

# Egypt Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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INTERNATIONAL  
MOVER



Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



ISO 9001 - ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001



<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (0020) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT + 2 hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	220v 50Hz Sockets take the standard continental European round two pronged plug.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Recommended for long stay Hepatitis, Rabies and Typhoid.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	January 7th Coptic, Christmas Day, January 25th Revolution Day, April/early May Coptic, Easter Sunday, April/early May Sham El Nessim/Spring Festival, Monday after Orthodox, Easter Sunday, April 25th Sinai Liberation Day, May 1st Labour Day, 3 Days for Eid Al Fitr end of Ramadan – varies each year, July 23rd Revolution Day, 3 days for Eid Al Adha – varies each year, Islamic New Year – varies each year, 6th October Armed Forces Day, Moulid El Nabi Holiday – varies each year.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Normally 08.00 hours -16.30 hours Sunday to Thursday. Closed Friday and Saturday.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Usually 08.30 hours to 14.00 hours Sunday to Thursday. Closed Friday and Saturday.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	Police 122, Ambulance 123, Fire 180
<b>BRITISH EMBASSY IN EGYPT:</b>	7 Ahmed Rageb Qasr Ad Dobarah Qasr an Nile Cairo Governorate 11451 Tel: (+20) 2 279 16000
<b>EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:</b>	Mayfair House 26 South Street London W1K 1DW Tel: 0207 499 3304

## **Part 1 – Background Information on Egypt (The Arab Republic of Egypt)**

### **Background**

The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, coupled with semi-isolation provided by deserts to the east and west, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations. A unified kingdom arose circa 3200 B.C., and a series of dynasties ruled in Egypt for the next three millennia. The last native dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 B.C., who in turn were replaced by the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. It was the Arabs who introduced Islam and the Arabic language in the 7th century and who ruled for the next six centuries. A local military caste, the Mamluks took control about 1250 and continued to govern after the conquest of Egypt by the Ottoman Turks in 1517. Completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 elevated Egypt as an important world transportation hub. Ostensibly to protect its investments, Britain seized control of Egypt's government in 1882, but nominal allegiance to the Ottoman Empire continued until 1914. Partially independent from the UK in 1922, Egypt acquired full sovereignty from Britain in 1952. The completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1971 and the resultant Lake Nasser have altered the time-honored place of the Nile River in the agriculture and ecology of Egypt. A rapidly growing population (the largest in the Arab world), limited arable land, and dependence on the Nile all continue to overtax resources and stress society. The government has struggled to meet the demands of Egypt's population through economic reform and massive investment in communications and physical infrastructure.

Inspired by the 2010 Tunisian revolution, Egyptian opposition groups led demonstrations and labor strikes countrywide, culminating in President Hosni MUBARAK's ouster. Egypt's military assumed national leadership until a new parliament was in place in early 2012; later that same year, Mohammed MORSI won the presidential election. Following often violent protests throughout the spring of 2013 against MORSI's government and the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian Armed Forces intervened and removed MORSI from power in July 2013 and replaced him with interim president Adly MANSOUR. In January 2014, voters approved a new constitution by referendum and in May 2014 elected Abdel Fattah EL SISI president. Egypt elected a new legislature in December 2015, the first parliament since 2012.

### **Geography**

Egypt covers an area of about one million square kilometers and is bordered to the north by the Mediterranean, the Red Sea to the east. Libya to the west, shares the southern border with the Sudan and the eastern border with Israel. Cairo is the capital. Current environmental issues are agricultural land being lost to urbanization and windblown sands; increasing soil salination below Aswan High Dam; desertification; oil pollution threatening coral reefs, beaches, and marine habitats; other water pollution from agricultural pesticides, raw sewage, and industrial effluents; very limited natural fresh water resources away from the Nile which is the only perennial water source; rapid growth in population overstraining the Nile and natural resources.

### **Climate**

Egypt's location within the North African desert belt means that its characterized by low annual rainfall as well as sunshine throughout the year (about 315 days of sunshine). Within Egypt, there is the contrast between the coastal Mediterranean climate and the hot dryness of the interior, however, in these desert areas there is a sharp contrast between day and night temperatures.

### **Economy**

Occupying the northeast corner of the African continent, Egypt is bisected by the highly fertile Nile valley, where most economic activity takes place. Egypt's economy was highly centralized during the rule of former President Gamal Abdel NASSER but opened up considerably under former Presidents Anwar EL-SADAT and Mohamed Hosni MUBARAK.

Cairo from 2004 to 2008 pursued business climate reforms to attract foreign investment and facilitate growth. Poor living conditions and limited job opportunities for the average Egyptian contribute to public discontent, a major factor leading to the January 2011 revolution that ousted MUBARAK. The uncertain political, security, and policy environment since 2011 caused economic growth to slow significantly, hurting tourism, manufacturing, and other sectors and pushing up unemployment, which remains above 10%.

Weak growth and limited foreign exchange earnings have made public finances unsustainable, leaving authorities dependent on expensive borrowing for deficit finance and on Gulf allies to help cover the import bill. In 2015-16,

higher levels of foreign investment contributed to a slight rebound in GDP growth after a particularly depressed post-revolution period. In 2016, Cairo enacted a value-added tax, implemented fuel and electricity subsidy cuts, and floated its currency, which led to a sharp depreciation of the pound and corresponding inflation. In November 2016, the IMF approved a \$12 billion, three-year loan for Egypt and disbursed the first \$2.75 billion tranche.

### **Population**

As of November 2017, according to the United Nations, the population of Egypt is around 98,290,000.

### **Language**

The official language is modern standard Arabic, which is taught in schools, used for television, official government speeches, newspapers etc. English and French are also widely spoken.

### **Religion**

Islam is the official state religion, and Islamic law is the basis for legislative decisions. About 90% of the population follow Islam, mainly Sunni, with about 10% of the population being Coptic Christian. The Government only recognises three religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

### **Currency**

The Egyptian pound (£E) – 100 piasters (p) and is available in the following denominations:

- Notes: £E: 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200.
- Coins: (p): 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 and £E 1.

### **Health**

Healthcare in Egypt consists of both a public and private sector. Public health coverage is offered through Ministry of Health, which operates a series of medical facilities providing free health services. There are two main private insurers. The Health Insurance Organization covers employed persons, students, and widows through premiums deducted from employee salaries and employer payrolls. It operates its own network of medical facilities and at times contracts with private healthcare providers. The Curative Care Organization operates in specific governorates, and contracts with other entities for provision of care. There are also private insurance options, and a network of private healthcare providers and medical facilities. Many Mosques also operate their own clinics, especially in the large cities.

Expats may be eligible for free public healthcare.

### **Education**

Public education in Egypt is structured similarly to most Western education systems. Children start kindergarten at age four, move to primary school at age six and then start high school when they are 15 years old. Public education is compulsory and free for children aged 6 years old to 14 years old.

There are two types of public school in Egypt. Arabic schools teach the Egyptian national curriculum in the Arabic language, while Experimental Language schools teach primarily in English with a second language added in preparatory school.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*

## Part 2 – Egypt Import Customs Regulations

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Egypt.

### Household Goods for Returning Citizens and Foreign Citizens

Consignee must be present in Egypt at the time of customs clearance, although does not necessarily have to attend in person. All shipments are subject to Customs inspection for which additional fees are charged, assessed on arrival. All audio visual goods (tapes, video, books, DVDs, CDs etc) will be viewed or read and not released by customs for at least three weeks.

Documentation required:

- Detailed Inventory list, valued, typed, dated and signed in English. All electrical items must state the model, brand, size and serial number.
- Packing list – Detailed, clear and legible.
- Authorisation letters to handle the shipment, locally issued in Egypt, sample letter will be provided.
- Original Passport – for Returning citizens with entry stamp date of maximum 6 months old. for Foreign citizens, with valid residency visa for minimum 3 months.

All items imported are subject to customs duty and VAT as at November 2017 at 14%.

Egyptian Citizens/private shippers without Letter of Guarantee have to pay full duties and VAT to import their used household goods. Private shippers not having the Letter of Guarantee have to pay the duties and VAT in cash.

The Letter of Guarantee states an amount of money corresponding to the amount of duties and VAT to be paid. These funds are placed into a Bank account and released to the Shipper when they move out of Egypt, at which time all items must be exported otherwise customs duty and VAT plus fines will have to be paid on each missing item. The Guarantee can only be obtained with a Work Permit and Work Visa. The letter of guarantee is called partial exemption and does entail a very detailed inspection by customs which could result in damages to the shipment. There are some items which cannot be covered by the letter of guarantee and duties will be levied.

### Diplomatic Removals

Used household goods and personal effects can be imported duty free for full/1st degree Diplomats. Consignee must be present in Egypt at the time of customs clearance, although does not necessarily have to attend in person.

Documentation required:

- Egyptian Diplomatic ID for full/1st degree Diplomats. This takes about two weeks for issue.
- Authorisation letters to handle the shipment by Diplomat's Embassy – to be issued in Egypt.
- Clearing letter issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Egypt.
- Form 4DE.

If consignee is half-Diplomat of 2nd degree, some items will be dutiable and VAT may apply.

Diplomatic missions and some international organizations must apply for duty and VAT exemptions on personal effects.

### Motor Vehicles

Vehicles can be used or new and consignees must be the first owner/buyer of the imported vehicle, which must be imported the same year as purchased.

Expats working within the Egyptian Government Sector, can import a car duty free, but the Government Sector must guarantee re-exportation of the vehicle.

Motor vehicles can be imported duty free for non government sector in one case only, if extricate is owner or partner of a private company/project in Egypt, although duty has to be covered with a local bank guarantee.

Imported Vehicles for returning residents/Egyptian Diplomats are subject to customs duties and VAT in accordance with engine capacity (details can be provided).

All non-Diplomats and other exempted persons will pay duties and VAT ranging from 70% to 280% of the value assessed by Customs.

Foreign Diplomats may import cars older than 1 year.

Vehicles must contain a catalytic converter.

Documentation required:

- Original Registration Certificate.
- Original Passport with Residence/Work Permit.
- Returning Citizens – Ownership certificate from Traffic Authority at country of origin (notarized by Egyptian Consulate/Embassy).
- Foreign Citizens – Authorisation letter locally issued in Egypt.
- Expatriate not working within Government Sector – proof of company ownership/partnership from Egyptian Investment Authority. Company commercial registration documents, and taxation documents.
- Temporary registration must be obtained by consignee who must pay the applicable fees.
- Keys for the vehicle.

#### **Restricted/Dutiable Items**

- An agreement from the Egyptian Authorities is required for scanners, printers, all phones, faxes, copiers, satellite receivers, office jets and work stations. These are all subject to censorship by the Ministry of Interior, and can be approved or refused. Jet colour printers are prohibited for personal use.
- Radio Devices with high frequency that uncovers other transmissions in a nearby area, wireless transceiver devices like walkie talkies.
- Only full diplomats with a diplomatic passport can import alcohol, and the quota will need to be checked with Embassy.
- High value works of art, including statues and paintings will be examined by a special committee for evaluation purposes. This evaluation is time consuming and costly and will delay the customs clearance process.
- All food stuffs, drugs and medicines.
- Plants and seeds.
- Tobacco and perfume.
- Firearms, ammunition, pocket knives, daggers and swords (even as decorative items). Do not include as doing so could mean your whole consignment is confiscated.
- Binoculars, telescopes, drones (toy as well) toy helicopters, recording camera pocket pens, tracking and surveillance devices, modern GPS devices.
- Gold and silver jewelry and ornaments (except tableware). Bank notes and coins.
- Anti Islamic religious materials.
- Pornographic materials.
- Large quantities of the same items which might be deemed to be a commercial shipment.

#### **Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)**

Please see further information for relocating your pets to Egypt.

<http://www.egyptianconsulate.co.uk/FAQ.php#27> see section 2.



### **Endangered Species**

Importation of products from endangered species is prohibited.

Certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks etc and items/products manufactured of / from animals coming under the protected species regulations.

Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certificate will be required.

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate then please visit:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

### **Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates**

All wood packaging must be treated and stamped as per ISPM15 standards.

The Egyptian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.