



- 1 Egypt is a country with a very long, colourful history. It is also a fantastic place to go for a holiday. Here are some of the places you can go and visit, starting with the most iconic of Egypt's landmarks - the pyramids.
- 2 There are lots of huge pyramids near Cairo. The pyramids were built over four thousand years ago as tombs for kings (or Pharaohs), and filled with treasures. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the largest. It's made from over two million limestone blocks and is about 137m tall. That's as tall as 12 buses standing end-to-end. Although there are a lot of theories, no one really knows how the ancient

Egyptians built the pyramids.

- 3 Near the Great Pyramid of Giza, stands a huge statue called the Sphinx. It has the body of a lion, but the head of a man. Hundreds of years ago, soldiers, using the statue for target practice, shot its nose and beard off. Its beard was taken to England. It's still there, in the British Museum.

Speaking of museums, Cairo has its own with a massive range of exhibits, from statues to mummies of people and their pets. One of the most amazing exhibits was the treasure from Tutankhamun's tomb. Tutankhamun became

Pharaoh of Egypt in 1333 BC at the age of ten. Imagine being a king at that age!

- 4 Egypt also has a large collection of markets, called bazaars, with the most famous being Cairo's Khan al-Khalili. Full of little shops and narrow alleys, it has been open since the 14th century. One of its most famous shops, Fishawi's Coffeehouse, has been open 24 hours a day for over 200 years!
 - 5 There are lots of people in Cairo — over 16 million. There is so little room, that people have built houses in the old cemetery. Called the City of the Dead, people now live alongside the tombs of their ancestors. Some people even use tombstones as dining tables. It's probably not a good place to go out to if you want a fancy dinner!
 - 6 The ancient Egyptians built lots of amazing things apart from the pyramids. Many of these buildings are still around today, after thousands of years. Some were buried under sand for years before being found again. Visiting these is almost like travelling backwards through time.
 - 7 There is a huge temple at Abu Simbel. Covered by sand for thousands of years, it was found again in 1813 by a Swiss explorer. The temple has four giant statues of Ramses II (Pharaoh from 1290-1224 BC) at its entrance, each over 20 m high.
- The building of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s meant that the temple at Abu Simbel would end up under water. So it was moved, piece-by-piece, to a new location — just like a giant jigsaw puzzle. It took four years.

- 8 The temple complex at Karnak was built, added to and enlarged over a period of 1500 years. It measures 1.5 km by 800 m and is famous for its Hypostyle Hall, which contains 134 giant stone columns. They're so huge that you would feel like an ant as you walked down the Hall. Scenes from the James Bond film, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, were filmed there.
 - 9 The temple at Philae was not built by the ancient Egyptians, but was made to look as if it had been. Started by the Persians in the 4th century BC, it was completed by the Greeks and Romans over the next hundred years, after each of these peoples conquered Egypt. The temple stands alone on an island in the middle of the Nile.
 - 10 A great way to experience Egypt is to sail along the Nile, Egypt's mighty river, and walk into the deserts. Most of Egypt is desert, with all the main cities, including Cairo, along the Nile.
- The Nile is Egypt's main supply of water and hydroelectric power. It used to flood at a particular time each year and crops could not be planted during the flooding. Today it no longer floods because it has been dammed.
- 11 Most of Egypt is covered in desert sands, from the Western (Libyan) Desert to the Eastern (Arabian) Desert. The deserts are broken up by mountains, canyons and cliffs ... and of course, oases. An oasis is a fertile spot where water and palm trees are found — just like in the movies.
 - 12 When visiting Egypt most people just go to

see all the tourist attractions. However, there is an amazing experience waiting for you if you explore some of the villages that sit along the Nile. Visiting these can give you some deeper insight into what life is like for an Egyptian. Here are some possible villages you could see.

Ramadi is a small village on the banks of the Nile. There are only about 1000 people living there. If you are very lucky, you might be able to drink some hibiscus tea (called *karkadey*) with a local family.

Near Aswan, which is the large dam in the Nile river, you can find Nubian villages. Nubians are taller and have darker skin than other Egyptians. They originally came from Nubia, an area near Aswan that is now almost completely under water because of the dam.

13 The Egyptian people are happy for tourists to visit their country. In fact, tourism is the country's main business. Tour guides are very important to the industry, so tour guides in Egypt must have a university degree.

Egypt has a special police force in addition to normal police. The Tourist and Antiquities Police patrol tourist attractions like the museum and the pyramids. If a tourist needs help, they can call for one of these special police.

14 All of this is only the start of your dream adventure to Egypt! Once you've explored all of these places, you should start researching and take advantage of all the other fantastic locations that Egypt has to offer. It will be the trip of a lifetime.

Questions

- 1 The Great Pyramid of Cheops is near
 - a Cairo.
 - b Aswan.
 - c Alexandria.
- 2 In which museum is the Sphinx's beard?
 - a the Cairo Museum
 - b the Egypt Museum
 - c the British Museum
- 3 Which temple has four giant statues of Ramses II?
 - a the temple at Abu Simbel
 - b the temple complex at Karnak
 - c the Ramses Temple
- 4 What is the name of the dam built in the 1960s?
 - a Aswan High Dam
 - b Alexandria Dam
 - c Abu Simbel Dam
- 5 What is *karkadey*?
 - a a famous Coffeehouse
 - b Cairo's main bazaar
 - c hibiscus tea
- 6 Why does Egypt have such a large tourism industry?
 - a There are a lot of ancient buildings and temples for people to see.
 - b There is a police force for tourists.
 - c There is a bazaar.

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- 7 Very old (2)
- 8 People you are descended from (5)
- 9 Made bigger (8)
- 10 A fertile place in the desert (11)
- 11 An institute that gives you a degree (13)

Grammar

A **proper noun** is used to name people, places, days of the week etc. They must start with a capital letter. Find the **proper nouns** in these sentences from the text.

- 12 Egypt has a long, colourful history.
- 13 It's still there, in the British Museum.
- 14 There are lots of people in Cairo.
- 15 The temple has four giant statues of Ramses II.

Back To The Text...

- 16 In section 13 the word *needs* is used as
 - a a noun.
 - b a verb.
- 17 What would be a good sub-heading for section 2?
 - a The Pyramids
 - b The Desert
- 18 Key words are important words that help you understand the main ideas. Which of the following is a key word in section 2?
 - a treasures
 - b huge

Think About This

- 19 The text recommends that
 - a you only visit tourist spots.
 - b you also experience local life.
 - c you don't go to Egypt.
- 20 Which section states that all of Egypt's major cities are built along the Nile?
 - a Section 1
 - b Section 6
 - c Section 3
 - d Section 10
- 21 What never closes?
 - a the British Museum
 - b Fishawi's Coffeehouse
 - c the Hypostyle Hall
- 22 The image on the front of the card shows a scene near
 - a Cairo.
 - b Karnak.
 - c Abu Simbel.
- 23 The writer uses words in brackets () to
 - a highlight facts.
 - b give extra information.
 - c show the correct spelling.

Challenge Option

Research: Find two countries that border Egypt.

