

# Felucca Explorer

## 9 days | Cairo to Cairo



Take in the highlights of ancient Egypt, from the legendary Pyramids of Giza to the tomb strewn Valley of the Kings, and spend two days felucca sailing on the River Nile on this action packed 9 day Egyptian adventure.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- 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 a boat ride out to the romantic Philae Temple
- Nile felucca cruising - sail the River Nile on board a traditional felucca and spend two nights sleeping on deck, under a blanket of stars
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- 5 nights 3 - 4 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 9
- 1 overnight train: Luxor - Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor, Aswan and Kom Ombo
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Ave group size: 16 persons

#### What's Not Included

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

#### Local Payment

GBP£150pp (or USD equivalent)

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Cairo

Saturday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! At Cairo Airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours and transferred to our start hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins! Day One is simply an arrival day so there are no touring arrangements and you can spend the remains of the day at leisure.

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day One of the tour, one of our team members will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. **Overnight - Cairo**

#### Day 2 : Pyramids of Giza, Saqqara & Khan el-Khalili Market



After breakfast we have a short welcome meeting before travelling to the Giza Plateau to visit the legendary Pyramids of Giza, the sole survivors of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World. Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus the great pyramids were built

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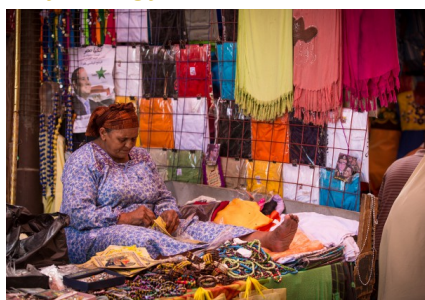
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over 4500 years ago to protect the mummies of the pharaohs and the treasures they took with them to the afterlife. Constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks, Cheops is the largest of the great pyramids and it is thought to have taken 100,000 workers more than 20 years to construct. For a real Arabian experience, you can opt to hire a camel for a ride across the sands of Giza.

After exploring the pyramids and the iconic Sphinx we travel on to the necropolis of Saqqara to see Zoser's step pyramid - which was constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect, in 2700 BC and became the template for all future pyramid construction. We complete our day souvenir shopping at the bustling Khan el-Khalili bazaar.

**Included activities:** Guided tour of Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara Step Pyramid **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 3 : Egyptian Museum



Cairo - Luxor. This morning we visit the famous Egyptian Museum, which is home to a mind boggling array of Egyptian relics and antiquities including the treasures of King Tutankhamun and his famous solid gold funerary mask.

This afternoon we board our coach to travel south to Luxor. It's a long journey today so we recommend stocking up on some snacks before hand and stops will also be made en route. Upon arrival this evening we check into our hotel by the River of Nile. **Cairo to Luxor:** 735 kms, 9 hrs

**Included activities:** Guided tour of Egyptian Museum & Khan el-Khalili Market **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

## Day 4 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Aswan. 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 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.

**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.

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.

Later this afternoon we continue our journey, travelling south to Aswan. **Luxor to Aswan:** 247 kms, 4 hrs

**Included activities:** Guided tour of the Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

**Overnight - Aswan (B)**

## Day 5 : Philae Temple, Felucca sailing & Optional Abu Simbel



Aswan – Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo. 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.

After the optional excursion we take a short boat ride to Agilika Island for a guided tour of the beautiful 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

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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. This afternoon, we board our wind-powered Nile felucca for a 2-night voyage on the River Nile downstream to Kom Ombo. Note: Lunch will be served late today at approx 3pm. Feluccas 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. As feluccas are wind-powered, our itinerary cannot be rigidly defined. The felucca sails during the day, and prior to sundown, the anchor is dropped and we moor at the riverside for the night. Feluccas come in various sizes and can accommodate 20 persons comfortably. The deck is strewn with colourful cushions and equipped with a roof/canopy that offers shade and protection from the elements. Nothing beats the experience of sleeping under a blanket of stars. The boat's deck serves as your lounging area during the day and as your sleeping area at night.

Our felucca is equipped with a flush toilet and basin for hand washing. The crew, as well as being experienced sailors, are responsible for the preparation of included meals which are served onboard.

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.

**IMPORTANT:** 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.

**Included activities:** Guided tour of Philae Temple & Felucca sailing

**Optional activities:** Abu Simbel excursion book and pay in advance. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 6 : Felucca Sailing



Spend a relaxing day sailing the Nile, taking in the scenery as it glides by, waving to locals along the river banks and perhaps opting for a swim.

**Included activities:** Felucca sailing on the Nile **Overnight - Felucca Cruise** (B, L, D)

## Day 7 : Kom Ombo Temple



Kom Ombo - Luxor. This morning we disembark at Kom Ombo to visit the riverside temple which is dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile headed god. Here you can see the remains of an ancient mummified crocodile that was once worshipped at the temple.

Arrival to Luxor, the evening offers free time or you are welcome to join us for an optional guided tour of the remarkable Luxor Temple. The temple is truly spectacular at night when it's illuminated by hundreds of lights (Book and pay locally). **Kom Ombo - Luxor:** 247 kms, 4 hrs

**Included activities:** Guided tour of Kom Ombo Temple

**Optional activities:** Guided tour of Luxor Temple by night, entrance fees & buffet dinner, budget \$25. **Overnight - Luxor** (B)

## Day 8 : Karnak Temple & pool time

Luxor - Cairo. This morning we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak which was at the heart of religious life in ancient Egypt. Karnak is an incredible 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. This afternoon is free to relax, enjoy a swim and soak up the sun at the hotel pool. Tonight, we travel on board an overnight sleeper train back to Cairo.

**Included activities:** Guided tour of Karnak Temple **Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B)

## Day 9 : Cairo

Sunday. We arrive back into Cairo this morning and transfer to hotel where our Egyptian adventure ends. Today offers free time for you to further explore Cairo before an included departure transfer to the airport. Should you wish to stay a few more days, post tour accommodation is available, should you require.

**Flights departing Cairo should not be booked before 2pm.(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. If you require a complete list of the confirmed hotels for your tour please request this from your reservations consultant two weeks prior to your departure. **Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

## Oasis Hotel

Just a stone's throw from the Pyramids, the Oasis Hotel is a classic Egyptian hotel with beautiful expansive gardens. Rooms are very

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spacious with comfortable beds and fantastic en suite facilities. Wi-Fi is available and the buffet breakfast offers a good spread. In the evening the outdoor pool and fountains are lit up making the restaurant and bar the perfect place to spend an evening sipping on a cold glass of beer.



### Grand Pyramids Hotel

Not far from the mysterious Sphinx and the Giza Pyramids, you'll find the Grand Pyramids Hotel. Its guestrooms are spacious and generously sized, offering views of either the pyramids, gardens or swimming pool. Dine on either international cuisine in the buffet-style restaurant or savour some traditional Italian fare in the candlelit Lucciano. With a spa offering a sauna, steam room and revitalising massage treatments, there's no shortage of opportunities for you to unwind and relax after a day of sightseeing.



### 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 Sailing

Feluccas are simple, traditional Egyptian sailboats that have plied the Nile since ancient times. Feluccas come in varying sizes and can sleep 20 persons 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. Our felucca is equipped with a flush toilet and basin for hand washing. 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 included meals which are served onboard.



### Aracan Hotel

Offering a prime location in the centre of Luxor, this 4-star hotel is close to top attractions including the Luxor Museum and Luxor Temple. Surrounded by manicured gardens, the contemporary-style guestrooms are well-equipped with air conditioning, a minibar and a balcony overlooking the garden or River Nile. Guests can enjoy a rich breakfast, lunch and dinner in the sun-lit restaurant or outdoors by the resort style pool. There you'll also find a poolside bar and sun deck, so you can enjoy a cocktail or two as you soak up the rays.



### Iberotel Luxor

Centrally located in Luxor, this hotel is set on the banks of the River Nile and the perfect base for exploring this city's ancient wonders. The spacious guestrooms are air-conditioned and you can enjoy breath-taking views out to the Hills of Thebes from your private balcony. A generous daily breakfast is served featuring cereals, omelettes, fresh pastries and more. But this hotel's most unique feature is its heated pool, which has been designed to float on top of the River Nile.



### 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.

**El Alamein day trip** - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm.

**Alexandria & El Alamein - 3 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 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](http://www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Tour-Add-ons)

### Groups & Guides

Groups: The longest Essentials tour we offer in the Middle East is our Jordan & Egypt Discovered – 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. upon arrival to Cairo

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or by the beach in Hurghada. 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. All arrangements in Jordan are conducted by a qualified Jordanian tour guide and in Egypt it is likely you will have 2 tour guides, both qualified Egyptologists.

## 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 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.

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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
- 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

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- 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.

## Felucca Explorer - 9 days

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