



# Cairo

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Zöoba (p102)
- ➔ Cairo Kitchen (p103)
- ➔ Citadel View (p102)
- ➔ At-Tabei ad-Dumyati (p99)
- ➔ Fasahat Soumaya (p100)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Longchamps (p98)
- ➔ Pension Roma (p94)
- ➔ Dina's Hostel (p94)
- ➔ Hotel Royal (p96)
- ➔ Sofitel El Gezira (p98)

## Why Go?

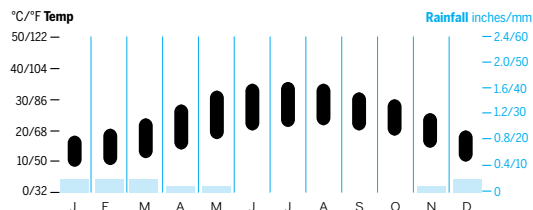
First, the drawbacks: Cairo's crowds make Manhattan look like a ghost town, papyrus sellers and would-be guides hound you at every turn, and your snout will run black from the smog.

But it's a small price to pay to tap into the energy of the place Egyptians call *Umm ad-Dunya* – the Mother of the World. This urban buzz is a product of 22-or-so million inhabitants simultaneously crushing the city's infrastructure under their collective weight and lifting its spirit up with their exceptional charm and humour. One taxi ride can pass resplendent mosques, grand avenues, and 19th-century palaces, with a far-away view of the Pyramids of Giza. A caked-on layer of beige sand unifies the mix of eras and styles.

Blow your nose, crack a joke and look through the dirt to see the city's true colours. If you love Cairo, it will definitely love you back.

## When to Go

### Cairo



**Mar-May** In kham-sin season the city gets choked with dust.

**Jun-Aug** Ramadan is a feast every night. Boiling in the daytime.

**Oct-Jan** Best time to visit: cooler days with sunshine, lots of cultural events.



## Cairo Highlights

- 1 Tip your head back and gape at the **Pyramids of Giza** (p121).
- 2 Give your regards to Tutankhamun and his cohorts in the **Egyptian Museum** (p132).
- 3 Stroll the beautifully restored medieval street known as **Bein al-Qasreen** (p73).
- 4 Escape the city noise in and gape at the **Pyramids of Giza** (p121).
- 5 Trawl **Khan al-Khalili** (p70) for deals, then recharge at the venerable **Fishawi's** (p106).
- 6 Climb the minarets at **Bab Zuweila** (p78).
- 7 Admire the beautiful syncretic artistic styles at the **Coptic Museum** (p66).
- 8 Get with the beat in Downtown's **art galleries** (p67).