

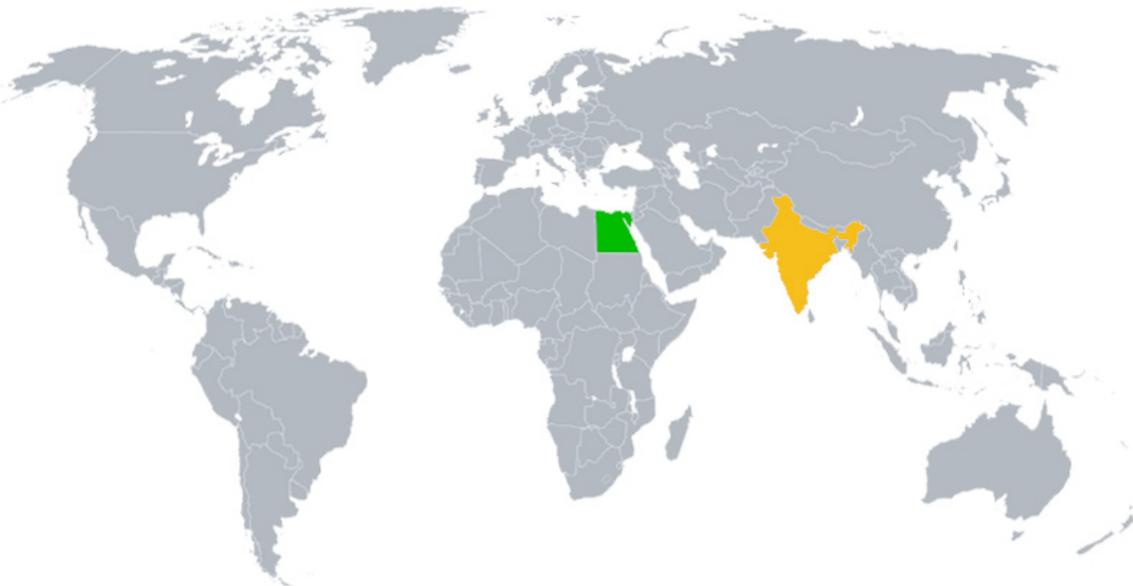


Egypt at a glance



Location:

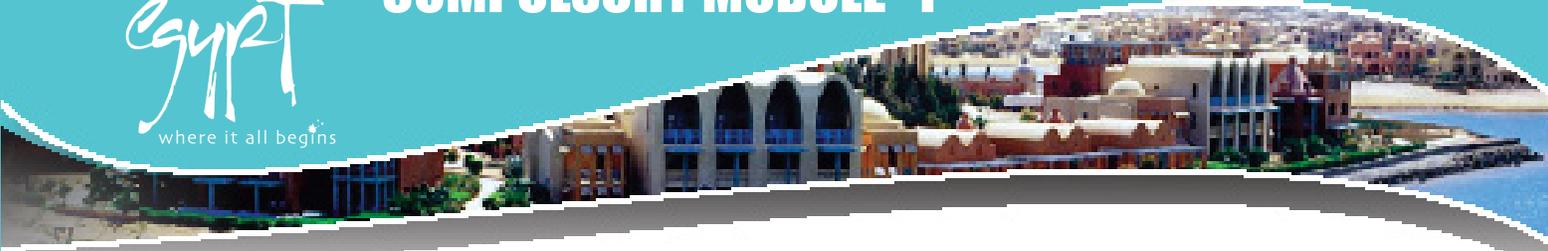
Egypt is a trans-continental country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and southwest corner of Asia, making it the only Afro-Asiatic country via a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula. It is also considered a Mediterranean country as it is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north which adds another tributary of its heritage richness. Egypt occupies a brilliant geopolitical location by dominating the Suez Canal, the most important shipping channel on earth. Lying by the estuary of the Nile River, the longest in Africa connecting nine countries in deep Africa added another dimension to its role as gate to Africa natural treasures.



The map is illustrative only and doesn't confirm or deny any border rights, sizes or extensions of any country

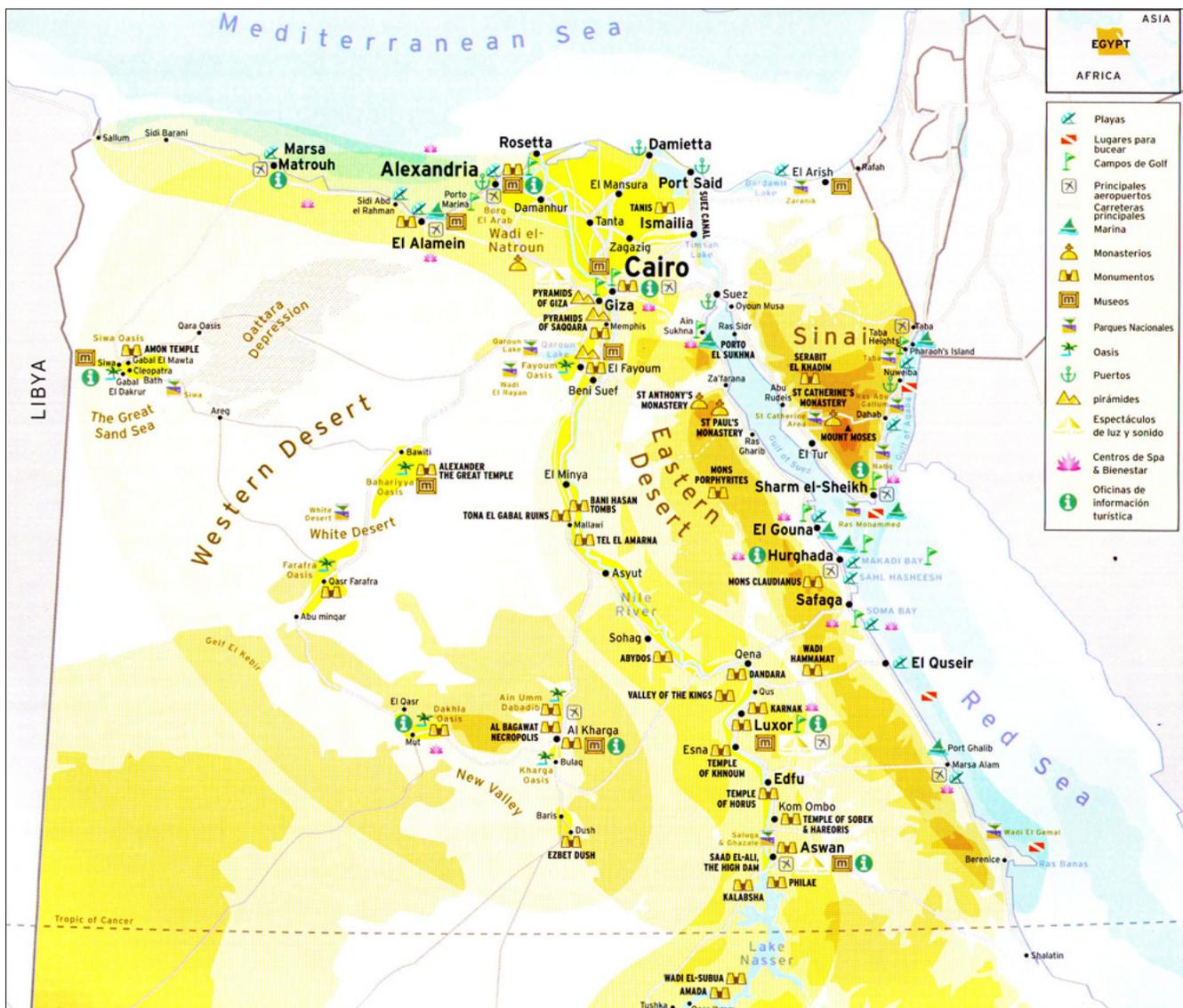
Latitude/Longitude of the different cities in Egypt:

- Cairo: (capital city) 30° 2' N, 31° 14' E
- Alexandria: 31° 12' N, 29° 55' E
- Aswan: 24° 5' N, 32° 53' E



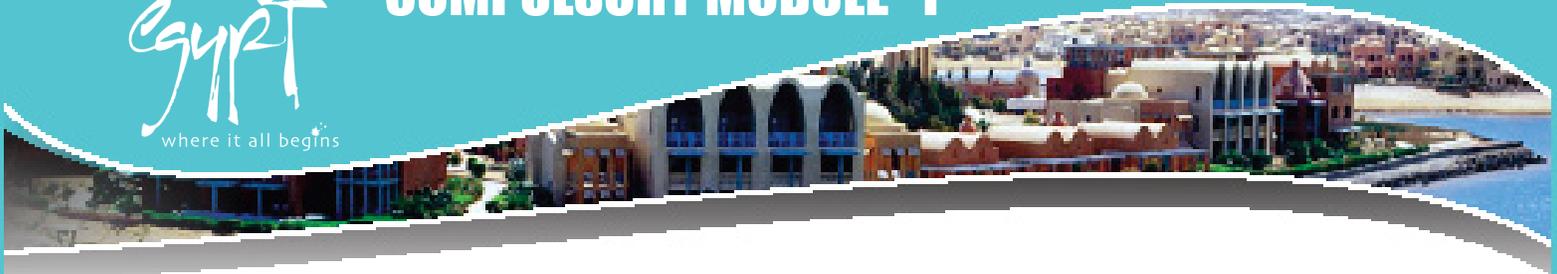
Geography: Egypt enjoys a considerably long sea coasts. To the north of Egypt, the Mediterranean Sea extends for about 1,050 km from Sinai Peninsula in the east to Sallum in the west. To the east of Egypt, Red Sea which is an extension of the Indian Ocean stretches in a very special natural environment. The total length of the Egyptian Red Sea coast is about 1705 km. Of this, more than 760 km is Red Sea coast and 945 km is the coastline of the gulfs of Suez and Aqaba.

Map of Egypt



Surrounded by different forms of deserts and mountains, the Nile Valley splits the most populated area of Egypt into two banks.

Suez Canal is considered as one of the longest artificial canals on earth that connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea reducing the sailing distance between Europe and the Far East by about 7000km. It also splits the Asian part of Egypt (Sinai) from the main land on its west bank. A national project carried out to duplicate the route is supposed to get inaugurated by August 2015.



Sinai is a magic capsule that comprises different shapes of tourist attractions such as the charming underwater life, the breath taking mountains, the national nature reserves, the historical monuments and the Christian pilgrimage sites.

Before visiting Egypt:

Language: Egypt's official language is Arabic (mother tongue). English & French are widely spoken

Currency: National currency is the Egyptian pound (LE) known as Guineh in Arabic. Each pound is divided into 100 piasters with different banknotes.

Voltage: 220 V

Visa requirements: Tourist visa is required before travelling to Egypt and could be easily obtained from the Egyptian Embassy in New Delhi or from the Egyptian Consulate in Mumbai. The process takes about 2 – 3 working days. Fees could vary depending on the exchange rates. A tourist single entry visa currently costs 2900 Rs. The visa requirements include a 6 month valid passport, 2 passport size photos, a return air ticket and an accommodation proof. Tourist groups could also obtain visas upon arrival if the ground handler takes the necessary measures of getting the required security approval on the name list and pledges of securing the timely leave of the guests.

ATM Machines in Egypt: ATM became very common in all Egyptian cities after the government has adopted a series of measurements to encourage the locals to use electronic banking systems.

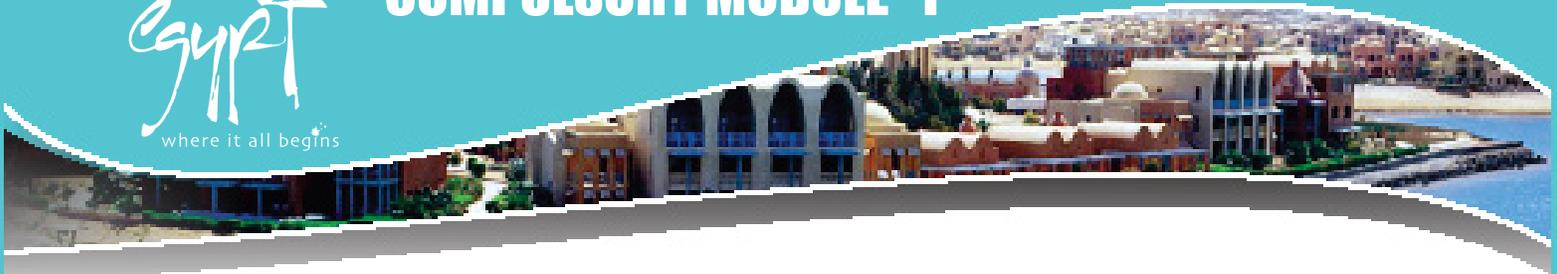
Egyptian ATMs will accept credit and debit cards from many foreign banks without a problem, though if the bank you use in your home country is more locally or regionally oriented you may run into compatibility issues. Like in all your other trips, you need to contact your bank before departure to make sure you can withdraw cash from Egyptian ATMs. Also, make sure you notify your bank of your move – the last thing you want is to find your account locked after your bank sees a number of charges pop up from overseas!

Dress code in Egypt: Egyptians now has different types of clothes ranges from the Upper Egyptian heavy traditional clothes for both men and women to the light casual modern clothes in the metros. As an oriental society, Egyptians in general are conservative about the indecent clothes. However, in the tourist destinations it is more liberal and the dress code shrinks. Unless you have a luxurious gala-dinner and besides the swimming wear on the beaches, a standard casual wear will work properly for all your other trip purposes. For women visiting mosques & churches, it is most preferred to keep head & shoulders covered

Traveling to Egypt:

Distance from India to Egypt:

- Mumbai – Cairo: 2708 Miles
- New Delhi – Cairo: 2752 Miles
- Time Difference: -3.5 hours
- Traveling time from Mumbai to Cairo: About 6 hours.
- Egypt is GMT +2 (+3 in summer)



Access to Egypt:

The National Carrier (Egypt Air) flies from Mumbai to Cairo 4 times per week. The flight from Mumbai takes off in the morning and arrives in Cairo by noon. Departure from Cairo is by night. This schedule gives the maximum usage of the trip period and the least waste time.

Other connections are very frequent from different cities via Arab Gulf airports with minimal time span.

The main access point of Egypt is Cairo. However, some other option is Alexandria which is about 3 hour driving from Cairo.

In Egypt

Accommodation: In Egypt it is possible to choose from a wide range of accommodation ranging from non-classified pensions to 5 star deluxe, types may be fixed & floating. Modern in Metros to Eco lodges in the oasis

Domestic Transport: Domestic transport in Egypt varies from one place to another. Airports spread across the main cities and tourist destinations of Egypt. In Cairo you can easily use the underground metro system as a fast way to move around. Taking a white AC taxi is a good solution to avoid bargaining as the fares are assigned by the taximeter. Trains are suitable for long distances between cities. Other funny experiences include the old tram in Cairo or Alexandria and the River Bus. Sure the public buses are there and don't forget about the motor rickshaw. Egyptians call it Tuk-tuk and it is common in more public and crowded areas.

Typical Food of Egypt: Egyptian cuisine and some of its recipes date back 5000 years. Of course, there have been some adjustments to the dishes over the years, mainly with the addition of ingredients and styles taken from other cultures.

Egyptian cuisine depends heavily on legumes such as beans and lentils as well as vegetables and onions making a regular appearance in most dishes. Vegetarians normally have no problem getting by in Egypt. Many street food shops are based mainly on vegetarian dishes. Around the Egyptian coast you will find more fish in the meals.

Public Holidays: Egyptians enjoy about 20 national holidays per year. Some of them are religious and the others are national. The great observance is that Muslims and Christians (the great majority of the people here) share with each other the manifestations of religious celebration since long time so much that the ceremonies of religious festivals are almost the same for all Egyptians.

THE END