



Saving the snow cat

In a picturesque corner of Afghanistan, a unique conservation effort has helped bring the elusive snow leopard back from the brink and given hope to one of the poorest and most isolated communities on earth ■ X3



- MOVIES: SNOWDEN
- BOOKS: NUTSHELL BY IAN MCEWAN
- MUSIC: IN SEARCH OF BETTER DAYS BY INCOGNITO
- WINE: THE NORMAN ORCHARD
- FOOD & DRINK: JESUS AND BEER

DRIVE IN

Jake Coyle, AP Film Writer

PATRIOT GAMES IN OLIVER STONE'S 'SNOWDEN'

Edward Snowden, who cast himself as the hero of his own spy movie, gets the real thing in Oliver Stone's Hollywoodized biopic of the National Security Agency whistleblower.

Who but an avid John le Carré reader would bring a Rubik's Cube to the lobby of a Hong Kong hotel as a signal for his clandestine meeting with journalists Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras? With preternatural self-awareness, Snowden knowingly stepped into a new life: a digital-era Deepthroat, a technocrat ready to don a trenchcoat.

As a protagonist, Snowden (as played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt) doesn't have the brawn of Bourne or the style of Bond. But he carries with him a moral certainty that, it turns out, can do much more. Stone's "Snowden" seeks to frame its well-known subject as a patriot, charting his journey from unquestioning son of a proud military family to brave practitioner of civil disobedience for a greater American good.

It's the kind of combination — Stone and Snowden — that one might go into with apprehension: Just what paranoid conspiracy theories is he going to throw at me THIS time? The-

re's something too on the nose about the pairing.

But the surprise of "Snowden" is that Stone, master of left-wing political thrillers, plays it fairly straight. "Snowden" isn't a liberal screed, or at least not an overt one. It's a sincere, straightforward biopic that, at its worst, verges on hagiography.

That "Snowden" is conventional needn't be such a bad thing. "Snowden," carried by Gordon-Levitt, captures the rise of surveillance by viewing it through Snowden's initially innocent eyes.

Some, of course, would argue against presenting Snowden this way, at all. The movie, perhaps ironically, isn't actually tailored for the choir, but is designed to inform — about Snowden, himself, and the intelligence community he was a part of.

Penned by Kieran Fitzgerald and Stone, the film is organized as flashbacks of Snowden's life, looking back from that Hong Kong hotel room in 2013. The scenes of the data leak meetings inevitably disappoint. Today's docudramas have it hard, given how extensively many events are captured and imprinted in our memories. But "Snowden" has it harder since Poitras' own



Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a scene from, "Snowden"

camera took us literally into that room, resulting in the Oscar-winning documentary "Citizenfour."

"Snowden" has backstory on its side, though, beginning with Snowden's military training at Fort Bragg (cut short by injury) and leading into his ascent at the CIA. "What's your sin of choice?" he's asked. "Computers," he replies.

He's taken under the wing of a hardnosed, all-seeing boss (an excellent Rhys Ifans) and is inspired by the more cyni-

cal musings of a CIA teacher hidden away in a basement (Nic Cage, perfect). Snowden begins to notice that getting ahead at the CIA is not necessarily connected with abiding by the rules.

And as he jumps from job to job, Snowden also sees a wider war covertly gathering. Even while what's referred to as "a short-term war" in Iraq is raging, attention is fixed on a below-the-surface intelligence battle with China and Russia. As the size of the

NSA dragnet, not just abroad but at home, comes into focus, Snowden's concern grows and becomes personal. Soon he's taping over the laptop camera of his girlfriend (Shaileene Woodley). She says she can see his "inner liberal" growing.

There are exaggerations and composites here that may have diluted away from a more interesting reality, one populated less by stock spy-thriller caricatures. But most of our spy movies now trade

heavily off of Snowden's revelations and the threat of governmental surveillance; the recent "Jason Bourne" was set specifically in a "post-Snowden" world.

It seems only fair Snowden should get his own close-up, too.

"Snowden," an Open Road Films release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language and some sexuality/nudity." Running time: 134 minutes. ★★★★★

BOOK IT

IAN McEWAN'S 'NUTSHELL' IS 'HAMLET' IN MINIATURE

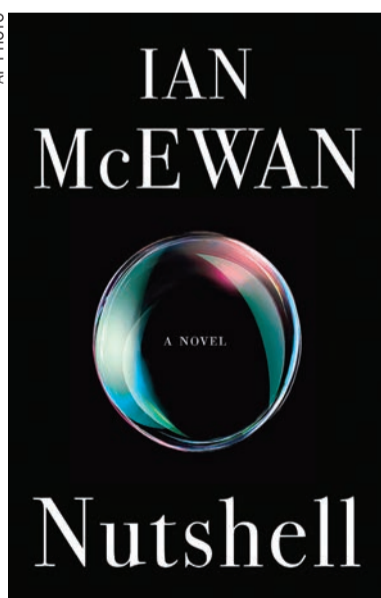
It takes a lion's nerve to rewrite "Hamlet" from the viewpoint of a fetus, a stunt conceived and sweetly achieved by Ian McEwan in his latest novel, "Nutshell."

McEwan's 197-page thimble brims with literary allusions, social commentary and murderous intrigue. The setting is contemporary London. Our narrator, a fully aware infant awaiting birth, overhears his mother plotting with her lover to kill her husband. The doomed cuckold, our narrator's father, is a poet, who isn't around much and seems to have forgotten his heir. Our nameless narrator's loyalties are torn.

From our storyteller's cramped quarters, he listens as Trudy and Claude (stand-ins for Shakespeare's Gertrude and Claudius) work out their plan. He soliloquizes, already world-weary from the podcasts and news reports that lull Trudy on sleepless nights in her late pregnancy: "My disposition is to stillborn sterility, then to dust."

Cleverness accumulates. Twists come from John Cairncross, a character slyly named for a real-life World War II double agent. Claude, at one point, breaks the tension as he bungles into the wrong Shakespearean tragedy and misquotes it: "So we'll stick our courage to the screwing whatever."

Later and inevitably, our narrator puts aside words, takes action and hurls the



"Nutshell" (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday), by Ian McEwan

story to its end. McEwan, whose prose is always exquisite, is best known for "Amsterdam," "Atonement" and "Saturday." His "Nutshell" is a stunt, but a gorgeous one, studded with Joycean reflections on fathers, the wisdom of pop songs and reviews of placenta-filtered fine wine.

Carla K. Johnson, AP

tTUNES

BETTER THAN EVER DAYS FOR INCOGNITO

One may ask how a band achieves longevity, especially when members have come, gone and come back again. For an answer, you need look no further than Bluey, the co-founder and leader of the jazz funk ensemble, Incognito, a band in its fourth decade that still has plenty of gas in the tank, producing uncompromising music for its international fan base. The U.K.-based ensemble of vocalists and musicians are groove masters to be sure. But it is Incognito's special brand of classic soul and funk that has continued to resonate under the guidance of Bluey and musical director Matt Cooper. And their trademark funk frosted beats have been emphatically stamped on the musical world and remain relevant in today's urban market.

Still proving its staying power as a durable collective, Incognito registers its 17th studio CD, "In Search of Better Days." Besides the familiar smooth funk beats and riffs, there are a few diversions of contemporary jazz ballads, break beats and jazz rock fusion. And there are plenty of vocalists in Incognito's cast who bring the better in Better Days. Imaani's creamy alto oozes a sweet aroma on "Love Born in Flames," with its swooping backing vocals and precision brass section. The warm tones of

Tony Momrelle wrap around "Love's Revival," a song that beckons back to seventies' Earth Wind & Fire. Vanessa Haynes pours her heart out on "Just Say Nothing," another seventies knee-deep-in-funk jam anchored by the clavinet, and "Love Be The Messenger," punctuated with marching snares by Joao Caetano.

As per all Incognito releases, Bluey steps up to the microphone on "I See The Light," this time with one of his better vocal turns, aided by guest Avery Sunshine on acoustic piano. Though "In Search of Better Days" shines most of the time with their talented lead voices, a few fall by the wayside such as Katie Leone's wobbly performance on "Crystal Walls," and "Better Days," where Vulu Malinga lacks that soulful kick and the usually on-point music production of Ski Oakenfull is nearly one-dimensional.

Maysa always rises to the occasion with any kind of groove thrown in her direction, and that continues on this reunion with Incognito. "Everyday Grind" utilizes break beats with acoustic piano hooks: "I have to find a will to leave it all behind/Before I lose my mind." Maysa's honey-tinged alto and soft flowing, rich beats go hand-in-hand on "Selfishly": "Of course I understand I'm guilty/As I am selfishly/I'm happy to be free."



Incognito — "In Search of Better Days"

Then there's the precious ballad in the debut single, "All I Ever Wanted," decorated with a soothing elixir of brass, Fender Rhodes, guitar and percussion drips.

Though the vocalists take center stage, "In Search of Better Days" instrumental showcases are of the highest quality, as well. A blistering flute solo by Andy Ross sets the bar with "Echoes of Utopia," a song that also echoes classic acid jazz sounds with tasty guitar and keys from Francisco Salas and Matt Cooper, and climaxed by Alistair White's fierce trombone contribution. The jazz/rock fusion journey entitled "Bridges of Fire" is graced by guest guitarist Tomoyasu Hotei and Andy Ross on tenor saxophone, while Richard Bull holds down the rhythm section on bass and drums.

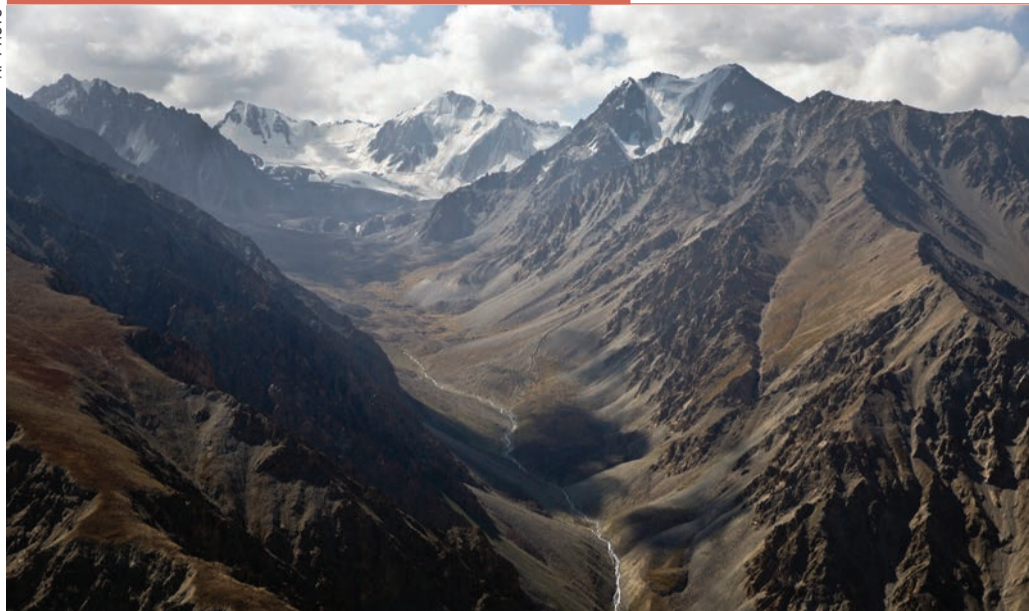
"In Search of Better Days" again highlights the huge, reliable ensemble that has kept the wheels turning impressively for over three decades. Bluey and Incognito's funk flames burn brightly again, showing why this legendary act remains as relevant and immediate in 2016 as it was in 1986. Recommended.

Peggy Oliver
Courtesy soultracks.com

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Lynne O'donnell, AP, Wakhan

AP PHOTO



Snow leopards' return brings hope to remote Afghan region

The leopards range across the snowy mountains of a dozen countries in Central and South Asia, but their numbers had declined in recent decades as hunters sought their spotted pelts and farmers killed them to protect livestock. Now they appear to be thriving, thanks to a seven-year program and a newly declared national park.

Scientists who have been tracking the shy leopards estimate there are up to 140 cats in the Wakhan National Park, established two years ago across 1 million square hectares. Stephane Ostrowski, a specialist with the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society, says that's a healthy and sustainable number, and indicates that other species like the Siberian ibex and golden marmot — the leopards' main prey — are also doing well.

The WCS believes global leopard numbers could be much higher than a previous upper estimate of 7,500, after data gathered by Ostrowski and others showed there could be more than 8,000 in just 44 percent of the animal's known range. The World Wildlife Fund lists the species as "endangered."

His findings are the result of research

carried out in one of the most hard-to-reach places on earth. The Wakhan corridor is nestled high in the Hindu Kush mountain range and cut off by snow for most of the year. The 15-year-old war with the Taliban rages 30 kilometers (18 miles) to the south, and the nearby borders with Tajikistan, Pakistan and China are usually closed.

The United Nations Development Program funds and oversees all the WCS activities in the Wakhan, and will provide USD3 million for the snow leopard project over the next two years. Ostrowski and the other foreign and Afghan scientists camp in yellow tents in the Sarkand Valley for months on end, monitoring and maintaining a far-flung network of cameras and traps. In just one year, they collected around 5,000 images of 38 individual cats. They managed to capture four leopards — one of them twice — and were able to fit them with collars and track them with GPS. They hope to catch another two by the end of the year.

They've learned that snow leopards range widely. Like house cats, they

mark their territory by spraying and scratching the ground, but unlike their distant relatives, they don't mind getting wet.

"These cats can cross big rivers and swim in extremely cold water," Ostrowski said. One female crossed the Amu Darya river into Tajikistan, stayed a couple of weeks and then returned.

The snow leopards have benefited from conservation programs going back to 2009, when the WCS began building enclosed corrals with mesh roofs to protect the sheep, goats and cows that are the backbone of the local economy.

It was the first step toward bringing modern conservation techniques to Wakhan, where the population of around 17,000 lives off of subsistence farming. In one of the poorest regions of one of the world's poorest countries, the leopards had long been seen as a menace.

Hassan Beg says he lost 22 sheep and goats in one night a few years ago when a snow leopard got into his uncovered corral, and his cousin Saeed said he was attacked by one late at night. Hassan has since built his own roof over the enclosure using tree branches. "We can't kill

them," he said, "so I just make sure it won't happen again."

A presidential decree banning all hunting countrywide was issued in 2005, but the scientists recently found a carcass with a bullet in its head. Some 400 kilometers (250 miles) to the southwest, at a crowded market in the capital, Kabul, a shopkeeper discreetly produced a snow leopard pelt with a long cylindrical tail and a face distorted by crude taxidermy. He wanted \$1,800 for it.

"We receive reports from all of the provinces where hunting is going on illegally, whether it is because of poverty, whether it is for hobby, whether it is for selling it at a higher price in the market," said Mostapha Zaher, director general of the National Environment Protection Agency. But back in Wakhan, the conservation efforts appear to be catching on.

At Qala-i-Panja High School, where students say they've never heard of the internet, they've embraced modern notions of wildlife preservation. A snow leopard cub stares down from a poster affixed to the otherwise bare walls. "Since the ban on hunting was in-

troduced, the numbers of wild animals are increasing here and that is attracting foreign tourists," said Simah, a 17-year-old who like many Afghans has no surname. "That can be good for the economy of Afghanistan."

The snow leopard is the national park's star attraction, even if most visitors are unlikely to see one. But the region also boasts wolves, brown bears, red foxes, and the long-horned Marco Polo sheep — named for the 13th century Italian explorer who spotted one on his journey to the Far East.

Only around 100 visitors reach Wakhan every year, most entering from Tajikistan during the summer months. Wakhan's poverty and isolation has insulated it from decades of war, but has also deterred all but the most adventurous travelers.

Frenchman Jocelyn Guitton, an EU diplomat, arrived in August with plans to trek to the corridor's northeast and visit Kyrgyz nomads. He allows that it's "off the beaten track," but says he hopes tourism can bring "visibility and good practices" to the region.

Since declaring the national park two years ago, the government has been holding public meetings known as shuras throughout Wakhan to cultivate local support for the idea and to reassure residents who initially feared they might lose their land.

"It's a new concept for these people and it's a new concept for Afghanistan, so it takes time," said Ashley Vosper, a landscape expert at WCS who has taken part in the meetings. Vosper says the park actually provides "brilliant protection" to residents by ensuring that no one else can use their land while bringing economic development to the region. "It can be a nice two-way balance," he said.

Zaher hopes that Wakhan can one day rival Afghanistan's only other national park, in the central Bamian province, which attracts thousands of tourists each year to the crystal blue lakes of Band-i-Amir.

"When peace returns to Afghanistan — and it will, as no war lasts forever — Wakhan has great potential for ecotourism, for people who are interested in archaeology, anthropology, researchers interested in Afghanistan, people interested in glacial melt, mountaineering, the environment."

AP PHOTO



A protected corral in Wakhan district of Badakhshan province, far northeastern Afghanistan



An employee of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society looks for snow leopard in the Wakhan district of Badakhshan

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong

The Norman Orchard



BOULARD XO CALVADOS PAYS D'AUGE

Translucent tangerine with amber-tawny reflex, the nose is tangy and vibrant, effusing dried apple, apple crumble, cider vinegar and orchard blossom. With a suave mouth-feel, the palate is expressive and fruity, emanating apple pie, toffee apple, forest honey and Applewood. Medium-full bodied at 40%, the pleasing entry continues through a layered mid-palate, leading to a tart finish.

If the world of brandy is a clan, grape brandy in its various forms would be the patriarch, having for long occupied centre stage and overshadowing its poor cousin pomace brandy and its distant relative fruit brandy. The vast majority of grape brandy sees barrel maturation, the question is how brief or extensive. For pomace brandy and fruit brandy, however, barrel maturation is more of an option, not obligation. Pomace brandy, with or without barrel maturation, is appreciated for its candid flavours and rustic charm.

Fruit brandy can be – and is – made with a huge range of fruits, e.g. berries, orchard fruits and stone fruits. The French-speaking and Germans-speaking areas produce a particularly wide array of clear, unaged fruit brandies, referred to as eau-de-vie and Obstbrand respectively. Of the few fruit brandies that receive barrel maturation, Calvados is one of the most prominent.

Similar to Cognac and Armagnac, Calvados is both the name of the spirit and of the area. Whereas Cognac and Armagnac are the names of historic regions that no longer exist for administrative purpose, Calvados is a département of France, established since the French Revolution. Before 1 January 2016, Calvados was 1 of the 3 départements of Lower Normandy (Basse-Normandie). Since 1 January 2016, Basse-Normandie and its sibling Upper Normandy (Haute-Normandie), comprising 2 départements, merged and became one région (region) – Normandy (Normandie).

Possessing some of the finest orchards in Europe, Normandy has been producing apples and pears as well as cider and perry for well over a millennium. With the invention and propagation of distillation

since the 12th century, Calvados has been produced since the mid-16th century. Theoretically, Calvados can be produced in Normandy, parts of Brittany (Bretagne) and Pays de la Loire. In practice, however, production largely confined to Lower Normandy.

Some 200 varieties of apples – ranging from sweet to tart and bitter – are permitted in the production of Calvados; any Calvados is likely to make use of dozens of varieties. After harvest, the apples are pressed and fermented into cider, then distilled: either twice in traditional alembic (“alambic” is French spelling) still, not unlike single malt whisky, or once in continuous column still, similar to grain whisky. The number of years the spirit then spends in oak barrels determines its grades: 2 years for Fine / Trois Étoiles / Trois Pommes; 3 years for Réserve / Vieux; 4 years for Vieille Réserve / VO / VSOP; 6 years for Napoléon / XO / Extra / Hors d'Age / Age Inconnu. (NB: the number of years is based on the youngest component in the blend.)

Before 1942, Calvados used to have a total of 10 appellations, but the number has since been consolidated into 3, subsequent to reforms in 1984 and 1997. Representing 70% of total production, Calvados is the basic level. Stricter and more prestigious, Calvados Pays d'Auge constitutes 25% of total production. Occupying less than 5% of total production, Calvados Domfrontais is a characterful category, which requires the use of pears (at least 30%).

Boulard products are available at various supermarkets and duty-free outlets.

Jacky I.F. Cheong is a legal professional by day and columnist by night. Having spent his formative years in Britain, France, and Germany, he regularly writes about wine, fine arts, classical music, and politics in several languages

RESTAURANTS

CANTONESE



GRAND IMPERIAL COURT
5pm – 12midnight
T: 8802 2539
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT
Monday - Friday
11am - 3pm / 6pm - 11pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays
10am - 3pm / 3pm - 11pm
T: 8802 2361
VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

BEIJING KITCHEN
Level 1, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
11:30am – 24:00



KAM LAI HEEN
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3821
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 – 22:00
(Close on Tuesday)

SHANGHAI MIN
Level 1, The Shops at The Boulevard
Opening Hours
11:00 – 15:00; 18:00 - 22:30

SHANGHAI

CATALPA GARDEN
Mon - Sunday
11:00 - 15:00 / 17:30 - 23:00
Hotel Royal, 2-4
Estrada da Vitoria
T: 28552222

FRENCH

寶雅座
AUX BEAUX ARTS

AUX BEAUX ARTS
Monday – Friday
6pm – 12midnight
Saturday – Sunday
11am – 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

GLOBAL

HARD ROCK CAFE
Level 2, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Monday to Sunday : 11:00 - 02:00
Sunday : 10:00 - 02:00

CAFÉ BELA VISTA
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 87933871
Mon - Thurs
06:30 – 15:00 / 6:00 – 22:00
Fri – Sunday
06:30 – 22:00

MEZZA9 MACAU
Level 3, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
Dinner: 5:30 – 11:00



VIDA RICA (RESTAURANT)
2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8918
Mon - Sunday
6:30 – 14:30 / 18:00 – 23:00



MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel
Talpa, Macau
T:853 8117 5000
mortons.com
• Bar
Open daily at 3pm
• Dining Room
Monday - Saturday: 13:00 - 23:00
Sunday: 17:00 - 22:00

ABA BAR

ABA BAR
5pm – 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



PASTRY BAR
10am – 8pm
T: 8802 2324
Level 1, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO
7am – 11pm
T: 8802 2372
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT
24 hours
T: 8802 2389
Level 1, MGM MACAU

ITALIAN

LA GONDOLA
Mon - Sunday
11:00am – 11:00pm
Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane,
next to swimming pool
T: 2888 0156



PORTOFINO
Casino Level1, Shop 1039,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9950



AFRIKANA
Monday to Sunday
6:00pm – 3:00am
Location : AfriKana, Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Telephone Number : (853) 8299 3678

JAPANESE

SHINJI BY KANESAKA
Level 1, Crown Towers
Lunch 12:00 - 15:00
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00
Closed on
Tuesday (Lunch and Dinner)
Wednesday (Lunch)

ASIAN PACIFIC

ASIA KITCHEN
Level 2, SOHO at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
11:00 – 23:00

GOLDEN PAVILION
Level 1, Casino at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
24 Hours



GOLDEN PEACOCK
Casino Level1, Shop 1037,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9696
Monday - Sunday:
11:00 - 23:00

PORTUGUESE

CLUBE MILITAR
975 Avenida da Praia Grande
T: 2871 4000
12:30 – 15:00 / 19:00 – 23:00

FERNANDO'S
9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane
T: 2888 2264
12:00 – 21:30

WESTERN

FOGO SAMBA
Shop 2412 (ST. Mark's Square)
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 2882 8499

THAI



NAAM
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort
T: 8793 4818
12:00 – 14:30 / 18:30 – 22:30
(Close on Mondays)

BARS & PUBS



38 LOUNGE
Altrira Macau,
Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Talpa
Sun-Thu: 13:00 – 02:00
Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:
15:00 – 03:00

R BAR
Level 1, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Sun to Thu:
11:00 – 23:00
Fri & Sat:
11:00 – 24:00



BELLINI LOUNGE
Casino Level 1, Shop 1041,
The Venetian Macao
CONTACT US:
Tel: +853 8118 9940
Daily: 16:00 - 04:00



D2
Macao Fisherman's Wharf
Edf. New Orleans III
Macao

VIDA RICA BAR
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8928
Monday to Thursday: 12:00 – 00:00
Friday: 12:00 – 01:00
Saturday: 14:00 – 01:00
Sunday: 14:00 – 00:00

VASCO
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3831
Monday to Thursday: 18:30 – 12:00
Friday to Saturday: 18:00 – 02:00
Sunday: 18:00 – 24:00

FOOD & DRINK

Carrie Antfinger, Waukesha (Wis.)

JESUS AND BEER
RELIGIOUS GROUPS COMBINE FAITH, COLD BREWS

Angela Caddell smiles during a "Jesus & Beer" event at a Waukesha, Wis., pub, organized by CollectiveMKE church

Angela Caddell started struggling with her Christianity 14 years ago when she came out as gay. But a gathering at a bar to talk faith over a cold beer once a month is helping her feel more connected to her religion.

"If you're an atheist you are welcome. I'm a lesbian, I'm totally welcome," said the 32-year-old from nearby Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, at a recent gathering.

"Tonight we're talking about scapegoating. There is no scapegoating that happens here."

This event is called "Jesus & Beer" and it's part of an effort by some Christian groups throughout the country to recruit parishioners, connect with people struggling with faith or provide a relaxed outlet to talk religion.

Caddell heard about the event through Brandon Brown, pastor at CollectiveMKE. He started the gatherings once a month at area bars about 1½ years ago. He doesn't have a stand-alone church and knew that his non-traditional gatherings wouldn't attract social conservatives.

About two dozen people attend. "I think it also completely unsettles everyone's expectations in that they know what it is to talk about their faith in a church but most people have never done it in a bar so it's a totally new environment and maybe fresh," Brown said. "In addition to that, I'll be honest: a beer or two doesn't hurt the conversation at all."

While bringing people together to throw one back and talk religion isn't a new idea, groups have been turning to the non-traditional pub setting

to attract younger people such as millennials. According to a Pew Research Center study, the number of U.S. adults who are affiliated with an organized religion dropped from 83 percent in 2007 to 77 percent in 2014, a trend particularly striking in the millennial generation. That younger group is the focus of a monthly bar event organized by the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, said Emily Burds, the Catholic church's Director of Evangelization. Besides a free beer, there's usually a meet and greet, a

speaker and discussion. About 60 to 70 people come each month to the "Brewing the Faith" gatherings, which Burds sees as a "means to an end." "Obviously the end is like greater faith and a relationship with God but also to be connected to a parish community somewhere where they are living," Burds said. During the summer they also organize "Theology on Tap," a lecture series that has spread worldwide after starting with the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1981. It involves bars or restaurants and targets younger people.

Burds said they trained some young adults in mingling skills to make sure everyone feels welcome and a sense of belonging — "what every millennial really is searching for," Burds said.

It worked for James Wronski, 22, a new Milwaukee resident who attended a beer garden event.

"I think this kind of relaxed social atmosphere where you come, you meet people, you drink, you relax and you kind of learn and educate yourself, that's a big draw to millennials."

But alcohol certainly isn't new to Catholicism, with wine being an integral part of the sacrament of Holy Communion, said Rev. John Laurance, associate professor of theology at Marquette University.

"You know one of the Psalms says, 'God gave wine to cheer up people's hearts,' so even the prayer book of the Old Testament sees that this is a gift from God," Laurance said. **AP**

BAR CARS RETURNING TO CONNECTICUT-NEW YORK COMMUTER TRAINS

Railroad cars equipped with bars for serving alcohol are returning to commuter trains running between New York City and Connecticut, restoring a tradition dating back 50 years that evoked the stylish cocktail-sipping scenes of the "Mad Men" TV show.

State officials plan to buy an additional 60 cars for Metro-North's New Haven Line and convert 10 of them into "cafe cars," Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced this week. A prototype bar car is expected to be online by late 2018, with the others arriving beginning in late 2020.

Bar cars were retired in 2014 because they could not be coupled to a new fleet of train cars. At the time, they were believed to be the last of their kind in the country, although Amtrak still serves liquor in



Nan Buziak Lexow, left, Srikanth Reddy, center, and Mark DeMonte, right, raise a toast while riding the bar car on the 7:07 p.m. train from Grand Central Terminal in New York to New Haven

some of its cars. Commuters were able to enjoy beer or cocktails in clear plastic cups amid faux-wood paneling and red leather lounges, giving it the feel of "Mad Men," a show about advertising firms set in 1960s New York. The rolling taverns were where workers gathered for decades

for dice games, job networking and Christmas parties with jazz bands.

Bar car enthusiasts were excited by Tuesday's announcement, although they wished the cars would return sooner than 2018.

"I can't tell you how many people I know who are happy they are coming back online," said Terri Cronin, a commuter and a vice president of the rider advocacy group Connecticut Commuter Rail Council. "We think they're an asset for the Metro-North New Haven Line and certainly part of the history of the New Haven Line, and we're happy they're bringing back something that was enjoyed for many generations."

The new bar cars will have a modern feel, with gray counters on the bar serving areas

and along the windows, according to a rendering released by Malloy's office.

"If we want to remain competitive in the 21st century, modernized economy in a way that attracts new businesses and creates high-skilled jobs, we must update our infrastructure and give our commuters a best-in-class transportation system," Malloy said.

The New Haven Line remains the country's busiest commuter rail line, he said. The service carried more than 40 million passengers last year.

The bar car announcement comes as Connecticut officials are proposing a 5 percent increase in train fares on the New Haven Line that would go into effect on Dec. 1. State officials are planning to pay for the new M-8 rail cars with USD200 million in state borrowing. **AP**

WHAT'S ON



TODAY (SEP 16)
HAOJIANG MOONLIGHT NIGHT - SILK ROAD

The large-scale original dance drama "Silk Road" is directed by Yang Jing, one considered nationally of top class. Shanxi Performing Arts Group "Shanxi Song and Dance Troupe Co, Ltd." presents in this performance characters such as the Explorer and the Guide, the Envoy, the Merchant, the Protector, the Peacemaker and the Wanderer amongst others.

TIME: 8pm
DATE: September 16-17, 2016
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai s/n, Nape
ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP150, MOP200
ORGANIZERS: Hongkong, Macau and Taiwan Affairs Office of Ministry of Culture of P.R.China & Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau S.A.R. Government

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>
TICKETING ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555
<http://www.macauticket.com>



THE MACAU LANTERN FESTIVAL

The Macau Lantern Festival presents a dazzling exhibit of rabbit lanterns – created on this occasion by renowned Macau artist Carlos Marreiros, some of which are decorated by artists from Hong Kong, Macau and Beijing, blending Chinese traditions with modern Macanese elements.

TIME: 24 Hours
UNTIL: October 10, 2016
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2822 9838
ORGANIZER: Promenade, One Central Macau
CO-ORGANIZER: Macau Government Tourism Office



TOMORROW (SEP 17)
HERE AND NOW

This exhibition wishes to inspire the creative community to reflect upon the Macau of today, in particular on the various aspects and external stereotypes that have contributed towards the development of the current social and economic situation as seen through the eyes of members of Creative Macau, in which they are encouraged to produce their unique representation of this rapidly changing city by employing whatever technique and format they favour.

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)
UNTIL: September 30, 2016
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Creative Macau- Center for Creative Industries, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282
ORGANIZER: Creative Macau- Center for Creative Industries
<http://www.creativemacau.org.mo>



SUNDAY (SEP 18)
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU ARTISTS SOCIETY

The collective art exhibition A Sexagenary Revision - Masters of the Macau Artists Society features a selection of 60 works created by 36 late artists that had lived in Macau in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Society. Dedicated to celebrating the most prominent artists of their generation, the exhibition showcases a selection of their finest calligraphy, oil paintings, watercolours and traditional Chinese ink. One highlight is a series of rare collaborative paintings created exclusively for the National Day of the People's Republic of China.

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: October 4, 2016

VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macau, Av. Xian Xing Hai Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814
ORGANIZERS: Cultural Affairs Bureau, Macau Museum of Art, Macau Artists Society
www.mam.gov.mo



MONDAY (SEP 19)
CAFFEINE - WORK BY JOÃO JORGE MAGALHÃES

This exhibits twelve paintings which seek to reveal the subtle but unmistakable compatibility of art and coffee, a relationship evident throughout history. In Western society, artists regularly gather at coffee shops to gain inspiration, with the legendary Picasso even holding his first exhibition in one. The nostalgic fragments of 'old Macau' continue to inspire Magalhaes' artwork, which is unfailingly visually striking. In addition to recognising talented Macau artists it is hoped that through this exhibition a stronger awareness of the relationship between art and coffee is perpetuated.

TIME: 11am - 9pm (open on public holidays)
UNTIL: September 30, 2016
VENUE: TOM N TOMS Coffee, Avenida Do Conselheiro Ferreira De Almeida No. 20-B
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2850 1055
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Blanc Art Co.
<http://www.blancart.co>



TUESDAY (SEP 20)
THE ENCHANTING RED BOAT

Entering its Golden Age in the early 20th Century when vocal techniques, performances and repertoires reached new heights, in tandem with the emergence of famous Cantonese Opera maestros, the pervading influence of Cantonese Opera led to it being inscribed on the Tentative List of Macau SAR Intangible Cultural Heritage and the National Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2006, as well as the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009. Contemplate the beauty of this traditional art through the nostalgia of the genre, the development of Macau Cantonese Opera, Opera Maestros' lives and skills, and other features in this fascinating exhibition - The Enchanting Red Boat – An Episode of the Cantonese Opera Culture.

TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm; closed on Mondays; open on

public holidays; free to public on 15th of every month)

UNTIL: October 9, 2016

ADMISSION: MOP15

VENUE: Praceta do Museu de Macau 112

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

ORGANIZER: Macau Museum

<http://www.macaumuseum.gov.mo>



WEDNESDAY (SEP 21)

SING! CHINA IN MACAU

Produced by Star and aired via Zhejiang Satellite TV, Sing! China is a Chinese reality singing competition aiming to find the best new Chinese singing talent. Sing! China in Macau is the National Holiday special episode of the series. The four celebrity mentors Jay Chou, Na Ying, Wang Feng, and Harlem Yu will bring 16 contestants to perform their signature songs of the Sing! China Season I.

TIME: 7:45pm

VENUE: Cotai Arena, The Venetian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP280, MOP380

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

<http://www.venetianMacau.com>



THURSDAY (SEP 22)

NAM VAN LAKE LEISURELAND

Nam Van Lake waterfront has been transformed into a new leisure area known as Anim'Arte NAM VAN featuring IFT Café, cultural and creative shops, handicraft workshops and craft market, graffiti display area and much more. Water bicycling mean fun on the lake. With lots of weekend activities to delight residents and visitors both young and old. Also, enjoy the "Walk and See—Youth Artist Art Exhibition" and "As Memory Whispers—Exhibition by Cai Guo Jie" exhibitions!

Exhibition Centre, IFT Café, arts pavilion, cultural and creative shops, craft market and book market
TIME: 11am-10pm

WATER BICYCLING

TIME: 11am-7pm

UNTIL: September 30 (open on public holidays)

FEES: 2-seat Pedal Boat - MOP20 per 30 minutes

4-seat Pedal Boat - MOP40 per 30 minutes

Sands WEEKEND



SING! CHINA IN MACAO

7:45pm, 21 September (Wednesday)

Cotai Arena

Sing! China is a Chinese reality singing competition aiming to find the best new Chinese singing talent. Sing! China in Macao is the National Holiday special episode of the series. The four celebrity mentors Jay Chou, Na Ying, Wang Feng, and Harlem Yu will bring 16 contestants to perform their signature songs of the Sing! China Season 1.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



THRILLER LIVE

30 September-13 November

The Parisian Theatre

THRILLER LIVE is a stunning 90-minute theatrical concert to commemorate arguably the world's greatest ever entertainer, Michael Jackson. This high-energy explosion of pop, rock, soul and disco takes the audience on a magical audio-visual journey through Jackson's astonishing 45-year musical legacy. We challenge you to stay in your seat! Thriller is the debut show of The Parisian Theatre.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com



SHOP YOUR WAY TO A HOTEL STAY

Sands Shoppes, with over 800 luxury duty-free shops after the opening of Shoppes at Parisian, is your ultimate shopping destination in Macao. Shop at Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Parisian, Shoppes at Venetian and Shoppes at Cotai Central (except dining outlets) to earn hotel offers, including exclusive hotel and dining offers at The Parisian Macao, opening in mid of September.

Shop & Stay Voucher redemption date and time : Until 16 October 2016
Monday - Sunday 10:00am - 11:00pm

Redemption Locations : Information Counters throughout Sands Shoppes

Please refer to the Terms & Conditions for further details.



PO'S KUNG FU FEAST, CHARACTER BREAKFAST WITH THE DREAMWORKS ALL-STARS

Until 30 September 2017

Urumqi Ballroom, Level 4, Sands® Cotai Central

Live your dreams like Po from "Kung Fu Panda" and experience the ultimate breakfast feast with your favourite DreamWorks All-Stars. Get your camera ready to capture the memorable moments with your beloved DreamWorks heroes and enjoy the exclusive stage performances. Book now to experience the coolest themed breakfast!

Adult: MOP238+ Child: MOP138+
Family Package (4 Family Persons + 1 Child): MOP 688+
Saturday - Monday: 10am - 11:30am | Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 10:30am
Reservations: +853 8113 7915 / 8113 7916



澳門金沙度假區
Sands
RESORTS
COTAI STRIP MACAO



WORLD OF WONDER

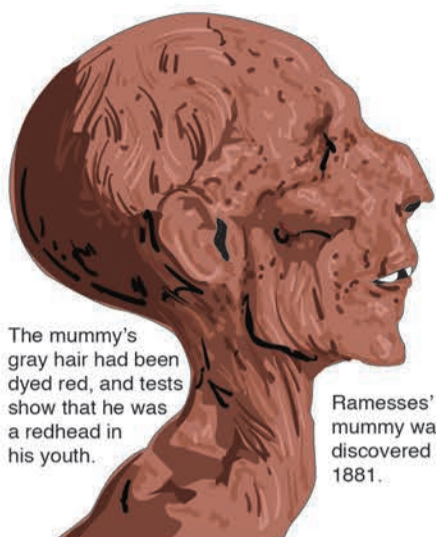
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

RAMESSES II

Considered by many to have been the most powerful king of the ancient Egyptian empire, **Ramesses the Great** was the 3rd pharaoh of the 19th dynasty (1292–1190 B.C.). His reign was the second longest in Egyptian history. In addition to his many military campaigns, he is famous for the cities, temples, monuments and statuary he ordered built all over Egypt.

Images and statues of Ramesses II can be found in many locations all around Egypt.



The mummy's gray hair had been dyed red, and tests show that he was a redhead in his youth.

Ramesses' mummy was discovered in 1881.



What's in a name?

Ramesses can also be spelled Ramses or Rameses. Ramesses the Great was named after his grandfather, Ramesses I. Ramesses is also known as Ozymandias in Greek sources.

Ramesses the boy

Ramesses' family came into power after the turmoil created by **Akhenaten's** new religion. (Akhenaten believed in a single god called **Aten**, god of the sun.)

Ramesses II (1303-1213 B.C.) was the son of **Seti I** and **Queen Tuya**. When he turned 14, Ramesses II was appointed prince regent by his father and given a royal palace and harem. Still a teenager, he married his first wife and favorite queen, a woman called Nefertari (not to be confused with Queen Nefertiti).

The pharaoh Seti kept the young prince close, training him in the arts of kingship and war.

At age 22, Ramesses was named co-ruler with Seti. He was leading his own battle campaigns and training his own sons.

Ramesses was 25 or 30 years of age when his father died. The young pharaoh continued his father's efforts to restore the borders of Egypt, protect trade routes and regain lands lost to the Hittites.

Battle of Kadesh

Ramesses left records of his many military victories on the walls of his monuments.

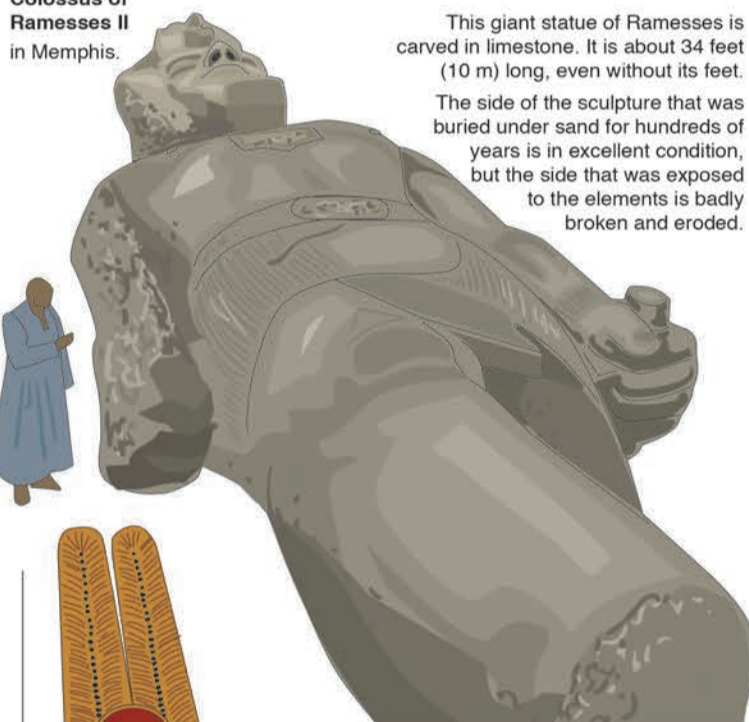
Historians debate how much of this information is propaganda and how much is fact. The Battle of Kadesh is the most famous campaign of Ramesses II.

Near the city of Kadesh on the Orontes River, the Egyptian and Hittite empires fought for control of the land now known as **Syria**. Described as the largest chariot battle ever fought, the clash was indecisive. Ramesses returned home a military hero and described the campaign as a great victory, even though the city of Kadesh remained in Hittite hands.

Ramesses would later make peace with the Hittites, creating a neutral northern border that would last for the rest of Ramesses' rule.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://www.britannica.com>; <http://www.ancient.eu>; <http://www.historynet.com>

Colossus of Ramesses II in Memphis.



This giant statue of Ramesses is carved in limestone. It is about 34 feet (10 m) long, even without its feet.

The side of the sculpture that was buried under sand for hundreds of years is in excellent condition, but the side that was exposed to the elements is badly broken and eroded.



We have learned a great deal about Ramesses' appearance and health from his mummy. He had a large, hooked nose, a long face and a strong jaw. At about five feet seven inches (1.7 m) tall, he was large for an ancient Egyptian.

He suffered from dental problems, severe arthritis and hardening of the arteries, and most likely died from old age or heart failure.



Queen Nefertari's full name was **Nefertari-Meritmut** which means "Beloved of Mut."

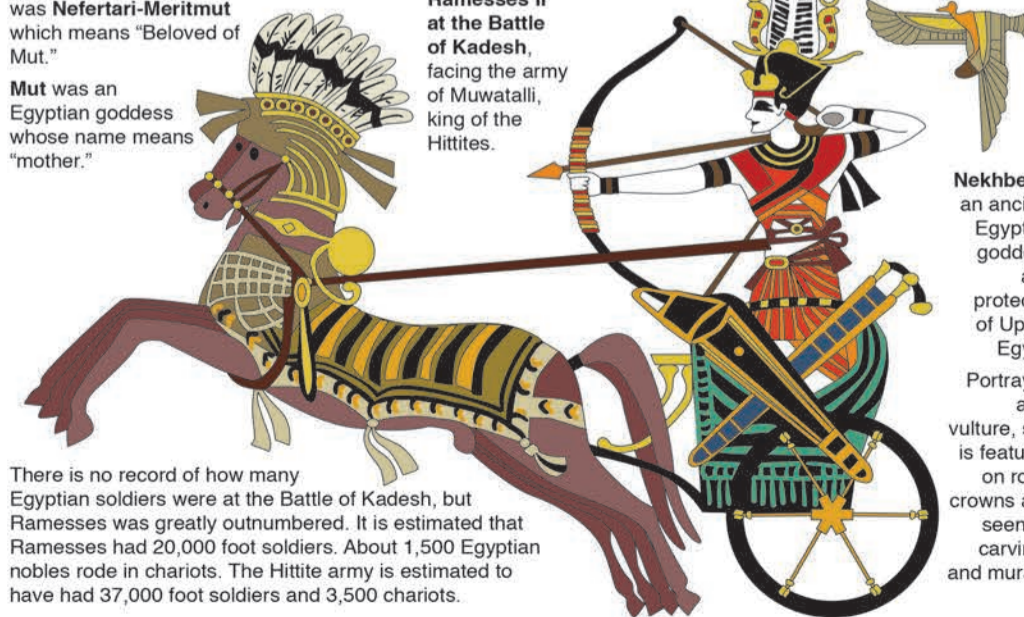
Mut was an Egyptian goddess whose name means "mother."

Did you know? When Ramesses' mummy was sent to France to treat a fungus, it was issued an Egyptian passport, which listed his occupation as "King (deceased)."



These gold and lapis lazuli bracelets are from the time of Ramesses the Great. They were discovered in 1906 and are on view at the Cairo Antiquities Museum.

Ramesses II at the Battle of Kadesh, facing the army of Muwatalli, king of the Hittites.



There is no record of how many Egyptian soldiers were at the Battle of Kadesh, but Ramesses was greatly outnumbered. It is estimated that Ramesses had 20,000 foot soldiers. About 1,500 Egyptian nobles rode in chariots. The Hittite army is estimated to have had 37,000 foot soldiers and 3,500 chariots.

Nekhbet is an ancient Egyptian goddess and protector of Upper Egypt. Portrayed as a vulture, she is featured on royal crowns and seen on carvings and murals.

Pi-Ramesses

Ramesses built his city and new capital, **Pi-Ramesses**, in the Nile Delta. Designed as a base for his military campaigns in Syria and Asia, the city was home to factories that made weapons, chariots and shields. The city was also famous for its beautiful gardens, orchards and waters.

Notable buildings

Ramesses' reign is considered by many to be the height of Egyptian art and culture. That this pharaoh was a prolific builder is undisputable. Ramesses created a massive building program that included rebuilding existing temples and constructing new ones.

The vast temple complex known as the **Ramesseum** was located on the west bank of the Nile near the city of **Thebes**. This temple is famous for its giant statue of Ramesses.

The **Abu Simbel** temples are two massive rock temples: the Great Temple of Ramesses II and the Small Temple of Nefertari. At the entrance to the larger temple, there are four huge statues of Ramesses sitting down; they are 66 feet (20 m) tall.

At **Karnak**, a field of 134 columns were carved, each 69 feet (21 m) tall and shaped like a papyrus tree. A carved wall here shows Ramesses' victory at Kadesh.

In the end

Scholars believe that Ramesses lived to age 90 or 96 and reigned for about 67 years. Over his lifetime, he had about 200 wives and concubines. Some texts suggest he had 96 sons and 60 daughters. Ramesses outlived most of his family; his 13th son, Merneptah, was 60 years old when he became pharaoh.

At the time of his death, most Egyptians had known just one pharaoh all their lives, and many people thought the world would end with Ramesses' death.

Ramesses the Great was buried in a tomb in the **Valley of the Kings**. To prevent theft and looting, his body was moved by ancient priests to a royal cache at Deir el-Bahri. It is now on display in the Cairo Museum.

PLEASE NOTE: Dates in Ancient Egypt are often unclear and scholars are not always in agreement. The dates and years shown are approximate.

Chat with the author and like us on Facebook — www.facebook.com/worldofwonder2014