

JUNE 2026

Cairo | Egypt

Through several project visits, Jordan Kestle and Bernhard Huber (SHL) experienced Cairo's warmth, ambition and hospitality beyond its iconic landmarks.



Cairo moves at full speed: car horns, minarets, late-night cafés and new neighbourhoods rising beside streets that have carried people for centuries. It is a fast-paced, fast-growing city filled with potential. Its scale is immense, so careful planning makes a real difference. Distances that appear manageable on a map can become long journeys through traffic, so organise each day geographically and avoid crossing the city unnecessarily.

Islamic Cairo

Khan el-Khalili is an essential starting point. This neighbourhood is one of the most atmospheric parts of Cairo, where narrow lanes, workshops, mosques and historic buildings reveal layer after layer of the city's past. Take time to explore beyond the market's busiest streets. The Qalawun Complex is one of the area's most impressive architectural ensembles, while Beit Yakan in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar offers a quieter and more intimate look at Cairo's restored residential heritage. The Mosque of Ibn Tulun provides a remarkable sense of calm and space within the intensity of

the city. In Al-Fustat, the Pottery Village offers another perspective on Egyptian craftsmanship, with workshops and handmade ceramics continuing traditions rooted in the area's long history.

Where to Stay

Choosing where to stay should depend on which parts of Cairo you intend to explore. The distances are significant, and repeatedly crossing the city can quickly consume valuable time.

Giza Palace offers luxury amenities and a comfortable base in West Cairo, particularly for travellers focusing on the pyramids and the western side of the city. For a more central Nile-side experience, Fairmont Nile City combines traditional luxury with sweeping views across the river.

SHL IN CAIRO

SHL is supporting the development of the Sanara Academy of Hospitality in Cairo, founded by Mr Naguib Sawiris and Mr Hesham Ibrahim. As the educational partner, SHL has developed the entire curriculum, is training the future lecturers and will provide ongoing quality assurance for the programme.

Cairo | Egypt



The Pyramids and the Museum

No visit to Cairo is complete without the Pyramids of Giza. Arrive early, allow more time than expected and prepare for the heat. Their scale remains difficult to comprehend until you are standing directly beneath them. Afterwards, reserve a table at Khufu's Restaurant. The uninterrupted view across the plateau is extraordinary and Egyptian cuisine is presented with precision in a setting that connects the country's ancient past with its modern hospitality scene.

A short distance from the plateau, the Grand Egyptian Museum is an absolute must-do. Its galleries are dense with objects and stories, including the complete Tutankhamun collection shown together for the first time. Don't try to absorb everything at once. Choose the areas that interest you most and allow yourself to wander.

Still hungry? And trust us, you will be. Nahr, located directly within the Grand Egyptian Museum, serves excellent Mediterranean cuisine with service to match.

Beyond the Centre

For a completely different experience, travel outside Cairo to Shaji Farmer for Ecotourism. The morning begins by preparing traditional Egyptian bread before assembling an enormous shared breakfast platter and eating together while seated on the floor. A tour of the farm and seasonal fruit picking complete the experience.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Egypt's New Administrative Capital offers a glimpse of how the country is developing. Its wide avenues, monumental buildings and ambitious construction projects contrast sharply with historic Cairo. Do not miss the Misr Mosque and the New Opera House while you are there.

The Food

Cairo's food is generous, delicious and designed to be shared. Whatever else you order, do not leave without the essentials: koshari, Egypt's beloved national dish of rice, lentils, pasta and crisp fried onions; ful medames and ta'ameya for breakfast; slow-cooked molokhia; stuffed mahshi; and hawawshi, with feteer or a bowl of om ali to finish. For a lively and thoroughly local experience, head to Beggah in Al Gazirah Al Gadidah. This is Egyptian street food in an energetic setting, where the atmosphere is as important as the mixed grills, molokhia and mombar that arrive on the table. Kebabgy offers a completely different experience. Its position directly beside the river provides an unbeatable setting for Egyptian mixed grills and mezze. Visit in the late afternoon or evening, when the temperature falls and the lights of the city begin to reflect across the Nile.