

Books or Bombs?
Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development
International Peace Bureau
annual seminar co-organized with the Institute for Peace Studies -
Alexandria, Egypt

PRACTICAL MATTERS
18 Sept 2007

Travel Arrangements: Participants are requested to make their own arrangements/flight bookings, as well as arrangements for obtaining a visa. You are advised to book flights well in advance.

Visa Requirements: Please obtain an entry visa from Egyptian diplomatic missions and consulates in your respective country. It is possible to get your visa on arrival (for certain countries). Kindly inform the Secretariat in good time if additional assistance is required to obtain the Visa. In this case IPS can send you an invitation letter, you can present it to the Egyptian embassy to facilitate the procedures.

GETTING THERE

AIRPORTS : Alexandria is served by 2 airports, El Nozha Airport which is approximately 5km from the city center and Borg El Arab Airport which is approximately 30km from the city centre. Participants can also arrive through Cairo International Airport, but please take note that this is 250km away from Alexandria and requires a 3.0 - 3.5 hour drive or 2.5 hr by train.

FLIGHTS: there are some international flights to Alexandria (eg via Lufthansa, Olympic Airways...) but not always at convenient times of day. Most of the flights from Europe and beyond come to Cairo. One reason for making this choice instead of a direct flight is that you may wish to visit Cairo also, or to use it as a base for trips to the Pyramids, Luxor and/or Nile cruises. Airport websites:

www.farecompare.com/flights/Alexandria_Airport-ALY/airport.html

www.cairo-airport.com/

SHIPS

From where in Europe can I take a ferry to Egypt?

“The short answer is: you can't. There used to be a service connecting Port Said to Limassol in Cyprus and Piraeus in Greece. It has been suspended indefinitely. To see for yourself, check www.ferries.gr/salamis. And before you ask, there are no ferries either between Egypt and Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco or Turkey. A lot of Mediterranean cruises call at the Egyptian ports of Port Said or Alexandria. Be aware that passengers on these ships only make a limited excursion into Egypt on a group visa. You have to leave your passport on the ship to ensure you return with the group after the excursion. You will find operators of cargo ships extremely reluctant to take passengers because of insurance regulations.”

[from: http://www.triotours.com/faq/eg/ferries-europe.htm](http://www.triotours.com/faq/eg/ferries-europe.htm)

Airport transfers:

If you come to Alexandria, you can take a taxi directly to your hotel. From Borg El Arab Airport 155 EGP, from Alexandria Airport (El Nozha) 50 EGP.

If you come via Cairo, we advise:

1- you can take a taxi to the Ramses Train station. The airport is to the north west of the city, close to Heliopolis. Ramses Station is on the edge of the city centre, also NW side. The cost of the taxi should be agreed in advance with the driver. It should be between 65 and 75 EGP.

At Ramses you can take a train directly to Alexandria. They are frequent and not expensive - first class: 40 EGP, second class: 25 EGP. It is a 2.5 hour ride. You can get off at SIDI-GABER train station in Alexandria (one stop before the terminus), which is not too far from the Bibliotheca. Take a taxi to your hotel.

For full details of the train journey see this excellent website, which had all the links to the various services:

www.seat61.com//Egypt.htm

2- An airport transfer service bus is available from Cairo International Airport to Alexandria every hour starting 5.00 am-12.00 pm ticket cost (35LE), from 1.00 am-4.00am ticket cost (45LE)

3- Alternatively, participants can use a Limousine taxi which costs from 250-350 L.E.

For Airline tickets re-confirmations/ Postal & courier services / Foreign exchange services Please consult your hotel 's front desk to assist you with any of these arrangements.

ACCOMMODATION

The Bibliotheca has prepared a list of recommended hotels, with whom they have negotiated a special 'BA price'. SEE HOTEL LIST ATTACHED

Foreign participants should contact IPB with their requirements and preferences and IPB will forward them to IPS, so they can make the required bookings, **this has to be completed before 28th September** at the latest otherwise IPS won't be able to make the bookings.

The details we need to have are as follows:

Full Participant name	Hotel name	Check in date/time	Check out date/time	Room type (single/double)	Credit Card number	Credit Card expiry date
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Since many people wish to stay together at the same hotel, the IPB's two main recommendations are:

- **Hotel Metropole**

<http://www.paradiseinnegypt.com/Home/test/index.htm>

4 star, located in the central square, just opposite the famous Cecil Hotel. 5 mins from the Library **by taxi**. BA price \$66 single - \$80 double.

- **Hotel Delta**

<http://sp.tecmina.com/hoteldelta/>

3-star, BA price \$60 single - \$ 80 double. 8 mins **on foot** from the Library.

THE CITY

Alexandria is a great historic city, with much to see. General guidebooks will probably tell most visitors as much as they need.

Meeting venue: Bibliotheca Alexandrina

The **Bibliotheca** is a magnificent modern building with all necessary conference facilities. It is a cultural complex which contains libraries, museums, exhibition areas, educational centers and an international conference center located within the Alexandria University campus. The book/gift shop has many interesting items and there is a cafeteria for visitors.

Security is very strict (as everywhere in Egypt), so you will have to bring ID with you every day in order to get entry passes.

The library has external spaces too (close to the seafront) which are used for public events.

Contacts:

Postal address: El Shatby 21526

Tel: +20-3-482-0355/483-9999

Fax: +20-3-482-0479

Email: ips@bibalex.org

web: www.bibalex.org

Swedish Institute

The Institute, where we will have the reception, is a marvellous old building along the Corniche from the Library. The staff are involved in a number of cultural exchange activities.

www.swedenabroad.com/Start_5296.aspx

GENERAL

Security

Egypt is a very safe environment. But you should take normal precautions when traveling around. There is a special 'Tourist and Police', in case of any problem.

Banking

The Commercial International Bank is located beside the Conference Center of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Credit Cards

Major credit cards (e.g. American Express, Visa, and Mastercard are honoured at most hotels, restaurants, gift shops, car rentals, and large stores. Cash is often required, so make sure you carry enough of it. While carrying large amounts of cash be careful and aware of pickpocketing in public places.

There is an ATM machine at the Library Entrance

Currency

The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound. Currency exchange is available at nearly all banks and hotels. Private exchange agencies are located at several areas downtown and in the suburbs, and in major hotels

Current rates are:

1 US Dollar = 5.6487 Egyptian Pound

1 Euro = 7.8427 Egyptian Pound

1 pound Sterling= 11.5301 Egyptian Pound

Climate

The weather at Alexandria is mild in winter, hot in summer. Summers are humid, and winters are generally dry with occasional rain, and a few thunderstorms. Sandstorms are rare, but are most likely to occur in spring (usually for a day or so). It is normally very pleasant in November, even cool at times by the coast, with average temperatures as follows: Max 24.4° C -- Min 14.8° C.

Dress code

The meeting dress code is formal for the opening session the first day, and informal the second day.

Electronics

The electric current voltage is 220 Volts, with European-style plugs

Help desk

The registration desk at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina will also act as a " Help Desk" and will open 15 minutes before each day's proceedings and close 15 minutes after the conclusion of the day's meetings.

Indemnity

While every care is being taken over all arrangements, please note that the organizers are not responsible for any mishaps during the congress period. Delegates must make their own personal insurance arrangements.

Language

The main meeting language is English. However, simultaneous interpretation will be available in Arabic, during the general meeting sessions and in 4 workshops out of 6. English is understood throughout Egypt alongside Arabic, especially in all major centers and at tourist

attractions

Health and Medical services

Medical services are of a high standard and most international prescription drugs are readily available through retail pharmacies. Pharmacies are scattered around the city, and many are open 24 hours a day. It is suggested that you take out personal medical insurance for the duration of your trip. For health reasons we advise participants to drink mineral water.

Registration for the seminar

The registration desk will be operational from 8.30 am on 11 September, at the conference venue - Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Name tags will be issued at registration.

Registration badges

For security reasons, participants are requested to wear their registration name tags at all proceedings and social functions.

Smoking policy

All conference venues are non-smoking venues.

Internet, Telephone and messages

There is a cyber café in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina next to the meeting rooms. The country code for Egypt is +20, and the area code for Alexandria is 3.

There is a sim card called Holiday card (Vodafone), with options of temporary use for mobile phones using prepaid cards - to be used for regular local calls. There are also several prepaid cards for your international calls and there are plenty of phone booths on the street.

Time zone

Standard time in Alexandria is two hours ahead of GMT.

Transport schedules

Transport will be provided from the designated hotels, i.e the Le Metropole and The Delta, daily to the conference venue and social events. A schedule will be included in your final programme. Please ensure that you are prompt as coaches will be running to a tight schedule. Delegates booked at other hotels will need to make their own transport arrangements with their hotels reception.

Public cab - You can stop taxis on the street. These are orange and black cars that are easy to identify. Rate: moderate.

Private cab

Phone: 03- 421-0111 / 0800-999-9999 /19322

Starting rate = 4 LE + 1.5 LE for each Kilometer. Waiting 10 LE / hr

Shopping centres

Malls: Alexandria has several malls and shopping centres that provide almost everything.

- Zahran-Smouha

Address: Victor Emmanuel St. Five minute walking distance from the housing facility. Phone: 4242 444. Open 7 days a week

- Green Plaza-Smouha

Address: 13, Anwar El Sadat St. (after "23rd July" bridge)
Approx 5 minutes by taxi from the housing facility
Phone: 4293267. Open 7 days a week

- Alexandria City Center-Moharram Bek

Address: Alex/Cairo Desert Road K8 Canal El Suez St. in front of the International Park.
Approx 15 minutes by taxi from the housing facility. Phone: 397 0017. Open 7 days a week

- San Stefano Mall

Address: In front of San Stefano tramway station. Approx 20 minutes by taxi from the housing facility

Tourism options

Of course Egypt is a simply fabulous country to visit if you are interested in ancient or more modern history, art/architecture, desert or underwater life etc.

Recommended (by BA) travel agent **Wings Egypt:**

<http://www.wingsegypt.com/>

Contact:

ahmed.galal@wingsegypt.com

or

outbound@wingsegypt.com

Conclusion

Both the IPB and IPS secretariats are happy to discuss with you any individual projects/solutions as well as the general programme.

Shortlist of websites and books

[Bibliotheca Alexandrina:](#)

www.bibalex.com

Institute for Peace Studies

www.peacestudiesinstitute.org

Tourist information:

<http://alexandriatour.com/>

www.ask-aladdin.com/ “[Egypt Travel Information](#)”

Culture Shock! Egypt - A Guide to Customs and Etiquette

by Susan L. Wilson

Alexandria: Past, Present and Future, by Jean-Yves Empereur, (Thames & Hudson)

Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction - by Ian Shaw (Oxford Univ. Press)

A History of Egypt - by Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid Marsot (Cambridge Univ Press)

Cairo: City of Sand - by Maria Golin (American Univ in Cairo Press)
