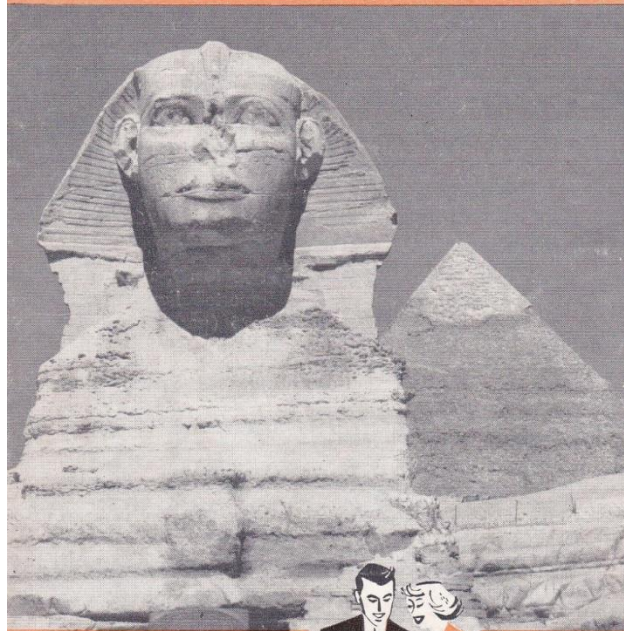


SAS CITY PORTRAITS

Cairo

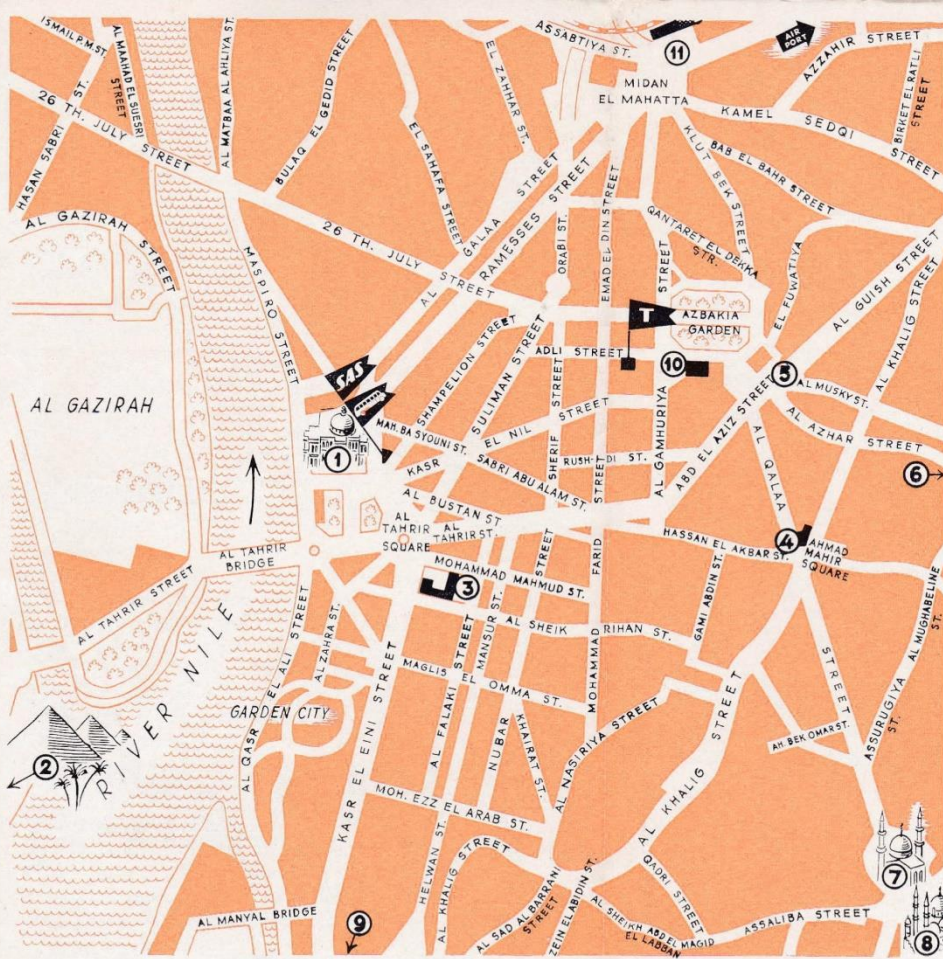
SAS



The Sphinx at Giza



SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM



Key to the Map:

1. The Egyptian Museum.
2. The Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza.
3. Abdin Palace.
4. The Museum of Islamic Art.
5. El Muski (bazaars).
6. Al Azhar Mosque (University).
7. Sultan Hassan Mosque.
8. The Citadel.
9. The Coptic Museum.
10. Opera House.
11. Main Railroad Station (In the square in front of the station is the colossal statue of Ramses II).

SAS
T SAS Ticket Office and Town Terminal: Cairo: 2, Sharia Champollion. Telephones: 74584/5/6/ — 74799 — 74580.

A SAS Branch Office: Nile Hilton Hotel, Midan Tahrir, Cairo. Telephones: 815815.

T Tourist Information Office: Cairo Information Office. 5 Adly Pasha Street. Telephone: 79394/98, 76885.

Branch Offices: Cairo International Airport, Cairo Railroad Station (No. 11 on map) and in the Pyramid's Area: opposite Mena House Hotel.

One Hour's Walk Around Cairo

From the SAS Office opposite the Egyptian Museum cross Midan Al Tahrir towards Mariette Pasha Street which leads you to the Al Tahrir Bridge over the Nile. There you'll catch sight of the Semiramis, Nile Hilton and Shephard's hotels. Crossing the bridge you find yourself in Al Gezira in front of the State Fair Grounds. Turning right, you come to the Gezira Club where all sorts of sporting events take place, including International and National horse races. All the way you keep within sight of the Nile with its houseboats.

If you walk east from the SAS Office, you are walking through Cairo's main shopping streets. Along Soliman Pasha St. you can enjoy afternoon tea in one of many tea rooms, or have a glass of beer in a bar; and Kasr El Nil St. will lead you almost to Opera Square where the great Opera House is situated. A little further on, you can catch a glimpse of the picturesque Azbakieh gardens.

Should these keep you too long, you may always take a taxi back to Midan Al Tahrir Square.

Your First Hour in Cairo

Your SAS aircraft will land at Cairo Airport, about 15 miles (25 kilometers) northeast of the center of Cairo. A ground hostess will assist you through passport, health and customs control, then you board the SAS Airport Bus, and 35 minutes later arrive at the SAS City Terminal in the center of town. The fare is EG £. 0.200 ms. Should you prefer, taxis are available at a charge of about EG £. 0.800 ms.

From the City Terminal you may go by taxi to your hotel. The most prominent hotels are, however, situated within easy walking distance.

The principal unit of Egyptian currency is the "pound" (EG £) equal to 100 Piastres (P. T.) or 1000 "millimes". One pound is equal to about US dollars 2.87. Money may be changed at any bank and also at some of the larger hotels.

If you are leaving Cairo by air, be sure to reconfirm your SAS reservation as early as possible after arrival. For your convenience there are two SAS ticket offices, one at Midan Al Tahrir opposite the Egyptian Museum, and the second in the Nile Hilton Hotel. If you change your plans, please advise either of these SAS ticket offices without delay so they may cancel the original reservation and make a new one.

CAIRO

CAIRO, the capital of the United Arab Republic, is the largest Arabic city in Africa and one of the continent's most interesting. It dates back to 969 A.D. when the city's oldest district, El Kahira, was founded. Present day Cairo developed from this nucleus and grew to a city of about 2,500,000 inhabitants. In the political spotlight lately, Cairo is also an important commercial and cultural center. Its 200-odd mosques, markets and the narrow, twisting streets of the native district blend in a fascinating mosaic with modern Cairo's residential districts and office buildings. For the tourist, however, the Egyptian Museum, the Pyramids and the Sphinx make a visit to Cairo particularly interesting. Historic Memphis and Sakkara are within easy reach, and an excursion of 2 or 3 days will be ample for a visit to ancient Luxor.

English, Italian, Greek and French are widely understood and are spoken in restaurants, hotels and the larger shops; and you will find it easy to get around. A visit to Cairo and to the ancient treasures of Egypt is a travel experience unlike any other.



Hotels

Cairo has excellent hotels in three main categories: de luxe, first and second class. We suggest here a few, quoting approximate charges. Your local SAS Office or travel agency will have detailed information and will reserve a room for you. This is strongly recommended, as there is a great demand for hotel accommodation, and it is very unpleasant to arrive in Cairo without a room.



In the de luxe category are the new Nile Hilton Hotel (Sh. Maspero, Corniche Ave.), where a single room with bath will cost from P.T. 300 to 500 and a double room from 400 to 600, and the famous Shepherd's Hotel (Sh. Elhamy, Garden City), where a single room with bath costs P.T. 250, and a double room P.T. 400 to 600. Nearby is another de luxe hotel, the Semiramis. Charges here are slightly lower: P.T. 185 to 210 for a single room and 295 to 345 for a double room with bath.

For something different, try the Mena House Hotel at Giza. From the terrace the Pyramids loom right up in front of you. Imagine a moonlit night in these surroundings! A single room with bath will cost P.T. 148 to 185, and a double room P.T. 220 to 300.

First class hotels include the Longchamps Hotel (21 Ismail Mohamed Street), Zamalek, the Cosmopolitan (Sh. Ibn Saalab — off Kasr El Nil), the Victoria (66 Sh. El Gomhouria) and the Continental (Opera Square). In these hotels you will pay around P.T. 150 for a single room with bath and from P.T. 200 up for a double room.

Many visitors are happy in the more modest second class hotels, some of which are really excellent; for example, the Carlton (21 26th July Street), the Ambassador (31 26th July Street), the Capsis Palace Hotel (117 Rue Ramsis) and the Windsor (3 Sh. El Elfi). These hotels charge from P.T. 100 to 130 for a single room, and from P.T. 130 to 180 for a double room.

Some Cairo hotels lower their prices 15 % to 25 % between May 1 and October 31, the off-season.

Restaurants and Food

The quality of the food is excellent. You may choose Western food in all leading restaurants, but you'll never have a better opportunity to try genuine Egyptian dishes like *Kebab* (mutton grilled on coal fire), or the Syrian-Lebanese *Kobebe*.

For breakfast you may choose either the simple continental type (coffee or tea, rolls with butter and marmalade or jam), or a meat breakfast. Lunch is served from noon to 3 PM, and dinner from 7 PM to 11 PM. Beer and wines of good quality are available.

All the leading hotels run their own excellent dining rooms, and there are also some very good restaurants in town, most famous of which are the St. James and the Kursaal (both located in Alfay Street), the Groppi (Soliman Pasha Square) and Ermitage (26 Sherif Pasha Street). For a typically Egyptian meal try the Khomais (8 26th July Street). Additionally, there are several foreign restaurants including the Sofar (21 Sh. Adly) with Lebanese cuisine, and the Munchen (31 26th July Street), with German cooking.

For a lunch you'll pay around P.T. 35 to 60, and for a dinner P.T. 40 to 80 and up. Imported liqueurs are available; Scotch Whisky costs P.T. 25 (per drink) and French Cognac P.T. 20. Drinks are served until midnight.



Entertainment and Night Life

During the winter season of the Opera House, foreign companies often give performances. There are several air-conditioned motion picture theaters including the American Metro Cinema, which is extremely good. American, English, French, Italian and German films are shown regularly.

A number of night clubs have dancing and floor shows. Best known among them are the Auberge des Pyramids (Pyramids Road), the Casino Abdin (Abdin Palace), the Casino Fontana (on the Nile) and the Casino Motakkam. The Roof Garden at the Semiramis is very pleasant, and so is Sinbad's Cave at the Gezira Palace Hotel. The entrance fee to most of these places is about P.T. 50.

Sights

To get the most out of your stay you will probably need a *Dragoman* (guide-interpreter). For a half day this costs P.T. 100, and for a full day P.T. 200. Admission to the mosques is not permitted during prayer hours or on Friday morning. No photographs should be taken without special permission from the Department of Antiquities, neither in the Azhar University Mosque nor in other mosques which are used as schools for religious teaching. If you plan frequent visits to the museums and the mosques it is worthwhile to get a *carnet* with special reduced tickets; otherwise, entrance tickets can be obtained at the entrance from the custodian in charge.

A few of Cairo's principal sights are listed below, with some excursions which will help to make your visit to Egypt complete. Numbers correspond to the map:

- (1) *The Egyptian Museum.* One of the most famous museums in the world, with exhibits covering a period of well over 3,500 years. Among its splendid treasures are the diorite statue of King Khafra (builder of the second Giza Pyramid) and the effects of the famous Pharaoh Tut-Ankh-Amon. Admission hours: Summer: daily 8 AM to 1 PM, Fridays 8 AM to 12.15 PM. Admission fee: P.T. 1. Winter: daily 9 AM to 4 PM. Admission fee: P.T. 5. Fridays 8 AM to 11.15 AM and 1.30 PM to 4 PM. Admission fee: P.T. 2.
- (2) *The Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza.* Of the many pyramids in Egypt, the three at Giza are considered the most important. Oldest and greatest of these is the Pyramid of Khufu, constructed about the 27th century B.C. Originally this colossal structure rose to the height of 479 feet (146 metres) but today it is reduced to 450. The building of the first pyramid lasted for twenty years, and its stone mass has been estimated at nearly 90,000,000 cubic feet of which about 84,000,000 cubic feet remain today. If you have the energy, you can climb the pyramid; it is not dangerous and the ascent is made in about 15 minutes. Usually it is also possible to see the interior of the pyramid. Second, chronologically and in size, is the Khafra' Pyramid. Rising to a height of 470 feet (143 metres) it is nearly as tall as the Khufu Pyramid, while the smallest of the three, the Menkawra Pyramid measures only 217 feet (66 metres). Close to the pyramids is the monumental Sphinx, with the head of a man and the body of a lion. It is about 190 feet (58 metres) long and its height from ground to top is about 66 feet (20 metres). The dragoman will discuss theories about its origin and meaning; the human head of the Sphinx symbolizes intelligence and the body of the lion stands for power. He will also tell you about the funeral boats, sometimes misnamed Solar Boats, recently discovered south of the Great Pyramid. The two so-called Solar Boats are thought to have been designed to enable Khufu's soul to sail from earth to eternal heaven.
- (3) *Abdin Palace.* Royal Palace of the former Egyptian kings, now open to visitors. Nothing was spared to make the palace, completed in 1874, an art treasure. Admission hours: Winter, daily from 9 AM to 5 PM; summer, daily from 9 AM to 6 PM. Entrance fee: P.T. 15.
- (4) *The Museum of Islamic Art.* This museum houses one of the world's most precious and comprehensive collections of Moslem Art, with exhibits including mosaics, gold, silver



and copper, glassware, carpets, and lovely earthenware objects. Admission hours are: Summer, daily from 8 AM to 1 PM (Fridays from 7:30 to 12:15 PM); winter, daily from 9 AM to 4 PM (Fridays from 8 to 11:15 AM and 1:30 to 4 PM). Entrance fees: Winter P.T. 5, summer P.T. 1.

- (5) *El Muski*. Perhaps the most famous Oriental bazaar in the Middle East, El Muski (or El Moosky) is in fact a number of bazaars or *Souks* (narrow streets lined with hundreds of small shops). El Muski is the longest of these *Souks* and its shops offer all kinds of articles, including many excellent souvenirs. Other *Souks* specialize, such as the Khan-el-Khalily (rich collections of silks, brocades and carpets), Souk El Nahasin (coppersmiths), Souk el-Sagha (gold jewelry). The goldsmith will make a special piece from a silver or gold coin of your own. Other *Souks* concentrate on textiles and *tarbooshes* (fez), on Oriental sweets like the renowned Turkish Delight, on footwear (Morocco slippers), or on perfumes.
- (6) *Al Azhar Mosque*. This mosque is considered the most important center of Moslem education. Its university was founded in 969, and the present mosque dates back to 971, but it has been rebuilt and altered several times. Today it covers an area of merely 90,000 square feet. Over 300 marble columns, taken from older buildings, now form six magnificent porticos which, together with the five minarets, emphasize its tremendous size.
- (7) *Sultan Hassan Mosque*. Built at enormous cost, this mosque is the most splendid religious building in Cairo. It was founded in 1356, measures about 495 feet (150 metres) in length, is 210 feet (64 metres) wide and 113 feet (34 metres) high. The 267-foot minaret is the highest in Cairo. Here there is a beautiful *sahn* with a fine cupola supported by 8 marble columns. In the center of the *sahn* is a fountain for ritual washing before prayers.
- (8) *The Citadel*. Situated on the slopes of the Mount Al Mokattam, the Citadel offers a wonderful view over Cairo city and towards the Nile, and the city with its 400 minarets shows up at its very best from this vantage point. The Citadel (Al Kal'a) was built in 1176 and added to during the succeeding centuries. Today its walls enclose three mosques, the most famous of which is the Alabaster Mosque. See also El Gawhara Palace Museum and the ancient Joseph's Well which dates back to the foundation of the Citadel. Before leaving the Citadel, enjoy once more the wide view which also includes the pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza.
- (9) *The Coptic Museum*. This museum has interesting collections dealing with the Coptic Church from its earliest days. The *objects d'art* exhibited in this museum illuminate a little known culture through architectural fragments, wood sculpture, glass and earthenware, textile, metal icons and frescoes. There is also a collection of ancient manuscripts of great interest to Egyptologists.

Admission hours: Winter, daily from 9 AM to 4 PM (Sundays from 10 AM to 1 PM); summer, daily from 8 AM to 1 PM (Sundays from 10 AM to 1 PM). Entrance fees: Winter P.T. 5; summer P.T. 1.

Excursions

Be sure not to miss the excursions to Memphis and Sakkara (1½ day) and to Luxor (2 or 3 days). If time permits, include also excursions to the Delta Barrage (1½ day), to Sokhna on the Red Sea, to El Alamein, the famous battlefield of World War II, or to the temple of Abydos, which is reached via Baliana in Upper Egypt. A visit to Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea would be interesting.

Two of these excursions deserve greater attention than others:

Memphis and Sakkara. Drive through Midan El Tahrir and cross the El Tahrir Bridge, then through the residential quarters of Guezireh Island, over Evacuation (*Al Gala*) Bridge, past the Hawamdieh sugar factories and Badrashein Village to Memphis where you'll see the impressive Alabaster Sphinx. Then proceed to Sakkara, the fascinating ancient burial ground. Among all the monuments of the past the most interesting are the pyramids, and in particular the step-pyramid built by Zoser, a king of the III dynasty 28th century B.C. Nearby are vestiges of an ancient temple fringed with colonnades, considered the first of their kind in the world. In Sakkara is, as well, the curious tomb of Serapeum dedicated to Apis, the bull which was once an object of worship and was embalmed like a human being. Drive back to Cairo along the Nile Corniche.

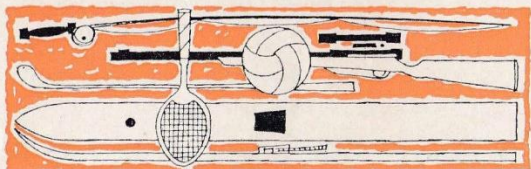
Luxor and Aswan. Two or three days are necessary for this excursion. You may go by air, by train or by the luxurious Nile steamers. See one of the authorized travel bureaus for tickets and hotel accommodation. The beautiful Temple of Luxor with its columns and statues is in the center of the town, and a little farther north is Karnak where every inch of ground breathes history. Across the Nile proceed to ancient Necropolis of Thebes, the City of the Dead. Now visit the world famous Valley of the Kings, resting place of many great Pharaohs. From Luxor you can go on to Aswan, passing the glorious Ptolemaic temples of Edfu and Kom-Ombo. Aswan has, in addition to several monuments of the past, the im-



portant Aswan Dam controlling the waters of the Nile. The enormous contemplated expansion of this dam would produce enough power to revolutionize Egypt's national economy.

Shopping

You will find plenty of fine shops and stores in Cairo but the most attractive shopping areas to tourists are the Oriental bazaars (see item 5 under "Sights"). Among many interesting wares are leather goods, ivory, copper and brass articles, silk brocades and silver and gold jewelry. A popular souvenir is a typical camel saddle, which costs P.T. 250. A "puff" costs from P.T. 150—260. Shops in the bazaars are open from 8 AM to 7 PM continuously but there is no business on Fridays.



Sports

The national sport is football (soccer), played during the winter season. Golf courses and swimming pools are available at the Mena House Hotel and the Guezireh Sporting Club. The Tourist Information Office will be pleased to assist you if you wish to become a temporary member of a sporting club.

Climate and Clothing

The summer months (June to August) can be fairly hot, but every evening there are pleasantly cool breezes. Winter (December to April) is pleasant and cool. There are only a few rainy days and an average of 8 hours of sunshine per day. Spring and autumn (March to May and September to November), with mild weather, are excellent for travel. Egypt's climate calls for light clothing during all seasons but especially during summer. There are many excellent shops which can supply any clothing requirements. Your hotel will take care of dry-cleaning and laundry within 24 hours.

Tipping

Hotels and restaurants add a 10 % service charge to the bill, and porters at hotels are usually tipped P.T. 5 for handling luggage. At the airport and at railroad stations

the porters get a fee of P.T. 2.50 for the first suitcase, and P.T. 1.50 for each additional piece of luggage. Tipping taxi drivers, cinema and theater ushers, hairdressers and wardrobe attendants is not required.

Transportation

Motor buses and trolley-buses radiate from the center of the city to all the suburbs, and an Express Tram (*Metro*) connects Cairo with Heliopolis. Although recent years have seen a rapid modernization of public transport, trams and buses are usually very crowded, and for tourists we recommend taxis. The basic fare of P.T. 6, covering the first kilometer, with an extra P.T. 1 for each additional $\frac{1}{3}$ kilometer, makes it possible to use taxis at very reasonable cost. In front of the larger hotels and the night clubs you'll often find private cabs without meters which cost about double the ordinary fare. If you ask the doorman to call a taxi or cab, give him a small tip.

Public Holidays and Special Events

Friday is the official weekly holiday, and all shops and offices are closed. The principal Moslem religious event of the year is the month of *Ramadan*, a period of thirty days of fasting. During *Ramadan*, the Moslems abide the commandment of the Koran not to take any food from early morning until sunset, with a very few exceptions for sick people and for travelers. Should you happen to be driving in Egypt during the month of *Ramadan*, don't be surprised if your driver leaves you for a minute, with an apology, to have refreshment after the many hours of fasting when he hears the *muezzin* announcing from the minaret that the sun has set. In the evenings of the month of *Ramadan* the minarets are illuminated, the mosques crowded and the cafés are open all night.

Another important feast is *Sham el Nessim*, celebrated on the Coptic Orthodox Easter Monday. All Egyptians, irrespective of religion, race or social class, will go to the parks or into the country to enjoy the spring air. They take an early morning stroll to a nearby park before breakfast, or they pack a picnic basket and have breakfast in the countryside.



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