

# Festive King Tut with Cruise

10 days | Cairo to Cairo



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TOUR:** *Classic Egypt at its best - ancient temples, tombs, Nile river cruising, topped off with plenty of festive cheer! With a number of festive tour dates to choose from, the hardest decision you'll need to make is where you want to spend Xmas & New Years - sailing the Nile, exploring Kom Ombo or Philae Temple, at the legendary pyramids or discovering Cairo!*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Egyptian Museum
- Luxor West Bank - Discover exquisite tombs at the Valley of the Kings, see the towering Colossi of Memnon and explore the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Luxor - Roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Aswan - Take a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore romantic Philae

Temple and wander around the colourful souqs

- Nile cruising - Cruise from Aswan to Luxor, spending 3 nights on board a 5 star Nile cruiser
- Kom Ombo - Visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- 4 nights 4-5 star hotels, 3 nights aboard 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains from Cairo to Aswan and Luxor to Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 10
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan and Luxor
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$50-70pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$80-100pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for Nile Cruise staff. Tip for your tour guide - we recommend you allow USD \$5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide,

though ultimately tipping is an entirely personal gesture

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Saturday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! At Cairo Airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours and transferred to our start hotel. Your Egyptian adventure begins! Day 1 is simply an arrival day allowing everyone to come in off the various flights, so there are no touring arrangements and you can spend the remains of the day at your leisure.

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day 1 of the tour, one of our team members will be on hand to advise you about where its best to enjoy your time in Cairo, in advance of the tour commencing.

#### Overnight - Cairo

### Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara



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This morning we tour the famous pyramids and iconic 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! 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 stone cutters carried out the job of building the pyramids. It is believed that 100,000 workers undertook the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops, and around 2.5 million limestone blocks, weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in its construction.

We then visit a government supervised papyrus emporium where you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices. Our next stop is the necropolis of Saqqara, we 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!

Today's lunch break will take place prior to our tour of Saqqara or after depending on the heat and time of year you are travelling and traffic on the day - your guide will keep you updated. This evening offers free time or you can opt to attend the Pyramids Sound and Light Show. Entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected this morning by your guide at the welcome meeting.

**Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 3 : The Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Aswan. Today we visit the new Grand Egyptian Museum. In this incredible 490,000 sq. m complex we'll discover a mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history, including the treasures of King Tutankhamun. Many pieces on show are being displayed for the first time and artefacts have been brought together from across Egypt and the world to this one location. The museum also makes use of new technology including virtual reality. Note: the Grand Egyptian Museum is set to open in 2020, though an official date

has yet to be released. If travelling prior to the opening of the new facility we'll visit the Egyptian Museum instead.

There is time to relax before we board the overnight train to Aswan this evening.

**Overnight - Sleeper train (B)**

### Day 4 : Aswan & Philae Temple



This morning we arrive into Aswan and enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies and the Romans, up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures.

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.

Then, we check-in on board our Nile Cruiser which will be home for the next three nights. Later, there is free time to perhaps enjoy some shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile.

**5 STAR NILE CRUISER:** You will be provided with the cruising schedule upon arrival to Aswan. Cruise schedules vary. Boarding of the cruise ship will be on day 3 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 4 for a period of 3 nights.

You will have a tour guide escorting you on the cruise who will keep you up informed of the cruise schedule. And a copy of the schedule can always be found in the lobby of the cruiser.

Facilities on board the Nile cruiser include a bar, lounge, dining room and outdoor recreation area. The boat deck offers plenty of space for relaxation and there is a swimming pool. Your outward facing cabin located on the main or upper deck offers air-conditioning, a private bathroom and views of the Nile as we sail. In the evening, low-key entertainment is on hand. All meals are included, buffet style.

Your cruiser will sail for a total duration of 8 - 12 hours covering a distance of 212km (split between 2 of the 3 days you are aboard). The remainder of the time the boat is in dock in either Aswan, Luxor or at sightseeing stops en route. Views will be obstructed whilst the cruiser is in dock as ships dock side by side. You may also need to cross the reception of other boats the reach your vessel from shore. Free time is offered during this time to independently explore whilst docked when sight-seeing is not included.

**Overnight - Aswan - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

### Day 5 : Nile Cruise & optional excursion to Abu Simbel



Aswan - Nile Cruise. For those that have booked the optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel, you will travel due-south through the vast sandy desert to arrive at the site. Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder is possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its mammoth rock-cut façade. Abu Simbel was created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple are the four famous colossal statues of Ramses

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It which sit majestically, staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. In a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, the temple was famously re-located further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser, which had threatened to erode the foundations of this monolithic temple complex.

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, there is plenty to do in Aswan, before the early afternoon departure on our 5 star Nile cruiser. Explore Aswan and its beautiful shoreline and corniche or perhaps do a spot of shopping.

Our Nile Cruiser departs Aswan this afternoon and we cruise the River Nile to Kom Ombo where we disembark to visit the temple which is dedicated to the crocodile headed god - Sobek before returning to the cruiser.

**Please note:** For those who book the optional excursion to Abu Simbel, the cruiser remains in port until your return from Abu Simbel. On a rare occasion the ship may have already set sail from Aswan by the time we return, if this happens you will be transferred by road to the nearest dock to rendezvous with your cruiser.

**Overnight - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

### Day 6 : Nile cruise to Luxor



Nile Cruise - Luxor. Relax, enjoy a swim in the pool and chill out in the sun on deck this morning. Let your troubles melt away as we cruise the River Nile to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its best. Arriving into Luxor this afternoon the rest of the day is free to explore the city before we spend our final night aboard the cruiser.

The port of Edfu is an included stop in most Nile cruise itineraries however we do not offer a guided tour to the temple in our

arrangements, as the only mode of transport available to visit the Edfu Temple is by locally managed horse and carriages. As a responsible travel focused business, animal welfare is extremely important to us and we want to ensure that we are not promoting any activities where working animals are not properly cared for. Unfortunately, many horse and carriage operators have been found to be in breach of animal welfare guidelines and it is, for this reason, we no longer include the visit to Edfu Temple on our tours.

In addition to the animal welfare concerns, we have had a substantial amount of feedback suggesting that the experience itself is uncomfortable due to the pushy nature of the vendors and local suppliers outside the site.

**Overnight - Luxor - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

### Day 7 : Luxor

This morning we disembark and check into our 5 star Luxor hotel. The day is free to enjoy the hotel facilities, relax and explore. Tonight, we have the opportunity to visit Luxor Temple with dinner afterwards. Built by Amenhotep III, Luxor Temple looks stunning at night when it's illuminated by hundreds of lights. Book/pay locally at approx USD\$25 including entrance fees and buffet dinner. Remainder of the evening is at leisure. **Overnight - Luxor** (B)

### Day 8 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Cairo. Today we tour the West Bank of the Nile, 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 are all that 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.

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.

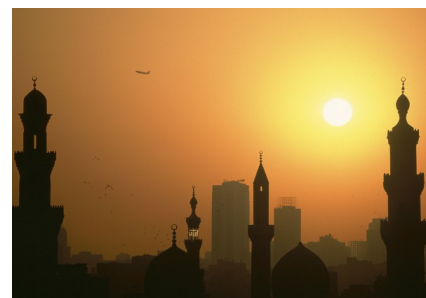
Travelling beyond the Valley of the Kings we visit Deir al- Bahri, otherwise known as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments.

A short stop will also be made at an Alabaster workshop. Stone carving is a trade that has existed on the West Bank since pharaonic times. Carving the stone is a trade passed on generation after generation for most residents of the West Bank and is their sole trade and income.

Returning to the East Bank around midday, there's chance to relax by the hotel pool. We meet up again mid-afternoon to 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. Tonight we return by overnight sleeper train to Cairo.

**Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B)

### Day 9 : Free time in Cairo



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We arrive into Cairo this morning and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax by the hotel pool, shop or explore.

This afternoon there is an optional excursion to Khan el Khalili Market and a perfumed oil emporium (if not already visited in Aswan). Khan el Khalili is great for last minute souvenir shopping and at the perfumery there's a million and one exquisite glass bottles filled with perfumed oils that make for a truly authentic Egyptian gift.

**Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 10 : Cairo

Our amazing holiday comes to an end and we bid farewell to our guide and fellow travellers. Included airport departure transfer.(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.**

### Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony (not Nile View as standard) and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel's bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you'll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there's no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt's ancient wonders.



### 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.



### Steigenberger Hotel el Tahrir

Ideally located in the heart of downtown Cairo, the Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir is right by the lively Tahrir Square. Guestrooms offer peace and quiet away from the high-energy of the city, with contemporary decor and sound-proofed windows overlooking views of Cairo. The wellness facilities are state-of-the-art, including a fitness centre, outdoor pool and sauna and massage rooms. Be sure to take advantage of the poolside bar and delicious hotel restaurant, or enjoy the option of 24-hour in-room dining.



### M/S Medea

The M/S Medea is elegantly furnished with rich fabrics, wood panelling and classic style furniture, offering a refined setting for your Nile cruise. The restaurant offers 120 covers with a combination of waiter service and buffet meals which allows to sample both Egyptian and international cuisine. The spacious lounge bar is tastefully furnished

with Chesterfield sofas and offers panoramic views of the Nile River.



### M/S La Traviata

M/S La Traviata has proved to be a long term favourite with many regular Nile cruise guests. The cosy restaurant on the lower deck serves 88 guests and serves both - international and Egyptian cuisine. Lounge bar with dance floor and music system for evening entertainment. The sundeck offers a pool as well as sun loungers and a shaded area. The reception offers full services including an international phone. The gift shop on board has a wide range of gifts and souvenirs from Egypt.



### Sonesta St. George Hotel

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.



### Steigenberger Nile Palace

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The Steigenburger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.



### Groups & Guides

**Groups:** The longest Signature Tour we offer in the Middle East is our Festive Road to Jordan – 16 day tour. All other tours in the region 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. Travellers may join you part way through your tour i.e. for Cairo sightseeing, by the beach in Hurghada, upon arrival to Amman or Petra in Jordan or for your final leg in Israel. 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 to get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes. In Egypt it is likely you will have 2 tour guides (both Egyptologists) for the duration of your tour.

### 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.

**Abu Simbel** - Entrance fees are payable locally by you, please budget approx. USD \$18.

**Backstreets of Cairo** - departs 10am, day 1 and returns to your hotel at 5pm. Entrance fees included.

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 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

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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 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

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inside the tombs) is approx. USD\$20. The cost for photographing the treasures inside the Egyptian Museum is generally USD\$6.