

# Egypt



**Full name:** Arab Republic of Egypt

**Government:** republic

**Location:** Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and the Gaza Strip, and the Red Sea north of Sudan, and includes the Asian Sinai Peninsula

**Capital:** Cairo

**Area:** 1 million sq km (386,874 sq miles); slightly more than three times the size of New Mexico

**Climate:** desert; hot, dry summers with moderate winters

**Terrain:** vast desert plateau interrupted by Nile valley and delta

**Natural Hazards:** periodic droughts; frequent earthquakes, flash floods, landslides; hot, driving windstorm called khamsin occurs in spring; dust storms, sandstorms

**Population:** 74.9 million (UN, 2005)

**Ethnicity:** Egyptian 98%, Berber, Nubian, Bedouin, and Beja 1%, Greek, Armenian, other European (primarily Italian and French) 1%

**Major Language:** Arabic

**Religion:** Muslim (mostly Sunni) 90%, Coptic 9%, other Christian 1%

**Life expectancy:** 67 years (men), 72 years (women) (UN)

**Currency:** 1 Egyptian Pound = 100 piastres