

Egypt Travel Information

Air Conditioning

All hotels, vans, and the dahabiya sailing ship provide air conditioning.

Airport

Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours ahead of your scheduled departure time. Upon arrival in Cairo International Airport, first go through Passport Control, then retrieve your luggage and go through Customs. Your greeter, with your name on a sign, will meet you in the Arrivals Hall and will escort you to your driver.

ATM and Credit Cards

ATM's are easily accessible and credit cards are widely accepted in Egypt. It is recommended that you contact your bank in advance of departing for this tour to make sure you will be able to use your ATM and credit cards while traveling. When contacting your bank, notify them of your travel dates so that they will anticipate charges being made outside of the country. Also, make a photocopy of the front and back of your ATM and credit cards to leave behind with someone at home who will assist you in the event your cards are misplaced or stolen.

Cell Phones

Contact your cell phone carrier to determine if your service extends to Egypt. Most cell phone companies provide a temporary international calling fee that lowers long distance calls and texts costs.

Clothing and Packing

Select a wardrobe that allows for layering. Loose, light cottons and linens in layers that can be taken off during the heat of the day and put back on for cool evenings are ideal. For special dinners, many guests like to dress up, but by all means, be comfortable. It is inadvisable for women to wear anything short or sleeveless unless on the beach or by the pool so as not to offend local custom.

Everyone should dress appropriately when visiting churches and mosques, and all will be required to remove their shoes in mosques. Following is a list of recommended items to pack:

- Comfortable walking shoes and sandals
- Hat and sunscreen
- Sunglasses and extra pair of prescription eyeglasses
- Eye drops and face masks for the dust when visiting Pyramids and Temples
- Camera, extra batteries, battery charger, memory cards
- Antiseptic hand cleanser
- Light jacket for cool nights on the river
- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Insect repellent
- Copies of important documents (Passport, credit cards, etc.)
- PASSPORT!

Currency and Exchange Rates

The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). Currently, the exchange rate is about 15 EGP to 1 USD. Most hotels have a bank in the hotel, and there are ATM's in many locations. To obtain the most current exchange rate, you can check Oanda, www.oanda.com.

Customs and Tax-Free Shopping

Current regulations permit bringing back \$800 worth of items duty-free, as long as you physically have the items with you.

Electrical Current

The electrical current in Egypt and onboard the cruise ship is 220v. Sockets take the standard European dual round-pronged plug. You will need to bring the appropriate converters and adaptors for your 110v, U.S. appliances.

Health

All travelers to Egypt should be in reasonably good health. There is a significant amount of walking on this tour and archaeological sites and temple floors are far from even. The sailing ship does not have an elevator, and you will need to navigate one flight of stairs to access guest rooms and public areas.

Tap water in hotels, restaurants, and aboard the ship is not potable. Use caution when eating salad items that may have been washed in tap water. Always drink bottled water with an unbroken seal. It is advisable to brush your teeth with bottled water. Avoid having ice in drinks. Eating uncooked vegetables should be avoided. Eat only fruit that you can peel. Most meals on this tour are in hotel restaurants and on board the ship where cleanliness is good and they are used to catering to westerners.

No vaccinations are required to enter Egypt, but suggested vaccinations are: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, typhoid, and Covid-19 as well as updating all standard vaccinations such as tetanus, polio, measles, influenza, pneumonia, etc. Check with your health care provider.

Luggage

Due to space limitations aboard the cruise ship, on-tour flights and vans, luggage is limited to one medium-size piece of checked luggage per person, weighing up to 45 pounds, and one small soft-sided carry-on bag per person, weighing no more than 15 pounds. For day trips, use a small backpack or shoulder bag to carry just what you need for the day.

Safety

Egypt is generally very safe from petty crime, street crime, and random violence. The threat to personal safety from political instability is also low at the time of this writing. There is a potential for problems with large demonstrations, but use common sense and void these areas if they occur.

Time

Egypt is 10 hours ahead of California.

Travel Documents

It is required that your name, as it appears on your airline ticket, precisely matches your name on your passport. Your passport must have a least two blank visa pages and an expiration date of at least six months beyond the completion of the tour. Make at least two copies of the photo page of your passport, leaving one copy at home and carrying one with you and a traveling companion. A renewable 30-day tourist visa is required for travel to Egypt.

Weather

Egypt has one of the hottest and sunniest climates in the world. The heat is often relieved by a northerly breeze with temperatures dropping during the night. During the months of March – May, a brief sandstorm can occur. Rainy days are few in Cairo and nearly unknown in Upper (southern) Egypt. March high/low temperatures ~ Cairo: 80° / 57° Luxor: 90° / 62°

