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1. Geographical location

Alexandria (Al-Iskandariyyah in Arabic) is the second largest city of Egypt with a population of 3.5 million. It is Egypt's major seaport and industrial centre. Alexandria was the capital of Egypt from 332 BCE until 642 CE. The city is located on the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea at the western edge of the Nile River delta, about 183 kilometers northwest of Cairo.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Neighboring Cities Of Alexandria Are Cairo With A Distance Of 227 Kilometers And Port Said With A Distance Of 260 Kilometers.



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3. Significance

A visit to Alexandria is worthwhile because of its cultural attractions and still-perceptible glimpses of past. The city hasn't failed in continuing the legacy of literature and education in the country. Apart from being the second largest city and one of the major tourist destinations of Egypt, the city is an important commercial hub of Egypt. Due to its natural gases and oil pipelines from Suez, it

is an important industrial center of Egypt.



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4. History

The history of Alexandria dates back to the foundation of the city by Alexander the Great in 332BC. Dinocrates was the chief architect for Alexander's project. Just east of Alexandria in ancient times (where now exists Abu Qir Bay), there were some big port cities and marshland. The Canopic which is the westernmost branch of the Nile Delta was prevalent at that time and was extensively used for shipping. After becoming the seat of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt, the city emerged as one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic world and second to Rome in size and wealth. Fustat was founded on the Nile as a new capital of Egypt in 641 AD. After losing the status of the country's capital, Alexandria reduced to a small fishing village by the late Ottoman period. In the early 19th century, Mohammad Ali, the viceroy of Egypt filled up some life and revived the city as a part of his early industrialization program.

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5. Cultural identity

Alexandria continues the legacy of education in Egypt with the revival of the ancient Library of Alexandria aka Bibliotheca Alexandria. Macedonian general and the successor of Alexandria the Great, Ptolemy I Soter created this royal library in Alexandria. Apart from this, the key travels here are to public and private beaches, and ancient history and museums. Women are given special privileges like individual queues, metro cars and other facilities just as in most of the Middle Eastern countries.





6. Natural resources

Alexandria is home to copious resources including iron ore, limestone, manganese, phosphate, talc, zinc, gypsum, asbestos and gold. There is an abundant supply of salts, including natron, brine and soda. Thanks to the deserts of Egypt!



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Bibliotheca Alexandrina, a center of cultural and scientific excellence, is a memorial of the Library of Alexandria and an endeavor to rekindle the intellectuality that the ancient centers of study represented. The library is home to millions of books, 6 separate libraries, 4 museums, a science center, a cultural panorama named 'The Culturama' that is projected over 9 screens, 13 different academic research centers, a conference center and 4 art galleries. NOTE: The site is wheelchair accessible.

Address : Al Azaritah WA Ash Shatebi, Qesm Bab Sharqi, Alexandria

Governorate 21526, Egypt

Zipcode: 21526

Location: 31.2088705, 29.909201199999984

Contact: +20 3 4839999

Website: http://www.bibalex.org/en/default

Nearest Public Transport : El Raml train station

Entry Fee: LE 70.00 per person

Open & Close Timing: Daily: 10:00hours-16:00hours

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time: 10 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.1.2. Montaza Palace

Overlooking a tranquil beach in the heart of the city, Montaza Palace is an extensive palace with Pseudo-Moorish architecture adorned with Florentine designs. The addition of the tower replicated from the Florence's Palazzo Vecchio is an icing on the cake. Don't forget to stroll around in the lush gardens encircling the palace to get the best of nature.

Address: Al Mandarah Bahri, Qesm Al Montazah, Alexandria, Egypt

Location: 31.2884918, 30.015933200000063

Contact: +20 3 5473056

Nearest Public Transport : El mandara train station

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Entry Fee: LE 5.00 (Beach admission: LE 15.00)

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

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time: 10 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.1.3. Fort Qaitbey

Fort Qaitbey, also known as Citadel of Qaitbey was built by Mameluke Sultan Abdul Nasser Qa'it Bay in 1477 AD but has undergone reconstruction twice since then. Located in against a beautiful landscape, the magnificent fortress offers a marvelous view of the Mediterranean Sea and the city.

Address : As Sayalah Sharq, Qesm Al Gomrok, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.214011, 29.88563829999982

Contact: +20 3 4809144

Nearest Public Transport : el boseary train station

Entry Fee: LE 30.00 per person

Open & Close Timing: Daily- 08:00hours-17:00hours

Time Required: 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.1.4. Pompey's Pillar & Temple of Serapeum

Rising out of the carcasses of the Temple of Serapeum, Pompey's Pillar is a massive 25-meter-high granite tower, built in the honor of Emperor Diocletian in 297 AD. The pillar is one of the largest ancient monolithic columns ever erected and is the only known free standing pillar in Roman Egypt.

Address: Pompey's Pillar, Qesm Karmouz, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1825, 29.8963999999999

Nearest Public Transport : Alexandria train station

Entry Fee: LE 30.00 per person

Open & Close Timing: Daily- 09:00hours-15:00hours

Time Required: 1.5

Expected Wait Time: 5 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

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7.1.5. Alexandria National Museum

The Alexandrian National Museum is a three-storeyed iconic structure in Alexandria, which documents its history right from the Pharaonic epoch through the 19th century. It was opened to the public in 2003 and since then it has mesmerized many history lovers.

Address : Bab Sharqi WA Wabour Al Meyah, Qesm Bab Sharqi, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.2009548, 29.91325759999995

Contact: +20 3 4835519

Website: http://www.alexmuseum.gov.eg/

Nearest Public Transport : el hadra el baharia train station

Entry Fee: Egyptian: Adults: LE 2.00 Students: LE 1.00 Foreigner: Adults: LE

30.00 Students: LE 15.00

Open & Close Timing: Saturday to Thursday: 09:00hours-16:00hours Friday:

Closed

Time Required: 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.1.6. Royal Jewelry Museum

Royal Jewelry Museum, an art and history-centric museum housed in Queen Farida's villa has a unique collection of royal jewelry and medals. If you intend to explore the royal pursuits in the historical country of Egypt, then this is place ought to be on your itinerary. NOTE: The site is wheelchair accessible.

Address : 27 Ahmed Yehia Pasha, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.2407, 29.963300000000004

Contact: +20 3 5868348

Nearest Public Transport : el sook train station

Entry Fee: LE 20.00 per person

Open & Close Timing: Monday to Friday: 09:00hours-16:00hours Saturday and

Sunday: Closed

Time Required: 1.5

Expected Wait Time: 5 minutes

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Buy Ticket: No

7.1.7. Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa

Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt was discovered fortuitously in 1900 when a donkey went missing through the grounds. This historic archaeological site is considered as one of the seven wonders of the middle ages and it consists of a series of Alexandrian statues, tombs and archaeological objects of the early imperial Roman influences.

Address : Street Carmous, Alexandria, Egypt

Location: 31.206074, 29.88159900000005

Contact: +20 3 3936825

Nearest Public Transport : el boseary station

Entry Fee: LE 40.00 per person

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

Time Required: 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.1.8. Roman Amphitheatre

The Roman Amphitheatre is one of the most substantial Roman architectural accomplishments in Egypt, which was discovered in 1960 through a mere coincidence. The symmetrical marble audience section of the theatre with the extended wing can host up to 600 people.

Address : Qesm Al Attarin, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1951919, 29.904082700000004

Contact: +20 3 4865106

Nearest Public Transport : Alexandria train station

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 30.00 Students/Children: LE 15.00

Open & Close Timing: Daily- 08:00hours to 17:00hours (Ramadan: 09:00hours to

16:00hours)

Time Required: 1

Expected Wait Time: 10 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

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7.1.9. The Graeco-Roman Museum

Located in the center of Alexandria, the Graeco-Roman Museum is known to store a priceless collection of around 40,000 objects of art and history which include sculptures, mosaics and woodworks. Re-opened in 2010, the museum describes the mixture of the Graeco-Roman Culture with the native Egyptians after the fight for Egypt by Alexander the Great in 332 BC.

Address : Al Mesallah Sharq, Qesm Al Attarin, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1992071, 29.906555400000002

Contact: +20 3 4865820

Nearest Public Transport : El Raml train station

Entry Fee : Egyptian: Adults: LE 1.00 Students: LE 0.50 Foreign: Adults: LE 16.00

Students: LE 8.00

Open & Close Timing: Daily- 09:00hours to 16:00hours (On Fridays, remains

closed from 11:30 hours to 13:30hours)

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time: 20 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.1.10. Cavafy Museum

Located opposite a Greek Church, Cavafy, a famous Greek poet believed that this was a perfect place to stay, forgive your sins and rest his soul. Once known as a pilgrimage, this place has been transformed into a museum and a couple of rooms inside have been left untouched the way Cavafy had designed them. The museum is known for displaying Cavafy's publications in different languages.

Address: Off Salah Moustafa street, at the end of Cavafy street. 2nd floor, Qesm

Al Attarin, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1979776, 29.900834799999984

Contact: +20 3 4821598

Nearest Public Transport : El Raml train Station Entry Fee : LE 15.00 for adults and free for children Open & Close Timing : Daily- 10:00hours-16:00hours

Time Required: 2

Expected Wait Time: 15 minutes

Buy Ticket: Yes

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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Maamoura Beach

Located a stone's throw away from the Montazah Garden, Maamoura is the 'beachiest' of all the coastlines in the city with serene parks and a lot of food stalls. With its location being just a mile away from the main road, Maamoura Beach is one of the major tourist destinations in Alexandria.

Address : Qism El-Montaza, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.2908176, 30.030667900000026

Nearest Public Transport : El Mandara train station

Open & Close Timing: Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4 Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Stanley Bridge

Stanley Bridge stretches across 400 meters and offers a dazzling view of the city and the sea. Stroll around to explore its architectural intricacies and spellbinding landscapes of Alexandria.

Address : Stanley Bridge, El-Gaish Rd, Fleming, Qism El-Raml, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.23506260000001, 29.948584100000062

Nearest Public Transport : el ramnl el ameeri railway station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing: Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1 Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. The Attarine Mosque

The Attarine Mosque is a thousand-columned mosque, whose construction dates back to the 14th century AD. It is one of the Islamic monuments in Alexandria which attracts a large number of tourists with its remarkable architecture.

Address: al attarin gharb, qesm al attarin, alexandria governorate, egypt

Location: 31.194174, 29.89655670000002

Nearest Public Transport : Alexandria train station

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

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Time Required: 1

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.2.4. Alexandria Opera House

Located in the heart of the city, Alexandria Opera House is a center that hosts various artistic shows and performances. Also, known by the name 'Sayed Darwish Theatre', the opera house is the ideal cultural venue of Alexandria and stages operas and symphony orchestras.

Address : No. 22, Al Mesallah Sharq, Qesm Al Attarin, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1969844, 29.901805200000013

Contact: +20 3 4800092

Nearest Public Transport : El Raml train Station

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket: No

7.2.5. Carrefour City Center

Carrefour City Center is a popular shopping mall, known for its huge hypermarkets, cafeterias and cinemas.

Address : Gate 4 - 1st Alexandria Cairo Desert Road - Alexandria, Qetaa at Tarik as Sahrawi, Qesm Al Amereyah, Alexandria Governorate 11432, Egypt

Zipcode: 11432

Location: 31.1672406, 29.931990499999984

Time Required : o Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Mirage Mini Mall - Oppa

Mirage Mini Mall is a high-end mall right in front of Carrefour, which invites its visitors with famous brands and popular cafés and restaurants like Pasadena Roof and Chili's.

Address : Cairo-Alexandria desert, Abis, Qism Moharram Bek, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt Road

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Location: 31.1729921, 29.933216599999923

Time Required : o Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Green Plaza Mall

Located in Qism Sidi Gabir, Green Plaza Mall is a gigantic shopping center with a wide range of stores, restaurants, cinemas and a court for video-gamers.

Address : Through May 14, Smouha, Qism Sidi Gabir, Alexandria Governorate,

Egypt

Location: 31.2066635, 29.965166899999986

Time Required : o Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. San Stefano Grand Plaza

Being the largest mall of the city, San Stefano Grand Plaza is a definite stop for every shopaholic. The 10 cinemas, enormous food court and several retail stores ensure that every shopper is spoilt with options.

Address : El-Gaish Rd, San Stefano, Qism El-Raml, Alexandria Governorate,

Egypt

Location: 31.24548870000001, 29.96757839999998

Time Required : o Buy Ticket : No

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8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Alike other Egyptians and Africans, Alexandrians are also fascinated with the game of football. Smouha Sporting Club (31.215142, 29.954540), an Egyptian sports club with a professional football team is based here in Alexandria. It hosts an international hockey stadium, many swimming pools, two running tracks and a number of soccer fields. Also, Alexandria is a home to three key stadiums out of which Alexandria Stadium is the oldest stadium in Egypt and Africa built in 1929. The stadium hosted the 2006 African Cup of Nations in which Egypt brought home the bacons. Following are the three local stadiums in Alexandria:

• Burj Al Arab Olympic Stadium:

Address : Ekeingy Maryout (Sharq WA Gharb), Qesm Al Amereyah,

Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 30.9995782,29.72938810000005

Border Guard Stadium:

Address : Al Max, Qesm Ad Dekhilah, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1509683,29.84847489999993

Contact No: +20 106 132 0326

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9. Spas and relaxation

After venturing into the sea for your slice of adventure, get back to the coast and unwind as Alexandria offers some of the best relaxation experiences. Give your body a treat by booking an appointment for the four season hotel spa- which is featured to be one of Egypt most award winning spas. Let expert hands guide the tension of your body in Alexandria.

Aphrodite Spa:

Address : Qism Sidi Gabir, Mahmoud Abou El-Ola Mosque, 172

Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.22417330000001,29.957874800000013

Contact No: +20 3 5463544

Website: http://www.aphrodietspa.com/contacts.htm

Saralia Day Spa & Wellness Center:

Address : Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.223775,29.954991000000064

Contact No: +20 3 5421260

Lagoon Hotel and Spa Alexandria:

Address : Alexandria Desert Rd, Abis, Qism Moharram Bek, Alexandria

Governorate 99999, Egypt

Location: 31.170101,29.934903599999984

Contact No: +20 3 5469129

• Four Seasons Hotel Alexandria at San Stefano:

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Address: El-Gaish Rd, San Stifano, Qism El-Raml, Egypt 21599, Egypt

Location: 31.245709,29.965745999999967

Contact No : +20 3 5818000

Website: http://www.fourseasons.com/alexandria/



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10. Events calendar

Month

Events Coptic Christmas

Alexandria celebrates Coptic Christmas in the beginning of January. Coptic Easter

Coptic Easter, one of the most imperative festival in the Coptic calendar, is witnessed in the month of March.

Sham El-Nessim

Based on a spring festival that forego both Islam and Christianity, Sham El-Nessim is celebrated by people of all religions in Egypt. 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.

Bibliotheca Alexandrina International Summer Festival

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

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International Summer Festival is a month long program of concerts organized in the concert halls and performances spaces of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Coptic New Year

Coptic New Year is marked by 'The Feast of Neyrouz'.
Muharram

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and one of the four sacred months of the year.

Alexandria International Film Festival

Alexandria International Film Festival is one of the most important event in Egypt's cinematic calendar. Prophet Mohamed's Birthday

Prophet Mohamed's Birthday is celebrated during the third month of the Muslim calendar Rabi' al-awwal by the Muslims.

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11. Key local guides and tours

To explore the ancient history of Alexandria and discover the mixing of Egypt with its Greek and Roman past, we highly recommend you to hire a personal guide. The bus tours restrict the amount of time to be spent at a particular place whereas hiring a guide would cost you less and help you to have an insight of a specific place. A guide charges a minimum amount of LE 150.00 and some tip. The most famous guide in Alexandria is Moustafa O.

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12. Transportation hubs

Airport: El Nouzha Airport or Alexandria International Airport and Borg El Arab International Airport are the two airports which serve Alexandria. In 2011, the Alexandria International Airport was shut down for major renovations and was expected to open by 2014. But, as of January 2016, there is no date known for the reopening of the airport. Since 2011, Borg El Arab International Airport has become the principal airport of Alexandria. It is situated about 40 kilometers (25 mi) southwest of Alexandria in Qesm Borg Al Arab and is at a distance of 80 kilometers from Qism El-Montaza, the central of Alexandria. An expat can hail a taxi for LE 80.00 to 100.00 from the Airport to Alexandria with a travel time of 40-45 minutes. Don't forget to bargain! Train Station: Alexandria's intra-city suburb rail system extends from Misr Station to Sidi Gaber Railway station which is parallel to tram line. The locomotives of the commuter line operates on diesel. Bus Station: There are a number of bus pick-up/drop-off points inside Alexandria.

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13. Transportation cost

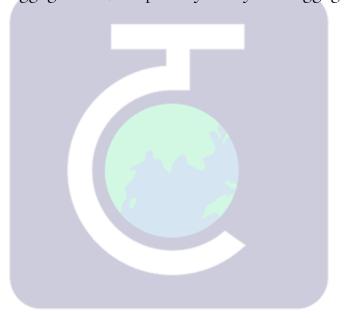
The best way to get around the second largest city of Egypt is trams. Although the route of the trams are not fixed and highly confusing, but it serve as the cheapest mode of transport in the city. It is the best option for all the budget heads in the city. Tram: In 1860, an extensive tramway network was built in Alexandria and it is the oldest in Africa. Beginning at Ramlah station in the west, the tram network ends in the Victoria district, also known as El Nasr in the east and trams are given one of the following four numbers: 1, 2, 5 and 6. All the four trams start at Ramlah station, but only two tram with numbers 1 and 2 reach Victoria. Tram with number 5 starts at Swords Tram Station and takes the inner route to Bolkly whereas tram with a number 6 starts at Sidi Gaber El Sheikh and takes the outer route between Sporting and Mostatfa Kamel. The tram is considered to be the cheapest mode of transport with a fare of 25 piastres (0.25 pounds) during most of the day and 50 piastres (0.50 pounds) post 21:00 hours. Some trams, which date back the 30s, charge a pound too. Buses: Alexandria Governorate's Agency operates the public buses for Public Passenger Transport. Blue public buses run the length of the Corniche and charge a fare of LE 2.00 for any distance. Taxis and Minibuses: The most time effective way to get around in Alexandria is taxi or a cab. Taxis sport a yellow-and-black insignia and are widely available. None of the taxi ride between any two points in the city should cost more than LE 25.00. Also, you can hire a taxi outside the railway station, if you are on a day trip to the city. It shouldn't cost you more than LE 10-15 per place. Be aware! Taxi drivers intend to scam tourists by refusing to use meters. The route identified, minibus share taxi operates along the well-known traffic arteries of Alexandria. The whole route costs around LE 2.00 and less for shorter trips, depending on the driver and the length of the trip.

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14. Baggage allowance

Prefer travelling by either taxi or a cab when carrying a large suitcase. Large suitcases are allowed in the buses and trams 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

Alexandria is known widely for serving the best seafood in the country. A tourist can definitely not miss out on the following places when exploring Alexandria:



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16. Restaurant & Nightlife

Unwind yourself in the vibrant and exciting nightlife of Alexandria. Following restaurants and bars should definitely be checked on your 'must visit places in Alexandria' list:

Food -

Unwind yourself in the vibrant and exciting nightlife of Alexandria. Following restaurants and bars should definitely be checked on your 'must visit places in Alexandria' list:

Sea Gull Restaurant:

Address: Al Meks, Qesm Ad Dekhilah, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1447888,29.8340137000000

Contact No : + 20 3 2205957

Website: http://seagulleg.com/index.php

Open / Close Time : Daily- 11:00hours-01:00hours

Meto Restaurant:

Address : 5 El Tayyar Mahmoud Shokry St. Semouha, Qism Sidi Gabir,

Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.2184925999999,29.945655699999975

Contact No : +20 3 4245045

Website: https://www.facebook.com/pizzameto/ Open / Close Time: Daily: 09:00hours-17:00hours

• Gad Restaurant:

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Address: Al Mesallah Sharq, Qesm Al Attarin, Alexandria Governorate,

Egypt

Location: 31.2013749,29.9013878000000

Contact No: +20 100 600 7404

Open / Close Time : Daily- 07:00hours-01:00hours

Chicken Tikka:

Address : Al Mazar, Qesm Al Gomrok, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.2049673,29.8849582999999

Contact No: +20 3 4805114

Open / Close Time: Daily-12:00hours-01:00hours

• Brazilian Coffee shops:

Address : Al Mesallah sharq, qesm Al Attarin, Alexandria governorate,

Egypt

Location: 31.196591,29.8964559999999

Contact No: +20 3 4874705

Open / Close Time: Sunday to Thursday: 07:00hours-23:00hours Friday

& Saturday: Closed

SpitFire:

Address : Beside Grand Royal Hotel, Al Mesallah Gharb WA Sharif

Basha, Qesm Bab Sharqi, Alexandria Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.1981861,29.8954353000000

Contact No: +20 127 728 2791

Open / Close Time : Daily- 17:00hours-00:00hours

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La Veranda Restaurant:

Address: 46 Saad Zaghloul, Raml Station, Alexandria Governorate,

Egypt

Location: 31.200115,29.8996030000000

Contact No: +20 3 4861432

Website: http://delicesgroup.com/

Open / Close Time: Daily-11:00hours-23:00hours

Le Bar:

Address : El-Gaish Road, San Stifano, Qism El-Raml, Alexandria

Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.245765,29.965636000000018

Contact No : +20 3 5818000

Website :

http://www.fourseasons.com/alexandria/dining/lounges/le_bar_lounge/

Open / Close Time : Daily- 16:00hours-01:00hours during winter and

Daily- 18:00hours-02:00hours during summer

San Giovanni Night Club:

Address: Fleming, qesm AR ramel, Alexandria governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.2338851,29.9482691000000

Contact No : +20 3 5467774

Website : http://www.sangiovanni.com/ Open / Close Time : Daily- Open 24 hours

Kadoura Fish Restaurant:

Address: 47 El July 26, Mansheya, Qism El-Mansheya, Alexandria

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Governorate, Egypt

Location: 31.209453,29.880980000

Contact No: +20 3 4800405

Open / Close Time : Daily- 12:00hours-00:15hours





17. Average meal cost

Economical meal: LE 20.00 – LE 50.00 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



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18. Shopping

Souks are shopaholics' delight when in Egypt. Apart from shopping at a souk, an expat can visit following luxurious places and malls to satisfy the craving of shopping:



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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.



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20. Essential local apps

Download ElMenus to satisfy your cravings when hungry and not in a mood to cook. Download Cairo360 for ultimate review guide. With the help of this app, watch a movie or try a new restaurant without wasting the money or getting sick. Tazkarty, is the on-the-go booking app for the best restaurants, clubs and bars in Egypt. It also puts nationwide reservations for big events at your fingertips. 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.

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21. Driving

Driving in Alexandria is a task in itself, especially for travelers who have had an experience of disciplined driving back at home. Refrain yourself from driving on the streets of Alexandria. Nonetheless if you still feel like driving then kindly abide by following rules to ensure your safety: 1) Wear a seatbelt whilst the car engine is running 2) Not more than 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood in a driver's body is allowed as per the drink driving law 3) Minimum age requirement to rent a car in Egypt is 25 years and a person of 18 years and above can drive his own car.

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22. Travel essentials

When travelling to Egypt, make sure that you pack following things: Travel Insurance documents, Re-Hydration Sachets, Diarrhea medication and 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.



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23. Essential clothes

When travelling to Egypt, make sure that you pack following things: Travel Insurance documents, Re-Hydration Sachets, Diarrhea medication and 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.



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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



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25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Banks, official bureaux de change and most hotels provide with the services of currency exchange. Nonetheless, authorized banks remain the best source of exchanging currency. Also, for convenience, private exchange agencies are located at several areas downtown and in the suburbs. In most hotels, restaurants, tourist-type shops and some supermarkets; credit cards are acceptable. ATMs are set up in various locations throughout Alexandria and are accessible 24 hours/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. Also, there is a limit on ATM cash withdrawals amounting to LE 3000 to LE 4000 every day. Working days for banks in Alexandria are from Sunday to Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, banks remain closed. Typical banking hours for Government banks are from 08:30 hours to 14:00 hours and for private/international banks are from 08:30 hours to 17:00 hours. Commission is not charged for currency exchange.

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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 Cairo 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)



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28. Languages

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



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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 was 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.

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30. Economic Scenario

The commercial and industrial activities of the city point out the importance of city's output for the national economy of Egypt. Activities like manufacturing, shipping, banking, food processing, warehousing and the production of petrochemicals and cement forms a major part of the Gross Domestic Product. Two-fifth of Egypt's industrial production is derived from industries in

Alexandria.



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31. Religious belief

Majority of people living in Alexandria are Muslim. 10% of the population comprises of Christians and majority of the Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church. The majority is of Sunnis and the minority comprises of Coptic Christians in Alexandria.



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32. Visa requirements

Every visitor to Egypt must hold a passport valid for at least six months post the date of entry. 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 orders. 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. 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.

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33. Essential vaccination

Every traveler should be up-to-date on routine vaccinations before every trip. These vaccinations include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheriatetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine and your yearly flu shot. There is no mandatory vaccinations for travelers visiting to Egypt, except for the travelers traveling from regions infected by Yellow Fever or Cholera. These travelers are required to present a certificate of vaccination upon

arrival.

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34. Theft and Safety

The level of crime is soaring in Alexandria, especially in past three years. Sexual harassment has become a common manifestation, especially targeting women donning western clothes. Police forces are nationalized and their presence can be felt in public places leading to a reduction in threat of violence and terrorism. Solo women travelers are suggested to travel either in a group or during daylight

hours as the assaults are mainly verbal.



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35. Embassy/Consulate

To view the list of embassy consulates in Alexandria, click http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/egypt



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36. Accessibility

Alexandria is a disabled-friendly city with almost all major tourist attractions providing wheelchair accessibility. Also, the Egyptian law demands 5% of the rooms in all hotels should be disabled accessible. In public areas, wheelchair accessible washrooms are infrequent but not impossible to find. At some places, there are separate counters for differently abled.



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37. Emergencies

Alexandria serves it travelers with well-developed hospitals in both public and private sectors. Following are two major hospitals in Alexandria: Alexandria University Hospitals Abou Qir Central Hospital NOTE: Foreign insurance policy is accepted in both the hospitals. 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 • Bargain for best price in Alexandria. • Sunbathe in Maamoura Beach. • Carry minimum cash and valuable items whilst exploring the city. • Refrain yourself from traveling via public buses. • Keep an eye on your luggage. • 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. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



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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". Tipping amount varies from LE 1.00 to LE 300.00. Luggage men at hotel are expected to be tipped at LE 3-5 per bag, both in and out. 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.

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40.Pet info

There are a number of hotels in Alexandria that allows you to get your pet along. Four Seasons is one of such hotels. Be vigilant of the following points when traveling to Alexandria with your pet: • Implant a microchip with International standards. • 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 certificates with the pets.

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Conclusion - Why to select this destination

Alexandria is widely known as the "Pearl of the Mediterranean". The city will spellbound you with its rich mix of culture, history, heritages and modernity. Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a book lover's paradise in Alexandria. Fort Qaitbey, Montazah Royal Gardens, Alexandrian National Museum, Roman Amphitheatre, Maarmoura Beach, Pompey's Pillar and Catacombs are a must watch attractions in Alexandria. Alexandria becomes Parisian at night and it seems that the city never rests. The city has got many options for you to enjoy your night. From belly dancers to live music to DJ to cultural events to sipping a cup of Brazilian coffee, Alexandria is a tourist's trap.





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