



Where in the World Is Egypt?

Ahlan wa sahan (AH-hluhn WA SAH-hluhn) from Egypt! That's how we say "hello and welcome." We are Marwa and Hazem, your tour guides. We're sister and brother. Welcome to our fascinating and historic country. You'll see pyramids, **mummies**, and more!

Most of Egypt is in northeastern Africa. One section, the **Sinai Peninsula**, crosses into Asia. Egypt is part of a region in the world known as the Middle East. Our country is covered with deserts. So there are many hot and interesting places to visit. Let's go!

Fast Facts:

- Egypt covers 386,662 square miles (1,001,450 square kilometers).
- Egypt shares a border with Sudan to the south, Libya to the west, and Israel to the east. The Red Sea also lies to the east. The Mediterranean Sea forms Egypt's northern border.
- Egypt's famous river, the Nile, is the longest river in the world at 4,175 miles (6,719 km). It flows north and empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Deserts cover more than 90 percent of Egypt.** The **Western, or Libyan, Desert** is part of the **Sahara Desert**. The **Eastern, or Arabian, Desert** lies east of the Nile River.





Home Sweet Home

We are from Cairo, Egypt. In our country, many **generations** of a family often live together. We live with our parents, older brother, and grandmother in an apartment. Egyptians are usually very friendly. Don't be surprised if we greet you with a kiss on both cheeks.

We'll take you exploring in our neighborhood. But be warned. *Beep! Beep!* Our streets are very crowded with cars. Many people take taxis. Others rely on buses

and the Metro. The Metro is our local train system. There are also trains that run outside the city. In **rural** areas, some people get around by camel and donkey.

Although our family lives in a large city, about half of all Egyptians live in rural, or country, villages. Many of the people in this part of the country are farmers. Egypt's most important crop is cotton. It is used in making clothes, blankets, and many other products.

Farmers also grow oranges, rice, dates, and sugarcane. Most homes in the country are made of mud or brick. They might look simple on the outside, but they are often quite colorful inside. For example, you might see large decorative cushions. These are used for seating.

In Egypt, we work and go to school from Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday are our weekend. That's because we go to the **mosque** to pray on Friday.

Ways We Dress

We dress in a very **modest** way in Egypt. We often cover our arms and legs. Men might wear a long-sleeved robe called a *jalabiyyah* (jeh-luh-BEE-yuh) or a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Women often wear a robe called an *abaya* (uh-BAY-yah), with a scarf, or *hijab* (hih-JAHB), over their hair. Some people wear Western-style clothes such as jeans and long-sleeved shirts.





Let's Eat!

When it comes to food, we like to share and eat together! Breakfast is often *fuul* (FOOL). That's stewed fava beans. Lunch is our main meal. We eat at about 2 o'clock. The two of us really like *koshari* (KUSH-ar-ee). It has pasta, rice, lentils, chickpeas, and onions. All of this is topped with spicy tomato sauce. It's so good! For dinner, we usually eat leftovers from lunch. Sometimes, we



Fuul

have *molokhia* (mul-oo-KHEE-yuh), a spicy vegetable soup. We often dip pita or other bread into soups and stews. It's the best way to eat! Other salty foods include *shawarma* (shuh-WAHR-muh), which is shaved meat and vegetables. *Falafel* (feh-LAH-ful) is fried chickpea patties. We don't eat much meat in Egypt, though. And, because our family is Muslim, we do not eat pork.



Dates

For dessert, you should try *um ali* (OOM ah-LEE). This sweet treat is made from pastry, cream, coconut, raisins, and nuts. We also eat a lot of dates in our country. Egypt is the largest producer in the world of this tasty fruit.

For a drink, we love to have a special tea called *shai* (SHY). It is made with mint leaves. There is also a drink made from hibiscus flowers called *karkade* (kar-kah-DAY). We drink a lot of milk, too. It might come from goats, sheep, or even buffaloes. Our parents drink *ahwa* (AH-hwah), or coffee, and coffee shops are quite popular here. You'll also see men smoking a special water pipe called a *shisha* (SHEE-shuh) while there.



Koshari



Molokhia



Falafel



Um ali

A Full Plate

We want our guests to enjoy their meals. A good host will keep your plate at least half full at all times. But don't feel like you have to keep eating! We're just worried you are still hungry. Always say "*teslam iidak*" (te-SLAHM ih-DAHK) to your host. That means "Bless your hands" and is a nice compliment.



Shawarma