



From Egypt with love

Eugene Yiga learns a few valuable life lessons while holidaying in Cairo with his dad

There's nothing like a holiday to recharge your batteries. For my university graduation gift 10 years ago, I got nine days of trekking through temples and discovering the magic of Egypt with my brother and my dad. You know, a little father-sons bonding.

THE TEST OF TIME

We couldn't help but stare in awe at the pyramids in Giza and the Sphinx, realising that these structures, built thousands of years ago, were still standing today. And we couldn't help but imagine how advanced today's society would

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have been, had the knowledge of ancient civilisations survived intact.

The modern aspects of Cairo were equally impressive and somewhat surprising for such an old city. It buzzed with energy at every turn. Even though only a small percentage of Cairo's inhabitants have houses with actual yards or gardens, they don't let apartment living faze them. Instead, children gather to play in local parks.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

That visceral sense of community is evident in all aspects of Cairo life, even on the road. Though most people drive like absolute maniacs, ignoring the few working traffic lights and constantly creating their own lanes, it somehow works (although crossing the road was still scarier than the time I went skydiving).

There's no such thing as road rage in Cairo, nor does anyone get upset about the occasional scratch or bump. Nobody yells or screams when they get cut off - because it'll be their turn to do the same a few seconds later.

LESSONS IN RESPONSIBILITY

In the end, I was quite sad to leave a place I'd grown to love in such a short time. The people of Cairo make you feel welcome. And instead of looking for handouts, they create opportunities for themselves. Some set up shop at the bazaars selling spices,



art or clothing, while others learn foreign languages just to be better tour guides. There's something admirable about making an effort and putting in an honest day's work. It's the kind of thing that permanently endears you to a place and its people. **C**

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