



Alexandria Egypt - 1 Day Experience



[Your Itinerary, maps and weather](#)



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Alexandria - One of the Great Cities of the Ancient World

Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great in 332 BC and was the capital of Egypt for more than 300 years. For those guests that have been on our Old Cairo and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation, this tour is inextricably linked with both.

When Alexandria fell to the Arabs in 641 AD it was felt that it would be better to have the Egyptian capital located inland at Fustat. The reasoning was that it would be easier to defend the capital against the Roman Navy than being located, as Alexandria was, on the coast.

Fustat was the first capital of Egypt under Muslim rule. The current National Museum of Egyptian Civilization is now located in the same area as the old capital. Fustat was later engulfed in the growth of Cairo. Yet despite its turbulent history, Alexandria grew under the stewardship of Mohammad Ali. Muhammad Ali's became known as the father of modern Egypt and his tomb is located in the grounds of the Citadel and immediately alongside the Alabaster Mosque. This location became the centre of government in Egypt for over 700 years.

After its foundation, Alexandria became the seat of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, and quickly grew to be one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic world. Only Rome which gained control of Egypt in 30 BC, eclipsed Alexandria in size and wealth.

The city fell to the Arabs in AD 641, and a new capital of Egypt, Fustat, was founded on the Nile. After Alexandria's status as the country's capital ended, it fell into a long decline, which by the late Ottoman period, had seen it reduced to little more than a small fishing village. The French army under Napoleon captured the city in 1798 and the British soon captured it from the French, retaining Alexandria within their sphere of influence for 150 years. The city grew in the early 19th century under the industrialization program of Mohammad Ali, the viceroy of Egypt.

The places visited on this tour, includes the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa, the Roman Amphitheatre, the harbour of Alexandria with the picturesque Citadel of Sultan Qaitbay, and the place where the famous Lighthouse of Alexandria – one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World – once stood



Embarking for Alexandria

The tour starts with a 3-hour drive on air-conditioned vehicles. Alexandria is the second largest city in Egypt, famous for its Greco-Roman remains and Mediterranean character. Formerly the Egyptian capitol, it was subject to raids by the Roman navy. It was subsequently moved to Fustat near Cairo near the site of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.



Sultan Qā'it Bey Citadel

Within a century of its founding, Alexandria's splendours were renowned in the ancient world. The pride of ancient Alexandria harbour was the great lighthouse. One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the lighthouse is reputed to have been more than 350 feet (110 metres) high and was still standing in the 12th century. In 1477, however, Sultan Qā'it Bey used stones from the dilapidated structure to build a fort (named for him), which stands near or on the original site.



Roman Amphitheatre

The Roman theatre was a very important discovery in 1960. It was proven that the theatre was built since the 4th A.D century and was used up until the 7th century passing by the Roman, byzantine and Islamic eras. The theatre used to host huge ceremonies and events with a capacity of 600 spectators.





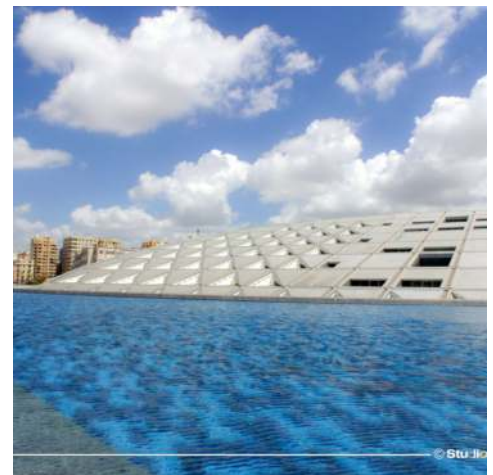
Mosques and Catacombs

A labyrinth of tunnels and vaults exists in Alexandria. These the catacombs are more than 360 miles long. This vast subterranean cemetery was created by ancient Romans nearly 2,000 years ago. In recent times, a catacomb containing thousands of human skeletons was unearthed. Now a team of specialists is on a mission to unlock the secrets of the skeletons. And as in all Egypt there are great mosques which represent the influence of Islam



Bibliotheca Alexandrina

The **Great Library of Alexandria** was one of the largest and most significant libraries of the ancient world. Alexandria came to be regarded as the capital of knowledge and learning. Julius Caesar burned his ships during the Siege of Alexandria in 48 BC. Ancient writers said the fire spread and destroyed the library's collections. Today the library has developed as a centre of excellence in the production and dissemination of knowledge, and a place for interaction between peoples and civilisations. The library



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Inclusions

- Pick up from your hotel and return
- Air-conditioned vehicle.
- Your own personal, English speaking tour guide.
- (Optional) Membership of the Ancient Egyptian Research Association (AERA) which supports the training of young Egyptian archaeologists and field work excavations in Egypt

Exclusions

- Personal expenditure of any kind
- Tips
- Alcoholic Drinks and extra meals (other than those stated in the itinerary)