Discussion Prompts
HashimaXR Learning Resource

These prompts can be used for classroom discussion, written reflection, or small group work. Select prompts appropriate to your context and learning objectives.

For Any Session

• What is the difference between a project that fails for technical reasons and one that fails because of political resistance? Why does the distinction matter?

• The project team chose not to release a compromised version of HashimaXR. Was this the right decision? What would have been gained or lost by releasing a version without the critical historical content?

• How do you distinguish between legitimate institutional caution and soft gatekeeping? Is there a bright line, or is it contextual?

On Heritage and Memory

• Who has the authority to define what counts as a site's 'real' history? How is that authority established and contested?

• What is the relationship between heritage tourism and historical accountability? Can they coexist, or are they in tension?

• The UNESCO World Heritage Committee expressed 'strong regret' at Japan's interpretive failures but has no enforcement mechanism. What does this suggest about international heritage governance?

On Digital Media

• Does immersive media have different ethical obligations than other forms of historical representation? Why or why not?

• How might you design an XR experience that makes absence or silence legible to users, rather than filling in all the gaps?

• What would it mean for a digital heritage project to practice 'interpretive accountability'?

On Transferability

• What other contested heritage sites face similar dynamics? What patterns recur?

• How might the 'archive of obstruction' framework apply to cases beyond Hashima — in other countries, other periods, other types of contested history?

• If you were advising a project team beginning work on a contested heritage site, what would you tell them based on this case study?