

Sunchaser Feb 2020

13 Days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Discover Egypt's ancient wonders and witness the phenomenal Sun Festival at Abu Simbel on this 13 day tour. Gaze in wonder at the legendary Pyramids of Giza and explore Valley of the Kings, go felucca sailing on the Nile and relax by the Red Sea in Hurghada.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Hurghada - enjoy R&R at the Red Sea, swim and opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters
- Abu Simbel Sun Festival - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Rameses II at the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- Cairo - marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Egyptian Museum
- Luxor West Bank - discover exquisite tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Luxor - roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night

- Aswan - take leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Nile felucca cruising - sail the River Nile on board a traditional felucca and spend two nights sleeping under a blanket of stars (or upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruise)
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 8 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck). If booking our Nile Cruise Upgrade, 7 nights 4 - 5 star hotels and 3 nights Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 1 overnight train: Cairo - Aswan (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- 1/2 night 4-5 star Aswan hotel prior to overnight bus journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 13
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Luxor and Hurghada
- 3 days Hurghada, Red Sea stay - swim, sun and sand
- Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology

- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$80-100pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tip for your Felucca Crew, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Tuesday 18 February 2020. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours. 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!

If you are arriving a day or two before the tour starts, one of our team will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time

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in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. We also offer a pre or post tour Alexandria Day Trip which can be pre-booked, please refer to our website for details.

Day one is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. This evening a Welcome Meeting will be held at around 7pm.

Join us today for our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which can be pre-booked and will depart from the hotel at 10am today. Further details about this optional can be found on our website. **Overnight - Cairo**

Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara



Visit to the famous pyramids and monolithic 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. Continuing to 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! **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

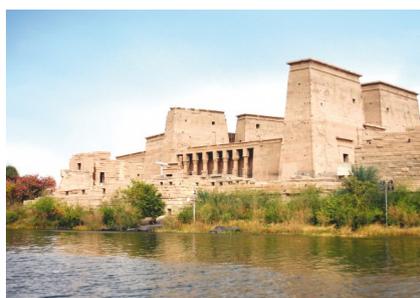
Day 3 : The treasure of King Tutankhamen



Cairo – Aswan. The morning is at leisure so why not go out and visit the Khan el-Khalili bazaar - This is a great place to pick up a few bargains or just sip some tea and people watch! Or opt for an optional Cairo city tour is also available, time permitting (book & pay locally).

Following hotel check out, this afternoon we embark on a guided tour of the enlightening Egyptian Museum, where you can opt to see the famed solid gold death mask of King Tutankhamen, or the Royal Mummy room. Later there will be a chance to have dinner before boarding the overnight sleeper train bound for Aswan. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 4 : Philae Temple & Abu Simbel



Aswan - Abu Simbel. Arrive Aswan, today we take a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. There is time to rest before departing in the wee hours of the morning on our coach journey toward the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel. In readiness we await for the first rays of golden sunlight to touch the temple gate signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II. **Overnight - Overnight – hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel (B)**

Day 5 : ABU SIMBEL SUN FESTIVAL



22 February. Abu Simbel - Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise - all meals. Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan rock-cut façade, the great Sun Temple of King Ramses II at Abu Simbel was created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Built by Ramses II himself, to demonstrate his political clout and divine backing to the ancient Nubians, Abu Simbel is an awesome self-tribute.

Guarding the entrance to the temple (built between 1290 and 1224 BC) hewn into the side of a mountain are four famous colossal statues of the pharaoh himself, which sit majestically staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began.

Over the centuries, the desert sands imperceptibly shifted until the temple was all but lost to humanity. It was rediscovered by chance in 1813 by a Swiss explorer called John Lewis Burkhardt. Only one of the heads of the pharaohs was showing and only a small part of the rest of the colossal temple peeked above the desert sands. It wasn't until the British happened upon Abu Simbel and started excavating that the full glory of the temple of Abu Simbel was revealed to the modern world. The other rock cut temple at Abu Simbel is the Temple of Hathor, which is fronted by six massive standing statues. Four of them represent King Ramses II, whilst the other two are of his beloved wife, Queen Nefertari.

In a fit of precision and architectural egotism, Ramses II had the entire temple carefully angled and oriented in order that the sun's rays would align twice a year on the date of his ascension to the throne (21 February) and on his birthday (21 October) and illuminate the

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inner sanctum of the temple. This incredible natural phenomenon provides for a most spectacular sight, which has come to be referred to as the Sun Festival of King Ramses II. Crowds pack in to the temple before sunrise and watch the shafts of light slowly creeping through the rock hewn inner Hypostyle Hall (replete with further statues of the king) and through to the Sanctuary. Significantly, the sun illuminates statues of Amun-Re, Re-Herakhte and Ramses the god, whilst the statue of Ptah - the god of darkness - remains in the shadows.

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. For this reason, the sun now strikes a day later than Ramses had originally planned, though the event this morning itself is no less stunning.

After watching this incredible event unfold we return to Aswan. Just after noon we board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile.

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 the felucca.

Our feluccas are proudly owned and crewed by friendly local sailors and they have been adapted to comfortably carry our travellers.

NOTE: As feluccas are wind-powered, our itinerary cannot be rigidly defined. A felucca support boat accompanies your felucca providing toilets, washing facilities and a cosy dining area. 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 8-12 passengers comfortably and the deck is strewn with soft colourful cushions and rugs and equipped with a canopy that offers shade and protection from the elements. Nothing beats the experience of sleeping under a blanket of stars. You need to bring a towel with you and can opt to bring a sleeping

bag/sleeping sheet if you wish, though we suggest hiring locally a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD\$15 (total) for the 2 night stay. Soft drinks, water and beer can be purchased aboard.

5 STAR NILE CRUISER: Guests who have opted and paid the supplement to travel aboard the Nile 5 Star cruiser you will board your Nile cruiser on day 5 (prior to travelling to Abu Simbel) and disembark on day 8.

Your cruiser will sail for a total period of 8 - 12 hours covering a distance of 212km (split between 2 of the 3 days you are on board). The remainder of the time the boat is in dock in either Aswan, Luxor or at sightseeing stops en route. Views will be obstructed whilst the cruiser is in dock as ships dock side by side. You may also need to cross the reception of other boats the reach your vessel. Free time is offered during this time to independently explore whilst docked when sight-seeing is not included. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B, L, D)**

Day 6 : Felucca Sailing & Kom Ombo

Nile Felucca Sailing - Kom Ombo. Relax, go for a swim or just chill out in the sun on deck. Let your troubles melt away, as the felucca plies its route. In the afternoon we dock near Kom Ombo and take a motorboat to visit the temple, which is dedicated to the crocodile headed god Sobek, before returning to the felucca for the night. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B, L, D)**

Day 7 : Luxor

Kom Ombo - Luxor. This morning we disembark and drive north to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its best. Checking into our 5 star hotel the afternoon is free for swimming or relaxing by the pool.

Tonight, we have the opportunity to visit Luxor Temple with dinner afterwards. Built by Amenophis III, Luxor Temple looks stunning at night when it's illuminated by hundreds of lights. Book/pay locally at approx USD\$25 including entrance fees and buffet dinner.

Remainder of the evening is at leisure. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

Day 8 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor. An early start to avoid the heat, we venture to the famed Valley of the Kings. One of the first sights you'll see is the Colossi of Memnon. This huge pair of enthroned statues is all that remains of the temple of Amenophis III. See the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut and surrounding tombs.

A short stop will be made at an Alabaster workshop. Stone carving is a trade that has existed on the West Bank since pharaonic times. Carving the stone is a trade passed on generation after generation, for most residents of the west bank and is their sole trade and income. After relaxation time back in Luxor, we visit Karnak Temple, the rest of the day is at your leisure. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

Days 9-11 : Hurghada by the Red Sea



Luxor - Hurghada. Mid morning we depart Luxor heading east to Hurghada part of the beautiful Red Sea Riviera for 3 days on the beach. The remainder of today, day 10 and day 11 can be spent exploring Hurghada or simply relaxing. There is the option to go snorkelling on day 10 but the rest of the time it's up to you!

Hurghada is one of the Red Sea's most popular resorts and it is easy to see why.

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Hotels and expanded infrastructure provide holidaymakers with excellent aquatic facilities for sail boarding, yachting, deep-sea fishing, SCUBA diving and snorkeling. Hurghada's central location provides a gateway to prime offshore reefs, which are some of the finest in the world. Hurghada also has a healthy after dark scene. For retail therapy, the town has plenty of shops selling knock-off bags and tees, snorkeling gear and suchlike. Just outside Hurghada is an ancient Roman quarry called Mons Porphyritis and Port Safarga – a famously windy place and King Kong of windsurfer paradises.

Snorkelling Trip – 700 EGP (approx) per person payable locally.

Join a day trip snorkelling and swimming at Giftan Island. You'll be transferred by motor boat to across the blue water of the Red Sea to Giftan Island, the journey is approximately an hour. The boat will moor up and there is an opportunity to jump into the warm waters (mask and snorkel provided) to swim and marvel at the amazing marine life. Look out for parrot fish, butterfly fish, trumpet fish and angel fish – some times of the year it is also possible to see turtles and even dolphins! After snorkelling the boat continues on to the island for a lunch stop (including soft drink or mineral water). If time allows you can also laze by the beach catching some rays before heading back to shore. Departs 08:15 returning 16:30 approx.

Please note that this is not operated by On The Go and the arrangements on the day are at the captain's discretion. It is also a shared excursion so there could well be other people not part of your group on the boat. **Overnight - Hurghada (B:3)**

Day 12 : Return to Cairo, free time

Hurghada - Cairo. Morning at leisure before hotel check out and then our transfer back to Cairo departing approx 12 noon. Upon arrival and after check in, this evening remains yours to further explore this amazing city, perhaps head to Khan el-Khalili bazaar and pick up a few souvenirs. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 13 : Farewell...

Sunday 01 March 2020. Hotel check out and included transfer to 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.

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel's bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you'll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there's no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt's ancient wonders.



Steigenberger Cairo Pyramids Hotel

Just footsteps away from the Great Pyramids of Giza is the Cairo Pyramids Hotel. Combining ancient history with world-class hospitality, the hotel is the perfect base for sightseeing. Guestrooms are spacious and comfortable, with friendly staff offering 24-hour room service. You're spoilt for choice when it comes to food, with four restaurants offering international and local specialities. Enjoy stunning views of the pyramids from the lush gardens and end your day with a refreshing dip in the pool.



Felucca Cruise

Feluccas are simple, traditional Egyptian sailboats that have plied the Nile since ancient times. Feluccas carry between 10 - 12 passengers comfortably. The boat's deck is draped with soft colourful cushions that serve as your lounging area during the day and as your sleeping area at night. A support boat travels alongside your felucca and is on hand if you need to use the toilet. The support boat is also where your meals are prepared and eaten. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag/sheet (or hire for a nominal cost) and a towel with you. The crew, as well as being experienced sailors, are responsible for the preparation of the included meals.



Sonesta St. George Hotel

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.



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Marriott Beach Resort

The Marriott Beach Resort is a luxurious beachfront hotel, with every room enjoying a view of the Red Sea and Hurghada city centre just a few minutes drive away. There is a choice of 8 restaurants and bars for hungry travellers, and a health club, tennis & squash courts, and fitness centre to stay in shape. During the day, soak in the heated outdoor pool or book a watersport activity. The hotel even has its own private island if you fancy a massage among the palm trees.



Le Meridien Heliopolis

Just a short drive from Cairo's Old Town and international airport, the 5-star Le Meridien Heliopolis combines comfort with convenience. The guest rooms are spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television and a minibar, plus there's complimentary WiFi throughout the property. Dining options include a choice of four on-site restaurants, serving Egyptian and international cuisine. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment and cocktails at The 51 Bar. During the warmer months hotel guests can take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax on a sun lounger on the terrace. There's also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.



Optional Add-ons

If you have opted to extend your stay or enhance your holiday with one of our add-ons, please note:

Alexandria day trip - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm. Entrance fees are payable locally by you, budget approx USD\$18.

Alexandria & El Alamein - 4 days - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm. Entrance fees are payable locally by you, budget approx USD\$18.

Backstreets of Cairo - departs 10am, day 1 and returns to your hotel at 5pm. Entrance fees included.

For further information about Add-ons, please refer to our website: www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Tour-Add-ons

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 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.

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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, 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

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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 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

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

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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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