

## Egypt Eclipse Adventure 2027 (C)

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**Country(ies):** Egypt

**Tour type:** Small Group

**Transport:** A/C minibus, internal flight & Nile cruiseboat

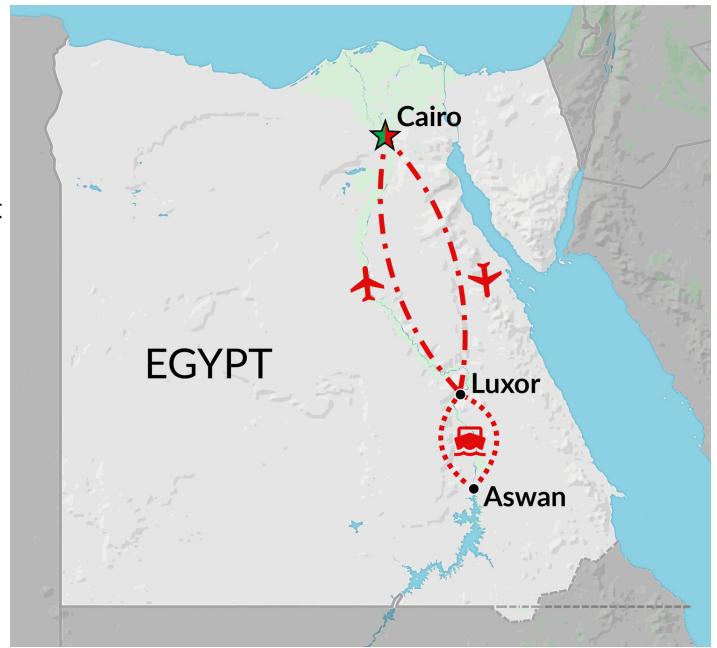
**Group size:** Min: 10 | Max: 25

**Days:** 11 days

**Start Location:** Cairo, Egypt

**End Location:** Cairo, Egypt

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 10, Lunches - 6, Dinners - 7



### Highlights:

2027 total solar eclipse, Iconic Pyramids & Sphinx of Giza, Egyptian museum, 5-star cruise down the Nile visiting Karnak & Luxor temples, the Valley of the Kings, Queen Hatchepsut, Medinat Habu & Philae Temples and Felucca Sailboat experience

# Itinerary

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

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel for the start of your trip. They will help you settle in, introduce you to the local area, and explain tomorrow's arrangements.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Single Room Supplement - Eclipse C (GEM Plaza) Single Room Supplement - Eclipse C (Pyramids Park)

## Day 2: Visit the Pyramids in Giza and the stepped Pyramid in Saqqara. Expert Astronomy Lecture

Our Egyptian adventure begins with a journey back in time to the Giza Plateau, home to the iconic Great Pyramids. These magnificent structures, declared one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world by the Greeks, will leave you breathless with their sheer size and intricate construction. We'll explore the Pyramids of Giza, including the Great Pyramid of Khufu, and encounter the enigmatic Sphinx, standing guard over these ancient wonders.

But that's not all! We'll also delve deeper into Egypt's rich history with a visit to Memphis, the first capital of the ancient kingdom. Here, we'll come face-to-face with the colossal statue of Ramses II, a powerful reminder of the pharaohs who once ruled this land. Our journey continues to Sakkara, where we'll marvel at the Step Pyramid of Djoser, an architectural masterpiece that predates the Great Pyramids and offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of pyramid construction.

This evening we'll be joined by Dr. Sarah Rugheimer, an internationally recognized astrophysicist from the University of Edinburgh, who will present an astronomy lecture, giving you deeper insight in to the eclipse you'll witness in just a few days.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 3: Discover the wonders of ancient Egypt at the GEM. Fly to Luxor

Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel, anticipating a truly monumental experience. Today, we delve into the treasures of Egypt's Pharaonic past at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), located near the Giza Plateau. This state-of-the-art museum houses an unparalleled collection of artefacts, offering a comprehensive insight into ancient Egyptian civilisation.

Prepare to be amazed as you explore the vast exhibition halls. The highlight for many is the complete Tutankhamun collection, displayed together for the first time, showcasing the dazzling golden mask, sarcophagi, chariots, and thousands of other objects discovered in the young pharaoh's tomb. Wander through galleries dedicated to different periods, marvelling at colossal statues, intricate jewellery, and everyday items that bring

ancient Egypt vividly to life. The museum's modern design and interpretative displays provide a captivating context for these timeless wonders.

Following our immersive museum visit, we will have a break for lunch before transferring to Cairo Airport. Here, we board a short domestic flight southwards to Luxor, the city often described as the world's greatest open-air museum. Upon arrival in Luxor, ancient Thebes, you'll be met and transferred to the Royal Vision Nile Cruise which will be your base for the next 6 nights.

After settling in, enjoy dinner and relax. The evening is yours to perhaps take a gentle stroll or simply rest, ready to explore the magnificent temples and tombs of Luxor, the heartland of the New Kingdom pharaohs, tomorrow.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 4: Morning visit to the West Bank of the Nile. Free afternoon. Evening visit to Luxor Temple**

Get ready to be impressed as we begin our exploration of the Nile's West Bank, a place steeped in ancient Egyptian mythology and history.

Our first stop will be the Colossi of Memnon, two towering statues that have stood sentinel for millennia. Imagine the stories these giants could tell! From there, we'll venture into the Valley of the Kings, a hidden valley where pharaohs, including the legendary Tutankhamun, were laid to rest. We'll get to explore these elaborately decorated tombs and uncover the secrets of their fascinating past.

Next, we'll journey to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, a magnificent complex built into the cliffs, dedicated to one of Egypt's few female pharaohs. We'll marvel at its grandeur and learn about the powerful queen who ruled over Egypt. Our West Bank adventure culminates with a visit to Medinat Habu, a temple complex adorned with vibrant and intricate hieroglyphics that depict scenes of ancient Egyptian life and mythology.

The remainder of the afternoon will be free to explore Luxor at your own pace and 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 magical experience after dark. Our guide will bring the temple's history to life, revealing its secrets and explaining its significance as a centre of worship for centuries.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Hot air balloon in Luxor

## **Day 5: Witnessing the Great Luxor Eclipse. Sail to Edfu.**

Today promises to be an extraordinary highlight of your journey, a day centred around one of nature's most awe-inspiring spectacles: a total solar eclipse. On this date, Luxor finds itself uniquely positioned as a prime gateway to witness an exceptionally long totality, occurring just outside the city limits.

The morning will begin with palpable excitement and anticipation. After breakfast, preparations will be made to travel to a carefully selected viewing site in Luxor, and you will be provided with a packed lunch for the day. This location has been chosen to ensure the best possible, unobstructed view of the sky, placing you directly within the path of totality for the maximum duration possible in this region – predicted to be over an incredible six minutes!

As the morning progresses, the celestial drama will begin to unfold. You will witness the Moon starting its slow passage across the face of the Sun, taking an increasingly large 'bite' out of it. You will be provided with special eclipse viewing glasses, essential for protecting your eyes during these partial phases. Observe the subtle, yet increasingly noticeable, changes in the quality of light; colours may seem sharper, shadows strangely defined, and the ambient temperature might begin a slight, perceptible dip even before the main event.

Then, in the moments leading up to totality, the sky will dramatically darken. You might witness the phenomenon of shadow bands rippling across the landscape. As the last sliver of the Sun vanishes behind the Moon, the world will transform. Day will plunge into an eerie, deep twilight. Remove your viewing glasses only when totality begins, and prepare to be mesmerised.

For over six breathtaking minutes – an unusually long duration for a total eclipse – you will stand under a sky unlike any other. The Sun's magnificent outer atmosphere, the ethereal corona, will blaze into view, streaming outwards around the black silhouette of the Moon. Brighter stars and planets may become visible in the darkened sky. Look towards the horizon, and you might see colours reminiscent of a 360-degree sunset. Experience the distinct drop in temperature and listen to the potential reactions of wildlife or the hushed awe of your fellow observers. It is a truly multi-sensory experience, standing in the Moon's shadow.

Just as suddenly as it began, the end of totality will approach. A brilliant burst of light, known as the 'diamond ring effect', will signal the Sun's reappearance, requiring you to immediately use your eclipse glasses again. Daylight will swiftly return, the temperature will climb, and the partial phases will proceed in reverse as the Moon gradually moves away from the Sun.

Reflecting on this profound experience, perhaps contemplating how the ancient Egyptians themselves might have reacted to such an event amidst their monumental temples, will add another layer to the day.

While the precise timings and logistical details for accessing the prime viewing location will be finalised and communicated closer to August 2027, rest assured that every arrangement will be made to guarantee you are in an optimal position, complete with necessary viewing equipment and refreshments, to safely witness the full, spellbinding totality of this historic solar eclipse near Luxor.

After witnessing the Solar Eclipse, we'll return to our cruise boat and sail south to Edfu.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## Day 6: Visit Edfu Temple and cruise to Aswan

After a leisurely breakfast on board, we'll disembark and head to the nearby Temple of Edfu. This remarkably well-preserved temple, dedicated to the falcon-headed god Horus, is a stunning example of Ptolemaic architecture. As you wander through its impressive courtyards, you'll be transported back in time, imagining the processions of priests and pharaohs that once graced these halls. Admire the intricate reliefs depicting scenes of Horus's mythology, and learn about the temple's important role in ancient Egyptian religious practices.

Back on board our comfortable cruise ship, we'll continue our journey up the Nile towards Aswan, soaking in the ever-changing scenery. The pace of life along the riverbanks unfolds at a slower pace here, offering a captivating glimpse into traditional rural life in Egypt. Watch as farmers tend their fields using age-old methods, fishermen cast their nets into the flowing waters, and children play along the shore. It's a timeless scene that speaks to the enduring connection between the Egyptian people and the Nile River.

As we cruise, why not take some time for yourself to relax and unwind? Head to the sundeck and enjoy a refreshing dip in the plunge pool, perhaps with a cool drink in hand. Or simply find a comfortable spot to lounge in the sun with a good book, letting the gentle rocking of the boat and the warm breeze lull you into a state of pure tranquility.

Our cruise continues southward towards Aswan, the historic gateway to Nubia. Enjoy the remaining daylight hours out on deck, watching the sun cast long shadows over the river and the desert landscape as we approach this vibrant city. Perhaps you'll spot traditional felucca sailboats gliding along the water, or catch sight of a Nubian village with its brightly painted houses.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

## **Day 7: Abu Simbel option. Sail the Nile on a traditional Felucca. Visit Philae Temple & Aswan Dam**

This morning, you have the incredible opportunity to embark on an optional excursion to the awe-inspiring Abu Simbel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that stands as a testament to the grandeur of ancient Egypt. We'll depart before dawn, making our way through the desert landscape. Our goal is to arrive in time to witness the magical moment when the rising sun illuminates the facade of the temples, casting a golden glow on the colossal statues of Ramses II. It's a truly unforgettable experience that captures the mystique and majesty of this ancient wonder. Please note that if you choose to visit Abu Simbel, you will not participate in the Felucca sailboat trip which takes place this morning.

If you choose to remain in Aswan, we'll step back in time and experience the magic of the Nile River firsthand with a leisurely sail on a traditional Felucca sailboat. Imagine yourself gliding along the legendary waters, the gentle breeze filling the sails as you soak in the stunning scenery of Aswan from a unique perspective. It's the perfect way to unwind and connect with the soul of Egypt before continuing our explorations.

Our afternoon tour in Aswan takes us to the enchanting island temple complex of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis. We'll journey by boat to this picturesque island, where the temple complex, with its graceful columns and intricate carvings, seems to rise organically from the water. Philae remains one of Egypt's most romantic and picturesque sites, its beauty enhanced by its remarkable history. The entire complex was carefully dismantled and relocated to its current location following the construction of the Aswan High Dam, ensuring its preservation for generations to come.

Speaking of the dam, we'll also pay a visit to the impressive Aswan High Dam, a monumental feat of engineering that harnessed the power of the Nile and created Lake Nasser, one of the world's largest man-made lakes. We'll learn about the dam's construction and its impact on Egypt, both positive and negative, gaining a deeper understanding of this country's complex relationship with its lifeline, the Nile River.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Abu Simbel overland

## **Day 8: Sail to Luxor, stopping at Kom Ombo Temple along the way**

With our cruise ship turning back towards Luxor, our next port of call is Kom Ombo, home to a truly remarkable temple. Standing dramatically on the Nile's edge, this temple holds the distinction of being dedicated to two deities: Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, the falcon god. We'll have the chance to explore its intriguing chambers and discover the story behind its unique dual dedication. Be sure to see the display of mummified crocodiles, which highlights the ancient Egyptians' deep respect for these formidable animals. We'll then have a final night onboard in Luxor with free time to further explore the town at your leisure, or perhaps revisit Karnak Temple for the Sound and Light Show.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Karnak Sound & Light Show

## **Day 9: Free morning (optional extra West Bank tour / Luxor museum tour / felucca trip to Banana island). Afternoon Karnak temple.**

This morning you have some free time in Luxor. You have the choice of spending this time exploring at your own pace or you can select one of our optional tours. You could choose our additional West Bank Tour (exploring the Ramesseum, Medinat Habu Temple and the Valley of the Queens), visit Luxor Museum and even take another Felucca ride on the River Nile.

In the afternoon, we will explore the sprawling complex of Karnak Temple. Dedicated to the Theban Triad of Amun, Mut, and Khonsu, Karnak is a masterpiece of ancient Egyptian architecture. We'll wander through its vast courtyards, admire its towering columns, and decipher the intricate carvings that adorn its walls. Our guide will unravel the temple's complex history, revealing its secrets and explaining its significance as a religious and cultural centre for over 2,000 years.

**OVERNIGHT:** Royal Vision Nile Cruise

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Extra West Bank tour in Luxor Luxor Museum tour

## **Day 10: Morning flight to Cairo. Explore Khan-el-Khalili Bazaar**

Our day begins with a transfer to Luxor airport to catch a morning flight northwards to Cairo. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be met and transferred towards the heart of the historic city for an unforgettable cultural immersion.

This afternoon's tour takes you to the famous Khan el-Khalili bazaar, one of the oldest and most atmospheric marketplaces in the Middle East. Prepare to be captivated as you navigate its maze-like alleys, which have buzzed with activity for centuries. Experience the vibrant tapestry of sights, sounds, and smells – from the glint of handcrafted metalwork and colourful lanterns to the rich scent of exotic spices and perfumes, and the lively calls of vendors. It is the perfect place to browse for unique souvenirs, traditional crafts, jewellery, and textiles, or perhaps pause to soak up the bustling atmosphere in a traditional coffeehouse (ahwa). This visit offers a fascinating glimpse into the enduring commercial and cultural spirit of Cairo.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Nile dinner cruise in Cairo

## **Day 11: Cairo, departure transfer to the airport**

Your time is free today until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight. Extensions are available to add onto the end of the tour to spend some time by the Red Sea, add some day trips to Alexandria or visit the World Heritage Site of Wadi Rayan and the Valley of the Whales.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

## Included:

- 3 nights accommodation at the 3-star Pyramids GEM Plaza hotel or 4-star Pyramids Park Resort in Cairo (select your preferred options on the dates & prices page)
- 7 nights onboard the 5-star Royal Vision Nile Cruise (Luxor-Aswan-Luxor)
- Domestic flights (Cairo-Luxor, Luxor-Cairo)
- A day dedicated to witnessing the 2027 solar eclipse in a prime location in Luxor
- Astronomy Lecture delivered by Dr. Sarah Rugheimer (day 2)
- Eclipse Viewing Glasses
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local Egyptologist tour guide for all sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

## Excluded:

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees - allow approx. US\$141 (correct at the time of publication)
- Tipping kitty (allow US\$110)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tour guide tips
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Notes

*Please note that whilst the itinerary and accommodations detailed represent our current plans, the significant popularity of this event may lead the Egyptian authorities to implement specific controls and arrangements in Luxor over the eclipse days. The exact arrangements for Eclipse Day will therefore be finalised closer to departure (eg. whether we view it from the grounds of Karnak temple, from our boat on the Nile, or from some hotel gardens for example. At the moment, the sun deck of our Nile cruise is the ). The Nile Cruise schedules and shore excursions may also be amended slightly to fit around the eclipse. All excursions are provided by own Egyptologist guides and transport - not joining the large boat operated groups. We have confirmed allocations at the hotel and cruise boat listed, but owing to the unprecedented demand anticipated for these dates, we may also use some alternative hotels and boats of an equivalent standard should the need arise.*

### Deposit Note:

Please note that due to stricter cancellation and deposit rules imposed by accommodations over this travel period, our standard deposit policy will not apply to this tour, please find the deposit rules applicable to this tour below:

Initial non-refundable deposit at point of booking - GB£1500 / US\$2000 per person (or equivalent in your currency - you will be advised on the required deposit in your selected currency during the online booking process)

Interim non-refundable deposit at 31 Jul 2026 - GB£1500 / US\$2000 per person

Interim non-refundable deposit at 30 Sep 2026 - GB£1500 / US\$2000 per person

Balance due on 31 Jan 2027 (non refundable after payment)

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

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

## Hot air balloon in Luxor

Min numbers: 1

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

The price of this option is approximately \$170.00. Please note that this option is only available to be booked locally, via your tour guide who will also advise you of the current price.

## Alexandria day trip

Min numbers: 1

Alexandria is about 2.5 hours drive, north of Cairo on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. This ex colonial city is the second largest in Egypt and our visit will include the Roman amphitheatre with its twelve semi-circular marble tiers, the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa which is the largest Roman cemetery in Alexandria, Pompey's Pillar, Fort Qaitbey (from outside), the famous modern library before returning to Cairo. If time allows you can tour inside Fort Qaitbey and we may also visit the Montazah Palace gardens. Lunch at a seafood restaurant is included. As the tour takes a full day you will either need a late evening flight departure on the last day of the tour to be accommodated it, or to add an extra day to the start or end of your trip.

Prices are based on a minimum of 2 travellers choosing the option. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees to sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 28)

## Cairo city tour

Min numbers: 1

This half day guided tour of Cairo begins with Islamic areas including the Citadel of Saladdin, boasting the famous Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. Then we head onto the Coptic area of Cairo where the Romans constructed the fortress of Babylon. The church of St. Mary was built over the ruins of two towers of the fortress whilst it is more commonly known as the Hanging Church next stop is St. Sergius which is said to be the resting place of the Holy Family. The tour finishes at the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. The entrance fees budget covers the Coptic Museum, the Citadel and the Sultan Hassan Mosque. Depending on your day, you may not have time to visit all of these.

Entrance fees to sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 22)

Prices shown are based on a minimum of 2 people travelling. Solo traveller supplements apply.

## **Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)**

Min numbers: 1

This tour provides a great contrast to the Pharaonic sites you have visited on the rest of your tour. We leave Cairo and head to the Fayoum region where we head for the Wadi Rayan Protected Area, which surrounds a fresh-water lake in the middle of the desert, filled by the remaining irrigation water from the Fayoum area. There are several waterfalls here (popular in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide which gives good views of the lakes birdlife, particularly in the winter months when the lake is an important stop for migrating water-birds. We also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, and host to many different plants and animals, including Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox and Fennec Fox. Before lunch, we'll make a stop in the sand dunes surrounding Wadi Rayan to have a go at Sandboarding. After a stop for a packed lunch, we then drive into the stunning desert & mountain scenery of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is accepted as the most significant site in the world to demonstrate the evolution of whales, and we take a 2-3km walk here to see several specimens of fossilised whales of different types sitting on the surface of the sand, as well as fossilised mangroves and the remains of crab holes.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged straight after you arrive back in Cairo from Luxor/Aswan from the overnight sleeper train. We can also arrange it on any tour if you add extra days before and after your main tour. Prices shown are based on 2 or more people travelling, with an additional supplement due for solo travellers.

Entrance fees are excluded, please budget \$15 per person.

## **Abu Simbel overland**

Min numbers: 2

The temples built by Ramses II at Abu Simbel are one of Egypt's highlights, and have a fascinating story behind them to go with their impressive size. When Lake Nasser was flooded, the final water level was going to submerge several temples, the most important of which being Abu Simbel. The temple was therefore dismantled completely and rebuilt further up the hillside where it sits today. The temple stands today as a testament to Ramses II and the great building prowess of the ancient Egyptians, as well as to modern engineering. We depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 4am), with the aim of getting to Abu Simbel to see the temples in the light of the rising sun. We then have a guided tour with one of our Egyptologists and some free time before we drive back to Aswan (approx. 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). The tour itinerary is designed so you will not miss any other activities if you choose this option.

Note - we choose the overland route to get to Abu Simbel as the flight times there are unreliable and the journey using the flight is much more segmented (you get more rest on the coach), not to mention it is much more expensive to fly. Please note that we only offer Abu Simbel by Flight on private or tailor-made tours.

Entrance fees to the site (approx. US\$17, 50% for children) are not included in the option price and should be paid locally . A minimum of 2 people is required to operate this option.

## **Pyramids Camel Ride**

Min numbers: 1

Experience the Giza Pyramids from a unique vantage point with an optional camel ride. This excursion takes you across the desert to a scenic view point, offering panoramic views of the pyramids. Capture memorable photos and enjoy the desert landscape.

## **Cairo Sunset Felucca**

Min numbers: 1

Take a relaxing felucca ride on the Nile at sunset. See Cairo's landmarks from the water as the sky changes colour. Enjoy a peaceful break from the city, and get great photo opportunities of the skyline. This trip offers a

calm way to experience the Nile and create memorable moments of your time in Egypt.

The price of this option is based on a minimum of 2 travellers, single supplements may apply when this tour is operated for just 1 passenger.

## **Cairo Tower inc.transfers**

Min numbers: 1

Experience breathtaking panoramic views of Cairo by night with an optional evening visit to the iconic Cairo Tower. This trip includes convenient round-trip transfers from your hotel, ensuring a comfortable and hassle-free journey. Ascend to the tower's observation deck and witness the city's glittering skyline, the Nile River, and the illuminated landmarks stretching into the distance.

**Please note:** The Cairo Tower entrance fee is not included and is approximately \$8. Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers, a single supplement applies when this tour is operated for just 1 adult.

## **Karnak Sound & Light Show**

Min numbers: 1

Experience the magic of Karnak Temple at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the Egyptian sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

## **Siwa Oasis Extension (3 Nights)**

Min numbers: 1

Discover the wonders of Siwa Oasis on a 4-day optional tour from Cairo, featuring ancient sites, unique natural landscapes like salt lakes and desert springs, and cultural experiences before returning to Cairo.

## **Philae Sound and Light Show**

Min numbers: 1

Experience the magic of Philae Temple at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the desert sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

## **Nubian Village Visit by Boat**

Min numbers: 1

Embark on a captivating journey along the Nile and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of the Nubian people. This optional day trip, departing from Aswan, offers a unique opportunity to experience traditional Nubian life.

Board a motorboat and sail upriver, enjoying breathtaking views of the Nile's picturesque scenery. Arrive at a colourful Nubian village, where you'll be welcomed with warm hospitality. Explore the village's distinctive mud-brick houses, adorned with bright colours and intricate designs.

Discover the rich history and traditions of the Nubian people, learning about their unique customs and way of life. You'll also have the chance to browse local handicrafts and souvenirs, supporting the village's artisans.

This optional excursion provides an unforgettable glimpse into Nubian culture, offering a peaceful and authentic experience away from the bustling city of Aswan. Return to Aswan by boat.

## **Single Room Supplement - Eclipse C (GEM Plaza)**

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

\*\*This single supplement is applicable to those who have selected the Pyramids GEM Plaza accommodation option.

## **Guaranteed upper 'Aton' upper deck supplement on Royal Vision**

Min numbers: 1

Please select this option if you would like to guarantee an upper deck (Aton Deck) cabin whilst onboard the Royal Vision Nile Cruise.

This supplement is based on 2 sharing, single room supplements apply.

A limited number of upper deck cabins are available.

## **Suite upgrade on 'Aton' upper deck on Royal Vision**

Min numbers: 1

Please select this option if you would like to reserve a Suite on the upper deck (Aton Deck) whilst onboard the Royal Vision Nile Cruise.

This supplement is based on 2 sharing, single room supplements apply.

Please note that the Royal Vision Nile Cruise only has 2 suites, therefore these are subject to availability.

## **Single Room Supplement - Eclipse C (Pyramids Park)**

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

\*\*This single supplement is applicable to those who have selected the Pyramids Park Resort accommodation option.

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## 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 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 safari options may not always have air conditioning where they are only used for short periods.

This tour also avoids any overnight train journeys, featuring domestic flights with Egypt Air between Cairo-Luxor and Aswan-Cairo.

Nile cruise boat itineraries are subject to alterations depending on local conditions at the time of travel. Some sailing may be done after dark. Boats may moor up alongside each other at night, requiring you to cross through other boats to reach the shore. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve the cruise boats normally run a special Gala Dinner. The cost of this is normally compulsory, whether you attend or not, and is not included in our group tour prices, and will be added to bookings when we get the final prices from the cruise boats (budget around USD100 to USD180 per person).

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## 2. Total Solar Eclipse 2027

On the day of the solar eclipse, transport will be provided to a designated viewing location in Luxor. Facilities at this site may be limited and it will be hot, so we recommend bringing a day pack with essentials such as ample water, snacks, suncream, a hat, and perhaps an umbrella for extra shade. To ensure safe viewing, we will supply all group members with certified eclipse glasses. A packed lunch will also be provided.

Please note that whilst the itinerary and accommodations detailed represent our current plans, the significant popularity of this event may lead the Egyptian authorities to implement specific controls and arrangements in Luxor over the eclipse days. The exact arrangements for Eclipse Day will therefore be finalised closer to departure (eg. whether we view it from the grounds of Karnak temple, from our boat on the Nile, or from some hotel gardens for example). The Nile Cruise schedules and shore excursions may also be amended slightly to fit around the eclipse. All excursions are provided by our own Egyptologist guides and transport - not joining the large boat operated groups. We have confirmed allocations at the hotel and cruise boat listed, but owing to the unprecedented demand anticipated for these dates, we may also use some alternative hotels and boats of an equivalent standard should the need arise.

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## 3. Dates & Prices

Due to exceptional demand, accommodations have very limited availability around these dates, we will therefore only be operating 1 group departure. We may also be able to assist with a limited number of private tours - contact us for details.

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## 4. 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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## 5. 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 Airport (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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## 6. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. There's no point in us providing great guides if you've got to peer over 30-40 shoulders to see them! So, we won't ever put you in a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and just one guide. Instead, we set our Egypt small-group departures to have a maximum of 18 travellers.

Shoestring tours have a maximum group size of 26. On dedicated Nile Cruise tours (such as the Long Nile Cruise) you may join larger boat groups (generally of no more than 30 passengers per guide) for the sightseeing trips, though a supplement is always available for a private Egyptologist guide for these tours (requires advance booking).

Specialist escorted tours and workshops may have different group sizes - please download the Tour Notes for details.

In Egypt we provide fully trained, local English-speaking graduate Egyptologist guides to run your tour and escort you during all of the sightseeing in Cairo and the Nile Valley. We also have permanent local reps in all the main towns/cities and Red Sea resorts who are also at your service, and will be handling all the practical arrangements for the tour. We use local Bedouin guides for tours through the desert.

Whilst the majority of our tours are guided in English, we do offer a limited number of small group departures which are led by experienced Egyptologist guides fluent in French or Spanish. Notes are shown next to each departure date to highlight these. Guiding in other languages is also available on private departures (eg. German,

Italian, Polish) - please contact us for details and quotations.

On some departures we may use one guide in Cairo, and a second guide if you are travelling between Aswan and Luxor.

At Encounters Travel we only use local Egyptian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. Please check our website for more details and profiles of some of our most famous Egyptian guides.

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## **7. 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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## **8. 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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## **9. 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 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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## **10. 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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## **11. 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 may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). 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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## 12. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

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## 13. 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 Encounters Travel 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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## 14. 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/encounterstravel](https://www.facebook.com/encounterstravel)

<https://x.com/encounterstravel> (yes, without the 'e')

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## 15. 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).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? [World Nomads Travel Insurance](#) offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or 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.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*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.*

### Covid-19

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.**

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## 16. 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.

## 17. Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

### How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

### The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can't fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon's efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

### Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

### Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
  - They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
  - Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
  - The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
  - The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.
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## 18. Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please [contact us](#).

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## 19. Passports and Visas - Egypt

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

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

In general official advice is that all nationalities obtain their Egypt visas in advance, as we cannot guarantee that you can get them in the airport. An online e-visa is available through [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\$30 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.

**Important 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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## 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. Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adaptors will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already. If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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## 22. Time

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

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## 23. Health and Vaccinations

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

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

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

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

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

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

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

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**Printed on:** Tuesday 28th of April 2026

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

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