

Egypt: A paradox amidst the pyramids

Mysterious, exotic — the allure of Isis, the pyramid puzzles, the gold of Tut — the images overlaid on a backdrop played with rubble scars of the '67 war, hundreds of minarets tilting the blue sky, and the teeming bazaars crammed into the streets of Cairo and Alexandria.

Egypt, with all its majesty cloaked in antiquity, draws today's tourists in much the same way Elizabethan audiences were drawn to the Globe Theater when Shakespeare recreated the salad days of Africa's notorious civilization.

The paradox of Egypt continues to surprise the visitor.

Camels and donkeys vie for space between the modern cars. Beaches invite bathers to the beautiful sands, while dry sticks used for fuel are stored on the roofs of dwellings built of mud bricks with low walls on the outskirts of the cities.

Women in black veils and shawls scurrying to the market mingle with Western-garbed natives and tourists eager to find an exquisite piece of jewelry from one of the artisans working at the bazaars in the narrow lanes. From the splendor of the pyramids to the ever-intoxicating Nile, ancient and modern Egypt pose together under the sun.



Ruth Hoeprich of Plymouth touring Egyptian tombs.



Elizabeth Katz of Bloomfield Hills follows the route of Cleopatra's barge on a sailboat ride up the Nile.



Photos by Art Emanuel



Three Egyptian women react in their own ways to the visitors from the United States.



Mr. and Mrs. James Bucknerfield of Rochester scan jewelry in Egyptian shop.



Egyptians going about their daily business.