



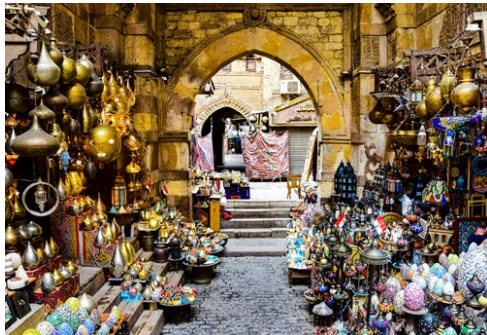
Cairo

Photo: Kanuman/Shutterstock

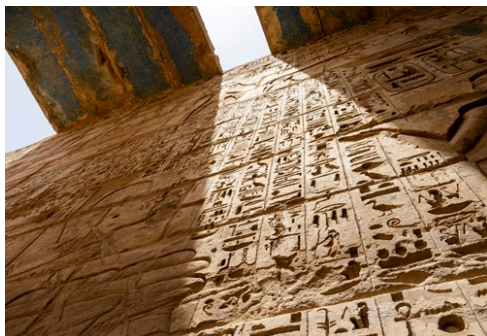


FrentaN/Shutterstock

Long considered the jewel of the Orient, Cairo is a city shaped by ancient civilisations and steeped in Islamic and Christian history. A place of ancient tombs, dusty bookshops, rooftop sunsets, and late-night falafel—where the past lives on in crowded streets and quiet corners. Cairo is messy, magical, and impossible to forget.

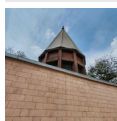


AXP Photography/Unsplash



tmp/ Shutterstock

Featured



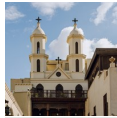
Nilometer
This ancient structure was built to measure the Nile's water level during fl...



Cairo Opera House
This is the city's main venue for music, dance, and theatre — home to the Ca...



Mosque of Muhammad Ali
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The Hanging Church
One of Cairo's oldest churches, the Hanging Church dates back to the third c...



Ibn Tulun Mosque
Step into this vast 9th-century mosque and you'll find sunlit courtyards, we...

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On the edge of Cairo, the Giza Necropolis is home to the last remaining wond...



Alexandria Day Trip From Cairo
If you've got a day to spare, spend it exploring Egypt's second city by the ...



Saqqara Necropolis
Wander through one of Egypt's oldest and most active archaeological sites, a...



Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)
Set near the Pyramids and overlooking the Giza Plateau, this massive new mus...



Al-Azhar Mosque
Al-Azhar Mosque isn't just one of Cairo's oldest mosques — it's also the cen...

THE CITY



Omar Elsharawy/Unsplash

Cairo's history runs deep — not just in centuries, but in layers. The city grew out of ancient settlements like Memphis and Fustat, expanded under Islamic dynasties, and evolved into the sprawling capital we see today. It's a place where Pharaonic, Christian, Islamic, and colonial histories overlap — sometimes on the very same street.

While the Pyramids steal the spotlight, the real story of Cairo lives in its older quarters: the mosques of Islamic Cairo, the churches of Coptic Cairo, and the fading synagogues that hint at a once-diverse population. These aren't just relics — many are still in use, woven into the rhythms of daily life.

Cairo can feel overwhelming — loud, crowded, intense — but that energy is part of its identity. It's a city in motion, constantly shifting, yet still marked by every era it's lived through.

DO & SEE



Parilov/Shutterstock

Most people come for the Pyramids — and fair enough — but there's a lot more to Cairo if you give it time. The museums are packed with history, the mosques are architectural landmarks, and neighbourhoods like Coptic Cairo or Islamic Cairo offer a deeper look into the city's layers.

Having said that, Cairo can feel intense at times — the traffic is wild, and around the big sights, you'll probably get approached by more 'guides' than you would like. Just stay aware, be patient, and you'll still find plenty worth discovering in this fascinating city.

Giza Necropolis & The Great Sphinx of Giza



On the edge of Cairo, the Giza Necropolis is home to the last remaining wonder of the ancient world — the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

Alongside it stand the pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure, part of a vast complex that includes tombs, causeways, temples, and smaller pyramids built for queens and nobles. The scale alone is enough to stop you in your tracks.

Just below the pyramids sits the Great Sphinx of Giza — carved from a single piece of limestone,

with the body of a lion and the face of a pharaoh, likely Khafre. At around 73 metres long and 20 metres high, it's one of the largest sculptures in the world.

Photo: AlexAnton/Shutterstock
Address: Al Haram, Giza
Opening hours: Daily 6am-4pm

Alexandria Day Trip From Cairo



If you've got a day to spare, spend it exploring Egypt's second city by the sea. Alexandria feels like a world apart from Cairo — cooler, breezier, and

full of Mediterranean character. Wander through Roman ruins, stroll the corniche, check out the modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and stop by the Citadel of Qaitbay. It's an easy change of pace, with plenty of history, sea views, and fresh air.

Photo: AlexAnton/Shutterstock

Saqqara Necropolis



Wander through one of Egypt's oldest and most active archaeological sites, about an hour south of Cairo. Saqqara is best known for the Step

Pyramid of Djoser — the earliest pyramid ever built — but there's a lot more to see. Recent excavations have uncovered dozens of tombs, statues, and mummies, some as recently as a few years ago. Don't miss the Tomb of Mehu, now open after a long restoration — its colourful wall carvings are surprisingly well preserved.

Photo: hemro/Shutterstock
Address: Badrshein, Giza
Internet:
<https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/archaeological-sites/saqqara>

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)



Set near the Pyramids and overlooking the Giza Plateau, this massive new museum is built to tell the full story of ancient Egypt — all under one roof. It

will house the complete Tutankhamun collection, including many pieces never seen by the public before.

Photo: Maciek Grabowicz/Shutterstock
Address: Alexandria Desert Road, Kafr Nassar, Al Haram, Giza
Opening hours: Sun-Tue 8:30am-7pm, Wed 8:30am-10pm, Thu & Fri 8:30am-7pm, Sat 8:30am-10pm
Phone: +20 2 35317344
Internet: <https://visit-gem.com/en/home>

Al-Azhar Mosque



Al-Azhar Mosque isn't just one of Cairo's oldest mosques — it's also the centre of Sunni Islamic learning, going back to 970 AD. The building

shows layers of history with its mix of styles from centuries of change. When you visit, you'll spot all kinds of details in the stonework and decorations that tell that story.

Photo: Syaifur Rohman/Shutterstock
Address: El-Darb El-Ahmar, El Gamaliya, Cairo

Egyptian Museum



Dive into thousands of years of history at this classic museum just off Tahrir Square. It's packed with statues, mummies, coffins, and

everyday objects from across ancient Egypt. Some of the big-ticket items — like

Tutankhamun's famous mask — are being moved to the new Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, but there's still loads to explore here.

The building's a bit old-school, with dusty cases and handwritten labels, but that's part of the charm. Bring a guide or download an audio tour to get the full story behind what you're seeing.

Photo: Naemolia/Unsplash
Address: El-Tahrir Square, Ismailia, Qasr El Nil, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm
Phone: +20 2 25796948
Internet: <https://egyptianmuseumcairo.eg>
Email: egyptianmuseum@moantiq.gov.eg

Mosque-Madrasa of Sultan Hassan



Discover one of Cairo's most dramatic buildings — the Mosque-Madrasa of Sultan Hassan. It's massive, quiet, and built to impress. Inside, the stone walls rise up around a central courtyard, and the whole place feels heavy with history. Built in the 14th century as both a mosque and religious school, it's still one of the city's architectural standouts.

Photo: AlexAnton/Shutterstock
Address: El-Refaey, El-Darb El-Ahmar, El Khalifa, Cairo
Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/monuments/mosque-and-madrasa-of-sultan-hasan>

The Hanging Church



One of Cairo's oldest churches, the Hanging Church dates back to the third century and sits above a gatehouse of the old Roman

fortress—that's where it gets its 'hanging' name. Inside, you'll find a wooden roof shaped like

Noah's Ark, ancient icons, and a calm vibe that feels a world away from the city's chaos.

Photo: Vasyliisa Dvoichenkova/Shutterstock
Address: Ibrahim Ali, Kom Ghorab, Old Cairo, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 9am-4pm

Saladin Citadel



This fortress complex held Egyptian rulers for over 700 years and includes several palaces and mosques. Wander the grounds to get a feel for

Cairo's history and enjoy wide views of the city from the ramparts.

Photo: AlexAnton/Shutterstock
Address: Al Abageyah, El Khalifa, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 8am-4:30pm
Phone: +20 2 25121735
Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/archaeological-sites/cairo-citadel>

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization



Explore Egypt's long story at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, the first museum in the country and the Arab world to

showcase the full range of Egyptian civilisation's richness and diversity. Don't skip the Royal Mummies Hall, where you'll find actual mummies of some famous pharaohs. It's a bit eerie but totally worth a look.

Photo: Jean-Baptiste Toussaint/Shutterstock
Address: Ein as Seirah, Old Cairo, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm
Internet: <https://nmec.gov.eg>
Email: info@nmec.gov.eg

Ibn Tulun Mosque



Step into this vast 9th-century mosque and you'll find sunlit courtyards, weathered stucco arches, and a spiral minaret that winds

up like a ramp. Climb to the top for a surprisingly quiet view over Cairo's rooftops. The Ibn Tulun Mosque isn't flashy, but that's part of what makes it so striking — the space, the stillness, the sense of time just sitting in the air.

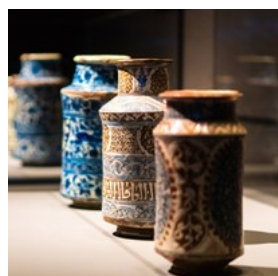
Photo: AlexAnton/Shutterstock

Address: Ahmed Ibn Tolon Square, Tolon, El Sayeda Zeinab, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-4pm

Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/monuments/ahmad-ibn-tulun-mosque>

Museum of Islamic Art



Step into one of Cairo's most underrated museums, home to over 10,000 pieces from across the Islamic world. You'll find everything from

intricately carved wood and colourful ceramics to centuries-old textiles, metalwork, and glass. Most of the collection is Egyptian, but it also features rare pieces from Persia, Andalusia, and beyond.

Photo: Allison H. Smith/Shutterstock

Address: Port Said, Ghayt Al Adah, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +20 2 23901520

Internet: www.miaegypt.org

Prince Mohamed Ali Palace (Manial Palace)



Get a glimpse into royal life in modern Egypt at the Manial Palace, built by Prince Mohamed Ali in the early 1900s. The architecture is a bold mix

— Islamic, Ottoman, Persian, even Moroccan and Andalusian — with every room showing off intricate woodwork, tiles, and stained glass. The complex includes a mosque, hunting museum, throne hall, and beautifully kept gardens.

Photo: mohamed abdelzaheer/Shutterstock

Address: 1 Al Saraya, Al Manyal Ash Sharqi, Old Cairo, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/museums/manial-palace-museum>

Al-Azhar Park



Built on what was once a rubble dump, this green space now offers some of the best views of old Cairo. It's one of the few spots in the city where

you can stretch out on the grass, grab a coffee, or just take a break from the noise. There are a couple of restaurants, walking paths, and quiet corners perfect for photos or a picnic.

Photo: AlexAnton/Shutterstock

Address: 10 Salah Salem St, El-Darb El-Ahmar, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Phone: +20 2 25103868

Internet: <https://azharpark.com>

Email: info@azharpark.com

Coptic Cairo



Coptic Cairo is the heart of Egypt's Christian community and one of the oldest parts of the city. Here, you'll find churches, monasteries, and ancient streets that have stayed largely unchanged for centuries.

Photo: Oleg Znamenskiy/Shutterstock
Address: Coptic, Cairo

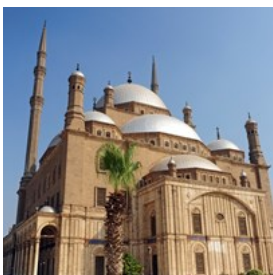
Coptic Museum



Set inside the walls of the old Babylon Fortress, this museum traces the history of Egypt's Coptic Christian community through art, manuscripts, and everyday objects. It covers a long stretch of time — from the Greco-Roman period through to the early Islamic era. The building itself is worth a look, with carved wooden ceilings, mashrabiya windows, and peaceful gardens spread over 8,000 square metres.

Photo: Ram Kay/Shutterstock
Address: 3 Mari Gerges, Kom Ghorab, Old Cairo, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm
Phone: +20 2 23628766
Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/museums/the-coptic-museum>

Mosque of Muhammad Ali



Sitting high inside the Saladin Citadel, this mosque is one of Cairo's most recognisable landmarks. Its large domes and Ottoman-style design stand out against the skyline, and the interior — with its high ceilings and hanging

lamps — feels just as impressive.

Photo: Nadja1/Shutterstock
Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/monuments/muhammad-ali-mosque>

City of the Dead

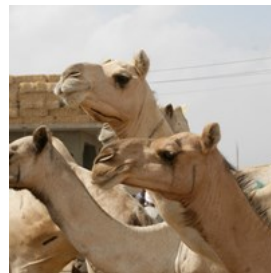


Despite its name, this isn't just a cemetery — it's a vast neighbourhood where thousands of people live alongside mausoleums and tombs.

The 'City of the Dead' refers to the large burial grounds, but it's very much alive, with families building rooms next to graves that have become permanent homes. Markets, mosques, and everyday streets thread through the area, offering a side of Cairo you won't find anywhere else.

Photo: muratart/Shutterstock

Birqash Camel Market



If you're up for something off the beaten path, the Birqash Camel Market is worth a visit. It's one of the biggest camel markets near Cairo,

where you can see locals trading animals in a way you won't find in the usual tourist spots.

It's about a 30-minute drive out of the city, so going with a local guide is a good idea — they know the place and can help you navigate the chaos. Just a heads-up: it's a pretty raw scene with animals being bought and sold, so if you're sensitive about that, it might not be your cup of tea.

Photo: AHMED Badrawi/Shutterstock

Address: Birqash, Western Desert, Cairo

More Info: It is held every Friday and Sunday, with the busiest trading hours between 6am and 9am

Cairo Opera House



This is the city's main venue for music, dance, and theatre — home to the Cairo Opera and Ballet Companies. The complex includes two

indoor halls and an open-air stage, hosting everything from classical concerts to modern plays. There are also regular art and photography exhibitions in the galleries.

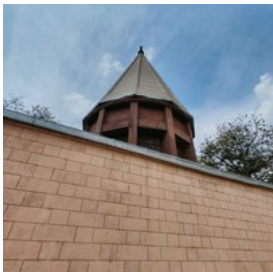
Photo: Victor V. Hoguns Zhugin/Shutterstock

Address: Gezira Street, Zamalek, Cairo

Phone: +20 2 27390188

Internet: www.cairoopera.org/en

Nilometer



This ancient structure was built to measure the Nile's water level during flood season and played a key role in predicting the year's harvest. It's tucked

away on Rawda Island in the Nile, close to central Cairo. In the evenings, large candles are lit nearby, giving the place a calm, almost magical feel.

Photo: Ashraf adel32/Shutterstock

Address: Al-Miqyas Street, Southern Tip of Al-Roda Island, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-3:45pm

Internet: <https://egymonuments.gov.eg/en/monuments/rawda-island-nilometer>

Alabaster Sphinx

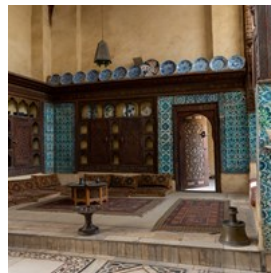


Just behind the ruins of Memphis, this 8-metre-long statue was carved from a single block of alabaster. It's smaller than the Giza Sphinx but still impressive up close. No one's entirely sure who it represents — maybe Hatshepsut or Amenhotep II — which just adds to the mystery. It's a quick stop, but worth it if you're already in the area.

Photo: WitR/Shutterstock

Address: Memphis, Cairo

Bayt al-Suhaymi



Hidden in the winding streets of old Cairo, this 17th-century Ottoman house features detailed woodwork, calm gardens, and rooms arranged around courtyards that show how families lived centuries ago.

Photo: Henri Martin/Shutterstock

Address: Al Moez Ldin Allah Al Fatmi

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +20 2 27878865

DINING



Sergii Koval/Shutterstock

Most travellers come to Cairo chasing history, not food, but don't let that stop you. Between the pyramids and the traffic jams, the city hides plenty of places worth slowing down for, whether it's a plastic bowl of koshari from a street cart or a quiet rooftop dinner by the Nile. Egyptian food is deeply regional, often homemade, and packed with flavour. You'll also find no shortage of international options if that's what you're after.

Cairo's dining scene has changed a lot over the past decade. These days, it's not unusual to find a family-run kitchen serving molokhiya right next to a sleek bistro with a tasting menu. Prices vary, service can be hit or miss, but when the food's good, it's really good.

Khufu's Restaurant



Khufu's is a modern Egyptian fine dining restaurant boasting what's probably the closest seat to the Great Pyramid you'll ever get.

You're paying as much for the setting as the food—yes, it's touristy, but done thoughtfully. Chefs take familiar Egyptian street dishes and rework them into cleaner, more refined versions, all while the oldest wonder of the world looms

just metres away.

Photo: Melnikov Dmitriy/Shutterstock

Address: Nazlet El-Semman, Al Haram, Giza

Opening hours: Daily 9am–4pm

Phone: +20 10 80058888

Internet: <https://khufus.com/khufus/>

Email: reservations@khufus.com

Fasahet Somaya



Fasahet Somaya is a tiny, home-style eatery near the Egyptian Museum, where chef Somaya Al-Asyoty cooks whatever she finds fresh at the

market that morning. There's no fixed menu—just a short list that changes daily, with dishes like molokhiya, stuffed pigeon, or sometimes slow-cooked lamb with unexpected twists.

The space is cosy and a little bohemian, with blue-and-white walls, a handful of tables, and an open kitchen where Somaya chats with guests while cooking. It truly feels more like eating in someone's home than a restaurant. Fasahet Somaya only runs for two hours a night—doors open at 5 pm, and she's usually sold out by 7 pm, so get there early.

Photo: hussein farar/Shutterstock

Address: 59 Al Falki, Bab Al Louq, Abdeen, Cairo

Opening hours: Sun–Fri. 5pm–7pm, Sat closed

Phone: +20 10 01741767

Internet: www.instagram.com/fasahetsomaya

Koshary About Tarek



Koshary About Tarek is, perhaps, the most famous place for koshary, Egypt's national dish. If you haven't tried it before, koshary is a mix of rice,

lentils and chickpeas, with macaroni and vermicelli noodles added in, all drenched in a tangy tomato sauce seasoned with lemon, vinegar, and chilli.

The story goes back to the 1950s, when Abou Tarek started selling it from a humble street cart in downtown Cairo. These days, it's loud, fast and a bit chaotic—but that's part of the charm. Treat yourself to big, flavour-packed bowls in a no-frills, cafeteria-style space. A local staple and a bit of a tourist rite of passage, it's ideal if you want something cheap, filling, and full of local character.

Photo: hussein farar/Shutterstock
Address: Marouf, Qasr El Nil, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 7am-midnight
Phone: +20 2 25775935
Internet: www.koshary-abouttarek.com

Zitouni



Located at the Four Seasons Hotel, Zitouni serves up traditional Egyptian dishes in a sophisticated dining room overlooking the Nile, with

a bit of Persian flair in the décor. The menu hits the staples — lentil soup, stuffed pigeon, lamb with okra, and molokhiya, a thick stew made from jute leaves. Save room for dessert — the selection is massive, and the kanafa is worth it. It's definitely on the pricier side, but the food and views make it a solid choice if you want a

proper Egyptian meal without roughing it.

Photo: hussein farar/Shutterstock
Address: 1089 Nile Corniche, Qasr El Nil, Cairo
Phone: +20 2 27916877
Internet: www.fourseasons.com/caironp/dining

Bab El-Sharq

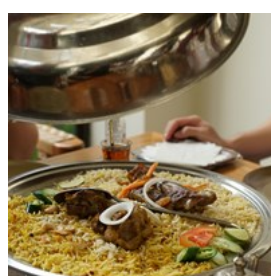


Bab El-Sharq is an elegant restaurant inside the Nile Ritz-Carlton offering classic Middle Eastern dishes in a dimly lit, wood-accented setting

that opens out onto garden views of the Egyptian Museum. Indulge in mezze, charcoal-grilled meats, and richer plates like shrimp-stuffed pigeon, with desserts like knafeh or mastic ice cream to finish. Evenings fill out with live music, belly dancing, and shisha, making it more of a night out than just dinner.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock
Address: Nile Corniche, Ismailia, Qasr El Nil, Cairo
Opening hours: Sat-Thu 5pm-1:30am, Fri 6pm-1:30am
Phone: +20 12 77233582
Internet: www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/cairz-the-nile-ritz-carlton-cairo/dining

Namaste Indian Restaurant



Inside the Ramses Hilton, Namaste does North Indian classics in a setting that's more relaxed than you might expect from a hotel.

There's an open kitchen where you can watch naan and tandoori dishes being made, and the space itself is simple but nicely done—wood floors, Indian artwork, and soft lighting. The menu covers all the usual hits: butter chicken, lamb biryani, dal makhani, plus a decent range of vegetarian options.

Photo: The Christian Sutheja/Shutterstock
Address: 1115 Nile Corniche, Sharkas, Bulaq, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 2pm-11pm
Phone: +20 10 64761111
Internet:
www.hilton.com/en/hotels/cairhtw-ramses-hilton/dining

O's Pasta



O's Pasta is a compact, cosy Italian spot in Zamalek—just a few tables, but big on flavour. Chef-owner Omar Barazzi (a former journalist) runs the place himself, whipping up around twenty different pastas using fresh Siwa olive oil, house-made mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes, and herbs. The menu mixes classics with inventive twists—from a creamy sun-dried tomato pesto and seafood pasta to a coconut-infused 'Lankan' curry-style dish. Portions are generous, the staff are friendly, and the place has a warm vibe with vintage wood furnishings and colourful walls.

Photo: Elena Yakusheva/Shutterstock
Address: 159 26th of July Zamalek, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily noon-1am
Phone: +20 2 27367404
Internet: www.instagram.com/ospasta

Fayruz Lebanese Restaurant



Found inside the InterContinental Cairo Citystars, Fayruz offers a traditional Lebanese dining experience. The menu features classic dishes like mezze, mixed grills, and freshly baked bread, complemented by live music and belly dancing in the evenings.

Photo: HelgaBragina/Shutterstock
Address: Omar Ibn El-Khattab, Masaken Al Mohandesin, Nasr City, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-1am
Phone: +20 2 24800009
Internet: www.instagram.com/fayruzrestaurant

Birdcage



Inside the luxurious Semiramis InterContinental, Birdcage offers some of the best Thai food in Cairo, with dishes like Tom Yum (hot and sour shrimp soup), Pad Thai, Gaeng Keow Wan (chicken in green curry), among other Thai staples — all in an opulent setting, with an open kitchen and attentive service.

Photo: ARENA Creative/Shutterstock
Address: Corniche El Nile, Qasr Ad Dobarah, Qasr El Nil, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily noon-midnight
Phone: +20 2 27988000
More Info: Semiramis InterContinental Hotel

Osmanly



A quiet spot inside the Kempinski Hotel, Osmanly does Ottoman-style cooking—dishes like Hünkar Beğendi (eggplant with braised meat), slow-cooked lamb shank, and a full spread of hot and cold mezzes. The setting's low-lit and warm, with terracotta walls and a calm, unhurried feel.

Photo: Iz89/Shutterstock
Address: 12 Ahmed Ragheb Street, Cairo
Opening hours: Daily 1pm-midnight
Phone: +20 2 27980000
Internet: www.kempinski.com/en/nile-hotel
Email: restaurant.cairo@kempinski.com

CAFÉS



YuliaKotina/Shutterstock

Cairo runs on caffeine—whether it's tiny shots of cardamom-laced Turkish coffee, steaming glasses of black tea, or trendy flat whites. While tea still reigns in many local homes and street corners, a new café culture has taken root across the city.

Here, you'll come across everything from traditional ahwas (coffeehouses) where regulars sip shisha and play backgammon, to cosy indie spots and chains offering oat milk lattes and cold brew.

And don't skip the sweets—many cafés serve up classic Egyptian treats alongside the coffee, from syrupy basbousa to flaky baklava and rich, gooey knafeh.

Sufi Cafe & Bookstore



Sufi Cafe & Bookstore sits on the first floor of an art-deco building in Zamalek and is exactly what it sounds like: a café and bookshop rolled into one. It's split into several small rooms, each with its own vibe—vintage walnut furniture, oriental lamps, dusty bookshelves, and framed art on the walls. Note that smoking is permitted throughout most areas—ask for the one dedicated quiet

room if that's a concern. Drinks are affordable, and while the food isn't the main draw, the cheesecake and Turkish coffee get solid praise.

Photo: Brandon J Hale/Shutterstock

Address: Mohammed Mazhar, Zamalek, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-midnight

Phone: +20 2 27381643

Internet: www.instagram.com/sufibookstoreandmore

Mandarine Koueider



Mandarine Koueider is a well-known chain, which has been around since 1923, famous for authentic Egyptian sweets and pastries. This one in Zamalek is stocked with all kinds of traditional treats like baklava, basbousa, and knafeh, alongside cakes and chocolates. It's more of a takeaway spot than a sit-down café—there's limited space to eat inside, so most people grab their goodies to go.

Photo: Towfiqu ahamed barbhuiya/Shutterstock

Address: 17 Shagaret Al Dor, Mohammed Mazhar, Zamalek, Giza

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +20 2 27355010

Internet: www.instagram.com/mandarine_koueider

Khan El Khalili Restaurant & Naguib Mahfouz Cafe



Tucked inside the bustling Khan El Khalili bazaar, Naguib Mahfouz Café offers a quiet, old-world escape from the crowds. Named after Egypt's Nobel Prize-winning author—whose portraits still hang on the walls—the café-restaurant serves classic Egyptian fare in a richly decorated space full of arches, brass

lanterns, and traditional charm. There's live oud music most evenings, tea and shisha on offer, and staff in galabeyas keeping things moving.

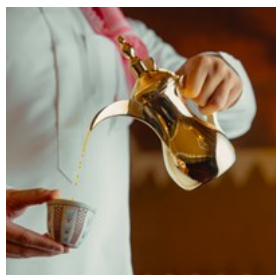
Photo: Ecanoguz/Shutterstock

Address: Al Moez Ldin Allah Al Fatmi, El-Gamaleya, El Gamaliya, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 10am-midnight

Phone: +20 2 25903788

Saudi Coffee Baiz



Saudi Coffee Baiz brings a genuine slice of Saudi culture to Cairo's café scene. Sitting right by the Nile in Zamalek, it's a relaxed spot to sip rich,

flavourful Saudi coffee and soak up a warm, welcoming atmosphere with clear nods to Saudi heritage in the decor. It's open from morning until late, so you can drop in whenever the mood strikes.

Photo: hussein farar/Shutterstock

Address: Boulaq Num.1, Bulaq, Cairo

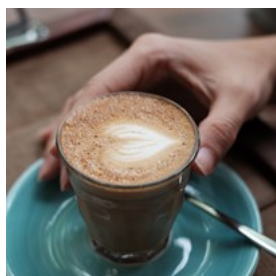
Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-3am

Phone: +20 11 49005008

Internet: <https://baizcoffee.com>

Email: info@baizcoffee.com

Beano's Cafe



Beano's Cafe helped usher in modern coffee culture to Cairo and still stands out for its friendly service, spacious interiors, and consistently

good coffee. Expect all the classics plus local favourites like the salted caramel latte, along with fresh juices, smoothies, and light bites ranging from pastries and sandwiches to salads and avocado toast.

Photo: mickk168/Shutterstock

Address: 8 Al Sheikh Al Marsafi Street, Zamalek, Cairo

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-midnight, Fri 7am-midnight

Phone: +20 2 33001887

Simonds



Simonds is an old-school café, established in 1898, and still going strong more than a century later. Known for its classic charm and wide

selection of sweets, it's a go-to spot for everything from Danish pastries and French gateaux to syrup-drenched basbousa and baklava. And we can't forget the cappuccino—it's one of the best in town.

Photo: Dina Saeed/Shutterstock

Address: 112 26th of July Corridor, Omar Al Khayam, Zamalek, Cairo

Phone: +20 2 7359436

Internet: www.simonds1898.com

El Abd



El Abd is a beloved Cairo institution, offering a mix of traditional Middle Eastern and

European-style pastries since 1952. The shop is always buzzing—a testament to its popularity and quality. Their selection is vast, from croissants and gateaux to classic Egyptian sweets like basbousa and knafeh. For ice cream lovers, El Abd's gelato—especially the pistachio and mango—rivals some of the best in Italy.

Photo: Viacheslav Lopatin/Shutterstock

Address: 25 Talaat Harb, Bab Al Louq, Qasr El Nil, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9am-midnight

Phone: +20 2 21600102

Internet: <https://elabdfoods.com/home>

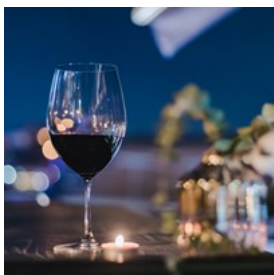
BARS & NIGHTLIFE



AlexAnton/Shutterstock

From low-lit pubs tucked into side streets to rooftop bars with Nile views, Cairo offers a laid-back but lively after-hours scene. Most places don't get going until late and stay open even later, especially on weekends. The biggest cluster is in Zamalek, but there's action scattered around Downtown and beyond. It's not a clubbing capital, but if you're after a cold drink, good music, and a warm buzz, Cairo delivers.

Carlton Roof Garden



Perched on the top floor of the vintage Carlton Hotel in Downtown Cairo, this rooftop bar offers a sweeping view of the High Court of Justice building lit up at night. It's a laid-back spot with local beer, wine, and shisha on offer, plus some food usually delivered from the Thai restaurant below.

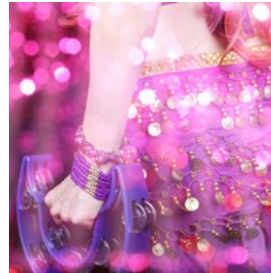
Photo: jongin won/Shutterstock

Address: 21, 26 July Street, Oraby, Al Azbakeya, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 7am-1am

Internet: www.instagram.com/carlton.downtown.cairo

Outdoors



Outdoors is a lively nightclub in Zamalek where you can grab a bite, sip a drink, and take in the river views. It's known for pairing dinner with live entertainment—bands, DJs, and the occasional belly dance show—all set against the Nile after dark.

Photo: LMPark Photos/Shutterstock

Address: Nile Maxim Boat, Saraya El Gezira, Omar Al

Khayam, Zamalek, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 10pm-5am

Phone: +20 12 23213906

Internet:

<https://maximrestaurants.com/our-restaurants/outdoors>

Crimson Bar & Grill



Crimson Bar & Grill sits on a rooftop in Zamalek by the Nile, offering one of the best elevated views in the neighbourhood.

The menu draws on Italian and Mediterranean influences, featuring seafood pasta, risotto, and fried calamari, which are complemented by local beers, wines, and their signature cocktails. Views at sunset make it a popular spot to unwind after a day exploring Cairo.

Photo: Food magic/Shutterstock

Address: Kamal Al Tawil, Mohammed Mazhar, Zamalek,

Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 8am-2am

Phone: +20 12 75055555

Internet: www.crimsoncairo.com

OPIA Lounge & Bar



OPIA Lounge & Bar sits high above Cairo on the 36th floor of the Ramses Hilton, with a panoramic view that stretches across the city and the Nile. The mood strikes a balance between sleek and atmospheric, with signature cocktails that nod to local flavours, sushi next to lamb chops, and a music lineup that shifts from DJs to live sax and the occasional belly dancer.

Photo: santypan/Shutterstock

Address: 1115 Nile Corniche, Floor 36th, Cairo

Internet: <https://opiacaairo.com>

Pub 28



Pub 28 sits quietly on a side street in Zamalek and has been around since the 1970s, with a loyal local following. Inside, it's snug and dim—just familiar faces and the occasional curious newcomers. The menu sticks to simple international dishes alongside local favourites, the drinks list is straightforward (cold beer, wine, cocktails), and there's live music now and then.

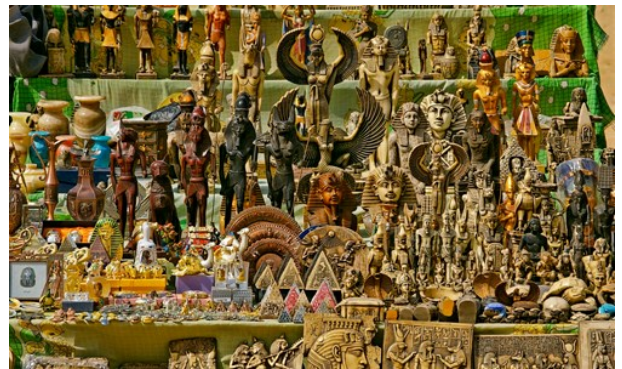
Photo: ChameleonsEye/Shutterstock

Address: 28 Shagaret Al Dor, Abu Al Feda, Zamalek, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily noon-2am

Phone: +20 2 27350972

SHOPPING



Thales Botelho de Sousa/Unsplash

Cairo offers a mix of shopping experiences, from sprawling souqs where bargaining is the norm, to more polished shops found in hotel arcades and upmarket neighbourhoods. In markets, expect to haggle—most sellers are happy to knock prices down, especially if you buy more than one item.

The biggest and most famous market is Khan el-Khalili, a 14th-century bazaar that's as much about soaking up local culture and people-watching as it is about souvenirs. Not far from there, the Street of the Tentmakers is the city's only remaining medieval covered market, where you can find traditional printed fabrics made on site.

If you're after gold jewellery, perfumes, incense, or traditional garments, Al Azhar Street near the mosque has rows of small shops perfect for souvenir hunting. For vintage lovers, the antique shops scattered around Downtown Cairo—especially near Champollion and Talaat Harb streets—offer old maps, colonial-era photos, and unique finds.

Khan el-Khalili Bazaar



Khan el-Khalili Bazaar is Cairo's most famous market, and probably the most chaotic one. This centuries-old souk is a labyrinth of alleyways packed with spices, silver, perfumes, traditional lamps, and handmade souvenirs. It's noisy, crowded, a bit overwhelming—but completely worth a wander, even if you're not planning to buy anything.

Haggling is expected, and some vendors can be persistent, but that's part of the experience. If you need a break, grab a mint tea at El Fishawy, one of the oldest cafés in the city, open all night.

Photo: Wan_RiTTeR/Shutterstock

Address: El-Gamaleya, El Gamaliya, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-midnight

Citystars Mall



Located near the airport, Citystars is one of Cairo's biggest malls. It's a typical modern setup with international brands, local shops, a big food court, and cinemas. Not much in the way of local character, but it's a convenient stop if you've just landed or need a break from the heat.

Photo: gpointstudio/Shutterstock

Address: 2 Omar Ibn El-Khattab, Masaken Al Mohandesin, Nasr City, Cairo

Opening hours: Sat-Wed 10am-10pm, Thu & Fri 10am-11pm

Phone: +20 2 24800800

Internet: www.instagram.com/citystars.official

Oum El Dounia Gallery



Just off Tahrir Square, this charming little shop is a good stop if you're after something more thoughtful than a mass-produced souvenir. It's got a well-curated mix of handmade crafts, homewares, textiles, and local artwork, along with a small book section focused on Egypt and the Arab world.

Photo: Curioso.Photography/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Talaat Harb, El-Tahrir Square, Cairo

Opening hours: Daily 10am-9pm

Phone: +20 2 23938273

Internet: www.instagram.com/oumeldounia

Mall of Egypt



Mall of Egypt is a sprawling indoor complex — the first shopping destination of its kind in Egypt — housing department stores, global fashion brands, electronics, a decent food court, plus a large VOX cinema and an indoor ski slope.

Photo: NDAB Creativity/Shutterstock

Address: El Wahat Road, First 6th of October, Giza

Opening hours: Sat-Wed 10am-11pm, Thu & Fri 10am-midnight

Phone: +20 2 36120084

Internet: www.mallofegypt.com

Souk Al-Khayamiya (Tentmakers Bazaar)



Just across from Bab Zuweila in Islamic Cairo, this narrow, covered street is lined with artisans who still practise the traditional craft of khayamiya—hand-stitched appliqué. It's the only

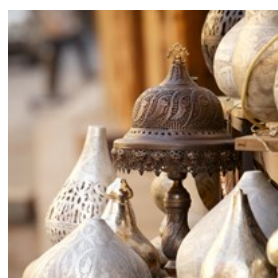
traditional covered market still in use in the city. You'll see workshops and stalls selling detailed tapestries, cushion covers, bedspreads, and wall hangings, all made on-site.

Photo: Giovanni Rinaldi/Shutterstock

Address: El-Darb El-Ahmar, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, Cairo

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun closed

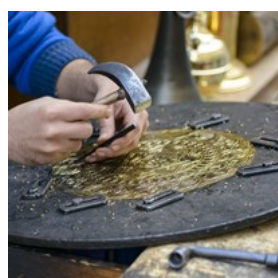
Shops in Zamalek



Set on an island in the Nile, Zamalek is one of Cairo's calmer, more walkable neighbourhoods—leafy, residential, and full of small surprises. It's home to a handful of boutiques worth checking out if you're into local design with a modern edge. Fair Trade Egypt stocks over a thousand ethically made handicrafts, Loft Gallery is an antique shop that mixes art with home décor, and Nefertari sells natural body products and Egyptian cotton.

Photo: elena moiseeva/Shutterstock

Souk El Fustat



If you're into traditional crafts and want to skip the bigger tourist crowds, Souk El Fustat in Old Cairo is worth a look. It's a small market where artisans still hand-make brassware, textiles, and woodwork—often right in front of you. It's quieter than Khan el-Khalili, with a more local feel and fewer souvenir stalls.

Photo: MidoSemsem/Shutterstock

Address: Al Kafour, Old Cairo, Cairo

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thu-Sun 10am-7pm

Internet: www.instagram.com/souq_elfustat

Mall of Arabia



Mall of Arabia is a massive shopping centre featuring a wide mix of international and local brands, a big food court, a movie theatre, and regular fountain shows in the open-air plaza.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock

Address: First 6th of October, Giza

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-10pm, Fri & Sat 9am-11pm

Phone: +20 2 35353121

Internet: www.instagram.com/mallofarabiacaio

TOURIST INFORMATION



Thea/Unsplash

Cairo International Airport (CAI)



Cairo International Airport (CAI) is about 22 km from the city centre, which usually takes around 30 to 45 minutes by car, depending on traffic. Travellers can reach the city using official airport taxis (make sure to agree on a fare or ensure the metre is used), ride-hailing apps, or pre-booked private transfers. Shuttle buses and public buses are also available; however, they take longer and are less luggage-friendly.

Photo: ImYanis/Shutterstock

Address: Cairo International Airport

Phone: +20 2 26966300

Internet: www.cairo-airport.com/en-us

Best Time to Visit



The best time to visit Cairo is in the cooler months, which go from October to April.

Summers here can get seriously hot — we're talking dry heat that sticks around well into the evening — so if you don't feel like sweating through every market stop and museum, it's better to avoid June to September.

Keep in mind that if you're visiting during Ramadan, many shops and restaurants may open later than usual or close during the day while locals fast. Be sure to plan ahead, as some tourist sites might also have shorter hours.

Photo: rosario janza/Unsplash

Passport/Visa



Egypt offers several visa options depending on the traveller's nationality and purpose of visit. Citizens from visa-exempt countries can enter

without a visa under specific conditions, such as nationals of the GCC (The Gulf Cooperation Council comprising six countries in the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) in certain cases. Most other travellers must obtain a visa prior to travel or upon arrival.

For tourism, many nationalities are eligible for an e-Visa, which can be applied for online

through the official Egyptian e-Visa portal. The process involves submitting personal and passport details, travel plans, and payment of the visa fee. The e-Visa is typically valid for 30 days and can be single or multiple entry, depending on the applicant's choice.

Additionally, travellers from certain countries — including the United States, Canada, Australia, EU member states, and more — may obtain a visa on arrival at major international airports in Egypt. This option requires payment in cash and is also valid for 30 days.

However, citizens of countries not eligible for either the e-Visa or visa on arrival must apply for a visa in advance at an Egyptian embassy or consulate. For longer stays, a different type of visa must be secured before travel. It is essential to consult Egypt's official immigration or consular sources to confirm the applicable requirements.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

Public Transport



Cairo's public transport mainly includes metro, buses and minibuses. The metro is the fastest and most reliable way for tourists to get around —

it's affordable, runs regularly, and covers key spots across the city.

Buses and minibuses run everywhere, but they can be chaotic and unpredictable. For that reason, many tourists prefer to stick to the metro or taxis.

There's a rechargeable Metro Card you can buy

for easy access, with fares that depend on distance. As for safety, the metro is generally fine during the day, but, like in any other big city, it's best to keep an eye on your belongings.

Photo: Victor V. Hoguns Zhugin/Shutterstock

Taxi



Taxis are easy to find in Cairo, but they can be hit or miss. Some have meters, others don't, and even when there is one, the driver might not use it unless you ask. It's common to agree on a price before the ride starts—just be prepared to haggle a little. That said, most travellers now use ride-sharing apps like Uber and Careem. They're more straightforward, prices are set in advance, and you can avoid the back-and-forth over fares.

Photo: John Grummitt/Shutterstock

Post

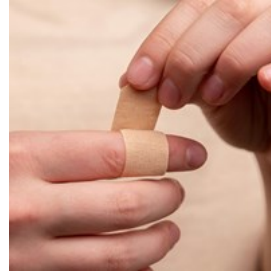


Post offices in Cairo are usually open from Sunday to Thursday, typically from 8am to 6pm. They offer standard postal services like sending letters and parcels, both domestically and internationally, along with express mail, money transfers, and some basic financial services. The main post office is located at Ataba Square.

Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/Unsplash

Address: Taher Basha, Ghayt Al Adah, El Mosky, Cairo
Phone: +20 2 35315900

Pharmacy



Pharmacies in Cairo are easy to come across, and many central branches stay open until late—often from around 8am until after midnight, with several branches operating 24 hours, especially in downtown areas. The two most reliable chains right now are El Ezaby Pharmacy and SEIF Pharmacies, offering over-the-counter meds, prescription services, basic medical supplies, personal care and some wellness products.

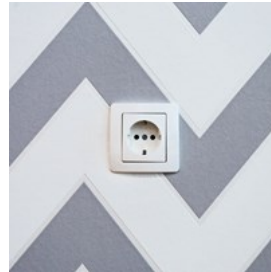
Photo: Diana Polekhina/Unsplash

Address: El Ezaby Pharmacy - Talaat Harb Square, Downtown, Cairo

Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +20 2 35317347

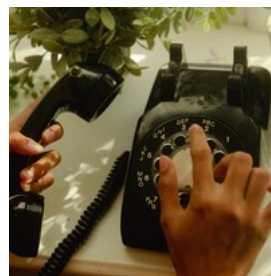
Electricity



In Cairo — and across Egypt — electricity runs on 220 volts at 50 Hz. The standard plug types are Type C and Type F, the same two-pin plugs used in much of Europe.

Photo: Neven Krcmarek/Unsplash

Telephone



Country Code: +20 Area Code: 2

Photo: Wesley Hilario/Unsplash

Population

Metro area: 23 million (2025)

Currency

Egyptian Pound (EGP, E£)

Newspapers

The Egyptian Gazette (in English):

<https://egyptian-gazette.com>

Al-Ahram (in English): <https://english.ahram.org.eg>

Cairo Scene (in English): <https://cairoscene.com>

Progrès Egyptien (in French): www.progres.net.eg

Emergency numbers

Police: 122

Fire Service: 180

Ambulance: 123

Tourist Police: 126

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 Tahrir	B2 C2	Shari El Ga'la	B1	Shari Ramses	B1 B2
Sahri El Zahra	B3	Shari El Gumhuriya	D1	Shari Rushdi	C2 D2
Sahri Gezira Garden	A3	Shari El Malik Abd El Aziz Su'ud	A4	Shari Sam El Barudi	D2
Sahri Nubar Pasha	C2 C3	Shari El Qala'a	D2	Shari Sherif	C1 C2
Sahri Qasr El Nil	B2 C1	Shari El Qasr El Aini	B3 B4	Shari Tal'at Harb	B2 C1 C2
Sahri Saoqaiyin	C3 D3	Shari El Sheikh Ali Yusef	B4	Shari Ysef El Gendi	B3 C2
Sahri Sheikh Mohammed Farid	C3	Shari El Sheikh Rihan	B3 C3 D3	Square Ataba	D1
Sahri Sheikh Mohammed Mahmud	C2 C3	Shari Huda Shatawi	C2	Tahrir Square	B2
Shari 26 July	C1 D1	Shari Imad El Din	C1 C2	Tal'at Harb Square	C2
Shari 6 October	A1 B1	Shari Ismail Abaza	B3		