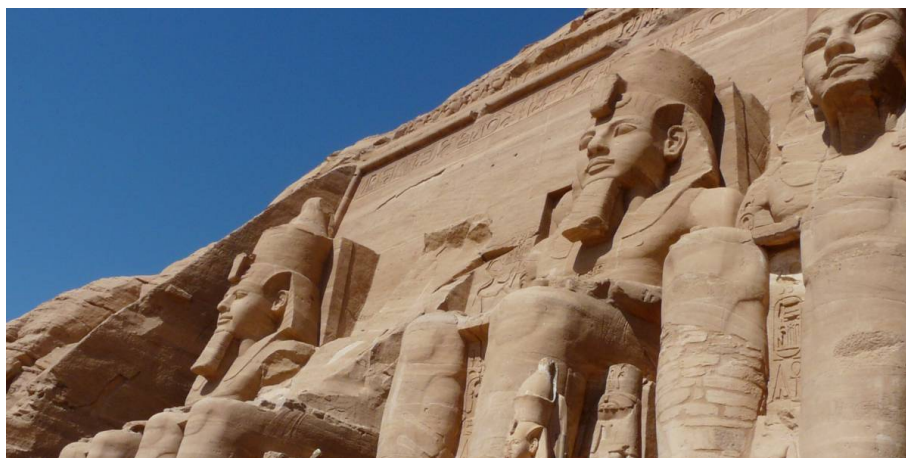


# Cairo Cruise & Red Sea

13 Days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



*There's no better way to cap your Egyptian adventure than relaxing by the famous Red Sea resort town of Hurghada. Pyramids & pharaohs, ancient architecture & antiquity, cruising the River Nile, sunshine, sand & sea!*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza Plateau
- Necropolis of Saqqara
- Mohamed Ali Mosque and Khan el Khalili Bazaar
- Egyptian Museum
- The Temples of Abu Simbel
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile
- Nile cruising - islands en route
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- Luxor - Temples of Karnak & Luxor Temple by night
- Luxor - Valley of the Kings and Queens, Colossi of Memnon and Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Red Sea - swim, snorkel, dive or simply soak up the sun!

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 11 meals aboard Nile Cruiser

- 9 nights superior or deluxe hotels (specific to your chosen itinerary), 3 nights deluxe Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- Economy class flight Cairo - Abu Simbel, Abu Simbel - Aswan, Hurghada - Cairo
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan and Luxor
- Free time, rest and relaxation in the Red Sea resort town of Hurghada
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and 13
- Qualified Egyptologist guide at all sites of antiquity
- Private air-conditioned transportation and all relevant transfers
- Entrance fees for all included sightseeing

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Arrival to Cairo, North Africa's largest city. Included transfer to your hotel and leisurely afternoon to enjoy your hotel facilities.  
**Overnight - Cairo**

### Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara

Today we visit the Pyramids of Giza. Rising above the beige coloured desert sand, the Pyramids at Giza Plateau are the planet's oldest tourist attraction. Gaze in awe at Cheops (Khufu) - the largest of the three great pyramids. Constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks it is thought to have taken more than 20 years to construct. The other two - Chephren and Mycerinus are equally impressive. Afterward we tour the tomb-strewn necropolis of Saqqara, featuring King Zoser's step pyramid, constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC, this was the template for all future pyramid construction. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 3 : Egyptian Museum & Islamic Cairo



This morning we venture to old Islamic Cairo and the Egyptian Museum, home to the most extensive collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the stunning

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solid gold funerary mask of the boy-King Tutankhamen. An entire gallery is devoted to the treasures unearthed by Howard Carter at Tutankhamen's tomb in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 4 : Abu Simbel

Cairo - Abu Simbel - Aswan. A short flight down south to explore the temples of Abu Simbel, created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple (built between 1290 and 1224 BC) hewn into the side of a mountain are four famous colossal statues of the pharaoh himself. The other rock cut temple at Abu Simbel is the Temple of Hathor, which is fronted by six massive standing statues. Four of them represent King Ramses II, the other two are of his beloved wife - Queen Nefertari. Famously, the temple was re-located in a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser, which had threatened to erode the foundations of this monolithic temple complex. Later, free time to perhaps do some shopping in the colourful souqs and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

### Day 5 : Philae Temple



A visit out of town takes us to the mighty High Dam. A modern feat of engineering, the High Dam contains 18 times the amount of material used in the construction of Cheops, the largest pyramid at Giza. The by-product for this awesome construction is Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake! Cultivable land has increased considerably and the High Dam's hydro-electric station has doubled Egypt's power supply. Continuing, we enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island and Philae Temple. Dedicated to the goddess Isis, Philae Temple was rescued in an enormous

UNESCO effort in the 1970s. Due to high water levels in the reservoir created by the Old Aswan Dam and further aquatic drama due to the creation of the mighty High Dam, Philae Temple was relocated stone by stone on higher ground on nearby Agilika Island. This afternoon we board our luxury Nile cruiser. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

### Days 6-7 : Cruise The Nile



Aswan - Luxor. Sailing upstream we stop to visit the waterside temple of Kom Ombo, dating back to the reign of Tuthmosis III, built in honour of the crocodile-headed god Sobek. It is unique and unusual, in that everything is architecturally doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. Early morning on day 7, we continuing through the Esna lock and arrive to Luxor. Afternoon visit to the grand Temples of Karnak, 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'll take a stroll along the riverside corniche and visit Luxor temple, wonderfully illuminated by night. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

### Day 8 : Valley of the Kings

This morning we visit the Valleys of the Kings & Queens and Temple of Hatshepsut. Valley of the Kings was constructed to house the regal sarcophagi-enclosed mummies of the mighty pharaohs awaiting their passage into the after-life. Some of the best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. In all, more than 60 tombs have been excavated. This afternoon we drive to Hurghada.

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 - Hurghada (B)**

### Days 9-11 : Soak up some sun!



Time for a bit of R & R! There's plenty to do in and around Hurghada. Consider sail boarding, yachting, deep-sea fishing, Scuba diving and snorkelling or simply soak up the sun poolside. Hurghada's central location provides a gateway to prime offshore reefs, which are some of the finest in the world. Hurghada also has a lively nightlife scene and excellent shopping. **Overnight - Hurghada (B:3)**

### Day 12 : Cairo

Hurghada - Cairo. This morning we fly back to Cairo. The afternoon allows free time; relax by the pool or consider some last minute souvenir shopping at Khan el Khalili bazaar. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 13 : Cairo

Perhaps indulge with a sleep-in and breakfast in bed. Hotel check out and a departure transfer to the airport for your onward flight home. (B)

### Tipping

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

For your driver and On The Go representative we'd recommend USD\$2 - 3 per person for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely

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personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

## Arrival Transfers

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

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

## 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 basis breakfast is served in the morning and tea and coffee is offered complimentary. There is a bar carriage located toward the centre of the train where hot and cold beverages can be purchased, and sometimes alcohol. The sleeper train is the highest class of rail travel available in Egypt, though by western standards it would be considered of a moderate standard.

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

If you are a solo traveller and have opted to share a room for your tour and not pay the single supplement you will be sharing a cabin

with another On The Go traveller, or if this isn't possible, a member of the public (of the same sex).

## 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

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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](http://visa2egypt.gov.eg)

## Visa upon arrival.

It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate to see if this is available to you. The current cost of the visa (Mar 2018) is USD25 and is payable in USD CASH ONLY. The visa upon arrival cost is also set to rise to USD60 and this could happen without notice. Although not official a visa can near always also be paid in equivalent GBP or Euro CASH ONLY according to the exchange rate of the day. Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, On The Go Tours cannot be held responsible.

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

Note: When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use either of the following addresses:

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi.  
Corniche El Nil, Maadi, Cairo 11431  
Tel + 202 25260601

Steigenberger Cairo Pyramids Hotel  
Alexandria Road, Pyramids - Giza, Cairo, Egypt  
Tel +202 33772555

Le Meridien Pyramids  
El Remaya Square, Pyramids, Cairo, 12561, Egypt  
Tel: +202 33777070

Mecure Cairo Le Sphinx Hotel  
1 Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids, Cairo, 12556, Egypt  
Tel: +202 33776444

Oasis Hotel  
Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids  
12556 - Cairo / Egypt  
Tel: +202 38387333 & +202 38387666

## Currency

The currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Egypt. Exchange facilities are available at most hotels and all major towns have ATMs. It's advisable to request notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange.

## Health Requirements

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

## Climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers for the cooler evenings. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt's Mediterranean coastline.

## Time & Voltage

Egypt is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require the European, 2 pronged variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need

a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

## 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 as many photographs as you like at the Pyramids and Saqqara. 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 and 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 better still, at home

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

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

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

## 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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