

Alexandria & Ancient Egypt

13 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Take in the best of Egypt on this 13 day tour which combines Mediterranean Alexandria and the Commonwealth War Graves of El Alamein, with Cairo and the legendary Pyramids of Giza, Aswan, Luxor and felucca sailing on the River Nile.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Alexandria - take in the highlights of this beautiful Mediterranean port city, including the Roman Catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, the Library of Alexandria and Quaitbay Fort, site of the great Lighthouse of Alexandria
- El Alamein - tour the WWII battlefields, pay your respects at the Commonwealth War Graves and visit the El Alamein military museum
- 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 sailing - 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, 3 lunches, 3 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)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 13
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan & Luxor
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Touring of Alexandria and the El Alamein Battlefields and museum

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$90-110pp, paid in local currency
- International visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- International Flights

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Tuesday. 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. Upon 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 7pm.

For those arriving a day or two earlier than day 1 of the tour, one of our team will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. Day 1 is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there

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are no formal arrangements on this first day.

Overnight - Cairo

Day 2 : Alexandria sightseeing

Bright and early this morning we drive to the port side city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean Coast. Arriving at the windswept city known for its broad beaches and seafront corniche dotted with sun loungers, amusements and cafes we embark on a guided tour of the Roman catacombs. Heading underground we view the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt, complete with burial chambers, labyrinth alleyways and entertaining rooms for families coming to visit the dead.

From the catacombs we visit Pompey's Pillar, a modest 25m tower, which is all that remains of an ancient column, from the ruined Temple of Serapis. Our next stop is the impressive Library of Alexandria, where free time will be offered for photos of the exterior (and if we are fortunate and it is open to the public during our stop here, those who are interested can go inside). Lastly today, we take a leisurely stroll along the corniche to the Citadel of Quaitbey. We explore this attractive fortress, which was built on the site of the legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, which was destroyed by a powerful earthquake 1323AD.

After hotel check in and time to freshen up we'll head out for a drive along the corniche followed by dinner (included). Seafood, mixed grill and vegetarian options available.

Overnight - Alexandria (B, D)

Day 3 : El Alamein



Today we visit the Commonwealth War Graves of el Alamein. It is here where two extended battles were fought during World

War II. The first began on the 1st July 1942 and lasted for 27 days, it ended as a stalemate. After 3 months of holding the defences the Allies launched a second attack which lasted for 13 days. This saw the Allied forces (including British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers) push back the Axis powers for ultimate defeat in Tunisia. Some 13,000 Allied soldiers were killed and 70,000 were wounded in the battle.

Later, we tour the compact El Alamein military museum that acts as a memorial for the battle and houses lots of original war vehicles, weapons, uniforms and records. Displays in the museum detail the complete history of World War II in North Africa from all sides and stands on the site where the actual battle took place. This afternoon we return to Cairo.

Note: Today a very simple packed lunch will be provided, that we will take with us from Alexandria. To ensure that we have enough food for the day ahead (as El Alamein is very remote) on the evening of day 2, a stop will be made at a supermarket for us to buy a few more items for the day ahead. **Overnight - Cairo (B, L)**

Day 4 : Free Time in Cairo



Enjoy a free day in Cairo before the rest of your Egyptian adventure. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am (best booked prior with your consultant) and 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 (B)

Day 5 : Pyramids of Giza & Saqqara



Today we 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 stonemasons carried out the job of building the pyramids. 100,000 workers were used for the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops and around 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in its construction.

Our next stop is the necropolis of Saqqara, we can explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zoser's step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC!

Today's lunch break will take place prior to our tour of Saqqara or after depending on the heat, time of year you are travelling and traffic on the day. Your guide will keep you updated. This evening offers free time or you can opt to attend the Pyramids Sound & Light Show. Entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected today. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 6 : The Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Aswan. We take a guided tour of the vast new Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza this morning. In this incredible 490,000 sq.m complex we'll discover a mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history, including the treasures of King Tutankhamun. After

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we visit the government supervised papyrus emporium where you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices.

The afternoon offers free time before we board the overnight sleeper train to Aswan this evening.

Note: The Grand Egyptian Museum is set to open in 2020. An official date has yet to be released. If travelling prior to the opening of the new facility we'll visit the Egyptian Museum this morning. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 7 : Aswan & Philae Temple



Arrive in Aswan and check into our hotel. This afternoon's highlight is a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island for a guided tour of the romantic Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies 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.

As the sun sets, free time to shop in the colourful souqs and markets or simply relax and watch an amazing sunset in Egypt's

southern most town straddling the River Nile. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

Day 8 : Optional Abu Simbel & Felucca Sailing



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

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

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.

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 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 7 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 8 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 a rare occasion 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 that 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)**

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Day 9 : 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 Kom Ombo 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 10 : 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 11 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Cairo. This morning 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 pharaoh's 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 Tutankhamun. If open, an additional entrance fee applies to visit King Tuts' tomb.

After the Valley of the Kings we visit 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.

A short stop will also 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. Tonight, we return by overnight sleeper train to Cairo.

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 Tutankhamun is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 12 : Free Time in Cairo

After arriving to Cairo this morning the remainder of the day offers free time. Choose to relax by the hotel pool, independently explore the capital or join an optional excursion to Khan el Khalili Market for some last minute souvenir shopping. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 13 : Cairo

Sunday. Hotel check out and included onward departure transfer to airport. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

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 (not Nile View as standard) 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.



Sleeper Train

When travelling on an overnight train in Egypt, sleeper carriages offer the highest level of comfort. Cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points and air conditioning. Freshly

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laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. The carriages have toilets at each end and there is a club car which serves snacks and beverages. In the morning a very basic breakfast is provided.



Steigenberger Hotel el Tahrir

Ideally located in the heart of downtown Cairo, the Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir is right by the lively Tahrir Square. Guestrooms offer peace and quiet away from the high-energy of the city, with contemporary decor and sound-proofed windows overlooking views of Cairo. The wellness facilities are state-of-the-art, including a fitness centre, outdoor pool and sauna and massage rooms. Be sure to take advantage of the poolside bar and delicious hotel restaurant, or enjoy the option of 24-hour in-room dining.



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.



Paradise Inn Le Metropole

Le Metropole is one of the oldest in Alexandria and is a superb example of 18th century architecture. The rooms are cozy and well appointed.



Tolip Hotel

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 Sailboat

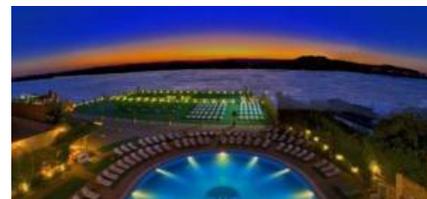
Feluccas are simple, traditional Egyptian sailboats that have plied the Nile since ancient times. Feluccas carry between 10 - 12 passengers comfortably. The boat's deck is draped with soft colourful cushions that serve as your lounging area during the day and as your sleeping area at night. A support 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.



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.



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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.

Abu Simbel - Entrance fees are payable locally by you, please budget approx. USD \$18.

Backstreets of Cairo - departs 10am, day 4 and returns to your hotel at 5pm. Entrance fees included.

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

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 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 to 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.

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 in Jordan are payable in Jordanian Dinar (JD). In Israel (on our Pyramids Petra Promised Lands 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 cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric

points, air conditioning and are lockable. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. 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. Toilets are located at the end of each carriage and a bar carriage is 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.

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Egypt Country Guide

Visas - Egypt

Visa requirements are subject to change and 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 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 is USD25 and is payable in USD CASH ONLY. The visa upon arrival cost is also set to rise to USD60. 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

Currency

The currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP).

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 are 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 tap water is

not safe to drink in Egypt, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available.

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 cold - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers. The south remains warm during this time (t-shirt & shorts) but again, temperatures do drop at night. 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 USD \$3 - 30 per site. There is no fee for taking photographs at the Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara. The cost for using camera inside Valley of the Kings (though not permitted inside the tombs) is approx. USD\$20. 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. Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch

Alexandria & Ancient Egypt - 13 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 1 866 606 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.

Alexandria & Ancient Egypt

- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling on the felucca, or if travelling onto Jordan. If travelling by felucca you can opt to only bring a sleep sheet and hire a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD\$15 (total) for the 2 night stay from our felucca crew
- 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. Crime in Egypt is no worse than anywhere else in the world. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free:

- Leave valuables in the hotel safe 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, on-board the train, felucca or when taking a flight.
- Carry your passport on your person
- Bring 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 '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) -

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.

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