



# Hurghada, Luxor and Marsa Alam

Photo: davidberkowitz



Photo: Gigi Ibrahim



Photo: S'S



Photo: Rob

Like so many of the towns and cities of Egypt, Hurghada aswell as Luxor and Marsa Alam are living history museums. The cities lie at 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 watersports. 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

#### Mummification Museum

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#### El Gouna

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#### Blue Paradise Diving Centre

Diving Centre offering the chance to dive and snorkel in the Red Sea and see coral reefs, dolphins and turtles. They say there...

#### Red Sea Desert Adventure

Excursions from Marsa Alam. Travel by 4 x 4 vehicle, ride camels or horses into the heart of the desert by day and have a BBQ ...



## HURGHADA



*Photo: Gigi Ibrahim*

Hurghada has been home to fishing communities for centuries and remained unchanged until the 1990s when tourists discovered this idyllic village. With wide stretches of beach following the coastline for miles, and sea waters that were relatively safe and ideal for watersports it 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 an astonishing number of palaces and temples built. 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 within a three to four hour drive of both Luxor and Hurghada. Tourism has found Marsa Alam basicly because of its location on the banks of the Red Sea. There are 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 there now is 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. The cities lie at three corners of a triangle in the Eastern Desert.

### Mummification Museum

"The Mummification Museum in Luxor is the best place to learn about the most powerful secrets of the pharaohs." When here, take the 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  
Phone: +20 95 238 1502  
Internet: [www.gotoegypt.com](http://www.gotoegypt.com)

### Luxor Museum

A large display of statues and artefacts, dating back centuries, are on display at this city centre museum. Most of the exhibits were found in local temples, while some came from Tutankhamum's tomb.

Address: Corniche el-Nil, Luxor  
Phone: +20 95 237 0569

### El Gouna

A purpose-designed resort featuring award-winning architecture, 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](http://www.elgouna.com)

### Blue Paradise Diving Centre

Diving Centre offering the chance to dive and snorkel in the Red Sea and see coral reefs, dolphins and turtles. They say there's even the possibility of seeing sharks.

Address: 14, El Korneesh Street, Hurghada  
Phone: +20 65 354 4354  
Internet: [www.blueparadise.be](http://www.blueparadise.be)

### Red Sea Desert Adventure

Excursions from Marsa Alam. Travel by 4 x 4 vehicle, ride camels or horses into the heart of the desert by day and have a BBQ dinner in a traditional Bedouin village, or see the desert and stars by night.

Address: Shagra Village, Marsa Alam  
Phone: +20 122 399 3860  
Internet: [www.redseadesertadventures.com](http://www.redseadesertadventures.com)

## DINING



*Photo: Weldon Kennedy*

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

### Chez Pascal

The Chez Pascal is a themed restaurant serving the finest dishes from Belgium. Live piano music accompaniment.

Address: El Gouna complex, Hurghada

Phone: +20 65 354 9702

### Fish Market

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

Address: Port Ghalib Marina, Marsa Alam, Egypt

### The Heaven Restaurant

This is considered one of the best restaurants in Hurghada. Enjoy the amazing view along with delicious food and excellent service.

Address: Hurghada Marina Boulevard

### Puddleduck

Puddleduck offers fabulous food and comes well recommended from both tourists and locals. They have great

service and a lovely atmosphere.

Address: Junction of St. Joseph and El Madina Streets, Luxor

Phone: +20 106 716 8473

### El Joker

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

Address: Sakkala Square, Hurghada

## CAFES



*Photo: Mohannad Khatib*

Find a nice café and just sit and relax in this historical environment. Enjoy a nice cup of coffee and 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

Phone: +20 65 354 9702

### Mensa

The Mensa is a café close to the train station that offers hearty and filling snacks.

Address: Sharia al-Mahatta, Luxor

### 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: +20 65 707 2038

### **Souk Café**

The Souk Cafe is located just outside the Hilton resort's shopping area. This outdoor lounge has Bedouin-theme and is the perfect place to relax after a busy day. Enjoy an Arabic coffee, refreshing leaf tea and a variety of finest quality Shisha Pipes.

### **Axis Bar**

Near to the main entrance of the Hilton Marsa Alam Nubian Resort, the relaxed bar is perfect for relaxing with a coffee. Expertly mixed cocktails are also available and a range of ice cold beers to cool you while you enjoy live music and popular sports events.

## **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



*Photo: Francesco Sgroi*

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

### **Aladdin Casino**

The Casino offers the chance to try your luck at any one of the slot machines that line the walls as well as at the roulette, poker or Black Jack tables.

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

### **El Gezira Hotel**

With a roof terrace overlooking the Nile, the Al-Gezira Hotel offers the chance to turn a relaxing evening drink into an experience.

Address: West Bank, Luxor  
Phone: +20 952 310 034  
Internet: [www.el-gezira.com](http://www.el-gezira.com)

### **Marina Lodge**

You will find several facilities at Marina Lodge. For example there is Indigo Restaurant, Shark Bites Pool Bar, 50 Bar, Viz Roof Top Terrace and Shisha Corner for waterpipes.

All other nightlife or bar experience are located at the various hotels and resorts in the area.

Address: Marina Lodge  
Phone: +201 688 314 38

### **Marsa Alam**

If going clubbing till early morning is what you are looking for, Marsa Alam is not the place. This is on the other hand a great place for scuba diving or other adventures. Ask at your hotel for information.

Phone: +1284 332 337  
Internet: [www.marsaalam.com](http://www.marsaalam.com)

### **Nice Lounge Bar**

If you are in the mood for Karaoke then this is the place to go to. It is also a stylish bar with good service and nice food.

Address: Block D, Souq Marina, 45  
Phone: +20 100 081 2121  
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. Decide if you want to be close to the beach or in the city center.

### Luxor Hilton

The Hilton is a lavishly decorated hotel set right on the edge of the Nile and close to Luxor's temples and palaces.

Address: Sharia Karnak

Phone: +20 95 237 4933

Internet: [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

### InterContinental Resort & Casino Hurghada

With a wealth of amenities including a marina, watersports centre, spa and shopping, this hotel is a good base for an Egyptian break.

Address: Village Road, Hurghada

Phone: +20 65 346 5100

Internet: [www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com)

### Shams Alam Resort

This is a lively, family-orientated beachside resort. The Shams Alam offers pleasing accommodation and good diving.

Address: South Marsa Alam Road

Phone: +20 2 224 44 931

Internet: [www.shams-dive.com](http://www.shams-dive.com)

More Info: [shamsalam@shamshotels.com](mailto:shamsalam@shamshotels.com)

### Desert Inn

The Desert Inn is a popular hotel in central Hurghada with



amenities that include a spa, pool and restaurant.

Address: Sheraton Road, Hurghada  
Phone: +20 2 241 779 70  
Internet: [www.samakahotels.com](http://www.samakahotels.com)  
More Info: [info@samakahotels.com](mailto:info@samakahotels.com)

### **Coral Beach Diving Hotel**

If the thought of waking up and looking out over the beach to the sea appeals to you, then the Coral Beach Diving Hotel is right for you.

Address: Port Ghalib, Marsa Alam  
Phone: +20 65 370 0222  
Internet: [www.marsaalam.com](http://www.marsaalam.com)

## **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**



*Photo: Jens-Christian Fischer*

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### **Airport**

All airports are served by a network of the national and international airlines. All airports are centrally located, with taxis available at inexpensive cost. For example, the short

taxi ride from the airport into Hurghada centre will cost around EGP 15, while Luxor and Marsa Alam around EGP 10.

#### **Hurghada Airport**

Phone: +20 65 3442 831  
Web: [www.hurghada-airport.co.uk](http://www.hurghada-airport.co.uk)

#### **Luxor Airport**

Phone: +20 95 2374 655  
Web: [www.luxor-lux.airports-guides.com](http://www.luxor-lux.airports-guides.com)

#### **Marsa Alam Airport**

Phone: +20 65 370 0107  
Web: [www.marsa-alam-airport.com](http://www.marsa-alam-airport.com)

### **Public transport**

Trains, which fall into two categories, one with air-conditioning the other without, are ideal for travelling to nearby towns and cities (Railway Organisation, tel: +20 2 5753 555), while local buses (Upper Egypt Bus Transport Company, tel: +20 95 2447 467) and taxis serve the immediate areas.

### **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.

### **Tourist Traps**

Some of the major tourist attractions charge visitors to use their camera or video, and be aware that using a flash is generally forbidden.

### **Post**

Post offices in Egypt are open from 8.30 am to 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.

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

### **Pharmacy**

Pharmacies can be found in abundance in Hurghada, Luxor and Marsa Alam, and sell cosmetics as well as medicines. They are generally open from 9 am to around 10 pm most days. Outside these hours, telephone 123 (local number) in the event of an emergency.

### **Telephone**

Country code: +20

Area codes: 065 for Hurghada, 095 for Luxor and 012 for Marsa Alam

### **Electricity**

220 volts with two-hole sockets.



