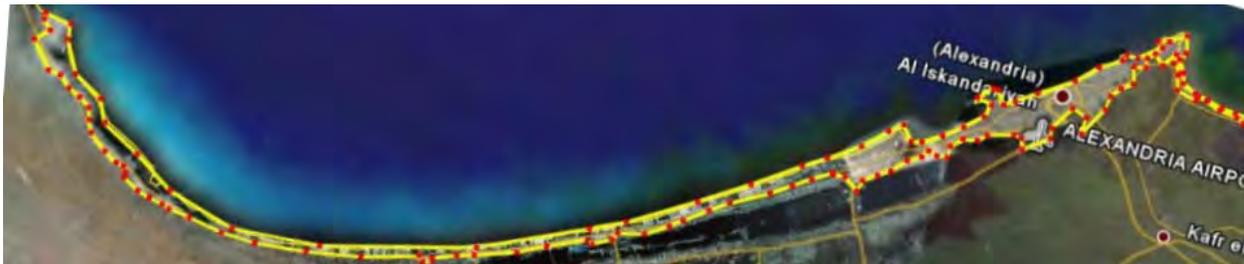


## DEMOGRAPHIA



### ALEXANDRIA: LINEAR CITY



FAST FACTS		Similar To
Metropolitan Area Population	3,800,000	Phoenix, Montreal, Melbourne, Rome
Urban Area Population	3,500,000	Detroit, Guangzhou, Athens, Berlin
Urban Land Area: Square Miles	113	Canberra, Madison, Orleans, Abidjan
Urban Land Area: Square Kilometers	293	
Population per Square Mile	31,000	Tangier, Caracas, Guangzhou, Maputo
Population per Square Kilometer	11,950	
*Continuously built up area		

### A City of History

Few cities can compare to the history of Alexandria. The long-gone lighthouse is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. There was also ancient biblioteque (library), which has seen a modern resurrection in the new facility along the Mediterranean shoreline.

### Linear City

If one were to drive from one end of the Alexandria area to the other, the distance would approach 100 miles. From the east, the first 35 miles would be in the urban core. At its widest point, the urbanization is three miles. The Mediterranean Sea is to the north and a lagoon is to the south for most of the distance. The final 65 miles, toward the west, is a narrow strip of development no more than one-half mile wide.

## **On the Road to El Alamein**

Alexandria is a linear urban area that could be characterized as “on the way” to El Alamein. El Alamein is the location of the battlefield where in 1942, Allied forces, those of British Empire, defeated the armies of Germany and Italy, lead by General Rommel. Today El Alamein contains a military museum and three impressive military cemeteries, Allied, German and Italian. El Alamein was virtually the end of the Axis North African campaign, as its armies retreated to Libya and then back to Europe.

Today, El Alamein is the end of Alexandria’s development. From El Alamein, a thin ribbon of urbanization stretches all the way to central Alexandria, approximately 70 miles to the east. Much of the western extension to El Alamein consists of second homes and resorts. There are many multi-story, multi-unit buildings as well as detached residences. As the distance expands from the more developed city, the waters of the Mediterranean Sea become a more azure tropical color.

While these developments are strictly suburbs of Alexandria, they might be as accurately described as exurbs of Cairo, due to the influx of weekend and summer visitors from the capital, little more than 100 miles away. The only break in this strip of development is a reserve for a waterway that could serve an eventual hydroelectric project to generate power by moving water from the Mediterranean Sea to the Qattara Depression. The Qattara Depression is more than 400 feet below sea level (lower than California’s Death Valley, at minus 282 feet).

Eventually, however, the attractive second home developments give way to informal housing similar to developments in the Cairo area. Even closer to Alexandria, the development is linear. For most of the remaining distance to the core, the development is less than two miles wide, and does not exceed 3.5 miles. Much of the more highly developed city is located on a barrier peninsula, to the north of a lagoon.

## **Alexandria’s Informal Housing**

Like elsewhere around the world, Alexandria has experienced a large influx of people from rural areas. The new residents have come with few financial resources and the available government programs have been insufficient to meet the need, as has been the case in virtually all developing world urban areas (developing world urban areas have faced similar difficulties).

Informal housing was built principally from the 1960s through the 1980s. It continues nearly to the urban core. The informal housing is considerably different from the favelas of Brazil or the shantytowns of other Latin American nations. Alexandria’s informal housing is generally high-rise --- illegal housing built of brick and concrete that may rise to five or more stories. Many buildings show evidence of partial construction even higher and others have not been completed. The streets are extremely narrow, at less than 10 feet wide. There are few, if any arterial streets. The exterior construction of the informal housing appears to be very regular and certainly looks sturdier than informal housing in Latin America.

## **Alexandria's Core**

Beyond the informal housing is the core of Alexandria. The business center is very dense with generally narrow streets. However, a very wide and attractive street, the "Korniche" abuts the Mediterranean for approximately 10 miles. On the south side of the Korniche there is high rise housing that is generally attractive and presumably expensive.



Desert Road: Cairo to Alexandria



Entering Alexandria



Exurban Shopping Center



Alexandria



Korniche



Korniche



Korniche



Core Alexandria



Core Alexandria



Market Day Port Area



Church, Alexandria



Western Suburbs



Western Suburbs



Northwest Coast



Northwest Coast



Northwest Coast



Northwest Coast



Northwest Coast



Northwest Coast



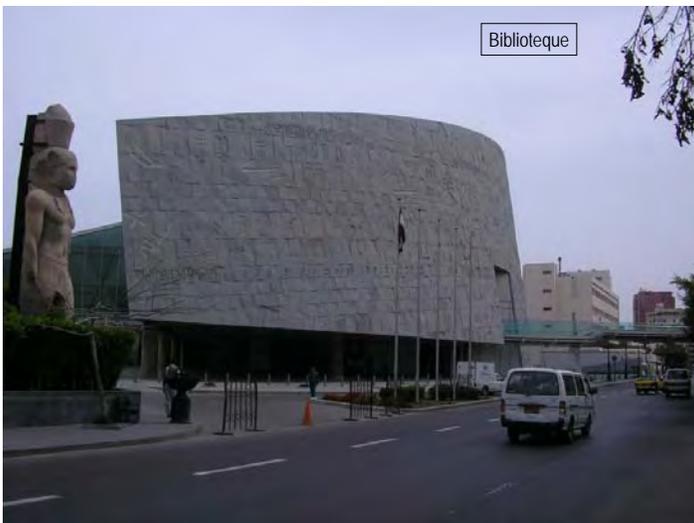
Northwest Coast



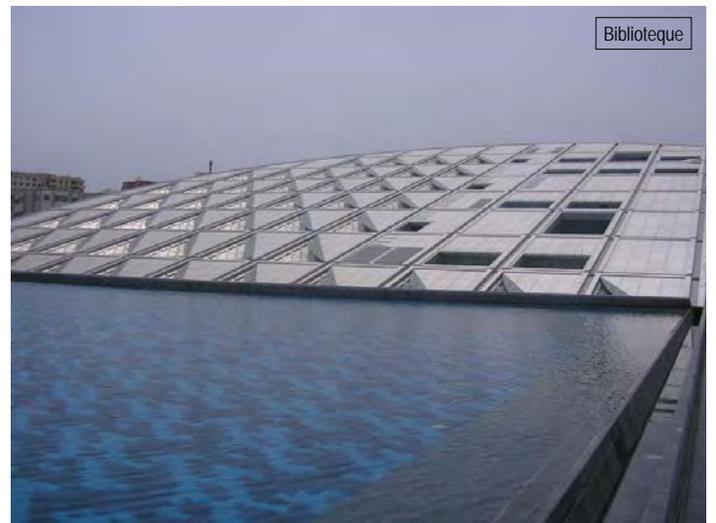
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El Alamien Museum



Biblioteque



Biblioteque