

# EGYPT AS YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

**DAY 01:** Arrival at Cairo airport, meet and assist through formalities transfer to the hotel for overnight.

**DAY 02:** Breakfast, start our tour by visiting **the palace of Mohamed Ali** the ruler who modernized Egypt, built himself a palace in Shubra In the 17th century and extended Shubra Street all the way to his palace in 1808. It was recorded that the street had fig and date trees on its sides. We proceed to *MATARYA* where the Holy Mother washed clothes of her son, and from the water God caused a fragrant plant to grow, "Balsam". There is also St. Mary's tree to visit. Head towards to visit **Ibn Toulon mosque** one of the famous Cairo mosques and the focal point of the Tulunid capital that lasted only 26 years. It was the third congregational mosque to be built in what is now greater Cairo, and at approximately 26,318 square meters in size, is the third largest mosque in the world. Back to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

## palace of Mohamed Ali



The Palace of Muhammad Ali locates in Shubra El-Kheima next to the Faculty of Agriculture there. For visiting this palace, one can easily take the metro rather than a taxi. The palace was established by Mohammed Ali in the early years of assuming the power but its construction was completed many years later and was the first building to be built in that agricultural area. After that, this area was occupied with a lot of luxuriously decorated and gracefully designed palaces for established by the prominent noblemen at that time including the palace of Qasr El- Nil, Qasr El-Dubara and others that disappeared now. The palace of Mohammad Ali or Shubra Palace is distinguished by its style of decoration that mixes between the Islamic style of decoration and the European one.

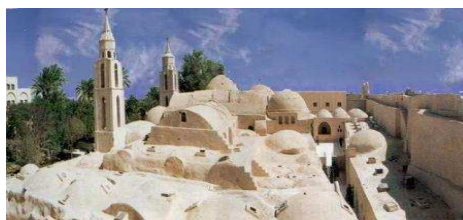
## Ibn Toulon mosque



The Ibn Tulun Mosque was completed in 879 AD on Mount Yashkur in a settlement named al-Qata'i by the founder of Egypt's Tulunid Dynasty (868-905 AD), Ahmad ibn Tulun. Al-Qata'i was about two kilometers from the old community of Fustat. He was born in Baghdad, the son of a Turkish slave of Mongol origin owned by the Caliph, al-Ma'mun. He would later rise to become governor of Egypt after his stepfather, who died in 870, was awarded that position.

**DAY 03:** Early morning, transfer to Alexandria, visiting **Wadi Natrun**, (100 km from Cairo), where laying 50 Monasteries dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century, only 4 Monasteries still remain and visited on day to day basis. The **Monastery of St.Makar the Great** with its huge buildings, the opulent appearance of the church's interior is due to the Majesty of its treasury. Proceed to visit the **Suriani Monastery** with its three churches; the one of the Byzantine style is very distinguished. The **Monastery of Amba Bishoy** dates back to 390 A.C, with its 6 churches situated amongst fruitful gardens. As well as the Roman **Monastery of Amba Baramus** this was built and dedicated to the Virgin Marie. Proceed to Alexandria, short stop en route to visit the relics of **St. Krolous** (Patriarch), continue to **Alexandria** the pearl of the Mediterranean. Arrive in the evening, visiting **Montazah Palace** gardens. Back to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Alexandria.

## Monastery of Amba Bishoy



## **Monastery of Amba Baramus**



The Monastery of Anba Baramus is also sometimes called the Monastery of the Romans and is very probably the first monastery established in Wadi El-Natrun. In fact, it is said to occupy the place where Macarius the Great settled in around 340 when he devoted himself to the monastic life.

There were 20 monks here in 1960. Now the numbers have risen to around 50. The monastery is surrounded by a huge, massive enclosure wall, while the Church of the Holy Virgin, situated near the western side of the wall, dates from the last decade of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh century. It contains beautiful paintings, as do the two chapels attached to the Church of the Holy Virgin.

## **Montazah Palace**



The extensive Montaza Palace grounds first had the Salamlek Palace, built in 1892 by Khedive Abbas II, the last Muhammad Ali Dynasty ruler to hold the Khedive title over the Khedivate of Egypt and Sudan. It was used as a hunting lodge and residence for his companion.

The larger Al-Haramlik Palace and royal gardens were added to the Montaza Palace grounds, being built by King Fuad I in 1932, as a summer palace. It is in a mixture of Turkish and Florentine styles, with has two towers, one rising distinctively high above with elaborated Italian Renaissance design details

**DAY 04:** Visit the **New Bibliotheque of Alexandria**, Back to Cairo visiting Alamein cemeteries en route the place where the Allied forces of WW II gained a decisive victory of the Axis forces. Arrive in Cairo check-in dinner and overnight.

### **Bibliotheque of Alexandria**



Library of Alexandria was the largest and most significant great library of the ancient world. It flourished under the patronage of the Ptolemaic dynasty and functioned as a major center of scholarship from its construction in the 3rd century BC until the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 BC.

**DAY 05:** Visit **Cairo houses**, starting by **Wakalet El-Ghurri** built in 1504 A.D. by Sultan Qunsuwah Al Ghouri, late during the reign of Mamelukes, Wakalat El-Ghouri was originally designed as an inn for accommodating traders coming from all parts of the globe as well as a marketplace for trading goods and a venue for making trade deals. Wakalat El Ghouri already contains a permanent exhibition, where the products of its crafts schools, including pottery, inlaid glass, wrought copper, Arabesque-style woodwork, hand-made fabrics, costumes and printed items are on display. All these products bear the mark of high-quality art and invaluable heritage. We continue our walking in the alleys of Islamic Cairo to visit **Manzil Zeinab Khartoun**; one of the most remarkable houses left nowadays. Named after its last owner, as was the custom for Islamic houses in those days, it occupies a distinguished location at the back of **Al-Azhar Mosque** established in 972 (361 H) in a porticoed style shortly after the founding of Cairo itself, was originally designed by the Fatimid general Jawhar El-Sequili. This is the oldest university in the world, where the first lecture was delivered in 975 AD. Followed by a visit to the medieval bazaars of **Khan ElKhalili**, where you can bargain for your jewelry and hand –tooled leather items. Transfer back to your hotel, dinner and overnight.

## Al-Azhar Mosque

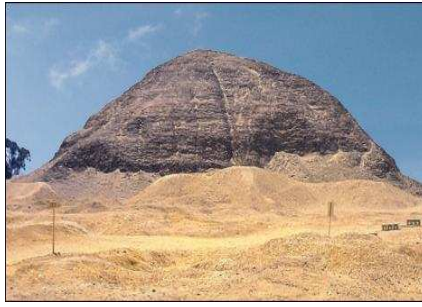


## Khan el-Khalili



**DAY 06: Fullday to Fayoum Oasis;** the Venice of Egypt, visiting **Hawara pyramid;** Amenemhet III built his second pyramid closer to the **pyramid;** Amenemhet III built his second pyramid closer to the area that he seemed to love, the **Fayoum**. We continue our tour to visit **Ain El-Seline** one of the major springs in the area. The water is sweet, and contains traces of titanium. **Head off to visit city and museum Karanis,** Displays include delicate glassware and pottery, females' heads (as found in Alexandria) which are thought to have been used to model hairstyles, and a Fayoum portrait. Many of the mummies found in this area had portrait of the deceased painted on them. We finish our tour in the Fayoum oasis by visiting **Lake Qarun** the third largest lake in Egypt. Its depth ranges from 5 m. in the east to 12 m. in the west. It is part of the ancient Lake Moeris, visited by Herodotus in 450 B.C. drive back to Cairo. Dinner and overnight.

**Hawara pyramid**



**Ain El-Seline**



**DAY 07:** Transfer from your hotel to Cairo int'l airport for **Final departure**