

# Cairo Stopover

## 3 Days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



*Stopping over in Cairo? Why not extend your stay and explore the city of a thousand minarets for a stopover with a difference. Spend two nights in Egypt's capital exploring the famous Pyramids of Giza, the iconic Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- The Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza
- The Egyptian Museum - home to the treasures of the great Pharaohs including the famed 9kg solid Golden Mask of King Tutankhamun.

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 2 nights - standard hotel (based on twin/double basis)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 3
- Guided sightseeing of the Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza and the Egyptian Museum
- Guided sightseeing on day 2 conducted by an English speaking Egyptian tour guide, qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

#### What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: USD\$40-50pp, paid in local currency
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Cairo



Welcome to Egypt and the start of your city stay! Arrive Cairo, included transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

#### Overnight - Cairo

#### Day 2 : The Pyramids of Giza & the Egyptian Museum



After breakfast at the hotel head out with your guide to the famous pyramids of Giza and the huge Sphinx. These ancient wonders are the sole survivors from the ancient Greek-listed Seven Wonders of the World and it is said that the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction! Marvel at Cheops (Khufu) - the Great Pyramid which was constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks and is thought to have taken more than 20 years to construct. Whilst exploring Giza, you can opt to go inside one of the pyramids, subject to opening. Not built for the purpose of accommodating curious travellers, a visit inside one of the pyramids is hot, humid and not recommended for the claustrophobic – but you do feel a bit like Indiana Jones! For a real Arabian experience, why not hire a camel for a trot across the sands of Giza past one of the most famous backdrops in the world.

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updated on 20-05-2019

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After time for lunch and a little respite head back into Cairo to embark upon a guided tour of the famous Egyptian National Museum of Antiquities at Tahrir Square. In addition to witnessing the priceless funerary treasures of King Tutankhamen, including his legendary solid gold death mask, the museum boasts an amazing and certainly extensive collection of some 120 000 ancient Egyptian artefacts. Also during the visit you can choose to visit the Royal Mummy Room, where 9 royal mummies from the New Kingdom are displayed. Once you've had your fill of ancient Egypt – head back to the hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure.

## Overnight - Cairo (B)

## Day 3 : Cairo



Today marks the conclusion of our arrangement. Enjoy breakfast at leisure before hotel check out and included onward departure transfer to the airport.(B)

## Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Egypt. After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book trains and flights tickets on your behalf, if included within your holiday.

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt. It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Costs are currently USD 25/ GBP 15/ Euro 20/ EGP 175. Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, On The Go Tours cannot be held responsible.

Contrary to the above the Egyptian Embassy recommends that all visitors to Egypt procure a visa in advance of arrival. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate for application forms, processing times and costs.

## Currency

The currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Egypt. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and all major towns have ATMs. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

## Time & Voltage

Egypt is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require the European, 2 pronged variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

## Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Egypt from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Rabies are strongly recommended. As tap water is not safe to drink in Egypt, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

## 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.

## Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$5 - 6 per person for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go representative we'd recommend USD\$2 - 3 per person for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

## 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.
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

## Mosques & Religion

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

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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) -

27 May - 25 June 2017.

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.

## Shopping

Egypt is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. While Cairo's Khan al-Khalili bazaar is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects, smaller souqs and bazaars abound in other towns, too. Top buys include - perfume concentrate, carpets and rugs in innumerable hand-loomed designs, backgammon boards, hand-crafted shisha pipes, Pharaonic objects fashioned in marble and alabaster, Egyptian cotton clothing and of course - authentic papyrus.

**IMPORTANT:** Set your budget and don't be swayed, remember the caveat - 'Let the buyer beware'. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other, are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible or accountable for items

bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

## Troubleshooting

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
- Keep bags locked at all times with a combination/padlock. Bags should also be locked including when being transferred in vehicles, onboard the train, felucca or when taking a flight.
- 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.

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