

## ***ITFIH***

A city on the east bank of the [Nile](#) some 25 miles (40 km) northeast of BANISUEF. In Greek, Itfih was known as Aphroditopolis or Aphrodito, and in Coptic as petpeh or petp/h.

In 339 ATHANASIUS recorded in his nineteenth paschal letter to Serapion that Serenus was the successor of [Theodorus](#) as bishop of Aphroditon, indicating that the city was a bishopric by the first third of the fourth century at the latest.

[ABU SALIH](#) THE ARMENIAN (twelfth-thirteenth century) wrote that there were more than twenty churches in and around Itfih, but only ten of them were still intact. Among these churches were a [church](#) of the [Disciples](#) in the district of Balujah, a church of Mercurius, two churches of [the Virgin](#) Mary, one of the martyr Theodorus, one of Cosmas, one of Apa Jul, and two Menas churches, one of which was called the Church of the Column. Under the rubric Itfih, [Abu Salih](#) also mentions a monastery of the Mule, which he says was the home of many monks.

*See also:* Dayr al-Qasriyyah.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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