

Egypt in a Nutshell

Travel and Lifestyle

iEgypt Tours & Travels



WHAT TO VISIT
LOCAL FLAVORS

ESSENTIAL TIPS
BEST CITIES

CULTURAL
ADVENTURES

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We've Got Your Back



From the Editor's Desk

Here's a section written from iEgypt Travels as the editor, with a message tailored for the readers:

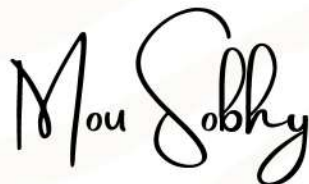
From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the Ultimate Fun Egypt Guide!

At iEgypt Travels, we are more than just a travel agency – we are storytellers, adventurers, and passionate hosts who take pride in sharing the magic of Egypt with the world. Since our founding in 2020, we've strived to redefine the travel experience by blending authentic local adventures with iconic sightseeing.

This guide was born out of our love for Egypt – its breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and the vibrant culture that makes it unlike any other place on Earth. Each page is designed to inspire, inform, and prepare you for an unforgettable journey through this incredible land.

Whether you're a seasoned traveler or embarking on your first Egyptian adventure, our mission is to ensure you have everything you need to experience Egypt to the fullest. From insider tips to hidden gems, we've packed this magazine with resources that will make your journey seamless, enriching, and truly extraordinary.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mou Sobhy". The letters are fluid and connected, with a large, looping 'M' and a cursive 'Sobhy'.

TRAVEL EXPERT

Welcome to Egypt!

Egypt in a nutshell



Welcome to Egypt—where ancient history, sun-kissed beaches, and vibrant cultures come together in an unforgettable adventure! Whether you're here for the pyramids, the stunning Red Sea, the winding Nile, or the desert's secret oases, Egypt is a land of endless surprises. Expect the unexpected. From exploring the colossal temples of Luxor to diving in the crystal-clear waters of Sharm El Sheikh, you'll experience the perfect mix of ancient wonders and modern-day relaxation. Whether you're cruising the Nile, riding camels near the pyramids, or snorkeling among coral reefs, there's a whole world waiting for you. And don't worry about a thing—we've got everything covered! With iEgypt, relax and enjoy every moment while we take care of the logistics. Our expert guides are with you every step of the way, ensuring your trip is seamless, fun, and full of amazing memories.



WHAT TO EXPECT IN CAIRO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCOIS MERCER | BY MARGARITA PEREZ



Ancient History: The Pyramids, the Sphinx, mummies—you're stepping back thousands of years. These wonders are so old, they'll make you feel like you've just landed on another planet. Get ready for plenty of "wow" moments! **Vibrant Culture:** Cairo is a buzz of noisy streets, spicy food, and lively markets. It's chaotic in the best way, with warm people, catchy music, and flavors that will make you crave more. **A Dash of Surprise:** Egypt isn't all pyramids! You might find yourself riding a camel, cruising the Nile, or discovering hidden temples. Oh, and Cairo traffic? It's an adventure of its own. Expect some detours and lots of laughs. In short, Egypt is a mix of ancient wonders, modern hustle, and moments that'll leave you thinking, "Did that really just happen?" Get ready for an unforgettable ride!

- **The Pyramids of Giza:** Feel the awe as you stand in front of these ancient giants.
- **Nile River Cruise:** Glide past temples, villages, and scenic landscapes, with the river as your guide.
- **Desert Adventures:** Explore the magical Siwa Oasis, or camp under the stars in the Black & White Desert.
- **The Red Sea:** Dive into crystal-clear waters and discover vibrant marine life in places like Hurghada or Sharm El Sheikh.
- **Luxor's Temples:** Step back in time as you explore Egypt's ancient heartland, with stunning monuments and tombs.
- **Cairo's Buzzing Streets:** Immerse yourself in the vibrant life of Egypt's capital, where history and modernity collide

LOCAL CULTURE: DON'T BE A STRANGER, BE A FRIEND

Welcome to Egypt, where history meets hospitality! From ancient monuments to modern culture, Egypt is full of surprises. Here's a quick guide to blending in with the locals:

The Power of a Smile

A smile goes a long way in Egypt. Greet people with a "Salam Alaykum" (Peace be upon you) and a warm smile. It's the easiest way to make friends!

2. **Handshakes:** The Icebreaker Men shake hands, but women might not always be offered one. If it happens, go ahead and shake, but don't be surprised if the handshake lasts a little longer.

3. **The Family Vibe** Egyptians value family. If you're invited into a home, expect lots of food and hospitality. Saying "no" to a second helping? Unthinkable!

4. **Food:** An Experience Egyptian food is a feast for the senses. Try Koshary, Fattah, and plenty of pita bread. If offered mint tea or hibiscus tea, accept it—it's a sign of respect.

5. **Bargaining:** A Friendly Game Negotiating prices is part of the fun. Start low, stay friendly, and don't be afraid to walk away for a better deal. It's all part of the game!

6. **Dress Modestly** Dress modestly, especially at religious sites or rural areas. Women should cover shoulders and knees; men can wear t-shirts and shorts, but avoid revealing clothing.

7. **Don't Be Shy** to Ask Locals are happy to help. If you need directions or recommendations, just ask! They love sharing tips about their country.

8. **Public Displays** of Affection Holding hands is fine, but kissing in public may draw attention. Keep it subtle and save the more affectionate moments for private spaces.





EGYPTIAN ARABIC: **Language 101**

Ready to impress the locals with some Arabic? Here are a few essential phrases that will help you blend in and understand Egypt's culture—plus some gestures to make you feel like a true local!

Important words

1. Salam Alaykum – Hello The classic greeting. Respond with Wa Alaykum Salam for the full effect. Smile and add a nod to charm them!
2. Shukran – Thank you" Use this often!
3. Yalla – "Let's go!" A fun, energetic phrase for when you're ready to move or do something. Say it with enthusiasm and a wave!
4. Habibi – "My dear" A warm, affectionate term. It's commonly used for friends and even strangers—just say it with a smile!
5. Inshallah (God willing" Express hope or uncertainty with this phrase. Add a shrug for full local flair!
6. La Shukran – No, thank you Polite but firm. A smile and a small hand wave make it even friendlier.
7. Tisbah Ala Khair – Good night Say this when leaving for the night. It's a nice, sweet way to wish someone well.
8. Ana Mish Fham – I don't understand Use this when you're lost in translation. A confused look helps sell the vibe!
9. Forsa Sa'ida – Nice to meet you Use this for greetings. Be genuine and share a handshake with a smile.
10. Mafish Mushkila– No problem A common phrase to show you're not bothered. Use it casually, with a shrug or relaxed wave.



MASTER THESE, AND YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME IN EGYPT! A LITTLE ARABIC GOES A LONG WAY IN MAKING THE ADVENTURE EVEN MORE MEMORABLE.

LAUGH LIKE EGYPTIAN!

Egypt's history isn't just about tombs and treasures

Welcome to Egypt—the land of pharaohs, pyramids, and quirky surprises! Egypt's history isn't just about tombs and treasures; it's full of fun facts that will keep you entertained:

Let's hear some facts and Myths about Egypt!



A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: EGYPT'S ANCIENT WONDERS



1. Pharaohs: The Original Immortality Enthusiasts

Pharaohs didn't just want to rule in life; they wanted to rule forever! They built huge tombs filled with treasures to ensure eternal luxury.

2. The Great Pyramid: Built by 'Aliens'?

Some say aliens built the Great Pyramid of Giza, but we think it was just some really skilled Egyptians with a lot of workers. It stood as the tallest man-made structure for over 3,800 years!

3. Cleopatra: Beauty, Brains, and a Hollywood Twist

Cleopatra wasn't just a pretty face—she was smart, spoke several languages, and had famous lovers. Fun fact: she wasn't actually Egyptian! She was of Greek descent.

4. The Sphinx: More Than Just a Mystery

The Sphinx might've had a beard and colorful paint back in the day! And as for its missing nose, was it time, weather, or an angry tourist? We'll never know!

5. Mummies: Luxury for the Afterlife

Mummification wasn't just for kings and queens—rich people got the deluxe "spa treatment" for the afterlife too. Talk about luxury for eternity!

6. World's First "Record" Holders

Okay, maybe they didn't hold a tug-of-war record, but the Egyptians definitely set world-class standards with their massive pyramids and structures that still stand today.

7. The Nile: The River That's Seen It All

The Nile isn't just the world's longest river—it's witnessed the rise and fall of civilizations. And with crocodiles lurking, ancient Egyptians probably just avoided them by mastering the art of boat-making!

8. Ancient Egyptians: The OG Cat People

Egyptians loved cats so much, they mummified them and buried them with their owners. So when you see a temple cat, just remember: they're royalty!

LIVE LIKE A LOCAL

Local experiences by iEgypt Travels

Local experiences in Egypt offer a rich tapestry of history, culture, and traditions that go beyond the iconic pyramids and temples. It's about immersing yourself in the everyday life of Egyptians, connecting with their warm hospitality, and discovering the hidden gems that make this country so unique.

Whether you're wandering through bustling markets, tasting the authentic flavors of Egyptian cuisine, or sharing stories with local families, Egypt offers unforgettable experiences that make you feel like part of the community. From the serene beauty of the Nile to the quiet charm of rural villages, these local adventures allow you to experience Egypt in a way few travelers ever do. Get ready to explore not just the landmarks, but the soul of Egypt itself.

In the next pages, we will tell you our favorite top local experiences we offer or we recommend to our clients.



Food tour:

Embark on a flavorful adventure through Egypt's vibrant food scene, where every bite tells a story of history, culture, and tradition. Egyptian cuisine is a feast for the senses, offering a delightful mix of hearty, aromatic, and sweet dishes that cater to all tastes.

Start your journey with Koshary, Egypt's ultimate comfort food, a savory mix of rice, lentils, macaroni, and crispy onions, topped with tangy tomato sauce and a hint of spice. Pair it with a refreshing glass of freshly squeezed sugarcane juice to cool off.

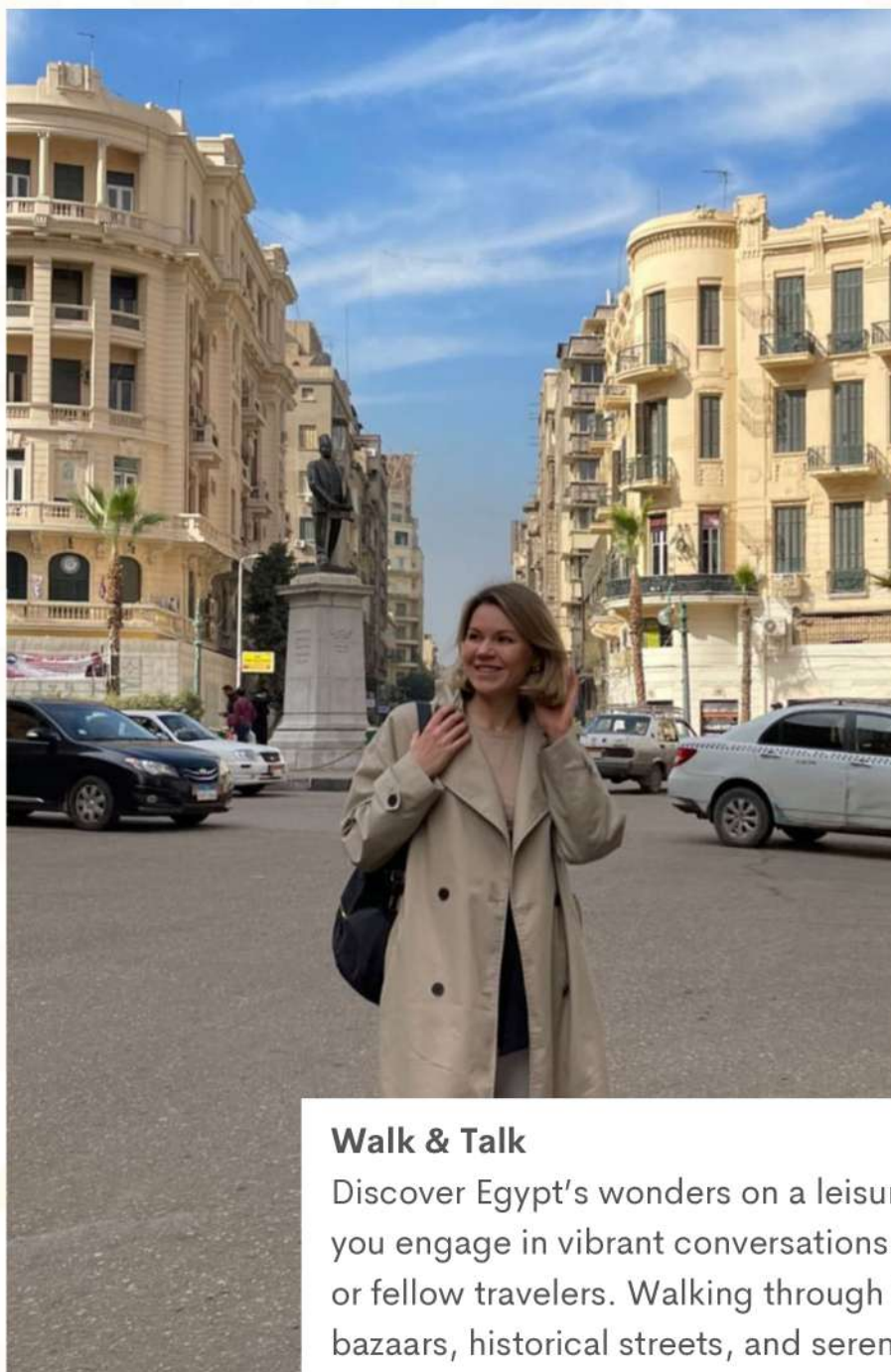
Next, dive into Foul Medames, a classic breakfast made with slow-cooked fava beans, olive oil, and garlic, best enjoyed with warm pita bread. Don't miss Hawawshi, a crispy pita stuffed with spiced minced meat, or the succulent Kebab and Kofta, perfectly grilled meat skewers that are sure to satisfy your taste buds.



Home cooking

Egyptian home cooking is a celebration of family, tradition, and love. Dishes like Fattah, a layered mix of crispy bread, rice, and slow-cooked meat topped with garlic tomato sauce, and Molokhia, a green stew served with chicken or rabbit, are staples at family tables. For breakfast, favorites include Foul Medames and Taameya (Egyptian falafel), served with fresh vegetables and warm bread.

No meal is complete without sweets like Om Ali (bread pudding) or Roz Bel Laban (rice pudding). Egyptian hospitality shines in every dish, making home cooking an unforgettable experience that feeds both the stomach and the soul.



Walk & Talk

Discover Egypt's wonders on a leisurely stroll as you engage in vibrant conversations with locals or fellow travelers. Walking through bustling bazaars, historical streets, and serene villages offers a unique perspective of the country. Whether you're wandering through the ancient alleys of Cairo or along the Nile Corniche, every step reveals stories of history, culture, and daily life. It's not just a walk—it's an immersive journey filled with connection and discovery.

Kayaking on the Nile: Paddle Through History
Experience the magic of the Nile River like never before with a kayaking adventure. Glide through its calm waters, taking in breathtaking views of ancient temples, lush greenery, and traditional feluccas sailing nearby.

A dinner cruise on the Nile offers a perfect blend of exquisite dining, stunning views, and captivating entertainment. As the boat gently glides along the river, you'll enjoy a multi-course meal featuring traditional Egyptian dishes and international cuisine.



Wekalet El Ghouri, nestled in the heart of Islamic Cairo, is a stunning 16th-century caravanserai that once served as a hub for merchants traveling along trade routes. Today, it stands as a vibrant cultural center showcasing Egypt's rich heritage.



Wekalet El Balah, located in Cairo, is a treasure trove for thrift shopping enthusiasts and a hub for bargain hunters. This bustling market is famous for its wide variety of second-hand and vintage items, from clothing and fabrics to shoes and accessories, all at incredibly affordable prices.



EGYPTIAN TIME!

No matter you heard this before or not, but the Egyptian time is real!

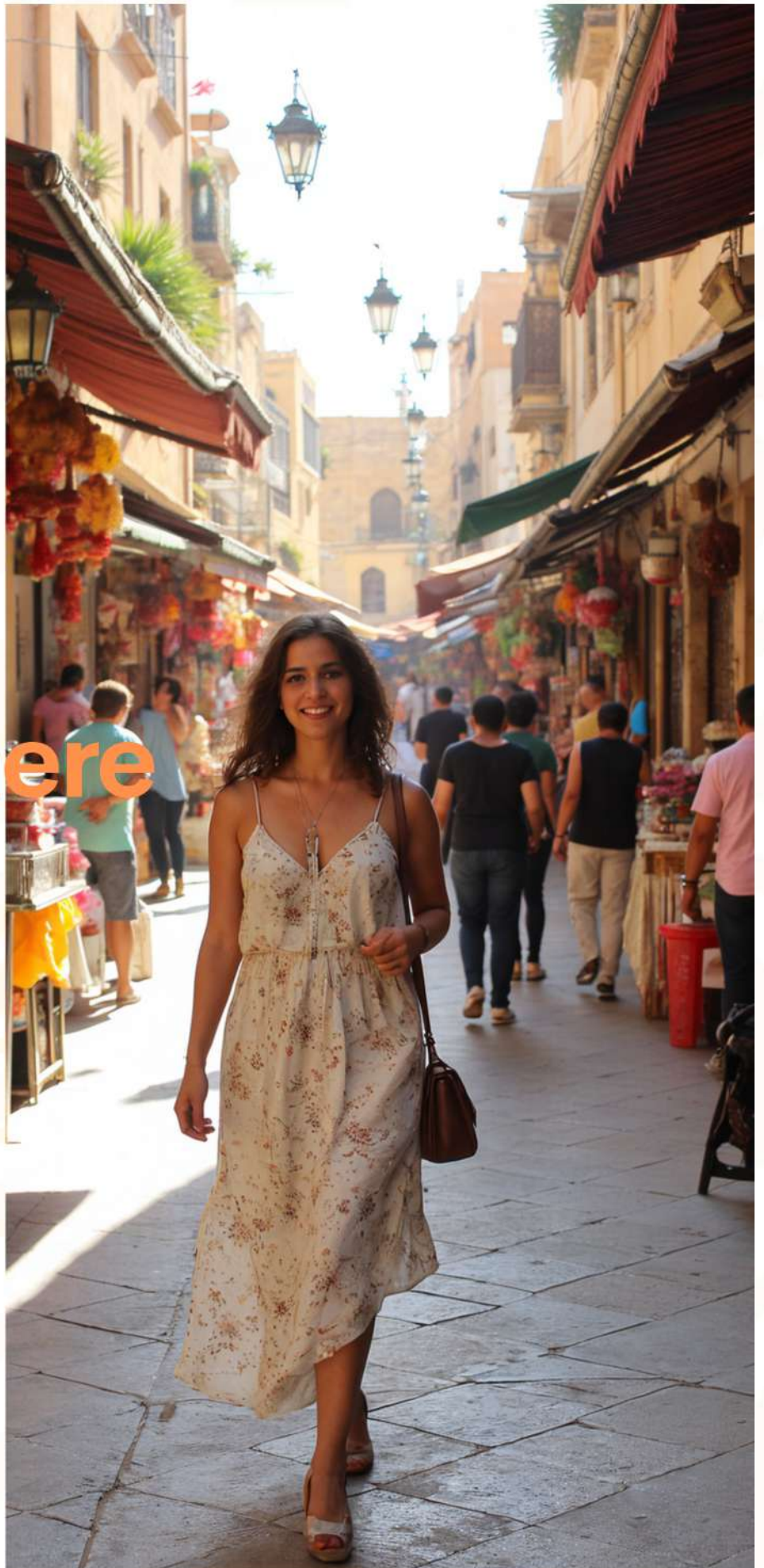
In Egypt, time moves slowly, and that's part of the charm!

1. The Relaxed Pace: Your driver might be a bit late. No worries, just enjoy the ride!
2. Meals Take Time: Expect a leisurely meal—sip tea and chat while you wait.
3. Chill Guides: Guides may not rush, but they'll make sure you see everything in detail.
4. Late Starts: Events don't always begin on time, but that gives you more time to relax.
5. Patience Pays Off: Waiting can be part of the experience. When it happens, it's worth it! So



WHERE TO GO:

Everywhere in Egypt



GIZA



CAIRO



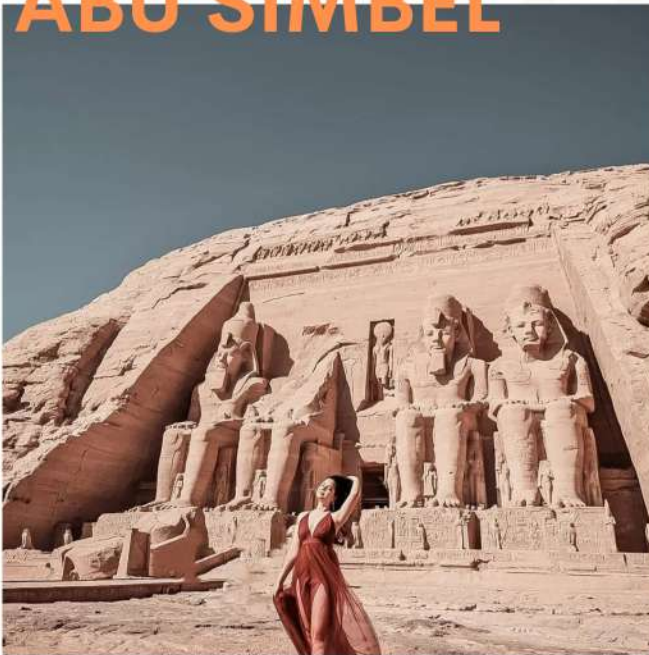
LUXOR



ASWAN



ABU SIMBEL



HURGHADA



SHARM ELSHEIKH



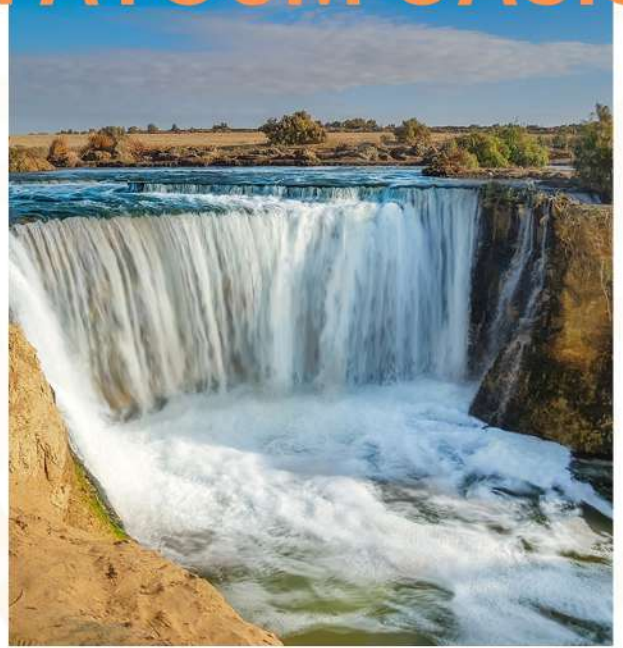
DAHAB



SIWA OASIS



FAYOUM OASIS



WHITE DESERT



ALEXANDRIA



TIPPING CULTURE



Tipping, or "baksheesh," is a common practice in Egypt and is seen as a way to show appreciation for good service. While it is not mandatory, it is deeply ingrained in the culture and expected in many service-related professions. Tourists will often encounter tipping situations in restaurants, hotels, transportation, and guided tours.

How Much Should You Tip in Egypt?

The amount you tip depends on the service received, but here's a general guideline:

- Restaurants & Cafés: 10-15% of the bill if a service charge is not included.
- Hotel Staff: \$1-2 per service (porters, housekeeping).
- Drivers & Transportation: Around \$2-5 per ride, depending on the distance.
- Tour Guides & Representatives: Since they provide valuable insights and assistance throughout your trip, they are usually tipped higher.

READY TO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE?

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Travelers'
Choice Awards



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