

Arab Republic of Egypt



About Egypt

Capital City:

- Cairo

Monetary Unit:

- Egyptian pound (EGP)

Major Languages:

- Arabic

Main Exports:

- Crude Oil & Petroleum
- Cotton & Textiles
- Metal Products
- Chemicals

Our Immigration Services in Egypt

Business Travel – Guidance & assistance with entry visa applications filed with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs via its Consulates & missions abroad

Work & Residency Permits for Foreign Nationals – Work Permit applications filed with the Egyptian labor authorities

Residence Permit Applications – For foreign nationals who will live in Egypt

The Egyptian Economy

Home to over 82 million people, Egypt is one of the most populous countries in Africa and the Middle East. Over half of the country's population resides in its urban areas along the Nile. The economy of Egypt is one of the most diversified in the Middle East, with sectors such as tourism, agriculture, industry and service at almost equal production levels.

After many years of social and political turmoil, Egyptians started a large-scale uprising on 25 January 2011 and after 18 days of protests, Mr. Hosni Mubarak stepped down, bringing an end to his 30-year rule as Egypt's President. Power was handed to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces which became responsible for conducting the affairs of the State and leading the transitional period according to a constitutional declaration issued on 30 March, until the parliamentary and presidential elections are held towards the end of 2011.

While the Egyptian popular uprising has come with the promise of major political reform, it has led to the temporary disruption of economic activity, below-capacity production and a 55-day shutdown of the stock market. The adverse economic implications thereof will most likely be sustained throughout 2011/12, as the high uncertainty in Egypt will weaken foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows as well as tourism and Suez Canal receipts. The restoration of political stability and effective reform are essential if the Egyptian economy is to return to solid growth that benefits the population as a whole.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/7dthfh6>
<http://tinyurl.com/2eq4xj>

Business Travel to Egypt

Travel advisories are currently in place. Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Egypt

for business should ensure their passports are valid for six months beyond the proposed stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. Although visas may be available upon arrival for citizens of some countries that will enter as tourists, it is highly advisable for most business travelers to secure a visa in advance from the Egyptian consulate in their home residence. Most visa applicants will receive a single-entry visa that will be valid for entry within a three month period for a stay of up to 30 days, but multiple-entry visas may also be requested.

An Entry Visa in Egypt is available to those persons wishing to travel to Egypt for a business purpose. A business purpose includes activities such as establishing professional and business contacts, attending conferences and business meetings. A Business Visa may be issued for multiple entries where frequent travel is required.

Additional details on visa application process and requirements can be found at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs site: <http://tinyurl.com/6rfg9o7>

Living in Egypt

The majority of international expatriates living and working in Egypt are based in the capital city of Cairo, although growing numbers of expatriates can be found working in Luxor, Alexandria or in Red and Mediterranean Sea resorts for example, often in the fields of tourism and lately in real estate too.

Throughout the last quarter of 2011, demonstrations in downtown Cairo have turned violent and resulted in numerous deaths and hundreds of injuries. A series of elections for the lower and upper houses of parliament are scheduled to take place from November 2011 through March 2012.

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Politically-motivated rallies and demonstrations are likely to occur in the period leading to and likely following the elections. In the past nine months, demonstrations have degenerated on several occasions into violent clashes between police and protesters, in some instances resulting in deaths, injuries, and extensive property damage.

There have been instances of instability and public disorder in some other areas of Egypt, most notably in the Nile Valley governorates of Assiut and Sohag, located between Cairo and Luxor. These governorates, along with the adjacent governorates of Minya and Qena, have been areas of extremist activity in the past. Communication has become patchy, with disruptions to the internet and mobile phones. <http://tinyurl.com/6d2uapq>

Egyptian Business Culture

Generally, Egyptians prefer to do business with those they know and respect, therefore

expect to spend time cultivating a personal relationship before business is conducted. Expect to be offered coffee or tea whenever you meet someone, as this demonstrates hospitality. Even if you do not take a sip, always accept the beverage. Declining the offer is viewed as rejecting the person.

Meetings are generally not private unless there is a need to discuss matters confidentially. In general, Egyptians have an open-door policy, even when they are in a meeting. This means you may experience frequent interruptions. Others may even wander into the room and start a different discussion. You may join in, but do not try to bring the topic back to the original discussion until the new person leaves.

Have one side of your card translated into Egyptian Arabic. Always hand the card so the recipient may read it. Make a point of studying any business card you receive before putting into your business card case. <http://tinyurl.com/82vImvl>

Egypt Work Permit Process

1 Application with the Ministry of Manpower & Migration filed by Egyptian sponsoring company

2 Foreign national's Entry Visa application at Egyptian Diplomatic Mission in country of residency

3 Entry to Egypt followed by local and tax registrations

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Egypt

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Egypt. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit

and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate abroad and Local Police or Immigration Department may be available.

Generally, only locally registered entities may sponsor foreign nationals for work permits in Egypt. Thus, if your company's office in Egypt anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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