

New Egypt Unplugged - 11 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



Starts July 2012 Pyramids, temples and the Valley of the Kings, combined with four days of blissful Red Sea relaxation in Dahab. Consider extending your stay with a 5 day bolt-on to Jordan and the rose red City of Petra!

- 2 overnight seater trains, Cairo - Luxor & Luxor - Cairo. Upgrade available
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor
 4 days Dahab - Red Sea Stay
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 11
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$30-50 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$60-80 USD
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! 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! Upon 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 than day one of the tour, 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 : Pyramids of Giza & Saqqara

Cairo – Luxor. After a good nights rest, we have a full day of touring planned for today. You'll need to have your bags packed as we'll be travelling down to Luxor in southern Egypt tonight.

Our first stop this morning is the famous pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greeklisted 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 (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stonecutters did the job of building the Pyramids. 100,000 slaves were used to carry out the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops. About 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in the construction of Cheops. Leaving the Pyramids of Giza, we'll sometimes drop into a Government supervised papyrus emporium. Here, you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices.

Continuing to the necropolis of Saqqara, we can explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zoser's step pyramid- constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC! We later journey to Luxor by overnight seater train. An option to upgrade to sleeper train cabin is available, please see our webiste or brochure for details. **Overnight - Train (B)**

Day 3 : Explore Ancient Thebes



Luxor. Arrive and check into our hotel. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza Plateau
- Necropolis of Saqqara
- Egyptian Museum
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Dahab - Red Sea coast - swim, relax, opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 8 nights 4 - 5 star hotels

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updated on 18-01-2012



it's best. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. Tonight, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor. The excursion is payable locally. The Luxor Temple, a strikingly graceful piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenophis III, was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. The temple comprises a striking array of great halls, courts and colonnades decorated with colossal statues of great pharaohs including Ramses II and splendid columns. An obelisk, one of a pair, remains at the temple. Its towering counterpart now stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris, France. Visiting at night makes for a cooler visit weather-wise, though more importantly the temple is beautifully illuminated with powerful lights, making a visit 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 have something to eat. 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 available at all the big hotels. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

Day 4 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Cairo. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. Sightseeing on the West Bank is far more enjoyable if undertaken in the cooler temperatures of the morning. After breakfast, we meet at reception early before our drive to the mighty West Bank.

Even in the morning, the temperatures start to increase at the Valley of the Kings. For this reason we suggest that you take a large bottle of drinking water to satiate your inevitable thirst. Vendors charge outlandish sums for cold drinks at this important archaeological site that is an obvious draw-card to tourists! 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. Further highlights include the legendary Valley of the Kings, and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. The 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 represented 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!

Beyond the Valley of the Kings is Deir al-Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces partly rockcut, partly freestanding, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments. Hatshepsut, the 3rd Queen ever to rule ancient Egypt eventually declared herself pharaoh! We return to the east bank around midday, where we have a chance to relax awhile.

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. Gigantic in proportion, at over 1.5km by 800m and the fact that almost every pharaoh left his (or her) mark here with evolving artistic and architectural styles. The further into the complex you venture the further back in time you go. There's time for R&R by the pool this afternoon, before returning to Cairo by overnight seater train. Sleeper train upgrade available. **Overnight - Train (B)**

Day 5 : Egyptian Museum



Arriving to Cairo, we set off on a guided tour of the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, commonly referred to as the Egyptian Museum. The museum is home to an extensive collection of some 120 000 ancient Egyptian antiquities, with a representative amount on display, the remainder in storerooms. Opt to visit the Royal Mummy Room, where 9 royal mummies from the New Kingdom is displayed.

The discovery, by eminent archaeologist Howard Carter of King Tutankhamen's treasure-filled tomb at the Valley of the Kings in 1922 is one of the archaeological world's greatest finds. The Egyptian Museum offers an exhibition dedicated to the showcasing of the treasures found in the boy King's tomb, along with the prize exhibit which has to be the priceless funerary treasures of King Tutankhamen, including his legendary solid gold death mask. This afternoon we offer an optional

Cairo City tour for those interested. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 6 : Dahab



Cairo - Dahab. Today we cross the Suez Canal and travel onto Dahab, (approx 7 hours drive) located on the Red Sea. Dahab has developed from a hippy village to a respected haven with a solid infrastructure for SCUBA divers, snorkellers and travellers seeking sun, sea and relaxation. The waterfront is dotted with laid back cafes, bars and shops, perfect for eating, drinking or relaxing with a little retail therapy. You've 4 whole days to do as you please. **Overnight - Dahab (B)**

Days 7-9 : Dahab & beyond



Dahab offers great diving, snorkelling, swimming and sun-worshipping possibilities. Indeed, there is an optional excursion to the awesome Blue Hole, which is good for snorkelling. An energetic optional excursion to the summit of Mt Sinai and St Katherine's Monastery is available (book locally). The climb commences in the early hours of the morning and experiencing the magnificent sunrise atop a mountain is a truly great experience. During winter (01 Oct - 30 Mar) we offer this as a sunset trek, visiting St. Katherine's Monastery before climbing the mountain to witness a glowing red sunset.

Dahab waterfront is dotted with relaxed cafes, bars and shops, perfect for eating, drinking and a little relaxing retail therapy.

If you'd like to extend your stay in Dahab, consider our Red Sea Dive Learn to Dive bolt on or perhaps travel to Jordan with our Petra & Wadi Rum bolt on! See our website or call for details. **Overnight - Dahab (B:3)**

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Day 10 : Cairo - free time



Dahab - Cairo. After a leisurely breakfast we return to Cairo. The remainder of the day and evening offer free to enjoy Cairo your way. You can enjoy the remains of the day shopping and exploring Cairo. Perhaps take a cab to Cairo's Khan al-Khalili bazaar and enjoy a few hours wandering through the many alleyways. It's a top spot for the purchase of ornate free-standing tobacco pipes, pharaonic tat, belly dancing costumes, spices and carpets.
Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 11 : Cairo

Friday. Cairo - breakfast. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to airport.
(B)

NYE Hotel Supplement - 24 dec & 26 dec 2012 tours

All hotels on New Year's Eve charge a compulsory New Year's dinner supplement. Tours departing on 24 Dec 2012 and 26 Dec 2012 will be staying at a hotel in Dahab. The New Years dinner cost is payable by you locally, (collected on day 2 of your tour with your entrance fees and tip kitty) budget approx: USD\$70.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt. Visa forms are available from us. The Embassy of Egypt advises all travellers to procure their visa prior to entry into Egypt. However it still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport.

Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, on the go cannot be held responsible.

All RSA passport holders must procure their Egyptian visa prior to departure.

When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use the following address: 68 Merghany St, Abou Ghaly Building Heliopolis, Cairo. Telephone: +2 02 241821 65

If your holiday incorporates a stay in Jordan, followed by further arrangements in Egypt (ie you travel to Jordan and then return to Egypt) you will

need to procure a Multiple Entry Egyptian Tourist Visa that is only available before travelling to Egypt.

Please note that visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

If travelling with us from Egypt to Jordan via Aqaba Seaport (the Jordanian port of entry if arriving from Egypt) a Jordanian Tourist Visa is obtainable upon arrival, free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders. For all other nationalities please check with your local Jordanian Embassy. On departure from Jordan, via land or sea, a 5JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors.

Etiquette

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Egypt. In return, please demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the local customs. Egypt is a Muslim country; so care should be taken to dress respectfully in large cities and towns, for example, when at markets and in public places.

- Ladies should avoid wearing 'clingy, tight or suggestive' attire, and stick to cool, flowing, cottons in busy city areas and markets
- Take care to dress conservatively and ensure that limbs are covered and remove footwear prior to entering a mosque.
- Ex-military style clothing should not be worn
- Ask permission before taking photographs of people.
- Beach attire is fine on board felucca cruises, at beach resorts or touristic areas i.e. at the Pyramids.
- Particular respect should be shown to Muslim women.
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

Mosques, Religion & Ramadan

90% of the population are Muslim. Others are Coptic Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques (with the exception of Sayyida Zeinab and Al-Hussein in Cairo) are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. For Egypt's best mosques, go to Islamic Cairo. Dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

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. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially

toward the time of breaking the fast.. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -
21 July - 20 August 2012
09 July - 07 August 2013

Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan, so our itinerary is slightly altered to ensure we visit all itinerary attractions. Non Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. Ramadan

Trouble Shooting

These things will most likely never happen, but it's good to be prepared if they ever do. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free. Egypt is no worse than anywhere else when it comes to crime. The biggest problem seems to be petty theft, including pick-pocketing and bag snatching. Minimise your chances of being robbed with these tips:

- Leave valuables in the hotel safe deposit or better still, at home
- Carry your passport on your person or a photocopy as ID
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female
- Don't catch cabs late at night on your own
- Never drink anything offered to you in the street, unless you opened it yourself

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

It's not like home

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.

Climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers for the cooler evenings. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt's Mediterranean coastline.

Health Requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in

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the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

Currency

Egyptian Pounds (EGP or LE). Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged. You can obtain Egyptian Pounds (LE) at any major bank or your hotel. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations.

- USD 1 = EGP 6.0
- GBP 1 = EGP 9.3
- AUD 1 = EGP 6.0
- EURO 1 = EGP 7.70

Holiday Money

All funds collected in Egypt for entrance fees or optional excursion that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency (EGP).

Time

Egypt is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Essential Packing

- Sleeping bag for the felucca or for camping in the White Desert (if applicable to your tour).
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor.
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Neck pillow, sleeping bag and eye mask, if travelling on the overnight seater train.
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us to Jordan and staying at our Wadi Rum camp.

If doing a felucca cruise, undertaking the Mt Sinai excursion in Dahab or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. – fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night. Due to sometimes icy conditions at the summit of Mt Sinai, hiking boots and thermal clothing are a sensible consideration if undertaking the optional climb in winter (November - March).

Arrival Transfers

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please

have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

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 to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Travelling by overnight train

SEATER TRAIN: On many of our group tours journeying south from Cairo to Aswan and/or Luxor, we utilise the overnight SEATER train service. This style of train offer basic and a modest level of comfort. Seating is reserved in air-conditioned Nefertiti Class or 1st Class Reserved seater wagons. Nefertiti style seats are located within 6 person, semi enclosed cabins. Whilst seats don't recline, the lights can be switched off inside your cabin. While 1st Class Reserved wagons are open, lights can not be turned off though the seats are wide and do recline. It is suggested you bring some ear plugs and also an eye mask for personal comfort. A neck pillow is also good idea, for a little added comfort. Rest rooms (which are very basic in standard) are located at the end of each wagon.

It is possible to upgrade to a sleeper cabin, reservations need to be made PRIOR to departure. Please ask your reservation consultant for more information.

Occasionally, the Nefertiti Class and the 1st Class Reserve train service are cancelled, in which case we would need to revert to a sleeper service at an additional cost to the passenger. You would be advised in Egypt, as although this occurrence is rare, there would be little notice offered.

SLEEPER TRAIN SERVICE, SLEEPER CABIN UPGRADE: On our Jewel of the Nile and Family tours we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. If you book our SLEEPER TRAIN UPGRADE this is also the service that you will be travelling on. Sleeper Train Cabins are equipped with 2 bunk beds with linen provided. Cabins are lockable, A/C and lighting are also controlled from the inside. Each cabin has a washbasin and small towel and western style bathrooms are located at the end of the carriage. Dinner and breakfast (of an average standard) are served throughout the journey.