

Road to Jordan - 16 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



The ultimate! Pyramids, Valley of the Kings, Nile felucca cruising & chill-out time at Dahab on the Red Sea. Topped off with Jordan! Home to the stunning Rose City of Petra (voted one of the New 7 Wonders of the World), coastal Aqaba and a 4x4 safari into the desert-scapes of Wadi Rum.



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile
- Nile felucca cruising - islands en route
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Dahab - Red Sea coast - swim, relax, opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters
- The Dead Sea, take a swim and opt for a mud bath
- Madaba, Jordan - Christian market town, Church of St George, Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics
- Rose City of Petra, Jordan

- Wadi Rum desert and safari, Jordan

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- 7 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 3 nights 3 star hotels - Jordan, 1 night deluxe desert camp (Wadi Rum), 1 night bus: Luxor - Dahab, 2 nights felucca (open deck)
- 1 overnight train: Cairo - Aswan (seater train). Sleeper cabin upgrade possible!
- Return private ferry crossing to Jordan: Taba/Nuweiba to Aqaba, Aqaba - Taba/Nuweiba
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 16
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Luxor, Mt Nebo, Wadi Rum and Petra
- Dahab - Red Sea - swim, sun and sand
- Excursion to the Dead Sea
- Wadi Rum 4x4 desert safari
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology and licensed Jordanian guides throughout Jordan
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$60-80 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$180-200 USD
- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour guide in Egypt & Jordan. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tip for your Felucca Crew/ Nile Cruise staff, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guides and crew is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Saturday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be met by a representative from on the go. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Cairo International Airport can appear to be a little chaotic to the uninitiated. This is

normal! Upon exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins!

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day One of the tour, one of our team will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. Day One is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. **Overnight - Cairo**

Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo – Aswan - breakfast. After a good nights rest, we have a full day of touring planned for today. You'll need to have your bags packed as we'll be travelling down to Aswan in southern Egypt tonight.

Our first stop this morning is the famous pyramids and lionheaded Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were built by a highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stonecutters. About 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in the construction of Cheops! Leaving the Pyramids of Giza, we'll sometimes drop into a Government supervised papyrus emporium. Here, you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices.

Continuing to the necropolis of Saqqara, we can explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zoser's step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC! Later there will be a chance to have dinner before we journey to Aswan by overnight train. Option to upgrade to sleeper train cabins. Please see website or brochure for details. **Overnight - Train (B)**

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updated on 20-02-2012

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Day 3 : Philae Temple



Arrival and check into our hotel. Today, we visit the Aswan High Dam and travel by boat to Agilika Island to visit the Temple of Philae. Later, free time to hit the bazaars or relax by the swimming pool.
Overnight - Aswan (B)

Days 4-5 : Felucca Cruise

Aswan – Nile felucca cruise – Kom Ombo - all meals. Day 4 - Optional early morning air excursion to famous Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder (details of this optional excursion are featured in our brochure and online). Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan rock-cut façade, Abu Simbel was created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple, the four famous colossal statues of Ramses II sit majestically, staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. Famously, the temple was re-located in a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser, which had threatened to erode the foundations of this monolithic temple complex.

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, there is plenty to do in Aswan, before our early afternoon departure on our Nile felucca cruise. You can relax at the hotel, explore Aswan and its beautiful shoreline and corniche or perhaps do a spot of shopping. This afternoon, we board our wind-powered Nile felucca for a 2-night voyage on the River Nile upstream to Kom Ombo. Feluccas are simple sailboats based on a unique design and have plied the mighty Nile since ancient times.

If sailing by felucca is not for you, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise with our Pharaoh's Pass. 2 nights onboard the felucca. All meals included.

NOTE: As feluccas are wind-powered, our itinerary cannot be rigidly defined. However, during our cruise, we make plenty of stops to visit points of interest, areas for swimming and for the purpose of performing our ablutions. (there are no toilets or showers on board) The felucca sails during the day, and prior to sundown, the anchor is dropped and we moor at the riverside for the night. The craft carries between 5-10 passengers comfortably and the deck is strewn with soft colorful cushions and rugs and equipped with a canopy that offers shade and protection from the elements. You will need to bring a sleeping bag/sleeping sheet and also a

towel with you. Soft drinks, water and beer can be purchased aboard.

THE NILE FELUCCA CRUISE: Before boarding the felucca, it is important you prepare a day bag - taking care to pack things you feel you'll need during the cruise, as your large bag will be placed below in below deck storage. If unable to swim, you must advise your tour leader before boarding.

5 STAR NILE CRUISER: Those travellers who have opted and paid the supplement to travel aboard the Nile 5 Star cruiser will be provided with their cruising schedule upon arrival in Cairo. Boarding of the Nile 5 star cruiser will usually be on Day 3 for a period of 3 nights, or on Day 4 for a period of 3 nights. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Day 6 : Temple of Horus & Luxor



Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking, at Kom Ombo travel to visit the Temple of Horus in Edfu. Later, time to relax at our hotel and spend the evening your way. Alternatively enjoy an optional visit to the Temple of Luxor by night by traditional horse and carriage and dinner afterward. The excursion cost is minimal and payable locally.
Overnight - Luxor (B)

Day 7 : Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Dahab – breakfast. Opt for our early morning Hot Air Ballooning excursion. After, an early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. Prior to this it is possible to join our hot air ballooning excursion over ancient Thebes - fabulous early in the morning!

Arriving the West Bank, the first monument you'll see is the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III. Further highlights include the legendary Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs, constructed to once house the regal sarcophagi enclosed mummies of the mighty pharaohs awaiting their passage into the after-life.

Later this afternoon after time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak - a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers.

Tonight, we travel to Dahab by overnight. Stops will be made throughout the journey including a dinner break in Hurghada. **Overnight - Bus (B)**

Days 8-10 : Dahab



Arrival and hotel check-in. Diving, snorkelling, sun-worshipping, relaxing, shopping - take your pick. Enjoy also an optional excursion to the Blue Hole, where you can snorkel and discover the colourful and renowned marine life of the Red Sea. Climbing Mt Sinai and visiting St Katherine's Monastery (optional activity) may also be available. In winter, if available we may visit St. Katherine's Monastery in the morning, then trek the mountain to watch the sunset. **Overnight - Dahab (B:3)**

Day 11 : Dead Sea - Jordan



Dahab - Aqaba - Madaba. This morning, we transfer to Taba/Nuweiba to take a private ferry crossing to Aqaba in Jordan. From Aqaba we commence our included excursion to the Dead Sea for lunch and a swim. Onward we explore Mt. Nebo - the single most important biblical site in Jordan. Having led the Israelites for 40 years through the wilderness, Moses finally saw from this panoramic vantage point, the Promised Land. We too can enjoy excellent views of the Jordan River Valley, the northern shore of the Dead Sea, Jericho and on clear days Jerusalem. We travel onto the bustling market town of Madaba. **Overnight - Madaba (B, L)**

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Day 12 : Explore Petra - your way



Madaba - Petra. Explore Christian Madaba this morning before noon time transfer to Petra. The late afternoon offers free time. Choose to explore the town on foot, stop off at a cafe for a cup of rich dark arabian coffee, browse the village shops, pop into the 'Made in Jordan' store for quality hand made items or simply spend the afternoon relaxing by the pool.

Free evening or why not test your culinary skills in the Petra Kitchen. Visit our website for more info.
Overnight - Petra (B)

Day 13 : The Rose City of Petra



Welcome to the Rose City! Access to the city on our guided exploration is through the famous narrow, deep siq. The rocks then give way to the most amazing site – that of the fantastically impressive Treasury. Walking down the gravel tracks, we'll explore the ancient Nabatean tombs and the Roman rock-carved streets lined with temples, royal tombs, staircases, arched gates and public buildings. There is also a gigantic amphitheatre originally built to house 3000 spectators, though the Romans increased capacity to a whopping 7000. After the guided tour, you're free to head off and further explore, haggle for a horse and chariot or just relax and take it all in.

Tonight, it maybe possible to take a candlelit walk through the Siq by attending the 'Petra by Night' excursion.
Overnight - Petra (B)

Day 14 : 4 x 4 safari Wadi Rum

Petra - Wadi Rum. A free morning in Petra to further explore independently or with your guide. If following in the footsteps of our guide we enter the

Nabataean city via the 'secret road' of al-Madras, and visit the High Place of Sacrifice for a panoramic view of the ancient city centre.

Later this afternoon, we depart Petra and drive to Wadi Rum. A vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebels, dating from when time began that rise from the desert floor, Wadi Rum is our base for an exciting 4 x 4 desert safari. We'll jump aboard open-top 4 x 4s for our sunny, sandy and scenic adventure into Jordan's wilderness. Tonight, we'll enjoy an included Bedouin dinner and bed down in our permanent tents surrounded by a galaxy of twinkling stars and the striking desert landscape.

Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)

Day 15 : Crossing the Gulf of Aqaba



Wadi Rum - Aqaba - Cairo. Free time, dependent upon ferry departure time. Later today we drive to Aqaba to cross the Gulf of Aqaba once again by private ferry and travel onward by road to Cairo. The journey will take approximately 7 hours with us arriving to Cairo very late in the evening.
Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 16 : Egyptian Museum

Sunday. This morning we enjoy a guided tour of the Egyptian National Museum of Antiquities. The museum boasts an amazing and certainly extensive collection. Opt to visit the Royal Mummy Room, where 9 royal mummies from the New Kingdom is displayed. The museum is home to an extensive collection of some 120 000 ancient Egyptian artifacts. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to airport.

Note: Flights should not be booked any earlier than 05:00am on day 16. If undertaking our Egyptian Museum tour on day 16, it is important that you reserve a flight departing Cairo after 3:00pm, or consider reserving an additional night's accommodation. Alternatively we also offer guided tours to the Egyptian Museum on day 1. If wishing to take part in this tour on day 1, please ensure that your flight to Cairo arrives prior to 08:00am. (B)

Crossing by Ferry from Egypt to Jordan

In line with Aqaba visa regulations and the rules of the private passenger ferries running from Taba (or Nuweiba) to Aqaba, all passengers must return to

Egypt. As such it is in no way possible to leave the tour in Jordan and make your own arrangements from there onward. If wishing to end your tour in Jordan consider our Tutankhamen to the Treasury 14 day tour that uses a public ferry and port terminal that allows for a continued stay in Jordan.

IMPORTANT: On the rare occasion (3 - 4 times per year, often in winter) and at very late notice the ferry between Jordan/Egypt maybe cancelled. In such situations alternative arrangements (at an additional cost to travellers) via the land borders of Israel OR (if possible), arrange a flight from Amman, Jordan to Cairo, Egypt.

If re-routing via the land border and you do not want your passport stamped by Israeli Immigration, it is sometimes possible for a visa card to be stamped instead. Most Middle Eastern countries do not take issue with passports containing Israeli stamps i.e. Egypt, Jordan, United Arab Emirates or Turkey. Syria and Lebanon will refuse bearers of passports containing Israeli stamps. Should you wish for your passport NOT to contain evidence of having travelled to Israel, you also need to have your Jordanian exit stamp, stamped upon a separate piece of paper, which Jordanian officials are willing to do. Then upon entering/departing Israel politely specify, 'NO STAMP PLEASE' and request a visa card.

The additional cost to travellers for re-routing via the Israeli Land border is approx USD\$48.

If we are able to arrange a flight from Amman, Jordan to Cairo, Egypt. Travellers will be transferred to Amman airport, fly to Egypt (1.5 hr flight), be met at Cairo airport and onward transfer to your hotel. The cost of a flight from Amman to Cairo is approx USD\$175 - \$220. On the go Tours will decide at the time which of the above arrangements will be best for the group (according to local conditions/ border opening and closure times, security and flight availability), often it is by flight. Payment for each of these alternatives is required at the time, ie prior to the commencement of the alternative arrangement. As such all travellers should carry cash funds in USD (appropriate to the highest value of the amount specified above) whilst travelling in Jordan.

Further this eventually may also occur when travelling from Egypt to Jordan.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt. Visa forms are available from us. The Embassy of Egypt advises all travellers to procure their visa prior to entry into Egypt. However it still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport.

Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, on the go cannot be held responsible.



All RSA passport holders must procure their Egyptian visa prior to departure.

When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use the following address: 68 Merghany St, Abou Ghaly Building Heliopolis, Cairo. Telephone: +2 02 241821 65

If your holiday incorporates a stay in Jordan, followed by further arrangements in Egypt (ie you travel to Jordan and then return to Egypt) you will need to procure a Multiple Entry Egyptian Tourist Visa that is only available before travelling to Egypt.

Please note that visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

If travelling with us from Egypt to Jordan via Aqaba Seaport (the Jordanian port of entry if arriving from Egypt) a Jordanian Tourist Visa is obtainable upon arrival, free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders. For all other nationalities please check with your local Jordanian Embassy. On departure from Jordan, via land or sea, a 5JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors.

Etiquette

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Egypt. In return, please demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the local customs. Egypt is a Muslim country; so care should be taken to dress respectfully in large cities and towns, for example, when at markets and in public places.

- Ladies should avoid wearing 'clingy, tight or suggestive' attire, and stick to cool, flowing, cottons in busy city areas and markets
- Take care to dress conservatively and ensure that limbs are covered and remove footwear prior to entering a mosque.
- Ex-military style clothing should not be worn
- Ask permission before taking photographs of people.
- Beach attire is fine on board felucca cruises, at beach resorts or touristic areas i.e. at the Pyramids.
- Particular respect should be shown to Muslim women.
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

Mosques, Religion & Ramadan

90% of the population are Muslim. Others are Coptic Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques (with the exception of Sayyida Zeinab and Al-Hussein in Cairo) are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. For Egypt's best mosques, go to Islamic Cairo. Dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast.. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -
21 July - 20 August 2012
09 July - 07 August 2013

Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan, so our itinerary is slightly altered to ensure we visit all itinerary attractions. Non Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street.

Trouble Shooting

These things will most likely never happen, but it's good to be prepared if they ever do. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free. Egypt is no worse than anywhere else when it comes to crime. The biggest problem seems to be petty theft, including pick-pocketing and bag snatching. Minimise your chances of being robbed with these tips:

- Leave valuables in the hotel safe deposit or better still, at home
- Carry your passport on your person or a photocopy as ID
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female
- Don't catch cabs late at night on your own
- Never drink anything offered to you in the street, unless you opened it yourself

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

It's not like home

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers for the cooler evenings. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt's Mediterranean coastline.

Health Requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

Currency

Egyptian Pounds (EGP or LE). Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged. You can obtain Egyptian Pounds (LE) at any major bank or your hotel. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations.

- USD 1 = EGP 6.0
- GBP 1 = EGP 9.3
- AUD 1 = EGP 6.0
- EURO 1 = EGP 7.70

Holiday Money

All funds collected in Egypt for entrance fees or optional excursion that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency (EGP).

Time

Egypt is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Essential Packing

- Sleeping bag for the felucca or for camping in the White Desert (if applicable to your tour).
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor.
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Neck pillow, sleeping bag and eye mask, if travelling on the overnight seater train.
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us to Jordan and staying at our Wadi Rum camp.

If doing a felucca cruise, undertaking the Mt Sinai excursion in Dahab or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. - fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night. Due to sometimes icy conditions at the summit of Mt Sinai, hiking boots and thermal clothing are a sensible

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consideration if undertaking the optional climb in winter (November - March).

Arrival Transfers

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Egypt is delayed, please call or send a text message to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Travelling by overnight train

SEATER TRAIN: On many of our group tours journeying south from Cairo to Aswan and/or Luxor, we utilise the overnight SEATER train service. This style of train offer basic and a modest level of comfort. Seating is reserved in air-conditioned Nefertiti Class or 1st Class Reserved seater wagons. Nefertiti style seats are located within 6 person, semi enclosed cabins. Whilst seats don't recline, the lights can be switched off inside your cabin. While 1st Class Reserved wagons are open, lights can not be turned off though the seats are wide and do recline. It is suggested you bring some ear plugs and also an eye mask for personal comfort. A neck pillow is also good idea, for a little added comfort. Rest rooms (which are very basic in standard) are located at the end of each wagon.

It is possible to upgrade to a sleeper cabin, reservations need to be made PRIOR to departure. Please ask your reservation consultant for more information.

Occasionally, the Nefertiti Class and the 1st Class Reserve train service are cancelled, in which case we would need to revert to a sleeper service at an additional cost to the passenger. You would be advised in Egypt, as although this occurrence is rare, there would be little notice offered.

SLEEPER TRAIN SERVICE, SLEEPER CABIN UPGRADE: On our Jewel of the Nile and Family tours we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. If you book our SLEEPER TRAIN UPGRADE this is also the service that you will be travelling on. Sleeper Train Cabins are equipped with 2 bunk beds with linen provided. Cabins are lockable, A/C and lighting are also controlled from the inside. Each cabin has a washbasin and small towel and western style bathrooms are located at the end of the carriage. Dinner and breakfast (of an average standard) are served throughout the journey.

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