



## tour spotlight

### what you see

- 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
- El Alamein - World War II Commonwealth War Cemetery
- Siwa oasis and village walking tour
- Siwa sights - Temple of the Oracle, Amun Temple and Cleopatra Spring
- Jeep safari - Great Sand Sea, golden sand dunes, hot springs, fossil ocean and Bir Wahed
- Marsa Matrouh - Mediterranean seaside & Libyan market
- Alexandria - Quat Bay Fort, Montazzah Palace, Library of Alexandria - forecourt, Catacombs, Pompeii's Pillar, National Museum.

### what you get

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- 3 nights 4 - 5 ★ hotels, 3 nights Siwan style hotel (4 ★ hotels), 3 nights 3 ★ hotels
- 2 nights train - Cairo to Luxor rtn (seater train) - upgrade possible!
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Siwa, Marsa Matrouh & Alexandria
- Bike ride tour of Siwa & swimming in natural springs
- 4x4 jeep safari into the Great Sand Sea
- Siwa - specialist local jeep drivers and local commentary
- Airport arrival and departure transfer - day 1 & 12
- Qualified Egyptologist guide day 1-5, English Speaking Egyptian tour leader days 6-12
- Private a/c transfers and transportation



## on location

### Your guide to on the ground...

#### visa requirements

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. It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Visas are your responsibility. Don't forget to check!

#### climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures are at industrial levels, so take sunscreen. 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.

#### time

Egypt is 2 hours ahead of GMT (+3hrs Apr - Sept)

#### money

GBP1=LE8.7, USD1=LE5.5, Euro1=LE7.5, AUD1=LE5

(subject to fluctuation). Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. If visiting Dahab, have a supply of cash on you as ATMs are more scarce.

#### health requirements

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

## how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**  
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately **USD90-110**
- **TIPPING**  
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route. **USD55-75**  
Your guide (total amount to cover 2 guides) **USD30-50**
- Mineral water ( 500ml or 1L) **LE5 or 10LE**
- Can of coke **LE2.75-5**
- Beer (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) **LE10-17**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local beer) **LE60-80**

## things to bring

- Camera with spare memory card/films
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the pyramids and Valley of the Kings
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and moneybelt

## top experiences

- Visit the spectacular pyramids in Giza - the world's oldest tourist attraction!
- Lose yourself in the gargantuan Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Karnak
- Take a step back in time and explore remote Siwa with it's ancient customs and traditions
- Take a hot air balloon ride of Luxor's West Bank
- Seeing the stunning Temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel
- Explore bustling Cairo, Africa's largest city





# beyond the pyramids: itinerary

## day 1 - cairo

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Cairo, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, 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! Our capable airport representative will streamline your arrival. You will then be transferred to your hotel in central Cairo. Dependent upon the hour of your arrival, Cairo traffic can be quite heavy and slow going. Roads can be crowded with cars, trucks, motorbikes, bicycles, donkeys, horses and people. The later it is in the day, the smoother the traffic flow. 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 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 - cairo

Cairo - Luxor - breakfast. 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 tonight. This morning entrance fees and tipping kitty will be collected from everyone. We then visit the famous pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek-listed Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction!

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! Later there will be a chance to have dinner before we journey to Luxor by overnight train. Option to upgrade to sleeper train cabins. See website or brochure for details. Overnight - train

## day 3 - luxor

Luxor - breakfast box. 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 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, is a stunning piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenophis III and was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. The temple comprises an amazing array of great halls, courts and colonnades decorated with colossal statues of great pharaohs including Ramses II and splendid columns. At night the temple is beautifully illuminated. Overnight - Luxor.

## day 4 - luxor

Luxor - Cairo - breakfast. 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 at the entrance to the Valley of the Kings, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs, some of which we can enter. Attempting to confound thieves and grave-robbers, the New Kingdom pharaohs awaiting their passage into the after-life were secretly entombed with their worldly wealth in the cliffs of the valley. After some exploration of the Valley of the Kings, we drive to the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut; rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces partly rock-cut, partly freestanding, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments.

This 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. Later this evening, we return to Cairo by train. Overnight - on board train

## day 5 - cairo

Cairo - breakfast. Arrive Cairo. Afternoon guided visit to the Egyptian Museum. A mind-

boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history are housed in the museum, making it one of the foremost in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the treasures and solid gold funerary mask of King Tutankhamen. Overnight - Cairo

## day 6 - siwa

Cairo - El Alamein - Siwa - breakfast. Starting early (7am) we drive North-west toward the Mediterranean coastline, to the World War II cemeteries of El Alamein. In 1942 the Allies under Britain's field Marshal Montgomery halted the German-Italian advance towards the River Nile. Marked as a major victory for the Allies, though not without loss of life, with some 11,000 killed and 60,000 wounded.

We visit the Commonwealth cemetery and recently erected memorials funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments. Through the arches and beyond the gardens, 7,000 white headstones commemorate the Australian, New Zealand and British soldiers who fought and died. Stopping for a light lunch in Marsa Matrouh we continue onward to Siwa. Evening walk and opportunity for dinner in a typical Siwan style restaurant. Light lunch and overnight - Siwa.

## day 7 - temple of the oracle

Siwa - breakfast. This morning we take a leisurely bicycle ride through the verdant date palm groves, visiting the local sights en route. Our first stop is the Temple of the Oracle - dating back to near 570BC, the Oracle has attracted pilgrims for years, and the most famous petitioner was Alexander the Great. Alexander visited Siwa in the spring of 331BC, seeking confirmation from the Oracle that he was the son of Zeus (whom the Greek's identified with Amun - the sun god and creator of all life in Pharaonic history) and therefore the legitimate ruler of Egypt and the lands he conquered. Unfortunately there is no record of the Oracle's response! The temple is a really spectacular sight and there are amazing views of the nearby Temple of Umm 'Ubayda and across the palm groves to the shimmering salt lakes.





# beyond the pyramids: itinerary

We cycle to Cleopatra Spring for a dip in the pool as the spring fed warm water bubbles to the surface. This afternoon is spent at leisure, there is an optional sunset dinner (book/pay locally - USD10) and you can enjoy swimming and a campfire at the 'Great Saltwater Lake'. Overnight - Siwa.

## day 8 - 4x4 safari

Siwa - breakfast. Today we visit Mountain of the Dead, also known as Tombs of Jebel Mawta. We explore the hill which is strewn with tombs of varying sizes, from the 26th Dynasty and Roman period. Continuing on to Old Shali - the old city abandoned in 1926 after 3 days of rain that literally melted the mud brick city! A hermetic labyrinth of secret corridors, homes, shops, granaries and mosques are all waiting to be explored.

In the afternoon we enjoy an exhilarating Desert Safari in 4x4 jeeps, bouncing across the massive sand dunes of the Great Sand Sea, stopping off at an amazing natural spring fed lake surrounded by miles of sandy desert. We also visit the site of an ancient ocean abundant with marine fossils and finish the day at a beautiful farm in the middle of the sand dunes, where we can swim in the bubbling hot springs of Bir Wahed and we'll enjoy a sunset dinner. Dinner and overnight - Siwa.

## siwa jeep safari

Our 4 x 4 Jeep safari through the great sand dunes of Siwa, is definitely an adventure! Climbing the massive corrugated steeps can be rough and tough and coming down more than a little hair rising. In undertaking the excursion we choose to use vehicles that are owned and driven by the residents of the Siwan community. Not only providing an income to the district, our drivers have plenty of local knowledge and years of experience in navigating their way through the ever changing sand dunes. The vehicles we use are typically strong and utilitarian. Common makes include older model 1980/1990 Jeep, Land Cruiser and Land Rover. Most vehicles are not fitted with

passenger restraints and as such extra care is warranted. The choice to partake in the excursion is solely of a personal preference.

## day 9 - marsa matrouh

Siwa - Marsa Matrouh - Alexandria - breakfast. An early start, we drive along the north coast to Marsa Matrouh. The city has a beautiful 7km long sandy beach and a large Libyan/Berber population distinctive in custom and dress. We stop for lunch, with time to visit the beach for a swim in the sea and time permitting we explore the Libyan souq before driving onward to Alexandria. We'll be on the road for approximately 9 hours today. Lunch and overnight - Alexandria.

## day 10 - alexandria

Alexandria - breakfast. The Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great and boasts an impressive seafront corniche, along which are dotted, cafes and restaurants, catacombs, souqs and relics from a bygone age. The morning is free to relax or explore.

This afternoon sightseeing includes, the Montazah Palace, home to King Farouk - the last monarch of the Mohamed Ali dynasty who abdicated and fled to Italy; the Fort at Quat Bay, which resembles a huge sand castle and Pharos - Alexandria's great lighthouse which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, towering 440 feet above the harbour. This evening we take a tram ride into the downtown area where you can indulge in a little retail therapy before enjoying a famous Alexandrian Fateer for dinner. Dinner & overnight - Alexandria

## day 11 - alexandria

Alexandria - Cairo - breakfast. Today we visit the huge underground necropolis of the Catacomb of Shouqafa, which lies beneath 200 year old houses. These second-century tombs have been extensively excavated since their rediscovery in 1900, when a donkey stepped through a thin part of

the roof! The catacombs were originally a private crypt but later used for Roman burials. There were three forms of burial there, sarcophagi, in shelves and in urns of ashes after cremation.

We continue on to view Pompeii's Pillar - the tallest ancient memorial column in Egypt, the National Museum and the Library of Alexandria. After lunch, we drive back to Cairo. Overnight - Cairo.

## day 12 - cairo

Saturday. Cairo - breakfast. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to airport or the start hotel of any subsequent **on the go** tour.

## about siwa

Siwa was isolated for centuries by the miles of rolling sand dunes and only became accessible by car in the 1980's when a road was built connecting it to Marsa Matrouh. This isolation has meant that Siwa retains centuries old customs and the residents remain largely untouched by the development of the modern world and indeed commercialised areas in Egypt. For this reason heightened sensitivity and respect is required when visiting Siwa. Siwan women are covered from head to toe at all times and sheer black fabric covers their faces. Therefore women travellers should show respect by keeping legs and upper arms covered at all times. When swimming it may be deemed necessary to wear a T-Shirt and shorts rather than bikini or swimming costume.

Please also remember to act appropriately, in a reserved manner; public shows of affection are frowned upon and it is forbidden to drink alcohol in public.

## note:

Entrance fees, tip kitty and optional activities purchased in Egypt are payable in Egyptian Pounds (EGP) only.

\*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



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