

World66's guide to Cairo

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Cairo

Cairo is one of the greatest cities to explore, but it is not a fairytale city, with beautiful minarets and picturesque bazars. Of course it has those, but they are not the essence of *Cairo*. *Cairo* is exciting, alive and with over 10 million people an overcrowded city.

The city of *Cairo* is also full of sights of different kinds. There are remains from the Pharaonic days, there are museums, there are loads of islamic monuments. See the special sights section for details for all these attractions.

Just walking around downtown and in the older residential parts inside the wall of the city where craftsmen work on the sidewalks outside their homes is also a real pleasure. It is easy to meet real Cairenes that are eager to discuss anything with you. Some of them try to lure you to their carpetshop, others are really interested and interesting to talk with.

Be sure to visit the bazar of Khan el Khalili to do some shopping, see shopping section for details.

Cairo – Eating Out

If you have the opportunity, go to the Felfela restaurant, near Midan el Tahrir: it is an absolute must. The food is excellent, inexpensive, and the atmosphere is delightful.

Look for Casinos along the Nile shore, especially in summer. These are places where you can relax outdoors, enjoy a snack and immerse yourselves in the unique Egyptian atmosphere.

all

Wok-n-Roll

One of the experts when it comes down to Malaysian dishes. Besides that, also a wide choice of Thai and Chinese dishes.

address: 54654

tel: +20 2 7490092

Le Chateau

Extensive continental menu, great service. Make sure you dress for the occasion.

address: El Nasr Building, el Nil Street

tel: +20 2 348 5321

La Bodega

Mediterranean cuisine finished off with live music.

address: 157 26th July St.

tel: +20 2 7362183

Rotisserie Belvedere

French way of dinner dansant.

address: Caire Nile Hilton Hotel

tel: +20 2 5780444

Plato restaurant

When you feel like singing after Italian and French food, you might participate in the karaoke games.

address: 15 Osman Ibn Affan Square

tel: +20 2 3411194

Phillies

Try one of the cheese dishes with one of the fine bottles of red wine.

address: 34 Siliman Abaza St.

tel: +20 2 7619146

Les Trefles

French food in a perfect setting (great views of the Nile).

address: Corniche el Nil (opposite the World Trade Centre),

tel: +20 2 579 6511

Marco Polo

Changes the menu every week.

address: El Oruba St

tel: +20 2 2905055

Poco Loco

South American restaurant specialised in Argentinian dishes.

address: 17 Road 9b

tel: +20 2 3595587

Fine Touch

Steaks the American way and a DJ in the weekends.

address: El Zeini Tower 25 Misr Helwan

tel: +20 2 3805502

Mandarin Chinese Restaurant

Specialised in Mongolian barbeque.

address: 1 Palastine Road

tel: +20 2 5191888

Way Out Sushi

Japanese cuisine.

address: 17 Mohamed Mazhar St.

tel: +20 2 7372996

Madura

One of the few Indonesian restaurants in Cairo.

address: Galaa Square

tel: +20 2 3369700

Chinois

Top Japanese Teppanyaki restaurant.

address: El Oruba St

tel: +20 2 2677730

Bird Cage

Thai restaurant where the stir fried dishes are a must.

address: Corniche el Nil

tel: +20 2 7957171

Le Peking

address: 23b Ismail Mohamed St.

tel: +20 2 7363894

Sushiyama

About ten different sorts of sushi, all prepared in very original ways.

address: World Trade Centre, Corniche al-Nil

tel: +20 2 578 5161

Thailandia

Great atmosphere and beautiful interior.

address: 3 Sphinx Square.

tel: +20 2 3044400

The Silk Road

Besides a wide choice of Indian dishes, also original Oriental dishes.

Delirium Tremens

Dishes from all throughout India, accompanied by live music. Occasional theme nights in the weekends.

address: 17 Road 9b

tel: +20 2 3595587

Nile Bukhara

address: 43 Misr Helwan Agricultural Road

tel: +20 2 3805999

Kandahar

One of the new popular spots. Although slightly difficult to find, once you've arrived at the spot you'll be treated as a king and taste superb Indian food.

address: El Dowal El Arabia St.

tel: +20 2 3030615

Moghul Restaurant

You won't have that often the opportunity to dine at the foot of one of the remaining Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The Indian Moghul Restaurant offers this opportunity.

address: Mena House Pyramids road, Giza

tel: 202 383 3222

Leonardo

Antipasti buffet.

address: El Oruba Street

tel: +20 2 2677730

Rossini

Live piano music and original and tasty Italian dishes. Nice terrace where you can catch your breath again.

address: 66 Shar'a Omar Ibn al-Khattab

tel: +20 2 291 8282

Ciros Pizza Pomodoro of Knightsbridge

Wide range of pizzas and occasionally live bands.

address: 221 Corniche el Nil
tel: +20 2 579-9678 or 579-6512.

Da Mario

If you can't choose between the many traditional Italian dishes, it might be an idea to 'design' your own pizza.

address: Corniche el Nil, near Tahrir Square
tel: +20 2 578 0444

La Terrazza

Known for its Pollo dishes and the DJ's performances in the weekends.

address: Oasis Hotel, Alexandria Desert Road
tel: +20 2 3831777

Tia Maria

Looking for pizza or pasta in Cairo. Tia Maria is the place: good food, cosy atmosphere. It's a little hard to find—keep asking on the street.

address: 32 Jeddah St., Mohandiseen
tel: 713-273.

Dido's Al Dente

Nice Italian restaurant in Zamalek. Try their pasta with mushroom, shrimp & smoked salmon.

address: 26 Bahgat Ali St. Zamalek
tel: 7359117

Il Galeone

Next to El Gezirah Sheraton, good option for pasta.

address: The Place – Montaza El Gezirah St. Zamalek
tel: 7361111

Psaria Restaurant

Opposite the main entrance of Shooting Club in Dokki, you find this fish restaurant that specializes in Psaria fish.

address: 15 Osman Ibn Affan Sq.
tel: 012 3411194

L'Aubergine

For the vegetarians in our midst, l'Aubergine on Zamalek islands is definitely an option. This one offers a few more options than just Falafel and salad.

Very nice indeed

Pasha Restaurant

Elegant River dining with all the flavors of Egyptian cuisine. A bit on the expensive side.

address: across the street from Marriot Hotel in Zamalek. On the water. It is a boat
openinghours: Eveyday from 5pm – 2 am

Felfella

Felfella offers down-to-earth Egyptian food. It's located at near Medan Talat Harb.

address: 15 Hoda Shaarawy St

Alfi Bey

Small restaurant run by a strict Muslim. Specialities include roast lamb and pigeon stuffed with liver.

address: 3 Sharia Alfi Bey

Cairo – Accommodation

all

Sun

Nice place with good ambiance.

address: 2 Sharia Talaat Harb

tel: +20 2 578 1786

Garden City House

address: 23 Kamal El Din Salah .st

tel: +20 2 3543028

Al-Fayoum Oasis

address: Fayoum Oasis Rd

tel: +20 2 3436821

Sultan

Only dormitory.

address: 4 Sharia Tawfiqia

tel: +20 2 772250

The Maadi Hotel

address: 55 Misr Helwan Rd. – P.O. Box 196, Maadi, Cairo 11431,
Egypt
tel: +20 2 3505050
url: www.maadi.com

Sheraton Cairo

547 rooms. USD 165 a double. USD 138 a single. *mümtaz: husam:* Dear sir, i would like to ask about your offers, your discounts. THANK YOU,

address: 1 Galaa Square
tel: +20-2-336-9700

Pyramid Parks Hotel

Inter-Continental hotel situated 3 kilometres from the Giza Pyramids. Pyramids Area, P.O.Box 70.

address: Alexandria Desert road
tel: (202) 383 8666

Hilton Ramses Hotel

36 floors and 836 rooms.

address: 1151 Corniche el Nile
tel: +20 2 5758000

Pharaoh Egypt Hotel

: I need one twin room for 8-18/12 with bathroom. Could you give me the rate as well as some information about the hotel please. Thanks.

address: 11 Ahmed Orabi St
tel: +20 2 3474266

Helnan Shepheard

270 rooms with airconditioning. At walking distance from Tahrir Square.

address: Garden City
tel: +20 2 3553800

Le Merdien Cairo

This five star hotel is located on the bank of the Nile. Great views from the 272 rooms. Swimming pool and shopping mall as well.

address: Corniche el Nil
tel: +20 2 362 1717

Nile Hilton

Over 400 rooms and conference facilities.*hendrickx* :

address: Tahrir Square

tel: +20 2 5780444

Europa Cairo

250 rooms with balcony and airco. Swimming pool on the roof and sauna and fitness centre.

address: 300 Pyramids Road

tel: +20 2 581 59 40

Safir Suites Hotel

Two types of suites, with either two or three rooms and lots of amenities.

address: 21 Mohamed Mazhar St.

tel: +20 2 3420055

Siag Pyramids Hotel

350 rooms and several restaurants and bars. Swimming pool and tennis courts.

address: Sakkara Road

tel: +20 2 3856022

url: sales@SiagHotel.com

Pyramids Park Inter-Continental

All rooms have a balcony. Mini zoo for children.

address: Alexandria Desert Road

tel: +20 2 383 8666

Four Seasons Hotel

address: 35 Giza Street

tel: +20 2 573 1212

Cairo Marriott Hotel

: : *husam*: dear sir, I would like to reserve one double room, please send me your rates your offers. thank you
housam elbarasy e-mail : elbarasyhusam@hotmail.com

address: Saraya Al Gezira Street

tel: +20 2 7358888

Le Meridien El Ein Resort

128 rooms. Nightclub. Swimming pool. Three restaurants.

address: 6 Shagaret El Dor Street

tel: +20 2 3320 683

Hotel Lotus

address: 19 Alfi Bei Street

tel: +20 2 5915810

CostOfDoubleForANight: cost of triple for a night

email: what is the e-mail address

costofdoubleforanight: cost of triple for a night

Windsor

address: 19 Sharia Alfi Bey

tel: +20 2 5915810

Baron Hotel

Just opposite the palace of Baron Empain. 126 rooms, 14 deluxe rooms, business center and health club.

husam: DEAR SIR, I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE IN YOUR HOTEL, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FIRST WHAT OFFERS YOU HAVE FOR SINGLE AND DOUBLE ROOMS AND THE RATES OF PRICES. THANK YOU HOUSAM ELBARASY MY E-MAIL IS : elbarasyhusam@hotmail.com

address: Maahad El Saharaa St.

tel: +20 2 2915757

Cairo – Shopping

Cairo offers great shopping opportunities. Not just carpets shops and hubblu bubblu salesmen, but also a modern fashion district. To wander around through the ancient shopping mall of Khan al-Khalili is a pleasure even if you don't intend to buy anything.

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Fashion district

Cairo is the fashion center of the Arabic world and it is very interesting to have a look in the Cairo fashion scene. Most of the popular places are centered in Heliopolis. A number of new and hip boutiques have set shop, particularly on Horreya street (off El Mirghany), all in colorful and modern decoration.

For details on the trendy places, try out this site **Sherry:** wanna check out first

Khan-el Khalili

An absolute must-see in the city of Cairo itself is the Khan-el Khalili Bazaar, a warren of winding streets and twisting alleyways with an amazing number of shops stalls and carts. In many ways, the bazaar is the heart of the city. You could easily spend a day (preferably two half days) taking it all in. If youre planning on doing any shopping, be prepared to bargain shamelessly. There are wonderful brass ornaments and fixtures for sale

as well as some of the loveliest mosaics youll find anywhere. Though Friday is the Muslim holy day, many shops are open (Sundays see a lot of closings however). The perfume shops of the bazaar are particularly memorable; suffused with spice and floral scents and decorated with plush Oriental carpets and beautiful crystal chandeliers theyre run by clerks who can mix any fragrance you desire.

Cairo – Books

The following books about Cairo are worth checking out before you leave and also nice to bring along on your trip. Especially the books by Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz are worth checking out because of their detailed descriptions of life in Cairo.

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Palace of Desire

author: Naguib
Mahfouz
isbn: 0385264682
subject: Literature

Memories of a Lost Egypt : A Memoir With Recipes

author: Colette
Rossant
isbn: 0609601504
subject: History

Cairo the city victorious



author: Ma
Rodenbeck
isbn: 0679446516
subject: History

Egyptian Cooking : A Practical Guide

author: Samia
Abdennour
isbn: 0781806437
subject: Cooking

Sugar Street

author: Naguib
Mahfouz
isbn: 0385264704
subject: Literature

Cairo – Internet Cafes

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Ismailianna Cafe

tel: 064–351428
Internet Cafe
address: 16 Khaled Ibn El Walid & Tahrir
Ismailia, Egypt.

St@rNet Cyber Cafe

St@rNet Cyber Cafe is located in the Cafe de Paris, a French style cafe. This cyber cafe is located very close to most of the international hotels in Cairo. The guest will find a comfortable atmosphere that provides him witha good?

address: 18 Yousef Elgendy St., Boustan Commercial Center – Down Town, inside Cafe de Paris
tel: +20 2 3910151 Ext. 117

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email: pcstores@soficom.com.eg
hours: 9:00 am to 1:00am
address: 130 demsheq st. heliopolis
url: www.pcstoresegypt.com

Logicana Genena Cafe de crue

address: Genena Mall Store # 7D Abas El–Akad Nasr
City
tel: +20 2 046901, 047901, 046261, 4046263

Style Internet Cafe

address: Nasr City 65 Ismail El-Kabany St., The Shopping Mall, Second floor. Facing St Fatima School
Neer Genena Mall

tel: +20 2 4032918

Way Out Internet Caf  

address: 18 El-Shahid Mohamed AbdEl Hadi St.

tel: +20 2 4180995

Web Cafe 1

address: 28 Lebanon St. el Mohandseen

tel: +20 2 3474024

Web cafe 2

address: Merryland Park (the New Generation), Roxy , Heliopolis

tel: +20 2 4512314,5,6,7 ext :106

Netsonic

We are located in a cozy area at Heliopolis, Cairo, 72 Ammar Ebn Yasser St. Behind the Military Academy, we offer a Broadband Connections plus a lot of services, please vist us at:

<http://www.netsonic.com.eg>

email: info@netsonic.com.eg

address: 72 Ammar Ibn Yasser Street, Heliopolis

tel: +20 2 6245752

hours: 11am till midnight

email: info@netsonic.com.eg

price: 5 L.E. / hr.

zipcode: 15

Site

address: 1)20 Shehab St. Mohandseen 2)49 El Batal Ahmed Abd el Azez St. Mohandseen

tel: +20 2 3428866

Spacesoft

address: 41 El-Battal Ahmed Abd El-Aziz St. Mohandiseen-Giza

tel: +20 2 3049111

Spider Net

address: 74 Hisham Labib St. Nasr City

tel: +20 2 2870907

Friends Games and Net Cafe

Take a step into the future at Friends Cyber Cafe. A cafe that nourishes your mind as well as your body; with tasty food & beverages and a trip into the digital world of Cyber Space; Surf the Internet while you snack and relax.

Friends Cyber Cafe has the latest cutting edge Internet technologies and new media. Let us show you how easy and fun they are to use. A fully trained staff is always on hand to support and guide you. Even the beginners can be online, taking digital pictures and video conferencing in minutes. Professional instructors are also available for in-depth classes and seminars.

Why Friends Cyber Cafe? In today's competitive environment companies look for original and exciting ways to stand out in the crowd. As technology speeds ahead, Friends Cyber Cafe sifts through new products to provide you with the best in Internet and computer technology. Take a step into the 21st century with the Friends Cyber Cafe.

address: 11 Ibn El Nafies Street, Zone # 6 from Makram Ebied Nasr City

hours: 11:00 am – 01:30 am

email: friends_netcaffe@hotmail.com

price: 2.5 L.E / hr

tel: +2 02 6717022

zipcode: 8

Bubbles C@fe

Bubbles C@fe offers a full cafeteria with terrace garden, cocktails, Hubbly Bubbly (Shisha) and a 256Kbps Internet cafe with 6 Pcs and finally Billiards tables. We offer Top quality service at unbeatable prices :) US 2.00 We are an internet cafe, we offer internet access and pre-paid internet access.

price: 3LE (0.4\$) Per Hour

tel: (002)(02) 4046542

email: bubbles@webconceptseg.com

hours: Daily

address: 55 Mohamed Mandour str, behind Kentucky El Tayaran,

Smartech

nice place to surf the net and download files in a high speed ADSL connection also play network games 233 MHZ Pentium processors access to print facilities MS-Office suite loaded.

price: 2.5 Egy L.E

tel: 2026400134

email: a_rahman3@hotmail.com
hours: 24 Hours
address: 14 el-emeralay eid mohammed St. Heliopolis
Spc Net

Talk to The Future Games-rooms and Internet-rooms separately.

price: 8 L.E For 1 Hour
tel: 124261303
email: spcegypt@hotmail.com
address: Arkadia Mall. Ground Floor
url: www.spcnet.com

Dreampark Cyber Cafe

Internet Egypt is the first ISP in the country to pioneer Cyber Cafes, with 8 cafes successfully established in popular suburbs of Cairo. Pay us a visit soon, and enjoy the relaxed informal atmosphere, with expert technical assistance on hand. T

tel: 011- 400-903
Dreampark
address: 6th of October City
No entrance charges required

Heliopolis Cafe

tel: 4532077
Internet Cafe
address: Pasta Fresca Restaurant,
23 El Hegaz Str., Heliopolis. Op. Merryland gate
Cairo

Hurghada Cafe,Internet Cafe

tel: 065-447211
Flat 104, Building 10A, 1st floor, Center
address: point,
7 ElMena St., El Sakala Sq.
Hurghada Trading Center

Internet Egypt

tel: 3562882
Garden City Cafe
address: Internet Egypt main branch, Garden City.
Cairo
url: brainy1.ie-eg.com

Maadi Cafe

tel: 3528897
address: Maadi Grand Mall, 3rd Fl., Maadi.
Cairo

Mohandiseen Cafe

tel: 3050493
Cafe Internet
address: Zamalek Club passage, Mohandiseen, above the Goldie store
Cairo

Nile Hilton Cafe

tel: 5780666 / 5780444 Ext. 758
address: Nile Hilton New Shopping Mall, Food Court.
Cairo

Way Out Internet Café

Opening 5 other brances soon

The Mariners Office Ltd is a communication center catering to visiting yachts. We are located on the waterfront at the Crews Inn Marina in Chaguaramas Trinidad.

We offer Internet access, Email, Fax, Courier, Mail and many other services.

Located in a

price: 13.5 LE (Egyptian Pounds)
tel: 4180793
email: info@wayoutcafe.com
hours: 24 Hours
address: 18 El-Shahid Mohamed AbdEl Hadi St.,
Cairo 11351 Egypt
url: www.wayoutcafe.com

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hours: 24 HRS

email: PETANET@MSN.COM

price: 3.00 L.E

tel: +2028367646

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If you Want :

(High speed , Top service , New game , Free E.mail , Free voice chat , Maintince_ Free Test , Soft drink , Hot drink , Soft music ,Top price)

All oF This IN Just Click

Talk a Look Of The New Look Of The Velocity and Graficlty and High Speed and Services .

address: 16 El.kawsar st. From Gameat EL.dewal – EL.Mouhandesen

hours: 24 Hour

email: Just_click@hotmail.com

price: 5 LE (Egyptian Pounds)

tel: 3354870

zipcode: 15

Just click C@fe

Just Click Internet Club

If You Want :

1– High speed 1024

2– Top service

3– New games

4– Free e.mail

5– Free voice chat

6– Maintince (Free Test)

7– Soft drink

8– Hot drink

9– Soft music

10– Top price

All of this in Just Click

Talk a Look Of The New Look Of The Velocity and Graficly and High Speed and Services .

address: 16 El.kawsar st. From Gameat EL.dewal – EL.Mouhandesen

hours: 24 Houer

email: Just_click1@hotmail.com

price: 5 LE (Egyptian Pounds)

tel: 3354870

Sigmanet Cafe

email: 8 L.E

address: sigmanet_group@hotmail.com

escape

ADSL CONNECTION GAME NETWORK GAME ONLINE SCANNER PRINTER COPUTER SERVICE
PHOTOCOPY

address: 1 ellayth ben saad from aly abd elrazek – elhegaz – nozha

hours: 24

email: escaaa@hotmail.com

price: 2–3 LE

tel: 6203603

zipcode: 15

Cairo – Sights

Cairo has many sights, enough for a week or two. Here they are divided into sections according to their nature.

Of all the sights you cannot afford to miss the Pyramids (would you consider skipping them?), the Spinx and the Egyptian Museum. They are the unique remainders of the oldest civilization of the planet.

Try to get a good taste of islamic culture as well by visiting some of the mosques and the old town. Visiting these sights will give you some understanding of the basis of present day life in Egypt. Furthermore the COptic quarter offers some interesting sights worth exploring. The city of death is a category apart and merits a visit as well.

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Mohammed Ali Mosque

Not named after the boxer but after a ruler of Egypt, the Mohammed Ali Mosque in the Citadel of Cairo is one of the finest examples in its kind. Be sure to visit. The citadel itself is also nice.

Ibn Tulun

Ibn Tulun mosque is one of my favourites. A good example of the classical style of religious buildings in Cairo.

Al Azhar

Al Azhar Mosque and the university have been the focal point of islamic learning for the last thousand years and continue to be an important centre for islamic studies today. You can visit the university and the mosque and they are good examples of islamic architecture.

al Mu'allaha

The basilica 'Al-Muaallahah', meaning 'the hanging church', was built on top of the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon, hence its name. It dates as far back as the 4th century AD, making it one of the oldest churches of Christianity.

In 2004 a new tunnel under the church used by the early christians to run away in case the church was attacked.

Pyramid of Zoser

Another famous attraction that is not in Cairo proper is Saqqara site of the Step Pyramid of Zoser and a number of interesting tombs (a doctors tomb has depictions of surgical operations and the Serapeum has the now empty tombs of 25 embalmed sacred oxen). Saqqaras structures are much older than the Giza pyramids and the artwork in the underground tombs is more impressive than whats seen in the Cheops Pyramid.

The road to Saqqara is a site in itself past date plantations and scenic countryside. Get there early as the sight closes around 3 or 4 pm. Saqqara is usually seen in conjunction with tours of Giza or as a half-day trip from Cairo. Nearby at the ruins of Memphis (once the largest and most important city of ancient Egypt) lies an imposing statue of Ramses II. Unfortunately hardly anything else of this once great city remains. Also near Cairo is the Pharonic Village a living museum depicting everyday life in ancient Egypt. And if youre interested in health spas Helwan 16 mi/25 km south of Cairo has thermal baths

Papyrus Museum

The Papyrus Museum explains you everything about this ancient form of paper that was so important for the development of civilization. Beautiful examples of old papyrus documents.

Museum of Islamic Art

The Museum of Islamic art has beautiful examples of Medieval art form the ISlamic Empire. It is worth a visit fro those interested in the culture of Islam or for those who want to get away for a day from Pyramids, Sphinxes and temples.

Egyptian Museum

The biggest sinlge attraction within the city center for tourists is the Egyptian Museum. The sprawling sandstone building on Tahrir Square is packed with antiquities: mummies including the pharaohs Ramses II and III and Seti I, the contents of the tomb of Tutankhamens (King Tut) and many many other highlights from the oldest of civilizations. Dont overlook the excellent collection of Greek and Roman artifacts. You may

want to spend more than one day here, or make it in two afternoons.

Blue Mosque

The Blue Mosque of Cairo is less impressive than the one in Istanbul, but still definitely worth a visit. Great Islamic architecture and a peaceful atmosphere where you can sit and relax and get away from the busy city.

St. George the Martyr

One of the more important churches of Coptic Cairo. Amidst a flurry of burning candles, art of many different styles, periods and media (metals, oils, and mixed media) you will find depicted scenes from St. George's valiant fight for Christianity. In the nearby Convent of Saint George there was also a dramatic chain ceremony that many people took part in as acknowledgement of the suffering and persecution of St. George and others.

St. Barbara

Founded in the 5th Century, the Church was rebuilt in the 10th Century and still retains its wooden door, a magnificent example of fine Coptic art.

Coptic Museum

The museum houses a rare collection of ancient Christian relics including remains of architectural works, textiles, icons and old manuscripts reflecting the history of Coptic civilization. The Museum has an official WWW home page. [Click here](#)

Tel (+202)362.87.66

Christian and Judaic sites

And don't forget, there's also a rich Judaic and Christian history too. You can even visit the site where baby Moses was purported to have been picked up out of the Nile.

Cairo – Getting Around

Traffic in Cairo can be hell. Driving your own vehicle takes some guts. The best ways of transport are taxis and the subway system. Buses tend to be very overcrowded with people hanging out of the doors and it is often hard to find out where and when they are going.

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Airport

Cairo International Airport is 23 km from the city centre. Transfer by coach or taxi, taking 30 mins but much longer during rush hour.

Airport departure tax: £19

Latest check-in time: International 90 mins, domestic 30 mins. There is an airconditioned bus that goes from the airport (on the far side of the parking lot) to behind the Egyptian Museum for 2LE+0.5LE per piece of luggage. It is worth the walk to save the hassle of dealing with the airport taxi's.

Taxi

Taxis are metered. Insist that the driver uses the meter or fix a price in advance. **Keith Hekman:** The taxis in Cairo have not used their meters for years. They work quite well, but it is the riders responsibility to know the fare in advance. When you arrive to the place, get out, and hand the exact change back through the window. Then walk away. The driver may complain, but ignore him, if you know you have given him a fair price. I have found that most of the taxi drivers are nice. The key is self confidence (and a little bit of Arabic helps as well)

Rent a car

Auto Elite Rent a Car

Tel: 3024288, Fax: 3461533

Avis

Tel: 3547400, Fax: 3562464

Budget Rent a Car

Tel: 3400070, Fax: 3413790,

Europcar

Tel: 3474712, Fax: 3036123

Hertz

Tel: 3474172, Fax: 3446627

Cairo – Nightlife and Entertainment

Cairo has always been famous for its nightlife. And although some of it is a bit rundown, although all the bellydancers are from Russia and although the Gulf Arabs coming over for weekend brides are not your favourite clientele, there is still a lot of fun to be had at night.

I would suggest you skip the big expensive western hotels and try to go to one of the casinos along the Nile river.

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The Jazz Club

Live music some evenings. Wednesday nights are the favourite and most crowded.

address: Midan Sphinx, Mohandiseen

ClosingTime: 3:00 a.m.

Bulls Eye Pub

Samba, hiphop and live jazz music on some evenings.

address: 32 Jeddah Street

tel: +20 2 7616888

Cairo Sheraton Casino

Deb Stephenson:

address: Galai Square

tel: +20 2 336 9700

Casino Ramses Hilton

Private club on the upper level. Rest of the casino accessible to non-members as well.

address: 1115 Cornich El Nil

openinghours: 3pm–9am.

tel: +20 2 574 4400

Kings and Queens Casino

Video Poker as well.

address: El Oruba St.,

openinghours: 24 hours.

tel: +20 2 2902027

Nile Hilton Casino

Slottables, roulette and pool tables.

address: Tahrir Square

openinghours: 1pm–10am.

tel: +20 2 5780444

Casino d'Egypt

address: Helnan Shepheard Hotel, Corniche El Nil Downtown

tel: +20 2 594 3001

Casino Libnan El Salam

address: 65 Abdel Hamid Badawi Street

tel: +20 2 297 4000

Casino Semiramis

Located in the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel.

address: Corniche El Nile St., Garden City

openinghours: 24 hours.

tel: +20 2 3557171

Movenpick Casino

Roulette, Blackjack and video machines.

address: 12 El-Horreya St

tel: +20 2 2470077

Omar Khayyam Casino

Blackjack and roulette.

address: Cairo Marriott Hotel, Zamalek.

openinghours: 24 hours.

tel: +20 2 3408888

Casino Libnan El Salam

Dress to kill and indulge in an evening at gamblers' paradise. Stud Poker, Roulette and blackjack.

address: 65 Abdel Hamid Badawi Street

tel: +20 2 2974000

Cap d'Or

Mixed crowd gathers here to have a drink before setting off for one of the nightclubs or fails to leave this bar with its vibrant atmosphere.

address: 31 Abdel Khaliq Sarawat

tel: +20 2 1238957

King's Pub

Typical pub with many sorts of beers and a darkish smokey atmosphere..

address: 1 Ibn Taalab Street Downtown

tel: +20 2 392 3845

The Promenade

Excellent place where you can easily sit all evening (not in the least because of the beautiful surrounding gardens). Also a good place for a meal.

address: Cairo Marrio

tel: +20 2 340 8888

Windows on the World

Excellent views and a good spot for a quiet drink. Sometimes live music.

address: Ramses Hilton, 1115 Corniche al–Nil

tel: +20 2 5758000

Deals

A good night out in town in this small bar. Quaranteed.

address: El Sayed El Bakri Street Off 26th Of July Street

tel: +20 2 3410502

Darts

Besides the possibilty of playing darts, also a good place for a meal and a drink.

address: Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel El Orouba Street

tel: +20 2 2677730

Abdel Kader

Bar in Zamalek that stays open until 4:00 am.

address: 156, 26th July St.Zamalek

tel: 7359640

Blues

Piano bar in Giza that stays open until 2:30 am.

address: 60 El Nil St. Giza

tel: 3355552

Johnny's Pub

Looking for a real English pub? Head for Johnny's in Zamalek. With Cable Tv and Karaoke you are bound to have a great time here.

address: Le Pacha 1901 – Saraya El Gezirah St. Zamalek

tel: 7356730

Pub 28

Pub with house music. Stays open until 2:00 am.

address: 28 Shagaret El Dorr St. Zamalek

tel: 7359200

Upstairs

Popular place for the wealthy (and overdressed) Egyptians. Usually they don't refuse foreigners that show up

at the door.

address: World Trade Center, Corniche al-Nil, Boulaq

tel: 02 578 3334

Crazy House Exit

House, lots of dancers, bars and very loud music.

address: 1 Salah Salem Road

tel: +20 2 3918415

Jackie's Joint

Jackie's does not have such a strict door policy as many of the hotel discos in Cairo. Good music. *zero*: Cheap and cheasy full of Egyptian and Sudanese pleasure girls. Music awful.

address: Nile Hilton, Maydan Tahrir, Downtown

tel: 02 578 0444

Le Mirage Discoteque

Both international and Arabic music.

address: Le Sfinx Pyramids, Alexandria Desert Rd

openinghours: 10pm-3am.

tel: +20 2 3837444 / 555

Saddle

In the weekends a DJ who offers an excellent mix of Arabian music and the latest hits from the far West.

address: Menna House Cairo Hotel, Pyramids Road

tel: +20 2 291 9400

Sindbad

address: 4 El-Tayaran St.,

tel: +20 2 2628111

Le Tabasco

Trendy club where you can also have dinner in the early evenings.

address: 8 Amman Sq.

tel: +20 2 3365583

Piano Piano

A trendy place with a good view over the river. It's located at the World Trade Center.

address: Corniche el Nil, 762–810

tel: +20 2 5804575

Cairo – Things to do

In the neighbourhood of Cairo you can do quite a few activities. These include camel safari's in the desert, Felukka rides on River Nile and other things.

all

Desert Trips

Various travel agents in Cairo organize jeep safaris into the desert, where you can escape the immense noise pollution of Cairo and at the same time enjoy the silence and mystical beauty of the desert. If you're not part of a tour, you'll need to access a 4x4 in order to explore the desert. A nice excursion would be to take horses from one of the stables (mentioned on this page as well) and have a barbecue in the desert or maybe even spend the night there. The people at the stables can give you all the details about it. Spending a night out in the desert is an experience you shall never forget: the stars, the vast areas of sand, the silence, and to top it all off, the chilly air of the desert by night covered up under the spell of a mysterious moon.

huh, hoe kan dit nou?

Horse back riding

Another trade mark of Cairo is to go horse–back riding in the desert. If you take a left on Pyramids Road, about one kilometer before you reach the Pyramids, the same way you would go to the Sound and Light Show, you'll find a large number of stables with foreign names to attract tourists. i.e. AB Stables and EuroStables. Most of the stables have really good quality horses, a lot better than the ones you'll find right by the Pyramids. Many rich Egyptians who own horses keep them here to be looked after. The prices range from 20LE to 40LE, depending on the horse and on the stable. What's nice about this place is that it's located at the edge of civilization, beyond it are miles and miles of pure desert, so if you like horses and are capable of riding them, you can enjoy an hour of nothing but gallop. The best time to ride is during sunset, and if you're up to it, riding by night is ecstatic. While riding be sure to ask the guide to take you up the hill, where you can catch a superb view of the Three Pyramids and the Sphinx. *loren:* dont know

Sailing

When in Cairo, you're bound to notice 'feluccas' sailing up and down the Nile with their huge white sails. A 'felucca' is an ancient Egyptian traditional sailing boat. In the old days they were used for both transport and trade. Today, sailing trips on feluccas are reserved for tourism and entertainment. You can get a group together and rent one for 30LE an hour. You'll find boarding places nearby the Meridian Garden City Hotel and the Helwan Shepard Hotel. These feluccas are interesting because they sail throughout the waters in the heart of Cairo and the scenery can be quiet nice in the evening. The drawback however is that the area is a bit noisy and the feluccas have a small restricted area which they cannot leave. Another option is to take a felucca from the suburb of Maadi, 10 km south of downtown. It's a lot more peaceful there with the surrounding greenery of the Nile. Another advantage is that there is no restriction on Maadi feluccas, so they can take you on longer tours, all the way up to Helwan.

Hash House Harriers

If you're a Hasher you'll want to join the Cairo Hash while you in town!

url: www.cairohash.com

Cairo – Orientation

The biggest part of Cairo is on the East bank of the Nile. The Pyramids and the Sphinx are on the West Bank. Zamalek is a small residential island in the Nile. If you are in Cairo for any length of time, Zamalek has several western-style grocery markets which may be less intimidating for an out-of-towner than those in downtown. Zamalek is also home to the one and only Gezira club, which occupies much of the island. The Opera house is also on Zamalek, and is a very nice stop if you have the time.

Avoid Midan Talat Harb unless you want to be mobbed by touts— but most of the rest of downtown makes lovely walking. The leafy streets of Garden City are just minutes away from where most tourists stay in downtown, but they are off the usual touristy path, and a lovely change from dusty downtown. On the other side of the Nile, Mohandaseen is mostly a residential district, but it has some nice places to grab some tam'mia and fatir or whatever.

If you are really adventurous, Mu'qutum (the hills to the east of Cairo) is a great place to go spend an evening smoking sheesha and drinking asir aseeb

Cairo – Movies

Cairo is the center of the Arabic speaking world when it comes to the production of movies. The movie festival held in Cairo is the biggest event in its kind in the Middle East. Although local movies are probably quite hard to follow for the average tourist, they often give a nice idea of the local culture. Although it might be a nice idea, you don't even have to go to the cinema to see these films. Older movies are shown all day on TV, in bars and restaurants.

For a (foreign) woman it may not be a wise idea to go to a film alone, especially if the film contains scenes that according to Egyptian habits may be considered explicit.

For more info on the Cairo International Film Festival check this site.

Cairo – Getting There

Cairo – Tours and Excursions

Light and Sound

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Notes:
