

Egypt Prelude

Entrance Requirements

Passports

- A valid passport is required for entry into Egypt.
- The passport must be valid for 6 months after your scheduled date of arrival.
- You will need two blank pages per country for entry and exit stamps in the visa section of your passport. "Two blank pages" is defined as the front and back of a page.
- If you need a new passport to be issued act now: It can take up to 6 weeks to receive your new passport. It is no longer possible to purchase additional pages for an existing passport. If you travel frequently, please consider purchasing a 52-page passport. For more information contact the National Passport Information Center toll free at 877-487-2778 or visit www.travel.state.gov.

Advisory: When you travel, we recommend that you make two copies of your first passport page; keep one copy at home in the unlikely event that your passport is lost, and take one copy along to use as an ID, should you leave your passport behind in the hotel safe deposit box.

Visa

Egypt

You may secure your visa for Egypt on arrival however we recommend securing your visa in advance through the E-visa Portal or at an Egyptian Consulate.

E-visa: Visit the E-visa portal at least two weeks prior to departure. The visa will be issued in approximately 7-business days and is good for visits up to 30-days: <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>.

ALERT: The Government of Egypt has warned of several fraudulent web-sites offering E-visa services at exorbitant prices. If you will be applying for an E-Visa, please only use the official web-site: <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>

To complete the application on-line, you will need:

- A copy of your Flight Itinerary
- A copy of your Tour Itinerary
- A Letter from Classic Escapes noting the local contact in Egypt
- Processing fee of US\$25, payable by Visa, MasterCard or debit card. (A multiple entry visa is available at a cost of \$60)

Visas may be secured in advance through the Egyptian Consulate. Locations for the consulate that serves your area can be found at:

- www.egyptembassy.net/consular-services/passports-travel/visa-requirements/

Applications secured through the Egyptian Consulate will require:

- 1 completed and signed visa application form
- 2 copies of the information page of your passport
- 2 identical passport-sized photos (2" x 2") t

Note: Passport photos must have been taken within the last 6 months. Photos must be color and have a plain white background. Home or machine photos are NOT acceptable. The current cost for a single- or multiple-entry tourist visa is \$15 USD and is valid for 30-days.

Visa on Arrival: Please be sure to have your completed Arrival Card provided to you by the attendants in-flight. After deplaning in Cairo, proceed to the immigration hall where you can purchase your visa at the Bank counter located near the passport control office. Currently the cost is US\$25 which is payable in cash with crisp, unmarked US dollars. Place the sticker onto an empty visa page in your passport and continue to immigration control where you will present your passport with visa and arrival card for verification. Once you have cleared immigration you will collect your luggage and continue to the exit.

- You can also use this excellent service to obtain your visa: *G3 Visas & Passports at 888-883-8472 or visit www.g3visas.com/ClassicEscapes.html if you have any questions about your passport or visa.*

Additional information can be found at:

- travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/egypt.html

Some things to remember:

- Approval and issuance of the visa does not guarantee entry into Egypt.
- Any form of business or employment on a visitor's visa is an offence
- Visas secured on arrival are valid for a period of 30-days from the date of issue. Visas secured in advance from an Egyptian Consulate are valid for a period of 6 months from the date of issue.

Health & Wellness

You are going to be visiting a country with a rich and diverse cultural history but which is lacking in many of the conveniences that many of us are accustomed to. As a result, you may be exposed to some pathogens that you would not ordinarily encounter in the U.S. There are some preventative steps that you can take to help ensure that you do not bring back to your home more than your luggage, gifts, and experiences.

Inoculations

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for entry into Egypt for those traveling from the United States. However, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) suggest that you be up to date on routine vaccines such as:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Polio
- Influenza

The CDC recommends these vaccines for MOST travelers. They are NOT mandatory:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid

A Yellow Fever shot is only mandatory if you are coming from a Yellow Fever endemic zone. This is being reinforced at immigration posts at borders and airports. Your program DOES NOT require you to get this vaccination unless you will be coming from a Yellow Fever endemic zone and in this case, the easiest and safest thing to do is to get a yellow fever vaccination before you depart the USA and a signed yellow fever certificate, which you should carry with your passport. After immunization, an International Certificate of Vaccination is issued. It will become valid 10 days after vaccination to meet entry and exit requirements for all countries. The Certificate is good for life. You must take the Certificate with you.

Alert: Since 2012, MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) has been identified in multiple countries in the Arabian Peninsula, including Jordan, and in travelers to the region. The CDC recommends taking advanced precautions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an [alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Be sure you are up-to-date with all of your shots and, if possible, see your healthcare provider at least 4–6 weeks before travel to get any additional shots.

Additional Information:

Additional Information:

The CDC issues regular travel health notices on their website:

- wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/egypt

Water & Food

We suggest you drink bottled water only, even though most hotels and Nile Cruise vessels purify, soften and filter their water supplies. Never drink water from the tap and remember to use bottled water to brush your teeth. Tap water is heavily chlorinated. It is generally recommended that guests drink plenty of water each day to limit the effects of dehydration. This excludes tea, coffee and alcoholic beverages, which act as diuretics and actually contributes to dehydration. Avoid ice in your drinks, raw vegetables or unpeeled fruits. Although sanitary conditions in Egypt is quite good, diarrhea is a common complaint. This may be caused by foods to which you are not accustomed, a change in schedule, or fruit and vegetables which are not properly prepared. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. We suggest that you bring a medication such as Imodium or Pepto Bismol to control it if you have problems.

Physical Conditioning

To enjoy your trip to the fullest, you should be in good physical and mental health. This will be a moderately strenuous tour. There will be walking over uneven surfaces and a few long and hot days of sightseeing. Travel will be in a comfortable bus or a cruise ship. To reach the most beautiful part of excavated tombs, you will have to bend over and walk down fairly steep inclines through narrow tunnels. Bring comfortable shoes. You will be doing a lot of walking and temple floors are far from even. In summer, wear a hat to protect yourself from the heat of the sun.

Recommended Packing List

Bring a hat with a brim; it not only protects you from the sun, which can be quite intense at midday, but will keep your head dry in case of rain. During early morning and late afternoon you may need a sweater.

Recommended Packing List

Clothing

- Long-sleeved shirts, slacks and socks to protect you from insect bites and sunburn
- Long or mid-length skirts that cover the knees
- Scarf or shawl for women that can be used to cover the head when visiting mosques or holy sites
- Long trousers/slacks
- Good quality sunglasses (preferably polarized).
- Sun hat with a brim
- Good walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine)
- Sandals or rubber flip/flops for poolside
- Swimsuit with light cover-up garment
- Lightweight jersey for cooler mornings
- A set of smart casual evening wear

Toiletries

- Personal toiletries (basic amenities supplied by many establishments)
- Moisturizing cream & suntan lotion
- Insect repellent e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, OFF, etc.
- Basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream, and Anti-histamine cream, etc.)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Packaged wet tissues ("Wash & Dry" "Wet Ones")
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation
- Reading glasses
- Small sewing kit

Other Things to Pack

- Visas, tickets, passports, money, etc.
- Backpack to use during the day as you tour
- A small flashlight with extra batteries
- Adapter plugs & converters for electrical appliances
- A tiny calculator for estimating cost while shopping
- Binoculars
- Reading material
- Journal with pen

Camera Equipment

- Camera, memory cards and chargers
- Lenses, cleaning fluid, lens tissue
- Waterproof/dustproof bags/cover for your camera

Tips on Clothing

Egypt is a conservative country and visitors should respect this attitude. On the practical side, leave your synthetics at home as they will prove to be too hot in summer and not warm enough in winter – bring materials that breathe. It is advisable to wear cotton in summer as the heat can be like a furnace. In winter wear layers that can be taken off during the heat of the day and put back on for cool evenings.

Wear loose and flowing garments, which are not only modest, but practical in a hot climate. Loose garments keep you cooler and layered garments allow wind to enter and circulate, creating a natural ventilation system. Protecting the head and neck from loss of moisture prevents heat stroke. On your program, you will visit many holy places where modest dress is required. This applies especially to women. Men need long trousers. Women need pants or long skirts that cover the knees, and shirts or a shawl to cover their arms. Avoid see-through clothing. Also bring comfortable walking shoes for sightseeing and walking on desert sand. Sneakers or hiking shoes are recommended but not open sandals as it is sandy. Sunglasses as well as hats and scarves are recommended as protection against the strong sun.

Power & Connectivity

At a Glance

Voltage for Egypt	220 volts AC, 50Hz
Type C Egypt	
Type F Egypt	

Cell Phones

Many travelers bring along their cell phones, not only for connecting to the internet and making phone calls, but for the easy to use camera functions. If you plan on using it as a phone keep in mind North American phones may not in Egypt, particularly in remote areas. Check with your service provider to determine if you can purchase a plan, or if your phone can be “unlocked”. If it can, you should be able to purchase inexpensive prepaid SIM cards.

Advisory: As most people travel to “get away from it all,” some limitations on the use of these phones when on tour need to be set. We suggest the following guidelines on the use of cell phones:

1. Keep the ring tone at a low volume to avoid disturbing other guests.
2. Use your phone in the privacy of your room and not any of the common areas: dining room, bar/lounge area, or on any of the vehicles.
3. Use your phone for outgoing calls and to check messages only. Incoming calls, and the loud ringing that ensues, should be curtailed.

Time

Egypt is in the Eastern European Time Zone (EET) and is seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Egypt does not observe Daylight Savings Time. Daylight Savings Time in the USA is from the first Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October. When it is 12:00 Noon in New York City it will be 7:00 pm in Egypt (6:00pm during Daylight Savings Time).

Equipment

Cameras

From smartphones to SLR cameras, digital photography has now made it simpler than ever to preserve the memories experienced during once-in-a-lifetime adventures. Most digital cameras use either an SD (secure digital) card or a CF (compact flash) card that comes in a variety of storage capacities ranging from 2–128 GB (gigabytes). Depending on the megapixel size of your particular camera and the format in which you choose to shoot your images, an 8GB card can hold as few as 200 images shot in RAW format (normally shot by pros and serious amateurs) to just over 2000 images shot as JPEGs (most common format shot by enthusiasts). For those cameras with megapixels higher than 12, it is recommended that at least 4-8GB cards are used and that you should always bring more than one card in case of card failure or corruption (rare but possible). If you are bringing a laptop, external USB hard drives of 1–2 TB (terabytes) are compact, relatively inexpensive, and an excellent way to store tens of thousands of images. In addition to ensuring that you bring the charger and adaptor/converter for the location to where you are traveling, it is highly recommended that you bring at least one spare, fully charged battery for your camera. There may be locations where dependable power is not available for charging and spare batteries may prove to be invaluable and help ensure that you don't miss any photo opportunities.

Video

Charging facilities for video AND digital cameras should be available in every camp or lodge on the safari, as long as you have a standard charger that will plug into 220 volts. Please bring along enough batteries to last you at least three days of filming.

Binoculars

There will be an opportunity to observe some of the natural treasures of Egypt. Binoculars will add immeasurably to your viewing enjoyment. Preferably, binoculars should be at least 8 power (8x) and have a wide field of view to allow you to quickly find whatever it is you want to see. Some binoculars have the added advantage of "gathering light," making objects brighter in dim morning and evening conditions. This light-gathering capability is determined by a measurement called the "exit pupil", which is calculated by dividing the diameter of the front (objective) lens in millimeters by the power (8x, for example). These two measurements are commonly designated on binoculars as a measurement such as 8x42, which translates to 8 power with a 42 mm objective lens. The exit pupil in this instance is $42/8$, or 5.25. Since the human eye can process light delivered by an exit pupil of about 4.0, these binoculars will appear bright even in dim light.

Some very small binoculars are relatively inexpensive, such as 8x21. With a very narrow field of view (usually about 400 feet at 1,000 yards) and an exit pupil of only $21/8 = 2.6$, these binoculars are designed for viewing stationary objects in bright light, such as at the opera, and are poorly designed for looking at wildlife. You will be far happier with binoculars designated in the range of 8x40 to 10x50.

Money Matters

U.S. dollars are commonly accepted at shops, hotels and restaurants in tourist areas in Egypt though you will likely receive a poor exchange rate. We recommend that you carry cash in small denominations since change will be returned to you in local currency. Be sure to count

your change carefully. Your dollars should be newer issues; minted in or after 2006 with no rips or markings.

Exchange of U.S. Dollars can be made at foreign exchange kiosks at the airport or at banks and hotels. In preparation for your journey, you may want to calculate the exchange rate from the US dollar to local currencies. There are several websites that offer a conversion engine. You can also check the Wall Street Journal for currency rate information.

Be sure to notify your bank and credit card company when and where you will be traveling and ask what fees, if any will apply.

Currency

The Egyptian Pound (EGP) is divided into 100 piastres. Notes are in denominations of 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1. Coins are in denominations of 50, 25, 20, 10, 5 and 1 piastres and 1 pound.

Credit Cards/ATMs

In major cities, credit cards such as MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted but beware that often American Express, Discover and Diners Club are often **not** accepted.

Note: As there is a potential for fraud anywhere in the world, we highly recommend that you do not use your debit cards overseas and exercise caution when using your credit cards. Do not let the card out of your sight and if a vendor tries to take the card into a back room, ask for your card back immediately and refrain from using it. Keep your valuables on you, including passports and credit cards, or locked in the safety deposit boxes when provided.

Shopping:

Your experience of shopping promises to be varied. To make shopping in Egypt more memorable, you should ideally look for products and stores with a regional accent. Some highlights include: cartouches, amulets, silver items, papyrus paintings, Oriental jewelry, perfume bottles and statues. Expect to bargain on prices at outdoor markets and with road-side vendors. Decide what the item is actually worth to you and use that as a benchmark. Walk away when the seller has quoted a "minimum" price and you will often receive a new counter offer.

Code of Conduct

Etiquette

Egypt is a conservative culture. To avoid attracting the wrong kind of attention or offending local traditions please consider the following these guidelines:

Dress Code

Women should cover their heads when entering a mosque or holy site. In general, women should not wear sleeveless garments; short sleeves are ok, $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves or long sleeves are better and a conservative neckline is essential (an exposed cleavage will attract the wrong kind of attention). Choose long or Capri-length pants; no shorts or short skirts/dresses (knees should be covered).

Men should not wear tank tops or sleeveless shirts and should remove hats/caps when entering a mosque or holy site.

Greetings are based on both class and the religion of the person. It is best to follow the lead of the Egyptian you are meeting. Handshakes are the customary greeting among individuals of the same sex. Do not interrupt or pass in front of a Muslim engaged in prayer.