Alexandria National Museum

The Alexandria National Museum was the mansion of one of Alexandria's wealthiest men, timber merchant Asaad Basili, who built the Italian-style palace and lived there until 1954, when he sold it to the American Embassy. The palace served as the headquarters of the American Consulate until it was purchased by the Supreme Council of Antiquities, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, in 1996. The Council renovated and converted it into a museum at the beginning of the third millennium. The museum was inaugurated in September 2003.

The Alexandria National Museum contains 1,800 artifacts spanning all eras, from the Old Kingdom to the modern era. These artifacts depict Egypt's civilization, culture, arts, and industries during these eras. These artifacts were brought from several museums, including the Egyptian Museum, the Islamic Museum, the Coptic Museum in Cairo, the Greco-Roman Museum, and the Museum of Underwater Antiquities and Islamic Antiquities in Alexandria. Among the most important artifacts are a statue of an Egyptian scribe and a collection of vessels found in the Pyramid of King Djoser. The New Kingdom is considered the most glorious artistic era. Art during this period combined the realism of the Theban School with the idealism of the Memphis School, resulting in some of the most beautiful works of art. The museum houses some rare pieces, including a chair of Queen Hatshepsut, a head of King Akhenaten, and a group of statues of Thutmose III, the god Amun, and King Ramses II. The Alexandria National Museum is unique in displaying a special hall for sunken antiquities, which houses a magnificent collection of sunken antiquities that have been recovered. Among the most important pieces in this section are a black granite statue of Isis, a statue of a priest of Isis, and a group of marble statues and portraits of various Greek deities, including a statue of Venus, the goddess of love, and a head of Alexander the Great, among others. There is also a currency hall, which houses coins from various eras, including a collection of coins found underwater in Abu Qir Bay and other coins dating back to the Byzantine and Islamic eras. This section also houses a collection of weapons dating back to the Islamic era, in addition to a collection of metals, glass, and ceramics dating back to various Islamic eras. The modern section houses a diverse collection of Muhammad Ali family possessions, including silver, gold, and jewelry used by the princes and kings of the Alawite dynasty.