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1. Geographical location

Aswan, formerly spelled Assuan, is a city situated in the southern Egypt. The Nile River, nearly 650m wide above Aswan, flows for more than 1,200 kilometers without cataract. The population of the city is 266,013.



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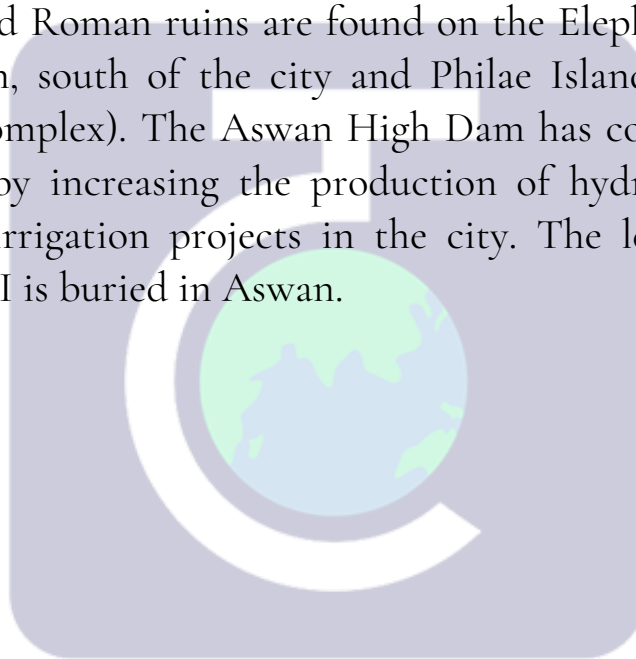
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Neighboring Cities Of Aswan Are Luxor With A Distance Of 220 Kilometers, Hurghada With A Distance Of 364 Kilometers And Red Sea With A Distance Of 145 Kilometers.



3. Significance

In the Bible, the city of Aswan was known as Syene or Seveneh and was also, described as the southern limit of Egypt. Serving as the gateway to Sudan and Ethiopia, it was one of the major trade-centers and was the place where the annual Nile flood was sighted for the first time in Egypt. Stone for the temples and statuary of the Pharaohs was delivered from the syenite quarries nearby. Ancient Egyptian and Roman ruins are found on the Elephantine Island, in the Nile opposite Aswan, south of the city and Philae Island (submerged by the Aswan High Dam complex). The Aswan High Dam has contributed majorly to the GDP of Egypt by increasing the production of hydroelectric power and benefitting various irrigation projects in the city. The leader of the Muslim Ismailis, Aga Khan III is buried in Aswan.

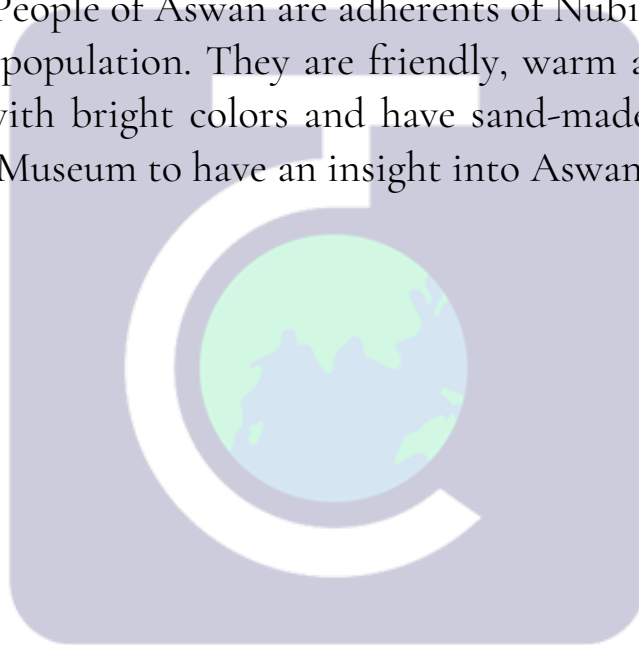


4. History

Serving as a center for the ancient Egyptians and Ptolemies, and local quarries providing granite for construction of various Egyptian monuments; ancient Aswan is quite remarkable. The history of Aswan dates back to the epoch when it was known as Swenett, deriving its name from an Egyptian goddess. The early title of the city is also said to be derived from the Egyptian symbol for 'trade' or 'market'. Aswan operated as the doorway to Nubia, which is today mostly buried beneath Lake Nasser. Serving as a center for the ancient Egyptians, the main hubs for trading included the nearby Elephantine Island, which were heavily involved in the trading of gold, ivory and even camels being sent out Egypt-wide. Ruling the land from 323-30 BC, the Ptolemies used the city of Swenett as a base to explore Nubia and the central regions. Temple of Philae which is dedicated to goddess Isis, is the jump out reminder of their time in the history of Aswan. Sited on Agilkia Island, the temple was moved here by UNESCO after the construction of the Aswan Dam.

5. Cultural identity

Egypt stands as the land where many civilizations have met. The Pharaohs together with the Greeks, Babylonians and the Romans have left their imprints here. Islam was introduced to Egypt by Amr ibn al-A'as, who led Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula. Since prehistoric times, Aswan has witnessed entrance and exit of many civilizations. However, it has always preserved its original traditional heritage. People of Aswan are adherents of Nubian culture along with a mixed and diverse population. They are friendly, warm and hospitable. Their houses are painted with bright colors and have sand-made floors with roofless rooms. Visit Nubian Museum to have an insight into Aswan's rich culture.



Index**6. Natural resources**

Aswan is home to many types of raw materials associated with mineral resource in the composition of sedimentary rocks and igneous, metamorphic and range of these raw materials under the groups of metal ores and nonferrous, energy raw materials, ores and construction materials, cement and ornamental stones. Also, Aswan is rich in mineral resources like Phosphate, Iron raw, Talc, Barite, Manganese, Kaolin, Granite, Marble, Limestone, Sandstone, Gypsum and Enhraid.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Temple of Goddess Isis in Philae

Temple of Philae is dedicated to Goddess Isis, who is the wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. Their story finds a significant place in the Egyptian culture. During the construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s, Temple of Philae was nearly lost; but a joint effort between the Egyptian Government and UNESCO has helped in rescuing one of the most iconic temples of the country.

Address : Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0256838, 32.884172600000056

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 60.00 Students: LE 30.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 07:00hrs-16:00hrs (October to May) Daily- 07:00hrs-17:00hrs (June to September)

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 20-25 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Abu Simbel Temples

Abu Simbel Temples are located in the Abu Simbel village in Nubia almost bordering Sudan. Located between the great temple of Ramesses II and the small temple of Nefertari, these Nubian monuments stretch across Abu Simbel up to Philae and are recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Address : Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 22.3372319, 31.625799000000003

Contact : +20 2 22617304

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : LE 115.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 05:00hours-18:00hours

Time Required : 8

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Aswan Dam

Built across River Nile in Aswan between 1898 and 1902, the Aswan Dam is an embankment dam. The material used to build the High Dam is 18 times more than that of the Great Pyramid of Cheops and has created the world's largest artificial lake, Lake Naseer.

Address : Manteqet as Sad Al Aali, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 23.970883, 32.87726989999999

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 20.00 Children: LE 10.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Unfinished Obelisk

Constructed by Hatshepsut, the Unfinished Obelisk is the largest known ancient obelisk. It is located in the northern region of the stone quarries of primeval Egypt in Aswan. This unfinished obelisk would have been around 42 meters tall and weighed close to 1,200 tons if it was ever completed, making it larger than any of the ancient Egyptian Obelisk. Several rock carvings have also been discovered here, making it a place of archaeological importance.

Address : Shreyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.088938, 32.8998292999999965

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 40.00 Students: LE 20.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Nubian Museum

Sited in Aswan, Upper Egypt; the Nubian Museum is officially known as the International Museum of Nubia. This archeological museum is a tribute to Nubian culture and civilization. Spanning across multiple ages, such as the

Geological, Pharaonic, Roman, Coptic and Islamic period, the museum houses hundreds of priceless antiquities and works.

Address : Assuan, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0800832, 32.88948930000004

Contact : +20 97 2319111

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 60.00 Students: LE 30.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:00hours-13:00hours and 16:00hours-20:30hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. The Temple of Horus at Edfu

Constructed between 237 BC and 57 BC on top of the remains of earlier temples, The Temple of Horus at Edfu is one of the best-preserved temples in the whole of Egypt. The embossment covering the walls, columns and doorways of the temple give out an extremely important source of information about ancient Egyptian political and religious beliefs.

Address : Adfo, Markaz Edfo, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.9779286, 32.873370499999965

Nearest Public Transport : Edfu train Station

Entry Fee : Egyptian: Adults: LE 2.00 Students: LE 1.00 Foreigners: Adults: LE 40.00 Students: LE 20.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:00hours-17:00hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.7. Aswan Museum

Located on the southern tip of Elephantine Island, this old rest house was converted into a museum with a collection of works that revolve around the history of Nubia and Aswan. The museum has weapons, utensils, mummies, pottery items and statues.

Address : Sheyakhah Thalethah, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.088938, 32.899829299999965

Contact : +20 97 2313628

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Egyptian: Adults: LE 2.00 Students: LE 1.00 Foreigners: Adults: LE 25.00 Students: LE 15.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 08:00hours-17:00hours (During Ramadan: 09:00hours-15:00hours)

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Temple of Kom Ombo

Constructed during the Ptolemaic Dynasty between 180 BC and 47 BC, the Temple of Kom Ombo is built in the town of Kom Ombo in Aswan Governorate, Upper Egypt. The site hosts the Ptolemaic temple of Haroeris and Sobek, which are known for their symmetrical structure, 2 sanctuaries, 2 entrances and a line dividing the temple of Kom Ombo into the domains of Sobek and Haroeris.

Address : Nagoa Ash Shatb, Markaz Deraw, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.4521332, 32.928431899999964

Nearest Public Transport : Kom Ombo Train Station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Egyptian: Adults: LE 2.00 Students: LE 1.00 Foreigners: Adults: LE 25.00 Students: LE 15.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:00hours-17:00hours

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 25 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.9. Temple of Kalabsha

The ancient Egyptian Temple of Kalabsha is a 76 meter-long building, which was originally situated at Bab al-Kalabsha (Gate of Kalabsha), approximately 50 kilometers to the south of Aswan. The temple is a tribute to the Lower Nubian Sun God named Mandulis. Its altitude helps in providing the tourists with a jaw-dropping view from the temple-top and the sacred lake.

Address : New Kalabsha, Near Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 23.961195399999999, 32.866845099999998
Nearest Public Transport : El-Sad El-Aly train station (not recommended)
Entry Fee : LE 60.00
Open & Close Timing : Daily- 08:00hours-16:00hours
Time Required : 2
Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes
Buy Ticket : No

7.1.10. Aswan Botanical Garden

In the 1890s, the Kitchener's Island was given to the commander of the Egyptian army, Lord Horatio Kitchener. His fondness for beautiful palms and plants transformed the island into a verdant and eye-catching garden, with plants imported from the Far East, India and parts of Africa.

Address : Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0937382, 32.8869560000000055

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : LE 15.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 08:00hours-17:00hours (October to April) Daily- 08:00hours-18:00hours (May to September)

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.11. Monastery of St. Simeon

Dedicated to the local saint, Anba Hedra in the 7th century, the Monastery of St. Simeon was rebuilt in the 10th century and dedicated to St. Simeon. Monks traveled to Nubia from here, hoping to convert Nubians into Christians.

Address : Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0948, 32.8761999999999926

Contact : +20 122 381 6384

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 30.00 Students: LE 15.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 08:00hours-16:00hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.12. Tombs of the Nobles

Situated in front of the northern edge of the Elephantine Island, the Aswan Tombs of the Nobles or Qubbest el-hawa, holds a significant place in the ancient Egyptian history. The history of the tombs dates back to the Middle and the Old Kingdoms. NOTE: The site is not wheelchair accessible.

Address : Qesm Al Wahat Al Khargah, New Valley Governorate, Egypt

Location : 25.7307509, 32.6093396999999964

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Egyptian: LE 2.00 Foreigners: LE 25.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:00hours-17:00hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.13. Sound and Light Show at Philae Temple

The widely-known Sound and Light show at the Temple of Philae narrates the story of Goddess Isis and God Osiris. The show brings history back to life giving you the feeling of the temple being alive around you. The word Philae is derived from the ancient Egyptian word 'Pilak' meaning 'the remote place'.

Address : Agilkia Island, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0254537, 32.8841913

Contact : +20 97 2304693

Website : <http://www.soundandlight.com.eg/shows/philaehome.aspx>

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : LE 100.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 18:00hours-21:00hours (Sound & Light Show)

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Elephantine Island

Comprising of a cluster of archaeological sites, the Elephantine Island is located along River Nile in the northern Nubia. The ancient Egyptians referred to this island as Abu or Yebu, which demarcated a border between Nubia and Egypt. The island is an excellent site for defence and its geographical location made it a point of cargo transfer for river trade.

Address : Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.09, 32.8894444

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Seheil Island

Located in River Nile, the Seheil Island is an extensive piece of land, halfway between the city and the upstream Aswan Low Dam. The island is home to a number of archaeological sites like the Temple of Anuket and the Goddess of the Nile's Cataract.

Address : Gharb Seheil, River Nile, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.061354, 32.87190209999994

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. The Fatimid Cemetery

The tombs in this vast graveyard are exquisitely constructed, with many of them dating back to the 9th century. Tombs with flags belong to local saints. You can see the locals walking all the way around the tomb, praying for the saints. The tombs are spectacular with roof corners that project like horns. The cemetery is also known as the Islamic necropolis of Aswan.

Address : Al Gabana, Al Fatemeya, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan

Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0777836, 32.89128010000002

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Aga Khan Mausoleum

Located close to the Monastery of St. Simeon, the Aga Khan Mausoleum renders a panoramic view of the historical city of Aswan. The spiritual leader of the Ismailis, Mohammed Shah Aga Khan died in 1957 and was buried here after his death.

Address : Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0882262, 32.8787969

Contact : +20 115 300 4525

Nearest Public Transport : Aswan train station (not recommended)

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Sharia El-Souk

The Sharia el Souk is located on a street parallel to the southern part of the Kornish Al Nile. This effervescent bazaar is full of colorful merchandise and the aroma of exotic spices. Don't forget to buy some "Karkede tea", made from hibiscus flowers which is a favorite among the locals. It is the perfect place to get your hands on the ingredients of a typical meal.

Address : Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0981204, 32.901346699999976

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

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8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Football is played with full spirit and energy by the people of Aswan. Football team of Aswan has played a total of 7 seasons in the Egypt Premier League in its history.

- **Aswan Stadium:**

Address : El-Sadat, Sheyakhah Thaneyah, Qesm Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0662166,32.884535599999936

Contact No : +20 97 2303750



9. Spas and relaxation

Tired of exerting all day long while touring in Aswan? Take a detour into one of the many fine relaxation spots the city has to offer. From rejuvenating infinity pools to peaceful hammock naps in the resorts, Aswan makes sure you are well rested and prepared to venture into its enigmatic bosom.

- **So Spa:**

Address : Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan, Abtal El Tahrir Street, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.082279999999999,32.8877210000000056

Contact No : +20 97 231 60 00

Website : <http://www.sofitel-legend.com/aswan/en/fitness-relaxation/le-spa.shtml>

- **Pyramisa Isis Island Resort Aswan:**

Address : Isis Island Aswan, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate 00000, Egypt

Location : 24.0804775,32.8807064999999974

Contact No : +20 97 2317400

Website : <http://www.pyramisaegypt.com/en/pyramisa-isis-aswan-2/>

- **Mövenpick Resort Aswan:**

Address : Elephantine Island, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate 81111, Egypt

Location : 24.093293799999999,32.8915978

Contact No : +20 97 2454455

Website : <http://www.movenpick.com/en/africa/egypt/aswan/resort-asw>

an/overview/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=local&utm_campaign=Glocal+aswan

- **Marhaba Palace Hotel:**

Address : Corniche El Nil, Sheyakhah Oula, Assuan, Aswan Governorate
81111, Egypt

Location : 24.080939999999999,32.887600000000002

Contact No : +20 97 2330102

Website : <http://www.marhaba-aswan.com/>



10. Events calendar

Month

Events

Coptic Christmas

Aswan celebrates Coptic Christmas in the beginning of January.

Al Hijra

Al Hijra, the Islamic New Year, is observed as the day when Mohmmmed travelled from Mecca to Medina.

Abu Simbel Sun Festival

Abu Simbel Sun Festival, a festival based on solar phenomenon is celebrated on February 22nd every year. It is celebrated twice a year.

Coptic Easter

Coptic Easter, one of the most important festival in the Coptic calendar, is observed in the month of March.

Shem al Nessim


Shem al Nessim is always celebrated on the first Monday after Coptic Easter. It is a national holiday in Aswan and

people like to have picnics or play a part in other outdoor activities. Sinai Liberation Day is celebrated on April 25th every year.

May Day

May Day is observed on May 1st every year.

Evacuation Day.



The declaration of the Republic in 1953 and the removal of foreign troops in 1956 is celebrated every year as Evacuation Day.

Revolution Day

Revolution Day is celebrated throughout the country. This day marks the rise of the Republic in 1952 and the anniversary of the fall of the Egyptian royal government.

Wafa'a el-Nil

Wafa'a el-Nil is celebrated on August 15th

Ramadan

Ramadan is observed in the ninth month of Islamic calendar and is a month of fasting when Muslims don't eat from dawn to

dusk.

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day both celebrates and commemorates the crossing of Suez Canal by the Egyptian and assassination of Sadat. This day is observed as a national holiday.

Suez Victory Day

Suez Victory Day is celebrated on October 24th every year.

Abu Simbel Sun Festival

Abu Simbel Sun Festival, a festival based on solar phenomenon is celebrated on October 22nd every year. It is celebrated twice a year.

Victory Day

Victory Day is celebrated on December 23rd every year in the commemoration of the 1973 Yom Kippur War between Israel and a coalition of Arab nations which included Egypt.

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11. Key local guides and tours

Aswan can be explored with or without a guide. But, it would be indeed better to have a guide when exploring the historical city. Most of the travels here are in museums and temples and the guides charge you at a reasonable price starting from LE 150.00 and some tip for package tours. To get around the city, Aswan has relatively a longer list of choices for you. Explore the city through bike, camel rides, horse driven carriages or a felucca cruise.



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12. Transportation hubs

Airport: Aswan International Airport, also known as Daraw Airport, is located 16 kilometers southwest of Aswan and 25 kilometers from the central Aswan. Hail a taxi to get a trip into Aswan city which would take approximately 30 minutes and cost around LE 40.00. Public buses don't render the services at the airport. But, car rental services are available at the airport. **Train Station:** Aswan Train Station is located on the northern end of the city center, a few hundred meters inland from the river.



Index**13. Transportation cost**

Taxi: Getting around in a taxi in Aswan costs around LE 10.00 to LE 20.00 for short trips. It costs approximately LE 100.00 for a round trip to the Philae temple, high dam and unfinished obelisks. Taxis are in abundance in Aswan but they don't have meters. Don't forget to bargain and stay firm for the current prices.

Boat: One has to use a boat to access the sights on West banks of Aswan. Dozens of felucca and motor boat owners will offer you their services and will charge around LE 25.00 to LE 30.00. If you take the public ferry, don't pay more than LE 5.00.



Index**14. Baggage allowance**

Prefer exploring the city by either taxi or a cab when carrying a large suitcase. Large suitcases are allowed in the minibuses but refrain yourself from travelling via same because pickpockets are the regular passengers. One can carry a backpack easily when exploring the city. When riding on the city bus, no additional fee is charged for carrying extra luggage but it is advisable not to carry bulky and too many baggage. Else, keep an eye on your luggage.



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15. Must try food and local savouries

While in Aswan, one should definitely try out dishes like baba ghanoush, hamam mahshi and some tasty sea food from Chef Khalil. Following restaurants are a must visit, if you intend to crack some mouthwatering Egyptian cuisine:



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16. Restaurant & Nightlife

When in Aswan, one must definitely visit Kornish Al Nile near the Nile river since most of the restaurants and nightclubs are near the Nile river. In terms of drinking alcohol, Aswan is comparatively less strict than Luxor and Cairo. Following restaurants, bars and cafes are a must try, when in Aswan:

Food -

When in Aswan, one must definitely visit Kornish Al Nile near the Nile river since most of the restaurants and nightclubs are near the Nile river. In terms of drinking alcohol, Aswan is comparatively less strict than Luxor and Cairo. Following restaurants, bars and cafes are a must try, when in Aswan:

- **Chef Khalil:**

Address : Saad Zaghloul, Abu AR Rish Qebli, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0984441,32.901336399

Contact No : +20 97 231 0142

Open / Close Time : Daily- 13:00hours-01:00hours

- **El Dokka:**

Address : Kornish Al Nile, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0986748,32.898564299999975

Contact No : +20 122 216 2379

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/El-Dokka/413242658722414>

- **Panorama Bar:**

Address : Movenpick Resort Aswan, Elephantine Island, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate 81111, Egypt

Location : 24.0927891,32.8915978999999

Contact No : +20 97 2314666

Website : <http://www.movenpick.com/en/africa/egypt/aswan/resort-aswan/overview/>

- **Aswan Moon:**

Address : Sheyakhah Thalethah, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0904593,32.89493390000007

Contact No : +20 97 231 6108

Website: <http://www.bridgeandtunnelclub.com/bigmap/outoftown/egypt/aswan/aswanmoon/index.htm>

- **Biti Pizza:**

Address : Midan Al-Mahatta, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.099789299,32.901534100

Open / Close Time : Daily- 10:00hours-00:00hours

- **Makka Restaurant:**

Address : 143 abtal el tahrir St. DOWNTOWN Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.09868389999999,32.900544699999955

Contact No : +20 97 230 3232

Open / Close Time : Daily: 12:00hours-02:00hours

- **1902 Restaurant:**

Address : Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan, Abtal El Tahrir Street, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate, Egypt

Location : 24.0821325999999,32.8875679000000

Contact No : +20 97 231 60 00

Website : <http://www.sofitel-legend.com/aswan/en/bars-restaurants/1902.shtml>

Open / Close Time : Daily- 19:00hours-00:00hours

- **Nybian Dream Restaurants and Cafe:**

Address : Elephantine Island near the ferry boat, Sheyakhah Oula, Qism Aswan, Aswan Governorate 81111, Egypt

Location : 24.0892926,32.890727500000025

Contact No : +20 127 331 1404

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/NubianDreamsCafe>

Index**17. Average meal cost**

Economical meal: LE 5.00 – LE 30.00 Mid-segment restaurant: LE 80.00-LE 100.00 for lunch and LE 120.00-LE 150.00 for dinner Luxury dining: LE 200.00-LE 350.00



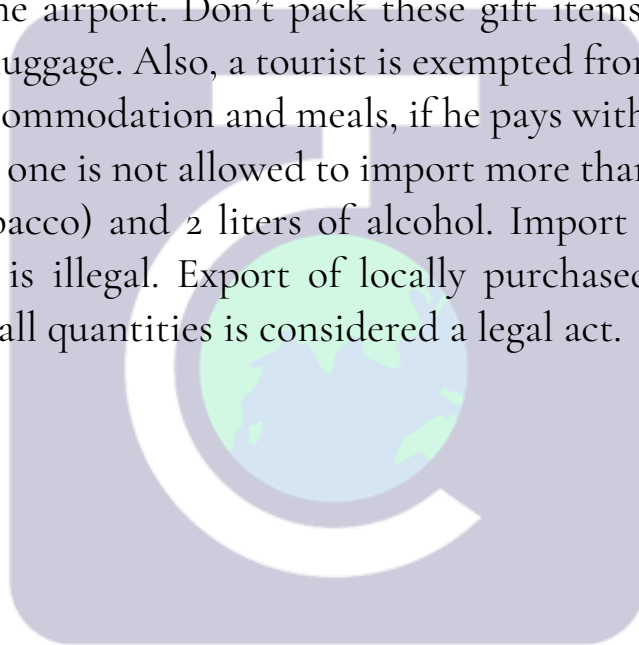
Index**18. Shopping**

The most incredible attractions of Egypt for shopping are the Souks, the local markets and the larger bazaars. Without visiting the old bazaar or old souk of the city, a trip to Aswan remains incomplete.



Index**19. Tourist benefits**

On most goods and services in Egypt, 10% Value Added Tax is charged. At retail stores, the price is inclusive of VAT. If a tourist makes a purchase of \$50.00 or more at a gift store that has an agreement with the VAT authorities of Egypt, then by filling a form at the store and getting it stamped, tourist is eligible for a 10% refund at the airport before departure. All he need to do is represent the form and goods at the airport. Don't pack these gift items in your luggage and keep it in your hand luggage. Also, a tourist is exempted from VAT tax on tourist services like hotel accommodation and meals, if he pays with foreign currency. As per the Egyptian law, one is not allowed to import more than 200 cigarettes (or 25 cigars or 200g of tobacco) and 2 liters of alcohol. Import and export of drugs, firearms and cotton is illegal. Export of locally purchased gold and silver for personal use or in small quantities is considered a legal act.



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20. Essential local apps

Download Uber to book a cab or a taxi. To notify your Facebook friends if something goes wrong, download Yalahwy and your friends will mobilize to come at your rescue.



21. Driving

Traffic rules and driving laws of Aswan might come across as a foreign language to the expats or travelers as the Egyptian traffic lights are equipped with an additional color Blue. Automobile drivers follow the exact color code for Red, Yellow and Green. But, color Blue on the traffic light is meant for the pedestrian crossing. Expect the unexpected while driving on the roads of Aswan as people there follow a very chaotic style of driving. One golden rule to be followed by all the automobile drivers in Egypt is that Eyes on road all the times!



Index**22. Travel essentials**

When travelling to Egypt, make sure that you pack a travel adaptor or portable charger. Egypt uses two pronged, rounded plugs with the standard voltage of 220 V. The power sockets are of type C/F. The standard frequency is 50 Hz.



Index**23. Essential clothes**

When travelling to Egypt, make sure that you pack a travel adaptor or portable charger. Egypt uses two pronged, rounded plugs with the standard voltage of 220 V. The power sockets are of type C/F. The standard frequency is 50 Hz.



Index**24. Local currency**

The official currency of Egypt is Egyptian pound (EGP/LE). In Arabic, it is also known as guineh. The pound is divided into 100 piasters and each piaster into 10 millims. 1 US Dollar= LE 8.89



25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Authorized banks remain the best source of exchanging currency. Nonetheless, one can change currency at hotels too. Also, for convenience, private exchange agencies are located at several areas downtown and in the suburbs. We recommend you to get some 'home' currency and get the Egyptian currency on arrival as you get a better exchange rate in Egypt and you won't have to pay commission also if you change your money in Egypt. In most hotels, restaurants, tourist-type shops and some supermarkets; credit cards are acceptable. ATMs are ubiquitous in Aswan and are accessible 24hrs/day. Recheck with your bank for information regarding the commission on withdrawal of money. Every time you swipe card in different bank's ATM, a fee up to \$5 or more is charged. Working days for banks in Aswan are from Sunday to Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, banks remain closed. Typical banking hours for Government banks are from 08:30hrs to 14:00hrs and for private/international banks are from 08:30hrs to 17:00hrs.

26. Staying connected

The biggest mobile phone market in Africa is Egypt. The three network providers are: Vodafone Egypt, Orange (formerly: Mobinil) and Etisalat. Tourists to Aswan can buy their “holiday” sim from any of the major streets for LE 20.00 including LE 5.00 credit in their stores. This sim has a validity of 40 days. Data is by default at LE 1.00 per MB on the tourist sim. You can add any of the packages used by locals. A copy of passport needs to be attached with the contract for documentation.



27. Time Zone

Egypt time zone: Eastern European Time Zone (UTC+02:00).



28. Languages

The official language in Aswan is Standard Arabic. Other commonly spoken languages include English, French and Egyptian Arabic.



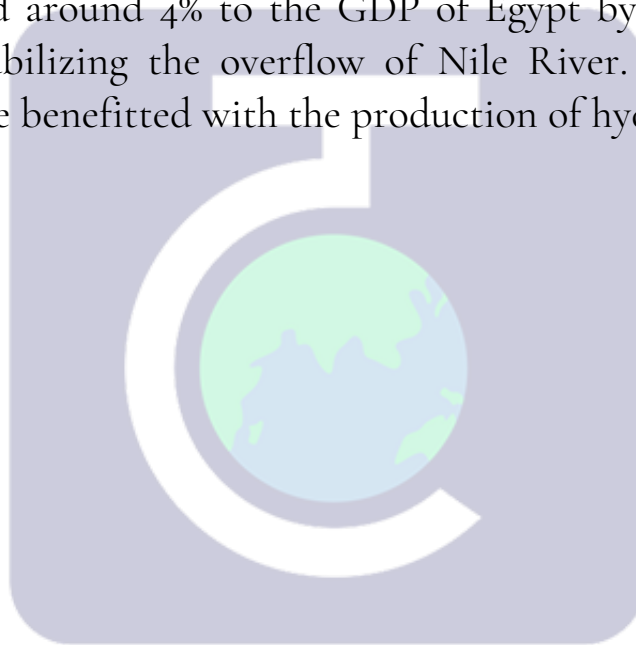
Index**29. Political Scenario**

Egypt is a republic country with a semi-presidential system of government. With the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011, executive powers were assumed by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces which later dissolved the parliament and adjourned the constitution. In Egypt, elections are held for the candidature of President and a unicameral legislature. The candidate with the maximum votes win the elections and is selected as a president to serve the nation for a four-year term.



30. Economic Scenario

Alike many other Egyptian cities, the economy of historical attraction, Aswan, is also heavily dependent on tourism. The government of Egypt vigorously promotes foreign tourism as it is a major source of currency and investment. Large number of people are also engaged in agriculture, particularly sugarcane. To cover up for shortfalls of income, many people cultivate food on their own. The High Aswan Dam has contributed around 4% to the GDP of Egypt by increasing transport productivity and stabilizing the overflow of Nile River. In addition, various irrigation projects are benefitted with the production of hydroelectric power.



Index**31. Religious belief**

Religious practices of people in Aswan involve a syncretism of Islam and traditional folk beliefs. Majority of people living in Aswan are Muslim. 10% of the population comprises of Christians and majority of the Christians are adherents of Coptic Orthodox Church, which was the dominant religion in Egypt before Islam.



32. Visa requirements

Every foreign traveler to Egypt requires an entry VISA to explore the Egyptian territories. Each one of them must hold a passport valid for at least six months post the date of entry. For all British, EU and EEA members, a full ten year passport is required along with at least six months validity beyond the return date. Most nationalities, including British, Americans, Irish, Canadians, New Zealanders, Australians and EU citizens can attain VISAS on arrival at officially designated international airports and sea ports, but not at land borders. VISAS issued on arrival are valid for a month but the process is much effortless and cheaper than getting a VISA through an embassy or consultant. Citizens of Republic of China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Maldives, Singapore, Nepal and Brunei can receive a VISA on arrival to Egypt whereas citizens of the remaining Asian countries require a possession of pre-arrival VISA to Egypt. Also, citizens of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Syria, Kosovo, Lebanon and Sri Lanka need a prior approval from the Egyptian State Security Authorities in addition to holding a VISA. It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application.

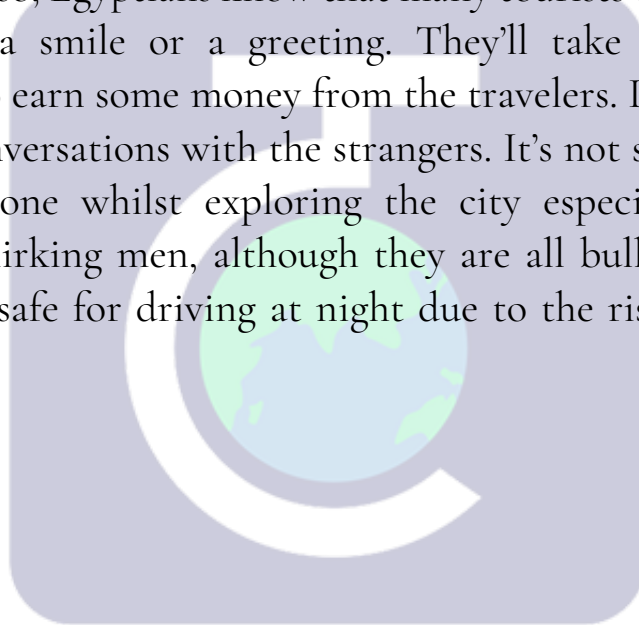
Index**33. Essential vaccination**

Every traveler should be up-to-date on routine vaccinations before every trip. These vaccinations include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine and your yearly flu shot.



34. Theft and Safety

The crime rate in Egypt was always low until the revolution. Since the revolution, the crime rate has increased but it is still low as compared to the Western standards. Also, Aswan is relatively safer than other Egyptian cities. Be careful of quite conspicuous attempts at pickpocketing in the souk. Pickpockets are regular passengers in buses. So, travel with minimum cash and valuable items whilst exploring the city. Also, Egyptians know that many tourists consider it impolite if one doesn't return a smile or a greeting. They'll take undue advantage of etiquettes in order to earn some money from the travelers. Don't involve yourself with unnecessary conversations with the strangers. It's not safe for a solo woman traveler to travel alone whilst exploring the city especially if they are not comfortable with smirking men, although they are all bully. Many areas of the city have become unsafe for driving at night due to the rise in carjacking. Stay safe!



Index**35. Embassy/Consulate**

To know more about the embassy consulates near the city of Aswan, click <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/egypt>



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36. Accessibility

Aswan is not a very friendly place for the differently abled. A person needs to walk between the cemeteries and temples to explore the city regardless of wheelchair accessible tours. So, a person with decent fitness levels can only walk around with all convenience and comfort. Although there are tracks and ways created for wheelchairs, they have not been maintained properly since long. The cracked and the broken roads make it difficult to move a wheelchair on such roads. Government building don't have elevators and ramps are placed in wrong angles.



Index**37. Emergencies**

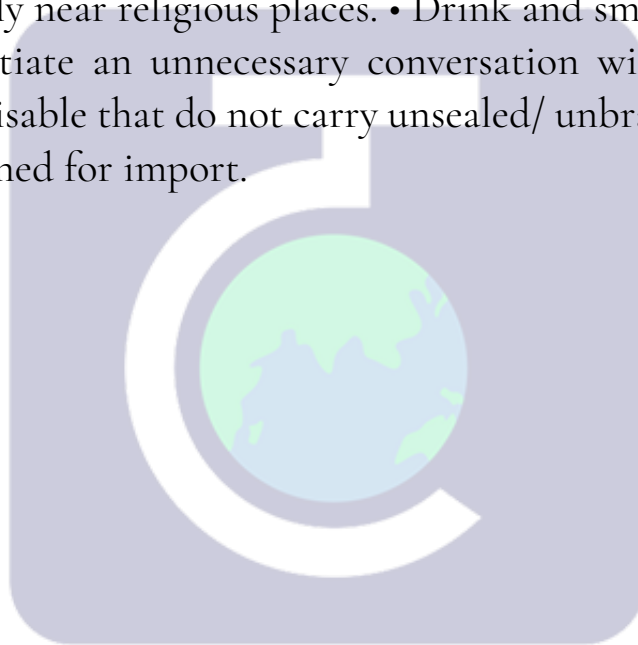
• Aswan Heart Center NOTE: Health insurances and travel insurances are not accepted here. • Nasr El Nouba Central Hospital NOTE: Health insurances and travel insurances are not accepted here. • For any SOS services, you can call on 180 (fire brigade), 122 (police station) and 123 (ambulance)



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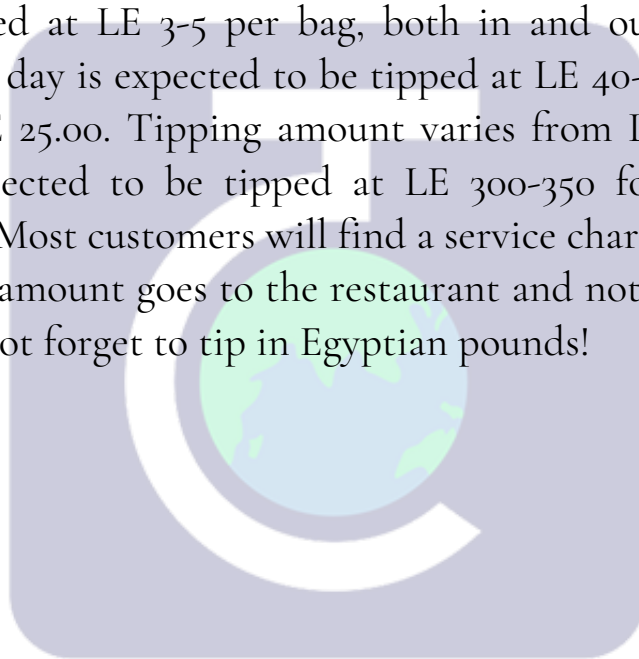
38. Do's and Don'ts

Dos • Carry minimum cash and valuable items whilst exploring the city. • Haggle with taxi drivers and merchants. • Board a local felucca before sunset. • Have a cup of “Karkede tea” with the local shopkeepers. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. Don'ts • Wear short skirts or indecent clothes. • Hug or kiss in public areas, especially near religious places. • Drink and smoke publicly. • Travel alone at night. • Initiate an unnecessary conversation with the strangers and merchants. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



39.Tipping basics

Don't forget to tip in Egypt as it is a source of income for many Egyptians. In Arabic, tip is called "baksheesh". You should tip almost everyone, if you are satisfied with the services delivered. If you are not traveling in a group, you can use following suggested amounts for tipping: Driver taking you to the hotel from the airport on arrival can be tipped at LE 10-20. Luggage men at hotel are expected to be tipped at LE 3-5 per bag, both in and out. Guide taking you sightseeing for half a day is expected to be tipped at LE 40-50 and driver for the same is tipped at LE 25.00. Tipping amount varies from LE 1.00 to LE 300.00. Tour leader are expected to be tipped at LE 300-350 for the whole trip, if traveling in a group. Most customers will find a service charge on the receipt, but please note that this amount goes to the restaurant and not the waiters. You can tip accordingly. Do not forget to tip in Egyptian pounds!

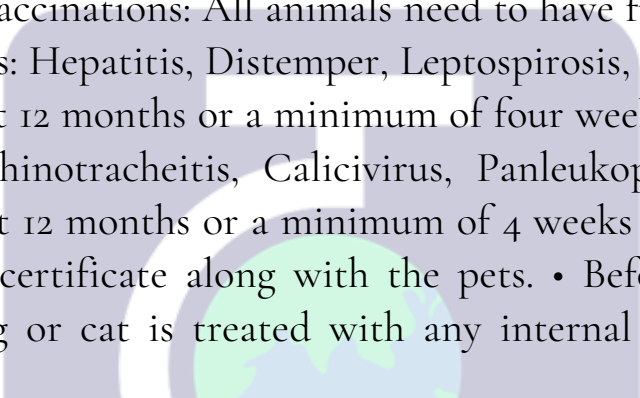


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40.Pet info

There are a number of hotels in Aswan that allow you to get your pet along. Keep in mind the following points when taking your pet along to Aswan:

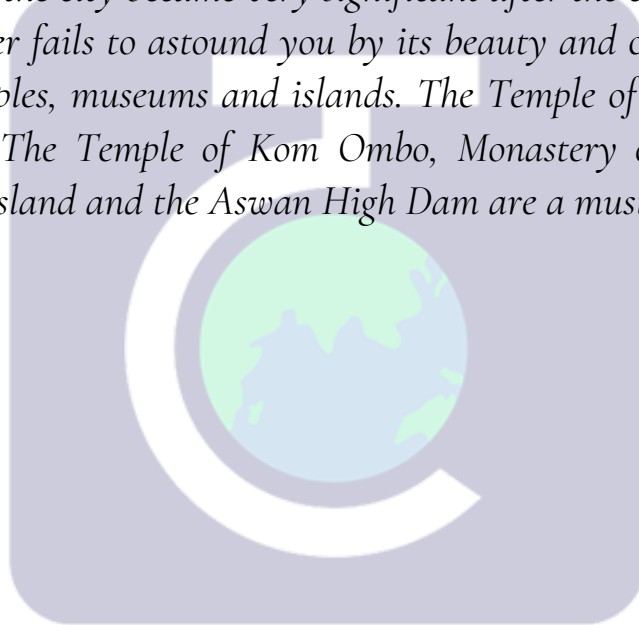
- **Pet Microchip:** It is recommended that your pets have an international standard microchip or an identification tag before they are separated from you. Always register your contact information when travelling with pets, so that it is easy to identify your pet.
- **Vaccinations:** All animals need to have full and an up to date inoculations. For dogs: Hepatitis, Distemper, Leptospirosis, Parvo, (DHLPP) and Rabies within the last 12 months or a minimum of four weeks before arrival. For cats: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia (FVRCP) and Rabies within the last 12 months or a minimum of 4 weeks before arrival. Carry the original vaccine certificate along with the pets.
- **Before entering Aswan,** ensure that your dog or cat is treated with any internal or external parasite infections.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Located at the foot of the Nile Valley to the North end of Lake Nasser, the city of Aswan is Egypt's third largest and the largest city in Upper Egypt. Curving along the golden deserts and bewitching islands, the river Nile forms the salvation of Aswan. Before the construction of the Aswan High Dam, the Nile flooded every year during late summer. The construction of the dam led to the worldwide rescue campaign of the Nubian monuments. Therefore, the city became very significant after the construction of the dam. The historical city never fails to astound you by its beauty and charm. A lot of visits in the city are to the temples, museums and islands. The Temple of Goddess Isis in Philae, Abu Simbel Temples, The Temple of Kom Ombo, Monastery of St. Simeon, Nubian Museum, Elephantine Island and the Aswan High Dam are a must visit attractions in the city.



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