



Your passport to adventure

## Classic Egypt & Jordan

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**Country(ies):** Egypt & Jordan

**Tour type:** Private

**Transport:** A/C Minibus, internal flights, 5-star deluxe Nile cruise boat & 4x4 jeep

**Group size:** Min: 1 | Max: 0

**Days:** 15 Days

**Start location:** Cairo, Egypt

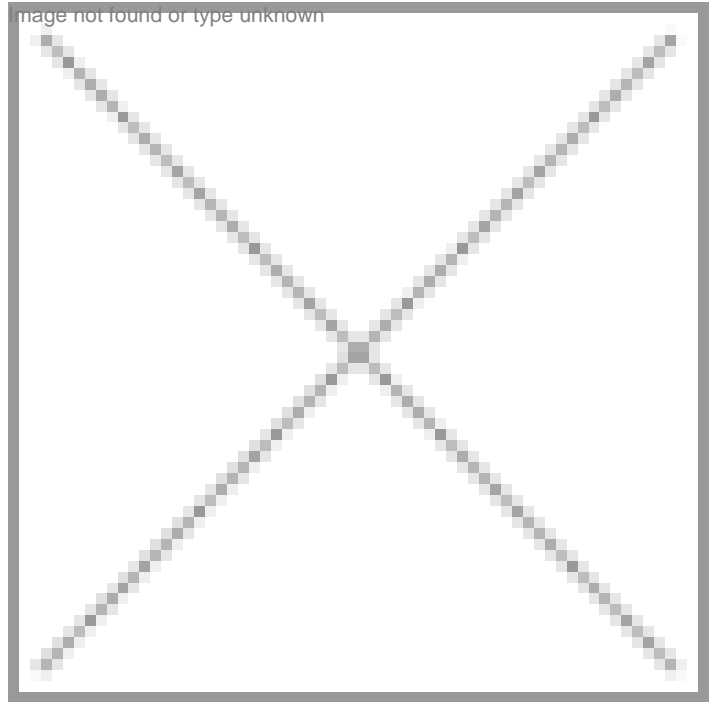
**End location:** Amman, Jordan

**Departs On:** Any day

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 15, Lunches - 7, Dinners - 5

**Highlights:** Pyramids & Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Luxury Nile Cruise, Valley of the Kings, Temple of Karnak, Abu Simbel option, As-Salt & Bethany Baptism Site, rose city of Petra, float in the Dead Sea, Roman Jerash, Wadi Rum safari & camp

**Places Visited:** Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, Amman, As-Salt, Jerash, Madaba, Wadi Rum, Petra, Kerak & Dead Sea



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive in Cairo, transfer to hotel

Our rep will meet you at Cairo airport, help you to obtain your Egyptian visa and collect your luggage, and then transfer you to your 5-star hotel close to the Pyramids for the start of your trip. They will help you settle in, introduce you to the local area, and explain tomorrow's arrangements.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo 5-star hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour || Single room supplement (EGTMEJ)

## Day 2: Cairo, Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum tour

We enjoy a full day tour today to the majestic Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, and also to the huge Egyptian Museum, home to the famous Tutankhamun display. You are accompanied by one of our professional Egyptologist guides who will explain the history of pyramid building, and more about the ancient Egyptian empire and its different Pharaonic dynasties.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo - boutique hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 3: Fly to Luxor, board cruise boat, Karnak & Luxor temples

We fly to Luxor this morning and board our luxury Nile cruise boat before heading out with one of our Egyptologist guides to visit the huge temple complex at Karnak. You'll then have some time to relax before we head out again in the evening to visit Luxor temple in the centre of town while it is beautifully lit up. You spend the night on board the cruise boat moored up in Luxor.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruiseboat

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 4: Luxor, west bank tour, sail to Edfu

This morning we tour the West Bank of the Nile and explore the Pharaonic tombs in the Valley of the Kings, Queen Hatchepsut Temple and the Valley of the Artisans, Deir el-Medina. We'll also see the huge Colossi of Memnon. In the afternoon we sail up-river and cross through the lock on the Nile at Esna before continuing to Edfu. Depending on the queue to get through the lock there may also be time to visit the temple at Esna. Before the tour starts this morning, you also have the option of a spectacular hot air balloon flight to see the sun rise over the West Bank of the Nile.

**Note:** Nile cruise boat itineraries and the timing of visits is subject to slight alterations while en-route.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Hot air balloon in Luxor

## Day 5: Edfu & Komombo temples, sail to Aswan

After breakfast we visit the nearby Edfu Temple, which is dedicated to the god Horus, before continuing to sail up the Nile to Aswan, breaking the journey at the temple at Kom Ombo en-route. At Kom Ombo we explore the temple, which is home to mummified crocodiles amongst other ancient artefacts. The rest of the day you can spend watching typical Egyptian rural life pass you by on the banks of the Nile. You may see farmers with their donkeys in the fields, water buffalo, egrets and other water birds in the shallows on the banks of the river, and fishermen in their rowing boats.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruiseboat

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 6: Aswan, Abu Simbel option, island felucca trip

The Nile is at its most picturesque in Aswan, and we have this morning free to explore the town, its markets, and to walk along the Corniche or visit the Nubian Museum. In the afternoon we take a felucca sailboat trip around Kitchener and Elephantine islands.

You also have the option this morning to visit the spectacular temple built by Ramses II at Abu Simbel. This huge temple is cut into a rocky hillside and was moved completely and rebuilt when Lake Nasser was flooded.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruiseboat

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Abu Simbel overland

## Day 7: Aswan, Philae temple then fly to Cairo

You check out of your cabins this morning and then we finish our tours in Aswan with a boat trip to the beautiful island temple of Philae. The Philae temple, built to honour the Goddess Isis is one of Egypt's most romantic and beautiful sites, and was dismantled and relocated as a result of constructing the Aswan Dam. In the afternoon we take an internal flight with Egypt Air back to Cairo and check into a luxury boutique hotel in the heart of Old Cairo. The mainly pedestrian streets around the hotel are quiet and peaceful during the day but teem with life in the evenings as local Egyptians come out for a stroll with their friends and family, and to eat and drink. The busy markets of the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar are also only a 15 minute walk away.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo boutique hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 8: Cairo, city tour then fly to Jordan

Our tour of Cairo today includes the Citadel overlooking the city, some important and beautiful mosques, the tiny streets and churches of Coptic Cairo, and time to explore and shop in the busy Khan-el-Khalili bazaar close to our hotel. Late this afternoon we say farewell to Egypt and fly to Jordan. On arrival we transfer you from the airport to your 5-star hotel in central Amman.

The Cairo-Amman flight is not included in the price of the tour but may be purchased as an individual single ticket, or included as part of your main international flight ticket if you are flying with Egypt Air or Royal Jordanian. Advice will be provided on timings and booking during your reservation process.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 9: Jerash, and a city tour in Amman

We start this morning with a short drive to see the impressive and extensive Roman ruins at Jerash, some of the best preserved in the whole of the Middle East. After returning to Amman, we spend the afternoon in the city, visiting the Roman amphitheatre and other sites and finishing with a walk through the Downtown area.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 10: As Salt hillside town, and the Baptism Site at Bethany

We start the day with a visit to the hilltop town of As-Salt, which once served as a trading link between the Jordan Valley and the Eastern Desert. As-Salt is known for its impressive old Islamic architecture which was built using yellow limestone.

Today, the town serves as an example of the religious and cultural friendship between the local Muslim & Christian population. To learn more about As-Salt, we'll head out on a walking tour of its 'Harmony Trail', which will give you greater insight into the lives of the locals.

We'll have lunch with a local family today, giving you a great taste of traditional Jordanian cuisine.

After lunch, we make our way to the Baptism site at Bethany, which is an excavated site believed to be the place where John baptised Jesus Christ. Many churches, caves and pools dating back to Roman & Byzantine periods have been found here. We'll also visit three of its most important sites: Tell Mar Elias, the Baptism Pools and John the Baptist's Church.

Finally we return to our hotel in Amman where we'll spend the night.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman 5-star hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 11: Desert Highway to Madaba and then Wadi Rum

Today's first stop is the town of Madaba which is home to some incredibly well preserved and important Roman mosaics. We then continue south along the Desert Highway until we see the stunning desert scenery of Wadi Rum. Here we spend the night at a comfortable Bedouin camp located right inside the desert reserve against some of the towering cliffs. Dinner will be a real treat, normally with a traditional Bedouin barbecue, cooked under the sand. Accommodation is in private en-suite tents with all facilities provided. If you prefer, we could spend this evening at a resort by the Red Sea in Aqaba, giving you a chance for some snorkelling and swimming, and time relaxing by the pool. Extra days in Aqaba could also be slotted in here - please contact us for details.

**OVERNIGHT:** Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 12: Wadi Rum jeep safari & camel ride, then Little Petra

We wake up amidst the incredible desert scenery of Wadi Rum today where we take a jeep safari around the cliffs and rock formations before a short camel ride brings us to our lunch stop with the local Bedouins. In the afternoon we visit 'Little Petra' which forms a great introduction to the main site we'll explore tomorrow.

**OVERNIGHT:** Petra 4/5-star hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 13: Petra tour and free time to explore

We have a full guided tour of around 3 hours in Petra today, and then also have plenty of free time to explore more of the site, perhaps to walk up to the High Place of Sacrifice and the huge Monastery, carved into the cliffs and overlooking the Jordan valley. In the evening there is an option to revisit the site for the beautiful Petra by Candlelight tour (Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays).

**OVERNIGHT:** Petra 4/5-star hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Petra by night

## Day 14: Kings Highway, Kerak, Mt. Nebo & the Dead Sea

We leave Petra early today and drive north up the scenic King's Highway, stopping to explore the impressive crusader castle at Kerak en-route. We also stop to admire the huge and colourful valley of Wadi Mujib, and to hopefully enjoy great views towards Jericho and Israel from Mt. Nebo. We finish the day by arriving at our Dead Sea resort in time for a swim and possible mud bath in the Dead Sea.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dead Sea 5-star resort

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 15: Dead Sea, transfer to airport

Your time is free to relax at your hotel today, and perhaps enjoy some of the spa facilities, before we transfer you to the airport for your departure. Alternatively you can extend your stay at the Dead Sea, or add a visit into Israel to the end of your trip.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Included

- 9 nights in 5-star hotels as stated in the itinerary
- 4 nights on board 5-star-deluxe level Nile Cruise boat
- 1 night in comfortable Bedouin desert camp in Wadi Rum
- All transport and transfers in private AC vehicles (except Bedouin jeep in Wadi Rum)
- Flights from Cairo-Luxor and Aswan-Cairo
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Services of local Egyptologist guides in Egypt
- Services of an English speaking escort driver throughout Jordan
- Professional guide for the tours in Jerash and Petra (may be extended to the whole time in Jordan)
- Tipping kitty in Egypt
- Entrance fees to sites visited in Egypt
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

## Excluded

- International flights (available on request)
- Cairo to Amman flight on Day 8
- Visa fees (see Tour Notes)
- Travel Insurance (mandatory, available on request)
- Entrance fees to sites not mentioned in Egypt (mummy room etc..)
- Entrance fees in Jordan (included in the Jordan Pass for JD70 / US\$99)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tour guide tips for Egypt and Jordan
- Hotel Gala Dinners (if charged by the hotels on 24 & 31 Dec, see Tour notes)
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Notes

### Hotel Gala Dinners

Many of Egypt and Jordan's hotels and Nile cruise boats arrange a very special gala dinner with entertainment in the evening on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Payment for these is often optional on Christmas Eve (24 Dec) but may be compulsory on New Year's Eve (31 Dec), whether you attend or not. Prices can range from around US\$50 to over US\$150 per person. Final decisions on prices and whether dinners are compulsory are made relatively close to the time. We aim to always select hotels that make their Gala Dinners optional, though this is not always possible. Gala dinner prices are therefore not included in our prices above, but will be added to your booking if they become required. More information is available on request.

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting.

However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Petra by night

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$29.00

This magical experience takes you in through the narrow and winding Siq to the Treasury at the entrance to Petra. The whole route and the sand in front of the Treasury is lit up by numerous candles creating a beautiful and atmospheric sight. While at the Treasury you'll also enjoy some traditional Bedouin music and tea.

## Single room supplement (EGTMEJ)

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$305.00

This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. Room shares are not available on this tour, so if you are single traveller then you will need to add this option to your booking.

**Note:** The price shown is a low season price. Slightly higher prices may apply during high and peak seasons - the exact price for your dates will be shown on the online booking form and is always available on request.

## Abu Simbel overland

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$120.00

The temples built by Ramses II at Abu Simbel are one of Egypt's highlights, and have a fascinating story behind them to go with their impressive size. When Lake Nasser was flooded, the final water level was going to submerge several temples, the most important of which being Abu Simbel. The temple was therefore dismantled completely and rebuilt further up the hillside where it sits today. The temple stands today as a testament to Ramses II and the great building prowess of the ancient Egyptians, as well as to modern engineering. We depart Aswan early in the morning to join an escorted convoy which departs Aswan at around 04.30. This gets us to Abu Simbel to see the temples in the light of the rising sun, and we then have a guided tour with one of our Egyptologists and some free time before we drive back to Aswan (approx. 3 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). All transfers, guide, and entrance fees are included. The tour itinerary is designed so you will not miss any other activities if you choose this option. Note - we choose the overland route to get to Abu Simbel as the flight times there

are unreliable and the journey using the flight is much more segmented (you get more rest on the coach), not to mention it is much more expensive to fly.

## Hot air balloon in Luxor

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$120.00

This popular optional tour starts early in the morning so that you experience the sunrise over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, temples and desert. We endeavour to use the earliest flights of the day as they are timed to fit with the rising sun, this means that times may vary. You get around 1 hour in the air.

## Nile dinner cruise in Cairo

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$75.00

This option offers an evening of cruising up and down the Nile through the centre of Cairo on a 5-star riverboat while enjoying some middle eastern cuisine as well as a traditional Egyptian Sufi and Belly Dancing show. A great way to spend a free evening in Cairo and see some more of the city. Transfers to and from your hotel are included.

## Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$70.00

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Private guide supplement (6 days) - OPJOG6

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$800.00

The standard arrangements for this tour are for an English speaking escort driver to accompany you throughout your time with us in Jordan. They will be able to talk to you about Jordan, give you information about modern life in the country, advise you on food & drink and discuss timings, adjustments to your itinerary and places to stop en-route. They are not however professional guides and while they will be able to provide some basic information, they will not be able to accompany you inside many of the sites or give detailed historical facts or background.

We do include a professional guide in Jerash and in Petra on this tour. However, if you would like to be accompanied by a professional guide for the full duration of the tour then please add this option onto your booking.

Prices shown cover the guide joining you for the whole tour apart from your arrival and departure days, and also include the guide's accommodation and meals. The price shown is a total amount, and will only be added to your booking once, regardless of the number of travellers in your party.



# Tour Notes

## 1. Accommodation

In Egypt we use good quality hotels at the local 5-star rating on this tour. Your first hotel in Cairo will be normally be near the pyramids, with the second stay in Cairo in a small all-suite boutique hotel with a fantastic location in the heart of Old Cairo, close to the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. The Nile Cruise boats the tour is priced with are at the Egyptian 5-star-deluxe level, with comfortable and well furnished en-suite cabins with large panoramic windows. Supplements are available for higher level all-suite boats if you would like an especially luxurious cruise.

In Jordan we use hotels with a local 5-star rating on this tour, and aim to use more boutique style hotels with some character, rather than more generic international chain hotels. These hotels can generally be considered to be a good 4-star international level. A night is also spent in a comfortable Bedouin camp inside the Wadi Rum desert reserve. Accommodation here is in en-suite tents with all bedding and facilities provided.

However, as this is a private tour, hotel levels, styles and options can always be adjusted to suit your preferences and budget. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on the tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

Hotels in Amman and Petra are 5-star rated, but can be considered at the lower end of the international 5-star scale. As this is a private tour, hotel levels and options can always be adjusted to suit your preferences and budget. A night is also spent in a comfortable Bedouin camp inside the Wadi Rum desert reserve. Accommodation here is in en-suite tents with all bedding and facilities provided. Your stay by the Dead Sea is in a 5-star resort right on the banks of the Dead Sea with a private beach and Spa facilities.

Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on the tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

## 2. Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. In Egypt and Jordan we do not use any public tourist buses or overnight coach journeys as we know that people don't sleep on board and end up very tired for the following few days. All the vehicles we use are air-conditioned and in Egypt many are fitted with speed limiters. All are inspected and checked daily. The jeeps used in Wadi Rum are provided by the local Bedouins we work with, and while suitable for your desert safari, they may fall below the normal safety and quality standards for vehicles we use during the rest of our tours.

Domestic flights from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo are included in the price of the tour. However, the flight from Cairo to Amman on Day 9 of the tour is not included. This may be arranged either as an individual one-way ticket, or included as part of your main international flight ticket. Further advice on airlines, quotes and booking will be provided during booking.

Nile cruise boat itineraries are subject to alterations depending on local conditions at the time of travel. Some sailing may be done after dark. Boats may moor up alongside each other at night, requiring you to cross through other boats to reach the shore. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve the cruise boats normally run a special Gala Dinner. The cost of this is normally compulsory, especially on New Year's Eve, whether you attend or not, and is included in our prices. Instead we will add the cost to private and tailor-made tour quotes as required and when the boats issue their final prices near the end of the year. You should budget between US\$120 to \$180 for this depending on the boat used.

### **3. Transfers**

Our Egypt and Jordan tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Cairo and Amman airports, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers.

On arrival in Egypt, our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport before you get to passport control. They will assist with visa formalities before helping you collect your luggage and taking you to your hotel.

On arrival in Jordan our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Amman airport, before passport control. They will assist with visa formalities and then help you with your luggage and take you to your hotel.

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

### **4. International Flights**

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very provide suggestions for flights to go with your tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour and to/from any airports used for connecting flights during the tour itself.

### **5. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides**

As this is a private tour, we can run the itinerary for however many people you happen to be travelling with, starting from 1 upwards. The prices given for this tour are based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling, so if you have a different number of passengers in your group please contact us for a customised quotation.

In Egypt we provide fully trained, local English-speaking Egyptologists to act as your tour guides for all of the sightseeing tours in Cairo and the Nile Valley. Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service, and will be handling all the practical arrangements for the tour.

In Jordan the standard tour price is based on an English speaking escort driver running the tour for you, plus specialist local guides in Petra and Jerash. A professional escort guide can also be arranged for the full time in Jordan for an additional supplement. We also use local Bedouin staff from your desert camp for your time there.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local guides and reps. as we feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

## 6. Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

The tour price includes entrance fees to the sites visited in Egypt, but not to those visited in Jordan.

### **Jordan:**

We strongly recommend that you purchase a **Jordan Pass** prior to your travel to Jordan. This is a special package that has been designed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for tourists visiting Jordan. As well as including a discounted package of entrance fees covering all the sites in Jordan that you will visit on this tour (plus many others), the Jordan Pass also provides free downloadable digital brochures on each attraction, plus a free tourist visa for entering the country (40JD if obtained on arrival in Jordan).

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** suitable for this tour is JD70 (approx. US\$99). Passes are available by completing a simple online form before you travel, taking care to make sure your passport details are entered correctly as this doubles as your visa application. Your Jordan Pass will then be emailed to you as a pdf document, which you should print out and bring with you. You will then need to show this print out at the immigration desk on arrival in Jordan to obtain your free entry visa, and also at each attraction where it will be scanned to confirm your entry. [Obtain your Jordan Pass here](#)

## 7. Tipping

**Jordan:** Tipping is common practice in Jordan, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. US\$3-8 per person per day would be appropriate.

**Egypt:** Tipping is also very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs, and many people you meet along the way will expect and make it clear they are waiting for a tip. To make it easier for you to budget and to remove much of the stress and hassle of tipping lots of people as you go along, we collect a 'Tipping Kitty' at the start of your time in Egypt. Your guide will manage this as the tour goes along and ask one or more of the group members to assist and make some of the payments. The kitty provides tips for a wide range of people you'll meet along the tour including hotel porters, train and station staff, drivers, site guards, local reps etc. Please check the Excluded section below the tour itinerary for a budget for this tour. Your Egyptologist guide is not included in this kitty and you may tip them at the end of your tour subject to your satisfaction with and appreciation of the service they have provided. Again you should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. As a guideline, approx. US\$3-8 per person per day would be appropriate.

## 8. Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.

In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diptheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#)

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

## 9. Passports and Visas - Egypt

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

We recommend that you contact your closest Egyptian consulate or embassy for current information for your nationality.

In general official advice is that all nationalities obtain their Egypt visas in advance, as we cannot guarantee that you can get them in the airport. An online e-visa is available through <https://visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa/>. Please do not use any other website as there are many scam sites offering Egypt e-visas.

In practice however, many nationalities (including British and European, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian) can and do obtain their visas on arrival in Cairo airport. The process is much quicker and simpler, the cost is currently **US\$25 p/p** and must be paid in hard currency (i.e. GBP, USD or EUR) - you'll be given change in local currency if necessary. There are no forms to fill in and you don't need to bring passport photos. Visas are issued at one of the bank desks in the immigration hall, before you get to passport control. Our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process.

All African and Indian nationals, and some others, will need to obtain their visas in advance.

For further information on your visa requirements, please either contact us or your local Egyptian embassy/consulate.

## 10. Passports and Visas - Jordan

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

To promote tourism to the country, the Jordanian government has designed the **Jordan Pass**. This provides most nationalities with a free single entry Jordan visa (for stays of 3 nights or more), a discounted package of entrance fees, and free digital brochures for the various sites in Jordan. Please check the Jordan Pass tour note for more information.

Double or multi entry visas for Jordan are no longer available and you will need to arrange two visas if you are doing a combination tour (eg. with Egypt and/or Israel) that visits Jordan more than once. Exceptions may occur if you are crossing to and from Israel via the King Hussein Bridge - please contact us for details.

If you wish to arrange your visa separately in advance, or if your stay will be shorter than four days/3 nights, then a visa fee of 40JD (approx. USD 57) will be due.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Jordanian embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details. In addition, if you plan to enter Jordan via the southern Wadi Araba crossing (Eilat-Aqaba) or the Allenby Bridge/King Hussein border with Israel in the north, you will need to obtain your Jordan visa in advance as these are not available on arrival at the border.

## **11. Time**

The time in Egypt, Jordan and Israel is GMT plus 2 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

## **12. Voltage**

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

## **13. Money - Egypt**

The local currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound, often denoted 'LE'. The Egyptian Pound can vary significantly in value against the British Pound, but sticks fairly close to the value of the US Dollar. You do not need to arrange to bring any Egyptian Pounds with you to Egypt, as change facilities are available in all the hotels, airports and banks. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Egypt you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Egyptian Pounds. You may also need to pay for the tour Tipping Kitty and site Entrance Fees while you are in Egypt. Payments for these may be made to your tour guide in hard currency (USD, GBP, EUR) at the start of your tour. Please see your tour Included/Excluded details for more information and guideline amounts for these.

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 14. Money - Jordan

The local currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You do not need to arrange to bring any Jordanian Dinar with you to Jordan as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Jordan you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Jordanian Dinar, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 15. What to take

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Egypt and Jordan. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips – you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

**Luggage limits:** There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Clothing:** Most of your time in Egypt will be in a hot weather, while the climate in Jordan varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. However, at night, and especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required on the cruise boats or in 4 or 5-star hotel restaurants. Long sleeves are recommended to protect from mosquitoes if you are on the felucca. Modesty rates highly in Egypt and Jordan, especially for women, so to respect the local culture & people, please ensure all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). In the centre of Cairo and Amman, and when visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

**Other items:** We recommend that you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger. If you will be travelling on a felucca sailboat in Egypt then we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner all year round for comfort, and a light sleeping bag in the winter months (November to February). If your tour includes an overnight Bedouin camp in Jordan then bedding (sheets, blankets, pillow) is provided but we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner for comfort all year round (even with the best efforts, sand does find its way pretty much everywhere). In the winter months, or if you think you would like to sleep under the stars instead of in your tent, then we recommend you bring a sleeping bag with you as it can get very cold at night.

## 16. Dates & Prices

This tour is designed as a sample tailor-made tour itinerary. As such we do not offer set group departure dates that you can join. Rather, the tour is available for you to do privately starting on any date of the year (subject to fitting in

with Nile Cruise schedules which do not operate every day, with the most common departures from Luxor starting on Mondays and Saturdays, which would make Day 1 of the tour either a Saturday or Thursday). Guideline seasonal prices are given on our website, based on 2 people travelling. If you would like to adjust the tour itinerary, or there will be more or less people travelling, please contact us and we will customise a price for you.

## 17. Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You can pay your deposit or full balance online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer. We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

## 18. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

If you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally, or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

## 19. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and an ABTA Member (Y4447) and you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected. Financial failure insurance is provided through Affirma to protect all customers for the land portion of their tour.

Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

## 20. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Egypt Uncovered shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 21. Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

[www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered](http://www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered)

[www.twitter.com/encounterstravl](http://www.twitter.com/encounterstravl) (yes, without the 'e')



## 22. Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's ['Travel Aware' campaign](#) which provides further useful and invaluable information.

['Travel Aware' campaign](#)

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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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