

# Cairo, Cruise & Coast

13 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



*Discover the best of Egypt and its ancient wonders on this 13 day adventure. Marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, visit Dendera's exquisite Temple of Hathor and explore Luxor's Valley of the Kings, before cruising the River Nile to Aswan and relaxing by the Red Sea in beautiful Hurghada.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - gaze in awe at the ancient 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
- Dendera - explore the beautifully preserved Temple of Hathor, with its exquisitely decorated ceiling
- Nile cruising - cruise the River Nile from Luxor to Aswan on board a 5 star river cruiser

- Aswan - take leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo
- Hurghada - spend three nights at the Red Sea. Relax by the beach, swim and opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- 7 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 4 nights aboard a 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 1 overnight train: Cairo - Luxor (private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Economy class flight: Hurghada - Cairo
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 13
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor, Dendera and Aswan
- Red Sea stay in Hurghada
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- 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\$90-110pp, paid in local currency

- Tip for your tour guide, we recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tip for your Nile Cruise staff, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guide and the cruise staff is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Optional Backstreets Of Cairo Tour

Sunday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Upon 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. Cairo International Airport can appear to be a little chaotic to the uninitiated, this is normal. Upon exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins!

Enjoy a free day in Cairo before the rest of your Egyptian adventure. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or for those that are arriving before 8.30am, join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am (best booked prior with your travel consultant). This optional tour takes you off the beaten track in Egypt's bustling capital, visiting Downtown Cairo, the exquisite mosques and monuments of El Moez Street in Islamic Cairo, Garbage

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City and the incredible Cave Church of St. Simon.

At 7pm this evening meet your guide and the rest of the group at a Welcome Meeting.

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day One of the tour, one of our staff will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. We also have an Alexandria Day Trip available to book for the Saturday before your tour starts, or on the final day of the tour and we can book pre/post tour accommodation upon request. **Overnight - Cairo**

### Day 2 : Pyramids of Giza



After a good night's rest, we have a full day of touring planned for today. Our first stop this morning is the famous pyramids and the iconic Sphinx at the Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek listed Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction. Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were already more than 2,000 years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stone cutters carried out the job of building the pyramids. 100,000 workers were used to carry out the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid - Cheops and about 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used to construct it. 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. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 3 : Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Luxor. 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. The afternoon is free to relax by the pool at the hotel or independently explore before we board the overnight sleeper train to Luxor 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 4 : Luxor & Dendera



We arrive into Luxor this morning and drop our bags off at the hotel. There's time to freshen up in the hotel lobby before we drive to Dendera which is one of Egypt's best preserved temple complexes, located 60km north of Luxor. This vast complex covers 40,000 square meters and its temples, chapels and shrines were gradually built over thousands of years. Dendera's crowning glory is the 2000 year old Temple of Hathor with its exquisitely decorated ceiling, adorned with astronomical representations. After our guided tour of this incredible site we return to Luxor where you can spend the afternoon at leisure, relaxing by the pool.

This evening at 5.30pm there is an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor. The excursion is booked/pay locally at

approx USD\$25 including entrance fees and buffet dinner. The Luxor Temple, a strikingly beautiful piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenophis III, was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. The temple comprises a striking array of great halls, courts and colonnades decorated with colossal statues of great pharaohs including Ramses II and splendid columns. An obelisk, one of a pair, remains at the temple. Its towering counterpart now stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris, France. At night the temple is beautifully illuminated with powerful lights, making the temple all the more evocative as the artificial light creates an eerie spectacle as shadow and light play off the colossal statues and reliefs.

For those not opting for the optional excursion, there is time to relax and go for dinner. As we have an early start tomorrow, you might want to retire early but if you have energy there are plenty of bars and late night entertainment available at all the big hotels. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

### Day 5 : Valley of the Kings & Karnak Temples



4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its very best and this morning we will be visiting Luxor's famous West Bank. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings.

The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs.

Some of the best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Discovered intact in 1922 by Howard Carter, it was possibly one of the most dazzling archaeological finds ever. King

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Tutankhamen's solid gold funerary mask and his priceless cache of treasures entombed with him for his journey to the afterlife, are now on display at the world famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In all, more than 60 tombs have been excavated, though possibly the greatest find since the tomb of King Tutankhamen, is that of the largest tomb believed to be the burial place of more than 50 sons of Ramses II. So far, more than 110 chambers and corridors have been discovered, coupled with 4 mummies!

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.

Beyond the Valley of the Kings we visit Deir al-Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments. Hatshepsut, the 3rd Queen ever to rule ancient Egypt eventually declared herself pharaoh. Before leaving the West Bank we'll also see the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which are all that remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III. 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 the East Bank we check-in on board our 5 star Nile cruiser which will be home for the next four nights. Enjoy lunch and some rest and relaxation on board before we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak later this afternoon. 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. Karnak is gigantic in proportion, at over 1.5km by 800m and almost every pharaoh left his (or her) mark here with evolving artistic and architectural styles.

**Please note:** 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. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

### Day 6 : Nile Cruising



Nile cruising. Today we set sail downstream. Relax on deck and go for a swim, soak up the sunshine and enjoy the views as we cruise the River Nile.

The port of Edfu is an included stop in most Nile cruise itineraries however we do not offer a guided tour to the temple in our arrangements as 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 working animals are not properly cared for. Unfortunately, many horse and carriage operators have been found to be in breach of animal welfare guidelines and it is, for this reason, we no longer include the visit to Edfu Temple on our tours.

In addition to the animal welfare concerns, we have had a substantial amount of feedback suggesting that the experience itself is uncomfortable due to the pushy nature of the vendors and local suppliers outside the site.

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

### Day 7 : Nile Cruising - Kom Ombo Temple

Nile cruising - Aswan. Enjoy another day relaxing on board the cruiser as we sail the Nile to the Temple of Kom Ombo today, which is dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. This temple is unusual because everything is architecturally doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. After a guided tour of the temple we continue our journey, arriving into Aswan this evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

### Day 8 : Aswan, Abu Simbel & the Philae Temple



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

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, you can spend the morning at leisure in Aswan. Consider a visit to the Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie wrote the novel *Death on the Nile* or opt for a visit to the well-curated Nubian Museum.

This afternoon a short boat trip to Agilika Island give us the opportunity to visit Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies and the Romans up to 3rd century

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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.

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. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

### Day 9 : Aswan to the Red Sea



Aswan - Hurghada. After breakfast we disembark our cruiser and drive to Hurghada. The journey will take approx 7hrs and breaks will be made along the way to stretch our legs. **Overnight - Hurghada (B)**

### Days 10-11 : Hurghada by the Red Sea

The next 2 days are free to spend exploring Hurghada or simply relaxing. There is the option to go snorkelling on day 10 but the rest of the time it's up to you!

Hurghada is one of the Red Sea's most popular resorts and it is easy to see why. Hotels and expanded infrastructure provide holidaymakers with excellent aquatic facilities for sail boarding, yachting, deep-sea fishing, SCUBA diving and snorkeling. Hurghada's central location provides a gateway to prime offshore reefs, some of which are of the finest

in the world. Hurghada also has plenty of good nightlife to choose from. For retail therapy, the town has lots of shops selling knock-off bags and tees, snorkeling gear and suchlike.

Snorkelling Trip – 700 EGP (approx) per person payable locally. Join a day trip snorkelling and swimming at Giftun Island. You'll be transferred by motor boat to across the blue water of the Red Sea to Giftun Island, the journey is approximately an hour. The boat will moor up and there is an opportunity to jump into the warm waters (mask and snorkel provided) to swim and marvel at the amazing marine life. Look out for parrot fish, butterfly fish, trumpet fish and angel fish – some times of the year it is also possible to see turtles and even dolphins! After snorkelling the boat continues on to the island for a lunch stop (including soft drink or mineral water). If time allows you can also laze by the beach catching some rays before heading back to shore. Departs 08:15 returning 16:30 approx.

Please note that this is not operated by On The Go and the arrangements on the day are at the captain's discretion. It is also a shared excursion so there could well be other people not part of your group on the boat. **Overnight - Hurghada (B:1)**

### Days 12-13 : Cairo

Hurghada - Cairo. On day 12 we bid farewell to the Red Sea and fly back to Egypt's bustling capital where we spend the last night of our Egyptian adventure at leisure.

On day 13 (Friday) our tour comes to an end with a transfer to Cairo Airport for your onward flight. **Overnight - Cairo (1) (B:2)**

#### 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 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.



### Sonesta Hotel Cairo

The Sonesta Hotel & Casino is a sophisticated and luxurious hotel offering spacious, en-suite rooms with opulent furnishings. Enjoy a cocktail at the poolside bar or indulge in a relaxing massage or Turkish steam bath at the full-service spa. With 5 restaurants located within the

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hotel you'll be spoilt for choice over dining options.



### 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.



### 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.



### M/S Medea

The M/S Medea is elegantly furnished with rich fabrics, wood panelling and classic style furniture, offering a refined setting for your Nile cruise. The restaurant offers 120 covers with a combination of waiter service and buffet meals which allows to sample both Egyptian and international cuisine. The spacious lounge bar is tastefully furnished with Chesterfield sofas and offers panoramic views of the Nile River.



### M/S La Traviata

M/S La Traviata has proved to be a long term favourite with many regular Nile cruise guests. The cosy restaurant on the lower deck serves 88 guests and serves both international and Egyptian cuisine. Lounge bar with dance floor and music system for evening entertainment. The sundeck offers a pool as well as sun loungers and a shaded

area. The reception offers full services including an international phone. The gift shop on board has a wide range of gifts and souvenirs from Egypt.



### M/S Miriam

M/S Miriam is a beautiful Nile cruise boat offering 59 spacious cabins. Onboard you'll find a fantastic restaurant serving both international and Egyptian cuisine. As your cruiser makes its way along the mighty Nile river, take the opportunity to relax on deck and watch the changing scenery or perhaps indulge in a book.



### M/S Medea

The M/S Medea is elegantly furnished with rich fabrics, wood panelling and classic style furniture, offering a refined setting for your Nile cruise. The restaurant offers 120 covers with a combination of waiter service and buffet meals which allows to sample both Egyptian and international cuisine. The spacious lounge bar is tastefully furnished with Chesterfield sofas and offers panoramic views of the Nile River.



### Hilton Hurghada Resort

Set in tropical gardens, the Hilton Hurghada Resort is a comfortable, charming hotel with a private beach and water sport centre. The

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rooms have a balcony or terrace with views of the garden, pools or sea.



### Marriott Beach Resort

The Marriott Beach Resort is a luxurious beachfront hotel, with every room enjoying a view of the Red Sea and Hurgada city centre just a few minutes drive away. There is a choice of 8 restaurants and bars for hungry travellers, and a health club, tennis & squash courts, and fitness centre to stay in shape. During the day, soak in the heated outdoor pool or book a watersport activity. The hotel even has its own private island if you fancy a massage among the palm trees.



### 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 Hurgada, 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.

### 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 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 the following:

**Backstreets of Cairo tour** - departs approx. 10am and returns to Cairo approx. 5pm on day 1. No entrance fees are required for this trip.

**Alexandria day trip** - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm on Saturday (pre tour). 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. For further information about Add-ons, please refer to our website;

<https://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 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

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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.

## 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](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 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

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NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038  
USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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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

- 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.

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## 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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