

ALEXANDRIA HIGHLIGHTS



Alexandria CITY is the second largest city in Egypt, Alexandria, known as "The Pearl of the Mediterranean", has an atmosphere that is more Mediterranean than Middle Eastern, its ambience and cultural heritage distance it from the rest of the country although it is actually only 225 km. from Cairo., city was founded by Alexander the Great in

331 BC, and became the capital of Graeco-Roman Egypt, its status as a beacon of culture symbolized by Pharos, the legendary lighthouse that was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The setting for the stormy relationship between Cleopatra and Mark Antony, Alexandria was also the center of learning in the ancient world.

Greco Roman Museum: The museum was first built in 1892 as a small building and in 1895 it was transferred to the present site; it started with eleven galleries, and has been gradually enlarged in later renovation stages. The 25th gallery was inaugurated in 1984. It contains a very big variety of coins from different countries, The museum collection, which covers the period from the 3rd century BC to the 7th century AD, is a fascinating record of civilization in the process of change as religions merged and society evolved, in Alexandria, Graeco-Roman and Pharaonic religions mingled in the cult of Serapis; the shift from pagan religions to Christianity can also be seen in the exhibits which include mummies, Hellenistic statues, busts of Roman emperors, Tangara figurines, and early Christian antiquities.



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Bibliotheca Alexandrina: The revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria Project aims at building a universal modern public library to be a center of culture, science and academic research, the new Library of Alexandria is a truly very beautiful building, and whose design at the architectural and structural levels merits our attention and would repay our study, located on a superb site on

the historic eastern harbor of Alexandria, almost exactly where the old library and the royal palace of the Ptolemies once stood. The complex comprises three main elements the pre-existing conference center, the new planetarium and the new building. They are all connected underground below the plaza into one large functional complex.

Roman Theatre: Over 30 years of excavation have uncovered many Roman remains including this well-preserved theatre with galleries, sections of mosaic-flooring and marble seats for up to 800 spectators. In Ptolemaic times, this area was the Park of Pan and a pleasure garden. The theater at one point may have been roofed over to serve as an Odeon for musical performances. Inscriptions suggest that it was sometimes also used for



wrestling contests. The theatre stood with thirteen semi-circular tiers of white marble that was imported from Europe. Its columns are of green marble imported from Asia Minor, and red granite imported from Aswan. The wings on either side of the stage are decorated with geometric mosaic paving. The dusty walls of the trenches, from digging in the northeast side of the Odeon, are layered with extraordinary amounts of potsherds.

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Montazah Gardens: This 115 acre complex is surrounded by great walls from the south, east and west, and with the beach on its north side. This area used to belong to the Mohamed Ali family, that ruled Egypt from the mid 19th century until 1952. The construction was started in 1892 by King Abbas II, who built a large palace inside the complex called the Salamlek. In 1932, King Fuad built a larger palace and called it the Haramlik. His son, King Farouk, built a bridge to the sea to act as a water

front. The rest of the 115 acres is nothing but beautiful gardens. Palm trees and gazelles cover the area. This is a wonderful spot to enjoy the beauty of Alexandria.

Citadel of Qaitbay: The Fort was built in the 1480's by Sultan Qaitbey, on the site of Alexandria's ancient lighthouse (One of the seven wonders of the ancient World). Parts of the remains of the lighthouse can be seen in the construction of the old fort., In its place a Mosque was built, which was damaged by an earthquake in the 14th century. The entrance is through a gateway made of red Aswan granite. Located beside the mosque is a cistern that was used to store water in case of a siege. Inside the fort there are several floors of Napoleonic and British relics and



a naval museum. The fort is a huge castle, approached by a long causeway along the beach that ends up between the main towers, the original entrance to the fort. The modern entrance, to the east, is not as noticeable. There are granite and marble columns built into the facade of the walls, from other temples and buildings in Alexandria.



The Jewelry Museum :The Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandria displays amazing quantity of the precious and rare jewelry related to the Mohamed Ali's Family Mohamed Ali Dynasty (19th century) from 1805 - 1952. It was once the palace of Fatma el-Zahara which is an architectural masterpiece. Its halls contain many rare paintings, statues and decorations.

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