

CAIRO CITY VISITS

WORLD
URBAN
FORUM
TWELFTH SESSION



CAIRO, EGYPT | 4–8 NOVEMBER 2024

Guided Walking Tour to Fustat Pottery Village & Traditional Crafts Centre

Date: Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Capacity: 250 people

This guided walking tour offers an immersive exploration of Cairo's rich history and vibrant cultural heritage. The journey begins in the heart of Old Cairo, where centuries of craftsmanship and tradition continue to thrive. Visitors will experience the revival of two important aspects of Egyptian culture: the Fustat Pottery Village and the nearby Fustat Traditional Crafts Center.

The tour kicks off with a visit to the **Fustat Pottery Village**, a thriving hub of traditional Egyptian craftsmanship. Recently revitalized as part of Cairo's cultural development initiatives, this village is home to over 150 workshops, where artisans continue to practice the ancient art of pottery-making. Here, visitors can witness skilled craftsmen shaping intricate, hand-made pottery that reflects centuries of tradition. The village not only preserves these age-old techniques but also supports local livelihoods, highlighting Egypt's commitment to safeguarding its cultural heritage.

Next, the tour will visit the **Fustat Traditional Crafts Center**, a vibrant cultural space dedicated to reviving Egypt's rich artistic traditions while encouraging modern creativity. Here, artisans showcase their skills, offering visitors a glimpse into how traditional crafts have evolved over time. Located in the historic Fustat area, the center celebrates Egypt's Islamic heritage, with workshops where craftsmen create everything from detailed decorations to fresh, innovative designs. The center's mission is to both preserve these traditional crafts and encourage innovation, blending heritage with modern artistry.



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Guided Walking Tour in Al-Moez Street and Khan El-Khalili, Old Cairo

Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2024

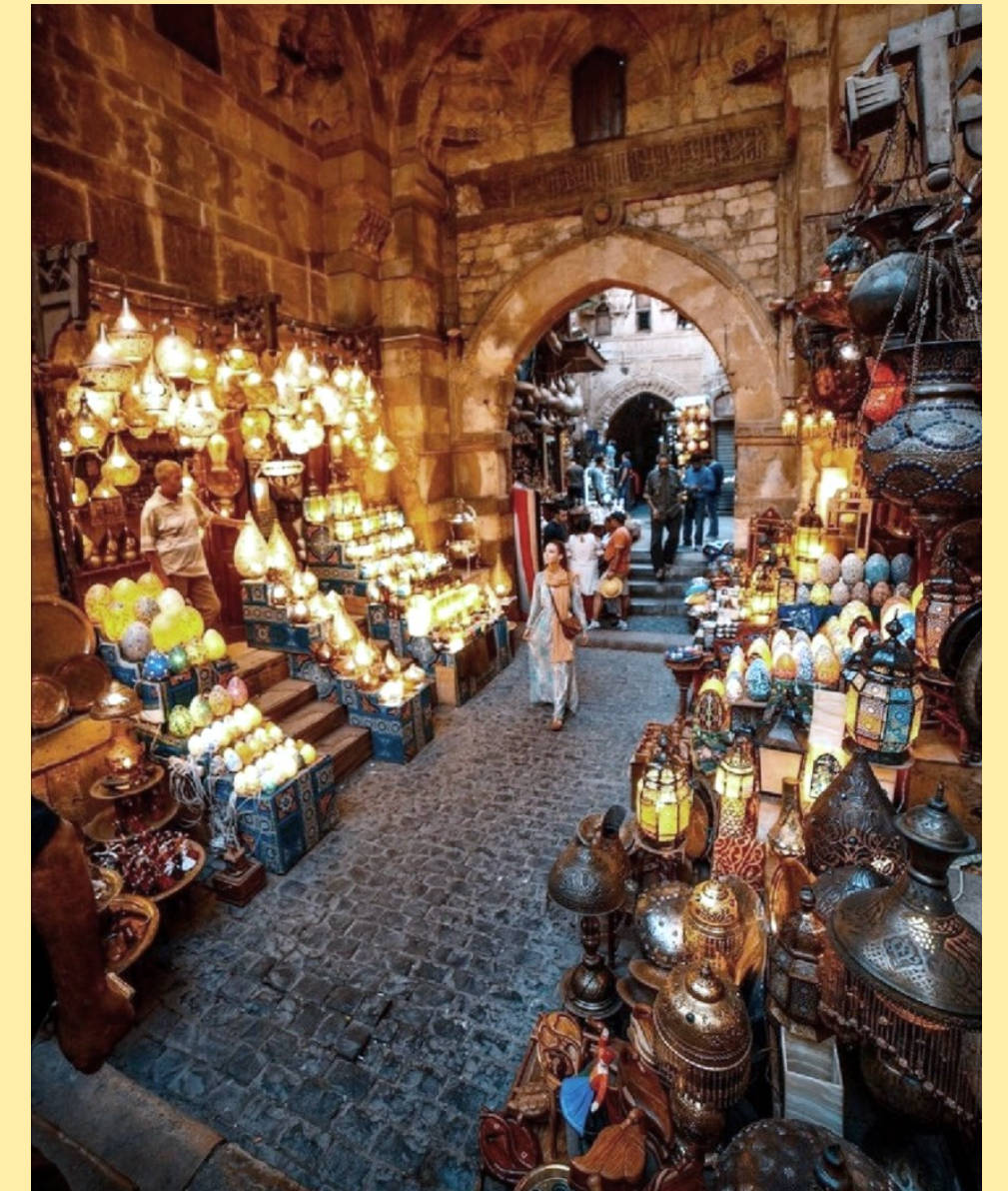
Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Capacity: 300 people

Join us for a fascinating **guided walking tour** through two of Cairo's most iconic historical destinations: **Al-Moez Li-Din Allah Al-Fatimi Street** and **Khan El-Khalili**. As you wander through these ancient streets, your guide will take you on a journey through time, offering insights into Cairo's rich Islamic heritage.

Al-Moez Li-Din Allah Al-Fatimi Street, nestled in the heart of Cairo's historic Al-Azhar district, is often hailed as the largest open-air museum of Islamic antiquities in the world. Established in 969 AD during the Fatimid period, the street stretches from Bab Al-Nasr to Bab Al-Futuh, framed by ancient city walls and bustling market life. As you stroll down this remarkable street, you'll walk through a living museum, passing architectural masterpieces that span the Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk, and Ottoman eras. The street is home to mosques, madrasas, and palaces that narrate the city's transformation and reflect its medieval splendor. Notable landmarks include the grand Al-Hakim Mosque, the Qalawun Complex, and Sabil-Kuttab Abd El-Rahman Katkhuda, each revealing layers of Cairo's rich history.

Just a short walk away, the vibrant **Khan El-Khalili market** awaits. This bustling 600-year-old souk has been a key fixture of Cairo's commercial life since the Mamluk era. You will get the chance to wander through its winding alleys, where stalls brim with handcrafted jewelry, aromatic spices, textiles, and antiques. This walking tour invites you to experience the living pulse of Cairo, where the past and present coexist in one of the world's most captivating urban spaces.



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Traditional Egyptian Evening at AlAzhar Park

Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2024

Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Capacity: 500 people

Once a derelict landfill, **Al Azhar Park** has been transformed into a lush oasis in the heart of Cairo, thanks to the vision and efforts of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. Established in 2005, this 30-hectare park now serves as the “lungs” of Cairo, offering a green respite from the city’s urban sprawl. The park’s creation involved extensive excavation and landscaping, turning a neglected area into a vibrant public space that celebrates both nature and history.

Cairo Governorate is thrilled to invite you to a special traditional night at Al Azhar Park, where the rich cultural heritage of Egypt will be on full display. The evening will feature a **traditional crafts bazaar**, showcasing the exquisite handiwork of local artisans. From intricate jewelry to beautifully woven textiles, the bazaar offers a unique opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind items and support local craftsmanship.

In addition to the crafts bazaar, the event will include a variety of traditional **Egyptian food stalls**. Guests can savor the flavors of traditional Egyptian food. The aroma of spices and the vibrant atmosphere will transport you to the heart of Egyptian culinary traditions.

Join us for an enchanting evening at Al Azhar Park, where you can enjoy the beauty of the park, explore the crafts bazaar, and indulge in delicious traditional foods. This event promises to be a memorable celebration of Egypt’s rich cultural heritage in one of Cairo’s most beautiful settings.



CAIRO CITY VISITS

Citadel Festival at Mahka Theater, Salah El-Din Citadel

Date: Thursday 7 November 2024

Time: 19:00 – 21:00

Capacity: 500 people

As part of the Cairo Governorate and the Ministry of Culture's efforts to showcase the city's rich cultural heritage, visitors will have the unique opportunity to attend a series of live music performances at the **Citadel Festival**, held in the historic **Citadel of Saladin**. This annual festival has become one of the most prestigious cultural events in the region, drawing both local and international artists to perform against the backdrop of one of Cairo's most iconic landmarks. The festival not only highlights Egypt's rich musical traditions but also features contemporary artists, offering a diverse and dynamic cultural experience that appeals to all tastes.

The Citadel, a stunning fortress built by Salah El-Din in 1176 AD, is a testament to the city's architectural and military history. For over 700 years, it served as the residence and seat of Egypt's rulers, including the famous Muhammad Ali, who was the last ruler to reside there. Situated atop a hill, the Citadel offered a strategic vantage point to defend Cairo from external threats, including the Crusaders. Today, the Citadel remains a symbol of Egypt's grandeur and resilience, its ancient walls echoing the many stories of rulers, battles, and legacies that shaped the nation.

The **Citadel Festival** offers a captivating backdrop for live music performances, as the sounds of modern artists blend harmoniously with the rich history of the Citadel. As visitors immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere, they'll witness the seamless fusion of ancient and modern, all while taking in the breathtaking panoramic views of Cairo's skyline.

