

UMM DABADIB

A remarkably well-preserved village, also called the oasis of ‘Abbas, about 28 miles (45 km) northwest of Khargah. In addition to the village, the site includes an [imposing](#) fortress consisting of a central keep flanked by two trapezoidal towers 65 x 65 feet (20 x 20 m) and a square outer rampart 328 feet (100 m) along the sides. The present height varies between 32 and 41 feet (10 and 13 m).

Between the keep and the rampart to the east, in the interior of the fortress, is a small, three-aisled church with stuccoed and painted columns, oriented from west to east (apparent length of the nave is 33 feet [10m]). The decorated half-dome of the apse is preserved, and includes numerous [Greek](#) and Coptic graffiti, for example, “Lord Jesus Christ, help the hapless Paphnoute”; “John son of Sergius, Amen, 30th Thot, the 6th indiction”; and so forth.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Blundell, H. W. “Notes sur une excursion à Khargueh, Dakleh, Farafrah et Behariyeh.” *Bulletin de la Société khédiviale de géographie* 4 (1894):272ff.
- Gascou, J., and G. Wagner. “Deux [voyages](#) archéologiques dans l’Oasis de Khargeh.” In *Bulletin de l’Institut français d’Archéologie orientale* 79 (1979):15-16.

[GUY WAGNER](#)

Tags: [Places](#)