



EGYPT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Dear Traveler,

Our experienced staff of Egypt specialists takes pride in providing you with the very best in service and planning. We offer the best quality tours at the most affordable prices. We hope you will have a wonderful trip!

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:

1. International Airline tickets and US Domestic Tickets (if applicable)
(Note: your Egypt domestic flight tickets may not be enclosed in this package. These may be issued locally and given to you by Ritz Tours representatives in Egypt)
2. Your Flight Schedule
3. Day-by-day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
4. Vouchers (if applicable)
5. Ritz Tours Badge
6. Luggage Tag
7. A copy of "Egypt: Know Before You Go"
8. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)
9. Questionnaire / Feedback Form

Upon arrival in Egypt, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Customs area, please look for a Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a Ritz Tours flag or a sign. Please make sure that you wear your Ritz Tours' badge for easy identification.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guides, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their utmost to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation and also constitute a large part of their monthly income. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (US dollars):

- \$10 per person per day to be distributed between the tour manager, local guides, drivers, cruise personnel, and hotel porters

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your partner in travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours.

We wish you Bon Voyage!



EGYPT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel Documentation

- ❖ A passport is required to enter Egypt. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip.
- ❖ An entry visa is required for all tourists entering Egypt. Prior to departure, please ensure that you have obtained your Egypt entry visa.
- ❖ To obtain a 30-day single entry tourist visa with validity of 6 months from the issuance date, you must have a valid passport, two color passport photos size 2" x 2" and completed Egypt visa (available at www.ritztours.com)
- ❖ Enclose a \$45 check payable to "Ritz Tours" and mail your original passport, two color passport photos size 2" x 2" and completed Egypt visa application form to Ritz Tours at least 45 days prior to departure
- ❖ Alternatively you may obtain a 30 day tourist visa on your own prior to departure or upon arrival at an Egyptian airport for a \$15 fee, payable in US dollars

Money Matters

The unit of Egyptian currency is Egyptian Pound (E£ or LE), called *Guinay* in Arabic. The Pound is divided into 100 piasters. Banknotes come in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200. Exchange currency at authorized changers only. These are available in all airports, most hotels and large shopping areas.

- ❖ **Credit Cards:** Most credit cards are accepted at a growing number of shops, restaurants and hotels in Egypt's major cities.
- ❖ **Banks & ATMs:** All major banks have branches and ATMs in most towns and cities in Egypt. A list of these locations can be found on your bank's official website.

As of November 2010, the following exchange rates apply: US \$1 = 5.76 EGP

Language

The official language is Arabic. Other foreign languages, such as English, French, German, Italian and Spanish are widely spoken as well.

Geography

Egypt lies at the crux of Africa and the Middle East, and is bordered by Sudan in the South, Libya in the West, and Israel in the East. The southern area by Luxor and Aswan is known as "Upper Egypt", as the Nile flows from here "down" through the capital city, Cairo, to the Mediterranean Sea near Alexandria.

Egypt Customs Procedures

In addition to personal effects, foreign visitors are allowed to import 2 liters of alcohol, 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 200g of tobacco and any amount of foreign currency. There is a limit of 1000 Egyptian Pounds that you bring into or take out Egypt. It is necessary to fill out a declaration form if valuable goods such as jewelry or electronic devices are imported. It is restricted to take Egyptian antiques out of the country unless they are replicas.

Health & Medical Matters

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of persons traveling from or via an infected area. Please consult with your health-care provider for information about travel vaccinations and any existing medical/dental conditions. If you are taking prescription medication, please pack in your hand luggage sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip and make sure it is clearly labeled. Be cautious when in the sun, which often feels cooler than it really is due to the cool coastal breezes and lack of humidity. Be sure to drink plenty of water when staying outside during the day. In case of illness during your trip, please immediately notify your tour manager and local guide for assistance.

Food & Drinks

Fine meals as are included in Egypt as specified in your itinerary. Egyptian cuisine differs from region to region. Consumption of uncooked food & vegetables is not advisable. It is recommended to drink only sealed bottled or distilled water and avoid eating from street vendors.



EGYPT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Baggage

Baggage allowance for international flights may vary by airline and is subject to change at any time. For up to date baggage allowance, please check the airlines' websites at: www.emirates.com and www.egyptair.com.

- ❖ Emirates: Economy Class customers can check in two pieces of luggage, up to 50 lbs (23 kg) each. Total dimensions (length + width + height) of each piece must not exceed 62 in (158 cm). For Economy passengers with two pieces of luggage, the total combined dimensions of both pieces must not exceed 107 in (273 cm). Carry-on baggage is restricted to one piece of luggage, up to 15 lbs (7 kg) and the dimensions of 22" x 15" x 8".
- ❖ Egyptair: Economy Class customers can check in two pieces of luggage, up to 50 lbs (23 kg) each. Total dimensions (length + width + height) of each piece should not exceed 62 inches. Carry-on luggage is restricted to one piece of luggage not exceeding 17 lbs and the total dimensions should not exceed 45 in. The checked baggage allowance on all domestic flights is one piece of luggage, up to 44 lbs (20 kg).
- ❖ It is recommended that all checked luggage has a lock (combination locks are recommended) and a luggage tag showing the name and contact information of the owner. **(Please use Ritz Tours tags for easy identification by our airport staff.)**
- ❖ Consider packing one change of clothing and toiletries in your carry on bag to avoid inconvenience caused by delayed or lost luggage.
- ❖ DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in your carry on bag.
- ❖ Important note: Ritz Tours representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. Collect your luggage and exit, our local representatives will be waiting for you outside. All luggage from the group will be collected for transport to your hotel in a separate vehicle.
- ❖ Please consult www.tsa.gov for USA baggage and carry-on restrictions.

Clothing

We suggest you bring comfortable, casual clothing and good walking shoes for the trip. Check the local weather conditions before you go, and pack accordingly. It is not necessary to bring formal clothing. When visiting popular areas such as the Pyramids or the main sights of Upper Egypt, shorts and T-shirts are suitable. However, it is recommended to wear modest attire when walking in central Cairo and other cities, and especially in rural areas. When visiting mosques or other religious sites, casual, comfortable clothing covering knees and elbows is recommended, in order to respect the local culture.

Time Differentials

Egypt Standard Time (EET) is two hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) during winter. During summer, from May 1st till October 1st, the clocks move one hour forward. Egypt is 10 hours ahead of Los Angeles and 7 hours ahead of New York.

Shopping

Although Ritz Tours' national guides will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Ritz Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.

Staying in Touch

While it is possible to make international phone calls from your hotel room, the charge can be especially high. It is always cheaper and safer to use the public payphones, purchase international calling cards or prepaid SIM cards (requires a SIM-unlocked GSM international cell phone). The International Dialing Code for Egypt is +20.



EGYPT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Electrical Requirements

Egypt's electrical system operates at 220 volts. You will need a voltage converter if you are carrying a device that does not accept 220 Volts at 50 Hertz. Please bring your own voltage converter and adapter.

Photography

If you are taking photographs of local people, always ask their permission beforehand. Your guide can assist you in this. Do not take photographs of military areas, airports, or restricted areas. Some museums and historic sites restrict photography to protect artifacts and may charge a fee. If in doubt, don't hesitate to ask. It is advisable to carry your camera in a dust-proof bag. Photography or camera fees are applicable at most sights and museums; your guide can give you details of the latest charges. If you are using film, we suggest bringing an adequate amount before going on tour and if you use a digital camera, don't forget to bring additional memory cards.

Tourist Offices in Egypt & Abroad

Visit www.egypt.travel or call the Egypt Tourism Office at 1 (877) 77-EGYPT (34978) to locate the Egypt Tourism offices within Egypt and abroad

US Embassy & Missions

- ❖ For more information about the US Embassy in Egypt, please visit: <http://cairo.usembassy.gov/>
- ❖ For a comprehensive list of foreign missions in Egypt, please visit: http://www.mfa.gov.eg/MFA_Portal/en-GB/Missions/Foreign_Missions_in_Egypt/

Public Holidays

Fixed dates:

- Jan 7: Coptic Christmas Day
- Apr 25: Sinai Liberation Day
- May 1: Labour Day
- Jul 23: Revolution Day (commemorating the abolition of the monarchy in 1952)
- October 6: Armed Forces Day

Dates that change according to the Muslim calendar:

- Eid al-Fitr: marks the end of Ramadan
- Eid al-Adha: Feast of Sacrifice (around 70 days after the end of Ramadan)
- Ras El Sana Hijriya: Islamic New Year
- Mawlid al-Nabi: Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed



EGYPT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Weather

Throughout Egypt, days are typically warm or hot and nights are cool, with very little humidity. Egypt has only two seasons: a mild winter from November to April and a hot summer from May to October. The only differences between the seasons are variations in daytime temperatures and changes in prevailing winds. The best time to visit the desert and oases is from September to May, when temperatures are cooler. Egypt receives fewer than 3 inches of precipitation annually in most areas. Most rain falls along the coast, but even the wettest area, around Alexandria receives only about 8 inches of precipitation per year.

City		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cairo	Hi	66	70	75	82	90	95	95	95	90	86	75	70
	Low	48	48	52	57	63	64	72	72	68	64	57	52
Luxor	Hi	73	77	84	95	104	106	106	106	102	95	86	77
	Low	41	45	52	61	70	73	75	75	72	64	54	46
Aswan	Hi	75	86	95	102	108	106	106	104	97	86	77	77
	Low	46	48	55	63	70	75	75	77	72	48	57	50
Sharm el-Sheikh	Hi	73	79	84	91	97	93	93	93	91	82	73	73
	Low	61	63	64	70	75	79	81	81	79	73	68	61



EGYPT: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Useful Phrases in Arabic

Greetings

Hello	Marhaba
How are you?	Keef Halek
Good Morning	Sabah Al Kair
Good Evening	Masaa Al Kair
Good	Kowaies
Please	Min Fadlak
Thank you	Shoo kran
Excuse Me	Ismahlee
OK	Taieb
Yes	Aiwa
No	La

Asking Questions

How much is this?	Kum Hada
Where are you from?	Min Fain Inta
Understand?	Maf Hoom
Do you speak English?	Tet Kalam Ingleezi

Useful "I"s

I want	Ana abgha
I don't understand	Ana ma fehempt
I don't speak Arabic	Arabiah

Basics

Money	Feloos
Coffee	Gahwah
Sugar	Sokar
Salt	Melh
Car	Sayara
Hotel	Fon doq
Water	Moya
Tea	Shahi
Milk	Haleeb
Airplane	Tayarah