Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land
19 Days | Cairo to Tel Aviv

Travelling from Cairo to Tel Aviv, take in the highlights of Egypt, Jordan and Israel, neighbouring countries, steeped in history. From the grand Pyramids of Giza in Cairo to the beautiful Rose City of Petra and the Biblical sites of Jerusalem, join us on a journey of epic proportion.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
- Jerusalem (West Bank) - explore the sacred sites of the Old City, including the Wailing Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Via Dolorosa
- Petra - discover this spectacular UNESCO-listed Nabataean city, which is one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- Cairo - marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Egyptian Museum
- Wadi Rum - explore this vast red desert with its rolling dunes and dramatic rock formations in a 4x4 and camp under a blanket of stars
- Luxor West Bank - discover exquisite tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- The Dead Sea - spend a night at the Dead Sea, float in the famously buoyant, mineral-rich waters and smother yourself in Dead Sea mud
- 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 Agilkia Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souks
- Nile felucca cruising - sail the River Nile on board a traditional felucca, visit islands and spend two nights sleeping under a blanket of stars (or upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruise)
- Hurghada - relax at the Red Sea, swim and opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo
- Wadi Mujib - go canyoning in the lowest nature reserve in the world (included on tours departing April to October)
- Shobak - visit Shobak Crusader castle, perched dramatically on a hill top
- Bethlehem (West Bank) - visit the Shepherd’s Field, Church of the Nativity and Manger Square
- Haifa - walk through the beautiful terraces of the Bahai Gardens, set on the slopes of Mount Carmel, and see the UNESCO listed Bahai Shrine
- Caesarea – discover Roman and Crusader-era ruins
- Jaffa - stroll around the picturesque fortified old town
- Tel Aviv - independently explore Israel’s “City That Never Sleeps”, with its long stretch of beautiful beaches

What’s Included
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- 7 nights 4 - 5 star hotels in Egypt, 7 nights 4 star hotels in Jordan and Israel, 1 night deluxe desert camp in Wadi Rum and 2 nights felucca (open deck). If booking our Nile Cruise Upgrade, 6 nights 4 - 5 star hotels in Egypt and 3 nights Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 1 overnight train: Cairo - Aswan (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1, day 11 and day 19
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Luxor, Hurghada, Petra, Wadi Rum and Shobak
- Swimming in the Dead Sea
- 4x4 desert safari through Wadi Rum
- Touring in Israel - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Haifa, Caesarea and Jaffa
- Escorted by Egyptian tour guide qualified in Egyptology, licensed Jordanian and Israeli tour guides in Jordan and Israel respectively

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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- All additional transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees included for sightseeing in Israel

What’s Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD$90-110pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD$190-210pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa. Please note the flight between Hurghada and Amman is not included and needs to be booked separately - see our Trip Notes for more info
- Tip for your tour guides in Egypt, Jordan and Israel. We recommend you allow USD $5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo
Friday. Welcome to Egypt! Upon 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. Exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins! This evening a Welcome Meeting will be held at around 7pm.

If you are arriving a day or two before the tour starts, one of our team will be on hand to assist on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. We also offer an optional pre tour Alexandria Day Trip, 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. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or for those that are arriving before 8.30am, join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am (best booked prior with your travel consultant). This optional tour takes you off the beaten track in Egypt's bustling capital, visiting Downtown Cairo, the exquisite mosques and monuments of El Moez Street in Islamic Cairo, Garbage City and the incredible Cave Church of St. Simon.

Overnight - Cairo

Day 2 : The Egyptian Museum
Today we visit the Egyptian Museum for an informative guided tour. The Egyptian Museum holds a mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history are housed in the museum, making it one of the foremost in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the solid gold funerary mask of King Tutankhamun. Made of solid gold and weighing 11kg, the mask was found covering the head of mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi. You can also opt to see also the Royal Mummies for a small additional fee, if you wish.

The rest of the day is at leisure, you may wish to visit the splendid souk of Khan el-Khalili or simply relax by the hotel pool. Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 3 : Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo - Aswan. 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. We then visit the famous pyramids and iconic 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! Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were already more than 2,000 years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stone cutters carried out the job of building the pyramids. 100,000 workers were used to carry out the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops. 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 visit a government supervised papyrus emporium where 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 Zhoser’s step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh’s chief architect in 2700 BC!

Later there will be a chance to have dinner and freshen up. Entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected at this time. Then we board an overnight sleeper train to Aswan. Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)

Day 4 : Philae Temple

Arrive into Aswan and check into our hotel. We enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolomies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures.

Upon returning to Aswan we visit a perfume oil emporium. The use of essential and perfumed oils in Egypt dates back to 2700BC. Perfumed oils were used by women, pharaohs and by temple priests for worship who offered a melange of 6 perfumes called Kyphi to the Sun God at dawn, noon and dusk. At the perfumery, there’s a million and one exquisite glass bottles filled with perfumed oils that make for a truly authentic Egyptian gift. For those that are not interested there is a supermarket nearby where you can use the opportunity to purchase snacks and incidentals.

Later, free time to perhaps enjoy some shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile. Overnight - Aswan (B)
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Days 5-6: Felucca Sailing & Kom Ombo

Aswan – Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo.

Day 5 - Optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel. Travelling due south through the vast sandy desert we arrive at the site. Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder is possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its mammoth 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. In a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, the temple was famously re-located 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 as 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. In the afternoon, we board our wind-powered Nile felucca for a 2-night voyage on the River Nile, sailing downstream to Kom Ombo where we board a motorboat to visit the temple

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 you are unable to swim, you must advise your tour guide before boarding the felucca.

5 STAR NILE CRUISER: Guests who have paid the supplement to travel aboard the 5 Star Nile cruiser will be provided with their cruising schedule upon arrival to Aswan. Cruise schedules vary. Boarding of the cruise ship will be on day 4 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 5 for a period of 3 nights. The optional excursion to Abu Simbel is also available to those that have elected to upgrade to the cruiser (the cruiser remains in port until your return from Abu Simbel. On rare occasions the ship may have already set sail and in such situations you’ll be transferred by road to the nearest dock to rendezvous with your cruiser).

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 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

Today we cross to the West Bank of the Nile for the day’s touring. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. The first monument you’ll see on the West Bank is the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated pharaohs’ tombs, some of which you can enter. Some of the tombs are so well preserved; the colours of the incredible pharaonic friezes are still as vibrant as when they were first painted. The best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Beyond the Valley of the Kings is Deir al-Bahri, otherwise known as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces, it is one of Egypt’s finest and most photographed monuments.
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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.

We return to the east bank around midday, where we have a chance to relax by the hotel pool. Meeting up mid afternoon, we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is 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.

Note: The Valley of the Kings ticket includes entry to 3 tombs. A subset of the 64 tombs at the site are open at any point in time and your guide will offer advice on the best ones to visit on the day. The tomb of King Tutankhamen is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit. Overnight - Luxor (B)

Day 9 : Hurghada

Luxor - Hurghada. Departing Luxor we head east to Hurghada part of the beautiful Red Sea Riviera for some beach time! Overnight - Hurghada (B)

Day 10 : Hurghada - by the Red Sea

Today can either be spent relaxing by the beach in Hurghada or on an optional boat trip to snorkel and swim at Giftn Island. Hurghada is one of the Red Sea’s most popular resorts and it’s the gateway to prime offshore reefs, which are some of the finest in the world. The resort also has an array of shops, restaurants and bars for evening entertainment.

Snorkelling Trip – 700 EGP (approx) per person payable locally. Join a day trip snorkelling and swimming at Giftun Island. You’ll be transferred by motor boat to across the blue water of the Red Sea to Giftun 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)

Day 11 : Fly Egypt to Jordan

Hurghada - Cairo - Amman - Petra (Monday).
We have an early start this morning as we make our way to Hurghada airport. From here we’ll fly to Amman via Cairo. Travellers need to independently book these flights at a personal cost, however, we can assist in booking these flights should you require. Total flight cost: budget USD$250 - $350.

The flights to be booked are:
Tour starts between 01 Jul - 31 Dec 2019
Hurghada to Cairo - M5 332 departing at 08:35 and arriving CAI at 09:40, then M5 707 departing Cairo at 12 noon, arriving to Amman at 13:20/14:20 (dependent upon daylight saving). Book the flights on one ticket so clients will be able to check in all your luggage in HRG and collect it in AMM.

Flights are best booked via the EgyptAir website: www.egyptair.com or Royal Jordanian website: www.rj.com. Here, if you book your flight well in advance you will have access to the online ‘Best Offer’ fare that is only published on the web and are not available to us locally to book on your behalf.

The cost of this flight ranges from: $250 - $350 per person.

If your tour commences after 31 Dec 2019, please do not book this flight at this point in time.

Upon arrival into Amman we drive south to Petra arriving near sunset. Tonight you may wish to take a candlelight stroll through Petra’s Siq…a romantic preview of things to come on, by joining the ‘Petra By Night’ excursion (book locally). Overnight - Petra (B)

Day 12 : Rose City of Petra

To discover the archaeological treasures of Petra, we first take a walk through the winding cleft in the rock that is known as the Siq, before reaching the awe-inspiring Treasury. This rose red building actually served as a royal tomb, but got its name from the legend that pirates hid their treasure there. More amazing Nabataean and Roman ruins follow, including a huge 8000 seat amphitheatre and other Royal tombs and Mausoleums.

If you are feeling energetic, why not continue up the hillside along the ancient steps that take you to the Monastery, to take in the stunning views. Today’s sightseeing tour of Petra is conducted at a moderate pace covering approximately 12 - 15km (including the Monastery). Much of the ground will be rocky and uneven and you will need to have an average level of fitness to complete the full tour. There will be short breaks along the way. Some travellers choose not to complete the full tour and skip the climb to the Monastery and should you do this you’ll be able to independently explore and stroll back toward the siq at a leisurely pace.

Consider opting to book our Petra Kitchen add-on tonight and learn how to cook...
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Day 13: 4x4 Desert Safari In Wadi Rum

Petra - Wadi Rum. There is a chance to revisit Petra this morning before our afternoon drive to Wadi Rum. A vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebels that rise from the desert floor awaits. Boarding 4x4 jeeps, we take an exhilarating desert safari across the sand dunes, taking in the breathtaking scenery of Wadi Rum. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner at our desert camp. **Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)**

Day 14: Crusader Castles, Wadi Wujib Canyoning & Dead Sea

Wadi Rum - Karak – Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. After breakfast at the campsite, we head north along the Desert Highway to visit Shobak Castle, which is perched dramatically on a hill top and was built by the Crusader king Baldwin I in 1115. We explore the castle and then descend some 1300 meters to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth’s surface. More than 400 meters below sea level, the mineral-rich Dead Sea is the world’s original health and beauty spa. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost.

For departures between April and October we’ll head up the King’s Highway to Wadi Mujib. We’ll embark on a moderate-paced two hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan’s most remarkable natural features. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the rainfall. When the water level is high you should be prepared for having to climb up ladders, clamber across boulders and be happy to wade through water. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea. For those not interested in taking the full hike, you can walk part of or wait by the Visitor Centre till the group returns. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea.

After check-in at the Dead Sea, re-confirming your arrangements for travel to the Israel border on day 16, and answering any questions you may have, it will be time to say goodbye to your tour guide who will be returning to Amman today. Your time at the Dead Sea is offered purely as rest and relaxation and with no formal arrangements your guide will take his leave.

Note: Lunch and dinner at the Dead Sea are not included in our stay. A buffet lunch is offered daily at a cost of 13 JD and a dinner buffet nightly at a cost of 19 JD per person. There is also an a la carte menu and other restaurant choice available onsite. **Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

Day 15: Free Time At the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is a natural phenomena and high on most travellers’ bucket lists. Lucky for us we have a whole day to spend here, whiling away the time bobbing in its mineral-rich buoyant waters and lathering up with a detoxifying mud bath. Option to visit the Ma'in hot springs and the site where it is thought Jesus Christ was baptised by John (book locally). **Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

Day 16: Cross The Jordanian Border

Dead Sea – Jerusalem (West Bank). This morning you’ll be picked up at 9:00am and transferred to the King Hussein (Jordanian Border) where after departure formalities you will transfer by public shuttle bus 1 kilometre at a cost of approx 7.5JD and 1JD per bag across to the Allenby bridge (Israeli Border point). At times (dependant upon the group size) a private transfer across the border is allowed with no associated costs.

After attending to immigration and passport control, you will be met by your Israeli driver, who will be standing next to the currency exchange office from 11am onward. Your driver will then transfer you to your hotel in Jerusalem.

It is a good idea to arrange a packed lunch or pack snacks with you before setting off from Jordan as the border process can be as quick as 30 minutes and at other times several hours.

The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore. Today is the Sabbath and hotel check-in will not be until after sundown. You are welcome to wait at the hotel until check-in or you can use the time to head out and wander around the World Heritage Listed city on foot whilst the city is devoid of traffic or opt to visit the Israel Museum. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**
Day 17 : Bethlehem

Today we enjoy a guided tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem (both located in the West Bank). Our first stop is the holy Mount of Olives where there are amazing panoramic views of the old city. We take a walking tour of the atmospheric old city; wander through the Armenian and Jewish quarters to the Cardo (ancient Roman road). We continue on through the old city and the Christian quarter, visiting the famous Wailing Wall - a place of constant prayer and one of the most revered Hebrew sites. Retracing the final laboured steps of Jesus, burdened under the weight of the cross, we walk along the Via Dolorosa to the hallowed Church of the Sepulchre; the site of the crucifixion, Jesus’ tomb and the resurrection.

A short drive from Jerusalem is Bethlehem – the birthplace of Jesus; where we visit Manger Square and the Church of Nativity, which is reputed to be the oldest Church in the world and the site where Jesus was born. Please note that touring in Bethlehem may be in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. Returning to Jerusalem the evening the evening is spent at leisure. Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 18 : Haifa, Caesarea & Jaffa

Jerusalem – Haifa – Caesarea – Jaffa – Tel Aviv. We bid farewell to Jerusalem today and head north to the port city of Haifa. Here we'll visit the UNESCO world heritage listed Bahai Shrine and the beautiful tropical gardens set on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Travelling down the coast we stop in the historic city of Caesarea where Roman and Crusader-era ruins are strewn along the sea front. Continuing south we reach Jaffa, an ancient port where we enjoy a walking tour of the picturesque fortified town and marvel at the hilltop views. Then it's just a short drive to the vibrant, modern and cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv, where we spend our final night. Dubbed "the city that never sleeps" Tel Aviv is renowned for its hedonistic nightlife and the city also has a plethora of trendy bistros, high-end restaurants and delicious street food stalls to choose from for dinner. Overnight - Tel Aviv (B)

Day 19 : Tel Aviv

Tuesday. Our tour ends today with an included transfer from Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion Airport at any time of day.

There's so much to see and do in Tel Aviv that we highly recommend extending your stay to enjoy its beautiful beaches, art galleries and markets, including the popular Nachiket Benjamin market, which is only open on Tuesdays. We can book post tour accommodation upon request. (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.

Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx

In a great location for the Pyramids, the Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx is a contemporary hotel with excellent amenities. Guest rooms are well furnished with modern interiors and en suite facilities. Wi-Fi is available in the lobby and there is a beautiful outdoor pool, which is perfect for relaxing by. Why not head to the restaurant on the roof for a delicious meal and impressive views of the Pyramids.

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.
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Tolip Hotel, formerly Helnan Aswan
Set in manicured gardens, the Helnan Aswan is an elegant hotel with impressive views of the Nile. Guest rooms are spacious with modern interiors and located next to the beautiful pool. Wi-fi is available in the lobby and by the pool. There are also two restaurants and bars, a bowling alley, a swimming pool and a cinema. Why not relax by the pool before exploring the rest of Aswan.

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.

Steigenberger Nile Palace
The Steigenberger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.

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.

Hilton Hurghada Resort
Set in tropical gardens, the Hilton Hurghada Resort is a comfortable, charming hotel with a private beach and water sport centre. The rooms have a balcony or terrace with views of the garden, pools or sea.

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.

Continental Hotel
Tucked into Hurghada Bay, right on its scenic promenade, the Continental is a delightful beachfront resort boasting fantastic terraced rooms (many with seaviews) and excellent facilities. Watersports are in abundance here with swimming pools, scuba diving and snorkelling all readily available. A leisure club offers a sauna and spa treatments to relax after the day’s activities. You can also wine and dine at one of the many great restaurants and bars.

Old Village Resort
Located above Wadi Mousa, Old Village Resort has a wonderfully traditional feel about it with open stonework and original architecture. Rooms are full of character, some with delightful archways and all directly accessed from the outside. The hotel boasts an indoor swimming pool and sauna and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. For dinner why not dine al fresco at the restaurant overlooking the mountains. Well located in forested wadis facing Petra’s mountains.
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Petra Moon Hotel
Just 300 ft from the entrance gate to Petra, the Petra Moon Hotel features spacious rooms with private balconies and flat-screen TVs. It also has a roof garden with a seasonal outdoor pool. The soundproofed rooms and suites at Petra Moon come with satellite channels, a DVD player and extra-long beds. Each has air conditioning and a private bathroom. The hotel's restaurant serves a delicious selection of international meals in both buffet-style and a la carte.

Rainbow Camp
A row of permanent tents in the desert make up the popular Rainbow Camp. Inside the tents are comfortable camp beds and warm bedding. Showers and toilets are close by and are cleaned thoroughly every day. Guests can relax in the communal area which is adorned with colourful rugs and cushions. The food at Rainbow Camp always gets rave reviews. Taking an evening stroll around the beautiful surroundings is a great way to work up an appetite before dinner. This accommodation is well located in the heart of Wadi Rum.

Holiday Inn Resort
Graced with interconnecting palm fringed swimming pools leading to the Dead Sea, the Holiday Inn is an Arabesque style hotel. Guest rooms are elegantly furnished and benefit from complimentary high speed internet. The hotel also has an on site fitness centre and a fine choice of Spa facilities. The 24 hour sleek bar is the perfect place for a tipple at any time of the day or night. The accommodation is located on the shores of the world famous Dead Sea.

Eyal Hotel
Opened in 2014, the Eyal Hotel offers a modern stay in the ancient city of Jerusalem. It boasts an excellent location within walking distance of many points of interest, such as the Great Synagogue, the Damascus Gate and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, to name just a few. Each guestroom is fully equipped with essential amenities, with WiFi available free of charge, and the hotel also features an onsite buffet restaurant. However, its real highlight is the rooftop terrace, from which you can enjoy fantastic views over the city center and ancient city walls.

Prima Royale
A private hideaway for all guests is an accurate way to describe Jerusalem’s Prima Royale Hotel. The hotel’s contemporary and artistic vibe attracts guests from all over the world. Rooms are modern and comfortable and include Wi-Fi connectivity. There is a delightful infusion of Middle-eastern ambiance throughout the hotel, no more so than on the Roof Top where guests can enjoy cocktails and a guided aerial view of the city. Perfectly located on a quiet street in the Talbieh district of Jerusalem.

Prima Kings Hotel
Offering an excellent location between Jerusalem’s exclusive Rahavia neighborhood and the Old City, Prima Kings is just metres away from the Great Synagogue. It’s façade features colourful bougainvillea cascading over each balcony, with guestrooms offering free WiFi, a private bathroom with a bath and soft carpeted floors. A buffet breakfast and dinner are served daily in the Carmel and Zion Hall, with a coffee shop also selling an array of snacks and drinks. Be sure to also take advantage of the hotel’s spa facilities, which include a fitness centre, sauna and a range of rejuvenating treatments and massages.

BY 14 Hotel
Well-located on one of Tel Aviv’s central streets, this boutique hotel is just minutes from the Carmel Market, Diezengoff Square and the lively cafes and restaurants of Sheinkein Street. Its guestrooms are spacious and comfortable, featuring modern décor and free high-speed WiFi. An extensive sweet and savoury breakfast is served daily in the hotel’s café, and guests can also take advantage of the free gym and bike rental. Although as the beach is just footsteps away, you’ll most likely be spending your time soaking up the sun on the sands.

Groups & Guides
Groups: The longest Signature Tour we offer in the Middle East is our Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land – 19 day tour. All other tours in the region are sectors or parts of this larger tour. As such on your holiday you will not be
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

with the exact same group of people from start to end. Travellers may join you part way through your tour i.e. for Cairo sightseeing, by the beach in Hurghada, upon arrival to Amman or Petra in Jordan or for your final leg in Israel. There will also be travellers who end their tour when you continue on.

Guides: We believe the best way to see a country is through the eyes of a local and as such we only employ tour guides native to the country you are visiting. Our guides are passionate, caring, knowledgeable and fun, and by travelling with a local you get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes. In Egypt it is likely you will have 2 tour guides (both Egyptologists) for the duration of your tour. Arrangements in Jordan, Israel and Turkey will be conducted by qualified tour guides each local to the country you are visiting.

Wadi Rum Desert Camp
In Jordan we include a night in Wadi Rum at a Bedouin desert camp, where camping is the best way for us to experience the beautiful desert landscape. You can choose to spend the night camping under the stars or bedding down in our comfortable permanent tents with twin beds and linen provided, although you may want to bring your own sleeping bag liner. If visiting in winter (Nov - Mar) it can be very cold at night in the desert and you may wish to bring your own sleeping bag for warmth. There are environmentally friendly shared bathroom facilities with hot and cold running water, toilets and showers. Our communal tent furnished with small tables and cushioned seating area, is the place to gather at night where we enjoy a hearty Jordanian meal and some traditional Bedouin music.

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.
Abu Simbel - Entrance fees are payable locally by you, please 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

Arriving into Israel
To complete your Israeli Immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation is Israel. We use 3 properties in Jerusalem and the specific property changes on a week to week basis. All properties are part of the ‘Prima’ hotel chain, with linked reservation system so please use the following hotel name/address:

Prima Hotel
2 Vilnay Street, 95435 Jerusalem
Phone: +972-3-552-2220

If you need assistance whilst in Israel, please contact our Operations Manager:
Ms Yettie Kalifa - Mobile: 00972 546 664 261 or Heike Kluss-Oiknine - Mobile 00972 54 620 8798

After completing immigration, please meet our driver or representative at the ‘Help Counter’ which is located between the custom desk and the exit door.

If for any reason you have not made contact with your driver, please Do NOT leave the border, contact our Operations Manager, on the number detailed above.

After meeting, our driver will transfer you to the Prima Royale/ Prima Kings or Prima Park Hotel. As today is the Sabbath hotel check in may/may not be till after sunset. The afternoon and evening offers free time. Use the time to head out and explore the old city (which is not half as busy today as normal) or the Jerusalem Museum which is a 30 min walk from the hotel.

Israeli Passport Stamps
Israeli Immigration do not stamp passports but instead provide a ticket (similar to a bus ticket) confirming you have legally entered the country. You should keep this ticket with your passport till your departure from the country.

The following countries, AND ONLY THESE COUNTRIES (Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) take issue with passports containing evidence of travel to Israel. Should you be planning to travel to any of the countries and wish for your passport NOT to contain evidence of having travelled to Israel, you will need to have your Jordanian exit stamp (given at the King Hussein/ Allenby Bridge Border crossing), stamped upon a separate piece of paper, which Jordanian officials are willing to do.

Arriving to Jordan
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 Jordan.

As a registered holiday operator we are able to obtain Jordan tourist visas free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders 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. If your holiday complies with these requirements we will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.

If we are obtaining a free of charge visa on your behalf, 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. If you are unable to make contact with our representative prior to immigration please do NOT proceed through immigration (as you will need to pay the visa cost) but instead call our emergency contact number.

TRIP NOTES

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Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

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$60/EURO42 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

If you are arranging your visa independently, our airport representative will meet you in the Arrivals Hall. (Representatives are not permitted to enter the immigration area to assist clients who have/will arrange their visa independently).

It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan. If planning to leave Jordan and travel to Egypt or Israel and re-enter Jordan at a later date you will need to arrange a second visa. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain this second visa for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

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

Wadi Mujib Gorge

If travelling between 01 Apr - 31 Oct, you have the option to take a walk through the canyons of Wadi Mujib. Starting at the visitor's centre near the Mujib Bridge we walk/ wade upstream through the gorge nestled deep within the sandstone outcrop to the base of a large waterfall. Depending on seasonal rainfall levels, the gorge may contain pools deep enough for swimming. It's an ideal walk to take slowly and enjoy the cool water and shade, especially in the heat of the summer. Despite being relatively easy at times, it does have hidden risks. When the water level is high you should be prepared for having to climb up ladders, clamber across boulders and be happy to wade through water. The river bed changes after each winter flood and this can create deep pools and strong currents making this walk harder (speak to your guide about the current conditions). Always take care along the walk, avoid pools and rapids, respect any rope barriers and take care if scaling up wet rocks using the ropes. Depending on conditions this would be unsuitable for travellers that are not confident swimmers.

What you need to bring:
Clothes: Should be light and comfortable. T-shirts and long shorts are advisable (to protect legs). You are advised to wear a bathing suit under your clothes and bear in mind that all your clothes will get totally wet so don’t wear anything that you don’t mind getting ruined. Shoes will also get totally wet. Therefore wear something that is not slippery and avoid flip flops or thongs - rugged water shoes are a good option. You may wear hiking sandals as well. Sunscreen is important along with caps. (The beginning of the hike is under the sun but later you are shaded by the mountains). You may want to bring clothes to change into after the walk. Prescription eye glasses and sunglasses may get damaged and are best left behind.

Perseid’s Meteor Shower

departure – 31 July 2020

The 31 July 2020 departure offer the chance to witness the spectacular Perseids Meteor Shower which occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At its peak the meteors rain down at a rate of about 60 meteors per hour. Special arrangements on this tour are as follows:

Days 1 - 12: Arrangements as per normal Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land itinerary.

PLEASE NOTE: Petra by Night (candlelight walk along the Siq) cannot be offered if staying in Petra on a Friday and Saturday evenings, as the site is closed during this time.

Day 13: Petra - Wadi Rum. There is a chance to revisit Petra this morning before leaving at noon to drive to Wadi Rum. Upon arrival in Wadi Rum, we enjoy a jeep safari through the area once favoured by the legendary Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab uprising. Wadi Rum is a vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebels that rise from the desert floor, the desert scape of Wadi Rum represents some of the most stunning countryside on the planet.

Tonight, we’ll tuck into a Jordanian dinner before the stargazing begins. The Perseids Meteor Shower occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At its peak the meteors rain down at a rate of about 60 meteors per hour. The clear and night sky of the Jordanian desert is the ideal place from which to view these celestial wonders. The Perseids were traditionally known as the “tears of St Lawrence” because they often appeared around the saint’s feast day.

In previous years, our groups have enjoyed a spectacular show staying up well into the night and counting well over 150 meteors shooting across the sky and we hope to have the same experience this year. Overnight – Wadi Rum (B, D)

Day 14: Wadi Rum - Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea.

This morning we get the chance to experience Wadi Rum as the Bedouins do - by camel. Until recently, the Bedouins were nomadic people who made their living through looking after their herds of goats. Although most of the Bedouins have now become villagers, they still rely on the goats for the milk, yoghurt and cheese, and some families do return for a part of the year to a wandering existence, minding their flocks. As we ride through Wadi Rum on camel back we have a chance to see some of the desert wildlife including many small birds and various Geckos and Agamas, including the striking bright blue Agama.

Departing Wadi Rum, we’ll head up the King’s Highway to Wadi Mujib. We’ll embark on a moderate paced two-hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan’s most remarkable natural features. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the level of rainfall. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species.

After our trek, we make our way to the Dead Sea. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost. Overnight – Dead Sea (B)

PLEASE NOTE: We are unable to visit Shobak Crusader Castle today as is usually done on the Road to Jerusalem year round tour, due to the altered itinerary and time constraints.

Days 15: Onwards, arrangements as per normal Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land itinerary.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Fees & Local Payment

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).

If travelling on a Budget tour, a Local Payment of cash GBP150pp (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.

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 basic 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).

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.

Egypt Country Guide

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
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

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

Mercure 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

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. Traveler’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.

Camera Fees
At some sites there is an additional fee for use of a camera or video. Camera/video (not professional) fees range between USD3 – 30 per site. There is no fee for taking as many photographs as you like at the Pyramids and Saqara. The cost for using camera inside Valley of the Kings (though not permitted inside the tombs) is approx. USD$18. The cost for photographing the treasures inside the Egyptian Museum is USD$6

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 a nd 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 (Egypt): We suggest hiring locally a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD$15 (total) for the 2 night stay. Wadi Rum Camp (Jordan): 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.

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 other secure places
- Keep bags locked at all times with a combination/padlock. Bags should also be locked when being transferred in vehicles,

Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land - 19 Days
www.onthegotours.com
uk: 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
AUS: 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
NZ: 0800 44 77 69 CAN: 1 866 890 7038
USA: 1866 606 2960 SA: 0800 990 311

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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Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

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.

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 ‘clinging, 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) -
23 April – 23 May 2020
12 April – 11 May 2021

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.

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.

Israel Country Guide

Welcome to Israel

Israel and the Palestinian Territories are both fascinating and beautiful, rich in culture, steeped in history and home to some of the world’s most holy sights, at the cornerstone of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths. The revered Holy Lands, once walked upon by Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, the apostles, Bahai’s saints, and the Prophet Muhammad (in a miraculous Night Journey), have been a sought-after destination for pilgrims across the world, from ancient times until today. Whilst cosmopolitan Tel Aviv, offers all things modern, the ancient port city of Jaffa which is medieval in appearance, has a laid back Mediterranean seaside resort appeal and the Dead Sea provides the unique opportunity to float in its famously buoyant waters.

Climate

Temperatures vary widely, especially from December – early March. The more mountainous regions can be windy, cold and sometimes snowy, Mount Hermon’s peak is covered with snow most of the year and Jerusalem usually receives at least one snowfall each year. Temperatures at this time of year average 10-15°C in most places, but approx 5°C in Jerusalem and the Galilee hills - where it can be very cold at night. In January and February there is often heavy rain.

Meanwhile, coastal cities, such as Tel Aviv and Haifa have a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers (May to early September) when temperatures range from 27°C – 32°C and rainfall is minimal.

Time & Voltage

Israel is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). Daylight Saving time starts on the Friday before the 02 April. The move back to standard time occurs late September/early October according to the Jewish calendar falling on a Saturday night between Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur. During this period, Israel is...
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts, 50Hz AC. Primary sockets require the Continental or European, 2 small round pin 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.

Arrival Airport Transfers
Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, our representative, carrying an On The Go Tours signboard, will be waiting to meet you just after passport control before you collect your luggage. Please hand this tour voucher to him/her. If for any reason you are unable to commence your tour as scheduled, or on arrival are unable to make contact with our rep (within 20 minutes) please do not exit the airport, call our emergency contact number as detailed above.

Essential Packing
• Bring your own beach towel to make the most of the perfect Tel Aviv Mediterranean beaches
• If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella
• If visiting in summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
• 3 pin ‘type H’ Israeli electrical adaptor
• Tour voucher and a copy of your travel insurance
• Two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
• Proper walking shoes (joggers/trainers) for sightseeing in the old city of Jerusalem

Health Requirements
You should seek medical advice before travelling to Israel from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus and Hepatitis A are strongly recommended. The tap water in Israel is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Currency
The currency of Israel is Israeli New Shekel. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Israel.

ATMs and exchange facilities are available everywhere. 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.

Visas - Israel
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 Israel, with two blank pages.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services.

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: http://israel.embassyhomepage.com

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

ISRAELI LAND BORDER TAXES: On both arrival into Israel from Jordan, you must take the official border shuttle bus or chartered coach at a cost of JD 6 (about $8), payable in USD or JD.

Food, Wine & Kosher meals
Food in Israel is extremely diverse and generally very good. A well known favourite is falafel – small fried balls of mashed chickpeas, usually served inside unleavened pita bread with houmous (a cream of chickpeas, tahina, onion, lemon and olive oil). Another popular dish is Shawarma, sliced turkey meat which is also served in pita bread. Also try Me’orav Yerushalmi (Jerusalemitめ mix) which contain several types of meat, or Schnitzel. Fresh fruit and salads are very popular in Israeli cuisine.

Israeli sweets are delightful, try Teiglach - tiny marble sized dough balls drenched in a honey syrup or Ingberlach - ginger candies shaped into small sticks. The Mohn Khivel is a circular or rectangular wafer sprinkled with poppy seed. Pirushkes, or turnovers are little cakes fried in honey or dipped in molasses after they are baked. Strudel is served for dessert.

Alcohol is available at many hotels and restaurant (excluding the Palestinian territories) Maccabee and Gold star, both palatable pale lagers and certified kosher. Israeli wine is produced by hundreds of wineries. The nation’s modern Israeli wine industry was founded by Baron Edmond James de Rothschild, owner of the Bordeaux estate Château Laffite-Rothschild. Much of the country is suited for viticulture, prices are fair and top drop can be enjoyed with every meal.

If your tour includes dinner in Jerusalem, you are best to re-confirm this information with the hotel reception upon check in. Meals (breakfast and dinners) in the hotel are Kosher. Meaning that you will never find dairy products served served with beef. Pork will not be served nor will various types of shellfish. The combinations may seem a little unusual though their is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal.

Lunches: Where lunch is not included within your itinerary (most days or all days) we suggest you budget $25 - $30 per day for an average meal

Culture & Dress
Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Israel. Israel is generally a very relaxed country with a western-oriented outlook. Respect for religion is important to most Israeli’s and there are a few situations when this should be kept in mind.

Visitors to some synagogues, most churches and all mosques should be aware that entry will not be permitted to those with exposed legs or women with exposed upper arms. Women may be asked to cover bare arms and legs in both mosques and all mosques should be aware that entry when this should be kept in mind.

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a synagogue with a hemispherical shaped skulcap called a kippah or yarmulke (often provided by the synagogue) though a normal sunhat is also acceptable and in mosques both men and women will be required to take off their shoes before entry.

Israeli people are generally quite direct in what they have to say. Openness and honesty are often valued over politeness and projection of niceness. Direct personal questions are common and should not be taken as offensive. Israelis are also very kind and hospitable. When you make a friend here, they will do their best to take care of you while you’re in their country. Foreign visitors are deeply appreciated and are generally shown the utmost respect by locals.

**Jordan Country Guide**

**Arriving to Jordan**

Upon arrival to Amman Queen Alia International airport, you will pass through immigration, baggage claim and customs. As you exit customs into the public arrivals hall, please be on the lookout for our representative, who will be holding an On The Go Tours logo signboard. Our representative will introduce you to our driver, who will transfer you to your hotel. At the hotel reception desk, please take note of the On The Go Tours information sign on the counter which will tell you what time our Amman representative will be in the hotel lobby to meet with you and discuss the details of your touring program, to give you our informative welcome letter and to answer any questions you may have.

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

**Mosques, Religion & Ramadan**

93% of the population are Muslim. Others are Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. If visiting a mosque you will need to 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 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) -

- 23 April – 23 May 2020
- 12 April – 11 May 2021

**Health Requirements**

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

**Visas - Jordan**

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 Jordan.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services.

As a registered holiday operator we are able to obtain Jordan tourist visas free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders 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. If your holiday complies with these requirements we will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.

If we are obtaining a free of charge visa on your behalf, our airport representative will meet you at Amman International Airport and escort you through immigration presenting your free visa approval letter to officials. If you are unable to make contact with our representative prior to immigration please do NOT proceed through immigration (as you will need to pay the visa cost) but instead call our emergency contact number.

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$60/EURO42 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

If you are arranging your visa independently, our airport representative will meet you in the Arrivals Hall. (Representatives are not permitted to enter the immigration area to assist clients who have/will arrange their visa independently).

It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan. If planning to leave Jordan and travel to Egypt or Israel and re-enter Jordan at a later date you will need to arrange a second visa. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain this second visa for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

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**Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land - 19 Days**

[www.onthegotours.com](http://www.onthegotours.com)

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AUS: 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
NZ: 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
USA: 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land

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

Currency
The currency of Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Jordan. Exchange facilities are available at various bureaux de change 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.

Time & Voltage
Jordan is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October Jordan observes Daylight Saving and is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require 3 pin UK and often European, 2 pronged variety. In Israel the preferred variety is European 2 prong. 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.

Climate
The maximum daily temperature in Amman ranges from 12°C in January to 32°C in August. The weather in the Jordan Valley (Petra) and south of the country is very hot during the summer months of April through to September. At this time of year daytime temperatures can exceed 38°C and increase to as high as 49°C. The sun can be fierce so it is advised to apply plenty of sunscreen, especially at the Dead Sea.

In winter (December to February) temperatures can range from 0°C to 12°C. If visiting during winter you will need to pack warm clothes for sightseeing, although the Dead Sea region will still be quite warm. If your holiday includes a stay in the Wadi Rum desert, winter wear items such as hat, scarf and gloves are also advised.

Essential Packing
- Camping at Wadi Rum - All bedding (of a well-laughtered standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. It is of a personal choice should you wish to bring your own sleep sheet or sleeping bag
- Pack insect repellent and a torch or headlamp if staying in Wadi Rum
- If visiting in winter pack warm clothes and an umbrella
- In summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- UK 3 pin and European 2 prong (European more so for Israel) electrical adaptors as the sockets vary from one hotel to another
- A copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Proper walking shoes (joggers/ trainers) for sightseeing in Petra
- If visiting Wadi Mujib Siq trail/canyon you’ll need clothing and footwear that can get wet. Ideally a t-shirt & shorts or swimmers and trainers/walking shoes that will spend most of the walk submerged
- Binoculars IMPORTANT - are considered as surveillance equipment. Should you be carrying binoculars expect that you’ll be asked to hand these over briefly at times (with your passport) by police or military for inspection. You should not be concerned by the event, as this is merely a routine inspection of the item

Petra Park Services Charge
The cost of the entrance ticket to Petra includes a compulsory 7JD fee to ride an Arabian horse. This Government-approved directive is in support of the local Bedouin who own the horses and also live in the surrounding town of Wadi Musa. As you have paid this obligatory charge, you are indeed entitled to ride a horse 800 metres down to the entrance gate at Petra. However, please be aware that you’ll need to tip the horse handler an extra 2JD. IMPORTANT- On The Go Tours only recommends that you do so if you are an experienced rider. The decision to ride a horse is a personal one.

Shopping
Jordan offers a range of quality souvenirs. Look out for high-quality artefacts including rugs, pottery, paintings, jewellery, embroidery and woven items produced by local Jordanian women under the auspices of the Noor-Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund. A popular form of ceramic ware is ‘Jerusalem Pottery’. Platters are highly decorated with biblically-inspired designs including fish, peacocks, grapes and goblets of wine. Known as Hebron glass, colourful handmade glassware in brilliant colours is a nice buy, as is silver jewellery crafted by the Bedouin people. Dead Sea products of all guises, olive oil and soaps, sweetmeats and olive wood objects are also uniquely Jordanian souvenirs.

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.