

LUXOR (al-Uqsur)

A city located in Upper Egypt on the [east bank](#) of the Nile about nine miles northeast of Armant. The city occupies part of the area of the ancient city of Thebes, once the prosperous [capital](#) of ancient Egypt, which the Greeks called Diospolis Magna. [Arab](#) geographers in the [Middle Ages](#) called it al-Uqsurayn (the Two Castles) after the two major temples of Luxor, and from this name the modern al-Uqsur (Luxor) is derived.

[Luxor](#) was a [bishopric](#) by the eleventh century, as evidenced by the attendance of Bishop Marqurah of al-Uqsurayn at a synod in 1078 (Munier, 1943, p. 29). Archaeological remains, however, show the imprint of [Christianity](#) in the area at a much earlier date. Copts occupied the Temple of Karnak as early as the fourth century. They built churches and monasteries in it, mutilated [statues](#) to make crosses from them, and plastered walls in order to paint murals with apostles, saints, and [Christian](#) symbols. Climatic changes brought about by the [Aswan](#) Dam have virtually destroyed these remains.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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