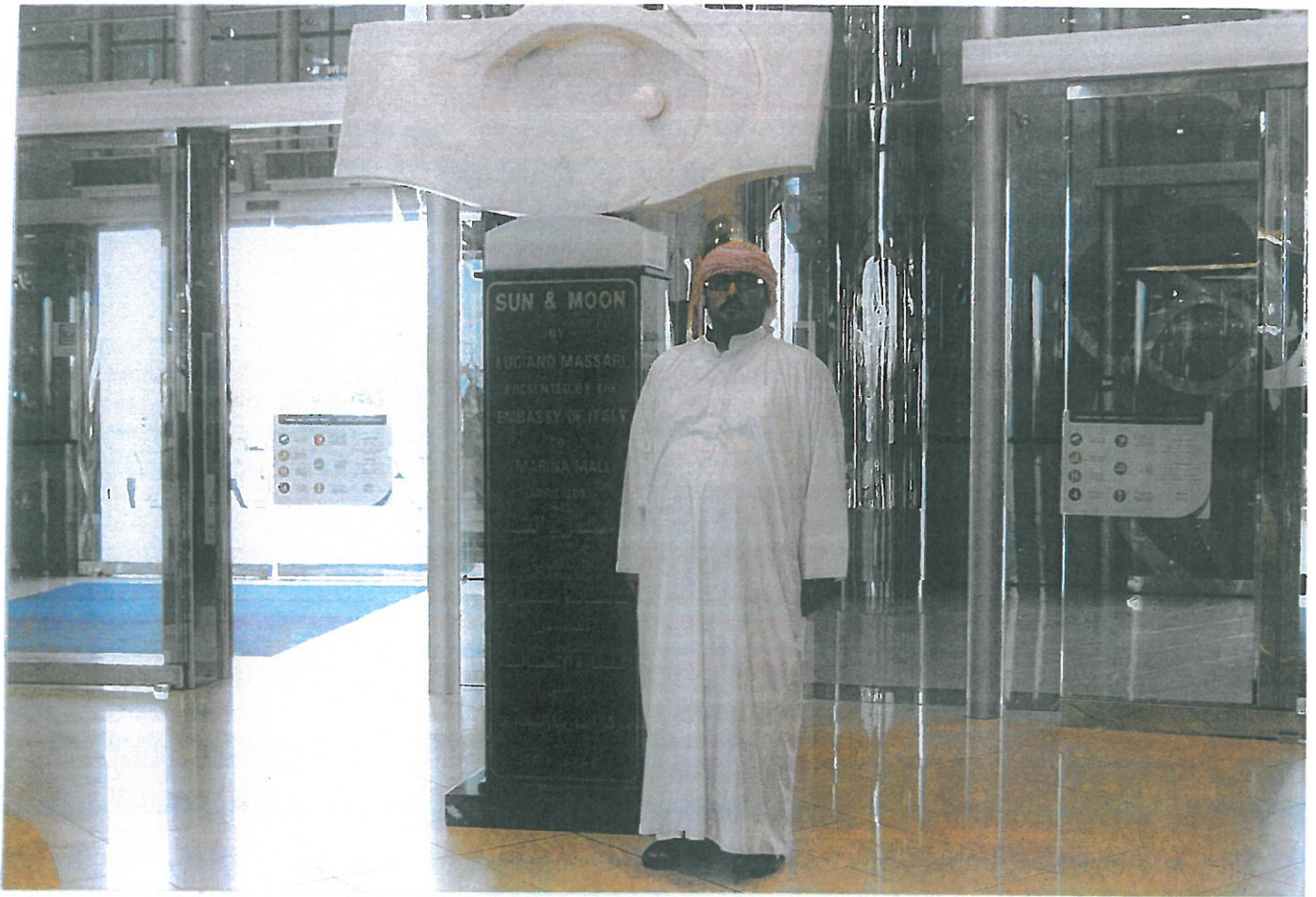




The National Historical Museum in Sofia is Bulgaria's largest museum. It was founded on 5 May 1973. A new representative exhibition was opened in the building of the Court of Justice on 2 March 1984, to commemorate the 13th centenary of the Bulgarian state. The museum was moved in 2000 to the former primary residence of the dictator and last communist leader Todor Zhivkov at Boyana, and currently contains over 650,000 objects connected to archaeology, fine arts, history and ethnography, although only 10% of them are permanently exhibited. The aim of the museum is to provide a comprehensive view on Bulgarian history from the prehistory to present, in as broad a European context as possible.



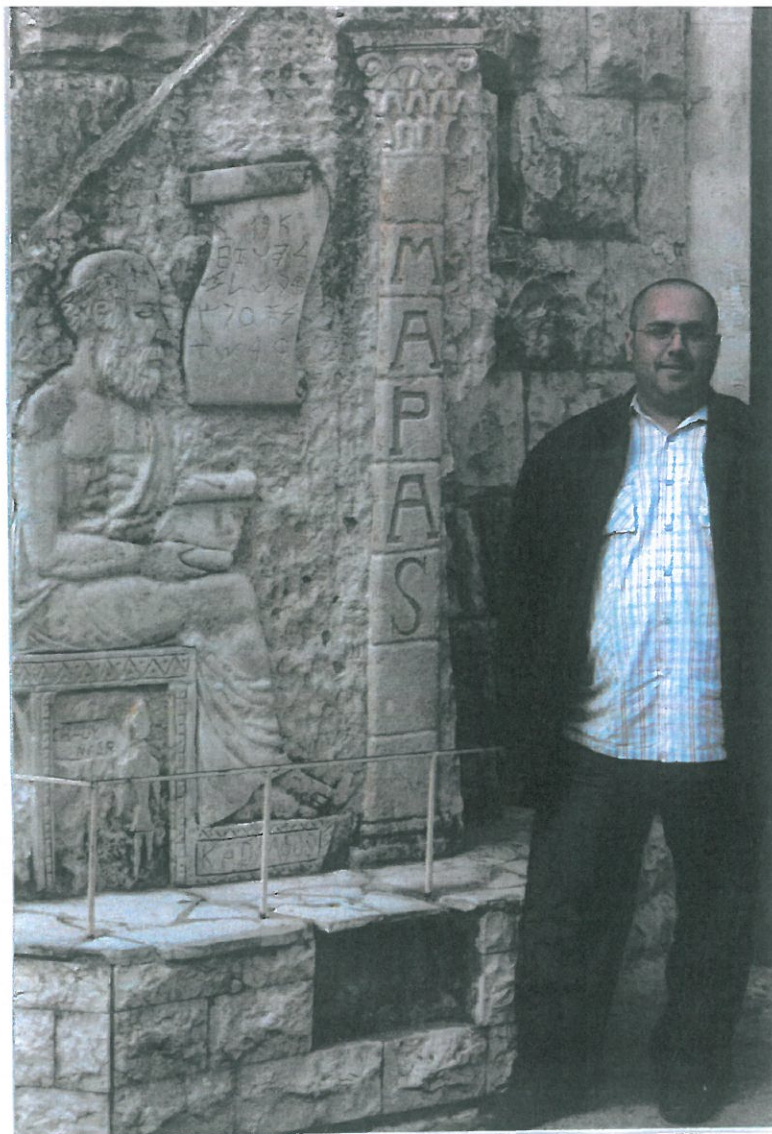
Mr Massari said that he would be working at the Mall for eight hours a day for the eight days, until he had completed the sculpture. Cave Michelangelo has donated the block of marble for the Sun & Moon sculpture, and it was from these quarries in Carrara, Italy, that famous Italian artist Michelangelo chose his marble to sculpt from, for his masterpieces like 'The Tomb of Julius II' and 'Pieta'. Mr Massari, who graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara where he discovered his talent and devotion to sculpture, went on to teach and become head of department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Turin. Luciano Massari, began his artistic career in 1980 by winning the competition to execute the work Icarus Millenovecentottantaquattro (Icarus Onethousandninehundredandeightyfour) in Trinidad and Tobago. The sculptor has taken part in many solo and group exhibitions, and international competitions. His works are on display in private and public collections in Italy and abroad.



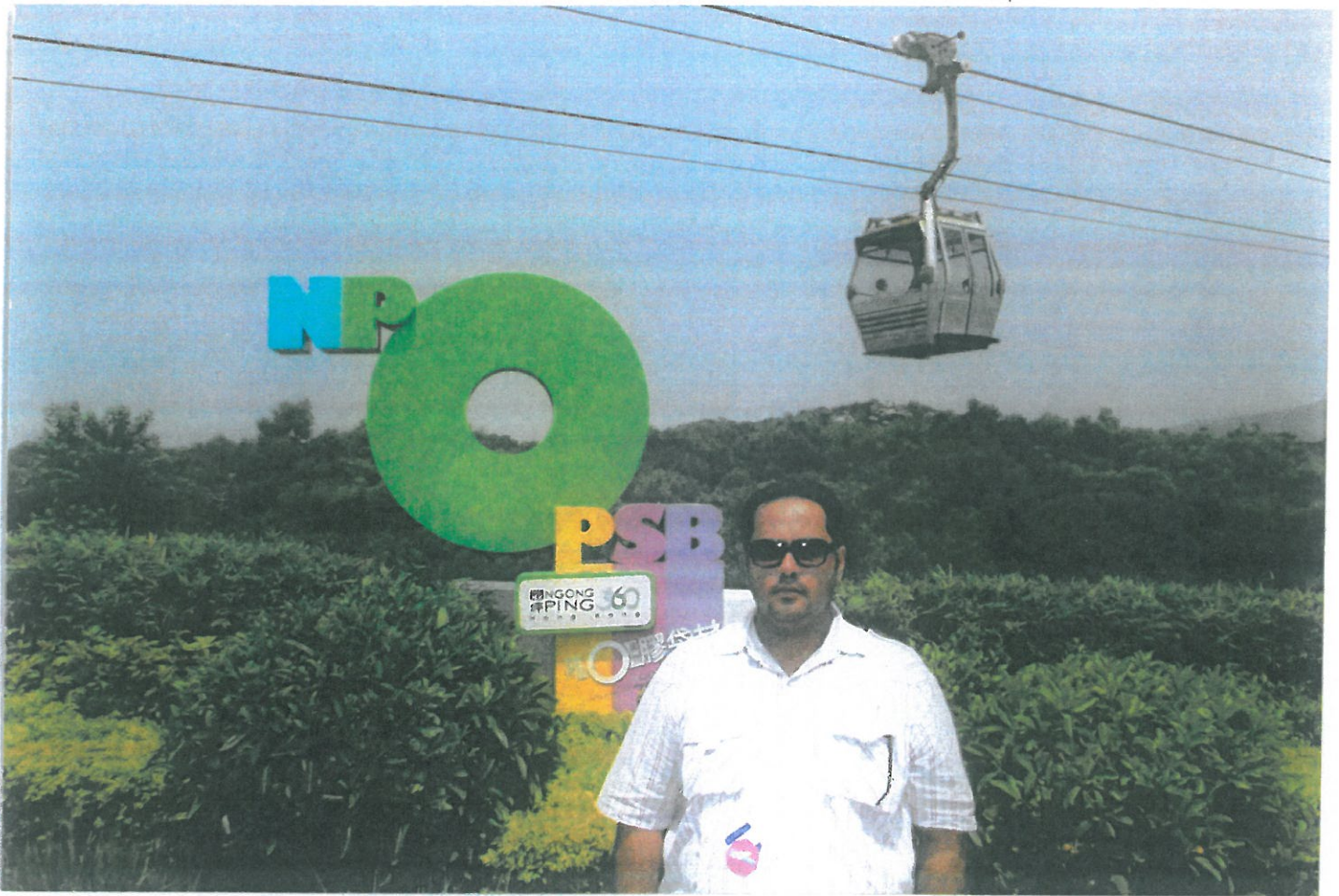
The Blue Mosque is officially called the Sultan Ahmed Mosque. It was built in the early 1600s, with construction coming to a close in 1616. Unlike many other mosques built in this time period, the Blue Mosque was not built after victory in battle. Instead, the sultan decided to build the mosque to appease God. Because of this, the funds for the mosque were taken from the treasury. This decision faced some criticism at the time, but construction continued regardless. The sprawling structure is intricately adorned both inside and out, and though it is a popular tourist destination, it is still used as a mosque by locals to this day. Its nickname, the Blue Mosque, comes from the extensive use of blue tiles on the inside, which is sure to leave a lasting impression on any visitor. The overall tile work is nothing short of exquisite. The lower level of the interior features over 20,000 ceramic tiles in traditional tulip designs. However, the interior gets more impressive at the gallery level, where the tile work represents more complex images such as flowers and fruit. The design is anchored with blue paint at the ceiling, and stained glass windows were installed to let in natural light.



The Jeita caves are solution karst caves which have formed over millions of years due to the dissolution of limestone. The limestone is dissolved by carbonic acid charged rain water and groundwater; when the limestone, which is originally waterproof, contains cracks produced by tectonic forces the water oozes into the rock and starts to widen the cracks and solute caves inside the layers. Jeita is the longest cave complex in the Middle East; it sits at 300 meters (980 ft.) above sea level and has a height difference of 305 meters (1,001 ft.). Geologically, the caves provide a tunnel or escape route for the underground river, which is the principal source of Nahr al-Kalb. The Jeita grotto is the longest explored cave in Lebanon. After many years of exploration, speleologists have penetrated about 6,200 meters (20,300 ft.) from the entry point of the lower grotto to the far end of the Underground River and about 2,130 meters (6,990 ft.) of the upper galleries.



The Jeita caves have been inhabited since prehistoric times. Ancient vestiges of a foundry were found in a one smaller cave nearby the Nahr al-Kalb river which suggests that this cave was used in prehistory to produce swords. The modern discovery of the underground river of Jeita in 1836 is credited to Reverend William Thomson (an American missionary) who ventured some convert|50|m|ft into the cave. Reaching the underground river, he fired a shot from his gun and the resulting echoes convinced him that he had found a cavern of major importance. In 1873 W.J. Maxwell and H.G. Huxley, engineers with the Beirut Water Company, and their friend Reverend Daniel Bliss, president of the Syrian Protestant College (later the American University of Beirut) explored these caverns. In two expeditions carried out in 1873 and 1874 they penetrated convert|1060|m|ft into the grotto which is the principal source of the Nahr el-Kalb that supplies Beirut with water. They were impeded by "Hell's Rapids" torrents which break onto razor sharp rocks. Dr. Bliss, Mr. Maxwell and the other engineers recorded their names and the year on "Maxwell's Column", a great limestone pillar some convert|625|m|ft from the entrance. The Jeita Grottoes underwent many name changes, from the Grottoes of Nahr el Kalb, Djaita, Jehita, and finally Jeita. The name change from caves or Grottoes of Nahr el Kalb to Jeita Grottoes happened in 1927 when newspapers widely used the name "Jeita Grottoes". Naher el Kalb is the name of the river that runs through Jeita Grottoes but the entrance to the cave is located in the town of Jeita which means "roaring water" in Aramaic.



Hong Kong filmmakers face the dilemma of choosing between filming their films locally with limited resources and cooperating with Chinese companies that open their doors but on their own terms. A growing number of Hong Kong residents fear China is strengthening its hold on the former British colony. However, despite commercial and political pressure, a group of directors choose to do locally-produced work, leaving a new wave of cinema in Hong Kong. Hong Kong has produced at least 200 films a year from the "Inter-Dragon" of Bruce Lee in 1973 to "In the last decade, local production has declined and nearly 12 films have been produced in Hong Kong annually. One of the factors of this decline is the great boom of the Chinese film industry with the participation of directors experienced and novices, as well as substantial funds and opportunities. However, some believe that the opposite is true: the desire to preserve freedom of expression is greater than the temptations of money from mainland China. Despite these new energies, Hong Kong will face difficulties in restoring its former glory with China's growing strength and global competition.



Hong Kong Disneyland is one of the most beautiful Disney parks around the world, with 68 acres in the Bay of Beni, Lantau Island in Hong Kong. The park is one of the most important tourist spots in China, with more than 34,000 visitors. On a daily basis, a very high rate for Disney parks and parks around the world, Hong Kong Disneyland opened its doors to visitors on Monday, September 12, 2005. When it opened, it tried to integrate traditional Chinese culture with the exciting Disneyland world. The park consists of seven main sections that will have a lot of fun when visiting including Main Street, United States, Fantasiland, Adventure, Tomorolland, and Toy Story, which bears this name relative to the famous Disney movie, the main street is the main entrance to the park, the design and buildings of this street largely mimics Disneyland in the United States and this street is better a portal to your exciting Disney world.



The art of graffiti is one of the most important arts of the street and the oldest, usually in the form of drawings or writing carrying social or political messages, and often used machine guns in the drawing and coloring of these wall paintings left on the buildings and facades and walls of Metro and bridges and others. Hong Kong is one of the most beautiful tourist destinations in Asia, with its remarkable landmarks, stunning scenery, shops and shopping malls offering tourists the finest hospitality. Hong Kong is also known as the capital of graffiti in Asia, where wall paintings adorn many of its buildings. Hong Kong's painters have a sense of creativity and incorporate ancient Chinese art with modern art, giving it a unique touch.





Every day at 8pm, millions of colorful lights are lit up in Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong. This celebratory ceremony is made on the tones consistent with the movement of colors, in a dazzling display of light. On the ground, the image of a modern collection of skyscrapers is reflected on the water page, turning the whole place into one of the tourist attractions that should not miss any visitor to the city. The waterfront overlooking the central commercial district buildings is one of the ideal spots to take pictures of the charming city skyline for tourists who are keen to gather in this area even in rainy times. It is the first impression of a city that was a British colony until 1997 and has now been transformed into a region under special administration that follows China and operates under its own political and economic system. However, it still retains its British heritage, especially the English names of streets and public cultural events, such as horse racing. In Hong Kong, one feels a sense of being in a very modern city because of the high efficiency of its transport system and its being one of the major financial and tourist centers in Hong Kong. Asia, but rarely referred to as the capital of fashion or art, although it is also at the level of Asia.



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