



24  
HOURS  
IN

EGYPT  
24 HOURS

# ALEXANDRIA »

Heidi Fuller-Love discovers the restaurants, hotels and attractions of Egypt's atmospheric second city

## SEE »

▶ **Alexandria National Museum:** From ancient Islamic coins to busts of Greek gods, this museum's well-labelled collection is housed in the 1930s palace of a wealthy local wood merchant. 110 Tariq al-Horreyya. T: 00 20 034 835 519. [www.egyptianmuseums.net](http://www.egyptianmuseums.net)

▶ **Catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa:** This vast, three-tiered second century AD necropolis decorated with ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman funerary iconography was dubbed 'one of the seven wonders of the Middle Ages' by President Theodore Roosevelt. Carmous. T: 00 20 034 845 800.

▶ **Bibliotheca Alexandrina:** Close to the site of its legendary counterpart, the city's new library boasts a state-of-the-art rooftop planetarium, along with several million rare books and manuscripts. Corniche al-Bahr Shatby. T: 00 20 034 839 999. [www.bibalex.org](http://www.bibalex.org)

## DO »

▶ **Arous el Zilzila:** Get a slice of the local vibe by smoking a juice-soaked tobacco shisha pipe as you sip tea by the sea at this rustic *ahwa* (coffee house) surrounded by palm trees overlooking a sandy beach. *Shatby beach*.

▶ **Corniche:** Join crowds along Alexandria's 1.2 mile-long waterfront promenade fringed with sandy beaches and buzzing cafes. Stroll and sip, or stop off to buy alabaster, fabrics and spices. *Qaitbay citadel to Al Montazah palace*.

▶ **Markets:** Haggle for antique furniture, jewellery and hubble-bubbles at souk El-Attarine, a buzzing bazaar near the Roman amphitheatre, or garner a glimpse of everyday Alexandrian life at the souk El-Ibrahimiya poultry and vegetable market. *Attarine st and Sharia Omar Lofty Sidi Gaber*.



Images from left: Street scene; The Corniche and harbour; Grilled bream

## SLEEP »

▶ **Four Seasons Hotel Alexandria:** Friendly service, gleaming wood furniture and jolly striped wallpaper lend a breezy, seaside feel to this classic spa hotel close to the chic-and-cheerful San Stefano mall. El Geish rd. T: 00 20 035 818 000. [www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

▶ **La Villa Hotel:** Trip back to the city's belle epoque in this gold-trimmed boutique hotel, whose antique fixtures and fittings belonged to King Farouk's chamberlain for whom the villa was built back in the 1920s. 16 Saad Zaghloul sq. T: 00 20 035 856 416. [www.lavillahotelalex.com](http://www.lavillahotelalex.com)

▶ **Le Metropole:** Frills, friezes and sparkling chandeliers add Agatha Christie-style glamour to this high-ceilinged former 19th century villa. The good value of the room rates adds to the charm. 52 Saad Zaghloul sq. T: 00 20 034 861 467. [www.paradiseinnegypt.com](http://www.paradiseinnegypt.com)

## EAT »

▶ **Mohammed Ahmed:** Superb value Egyptian fare, including the best falafel in town, are on the menu of this iconic and atmospheric local-loved haunt located at the heart of Alexandria's downtown. 17 Shokour st. T: 00 20 034 833 576

▶ **The Fish Market:** Pick out fresh lobster, snapper or bream, then watch it grilled as you enjoy views to 15th century Qaitbay citadel from this upmarket fish restaurant near the eastern harbour. Corniche rd, Bahari. T: 00 20 034 805 114. [www.americana-group.net](http://www.americana-group.net)

▶ **Samakmam:** Overlooking the city's down-at-heel fishing port, this no-frills fish eatery is owned by retired local belly dance star Zizi Salem and serves the best crab *tajin* (stew) in town. 42 Kasr Raas El Teen st. T: 00 20 034 481 1560.