



Hurghada, Luxor and Marsa Alam

Photo: Vyacheslav Argenberg



Photo: Gigi Ibrahim



Photo: S'S



Photo: Rob

Like so many of the towns and cities of Egypt, Hurghada as well as Luxor and Marsa Alam are living history museums. These three cities are positioned as three corners of a triangle in the Eastern Desert. Hurghada, a former fishing harbour, stretches some 15 miles or so along the waterfront and is one of the foremost areas for water sports. Marsa Alam is also found by the Red Sea coast, and tourism is just starting to make an impact. The city of Luxor, with its jaw-droppingly beautiful monuments built by the hands of ancient craftsmen, lies 150 miles or so inland on the banks of the mighty River Nile.

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Top 5

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HURGHADA



Photo: Gigi Ibrahim

Hurghada has been home to fishing communities for centuries and remained unchanged until the 1990's when tourists discovered this idyllic village. With wide stretches of beaches along the coastline, sea waters that were relatively safe and great for watersports, the city was, and still is, ideal for tourism. Today, it is a busy, sprawling town divided into two main areas, the Old Town Ad-Dahar to the north, and Sigala to the south. Each affords a wide range of hotels and restaurants catering for all tastes and tourist attractions.

LUXOR



Photo: S'S

Luxor was the capital of Egypt around 1500-1000 BC and has over the years seen astonishing numbers of palaces and temples been built here. Because the structures were built of granite and sandstone they still remain to this day. Among the "must-sees" are: the Luxor Temple (which dates to the Amenhotep III and Ramses II periods), the complex of temples known as the Karnack Temples, the

Luxor Museum, the Mummification Museum, (which is first of its kind in the world), the Funerary Temples and the two valleys of the Kings and Queens.

MARSA ALAM



Photo: Rob

Marsa Alam still has the air of an unspoilt village, which makes it an ideal base for those looking for a quieter break. It is located within a three to four hour drive of both Luxor and Hurghada. Tourism has found Marsa Alam basically because of its location on the banks of the Red Sea. Here you can go on boat trips to watch multi-coloured fish, dolphins, turtles and the coral reefs that lie just offshore. The popularity has grown so much in the past years that it now has its own an airport and an increasing number of luxury resort style accommodations.

DO & SEE



Photo: Jens-Christian Fischer

Like so many of the towns and cities of Egypt, Hurghada as well as Luxor and Marsa Alam are living history museums. These three cities are positioned as three corners of a triangle in the Eastern Desert with plenty to offer both together and separately.

Mummification Museum

The Mummification Museum in Luxor is claimed to be the best place to learn about the most powerful secrets of the pharaohs. Here you should take your time to reflect and dwell about the old Egyptian history, culture and traditions surrounding the funerary process, the very key element in the ancient Egyptian belief system.

Address: Corniche el-Nil, Luxor
More Info: Opposite Mina Palace Hotel

Luxor Museum

This museum features a large display of statues and artefacts dating back centuries. Most of the exhibits were found in local temples, while some originate from Tutankhamum's tomb.

Address: Center Corniche Ave, Luxor

El Gouna

El Gouna is a purpose-designed resort features an award-winning architecture. Here you can find gourmet restaurants, nightclubs, sports and leisure activities including the Red Sea's first marina and a fine golf course, beaches, spas and special attractions for children.

Address: El Gouna, Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 3549 702
Internet: www.elgouna.com

Blue Paradise Diving Centre

Blue Paradise Diving Centre is a diving centre that offers the chance to dive and snorkel in the Red Sea and see coral reefs, dolphins and turtles. They say there is even the possibility of seeing sharks.

Address: 14, El Korneesh Street, Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 354 43 54
Internet: www.blueparadise.be
Email: info@blueparadise.be

Red Sea Desert Adventures

Red Sea Desert Adventure offers excursions from Marsa Alam. One option is to ride camels or horses into the heart of the desert by day and have a BBQ dinner in a traditional Bedouin village, another is to see the desert and stars by night.

Address: Shagra Village, Marsa Alam
Phone: +20 122 2309 142
Internet: www.redseadesertadventures.com

DINING



Photo: Weldon Kennedy

There is plenty of choice when dining out in Hurghada, Luxor or Marsa Alam. Restaurants that feature international cuisine such as Italian, French and Chinese can be found everywhere. If you want to experience a true Egyptian experience you should try *koshari*, a local dish made from pasta and tomatoes, or dishes such as *hummus* or *fuul* made from mashed beans. If you are unsure, try a *meze* (selection) of different dishes.

Chez Pascal

The Chez Pascal is a European themed restaurant. Here they serve the finest dishes from Belgium accompanied by live piano music.

Address: 21 Mohamed Kamel Morsi Street, Apt 5, 2nd Floor, Hurghada
Phone: +20 2 336 5202

Fish Market

Fish Market offers a wide selection of fresh fish on both set menus and *à la carte* options. They have friendly service and excellent desserts.

Address: Port Ghalib Marina, Marsa Alam

The Heaven Restaurant

The Heaven Restaurant is considered one of the best restaurants in Hurghada. Here you can enjoy the most amazing view accompanied by delicious food and excellent service.

Address: Hurghada Marina Boulevard, Hurghada

Puddleduck Bar & Restaurant

Puddleduck Bar & Restaurant offers fabulous food and comes well recommend from both tourists and locals. They have great service and a lovely atmosphere.

Address: Downtown, Kafr, El Gouna
Phone: +20 1067168473

El Joker

El Joker is ranked one of the best sea food restaurants in Hurghada. You can choose to eat your fish onsite or have it as a takeaway.

Address: Sakkala Square, Hurghada

CAFES



Photo: Mohannad Khatib

In this historical environment you can easily find a nice café and just sit and relax. Enjoy a nice cup of coffee and maybe a delicious Egyptian sweet.

Café Maritime

Café Maritime is a nautical-themed eatery overlooking the marina at El Gouna. The Café Maritime serves snacks throughout the day.

Address: El Gouna complex, Hurghada

El Bustan Café

El Bustan Café offers a wide selection of sandwiches, pizzas and *shisha* at the El Bustana.

Address: El Gouna complex, Hurghada
Phone: +2 065 354 97 02

El Zahraa Bakery & Pastry

If you have a sweet tooth you will like El Zahraa Bakery & Pastry. Here you can try really nice baklava and fantastic cakes.

Address: El Estad St., Hurghada
More Info: Beside el Safwa Mosque

Costa Coffee

This is a good place to linger of a nice cup of coffee. Costa Coffee has a cosy atmosphere and a nice selection of cakes, sandwiches and salads.

Address: Sheraton St., Hurghada
More Info: In front of the Seagull Beach Resort

El Terrace Cafe

El Terrace Cafe is a cute little, busy café that serves coffee and tasty treats. This is a good place to catch up with friends.

Address: El Nasr St. Dahar. Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 3547 473

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Photo: Francesco Sgroi

Most lounges and bars are located within a hotel. There are many lovely places to sit down in the warm evening air and enjoy a nice, cooling drink.

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Aladdin Casino

The Casino in Hurghada offers the chance to try your luck at any one of the slot machines that line the walls. Here you can also find roulette, poker and Black Jack tables.

Address: El Gouna, Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 354 9702

El Gezira Hotel

The El Gezira Hotel offers a roof terrace overlooking the Nile. This is a great opportunity to turn a relaxing evening drink into a real experience.

Address: West Bank, Luxor
Phone: +20 952 310 034
Internet: www.el-gezira.com

Marina Lodge

There are several facilities at the Marina Lodge ranging from a pool bar to restaurants and a roof top terrace. All other nightlife or bar experience are located at various hotels and resorts in the area.

Address: Marina Lodge, Marsa Alam

Marsa Alam

If going clubbing until early morning is what you are looking for, Marsa Alam might not be the place. This is on the other hand a great place for scuba diving or other adventures. You can ask at your hotel for more information.

Address: Marsa Alam
Phone: +1284 332 337

Internet: www.marsaalam.com

Nice Lounge Bar

If you are in the mood for karaoke, then this is the place to go to. Nice Lounge Bar is also a stylish bar with good service and nice food.

Address: Block D, Souq Marina, 45, Hurghada

More Info: Hurghada New Marina Boulevard

SHOPPING



Photo: Vincent Teeuwen

Without doubt, it is the bazaars that offer the widest selection of local crafts and artefacts, while designer goods can be found in the larger stores. The area around Luxor's Corniche el-Nil is one of the busiest in the city, and everything from jewellery to leather goods can be found here. But to experience the true shopping experience in Luxor, as well as Hurghada and Marsa Alam, head for the bazaars along the coast roads. Here, traditional souvenirs like copper ware, brasses, rugs and carpets, crafts such as glass vases and little perfume bottles, leatherwear such as belts and sandals, and handmade jewellery can be found, along with masses of colourful textiles. Most bazaars will have stalls selling herbs and spices like cloves, saffron and turmeric, which give them their characteristic aroma.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Photo: Davidlohr Bueso

There are many nice hotels to choose from in Hurghada, Luxor and Marsa Alam. You can decide if you want to be close to the beach or stay in the city centre.

Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa

The luxurious Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa is a lavishly decorated hotel set right on the edge of the Nile. In the area you can find some of Luxor's temples and palaces.

Address: New Karnak, Luxor

Phone: +20 95 2374933

Internet: www.hilton.com

Shams Alam Resort

Shams Alam Resort is a lively, family-orientated beachside resort. This hotel offers a pleasing accommodation and good diving. Other amenities onsite include massage, pool and sauna.

Address: South Marsa Alam Road, Marsa Alam

Phone: +20 2 224 44 931

Internet: www.shams-dive.com

Email: shamsalam@shamshotels.com

Desert Inn

The Desert Inn is a popular hotel in central Hurghada, located only 250 metres from the beach. Amenities at the hotel include a spa, pool and restaurant.

Address: Sheraton Road, Hurghada

Phone: +20 2 241 779 70

Internet: www.samakahotels.com

Email: info@samakahotels.com

Heliopolis Residence

Ideally located in downtown Hurghada you can find the Heliopolis Residence. This hotel features a pool, retail shops and a sun terrace. All sportive guests can play a game of billiard or table tennis.

Address: Sheraton Rd., Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 3446013

Beirut Hotel Hurghada

Beirut Hotel Hurghada is located right next to the beach and offers 148 rooms, featuring a terrace or balcony. At the hotel you can find a pool, but all guests can choose if they want to relax in a sun-lounger here or at the private beach area.

Address: El Corniche Rd. Dahar, Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 548905
Internet: www.beiruthotelseg.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Photo: Jens-Christian Fischer

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Hurghada Airport

All airports are centrally located and served by a network of the national and international airlines.

From Hurghada Airport can easily reach the city centre by bus or taxi. You can find the bus next to the airport passenger terminal and start filled up. They journey takes about 20 minutes.

Taxis can also be found next to the airport passenger terminal.

Address: Hurghada Airport, Hurghada
Phone: +20 65 443 976
Internet: www.hurghada-airport.co.uk

Luxor International Airport

Luxor International Airport is located 6 kilometres from the city. You can reach the city by taxi. Car rental companies are represented at the airport.

Address: Luxor International Airport, Luxor
Phone: +20 95 232 4455
Internet: www.luxor-lux.airports-guides.com

Marsa Alam Airport

Marsa Alam Airport is the first privately owned airport in Egypt.

Address: Marsa Alam Airport, Marsa Alam
Phone: +20 65 370 0107
Internet: www.marsa-alam-airport.com

Public transport

To get around these cities you can either walk or order a taxi. Mini-buses are common if you want to ride with the locals.

Trains, which fall into two categories, one with air-conditioning the other without, are ideal for travelling to nearby towns and cities.

Taxi

Taxis are available from outside the airports and the bus

and rail stations in Hurghada, Luxor and Marsa Alam.

Always check the price to your destination. Drivers will leave when the taxi is full, although you can have a vehicle to yourself if you are prepared to pay extra. Pay extra attention so you arrive at your destination and that you do not get scammed when you pay.

Post

Post offices in Egypt are generally open from 8.30-2.30 pm daily (except Friday) but can be a minefield if Arabic is not spoken or read. Hotels all offer postal services, which is a safe option to ensure letters are sent and delivered safely.

Main Post Office:

Address: Sharia an-Nasr, Ad-Dahar, Hurghada

Pharmacy

Pharmacies can be found in abundance in Hurghada, Luxor and Marsa Alam, and they sell cosmetics as well as medicines. They are generally open from 9 am to around 10 pm most days.

Telephone

Country code: +20

Area code, Hurghada: 065

Area code, Luxor: 095

Area code, Marsa Alam: 012

Electricity

220 volts with two-hole sockets.

Population

Hurghada: 261,714

Luxor: 506,588

Marsa Alam: 10,000

Currency

1 Egyptian Pound (LE) = 100 piasters

Opening hours

Opening hours vary. Most shops in Egypt are open from 9 am-10 pm Monday to Saturday. Banks are open daily from 8.30 am-2 pm except for Friday and weekends.

Newspapers

Egyptian Gazette
Middle East Times
Al-Ahram Weekly
Egypt Today
Egypt Insight

Emergency numbers

Emergency: 123

Police: 126

Fire Brigade: 180

Tourist information

Tourist Information Office Hurghada

Resort Strip, Hurghada

Open: 8 am-8 pm

+20 65 344 4420

Tourist Information Office Luxor

Corniche an-Nil, Luxor

Open: 8 am-8 pm

+20 95 928 0004

