

SAS CITY PORTRAIT

Cairo Alexandria

SAS SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES



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This is the 6th edition of Cairo/Alexandria City Portrait printed in 35,000 copies – with information based on facts available in October 1977. Main changes from 5th edition: Cairo – new hotel and three new restaurants added, new telephone number SAS office (97 45 88) plus general increase in prices. Alexandria section extensively developed.



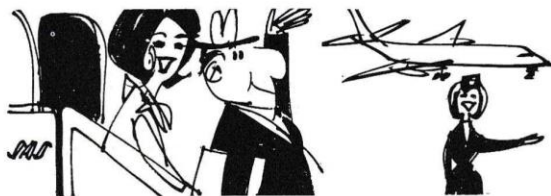
Front cover: Cairo Tower seen from the garden of the Egyptian Museum.

Cairo, capital of the Arab Republic of Egypt, is the largest city in Africa, and certainly one of the continent's most interesting. Its history, inseparable with that of the great River Nile which flows gently through its heart, is manifested in relics 5,000 years old or more.

On this site stood a Roman settlement called "Baby-lon". And a subsequent succession of communities that rose and fell – until in 969 A.D. the village of El Qahira, nucleus of present-day Cairo, was born. Today, Ancient Egypt rubs shoulders with the Twentieth Century in the streets of modern Cairo. Narrow tortuous alleyways alternate with broad, tree-lined avenues. Elaborate, minaretted mosques and beautiful Coptic churches stand beside modern skyscrapers, which tower, in turn, above the famous souks of Khan El Khalili and El Muski. Paris dresses mingle with striped galabieh and fezzes. And all about, both within the city and within easy reach, the visitor may view monumental treasures from the renowned Pharaonic, Greek, Roman, Coptic and Islamic eras, beautiful preserved by this region's idyllic climate, awe-inspiring to behold even for those who are not usually stirred by historic edifices. Within half an hour's drive of Cairo stand Giza's famed Pyramids and Sphinx. Somewhat further afield, historical Memphis and Sakkara, the Delta Barrages and Fayyum Oasis. And the prime goal of almost every visitor with two or three days in hand, ancient Luxor and the venerable monuments beside the exciting, recently-completed High Dam, at Aswan.

Alternatively, if aquatic sports are your joy in life, there are the ultra-modern resorts of the Red Sea coastline: Ein El Soukhna and Hurghada, both delightful invitations to bake under the glorious Middle Eastern sun, to snorkel-fish, sail or swim. Other popular excursion goals for the visitor to Cairo are Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast and El Alamein, the renowned battleground of World War II.

Whatever you do, wherever you roam throughout your sojourn in Cairo, you'll find two factors go a long way to enhancing your explorations. English, French, Italian and Greek are widely spoken. And whether you



come in summer or in winter, the climate is as warm and welcoming as the land's traditional friendliness, charm and color.

Note: Due to the present situation in the Middle East, tourists may not be able to visit some of the aforementioned places. Contact your nearest SAS Office for up-to-date information.

Your arrival in Cairo

Your SAS aircraft will land at Cairo International Airport, 14 1/2 miles (23 km) northeast of the city center. Ground hostesses are on hand to help you through passport, health and customs control. Taxis will take you to the center in 45 minutes for £E2.50.

The Egyptian monetary unit is the Egyptian pound (£E), divided into 100 piastres (P.T.) or 1,000 milliemes (mms.). The following paper notes are used: 5 piastres, 10 piastres, 25 piastres, 50 piastre, £E1, £E5, £E10, £E20. The coins are 10 piastre, 5 piastre, 1 piastre, 0.5 piastre.

You may bring in to Cairo an unrestricted amount of non-Egyptian currency which must be declared on a "D"-form. When leaving the country, you are permitted to take out the balance shown on this form after your expenditure entries have been deducted. Import of Egyptian currency is prohibited and unused Egyptian pounds must be changed back into the currency of the tourist concerned.

Money may be changed, on arrival, at the airport bank, located in the customs area, or at any leading hotel and at any bank in town. In this connection, please note the Egyptian Government has introduced a special tourist rate which gives you a 40% better exchange. You need your passport and custom declaration form for such money exchanges. Only persons holding tourist visas qualify for this special rate. It is illegal to exchange currency in the open market.

If you are leaving Cairo by air, be sure to reconfirm your onward reservation with the local SAS Ticket Office (tel. 97 45 88) as early as possible. Should you change your plans, please advise SAS without delay so that they may book you a seat on a new flight and cancel your old reservation. Remember on departure there is £E1 airport tax to be paid.

Entry regulations

All visitors entering the Arab Republic of Egypt require valid passports and visas. (A visa valid for 30 days can be obtained on arrival against payment of US\$5). An International Health Certificate proving inoculation against smallpox is mandatory, as well as against cholera and yellow fever if infected countries have been passed through during the five days previous to arrival (for smallpox 14 days).

The following may be taken into the country duty-free:

A reasonable quantity of alcoholic beverages (2 bottles), 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grammes of tobacco; 2 normal size bottles of perfume for personal use and 1/8 litre of Eau de Cologne.

There is also a tax-free shopping facility at Cairo Airport, where you may purchase tax-free articles for foreign currency at very reasonable prices on arrival and departure.

Hotels

Cairo offers excellent accommodation in each of three main categories: de luxe, first and tourist classes. The list below provides you with a few suggestions in all three classes. However, should you require more detailed information, you'll find your local SAS agency or office ready and willing to help. Whatever category of hotel you choose, you are strongly advised to book beforehand.

De luxe

Hotel Meredien (E8)
Corniche El Nil, Garden City.
Tel. 84 54 44.

Mena House (Oberoi)
Pyramids Street, Giza.
Tel. 85 54 44.

Nile Hilton Hotel (F6)
Tahrir Square. Tel. 81 18 11.

Cairo-Sheraton (C8)
Galaa Square. Tel. 98 30 00.

Shepherd's Hotel (F7)
Corniche El Nil, Garden City.
Tel. 33 800/33 900.

Average de luxe prices: Single with bath, £E25, double with bath, £30. Meals and 10% service charge are not included.

First class

Jolie Ville (off B10)
Cairo-Giza.
Tel. 85 59 77/510.
Telex 2567.

Atlas (I5)
2 El Gomhureya Street.
Tel. 91 83 11.

Cleopatra Palace (G5)
2 El Bustan Street. Tel. 70 420.

El Borg (E6)
Saray el Guezira, Zamalek.
Tel. 81 60 60/81 60 67.

El Nil (Nile Palace) (F7)
12 Ahmed Rageb Street,
Garden City. Tel. 32 878.

Average prices: Single with bath, £E12; double with bath, £E15.

Tourist class

Ambassador (H4)
31 26th July Street.
Tel. 51 022.

Capsis Palace Hotel (I2)
177 Ramses Street.
Tel. 49 528.

Carlton Hotel (H4)
21 26th July Street.
Tel. 76 211.

Continental-Savoy (I4)
Opera Square. Tel. 91 13 22.

Cosmopolitan (H5)
1 Ibn Saalab Street,
(off Kasr El Nil Street).
Tel. 79 220.

Garden City House (F7)
23 Kamal El Din Salah Street.
Tel. 24 969.

Horris (I4)
5 26th July Street.
Tel. 91 03 89.

Windsor (I4)
19 Alfy Bey Street.
Tel. 91 52 77.

Average prices: Single with bath, £E7; double with bath, £E8.

Note: The voltage for electrical appliances in Cairo is 220 volts A.C.

Restaurants and food

The quality of cuisine in Cairo is excellent, the meals, in the main, cleanly and carefully prepared. While the principal restaurants offer food cooked in Western fashion, you should not leave Egypt without sampling some of the delicious local specialities. Typical are kebab (mutton grilled on a coal fire), molokhia (a spinach-like soup containing rice and rabbit meat), foul medames (brown beans flavored with caraway seeds and seasoned with oil and lemon), taameija (mixed vegetables rolled into balls), gambari (giant shrimps from the Red Sea), kofta (meat balls highly seasoned with peppers and baked), sweetmeats and salads. Cairo is peppered with restaurants which specialize in Arabic cooking at very reasonable prices. Additionally, all the big hotels possess their own restaurants, some of which are included in our list of suggestions on where to eat:

Western-type restaurants

Aladdin (H4)
26 Sherif Street.

Belvedere (F6)
Nile Hilton – top floor,
(Corniche Avenue).

Carol (G5)
Kasr El Nil Street.

Estoril (G5)
12 Talaat Harb Street.

Good Shot (off F10)
Maadi Road.

Grillon (G5)
8 Kasr El Nil Street.

Groppi (G5)
Talaat Harb Square.

Sea-Horse (off F10)
Maadi Road.

Omar Khayyam Boat (E4)
On the River Nile, entrance
from Saray Guezira.

**Shepherd's top floor
restaurant** (F7)
Corniche El Nil, Garden City.

Egyptian-style restaurants

Andrea
Near the Pyramids.

Feliela (G5)
15 Talaat Harb Street.

El Hati – Aly Hassan (I4)
8a 26th July Street.

Kursaal (I3)
Alfy Bey Street.

Nile Garden (off F10)
Maadi Road.

Sofar (I4)
21 Adly Street.

Also has a good Oriental kitchen.

Outside Cairo

The way to Giza offers the hungry pilgrim a succession of good eating houses. There's Tamerina, halfway along the main road (at left); Andrea's Restaurant, and a little further to the right off Pyramids Road there is Kimo Land restaurant with a garden.

There is also a pleasant restaurant, approximately 3 miles (5 km) off the Pyramid road, towards the south, called El Dar which is surrounded by fertile fields with a lovely garden.

MEAL TIMES AND APPROX. PRICES

	<i>Times</i>	<i>Prices</i>
Breakfast:	6.45 to 9.30 a.m.	P.T.50–180
Lunch:	Noon to 3 p.m.	P.T.125–270
Dinner:	7 to 11 p.m.	P.T.140–300

WHAT TO DRINK

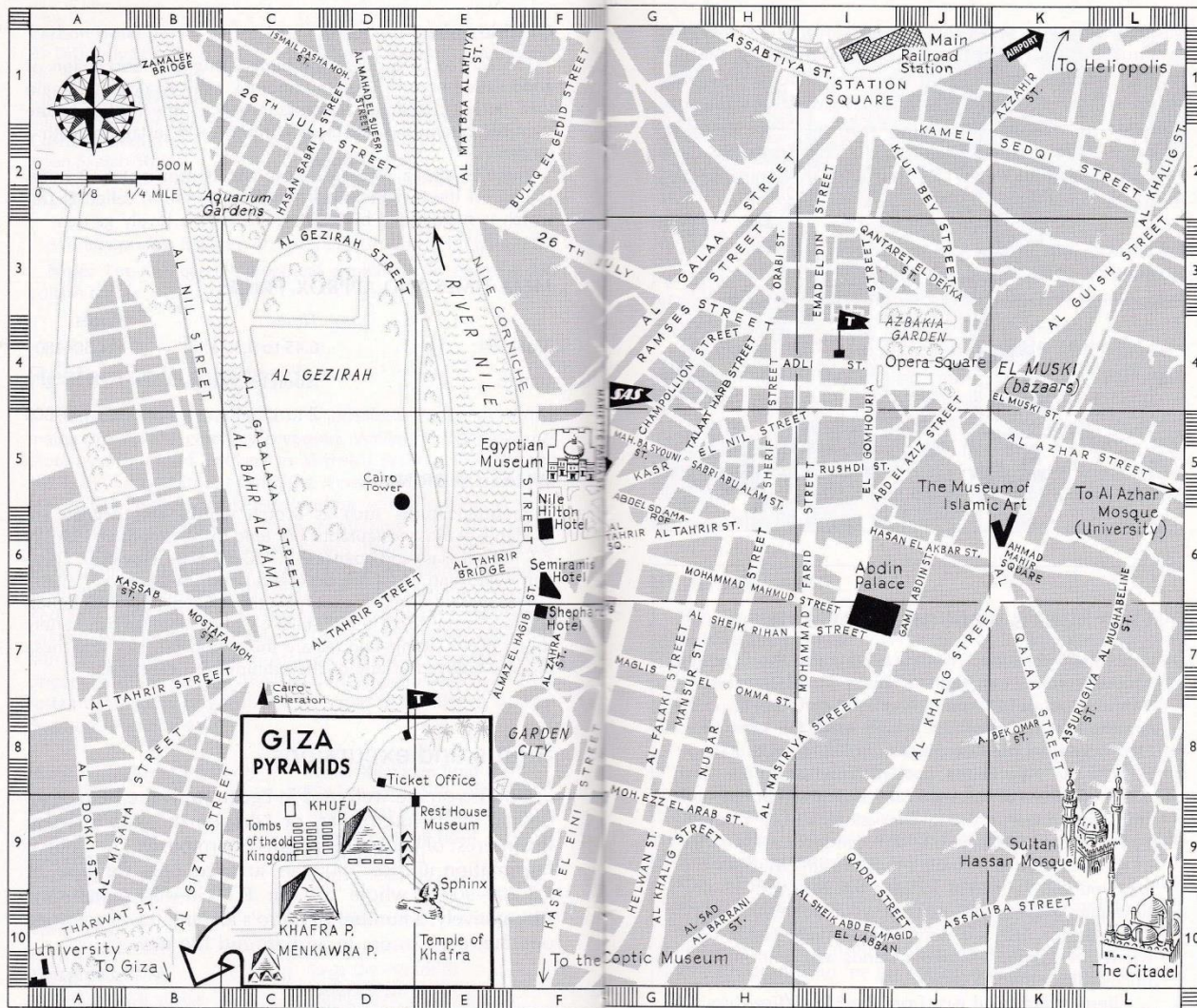
Imported spirits such as Scotch whisky and cognac are available at most restaurants, but tend to be expensive: whisky P.T.100 per glass and cognac P.T. 120 per glass. However, Egyptian wines and beers are both good and inexpensive. "Zibib" (a Pernod-like drink) is extremely thirst-quenching in summer. So, too, is the local beer "Stella". Coffee (the Turkish variety if you like it strong) and tea are the national drinks, and these may be enjoyed at any of the omnipresent cafeterias.

Sights and excursions

Unless you are well read in Egyptology, the help of an official guide-interpreter, or "dragoman" will increase the interest of your explorations enormously. The Tourist Information Office (I4) can arrange one for you at P.T.700–900 a whole day, or P.T.350–450 a half-day. Alternatively, a number of Cairo's leading travel agencies operate, daily, tours in and around the city.

(cont'd on page 11)





Code numbers in the Cairo section of this booklet refer to the above map. Thus

(F5) is located where lines drawn from "F" and "5" cross each other.

Interesting sights in Cairo

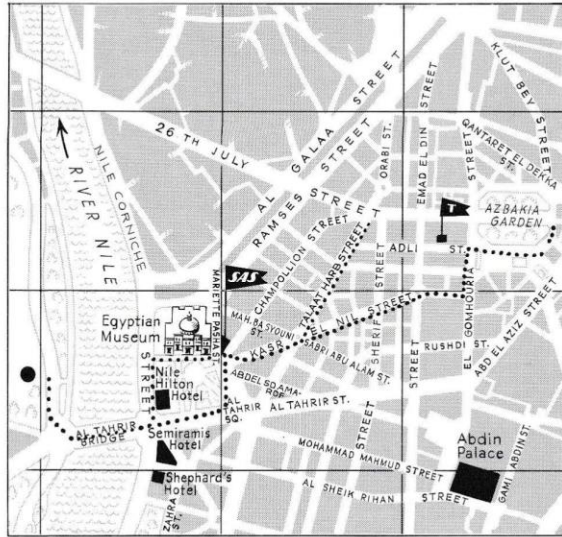
- | | |
|--|---|
| (F5) The Egyptian Museum. | (L10) The Citadel. |
| (B10) The Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza. | (F10) The Coptic Museum. |
| (I7) Abdin Palace Museum. | (J1) Main Railroad Station (in the square in front of the station is the colossal statue of Ramses II). |
| (K6) The Museum of Islamic Art. | (L5) Khan-El-Khalili Bazaar. |
| (K4) El Muski (bazaars). | |
| (L5) Al Azhar Mosque (University). | |
| (K9) Sultan Hassan Mosque. | |

Useful addresses

- SAS** SAS Ticket Office (F5):
Cairo: 2 Champollion St. Telephone: 97 45 88.
Open hours: Mondays-Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Sundays 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
- T** Tourist Information Office (I4): Cairo Information Office.
5 Adly Street. Telephone: 97 93 94/98, 97 68 85.
Branch Offices: Cairo International Airport, Cairo Railroad Station (J1) and in the Pyramid's Area: opposite Mena House Hotel.

Distance from city center to airport: 14½ miles (23 km).

(cont'd from page 7)



One hour's walk around Cairo

Start off from the SAS Office, opposite the Egyptian Museum, following Mariette Pasha Street towards Al Tahrir Square. Turn right into Al Tahrir Street, continuing to Al Tahrir Bridge which spans the River Nile. Here you'll see the fine modern buildings of the Shephard's and Nile Hilton hotels. Cross the bridge and you are in front of the State Fair Grounds, El Borg Hotel and Cairo Tower in the lovely park area of Al Gezirah. Turn right at the Gezirah Club, scene of a wide range of sporting events, including horse racing. Much of the way you will have kept in sight the Nile with its picturesque house-boats. Retread your route across Al Tahrir Bridge, turn left along Nile Corniche Street, right where the Egyptian Museum stands and you are back once again at the SAS Office.

Alternatively, head east from the SAS Office through some of Cairo's main shopping streets. Along Talaat Harb Street you can also enjoy afternoon tea in one of the tea-rooms or a glass of beer in a bar. Kasr El Nil Street will lead you to El Gomhouria Street which in turn leads you to Opera Square and the delightful Azbakia Gardens. And should these attractions have kept you too long, catch a taxi back to Al Tahrir Square.

When visiting mosques there are a few general rules to observe. Admission is not permitted during hours of prayer, nor on Friday mornings. Shoes should always be removed before entering. Photographs may only be taken inside mosques used as schools for religious teaching and then only with the permission of the Department of Antiquities (F5 - c/o Egyptian Museum). Tickets are available at the entrance of most mosques for P.T. 25 each.

Your hotel porter, a daily newspaper, the Tourist Information Office (I4) or the SAS Office (G5) will advise you as to admission times to museums and many other places of interest.

No doubt you'll also want to visit some of the ancient edifices and towns outside Cairo. Should you prefer to do this on your own, it's worth noting that Cairo is connected to Egypt's other major towns by frequent domestic airline services, by rail and by road (see "Transportation", page 17). It is also possible to cruise the Nile by boat to various fabled landmarks in this Land of the Pharaohs.

SIGHTS IN CAIRO

The Egyptian Museum (F5). The unique exhibits in this world-famous museum cover well over 5,000 years of ancient Egyptian history and are constantly being added to by new excavations. Among its more splendid treasures are the funeral effects of Tutankhamen, the unfinished head of Queen Nefertiti, the wooden statue of the Scribe, and the diorite statue of King Khafra (who built the second Giza pyramid). Lesser-known, but equally fascinating, are the world's oldest portraits (from Fayyum) and the Greco-Roman collections. A visit to the section displaying mummies is also a very unique experience. There you will see the mummies of many Pharaohs and Queens, among them Ramses II.

The museum is open in winter daily from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., except for Fridays when it is open 8-11.15 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. The hours of admission in summer are 8.30 a.m.-1 p.m., except Fridays, 8.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. Admission charge. There is an extra admission fee for entrance to the Mummy section.





You will find a high quality jewelry and gift shop Onnig Alixanian, also coffee shop, at the museum entrance.

The Giza Pyramids and Sphinx (off map). One of the seven Wonders of the Old World, this trio of pyramids, 7½ miles (12 km) from the city center, contains the most important of the many pyramidal edifices in Egypt. The oldest and biggest of the three was built by King Khufu in the 27th century B.C. Once 481 ft. (146 meters) high it covers 13 acres and took twenty years to build. You may, at certain hours, explore its interior corridors, galleries and burial chambers.

The second largest pyramid was built by Khufu's son, King Khafra and is 470 ft. (136 meters) tall, while the smallest one, only 218 ft. (66 meters) high, was built by Khafra's son, Menkaure. Nearby stands the Great Sphinx, a combination of a man's head, believed to be Khafra's, and the body of a lion, said to symbolize power. It dates back to 2650 B.C., is some 210 ft. (70 meters) long, 66 ft. (22 meters) high, and is purported to represent, in entirety, the "God of the Rising Sun". Your guide will expound theories on the meaning and history of the pyramids and sphinx, and discuss the adjacent findings that have been made. Try to make an evening trip to Giza and catch the "Son et Lumière", a breathtaking nightly spectacle relating by sound, and in eerie light, the story of man's earliest civilization.

The Museum of Islamic Art (K6). This museum houses one of the world's most precious and comprehensive collections of Moslem art, dating from the time when Islam dominated the Near East. The exhibits range from mosaics, glassware and precious metals to beautiful carpets and earthenware. Open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., except Fridays when it closes at 11.15 a.m. Admission charge.

Manial Palace Museum (D10). An interesting mixture of Moroccan, Syrian, Turkish and Egyptian architecture. Contains rare carpets, textiles, inscriptions and precious stones as well as classical Islamic wood-work. Entrance charge.

El Souk (The Bazaars - K4). This world-famous Egyptian labyrinth of narrow winding streets illustrates the complete charm and color of the modern and ancient Orient. Many separate "souks", or markets, make up the whole, offering you a vast variety of goods and souvenirs. El Muski, the longest of the bazaars, and Khan El Khalili, rich in its collection of silks and carpets, are probably the best known of these market-streets, several of which specialize in specific wares. Here you'll

browse textiles, Oriental sweets like the famous Turkish Delight, perfumes, leatherware, colorful Moroccan slippers. Here you'll watch crafts plied as they were, even in Biblical times. Attractive among the special-streets are the Souk El Nahassin, reputed for its copperware, and Souk El Sagha with its fabulous display of gold jewelry – here a goldsmith will make a special piece from a coin of your own. But whatever catches your eye, be sure to bargain before you buy – it's an accepted part of the fun.

Al Azhar Mosque and University (L5). This is considered the most important center of Moslem education. Its Islamic University, thought to be the oldest in the world, was originally founded in 969 A.D. It caters today for 20,000 students. The Mosque dates back to 970–972 A.D. (its original structure was built by El Kaid Gohar), although it has been restored and added to since that time. Its tremendous size (90,000 square feet – 8,360 sq. meters) is emphasized by 300 marble columns, many of which come from older buildings, and by the magnificent porticos and minarets.

Sultan Hassan Mosque (K9). Founded in 1356 A.D., this is a magnificent masterpiece of Arab architecture. In addition to a minaret 282 ft. (86 meters) high, the highest in Cairo, it has a beautiful sahn (courtyard) covered by a cupola, which is supported by eight marble columns with Koranic inscriptions. Here, too, is a central fountain for ritual washing before prayers, and a splendid collection of enamelled glass lamps.

The Citadel of Saladin (L10). Situated on the slopes of Mount Mokattam, the Citadel overlooks the whole of Cairo, as far as the Giza pyramids. Built in 1176 by Saladin, it contains, within its ancient walls, many buildings of interest, including the Alabaster Mosque, the Mosque of Soliman Pasha, the Ottoman-style Gawhara Palace Museum and the Well of Joseph, which was dug 295 ft. (90 meters) into rock, and comprised two stories. Before leaving the Citadel, have another look at its glorious view and attend, if time permits, a "Son et Lumière" performance here.

The Coptic Musum (F10). The museum contains a comprehensive collection depicting the Coptic Church (early Christianity) from its beginnings. The exhibits include architectural fragments, wood sculpture, glass, earthenware, textiles, metal icons and frescos – also a large collection of ancient manuscripts of prime interest to Egyptologists. Open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, except on Sunday, when it is only open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission charge.



OUTLYING INTEREST-POINTS

An enormous number of unforgettable sights also enrich the surroundings of Cairo – it all depends on how much time you have at your disposal. A few of the more interesting goals are portrayed below.

Memphis and Sakkara

15¹/₂ miles (24 km) south of the city stands Sakkara, reached via palm tree forests amid which stands historic Memphis. A number of daily tours are operated by travel agencies and tour operators to these two fascinating spots. If, however, you decide to go by car or taxi, drive out of Cairo over Evacuation (Al Gala) Bridge, pass the Hawamdieh sugar factories and proceed down the canal road to the ruins of Memphis and the impressive Alabaster-Sphinx. A small village, called El Badarshein, rests today on the site of this ancient town. Sakkara is 20 miles (32 km) further west along the same road, and here is grouped a fascinating array of ancient tombs and pyramids – the most interesting of which is unquestionably the step-pyramid built by King Zoser of the Third Dynasty (28th century B.C.), which is even older than the Giza pyramids. There are also numerous temple ruins in the vicinity – don't miss the necropolis of the Apis bulls (Serapeum), which contains 24 granite sarcophagi, each weighing over 60 tons.

After refreshments nearby, you can return to Cairo via the University Bridge (C10) over the Nile, and follow the Corniche back to the city center.

Luxor and Aswan

The cities Luxor and Aswan are situated 415 miles (664 km) and 550 miles (879 km) south of Cairo respectively, on the east bank of the Nile. You will need at least two or three days for this excursion into Egypt's ancient past. The beautiful Temple of Luxor with its columns and statues occupies the center of the town of the same name, while a little north lies Karnak also with its ancient temples, dedicated to the Sun God. Particularly striking are the ruins of a grandiose pillared hall comprising 134 columns made of pink granite.

Across the Nile lies the Necropolis of Thebes, the city of the dead, in which you can visit the Valley of Kings, resting place of many great Pharaohs, including the famous Tutankhamen.

Other sights in this area include the Colossi of Memnon, the temples of Khonsu, Queen Hatshepsut, Gurneh and Ramesseum.

Aswan

Most recently in the news because of its dam, Aswan also greets the sightseer with a score of old treasures – The temples of Abu Simbel and Nefertari (saved by worldwide contribu-

tions), the temple of Isis (Philae), the Arab cemetery, the Elephantine Island and its museum, the tropical gardens of Kitchener Island, and the ancient tombs and Coptic monasteries which extend for over 40 miles along the banks of the Nile.

While here, view too the dam itself – the biggest rock-filled dam in the world which, it is planned, will double Egypt's national income by the added hydroelectric power it imparts and the land it irrigates. Aswan stands 500 miles south of Cairo.

Nile Dam*

Fifteen miles (24 km) north of Cairo, where the Nile divides into the Damietta and Rosetta branches, is the dam planned by Napoleon and built by French engineers. Green fields stretch as far as the eye can see.

Red Sea Coast*

Stretching from Suez to Marsa Alam, the Red Sea Coast offers a beautiful climate, in both summer and winter. The two main resorts are Ein El Soukhna, reached by road in about 4 hours from Cairo center, and Hurghada which can be reached by air in 1 hour (Misrair). Both places are modern, well-located, with sandy beaches set against rugged mountains, and adjoining waters rich in coral reefs and fish. You can enjoy, in either, your fill of skin-diving, fishing and other aquatic sports.

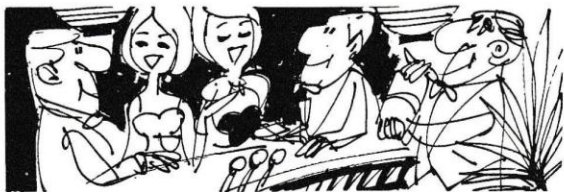
* These areas are not, at present, accessible to foreigners.

Entertainment and night life

CINEMAS

Air-conditioned cinemas regularly feature American, English, French and Italian, as well as Egyptian films. Among the principal cinemas are: Metro (H4 – 35 Talaat Harb St.), Kasr El Nil (G5 – 6 Kasr El Nil St.), Radio (H5 – 24 Talaat Harb St.), Cairo Palace (H3 – 4 Saray El Ezbekieh St.), Rivoli (H3 – 26th July St.), Opera (J4 – Opera Square), and Miami (H4 – 38 Talaat Harb St.). Seats cost from 30 to 60 piastres. Check the daily papers "The Egyptian Gazette" (English), and "Le Journal D'Egypte" (French) for guidance as to individual programs.





NIGHT SPOTS

Most night clubs in Cairo provide an excellent evening meal and floorshows with dancing. There is usually an entry charge. The following are among the better known:

Auberge des Pyramides

(off map)
Pyramids Road, Giza.
Dancing nightly. Occasional gala evening. Dinner 9.30-12 p.m.
Admission P.T.50.

Belvedere Supper Club (F6)

Hilton Hotel.
Open winter only. Orchestra and floor show. Dinner served from 9-10 p.m. Admission P.T.80.

Geisha Night Club (J4)

Atlas Hotel.
Orchestra and oriental dancer.
Open daily.

Hilton Casino (F6)

Nile Hilton Hotel.
(Egyptian currency)

Merryland (off map)

Heliopolis.
Open 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Restaurant, nightclub, dancing, dinner. No entrance fee.

Restaurants featuring stereo music for dancing are becoming increasingly popular here – particularly with the younger Egyptians. If you want to sample this brand of entertainment, then try the night spots of Salt & Pepper, Palais de Versailles, After Eight and Pyramids Stereo, just behind the Mena House Hotel.

SPECTACULARS

Fascinating "Sound and Light" performances are staged every evening (except Mondays) at the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx, and these are a must if you are to experience the full mystique of the East. Performances start 8.45 p.m. in summer and 7 p.m. in winter. Entrance fees P.T.100. Saturday: in French; Sunday: in English and at 10.45 p.m. in German; Tuesday: in French; Wednesday: in English; Thursday: in Arabic; Friday: in English.

Sahara City (off map)

2½ miles (4 km) beyond Pyramids.
Oriental tent in the desert.
Oriental restaurant serving all kinds of drinks. Fully oriental shows. No entrance fee. Minimum for dinner P.T.125.

Good Shot (off F10)

Maadi Road.
Dancing, dinner. No entrance fee.

Sheraton Casino (C8)

Nightclub,
Cairo-Sheraton Hotel.
(Foreign currency)

Tamerina Night Club

(off map)
Pyramids Road, Giza.
Dancing, dinner. Orchestra in summer (open-air). Stereo in winter (in-doors).

Tropicana (F6)

Swimming pool, Hilton Hotel.
Summer only from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tipping

Hotels and restaurants normally add a 10% service charge to the bill, and a P.T.20 tip for hotel porters is customary. It is usual to give porters at the airport or railway station P.T.10 for the first suitcase and P.T.5 for each additional piece of luggage.

Tipping of theater and cinema ushers, hairdressers, taxi-drivers, cloakroom and parking attendants is not absolutely necessary, but a little consideration (say P.T.10-15) for diligent services rendered ensures an enthusiastic response next time you appear.

Shopping

There are ample modern and well-stocked shops in Cairo, including a number of excellent tailors who will make up garments from your own material, at reasonable cost. The more select stores are to be found around Opera Square (J4) and on Talaat Harb (H5) and Kasr El Nil (H5). For the tourist, however, the Oriental bazaars (there are some around the SAS Office) with all their bustle and color are the most attractive places to shop, although you'd be wise to acquire the services of a guide-interpreter if you intend engaging in the customary "sport" of haggling.

Among the wealth of commodities on sale are leatherware, Oriental carpets and antiques, ivory, copper and brass articles, silk brocades, cotton fabrics, drapes, chased silver and gold jewelry.

Popular souvenirs? . . . The typical camel saddle costing upwards of P.T.300 each, and the colorful leather "pouffes" (large round cushions) ranging from P.T.350 upwards. For genuine antiques, try Tawadros, 55 El Goumhouria (I5); for jewelry and trinkets, El Sergani, Opera Square (J4), Onnig Alixanian, Khan El Khalili (L5); Ding-Dong Bazaar, Mariette Street (G5) or Sabri Bazaar, Bustan Street (G6).

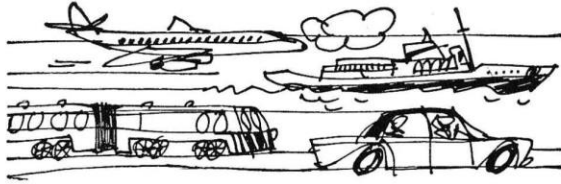
Most of the city's shops open daily 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. – in the bazaar from 8 in the morning to 8 at night.

Business hours

Banks: Open daily except on Fridays and national holidays from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (Sundays from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.). The Airport Exchange Office and Nile Hilton, Sheraton, Meridien and Shephard's hotel offices are open 24 hours all year round. All banks are closed on July 1.

Shops: Most department stores and shops open daily throughout the year from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 8 p.m. Some close Fridays, others on Sunday.

Business houses (offices): In winter, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. except Thursday afternoons and Fridays. In summer, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. except Fridays.



Transportation

Cairo's suburbs are connected to the city by a network of bus and trolleybus routes, and an express tram (Metro) connects Cairo with Heliopolis. However, these modes of transport are very crowded most hours of the day, and for comfort's sake the use of taxis is recommended. These are numerous, have meters, and are very reasonable in price, the basic fare being P.T.8 for the first kilometer and P.T.3 for each subsequent one. Tip cab-drivers approx. P.T.5-10.

For travel farther into Egypt, the visitor may choose from the domestic network of regular air services, from inexpensive intertown bus services, or from the Egyptian Railways' fast express trains, offering de luxe, first and second class accommodation with air-conditioned coaches, restaurant and sleeping cars. The latter also offers specially-reduced day return tickets. For fuller information ask at the Railway Station Information Desk. Slower, yes, yet one of the most enjoyable modes of transport in and out of Cairo are the boat trips along the Nile to Luxor, Aswan etc. - see "Sights and excursions".

You may also hire a self-drive or chauffeur-driven car through the SAS office (G5).

Sports

The Egyptian national sport is football (soccer), played during the season September to May. International matches are held in April and May mostly at Cairo Stadium. Other sports, centered at the vast number of sporting clubs in Cairo, include horse racing and riding, squash, tennis, rowing, golf, croquet, billiards, table tennis, volley ball, swimming and water skiing. The main clubs are the National, Gezirah (C3), Heliopolis and Maadi. Visitors may obtain a complete list of such clubs and temporary membership of most of them from the Tourist Office (I4) or through hotels.

The horse-racing season runs from October to May in Cairo and from June through September in Alexandria. Admission prices vary from 25 piastres to £E2. A betting system is available both in Cairo and Alexandria all year round.

Complementing the facilities offered by the sporting clubs are the swimming pools and golf courses provided by some of the larger hotels like the Mena House (beside the Giza pyramids), and the swimming pools at Nile Hilton and Manial Palace.

Climate and clothing

Egypt's climate could be described as "over 95% sun". The desert wind is very dry but cooling, and there are only about six days of rain per year. Chief characteristic of Cairo's climate is the great variation between night and day temperatures, whatever the season. The summer months (June-August) can be fairly hot, the evening breezes cool. Winter (December-March) is mild and sunny with usually a sudden drop in the thermometer at night. However, Spring (March-May) and Fall (September-November) are, with their warm and sunny days, the favored seasons for visitors to Egypt.

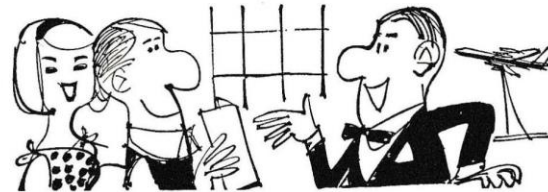
All year, except for winter, the climate calls for lightweight clothes, but don't forget a hat with a brim and sunglasses, and something a little bit warmer for evening. During winter you will need light woollens. For evening wear and theater-going, lounge suits suffice for men, cocktail dresses for ladies.

Most hotels offer a good, quick, dry-cleaning and laundry service.

Language

Arabic is the national language but you will experience no difficulty in finding locals who speak English and French fluently, as well as other major languages. Here, should you feel the urge to put to the test your linguistic prowess, are a few words in Arabic:

<i>Good morning</i>	Sabah-el-Kheir	The figures in Arabic:
<i>Good evening</i>	Massa-el-Kheir	1 ١
<i>Hallo</i>	Saeeda	2 ٢
<i>Thank you</i>	Mutta shakker	3 ٣
<i>Please</i>	Men fadlak	4 ٤
<i>Yes</i>	Aywa	5 ٥
<i>No</i>	La	6 ٦
<i>How much</i>	Bikam	7 ٧
<i>Bill</i>	Fatoorah	8 ٨
<i>Excuse me</i>	An Iznak	9 ٩
<i>Square</i>	Midan	0 ٠
<i>Street</i>	Sharia	



Public holidays and special events

Friday is the official weekly holiday and all government offices are closed then. Western visitors arriving on a Friday are, however, spared any inconvenience for all department stores and shops close on Sunday instead.

Here are the principal holidays:

Islamic New Year	1 day	Subject to official declaration.
Small Bairam	2 days	Subject to official declaration.
Great Bairam	2 days	Subject to official declaration.
Moslem New Year	1 day	Subject to official declaration.
Sham El Nessim	1 day	Subject to official declaration.
Labor Day	1 day	May 1.
Mouled El Naby	2 days	Subject to official declaration.
Evacuation Day	1 day	June 18.
Revolution Day	1 day	July 23.
New Year's Day	1 day	
Syrian Revolution	1 day	March 8.
Obour Day	1 day	October 6.
Suez Day	1 day	October 24.

Alexandria

Ever since it was founded in 332 B.C. by Alexander the Great, Alexandria has enjoyed a dominant role in the Mediterranean area. Under the Greeks it claimed the most extensive library in the ancient world. Later it was one of the principal centers, with Rome and Constantinople, of early Christianity.

Today it is not only Egypt's main port handling some 80 per cent of the country's imports and exports – but it is one of the country's top touristic centers.

With a pleasant summer-time climate and mild winter weather, Alexandria attracts more than a million visitors per year – to add to the city's two million population.

Take a horse-and-garry along the 10-mile-long Corniche boulevard passing fishermen tending their nets and mile after mile of white sandy beaches – and you'll understand why Alexandria is sometimes called "The Pearl of the Mediterranean".

A city of green parks and wide open spaces, Alexandria stands at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe – and this blend of Oriental and Occidental life styles is reflected in the shops, markets and bazaars.

Information regarding entry regulations, cuisine, tipping, souvenirs to take home, business hours, climate and clothing, language and public holidays and special events, is to be found in the Cairo section of this city portrait.

Hotels

Alexandria offers a wide range of accommodation from de luxe class hotels to more modest establishments but visitors generally choose from the luxury, first or second class addresses. It is advisable to book in advance. You can do this through any travel agent or your local SAS office. In Alexandria, the Tourist Information Office (tel. 80 79 85) can supply you with current hotel information.

De luxe

Palestine Hotel (off map,
15 km east of city)
Al Montazah Palace.
Tel. 66 799.

First class (A)

Hotel Beau Rivage (F8)
434 Sh. El Gueish Laurant.
Tel. 62 187.

Cecil Hotel (E3)
Saad Zaghoul Square.
Tel. 80 75 32.

Salamlek Hotel (off map)
Al Montazah Palace.
Tel. 65 813.

San Giovanni (C8)
205 Algueish Road.
Tel. 40 984.

San Stephano Hotel (E8)
Sh. El Gueish.
Tel. 63 580.

Windsor Hotel (E3)
17 Sh. El Shohada.
Tel. 80 87 00.

Restaurants

Abaza (I3)
134 El-Gueish St., Sporting.

Al-Ikhlass (E4)
49 Safia Zaghoul Street.

Al-Wadi (C3)
23 El-Mina al-Sharkeya St.

Darwish (I3)
90 El-Gueish St., Ibrahimieh.

Maxim (off map)
Maamoura Beach.

Moustafa Darwish (E5)
200 26th July Street.

Omar Khayyam (E3)
19 Midan Saad Zaghoul.

Sights and excursions

CITY SIGHTS IN ALEXANDRIA

Montazah Palace (off map). Built in 1926, this was the summer residence of the former royal family located on the seashore on the eastern side of Alexandria overlooking the Mediterranean. Today a hotel has been built in the palace grounds. The second and third floors of the main buildings have become a museum with relics of the former monarchs and the ground floor is a casino.

Graeco-Roman Museum (E4), 5 Sharia Al Mathaf Al Romani. The magnificent collections dating back to the third century B.C. comprise some 40,000 items. Among the museum's priceless treasures are the "Tanagra" statues. Opening hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except Fridays when the museum closes at 11.30 a.m. Entrance charge.

Pompey's Pillar (B5). This pillar is located on one of the major historical sites in Alexandria. Standing 25 meters high

First class (B)

Hannoville Hotel (off map)
Al Agami.
Tel. 80 00 66.

Maamoura Hotel (off map)
Maamoura Beach.
Tel. 67 107.

Mediterranee Hotel (E8)
Sh. El Gueish.
Tel. 43 706.

Metropole Hotel (E3)
52 Sh. Saad Zaghoul.
Tel. 21 464.

Pastroudis (E4)
39 Abdel Nasser Avenue.

Petrou (H8)
5 El-Misak Str.

Ramses (E3)
25 El-Gorfa al-Togariya St.

San Giovanni (C8)
205 El-Gueish St., Stanley.

Santa-Lucia (E4)
40 Safia Zaghoul Street.

Union (D3)
Borsa Kadima Street.

Zephir (off map)
Max.

Zephyrion (off map)
Aboukir.

it was erected in 297 A.D. in honor of the Roman Emperor, Diocletian. Today the huge granite pillar, together with two Sphinx-like figures, are to be found among the ruins of the Serapium Temple.

Roman Amphitheater (E4). Discovered comparatively recently among the ruins of the Kom El-Dekka, near the Graeco-Roman Museum, the amphitheater is the only one of its kind in Egypt. It has 12 marble terraces forming a semi-circle.

The Catacombs of Kom ash Shuqafa (B5). These catacombs consist of three tiers carved into the rock to a depth of 100 ft. and date from the end of the first or beginning of the 2nd century A.D. They are situated near the port of Alexandria.

Fort of Qait Bay (D1). Built at the northerly tip of the entrance to the harbor by King Al-Ashraf Qait Bay in 1479 A.D., the fort was constructed on the ruins of the ancient Pharos of Alexandria (light house) – one of the seven wonders of the world. The fortress, itself, is a splendid example of Islamic military architecture from the 15th century with numerous gunports in the walls and a tower at each corner. The fort is now a museum illustrating the naval heritage of Egypt from Pharonic times.

Mosque of Abu al-Abbas (C1). Not far away from the Fort of Qait Bay, is another example of Islamic architecture – the Mosque of Sidi Abul Abbas El Mursi which has a minaret and four domes.

Marine Life Institute (C1). Close by is also a museum containing specimens of marine life found in Egyptian waters. Open daily 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aboukir (off map). Today a quiet beach, favored spot for anglers – but in 1798 the place where Nelson destroyed Napoleon's fleet.

EXCURSIONS

Ikingi Maryout

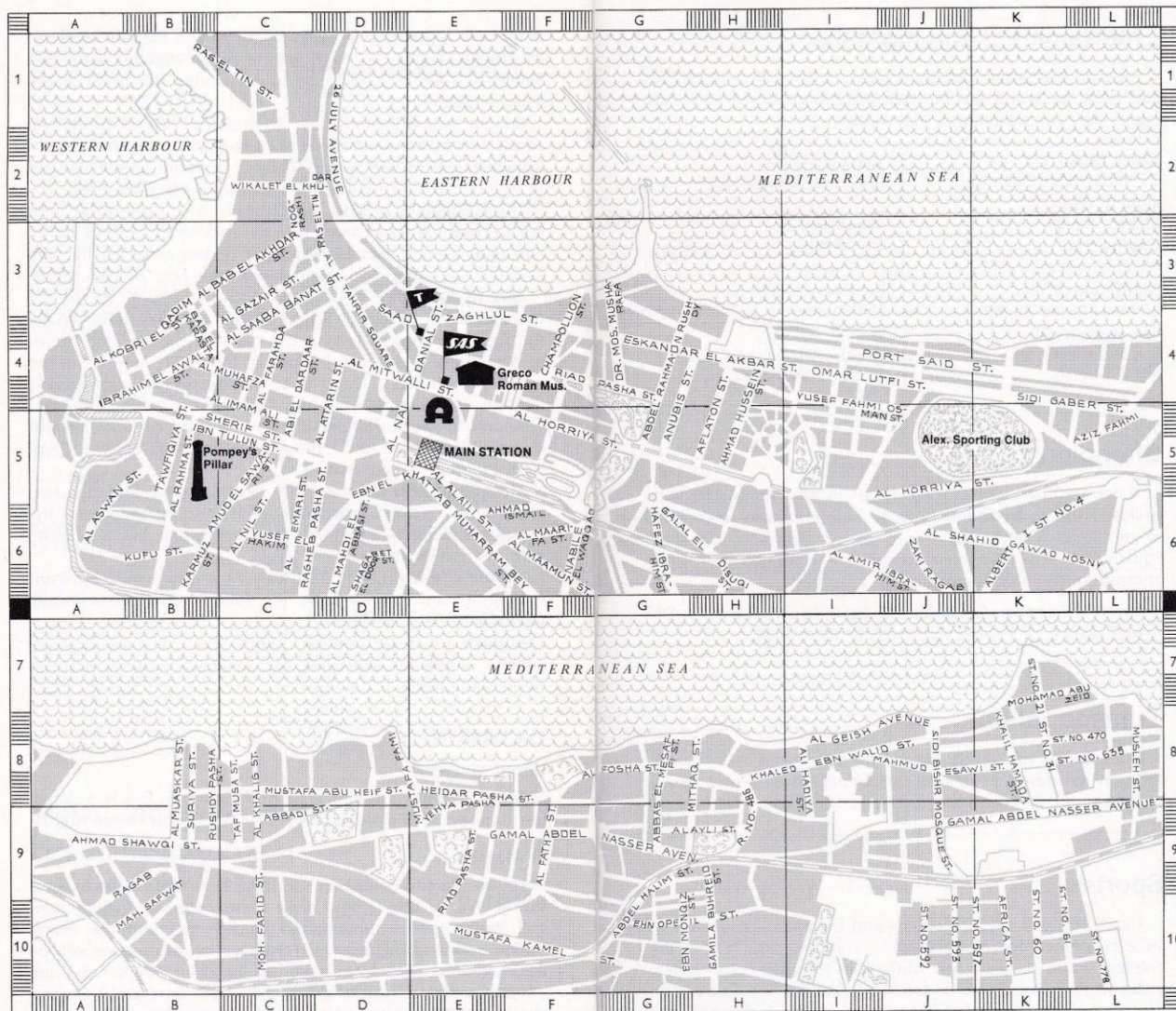
Some 22 miles (35 km) west of Alexandria, this is a desert health resort with a pleasant hotel – "The Desert Home Hotel".

El Alamein

This is the site of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War – the famous tank clash between the German and Italian forces commanded by Rommel and the Allied forces under Montgomery. Here are the cemeteries of the 8,000 soldiers who lost their lives in 1942. There are three military cemeteries (British, German and Italian) and a Second World War Museum. Today's El Alamein is a quiet and peaceful place with a sandy beach, clean water and a good climate. It is located 62 miles (104 km) west of Alexandria.

Sidi Abdel Rahman

Some 15½ miles (25 km) west of El Alamein is the seaside resort of Sidi Abdel Rahman – in an area famous for its pearl-colored beaches, crystal-clear seas and low humidity. There is a hotel with a villa annex.



Code numbers in the Alexandria section of this booklet refer to the above map.

Interesting sights in Alexandria

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| (off L7) Montazah Palace. | (D1) Fort of Qait Bay. |
| (E4) Graeco-Roman Museum. | (C1) Mosque of Abu al-Abbas. |
| (B5) Pompey's Pillar. | (C1) Marine Life Institute. |
| (E4) Roman Amphitheater. | (off map) Aboukir. |
| (B5) The Catacombs of Kom ash Shuqafa. | |

Thus (E4) is located where lines drawn from "E" and "4" cross each other.

Useful addresses

- SAS** SAS Ticket Office:
32 Sharia El-Horriya (E4). Telephone 33973.
Open hours: Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sundays closed.
- T** Tourist Information Office:
Saad Zaghloul Square (E3). Telephone 80 79 85.
Open hours: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Entertainment and night life

Most of the hotels listed on page 21 have their own bars and restaurants and several have gambling casinos and night clubs. Here is a selection of night spots:

Crazy Horse (E3)
21 Midan Saad Zaghloul.

Cote d'Azur (D8)
Stanley Beach.

Chatby (H3)
Sh. El Gueish.

Monseigneur (F4)
15 Midan Saad Zaghloul.

San Stefano (E8)
San Stefano Hotel,
Sh. El Gueish.

Santa Lucia (E4)
40 Sh. Safia Zaghloul.

Miramar (F3)
Sh. 26 July.

Belvedere Stereo (E3)
164 26 July.

Windsor Hotel (E3)
17 Sh. El Shohada.

Shopping

There are many well-stocked shops in Alexandria. The most exclusive are to be found in Saad Zaghloul Street (E3), Salah Salem Street (D4), Nabi Daniel Street (E4) and Manshieh Square (D3). The Manshieh area (C3) is crammed with small antique-shops (marché aux puces).

Oriental bazaars: Gopaldas, 32 Saad Zaghloul Street (E3); Khan El Khalil, 32 Horeya Ave. (next to SAS office).

Transportation

From Cairo, you reach Alexandria by express train or bus through the desert or on the agricultural road (2 to 3 hours) or, of course, you can lease a car and drive yourself.

Sports

Alexandria is a city of gardens and beaches – and there is an excellent choice of beaches . . . yellow sand and azure colored sea to the east and white with torquoise crystal-clear water to the west. Some of the most popular beaches are Al-Maamoura, Al-Montazah, Al-Mandarah, Al-Assafrah. Sidi Bishr, Miami, San Stephano, Glym, Cleopatra, Chatby. The two western suburbs, Hanoville and Agami also boast snowy-white beaches and a superb climate.

There are a number of sports clubs where visitors can obtain temporary membership for a nominal fee. At the Sporting and Smouha Clubs, for example, there are 18-hole golf courses as well as facilities for horse riding, swimming, tennis and basket ball. Contact the SAS office for more details.

Name of my hotel: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____

Edited by Mike Simon

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