valley and park at the Y-junction; preparations for a parking area outside the Valley can be seen in the 1988 photo (arrow).



Panoramic views of the main wadi from the mountains during CNRS excavations c.1988. Above, looking south; below, looking southeast. (Images: CNRS).

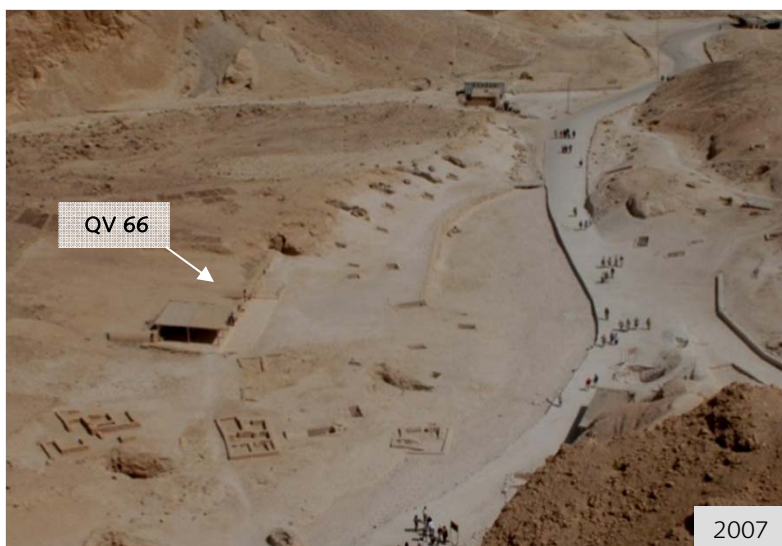
## Visitor paths and edging walls in the main wadi



Top left: General view of the north sector before clearing for excavation (late 1970s or early 1980s) showing circular visitor routing along the main wadi and to QV 66 (Nefertari) from the vehicle parking at the Y-junction (Image: CNRS).



The middle photo shows the same area during the CNRS excavations in c. 1988. The path from QV 66 to the end of the wadi has been removed to allow for excavation (Image: CNRS).



After the 1994 flood, the wadi was lowered and expanded, the parking removed permanently to its current location, and the path to Nefertari (QV 66) established farther to the east, closer to where it was during Schiaparelli's time. The tarmac in the parking area was also removed at this time. New retaining walls and paths were built along the wadi and additional shade shelters were constructed (near QV 44 and 55). These developments characterize the site as seen today (left), with the exception of changes made in 2008-2010 by the SCA (see Part II, Appendix 4, for these changes).

## Inventory and assessment of current visitor-related infrastructure and facilities



### 1. Paved parking area

Date of construction: c. 1988-89

Constructed by: SCA

Description/function: Intended for coaches and vans

Condition/operability: Too small and constricted for size and number of coaches, causing congestion and chaos during peak periods



### 2. Unpaved parking area

Date of construction: Ad hoc addition to paved parking

Description/function: For private vehicles and taxis

Condition/operability: Provides adequate space for private vehicles, which are relatively few in number



### 3. Ticket office

Date of construction: 2004

Constructed by: SCA

Description/function: Located at the beginning of the bazaar, tickets are purchased here, mainly by guides. Money from late afternoon sales is left in the office, thus requiring some level of security.

Condition/operability: Inadequate in terms of location, function and security



### 4. Shops/bazaar

Date of construction: 1993

Constructed by: Luxor city

Description/function: There are 32 shops, which carry similar, low quality goods. The area in front of the shops functions as entrance to and exit from site, thus requiring visitors to run the gauntlet of persistent vendors twice during their brief visit.

Condition/operability: The shops are poorly constructed and present a shabby appearance



## 5. Toilets

Date of construction: Installed c.1990

Constructed by: SCA

Description/function: Trailer with 3 toilets for men and 3 for women; this is the only toilet facility on the site.

Condition/operability: Reasonably adequate in terms of number of stalls; queues are rare. Constitutes a visual intrusion.



6

Sheltered areas are essential at the site because of the sun and heat, even during the winter months. Visitor and guide surveys have shown that lack of adequate sheltered places is one of the major complaints. There are currently 4 shelters (wood frame construction with flat roofs and stone floor paving) on site where visitors wait for entry to the open tombs. The shelters are insufficient in size to handle more than one large group of visitors. The space available to build larger shelters is, however, constrained by the wadi and topography. (All shelters were repainted by SCA in 2009).



7

## 6. Shelter for Tomb 44

Date of construction: 1995

Constructed by: SCA

Condition/operability: Serviceable but space is severely constrained. Used more by guardian and tourist police than visitors.



8

## 7. Shelter for Tomb 52

Date of construction: 1997

Constructed by: SCA

Condition/operability: Serviceable but too small and distant from tomb 52; however, there is no available space closer to the tomb.

## 8. Shelter for Tomb 55

Date of construction: 1980

Constructed by: EAO

Condition/operability: Serviceable but too small and provides inadequate shade.



9

## 9. Shelter for Tomb 66

Date of construction: original shelter c. 1986;

existing shelter c. 1995

Constructed by: SCA

Condition/operability: Serviceable but too small. Area available is adequate in size with space for enlargement.

## 10. Signage and interpretation panels

The earliest site and tomb signage was installed by Schiaparelli in the first attempts to present the site. In the late 1980/early 1990s Interpretation panels and miscellaneous signage were placed as part of the more comprehensive efforts to present the site. The existing interpretation and visitor information signage under or adjacent to current shelters dates from that period. It is uniformly in poor condition, and often illegible (some of these panels were removed by the SCA in 2007). The GCI installed temporary panels during the assessment to provide visitors with some information about the site and the current initiatives for planning and conservation.



The path of the SW wadi with marble plaque (left) set up by Schiaparelli recording the Italian Archaeological Mission's work at QV ('La Missione Arch. Italiana Esploro Questa Necropoli Negli Anni 1903-1905') (Image: Schiaparelli 1923). The rock remains in situ today but the sign has long been removed. Sign at Y-junction installed in 1990s (since removed in 2007 by SCA). One of three temporary panels installed near Y-junction in 2009 for GCI-SCA project (right).



QV 55 sign



QV 55 visitor capacity sign



QV 55 Schiaparelli marble plaque



QV 44 sign at shelter



QV 44 sign near shelter



QV 44 modern sign above door and Schiaparelli plaque in wall to right



QV 66 (Nefertari): Graphic representation of tomb under shelter; conservation sign; and interpretation sign



## 11. Furnishings

Furnishings on site are minimal and located under shelters. These consist of moveable and built-in benches for visitors and guards, shelving for visitors to deposit bags before entering tombs, and receptacles for trash. All of the furnishings are in poor condition and have little design coherence, nor are they adequate to their purpose.



QV 55 entry



QV 66 (Nefertari) shelter



QV 44 shelter

**Bag check:** Furnishings for checking bags exist at shelters or tomb entries for QV 55, 44 and 66. They are inadequate, untidy and their location is intrusive. Only the bag check at Nefertari is fairly consistently used. Their location is problematic since those located within the entry areas of tombs (QV 55) are an obstacle to traffic flow, while those located under shelters (QV 44) are lacking security such that visitors feel comfortable leaving their belongings. These issues will not be easy to address due to lack of space, but need to be framed within a coherent and consistently applied policy on bringing bags and cameras into the tombs.



QV 52 shelter



QV 66 under shelter

**Benches/seats:** Moveable wooden benches and built-in plastered masonry seats provide seating under shelters. These are used as much by tourist police as visitors. Seating is important since visitors must often wait in fierce heat to enter tombs and listen to guides give their narration. While the moveable benches are useful for guides to consolidate their groups and can be moved into the shade, they are also an obstacle within the shelters.



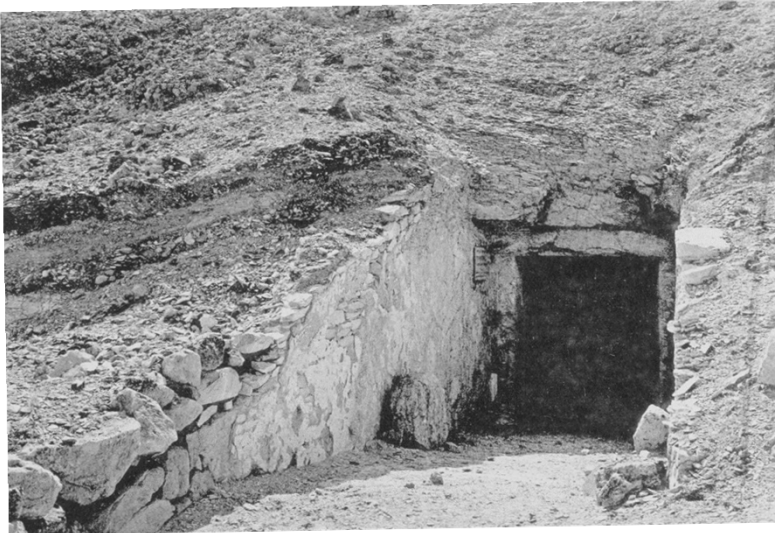
Trash receptacles under or adjacent to shelters or tomb entries

**Trash and cigarette receptacles:** These are varied, unsightly and randomly located. A special receptacle for batteries is also needed. Clay pots with sand were placed under shelters in 2008 at the initiative of the site inspector to reduce the number of cigarette butts thrown on the ground.

## Part IV.7. Protection and presentation of visited tombs

### Exterior entries for QV 44, 52, 55

The exteriors of the three tombs open to the general public (QV 44, 52 and 55) are variable in terms of their protection of the tombs and presentation of the entry to the public (Nefertari is considered separately). All three tombs were investigated by Schiaparelli who provided massive iron doors for security (see Interior installations) and constructed an arch to protect the stepped ramp and entrance of QV 55. Retaining walls built in the early 1990s were intended to protect the tombs but they have also obscured original features and workmanship in the ramp areas, as have the Schiaparelli doors at the entrance openings. The retaining walls are inadequate to protect the tombs from flood (see Part V:2 for flood threats).



QV 44. The entrance to the tomb during the time of its discovery by Schiaparelli (left) (Image: Schiaparelli 1923) before installation of door (1903-4). At right, the entry as it looks today (2005) with door installed by Schiaparelli and masonry retaining walls built on the ramp cutting and above the door lintel in 1991. There is no arched cover to protect the tomb from flood debris flow from the slope above the door.



QV 44. Retaining walls and steps in the ramp were built in the 1990s to protect the tomb and provide easier access to visitors. The entry area and adjacent shelter become highly congested as groups jostle to exit and enter the tomb. The space available for extension of the shelter is, however, highly restricted. Upslope flood debris flow through the shelter must be retained so as to prevent flow into the down slope of the ramp toward the tomb.



QV 52. Schiaparelli era door protects the tomb (left). There are no retaining walls or arched cover to protect the tomb from debris flow from slope above entrance; nor is there protection from flooding from the adjacent wadi. Visitors congregating in front of the tomb awaiting access put undue pressure on the entry as they attempt to gain access and seek shade.



QV 55. Retaining walls and brick arched cover as built by Schiaparelli c.1905 (top left) (Image: Museo Egizio); entry with door and plaque installed by Schiaparelli as it looks today (2005) (top right). The retaining walls and brick arched cover built by Schiaparelli (the walls extended and entry created at a later date) provide some, though insufficient, protection against flooding from the wadi, as seen bottom left). The platform at the top of the steps (bottom right) becomes easily congested as groups attempt to enter and exit the ramp.

## Interior installations for presentation and protection of QV 44, 52, 55

The three tombs open to the general public (QV 44, 52, 55) all have similar installations and furnishings for protection and presentation (Nefertari is considered separately). Most installations (e.g. lighting and glass barriers) were put in place in the 1980s or 1990s and are now outdated, inadequate or unsightly and need to be repaired, refurbished or replaced.



QV44



QV52

**Doors:** Heavy metal doors with elaborate locking mechanisms protect the three visited tombs and date to Schiaparelli's time (apparently designed by H. Carter, Director of Upper Egypt in the *Service des Antiquities* at the time; Carter 1905, 120). QV 44 has a solid door and frame; QV 52 and 55 have ventilation holes in the side and transom panels. These are inadequately screened to prevent entry of small animals. (QV 43, not currently open to visitors, also has a Schiaparelli period solid door with ventilation holes). Entry of dust is also problematic and filters should be considered.



QV55. Exterior



QV55. Interior

The existing metal doors can and should be retained but require refurbishing (new paint and fittings). Doors that have ventilation holes need to be provided with a method of preventing entry of bats and rodents. Since 2009 the GCI has been undertaking environmental monitoring of these tombs, which will provide information about the impact and utility of the ventilation holes.



Lighting of wall paintings, QV 55

**Lighting:** Fluorescent lights are placed on the floor behind the glass barriers and used to illuminate the wall paintings and tomb features. They are long-lasting, but focus the light at base of walls, are difficult to access behind the barriers for maintenance, and have poor quality housing.



Lighting of shaft, QV 52



Typical lighting set-up, QV 44



Lighting of side chamber, QV 52



QV 44: general view of glass barriers and missing large glass panel in the corridor (right)



**Protective barriers:** Existing glass barriers set in aluminum frames are intrusive, difficult to clean and see through due to reflection and adherent dust.

Some form of barrier is necessary to protect paintings from visitors, especially in the confined spaces of the axial corridors and small side chambers. This is illustrated where barriers are missing in the entrance to the rear chamber of QV 55.



QV 55: wall painting soiled by touching (left); lost glass panel above doorway (right)



The heavy glass panel above the low entry to Chamber K of QV 55, was dislodged and removed in 2008 after being impacted one too many times by the heads of visitors. One of the large glass panes in QV 44 has been missing for several years, offering better viewing but endangering the wall painting (this was replaced in 2009). A large panel in QV 52 was shattered when removed for SCA photo-documentation in November 2008.



QV 52: narrow corridors of tomb (left); make-shift barrier and glass panels of unequal height and different construction (right)

In QV 52 a make-shift barrier to the side chamber and shaft between glass panels of unequal height and different construction further degrades the presentation of the tomb architecture and paintings.



**Floors:** Wooden walkways in the open tombs are sound, but in need of refinishing, if they are retained. The walkways will need to be replaced, however, if sub-floor ventilation systems are introduced or new barrier systems installed. Accumulation of dust behind the barriers intrudes below flooring and is impossible to remove.



**Ventilation:** As indicated in visitor surveys, the air quality in the tombs can be quite poor, especially in the summer when CO<sub>2</sub> levels, and heat and body odors create a toxic mix. A fan in QV 55 attempts to ameliorate these conditions to little avail. GCI began monitoring humidity, temperature and air quality in the tombs in February 2009.



**Protection of in situ objects:** QV 55 Chamber K has a very low ceiling and two features of great interest to visitors: the intact sarcophagus and the mummified fetus. Neither object is in its original location (the sarcophagus was found in Chamber G (as seen in Schiaparelli photo, near left) (Image: Schiaparelli 1923); the fetus in the Valley of Prince Ahmose).

Problems arising from the display of these objects are: congestion in the small room; visitors' heads hit low ceilings; lack of a respectful viewing of the mummified fetus; and visitors touching the sarcophagus and throwing trash inside (the lid is partially open). There is no barrier to prevent touching the sarcophagus. (Mummified fetus moved to Chamber E doorway in 2009).



**Fire extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers are available in the open tombs; while easily accessible, they are also visually intrusive.

**Seat for guardians:** Guardians require a place to sit within sight of tomb entrances. Currently these are ad hoc arrangements, such as moveable wooden benches situated near the entry.



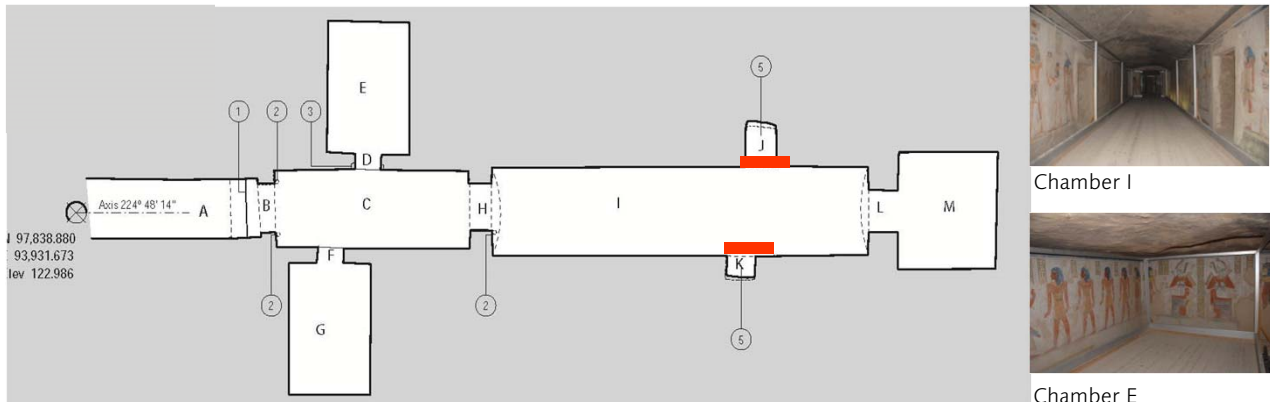
**Wheelchair accessibility:** None of the tombs are wheelchair accessible. QV 52 does not have stairs and might be adapted for wheelchair accessibility (and for other mobility challenged visitors), although the stone threshold poses difficulties.



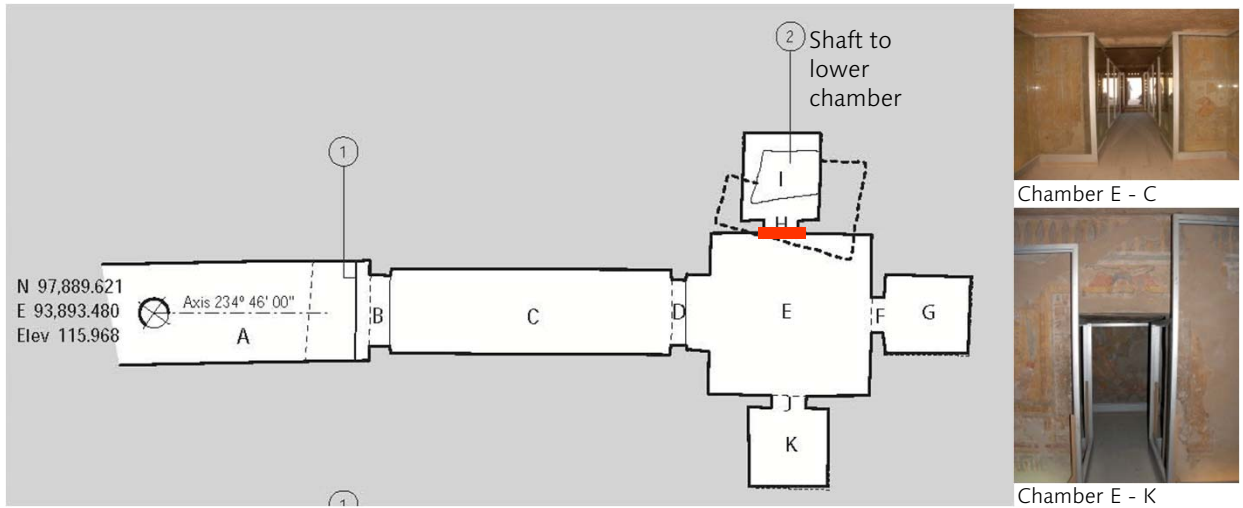
**Electrical wiring:** All the visited tombs are wired. Electrical connections are not up to safety code and constitute a fire hazard. Wires are not enclosed in conduits. The junction box outside QV 44 is dilapidated and missing its cover.

## Circulation and access within visited tombs

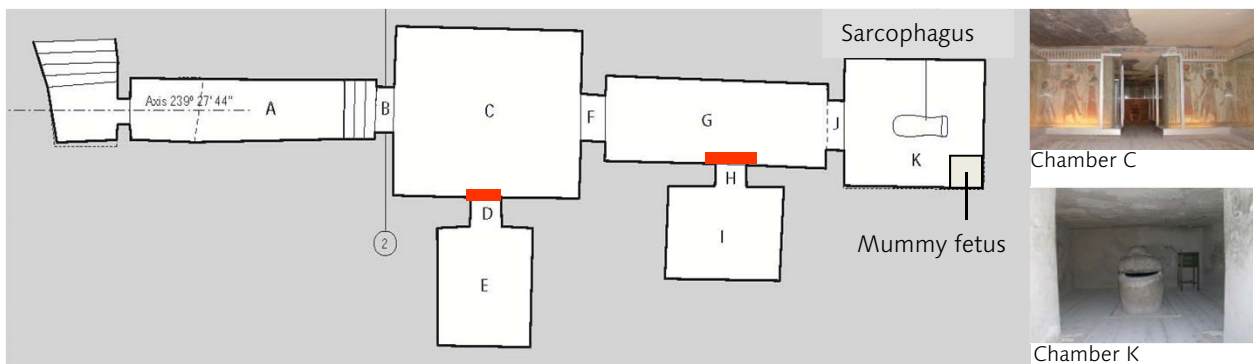
The three open tombs have a similar layout with long, narrow axial corridors, small side and end chambers. Circulation is severely constrained by this layout. Low ceilings and narrow door openings present additional challenges. Doorways currently closed off to access are indicated in red below.



**QV 44.** The side chambers E and G are open to visitors, with glass barriers protecting the paintings. Low ceilings in these chambers are problematic, especially E which has ceiling loss. Access to small side Chambers K and J is blocked.



**QV 52.** Chamber H with shaft is blocked with a wooden rail. Chambers G and K are open and protected with glass; they are very small and have low ceilings. It would be preferable to close these chambers off to visitors but allow the wall paintings to be viewed.



**QV 55.** Chamber K with sarcophagus and fetus mummy has a low ceiling and door lintel, and limited space to maneuver. Consideration should be given to closing off Chamber K. Side chambers E and I are not accessible to visitors. (Fetus mummy display was moved in 2009 by SCA to doorway of Chamber E.)

## Exterior entry of QV 66 - Nefertari



c. 1905



c. 1986

The topography and built features surrounding the tomb of Nefertari have been altered significantly since the discovery of the tomb in 1903; however, the protective arched brick entrance to the tomb entrance built by Schiaparelli has survived little changed. (1905 Image: Museo Egizio; 1986 image: CNRS)



1992



2007

Retaining walls adjacent to the entrance, a new path system and paving were constructed beginning in 1992 (left).



2008



2008

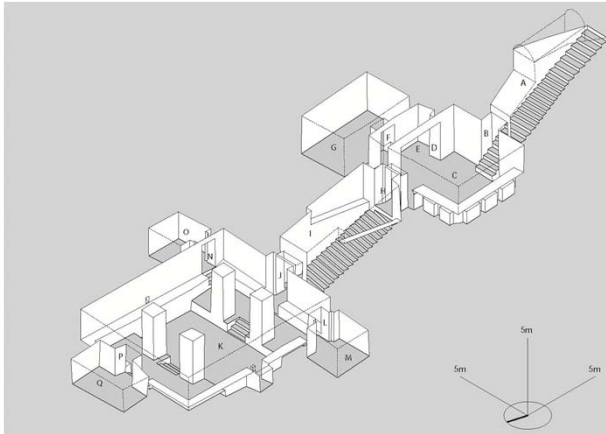


2008

Plaster coating on arched cover is now deteriorating. Tops of the lateral retaining walls on either side of entrance lack a stable capping and there is no drainage to prevent rain or flood water infiltration behind these walls.

## Interior installations for presentation and protection of QV 66 – Nefertari

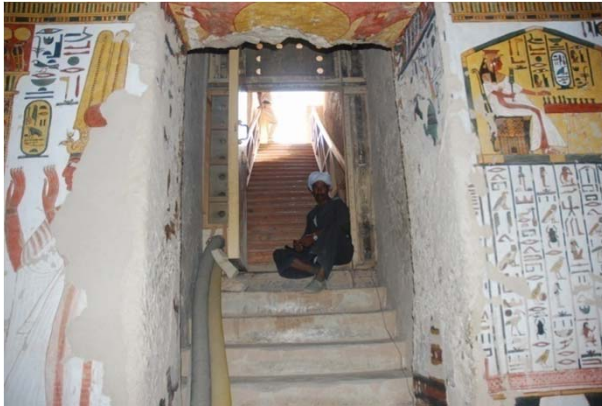
Visitor installations for presentation and protection date to 1995 when the tomb was first open to limited visitation, with the exception of the door, which dates to the time of Schiaparelli. Installations include lighting, wooden walkways, and stanchions and rope barriers.



Tomb of Nefertari, axonometric view



Wooden staircase and handrail constructed on the original stepped ramp (A)



Metal door (open), installed in 1904-1905, with 50 ventilation holes (each approx. 6cm diam.) and air extraction pipes cut through side panel at door.



Impact of heavy metal door opening onto the wall of the stepped ramp (left and detail right). A method of preventing the door from hitting the wall is required.



Screen over vent holes is torn and sand-clogged. Door is left open during visitation allowing air-borne particulates to enter tomb.



### Electrical wiring

Electrical wiring is untidy and unsafe. As recommended by GCI in 1996, all electrical wires should be enclosed in metal conduits and electrical connections in metal enclosures to prevent fire and shock and prevent mice from eating wires. These recommendations have not been implemented, but provisional measures were put in place during the assessment. Voltage requirements for any new lighting system need to be considered in relation to potential fire hazard.

Lighting, walkways and barriers



Lighting, stanchions and wooden platform in Chamber K. Note platform ends approx. 30cm from wall. Stanchions and platform function more as psychological than physical barriers. This system is viable because of the restricted number of visitors allowed at any one time in the tomb, but stanchions are unstable and potentially dangerous. Recommendations were made in the past to anchor the stanchions, which are at risk of being knocked over, to the walkways.



Housing for fluorescent lights on ledge in Chamber K (left), and on floor and ledge in Chamber C (right). Illumination is strong at source and falls off on upper parts of walls.



Wooden walkways and platform in Chamber K (foreground) leading to rear Chamber Q. The wooden walkways are in generally good condition, but are not of modular construction making it impossible to remove them to clean dust and lint below them.



Wooden platform and stanchions in Chamber C, viewed from stepped entry ramp.



Walkway barriers are low and too close to wall paintings at doorways. Barrier to Chamber Q (above) is not stable.



## Ventilation and fire safety systems

An air extraction system was installed in the tomb of Nefertari in 1995 (see Part V:1, Environmental Monitoring). The extraction pipes have been in disrepair for several years (see next page for provisional measures to rectify system). The fans only function to circulate the air in the tomb and do not assist with air exchange with the outside.



Air extraction pump outside entry to tomb. The pipe exits at the front of the tomb and is a significant visual intrusion. Extraction pipe was broken in several places, occasionally repaired with tape.



Fire extinguisher and air extraction pipes in upper chamber. Contact of pipes with wall causes abrasion.



Broken extraction pipe at top of stairs.



Large extraction pipe from lower chamber.



Fire extinguisher and fan for air circulation in lower chambers.



Fan in upper Chamber C.

### Provisional changes to extraction system and electrical wiring implemented in February 2009

In order to temporarily rectify the most egregious problems with the air extraction system and electrical wiring, the following changes were made in February 2009. These are intended as temporary measures, pending final design and approval of a new plan for ventilation, wiring, lighting and walkways.



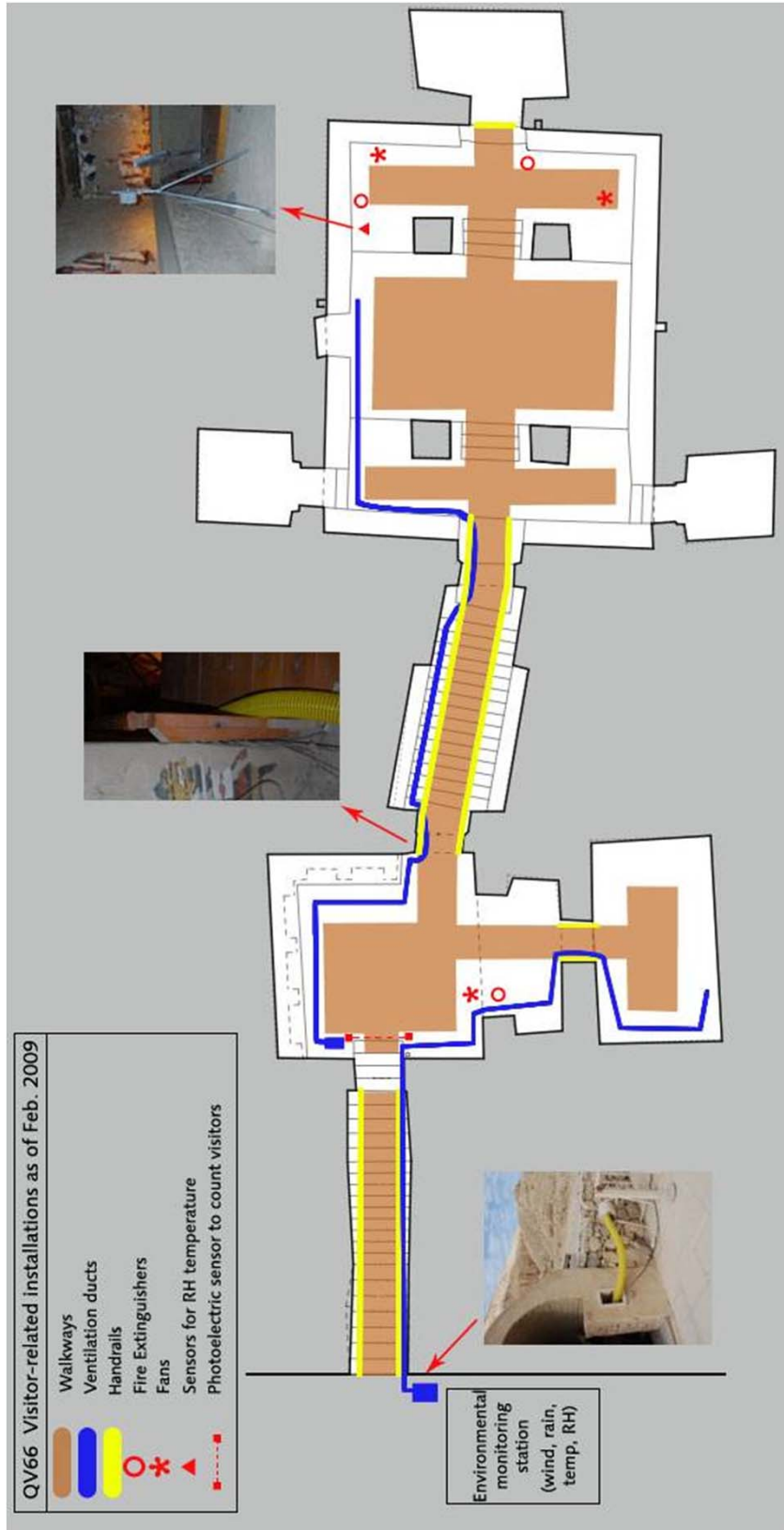
The broken ducts were replaced by new ducting throughout the tomb (yellow ducting in photos above).



Electrical wiring from the junction box into Chamber C was encased in conduits.



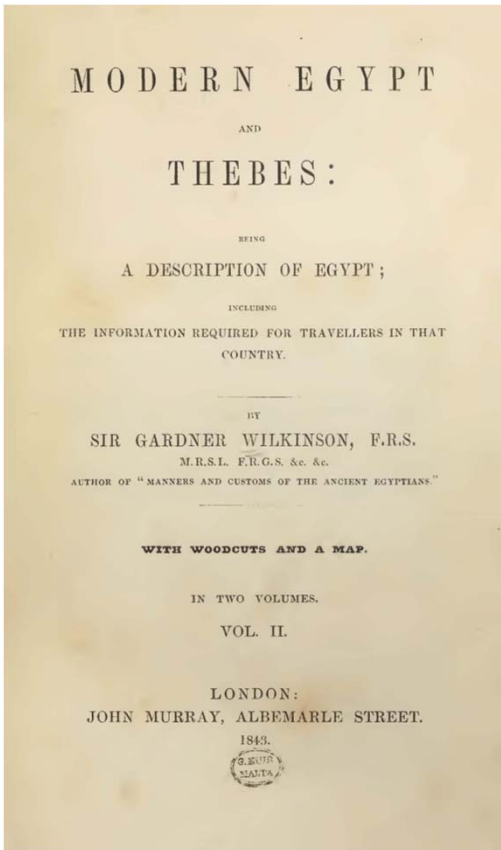
In addition to repairs noted above, a sensor to measure RH and T was installed in Chamber K (left) and an automated visitor counter was installed at the entrance to Chamber C (right).



The schematic shows the location of walkways, ventilation ducts, environmental monitoring station and sensors, fans and visitor counter in QV66 as of February 2009.

## Part IV.8. Visitation and interpretation potential

### History of visitation at QV



Visitation to QV by travelers is well documented from the mid-19th century onward, principally from guidebooks of the era. Tombs that can be identified in common, mainly English-language, guidebooks from 1843 to 1983 are noted in Table 1, along with excerpts from the guidebooks. These were collated in order to better understand what visitors have seen in the past century at QV and how the tombs were described, interpreted, and experienced.

From the earliest guidebooks up to the present day, the most consistently visited tombs have been QV 44, 52, 55 and, after its discovery in 1904, QV 66 (Nefertari). Schiaparelli's work in the Valley from 1903-1906 resulted in the first attempt to present the site and protect the tombs with installation of substantial steel doors at the entries (see Section 6 on historical development of infrastructure). The doors were installed on QV 43, 44, 52, 55, and 66 and visitation required their opening by the local guardian. It is not known when lighting was first installed in the tombs. A 1914 guidebook mentions electric lighting in seven KV tombs but indicated that visitors should take their own lights to QV; a 1945 guidebook indicates there was still no electric lighting in the QV tombs.

In addition to the principal tombs of significance (QV 44, 52, 55, and 66), special mention is often made of QV 51 and 43 (always described as completely blackened) and less frequently QV 42. Other tombs (QV 36, 38, 39, 40, 60, 68 and 71) are given a cursory mention at best.

Beginning in the early 1980s the guidebooks indicate that QV 66 (Nefertari) requires special permission, followed by reference to the tomb being closed to the public as a result of its deteriorating condition. Nefertari was re-opened for limited visitation in 1995, with visitation further restricted in 2003 (see Section 6 on ticketing for further details)

Following attempts to 'clean' the blackened walls of QV 43 in the mid-1980s, this tomb was opened to the public around 1993, with provisions for lighting and an interpretive sign. The tomb remained accessible until around 2000 when it was closed; however, it is intermittently opened for visitation when one of the other tombs is 'closed for restoration.' QV 40 was also opened intermittently and provided with lighting until around 2000 when it was 'closed for restoration.'

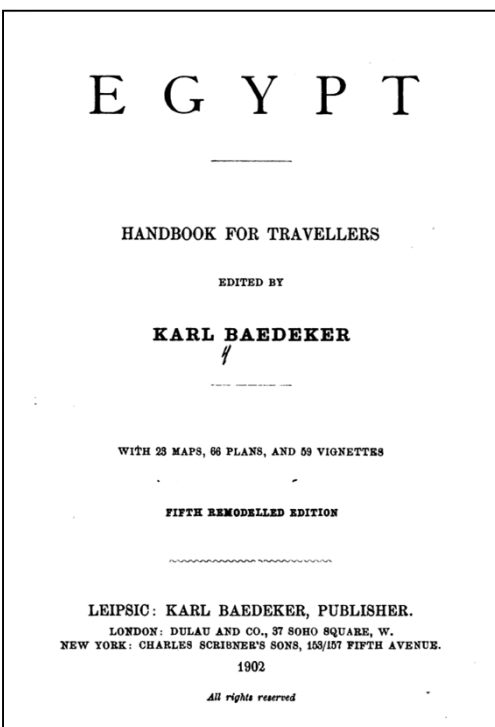


Table 1. References to QV visited tombs in guidebooks from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to 1983

Date	Guidebook	Descriptions and excerpts from guidebooks
1843	G. Wilkinson <i>Modern Egypt and Thebes: A Description of Egypt</i> Pages: 188-189	Five tomb owners mentioned: Amun-meit or Amun-tmei; Queen Taia (QV 52); daughter of Amenhotep I; the favorite daughter of Rameses II; the consort of Rameses V "The five queens' tombs have suffered from the effects of fire, and little can be satisfactorily traced of their sculptures, except in that of queen Taia" (QV 52) (p.188).
1875	John Murray (Firm) <i>Handbook for travelers in Egypt</i> Pages: 436-437	QV has "few attractions for those who are not interested in hieroglyphics" (p. 436) The edition is a revised version of Wilkinson's <i>Handbook for Egypt</i>
1902	Karl Baedeker (Firm) <i>Egypt and Sudan: Handbook for travelers</i> (5 <sup>th</sup> edition) Pages: 296-297	QV does "not demand a visit except from travelers who have abundant leisure" (p. 296); "upwards 20 [tombs] have been discovered, many unfinished and entirely without decoration"; the condition is "rough and blackened", "resembling mere caves in the rocks" (p. 296). <b>QV 52:</b> "the most interesting tomb lies on the S. side of the valley...Tomb of Queen Titi"; "In this as in most of the better preserved tombs the freshness of the colour is extraordinary" (p. 296). <b>QV 51:</b> very similar to QV 52, tomb of "Queen Eset, mother of Ramses VI", "difficult to access", "scarcely repays a visit" (p. 297). Other tombs mentioned: <b>QV 38:</b> tomb of Sat-Re (wife of Sethos I) <b>QV 60:</b> tomb of Nebt-tewe (daughter of Rameses II) <b>QV 68:</b> tomb of Merit-Amon (daughter of Rameses II) <b>QV 71:</b> tomb of Bent-Anat (daughter of Rameses II) <b>QV 40:</b> tomb of unknown queen, "representation of beds, chairs, boxes, and other furniture of the dead" (p. 297)
1906	E. A. W. Budge <i>Cook's Handbook for Egypt and Sudan</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition) Page: 661	<b>QV 52:</b> "the most important sepulchre;" "the colouring of the scenes is very good, and the paintings are comparatively well preserved" (p. 661) <b>QV 51:</b> opened by Schiaparelli and Ballerini <b>QV 46</b> [18 <sup>th</sup> Dyn]: opened by Schiaparelli and Ballerini;"tomb of a person without name" (p.661) <b>QV 66, QV 55, QV 42:</b> discovered by Schiaparelli
1908	Karl Baedeker (Firm) <i>Egypt and Sudan: Handbook for travelers</i> (6 <sup>th</sup> edition) Pages: 314-316	"The tombs of the Queens... also deserve a visit from those travellers who can afford the time"; "[b]oth routes [from Medinet Habu and from Deir el-Medineh] end in an enclosed Valley, which is of great beauty, though not so imposing as that of Biban el-Muluk"; "the more important tombs are designated by tablets with Italian inscriptions and the best-preserved ones, which alone are worth visiting, must be opened by the keeper" (p. 314) <b>QV 43:</b> "[t]he reliefs, which were formerly coloured but are now smoke-blackened" (p. 315) <b>QV 44:</b> "with coloured reliefs in excellent preservation" (p. 315) <b>QV 52:</b> "[t]he freshness of the colour is extraordinary" (with a plan, section, and descriptions of architecture and relief) (p. 315) "We now come to the finest tombs" (p. 316)... <b>QV 55:</b> "[t]he scenes in this tomb are remarkably fresh in colour"; "[t]he following <i>Corridor</i> (3) [Chamber G], containing the rough granite coffin..." (p. 316) <b>QV 66:</b> "[i]ts beautiful pictures take the form of the finest painted stucco reliefs, which, however, suffered in places from the infiltration of water;" "the reliefs in the smaller rooms [Chambers M, Q] are much damaged"

Date	Guidebook	Descriptions and excerpts from guidebooks
1910	A.E.P. Weigall <i>Guide to the antiquities of Upper Egypt: from Abydos to the Sudan Frontier</i> Pages: 280-290	<p>QV is "decidedly worth a visit"; "The tombs are lit only by candles, and visitors are earnestly requested to see that these are not held too close to the paintings" (p.280); "Arriving at the valley, the visitor alights from his donkey at the donkey-stand" (p. 281) (based on the description in the guidebook, the donkey-stand was located at the Y-junction of the main wadi)</p> <p><b>QV 66:</b> it has a "brick entrance;" "beautiful and interesting tomb" (p.281); "... first tomb to visit;" "The scenes upon the walls [Chamber K, after descending three steps] are now much damaged by moisture, the rain of many winters having penetrated into these lower rooms;" the wall paintings on the rear wall in Chamber K "are too damaged to be of interest" (p. 284) (with plan and detailed description of wall painting and architecture plan)</p> <p><b>QV 55:</b> tomb of "Amenkhepeshef;" "It is one of the four tombs which the visitor to this valley should not fail to see"(p. 284); "[t]he visitor should particularly notice the elaborate costumes worn by the royal figures, and should compare them in his mind with the simpler dresses of earlier days" (p. 286); "[t]he granite sarcophagus, in which the prince was buried, lies empty" in Chamber G (with plan and description of wall decoration)</p> <p><b>QV 52:</b> Tomb of "Thyti;" "not very impressive and may be omitted by those who are pressed for time", "the first corridor is much damaged" (p. 286) (with description of wall painting)</p> <p><b>QV 51:</b> tomb of Queen "Ast (or Isis);" "much damaged;" "only a few scenes of a conventional kind remain;" "[t]he fragments of a once fine sarcophagus are strewn over floor (p. 287)</p> <p><b>QV 43:</b> tomb of "Setyherkhepeshef"; "blackened by smoke;" "not of particular interest" (p. 287) (brief description of wall decoration)</p> <p><b>QV 42:</b> tomb of "Paraheremef;" "the reliefs [of the pillared chamber] are so much damaged that they are of little interest" (p. 288)</p> <p><b>QV 44:</b> tomb of "Khaemuast;" "[t]his tomb should certainly be visited;" "[i]t is situated at the end of the pathway which leads off to the left from the donkey-stand to the south-east corner of the valley;" "[t]he paintings are partly unfinished, and one may see the uncoloured white plaster here and there" (p.288) (with plan and description of wall painting) "There are only two other tombs which call for remark..."</p> <p><b>QV 38,</b> "the burial-place of Queen Setra...a few figures drawn in outline only".</p> <p><b>QV 36:</b> "the tomb of unknown princess;" "[t]he paintings are much damaged, but have once been good" (p. 290)</p> <p>Other queens buried in QV mentioned: "Bantantha, Meretamen, Nebtau" First guidebook to use the current QV numbering system.</p>
1914	Karl Baedeker (Firm) <i>Egypt and Sudan: Handbook for Travelers</i> (7 <sup>th</sup> edition) Page: 319-321	<p>"... lights should be taken" (p.319) [note: seven KV tombs were electrically lighted from Nov to March at this time]</p> <p>Splendid view from the farther end of the valley; "[a]ltogether upwards 70 tombs have been discovered by the Italian archaeological mission"; "[w]e proceed along the e. wall of the valley, passing a tablet commemorating the Italian excavations"(p. 319)</p> <p><b>QV 43, 44, 52, 55:</b> short description of architecture and the wall paintings) (p. 320-1)</p> <p><b>QV 66:</b> tomb of "Nefret-ere Mi-em-Mut;" (p. 321)</p> <p>Tombs mentioned: <b>QV 36</b> (unknown princess), <b>39</b> ("Sitre"), <b>40</b> (unknown princess), <b>42</b> ("Preher-wnam"), <b>51</b> ("Queen Eset", p.320). [note: the same descriptions and comments from the older edition (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) are omitted]</p>
1921	E. A. W. Budge <i>Cook's Handbook for Egypt and Sudan</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> edition)	Same description as the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition

Date	Guidebook	Descriptions and excerpts from guidebooks
1921	E. A. W. Budge <i>Cook's Handbook for Egypt and Sudan</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> edition)	Same description as the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition
1945	<i>The latest pocket guidebook to Luxor &amp; environments</i> (6 <sup>th</sup> edition) Pages: 113-117	"A wooden barrier marks the entrance, and here the donkeys are left" (p.113); "There being no electric light installation, candles or electric torches are necessary when visiting the tombs" (p.114)
1946	M. Aboudi <i>Aboudi's Guidebook to the Antiquities of Upper Egypt and Nubia</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> edition) Pages: 132-135	Visitors come to QV with their donkeys, cars or carriages <b>QV 66</b> : "most important tomb to visit" (p.132) <b>QV 55</b> : "a fine coloured scene" (p. 132) <b>QV 52</b> : "beautifully decorated" (p. 132) <b>QV 44</b> : "remarkable colouring" (p. 135)
1950	Baud, M. <i>Les guides bleus: Égypte</i> Pages: 539-542	The tombs do not present the same interest: many tombs are unfinished, others are very damaged and blackened walls having traces of fire. But the completed and preserved tombs show fresh color and very carefully laid-out details of the conventional art of the New Kingdom (p.539) (trans. TF) <b>QV 39</b> : "very damaged" (p. 539) <b>QV 42</b> : description of wall decoration <b>QV 43</b> : "the paintings are very dirty" (p.540) <b>QV 44</b> : short description of architectural plan and paintings <b>QV 51</b> : "almost completely destroyed" (p.540) <b>QV 52</b> : "the tomb is moderately conserved" <b>QV 55</b> : "very well maintained since discovery; remarkable intensity of color" <b>QV 66</b> : "the most beautiful in this necropolis; the ceiling, well preserved, is a sky of stars"; <b>QV 60; 68; 71 and 74 [?]</b> : "they all are very damaged" Other tombs mentioned: QV 36 and 40
1982	<i>Guide poche univers Marcus: Egypte</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition) Pages : 239-240	<b>QV 66</b> : Visiting the tomb is difficult, for a special authorization from the Antiquities Service is required due to progressive deterioration in color <b>QV 55, 52, 44</b> : short description of wall painting <b>QV 43</b> : notes that the paintings are mostly blackened and are similar to QV44
1983	<i>Nagel's encyclopedia-guide</i> Pages: 568-570	"Since the very friable limestone did not lend itself to sculpture few of the tombs have any carved decoration; more usually they are covered with paintings executed on a coating of clay applied to the walls" (p.569); "Visitors can see Nos. 43, 44, 52, and 55" (p.569) <b>QV 43, 44</b> : short notes (p. 569) <b>QV 52</b> : a "more interesting" tomb; "some of the paintings have preserved their original freshness" (p. 569); "[o]ne of Bonaparte's soldiers who visited the tomb left an inscription which can still be read: 'Girard, an VII'" (p.570) <b>QV 55</b> : "The best preserved and most accessible of the tombs in the Valley of Queens;" "[t]he rear chamber still has the granite sarcophagus which contained the mummy of a child" (p.570) <b>QV 66</b> : "It is unfortunate the tomb... is closed to the public"; "[r]egrettably, landslips in the area are causing the plaster coating to flake off the walls, resulting in the destruction of the very beautiful paintings" (with description of wall painting decoration) (p. 570) "On the N. side of the valley are the tombs of three of Ramesses II's daughters, but these are of no particular interest" (p. 570)

Note: the tomb numbers and chamber names in this table are the modern standard numbering. When tomb numbers or chambers are not indicated in guidebooks, they are identified based on the names of tomb owners and description of architectural plan and/or wall decoration. Spellings are as they appear in the guidebooks.  
There is no description of QV in A. Mariette (1890) *The Monuments of Upper Egypt* and E. A. W. Budge (1898) *The Nile: Notes for Travelers in Egypt* (6th edition)

## Current and potential visitation to the tombs

There are 111 tombs that have been identified and documented in QV and its subsidiary valleys (Valley of the Ropes, Valley of the Three Pits, Valley of Prince Ahmose) since the earliest exploration of the Valley by R. Hay in 1826 through the first modern investigations and excavations undertaken by Schiaparelli in 1903-6 and the comprehensive investigation and clearing of the tombs and Valley by the CNRS led by Christiane Desroches Noblecourt and Christian Leblanc in the 1970s and 1980s.

Of these 111 recorded tombs, seventy-seven are 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty shaft tombs (fifty-seven within the Queens Valley), none of which have ever been open to public viewing. There are 34 tombs attributed to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> dynasties at QV, three of which are open to the general public (QV 44, 52, 55); visitation to QV 66 (Nefertari) is restricted. (One numbered tomb—QV 1—is of uncertain date and was later identified as a hermit cell; it is excluded from the count of recorded tombs).

The historical review of guidebooks for the last 100 years indicates that four tombs (QV 44, 52, 55, 66) have been the only tombs consistently visited, with QV 55 and 66 being singled out for particular attention. QV 40 and 43 were open for several years in the 1980s and 90s and QV 43 is still occasionally open when other tombs are temporarily closed for conservation work. The reason for this consistent visitation is that these are the best preserved tombs in the Valley. They do not, however, provide dynastic representation (except for Nefertari, all are 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, even those occasionally open).

### Current guiding system

There is no SCA system of guiding visitors to any of the monuments in Egypt. Tour guiding is the prerogative of guide syndicates and only licensed guides can undertake this activity. Since 2002 SCA policy has not allowed tour guides to provide narration inside the tombs in order to reduce noise, congestion, and time spent in the tombs. Guides normally wait outside the tomb for their groups, who are accompanied inside by SCA guardians. Only in the tomb of Nefertari are groups required to be accompanied by an SCA inspector (although the inspectors rarely go inside the tomb with the visitors; this is still left to the site guardian). The time spent on site is determined by the tight schedules of the guide companies and frequently only two of the three open tombs are visited (see Section 3 for details on visitors and guides).

### Audience and methods of communication

As described in previous sections in more detail, packaged tours of large groups account for the majority of tourists at the site, but there are nevertheless significant numbers of individual independent travelers who arrive in small groups and spend considerably more time at the site. Interpretation of the site is provided only by guides or in guidebook. The few remaining interpretive panels at QV contain minimal information and are almost illegible. None of the tombs are currently accessible to handicapped visitors, although QV 52 can be managed, with assistance, in a wheelchair.



Large packaged tour group



Independent travelers



Visitors listening to guide

## Criteria for determining visitation potential

As part of a tourism development plan for Luxor, the Abt 1997 study proposed a gradual increase in the number of tombs to be opened to the public at QV. In order to substantially increase tourism to the site they recommended starting with an initial seven tombs and culminating with 17 tombs open for visitation. These proposals were clearly not based on an assessment of the tombs, their potential for visitation, nor the consequent implications for preservation of the resource and requisite management systems.

The GCI assessment process to determine whether any additional QV tombs could be open in the future to visitation was based on certain realities that cannot be ignored in a planning process. Factors taken into consideration were:

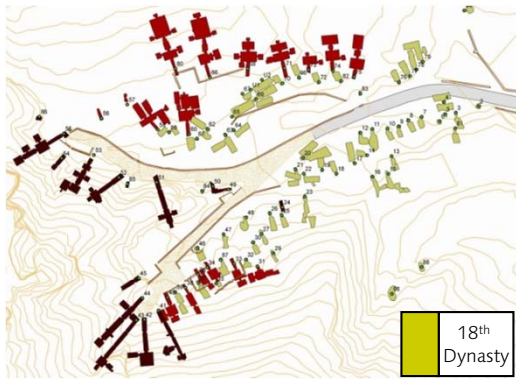
- significant features and associations and representative examples of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasties,
- legibility of the wall paintings,
- safety and risks for visitors,
- interpretive and educational potential, and
- tomb condition and stability

The potential for providing an understanding of conservation issues, the techniques of tomb construction and painting, and later re-use of the Valley in antiquity were of particular interest in assessing educational potential. These themes are not currently part of the experience of any sites in the West Bank

Taking the various considerations into account, four categories of visitation to tombs emerged from the assessments. The table below indicates the categories and the applicable tombs:

Category of tomb	Applicable tombs
18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty shaft tombs whose shafts can be viewed from ground level (no entry to the tombs will be allowed)	QV 20, 72 and 82 are likely candidates for viewing from above since they are located alongside visitor paths and have well-cut deep shafts
Chamber tombs open to general visitation from large tour groups	The tombs currently open for general visitation (QV 44, 52 and 55) are the only ones capable of fulfilling this role
Chamber tombs open to restricted visitation by supervised groups	QV 66 (Nefertari) is currently restricted and should remain so to ensure its preservation
Chamber tombs open to small, specialized tours	QV 38, 40, 42 and 60 have the best potential for visitation by small specialized groups. This would require limiting numbers of tickets per day; small groups of not more than 12 persons, limited use of presentation installations and barriers to allow visitors to experience the tombs more directly, and specialized interpretation and guiding by SCA personnel (not commercial guides)

## 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs



The 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty marks the first use of the site as a royal cemetery. The tombs consist of a deep pit or shaft carved into the rock, leading to one or several chambers with finished but undecorated walls. Lacking inscriptions, only a few of the burials of this period have been identified for princes, princesses, and courtiers or dignitaries.

There are 57 shaft tombs (the original date of QV 1 is uncertain) recorded at QV and an additional 20 in its subsidiary valleys, indicated in the tables below.

Tomb	Name Title	Dynasty Reign
QV 01 Hermit cell	Anonymous	18th
QV 02		
QV 03		
QV 04		
QV 05		
QV 06		
QV 07		
QV 08	Prince Hori and Anonymous Princess and Imenousekhet	18th
QV 09	Anonymous	18th
QV 10		
QV 11		
QV 12		
QV 13		
QV 14		
QV 15		
QV 16		
QV 17	Merytra (I) and Urmerutes Princesses	18th
QV 18	Anonymous	18th
QV 19		
QV 20		
QV 21		

Tomb	Name Title	Dynasty Reign
QV 22	Anonymous	18th
QV 23		
QV 25		
QV 26		
QV 27		
QV 28		
QV 29		
QV 30	Nebiry	18th Thutmosis III
QV 32	Anonymous	18th
QV 35	Anonymous	18th
QV 37	Anonymous	18th
QV 39	Anonymous	18th
QV 46	Imhotep Governor of the City, judge and vizier	18th Thutmosis I
QV 47	Ahмосе Princess	18th
QV 48	Anonymous	18th
QV 59	Anonymous	18th
QV 61	Anonymous	18th
QV 62		
QV 63		
QV 64		
QV 65		

Tomb	Name Title	Dynasty Reign
QV 67	Anonymous	18th
QV 69	Anonymous	18th
QV 70	Nehesy	18th
QV 72	Baki and Hatneferet Prince and Princess	18th
QV 76	Merytra (II) Princess	18th
QV 77	Anonymous	18th
QV 78		
QV 79	Heka...	18th
QV 81		
QV 82	Minemhat and Amenhotep Prince	18th
QV 83	Anonymous	18th
QV 87	Anonymous	18th
QV 88	Ahмосе Prince	18th
QV 89	Anonymous	18th
QV 90		
QV 91		
QV 92		
QV 93	Anonymous	18th
QV 94		
QV 96	Anonymous	18th
QV 97	Anonymous	18th ?
QV 98	Anonymous	18th ?
Unknown 1		18th
Unknown 2		
A-L		18th

Valley of the Queens

Valley of Prince Ahмосе

Valley of the Three Pits

Valley of the Rope

## 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs

The 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs at QV are accessible only by way of a ladder in the deep shafts and many are structurally unsound. Currently and historically, none of these tombs have been opened to visitation of any sort, since they are very difficult to access. There is no interpretation on site about the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs and guides rarely mention them. There is, however, great curiosity among individual travelers, in particular, to examine these tombs, and a clear need to interpret them for the visitors. Two or three shafts along the visitor paths should be considered for viewing from ground level, allowing visitors to peer into the shaft. This will require a metal grid barrier and a higher surround both to protect visitors and protect the tombs from flooding. Lighting within the shaft should also be considered to enhance viewing. The selection of shaft tombs below illustrates the difficulties of access and dangers associated with these tombs.

### Examples of typical shaft tombs



### Visitors looking into shaft tombs



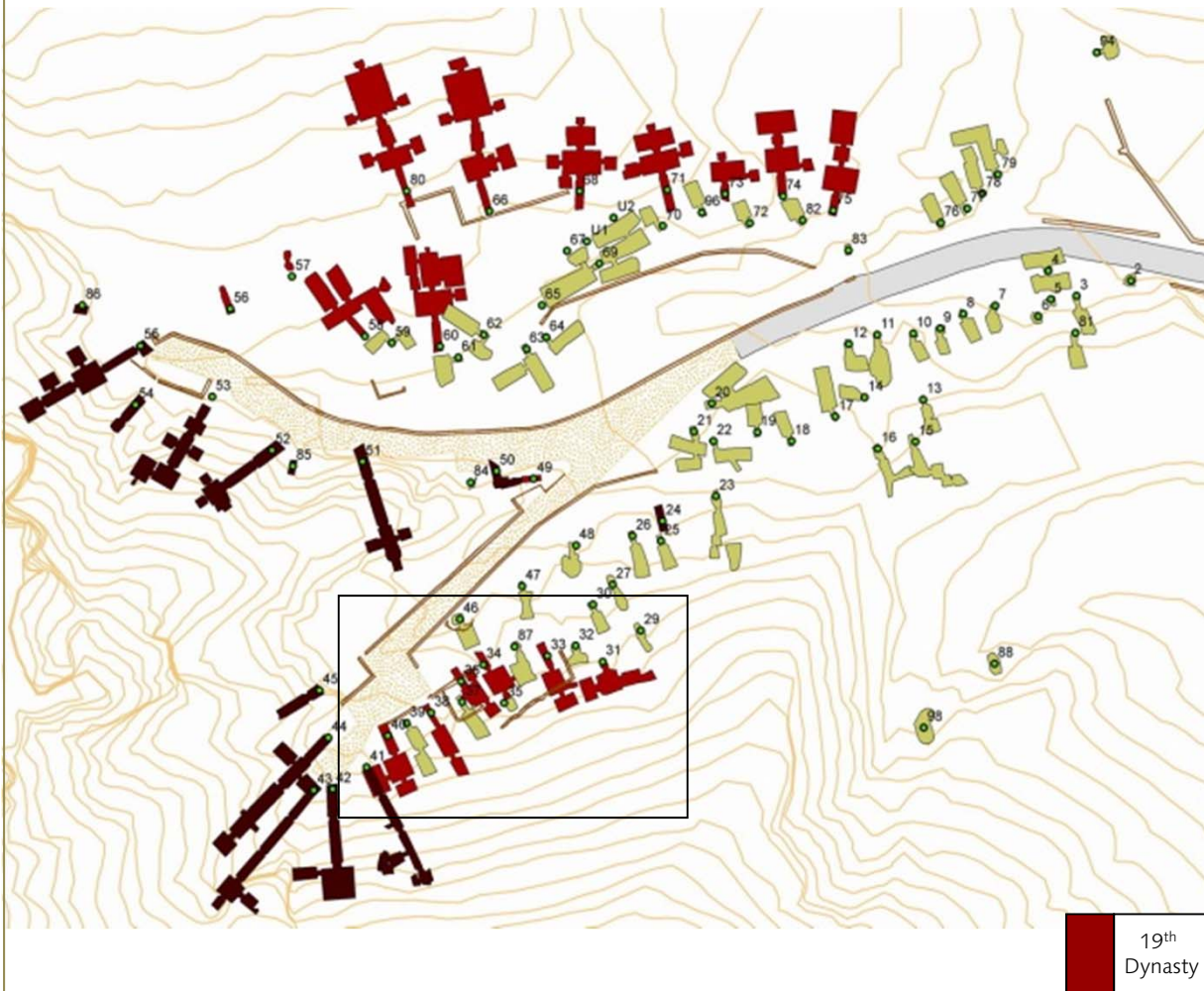
## 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs

There are 34 chamber tombs attributed to the 19th and 20th Dynasties. Eleven of these tombs were either unfinished or abandoned (QV 24, 45, 49, 50, 54, 56, 57, 84, 85, 86, and 95). QV 95, around which the Roman sanctuary and Coptic monastery were built, is now used for storage of materials excavated from the monastery. Twenty-three tombs have completed or largely completed chambers with extant wall paintings or plaster. Four of these tombs are open to the public (QV 44, 52, 55, 66); QV 58 has been used to store study materials from the site. The remaining 18 tombs were surveyed to determine whether there is potential to open them to visitation. The table summarizes the status of the tombs and their visitation potential. Assessment by dynasty follows.

Tomb	Name/Title	Dynasty	Reign
QV 24	Anonymous	20th	
QV 31	Anonymous Princess-Queen, Great Royal Wife	early 19th	Seti I
QV 33	Tanedjemy Princess-Queen	early 19th	Seti I
QV 34	Anonymous Princess-Queen	early 19th	Seti I
QV 36	Anonymous Princess-Queen	early 19th	Seti I
QV 38	Satra Queen (Great Royal wife of Rameses I); mother of Seti I	early 19th	Rameses I
QV 40	Anonymous Princess-Queen	early 19th	Seti I
QV 41	Anonymous	20th	Rameses III
QV 42	Pareherunemef and Minefer Prince (son of Rameses III); Wife of Rameses III	20th	Rameses III
QV 43	Sethherkhepshef Prince (son of Rameses III)	20th	Rameses III
QV 44 OPEN	Khaemwaset Prince (son of Rameses III), priest of Ptah	20th	Rameses III
QV 45	Anonymous	20th	Rameses III
QV 49	Anonymous	19th-20th	
QV 50			
QV 51	Isis-ta-Hemdjeret Queen, (Great Royal wife of Rameses III, mother of Rameses IV)	20th	Rameses III
QV 52 OPEN	Tyti Queen, (Great Royal wife of Rameses III)	20th	Rameses III
QV 53	Rameses Meryamen Prince (Son of Rameses III)	20th	Rameses III
QV 54	Anonymous	20th	
QV 55 OPEN	Amenherkhepshef Prince (Son of Rameses III)	20th	Rameses III
QV 56	Anonymous	19th	
QV 57			
QV 58	Anonymous	19th	
QV 60	Nebettauy Princess, Queen (daughter-wife of Rameses II)	19th	Rameses II
QV 66 restricted	Nefertari Queen (Great Royal wife of Rameses II)	19th	Rameses II
QV 68	Merytamen Princess, Queen (daughter-wife of Rameses II)	19th	Rameses II
QV 71	Bentanat Princess, Queen (daughter-wife of Rameses II)	19th	Rameses II
QV 73	Henuttauy Princess, Queen (daughter-wife of Rameses II)	19th	Rameses II
QV 74	Duatentipet Queen (Great Royal wife of Rameses IV)	19th and 20th	Rameses II and Rameses IV
QV 75	Henutmira Princess, Queen (daughter-wife of Rameses II)	19th	Rameses II
QV 80	Tuy Queen (Great Royal wife of Seti I); mother of Rameses II	19th	Rameses II
QV 84	Unfinished	20th	
QV 85			
QV 86			
QV 95	Anonymous	20th	

	Unfinished Tombs		Storage Tombs		Open Tombs		Tombs surveyed for visitation potential		QV 38 Tombs with visitation potential
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## 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in the reigns of Rameses I and Seti I



Beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty chamber tombs, accessed from graded or stepped ramps, were constructed in the Valley. The tombs were large complexes with several rooms and decorated walls; the iconographical themes and texts are mainly from the *Book of the Dead*. Rameses I built a tomb for his wife Satra (QV 38); Seti I had several tombs prepared for his wives and daughters (QV 31, 33, 34, 36, 40).

All the tombs were conceived on a similar plan and are grouped together in the southwest part of the Valley. These tombs are located in a geologically unstable area and most have serious structural problems with on-going rock loss and damage or loss of painted decoration. (See Volume 2 for condition of tombs).

None of the tombs from the reigns of Rameses I or Seti I are currently open to the public.

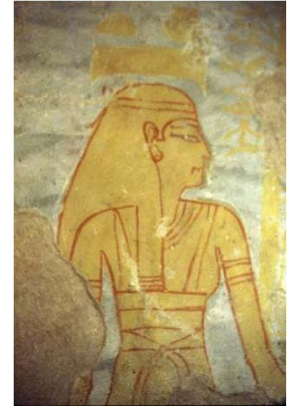
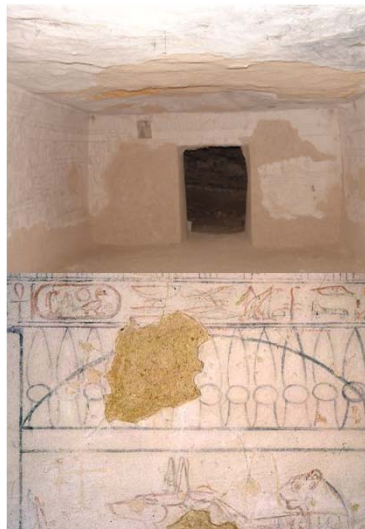
Tombs with visitation potential:  
 QV 38 and 40 are potential candidates for small specialized, SCA-led tours, but not for general visitation. QV 38, never completed, shows preparatory painting and offers a unique opportunity to explain painting techniques. QV 40 is among the earliest tombs, with extensive painting remaining and barrel vaulted ceiling.

Tombs with no visitation potential:  
 QV 31, 33, 34, 36

19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in the reigns of Rameses I and Seti I



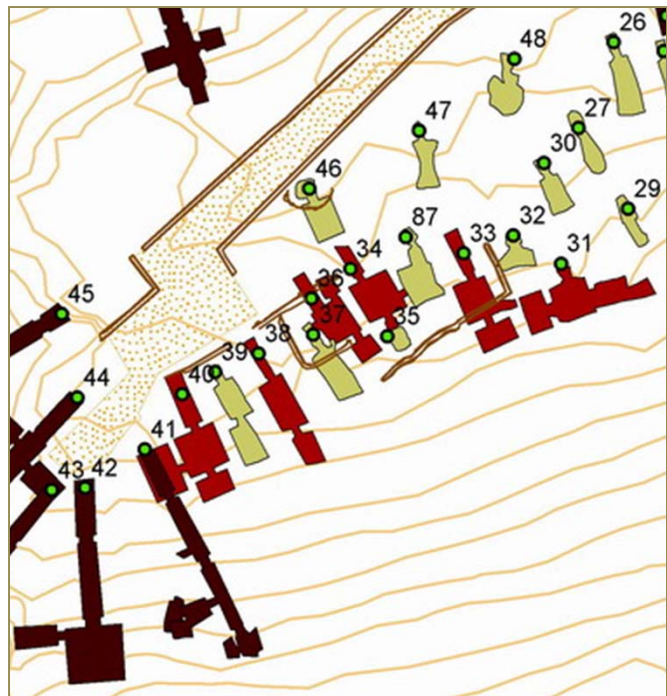
QV 40 Anonymous  
Potential for  
specialized tours



QV 38 Satra  
Potential for  
specialized tours



QV 36 Anonymous Queen



QV 33 Tanedjmy

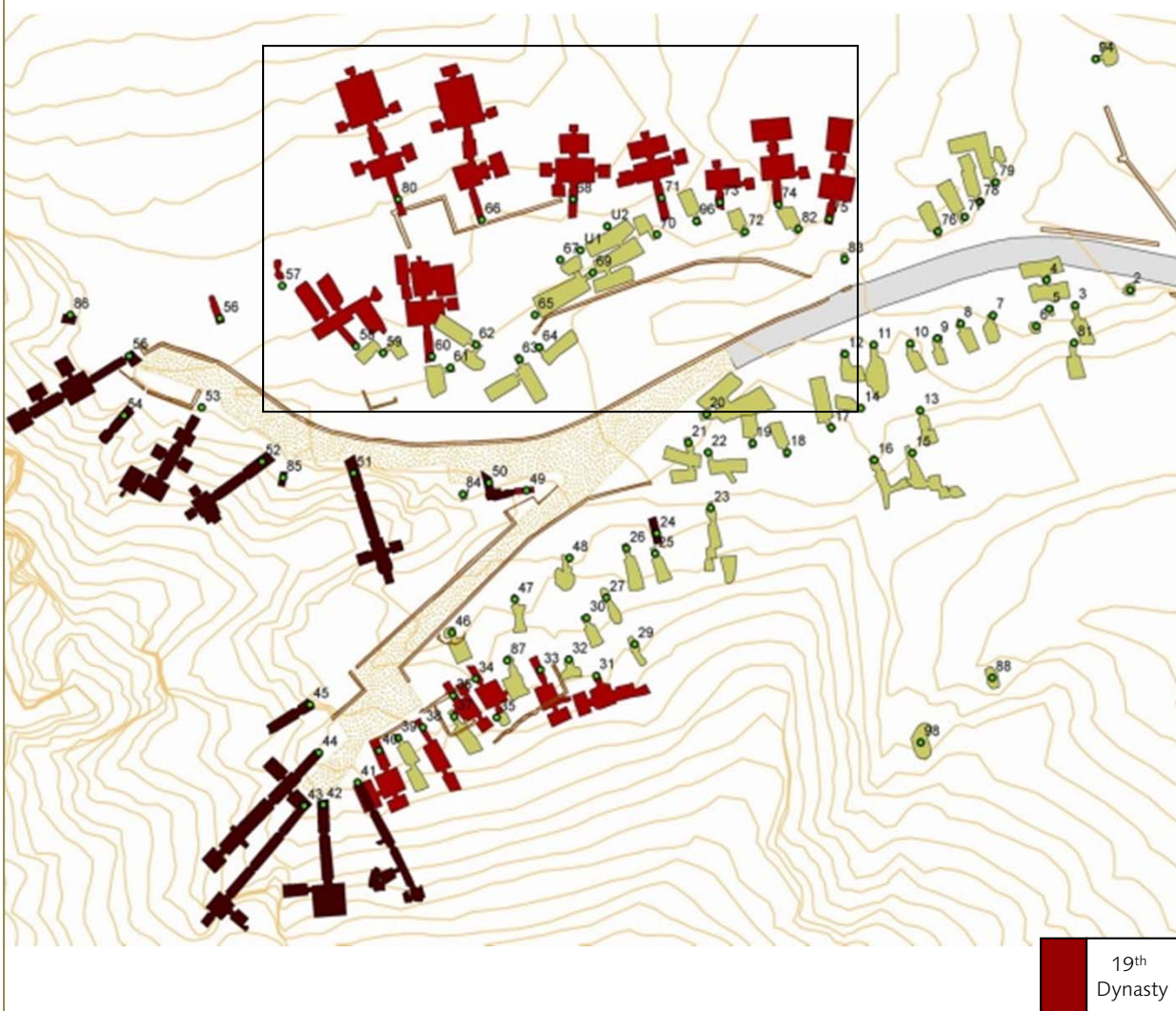


QV 34 Anonymous Queen



QV 31 Anonymous Queen

## 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in the reign of Rameses II



The tombs built during the reign of Rameses II were located on the northern slope of the main wadi. These include the most significant tomb at QV, that of Nefertari (QV 66), wife of Rameses II, as well that of his mother, Queen Tuy (QV 80), and some of his daughters: Nebettawy (QV 60); Merytamen (QV 68); Bentanat (QV 71); Henuttauy (QV 73); and Henutmira (QV 75). QV 74 belongs to an anonymous princess, later converted as a burial for Duatentipet, Great Royal Wife of Rameses IV in the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.

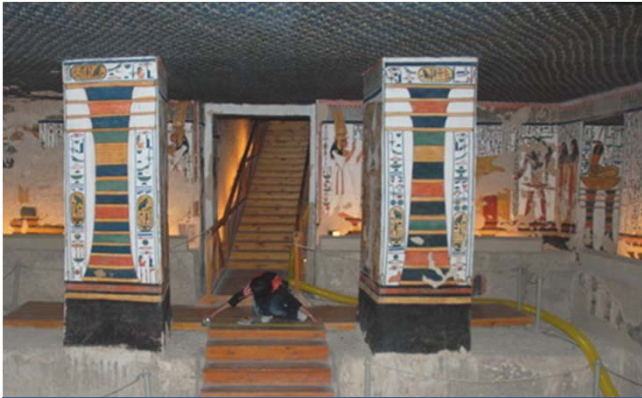
With the exception of Nefertari's burial place, all these tombs have suffered structural instability, loss and blackening of painted decoration due to past flooding and re-use. (See Volume 2 for condition of tombs).

QV 66 is open only to very restricted visitation.

Tombs with potential for visitation:  
The only other tomb among this group that has potential for visitation for specialized tours is QV 60. It would require substantial structural intervention and could not be open for general visitation, but has very high interpretation potential, including later Coptic re-use and conservation issues.

Tombs with no visitation potential:  
QV 68, 71, 73, 74, 75, 80

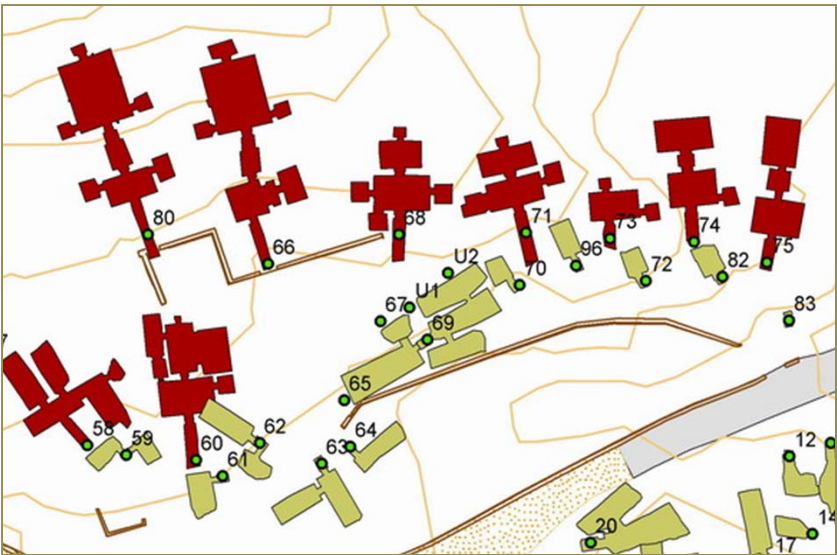
19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in the reign of Rameses II



QV 66 Nefertari  
Restricted visitation



QV 60 Nebettauy  
Potential for specialized tour



QV 68 Merytamen



QV 71 Bentanat



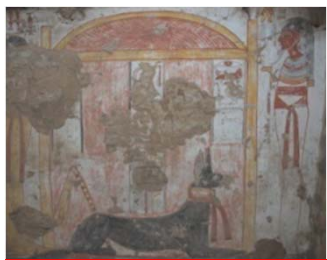
QV 80 Tuy



QV 75 Henutmira

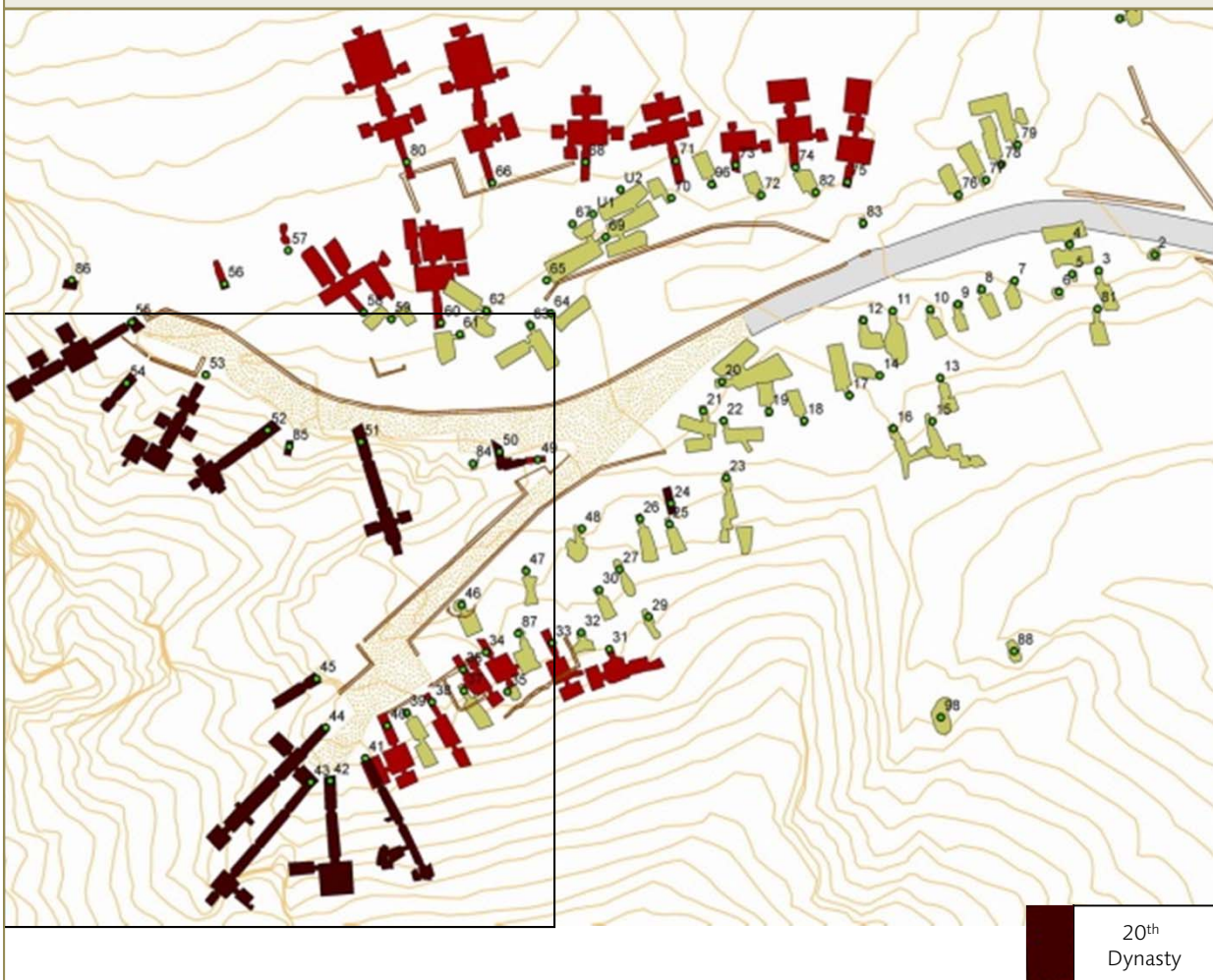


QV 74 Anonymous



QV 73 Henuttauy

## 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in the reign of Rameses III



During the reign of Rameses III several tombs of queens and princes were constructed at the end of the SW wadi and along the southern slope of the main wadi. These tombs were for five of his sons (Pareherunemef (QV 42); Sethherkhepshef (QV 43); Khaemwaset (QV 44); Rameses Meryamen (QV 53); and Amenherkhepshef (QV 55) and for two of his great wives (Isis, QV 51 and Tyti QV 52). QV 41 has no attribution.

Several tombs were extensively damaged with loss of painted decoration and blackened by later re-use, fire and flood, or compromised by abrasive modern cleaning (QV 43). (See Volume 2 for condition of tombs).

The three tombs open to the public (Amenherkhepshef QV 55, Khaemwaset QV 44, and Tyti QV 52) are from this period.

Tomb 42 has potential for visitation by small specialized tour groups. Although it has suffered structural damage and staining and blackening of wall paintings, it has architectural interest, and extensive extant painted decoration, which has not been subject to modern interventions.

Tombs with no visitation potential:  
QV 41, 43, 51, 53

## 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs in the reign of Rameses III



**QV 55** Amenherkhepshef  
Currently open to visitation



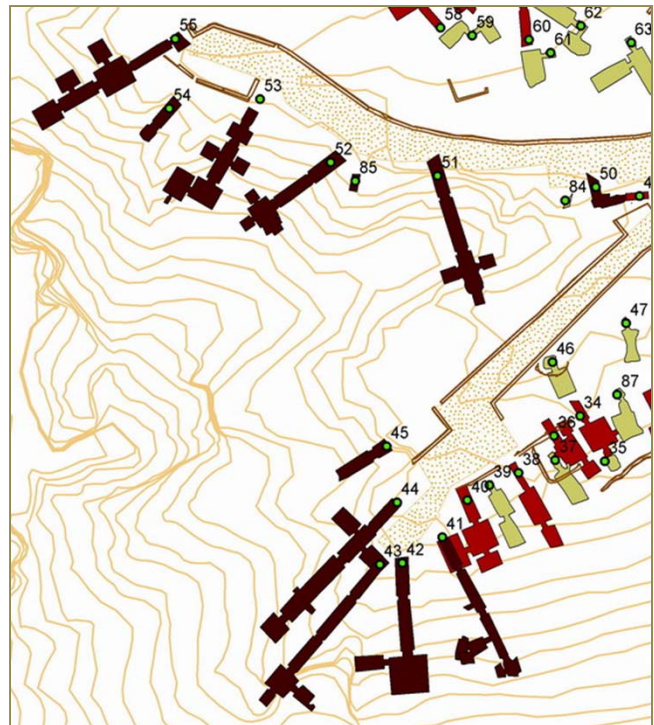
**QV 42** Parehernef Potential  
for specialized tour



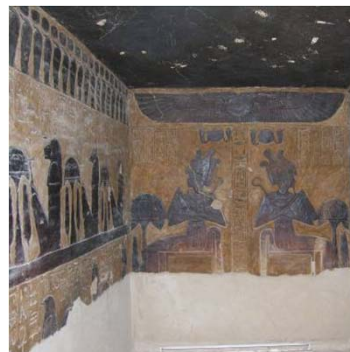
**QV 44** Khaemwaset  
Currently open to visitation



**QV 52** Tyti  
Currently open to visitation



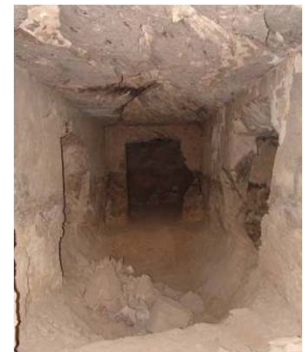
**QV 41** Anonymous



**QV 43** Setherkhepshef



**QV 51** Isis-ta-Hemdjeret



**QV 53** Ram. Meryamen

## Current and potential visitation to site elements

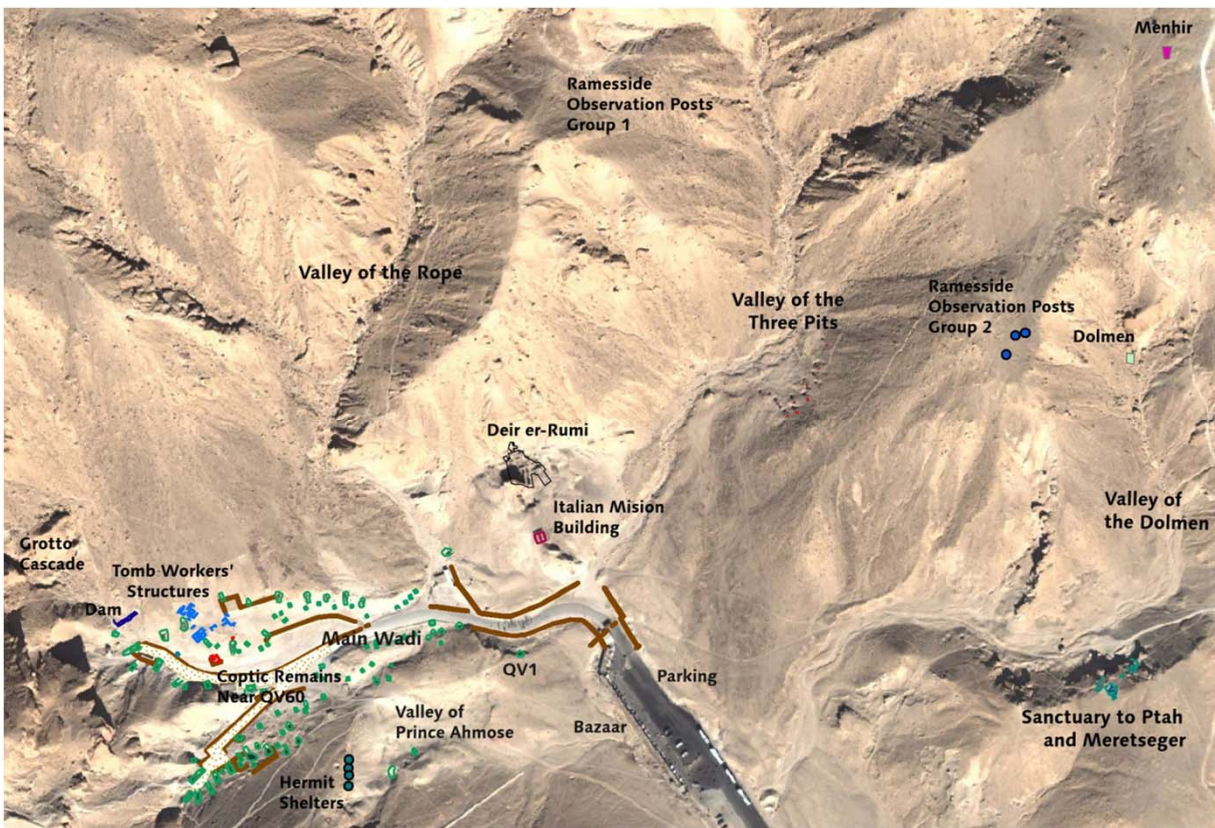
Twelve site elements (ancient features and structures) are identified in QV and the subsidiary valleys. Compared to the tombs, early travelers and scholars paid less attention to these historic structures and features but various teams including Schiaparelli, CEDAE, Bruyère and CNRS noted or documented them (see Part VI for description and condition assessment of site elements).

### Current visitation

Site elements are not actively visited at present for various reasons including time constraints of tour groups, visitors' interest and knowledge, their remote location and safety issues. No active efforts to present them have been made in the past. The Sanctuary to Ptah and Meretseger is mentioned in historic guidebooks in relation to the nearby site, Deir el-Medina, but it is visited mostly by individuals who walk the path between QV and Deir el-Medina.

### Criteria for determining visitation potential

Visitation potential to QV site elements was assessed with consideration of safety, location, interpretive potential, significance and association. All of the 12 site elements have significant points of interest as well as obstacles to direct visitation. Deir er-Rumi, with the most visually impressive remains is also among the most fragile. The Grotto Cascade contains rock paintings and engravings, which are inaccessible except by ladder. The workmen's hut, ancient dam and kiln have significant association with QV history and are located sufficiently close to existing or proposed visitor paths. QV 1 and the Hermit Shelters can be viewed from the path and, along with Deir er-Rumi, are important elements in the Coptic history of the site. The Sanctuary to Ptah and Meretseger is accessible from the path to Deir el-Medina but needs protection from direct contact by visitors, who have left their graffiti on the monument over the years (for recent changes to the Sanctuary made by the SCA see Part II, Appendix 4). The remaining site elements are located in the subsidiary valleys and not suitable for visitation.



Location of site elements in the main and subsidiary valleys (Satellite Image: 2006 DigitalGlobe).



View of Deir er-Rumi from above looking east, with remains of Coptic monastery and Roman sanctuary.



View of Deir er-Rumi from above looking southwest, with remains of Hermit Shelters on hillside (arrow).



QV 1 hermit shelter



Hermit shelters on hillside

## Deir er-Rumi

Period: 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tomb (QV 95); Roman sanctuary (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> C) and Coptic monastery (5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> C)

Safety concerns: Site is quite fragile and easily damaged by large groups. There are severe problems of structural instability of the rock slope behind ruins. Noteworthy: Highly significant and visually interesting remains of Coptic and Roman use of QV.

Visitation potential: The site is not visited and most visitors are unaware of its existence since it is well shielded behind a rock outcropping as one enters the site. While there is a great potential for interpretation through special tours (viewed from a high point), the fragility of the site and danger posed by the surrounding topography dictate that ruins be partly reburied and that visitation is not a sustainable option in the current and near-term visitor management context at QV and in the West Bank. The site requires off-site interpretation for visitors in the context of both Roman and Coptic re-use of the Valley.

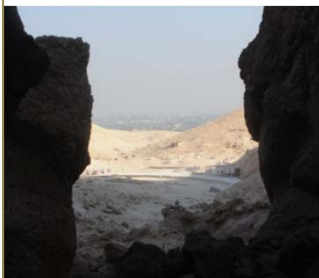
## Related site elements – Hermit shelters

Two smaller site elements contribute to an understanding of the Coptic use of the site. QV 1, originally thought to be a tomb and numbered as such, is now thought to be a hermit shelter associated with the use of Deir er-Rumi. On the ridge of the hill above QV 1 are the Hermit Shelters, a series of 3 cavities with architectural features on the terraced hillside. Both elements are visible to the south of the visitor path, as one rounds the bend from the parking area, and in visual range of Deir er-Rumi to the north. Their remains are too fragile to allow visitation.

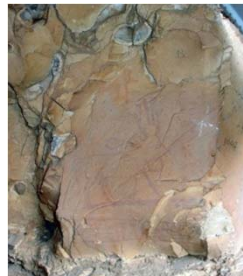
These three associated elements should be interpreted in a brochure and site panels in conjunction with Coptic re-use of many of the tombs, in particular QV 60.



View of the Grotto Cascade from the Valley.



View of the Valley from within the Grotto Cascade (left) and detail of graffiti on rock walls.



Flood protection dam (left, foreground) in front of the Cascade and detail of painted image of Hathor (right)

### Grotto Cascade with rock paintings and engravings

Period: Prehistory, New Kingdom (19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty), Coptic period

Safety concerns: Rock carvings and graffiti are difficult to access - on a high ledge - and are themselves very vulnerable if they were to be visited.

Noteworthy: The grotto is a significant topographical feature in the landscape at the head of the Valley created over millenia by the water that falls from above. Culturally, it is relevant to the choice of the Valley as a burial place, with representations of Hathor engraved on the rock, and possibly a place of worship. Rock carvings and graffiti from prehistoric, New Kingdom, and Coptic periods have been recorded.

Visitation potential: Rock paintings and engravings can only be interpreted in panels and brochures. The Cascade can be easily viewed and interpreted from the visitor trail.

### Related site element - Dam

At the outfall of the Grotto Cascade is a Ramesside period dam built to protect the tombs from floodwaters or collect rain water. Although not associated with the sacred aspects of the Cascade, the dam is in visual range and relates to the Cascade as a major source of flood water to the main valley.



View of the Italian Mission Building from the hillside above, looking down on the visitor path below.

### Italian Mission Building

Period: Early 20<sup>th</sup> century

Safety concerns: Steep access and use as storage of study materials from Deir er-Rumi.

Noteworthy: The building was used as a kitchen by the Italian mission led by Schiaparelli.

Visitation potential: Visitation is not possible, nor necessary. The building can be viewed from the visitor path below and interpreted in the context of the modern history of excavation at the site in site panels.



View of workmens' huts looking east down the Valley

### Workmen's huts

Period: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty

Safety concerns: No safety concerns to visitors, but walls are fragile.

Noteworthy: Remains of the huts where tomb workers lived.

Visitation potential: No direct access should be allowed, but remains of structures are easily viewed from visitor paths. Finds from the site such as ostraca, and the relationship to the worker's village at Deir el-Medina can be interpreted.



View of Sanctuary of Ptah from the path between QV and Deir el-Medina.

### Sanctuary to Ptah and Meretseger

Period: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty; mainly 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty (Rameses III)

Safety concerns: Rock instability.

Noteworthy: On the path from Deir el-Medina to QV. Place of worship for workmen of the royal tombs

Visitation potential: The potential for visitation is high but direct access to chapels needs to be restricted or monitored to prevent vandalism. The site should be interpreted in relation to Deir el-Medina and the QV workmen's huts in a brochure. Requires signposting near entry to QV to direct visitors. (SCA has undertaken extensive interventions at the site since 2009, eliminating any access)



Ancient kiln in the wadi looking northeast toward the workmens' huts and tomb of Nefertari.

### Kiln

Period: Roman or Coptic Period

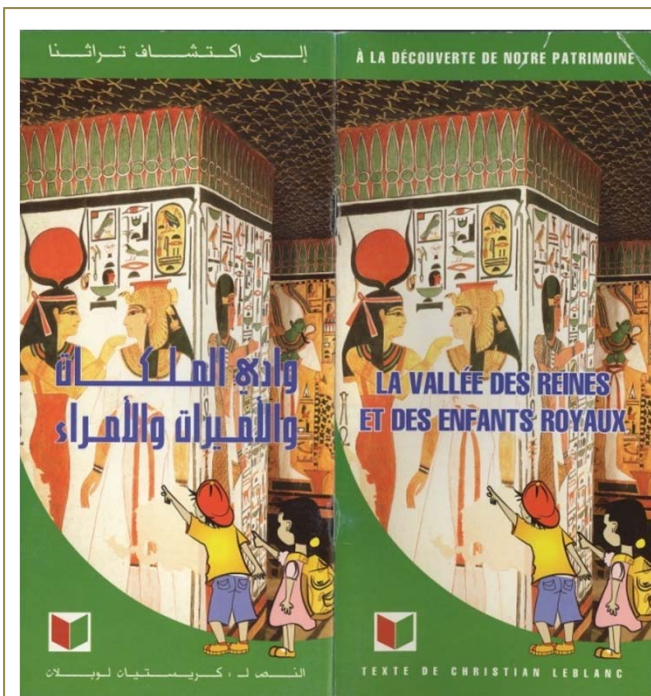
Safety concerns: None.

Noteworthy: May be related to cremations in QV 53.

Visitation potential: The significance of the kiln and its relation to the cremation of bodies in QV 53, if verified, can be interpreted to visitors in site panels. Its location in the flood path may warrant its relocation further north and if this is done the interpretation must reflect this.

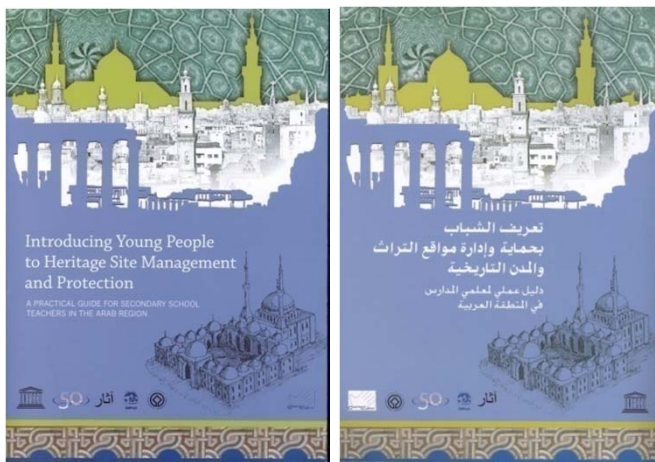
## Programs for young Egyptians

As described in Section 2, Egyptian visitors to ancient sites constitute a tiny minority of visitors. Finding better ways to communicate the values of ancient sites and the message of conservation to young Egyptians is important for the long-term preservation of Egypt's monuments. There are, however, many constraints to encouraging greater participation of young Egyptians in the enjoyment of their monuments. These include lack of interpretation in Arabic, difficulty in accommodating large school groups in fragile sites, and lack of a strong identity with ancient Egyptian culture. In order to understand the information currently existing for young Egyptians and the potential for greater engagement of Egyptian students, the QV team undertook a brief assessment of existing programs that might provide such an opportunity.



The absence of interpretive material in Arabic is one identified constraint in communicating effectively to Egyptian visitors, whether adults or young people. At KV the new interpretation signage is only in English, with Arabic translations published in a small booklet separately (and not readily available).

With respect to young people, the recent efforts made by archaeologist Christian Leblanc to disseminate information in Arabic (and French) is an important contribution. This is the publication of a small guide about QV intended for school teachers (*La vallée des reines et des enfants royaux*). Similar booklets have been published for the Ramesseum, KV and other West Bank sites.



*Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection. A Practical Guide for Secondary School Teachers in the Arab Region. ICCROM 2206 (revised edition)*

A 2006 publication by ICCROM, in English and Arabic, is aimed at teaching young people about heritage management and protection. It is designed as a practical manual for secondary school teachers in the Arab region. In Egypt the program has worked with the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). Contact was made by the GCI-SCA team in Egypt with the point person for the UNESCO ASPNet in the Arab region. To date there has not been extensive development or follow-up of the program in Egypt, but it remains an important source of information for educational outreach.

### Field trips to cultural sites

Field trips for schools, colleges and other youth groups generally take place throughout Egypt in April. In February, schools are out for the mid-year holidays and this is a time when families tend to visit cultural sites. School groups are not allowed to visit the necropoleis (KV, QV and Nobles) because of the fragility and confined spaces in the tombs and the exuberant behavior of the students. They are, however, issued a general permit to visit all other cultural heritage sites including the temples and museum in Luxor. Numerous school age groups have field trips; these include the 'Youth Trains' (organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports) which only tour East Bank sites, and cultural field trips organized by the Coptic Church and university-level activity clubs.

### Cultural exchange program for outstanding students

The most promising program, 'Cultural exchange program for outstanding students,' (also referred to informally as the 'Excellence Program') targets outstanding students from all Egyptian governorates and provides an opportunity for students to participate in 'cultural camps' through exchanges among the governorates. The program is aimed at preparatory, secondary-level students. For those visiting Luxor, the following is a brief description of their activities:

- Luxor hosts approximately 900 students annually (winter)
- Each trip consists of a maximum of 10 students from five to seven different governorates, with one supervisor from each governorate (i.e. one supervisor for every 10 students). Additionally, five supervisors from the host governorate participate.
- Students are accommodated at student lodgings ('camps') in each governorate. There they have a few introductory meetings before beginning their trip.

The trip schedule in Luxor is as follows:

- Trips take place from the beginning of February till the end of March.
- Day 1: East Bank visit.
- Day 2: West Bank visit (or visa versa)
- Day 3: Travel to Aswan, where they spend one day and depart for their home governorates



Student or youth groups on field trip to QV during winter break.

