

# Egyptian Family Adventure

9 Days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



*Pharaohs, pyramids, tombs, camel riding, boating on the Nile and a visit to a village school. Combine this with plenty of free time to swim and relax by your hotel pool. A tour designed for children aged 5 and over that is fun and educational holiday for all the family.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo – Discover the treasures of the Egyptian Museum and barter at the Khan el-Khalili bazaar
- The Great Pyramids – Enjoy a tour of this legendary Ancient Wonder of the World and gaze at the iconic Sphinx
- Aswan – Sail the Nile to Elephantine Island aboard a traditional felucca sailboat and visit a local school
- Monastery of St Simeon - Ride a camel across the rolling desert sands to this 7th century monastery
- Luxor - Uncover the tombs of pharaohs at the Valley of the Kings and explore the vast Karnak Temple complex
- Kom Ombo - Visit the perfectly symmetrical Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo and see a mummified crocodile

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- 7 nights 4-5 star hotels
- 1 overnight train from Cairo to Aswan (private 2 berth sleeper cabin) including meals
- Economy flight from Luxor to Cairo
- Aswan - Camel ride to St Simeon's Monastery
- Felucca sailing on the Nile and visit to Elephantine Island
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 9
- Touring - Cairo, Giza, Aswan 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
- Escorted by 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: Adult / Child USD\$30-40pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: Adult USD\$80-100pp / Child USD\$40-50pp, 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

Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go. 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. Exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins!

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 one is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. **Overnight - Cairo**

### Day 2 : The Egyptian Museum



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This morning we join for our guide for a Welcome Meeting before heading to the world famous Egyptian Museum. A mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities (some 100,000 relics) from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history are housed in the museum, located in central Cairo, making it one of the foremost in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the solid gold funerary mask of King Tutankhamun. Made of solid gold and weighing 11kg, the mask was found covering the head of mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi. In addition, there are the dazzling worldly possessions found by Howard Carter in the king's tomb, on display.

For a small price you can also go view the Royal Mummies. The Royal Mummy Room houses the mummified bodies of some of Egypt's most illustrious kings and queens, who ruled Egypt between 1552 and 1069 BC. They include King Ramses II, his father Seti I, Tuthmosis II and Queen Meret Amun (wife of Amenhotep I). They lie in individual glass cases kept at a constant temperature of 22 C. Some of the mummies are so well preserved, they still have thick locks of hair, visible finger nails and smooth, if blackened skin!

This afternoon we tour the Islamic Citadel of Saladin and the city's famous and buzzing Khan al- Khalili bazaar, whose shops and stalls groan under the weight of pharaonic souvenirs, belly-dancing costumes, spices and more. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 3 : The Pyramids of Giza

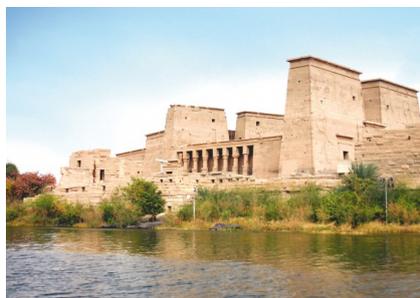


Cairo - Aswan. After a good night's rest, we start our day with an exciting visit to the famous pyramids and iconic Sphinx at the Giza Plateau. Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were built by a highly skilled corps of mathematicians,

masons, surveyors and stonecutters. About 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in the construction of Cheops. We explore this area on foot and there's the opportunity to venture inside one of the great pyramids.

The afternoon is free to relax by the hotel pool with your family or independently explore Cairo before we take the comfortable overnight sleeper train to Aswan. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, D)**

## Day 4 : Aswan & the Philae Temple



This morning we arrive into Aswan and take a boat out to Agilika Island to visit the beautiful Philae Temple. 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.

The rest of the day is free for you to relax, enjoy the hotel facilities or take a stroll along the riverside corniche and explore. This evening, we'll visit the Aswan market and enjoy the smells of herbs and spices being sold by the local tradespeople. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

## Day 5 : Felucca Sailing & Elephantine Island



Enjoy a sailing trip aboard a traditional felucca (small wooden sailing boat) as we cruise the mighty Nile to Elephantine Island this morning. During our guided walk of the island discover many archaeological sites and pay a visit to a local school (if open) before enjoying lunch and some family time back on board.

This afternoon is free for you to spend at leisure – why not participate in our optional excursion to the Nubian Museum? The museum is home to more than 3,000 artefacts and scale models from across Egypt's ancient history, from the Pharaohs to the Romans. **Overnight - Aswan (B, L)**

## Day 6 : Camel riding & Kom Ombo



Aswan – Luxor. Today begins with a motorboat ride across the Nile where we enjoy an exciting camel ride across rolling sand dunes to the 7th century St Simeon's Monastery. Later today, we'll drive to Luxor, stopping en route at the famous double temple of Kom Ombo, which is perfectly symmetrical and dedicated to the crocodile headed god - Sobek. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

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## Day 7 : Luxor & 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.

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.

We return to the East Bank around midday, where there's time to relax by the hotel pool with your family. Meeting up mid afternoon, we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak. Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks and the vast Hypostyle Hall with its gargantuan columns has to be seen to be believed, it's a great place play hide and seek with the kids!

Spend the evening at leisure, or you may wish to join our optional tour of the beautiful Luxor Temple, brilliantly illuminated by hundreds of lights at night. Book and pay locally, cost approx USD\$28 per person including dinner.

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 : Luxor to Cairo



Luxor - Cairo. This morning we leave Luxor, transfer to the airport and fly back to Cairo, where you can enjoy the rest of the day relaxing at the hotel pool with your family or exploring as you please. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 9 : Farewell

Sunday. Today your Egyptian adventure comes to an end - after breakfast we'll transfer you and your clan to the airport for your onward flight.(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 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.



### Le Meridien Heliopolis

Just a short drive from Cairo's Old Town and international airport, the 5-star Le Meridien Heliopolis combines comfort with convenience. The guest rooms are spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television and a minibar, plus there's complimentary WiFi throughout the property. Dining options include a choice of four on-site restaurants, serving Egyptian and international cuisine. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment and cocktails at The 51 Bar. During the warmer months hotel guests can take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax on a sun lounger on the terrace. There's also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.



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## Sonesta Hotel Cairo

The Sonesta Hotel & Casino is a sophisticated and luxurious hotel offering spacious, en-suite rooms with opulent furnishings. Enjoy a cocktail at the poolside bar or indulge in a relaxing massage or Turkish steam bath at the full-service spa. With 5 restaurants located within the hotel you'll be spoilt for choice over dining options.



## 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.



## 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 sun-lit 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.



## Groups & Guides

**Groups:** The longest Family Tour we offer in Egypt is our Egyptian Family Adventure & Red Sea – 13 day tour. All other family tours in Egypt 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. There will 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 get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes. All arrangements in Egypt are conducted by qualified Egyptologist tour guides and it's likely that you will have 2 tour guides within the duration of your holiday.

## 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](http://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

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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](http://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](http://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](http://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: 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

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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.