

Pyramid City

4 Days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Enjoy an exciting city stay in a city that never ceases to amaze. Sleeping by the foot of the Giza Pyramids in a lovely hotel makes for a fabulous long weekend with a little sightseeing and a lot of relaxing.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- The iconic Pyramids of Giza and the great Sphinx - the only remaining ancient wonder of the world.
- The Egyptian Museum - home to 9kg solid gold mask of the boy King Tutankhamun.
- Free day to independently explore, opt to see the Step Pyramid of Saqqara, visit Khan el Khalili Markets or simply spend the day relaxing by the hotel pool.

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 3 nights - deluxe Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel (or similar). Room upgrades, including Pyramids View are available!
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 4
- Guided sightseeing of the Pyramids and 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
- Entrance fees to all sites inc. (excludes optional entrance fees to the Royal Mummy Room at Egyptian Museum and pyramid interiors should you wish to visit these sites)

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- 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 the 5 star Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel and overnight. **Overnight - Cairo**

Day 2 : The Pyramids of Giza & the Egyptian Museum



Hello Cairo! Today, enjoy a guided visit to the famous pyramids and huge Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek-listed Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction! Gaze in awe at Cheops (Khufu) - the largest of the three great pyramids. Constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks it is thought to have taken more than 20 years to construct. Whilst here, you can opt to enter 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! For a real Arabian experience, perhaps opt to hire a camel for a trot across the sands of Giza.

After time for lunch and a little respite we embark upon a guided

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tour of the famous Egyptian National Museum of Antiquities. 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 artifacts. Also during the visit you can choose to visit the Royal Mummy Room, where 9 royal mummies from the New Kingdom is displayed.

Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 3 : Discover Cairo - your own way



A free day to enjoy Cairo your own way. Consider relaxing by the hotel swimming pool, snapping up a few bargains at the Khan el Khalili bazaar or further sightseeing Cairo with our optional Cairo City tour or a visit to the tomb-strewn Saqqara, home to Zoser's step pyramid. The step pyramid was constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC, and was the template for all future pyramid construction, including the Great Pyramids of Giza.

Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 4 : 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)

HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Le Meridien Pyramids

Set within beautifully manicured gardens, Le Meridien Pyramids is a stunning modern hotel affording amazing views of the Pyramids. The guest rooms have been designed with optimum taste and comfort in mind and include state of the art facilities. The outdoor swimming pool includes waterfalls and hydro jets. head to the Citrus Pool Bar in the afternoon for a refreshing beverage under the gaze of the pyramids!



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

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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 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.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas

Egypt

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, if included within your holiday.

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt.

E-Visa. You can obtain an e-Visa for tourism purposes prior to travel by completing an application and making payment online. The e-Visa can be obtained up to 3 months prior to travel and is valid for 30 days from the date of entry. The e-Visa is available to a long list of eligible countries and the Government of Egypt is constantly adding to the list. The current cost (Mar 2018) of a single entry e-Visa for tourism purposes is USD25 or equivalent. The visa cost is set to rise to USD60 and this may happen at any time. We recommend you secure an e-Visa prior to travel as it will speed

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up and smooth the immigration process upon your arrival.

Online applications can be completed at: visa2egypt.gov.eg

Visa upon arrival.

It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate to see if this is available to you. The current cost of the visa (Mar 2018) is USD25 and is payable in USD CASH ONLY. The visa upon arrival cost is also set to rise to USD60 and this could happen without notice.

Although not official a visa can near always also be paid in equivalent GBP or Euro CASH ONLY according to the exchange rate of the day. Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, On The Go Tours cannot be held responsible.

Important: RSA, Chinese and passport holders from a number of other countries cannot obtain an e-Visa or Visa upon arrival. Citizens of these countries must obtain an Egyptian Tourist Visa prior to travel. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate for further details.

Note: 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 either of the following addresses:

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi.

Corniche El Nil, Maadi, Cairo 11431

Tel + 202 25260601

Steigenberger Cairo Pyramids Hotel

Alexandria Road, Pyramids - Giza, Cairo, Egypt

Tel +202 33772555

Le Meridien Pyramids

El Remaya Square, Pyramids, Cairo, 12561, Egypt

Tel: +202 33777070

Mecure Cairo Le Sphinx Hotel

1 Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids, Cairo, 12556, Egypt

Tel: +202 33776444

Oasis Hotel

Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids 12556 - Cairo / Egypt

Tel: +202 38387333 & +202 38387666

Jordan

For those travelling onwards to Jordan. A visa is required for most nationalities visiting Jordan. If you are travelling with On The Go

Tours (a registered tour company), this is now obtainable upon arrival and free of charge.

If you are a UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders and travelling with us, (on a holiday including a stay of more than 2 consecutive nights in Jordan or if arriving via a land border staying more than 3 nights) we will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.

Our airport representative will meet your PRIOR to immigration at Amman International Airport and escort you through immigration presenting your free visa approval letter to officials.

Please be sure to provide us with your full passport details at least 4 weeks prior to your arrival in order for the free visa to be arranged. Should you NOT wish to take advantage of a free visa or you are not staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at a cost of 40JD/USD\$57/Euro42 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

On departure (via land or sea), a 5 - 10JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If departing Jordan by air then the departure tax is included in the airfare.

Israel

For those travelling onwards to Israel. British, South African, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian passport holders do not require a visa to enter Israel. For all other nationalities please visit the Israeli embassy website.

Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel.

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. 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 when being transferred in vehicles,

onboard the train, felucca or when taking a flight.

- Carry your passport on your person
- Carry spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female

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.

Entrance Fees & LP

Entry fees to sites of antiquity are not included, although reasonably priced. In Egypt, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour (the amount is noted under exclusions). A breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival. Entrance fees and optional excursions that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency - Egyptian Pounds (EGP). A local Payment of cash GBP150 (or USD equivalent as per the Egyptian bank rate of the day), if applicable to your tour and noted under the exclusions is also payable on day 2.

On tours that also travel to Jordan, entrance fees there are payable in Jordanian Dinar (JD). In Israel (on our Pyramids Petra Promised Land tour) entrance fees are included.

Tip Kitty

At the start of your tour we will collect a tip kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops,

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luggage luggers, bus drivers, antiquity guards, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we would suggest USD\$5-7 per day for your tour guide. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Your tip kitty in Egypt is collected in Egyptian Pounds (EGP). If you are travelling to Jordan, the tip kitty for this part of your holiday is collected in Jordanian Dinar (JD).

In Israel we do not collect a tipping kitty. As a guideline we recommend that you budget USD\$5-7 per day per traveller for your guide and USD\$2-3 per day per traveller for your driver.

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 most hotels and all major towns have ATMs. It's advisable to request 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.

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.

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.

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.

Essential Packing

- Towel for the felucca (if applicable to your chosen 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
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us on the felucca or onward to Jordan.

Felucca: We suggest hiring locally a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD\$15 (total) for the 2 night stay.

Wadi Rum camp: All bedding (which is freshly laundered) is provided at Wadi Rum and therefore bringing a sleeping bag is not a necessity but your own personal choice.

If doing a felucca cruise or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. - fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night.

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 PRIOR to immigration. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative who will fast track you through the immigration queue. Please have your tour voucher handy

and make it available to our representative. Our representative will assist you with your luggage and escort you to our vehicle, where you will wave goodbye and be transferred to your hotel.

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 (standard text message, not messenger or what's app) to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Travelling By Overnight Train

For journeys between Cairo and Aswan and/or Luxor on our Signature tours, and from Luxor to Cairo on our Budget tours, we utilise the overnight 1st class sleeper train service (excluding Treasures of the Nile). On the train the two berth cabins are lockable, equipped with bunk beds, linen, washbasin and towel, allowing passengers to relax and stretch out. A simple dinner and breakfast is included on the service. Dinner, served within an hour of your boarding is of a very average standard and we recommend that you eat dinner prior to boarding the train. A basis breakfast is served in the morning and tea and coffee is offered complimentary. There is a bar carriage located toward the centre of the train where hot and cold beverages can be purchased, and sometimes alcohol. The sleeper train is the highest class of rail travel available in Egypt, though by western standards it would be considered of a moderate standard.

We always request our cabins to be side by side in the same carriage, though ultimately the location of our cabins, and whether they are together rests with the rail authority.

If you are a solo traveller and have opted to share a room for your tour and not pay the single supplement you will be sharing a cabin with another On The Go traveller, or if this isn't possible, a member of the public (of the same sex).

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

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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

Ramadan

The majority of the Egyptian population is Muslim (approx 86%), with a small minority of Jews and Christians. Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims in Egypt and 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 and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street.

Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -

05 May – 04 June 2019

24 April – 23 May 2020

14 April – 13 May 2021

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.

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