

Exploring Cairo: A Practical Guide to Sightseeing Including Kid Friendly Info

by Carrie Reed

www.carriereedtravels.com

carriereedphotography@gmail.com

Updated June 1, 2019



Notes

- Costs are accurate from the day I visited (July 2017-July 2018) and are quoted as the foreigner rate. If you are Egyptian, you will pay significantly less. Some prices have gone up and I correct them as I revisit places. In general, for a foreigner, you should expect to pay le50-100 for most tourist sites. Camera fees are normally le50 if a place charges them (most places run by the government or military do, but not all).
- For navigating, we find Googlemaps works the best.
- Parking is described to the best of my ability. However, due to security concerns sometimes parking is eliminated or restricted unannounced. If you have diplomatic plates, you may be able to park some places that other cars can't (such as inside Coptic Cairo or the Citadel).
- Always have small bills and coins with you for bathroom attendants (about le2) and tipping
- I've included a couple food places in Maadi that my kids like, but my focus in this guide is not restaurants but sightseeing

Abdeen Palace

What is it? Historic Cairo palace from 1863 onward and a current official residence of the President of Egypt. Contains numerous small museums, including an impressive arms collection

Location? Downtown, enter from the road labeled “Mosque” on Googlemaps, not the official front that googlemaps tries to take you to.

Cost? 100le adults. The ticket booth is not at the entrance, but just down the street to the south on the opposite side.

Camera Fee? 10le

Toilets? Yes, pass the entrance to go into the main building. Behind the columns is an open door. Inside is a small room and through that room are male and female bathrooms. Bring your own TP.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? None sold. I had water and snacks in my bag without issue.

Stroller Friendly? Yes, there are wheelchair ramps and everything is ground floor

Parking? Street parking in the general area

Notes: It is a very well run museum complex with a lot of security guards and a thorough bag check. No knives of any size or other weapons allowed. There is plenty of signage and a clear route you follow through the museums. You start at the small hunting museum, which had some interesting hunting weapons and accessories. Next up is the large arms museum with a massive collection of every type of weapon, some very elaborately bejeweled. Then you head to the decorative pins room, the Presidential gifts room, and the silverware room. Signs are in English and Arabic and it's easy to go through on your own. It only takes about an hour to see everything unless you look at every single weapon!



Al Sorat Farm

What is it? Farm run by a Canadian woman with organic farming, well cared-for animals, horses to ride, grass to play in, and yummy lunch

Location? Saqqara, about 45 minute drive from Maadi-navigate first to “Saqqara Country Club” and then put “Al Sorat Farm” into googlemaps for best roads

Cost? LE 50 for ages 3 and up; Optional Lunch for LE100 (ages 10+) or LE50 (under 10)

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, inside the house

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes to both. You can bring lunch and snacks and use their grill for free or you can prearrange to eat lunch there. Adults in our group did lunch and it was delicious—chicken, salad, bread, eggplant, sweet potatoes, beans, etc.

Stroller Friendly? Grassy lawn and picnic area is

Parking? Yes on their driveway

Notes: This is an amazing farm and a relaxing way to spend a few hours or all day. A 30 minute horseback ride is included in entry fees and can be a trail ride or just on the driveway (for little kids). They have a donkey cart for kids to ride in during the trail ride. Goats and sheep and horses to pet. All are well cared for and friendly. About 15 dogs live on the property. Large grassy area. I suggest bringing a ball. Plenty of tables and chairs for sitting. Kids are free to run around and explore. www.alsorat.com You must call ahead to arrange your visit.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/11/25/al-sorat-farm-a-peaceful-oasis/>



Art Cafe

What is it? An art center with classes and open create time for adults and kids

Location? Maadi—Kanal Street near McDonald's

Cost? Kid drop in time is 120le for 2 hours

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? Yes

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Small snacks and beverages sold

Stroller Friendly? Space to park stroller outside

Parking? Fairly easy street parking

Notes: Art Cafe is wonderful. It has a bit of outside seating and then inside there is plenty of table space for creating. Upstairs they hold classes ranging from Mommy and Me classes, regular kid classes, and adult classes across a range of mediums, styles, and languages. Downstairs you can bring your own art supplies and just use the space or you can do a drop-in and use their art supplies for a set fee. We did a kid drop-in, which gave us 2 hours and up to 3 mediums to experiment and create with. My 4 year old did painting and clay. She loved it. They had aprons and help you set up and clean up.



Children's Civilization and Creativity Center AKA Child's Museum

What is it? An outside park and inside museum all about Egypt's history and present designed for children

Location? Heliopolis; About 40 min from Maadi on a Saturday

Cost? We paid LE120 for 2 adults and 2 kids ages 4 and 2. Not sure how the breakdown was as pricing was in Arabic. This was just for the grounds and museum, we did not do extras.

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, toilet by the playground and another inside the museum. Both were clean, but bring your own TP

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Bring food and have a picnic or a snack. They also had a snack stand near the playground.

Stroller Friendly? Yes, grounds have sidewalks and ramps and inside has ramps and elevators. We used ours throughout

Parking? Yes, LE10. At the gate, get out of the car and buy your tickets including a car ticket, and then drive back to the large parking lot.

Notes: We started in the park as the museum didn't open til 10:30 (despite it's FB page saying 9). The playground is nice and both kids enjoyed it. Walled in and safe for toddlers, but still fun for bigger kids. The grounds themselves had some displays for life near the Nile, but they had seen better days and many things were broken. Groundsmen watered everything at 9:30 that morning and all the grass was very very wet. Lots of space to run. Inside the museum they insisted we only got to view 1 of the 4 floors per visit. We argued with them and were allowed to see the 2 floors that were open. We also argued about not wanting a guide and we ended up with someone to follow us around but not do the whole spiel everywhere. Our 4.5 year old loved all the hands on, including building statues, market, dress up, an archaeological dig, art, and a tunnel structure. Our 2 year old was less impressed. He liked the digging and the submarine best. Older kids could learn a lot. It was well laid out, but the forced guide and 1 floor only turned us off.



Citadel

What is it? Old military fortress on a hill over Islamic Cairo. Focus is the two mosques within.

Location? Islamic Cairo off Salah Salem St

Cost? Adults LE140; kids less or free (Nov 2018)

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, on sloping road headed to Al-Nasser Mosque. Attendant provided TP (pay 2le). When we visited, 2 toilets had no seat, 1 had a seat, and 1 was a squat floor toilet. Floor was very wet. But there was soap and running water.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes to both. We brought water and snacks with no issue. Immediately upon entering there was a small stand that sold drinks and snacks as well. We saw a cafe, but it wasn't open when we were there.

Stroller Friendly? Mostly. We brought ours. The renovated parts are very easy to use the stroller and it was allowed inside both mosques. The walkways with the original stone was much more difficult with the stroller as it was very uneven with stones missing. The path to the first mosque is up a large flight of stairs, though you can also take a much longer route around and up if you don't want to carry the stroller up the stairs.

Parking? Yes if you have diplomatic plates or are with a tour company. If a taxi drops you off, expect to be dropped off at the bottom of a hill and walk up.

Notes: While the Citadel compound is very large, there is really just two mosques inside to see—The Mosque of Muhammad Ali is the large main one you can see from a distance and the Al-Nasser Mohammed Ibn Kalawoun Mosque is the smaller one, though still impressive. The museums (military and police) are closed, have been for some time, and have no real indications of opening again soon. There are some great views of the city, especially if you go on a clear day. Our guide said afternoons are clearer than mornings and if you luck out to go right after a rare rain you're in for a treat. If you really squint, you can see the Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara in the far distance. Inside the mosques, you need to be dressed modestly. Women should wear pants to ankle length skirts and at least short sleeves. Head coverings were not required. Men should be in pants, though we saw several men in shorts allowed entrance without a problem. If you arrive without appropriate clothing, they give you a gown to wear over your clothes. You'll remove your shoes, though they have shoe coverings they provide if you prefer to keep them on. At the Muhammad Ali Mosque you exit a different door than you enter, so you'll carry your shoes. At the other, you can leave them at the entrance. The history of the mosques is fascinating and it is worth either having a guide or being well read on them to really appreciate the small nuances of the architecture and history.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/10/05/visiting-the-citadel-with-kids/>



Coptic Cairo

What is it? An area of Cairo with many Christian churches and buildings as well as an old Synagogue and museum

Location? Between Fustat and Garden city, near the Nile. Getting there by taxi is easy. Your dropoff point is the intersection of Mari Gerges, El-Imam Malik and Sidey Hassan Al Anwar. On Google Maps, find the Coptic Museum and then follow Mari Gerges north to where it deadends. Once dropped off, it is an easy walk down Mari Gerges and the museum is well marked.

Cost? None of the buildings have an access fee, except the museum. Many do have donation boxes if you feel inclined. (Dec 2018)

Camera Fee? No. The Ben Ezra Synagogue does not allow photos inside, but the other places do

Toilets? The Hanging Church and the Nunnery/Shrine of St. George has bathrooms

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Many little shops selling water and snacks throughout the area. I had no issue with snacks in my bags.

Stroller Friendly? Not particularly. The main road down Coptic Cairo is smooth, but the lower area is down a large flight of stairs and the paths are rougher. Most of the buildings involve many stairs.

Parking? There is street parking outside the blockaded area. If you have a car with diplomatic plates and a dip ID you can drive past the barricades and park on the actual street.

Notes: We typically can do the sites in 2 hours and the museum in 1.5 hours. Add a little more time if you like to linger, especially in the museum. Accessible from the main road is the Church of St. George, the Coptic Museum, and the Hanging Church. Accessible from the lower level via a flight of stairs just before the Church of St. George is the Nunnery/Shrine of St. George, St. Sergius and St Bacchus Church (where the Holy Family is said to have taken shelter) and the Ben Ezra Synagogue. There are also some other churches. From the Church of St. George's you can also access a large cemetery. Across the street from the drop off point is the Souq el Fustat, which is a small indoor souq with interesting shops and bathrooms, and the first mosque built in Africa.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/12/27/exploring-coptic-cairo-a-guide/>



Felucca Sailing on Nile (Maadi)

What is it? Rent a Felucca for an hour or two and sail on the Nile or get a meal catered through Sweets and Treats

Location? Maadi just north of TGI Fridays for renting on own. We went through Sweets and Treats and their Maadi location is across from the Japanese Embassy on the Corniche.

Cost? LE150 an hour if hiring on your own. Sweets and Treats charges a per person cost based on meal picked. 8 Person minimum. Dinner was LE 200+ pp. Tip about LE50 for the captain (plus some to Sweets and Treats staff if using).

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? No. These are simple boats with chairs, a table and the floor. A typical ride is 1-2 hours, plus travel time, so go ahead of time. In Maadi, the Total Gas Station across from TGIFridays has good bathrooms.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Bring your own food and drink or hire a caterer, like Sweets and Treats for breakfast, lunch, dinner or snacks. Bring your own alcohol. If on your own, they'll have a table and seating, but nothing else so bring everything you need. Definitely bring a trash bag and napkins.

Stroller Friendly? You won't need a stroller on board. The Sweets and Treats Maadi dock and the on your own Maadi location have space if you had it with you and needed to leave it on land.

Parking? The Maadi docks do not have parking. It is right off the Corniche and traffic can be crazy depending on time of day. If going on your own, park near the Total Gas Station and cross the Corniche at the light. Then walk north a few minutes until you reach the dock (you'll see the sails)

Notes: Felucca sailing is quintessential Egypt! The Nile is very calm, and I did not get sea sick at all (and I get sick on almost all boats). For Catering, Sweets and Treats arranged everything through FB Messenger. You can also call or visit their shop. (<https://www.facebook.com/sweetsandtreatsegypt/>) You have a minimum of 8 people (up to 20, but I suggest no more than 15 people). They have a range of menus or you can custom order. They have their own dock and arrange everything. Feel free to bring food or drink to supplement. If you want to arrange it yourself, go just north of TGIFridays. You'll see the feluccas and often a man is at the top of the stairs. Expect to pay LE150 an hour. On board, make sure little kids are secure. There are no railings. I used a leash for my toddler and was very thankful for it. Wear your baby or secure in a carseat. There are fixed padded benches around a table under shade (which can be pulled back at night). There is also an open area that has easy access to the water.

For more information: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/08/21/sailing-down-the-nile-felucca-rides-with-kids/>

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/12/28/sunset-felucca-sails-on-the-nile-with-kids/>



Food: Beano's Cafe, Maadi

What is it? Western style cafe with food, drinks, dessert and a great outdoor play area

Location? Intersection of St 81 and 10 right near Rd 9 in Maadi

Cost? admission free, food prices reasonable (juice LE28, croissant with meat and cheese LE35, mango smooth LE42, etc)

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? Yes, nice ones with a changing table

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yup! Range of coffee drinks, smoothies, juices, other hot and cold beverages, desserts, breakfast, sandwiches, pastries, etc

Stroller Friendly? Yes

Parking? street parking

Notes: This is a GREAT cafe with or without kids. Large indoor area with good AC and plenty of seating across 2 levels. Outside has a large patio with shade umbrellas and a mixture of regular chairs and sofa style seating. Outside also has a shaded kid play area with artificial turf, a playset with swings and a slide, and various ride on toys. Sit and have a drink or meal and watch your kids play!



Food: Palazzo Lounge

What is it? Restaurant with small kid play area

Location? Maadi, End of Street 20 near CSA and Victoria Midan

Cost? Play area 40le per kid

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? yes

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Sold—large menu of coffee, juices and smoothies; food menu includes pizzas, burgers, pastas, fajitas, wraps, etc. Kid menu with pizza, chicken strips or nuggets, pasta with hotdogs

Stroller Friendly? Yes

Parking? Street parking

Notes: The play area is not as clean or nice as Beano's, but my kids (ages 2 and 5) enjoyed it. The trampoline and spinning seat were their favorites. The swings were rather small and tight against a wall, making swinging hard. Small slide was nice. For an extra charge, they can paint plaster figurines. Most of it was shady. Food was fine, though not amazing. Juice, smoothies and coffee were yummy.



Food: Tolly Park, Maadi

What is it? European restaurant with kid crafts and play area

Location? Intersection of St 18, St 78, and Al Nadi; entrance from Al Nadi

Cost? Play area free, crafts LE30+, food reasonable (kid meals in the LE35-50 range)

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, clean

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? We brought water and snacks and then ordered lunch. Food took a bit to come out.

Stroller Friendly? Outside area is easy for a stroller. Inside is about 6 steps up and staff helped carry in the stroller

Parking? Street

Notes: Al Nadi is a fairly busy road, but if you come down St 18, you are not on Al Nadi too long. Opens at 9 am, but we arrived at 11 am on a holiday and the outside area was not quite ready yet. They had styrofoam coloring crafts with a range of characters that kids could color with markers or paint (LE30+) and also plaster statues for painting. Cute art set up. It also looked like they had a set up for a kid cooking class. Outside the play area is best for the 4-8 range probably. My toddler could not do much. They have 3 swings that are a bit high off the ground for the littlest kids. They also had a trampoline, slide, bouncy house/slide, and tunnel climbing thing. The sun warmed up the slide and bouncy house too much to use. The outside seating is nice. Main complaint about the outside is there is no gate at the entrance, just an opening in the fence and my toddler kept trying to run out into the busy street. Menu had a range of options-salads, sandwiches, pizza, pasta, burgers, etc and a dedicated kid menu.



Foustat Traditional Crafts Center

What is it? Two buildings—one side ceramics/pottery and the other side other crafts where local craftspeople train and you can watch and purchase

Location? Foustat, very near Coptic Cairo

Cost? Free

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, on the ceramics side

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Not sold, but you can bring your own

Stroller Friendly? Yes mostly. You might have a few stairs to do

Parking? Yes, large lot

Notes: The craft center is open daily for visitors, though hours are not really posted. I'd avoid Fridays and early to mid mornings, but late morning and early afternoon is fine. You can get a tour on the ceramic side and see the production steps. They also have a shop with ceramics for fairly cheap. The other building has a range of craftspeople working that you can watch. The visit won't take that long, but it is cool to see. Combine it with a trip to Souq el Fustat just down the road across from the entrance to Coptic Cairo. It is a mini shopping center with various craft and local product shops under one roof. They also have a restaurant and additional bathrooms.

For more info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/12/11/foustat-traditional-crafts-center/>



Garbage City and Cave Church

What is it? An area of Cairo with a large number of Coptic Christians who collect and recycle the city's garbage. Contains a large church built into a cave with cool carvings.

Location? Not too far from the Citadel near Muqqatam Hill. Definitely one where hiring a driver who knows how to get there is key, as it is through some very narrow alleys.

Cost?

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? yes

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Bring your own

Stroller Friendly? No

Parking? Yes, there is a parking lot. However, self-driving is not advised as it is very complicated to navigate to it unless you are very familiar with the route. Your driver will be easily able to park and wait for you. Hire someone!

Notes: Combine a visit to the Cave Church with a stop at A.P.E—the Association for the Protection of the Environment. They work on teaching women in Garbage City skills to turn recyclables into new products, including jewelry, recycled paper products, and bags. You can visit their workshops and shop from their two gift shops. At the Cave Church parking lot, make sure your guide takes you up into the cave to view the mural from their back window—it is a massive painting done directly onto the outer walls of buildings in Garbage City.

For more info on A.P.E: <http://www.ape-egypt.com/>

For more info about Garbage City: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/02/28/garbage-city-cairo/>



KFB Farms

What is it? Horse stables for riding horses

Location? KFB Stables is very near Abusir Pyramids, just south of the Saqqara Country Club and Al Sorat Farm. In fact, when navigating there, put Saqqara Country Club as your destination in your gps. Once you reach the country club, then put in KFB Stables. Otherwise, you will end up on some very small roads and alleyways.

Cost? le200/hr/horse for adults. Kids are le150 + tip for guide

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, up a flight of stairs

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? They have chairs and a table outside the stable where you could eat a picnic or have a snack. Bring your own food.

Stroller Friendly? It's a typical barn, so not particularly. You can baby wear on the horse or the guide is happy to hold your toddler while you both ride.

Parking? Yes, on their property

Notes: This is the sister farm to FB Stables in Giza. In fact, you can ride from one farm to the next if you want a half day desert riding experience. Horses are very healthy and Western standards are used for care. Contact Karen at +20 122 3462655 via call or Whatsapp to arrange. Your basic 1 hour ride consists walking down the village road before connecting to the desert entrance, then riding to Abu Sir Pyramids, and back tracking. You can also do a 2 hour or longer ride. At one point you'll have views of Giza, Saqqara and Abu Sir Pyramids. Easy ride, though full sun. Little kids can ride with an adult, or on their own horse with a lead line depending on their abilities. Easy to combine with Saqqara, Dahshur, or Memphis.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/03/02/horseback-riding-at-abusir-pyramids/>



Khayer Bek Complex

What is it? A funerary complex with mosque, madrasa, palace and mausoleum from 1502

Location? Bab al-Wazir Street next door to Aqsunqur Mosque (Blue Mosque) an walking distance from Mosque-Madrassa of Sultan Hassan and near the Citadel
<https://goo.gl/maps/2EtjGr2fJLp>

Cost? Free, but you should tip the guy who shows you around

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? no

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Allowed, but not sold

Stroller Friendly? No, many stairs, including steep ones

Parking? Street parking, but street is very narrow and hard to turn around. We parked near the traffic circle and walked to the complex. <https://goo.gl/maps/wYi69Wkyq612>

Notes: This was an unexpected find when we walked to the Aqsunqur (Blue) Mosque and the gate keeper invited us in. The stained glass in the mausoleum is beautiful. We also got to see a sabil (where people would pass out water from a well to travelers), women's mosque, male mosque, palace and courtyard space. It is in disrepair but a nice add-on to the Aqsunqur Mosque nearby. Took us about 25 minutes to view.



Manial Palace

What is it? Also called Manyal Palace or the Muhammad 'Ali Palace, it is the former residence of Muhammad 'Ali and contains gardens, a mosque and residence, throne room, hunting museum and more

Location? Rhoda Island, off Al Saraya Rd. If you put "Manial Gardens" into google maps, it gives a much more accurate location for the entrance to the palace than putting in "Prince Muhammad Ali Palace"

Cost? LE 100 for adults (Oct 2018)

Camera Fee? LE50 and they check repeatedly for your ticket

Toilets? Yes, We saw at least 2 different ones. The one we used was locked on the women's side, while the men's side was open. Lights didn't work and it didn't flush and there was no TP. BUT, it served it's purpose.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? We brought in water and snacks with no problem. Didn't see anywhere inside that sold anything. Many benches throughout gardens that are good for having a snack. Grounds are large, bring lots of water.

Stroller Friendly? Yes, the grounds are stroller friendly. Most of the buildings are ground floor and would be stroller friendly as well. The upper level of the Throne Room was only accessible by a large flight of stairs.

Parking? Street parking on a fairly busy street

Notes: Manial Palace and its grounds are amazing. Definitely worth a visit. Very easy and we were the only tourists when we were there (a Sat morning). Most of the buildings had signs in English as well as Arabic, but most of the workers seemed to speak only Arabic. The mosque is small but gorgeous. You'll need to remove your shoes, but headscarves were not required. Every building was impressive and walking around the grounds was peaceful. Amazing details inside with a lot of Turkish influences. Our group had 4 adults, 3 little kids, and 2 smaller ones in carriers and we all enjoyed it. Lots of space for kids to run around outside and snack.

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/10/08/manial-palace-in-cairo/>



Market: Khan el Khalili

What is it? Old fashioned, crowded souk with treasures around every corner

Location? Islamic Cairo, across from Al Azhar Mosque—If coming from Maadi get dropped off here (<https://goo.gl/maps/5i5eCuwM2EJ2>). On the return, use the stairs that go down for the underground pedestrian bridge to the Al Azhar Mosque side of the road. If coming from Downtown/Garden City, do the reverse—get dropped off at the Mosque and then use the stairs down to cross under Nafak Al Azhar.

Cost? Free

Camera Fee? No, though many won't appreciate having their photo taken. Ask before photographing people or inside shops

Toilets? You'll see some, but they are filthy, old, half broken and mostly used by men. But they'll work in an emergency. Best toilet location is Naguib Mahfouz, but plan on buying a drink or snack to use.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes to both. Naguib Mahfouz is easy to find and a good food option for lunch or dinner (<https://goo.gl/maps/66wKRNCKjMM2>), though there are many others

Stroller Friendly? Not at all. Uneven walkways, narrow paths, missing stones, trash and debris, steps and stairs. Be prepared to carry young children. Tight to the body baby carriers better than hiking carriers due to tight shops

Parking? Not easily, though you might find street parking on Nafak Al Azhar

Notes: Khan el Khalili is a cool market/souk but do be aware it can be hectic later in the afternoon and evening. Late morning is calmer, but not everything is open. Some shops are open by 11 am, but many not til noon (or later). Many stores are closed on Sundays. Some stores have fixed prices, but many you'll need to bargain. Foreigners will automatically be quoted a higher price. You can find everything here from souvenirs (things with pyramids, pharoahs, etc on them), t-shirts, clothing, jewelry, home goods, furniture, silver, bronze, gold and more. Be prepared to explore! Parts of it are very dirty, tight, or old.

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/10/18/the-great-souk-of-cairo-khan-el-khalili/>
<https://carriereedtravels.com/2019/05/30/celebrating-ramadan-and-enjoying-iftar-at-khan-el-khalili-cairo/>



Market: Tentmakers' Alley

What is it? Shopping area with lots of applique wall hangings and other fabric creations

Location? Islamic Cairo. It starts at Bab Zuwayla (accurately marked on Googlemaps) and is one street marked as Tentmakers' Alley on Googlemaps. Easily walk or drive to it from Museum of Islamic Art or walk to it from Khan el Khalili through a local market

Cost? free

Camera Fee? no, though be respectful when photographing locals

Toilets? No

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Plenty of water and other drinks sold in the markets. Street food available. I've had hot street food without problems, but it's your own risk.

Stroller Friendly? No

Parking? No

Notes: I love the walk from Khan el Khalili to Tentmaker's Alley through the crowded local market streets. For an easier and quicker route, get a taxi to drive down Ahmed Maher and drop you off right at the entrance. There are some beautiful wall hangings to buy, as well as kid play tents (though you will most likely need to later build a proper frame for the tent as the wood provided is not adequate). Later, walk down Ahmed Maher towards the Museum of Islamic Art to see some local shops making a variety of products like barrels.

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/04/12/tent-makers-alley/>



Mosque: Al-Azhar

What is it? One of the oldest and largest mosques in Cairo, it is now a center of learning and actively holds classes and lectures within the mosque.

Location? Across from Khan el-Khalili

Cost? Free (Nov 2018)

Camera Fee? None

Toilets? None (that we saw at least)

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? You can eat outside on the front steps, but I wouldn't suggest eating inside.

Stroller Friendly? It's all one level, but I don't know if they'd allow it or not

Parking? Very limited parking on the street. The road is very busy.

Notes: Al-Azhar Mosque is the strictest mosque I have visited. I went wearing long, loose pants and a long-sleeved shirt and scarf for my head. I had to put on an elastic skirt over my pants, as pants aren't allowed for women. We tipped the woman who gave us the skirts and watched our shoes while we were inside. Do plan on dressing very conservatively if you are female and visit. Inside the mosque was beautiful. It was very white and they were actively cleaning the floor while we were there. Everywhere were groups of people engaged in discussion groups or listening to lectures.



Mosque: Aqsunqur (Blue)

What is it? The Mosque of Aqsunqur or the Blue Mosque is an active mosque covered in blue tiles inside.

Location? Islamic Cairo <https://goo.gl/maps/4yu4CbBVQAA2>

Cost? Free (Nov 2018)

Camera Fee? None

Toilets? None

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? We ate a snack in the courtyard space before entering the “no shoes” area of the mosque

Stroller Friendly? A few steps, but otherwise is all one level.

Parking? Limited street parking

Notes: The Blue Mosque is fairly easy to find, but harder to figure out hours for. My first attempt was at 10 am and it was locked up tight. Next time we went at 11:45 am and doors were open, though we then encountered noon prayers and had to wait a bit (which was fine). Inside, it is very peaceful and beautiful. The front wall near the mihrab is covered in blue tile. The groundsman approached us and invited us in to one of the mausoleum rooms, which was gorgeous. Be prepared to tip if you take him up on his offer. If you love photography, it is a great mosque to visit.



Mosque: Ibn Tulun

What is it? Oldest mosque still standing in Cairo

Location? Islamic Cairo, about halfway between Garden City and the Citadel. Enter the gate from “Ahmed Ibn Tolon Sq”

Cost? technically free, though the shoe keeper was very insistent that we donate to “Allah” AND give him a shoe watching fee. If you go up the minaret, you’ll need to tip the guide and (if applicable) the separate door unlocker.

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? No

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Bring water, nothing sold.

Stroller Friendly? The mosque is up some stairs, but once inside it is all one level except for the minaret. Outside the mosque is not stroller friendly.

Parking? Street parking-easier in the morning and much harder in the afternoon

Notes: This is a large mosque that was very empty both times I’ve visited it. The architecture is very pretty and there is a display about the renovation work in English and Arabic. The 2nd time we went, a man offered to take us up the minaret. It is worth both the hike up and the tip. The shoe keeper was fairly pushy about how large a donation he thought was appropriate for us to give “Allah”, but we pushed back as there was no signage or official ticketing. Inside the same walls is the Gayer Anderson Museum, making it easy to combine to two. Upon leaving, we tried to get a taxi from right outside the mosque and no one wanted to take us back to Maadi. We had to walk to Salah El-Deen Squara by the Mosque of Sultan Hassan before we found one willing. Prepare for a walk or prearrange a ride.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2019/02/21/ibn-tulun-mosque-and-the-gayer-anderson-museum/>



Museum: Coptic

What is it? Museum filled with art and artifacts related to Coptic Christians. Plan on at least 1.5 hours.

Location? Coptic Cairo. Getting there by taxi is easy. You cannot drive up to the museum. There is street parking outside the blockaded area. Your dropoff point is the intersection of Mari Gerges, El-Imam Malik and Sidey Hassan Al Anwar. On Google Maps, find the Coptic Museum and then follow Mari Gerges north to where it deadends. Once dropped off, it is an easy walk down Mari Gerges and the museum is well marked. If you have a car with diplomatic plates you can usually drive past the barricades and park on the actual street.

Cost? Adults are 100le. Our kids were free, not sure the age cutoff.

Camera Fee? 50LE camera ticket and they do check for it.

Food/Drinks Allowed? They are fine with you bringing it in, but be respectful and eat outside. The Cafeteria at the Museum is closed due to low visitor numbers. There are small cafes and stores on the road outside the museum if you need a drink. We had a snack in the courtyard of the museum no problem.

Strollers Friendly? The grounds and ground floor are stroller friendly. Ramps and wide aisles. However, getting up to the upper level involves an entire flight of stairs and then several half flights up and down throughout the level. They have a wheelchair lift, but not a regular elevator.

Child friendliness—My 4 year old was fairly bored in the museum. Not a topic she knew much about (she enjoyed the Egyptian Museum as she knows all about Pharoahs and Pyramids) and she kept asking to go. The museum is fairly childproof however as displays are either behind glass or unbreakable (like large stone pieces)

Bathrooms—there are bathrooms in the courtyard after buying your ticket. No toilet paper, but clean and a sink with soap. There was a woman there expecting a tip upon exiting, so bring small change.

Combine it with—it is walking distance to the Hanging Church, Ben Ezra Synagogue, and many other churches and mosques. It is also near the Souq al-Fustat for shopping.

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/08/12/copts-and-the-coptic-museum/>



Museums: Egyptian Museum of Antiquities

What is it? Large museum with thousands of artifacts from Ancient Egypt, including royal mummies and King Tut's golden treasures

Location? Garden City, near Tahrir Square and Downtown. Meret Basha, Ismailia, Qasr an Nile, Cairo Governorate 11516

Cost? LE160 for adults and kids over 6 (foreign, locals much less); additional LE180 for the royal mummy room. If you purchase them together at the main gate, it is 300le for a combo ticket. (Dec 2018)

Camera Fee? Yes, for all cameras including mobile phones; LE50

Toilets? Yes

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Food and drink allowed but not sold as the restaurant has closed down. Definitely bring water at least as it gets very hot inside in the summer. There is a shady area to the left of the building near the gift shop and exit that has an awning where you can eat a snack in the shade. Front has a courtyard with small amounts of shade.

Stroller friendly? Yes. The museum is 2 floors. Strollers and wheelchairs can get around. There is an elevator up to the top floor. Royal Mummy rooms are not stroller accessible.

Parking? I did not see any parking, except for tour buses and taxis. We used an uber to/from.

Notes: This is on everyone's list to see, but it underwhelms most of my visitors. Some things have good labels, but most things don't. There are guides you can hire and plenty of guide books give additional information. My 4 year old's favorite parts were King Tut's room, the royal mummies (both these rooms have AC but the rest of the museum does not), the jewelry, and the animal mummies. All four of these are located upstairs. The animal mummies are hard to find—top floor, front, center around a little wall. The restaurant and Children's Museum are closed. In time, many parts of this museum will transfer to the museum being built near the pyramids.

TIP: Museum opens at 9 and there were hordes of people. Show up at 9:30 or 10 to miss the initial lines as there are 3 rounds of security, plus ticket buying.

For more information, read my blog post at <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/07/14/exploring-the-egyptian-museum-with-kids-a-guide-to-practicalities/>



Museum: Gayer Anderson

What is it? British military officer Gayer Anderson's house full of artifacts from around the world turned into a museum

Location? Inside the same walls as the Ibn Tulun Mosque in Islamic Cairo about halfway between the Citadel and Garden City

Cost? 60le + tip for guide

Camera Fee? 50le

Toilets? yes

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? We brought ours in without problem, didn't see any sold inside, but outside has small shops

Stroller Friendly? No, many stairs and small rooms. It is several floors high with lots of walking up and down

Parking? Street parking outside. During the morning it would be doable probably but afternoons will be crowded

Notes: Gayer Anderson was a British military officer who also served in the Egyptian military and bequeathed his large collection of furniture, art, and artifacts from around the world to the Egyptian Government. It is a very well preserved example of 17th century architecture. He lived in Egypt in the early 1900s. It is a fascinating museum for anyone interested in architecture or art. A tour guide takes you around the building. Easily combined with Ibn Tulun Mosque on the same grounds.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2019/02/21/ibn-tulun-mosque-and-the-gayer-anderson-museum/>



Museum: Islamic Art

What is it? Gorgeous, well laid out museum covering Islamic Art throughout history. Focus is on Egypt, but covers rest of world briefly as well

Location? Islamic Cairo on Port Said near Khan el Khalili and Abdeen Palace

Cost? LE100 for foreign adults (Oct 2018)

Camera Fee? LE50 and they make you wear a necklace indicating you paid

Toilets? Yes, good ones in the back left. Attendant, so have a coin to give. She provides TP if you don't have any.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Not sold and the sign said not allowed in bags, but my granola bar and water bottle were not confiscated. They do have a bag check if you have items taken. I ate a snack in an outside courtyard halfway through the museum and guards watched and said nothing. So if you need a snack, eat outside!

Stroller Friendly? Yes, once you get inside. There is about a half flight of stairs up to the entrance. Inside it is all one floor with wide aisles. There appeared to be a wheel chair accessible entrance to the right of the main entrance.

Parking? No. It is right on busy Port Said, where there is no street parking either. You would potentially find street parking behind the building or on a nearby street.

Notes: It is an amazing museum and a must see. Recently renovated after a bombing in 2014, it has a well-marked flow through chronological history with some themed rooms at the end. Signs are in English and Arabic, though there are some signs only in Arabic. Beautiful displays and gorgeous artifacts. A great complement to the Ancient Egypt/Pharaoh-centric Egyptian Museum. Port Said is very busy, so be prepared if dropped off across the street. Arrive early. At 9:45 there was almost no one there. But by 10:45 it was crowded with school groups and other visitors. Plan about 1-1.5 hours, perhaps a bit longer if you read all the signs carefully.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/11/13/museum-of-islamic-art-in-cairo/>



Museum: Memphis Open Air

What is it? Egypt's first capital, Memphis is now mostly ruins. The Open Air Museum houses a massive Ramesses II statue and other artifacts in a well laid out display

Location? Memphis, near Saqqara Pyramids. Search for "Ramses II Statue" on googlemaps to find it. <https://goo.gl/maps/eygUcAGic182>. About 45 min from Maadi

Cost? 60Le for foreign adults; get 50% off with diplomatic ID. Kids free (Oct 2018)

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, clean with tp and soap. Have coins for attendant

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Drinks sold outside. We brought in water and snacks for the kids without a problem in my bag.

Stroller Friendly? Yes. The grounds are dirt but pretty smooth. The building holding the massive Ramesses II statue has a ramp. Upstairs to the viewing balcony is the only non accessible place.

Parking? Yes, parking lot right outside. Small charge for parking.

Notes: It only takes about 45 min to go through the open air museum, so it's best to combine the outing with Saqqara, Dahshur or horseback riding at Abu Sir. Plenty of space for kids to run around, a few benches under trees and very well-done signs in English and Arabic explaining the artifacts and site. Visit <http://memphisegypt.org/> ahead of time to read about the excavation project, the history of Memphis, and to download brochures and information. Unfortunately, at this time (April 2018) the walking circuit has not opened yet but if it ever does, it should be excellent.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/04/09/guide-to-the-memphis-egypt-open-air-museum-with-kids/>



Nilometer and Manasterly Palace

What is it? Deep hole that was used for measuring the height of the annual Nile flood; Palace is very worn down and not worth a separate trip but is right next to the Nilometer

Location? southern end of Rhoda Island across the river from Coptic Cairo and in the same complex as the Umm Kolthoum Museum. You can drive to the entrance, or walk on the pedestrian bridge from the Corniche across the Nile.

Cost? LE 40 for adults, gets you into Nilometer and Manasterly Palace (price as of Dec 2018)

Camera Fee? We didn't pay one for our camera phone

Toilets? Not that we noticed, but there are probably toilets inside the museum

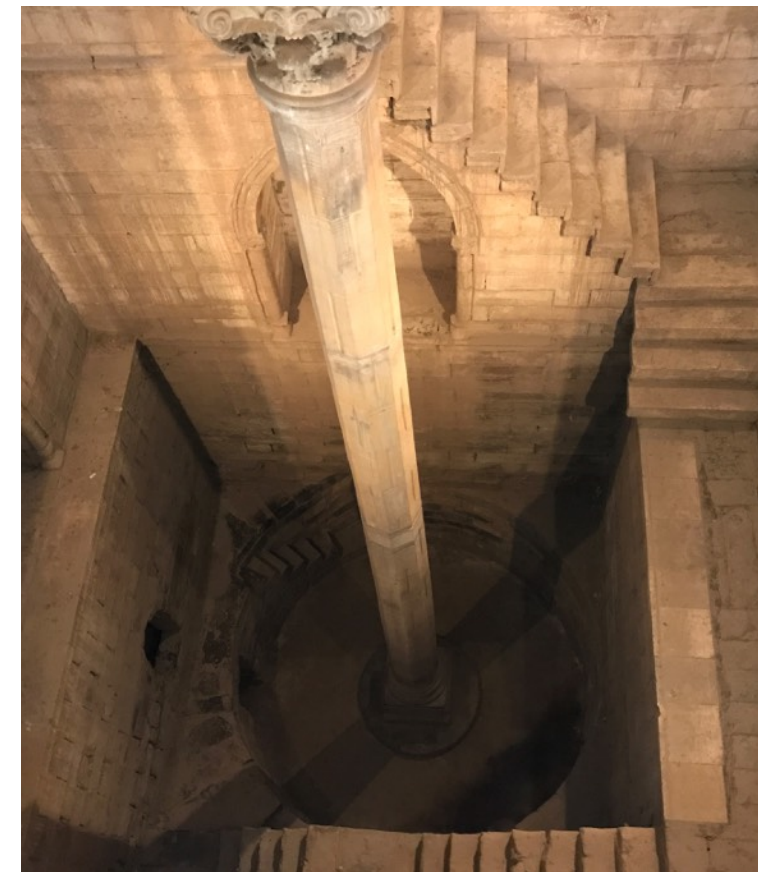
Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? None sold, but you can bring your own. It's a great spot for a picnic

Stroller Friendly? The grounds are stroller friendly

Parking? Street parking is very easy

Notes: The Nilometer is a very cool structure that is under visited. Upon getting our ticket at the entrance to the complex, one of the guards walked us over to the Nilometer to open it up. Only adults are allowed down the stairs as there are no railings, but kids can go into it at the upper level to look down. We tag teamed adults watching the kids run around outside in a nice grassy area while the other went down. You'll need good shoes for going all way down as the steps get steep and narrow. The ceiling is gorgeous and the structure is great. There are no signs, so read up on it in a guide book or online. It doesn't take very long to visit, but is worth seeing. Combine it with Coptic Cairo across the pedestrian bridge or with one of the museums on Rhoda Island.

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/10/08/measuring-the-niles-floods-at-the-nilometer/>



Northern Cemetery: City of the Dead

What is it? A very large cemetery with mausoleums where thousands of people have built homes in and around. Full of mosques and interesting architecture.

Location? Islamic Cairo. It covers a wide range of area. This pin drop gives a general area <https://goo.gl/maps/yJyxyJUEZCq>

Cost? Walking is free, some of the places have entry fees

Camera Fee? No, but be respectful

Toilets? Your best bet for a toilet is the little museum and art center between the Sultan Qaitbey Mosque <https://goo.gl/maps/amxEN3bRmsx>

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? You'll find little stands all over selling drinks and food or bring your own.

Stroller Friendly? No, narrow alleys and rough streets

Parking? I don't really suggest driving through it. You can park in the Darasa Parking lot next to Azhar Park across from CIB Bank and walk over. <https://goo.gl/maps/P9c6aKQwxtM2>

Notes: To fully see the City of the Dead, I suggest a tour as many of the beautiful sites you need to someone to negotiate entrance with the gate keepers. Walk Like an Egyptian does a great one. However, to see a few sites on your own, check out more detailed information on my blog:



Osana Family Wellness (Maadi)

What is it? Wellness Center with classes (yoga and the like), a spa, vegetarian cafe, inside kid play area, and an outside garden with play area

<http://www.osanawellness.com/>

Location? Maadi, 4 El-Nahda, near street 15

Cost? garden is free, inside play area is LE50 per kid for all day, class cost is variable

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? yes, with changing table

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes to both. Cafe has vegetarian food, including yummy fruit popsicles popular with the kids for LE20. Variety of drinks as well.

Stroller Friendly? There is stroller parking near the garden. Inside is not stroller friendly as halls are narrow.

Parking? Street parking outside

Notes: This is an awesome place to hang out. Garden area has a tree house with slide, a wooden stage, a sand box with digging tools, a hammock, a rope swing and plenty of shady space to run around. Inside play area is mostly designed for under 5 years with various toys. It is small, but nice. They offer classes for kids starting about age 5 and have tons of events and classes daily. They offer an email newsletter and are on FB to get updates. Staff is very friendly. Pink gate makes them easy to spot when finding them the first time. Cafe has indoor and outdoor seating. They also offer summer camps for kids.



Park: Al-Azhar

What is it? Very large, well maintained park with plenty of paths, restaurants, large playground

Location? Islamic Cairo, on Salah Salem Street. Two entrances—pedestrian/taxi drop off about halfway down park on Salah Salem Street. HINT: Put Lake Side Restaurant into Uber, NOT Al-Azhar Park for a more accurate destination point. Second entrance is the Drassa Parking Entrance, which is at the North East corner of the park, also along Salah Salem Street

Cost? LE15 for adults older than 12, LE10 for ages 4-12, free under 4

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, though not all were open. There are several throughout the park. The one by the Masraweya Cafe was open and the one immediately south of the Citadel View Restaurant near the playground were open when we were there (July 2017).

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes, bring a picnic! Water and soda was sold throughout park at little carts. There are several restaurants and a cafe, though restaurants seemed to open later. Cafe was open at 11:30 when we checked.

Stroller Friendly? Very. Wide paths, some as paved roads, some as cobblestone (so bumpy). There are stairs, but always paths nearby.

Parking? We took an Uber, but there is a parking lot at the North Eastern end

Notes: Lovely park. Large and well maintained. There is security and a minimal bag check at the entrance. No balls for playing allowed. Fountains and some water features were very pretty. Lots of paths, benches, shade and private areas. The walk along the wall was very interesting seeing the history and then the local buildings towering over them. Park is pretty and a lovely sea of green in an otherwise desert city. Citadel View Restaurant has awesome views. Playground is very large and in full sun, except for benches that encircle it that are shady. Playground has a thick sand base and lots of equipment and swings. Some of the equipment is broken or cracked, so keep an eye out with younger kids. Lots of kids were there, but there was still plenty of space. Very worth a visit.

For more information and pictures: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/07/29/al-azhar-park-in-cairo-with-kids/>



Park: Family Park

What is it? Very large park with lots of activities

Location? Northern part of New Cairo, about a 35 minute drive from Old Maadi

Cost? 50 LE for adults, kids under 4 free, other kids discounted rate

Camera Fee? 50LE

Toilets? Yes, plentiful. Some were locked, but most were open. The one we used had soap and was clean, but had no TP. Bring your own

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? You can bring food, but food and drinks are also sold throughout the park starting about 11 am

Stroller Friendly? Yes, very much so

Parking? Yes, plentiful. Easy drive—Ring Road to Suez Road. Well marked entrance

Notes: This park is open daily from 9 am to 10 pm, though most activities and food doesn't open until about 11 am. Tons of nice grass, trees, paved walking paths, places to sit and 3 playgrounds. Playgrounds have a sand surface and tons of climbing activities and swings. There are a few slides and playsets. From the entrance, if you walk clockwise, the first playground is the smallest. The next one is just a little bit farther and has a lot of options. If you go to the far back of the park behind the museum there is a very large playground. It is harder to access, but tons of structures. The playgrounds are mostly for ages 4 and older as they are a lot of rope climbing activities, but there are some baby swings. There is also a small train that goes through the park, a small amusement park and a tiny zoo with deer, ostrich, camels, birds, and monkeys. Another favorite part was behind the zoo where they have several military vehicles on display (tank, boat, plane, etc) that you can climb up onto. Small bikes, scooters, and ride on toys are allowed, but balls are not.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/10/01/family-park-cairo/>



Pharaonic Village

What is it? Dedicated to teaching about Ancient Egypt, the site includes a boat ride through reenacted scenes, a replica village, model of King Tut's tomb, and a dozen small museums on different topics. <http://www.pharaonicvillage.com/>

Location? Giza near the Nile, very easy to find on Google Maps

Cost? varies, lowest adult package was LE270, children 5-10 20% off, children 3-5 LE 45 and kids under 3 free. Highest package was about LE500

Camera Fee? Yes, LE 25. Mobile phone cameras free

Toilets? Yes, plentiful, clean and had toilet paper and soap!

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes to both. You can bring in your own food and picnic at one of their shaded tables or buy reasonably priced food or beverages at two different cafes (one at the entrance and one in the middle of the grounds). Some ticket packages include a meal at King Tut's Restaurant.

Stroller Friendly? Grounds yes, inside, not always. The grounds are very stroller friendly with ramps getting up to stores or when changing elevations. The boat doesn't have the widest aisles, but a single stroller would fit no problem or you could collapse a double. Some museums and King Tut's tomb are up or down large flights of stairs. Some museums are ground level.

Parking? Yes, parking lot inside the grounds

Notes: Both my kids (4 and 18 months at time of visit) really enjoyed this place. The boat ride is perfect for little kids (and big ones)—railings are high enough and chairs are attached to the ground. I still kept a leash on my youngest as he's a climber. The 4 year old loved seeing all the different scenes acted out and the toddler loved the boat itself. Our tour guide was great and the replica village is fun. The cafe area is great for a break. Shops have a ton of things to buy at reasonable prices. My daughter got a cute little purse for LE20 that she is thrilled about. The museums were less interesting for the kids, but older ones would find the facts interesting. Petting Zoo was small, missing animals, and rather depressing. The mini amusement park/playground did not look in the best condition, so we avoided. King Tut's Tomb is really cool and the Art Cafe is worth checking out for little kids—my 4 year old painted a little plaster mold that she loves. It was included in the ticket price. We did the smallest package and it was plenty for us.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/08/04/pharaonic-village-with-kids-cairo/>



Pyramids: Dahshur

What is it? Site of the 3rd and 4th pyramids of Egypt

Location? About 20-30 minutes south of Saqqara pyramids

Cost? LE60 adults, diplomatic id is LE30; parking LE10 (Nov 2018)

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes, near the Red Pyramid. Pay LE2 and ask for toilet paper

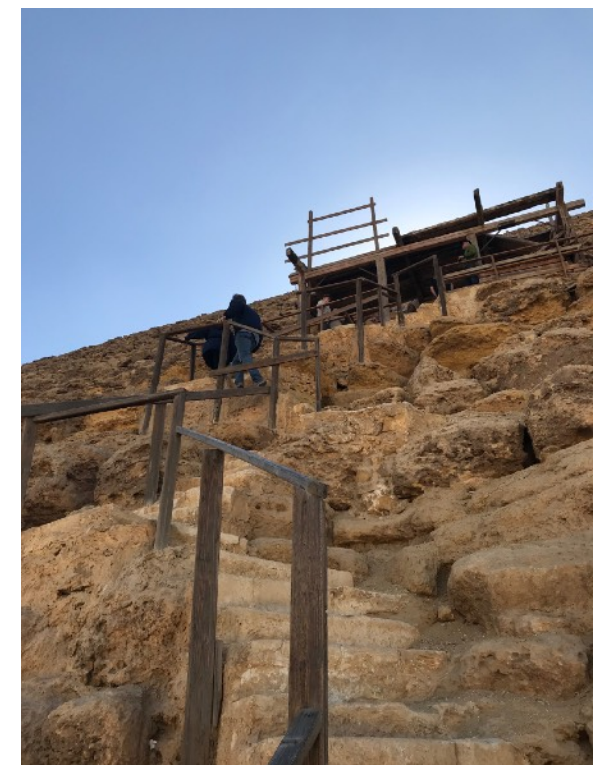
Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Nothing formally sold, but there is often a man selling drinks near the parking area. You can bring your own

Stroller Friendly? No, you are walking on desert sand

Parking? yes, parking lots near both the Bent Pyramid and Red Pyramid

Notes: We did both the Bent Pyramid and Red Pyramid. The Bent one (#3 of Egypt) is cool because of the change in its angle halfway up. The Red Pyramid you can enter for no extra charge. That involves climbing up stairs to about halfway up the outside and then descending downward. You can also just climb to the entrance and look at the views. It is a bit of a vigorous climb and takes about 20-30 minutes to do the whole thing. Way fewer people than Giza (and cheaper as no extra cost) and looks almost exactly the same inside. Slightly more vigorous a climb than Giza. Dahshur has other sites we did not visit this time. There were very few people and almost no hawkers. It is very calm.

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/03/01/pyramids-of-greater-cairo-visiting-with-kids/>



Pyramids: Giza

What is it? Most famous pyramids with 3 in a row and the Sphinx

Location? In Giza, Egypt just outside of Cairo. About 30-45 min from Maadi

Cost? LE160. This fee is to enter the grounds. Going inside the largest pyramid is LE300 (tip-Dahshur's Red Pyramid is very similar inside and free). Camels, horses and carts are LE100 per 30 min (Tip guy leading animal LE 20-50pp). Parking is LE5-20 depending on vehicle size. Cheops' Boat Museum is 100le.

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Yes. At the ticket booth for entrance to plateau there are nice bathrooms for LE2. There are also bathrooms near the parking lot for the Sphinx.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Not on site officially, though you'll probably find someone selling drinks. There are many restaurants near the pyramids for lunch. Mena House is part of a nice hotel and has lovely views for a longer, sit down lunch. We ate at a small local place on the road up to the entrance.

Stroller Friendly? No, it is sandy and rocky and desert

Parking? Yes, there are many parking areas near the different pyramids, near the Sphinx and at a panoramic viewpoint. Still expect some walking at each location.

Notes: We made three stops here. First was at the largest pyramid for Khufu. Then we walked to the 2nd pyramid for Khafre where our van picked us up and took us to the panoramic viewpoint (You could walk there too). This provides views of the 3 pyramids and has souvenirs (barter!!). You can also do camel or horseback riding easily from here. We did camels. I wore my toddler on my chest and my 4 year old rode in front of my dad. Young men will lead the camels out a little way into the desert for some pictures and pyramid views. They can line up different shots if you want to hold the tip of the pyramid, etc and will take whatever photos you want. The panoramic area offers some great shots. Our final stop was down at the Sphinx. It was fairly crowded to see and the longest walk from the parking lot (though not bad). More people selling things. There are bathrooms (also LE2, ask for toilet paper). My guide warned me against them, but I thought they were clean and they had soap.

We did Giza as part of an 8 hour all day tour with Saqqara and Dahshur.



Pyramids: Horseback Riding Around Pyramids of Giza

What is it? Rent horses by the hour and ride outside in the desert or within the Pyramids complex

Location? FB Stables, on road bordering Giza Pyramid Complex, at the end of the row of stables. Type “FB Stables, Giza” into google maps for an accurate location

Cost? Horses—variable, we paid LE150/hour/horse or just over \$8. If you have a worker come along, tip a little extra. If you ride inside the Pyramid Complex, you pay the admission fee (80LE per person except young children). If you want to go inside the actual pyramids, there is an extra fee. Buy those tickets with the admission ticket.

Camera Fee? No. Photography not allowed inside the tombs, but is allowed outside on the complex.

Toilets? FB Stables has a bathroom. Not fancy, but toilet was clean and in one piece when we visited. Bring your own TP and hand sanitizer.

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Yes. Bring plenty of water (and snacks if needed). You can stop for a snack while riding, or eat before/after at the stables. They are shaded and have padded benches and tables. You can also buy tea, Turkish coffee, and water at a stand next to the stables, as well as small snacks.

Stroller friendly? Nope! It's all sand.

Parking? Yes, park on the street in front of the stables.

Notes: Smaller kids should ride in front of parents. Our 4 year old rode with her dad and our 18 month old rode facing inward strapped to me with our baby carrier. The older one did complain that it wasn't comfortable as she was balanced at the front edge of the saddle. They have a range of horse personalities and can give you feistier ones if you have experience and placid ones if you're new. Wear hats and sunscreen as it is full sun and pants and closed-toed shoes for sun and sand protection. We had a good breeze when we went, so it wasn't too hot when we were moving. The horses at FB Stables looked better than many of the other horses and we were introduced to the stable by a friend who has used them regularly. Go early or late in the day for better temperatures. We rode for 1.5 hours in the complex, but did not get off our horses to walk around. For more information, read my blog post at: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2017/07/06/pyramids-of-giza-on-horseback-with-kids/>



Pyramids: Saqqara

What is it? First pyramid in Egypt—the Step Pyramid of Saqqara, plus many other pyramids and tombs spread across a large complex

Location? In Saqqara, south of Giza, about 45 min drive from Maadi

Cost? LE180 for adults, kids less. Dip ID gets you in for less often (though not always)

Parking LE10

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Not sure

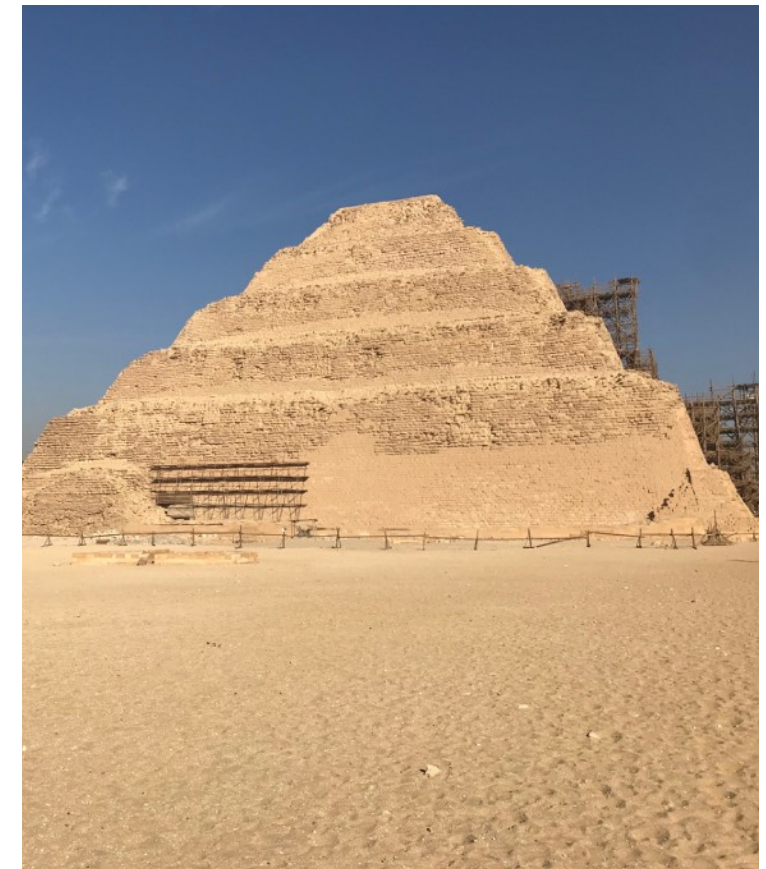
Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? None sold where we went, but you can bring in your own

Stroller Friendly? Nope. Expect sand, rocks, steps, etc. Baby carrier is a must for small ones. I wore my almost 2 year old much of the time, but at the Step Pyramid, there is a huge sandy area that I let him run around and rocks to climb on. No crowds, so safe.

Parking? Yes, a large parking lot near the entrance to the Step Pyramid area, plus parking near the other sites

Notes: We did this as stop 1 on a 3 location tour (Saqqara, Dahshur, Giza). We only did the Step Pyramid and then one small pyramid next to it that we could enter. Our kids really liked the area around the Step Pyramid—lots of sand for running around and then crumbling rocks and ruins that they could climb on near the pyramid. Good way to burn off energy. Very few other people and just a few hawkers (like a man trying to get us to take pictures with his donkey or ride it). There is a crumbled pyramid near the step one that looks like a pile of rocks, but you can enter it. This requires being able to bend very far over while walking backwards down a ramp and then crouching through a tunnel. My 4 year old loved it because she was short enough to just walk. A site guide takes you down there. Signs say no photos, but he'll let you take photos if you pay him LE10. Cool hieroglyphs and an empty tomb. The drive from south of Giza to Saqqara is through village areas and was interesting.

More Info? <https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/03/01/pyramids-of-greater-cairo-visiting-with-kids/>



Wadi Degla Hike

What is it? Nature area where you can hike, ride bikes, run, ride ATVs (your own) and take in desert nature

Location? New Maadi. Once you pass the Wadi Degla Club, the road gets much more rough. <https://goo.gl/maps/MYXBcud2mrT2>

Cost? 5le per adult

Camera Fee? no

Toilets? At entrance

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? None sold, but you can bring your own. Bring plenty of water, especially in the summer.

Stroller Friendly? Nope! It is a dirt road and then trails up mountains. Bring a carrier for littles.

Parking? Yes, a large parking lot

Notes: It is a fun hike with a range of options. Staying on the dirt road is the flattest and easiest. Then there are trails up the mountains- some are easier than others. There is zero shade, so in the summer it is very hot. It was very windy and chilly when we went. We went with 2 four year olds who hiked the whole thing, but needed help on one trail as we picked a rock scrambling one. The toddlers walked on the flat road and went in hiking framed carriers for the mountain part. If you stay on the road, there is a small area on the left down a ways that has a little maze and a rock toss game our kids liked. Plus if you get up high enough you can see the pyramids!

More Info: <https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/01/26/hiking-in-wadi-degla-cairo-with-kids/>



Whirling Dervishes

What is it? Traditional dance show with music and spinning dancers

Location? Islamic Cairo, directly across the street from Khan el Khalili. Finding it is a little tricky. Online its location is pinpointed as the “Wekalet el Ghouri Arts Center” but when we went there, we were directed just down the road to a building labeled as “Madrassa and Sabil of Sultan Qansuh al-Ghuri” on googlemaps.

Cost? 1e75 for foreigners

Camera Fee? No, though video is not allowed

Toilets? Yes, clean toilets that had tp (though I always suggest to have your own just in case)

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? Not sold, though cold water is sold just outside. Definitely bring plenty of water in the summer months!

Stroller Friendly? It's down a flight of stairs, but otherwise would be. Islamic Cairo as a whole is not though

Parking? No

Notes: Show starts at 7:30 on Mon, Weds, and Sat. However, you need to arrive between 6 and 6:30 to get in line for tickets. We arrived at 6:15 and got the 2nd row. 1st row is really ideal. It is loud, though I only found the first song unbearably loud. Great music and amazing spinning by dancers wearing colorful skirts. Show lasts about 1.5 hours. Ours started on time, but I have heard it is very common to start late. There were many Egyptian kids there, but I'd only suggest bringing kids who can handle a long wait for the show to start and the loud volume.



Wissa Wassef Art Centre

What is it? Traditional weaving and batik center and museum

Location? southern Giza on way to Saqqara, accurately marked on Googlemaps with signage. <http://www.wissa-wassef-arts.com/visit.htm>

Cost? No cost to visit, though we bought art. A donation if just visiting would be nice.

Camera Fee? No

Toilets? Unknown, none seen

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? None sold, bringing water or a snack is fine

Stroller Friendly? Mostly. A few steps and some dirt paths but most strollers should be fine. Inside museum is all one floor

Parking? Street parking on a quiet village street was no problem

Notes: Wissa Wassef was amazing. It is two parts—the working side where you get to see weavers actually working on their art and the museum side where you see some amazing finished pieces and have the ability to buy two different styles of weaving or batik work. A man guided us through and gave us excellent information. Very easy to combine with a stop to the Adam Henein Museum (just a few doors down the road), the Saqqara pyramid area or horseback riding at Abu Sir. Check the link above for hours, as the weavers don't work every day. If combining with the Adam Henein Museum, it is closed on Weds and Thurs.

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/08/06/ramses-wissa-wassef-art-center-giza-egypt/>



Bellies En-Route Food Tour

What is it? Downtown Cairo walking food tour

Location? Starts in Tahrir Square and you walk throughout Downtown

Cost? \$70 per person

Camera Fee? No, though be respectful of the locals. Small DSLRs are fine, but not massive lenses

Toilets? A few stops have bathrooms

Food/Drinks Allowed? Sold? It's all about food! All you can eat and plenty of water, plus a juice and coffee stop

Stroller Friendly? No, not a little kid friendly tour

Parking? You can find parking near Tahrir Square, but as you end in a different location, taxi is the way to go.

Notes: Prebooking is required. Groups are 6 people or smaller and you may be in a tour with others. You can also arrange for a private tour. This is required if you have more than 6 people. You'll go to 7+ stops over about 4-5.5 hours. Ours included 5 food stops and 3 beverage stops. You'll get a great range of food to try, plenty of bottled water, and some history.

<https://belliesenroute.com/local-food-tours>

<https://carriereedtravels.com/2018/08/07/eating-my-way-through-downtown-cairo/>

