

### **Egyptian flag**



**OFFICIAL NAME**: Arab

Republic of Egypt

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT:** 

Republic

**CAPITAL**: Cairo

**POPULATION: 87, 562, 261** 

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**: Arabic

MONEY: Egyptian pound, guinay

**AREA**: 1,001,449 square

kilometres

**MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES:** 

Eastern Highland

**MAJOR RIVER: NILE** 



National symbol(s):golden eagle, white lotus

National colors: red, white, black

#### **National anthem:**

name: "Bilady, Bilady, Bilady" (My Homeland, My Homeland, My Homeland)



MAJOR CITITES: Port said, Alexandria, Suez, Luxor

LOCATION: Located in North Africa; Bordered by Libya, Gaza Strip, and Sudan

Adopted on: October 4, 1984

**CURRENCY:** Egyptian Pound (EGP)

Flag Proportion: 2:3



### <u>Language</u>

The first written ancient Egyptian language which formed a separate branch among the family of the Afro-Asiatic tribe is known from hieroglyphic inscriptions preserved on monuments and sheets of papyrus. The "Koiné" dialect of the Greek language which was later studied by Arabic scholars, was central in Hellenistic Alexandria, and was used in the philosophy and science of that culture. The Arabic language came in the 7th century and Egyptian Arabic has since become the modern speech of the country.



## **Facts about Ancient Egypt**



1. Most Ancient Egyptian pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. To date, over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.



2. The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body – which they did through the process of mummification – their soul would live on in the after-life forever.



3. The Pyramid of Khufu at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!



4. Both Egyptian men and women wore make-up. The eye-paint was usually green (made from copper) or black (made from lead). As well as offering protection from the sun, the Egyptians believed make-up had magical healing powers, too!



**5.** Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for **1.6km**. Yikes!



6. The Egyptian alphabet contained more than 700 hieroglyphs! Uncover the meaning behind these ancient symbols by checking out our awesome hieroglyphics feature.



7. Ancient Egyptians believed in more than 2,000 deities! They had gods for everything, from dangers to chores! Each had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance.



8. Cats were considered to be a sacred animal by the Ancient Egyptians. It's thought that most families kept a cat as a pet, which they believed would bring the household good luck!



9. Love playing board games with your pals? Well, gang, so did the Ancient Egyptians! One popular game was Senet, which was played for over 2,000 years! The game involved throwing sticks (in the same way we throw dice) to see how many squares to move your piece forward on the

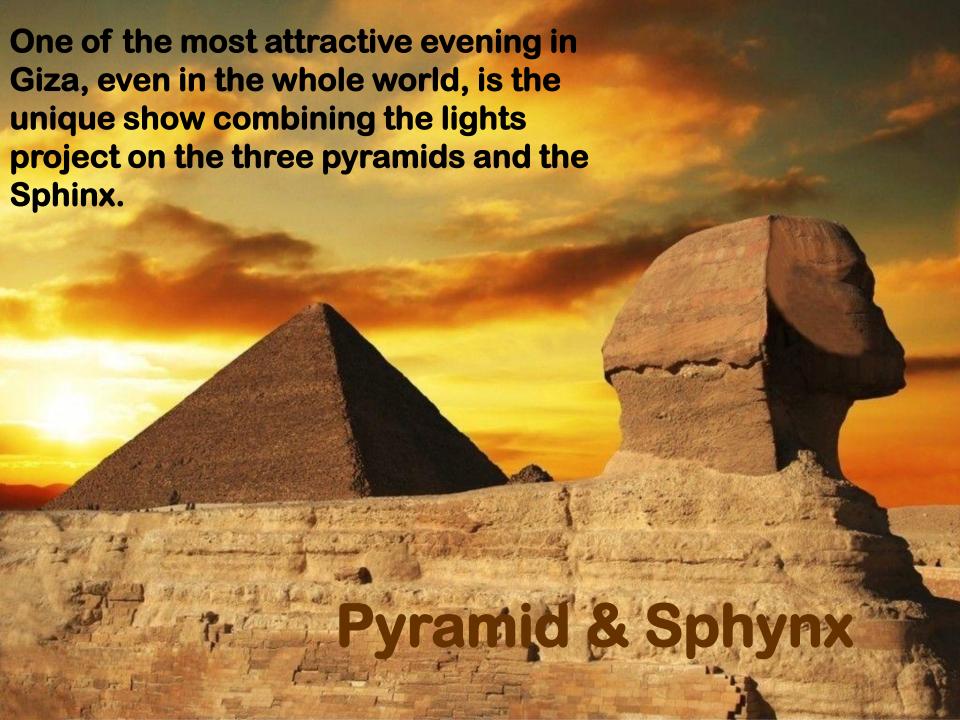
10. The Ancient Egyptians invented lots of things we still use today, such as paper, pens, locks and keys and – believe it or not – toothpaste!





### Let's Discover Cairo







# FAMOUS PLACES OF EGYPT



### The Great Pyramids of Giza

One of the most iconic and mysterious Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (and the only one still standing), the Pyramids of Giza—the Great Pyramid of Khufu, Pyramid of Khafre, and Pyramid of Menkaure. still live up to more than 4,000 years of hype. Seeing these three fourth-dynasty pyramids and their guardian Great Sphinx rising from the Giza Plateau is a must on any trip to Cairo (and the reason many travelers find themselves in Egypt).





Few structures on the planet are as immediately recognizable as the Giza Pyramids, and travelers have several options for visiting these wonders of ancient Egypt.

Most see them on a full-day tour from Giza or Cairo



### Egyptian Museum



From the Royal Mummy Room to a number of glittering galleries showcasing finery extracted from various ancient tombs, there's a ton to see at the Egyptian Museum, also known as the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities. Getting around to all 107 halls in one trip is tough, so you'll want to choose a few subjects or exhibits that are most important to you.





Although the entire museum is filled with artifacts from as far back as the prehistoric period, the most renowned exhibit is, without a doubt, the collection of treasures once belonging to King Tutankhamun—don't miss the astonishing solid gold death mask. Other highlights include the Amarna Room, devoted to Akhenaten; the Greco-Roman mummies; and the larger-than-life statue of Khafre, considered by many to be the museum's masterpiece





### CITADEL OF SALADIN (AL-QALAA)

Sprawling over a limestone spur on the eastern edge of the city, the Citadel of Saladin (or Al-Qalaa) was home to Egypt's rulers for some 700 years. Their legacy is a collection of three very different mosques, including the Mosque of Mohamed Ali, several palaces (housing some underwhelming museums such as the police and military museums) and a couple of terraces with city views.

#### Khan al-Khalili Tours

Jaundiced travelers often dismiss the Khan al-Khalili as a tourist trap; there's no ignoring the fact that it's a favored stop of tour buses and has all the associated annoyances (touts and tat) that come with them. But it's worth remembering that Cairenes have plied their trades here since the founding of the Khan in the 14th century - the buying and selling didn't begin with the arrival of the first tour group.

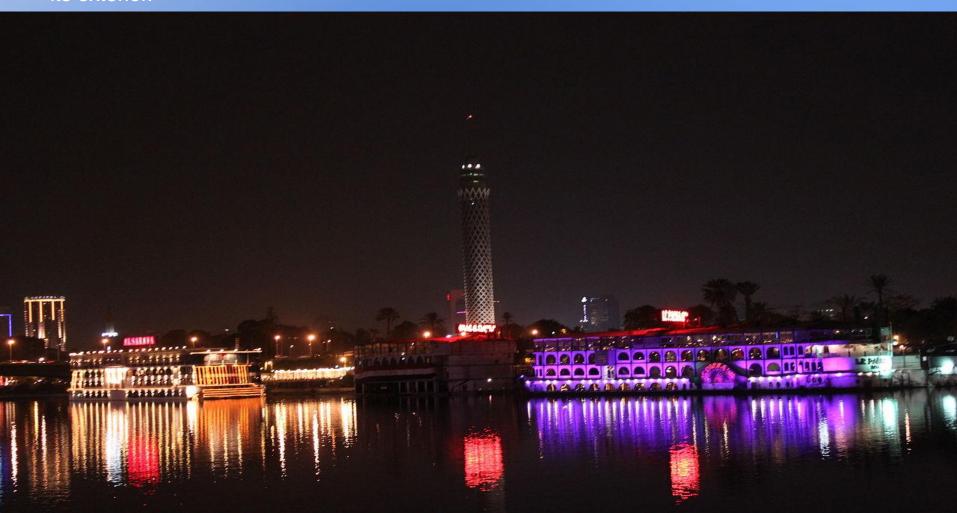


Today the market still plays an important role in the day-to-day commercial life of thousands of locals. In its narrow streets you can buy anything from shoes to souvenirs to clothes, chess sets, cushions, ceramics, brass, gold, silver, rugs, fabrics and on it goes.



#### Cairo tower

After five years of construction, the Cairo Tower was inaugurated in 1961. Towering 614 feet (187 meters) above Gezira Island, the communications tower is the tallest building in Egypt, 141 feet (43 meters) taller that the Great Pyramid of Giza. The building was designed to resemble a lotus plant with intricate latticework casing around its exterior.



An elevator takes visitors to an open-air observation deck at the top, and on a clear morning, the panoramic views are nothing short of breathtaking. It's possible to see the pyramids of Giza, the Citadel, Sakkara and the entire city of Cairo laid out before you. Just below the observation deck, Sky Garden serves light snacks and drinks, while 360, a revolving restaurant, affords always changing views of the city below. The building also houses Villa Zamalek, a casual cafe serving snacks, drinks and shisha.



### Karnak Temple

The temple of Karnak was known as Ipet-isu—or "most select of places"—by the ancient Egyptians. It is a city of temples built over 2,000 years and dedicated to the Theban triad of Amun, Mut, and Khonsu. This derelict place is still capable of overshadowing many wonders of the modern world and in its day must have been aweinspiring.

For the largely uneducated ancient Egyptian population, this could only have been the place of the gods. It is the largest religious building ever made, covering about 200 acres (1.5 km by 0.8 km), and was a place of pilgrimage for nearly 2,000 years. The area of the sacred enclosure of Amun alone is sixty-one acres and could hold ten average European cathedrals. The great temple at the heart of Karnak is so big that St Peter's, Milan, and Notre Dame Cathedrals would fit within its walls.



# WHAT IS THE TEMPLE OF KARNAK MADE OUT OF?

A temple dedicated to him at Karnak was built, appropriately, placed between the main sanctuary of Amun-Ra and the southern precinct that honored Mut. Built by Ramesses III, a king who reigned from 1186 to 1155 B.C., the temple is about 230 feet (70 meters) by 88 feet (27 meters).



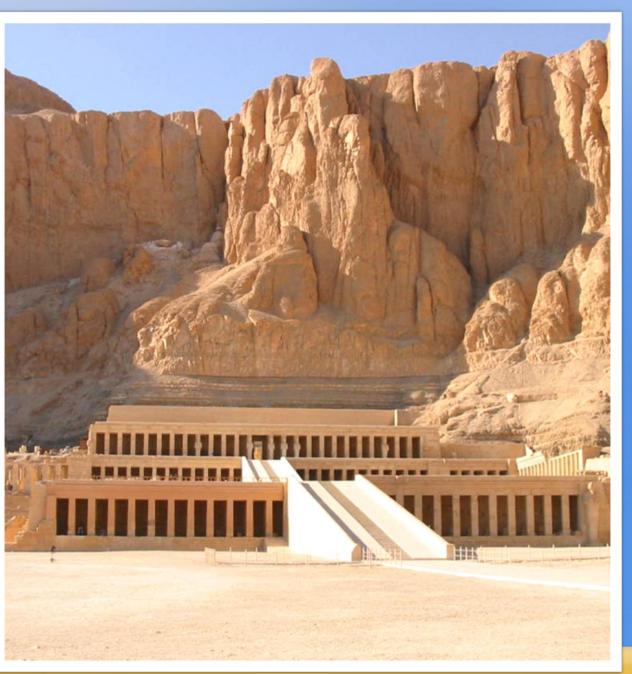
#### **HOW LARGE IS THE TEMPLE OF KARNAK?**

Karnak is an ancient Egyptian temple precinct located on the east bank of the Nile River in Thebes (modern-day Luxor). It covers more than 100 hectares, an area larger than some ancient cities





## Temple of Hatshepsut



The vast Temple of Hatshepsut in Deir el-Bahari rivals the Pyramids as one of the great funerary monuments of the ancient world. Built into the towering cliff face which shelter the Valley of the Kings on the other side, it rises on three enormous terraces connected by ramps, each level marked with a colonnade of stark, largely unadorned square pillars. Its namesake was one of the few female pharaohs of ancient Egypt, who not unfairly called her monument "Splendor of Splendors". However, much of the construction dated from earlier rulers, starting with Mentuhotep II in 2050 BC.

## Valley of the Kings

The harsh, lunar landscape of the Valley of the Kings is the resting place of numerous New Kingdom pharaohs, whose remains were interred in tombs burrowed into rock. The 60-odd tombs which have been discovered are identified by number rather than the name of their original inhabitant, and a handful of tombs are closed at any one time for restoration. Nonetheless there is more than enough to see, and it is better to pick out a representative sample rather than try to see every tomb.



#### Aswan Botanic Garden

Designed by Lord Kitchener, the 16-acre Aswan Botanic Gardens is home to trees, flowers and plants from India, Africa and even the world beyond. Travelers can relax in the wide-open spaces of this garden's breathtaking natural beauty or wind through the extensive exhibit hall of towering palm trees. More than 400 species of subtropical vegetation exist in this urban oasis that's just a Nile cruise away.



## **Nubian Museum**

The Nubian Museum is a showcase of the history, art and culture of Nubia and is a real treat. Established in 1997, in cooperation with Unesco, the museum is a reminder of the history and culture of the Nubians, much of which was lost when Lake Nasser flooded their land after the building of the dams. Exhibits are beautifully displayed in huge halls, where clearly written explanations take you from 4,500 BC through to the present day.

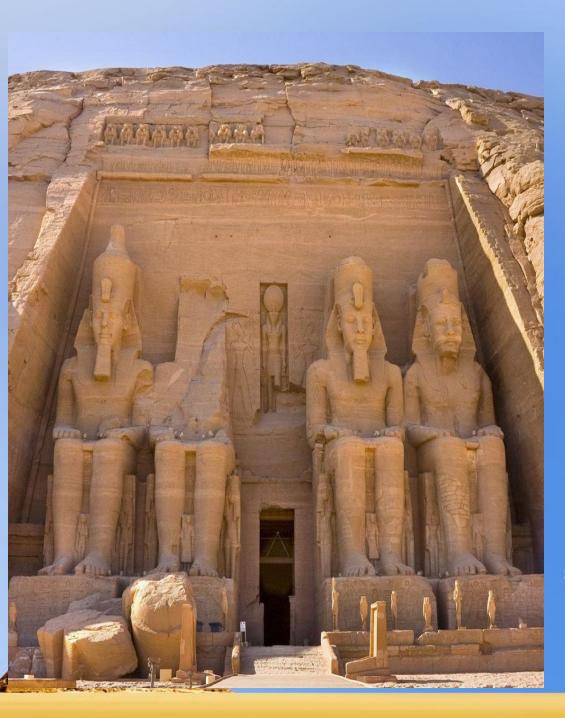




## Philae Temple

The Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis, was once set on a holy island in the Nile River, the site of many pilgrimages. Although projects to dam the Nile once threatened the existence of both the island and the temple, UNESCO worked to rescue and preserve the ancient monument, damming the island itself with a high surrounding wall until the Philae Temple could be moved in sections to a new location: the higher, nearby Agilka Island.





## Abu Simbel Temples

Often referred to as the Temples of Ramses II, the two enormous sandstone structures at Abu Simbel were built in 1255 BC by Ramses II to commemorate himself and his favorite wife Nefertiti. The larger temple, dedicated to three major Egyptian deities, features four large statues of Ramses II on its facade, while the smaller temple is dedicated to the love goddess Hathor, with statues designed to embody Nefertari.

set on the banks of the artificial Lake Nasser.

## **Temple of Kom Ombo**

Dating from 180BC, this is an unusual temple because it is duplicated, mirroring itself on either side of a central axis. This is because it was dedicated to two gods: Sobek, god of fertility and creator of the world along with Hathor and Khonsu, and also Horus, and each needed their own set of rooms. Sobek was the crocodile god so, of course, crocodiles were mummified for him. Some of the hundreds that have been discovered nearby are now on display in the temple.

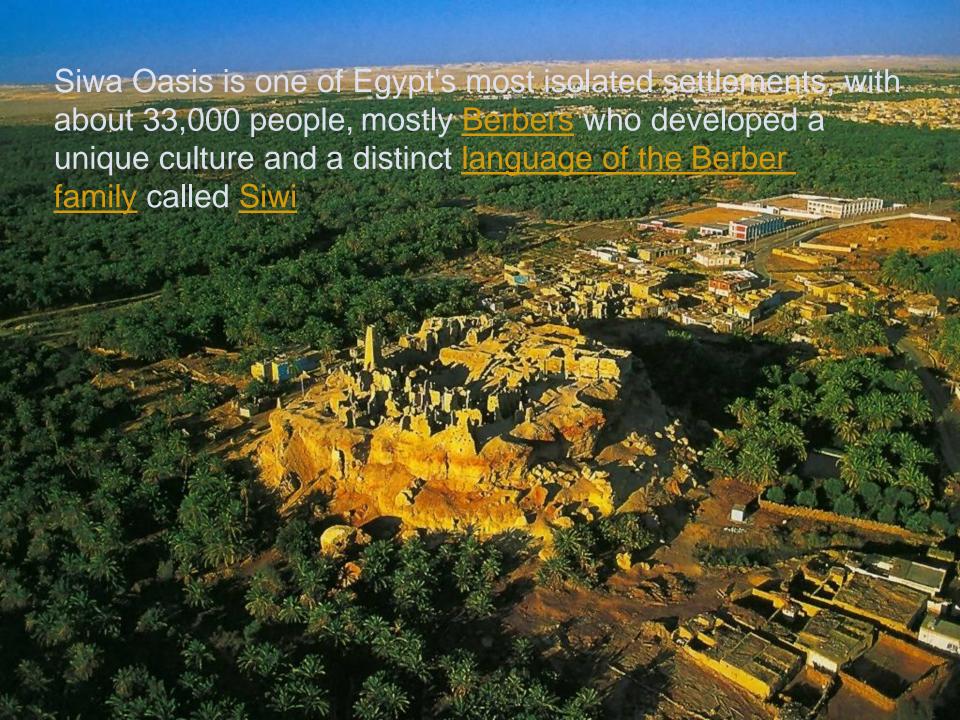


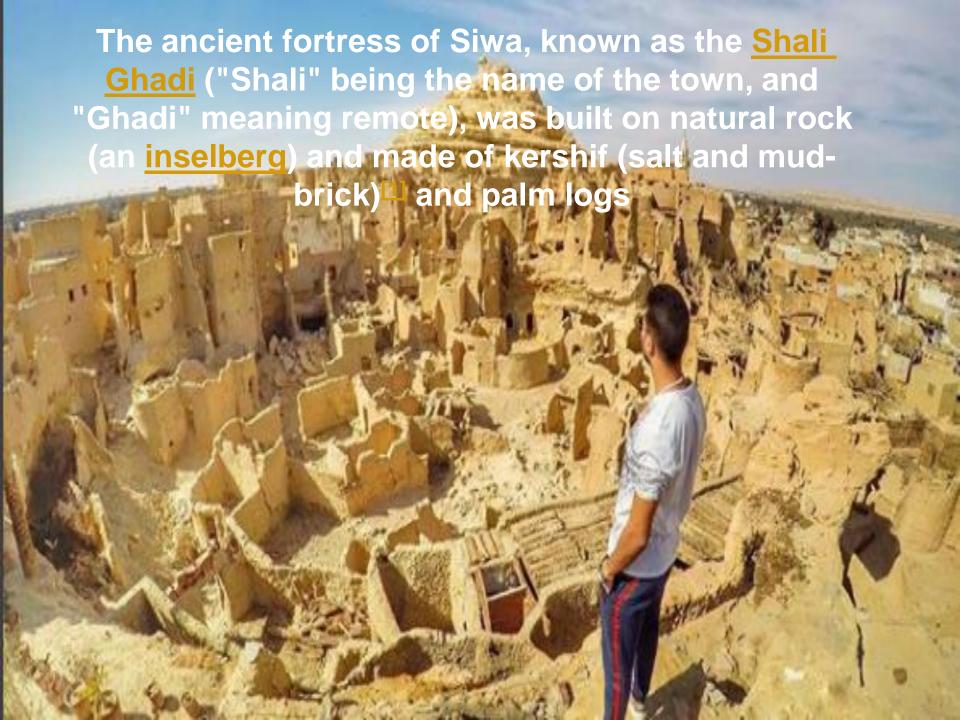
## BLUE HOLE DAHAB



One of the world's most famous snorkeling and diving spots, the evocatively named Blue Hole is renowned for its unique geological formation - a 426-foot- (130-meter-) deep









## **Death in Ancient Egypt**

To the ancient Egyptians, death was not the end of life but only a transition to another plane of reality. Once the soul had successfully passed through judgment by the god Osiris, it went on to an eternal paradise, The Field of Reeds, where everything which had been lost at death was returned and one would truly live happily ever after. Even though the Egyptian view of the afterlife was the most comforting of any ancient civilization, people still feared death. Even in the periods of strong central government when the king and the priests held absolute power and their view of the paradise-after-death was widely accepted, people were still afraid to die.

The Egyptians loved life, celebrated it throughout the year, and were in no hurry to leave it even for the kind of

The man, after wishing that death would take him, seems to consider the words of the soul seriously. Toward the end of the piece, the man says, "Surely he who is yonder will be a living god/Having purged away the evil which had afflicted him...Surely he who is yonder will be one who knows all things" (142-146). The soul has the last word in the piece, assuring the man that death will come naturally in time and life should be embraced and loved in the present paradise their religion promised.



## Life After Death



The Egyptians believed in an afterlife.

- In order for a person's spirit to make the journey to the afterlife, they needed their body.
- To protect the pharaoh's body, they were embalmed.
- The body's organs would be removed and then salt would be used to dry out and preserve the body.
- 4. The body would then be filled with spices, cleaned and wrapped with linen.
- The wrapped body was known as a mummy.

## What happens when you die in Egypt?

The ancient **Egyptians**' attitude towards death was influenced by their belief in immortality. They regarded death as a temporary interruption, rather than the cessation of life. ... When they **died**, they were mummified so the soul would return to the body, giving it breath and life

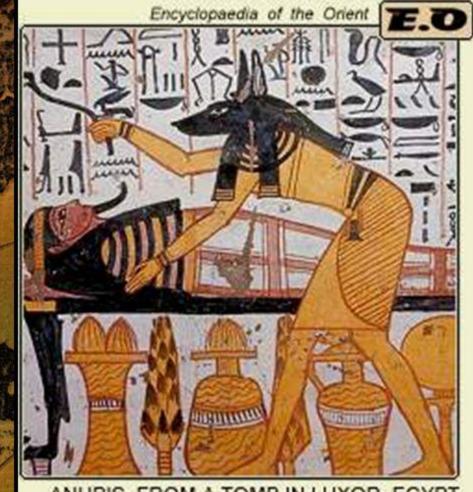


## The Afterlife

The Egyptians believed in an afterlife, or life after death. The important Egyptians were mummified.

Mummification is a process by which the body can be preserved and spared from excessive decay.

The Egyptians provided the deceased with everything they would need for their journey, including valuable treasures.



ANUBIS. FROM A TOMB IN LUXOR, EGYPT

This is a picture of Anubis, the Egyptian god of the dead. According to legend, Anubis invented mummification.

## <u>Mummies</u>

- Rich Egyptians were preserved properly.
  This process was called mummification.
- Mummification took 70 days.



## Are mummies real in Egypt?

The **mummy** was sealed within its tomb, alongside the worldly goods that were believed to help aid it in the afterlife. Aspergillus niger has been found in the **mummies** of ancient **Egyptian** tombs and can be inhaled when they are disturbed.



## What is the most famous mummy?

The following list contains stories of some of the most fascinating mummies in the world:

King Tutankhamun. An Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, King Tut, as he's famously known as, died at a very young age. ...

Ramesses II. ...

Hatshepsut. ...

Vladimir Lenin. ...

Ginger. ...

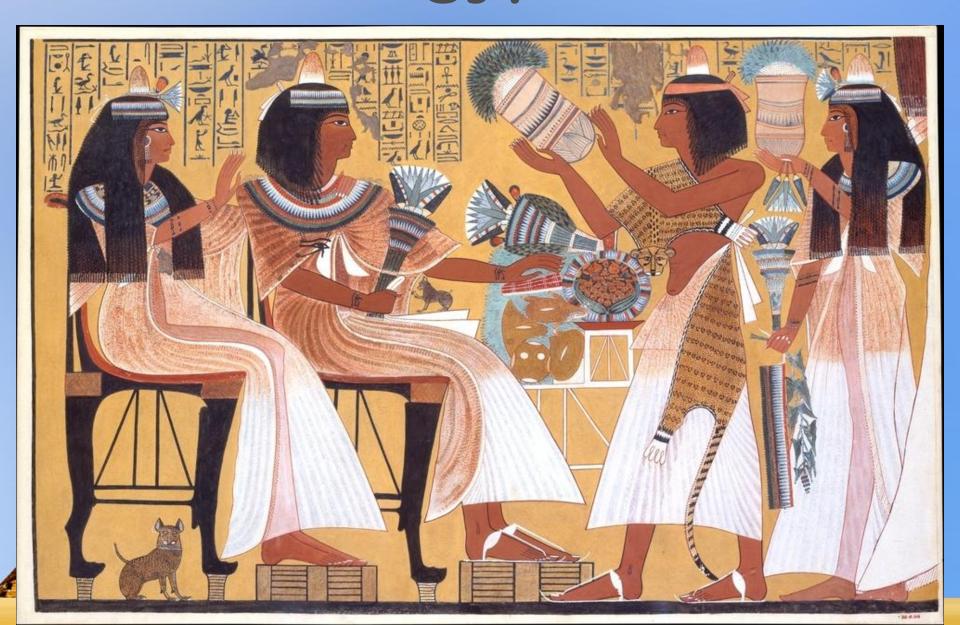
Rosalia Lombardo.



## **Mummy Facts**

- When a body is mummified, it is preserved so that the bacteria and fungi cannot grow.
- Mummies still have some of their soft tissue.
- Mummies last for so long, that we have mummies today from ancie Egypt!

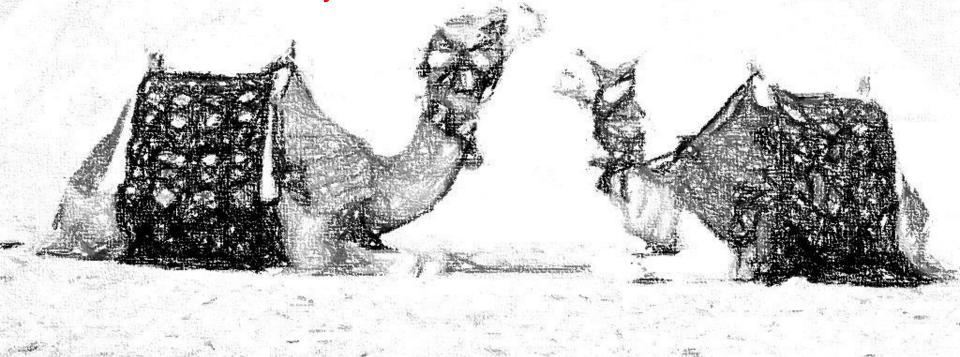
## **Ancient Egyptian Attire**





## CAMEL RIDES IN EGYPT

Seeing the pyramids is a quintessential **Egyptian** experience, but seeing them from the back of a **camel** makes your trip an adventure. **Camel** spitting and bumpy **rides** are part of the charm of this desert excursion. If you're daring, you can join a **camel safari** and cross the desert for days or even weeks on camelback.



## The Nile River Valley





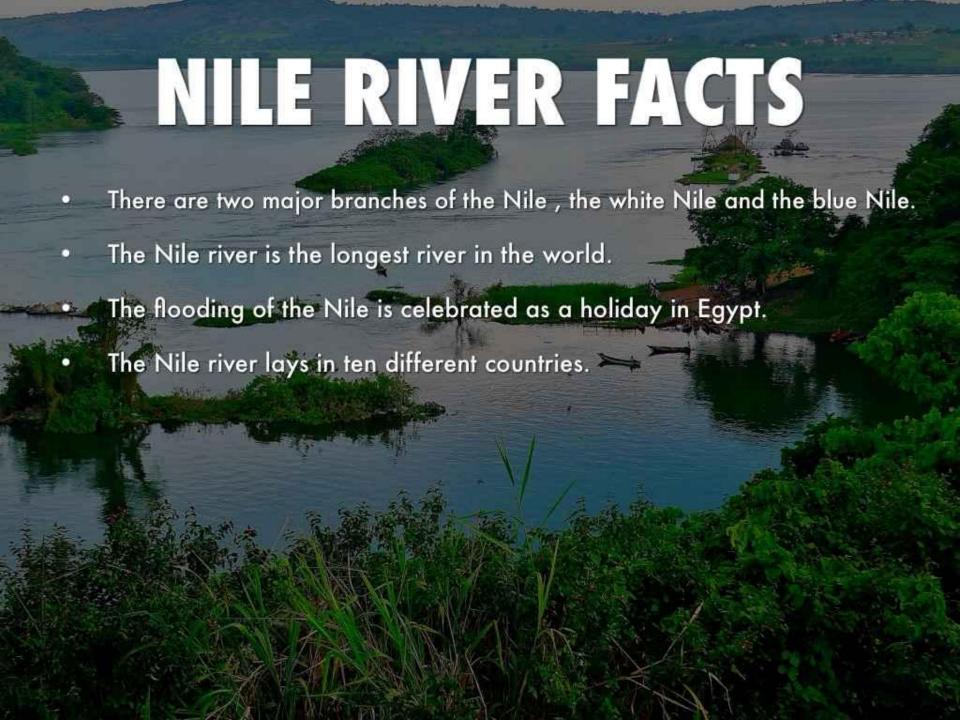
- The Nile is the longest river in the world – almost 4,000 miles long!!
- It is shaped like the lotus flower so often seen in ancient Egyptian art.
- The Nile flows from south to north because of the geography of the land.
- Mountains are to the south and low lying plains are in the north.
- As the water comes down the mountains it flows through the river delta and empties into the Mediterranean Sea.



## The Nile

- The Nile = longest river in the world (4,000 miles long!!)
- Flows from south to north because of the geography of the land.
  - South: has mountains
  - North: low lying plains

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## FOOD IN EGYPT

Egyptian cuisine is characterized by dishes such as ful medames, mashed **fava beans**; kushari, a mixture of lentils, **rice**, **pasta**, and other ingredients; molokhiya, chopped and cooked bush okra with **garlic** and coriander sauce; and feteer meshaltet



## TOP 10 FOOD OF EGYPT



### 1. Ful wa Ta'meya (Fava Beans and Falafel):

#### 2. Kushari:







#### 3. Kabab wa kofta (Grilled meats):

## 4. Sugoq wa Kibdah Iskandarani (Alexandrian Sausages and Liver):







## 5. Hawawshi (Egyptian meat pie):

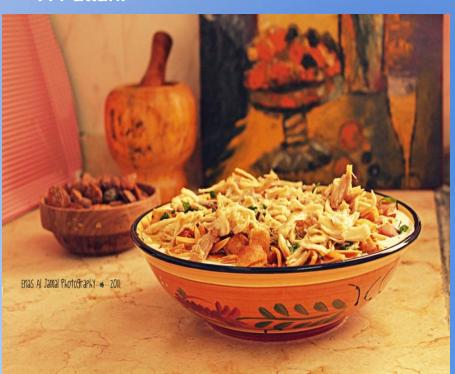


#### 6. Shawerma:





### 7. Fattah:



## 8. Sayadeya:





### 9. Besarah:



### 10. Baladi Bread:





# FESTIVALS CELEBRATED IN EGYPT



Egypt is predominantly Muslim, but a large minority of Coptic Christians and a melange of other religions make the country an exciting destination for religious, secular and ancient cultural festivals. For many of these celebrations, people pour out into the streets wearing traditional costumes to enjoy impromptu song and dance performances and eat traditional foods.



#### Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr

Ramadan is a month of fasting during daylight hours in which Muslims refrain from eating, drinking and smoking from sunup to sunset. The mood during the day can be somber, with reduced business hours to allow time for spiritual contemplation. The first day after Ramadan begins a three- or four-day holiday called Eid al-Fitr. After the final fast-breaking (iftar), people often celebrate all night. The next day everyone puts on new clothes to join street festivities with small fairs and open markets while families and friends get together to exchange gifts and sweets. Muslim holidays are not on fixed dates because they are on the lunar calendar, so they move back by about 11 days each year.



#### Leylet en Nuktah

Ancient Egyptians worshiped the Nile because of the yearly bounty it brought, and beautiful women were sacrificed to appease the gods and bring on the flooding. Modern Egyptians still celebrate the yearly rise of the river on June 17, since the flooding is what brings the silt that feeds the Delta's rich soil. Instead of sacrifices, modern Egyptians picnic and camp along the edges of the river or spend the night out on the streets with family and friends. At sunset, women put out balls of dough representing the people in the house, and in the morning the cracks are examined to make predictions about each person's longevity and fortune.



#### **Coptic Christmas**

Coptic Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7, and most Egyptians regardless of religion join in the festivities, especially in Cairo and other Coptic regions. The week before Christmas, homes and businesses are decked out with colorful lights and decorations, and there are manger scenes and special holiday bazaars in the streets. Following the midnight mass on Christmas Eve, people gather to celebrate and eat a traditional dish of rice, garlic and meat soup called fata.



#### Sham al-Naseem

"Sham al-Naseem" means "sniffing the breeze." Egyptians of all religions celebrate this ancient holiday to mark the coming of spring on March 21 by spending the day in the countryside or in parks for picnics; some have their picnic on a boat trip on the Nile. The picnic baskets are loaded with the traditional foods of this holiday, including dried or pickled fish and dishes made with midamis or fuul (kidney beans). Food vendors, dancers and musicians also fill the streets to entertain the public on this festive day.



#### Moulid an-Nabi

Moulid an-Nabi is a major Islamic festival that marks the birth of the prophet Mohammed. Most cities host parades and processions on this day, and the streets are filled with dancers, acrobats, drummers and musicians. Families join together to greet each other and exchange gifts before heading out to explore the street fairs. Traditional sweets like halawet el-moulid (a type of helvah or candy) and candy dolls called are sold from roadside stands as well as hummus (a puree made from chick peas), the traditional food of Moulid an-Nabi.



## Let's Discover The Egyptian Artistic History









