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## Index

### 1. Geographical location

Located some 40 kilometers along Egypt's Red Sea Coast, Hurghada is a beach resort town renowned for water adventure sports.



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### 2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Neighboring Cities Of Hurghada Are Qena With A Distance Of 162 Kilometers, Luxor With A Distance Of 210 Kilometers, Aswan With A Distance Of 362 Kilometers And El Faiyum With A Distance Of 375 Kilometers.



**Index****3. Significance**

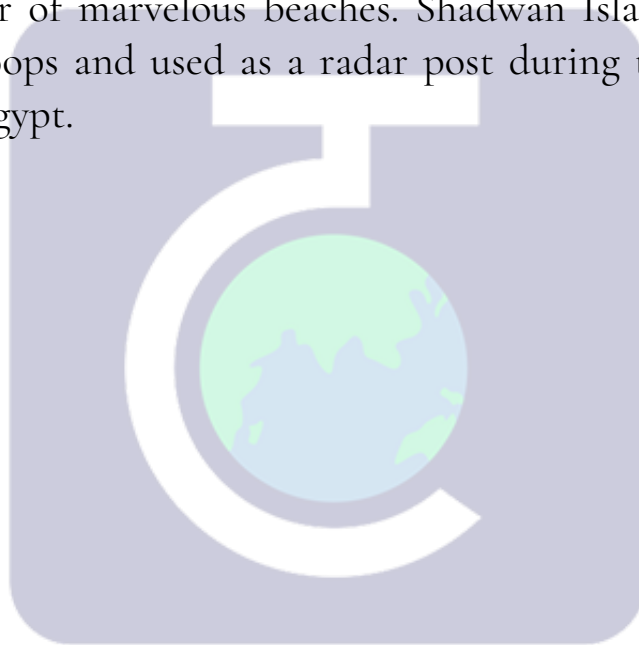
Hurghada is a beach resort town spreading some 40 kilometers along Egypt's Red Sea coast. Like Goa is to India, Hurghada is to Egypt. Breathtaking water adventure sports define the city of Hurghada. Unlike other Egyptian cities, the Red Sea Governorate is full of beaches and provides a platform to do various adventure sports for all the adrenaline junkie. The city of Hurghada is the perfect place for all the party animals. People unwind and relax themselves at beaches in the morning and party like a maniac at night.



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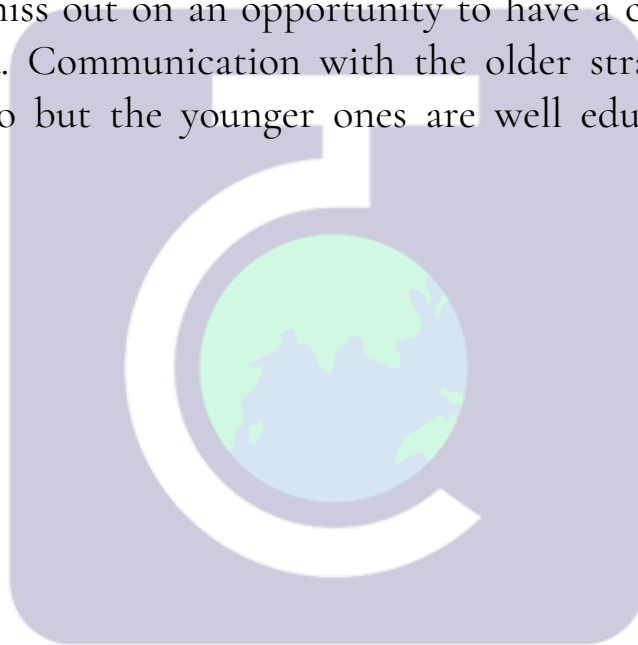
### 4. History

Unlike other Egyptian cities, Hurghada won't intrigue history lovers as the city doesn't find the remains of Egyptian civilization in the form of museums, pyramids, tombs or antique temples. It's a party city of Egypt and is meant for all party animals. The history of Hurghada is short and inconspicuous. Once upon a time, Hurghada was a small fishing village, located next to the Red Sea and swaggering a number of marvelous beaches. Shadwan Island was fortified and held by Egyptian troops and used as a radar post during the War of Attrition between Israel and Egypt.



## 5. Cultural identity

Culture of a place is a manifestation of its society. People in Hurghada are welcoming and warm. They are optimistic and open minded. But, they have low tolerance for homosexuality and LGBT community. The festivals and events celebrated in the city reflect the culture of Hurghada. People in Hurghada have relatively high standard of living and icing on the cake is their modesty and humbleness. Never miss out on an opportunity to have a conversation with the natives in Hurghada. Communication with the older strata might be a little difficult due to lingo but the younger ones are well educated in the English language.



**Index****6. Natural resources**

Hurghada is blessed with rich deposits of petroleum, halite, sylvite, gypsum, dolomite, sulfur, phosphates, zinc, talc and the heavy-metal deposits. After the discovery of oil in the area in 1913, apparently the city became more attention-grabbing and significant. But, export of the oil began only in 1921 under British Oil Magnates.





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### 7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

#### 7.1. Paid

##### 7.1.1. Makadi Bay Water World

Makadi Bay Water World, situated at the Sunwing Makadi Hotel on the northern side of Makadi Bay is one of the best water parks in Africa and the biggest in Egypt. The Water World has 46 aqua slides and features a number of aquatic elements like a wave pool, waterfalls, a lazy river and a number of relaxing pools. Parasols and sun loungers are provided at the pool and beach free of charge.

Address : Safaga Road, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 26.9824791, 33.872871499999974

Contact : +20 65 3590225

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: LE 270.00 (Child from 4yrs to 11yrs: LE 135.00)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:30hrs-12:30hrs and 13:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 7

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

##### 7.1.2. Jungle Aqua Park

Jungle Aqua Park is an amusement park with 36 water slides, 33 outdoor swimming pools and a fantastic range of sports and social activities for everyone. An exciting place for all ages, the park has an onsite mini club, a disco and a special restaurant for kids. Though the food is a bit of a hit and miss, the welcoming environment of the park will make you want to stay here for longer.

Address : Al Ismaileya, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.0908423, 33.82420930000001

Website : <http://www.jungleaquapark.co.uk/>

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : LE 284.15 per person

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: Open 24 hours Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Time Required : 8

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.3. Hurghada Grand Aquarium

Hurghada Grand Aquarium is also known as the Red Sea in a Glass, and is the seventh largest Aquarium in the world and the second biggest in the middle-eastern region. The animals are displayed as per their specific environment in 24 different galleries. Come here to get a closer glimpse of the eye-catching sea creatures of the Red Sea.

Address : Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate 84511, Egypt

Zipcode : 84511

Location : 27.133791, 33.821701999999996

Contact : +20 111 618 1117

Website : <http://hurghadagrandaquarium.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Egyptians: LE 150.00 Non-Egyptians: LE 200.00

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.4. Hurghada Marine Museum & Aquarium

Prof. Hamid Gohar established this historic aquaculture museum that provides abundant information about the world's rare coral reefs. It reveals insights of the underwater land which lies offshore and is undoubtedly worth visiting, especially for children.

Address : Hurghada – Al Ismaileya, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2836341, 33.772223800000006

Contact : +20 114 989 8003

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Hurghada-Marine-Museum-Aquarium-349397865141481/>

Nearest Public Transport : upper bus station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : LE 5.00

Open & Close Timing : Sunday to Thursday: 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Friday and

Saturday: Closed

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



## Index

### 7.2. Free

#### 7.2.1. El Gouna Stadium

Location : 27.375636, 33.659839

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.2. Giftun Island

Giftun Island is a lyrical getaway from the bustling city. The white-sand island along the Red Sea coast gives you the feeling of being in paradise with warm crystal clear water tingling your feet. For all adventure junkies, the island is a must-visit with activities like snorkeling and fishing.

Address : Red sea governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.22411, 33.927151200000026

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 6

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.3. Mahmya Beach

Mahmya Beach is an exclusive beach located on Giftun Island and is a part of the Red Sea. Invigorating and immaculate, this beautiful Caribbean-type beach in Egypt is all about great music, fine food and a fun crowd. An escape to this beach is the ideal way to spend your day with friends or family. Don't miss out on the rip-roaring snorkeling experience here.

Address : El-Nasr, Egypt

Location : 27.1830367, 33.95978360000004

Website :

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Mahmya.Island/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Mahmya.Island/about/?ref=page_internal)

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.4. Hurghada Marina

Introduced by Egyptian businessmen to the city of Hurghada, the Hurghada Marina is a place where 'fun never ends'. The marina has a very welcoming atmosphere with a number of restaurants and bars along with cafés serving hookah. The traditional souks at the marina are a unique marketplace recognized with scented aromas and dim lights. Enjoy a peaceful stroll in the picturesque waterfront setting.

Address : Sheraton Road, El-Shohada, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2255844, 33.84200910000004

Contact : +20 65 3441400

Website : <http://www.hurghadamarinaredsea.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station

Time Required : 6

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.5. Monastery of Saint Anthony

Monastery of Saint Anthony is a Coptic monastery located in the Eastern Desert of the country and is one of the oldest monasteries in the world. Saint Anthony Monastery is a large complex including churches, a garden, and a bakery surrounded by high walls. It also has an underground church which is a must-visit. The monastery was built by the followers of Saint Anthony, who is believed to be the first Christian monk.

Address : Qism Ras Ghareb, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 28.9259366, 32.349029900000005

Contact : +20 100 227 1432

Nearest Public Transport : upper bus station (not recommended)

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

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.6. Cleopatra

Cleopatra is a shopaholics' paradise in Hurghada. It offers a wide range of

products to the travelers from souvenirs, papyrus, gold and silverwork to all Egyptian and pharaonic items.

Address : Sheraton Rd, EL HADABA  HURGHADA  Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.214516, 33.839693000000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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### 8. Key sites sports & adventure

Quench your thirst for adventure at the third largest Egyptian city of Hurghada. From riding camels into the desert to diving deep underwater, or race against the wind by kiteboarding, Hurghada has everything you'll need to experience that taste of thrill and adventure at Egypt.

- **Dive Hurghada -**

Address : Sheraton Road, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea, Egypt

Location : 27.221986,33.8375899999999

Contact No : +20 106 533 2846

Website : <http://www.dive-hurghada.com/index.php>

Nearest Public Transport : High jet bus station

Entry Fees : LE 50.00 per person (Scuba Diving) LE 25.00 per person (Snorkeling)

Open / Close Time : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4

Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

- **Kitesurfing -**

Address : Safaga road km 12, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.133253,33.830731

Contact No : +20 65 3464500

Website : <http://hurghada.harry-nass.com/en/kitesurfing-hurghada/>

Nearest Public Transport : GoBus station (not recommended)

Entry Fees : LE 329.00 per person

Open / Close Time : Daily- 08:30hours-17:30hours

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 20 minutes

- **Glass Bottom Boat Ride -**

Address : Red Sea Pharoan, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.220455,33.83255800000006

Contact No : +20 122 802 5535

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station

Entry Fees : LE 25.00 per person

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Thursday: 09:00hours-17:00hours Friday and Saturday: Closed

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

- **Swimming with Dolphins -**

Address : Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 26.9914293,33.852921299999934

Contact No : +20 65 3462741

Website : <http://www.dolphinworldegypt.com/En/Default.aspx>

Nearest Public Transport : high jet bus station (not recommended)

Entry Fees : LE 80.00 per person

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Friday: 08:00hours-13:00hours & 16:15hours-19:00hours Saturday: Closed

Time Required : 2

Wait Time : 15-20 minutes



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### 9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Hurghada's (and Egypt's) most popular sport is Soccer, gasconading players of international stature. The local stadium in Hurghada is El Gouna Stadium with a seating capacity of 12,000.



## 10. Spas and relaxation

Hurghada is the perfect destination for people seeking a calm relaxing vacation. The fantastic weather conditions coupled with the warm sea make Hurghada ideal for lazy beach days and sea fun. Apart from its natural features, Hurghada also sports great spa facilities for the tired travellers. From the award-winning Makadi spa to the breathtaking Hilton Hurghada Plaza, there's plenty of places to choose from, depending on your individual needs and preferences. Let the sandy beaches and expert hands melt your stress away at Hurghada.

- **Aspendos Spa:**

Address : Esplanda Mall, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.189525,33.833083999999985

Contact No : +20 127 655 8555

Website : <https://m.facebook.com/AspendosTurkishBathhrg/>

- **Makadi Spa:**

Address : Египет, Макади, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.0000543,33.909693399999924

Website : <http://www.redseahotels.com/>

- **Swiss Wellness Spa And Resort:**

Address : Sheraton Road, SEKALA, Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.210276,33.843828000000003

Contact No : +20 65 3449479

Website : <http://www.swisswellness.net/>

- **Jasmine Palace Resort And Spa:**

Address : Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.0851968,33.8524926000000005

Contact No : +20 65 3461060

Website : <http://www.jasminepalaceresort.com/>

- **Hilton Hurghada Plaza:**

Address : Gabal El Hareem Street, Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2567803,33.8303779999999996

Contact No : +20 65 3615755

Website : <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/egypt/hilton-hurghada-plaza-HRGHITW/spa/index.html>

- **Horas Spa:**

Address : Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.304985,33.726903999999999

Contact No : +20 65 3502600

## 11. Events calendar

### Month

### Events

#### Coptic Christmas

**Hurghada 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.**

#### Hurghada International Festival

**Hurghada International Festival, a 12-day event, is held in the first week of February.**

#### Hurghada International Fishing Festival

**Hurghada being one of the finest places for fishing celebrates Hurghada International Fishing Festival every year in the month of February.**

#### Coptic Easter

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

## **Egypt Yoga Festival**

**Egypt Yoga Festival is observed in the first week of March.**

**Shem al Nessim**

**Shem al Nessim is always celebrated on the first Monday after Coptic Easter. It is a national holiday in Hurghada and people like to have picnics or play a part in other outdoor activities.**

**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.**

**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.**

### **Yacht Racing and Water Skiing Festival**

**Yacht Racing and Water Skiing Festival is an annual event which is celebrated in Alexandria and Hurghada. It attracts local and international yachtsmen and water skiers.**

### **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.**

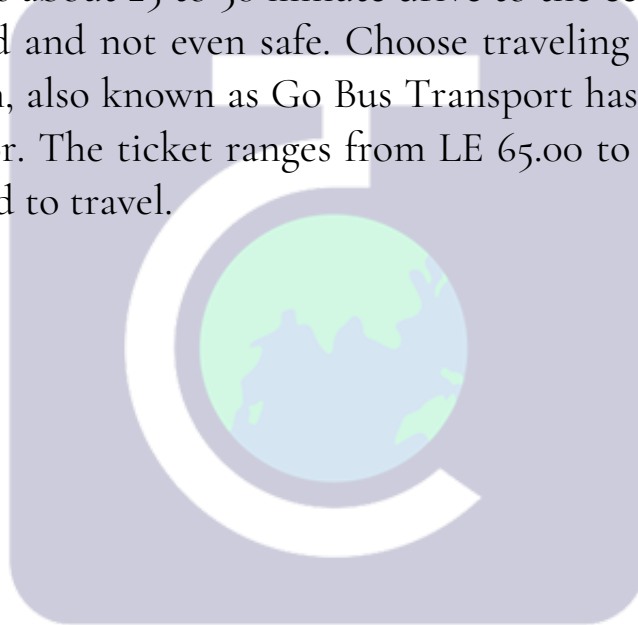
## **12. Key local guides and tours**

One doesn't need a local guide to explore the city of Hurghada. But, no trip to Hurghada is complete without snorkeling, diving and other water adventure sports. Dolphin snorkeling tour, Dive tour at different sites, Fishing tour and Swim with Dolphin tour are a "must tour" in Hurghada.



### 13. Transportation hubs

**Airport:** Hurghada International Airport is situated 5 kilometers southwest of the El Dahar district, the downtown of the city of Hurghada. One can either hail a taxi or board a minibus from the airport. It takes you about 15 minute drive to the center of the Hurghada city, if you hail a taxi. It would cost you around LE 30.00 to LE 50.00. To avoid being cheated, settle the price with the taxi-driver beforehand. Bus takes about 25 to 30 minute drive to the center of the Hurghada city. It's overcrowded and not even safe. Choose traveling via taxi. **Bus Station:** Super Jet Bus Station, also known as Go Bus Transport has daily buses to Cairo, Alexandria and Luxor. The ticket ranges from LE 65.00 to LE 100.00 depending on the city you intend to travel.





**Index****14. Transportation cost**

Microbus: Toyota vehicle comes across as a microbus in Hurghada and it carries up to 12 people at one go. The microbuses run throughout the day from central El-Bahr south along the El-Nasr and other major routes, charging between LE 1.00 and LE 3.00. Taxi: In Hurghada, Blue and Orange Taxis run 24\*7. These taxis are metered but the drivers are reluctant to charge you fair. Don't forget to haggle! From bus station to center of El-Bahr, expect to pay LE 10.00



## 15. Baggage allowance

One can carry a backpack easily when exploring the city. When riding on the microbus, it is advisable not to carry bulky and too many baggage. Commute via taxis if you're carrying too many baggage.



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### 16. Must try food and local savouries

People who haven't been to Egypt, possess trivial knowledge about Egyptian food but this is not at all surprising for me as I seldom encounter Egyptian restaurants in any other part of the world. Try following restaurants to relish Egyptian cuisine which is beyond sumptuous:



## 17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Being one of Egypt's top tourist destinations, Hurghada offers a wide range of cafes, restaurants and bars to unwind oneself and pan out every beach holiday.

### Food -

Being one of Egypt's top tourist destinations, Hurghada offers a wide range of cafes, restaurants and bars to unwind oneself and pan out every beach holiday.

- **Gad Restaurants:**

Address : Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2578957,33.811606699

Contact No : +20 65 3453260

Open / Close Time : Daily- 08:00hours-03:00hours

- **Star Fish Restaurant:**

Address : Sheraton Road, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2269226,33.838136399

Contact No : +20 65 3443751

Website : <http://www.starfish-hurghada.com/home.php>

Open / Close Time : Daily- 12:30hours-00:30hours

- **Nubian Egyptian Restaurant & Cafe:**

Address : El-Shohada, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2260437,33.840989900

Contact No : +20 122 228 7825

- **Moby Dick Restaurant:**

Address : Al Fondok, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2207155,33.837378800

Contact No : +20 65 3440050

Website : <http://www.mobydick-egypt.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily- 13:00hours-00:30hours

- **Retro Pub HRG:**

Address : Old Sheraton Road, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2107426,33.8432497

Contact No : +20 114 502 6661

Open / Close Time : Daily- 12:00hours-03:00hours

- **Halaka:**

Address : El-Shohada City, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2290515,33.841907399

Contact No : +20 65 3442649

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

- **Papas Beach Club:**

Address : El-Shohada, Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2235478,33.841464699

Contact No : +20 106 883 3552

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Papas.Beach.Club/>

Open / Close Time : Monday, Thursday & Friday: 23:00hours-17:00hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday: 23:00hours-16:00hours Sunday:  
23:00hours-15:00hours

- **Caribbean Bar:**

Address : Qesm Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate, Egypt

Location : 27.2143782,33.842540900

Contact No : +20 65 3448691

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

- **The Lodge Restaurant:**

Address : Hurghada Marina Boulevard, Sekalla, Hurghada 1200EG, Egypt

Location : 27.3849,33.679100000

Contact No : +20 122 416 3912

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/The-Lodge-Restaurant-Bar-Hurghada-182739025074234/>

Open / Close Time : Daily- 16:00hours-01:00hours

**Index****18. 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 300.00



**Index****19. Shopping**

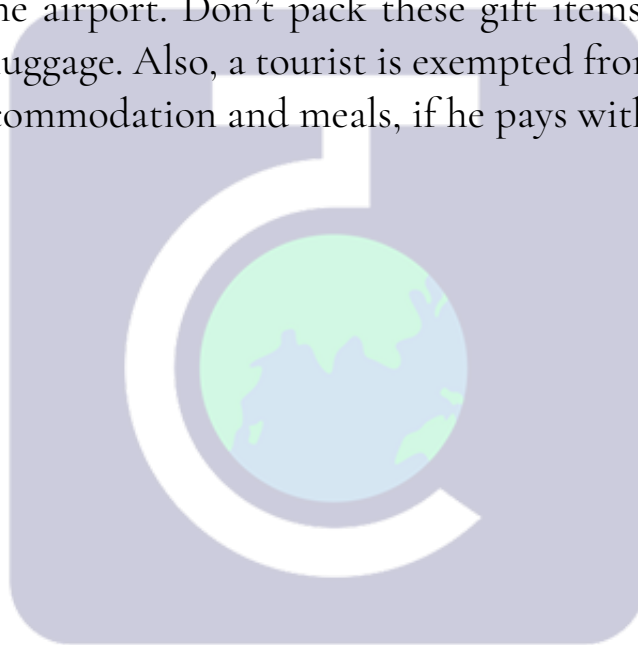
Cleopatra Trading Group is shopaholics' paradise in Hurghada. It offers a wide range of products to the travelers from souvenirs, papyrus, gold and silver works to all Egyptian and pharaonic items. Head down to Hurghada Marina on Sheraton Road if you are a brand freak as you can find Levi's, Adidas, Timberland and Dockers. Be aware of counterfeit knockoff clothes though.





## 20. 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.



## 21. Essential local apps

Download Hurghada Smart Guide to find the right way in the city. The app provides you with complete information about the city, like: events, weather, trips, attractions etc. Download HRG-Airport Planner to plan your travel with real time flight boards. It is a Multilanguage smart app which serves as your airport and airlines guide. 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.



## 22. Driving

Traffic rules and driving laws of Hurghada 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 Hurghada 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****23. 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. Carry your underwater camera to capture your diving and snorkeling experience. Also, if you are a serious diver or snorkeler, carry your own mask and fins as the mask and fins provided by the diving centers are a little old and cheap.



**Index****24. 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. Carry your underwater camera to capture your diving and snorkeling experience. Also, if you are a serious diver or snorkeler, carry your own mask and fins as the mask and fins provided by the diving centers are a little old and cheap.



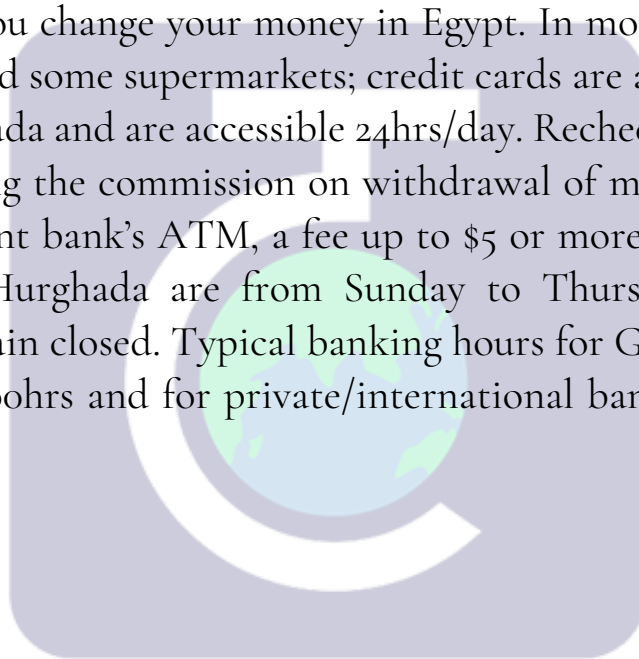
**Index****25. Local currency**

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



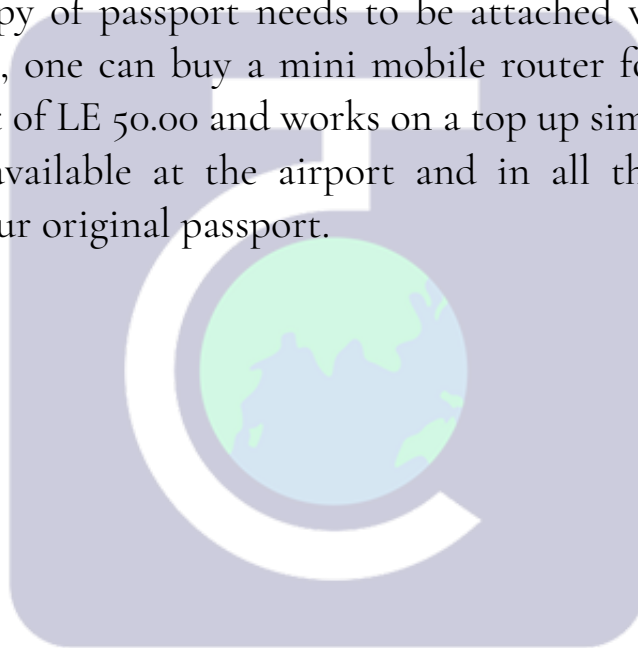
## 26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

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 Hurghada 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 Hurghada 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.



## 27. 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 Hurghada 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. Also, one can buy a mini mobile router for around LE 500.00, which includes credit of LE 50.00 and works on a top up sim card. It lasts about a month. Kiosks are available at the airport and in all the bigger hotels. For registration, show your original passport.





## 28. Time Zone

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



## 29. Languages

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



### 30. Political Scenario

The political situation of Hurghada is unpredictable as Egypt has witnessed a political unrest, especially after the resignation of Hosni Mubarak in 2011. The terrorist activities surround the city and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice against all travel to the Governorate of North and South Sinai. Threat of kidnapping prevails in remote areas and some cases of rapes have also been filed in past years. President is increasing the security to ensure the safety of the tourists at the tourist destination.



## 31. Economic Scenario

Tourism comprises of around 14% of GDP of Egypt. Hurghada contributes majorly to tourism. Undoubtedly, Egypt has made a progress in restoring confidence after the years of political turmoil. Due to foreign exchange shortages that muffled production and diluted Egypt's competitiveness, the economic uptick has faded somewhat in the first quarter of 2015-16. To overcome this challenge, the Central Bank of Egypt has moved towards a more flexible exchange rate management regime in mid-March 2016.



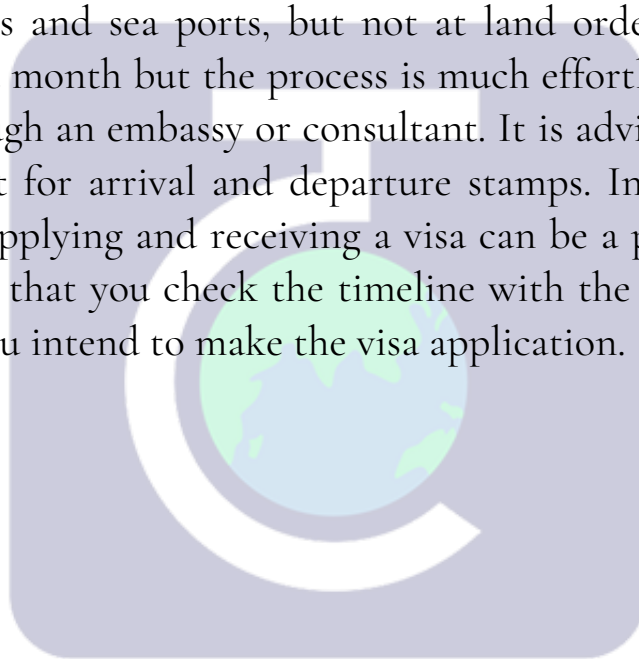
**Index****32. Religious belief**

Majority of people living in Hurghada are Muslim. 10% of the population comprises of Christians and majority of the Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church, which was the dominant religion in Egypt before Islam.



### 33. Visa requirements

Every visitor to Egypt 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 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.



**Index****34. 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.



**Index****35. 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. Pickpockets are regular passengers in buses so travel with minimum cash and valuable items whilst exploring the city. Stay safe!





**Index****36. Embassy/Consulate**

The list of foreign embassy consulates in Hurghada can be found here  
<http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/egypt>



**Index****37. Accessibility**

Hurghada is not “differently abled” friendly. Although there are tracks and ways created for wheelchairs, they have not been maintained properly since long. Government building don’t have elevators and ramps are placed in wrong angles.



## 38. Emergencies

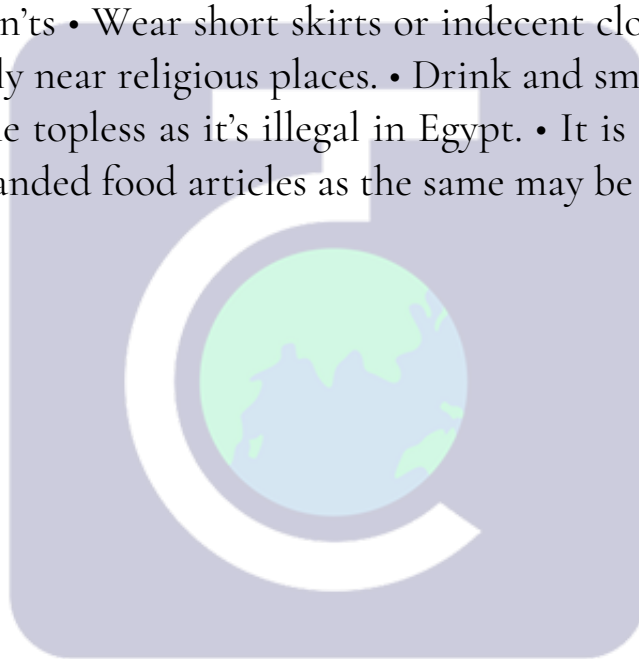
Hurghada serves its travelers with well-developed hospitals and a wide range of diagnostics and treatments, in both public and private sectors. Following are two major hospitals in Hurghada: • Hurghada General Hospital NOTE: All health insurances and travel insurances are accepted here. • El Salam Hospital NOTE: All health insurances and travel insurances are accepted here. • For any SOS services, you can call on 180 (fire brigade), 122 (police station) and 123 (ambulance)



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### 39. Do's and Don'ts

Dos • Haggle for the best price in Cairo. • Carry minimum cash and valuable items whilst exploring the city. • Always keep an eye on your luggage when moving places. • Cruise across the Red Sea to the uninhabited Giftun Islands. • Dive, kitesurf, ride bottom glass boat and snorkel • 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. • Bathe topless as it's illegal in Egypt. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



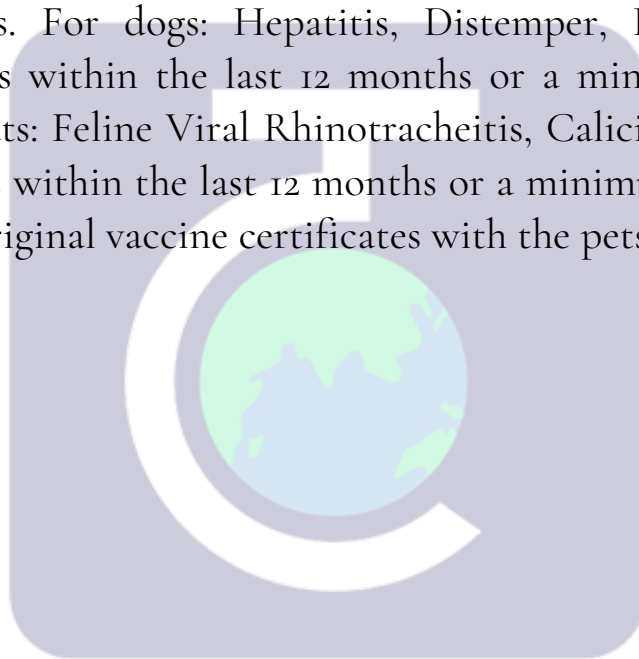
## 40.Tipping basics

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. 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. Do not forget to tip in Egyptian pounds!



**Index****41.Pet info**

i. Red Sea Zone, Mangrovy Beach and Buzzha Beach are pet friendly beaches. ii. 1-2 days prior to heading to the beach or pool, apply flea spot on or spray on solutions to the dog. iii. There are a number of hotels in Hurghada that allows you to get your pet along if taken care of the following points: • 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

*Hurghada is home to a lot of tourist attractions that are sure to awaken the adventurous side of you! Most of the attractions are outdoors and contribute in gushing of blood of the adrenaline junkies. And of course, one of Hurghada's most beloved attractions is the Giftun Islands. Check some of your wishes on your "bucket list" by visiting this vibrant and colourful Island. Feast your eyes on some of the most attractive and beautiful corals, reefs and colourful sea creatures, here in Red Sea.*



## Index

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