Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt, has an atmosphere that is more Mediterranean than Middle Eastern; its ambience and cultural heritage distance it from the rest of the country although it is actually only 225km from Cairo. Extending about 32 km along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in the north central part of the country. It is also the largest city lying directly on the Mediterranean coast.

Alexandria is Egypt's largest seaport, serving approximately 80% of Egypt's imports and exports. Alexandria is also an important tourist resort.

Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, it remained Egypt's capital for nearly a thousand years, until the Muslim conquest of Egypt in AD 641. Ancient Alexandria was best known for its Lighthouse of Alexandria (Pharos), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World; its library (the largest library in the ancient world); and the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages. But ancient Alexandria declined, and when Napoleon landed, he found a sparsely populated fishing village.

From the late 19th century, Alexandria became a major center of the international shipping industry and one of the most important trading centers in the world, both because it profited from the easy overland connection between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, and the lucrative trade in Egyptian cotton.

Alexandria continues the legacy as a center of learning, with the Alexandria University and Alexandria Institute of Technology. Also Alexandria has various international schools from England, Germany and France. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a new library constructed in 2002. It was built in hopes of reviving the Royal Library of Alexandria. The Royal Library was once the largest Library in the world but was destroyed.

Soccer is the main sport in Alexandria and in much of Northern Africa as well. Alexandria has four major stadiums: Borg El Arab Stadium, Harras El-Hedoud Stadium, Alexandria Stadium and El-Krom Stadium. Alexandria Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium in Alexandria, which is the oldest stadium in both Egypt and Africa, being built in 1929.