



PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Fort Qait Bey was built on the foundations of one of the seven wonders of the world, the Pharos lighthouse. Completed in 1480, the fort was expanded by Mohammed Ali in the 19th century.

2 The Mosque of Abu Al-Abbas Al-Mursi is the city's largest mosque and is dedicated to the patron saint of Alexandria's fishermen and sailors.

3 The Roman Amphitheatre is the only example of a Roman Theatre to be found in Egypt.

4 At the Greco-Roman Museum you will find displays of ancient times honoring the Greek and Roman heritage. Included are 21 rooms of mosaics, glass, coins, sculptures and the Tanagra figures. Other features include a mummified crocodile, human mummies, the bust of a Roman Emperor and a Ptolemaic mural.

5 Pompey's Pillar is 84 feet high and made from Aswan rose granite and was dedicated in 297 A.D. to Emperor Diocletian. This site is located south of the main city.

6 Catacombs of Kom Ash-Shuqqafa is located close to Pompey's Pillar. The catacombs date back to the second century A.D. and held some 300 corpses. It contains a maze of subterranean galleries and some 40,000 relics.

Beyond Alexandria

Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is south and east, some three hours drive by either the road through the Great Western Desert or along the Nile Delta. Numerous sights, museums and shops abound in this bustling city of approximately 18 million people, one of the largest communities in the world.

The Pyramids of Giza, located near Cairo, are one of the seven wonders of the world. These musoleums were built to show the ancient Egyptians' belief in eternal life. They contained the Pharaoh's tomb, but were also storage places for treasures and solar barques (boats for transport in the afterlife). You can actually go inside the large Pyramid of Cheops, built of about 2.5 million limestone blocks. There are separate charges to enter the Pyramid plateau and the encased solar barque.

The Sphinx, located at the Pyramid plateau, was carved almost entirely from one tremendous piece of limestone and is about 165 feet (50 meters) long and 73 feet (22 meters) high. Legend has it that it was engulfed by sand and hidden completely for years until the sun god Ra appeared to the man who later became Tuthmosis IV and offered him the crown of Egypt if he would free the Sphinx. Cost to view the Sphinx is included in the ticket price for entrance to the Pyramid plateau.

Rashid can be found 30 miles to the east of Alexandria on the coast. This is the location where the famous Rosetta Stone was discovered by Napoleon's troops and literally was the key to ancient Egyptian inscriptions.

El Alamein, 55 miles to the west, is the area of the famous battle between the British Eighth Army under Montgomery and the Africa Corps led by Rommel. The first great turning point of World War II, it is marked by war cemeteries and a museum.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Alexandria, we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning your options, content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Be prepared to bargain – it is expected in markets. It is wise to not show too much interest in the item and start the bargaining with a price much lower than you are really prepared to pay and then barter up to that point. Bargaining is not an accepted practice in shops.

Tipping: Here it is "baksheesh" and is more than just a reward for good service and is regarded as supplemental income. Wages in Egypt can tend to be low so baksheesh is a vital supplement to the income of workers. You'll be expected

to tip a small amount for something as minor as having the door opened for you. In most of the restaurants frequented by tourists 12% service charge and 5% government tax are included in the bill, however, you are expected to add a little extra as well.

Dress Code: As the population is predominantly Muslim, a strict dress code is followed. The rule of the thumb is: the less seen the better. For men: long pants to hide the legs and long or short sleeved shirts to hide shoulders (no tank tops). For women: no shorts or uncovered shoulders. Skirts or dresses should cover at least the knees and as much of the arm as possible. However, many visitors break this rule and are nevertheless tolerated.

Local Cuisine: Ful (cooked, mashed fava beans) is a favorite; it is served with a pita type bread called aish baladee. Try the harira soup (herbed lamb, lentils and chick peas) followed by either couscous or tajina. Kofta and kebab are two of the most popular dishes in Egypt, Kofta is ground meat peppered with spices, skewered and grilled over a fire just like shish kebab. Kebab is similar but the meat isn't ground. Grilled tomatoes and onions are also served.

Drink Specialties: Shay (tea) and kahwa (coffee) head the list of popular drinks in Egypt. Both are usually made very strong and served with an extreme amount of sugar. The beer, Stella, is served in 750 ml bottles. An Egyptian staple is asab (sugar cane juice). Soft drinks are widely available. You will find some pretty good local wines, a very sweet tasting liqueur called Abu Simbel, western hard liquors are available in the major hotels. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The main shopping areas are at the Ramle Tram station (1.5 km from port), Mansheya Square (2 km from port) and the Gold Souk (2 km from the port).

Egypt generally is known for budget souvenirs. The most popular items being hieroglyphic drawings of Pharaohs, queens, gods and goddesses which can be found on anything from paper to brass tables. Copperware, brassware, gold, silver, ceramics, alabaster and papyrus are readily available. A cartouche with the name of a friend spelled in hieroglyphics makes an interesting gift.

Egyptian cotton is renowned. Full-length robes (galabiyas) for men can be made to order. Avoid ivory products as they are not allowed to be imported to many countries including the United States of America and Canada.

LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency of Egypt is called the pound (LE). In arabic it is called a guinay. There are notes in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100. Coins in circulation are for denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 20 pt. You may also encounter piastre notes in denominations of 5, 10 (rare), 25 and 50.