EGYPT UNCOVERED

Your passport to adventure

Map Image

Country(ies): Egypt , Jordan

Tour type: Private

Transport: A/C minibus & 4x4 jeep

Group size: Min: 1 | Max: Any

Days: 11 days

Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Amman, Jordan

Meals: Breakfasts - 10, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 1

Highlights:

Pyramids, Sphinx & Egyptian Museum, Citadel, Coptic & Islamic Cairo; Jerash Roman ruins, Ajloun & Kerak castles, As-Salt, Bethany baptism site, Madaba mosaics, Wadi Rum safari & Bedouin camp, Petra, King's Highway, Dead Sea swim.

Day 1: Arrive in Cairo, transfer to hotel

We meet you at Cairo airport and transfer you to your luxury boutique hotel in the heart of Old Cairo. The rest of the day is free for you to settle in and relax. The mainly pedestrian streets surrounding the hotel are quiet during the day but teem with life in the evenings as local Egyptians come for a stroll and a snack. The Khan-el-Khalili bazaar with its various markets featuring a huge variety of different crafts is only a 15 minute walk away.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo boutique hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

Extra day in Cairo pre-tour - Le Riad

Single room supplement (EGTMPP)

Day 2: Cairo, Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum tour

We enjoy a full day tour today to the majestic Pyramids and Sphinx at Gisa, and also to the huge Egyptian Museum, home to the famous Tutankhamun display. Your 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:

Day 3: Cairo, city tour

Our tour of Cairo today includes the Citadel overlooking the city, some important and beautiful mosques, and the tiny streets and churches of Coptic Cairo. We'll then spend the afternoon on an exploratory walking tour, heading out from our hotel through the back streets and markets of the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo boutique hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Fly to Jordan and take a city tour in Amman

We say farewell to Egypt and fly to Jordan today. On arrival we transfer you from the airport to your 5-star hotel in central Amman. In the afternoon we then take a guided tour of the Roman amphitheatre and other sites in the centre of the city. We'll finish the day with a walk through the market streets of the Downtown area getting a first feel for the differences between Amman and Cairo, and between Egypt and Jordan.

The flight from Cairo (CAI) to Amman (AMM) is not included in the tour price, but can either 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. There are several flights available every day and transfers are included at both ends. Further advice on suggested flight times and booking will be provided during the booking process.

OVERNIGHT:

Amman 5-star boutique hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Jerash and Ajloun

We leave Amman after breakfast and drive north to the ancient city of Jerash which is renowned as being one of the best-preserved and largest Greco-Roman cities away from Europe. Our tour will include the Forum, colonnaded streets, the Nymphaeum and the Temple of Artemis which was built

on one of the highest points in the city.

After leaving Jerash, we'll stop for lunch at the Summaga café which offers an authentic taste of the Ajloun region with a menu based on local ingredients produced by a cooperative of organic farms in the Ajloun area. The cooperative’s products are also on display for sale including organic olive oil, apple cider vinegar, honey, zaatar, sumac, and dibbes (molasses). Summaga has also created full time jobs for local Ajlouni women and is very proactive in up-cycling and other initiatives which we are keen to support.

After lunch, we'll head to the nearby Aljoun Castle which was built in the 12th century by the Ayyubids and later extended in the 13th century by the Mamluks. It was also the base for Saladin's Arab forces in the 12th century when he defeated the Crusaders. The Ajloun Forest Reserve around the castle is picturesque and green and is popular with walkers, both locals and visitors. A night can be added here to enjoy the warm welcome of a local family at a village homestay in the village of Rasoun on the edge of the reserve. This then allows for an interesting walk through hills covered with scrub and forest to some ancient Bronze Age Dolmens, megalithic tombs formed by placing a huge stone slab atop two or more standing stones. This tour itinerary however returns back to Amman this afternoon.

OVERNIGHT:

Amman 5-star boutique hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 6: 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 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 boutique hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 7: 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 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 barbeque, 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:

Day 8: 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:

Day 9: Petra, tour & free time

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

Petra camel ride

Day 10: 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:

Day 11: 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:

Pella and Umm Qais

Included:

- Accommodation as stated in the itinerary 4/5-star hotels
- One night in comfortable Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- All transport and transfers in private AC vehicles
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Services of a local Egyptologist guide for all the sightseeing tours 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)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Connecting flight from Amman to Cairo on Day 4
- Visa fees (see tour notes)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees in Egypt (budget approx. US$40)
- Entrance fees in Jordan (included in the Jordan Pass for JD70 / US$99)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Hotel Gala Dinners (if charged by the hotels on 24 & 31 Dec, 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.

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.

Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

From $155.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

Escape the hustle and bustle of Amman and embark on a true adventure, exploring the magnificent canyons of Wadi Mujib via the renowned Siq Trail.

We'll depart from Amman and journey approximately 90 minutes to the shores of the Dead Sea, where our trek along the Siq Trail commences at the Wadi Mujib visitor centre. Descending into the gorge, we'll enter the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve. Between April and October, this reserve offers an exhilarating hike through the shallow waters that fill the canyon. Along the way, you'll ascend small waterfalls, aided by conveniently installed steps, until you reach the end of the gorge, where you can relax and rejuvenate beneath a cascading waterfall. The entire hike typically takes 2 to 3 hours to complete.

We highly recommend bringing a dry bag to protect your camera or mobile phone from the water, as well as water shoes for comfortable

trekking. Dry bags can be hired at the visitor centre for approximately US$7.00, and water shoes can be purchased for the same price.

Please note that for most tours, an extra night's accommodation pre- or post-tour will be necessary to allow sufficient time for this excursion. However, if your departure flight is scheduled for late on your final day, it may be possible to visit Wadi Mujib on your departure day.

Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

From $35.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option adds on a fun sunset or sunrise camel ride through the Wadi Rum desert.

Single room supplement (EGTMPP)

Single room supplement (EGTMPP)

From $0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

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.

Petra camel ride

Petra camel ride

From $0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The fun ride will give you a unique view of Petra from the back of a Camel.

Jordan private guide supplement (6 days)

Jordan private guide supplement (6 days)

From $0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

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.

Extra day in Cairo pre-tour - Le Riad

Extra day in Cairo pre-tour - Le Riad

From $0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

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.

1. 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.

The flight from Cairo to Amman on Day 4 of the tour is not included in the tour price. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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4. 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. Guideline seasonal prices are given below, 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.

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5. 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.

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6. 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.

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7. 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.

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8. 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).

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9. 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
https://x.com/egyptuncovered (yes, without the 'e')

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10. 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.

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11. Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

The tour price does not include entry fees for the sites visited during the tour.

Jordan:

It is highly recommended to purchase a Jordan Pass before travelling to Jordan. This package, developed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, offers discounted entry fees for all the major sites included in this tour (and many more) and also provides downloadable digital brochures for each attraction. Additionally, it includes a free tourist visa for entering Jordan (normally JD40 when obtained on arrival). Having the Jordan Pass also helps us save time by avoiding ticket queues at the sites.

Some sites visited during our tours are not covered by the Jordan Pass, such as Mt. Nebo, St. George's Church in Madaba, and the Shawmari & Azraq Reserves. For simplicity, the entry fees for these sites are included in your tour price. If you choose to visit other attractions not covered by the Jordan Pass during your free time or additional excursions, you will need to pay those entry fees directly at the sites.

The Jordan Wanderer Pass, which is suitable for all our tours that include a single-day visit to Petra, costs JD70 (approximately US$99). If your itinerary includes the Baptism Site at Bethany, you'll need to add a JD8 supplement (discounted from the JD12 payable at the site). You can obtain the pass online by completing a simple form, ensuring your passport details are accurate as they also serve as your visa application. The pass will be emailed to you as a PDF, which you should print and carry with you. Present this printed pass at the immigration desk upon arrival in Jordan to secure your free entry visa, and at each attraction where it will be scanned for access.

If you do not obtain the Jordan Pass prior to arrival, you will need to pay the entry fees at each site individually and also pay JD40 for your visa on entry to Jordan (or pre-arrange your visa).

Learn more about the Jordan Pass [here].

Egypt:

In Egypt, the tour price does not cover entrance fees to the sites listed in the itinerary. Please refer to the Exclusions section for a guide on how much to budget for this tour. Discounts of up to 50% may be available for minors or ISIC card holders, though this is not guaranteed and fees are subject to occasional changes.

For convenience, your guide will typically collect all entrance fees in cash at the beginning of the tour and manage payments at each site for you.

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12. 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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13. 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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14. 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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15. 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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16. 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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17. 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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18. 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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19. 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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20. 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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21. 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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22. 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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23. 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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24. Group Sizes/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are dedicated to offering small group tours, as we believe this provides the best opportunity for everyone to connect with fellow travellers and fully engage with their guide. There’s little value in having exceptional guides if you’re struggling to see or hear them over a crowd of 30-40 people! That’s why we’ll never place you on a 50-

seater coach with 49 other passengers and a single guide. Instead, our Jordan group departures are limited to a maximum of 18 travellers.

In Jordan, all of our sightseeing tours are led by fully trained, local English-speaking guides. Additionally, our local representatives in each town and city along the route are available to assist, ensuring all practical arrangements are taken care of for the tour.

At Egypt Uncovered, we exclusively employ local Jordanian guides and representatives, as we believe this enhances your experience of both the country and the sights you are visiting. For more details and profiles of some of our most renowned local guides, please visit our website.

For groups of up to five, we provide an escort driver along with specialist local guides at Jerash and Petra. For groups of six or more, an escort guide will accompany the group throughout the tour.

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25. Voltage - Jordan

The sockets are two-pronged and provide 220 volts. Universal adapters can usually be found in most airport shops if you don’t already have one. Standard European adapters will fit, though they may feel slightly loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms are equipped with electrical sockets, so you can charge cameras, phones, and other devices. Hairdryers are generally available upon request at hotel receptions, if they aren’t already provided in your room. If you're bringing US appliances, you'll need both a voltage converter and a plug adapter.

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26. Jordan info

Jordan info

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27. 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.
