Explore the ancient Pyramids of Giza, cruise the River Nile and discover the wonders of Aswan and Luxor before spending a few days by the beautiful Red Sea in Hurghada. This is Egypt at its best in 13 wonderful days.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
• Hurghada - relax at the Red Sea, swim and opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters
• 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 in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and 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 leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the 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, 3 dinners
• 8 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 3 nights aboard 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
• Hurghada on the Red Sea
• 1 overnight train: Cairo - Aswan (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
• Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 13
• Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Luxor and Hurghada
• Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
• All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What’s Not Included
• Tipping Kitty: USD$60-80pp, paid in local currency
• Entrance Fees: USD$80-100pp, paid in local currency
• Tip for your tour guide, we recommend you allow USD$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide and the cruise staff is an entirely personal gesture
• International flights and visa

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Cairo
PLEASE NOTE: In 2019 this tour departs on a Saturday. In 2020 this tour will depart on a Friday and arrangements will be slightly different. In 2020 an additional night will be spent in Cairo at the beginning on the tour in lieu of a night in Hurghada. The change will ensure there is ample time to explore the new Grand Egyptian Museum set to open fully in 2020. Please refer to ‘King Ramses 2020 Changes’ after the itinerary for further details.

Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours and transferred to your hotel. 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. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins! This evening a Welcome Meeting will be held at around 7pm.

If you are arriving a day or two before the tour starts, one of our team will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. We also offer a pre or post tour Alexandria Day Trip which can be pre-booked, please refer to our website for details.
King Ramses with Cruise

Day one is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or for those that are arriving before 8:30am, join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am (best booked prior with your travel consultant). This optional tour takes you off the beaten track in Egypt's bustling capital, visiting Downtown Cairo, the exquisite mosques and monuments of El Moez Street in Islamic Cairo, Garbage City and the incredible Cave Church of St. Simon. Overnight - Cairo

Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo - Aswan. After a good night’s 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 Aswan in southern Egypt tonight. We then visit 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. 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.

Leaving the Pyramids of Giza, we visit a government supervised papyrus emporium where you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices. Continuing to the where you can buy genuine papyrus at government supervised papyrus emporium

Later there will be a chance to have dinner and freshen up. Entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected at this time. This evening we travel by overnight sleeper train to Aswan. Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)

Day 3 : Aswan & Philae Temple

This morning we arrive into Aswan and enjoy a short boat trip to Agilkia Island for Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolomies 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 check-in on board your 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.

Day 4 : Nile Cruise & optional excursion to Abu Simbel

Aswan – Nile cruise - Kom Ombo. 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

King Ramses with Cruise - 13 days

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 traveler and not that of On The Go Tours.
King Ramses with Cruise

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 Luxor 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 5 : 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 Nile Luxor 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. Overnight - Luxor - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)

Day 6 : 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 7 : Valley of the Kings

This morning we cross to the West Bank of the Nile for the day’s touring. 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.

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 that 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 Tutankhamen. Beyond the Valley of the Kings is Deir al-Bahri, otherwise known as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut and 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 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.

We return to the east bank around midday, where we have a chance to relax by the hotel pool. Meeting up mid 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.

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. Overnight - Luxor (B)

Day 8 : Red Sea Riviera

Luxor - Hurghada. Departing Luxor we drive east to Hurghada part of the beautiful Red Sea Riviera for 4 days on the beach! Overnight - Hurghada (B)

Days 9-11 : Sun, Sea & Sand

The next 3 days are free to explore Hurghada or simply relax. On day 9 there’s an optional day trip to Giftun Island for swimming and snorkelling, which can be booked locally.

Hurghada is one of the Red Sea’s most popular resorts and it is easy to see why. Hotels and expanded infrastructure provide holidaymakers with excellent aquatic facilities.
King Ramses with Cruise

for sail boarding, yachting, deep-sea fishing, SCUBA diving and snorkeling. Hurghada’s central location provides a gateway to prime offshore reefs, which are some of the finest in the world. Hurghada also has plenty of restaurants and late night bars for evening entertainment. Just outside Hurghada is an ancient Roman quarry called Mons Porphyritis and Port Safarga – a famously windy place which is ideal for windsurfing.

Snorkelling Trip – 700 EGP (approx) per person payable locally. Join a day trip snorkelling and swimming at Giftun Island. You’ll be transferred by motor boat to across the blue water of the Red Sea to Giftun Island, the journey is approximately an hour. The boat will moor up and there is an opportunity to jump into the warm waters (mask and snorkel provided) to swim and marvel at the amazing marine life. Look out for parrot fish, butterfly fish, trumpet fish and angel fish – some times of the year it is also possible to see turtles and even dolphins! After snorkelling the boat continues on to the island for a lunch stop (including soft drink or mineral water). If time allows you can also laze by the beach catching some rays before heading back to shore. Departs 08:15 returning 16:30 approx.

Please note that this is not operated by On The Go and the arrangements on the day are at the captain’s discretion. It is also a shared excursion so there could well be other people part of your group on the boat. Over night Hurghada (B:3)

Day 12 : Egyptian Museum

Hurghada - Cairo. This morning we depart Hurghada and head back to Cairo. We take a guided tour of the enlightening 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 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. There is also the option to see the Royal Mummies for an additional fee, if you wish. Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 13 : Cairo

Cairo. After breakfast, hotel check-out and onward transfer to the airport.(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 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.

Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx

In a great location for the Pyramids, the Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx is a contemporary hotel with excellent amenities. Guest rooms are well furnished with modern interiors and en suite facilities. Wi-fi is available in the lobby and there is a beautiful outdoor pool, which is perfect for relaxing by. Why not head to the restaurant on the roof for a delicious meal and impressive views of the Pyramids.

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 lounger on the terrace. There’s also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.

Renaissance Cairo Mirage City Hotel
King Ramses with Cruise

This 5-star hotel is situated in New Cairo approx. 50 min from the down town/ Egyptian Museum area but only a 10 minute drive from Cairo International Airport and Heliopolis shopping area. The elegantly decorated air-conditioned rooms each offer views of the Mirage City or on-site swimming pool and are equipped with WiFi, minibar, and all other modern amenities. Work up a sweat in the fitness centre, take a dip in the heated outdoor pool or relax poolside with a cocktail in hand before heading to one of the two on-site restaurants which offer a mix of local and international cuisine. Alternatively, take advantage of the hotel’s complimentary shuttle bus to Cairo Festival City Mall, which has an outdoor dining hub with a choice of 50 restaurants.

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.

Continental Hotel
Tucked into Hurghada Bay, right on its scenic promenade, the Continental is a delightful beachfront resort boasting fantastic terraced rooms (many with seaviews) and excellent facilities. Watersports are in abundance here with swimming pools, scuba diving and snorkelling all readily available. A leisure club offers a spa and sauna treatments to relax after the day’s activities. You can also wine and dine at one of the many great restaurants and bars.

Hilton Hurghada Resort
Set in tropical gardens, the Hilton Hurghada Resort is a comfortable, charming hotel with a private beach and water sport centre. The rooms have a balcony or terrace with views of the garden, pools or sea.

Steigenberger Nile Palace
The Steigenberger 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.

Marriott Beach Resort
The Marriott Beach Resort is a luxurious beachfront hotel, with every room enjoying a view of the Red Sea and Hurghada city centre just a few minutes drive away. There is a choice of 8 restaurants and bars for hungry travellers, and a health club, tennis & squash courts, and fitness centre to stay in shape. During the day, soak in the heated outdoor pool or book a watersport activity. The hotel even has its own private island if you fancy a massage among the palm trees.

Groups & Guides
Groups: The longest Signature Tour we offer in the Middle East is our Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land – 19 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 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.
King Ramses with Cruise

**Entrance Fees & Local Payment**
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). 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).

If travelling on a Budget tour, a Local Payment of cash GBP150pp (or USD equivalent as per the Egyptian bank rate of the day), if applicable to your tour and noted under the exclusions is also payable on day 2.

On tours that also travel to Jordan, entrance fees there are payable in Jordanian Dinar (JD). In Israel (on our Pyramids Petra Promised Land 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.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we would suggest USD$5 - 7 per day for your tour guide. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

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).

In Israel we do not collect a tipping kitty. As a guideline we recommend that you budget USD$5-7 per day per traveller for your guide and USD$2-3 per day per traveller for your driver.

**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 (excluding Treasures of the Nile). On the train the two berth cabins are lockable, equipped with bunk beds, linen, washbasin and towel, allowing passengers to relax and stretch out. A simple dinner and breakfast is included on the service. Dinner, served within an hour of your boarding is of a very average standard and we recommend that you eat dinner prior to boarding the train. A basis breakfast is served in the morning and tea and coffee is offered complimentary. There is a bar carriage 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 our 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 sex).

**Arrival Transfers**
A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. 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 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 what’s app) to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

King Ramses with Cruise - 13 days

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On tours that also travel to Jordan, entrance fees there are payable in Jordanian Dinar (JD). In Israel (on our Pyramids Petra Promised Land tour) entrance fees are included.

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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 sex).

**Arrival Transfers**
A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. 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 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.

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King Ramses with Cruise

Egypt Country Guide

Visas - Egypt
Visa requirements are subject to change and that 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 trains and flights tickets, if included within your holiday.

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt.
E-Visa. You can obtain an e-Visa for tourism purposes prior to travel by completing an application and making payment online. The e-Visa can be obtained up to 3 months prior to travel and is valid for 30 days from the date of entry. The e-Visa is available to a long list of eligible countries and the Government of Egypt is currently adding to the list. The current cost (Mar 2018) of a single entry e-Visa for tourism purposes is USD25 or equivalent. The visa cost is set to rise to USD60 and this may happen at any time. We recommend you secure an e-Visa prior to travel as it will speed up and smooth the immigration process upon your arrival.

Online applications can be completed at: visa2egypt.gov.eg

Visa upon arrival.
It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate to see if this is available to you. The current cost of the visa (Mar 2018) is USD25 and is payable in USD CASH ONLY. The visa upon arrival cost is also set to rise to USD60 and this could happen without notice. Although not official a visa can near always also be paid in equivalent GBP or Euro CASH ONLY according to the exchange rate of the day. Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, On The Go Tours is not responsible. It’s advisable to request notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveler’s Cheques are not recommended as they’re often difficult to exchange.

Important: RSA, Chinese and passport holders
obtain an e-Visa or Visa upon arrival. Citizens of these countries must obtain an Egyptian Tourist Visa prior to travel. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate for further details.

Note: When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use either of the following addresses:

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi,
Corniche El Nil, Maadi, Cairo 11431
Tel + 202 25260601

Steigenberger Cairo Pyramids Hotel
Alexandria Road, Pyramids - Giza, Cairo, Egypt
Tel +202 33772555

Le Meridien Pyramids
El Remaya Square, Pyramids, Cairo, 12561, Egypt
Tel: +202 33777070

Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx Hotel
1 Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids, Cairo, 12556, Egypt
Tel: +202 33776444

Oasis Hotel
Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids 12556 - Cairo / Egypt
Tel: +202 38387333 & +202 38387666

Currency
The currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Egypt. Exchange facilities are available at most hotels and all major towns have ATMs. It’s advisable to request notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller’s Cheques are not recommended as they’re often difficult to exchange.

Health Requirements
You should seek medical advice before travelling to Egypt from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Rabies are strongly recommended. As tap water is not safe to drink in Egypt, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Climate
Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

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. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt’s Mediterranean coastline.

Time & Voltage
Egypt is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require the European, 2 pronged variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

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 as many photographs as you like at the Pyramids and Saqqara. The cost for using camera inside Valley of the Kings (though not permitted inside the tombs) is approx. USD$18. The cost for photographing the treasures inside the Egyptian Museum is USD$6

Essential Packing
• Towel for the felucca (if applicable to your chosen tour)
• Lightweight cotton garments
• Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings. Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
• DEET based mosquito repellent a nd antihistamine cream
King Ramses with Cruise

- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us on the felucca or onward to Jordan.

Felucca (Egypt): We suggest hiring locally a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD$15 (total) for the 2 night stay.

Wadi Rum Camp (Jordan): All bedding (which is freshly laundered) is provided at Wadi Rum and therefore bringing a sleeping bag is not a necessity but your own personal choice.

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.

Troubleshooting

These things will most likely never happen, but it’s good to be prepared if they ever do. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free. Egypt is no worse than anywhere else when it comes to crime. Minimise your chances of being robbed with these tips:
- Leave valuables in the hotel safe deposit or better still, at home
- Keep bags locked at all times with a combination/padlock. Bags should also be locked when being transferred in vehicles, onboard the train, felucca or when taking a flight.
- Carry your passport on your person
- Carry spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

Etiquette

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Egypt. In return, please demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the local customs. Egypt is a Muslim country; so care should be taken to dress respectfully in large cities and towns, for example, when at markets and in public places.

- Ladies should avoid wearing ‘clingy, tight or suggestive’ attire, and stick to cool, flowing, cottons in busy city areas and markets
- Take care to dress conservatively and ensure that limbs are covered and remove footwear prior to entering a mosque
- Ex-military style clothing should not be worn
- Ask permission before taking photographs of people
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

Ramadan

The majority of the Egyptian population is Muslim (approx 86%), with a small minority of Jews and Christians. Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims in Egypt and 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. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late 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 as follows, (approximate) -

23 April – 23 May 2020
12 April – 11 May 2021

It’s not like home

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.

Shopping

Egypt is a virtual Aladdin’s Cave. While Cairo’s Khan al-Khalili bazaar is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects, smaller souqs and bazaars abound in other towns, too. Top buys include - perfume concentrate, carpets and rugs in innumerable hand-loomed designs, backgammon boards, hand-crafted shisha pipes, Pharaonic objects fashioned in marble and alabaster, Egyptian cotton clothing and of course - authentic papyrus.

IMPORTANT: Set your budget and don’t be swayed, remember the caveat – ‘Let the buyer beware’. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other, are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible or accountable for items bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.