



ITTATOURS
International Travel & Tourist Agency



Hotels news

2 new hotels opened now in El Gouna at the new North Basin of Abu Tig Marina :

Fanadir Hotel and Mosaique Hotel are now two new addition in the El Gouna Hotels.

Fanadir Hotel : 54 guestrooms/suites stylishly furnished in uplifting colors. All public areas are meticulously dressed up in a modern rustic outfit.

Opened on November 1st.

Mosaique Hotel : 69 guestrooms/suites styled in a perfect blend of modern and arabesque architecture that will leave a great impression on guests.

Opened on November 13th.



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Luxurious villas at Mövenpick Resort Aswan

The newly renovated Moevenpick Resort Aswan that nestling on its own island on the Nile is an unrivalled base for exploring Nubian culture and is a paradise for Birdwatchers and photographers alike. The resort's eight exclusive Royal Villas, Conceptualized by worldrenowned interiors designers, are nothing less than Breath-taking featuring rich wooden and marble floors, granite counter tops And luxuriant marble baths. Each also boasts its own living room, dining room, Kitchenette, master bedroom, twin bedroom and two en suite bathrooms. A Spacious terrace provides views of the majestic Nile, Kitchener's Botanical Island, the Valley of the Nobles and the Mausoleum of Agha Khan. The perfect spot to watch the sunset and dream ... www.movenpick-hotels.com



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The Historic Hotels of Egypt

The Egyptian General Company for Tourism and Hotels (EGOTH) has created a new brand for nine of its most historic properties where it was announced during the WTM fair.

The company owns a total of 22 hotels in Egypt and has decided to group its most historic properties together under the name Historic Hotels of Egypt.

The hotels will have seen a total investment of \$368 million by the end of 2013, said General Nabil Selim, chairman of EGOTH.

Shepherd Hotel is originally founded in 1841 and is currently under a complete renovation, after the management was taken over by Rocco Forte Luxury Collection in July.

The Old Cataract in Aswan is built in 1899 and renovation will be completed by 2011.

The Nile Ritz Carlton Cairo (Ex Nile Hilton), one of the city's top hotels since the 1950s, is also in the middle of a major refurbishment, due to be complete by 2013.

The same year a refurbishment of the boutique Luxor Hotel will be completed.

Other properties now under the Historic Hotels of Egypt brand are Mena House Oberoi, located at the foot of the Great Pyramid, Cairo's Marriott Hotel (both of which have seen their refurbishments completed), Alexandria's The Palestine Hotel and the 1886-built Winter Palace also in Luxor.

EGOTH hopes to use its investment in the properties, as well as the creation of the new brand, to attract more international hotel chains to Egypt.

Under the renovation plans, the hotels will have upgraded meeting and conference facilities, as well as the latest technology, including wifi internet access and flat screen televisions.

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New discoveries

Discovery of the tomb of Rudj-Ka

A Fifth Dynasty tomb (2465 - 2323 BC) of the priest, Rudj-Ka was recently uncovered in an area south of the pyramid builders' necropolis.

Minister of Culture, Farouk Hosny announced that the discovery was made during routine excavation work at the necropolis by an Egyptian archaeological team from the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA).



Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA, said that Rudge-Ka had several titles and would have been an important member of the ancient Egyptian court. Primarily Rudge-ka served as a purification priest for Khafre (2520-2494 BC) and his mortuary cult at Giza.



Hawass pointed out that the tomb is the first to be found in this area and that it is very unique because of its distinguished architectural design.

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Ancient road uncovered in Luxor & Twelve sphinxes found dating to Nectanebo I

Mr. Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture, announces that the expedition of the Supreme Council of Antiquities at the Avenue of the Sphinxes found twelve new sphinx statues from the reign of Nectanebo I (380-362 BC). These sphinx statues were found in the last sector of the Avenue of the Sphinxes.



Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA, said the discovery is not located within the known road of the Avenue of the Sphinxes between Karnak and Luxor Temples, but instead at the end of the newly discovered road of Nectanebo I. The Avenue runs from Luxor to Karnak, where it connects to the temple of the goddess Mut.



Mansour Boraik, Supervisor of Luxor Antiquities, indicated that this is the first time a new road that runs from east to west, toward the Nile, has been found. The total length of this road to the Nile is about 600 meters. Dr. Hawass mentioned, too, that along this way the sacred boat of Amun, king of the gods, traveled on the god's annual trip to visit his wife, Mut, at Luxor temple, and the king used it as well for religious processions. This discovery marks the first time that archaeology has revealed this route, which is mentioned in many ancient texts. Besides the sphinx statues, which are inscribed with the name of Nectanebo I, the excavation team also recovered Roman period objects, including an oil press and pottery.

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Al Ahly Bank returns 200 Egyptian objects

Minister of Culture, Farouk Hosny, announced that the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) received 200 artifacts from Al-Ahly National Bank yesterday and have stored them in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo for restoration and documentation.



Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the SCA, said that the recovered collection was stored in the treasury of the bank since the early 20th century and that it included objects from the ancient Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Coptic and Islamic eras.

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King Amenhotep III statue unearthed

The upper part of a double limestone statue of King Amenhotep III (1410-1372 BC) was unearthed at Kom El-Hittan in the west bank of Luxor. Kom el-Hittan is the site of the temple of Amenhotep III, which was once the largest temple on Luxor’s west bank. The temple originally had two entrances: one on the eastern side where the Colossi of Memnon reside, and one at the northern side, where the double statue was located. The statue was found during a routine excavation carried out by an Egyptian team of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA).

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New Services , facilities & announcements

Lighting the Western Bank in Luxor

The High Council of Antiquities has announced the completion of the LE56-million project to light up the western bank of Luxor. The project was in association of Lumiere Architecture, a leading French company that was chosen among a long list of renowned lighting companies, and the Sound & Light Company. The project aims to preserve the archaeological tombs located on the western bank, as the number of visitors will be spread out from 7 am to 8 pm in order to minimize the humidity exposure that damages the tombs. After careful consideration, 922 lighting units were installed in specific locations on the western bank; all cables have been carefully selected using GPS to make sure they withstand the hot climate of the area. The project has recently completed lighting the area of El Nakheel farms, situated in front of the Bal El Karna with the help of the residents. The new-lit areas of the western bank include Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, the mountains, The Noble Tombs, the Temple of Hatshepsut, north of El Karna. This project is the latest effort to promote tourism in the area.



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The Palace of "Prince Omar Toson" to be a Museum for the Cinema-tech

The Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni announced that the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities approved to allocate the Palace of "Prince Omar Toson" to be the head quarter of the Cinema-tech and a museum and an archive for the Cinema.

His Excellency declares that there is an Egyptian-French cooperation to implement this project at the highest level. The Palace of “Prince Omar Toson” has been selected due to its architectural, unique and ancient Style which fits with the Egyptian Cinema Industry that goes to more than 100 years.

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New website dedicated to all SCA activities launches

<http://www.sca-egypt.org/eng/main.htm>



The SCA website details all activities of the SCA and maintains a list of cultural property institutions under its purview. In addition, it serves as the gateway for foreign missions seeking to establish concessions at prehistoric and historic sites in Egypt.

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Four areas in Al Bahariya oasis chosen to be natural reserves

The Egyptian government has named the areas of Al Dast, Al Maghrafa, the British Mountain and the Black Desert--all located at Al Bahariya Oasis--natural reserves, with the intention of preserving their natural and cultural riches. Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, said Al Bahariya Oasis was chosen due to its location between Siwa Oasis in the north and the White Desert in the south. It was recently known as an area of scientific research after fossils of the world's second largest dinosaur were discovered there. The government's decision aims to stop all agricultural and construction activities in the area, as they may lead to its deterioration. The decision also aims to develop environmental tourism, through visits to the only dinosaur area in Egypt, as well as archeological sites close by. According to the Ministry of Environment, Al Bahariya oasis is characterized by its rich biodiversity. Al Dast and Al Maghrafa areas are known for being areas for vertebrate paleontology research since 1910. The Black Desert area, which is composed of dark hills, is known as a touristic attraction. The British Mountain is located in the area between the Mandisha village and Al Baweety city. George explained that it was given its name due to the British occupation in the area of the oasis.



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Swimming with the dolphins

Contrary to the rather more common dolphin shows, Egypt comes in with a unique swimming experience with dolphins. And this doesn't take place in some aquarium or pool where an instructor guides a dolphin, or maximum two, to come and swim next to you. Here the experience takes place in the open sea, where hordes of the beautiful creatures swim as freely and as widely as they please. It is a thrilling experience that takes you to the dolphins' own turf.

Without a doubt, it is one of those experiences you ought to enjoy at least once in your lifetime.

The one place in Egypt where you can encounter dolphins in the wild is in Samadai Reef, off the Red Sea Coast, south of Marsa Alam.

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The Ministers of Transport of Egypt, Jordan and Iraq agreed on the Operation of a Fast Boat for serving Tourists between Nuweibaa, Taba and El Aqaba

For the first time and in response to the tourists requests in Nuweiba and Taba, it was decided to operate a fast boat with capacity up to 207 passengers for tourists only between El Aqaba, Taba and Nuweiba in order to solve the problems that tourists encounter in these areas.

Capt. Nabil Lotfy, the Chairman of Arab Bridge Co., stated that the decision was approved by the three owners of the Company: Egypt, Iraq and Jordan and the Ministers of Transport in the three countries were unanimously keen to implement it. It is expected that this decision will lead to an upswing in the region.

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Vodafone Egypt launches In-Flight Roaming Service



Vodafone Egypt launched the In-Flight Roaming Service aboard close to 100 aircrafts. The service is among others, available aboard Egypt Air, where it is provided in partnership with OnAir. Vodafone customers can make and receive calls, send and receive SMS', and access the internet on the aircraft during flight as they would on the ground. The service is safe and does not affect the navigation instruments.

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New Flights

Fly directly from Marsa Alam to Luxor & Abu Simbel

Sylvia Tours Egypt in collaboration with Egypt Air started, on exclusive basis, weekly direct flights from Marsa Alam to Luxor and back every Monday and from Marsa Alam to Abu Simbel and back every Friday. With these flights, it is now possible for visitors of Marsa Alam to enjoy the archeological sites in Luxor and Abu Simbel. In addition, the flight of Abu Simbel / Marsa Alam is an excellent opportunity for the cruises of Aswan and Abu Simbel that disembark on Fridays to fly to Marsa Alam and enjoy some relaxation. The Luxor / Marsa Alam flight will be ideal for the Luxor cruises that disembark on Mondays to fly to Marsa Alam.



Flights Operation

Marsa Alam / Luxor / Marsa Alam every Monday

Marsa Alam / Abu Simbel / Marsa Alam every Friday

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EGYPTAIR Express launches first flight to Al Arish

In line with the policy of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, headed by Air Marshall Ahmed Shafiq, to develop the Sinai Peninsula community and encourage more tourism in the area, the first flight

of EGYPTAIR Express plane has arrived to the area of Al Arish arriving from Cairo. The domestic route operates through a financing partnership between the North of Sinai governorate and Sama Al Arish Group of Companies. These efforts are also supported by EGYPTAIR Holding Company's strategic plans in cooperation with the private sector and the investors to develop this sector. The direct flight (scheduled once a week at the moment) between Cairo and Al Arish, will boost flights to North Sinai which is considered to be one of the country's most attractive touristic areas. Engineer Hussein Massoud, Chairman and CEO of EGYPTAIR Holding Company said that EGYPTAIR endeavors to cooperate with the private sectors in promoting domestic travel and link the internal flights to the international network and Star Alliance program. Part of the land next to the airport, will be allocated to establish new premises for the Academy, for Aviation studies in Al Arish.

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Emirates adds more flights to Cairo-Dubai route

Emirates Airlines is to increase its services between Cairo and Dubai in response to a growing demand for air travel and cargo. Two additional flights will be added to the route this month. The new services will operate every Wednesday and Sunday, taking the total number of weekly flights on the route to thirteen.

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Awards

Good News From The Egyptian Desert

For the second consecutive year, Tatler Magazine chooses its 2010 Travel Award-Winner "Al Tarfa" amongst The 101 best detoxes, clinics, camps, yoga retreats and spas in the world.

"[Al Tarfa] is a thrillingly elemental best-kept secret.... The rugged lodge is like the most marvelous mirage – 20 original rooms (think pretty Provencal meets The English Patient) dotted in about a bougainvillea-filled garden, a lip-smackingly cool pool and, where you least expect it, a gem of a spa." - Tatler Spa Guide 2011.



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Steigenberger Al Dau first hotel in egypt to be certified by tüv rheinland

The Steigenberger Al Dau Beach Hotel is the first wellness hotel in Egypt and outside of Europe to be awarded the "Best Health International" certificate for quality in spa and wellness tourism. This followed an independent inspection of the 5-star hotel by TÜV Rheinland auditors.

The quality standard encompasses more than 130 inspection criteria covering



a wide range of different areas that can be hard for guests themselves to ascertain or judge, which includes the training and professional development of therapists, the use of food from the region, hygiene as well as promises made regarding the effectiveness of the therapies and applications.

www.steigenbergeraldaubeach.com

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Savoy Sharm El Sheikh Voted World's #1

The Savoy Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, has won three top trophies at the World Travel Awards - the travel industry's equivalent of the Oscars. The awards were:

- Royal Savoy: World's Leading Dive Resort 2010.
- Royal Savoy: World's Leading Leisure Resort 2010.
- SOHO Square: World's Leading Entertainment Resort 2010.



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Hilton hotels & resorts voted number one hotel brand in the middle east for fourth consecutive year

For the fourth consecutive year, Hilton Hotels & Resorts has topped the BDRC Continental Middle East Hotel Business Guest Survey. The flagship brand of Hilton Worldwide has been voted number one hotel brand in the Middle East and the 'Leading Choice Hotel Brand' amongst business travelers.

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Jaz Hotels, Resorts & Cruises wins TUI Environmental Champion

Jaz Hotels, Resorts & Cruises announced recently that three of its properties have won the TUI Environmental Champion with the TUI Eco Resort 2010 award presented by the German leading tour operator TUI. TUI Environmental Champion Award given to the 100 most eco-friendly hotels worldwide cooperating with TUI, based on the assessment of environmental aspects in hotel management and customer satisfaction worldwide. The awarded hotels are Iberotel Makadi Beach, Iberotel Makadi Saraya Resort and Jaz Makadi Star & Spa.

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Meet us at

ITB Berlin (09 - 13 March 2011)

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Calendar of Events :

Events in January:

International Egyptian Marathon : 28 January 2011

The International Egyptian Marathon takes place annually in Luxor, attracting nearly 2000 long-distance runners from around 36 countries. The route runs past the famous ancient monuments of the West Bank and through the local farmers' sugar cane fields.

<http://www.egyptianmarathon.com/EgyptianMarathon/>



Cairo International Book Fair : from 26 January to 06 February 2011

The Cairo International Book Fair at Cairo International Conference Centre is one of the leading cultural activities in the Middle East, attracting over 3000 exhibitors and three million international visitors.



Events in February:

Hurghada International Festival : from 01 to 13 February 2011

The Hurghada International Festival is a two-week event featuring three sporting disciplines. It opens with a triathlon competition, followed by the 75km Mare Monti, featuring international competitors running off-road between the sea and mountains.



Abu Simbel Festival

When: 22 February 2011 (various dates), where: Abu Simbel Temple

During the Abu Simbel Festival crowds fill the temple at sunrise to watch the shafts of light creeping across the stone, illuminating the statues of Ramses, Ra and Amun. This spectacular sight happens twice a year, in February and October.



It was Ramses II who, in a fit of precision and architectural egotism, carefully angled his temple so that the inner sanctum would light up once on the anniversary of his rise to the throne, and once on his birthday. Impressively, it is only the inner sanctum that lights up, while the statue of Ptah (the god of darkness) remains in the shadows. When the Aswan Dam caused the Nasser Lake to rise and inundate the area in the early 1960s, the entire temple was moved to higher ground and for this reason the sun now strikes a day later than Ramses had originally planned.



Other Dates: 22 October 2011 (various dates)

World Big Game Trolling Championship

Held in El Gouna, on the Red Sea, the World Big Game Trolling Championship attracts participants from across the world keen to catch something that will impress the judges. Prizes are awarded across different categories.



Events in March:

Cairo International Film Festival for Children

The Cairo International Film Festival for Children sustains and encourages artistically appreciated films which address youth issues. The festival screens in competition and out of competition cartoons, feature and educational films at selected venues.

<http://www.ciffchildren.org/>



Alexandrina International Book Fair : from 24 March to 5 April

The International Book Fair is organized and hosted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, featuring a different theme every year. Past themes have included "Algerian Books", "Children's Books", "Women and Children's Books", and "Books and Electronic Publishing". Moroccan Books will be our guest of honor this year.



http://www.bibalex.org/Home/Default_EN.aspx

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