



EGYPT

Basic information courtesy of *ISRAMWORLD TOURS*

OVERVIEW

When traveling to Egypt, we suggest you consider these keys to a happy journey. Travel with an open mind - leave your prejudices at home. Travel with curiosity and imagination. Travel relaxed-make up your mind to have a good time. And above all, travel patiently. It takes time to understand others, especially where there are barriers of language and customs. Keep flexible and adaptable to all situations. We know you will have a wonderful time.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

EGYPT REQUIRES A VISA, together with a passport valid for 6 months from date of return. Visas will be issued upon arrival in Egypt for passengers holding a U.S. /Canadian passport. Passengers with other passports must obtain a visa in advance of arrival in Egypt through the Egyptian Consulate.

CREDIT CARDS

American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Diner's Club credit cards are accepted at hotels in Cairo. You will find them convenient to settle your hotel accounts at checkout time. U.S. Dollars and Traveler's Cheques are accepted in most stores in Cairo. Personal checks are usually not accepted. In Upper Egypt, cash is the accepted form of payment at shops.

CLIMATE

The climate in Egypt has been described as 95% sunny. The very dry and cool desert winds offer a pleasant contrast to the bright and sunny days. There are only six days of rain during the year. The summer months (June to August) can be fairly hot with strong sunshine. In the evening, however, there is a rapid and significant drop in temperature. All year, except for the winter months, the climate calls for lightweight clothing. Don't forget to take your hat and sunglasses on tour. Also, take a light wrap for the evenings. During the winter you'll need light woolen clothes. Most hotels offer good, quick dry cleaning and laundry services.

CLOTHING

Egypt is still a conservative country insofar as women are concerned. When visiting mosques, modest clothing should be worn (no shorts). Men require jackets at most luxury hotels and

resorts. Comfortable footwear is essential for sightseeing and shopping; keeping in mind that walking will be done on rough stone terrain at archaeological sites.

Nile Cruises: Dress code for the Buffet Dinner each night is elegant casual attire. You may choose from a simple dress or a native "galabaya. Men usually wear a jacket but it is not necessary. Don't overpack!

FOOD

In leading hotels and restaurants the food is usually clean and well prepared. However, reasonable caution should be exercised. Eat only food that has been cooked and fruits and vegetables that can be peeled.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND EQUIPMENT

Egypt is a paradise for photographers, but remember that the sun is deceptively bright, especially at sites of antiquity. At some sites, photography is not permitted, however, you will be able to take photos inside most of the tombs and temples. For this you will need a flash or high-speed film! You are not allowed to take pictures of military zones, bridges and public works installations or at certain strategic places, such as the Aswan Dam. (Your guide will show you where you can take photographs at the Dam site.) To photograph in the museum and inside tombs, one needs to pay an additional small fee. Bring all film and photographic equipment with you as these items are very expensive in Egypt and selections are limited.

DON'T FORGET TO PACK

- A pair of dark sunglasses
- Protective sunscreen
- Collapsible drinking cup and small thermos
- Copies of any medical prescriptions
- Small lightweight flashlight for visits to tombs and temples
- Wash 'n Dry Towelettes
- Insect repellent
- Soft foldable slippers for the plane
- Sewing Kit
- Very comfortable shoes
- Clothing which is crease-free and casual
- Packable tote bag for day trips (and overnight stays)
- Chapstick and moisturizer
- Extra pair of glasses/contacts
- De-caffeinated coffee pack
- Bathing Suit
- Travel Alarm

SIGHTSEEING

Departures from Cairo to Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel are very, very early in the morning in order to avoid touring during the extreme mid-day heat. Since touring in Egypt can be strenuous at times and does require a considerable amount of walking, it is recommended that tour participants be in good medical condition.

EGYPTAIR FLIGHTS

Egyptair service is erratic at best. Most flights to Upper Egypt depart very, very early in the morning. Often flight schedules change at the last minute without proper notice. Please be patient and flexible. Every effort is made to eliminate any unnecessary waiting time or long delays. Sometimes it is unavoidable and beyond our control.

COURTESIES

Egyptians long ago discovered the secret that a smile makes everything-and everyone-more pleasant. In your dealings with many Egyptians, the smile is almost always sincere. Always shake hands upon meeting someone - Egyptians will often salute informally with the right hand before and after the shake. Other courtesies include never photographing someone without first asking his or her permission. Egypt is one of the few Moslem countries in which non-Moslems are welcome to visit mosques. Be modestly dressed for your visit; remove your shoes before entering-an attendant will show you where to put them. It's better not to go to a mosque at prayer times or on Friday, the Moslem Sabbath. If a few people are praying when you visit, avoid walking directly in front of them, and be careful not to disturb the tranquility of the place. The many small children you will meet during your travels are enchanted by American items. You can make new friends and see many smiling faces by bringing along pens, individual packets of candy, bubble gum and of course, small change.

TIPPING - THE PRINCIPLE

The world of tourism relies heavily on personal services. This truth has fashioned tipping into a universal practice. The very term is an acronym which stands for the words "to improve performance." For a large segment of the industry, it is an important component in the total compensation of employees. We ask that you keep this in mind when you travel through Egypt. Our staff, particularly our Tour Managers, are the finest in Egypt and the very best available. As you will learn, to your own delight, they bring to their profession vast knowledge, work experience and personal dignity that is truly unique. The amount that you compensate them with at the end of your tour will truly be an indication of your appreciation and will tell them that their efforts to make your stay in Egypt was indeed rewarding for you.

Suggested Tipping (Per Person)

Driver \$2.00 per day

Tour Guide/Escort \$8.00-\$10.00 per day

Nile Cruise Staff \$5.00 per day

Local Guide \$5.00 per day

Transfer men \$3.00 per transfer

INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase adequate guaranteed comprehensive travel insurance before departure. Neither Isram Travel nor your travel agent is responsible for loss or damage to luggage, accidents en route or ill health that may require you to miss part of your trip or your return to the U.S.A. with the group.