

Cairo to Luxor Explorer

6 days | Cairo to Luxor



This tour encompasses the major highlights of Egypt. Uncover the treasures of Egypt at the Grand Egyptian Museum, explore the tomb strewn Valley of the Kings, take in the sights & smells wandering through the Khan el Khalili Bazaar, gaze in awe at the mighty pyramids & sphinx & discover the Temples of Hathor, Queen Hatshepsut & Karnak in 6 incredible days.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza and explore the Necropolis of Saqqara
- Cairo - Uncover the treasures of King Tutankhamun at the Grand Egyptian Museum and see the ancient mummies of powerful pharaohs at the National Museum of Civilization
- Luxor - Roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Luxor West Bank - Discover exquisite tombs at the Valley of the Kings, see the towering Colossi of Memnon and

explore the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

- Dendera - Explore the beautifully preserved Temple of Hathor with its exquisitely decorated ceiling

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 4 nights 4-5 star hotels
- 1 overnight train from Cairo to Luxor (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Touring - Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor and Dendera
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 6
- Services of an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40-50pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$90-110pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

COVID SAFE GUIDE

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Sunday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Cairo International Airport can appear to be a little chaotic to the uninitiated, this is normal. Upon exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins!

Enjoy a free day in Cairo your way – relax after your flight or head out and explore. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or for those that are arriving before 8.30am, join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am (best booked prior with your travel consultant). This optional tour takes you off the beaten track in Egypt's bustling capital, visiting Downtown Cairo, the exquisite mosques and monuments of El Moez Street in Islamic Cairo, Garbage City and the incredible Cave Church of St. Simon.

At 7pm this evening meet your guide and the rest of the group at the Welcome Meeting.

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day One of the tour, one of our staff will be on hand to advise on where you can best enjoy

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your extra time in Cairo, in advance of the tour commencing. We also have an Alexandria Day Trip available to book for the Saturday before your tour starts.

Overnight - Cairo

Day 2 : Pyramids of Giza



After a good night's rest, we enjoy a full day of touring. Our first stop this morning is the famous pyramids and the iconic Sphinx at the Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek, listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction. Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were already more than 2,000 years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (in 5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stone cutters carried out the job of building the pyramids. 100,000 workers were used to carry out the back-breaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid - Cheops and about 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes were used to construct it. Leaving the Pyramids of Giza, we stop at a government supervised papyrus emporium where you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices.

Continuing to the necropolis of Saqqara, we explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zoser's Step Pyramid which constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC. The remainder of today is free to relax or explore Egypt's capital at leisure. Perhaps head to Khan el Khalili Bazaar, the ideal place for souvenir shopping.

Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 3 : Grand Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Luxor. Today we visit the new Grand Egyptian Museum, which houses a giant exhibition containing the treasures of King Tutankhamun. In this incredible 490,000 sq.m complex many of the exhibits are being displayed for the first time and artefacts have been brought together from across Egypt and the world. The museum also makes use of new technology including virtual reality.

After our guided tour of the Grand Egyptian Museum we head over to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization to visit the fascinating Royal Mummies' Hall, where the mummies of ancient Egyptian kings and queens are now on display. This incredible hall contains 20 mummies in total and some are so well preserved that they still have thick locks of hair, visible finger nails and smooth blackened skin! At this museum please note that we will only visit the Royal Mummies' Hall, allowing free time to relax back at the hotel before boarding the overnight train to Luxor this evening.

Please Note: the Grand Egyptian Museum is set to open late 2021. An official date has yet to be released. If travelling prior to the opening of the new facility we'll visit the Egyptian Museum instead. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 4 : Luxor & Dendera



We arrive into Luxor this morning and drop our bags off at the hotel. There's time to freshen up in the hotel lobby before we drive to Dendera, which is one of Egypt's best preserved temple complexes, located 60km north of Luxor. This vast complex covers 40,000 square metres and its temples, chapels and shrines were gradually built over

thousands of years. Dendera's crowning glory is the 2000 year old Temple of Hathor with its exquisitely decorated ceiling, adorned with astronomical representations. After our guided tour of this incredible site we return to Luxor where you can spend the afternoon at leisure, relaxing by the pool.

This evening at 5.30pm there is an optional visit to the Temple of Luxor available. The excursion is booked/paid locally at approx. USD\$25pp including entrance fees and buffet dinner. Luxor Temple is a strikingly beautiful piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenhotep III, and was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. The temple comprises a striking array of great halls, courts, splendid columns and colonnades decorated with colossal statues of great pharaohs including Ramses II. An obelisk, one of a pair, remains at the temple. Its towering counterpart now stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris, France. At night the temple is beautifully illuminated with powerful lights, making the temple all the more evocative as the artificial light creates an eerie spectacle as shadow and light play off the colossal statues and reliefs.

For those not opting for the optional excursion, there is time to relax and go for dinner. As we have an early start tomorrow, you might want to retire early but if you have energy there are plenty of bars and late night entertainment options available at all the big hotels.

Overnight - Luxor (B)

Day 5 : Valley of the Kings



4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its very best and this morning we visit Luxor's famous West Bank. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. The

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Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs. Some of the best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Discovered intact in 1922 by Howard Carter, it was possibly one of the most dazzling archaeological finds ever. King Tutankhamen's solid gold funerary mask and his priceless cache of treasures entombed with him for his journey to the afterlife are now on display at the world famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In all, more than 60 tombs have been excavated, though possibly the greatest find since the tomb of King Tutankhamen is that of the largest tomb believed to be the burial place of more than 50 sons of Ramses II. So far, more than 110 chambers and corridors have been discovered, coupled with 4 mummies!

Note: The Valley of the Kings ticket includes entry to 3 tombs. A subset of the 64 tombs at the site are open at any point in time and your guide will offer advice on the best ones to visit on the day. The tomb of King Tutankhamen is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit.

Beyond the Valley of the Kings we visit the Valley of the Queens and Deir al- Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain in a series of terraces, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments. Hatshepsut, the 3rd Queen ever to rule ancient Egypt, eventually declared herself a pharaoh. The last stop we make before leaving the West Bank is to see the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which is all that remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

A short stop will be made at an Alabaster workshop. Stone carving is a trade that has existed on the West Bank since pharaonic times and the trade has been passed on generation after generation. For most residents of the West Bank this is their sole trade and income.

Returning to the East Bank around midday, we have a chance to relax by the pool for a while. Meeting up mid-afternoon, we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak. More than

a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. Karnak is gigantic in proportion at over 1.5km by 800m and almost every pharaoh left his (or her) mark here with evolving artistic and architectural styles.

Overnight - Luxor (B)

Day 6 : Luxor

Friday. Our tour comes to an end today with a transfer to Luxor Airport to meet your onward flight. Alternatively we can book post tour accommodation, so you can further explore Luxor's abundance of antiquity's.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony (not Nile View as standard) and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel's bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you'll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there's no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt's ancient wonders.



Sleeper Train

When travelling on an overnight train in Egypt, sleeper carriages offer the highest level of comfort. Cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points and air conditioning. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. The carriages have toilets at each end and there is a club car which serves snacks and beverages. In the morning a very basic breakfast is provided.



Steigenberger Nile Palace

The Steigenberger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.



Sonesta St. George Hotel

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.

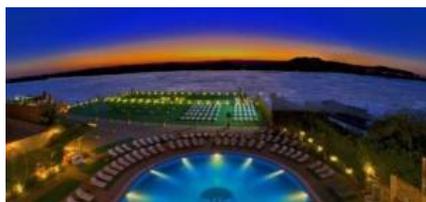
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Groups & Guides

Groups: The longest Signature Tour we offer that travellers to Dendera is our Cairo, Cruise & Coast – 13 days. All other tours in the region are sectors or parts of this larger tour. As such on your holiday you will not be with the exact same group of people from start to end. Travellers may join you part way through your tour, there may also be travellers who end their tour when you continue on.

Guides: We believe the best way to see a country is through the eyes of a local and as such we only employ tour guides native to the country you are visiting. Our guides are passionate, caring, knowledgeable and fun, and by travelling with a local you to get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes. In Egypt it is likely you will have 2 tour guides (both Egyptologists) for the duration of your tour.

Optional Add-ons

If you have opted to extend your stay or enhance your holiday with one of our add-ons, please note:

Alexandria day trip - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm. Entrance fees are payable locally by you, budget approx USD\$18.

Alexandria & El Alamein - 4 days - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm. Entrance fees are payable locally by you, budget approx USD\$18.

Backstreets of Cairo - departs 10am, day 1 and returns to your hotel at 5pm. Entrance fees included.

For further information about Add-ons, please refer to our website: www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Tour-Add-ons

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance fees

Entry fees to sites of antiquity are not included, although reasonably priced. In

Egypt, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document). A breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival. Entrance fees and optional excursions that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency - Egyptian Pounds (EGP).

Tours that travel onwards:

To Jordan - Entrance fees in Jordan are payable at the Welcome Meeting in Jordan, in Jordanian Dinar (JD).

To Israel - On our *Pyramids Petra Promised Lands* tour, entrance fees are included.

Tip kitty

At the start of your tour we will collect a tip kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, antiquity guards, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour. Your tip kitty in Egypt is collected in Egyptian Pounds (EGP).

If you are travelling to Jordan, the tip kitty for this part of your holiday is collected in Jordanian Dinar (JD). If you are travelling to Israel we do not collect a tipping kitty.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we suggest USD\$5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Travelling by overnight Train

For journeys between Cairo and Aswan and/ or Luxor on our Signature tours, and from Luxor to Cairo on our Budget tours, we utilise the overnight 1st class sleeper train service (excludes *Treasures of the Nile* tour). The train cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points, air conditioning and are lockable. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. A simple dinner and breakfast is included on the service. The dinner that is served within an hour of boarding is of a very average standard,

so we recommend that you eat dinner prior to boarding. A basic breakfast is served in the morning and tea and coffee is offered complimentary. Toilets are located at the end of each carriage and a bar carriage is located toward the centre of the train where hot and cold beverages can be purchased, and sometimes alcohol.

The sleeper train is the highest class of rail travel available in Egypt, though by western standards it would be considered of a moderate standard. We always request cabins to be side by side in the same carriage, though ultimately the location of our cabins, and whether they are together rests with the rail authority.

If you are a solo traveller and have opted to share a room for your tour and not pay the single supplement you will be sharing a cabin with another On The Go traveller, or if this isn't possible, a member of the public (of the same gender).

Egypt Country Guide

Welcome to Egypt - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours PRIOR to immigration. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative who will fast track you through the immigration queue. Please have your Tour Voucher handy and make it available to our representative. Our representative will assist you with your luggage and escort you to our vehicle, where you will wave goodbye and be transferred to your hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Egypt is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the

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traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Egypt.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about Egyptian visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Visas

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Tap water is not safe to drink in Egypt, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Towel for the felucca (if applicable to your chosen tour)
- Lightweight cotton garments
- Comfortable walking shoes. Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling on the felucca, or if travelling onto Jordan. If travelling by felucca you can opt to only bring a sleep sheet and hire a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD\$15 (total) for the 2 night stay from our felucca crew
- If doing a felucca cruise or travelling between November and March, pack warm

clothes (i.e. fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night

It's not like home, what to expect & Ramadan

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for what to wear, local customs, currency, WiFi, Ramadan and other helpful information to prepare you for your holiday.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier, as such we will start our tour earlier to make the best use of time and itineraries may be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. NOTE: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are: 2 Apr – 1 May 2022 & 22 Mar - 20 Apr 2022 (approx)

Shopping in Egypt

For those that enjoy shopping, Egypt is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. Top buys include - perfume concentrate, rugs, backgammon boards, shisha pipes, Egyptian cotton clothing and authentic papyrus. When bartering for

goods, set your budget, don't be swayed and remember the caveat – 'let the buyer beware.'

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Camera fees

At some sites there is an additional fee for use of a camera or video. Camera/video (not professional) fees range between USD \$3–30 per site. There is no fee for taking photographs at the Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara. The cost for using camera inside Valley of the Kings (though not permitted inside the tombs) is approx. USD\$20. The cost for photographing the treasures inside the Egyptian Museum is generally USD\$6.

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