



My third year as a single ex-pat

On arriving in Egypt for the first time, my initial impression of Alexandria was that it was a developing city, visually not very pleasant with lots of high rise apartments and unplanned urban development. However, after a very friendly and well structured induction week, I very quickly became acclimatized and was made to feel part of the small ex-pat community.

This is my second overseas teaching post – this one is certainly more staff orientated. My accommodation has been of a good standard and is located less than 10 minutes walking distance from the school, and is very close to the coast.

As a single male, 27 year old ex-pat, I have discovered that nightlife here may not be as buzzing as a typical town/city centre in the UK, but there are a number of bars and places to socialise during your own time and where you can hang out with friends and meet new people. There are cinemas, malls and many places to play sports, which are within easy reach (taxis are very reasonably priced!)

People in Alexandria are on the whole very friendly and genuinely want to be nice. Most people can speak a basic level of English, good enough to get you by with. However, learning Arabic is definitely an easy way of settling in and meeting local people.

Alexandria has a wealth of history and is a city of contrasts incorporating both a Mediterranean and African atmosphere. This is my second year in Egypt and so far I have had fabulous holidays in Cairo, Luxor, Aswan and Sharm El Sheikh. I even used Egypt as a stepping stone to visit Petra in Jordan! I am planning on staying in Alexandria for at least the next academic year because of the very good standard of living for ex-pats here and the opportunity to save money and even discover some of the most fabulous places on the planet.

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