

#TRIED AND TASTED

Dhaakad desi cocktails

They say variety is the spice of life and what better than implementing that thought in your drinks? If you're tired of your regular dose of vodkas or martinis and want to give them a twist, here are some desi cocktails recipes for you to try. They're so easy to make and can be easily tried at home.

Curry leaf mojito

Ingredients

- 8 fresh curry leaves
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 tsp sugar
- ¼ cup of vodka
- Ice cubes

Preparation

- In a glass, muddle about 8 fresh curry leaves, juice of half a lemon and 1 tsp sugar.
- Top with ice cubes and ¼ cup of vodka.
- Serve immediately.



Guava mary



Ingredients

- 250ml vodka
- 1L guava juice
- 1L dry ginger ale
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- Angostura bitters
- 1/4 cup whole mint leaves
- Ice cubes

Preparation

- Place vodka in a large jug. Add guava juice and stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate until needed.
- Just before serving, add dry ginger ale, lime juice, 5-6 drops bitters, mint leaves and plenty of ice cubes.

Rasam tini

Ingredients

- 45 ml vodka
- Rasam (chilled, and strained)
- A pinch of dry roasted and ground cumin
- 5-6 curry leaves
- Ice cubes

Preparation

- First, muddle the curry leaves, and keep it ready.
- In a cocktail shaker, add the vodka, the rasam, the curry leaves and ice.
- Shake well. Strain the drink into a martini glass.
- Sprinkle some cumin powder, and serve.



Rum ananas



Ingredients

- 45 ml dark rum
- Pineapple juice (if you get it fresh, nothing like it)
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
- Pink salt or chaat masala
- Ice cubes

Preparation

- Line the glass with pink salt/chaat masala first, and refrigerate the empty glasses.
- In a cocktail shaker, add the rum, pineapple juice, the lemon juice, and ice. Shake well. You can add a little chaat masala into the drink too.
- Strain it into a Collins glass, garnish with a wedge of lime on the rim, and serve.

Ginger mingler

Ingredients

- 45 ml whisky
- 1 tsp ginger syrup
- Club soda/sparkling water
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- A sprinkling of rock salt
- 1 green chilli, split (optional)
- Ice cubes

For the syrup:

- 200 gm of fresh ginger (washed and peeled)
- 4 cups of water
- 300 gm of sugar
- A pinch of salt

Preparation

- To make the ginger syrup first, chop the ginger into tiny pieces. Boil the sugar and ginger in water, and then out it on simmer for about 45 minutes. Strain, and cool. Refrigerate in a glass bottle if you're using it the following day.
- To make the cocktail, add



the whisky, lemon juice, ginger syrup and ice, and shake well.

- Strain the drink into a Collins glass, top it up with soda, and serve with a swizzle stick. You could sprinkle some of the rock salt on the drink, or rim the glass with it.
- For additional garnish, add the green chilli in the drink.

The Many Wonders Of Ancient Egypt

Beneath the throne room of a Hyksos-era palace in Avaris, archaeologists found a pit filled with severed right hands,16 in total. Some were unusually large, all eerily preserved. These were not remnants of a battlefield, but deliberate trophies, likely offered to a pharaoh as proof of victory. This is believed to be the first physical evidence of a practice once considered legend: cutting off the right hands of enemies to claim rewards. It was not just military, it was ceremonial, a ritual of dominance embedded in flesh.

● Amjad Ansari

Beneath the scorching sands of Egypt lies more than the remnants of a great empire, there are secrets never meant to be discovered. We're not just talking about golden tombs and dusty scrolls. These are revelations that rewrite history, challenge belief, and delve into the darker corners of the ancient world. From screaming mummies and cryptic pyramids to fossilized sea monsters and otherworldly relics, these terrifying discoveries shake the very foundation of human knowledge. Buckle up, here are the most terrifying discoveries in Egypt that change everything.

Whale Bones in the Sahara



In the middle of the Egyptian desert lies Wadi Al-Hitan, the 'Valley of the Whales,' where massive fossilized skeletons of ancient whales lie exposed under the sun. These creatures lived over 37 million years ago when the Sahara was a warm ocean. Some species, like Basilosaurus and Dorudon, still bore vestigial limbs, evidence of the evolutionary shift from land to sea. This isn't just strange, it's a perfectly preserved snapshot of life's great transitions.

Mummified Lion Cubs



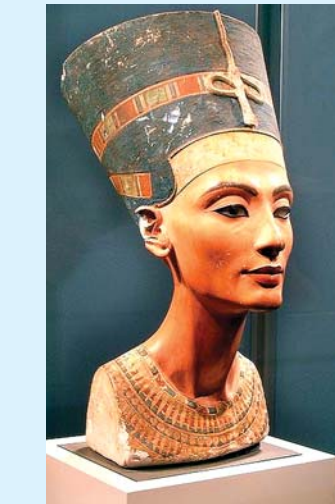
In 2019, archaeologists found mummified lion cubs in Saqqara, an unprecedented discovery. Lions were sacred to the goddess Sekhmet. Alongside the cubs were other mummified animals, mongooses, beetles, and snakes, suggesting a ritual zoo for worship, not exhibition. The cubs were likely killed young for divine offerings, highlighting how animals were woven into spiritual practices.

The Diorite Statue of Khafre



In Cairo's Grand Egyptian Museum sits a statue carved from diorite, one of the hardest stones known. It portrays Pharaoh Khafre, builder of the second Giza pyramid. The statue is flawless, his body protected by the falcon god Horus, symbolizing divine kingship. Found buried face-down in a pit, the statue was perhaps hidden or targeted for destruction. Now, it silently watches, commanding reverence.

The Bust of Nefertiti



In the ruins of an ancient sculptor's workshop in Amarna, researchers discovered one of the most iconic artifacts ever unearthed: the bust of Queen Nefertiti. Created over 3,300 years ago, her elegant, timeless visage captivates the world. But this masterpiece has stirred controversy, discovered in 1912 by German archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt, it now resides in Berlin's Neues Museum. Egypt argues it was smuggled out under false pretenses and has fought for its return ever since. The bust now stands at the center of an international debate over heritage, ownership, and colonial legacy.

Spinosaurus: The Water-Hunting Dinosaur



In the Moroccan Sahara, researchers uncovered a dinosaur that defied all expectations. The Spinosaurus aegyptiacus was larger than a T.rex, with a crocodile-like tail built for swimming. Its conical teeth and flexible limbs confirmed that it hunted in water, making it the first known aquatic dinosaur. It was an apex predator of river systems, an ancient terror striking from beneath the surface.



The Pit of Giant Hands



Mummies with Golden Tongues



Beneath the throne room of a Hyksos-era palace in Avaris, archaeologists found a pit filled with severed right hands,16 in total. Some were unusually large, all eerily preserved. These were not remnants of a battlefield, but deliberate trophies, likely offered to a pharaoh as proof of victory. This is believed to be the first physical evidence of a practice once considered legend: cutting off the right hands of enemies to claim rewards. It was not just military, it was ceremonial, a ritual of dominance embedded in flesh.

The Screaming Mummy



Among the royal burials at Deir el-Bahari, archaeologists found a mummy with a face contorted in a scream. Wrapped in sheep skin, considered unclean, the body was eventually identified as Prince Pentawere, the disgraced son of Ramses III. DNA and CT scans confirmed that Ramses III was murdered, and Pentawere likely took his own life after a failed coup. His tortured expression may be more than death, it may be divine punishment.

#HISTORY

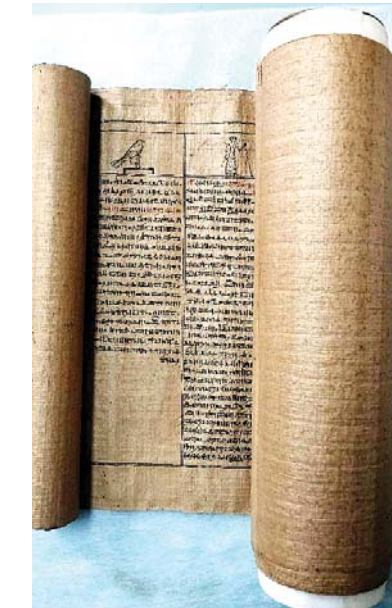
The Labyrinth of Hawara

The Greek historian Herodotus once described a labyrinth near Hawara as more impressive than even the pyramids. In 2008, archaeologists found what may be remnants of this vast underground maze beneath the pyramid of Amenemhat III. The structure is only partially excavated, but ancient texts speak of judgement chambers and spiritual trials, perhaps even a physical map of the afterlife.

Hidden Corridor in the Great Pyramid

In 2023, scientists using cosmic ray muon radiography discovered a previously unknown 30-foot corridor inside the Great Pyramid of Giza. Hidden behind the north face, its purpose is still a mystery. Some suggest it was structural, others theorize it may hide a secret chamber or ancient trap. No internal corridor had been discovered in over 200 years, making this find potentially revolutionary.

The Papyrus Scroll of Emosi



In 2022, a 52-foot-long 'Book of the Dead' scroll was found next to the mummy of a man named Emosi near the Step Pyramid. Covered in curses, spells, and sacred artwork, this scroll was a spiritual guide to survive the underworld. Emosi's name appears over 260 times, anchoring his soul to the magical text.

59 Sealed Sarcophagi in Saqqara



During the 2020 pandemic, archaeologists uncovered 59 sealed wooden sarcophagi stacked in a narrow shaft in Saqqara. Over 2,500 years old, the mummies inside were in pristine condition. priests, scribes, and officials, all preserved with extraordinary care. Hidden in plain sight beneath previously excavated layers, their secrecy is as chilling as their state of preservation.

The Colossal Statue of Ramses II



In a poor Cairo suburb, archaeologists uncovered a 26-foot-tall quartzite statue of Ramses II, broken into pieces and buried in mud. Despite its shattered state, the monument radiates power. Nearby artifacts confirmed its identity. Most believe it was destroyed in antiquity during temple demolitions. Its rediscovery is a powerful reminder of how history endures beneath the everyday.

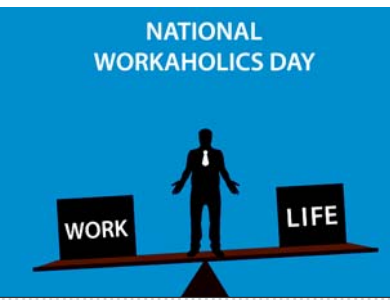
Forty Mummies in the Desert



In Tuna el-Gebel, a rock-cut tomb held 40 mummies, men, women, children, and even animals. Buried 300 feet underground, the site wasn't royal but middle-class, from the Greco-Egyptian era. The care taken suggests they mimicked elite funerals, and the intentional concealment hints they didn't want to be found, possibly for fear of desecration or cultural erasure.

Work Work Work?

Certainly there is no shame in working hard and making a good living, but some people may find it difficult to strike a healthy balance between work and other aspects of life. In fact, some people wear their careers as their identities, working extra long hours, eating at the office or even sleeping there! National Workaholics Day is here to act as a reminder that a good and healthy balance in life is worth striving for. The best way to celebrate the day might be to do something that is completely and utterly outside of work! Join a chess club. Sign up for mountain climbing lessons. Take an art class. Do something away from work!



#PHOTOLOAD

CLICKING PHOTOS?

“Thinking ‘Oh, I have to post these’ makes it even harder to enjoy the experience”

If an event is otherwise highly enjoyable, pausing to take photographs will detract from your enjoyment, research finds. “We get so focused on picture-taking, we miss the experience itself,” says Robyn LeBoeuf, professor of marketing at the Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School and coauthor of a study involving more than five different surveys and 718 combined participants. Gia Nardini of the University of Denver led the study. “She had gone to a wildlife preserve, but was so focused on getting pictures, she came home thinking, ‘Aw, I missed it,’” LeBoeuf says. “We’ve all had those kind of experiences.”



ONE OR THE OTHER

The study advises, LeBoeuf says, to “carve out moments to do one or the other,” shoot photographs or enjoy the experiences. What’s more, the businesses where you’re taking those pictures might also thank you.

Amid this selfie and in-the-moment generation, the finding resonates with anyone who owns a cellphone, a number expected to surpass 5 billion worldwide in 2019, including 95 percent of Americans. For businesses increasingly aware of the customer experience, this may mean more photo-op stations that allow customers to segregate photo



taking from the rest of their experience, more signage to remind guests where not to shoot pictures, or more on-site photographers at places ranging from Disney World to brewery tours to even local amateur sports tournaments.

TEXTING, TOO



‘OH, I HAVE TO POST THESE’



“Most people don’t think it hurts. Certainly this isn’t obvious to people.” When others told them about negative anecdotes, a majority (59.8 percent) of the same pool noted picture-taking had reduced their enjoyment of some experiences.

Using a highly enjoyable video as the experience, people found that snapping pictures detracted from their enjoyment of the experience. A group of 152 undergraduate students (ages 17-23, 61 percent female) watched a 10-minute, immersive video clip featuring vivid footage of venomous snakes and jellyfish.

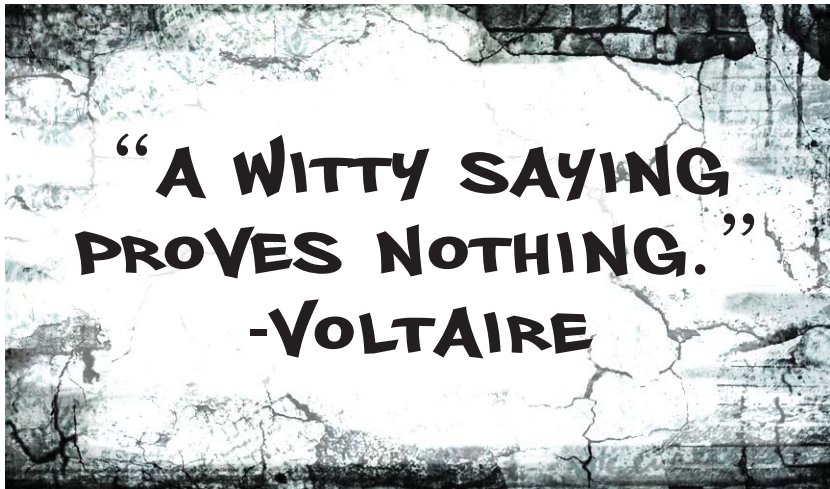
Some simply watched, while others were told to watch and take pictures “like we often do on, say, vacations,” LeBoeuf says. In this survey, they used an on-screen button to snap the photos they wanted to capture, which they didn’t know was a ruse. Asked to rate their enjoyment, participants who solely watched the video enjoyed the experience significantly more, at 72.6 on a 100-point scale, than those occasionally ‘taking’ pictures, 63.8.

When asked to take photos not just for you, but ultimately to share, such as on social media, people’s enjoyment was further hindered. As LeBoeuf says, “Thinking ‘Oh, I have to post these’ makes it even harder to enjoy the experience.” Some 162 undergraduate students (ages 18-38, 61 percent female) broke down thusly: 83.7 enjoyed when solely watching, 76.2 when snapping personal pictures, 73.5 when taking photos to share.

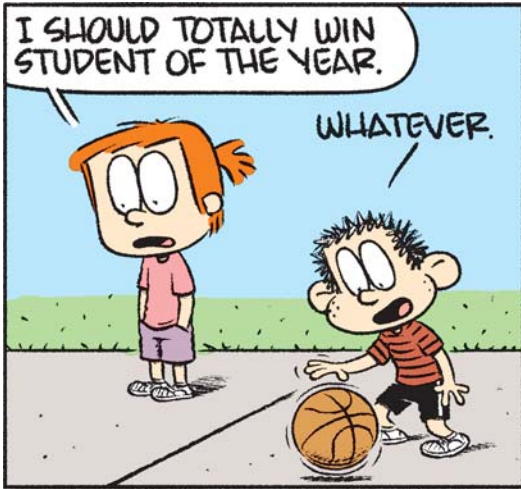
When faced with a moderately enjoyable video or experience, picture-taking had no deleterious effect. Using 194 undergraduate students (ages 18-40, 59 percent female), taking pictures scored a 27.8 on the enjoyment scale compared to 22.6 simply watching when the experience was a mundane video of a Florida park tour. However, the experience mattered: When participants watched the much more enjoyable snakes-and-jellyfish video, they scored a 79.4 for simply watching and a 69.4 for picture-taking, again showing how the latter detracts from an enjoyable experience.



THE WALL

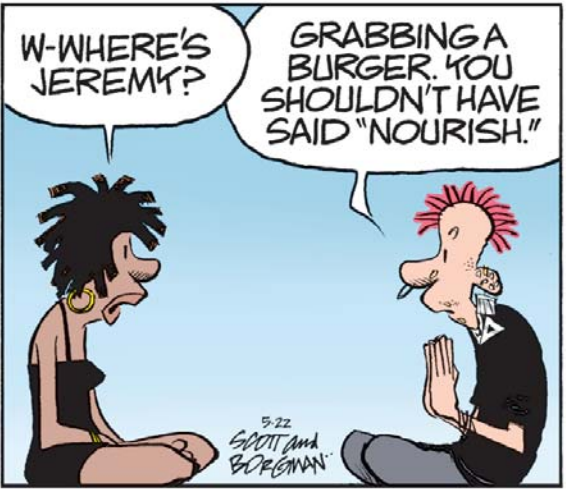


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman