

# Jewel of the Nile

## 10 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Embark on a five star Egyptian adventure. Stay in one of Cairo's smartest hotels, cruise the River Nile in style aboard a 5 star Nile cruiser and be expertly guided by a professional Egyptologist guides for your entire stay.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- 5 star Nile River Cruise - spend four nights onboard a luxury cruise boat
- 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 see the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Aswan - visit the High Dam, take leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Elephantine Island and Kitchener island - visit the islands on a felucca sailing trip

- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 6 dinners - (2 aboard sleeper train)
- 3 nights 5 star hotels, 4 nights aboard luxury 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor  
- Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin) including meals
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 10
- Touring and sightseeing in Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor and Aswan
- Felucca Sailing around the islands of Aswan
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology (groups of 4 or more)
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

#### What's Not Included

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

traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Cairo

Friday. Upon arrival at Cairo airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Upon exiting the airport you will be escorted to our transportation and transferred to your 5 star hotel, located in downtown Cairo. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins! This evening a Welcome Meeting will be held at around 7pm.

If you are arriving a day or two before the tour starts, one of our team will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. We also offer a pre or post tour Alexandria Day Trip which can be pre-booked, please refer to our website for details.

Day one is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or for those that are arriving before 8.30am, join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am (best booked prior with your travel consultant). This optional tour takes you off the beaten track in Egypt's bustling capital, visiting Downtown Cairo, the exquisite

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mosques and monuments of El Moez Street in Islamic Cairo, Garbage City and the incredible Cave Church of St. Simon.

## Overnight - Cairo

### Day 2 : Egyptian Museum

Cairo. This morning enjoy a guided visit to the Egyptian Museum. A mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history are housed in the museum, making it one of the foremost in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the solid gold funerary mask of King Tutankhamun. Made of solid gold and weighing 11kg, the mask was found covering the head of the mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi.

Opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish. This afternoon, relax and enjoy the facilities of your hotel. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 3 : Pyramids of Giza



Cairo – Luxor. Today we travel beyond Cairo to Giza to visit the famous pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx. 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 stonecutters did the job of building the Pyramids. 100,000 slaves were used to carry out the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops. About 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in the construction of Cheops. Leaving the Pyramids of Giza, we'll sometimes drop into a Government supervised papyrus emporium. Here, you can

buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices.

Continuing to the necropolis of Saqqara, we can explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zoser's step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC! Later we travel to Luxor by overnight train. You will be accommodated in comfortable twin sleeper cabins. A light dinner is served on board. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, D)**

### Day 4 : Valley of the Kings



Arriving into Luxor this morning we visit the incredible 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 tombs, constructed to once 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. Further highlights include the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

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.

Returning to Luxor, we check-in aboard our Nile 5 star cruiser, where we enjoy lunch and then have time to relax until our early evening visit to the Temple of Luxor. The Luxor Temple, is a strikingly graceful piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom

pharaoh Amenophis III, which was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. Luxor temple looks stunning at dusk and is beautifully illuminated at night.

Note: Dependent upon Nile Cruiser scheduling it may be required that we also undertake our excursion to Karnak Temple this afternoon. Should this occur, day 5 will be spent at leisure.

Your cruiser will sail for a total period of 8 - 12 hours covering a distance of 212km (split between 2 of the 4 days you are on board). The remainder of the time the boat is in dock in either Luxor, Aswan or at sightseeing stops en route. Views will be obstructed whilst the cruiser is in dock as ships dock side by side. You may also need to cross the reception of other boats the reach your vessel. Free time is offered during this time to independently explore whilst docked when sight-seeing is not included.

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 - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

### Day 5 : Luxor & Nile Cruising



Luxor - Nile cruising. This morning we tour the ancient city of Thebes (the East Bank), taking in the magnificent Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a gigantic and stunning complex of sanctuaries and pylons dedicated to the Theban gods. Anchors away this afternoon as we set sail downstream.

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Visiting the Temple of Edfu is included in your itinerary however you may want to read our notes below before you decide.

The only mode of transport available to visit the Edfu temple is by locally managed horse and carriages. As a responsible travel focused business, animal welfare is extremely important to us and we want to ensure that we are not promoting any activities where the working animals are not properly cared for. Unfortunately, some operators of the Horse and Carriages have been found to be in breach of our animal welfare guidelines and it is, for this reason, we no longer include the visit the Edfu Temple.

In addition to the animal welfare concerns, we have had a substantial amount of feedback suggesting that the experience itself is quite uncomfortable due to the pushy nature of the vendors and local suppliers outside the site. While we recommend that you do not use the horse and carriage to visit the temple, the decision is ultimately up to you. Edfu is an included port stop on the Nile River cruise schedule.

**Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

### Day 6 : Cruising & Kom Ombo



Nile cruising. Relax as we sail the Nile. Later today, we visit the Temple of Kom Ombo. A unique riverside temple, it is unusual in that everything architecturally is doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. Arrive Aswan, a prosperous town at the crossroads of the ancient caravan routes late evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

### Day 7 : The Philae Temple

Aswan. Today, we enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures.

In danger of being completely submerged by the rising water of Lake Nasser, in 1972 UNESCO stepped in and an 8-year rescue effort was undertaken to relocate the entire temple 20m higher on nearby Agilika Island. After lunch, we visit the mighty High Dam. Constructed with 18 times the material used to create the Great pyramid of Cheops, the controversial High Dam is 3600m across, 111m high and 980m wide. Colossal in proportion, it took 35,000 people to build this gigantic structure. When it was completed, the water that collected behind the dam, became Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake! Later, we enjoy a felucca sailing trip to Elephantine and Kitchener Island.

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.

The evening free to enjoy shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

### Day 8 : Optional excursion to Abu Simbel



Optional early morning excursion by road to famous Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder (details of this optional excursion are featured online). It's an early start!

Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan 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.

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, you can spend the day at leisure. Consider a visit to the Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie wrote the novel Death on the Nile. High Tea is also offered on the terrace which affords panoramic views of the Nile set to a backdrop of rolling sand dunes. Or opt for a visit to the well-curated Nubian Museum.

Late this afternoon, we board the overnight train (twin berth sleeper cabins provided) for our journey back to Cairo. A light dinner is served on board. **Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B, D)

### Day 9 : Cairo



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This morning have breakfast in your train cabin and upon arrival into Cairo transfer to the hotel and check in. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel and check in.

The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy the hotel facilities or you can join our optional tour of Old Cairo, Coptic Cairo and the Citadel of Saladin (book locally). **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 10 : Cairo

Sunday. Cairo. Hotel check out and included onward 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. 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.**

#### InterContinental Semiramis

Situated on the banks of the River Nile in the heart of the capital, the luxury InterContinental Semiramis is conveniently located next to the Egyptian Museum and the bustling bazaars of Old Cairo. The tastefully appointed guest rooms have been designed with comfort in mind, with all modern amenities and balconies offering Nile or city views. The hotel's large rooftop pool is perfect for a refreshing dip and with 12 restaurants offering cuisine from across the world there's certainly no shortage of dining options. At the end of the day, head to the Nile Terrace to watch a spectacular sunset over the Nile, with a cool drink in hand.



Le Meridien Pyramids

Set within beautifully manicured gardens, Le Meridien Pyramids is a stunning modern hotel affording amazing views of the Pyramids. The guest rooms have been designed with optimum taste and comfort in mind and include state of the art facilities. The outdoor swimming pool includes waterfalls and hydro jets. head to the Citrus Pool Bar in the afternoon for a refreshing beverage under the gaze of the pyramids!



#### Sheraton Cairo Hotel

The recently renovated Sheraton Cairo Hotel, Towers and Casino is a stylish, contemporary hotel with fantastic views over the Nile. The rooms are particularly spacious with large bright windows, complimentary WiFi and all of the modern amenities required to ensure a comfortable stay. If you're feeling lucky head to the casino, or relax in the spa tub and soak up the sun by the large outdoor pool. The hotel has a choice of three restaurants and bars, where you can enjoy a tasty meal and refreshing drinks after taking in the ancient wonders of Egypt's capital city.



#### M/S Royal Lotus

The luxurious Movenpick M/S Royal Lotus offers extremely spacious cabins and a good range of public areas.



#### M/S Farah

The M/S Farah is a stylish and modern cruise boat, with large cabins that face out over the Nile. Contemporary in decor, the Farah has a large sun deck and swimming pool.



#### Moon Dance

Moondance is a five star deluxe ship designed for luxury cruising on the Nile, accommodating up to 145 passengers. The vessel has 60 cabins and 8 suites offering exquisite comfort amidst an elegant yet intimate décor.



#### M/S Premium

The modern and luxurious M/S Premium cruise boat boasts stylish cabins equipped with all modern amenities and large panoramic windows. Facilities on board include a fitness centre, spacious deck with swimming pool, large restaurant and cocktail bar. Grab a good book and a refreshing beverage and relax on the Sund Deck - the perfect way to spend the day. The M/S Premium sets sail on Mondays on a 4 and 7 night cruise from Luxor and on Fridays on a 3 and 7 night cruise from Aswan.



#### Nile Cruise Cabins

- Your onboard cabin will be air-conditioned (individually regulated) for your comfort and offer en suite facilities. In most cabins, there will be a combination of facilities, such as a

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Television, security deposit box, phone and mini-bar

- Guest facilities aboard - Restaurant, bar, sundeck with swimming pool, shop(s), hairdresser, laundry, guest safe.
- Drinks - alcoholic or non-alcoholic are not included. These are extra, as is any laundry.
- All cabins have outward facing windows allowing for viewing whilst sailing. When in port cruisers line up side by side and views are restricted. You may also be required to walk through other cruisers to reach your cruiser.
- Onboard purchases - Cash payments are best for your onboard purchase of goods and services because telephone lines for credit card connection are not always reliable and you will incur a 3% surcharge.

## 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 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)

## 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.

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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.

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.

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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
- 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.

## Jewel of the Nile - 10 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.