

EGYPT

TRAVEL TIPS AND INFORMATION



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WELCOME TO EGYPT!

We are excited to have join us on a journey through Egypt. and to help you prepare for your upcoming holiday, we have put together some travel tips and information.

ARRIVING INTO EGYPT

All guests will be met by one of our transfer assistants inside the terminal where you arrive. As you head towards baggage claim and passport control, you will notice some people holding signs. Please look for either your name or the name of the tour.

The transfer assistant will help you obtain your tourism visa (is purchasing one on arrival), and help you through the formalities at the airport.

Our transfer assistant will ensure that you reach your hotel seamlessly.

Our Tour Manager Mohamed Taha will be awaiting you in the hotel lobby to assist you with check-in procedures.





BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

VISA

Non-Egyptian visitors arriving in Egypt are required to be in possession of a valid passport. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from date of travel. Entry visas can be obtained from the Egyptian Consulate in your country however, visitors from many countries may obtain an entry visa upon arrival in Egypt. Upon entering the airport in Egypt, proceed to the bank tellers at the airport and ask for an entry visa (approx. \$25 USD or 20€). Once you have this stamp on your passport you may proceed to Passport Control. Your visa is valid for 30 days.

Please check with your nearest Egyptian Consulate for more details concerning visa regulations applying to your citizenship if you are not a holder of an American or Canadian passport or passport from the United Kingdom.

Here is some further information on obtaining a visa for Egypt:

<https://www.gettingstamped.com/egypt-visa-on-arrival/>

If you are paying on arrival, please ensure you have the correct money, as credit cards are not always accepted.





TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

We recommend to pack the following items for your trip:

- Hat/head covering for the sun
- Sun block
- Sunglasses
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera
- Travel alarm
- Personal toiletries
- Small bag/pack for daytime sightseeing
- Sewing Kit
- Power adapters – Egypt uses 220 volts, and you can use the same two prong Plug Adapter used throughout most of Europe. Many appliances, such as hair dryers and curling irons usually require a Plug Adapter and a Voltage Converter. Some appliances and/or electronics, such as laptops and many battery chargers only require the plug adapter. Please check your appliances directly for their specific requirements.
- Medications – you should bring adequate medication for your entire trip with a prescription slip or doctor's letter explaining why you need this medicine in case you need further medication.
- Journal and/or Note Pad
- Snack items, such as energy bars, dried fruit or nuts.
- Water bottle with a sprayer and/or with a battery-operated fan attached, if you are sensitive to the warmer weather, especially during the summer months (May-September)
- An Extra (collapsible) Bag- if you plan to do any shopping. A bag, preferably soft, which can be crunched up and carried into Egypt in another bag will be handy for most people.
- No Jet Lag—a homeopathic remedy that can help assuage the effects of jet lag from long flights.



SAFETY

Egypt is very safe to travel to and tourist safety is a priority for the government. You should take normal safety precautions, the same as you would when travelling to any other country. Be mindful of your bags, your money and your passport, and never leave your bags or your belongings unattended. You will see a strong government security presence whilst travelling in Egypt.

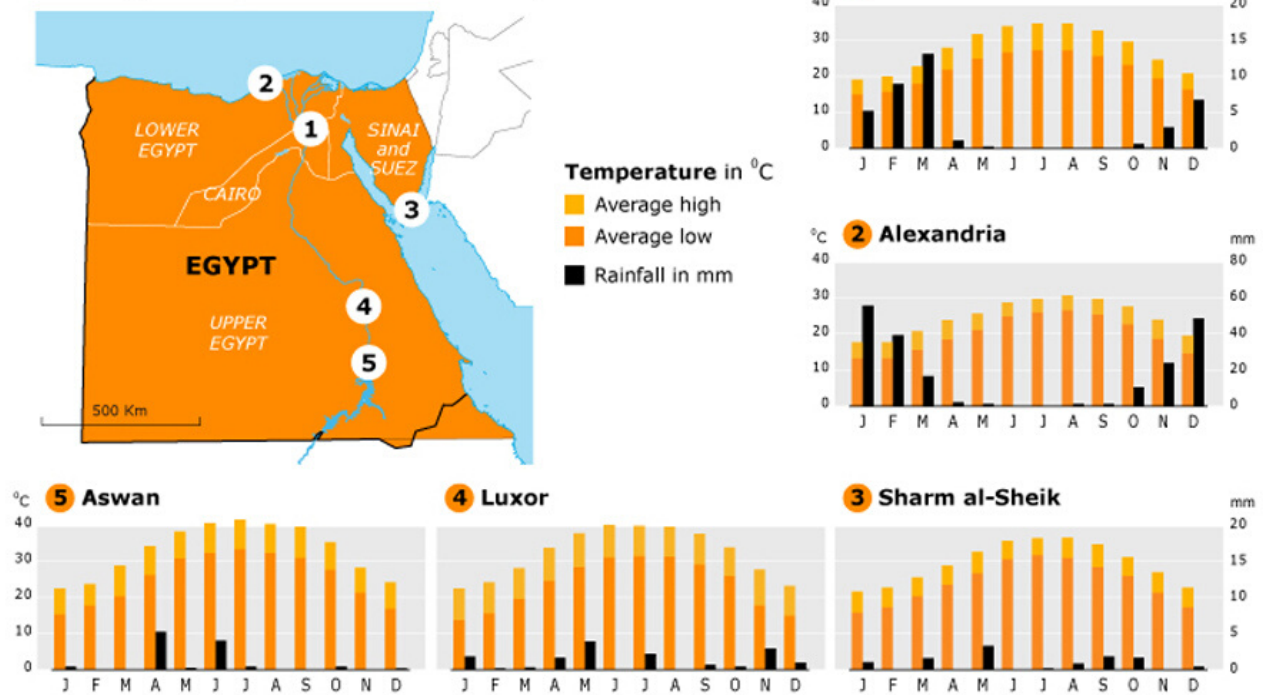
This does not reflect anything other than the Egyptian government's commitment to the safety and protection of visitors.

Overall the locals are friendly and more than happy to help in most cases, as much as they can, when any tourist needs assistance.



WEATHER

Average temperature and rainfall per month



YEARLY CLIMATE IN EGYPT

It is always sunny in Egypt! Well...almost always! It only rains on rare occasions, and mostly during the winter months.

From December to February the winters days are mostly sunny, but during the night it gets chilly!

From March to April the weather starts to warm up during the day, but can still be cool in the evenings.

From May to September is the warmest period in Egypt, with the Egyptian summer lasting 5 months! During summer the sun is quite strong and it is hot during the days and nights.

From October to November, the weather starts to cool, however, during the day it can still be around the mid to low 30 C.

Egypt does experience seasonal changes in temperature, and wind conditions. You can consult:

<http://www.weatherforecastmap.com/egypt/> for updates on current weather conditions.

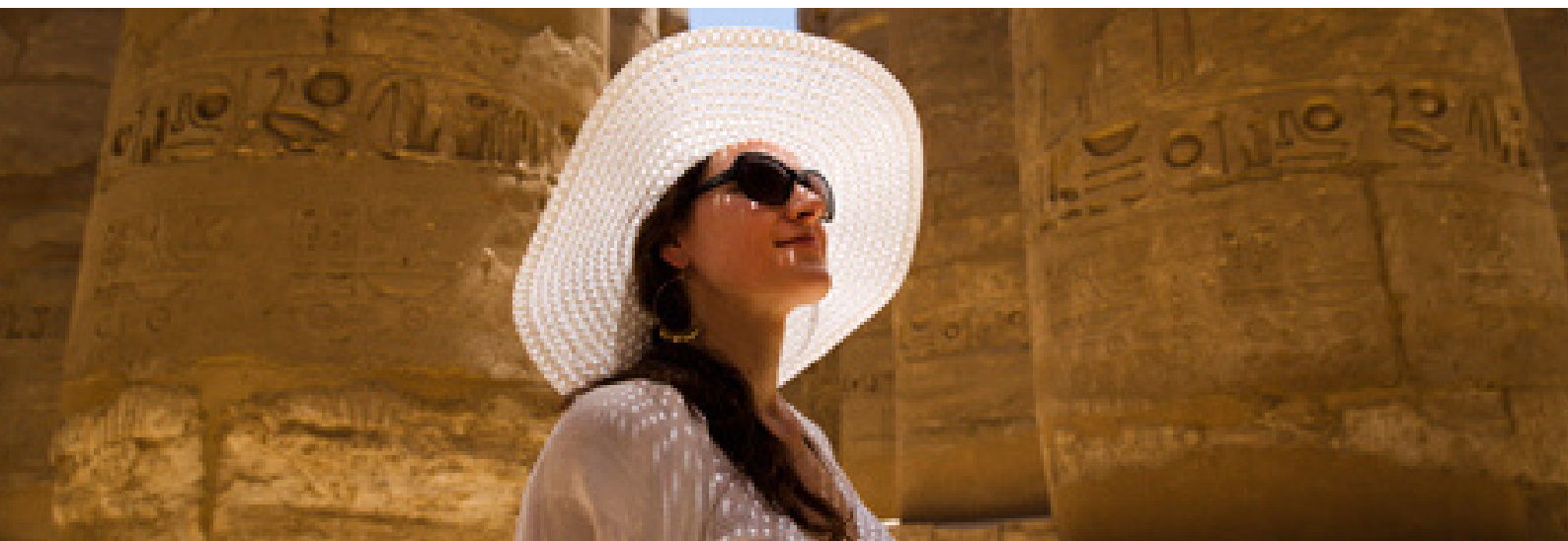




WHAT TO WEAR

Dress comfortably, loose cotton clothes are preferable – t-shirts, cotton pullover and cotton trousers, track pants or baggy jeans. Dress code is mostly casual, but you may want to bring something dressier items for evenings if you wish. Bring a jacket or a warm sweater for the cooler evenings. During the winter months it is cooler during the day, and much chillier in the evening. Layers of clothing is suggested for your daily wear. Please be sure to bring comfortable flat shoes for the daytime, preferably with closed-in toes for walking through sand and stones at archaeological sites. Sneakers and socks are always a good choice.

Egypt is primarily Muslim country and we recommend that you dress conservatively outside the hotels, cruise boat and swimming pool areas. Revealing clothing such as short shorts, or very low necklines on clothing worn by women, can be highly frowned upon and invite unwanted attention.





CURRENCY

US, Canadian and Australian Dollars, as well as Euros and Sterling pounds, are accepted at all currency exchange centers throughout Egypt. You will need to convert some money into Egyptian Pounds for personal expenses, drinks and souvenirs you may wish to purchase along the journey. It is best to wait until you arrive in Egypt to convert your money, as the exchange rates are much better here than in most other countries. You can exchange currency upon arrival at the airport, at most Hotels, and at Banks and Exchange Vendors that are found everywhere throughout all main towns and cities. Please note that many shops in Egypt do not accept credit cards.

If you wish to part take in any additional activities, please ensure you bring US dollars to pay for these activities.

There are ample ATMs available in Egypt, and if you have a bank card which has a Visa or Mastercard logo on it, you can withdraw money from any ATM in Egypt. You may need to advise your bank that you will be travelling, and inquire about their overseas transaction fees.

We also suggest that you carry a supply of Egyptian 5 and 10 LE notes or coins for tipping.

Current Conversion Rate for
USD to Egyptian LE: **1.00 USD = 15 EGP LE**

For up to date currency rates visit:
<http://www.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/africa/egypt/currency/index.htm>

LANGUAGE

Arabic is the official language in Egypt. Egyptians have an amazing ear for languages and most people who come into contact with tourists will speak English and/or several other languages.

SOME KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER

Shukran = Thank you. This can also be used as a polite way of letting vendors know you are not interested.

Asalam alaikum = Formal greeting, meaning "Peace be upon you."

Ma-salama = Goodbye

Hammam fayn? = Where is the toilet?

Khalas/Baas = Enough / Stop





COMMUNICATIONS

If your mobile is equipped with 'roaming' then you will have no problem using it in Egypt, however please note that international calls and roaming services are expensive. If think you will make a large number of phone calls, either local or international, and/or use a large number of data whilst you are in Egypt, it is best to purchase a local Egyptian SIM card from a Vodafone, Orange or Etisalat shop upon arrival in Egypt. There is a vendor within the airport terminal (as you exit) where you can purchase a local sim card - or ask one of our staff for assistance.

To do this you must ensure your mobile is 'unlocked' and this must be done from your home country. Recharge cards are easily available.

Please remember to bring your phone charger with you and an adapter.

WIFI and Internet availability varies from venue to venue. Generally the hotels will offer limited free wifi either in your room, or in the main lobby. However, this service is often slow when lots of other guests are logged into the service at the same time.

Please inquire about internet options if this is important to you.



FOOD & WATER

DRINK ONLY WELL-SEALED BOTTLES OF PURCHASED WATER

Although Egypt's tap water is officially safe to drink, it is often heavily chlorinated, and the change in water content alone can be enough to upset a sensitive stomach. **Avoid drinks with ice cubes.**

Hotels and restaurants serve a variety of Egyptian and Western dishes with plenty of vegetarian options. Food is generally safe to eat, and is usually of a good quality. It is also suggested that you do not eat unpeeled fruit or vegetables when you are not eating at Hotel or Tourist friendly venues during the first few days. You may want to bring along your own remedies for stomach ailments such as Imodium—and/or natural remedies like raw ginger, or ginger tea.

If you have any dietary requirements, or allergies to certain foods, could you please inform us, so that we can help with food selection (where possible).



VACCINATIONS & MEDICAL INFORMATION

VACCINATIONS

No inoculations are necessary when arriving in Egypt. You should however, consult with your health care professional before traveling.

For further information regarding vaccinations please visit this website:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/egypt.htm>

DOCTORS IN EGYPT

Egypt has several state of the art private hospitals with either foreign or English speaking staff. Should you feel unwell during the tour, we will call a medical professional to assist you.

Hospitals here are inexpensive compared to other countries, but a good travel insurance policy can cover you for any medical costs whilst in Egypt.





ALCOHOL

As Egypt is a Muslim country, alcohol is not widely available. However, to cater to tourists, it is available in most hotels and on cruise ships. They offer both local and international brands. It is also permitted for you to bring your duty-free allowance into Egypt - up to 1 liter.

Please note that drinking on the street is illegal. You must not consume alcohol in public - aside from at the restaurants and hotels where alcohol is served.

If you have additional requirements or questions, please ask one of our staff for assistance.





TIPPING - 'BAKSHEESH'

Tipping is a part of life in Egypt. Salaries are very low so most workers rely on tips to increase their earnings.

Like in the West, tipping should be given for a service that you are happy with. As a guideline you should give small but regular tips of 5 LE (Egyptian Pound) for bathroom attendants, bell boys etc.

For waiters, drivers etc, typically they receive about 10% of the service fee, however this is usually included in most bills. It is customary to tip the cruise crew as well, especially if they have provided excellent service during your stay.

Toilet Facilities throughout Egypt will suggest or even require a 5 Egyptian LE fee to the attendants.

Tips for our motor coach drivers and cruise staff are included in your tour fee! Follow your own guidance for tipping if you feel that you received special service from anyone along your journey.





SHOPPING

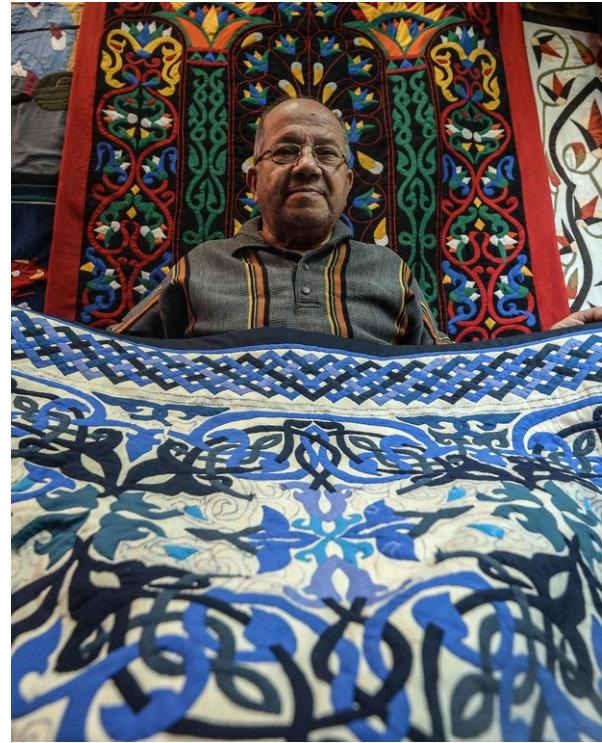
Popular shopping and gift items in Egypt are papyrus, statues and items made from marble, basalt and alabaster, perfumes & oils, shisha pipes, musical instruments, scarves and gallabiyahs, gold and silver and of course - Egyptian cotton!

Guests will have ample opportunity to purchase items along the tour, with many vendors and stalls available at all archaeological sites.

THE ART OF BARGAINING...

One of the most important tactics that tourists, or even Egyptians, must learn before shopping in one of these markets, especially the touristy ones, is how to bargain and how to negotiate in order to get the best price. Although bargaining is a common practice here, we recommend that you have a fair price in mind when you see an item that you like and negotiate within what you decide is a fair price range.

Please ask one of our staff for assistance when you are unsure!





TRAVEL INSURANCE

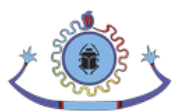
WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE

Each destination has different activities and risks. Travel insurance helps protect against the unexpected. Travel insurance can be for the emergency medical assistance, flight delays or cancellations, lost luggage, as well as protect you against any cancellation fees; in case you are not able to participate in the tour. Without these benefits, you can easily spend over \$10,000 out-of-pocket for treatment and transportation expenses.

It is recommended for you to have travel insurance for your Egyptian journey.

Please check your policy thoroughly to ensure it will cover all activities you may wish to do during your holiday.

Travel insurance policies must be sourced from the country you reside in.



DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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