

## Area

1, 001, 450 square kilometers (twice the France but only 10% is inhabited).

## Number of people

80 million inhabitants.

## Religions

Islam (about 85%) Christianity 15% including a very large majority of Copts (90%). Before the coming of Islam, Christianity was the predominant religion in the country which one of the first to have embraced this new faith. There is an important Coptic district in Cairo. The cohabitation between the different communities is generally good.

## Customs procedures

The procedures have been simplified in recent years. The entry of foreign currencies is easy & no statement is imposed.

To enter Egypt, you must have a valid passport (with a due date of six months after your return for European citizens) & a visa. This visa is valid for 3 months & is obtained when arriving in Egypt at the airport or before leaving at the Egyptian Consulate.

## Local time

In summer, from April the 29<sup>th</sup> to September the 30<sup>th</sup>, an hour ahead of Paris (GMT +2).

In winter, an hour ahead also compared with winter time in Paris (GMT +1).

For more information: [www.horlogeparlante.com](http://www.horlogeparlante.com)

## Climate

Between April & October, it is usually hot in Upper Egypt in the desert & oasis. Cairo & Alexandria have a summer temperature.

## Currency

The local currency is the Egyptian pound (LE or EGP) which cents are called Piaster. Currently € 1 Euro = LE 8.5.

Always have small change on you for tips, the famous bribe. Credit cards are accepted in major hotels & stores.

The Euro, Swiss Franc & U.S. Dollar are accepted in Exchange Banks & in some shops.

There are ATMs in most major cities especially in hotels. Be careful, there is no cash machine in the oasis so you must go to a bank.

## Health

No vaccination certificate is required at this time although vaccines against tetanus & polio are recommended.

We recommend that you take with you a medicine kit including: an intestinal disinfectant (Imodium, Intetrix or equivalent), anti-mosquito cream, eye drops, aspirin, disinfectant ...

Good sunglasses, sun-block cream, a hat or cap are compulsory.

Water sprays & refreshing towels.

### **Clothes**

Light & loose cotton clothing.

A sweater or a jacket for the evenings which can be cool.

Comfortable shoes.

Bring a headlamp.

### **Electricity**

All hotels are equipped for 220 volts/50 Hz

### **The Internet & phones**

The calling code for Egypt is 20, followed by 2 to Cairo & 1 for mobile phones.

Mobile phone network & Internet access are available in large cities. The reception is good in some desert oasis (Bahariya, Farafra, Dahkla, El Kharga ...)

### **Useful addresses**

#### **Embassy of Egypt**

56, Avenue d'Iena

75116 Paris

Phone: +33 1 53 678 830

#### **Egypt Tourist Office**

90, Avenue des Champs Elysees

75008 Paris

Voice server: 0 836 702 215

#### **Embassy of France**

29, Avenue Charles de Gaulle

Giza - P.O. Box 1777

Phone: +20 (2) 570 3916 (to 20)