

TOURISM DESTINATIONS

Beaches and Resorts: Celebrated for its year-long sunny weather, Egypt also boasts a vibrant undersea life, with the closest coral reefs to Europe located off the Sinai Peninsula in the Red Sea. The North Coast attracts both Arab and European tourists with an environment resembling Southern Italy and Spain. From the resort towns along the Red Sea coastline to diving and snorkeling excursions off the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba, Egypt provides tourists a unique selection of vacation destinations.

Historical Sites: The remnants of Egypt's long and varied past can still be visited today along the banks of the Nile River, from Upper Egypt at Abu Simbel near the Sudanese border, through the Greater Cairo Area and on to Alexandria. Sites in Upper Egypt, including Abu Simbel, Aswan and Luxor, serve as links to Egypt's Pharaonic past. In Greater Cairo, tourists may visit Egypt's most iconic destination: the pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. A new Grand Egyptian Museum on the Giza Plateau will soon house some of Egypt's top treasures of antiquities, allowing the Egyptian Museum in Downtown Cairo to showcase some of the hundreds of thousands of valuable pieces that are not currently on display. Roman ruins in the northern port city of Alexandria are reminiscent of Egypt's diverse background. Medieval architecture is visible throughout Cairo, and Khan El-Khalili is one of the world's oldest outdoor bazaars. Excavation sites throughout the country continue to uncover clues to Egypt's rich heritage.

Religious Sites: Religious tourism has steadily increased over the past several years. One of the most popular destinations is St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai, the site of the Biblical burning bush. Tourists can also trace the route of the Holy Family in Egypt. The Saint Virgin Monastery was built close to a cave where it is believed the Holy Family stopped. Monks still organize daily visits to the cave and celebrations near the site. Back in the capital, tourists can visit Coptic Cairo, where they can visit some of Egypt's oldest Christian and Muslim religious sites, including the Hanging Church. The capital city is also home to important mosques dating to the earliest days of the Umayyid period (661-750 CE).

Eco Sites: Egypt has striking natural sites in addition to sunny beaches, including desert landscapes, oases, canyons and falls. Egypt's unique Eastern and Western deserts offer some of the most popular desert safari excursions in the world, while treks through the sands and mountains of Sinai are a chance to explore wildlife and unique eco sites, including icy lakes and olive groves. Oases to the west of the Nile offer quiet respites from busy Cairo.

Health and Rejuvenation: Egypt provides the best medical tourism location with the healthy and natural materials in Safaga and the luxury of restorative oases at Siwa and Dakhla. Just a few hours from the bustle of Cairo is the relaxing atmosphere of Siwa, where

rivers and quiet gardens mix with traditional local culture. Surrounded by incredible fruit plantations and gardens, Dakhla dates back to the time of the Pharaohs. These and other selected sites in Egypt promote wellness and renewal through therapeutic sand and mineral-rich water for skin and body care. In a less traditional vein, Egypt has become an increasingly popular venue for medical tourism, with Arabs and Europeans seeking high-quality, affordably priced cosmetic and other clinical procedures.