EGYPT UNCOVERED

Your passport to adventure

Map Image

Country(ies): Egypt

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C minibus, sleeper train, felucca sailboat

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 10 days

Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Cairo, Egypt

Meals: Breakfasts - 9, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 5

Highlights:

The Pyramids & Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Philae Temple, Abu Simbel option, Nile felucca cruise, Temple of Karnak & Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Red Sea at Hurghada

Day 1: Arrive into Cairo and transfer to hotel

When you arrive, our staff will meet you at the airport to help with your visa and luggage, then transfer you to your hotel. They will assist you with settling in, introduce you to the local area, and confirm the plans for the following day. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure. If you arrive in the early, you might like to consider an optional dinner cruise on the Nile or a spectacular sound and light show at the pyramids, which you can book upon arrival.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

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

Single room supplement (EGSGDE)

Day 2: Visit the Pyramids & Sphinx in Giza. Traditional Koshary Lunch. Egyptian Museum Visit. Sleeper Train to Aswan

Our Discover Egypt Tour begins at the renowned Egyptian Museum in Cairo's Tahrir Square. You'll immerse yourself in ancient Egyptian history, exploring the Tutankhamun exhibit and countless other artefacts with our expert Egyptologist guide, who will share their extensive knowledge and passion for the culture.

Next, prepare to be awestruck by the iconic pyramids of Giza. You'll marvel at the Great Pyramid of Khufu, a monumental structure over 150 metres tall and spanning 230 metres at its base. Constructed with massive stone blocks and once adorned with a hard limestone casing, this architectural masterpiece is truly breathtaking. Alongside the Great Pyramid, you'll admire the smaller but equally impressive pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure. You'll even have the chance to venture inside the pyramids for an unforgettable experience (limited tickets are available for the Great Pyramid).

Between these captivating visits, you'll enjoy a delicious Koshary lunch. This traditional Egyptian dish is a culinary delight, featuring a medley of rice, lentils, macaroni, chickpeas, and a tangy tomato sauce, all topped with crispy fried onions. It's a perfect taste of Egypt's rich culinary heritage.

As the day ends, we'll transfer to the station for an overnight sleeper train to Aswan. The 12-hour journey includes accommodation in a twin-berth cabin, where an airline-style dinner and breakfast

will be served.

OVERNIGHT:

Sleeper Train Cabin

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade

Day 3: Arrive in Aswan and visit Philae Temple. Nubian Village experience

After an overnight journey, we arrive in Aswan, a city rich with ancient Nubian history. The Nubian people have inhabited this region for millennia, their culture closely tied to the Nile. We'll be spending the night immersed in this vibrant culture, staying in a Nubian-style hotel within a local village. You'll be charmed by the brightly painted houses, adorned with symbolic patterns, and can explore the bustling markets for unique souvenirs and spices.

Before heading to the Nubian village, we'll take a boat trip to the breathtaking Philae Temple. Dedicated to the goddess Isis, this complex was famously saved from the rising waters of Lake Nasser by being meticulously dismantled and relocated to its current island location, preserving its beauty for all to see.

Following our visit to the temple, we'll journey to a traditional Nubian village south of Aswan. Here, you'll have the unique opportunity to experience the local way of life firsthand, wandering through the village, visiting homes, and learning about their customs and traditions. In the evening, we'll share a delicious home-cooked dinner with a Nubian family, savouring traditional dishes and enjoying their warm hospitality. We'll then spend the night in a Nubian-style hotel, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the peaceful rhythm of village life.

OVERNIGHT:

Aswan - Nubian Village hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Optional visit to Abu Simbel. Sail down the River Nile on a traditional Felucca sailboat

For an awe-inspiring adventure, an optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel is available. This UNESCO World Heritage Site features two magnificent temples carved into a mountainside by Ramses II. With their colossal statues and intricate reliefs, these monumental structures stand as a testament to the grandeur of ancient Egypt and are a highlight of the trip.

At lunchtime, our Egyptian adventure continues with a classic felucca sailing trip on the Nile. These traditional wooden sailboats provide a unique view of the river's beauty and the rural life along its banks. Our Nubian crew will expertly navigate the felucca, ensuring a relaxing journey while also sharing their local knowledge and preparing delicious meals.

To ensure your comfort, a separate facilities boat will accompany us, equipped with toilets, showers, and a hygienic kitchen. In the evening, we'll moor on the riverbank for a dinner prepared by our crew. You'll then enjoy a magical night's sleep on the deck under the stars, with mattresses, blankets, and mosquito nets all provided.

If you would prefer a more conventional stay, you can upgrade to an overnight in a comfortable hotel in Aswan. You would then rejoin the group the following morning when the felucca reaches Kom Ombo, and this upgrade will not impact the rest of your itinerary.

OVERNIGHT:

Felucca Sailboat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Abu Simbel overland

Upgrade from felucca to hotel in Aswan

Day 5: Disembark Felucca and visit Edfu Temple. Drive to Luxor and visit Luxor Temple by Night

After breakfast on the felucca, we bid farewell to our Nubian crew and continue our journey north by road. Our first stop is Edfu, home to the impressive Temple of Horus. Dedicated to the falcon-headed god, this is one of Egypt's largest and most completely preserved temples. We'll have time to explore its towering pylons, hypostyle halls, and intricate reliefs, immersing ourselves in the mythology and grandeur of ancient Egyptian religion.

From Edfu, we continue northwards to the legendary city of Luxor. Built upon the ancient site of Thebes, Luxor boasts an unparalleled concentration of historical wonders. Often referred to as the world's greatest open-air museum, it is divided by the Nile into two distinct areas: the East Bank, with its vibrant city life and magnificent temples, and the West Bank, a necropolis of royal tombs and mortuary temples.

This evening, we have a special treat in store: a guided tour of Luxor Temple at night. Situated in the heart of the modern city, this beautifully illuminated temple offers a truly magical experience after dark. Our guide will bring the temple's history to life, revealing its secrets and explaining its centuries-long significance as a centre of worship.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Visits to Valley of the Kings, Temple of Hatchepsut, Workers Village, Colossi of Memnon. Afternoon visit Karnak Temple

This morning, we journey to the West Bank of Luxor, a realm of ancient history and the final resting places of the pharaohs. Our exploration begins at the Valley of the Kings, a vast necropolis containing the elaborately decorated tombs of generations of rulers. We'll venture into several tombs, marvelling at the vibrant hieroglyphs and intricate paintings that cover their walls. As new discoveries are still being made, the Valley of the Kings remains one of the world's most significant archaeological sites.

Our West Bank adventure continues with a visit to Deir el-Medina, a fascinating ancient village that was home to the skilled artisans who built and decorated the royal tombs. We'll explore the remains of this community to gain an insight into the lives of these workers and their families. Next, we'll be captivated by the unique Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, built into the cliffs with elegant colonnades and terraces offering stunning views. A visit to the West Bank wouldn't be complete without seeing the Colossi of Memnon, two colossal statues that have guarded the Theban necropolis for millennia.

In the afternoon, we'll cross back to the East Bank to explore the sprawling Karnak Temple complex. Dedicated to the Theban Triad, Karnak is a masterpiece of ancient Egyptian architecture. We'll wander through its vast courtyards and admire its towering columns and intricate carvings. Our guide will help unravel the temple's complex history, explaining its significance as a religious and cultural centre for more than 2,000 years.

An optional hot air balloon flight is available this morning for those seeking an unforgettable experience. Imagine soaring above the Valley of the Kings, the temples, and the Nile as the sun rises, painting the landscape in golden hues. It's a truly magical way to witness Luxor's grandeur from a unique perspective, though it does require an early start to catch the sunrise.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Hot air balloon in Luxor

Day 7: Leave Luxor and Drive to the Red Sea resort of Hurghada

This morning, we'll say goodbye to the Nile and travel east towards the Red Sea's shimmering shores. We're heading to Hurghada, a lively resort town famous for its beautiful beaches, crystal-clear waters, and fantastic opportunities for diving and snorkelling.

Once we arrive, we'll check into our 5-star resort, a haven of comfort and relaxation with exceptional amenities and impeccable service. Your accommodation is on a 'soft all-inclusive' basis, which means all meals, soft drinks, and snacks are included. You can enjoy delicious buffets, poolside snacks, and refreshing beverages without any extra cost, although please note that alcoholic drinks are not part of this package.

The resort offers a wide range of facilities to enhance your time here. You can take a dip in the pool, relax on the sun-drenched terrace, or stroll along the pristine beach. For those who prefer to be active, there are opportunities for water sports, beach volleyball, and other activities. Alternatively, you might choose to be pampered with a spa treatment.

With its idyllic setting, luxurious amenities, and convenient all-inclusive package, your stay in Hurghada is sure to be a relaxing and rejuvenating escape.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada Resort

MEALS:

Breakfast,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Enjoy the Red Sea in Hurghada, optional excursions available

Today is yours to enjoy the Red Sea at your leisure. You can relax on the beach, sunbathe, or take a swim in the clear waters. Hurghada is world-renowned for its diving and snorkelling, with vibrant coral reefs and marine life attracting enthusiasts globally. For those feeling adventurous, a variety of activities are available, including windsurfing, kitesurfing, a glass-bottomed submarine tour, quad biking in the desert, camel riding, or sea fishing. Our local representative will be on hand to help you arrange any of these exciting excursions.

If you'd rather stay close to the shore, Hurghada also has a charming marina and an atmospheric old town to explore. You can wander through its bustling streets, browse local shops, and soak up the lively feel of this coastal town.

Should you be captivated by Hurghada, we can arrange extra nights at the resort to extend your time here. Please be aware that choosing to stay longer means you will leave the group. You can either end your tour in Hurghada or arrange a flight back to Cairo for a later date. Please contact us for more information and personalised pricing.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada Resort

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Drive to Cairo, optional Khan-el-Khalili Bazaar visit

We drive back to Cairo this morning (approx.. 5hrs) and check into our hotel. An upgrade to an internal flight is also available on request.

In the afternoon there is the option to take a guided walk through the back streets and bazaars in central Cairo. We'll walk through the huge Bab al-Futuh gateway and explore streets dedicated to metalwork, spices, pottery, fabric, jewellery and anything else you can imagine as we gradually enter the more touristy Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. We'll have time for a break to try some tea and a shisha pipe and perhaps enjoy an early dinner of Egypt's unofficial national dish, Kushari before returning to our hotel.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Cairo, free time, departure airport transfer

Your time is free today for some last minute sightseeing or shopping until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight. If you have an afternoon or evening flight departure, then a half-day tour of Coptic Cairo and the Citadel is available today, or you could take another half-day tour to learn more about the evolution of pyramid building at Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis. tours are also available today. Alternatively you can add extra nights to your time in Cairo which would allow you to take a day trip to the colonial city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast, or a trip into the desert outside Cairo to see the World Heritage Site of the Valley of the Whales at Wadi Rayan.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - post-tour

Included:

- 6 nights in 5-star hotels in Cairo and Luxor
- 1 night onboard the overnight sleeper train - private twin-berth cabins (flight upgrade available)
- 1 night in a traditional Nubian style hotel in Aswan
- 1 night on a felucca sailboat with accompanying support boat with toilet & shower
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Traditional Koshary Lunch in Cairo
- Nubian Village Experience in Aswan
- Red Sea Relaxation in Hurghada
- All transport and transfers in private AC vehicles
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service

- Services of a local Egyptologist guide for all sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (available on arrival for most nationalities)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees (allow approx. US$99)
- Tipping kitty (allow US$80)
- Drinks, snacks, guide tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Hotel gala dinners (see Tour notes)
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

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.

Hot air balloon in Luxor

Hot air balloon in Luxor

From $130.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

An early morning departure is required for this popular optional tour, designed to capture the sunrise over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, ancient temples, and desert scenery. We prioritize the earliest flights possible, as their timing aligns with the sunrise; therefore, departure times may fluctuate. This flight offers roughly one hour of aerial viewing.

The approximate cost is $170.00, and booking is exclusively available locally through your tour guide, who will provide the most up-to-date pricing.

Alexandria day trip

Alexandria day trip

From $125.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

Discover Alexandria, a 2.5-hour drive north of Cairo on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. This full-day tour showcases the city's highlights, including the Roman amphitheatre, the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa, Pompey's Pillar, Fort Qaitbey (exterior view), and the modern Library of Alexandria. Depending on time, you may also visit Fort Qaitbey's interior and Montazah Palace gardens. A seafood lunch is provided. This tour requires either a late-night departure flight on your final day or an extra day added to your trip.

Pricing is based on a minimum of two travellers; solo supplements apply. Entrance fees (approximately USD 18) are not included.

Cairo city tour

Cairo city tour

From $75.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This half-day guided tour of Cairo commences in the Islamic quarter, featuring the Citadel of Saladin, home to the renowned Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. We then proceed to the Coptic area of Cairo, where the Romans erected the fortress of Babylon. The Church of St. Mary, more commonly known as the Hanging Church, was built upon the remnants of two fortress towers. Our next stop is St. Sergius, believed to be the resting place of the Holy Family. The tour concludes at the bustling Khan el-Khalili bazaar. The entrance fee budget covers the Coptic Museum, the Citadel, and the Sultan Hassan Mosque. Please be aware that depending on the day's schedule, it may not be possible to visit all of these sites.

Entrance fees for visited sites are not included (budget approximately USD 17).

Prices quoted are based on a minimum of two persons travelling. Solo traveller supplements are applicable.

Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis

Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis

From $90.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This half-day guided tour, venturing to the outskirts of Cairo, offers a fascinating insight into the history and evolution of pyramid building, and the wider narrative of Egyptian civilisation. Our explorations are centred on the area of ancient Memphis, a former capital of Egypt.

We begin with a visit to Saqqara, a vast desert necropolis constructed for the kings and nobles of the Old Kingdom. Here, we'll see Zoser's 'step' pyramid and the adjacent Imhotep Museum, where we can delve deeper into the history of Memphis and the surrounding region. Next, we journey to Dashur to witness one of the subsequent attempts at pyramid construction. Dashur's 'bent pyramid' – a testament to the ongoing learning process – is a captivating site, retaining much of its original limestone casing. We will then return you to your hotel.

Prices quoted are based on a minimum of two persons choosing this option. Entrance fees to the sites visited are not included (budget approximately USD 18). Solo traveller supplements are applicable.

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - post-tour

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - post-tour

From $105.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option allows you to extend your tour by an additional day, with accommodation at the same hotel as your main tour (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer remains included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing. Please note that single-room and peak-season supplements are applicable.

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

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

From $105.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option allows you to begin your tour a day early, staying at your tour hotel (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer remains included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing. Please note that single-room and peak-season supplements apply.

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

From $110.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour offers a striking contrast to the Pharaonic sites encountered on your main itinerary. Departing Cairo, we journey to the Fayoum region, where we'll explore the Wadi Rayan Protected Area. This area surrounds a freshwater lake, nestled amidst the desert, fed by surplus irrigation water from the Fayoum. You'll find several waterfalls here (a popular backdrop in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide offering excellent views of the lake's avian population, particularly during the winter migration. We'll also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, including the Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox, and Fennec Fox.

Before lunch, we'll pause at the sand dunes around Wadi Rayan for a spot of sandboarding. Following a packed lunch, we'll venture into the dramatic desert and mountain landscapes of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is globally recognised as a pivotal location for understanding whale evolution. We'll embark on a 2-3km walk to observe various fossilised whale specimens, exposed on the desert surface, alongside fossilised mangroves and the remnants of crab burrows.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged directly after your return from Luxor/Aswan via the overnight sleeper train. Alternatively, it can be incorporated into any tour with the addition of extra days at the beginning or end. Prices are based on two or more persons travelling, with a supplementary charge for solo travellers.

The price includes lunch in Wadi Hitan and all entrance fees.

Abu Simbel overland

Abu Simbel overland

From $140.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The temples of Abu Simbel, built by Ramses II, are a true highlight of any trip to Egypt. Their impressive scale is matched only by the fascinating story of their relocation. When Lake Nasser was flooded, these magnificent temples were in danger of being submerged. In a remarkable feat of engineering, the entire complex was dismantled and rebuilt further up the hillside, where it stands today as a testament to both ancient Egyptian prowess and modern ingenuity.

To witness this marvel in the best possible light, we depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 3-4am), aiming to arrive at Abu Simbel as the sun rises. You'll then enjoy a guided tour with one of our expert Egyptologists, followed by free time to explore at your own pace, before we return to Aswan (approximately 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). This tour is carefully designed to ensure you won't miss any other activities on your itinerary.

We choose the overland route to Abu Simbel as flight schedules are unreliable, leading to a more fragmented and less restful journey. Furthermore, flying is significantly more expensive.

Please note that entrance fees to the site (approximately US$17, with a 50% discount for children) are not included in the tour price and should be paid locally. A minimum of two people is required for this tour to operate.

Single room supplement (EGSGDE)

Single room supplement (EGSGDE)

From $615.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation. This option guarantees a single room in all accommodations throughout the tour for solo travellers.

If you're happy to share a room with another traveller of the same sex, please let us know and we'll do our best to find a suitable roommate for you. If a room share isn't possible at the time of booking, the single room supplement will be added to your booking and will be payable with your balance payment. However, if we are able to arrange a room share for you before your balance is due, this supplement will be removed from your invoice. If a room share becomes available after you've paid the supplement, we will refund it to you. Room shares are allocated in order of booking.

Please note: Single-room supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Khan-el-Khaliali bazaar walking tour

Khan-el-Khaliali bazaar walking tour

From $75.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This guided walking tour takes you on a captivating journey along El Moez Street, just a stone's throw from Bab el-Futuh, one of the main gates granting access to the historic walled city. This charming district is a treasure trove of covered markets, narrow lanes, ancient buildings, and mosques.

Departing from the hotel, we'll encounter numerous Ottoman houses, mosques, and architectural gems before reaching the bustling heart of the Khan el-Khalili bazaar. Venturing beyond the main tourist thoroughfare, we'll delve into the vibrant fabric, jewellery, and craft bazaars, gradually winding our way back to the hotel. This immersive tour lasts approximately 3 hours.

Prices are based on a minimum of two people travelling, with solo traveller supplements available.

Felucca to Hotel upgrade

Felucca to Hotel upgrade

From $60.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

If you’d prefer a bit more comfort instead of sleeping on the felucca deck, this option offers an additional night in a hotel in Aswan. You’ll rejoin the group after their felucca cruise. Your time in Aswan is free to relax or explore, with optional sightseeing tours available locally upon request.

Please note: Single room supplements apply.

Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade

Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade

From $0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option offers an upgrade from the overnight sleeper train to an internal flight with Egypt Air. An additional night's accommodation in your Cairo or Aswan hotel is included in lieu of the train journey. Flight times are subject to availability and may vary. Breakfast is included at the hotel. However, you will forgo the airline-style dinner provided on the sleeper train. Single-room supplements are applicable.

Upgrade from felucca to hotel in Aswan

Upgrade from felucca to hotel in Aswan

From $0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

While our overnight felucca journey is often a tour highlight, its rustic overnight accommodation on the boat's deck isn't suited to everyone. This upgrade offers a more comfortable alternative, replacing the overnight felucca experience.

You have the option to enjoy a couple of hours sailing on the felucca with the main group, including lunch and dinner on board, before being transferred back to your Aswan hotel in

the evening. Alternatively, you may choose to spend the entire afternoon independently exploring Aswan's markets and Corniche, forgoing the sailing altogether (please note, no meals are included if you remain in Aswan).

Your night in Aswan will be spent in a 5-star hotel. The following morning, we will arrange your transfer to rejoin the group after they disembark from the felucca, and your tour will continue as scheduled. Prices shown are based on travel during the low season (April to September) and accommodation in a shared twin/double room.

High-season and single-room supplements are applicable.

1. Felucca Sailboat

This tour features an overnight felucca cruise. Feluccas are very basic traditional Nile sailboats and are a fun and relaxing way to travel down the river. You sleep on the deck of the boat (mattresses and some blankets are provided, but we suggest that you bring a sleeping sheet, blanket or light sleeping bag during the winter months of November-February). There are no toilet facilities on board, but you will be joined several times each day and at night by our support boat where a toilet and warm showers will be available. Mosquito nets are provided for use while you are sleeping but you should bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings. Your Nubian boat crew will cook all your meals while on board and entertain you in the evenings.

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 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, many are fitted with speed limiters, and all are inspected and checked daily. Some 4WD vehicles used on desert safaris may not always have air conditioning where they are only used for short periods.

For the overnight train journey between Cairo and Aswan this tour uses the overnight sleeper train. You will have a private lockable twin cabin on board which holds two large seats and fold down beds which the carriage steward will make up for you in the evening. Sheets, blanket & pillows are provided. The cabin also contains a wash basin and storage cupboard. An airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast are provided. The Cairo-Aswan journey takes around 12 hours.

3. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on Saturdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 18. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

4. 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.

December 2024 update: As of December 2024, we are required to provide a copy of your passport photo page to the Egyptian Authorities prior to your arrival. Our sales team will request this from you prior to your trip start date. It is not yet clear if this will be a temporary or permanent requirement.

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 visa2egypt. 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) 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. If flying into Cairo International Airport

our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process.

Imporant Note: Due to recent changes in the visa regime for Canadians, a visa on arrival or e-visa will no longer be possible for Canadian Citizens entering Egypt after October 1st 2023. Until further notice Canadian passport holders must obtain a visa prior to arrival, from the nearest Egyptian Consulate.

All African & 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.

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5. Transfers

Our Egypt tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Cairo airport, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers. Our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport before you get to passport control (if you are flying into Sphinx International Airport, our representative will be waiting outside, after you have passed through immigration and re-claimed your luggage). They will assist with visa formalities before helping you collect your luggage and taking 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.

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6. 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 normally include international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the 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. Nearly all our Egyptian tours start and finish in Cairo. You can fly into Cairo International Airport (CAI) or Sphinx International Arport (SPX).

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Travel Zoo / Groupon Flight Inclusive Packages
Encounters Travel occasionally offer flight inclusive packages - In this case, your international flights will be included as per the package you have purchased. Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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7. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We pride ourselves on being a small group operator, as this allows travellers to connect better with their companions and fully engage with their guide. Having a great guide is of little benefit if you're stuck behind 30-40 others trying to catch a glimpse. That's why we'll never place you on a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and a single guide. Instead, our Egypt small-group tours are capped at 18 travellers.

Shoestring tours accommodate a maximum of 26 participants. For dedicated Nile Cruise tours, sightseeing excursions may involve larger boat groups, although you can book a private Egyptologist guide for an additional fee (advance booking required). Specialist escorted tours and workshops may have varying group sizes—please refer to the Tour Notes for specifics.

In Egypt, we work with fully trained, local English-speaking graduate Egyptologist guides who will accompany you during all sightseeing in Cairo and the Nile Valley. Additionally, we have permanent local representatives in all major towns, cities, and Red Sea resorts who manage the practical aspects of your tour. For desert excursions, we partner with local Bedouin guides.

While most of our tours are guided in English, we also offer a limited selection of small group departures led by experienced Egyptologist guides fluent in French or Spanish. These are marked clearly alongside the departure dates. Private tours with guides fluent in other languages, such as German, Italian, or Polish, can also be arranged—please get in touch for details and pricing.

On certain itineraries, one guide may accompany you in Cairo, with another taking over for the journey between Aswan and Luxor.

At Egypt Uncovered, we exclusively employ local Egyptian guides and representatives. This ensures you gain the most authentic and insightful experience of Egypt and its incredible sites. Visit our website to learn more and discover profiles of some of our renowned Egyptian guides.

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8. Entrance Fees

Our Small Group tours do not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. We do however normally include these in prices for Tailor-Made and Escorted tours. Please check the Inclusions and Exclusions section below the tour itinerary for a details about your tour and the amount you may need to budget. This amount is subject to change and will be reconfirmed in Egypt at the start of your tour. A 50% discount for minors or ISIC card holders is often, but not always available.

Your guide will be happy to collect payment for all the entrance fees at the start of the tour, and pay them for you as you go along if you wish. This payment is normally collected in US Dollars cash together with payment for any Tipping Kitty used on the tour, though you may also pay with Egyptian Pounds or other currencies, converted to USD. Local exchange rates are set on a monthly basis and based on local bank rates so may not match the exact rates you may find online on the day.

Entrance Fee Increases:
Please note that whilst we make every effort to keep the amounts we advise for local entrance fees as up to date as possible, these amounts should be considered a guide only due to fluctuating exchange rates and local rate changes imposed by the Egyptian government. We are aware that the Egyptian Government will be updating their entrance fees in November 2024 and our website will be updated at that time to reflect the revised fees.

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9. Tipping

Tipping is very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs. To make our prices more transparent and so it is easier for you to budget and less hassle while in Egypt, on our small group tours we organise a 'Tipping Kitty' which needs to be paid as a local payment and will be around US$30-80 depending on the length of your trip. Payment is collected in US Dollars cash or can also be paid with Egyptian Pounds or other currencies converted

to US Dollars at our local monthly exchange rate, or by credit card (3% fee). This kitty provides tips for a wide range of people you'll meet along the tour including hotel porters, housekeeping staff, train and station staff, drivers, site guards, local reps etc. Please check the Included/Excluded notes below the tour itinerary for more information on how much to budget for this kitty.

Your Egyptologist guide (and Bedouin guides in the desert) 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. 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. USD 10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.

Children under the age of 12 do not need to pay this tipping kitty.

On private/tailor-made tours we can also arrange a tipping kitty if you wish, or you can tip people as you go along the tour. Your guide will be happy to help advise either way.

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10. Accommodation

Most of our small group tours use high quality hotels at the Egyptian 5-star level in Cairo, Aswan, Luxor and Hurghada, all with swimming pools and a choice of restaurants and bars.

However, some of our lower budget trips (eg. Egypt Express, Pharaonic Encounters and Sands & Seas) use good quality 3 and 4-star level hotels, all with air-conditioned en-suite bathrooms. On some tours we also use a Nubian styled hotel in Aswan which is full of character and has a great location by the Nile and in the heart of a Nubian village.

Our private/tailor-made tour itineraries use a wider mix of hotels, from comfortable mid-range hotels at the 3-4 star level (generally the best available in some of the less visited places included in the particular itinerary) up to some of the very best deluxe 5-star properties in the country.

Please check the Accommodation tab on the tour page or download these Tour Notes for details of the normal hotels used. On our group tours, these hotels may change from time to time for other properties of a similar standard. If you would like to guarantee a particular hotel, please request a tailor-made tour.

Nile cruise tours are generally based on Egyptian 5-star level boats - perhaps equivalent to a decent international 4-star hotel standard. Please check the Accommodation section on the tour page for details. Deluxe 5-star level boats, all-suite boats, and Dahabiyas are also available on private and tailor-made tours. Please contact us for details.

Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms/cabins with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room/cabin. Triple cabins are not available on Nile cruise boats.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

Gala Dinners
Many of Egypt'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$180 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 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.

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11. Voltage - Egypt

The sockets in this area are two-pronged and provide 220 volts. Universal adaptors can be found in most airport shops if you haven't already got one. Standard European adapters will also work, though they may fit a bit loosely in the sockets. Every hotel room comes equipped with electrical sockets for charging devices like cameras and phones. Hair dryers are typically available upon request at the hotel reception if not already provided in your room. If you're travelling with US appliances, you'll need both a voltage converter and a plug adapter.

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12. 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.

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13. What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Egypt. 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 climate. 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 5-star hotel restaurants. Long sleeves are recommended to protect from mosquitoes if you are on the felucca. Modesty rates highly in Egypt, 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 when visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: If you will be travelling on a felucca 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). We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, small towel, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

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14. Time

The time zones for Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon are GMT +2, while the UAE operates on GMT +3. Daylight saving time has been implemented intermittently in the past. Currently, Egypt is expected to maintain a

consistent time zone of GMT +2 from 2016 onwards, with no changes planned for daylight saving, though this could alter with little notice, affecting flight schedules and times. In Jordan and Israel, a one-hour daylight saving shift is typically observed from the end of March to the end of October, changing the time to GMT +3. The exact dates of this shift vary each year, and in some cases, the adjustments may not take place at all.

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15. Health and Vaccinations

It's important to ensure you have full medical insurance coverage, including for emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Vaccination requirements and other health precautions depend on both your destination and where you are travelling from. We advise speaking to your GP, a healthcare provider, or a travel clinic to get the latest details on the necessary vaccinations for your trip. You should also make sure that you are up to date with any vaccines and boosters recommended for your general health at home, including those for occupational risks, lifestyle factors, and pre-existing conditions.

In addition, the following vaccinations are typically advised for travel to countries in this region:

- **Egypt**: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A
- **Jordan**: Tetanus, Hepatitis A
- **Israel**: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis
- **Lebanon**: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not commonly present unless contracted abroad, so malaria prophylaxis is generally not necessary.

For further details, refer to the following links: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon

Important Note: We are aware that some places in Egypt use 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye called PPD (paraphenylenediamine), which can cause severe allergic reactions and scarring. To be on the safe side, we recommend avoiding henna tattoos in Egypt unless you are certain they are made with pure brown henna.

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16. Airport Transfers

This tour includes a meet-and-greet service and airport transfer on the first day. Our representative will be waiting with an Egypt Uncovered signboard or your name clearly displayed for easy identification. If you are unable to locate our representative, emergency contact numbers will be provided on your tour confirmation voucher.

A transfer to the airport is also included at the end of the tour. Please review the tour itinerary and your flight times carefully. Most international flights departing from Khartoum are scheduled in the early hours of the morning. If you have upgraded to a 4 or 5-star hotel in Khartoum, only a day-use room is typically included for your final day. A full night's stay is provided at the standard 3-star hotel. If you require a full night’s accommodation in an upgraded hotel, an additional charge may apply.

Refunds are not available for missed transfers or parts of your trip due to incorrect flight details or delayed arrivals. Any additional expenses incurred to join the group will be your responsibility.

If your flights are scheduled to arrive before the tour starts or depart after the tour ends, we can arrange extra accommodation and airport transfers. We will strive to book these at the same hotel as the main tour, subject to availability (upgraded hotels can also be arranged upon request). Please note that if you do not book additional accommodation through us, arrival and departure transfer services will not be included, and you will need to organise your own transport.

Arrival Procedure

Be prepared for potential delays at immigration, especially if you are obtaining a “visa on arrival” (refer to the Passports and Visas section). After passport control, proceed to baggage reclaim, where further waiting times are

common. Once you collect your luggage, you will need to show your baggage receipts (typically attached to your boarding pass), and your bags may be manually inspected by airport staff. This is standard procedure to ensure no prohibited items, such as alcohol or inappropriate materials, are brought into Sudan. Be aware that some magazines with certain images might also be considered inappropriate and could be confiscated without return.

After completing these formalities, you will find our representative waiting just outside the glass doors with an Egypt Uncovered signboard or your name clearly displayed.

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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.
