

# TAPOSIRIS MAGNA

in Egypt



## What is at Taposiris Magna?

Taposiris Magna translates to "Great Tomb of Osiris". The city was founded during the Hellenistic era. The temple complex, which included a Temple of Osiris, is what remains today.



From Ancient Origins Article

## Where is Taposiris Magna?

Taposiris Magna is located just west of Alexandria, in the present-day town of Abusir. Alexandria, during Cleopatra's time, served as the capital.



From The Guardian Article

## Who is excavating?

Kathleen Martinez is from the Dominican Republic, where she trained as a lawyer but became gripped by her fascination with Cleopatra. She briefly studied archaeology before setting off to Egypt, where she has been excavating since 2004.



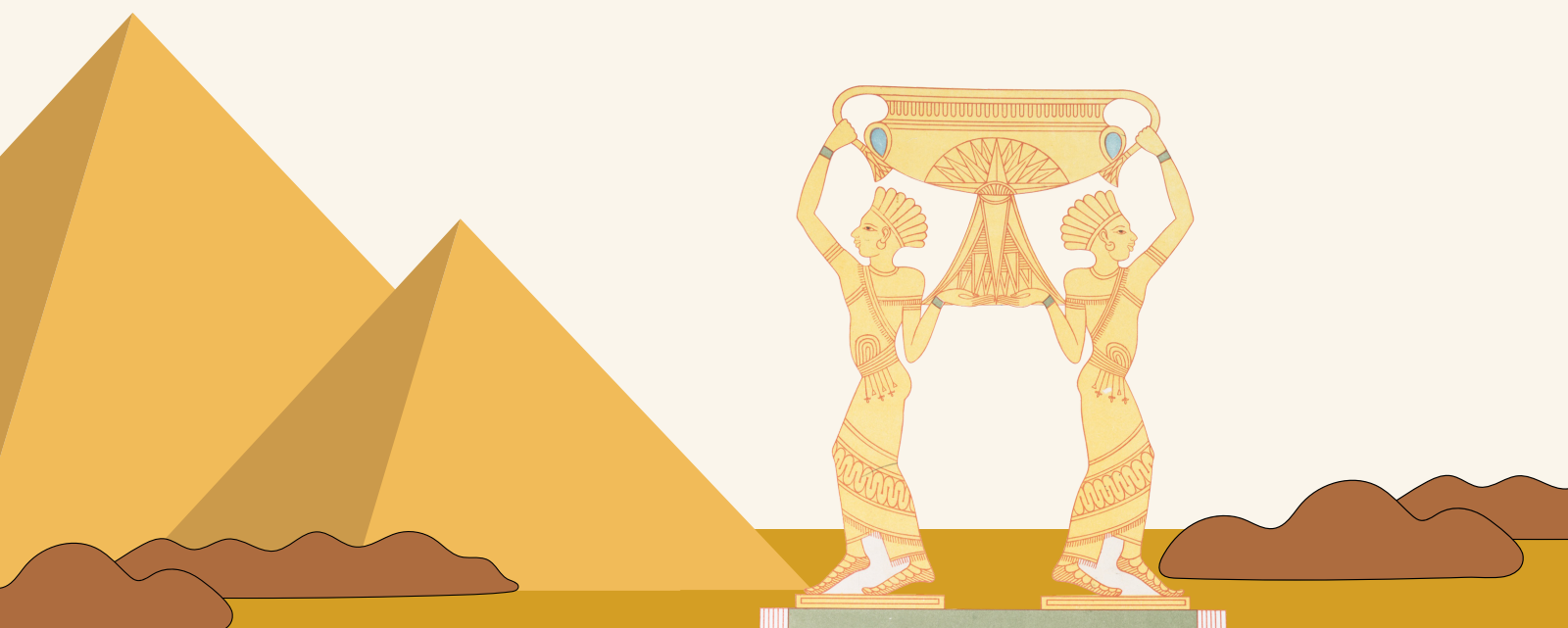
From Kathleen Martinez's Facebook



From Wikipedia Commons

## Why are they excavating?

Kathleen Martinez is excavating at Taposiris Magna in hopes of finding the lost tomb of Cleopatra. There is no definitive proof that she was buried there. Many Greco-Roman artifacts have been found there.



# Timeline

## OF EXCAVATIONS BY K.MARTINEZ

**2004**  
EXCAVATIONS BEGIN

Kathleen convinces herself that Cleopatra is buried at Taposiris Magna. Initially self-funded and then funded by the Egyptian and Dominican governments.

Kathleen's team found an extensive necropolis (cemetery) in the area around the temple. They also found coins bearing the image of Cleopatra.

**2008**  
FIRST MAJOR FINDS

**2009**  
USE OF GRS AND  
INITIAL TUNNEL

The team used ground penetrating radar (GRS) to discover a complex of tunnels underneath the temple. Three shafts were identified as possible burial shafts.

Headless granite statue of a Ptolemaic king is uncovered.

**2010**  
MORE ARTIFACT FINDS

**2013**  
EXCAVATIONS  
PAUSED

Due to political unrest in Egypt during that year, the excavations were temporarily put on hold. They resume later in the year.

National Geographic documentary airs, showing Kathleen Martinez discovering a semi-submerged tunnel just outside of the temple complex.

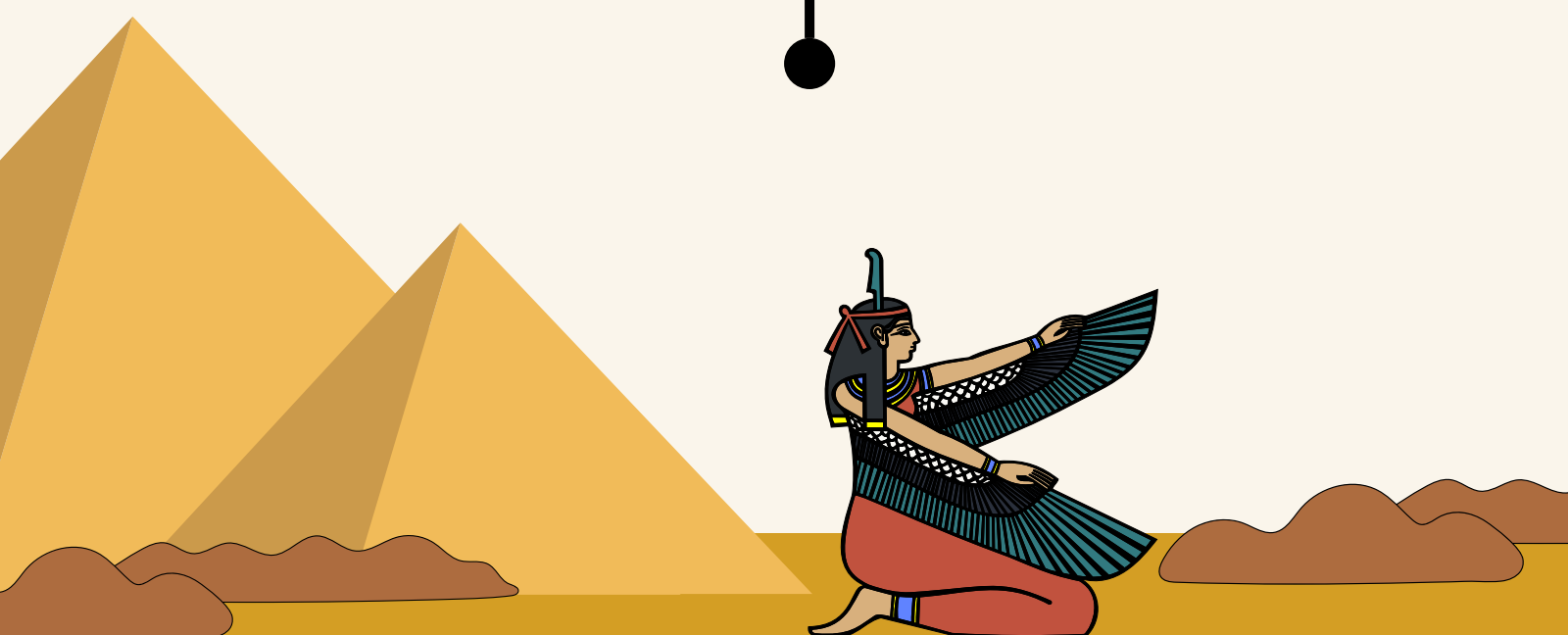
**2018**  
NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
DOCUMENTARY

**2021**  
MORE ARTIFACT FINDS

Kathleen discovers two high-status mummies with gold amulets in the cemetery. This led excavators to further believe a royal ruler was buried nearby.

Excavations of the submerged tunnel complex reveal a large, long tunnel that bears similarities to the Eupalinos Tunnel, which was an aqueduct.

**2022**  
DISCOVERY OF MOST  
RECENT TUNNEL



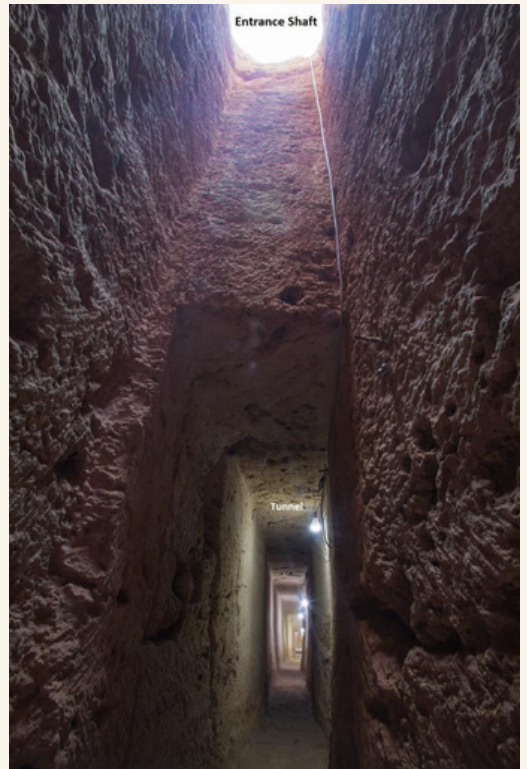


# THE (RECENT) TUNNEL

at Taposiris Magna

## Shaft and Tunnel

The following images were released by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The entrance shaft, seen in the image, goes down an incredible 65 feet (20 meters)!



From the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## 3D Rendering

The image on the left depicts a 3D rendering of the entrance shaft. As you can see, it cuts deep into the bedrock below the temple. The tunnel is 4,281 feet long (1,305 m) and 6.6 feet high (2 m).



From the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## The Tunnel

Parts are submerged. An inscription was found on the wall but has not been analyzed yet. Martinez believes it functioned as an aqueduct due to its similarities with the Eupalinos aqueduct tunnel in Greece.



From the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## Artifacts

A number of artifacts were found in the tunnel. Pictured is an alabaster head from a Ptolemaic statue. Also found was the head of a sphinx, limestone blocks, pottery shards and amphora.



From the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## So what?

There was no evidence found to indicate that this tunnel leads to Cleopatra's tomb. There is still lots of analysis to do but this tunnel exemplifies how advanced ancient Egyptian engineering was.



# SOURCES



## **Original Sources:**

**[Original Sun article](#)**

**[Live Science article](#)**

**[Heritage Key Article](#)**

**[Kathleen Martinez Facebook Post](#)**

**[Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities](#)**

**[Facebook Post](#)**

## **Sources for Background Research and Images:**

**[Ancient Origins article](#)**

**[Guardian article](#)**

**[Dominican Today article](#)**

**[Artnet article](#)**

