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Population

12 million

Currency

Egyptian Pound - EGP

1 EGP = 100 Piaster

Opening hours

Generally 9 am-6 pm, but will vary slightly for each business or museum.

Internet

www.cairotourist.com

www.cairolive.com

Newspapers

Egyptian Gazette

Cairo Times

Middle East Times

Progrès Egyptien

Emergency numbers

Police: 122

Fire Service: 125

Ambulance: 123

Tourist Police: 126, +20 2 391 9144

Tourist information

Cairo Tourist Office

Address: 5 Sharia Adly, near Midan Opera

Hours: 8:30 am-8 pm (9am-5pm during Ramadan)

Tel: +20 2 391 3454

CAIRO

PUBLISHING DATE: **2012-05-16** | COUNTRY CODE: **EG**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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Cairo is a bustling, chaotic city, whose charm and intrigue are marked by its disarray. Put aside your watch and your schedule and enjoy the ride to wherever this city will lead you!

THE CITY



© Ed Yourdon

Long considered to be the jewel of the orient, Cairo is an international city overflowing with an interesting mixture of different cultures. It is a city steeped in the early civilizations of the ancient pharaohs, blended with the history of Christian and Islamic cultures. It is all brought together by the modern sights and luxuries of a sophisticated and cosmopolitan city.

The great pyramids of Giza are the most famous attractions in Cairo. But there are many delightful places to experience and explore, from the mosques of Islamic Cairo to the churches of Coptic Cairo, or to the Jewish community of Cairo. Be prepared for an expansive history lesson and cultural education of the religious and cultural blending that have taken place in this fascinating city.

Cairo also swells with markets and bazaars to explore. Drink in the flavour of everyday life of the denizens of this metropolis. And for the chic visitor, there are luxury hotels and boutiques to explore for unforgettable jewellery, clothes and antiques. The extensive array of international cuisine that marks this city provides a taste for whatever any traveller may desire, and of course the option to experience the delicious and unforgettable cuisine of Egypt.



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DO & SEE



© Carl Ottersen

The Pyramids at Giza have been the longtime favourite tourist attraction of greater Cairo, but with the rich textured religious history of this city, there are many sights and areas of town worth exploring.

The Pyramids of Giza

On the outskirts of Cairo, these pyramids are the sole survivors of the Seven Wonders of the World. The archeological site on the Giza Plateau is called the Giza Necropolis, and includes, apart from the three pyramids, the sculpture of the Sphinx and several cemeteries.

Address: Pyramids of Giza

Tickets: Admission to the larger Pyramids is limited to 300 people per day. 150 tickets are released for sale at 8am, the remaining 150 are released at 1 pm.

More Info: Western edge of Cairo, 10 km from downtown.

Solar Boat Museum (at the Pyramids of Giza)

Houses the barques (boats) that were most likely used to bring the mummies of dead Pharaohs across the Nile to the temple tomb chambers.

Address: Solar Barque museum, Great Pyramid
More Info: South side of the Great Pyramid

Egyptian Museum

More than 12,000 artefacts from every period of Egyptian history are housed in this sprawling structure.

Address: Tahrir Square

The Citadel

A series of palaces and mosques which housed Egyptian rulers for more than 700 years make up a compound which offers fabulous views of the city.

Address: Sharia Salah Salem, Al-Qalaa

Museum of Islamic Art

This sometimes overlooked museum houses one of the world's finest collections of Islamic Art. The museum holds a collection of over 10,000 pieces, mainly Egyptian, but also from elsewhere in the Islamic world. The exhibits show every era of development, from Ummayyad to Abbasid, Fatimid, Ayyubid, and Mamluk works. There are all kinds of artworks, including woodwork, stucco, intarsia, ceramics, glass, metalwork, textiles, and carpets.

Address: Bab El Khalk Square
Phone: +20 2 390 15 20

Coptic Cairo

This compound is home to Egypt's Christian community as well as being the oldest area of Cairo. It is a wonderfully interesting place to explore the juxtaposition of an ancient Christian community in an Islamic country.

Address: Coptic Cairo
More Info: Southern part of the East Bank of the Nile

Coptic Museum

This museum dating from 1908 is home to Coptic Art from Greco-Roman times to the Islamic era.

Address: Sharia Mar Giris
Phone: Director: +20 2 3628766 / Operator: +20 2 3639742

The New Camel Market

About 35 km northwest of Cairo, Egypt's Largest Camel Market - Birqash Camel Market is held. This is a wild sight to behold. Sudanese traders haggle over the sale of camels in a carnival-esque atmosphere. The best day to visit is supposed to be Friday. Get there in the morning, between 7.00-11.00 is the best time.

It is difficult to find so arrange transport through a travel agency or your hotel. This market used to take place in Imbaba but is now moved to the suburb of Birqash, which is at the edge of the Western Desert.

Address: Birqash, Western Desert

Northern Cemetery / City of the Dead

An unusual area where thousands of Cairo natives, both living and dead are "housed". The popular ancient routine of building entertainment rooms alongside of the tombs, have become spaces inhabited by transients.

Address: Salah Salem Road
More Info: North end of Salah Salem Road, Islamic Cairo

EATING



© Tim

There is a limitless array of international cuisine to choose from in every price range in Cairo. This is definitely not a place where you need to worry about going hungry! There are several different neighbourhoods in Cairo, hence the neighbourhood location for each restaurant is listed after the address. This will be important to know when taking a taxi.

Justine's

An elegant, formal French restaurant, with delightful cuisine, widely considered one of the best in the city.

Address: 4 Hassan Sabry, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 341 29 61 / +20 2 736 29 61

El Morocco

Housed on the Blue Nile Boat, moored off Zamalek, this exclusive restaurant/club serving sumptuous North African cuisine. Boasts stunning views of the city from an outdoor lounge.

Address: 9 Saray El Gezira, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 735 31 14

Abou el-Sid

A sumptuous, languorously sensual Oriental inspired décor with equally impressive food. Home-style Egyptian cuisine dominates the menu, with authentic dishes that are difficult to find elsewhere.

Address: 157 Sharia 26th of July, Zamalek
Subway: Metro to Nasser
Phone: +20 2 735 96 40
Internet: www.abouelsid.com

La Bodega

An excellent restaurant serving unique Middle Eastern dishes as well as creative international cuisine set in a lavish décor. The elegant cocktail lounge has its own cigar humidor.

Address: 157 Sharia 26th of July, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 735 05 43 / +20 2 735 67 61
Internet: www.labodegaegypt.com

Flux

One of Cairo's most chic and trendy restaurants. Unique, inventive cuisine that is a Middle-Eastern/Pacific Rim fusion, served in a stylish atmosphere.

Address: 2 Sharia Gameat al-Nasr, Mohandeseen
Phone: +20 2 338 66 01

L'Aubergine

Eternally one of Cairo's most popular restaurants. The menu changes frequently, but is always inventive and a reliably good mixture of western and Egyptian cuisine.

Address: 5 Shar'a Sayed al-Bakry, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 340 65 50

Felfela Restaurant

A buzzing restaurant equally popular with locals and tourists. Funky décor make for a lively environment and all-Egyptian food make this eatery well-deserving of its popularity.

Address: 15 Sharia Hoda Shaarawi, Downtown
Phone: +20 2 392 28 33

Egyptian Pancake House

One of the few easily accessible eateries in the Islamic area of town. As evident by the name, this restaurant specializes in the delightful Egyptian style, flaky pastry-pizzas.

Address: Midan Hussein, Khan al-Khalili
Phone: +20 2 5746 5465

CAFES



© Ed Yourdon

There are both Western style and Egyptian cafés in Cairo. Tourists might feel most comfortable at the Western style cafés, as the Egyptian cafés are very traditional and only patronized by men. Fishawi, the first café listed, is an Egyptian style coffee house that is famous and frequented by all types of people, so tourists will feel comfortable while still getting to experience the local café flavour.

Fishawi

One of Cairo's oldest and most famous tea houses, that has been managed by the same family and has been open 24 hours a day since 1773. A traditional Egyptian style tea house, also known as an ahwa, popular with both locals and tourists for fantastic people-watching.

Address: El-Fishawi Alley, Khan al-Khalili, Old Cairo
Phone: +20 2 590 67 55 / +20 2 428 84 59

Harris Café

A pleasant café with outdoor seating, good sandwiches and other small meals as well as the typical coffee and tea options. Open 24 hours.

Address: 7 Sharia Baghdad, Heliopolis
Phone: +20 2 417 67 96

Beano's

A U.S. Starbucks-esque style coffee house, but with more character and better coffee than its source of inspiration. Also serves delightful pastries, snacks and ice cream.

Address: 8 Sheikh al-Marsafy, Zamalek

Phone: +20 2 735 05 76

Cilantro

A stylish, trendy Continental style café with a wide range of sandwiches, salads and snacks, as well as good coffee and pastries.

Address: 157 Sharia 26th of July, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 736 11 15

Simonds

Cairo's only authentic Italian café, serving the best cappuccino in the city, as well as fresh fruit juices and delicious pastries.

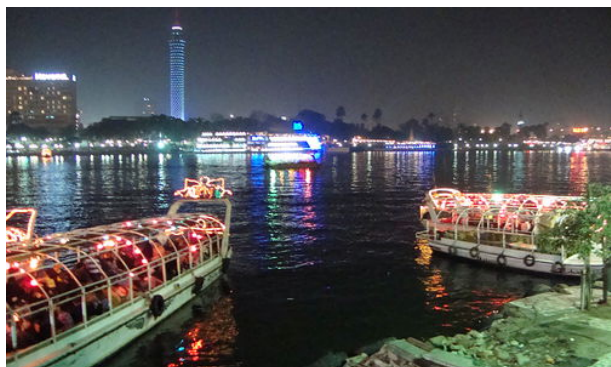
Address: 112 Sharia 26th of July, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 735 94 36

El-Abd

This café serves the best Egyptian pastries in Cairo and is eternally crowded for a delightful taste of local life.

Address: Sharias 26th of July and Sherif, Downtown
Phone: +20 2 393 77 70

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Vasenka

There are two main types of bars in Cairo: traditional Egyptian style bars, known as “caf terias” and typical Western style bars. The “caf terias” have solely male customers and serve small plates of food. Both men and women are welcome and will feel comfortable and at ease in the Western style bars, which often serve food as well.

There is a pulsing variety of vivacious nightlife in Cairo. Most of the large, upscale hotels have nightclubs attached to them, and most of these are a safe bet for a good night out.

Pub 28

A cozy Western-style bar with a neighbourhood feel to it. Popular with the over 30 crowd.

Address: 28 Shagaret El Dorr, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 735 92 00

Deals

A typical British pub with a contemporary twist. Popular with a younger set who enjoy lively, boisterous venues.

Address: 5 El-Sayed el-Bakri, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 736 05 02
Internet: www.dealspub.com

Le Tabasco

A stylish, sophisticated bar with good music and nibbles. It is used by the hip Cairo clubbers for a pre-clubbing venue because of its fun, festive

atmosphere.

Address: 8 Midan Amman, Doqqi
Phone: +20 2 336 55 83

Windows on the World

A luxurious, sophisticated bar with expensive cocktails and an enforced dress code. Breathtaking panoramic views of the city, particularly delightful at sunset.

Address: 1115 Corniche El Nil
Phone: +20 2 577 74 44
More Info: Ramses Hilton, 36th Floor, Downtown

Jackie’s

An exclusive club with a very strict door policy, located in the Nile Hilton. With frequent celebrity DJs, this one of Cairo’s better discos, but you must be well-heeled and stylish to make it past the bouncer!

Address: Nile Hilton, Midan Tahrir
Phone: +20 2 578 04 44

Absolute

Popular with the young, trendy and beautiful people of Cairo. The good music and sultry d cor make this club worth a visit.

Address: 8 Amman Square, Dokki
Phone: +20 2 349 73 26

Cairo Jazz Club

This sleek club is a popular venue with Cairo’s ultra-chic youths. An excellent variety of hip jazz is played, which changes almost nightly.

Address: 197 26th of July, Agouza
Phone: +20 2 3345 99 39 / +20 1 6880 47 64
Internet: www.cairojazzclub.com

Coco Jungle

A fun, funky club with a lavish jungle inspired d cor. Salsa classes, theme nights and couples-only nights dominate the schedule, so it is wise to check ahead of time.

Address: Saray el-Gezira Street, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 340 67 30
More Info: Le Pacha 1901 boat

Belly Dancing

Cairo is the capital of belly dancing, so it is worth taking in a show while here. Most of the 5-star hotels have belly dancing shows, and another favourite is:

Petit Palmyra

This elegant, cavernous club with silk upholstery and marble floors puts on one of the best nightly belly dancing shows in the city.

Address: 27 Al-Ahram Street
Phone: +20 2 417 17 20
More Info: Make a reservation!

SHOPPING



© Filip Maljković

Cairo is a wonderland of shopping, with the endless souqs to explore, as well as the sophisticated high-end shops that exist in most of the 5-star hotel arcades. It is always expected that you will bargain over prices in the markets, and in most shops bargaining is also widely practiced. Most shopkeepers give discounts if you buy more than one item, and give a greater discount with each additional item that you buy.

Kahn al Khalili, a bazaar dating from the 14th century, is the largest and most famous souq in all of Cairo. A good place to go for local culture and people-watching as well as for souvenirs and trinkets. The Street of the Tentmakers is Cairo's only remaining medieval covered market. This is a good place to shop for

traditional printed fabrics. (Located in Islamic Cairo, at the north end of Al-Khayamiya street)

Cairo is an excellent place to buy traditional arts, crafts, and glassware, as well as Nubian pieces. Marketing Link - 27 Yehia Ibrahim, Apt. 8, Zamalek +20 2 2736 51 23 www.egyptcrafts.com - is a fair trade store with handmade items from all over the Middle East. Head to the Midan Libnan area (Mohandiseen) for upscale clothing and furniture stores, and to Zamalek, an area popular with foreign nationals for a variety of elegant shops. Sharia Gam'at al-Duwal al-'Arabiya (Mohandiseen) is an up-and-coming strip-mall area for those nostalgic for the familiarity of Western style, neon shopping arcades.

Gold and silver are also popular purchases in Cairo. The Gold Market area is in the souq of Kahn al Khalili, along Al Muizz li-Din Allah and Sikket al-Badestan streets. Gold tends to be sold for similar prices as elsewhere in the world, but silver is a particularly good bargain in Cairo. Go to Mohammed Amin Silver - 70 Al-Muizz li-Din Allah +20 2 2592 12 14 - for unusual antique pieces from around the Middle East, and try George Aziz (14 Sikket al-Badestan, Khan al-Khalili souq) for contemporary silver styles.

SLEEPING



© flyvancity

Most establishments in Cairo are happy to take any of the three used currencies - Euros, U.S. Dollars or Egyptian Pounds.

Nile Hilton

Cairo's oldest luxury hotel has a prime central location just next to the Egyptian Museum. The shady terrace is a wonderful place for breakfast and the hotel café is a social hub for locals as well as tourists.

Address: 1113 Corniche El Nil, Midan Tahirir
Phone: +20 2 577 74 44
Internet: www.hilton.com

Oberoi Mena House

An old hunting lodge that has been converted into an opulent luxury hotel. Situated directly next to the pyramids for some of the most stunning views in Cairo.

Address: Pyramid's Road, Giza
Phone: +20 2 33 77 32 22 / +20 2 33 76 66 44
Internet: www.oberoihotels.com

Horus House

A small, exceptionally clean and well run hotel housed in a converted apartment block. Excellent, friendly service at this family establishment that immediately makes you feel at home.

Address: 21 Ismail Mohammed, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 736 06 94
Internet: www.horushousehotel.4t.com
More Info: 4th Floor

Windsor Hotel

This former British Officers' Club retains its regal, colonial air for a taste of history. A wide variety of rooms are available, and the lounge bar is a fabulous place to relax and soak up the atmosphere.

Address: 19 Alfi Bey Street
Phone: +20 2 591 58 10
Internet: www.windsorcairo.com

Pension Roma

Antique furniture and hardwood floors define the old world feel of this elegant pension.

Address: 169 Mohamed Farid ST. Cairo, Egypt
Phone: +20 2 391 10 88 / +20 2 2391 13 40
Internet: www.pensionroma.com.eg

Mayfair Hotel

A small tranquil hotel with a peaceful, leafy breakfast terrace. Centrally located, boasting rooms with air-conditioning.

Address: 9 Aziz Osman, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 735 73 15
Internet: www.mayfaircairo.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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FOREX BANK

Exchange Office

There are more fun things to do on your holiday than look for exchange offices or ATMs. Exchange your currency before you leave and get time to do things that you really want. At Forex Bank you can always buy foreign currency free of charge, at hours that suits you. For more info about Forex Bank visit our website or click:

<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

Cairo International Airport is located 25 km northeast of the city centre. There are 2 terminals: Terminal II is the new terminal and services most international flights, while Terminal I, the old terminal, is the hub for EgyptAir and services both their domestic and international flights. There are large official taxis (called "limousines") that charge a fixed rate of £46 for a trip to the city centre. A taxi for the same ride

should cost £35, but will involve some heavy haggling, so the official taxi may be the easier option.

There are two city busses and a mini-bus that takes you to and from the Airport. Bus number 356 is the designated airport service, which is a large white, air conditioned, luxury coach. It runs to the city centre at Midan Abdel Moniem Riad (behind the Egyptian museum) and costs £2, plus £1 per large luggage item. Local bus No 400 (25pt) also goes to the city centre, as well as minibus No 27 (50pt). The bus stand is at the far end of the car park.

Phone: Terminal one: +20 2 265 33 08 / Terminal two: +20 2 268 42 48
Internet: www.cairo-airport.com

Public transport

The local buses are like a carnival ride, as they rarely come to a full stop to let passengers on and off! There is a mini-bus that has set routes like the normal bus, but they are smaller and carries fewer passengers, but on the other hand -actually stops properly to let people on and off!

Taxi

Taxis are inexpensive in Cairo, and the way that most tourists navigate the city. It is important to fix a price before you get into a taxi, and always haggle over the price. Attempting to take advantage of naive tourists is a favourite pastime of Cairo taxi drivers.

Post

The Central Post Office is located at Midan Ataba and is open 7am-7pm.

Address: Midan Ataba

Hospitals

Both of these hospitals are open 24 hours:

The Anglo-American Hospital

Address: Sharia Hadayek al-Zuhreyya, Geriza

Phone: +20 2 735 61 62

The As-Salam International Hospital
Address: 3 Sharia Syria, Mohandiseen
Phone: +20 2 302 90 91

Pharmacy

Al-Esa'af Pharmacy has 24 hour service. Please call for advice and for more information.

Address: 27-26 th of July Street, Zamalek
Phone: +20 2 574 33 69

Dentist

The best emergency dental care is found in hospitals in Cairo, try the Anglo-American Hospital.

Address: Sharia Hadayek al-Zuhreyya, Geriza
Phone: +20 2 735 61 62

Telephone

Country Code: +20

Area Code: 02

Electricity

220V AC, 50 Hz

6 October Bridge	A1 B1	Shari Abdel Khaliq Sarwat	B1 C1	Shari Khairat	C3 C4
El Tahrir Bridge	A2 B2	Shari Abdel Qadir Hamza	B3	Shari Latin America	B3
Falaki Square	C2	Shari Adly	C1	Shari Maglis El Sha'ab	B3 C3
Gamal El Din Abou Mahasen	A3 B3	Shari Ahmed Omar	D3 D4	Shari Mansur	C2 C3
Gumhuriya Square	C2 D2	Shari Champolion	B1 C1	Shari Mohammed Bassiuni	B1 B2
Mustafa Kamel Square	C1	Shari Clot Bey	D1	Shari Mohammed Quaudi	D4
Opera Square	D1	Shari Corniche El Nil	A3 B1 B2 B3	Shari Mohammed Sabri Abu El 'Alam	C2
Sahri Abdel Aziz	D1 D2	Shari Corniche Saiyalet El Roda	A4	Shari Nasta	C3
Sahri El Gezira	A1 A2	Shari Dar El Shifa	A4 B4	Shari Nubar Pasha	C3 C4
Sahri El Nasriya	C3 C4 D3	Shari El Bustan	B2 C2	Shari Nur El Zalam	D4
Sahri El Sheikh Rihan	B2 B3	Shari El Falaki	B3 B4 C2 C3	Shari Port Said	B4 C4 D3 D4
Sahri El Zahra	B2 C2	Shari El Ga'la	B1	Shari Ramses	B1 B2
Sahri Gezira Garden	B3	Shari El Gumhuriya	D1	Shari Rushdi	C2 D2
Sahri Nubar Pasha	A3	Shari El Malik Abd El Aziz Su'ud	A4	Shari Sam El Barudi	D2
Sahri Qasr El Nil	C2 C3	Shari El Qala'a	D2	Shari Sherif	C1 C2
Sahri Saoqaiyin	B2 C1	Shari El Qasr El Aini	B3 B4	Shari Tal'at Harb	B2 C1 C2
Sahri Sheikh Mohammed Farid	C3 D3	Shari El Sheikh Ali Yusef	B4	Shari Ysef El Gendi	B3 C2
Sahri Sheikh Mohammed Mahmud	C3	Shari El Sheikh Rihan	B3 C3 D3	Square Ataba	D1
Shari 26 July	C2 C3	Shari Huda Shatawi	C2	Tahrir Square	B2
Shari 6 October	C1 D1	Shari Imad El Din	C1 C2	Tal'at Harb Square	C2
	A1 B1	Shari Ismail Abaza	B3		