

Best of Egypt for Teenagers

8 days | Cairo to Luxor



Take in the highlights of Egypt with your family on this 8 day tour including the legendary pyramids, Valley of the Kings, a camel ride to the medieval Monastery of St Simeon and a relaxing overnight cruise aboard a traditional Nile felucca. Suited to families with teens aged 12 and over.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Cairo – See the treasures of the Egyptian Museum and visit the famous cave church of Saint Simon
- The Great Pyramids – Gaze in awe at this ancient Wonder of the World and the iconic Sphinx
- Aswan – Travel like the locals as you enjoy a camel ride to St Simeon's Monastery
- Felucca sailing – Board a traditional Egyptian sailing boat and travel down the mighty Nile to Kom Ombo
- Luxor – Discover the resting place of the pharaohs at the Valley of the Kings and see the Temple of Hatshepsut
- Karnak Temple – Admire the Avenue of Sphinxes and explore the giant columns of Hypostyle Hall

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
- 5 nights 4-5 star hotels and 1 night aboard a felucca (open deck)
- 1 night overnight train Cairo to Aswan (private 2 berth sleeper cabin) including meals
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 8
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide, degree qualified in Egyptology
- Touring - Cairo, Giza, Aswan, Kom Ombo and Luxor
- Guided excursions to the Pyramids of Giza, Egyptian Museum, Philae Temple, Aswan Market, Kom Ombo Temple, the Valley of the Kings and Karnak Temple
- Camel ride in Aswan
- Guided motorboat and tour of Elephantine Island
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$30-40pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$70-90pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Gratuity for your tour guide. We recommend USD\$25-35 per adult for the

entire tour. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Sunday. Welcome to Cairo! On arrival at Cairo airport you'll be met by our representative and transferred to our hotel, before spending the rest of the day at leisure with your family. For those arriving a day or two earlier, one of our team will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. Day 1 is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements today. **Overnight - Cairo**

Day 2 : Cairo sightseeing



After breakfast and our Welcome Meeting, today's full-day guided excursion begins with a visit to the Egyptian Museum, where you'll see important Egyptian artefacts including the famous golden mask of Tutankhamun. For

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a small fee you can visit the Royal Mummy Room, where the mummies of important pharaohs including Ramses II lie fantastically preserved, with hair and fingernails still intact and battle wounds visible on their bodies. Later, walk around the City of the Dead - an Islamic cemetery in the middle of the bustling city, to the Sayeda Nafesa mosque. This afternoon discover the famous cave church of Saint Simon. This unusual church, built inside the cave itself, has a capacity of 20,000 - making it one of the largest churches in the Middle East. Following today's tour, we'll return to the hotel where you'll be free to spend this evening as you please. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 3 : The Great Pyramids and the Sphinx



Cairo - Aswan. Today's half-day guided tour will visit Egypt's most famous site, the legendary Pyramids of Giza and the iconic Sphinx. Marvel at these ancient tombs, built thousands of years before the development of sophisticated technology. The largest of the pyramids, Cheops, was the tallest man-made structure on Earth for 3,800 years. If you're feeling brave you may opt to go inside one of the pyramids. This afternoon offers free time to use the hotel facilities to freshen up (not rooms as we will have checked out earlier today) and have dinner before boarding the overnight train to Aswan.

About an hour after leaving Cairo you will be served a light dinner on board the train. The meal is of a very average standard and is our recommendation to eat before. Tomorrow morning you'll be served a light breakfast consisting of mostly bread rolls and cake. You may wish to purchase something more substantial before you leave Cairo. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 4 : Aswan and Elephantine Island



Arrive in Aswan this morning and transfer to our hotel to freshen up using the lobby facilities. After we visit Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. In the 1960s, a UNESCO project relocated the entire temple complex from its original location on Philae Island to the higher Agilkia Island, after the flooding of Lake Nasser.

Upon returning to Aswan we visit a perfume oil emporium. The use of essential and perfumed oils in Egypt dates back to 2700BC. Perfumed oils were used by women, pharaohs and by temple priests for worship who offered a melange of 6 perfumes called Kyphi to the Sun God at dawn, noon and dusk. At the perfumery, there's a million and one exquisite glass bottles filled with perfumed oils that make for a truly authentic Egyptian gift. For those that are not interested there is a supermarket nearby where you can use the opportunity to purchase snacks and incidentals.

Returning to our hotel we are able to check in and have lunch. This afternoon, enjoy a motorboat ride on the mighty Nile as we sail to Elephantine Island, shaped like an elephant's trunk. Discover the archaeological sites here and visit a local school (if open). After dinner we'll take a trip to the bustling Aswan market where you can enjoy the smells of local herbs and spices being traded by the merchants.

Overnight - Aswan (B, D)

Day 5 : Camel riding and sailing the Nile



Aswan - Nile felucca cruise. Rise early this morning and enjoy a half-day motorboat excursion to the West Bank, where you'll have the exciting opportunity to ride a camel over the rolling dunes to St Simeon's Monastery, before returning to the hotel. This afternoon we'll leave Aswan and board a felucca - a traditional Egyptian sail boat, comfortably adapted in order to carry our visitors. Enjoy some quality family time as we relax onboard, sitting on comfortable cushions to enjoy dinner, before settling down to sleep on deck, under the Egyptian night sky.

Feluccas are simple sailboats based on a unique design and have plied the mighty Nile since ancient times. Our feluccas are proudly owned and crewed by friendly local sailors and they have been adapted to comfortably carry our travellers. As feluccas are wind-powered, our itinerary cannot be rigidly defined. The felucca sails during the day, and prior to sundown, the anchor is dropped and we moor at the riverside for the night. The craft carries between 8-12 passengers comfortably and the deck is strewn with soft colourful cushions and rugs and equipped with a canopy that offers shade and protection from the elements. Nothing beats the experience of sleeping under a blanket of stars. You need to bring a towel with you and can opt to bring a sleeping bag/sleeping sheet if you wish, though we suggest hiring locally a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD\$15 for the night. Soft drinks, water and beer can be purchased aboard.

Before boarding the felucca, it is important you prepare a day bag - taking care to pack things you feel you'll need during the cruise,

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as your large bag will be placed below in below deck storage.

IMPORTANT: As a safety precaution, all minors (and any adult who can not swim) are required to wear a life jacket whilst the boat is sailing. Life Jackets can be taken off when the felucca is docked at shore. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Kom Ombo Temple and Luxor



Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo - Luxor. Disembark the felucca this morning as we drive to the famous symmetrical Kom Ombo Temple. This double temple was dedicated to the falcon god Horus and the crocodile god Sobek, and its two temples are perfectly identical. After our guided tour, we drive on to the 4,000-year-old city of Luxor - ancient Egypt at its very best. The later part of the afternoon and evening offer free time. If time permit you may wish to visit the Mummification Museum where you can see mummified animals including crocodiles and a ram?

Tonight, we offer an optional excursion to the Luxor Temple – illuminated by hundreds of lights, it looks dazzling at night. Book and pay locally, cost approx USD\$28 per person including dinner. **Overnight - Luxor** (B)

Day 7 : The Valley of the Kings



This morning we cross to the West Bank of the Nile for the day's touring. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. The first monument you'll see on the West Bank is the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated pharaoh's tombs, some of which you can enter. Some of the tombs are so well preserved; the colours of the incredible pharaonic friezes are still as vibrant as when they were first painted. The best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamun. If open, an additional entrance fee applies to visit King Tuts' tomb.

After the Valley of the Kings we visit Deir al- Bahri, otherwise known as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments.

A short stop will also be made at an Alabaster workshop. Stone carving is a trade that has existed on the West Bank since pharaonic times. Carving the stone is a trade passed on generation after generation, for most residents of the west bank and is their sole trade and income.

We return to our hotel around midday and the rest of the day is free to spend at leisure, relaxing by the pool or independently exploring.

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 Tutankhamun is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit. **Overnight - Luxor** (B)

Day 8 : Karnak Temple

Today your Egyptian adventure comes to an end. There's time this morning for a visit to the magnificent Karnak Temple, which took 1,500 years to complete. See the Avenue of Sphinxes and feel the power of the pharaohs as you explore the ancient pillars of Hypostyle Hall. We'll then return to the hotel before you're transferred to Luxor airport for your onward flight. Flights can be booked to depart after 1:30pm.(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.

Oasis Hotel

Just a stone's throw from the Pyramids, the Oasis Hotel is a classic Egyptian hotel with beautiful expansive gardens. Rooms are very spacious with comfortable beds and fantastic en suite facilities. Wi-Fi is available and the buffet breakfast offers a good spread. In the evening the outdoor pool and fountains are lit up making the restaurant and bar the perfect place to spend an evening sipping on a cold glass of beer.



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

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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.



Tolip Hotel

Set in manicured gardens, the Helnan Aswan is an elegant hotel with impressive views of the Nile. Guest rooms are spacious with modern interiors and located next to the beautiful pool. Wi-fi is available in the lobby and by the pool. There are also two restaurants and bars, a bowling alley, a swimming pool and a cinema. Why not relax by the pool before exploring the rest of Aswan.



Felucca Sailing

Feluccas are simple, traditional Egyptian sailboats that have plied the Nile since ancient times. Feluccas come in varying sizes and can sleep 20 persons comfortably. The boat's deck is draped with soft colourful cushions that serve as your lounging area during the day and as your sleeping area at night. Our felucca is equipped with a flush toilet and basin for hand washing. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag/sheet (or hire for a nominal cost) and a towel with you. The crew, as well as being experienced sailors, are responsible for the preparation of included meals which are served onboard.



Aracan Hotel

Offering a prime location in the centre of Luxor, this 4-star hotel is close to top attractions including the Luxor Museum and Luxor Temple. Surrounded by manicured gardens, the contemporary-style guestrooms are well-equipped with air conditioning, a minibar and a balcony overlooking the garden or River Nile. Guests can enjoy a rich breakfast, lunch and dinner in the sunlit restaurant or outdoors by the resort style pool. There you'll also find a poolside bar and sun deck, so you can enjoy a cocktail or two as you soak up the rays.



Travelling with Teens

Our tours with Teens are perfect for parents travelling with teenagers (aged 12-18) as they offer a combination of exciting and adventurous experiences in far flung destinations around the world, and are perfectly timed to coincide with school holidays. When travelling on our dedicated Teens tours, there may be the chance for teens to socialise with people their own age and make new friends, whilst also enjoying precious time with the entire family. .

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.

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

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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 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

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breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are: 12 Apr – 11 May 2021 (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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