

Cairo *urban guide*

Dining

Fishawy Cafe

Fishawy is truly a microcosm of Cairo. It is crowded, loud, dirty, and smoky. Fishawy, like Cairo, is organized chaos. To the foreign eye, it seems to be a complete mess, complete disorder, but somehow there is a system, and the system works. As you approach, a waiter will find some space to cram you and your party into, and then leave. Soon someone else will approach, and ask for your orders. There are two barely visible menus on the wall, both in Arabic, but it doesn't matter, because they have the only things that matter, shisha (hookah) in both apricot and apple flavors, tea, coffee, and then a wonderful assortment of fresh juices.

Fishawy Cafe,
El Hussein Khan El Khalili,
202 590-6755

Hotel

Talisman Hotel

Ranked number 11 out of the top 88 hotels in Cairo, the Talisman Hotel De Charme is a cozy hotel situated in downtown Cairo, 1 kilometer from the Egyptian Museum. Having only 25 rooms it is considered a rather small hotel in comparison to its competitors, but contains many of the same amenities.

Khan El Khalili Bazaar or the striking Coptic Cairo are 15 minutes away and the great pyramids of Giza are an approximate 30 minute ride away, rate being 100 US dollars

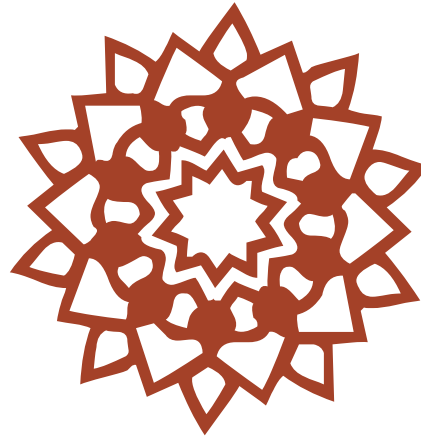
Egypt has long been known as the “mother of civilization.” Situated on the scenic Nile River; Cairo, Egypt, is the largest city in Africa with a population of 17 million. It is one of the world's largest urban cities which offers an abundance to see and do. This majestic city, at the heart of it all, is one of the world's most impressive vacation spots. It provides immense culture including art galleries and music halls, such as the Cairo Opera House and also provides some of the grandest accommodations and restaurants in the world, such as the Marriot and Hilton hotels.

Escape

Bibliotheca Alexandria

The Alexandria Library is a one of a kind structure. This is one only avid readers or architects might seek out if a trip to Alexandria wasn't originally planned because of the distance but it would be so worth it. The library is not only hooked up with every modern convenience and is so massive in size that boggles one's mind, what is truly miraculous about it is its influence on outsiders.

Bibliotheca Alexandria, Alexandria



Place

Townhouse Gallery

The Townhouse Gallery of contemporary art has been exhibiting work from the region's contemporary artists since 1998. The gallery space has provided a fitting platform for visual arts, film, music and theatre.

townhouse gallery
10 Nabrawy street, off Champollion street,
202 576-8086

Sightseeing

Cairo Opera House

The Cairo Opera House provides a world of sophistication and culture under one exquisite roof. Situated on the Gezira Island, just outside Zamalek, it is surrounded by many cultural mainstays such as the Museum of Egyptian Modern Arts, Nile Gallery and El Hangar Theatre. Taking up an incredible 45,000 square meters and 34 months to build, this seemingly larger than life structure is sure to dazzle any spectator. Inside you will find impressive theatres with incredible lighting and comfortable amenities that beat out even the swankiest of hotels with halls that seat anywhere from 500 to 1,200 spectators. Tickets to shows vary depending on type of performance and location of seating, call for ticket prices.

Gezira Island, just outside Zamalek
202 739-0114.

Shopping

Alef Gallery

An interesting shift from the usual shopping experience in Cairo, Alef Gallery in Zamalek aims to please while spreading enlightenment. The word “Alef” is the Arabic name for the first letter of the alphabet, their choice of name for the store stemming from the ideal that they too began in the journey “from the beginning” bringing a world of sumptuousness to their customers from the most ancient of times.

Alef Gallery
Zamalek street
