TRIP NOTES

Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise
16 days | Istanbul to Cairo

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
- Istanbul - Sultanahmet, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome, Hagia Sofia and Basilica Underground Cistern
- Gallipoli - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair Memorials and trenches
- Roman ruins of Pergamum and Ephesus
- Pamukkale - Thermal pools and Roman Hierapolis
- Carpet weaving demonstration and leather house visit
- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara and the Egyptian Museum
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple and River Nile
- Nile cruise - Cruising the Nile from Aswan to Luxor
- Temple of Kom Ombo

What's Included
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 6 nights 4 star hotels in Turkey, 4 nights 4-5 star hotels in Egypt. 3 nights aboard a five star Nile cruiser
- 2 nights overnight trains from Cairo to Aswan and Luxor to Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Guided sightseeing in Turkey - Istanbul, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Pergamum and Pamukkale Hierapolis
- Guided sightseeing in Egypt - Cairo, Giza, Saqara, Aswan and Luxor
- Escorted by degree qualified tour guides in Turkey and Egypt
- Economy flight from Denizli (Pamukkale) to Istanbul
- Turkey - Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure shuttle on day 8 at 11am and 1:30pm to Istanbul Airport
- Cairo - Airport arrival transfer on day 8 and departure transfer on day 16
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included
- Tipping Kitty: USD$100-120pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD$160-180pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- International flight between Istanbul and Cairo is not included and needs to be booked separately by the traveller - refer to the Trip Notes, on day 7 for details
- Tip for Nile Cruise staff. Tip for your tour guides in Turkey and Egypt - we recommend you allow USD$5 - 7 per day, per traveller for your guides. For your driver in Turkey we recommend USD$2 per traveller per day. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Istanbul
Saturday. Welcome to Turkey! Arrive Istanbul airport and included transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the afternoon offers free time for you to relax or explore. At 8pm this evening our tip filled welcome meeting takes place. A great opportunity to meet your tour guide and travelling companions before our exciting adventure gets under way. Overnight - Istanbul

From Ottoman Istanbul, the battlefields of Gallipoli, Roman ruins, the Aegean Coast and the stunning mineral pools of Pamukkale, to the Pyramids, the Valley of the Kings and Nile Cruising in Egypt. Take in the best of Egypt and Turkey in 16 days.

Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise - 16 days
www.onthegotours.com
uk: 020 7371 1113  info@onthegotours.com
AUS 1300 855 684  aus-info@onthegotours.com
NZ 0800 44 77 69  CAN 1 866 890 7038
USA 1 866 606 2960  SA 0800 990 311
updated on 06-07-2020 02:23:23
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Day 2 : The Old City

Istanbul. After a good night’s rest and breakfast, we meet all our tour group members (as some may have arrived overnight) in the hotel lobby. At this point in time all entrance fees and your tip kitty will be collected. Shortly after we depart for a classic guided tour of the only city to span two continents. The Bosphorus stretches out in front of the old city known as Sultanahmet and is the strait of water that divides the continents of Europe and Asia, both of which the city of Istanbul straddles. Touring the heart of the Old City from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled, we’ll view some amazing sights. See the Blue Mosque (opening subject to prayer times) which faces the Hagia Sofia and is famed for it’s blue Iznik tiles and unique 6 minarets and the ruinous Hippodrome – now a small park of sorts and once scene of chariot races and political activities in Byzantine times and the Hagia Sofia Museum - constructed as a Basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Just around the corner is the stunning Topkapi Palace where we spend time exploring the grounds and various museums contained within the Palace walls. Tonight is free for you to explore or simply relax at our hotel. Overnight - Istanbul (B)

Day 3 : Gallipoli

Istanbul – Gallipoli. Today, we travel to the WWI battlefields of Gallipoli. Here, we’ll embark upon a guided tour of the region, once the site of fierce fighting and today almost hauntingly beautiful, with its wooded landscape dotted with understated memorials to the war dead. Our guided tour of the region will take in sights such as ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Australian War Memorial and cemetery, Chunuk Bair New Zealand War Memorial and cemetery, the Nek, Johnston’s Jolly and the many fortified trenches still clearly visible amongst the scrub after all these years. Roughly 3 feet deep, the system of trenches provided much need safe cover for troops as they desperately fought the enemy.

Crossing the Dardenelles by ferry (offering panoramic views of the entire Gallipoli Peninsula) we proceed to our hotel for a little rest and relaxation. Overnight - Canakkale (B)

Day 4 : Troy and Coastal Kusadasi

Gallipoli Region - Kusadasi. This morning we enjoy a short guided tour of Troy! If you’ve seen the movie – ‘Troy’ or read the poet Homer’s – ‘The Iliad’ you’ll be familiar with Paris – Prince of Troy, his prized Helen and Hector – Prince of Troy on the Trojan side and Agamennon and Achilles (he of the heel) on the Aechaean (Greek) side. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer’s poetry was bought alive by it’s rediscovery in 1863. Subsequent excavations revealed 9 ancient cities, one on top of the other, dating back to 3000 BC! We enjoy a tour of the ruins and bear witness to a replica of the stoic Trojan wooden horse that as the story goes, was filled to the gunnels with Aechaean soldiers who helped sack Troy.

Driving further south to the ancient ruins of Pergamum, we’ll enjoy a guided tour. Home to one of the steepest, vertigo-inducing amphitheatres in the classical world, Pergamum was also famous for its asclepion (medical centre). See the Temple of Trojan and of course the Library, which in its time was said to rival the library in ancient Alexandria. We continue to Kusadasi on the Aegean Coast. Overnight - Kusadasi (B)

Day 5 : Legendary Ephesus

Kusadasi. Today, we enjoy a guided tour at the legendary Roman ruins of Ephesus. Positively the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean, and among the best places in the world to get a feel for what Roman life must have been like. Ephesus, under the Romans was a vast city with a population nearing 250,000. It became the Roman capital of Asia Minor. We’ll have plenty of time to tour the marble ruins of Ephesus. Be sure to see the famous Library of Celsus, the gymnasium of Vedius and Stadium, the great theatre and stroll the streets in the ruins of this large Roman ruined city. It’s completely fascinating. We’ll see public toilets, a brothel, fountains and various temples. Carpet weaving has long traditions in Turkey and afterward we stop to watch a demonstration of how they are made. Tonight, you may wish to consider heading out for dinner. Downtown Kusadasi isthe plcae to go with a varied choice of restaurants, pubs and cafes. Overnight - Kusadasi (B)

Day 6 : Pamukkale Travertines

Kusadasi - Pamukkale - Istanbul. Today, after breakfast, we drive to Pamukkale visiting the region’s famed calcium rich terraced pools. Known locally as the Cotton Castles, they are a natural phenomena and gift of Mother Nature.

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Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise

Pamukkale was formed when warm, calcium rich mineral water cascaded over the cliff edge, cooling and depositing in the process. The calcium built natural shelves and pools on the cliffs, known as travertines. Today, some of the pools are closed. However, areas of the travertines can be walked upon, albeit in bare feet. We can however opt to enjoy a unique and very pleasant dip in the warm waters at the Pamukkale Thermal, with its submerged fragments of fluted marble columns in the centre of the ruined spa town of Hierapolis, which was a was a cure centre founded around 190 BC by the Romans. Continue to our hotel for an evening at leisure. **Overnight - Pamukkale (B)**

**Day 7 : Goodbye Turkey, Hello Egypt**

Friday. Pamukkale - Istanbul - Cairo. After breakfast and hotel check out we make our way to Denizli airport for our onward flight to Istanbul arriving at approx 8:50am where our representative will be waiting to meet you.

You need to independently book your flight from Istanbul to Cairo, as it is not included in the cost of this tour. You can choose any flight but please make sure that it departs Istanbul after 5pm. Turkish Airlines and Egyptair offer flights between Istanbul and Cairo, check the THY or Egyptair websites for more details. Please let us know your flight details so we can arrange the airport transfers accordingly.

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met and transferred to our Cairo hotel. The remainder of the afternoon offers free time and you may wish to have a drink at the bar or swim in the hotel pool. At 7pm tonight your Egyptian tour guide will host a Welcome Meeting. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

**Day 8 : Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara**

Our day starts with a visit the famous pyramids and huge 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. 100,000 workers 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. You can also opt to enter the second or third pyramids (Chephren or Mycerinus) depending upon which is open on the day.

We then visit a government supervised papyrus emporium where 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!

Today’s lunch break will take place prior to our tour of Saqqara or after depending on the heat, 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 & Light Show. Entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected today. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

**Day 9 : The Egyptian Museum & King Tut’s Mask**

Cairo - Aswan. After a good nights rest, you’ll be well prepared for the exciting day ahead. You’ll need to have your bags packed as we’ll be travelling down to Aswan in southern Egypt tonight.

This morning we visit the Egyptian Museum for an informative guided tour. The Egyptian Museum holds 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 solid gold funerary mask of King Tutankhamun. Made of solid gold and weighing 11kg, the mask was found covering the head of mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi. You can also opt to see also the Royal Mummies for a small additional fee, if you wish. Note: the new Grand Egyptian Museum is set to open in 2020 (exact date yet to be released). Once the new Egyptian Museum is open it will be visited today instead of the current Egyptian Museum.

We return to our hotel for free time, a chance to freshen up and have dinner. This evening we board the overnight sleeper train to Aswan. **Overnight - Sleeper train (B)**

**Day 10 : Romantic Philae Temple**

Arrive into Aswan this morning and board your 5 star Nile Cruiser where you will spend the next three nights. In the afternoon enjoy a leisurely boat trip to Agilkia Island for a guided tour of the romantic Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis.

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

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**TRIP NOTES**

Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise - 16 days

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use the opportunity to purchase snacks and incidentals.

As the sun sets, free time to shop in the colourful souqs and markets or simply relax and watch an amazing sunset in Egypt's southern most town straddling 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 10 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 11 for a period of 3 nights. 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 on board). 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. Free time is offered during this time to independently explore whilst docked when sight-seeing is not included. Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)

Days 11-12 : Nile Cruising

Aswan – Nile cruise - Luxor. Optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel. Travelling due south through the vast sandy desert we 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, the four famous colossal statues of Ramses II 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 in the 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.

On day 12 relax, enjoy a swim in the pool and chill out in the sun on deck. 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 in the afternoon the rest of the day is free to explore the city before we spend our final night aboard 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:2)

Day 13 : 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 Amenophis 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 14 : 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. 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 studied with often highly decorated tombs, constructed to once house the regal sarcophagi enclosed mummies of the mighty pharaohs awaiting their passage into the after-life. 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. Deir al-Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut rises 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.

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 Tutankhamen is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit.
TRIP NOTES

Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise

A short stop will 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.

Later this afternoon after time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak - a spectacular temple on a gigantic scale dedicated to the Theban gods. 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, wandering through the temple is one of the highlights of a visit to Egypt. Tonight, we return to Cairo by sleeper train. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 15 : Cairo - free time or Khan el Khalili Bazaar

Cairo. After arriving to Cairo this morning the day offers free time for you to relax, shop and explore. You may wish to join us on an optional visit Khan el-Khalili bazaar to pick up some last minute souvenirs. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 16 : Cairo

Sunday. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to airport. **Overnight - Cairo (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.

**Ramada Old City**

A member of the reputable Ramada chain, the Istanbul Old Town property is modern and comfortable with excellent amenities. Guestrooms are bright and spacious with contemporary amenities. Two restaurants are on offer and our personal favourite is the wonderful roof top restaurant, serving delicious local cuisine coupled with a magnificent view of the City and Sea. The perfect way to end the day. Located very close to the Historical part of the city with major Monuments are all walking distance.

**Richmond Ephesus Resort Hotel**

With a beautiful sandy beach lining the shore between the hotel and the sea, the Richmond Ephesus Hotel is a perfect place to relax. Take a dip in one of the two pools or enjoy a delicious dinner and drink at one of the three restaurants. Rooms are spacious and comfortable with air conditioning throughout the hotel.

**Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel**

Set in landscaped gardens, the Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel has an envious location in Pamukkale. Guest rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated and offer a wonderful level of comfort, ensuring a good night's sleep. The on site thermal spa offers guests the chance to relax, revitalise and enjoy what this region is most famous for. Breakfast can be eaten outside on the terrace while dinner is often taken by the shimmering water of the pool.

**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
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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.

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.

Steigenberger Nile Palace

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.

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 be a long term favourite with many regular Nile cruise guests. The cozy 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.

Le Meridien Heliopolis

Just a short drive from Cairo’s Old Town and international airport, the 5-star Le Meridien Heliopolis combines comfort with convenience. The guest rooms are spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television and a minibar, plus there’s complimentary WiFi throughout the property. Dining options include a choice of four on-site restaurants, serving Egyptian and international cuisine. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment and cocktails at The 51 Bar. During the warmer months hotel guests can take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax on a sun lounges on the terrace. There’s also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.
Welcome to Turkey - Pre accom & arrival transfer

If you would like to arrive into Turkey prior to your tour or stay on longer, we can arrange pre or post tour accommodation for you. Pre/post tour accommodation is located at the hotel your tour commences/ends and is inclusive of breakfast.

If arriving on day 1 of a holiday or booking pre-tour accommodation with us on a tour that includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the ‘What’s Included’ section of these trip notes) we will be at the airport (Istanbul or Sahiba Gokcen), ready to transfer you to your hotel.

If arriving prior to 8am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm.

ARRIVING INTO ISTANBUL AIRPORT
Upon arrival to Istanbul International Airport please proceed to the Arrival Hall. Upon entering the Arrival Hall turn LEFT. Here, you will need to look for your name on one of the electronic screens located in the arrivals hall. Our representative will be located near to the screen with your name on. Please present your tour voucher to our representative when you meet them.

SABIHA GOKCEN AIRPORT
If arriving into Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, an additional 50km from the Istanbul city centre. Please be timely in exiting customs and in meeting our awaiting representative, who will be holding an On The Go tours sign.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Turkey 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.

Entrance fees
On group tours, entrance fees to tourist sites are not included in our tour price. Funds will be collected in Turkey (and Egypt if travelling on one of our combo tours) for your entrance fees, that are payable in local currency - Turkish Lira and Egyptian Pounds and will be collected by your tour guide. You will find the cost of entrance fees noted under ‘What’s Not Included’ on page 1 of this document. Entrance fee amounts do change, therefore upon arrival in Turkey your tour leader will outline the exact total of your entrance fees and collect this amount in Turkish Lira on day 2 of your tour. A breakdown of these costs is available upon request from your guide.

Tipping kitty
It is customary to tip in Turkey. At the start of your tour we collect a small tipping kitty from all tour participants (the amount is noted under exclusions on page 1 of this document) to cover tips en-route (to be paid in Turkish Lira). This saves you the hassle of when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, waiters, your airport representative and other support staff throughout your tour.

This tipping kitty does not include a tip for your tour guide - for a job well done! We recommend you allow USD$5 - 7 per day, per traveller as a tip for your guide and $2 USD per day for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.

Groups & time keeping
Some of our group tours are sectors of a larger tour. Some travellers on your trip may only travel with you for part of your tour. It also might be that you end your holiday part way through a longer tour and others in the group continue on.

In order that we show the best of Turkey in a non-hurried fashion to you, it is imperative you are ready for departure each day. Please do not delay and inconvenience fellow travellers. It is your responsibility to be at the proposed meeting point for the group in time. We will depart at our specified times.

Departure transfer
We offer complimentary departure transfers to Istanbul Airport at 9am and 1pm on the final day of the following tours: Turkey Discovered,
**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.

**Shooping 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 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
Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise

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

Turkey health requirements & water
You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. The tap water in Turkey is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Essential packing
Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice locally
- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

It’s not like home
Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries. The people, customs, creed and languages are different from one region to the next.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Shopping
Turkey is a virtual Aladdin’s Cave. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects. Known locally as Kapali Carsi – the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul’s Old City is a massive conglomeration of shops (some 4000) divided into areas specialising in gold, carpets, leather, souvenirs and clothing. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles, leather and suede products. Jewellery, carpets and kilims represent top buys at the bazaar. Opening hours: Mon to Sat 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. It’s not like home: 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.
Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise

What to expect & Ramadan
Ramazan dates: 13 April - 12 May 2021 (approx). The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. During the day, people must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual activity, so if you encounter someone who is a bit grumpy please be understanding, flexible and sympathetic. As tourists you will be generally unaffected although some places may close early, but your tour leader will do their best to plan around this. Most hotels bars and tourist restaurants will remain open. In the evening you will experience a celebratory atmosphere at iftar, when people break their fast. To witness Ramazan is a real highlight making your tour in the region that bit more interesting. Each year it begins roughly ten days earlier than the year before, according to the Gregorian calendar.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Turkey site opening times
Popular sightseeing spot in Istanbul are closed on specific days. Please plan your visit accordingly.
- Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays
- Grand Bazaar - Closed Sundays
- Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times and Friday’s until 3pm
- All museums in Turkey will open at 1pm, on the 13th of May and 20th of July 2021
- The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows:
  2020: 1, 2, 3 Aug / 29 Oct
  2021: 1 Jan / 13, 14, 15 May / 20, 21, 22, 23 Jul / 29 Oct

Blue Mosque renovations
The Blue Mosque (also known as Sultanahmet Camii in Turkish) is currently undergoing renovations and for the foreseeable future there will be scaffolding erected inside and other construction works will be taking place. Whilst we will visit the inside of the Blue Mosque when included on a tour, please be aware that some parts of the Mosque may be off limits to tourists.