

Site: **Rashid (Rosetta)**
 Country: **Egypt**



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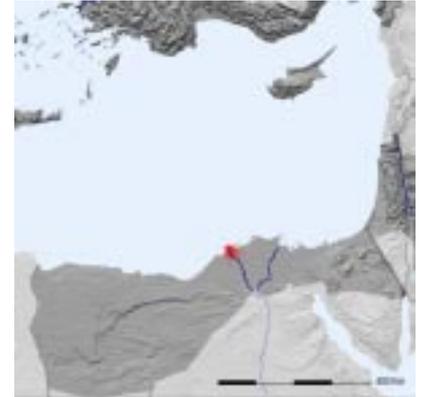
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SYNTHESIS

This city lies on the western bank of the Rosetta branch where the river Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea, 65 km north-east of Alexandria. It is considered a large open-air museum of Islamic architecture for its religious and civil buildings (houses and mosques). The site has undergone an unfortunate process of transformation, and is felt to be losing its characteristic traditional architecture and the style and spirit of tradition.



Country map



Regional scale

Local scale



Detail of the urban fabric



ARCHITECTURAL TYPOLOGIES PRESENT

House in Rashid

THE COUNTRY'S APPROVED SIGNIFICANT SITES

Rashid (Rosetta)

Siwa

HISTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Its location has been of great strategic importance since the most ancient Pharaonic periods. In 1517 AD, when the Ottoman Empire conquered Egypt, Rosetta became its most important harbour, reaching the acme of its architectural prosperity thanks to the mosques, houses, bathhouses, mills, citadels and gates built there.

— Surface area of the site	
— Geographical co-ordinates	Lat.: 31°12' north – Long.: 29°53' east
— Height above sea level	32 m
— Lithology	
— Population	162,096 inhab.
— Population density	931 inhab./km ²
— Average annual maximum temperatures	25°
— Average annual minimum temperatures	15°
— Average of maximum temperatures during the hottest month for 10 years	30.1°
— Average of minimum temperatures during the coldest month for 10 years	9.2°
— Average rainfall	144.1 mm
— Average number of days of rain per year	15

— **Specific characteristics**

Rashid is one of the most important cities for Islamic heritage, with an ancient history that spans many ages; it is the second city after Cairo.

— **Traditional economic activities**

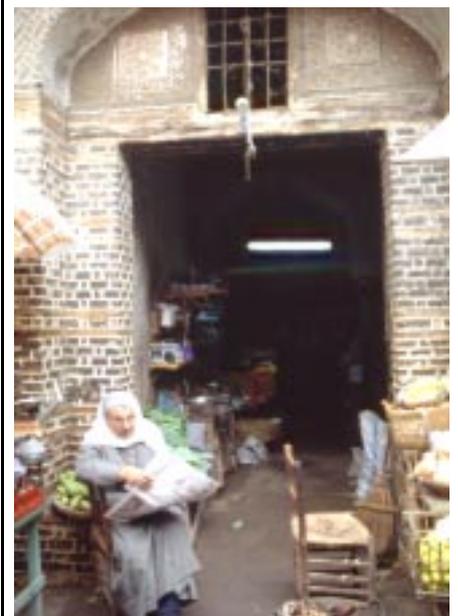
Farming and fishing.

— **New economic activities**

Trade; fishing; farming.

— **Site's communications with its territory**

The site is connected to Alexandria from the west by a highway. It belongs to the Nile Delta, being located on the second or Rashid branch of the Nile. It marks the point where the Nile meets the Mediterranean.



Rashid (Rosetta)

CURRENTS TATE OF VITALITY AND PRESERVATION

The city is very active and vital. Although it contains some beautiful examples of traditional architecture, there is deterioration due to the use of concrete structures for building. Attempts are now being made by universities and the Union of Architects to preserve the city's heritage.

The site has undergone an unfortunate process of transformation, and is felt to be losing its characteristic traditional architecture, and the style and spirit of tradition.

TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

In all the coastal cities from north Sinai to the Libyan border, immigration and population increases have produced great differences in the style and materials of buildings. This mostly began after 1975, for several reasons:

- Egypt was involved in many wars and was occupied for years, with the consequent influence of different architectural styles;
- after the 1973 war, the population expanded all over the country;
- all the coastal cities have changed their economic activities to trading and tourism.

INTERVENTIONS AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

The Supreme Council of Antiquities has rehabilitated the site, and the buildings are now classified as protected, regulating any subsequent changes; however, new buildings are being constructed using modern materials.

Contacts



BIBLIOGRAPHY

LEXICON