

Hello Friends and Family of Global!

It's hard to believe that our time in Egypt is coming quickly to a close. We have our exam on Egyptian history tomorrow, so much of our time today will be spent preparing for this. Most of the group has mixed feelings about leaving Cairo- it has become our home base for a month and marks a major part of the trip being over, but we're also excited for what's to come. Things that were so foreign to us at first- playing Frogger with the cars when crossing the streets, trying to navigate through the crowded downtown streets, etc., have become second nature to us.

Our time in Egypt has been very diversified- we spent the first week in Cairo, had a 4 day excursion, came back for a few days in Cairo, left for a 4 day excursion to Northern Egypt (Alamein, Alexandria area) and now we're in the midst of our final week in Cairo. Bill wrote about our time in Luxor- it was amazing to see so many ancient monuments, but also physically draining considering we were trekking through the desert in 100+ degree heat. One of the favorite moments from our time there was when a group of us went on a hike that overlooked the Valley of the Kings and the temple of Queen Hatchepsut. The view from the top was amazing. Our excursion to Northern Egypt was quite different from our time in Luxor. We visited a coptic monastory, a number of war memorials to the battle of Al-Alamein, and the museum dedicated to the battle of Al-Alamein. It was very powerful to see and remember those who lost their lives there. We then made our way to our hotel, which was rumored to be near a beach. Little did we know that we would have rooms right along the beach, complete with a balcony view of the ocean, and that we would have practically the whole resort to ourselves. The waves were great and everyone was instantly put into a good mood. The water was so warm and the beach was beautiful. The weather was also wonderful- we even had to break out our sweatshirts! We had almost 2 full days there of such much needed time of R and R. We then moved on to Alexandria, which is also beautiful. There we saw many of the monuments from the Greco-Roman time, including the site of the ancient lighthouse of Alexandria.

This past week, we've been doing our final tours and classes in Cairo. We went to many of the mosques in the area and went on a walking tour of Medieval Cairo. It definitely has a different feel than downtown Cairo. We've also gone to the Cairo museum and saw many of the ancient Egyptian artifacts. There's so much that we could see and do here, but it's amazing to think back to how much we've seen and done.

We hope this finds you all well, we miss and love you lots!

:) Global