



- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- LOCAL EXPERTS
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS

# Discover Egypt

Experience the best of Egypt

# Discover Egypt

Contents



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



## Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

### Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



## If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping



Information

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# This Is Egypt

There has never been a better time to visit Egypt. Stirred by the 2011 revolution that overthrew President Mubarak, embellished by some recent archaeological discoveries and some newly refurbished museums, it's living through a period of excitement unmatched for the past half-century. For all the new-found energy, the age-old attractions remain: the great monuments, the lure of the Nile, the glitter of the gold-fringed seas and the great desert.

**The past still throws a long shadow over the present.** Egypt has more monuments and artefacts from its glorious past than any other ancient civilisation. From the Pyramids and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to the temples and tombs of Luxor and the majesty of Ramses II's temples at Abu Simbel, visitors are spoilt for antiquity choice almost wherever they go.

**The coast is enough of a lure for many people:** Egypt has some 2900km of shoreline, from the Mediterranean in the north to the Red Sea in the east.

The Mediterranean coast gets crowded in summer, but it's the Red Sea that brings in the most visitors, drawn by the promise of winter sun and stunning waters that hide coral gardens and myriad varieties of fish. Here, there's another choice to make: whether to look for quiet on a remote stretch, or head to Sharm el Sheikh or some of the other resorts to party.

**Modern Egypt has never been livelier.**

More than 80 million Egyptians are in the process of creating a new country, but still have to deal with their age-old problems of limited farmland and a shortage of water. But Egyptians are resourceful and resilient. They're also playful people who have learned to laugh at adversity. Stunning monuments, vast deserts, coral-filled waters, characterful people – elements you can find in many countries, but in Egypt they are strung together in such a way as to make a journey here a memorable, perhaps even life-changing, experience.

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فردوس

