



# Suez Canal

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## Best Places to Eat

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## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Mercure Forsan Island (p346)
- ➔ Holiday Hotel (p343)

## Why Go?

The Suez Canal, Egypt's glorious triumph of engineering over nature, dominates this region, slicing through the sands of the Isthmus of Suez for 163km, not only severing mainland Egypt from Sinai but also Africa from Asia. The canal was the remarkable achievement of Egypt's belle époque, an era buoyed by grand aspirations and finished by bankruptcy and broken dreams. This period also gave birth to the canalside cities of Port Said and Ismailia. Today their streets remain haunted by this fleeting age of grandeur, their distinctive architecture teetering on picturesque disrepair.

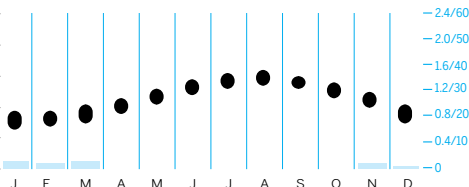
Although this region is often bypassed by all but the most rampant supertanker-spotters, anyone with an interest in Egypt's modern history will enjoy the crumbs of former finery on display. And while the Canal Zone may have no vast ruins or mammoth temples, there's a slower pace to life here that will be appreciated by those travelling with time up their sleeve.

## When to Go

### Port Said

°C/°F Temp

50/122 —  
40/104 —  
30/86 —  
20/68 —  
10/50 —  
0/32 —

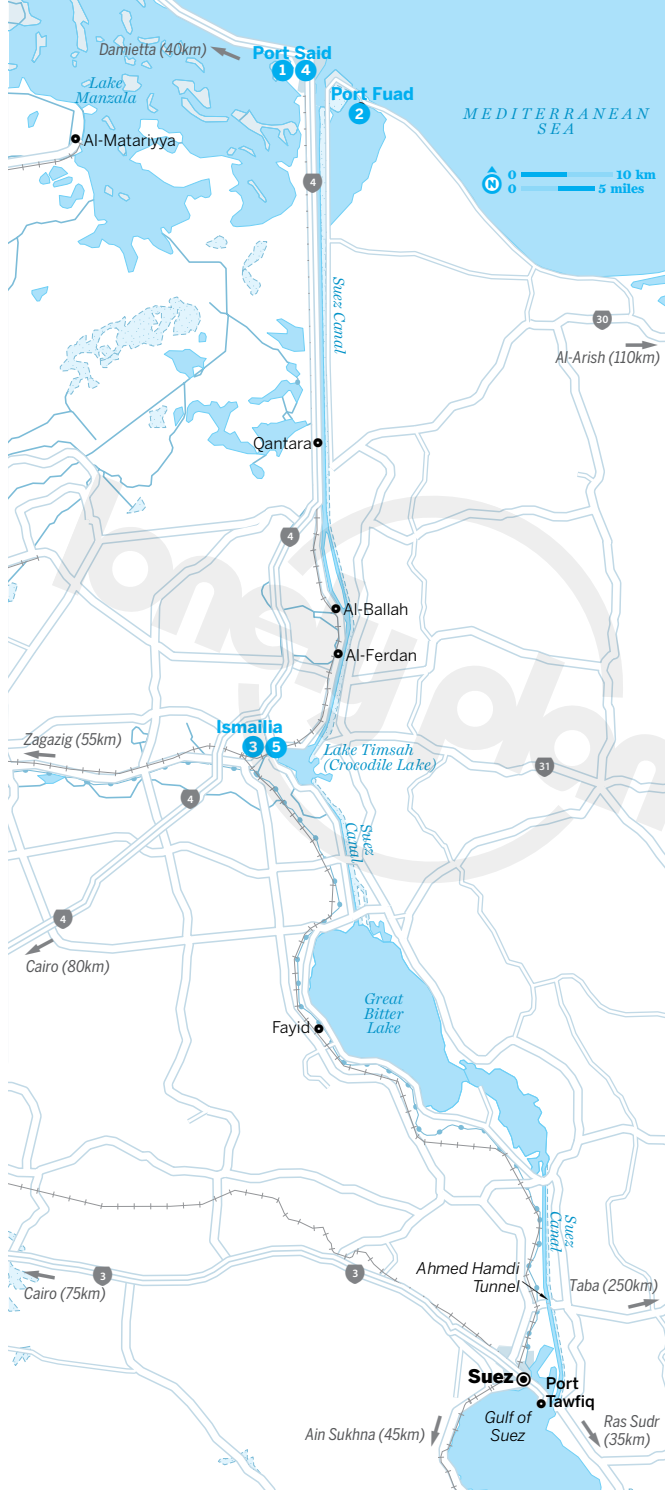


Rainfall inches/mm  
2.4/60  
2.0/50  
1.6/40  
1.2/30  
0.8/20  
0.4/10  
0

**Apr–May** Spring's pleasant temperatures are perfect for picnicking beside Lake Timsah in Ismailia.

**Aug** Escape the frazzling heat in Port Said's cooling canalside breezes.

**Sep** Spot flocks of storks as they head south, swooping over the skies across the Canal Zone.



## Suez Canal Highlights

- 1 Exploring the faded grandeur of Port Said's **waterfront quarter** (p342) and then feasting on superfresh seafood along the Corniche.
- 2 Commuting from Africa to Asia in 15 minutes flat: jump on the ferry from Port Said to **Port Fuad** (p345) to sample life on the canal.
- 3 Taking a break from Egypt's usual hectic pace among the colonial-era villas of slumberous **Ismailia** (p345).
- 4 Making peace with your inner supertanker-spotting geek, with a walk along the canalside boardwalk of **Port Said** (p342).
- 5 Admiring more than 4000 objects from Pharaonic and Graeco-Roman times at the rarely visited **Ismailia Museum** (p345).