

Visiting Luxor's ancient sites in a wheelchair



Wheelchair-accessability is improving in many sites in Luxor. Still you need to accept discomfort, as like the ancient stones, which form the floor of the temples, have a lot of unevenness, wholes and edges. You'll find steps and differences in levels on the ground in tempels and thombs. Outside paths will be most times gravel, so you can expect a lot of bumps and dust.

Most of it requieres an experienced person to push the wheelchair, but you'll always find guardians and other people, freely willing to help. If you plan enough time, it is woth it!.

Carters House (Westbank)

Located close to the Valley of the Kings. Easy to access, inside and outside are no major obstakles. Inside the house you'll find a toilette with larger doors (you have to ask the guardian for it, it is not the public one).

Outside the house you'll find a rebuild thomb of Tutechamun, accessible through a ramp.

No cafe/ restaurant there, but a shadowed place outside.



Colossi of Memnon (Westbank)

The two statues are easy to see from the car, as they stand right next to the street. You also can park there. If you want to get closer, you'll need to climb about ten steps.

Deir el Medina (Westbank)

Located close to the Valley of the Queens. Half of the site can't be seen, as the tombs and information area are on a hillside. You can get around the whole ancient village, but it is a gravel path with some slopes. In the temple, which lies at the back of the area, you'll find some shallow steps.

Simple toilet with small doors. No cafe/restaurant, no shaded place to stay.



Hatshepsut Temple (Westbank)

You'll need the help of two persons and a rope e.g., to help pull the wheelchair up two long, steep ramps (climbing 30m/97ft). Passing the ticket shop, other tourists use little trains to get there, but it is possible to walk. You also can ask at the entrance to let the taxi bring you right up to the temple, as it is a bit far.



The climb up the two ramps will take strength, as it gets hot there; so you're probably better avoiding the middle of the day for a visit. It is possible to enter the chapel by a ramp. A side area up there is harder to explore, as pavements there are very uneven.

The marketplace at the entrance provides shade and a standard toilet.

Karnak Temple (Eastbank)

The entry hall has ramps and here you'll find one toilet with larger doors. A new, broad ramp will lead you into the temple area. You'll find a paved way going through and around the temples. There is a cafe and kiosk far inside, at the holy lake.

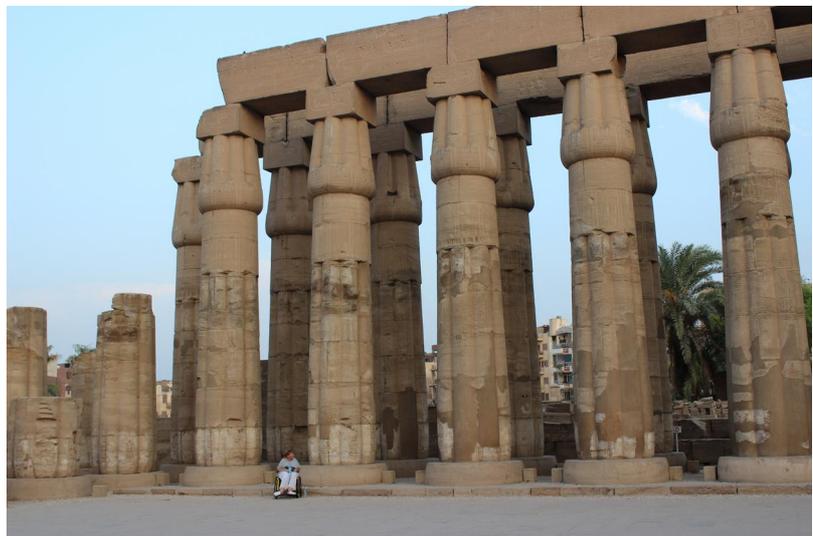


Karnak also offers wheelchairs to rent; you'll find them in front of the entrance, between the shops. Just ask there.

Luxor Temple (Eastbank)

Access is possible and inside you'll find pavels in a mixture of easier and harder to drive on. Further inside there are some steps and differences in level.

The toilet is standart, cafes are located further outside, as it is located right inside of the city.



Medinet Habu (Westbank)

The area's entrance has a short, steep ramp. To enter the temple you have to take a stairway with seven shallow steps. Inside, the paved ground is quite uneven; you'll find thresholds and shallow steps, which make it a little hard to ride and will require some time.

You'll find cafes outside with normal toilets.



Ramesseum (Westbank)

The entrance of the location itself can be accessed by ten short, steep ramps with platforms between. Down there and you can see the giant statue from below. To enter the temple area, you have to take a stairway with eight steps, which will make it a bit hard to get inside.

Temple of Seti I (Westbank)

One step to the entrance, further access by gravel and sand paths leading to the temple. Inside you'll find the usual varied unevenness.

There is no cafe or toilet in the location.

Valley of the Nobles (Westbank)

From the street you already have a good view of the site. The entrance is barrier-free, but it is a very spacious terrain with some long and rough gravel paths between the tombs. Some of the ways are steep, as the location is part of the mountain. Which tombs are open varies, and you have to ask which are wheelchair accessible. Probably not many will be accessible, and you might need some help.

You'll find no toilet or shade, but nearby, at the other side of the street, you'll find a cafe.



Valley of the Kings (Westbank)

You have to ask for permission to drive to the site, as the other tourists use a little train to get there (after passing the checkpoint). In the entrance hall you'll find a beautiful model, showing the extent of the tombs. You'll find maps, on which the tombs accessible by wheelchair are clearly marked. The paths are mostly gravel with some incline.

The location offers rest places with shade. There is no cafe and just a toilet in a trailer.

Valley of the Queens (Westbank)

Another site on the side of the mountain, which means some gravel paths with quite an incline (you'll find help). The famous tomb of Nefertiti lies too deep for wheelchair access. The tomb of Titi has nearly no obstacles; for the tomb of Prince Kauen West you have to pass seven shallow steps.