Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land with Cruise
19 days | Cairo to Tel Aviv

Travelling from Cairo to Tel Aviv, take in the highlights of Egypt, Jordan and Israel, neighbouring countries, steeped in history. From the grand Pyramids of Giza in Cairo to the beautiful Rose City of Petra and the Biblical sites of Jerusalem, join us on a journey of epic proportion.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
• Jerusalem (West Bank) - explore the sacred sites of the Old City, including the Wailing Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Via Dolorosa
• Petra - discover this spectacular UNESCO-listed Nabataean city, which is one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
• Cairo - marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Egyptian Museum
• Wadi Rum - explore this vast red desert with its rolling dunes and dramatic rock formations in a 4x4 and camp under a blanket of stars
• Luxor West Bank - discover exquisite tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
• The Dead Sea - spend a night at the Dead Sea, float in the famously buoyant, mineral-rich waters and smother yourself in Dead Sea mud
• 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 Agilkia 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
• Hurghada - relax at the Red Sea, swim and opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters
• Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo
• Wadi Mujib - go canyoning in the lowest nature reserve in the world (included on tours departing April to October)
• Shobak - visit Shobak Crusader castle, perched dramatically on a hill top
• Bethlehem (West Bank) - visit the Shepherd's Field, Church of the Nativity and Manger Square
• Haifa - walk through the beautiful terraces of the Bahai Gardens, set on the slopes of Mount Carmel, and see the UNESCO listed Bahai Shrine
• Caesarea – discover Roman and Crusader-era ruins
• Jaffa - stroll around the picturesque fortified old town
• Tel Aviv - independently explore Israel's "City That Never Sleeps", with its long stretch of beautiful beaches

What's Included
• Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
• 6 nights 4 - 5 star hotels in Egypt, 7 nights 4 star hotels in Jordan and Israel, 1 night deluxe desert camp in Wadi Rum and 3 nights aboard a 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
• 1 overnight train: Cairo - Aswan (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
• Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1, day 11 and day 19
• Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Luxor, Hurghada, Petra, Wadi Rum and Shobak
• Swimming in the Dead Sea
• 4x4 desert safari through Wadi Rum
• Touring in Israel - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Haifa, Caesarea and Jaffa
• Escorted by Egyptian tour guide qualified in Egyptology, licensed Jordanian and Israeli tour guides in Jordan and Israel respectively
• All additional transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
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• Entrance fees included for sightseeing in Israel

What’s Not Included

• Tipping Kitty: USD$90-110pp, paid in local currency
• Entrance Fees: USD$190-210pp, paid in local currency
• International flights and visa. Please note the flight between Hurghada and Amman is not included and needs to be booked separately - see our Trip Notes for more info
• Tip for your tour guides in Egypt, Jordan and Israel. We recommend you allow USD $5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guides and the cruise staff is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Cairo
Friday. Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go. 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. Exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. 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 tour Alexandria Day Trip which can be pre-booked, please refer to our website for details.

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: The Egyptian Museum
Today 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 1kg, 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.

The rest of the day is at leisure, you may wish to visit the splendid souk of Khan el-Khalili or simply relax by the hotel pool. Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 3: 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 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.

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 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!

Later there will be a chance to have dinner and freshen up. Entrance fees and tip kitty will be collected at this time. Then we board an overnight sleeper train to Aswan. 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 Ptolomies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures.

Upon returning to Aswan we visit a perfumery shop. 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 Kypthi 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.

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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 4 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 5 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 is 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 Cruiser (B, L, D)

Days 5-6 : Nile Cruising & Kom Ombo

Aswan – Nile cruising - Kom Ombo - Luxor. Optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel on day 5. 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, starring 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 comiche 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.

The following morning 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 on day 5, 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,2, L,2, D,2)

Day 7 : Luxor

This morning we disembark and check into our 5 star Luxor hotel. The day is free to enjoy the hotell 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 8 : 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; 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.
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After 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.

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. Spend the evening at leisure.

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 entry to 3 tombs. A subset of the 64 tombs at the Valley of the Kings include an entrance fee to visit. The Valley of the Kings ticket is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

**Day 9 : Beach Time**

Luxor - Hurghada. Departing Luxor we head east to Hurghada part of the beautiful Red Sea Riviera for some beach time! **Overnight - Hurghada (B)**

**Day 10 : Hurghada by the Red Sea**

Today can either be spent relaxing by the beach in Hurghada or on an optional boat trip to snorkel and swim at Giftun Island.

Hurghada is one of the Red Sea’s most popular resorts and it’s the gateway to prime offshore reefs, which are some of the finest in the world. The resort also has an array of shops, restaurants and bars for evening entertainment.

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 cross 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 not part of your group on the boat. **Overnight - Hurghada (B)**

**Day 11 : Fly Egypt to Jordan**

Hurghada - Cairo - Amman - Petra (Monday).

We have an early start this morning as we make our way to Hurghada airport. From here we’ll fly to Amman via Cairo. Travellers need to independently book these flights at a personal cost, however, we can assist in booking these flights should you require. Total flight cost: budget USD$250 - $350. The flights to be booked are:

- **Tour starts between 01 Jul - 31 Dec 2019**

  Hurghada to Cairo - MS 332 departing at 08:35 and arriving CAI at 09:40, then MS 707 departing Cairo to Amman at 12 noon, arriving to Amman at 13:20/14:20 (dependent upon daylight saving). Book your flights on one ticket so clients will be able to check in all your luggage in Hurghada and collect it in Amman.

  Tours commencing 20 Dec & 27 Dec 2019

(Updated 19 Sep 2019) Flight: HRG - CAI, MS 332 at 08:35 is now sold out. Instead please book MS43 departing HRG at 05:30, arriving to CAI at 06:30. Regrettably, you'll then have a 5.5hr layover in Cairo Airport (there are no other flight options) before taking the normal CAI - AMM, MS 707 at 12 noon/ arriving to Amman at 13:30/14:20.

- **Tour starts between 01 Jan - 16 Mar 2020**

  Hurghada to Cairo - MS 43 at 05:30, arriving to Cairo at 06:30. Then Cairo to Amman - MS 707 at 12:05 arriving to Amman at 12:30. Book your flights on one ticket so you will be able to check in all your luggage in Hurghada and collect it in Amman. There is a 5.5hr layover in Cairo between flights, though this is the best connection.

- **Tour starts between 17 Mar - 15 Apr 2020**

  Hurghada to Cairo - MS 332 at 08:35, arriving to Cairo at 09:40. Then book Cairo to Amman - MS 707 at 12 noon arriving to Amman at 13:15/14:15. Book your flights on one ticket so you’ll be able to check in all your luggage in Hurghada and collect it in Amman. If flight Hurghada to Cairo MS332 is sold out, please book Hurghada to Cairo MS 43 at 05:30, arriving to CAI at 06:30. Then book the normal MS 707 as noted above. If booking this alternative there is a 5.5hr layover in Cairo.

Flights are best booked via the Egyptair website: www.egyptair.com or Royal Jordanian website: www.rj.com. Here, if you book your flight well in advance you will have access to the online ‘Best Offer’ fare that is only published on the web and are not available to us locally to book on your behalf. The cost of this flight ranges from: $250 - $350 per person.

If your tour commences after 15 Apr 2020, please do not book this flight at this point in time.

Upon arrival into Amman we drive south to Petra arriving near sunset. Tonight you may wish to take a candlelight stroll through Petra’s Siq – a romantic preview of things to come on, by joining the ‘Petra By Night’ excursion (book locally). **Overnight - Petra (B)**
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Day 12: Rose City of Petra

To discover the archaeological treasures of Petra, we first take a walk through the winding cleft in the rock that is known as the Siq, before reaching the awe-inspiring Treasury. This rose red building actually served as a royal tomb, but got its name from the legend that pirates hid their treasure there. More amazing Nabataean and Roman ruins follow, including a huge 8000 seat amphitheatre and other Royal tombs and Mausoleums.

Consider opting to book our Petra Kitchen add-on tonight and learn how to cook. If you are feeling energetic, why not continue up the hillside along the ancient steps that take you to the Monastery, to take in the stunning views. Today’s sightseeing tour of Petra is conducted at a moderate pace covering approximately 12 - 15km (including the Monastery). Much of the ground will be rocky and uneven and you will need to have an average level of fitness to complete the full tour. There will be short breaks along the way. Some travellers choose not to complete the full tour and skip the climb to the Monastery and should you do this you’ll be able to independently explore and stroll back toward the siq at a leisurely pace.

Day 13: 4x4 Desert Safari In Wadi Rum

Petra - Wadi Rum. There is a chance to revisit Petra this morning before our afternoon drive to Wadi Rum. A vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebels that rise from the desert floor awaits. Boarding 4x4 jeeps, we take an exhilarating desert safari across the sand dunes, taking in the breathtaking scenery of Wadi Rum. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner at our desert camp. Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)

Day 14: Crusader Castles, Wadi Wujib Canyoning & Dead Sea

Wadi Rum - Karak – Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. After breakfast at the campsite, we head north along the Desert Highway to visit Shobak Castle, which is perched dramatically on a hill top and was built by the Crusader king Baldwin I in 1115. We explore the castle and then descend some 1300 meters to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth’s surface. More than 400 meters below sea level, the mineral-rich Dead Sea is the world’s original health and beauty spa. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost.

For departures between April and October we’ll head up the King’s Highway to Wadi Mujib. We’ll embark on a moderate-paced two hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan’s most remarkable natural features. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the rainfall. When the water level is high you should be prepared for having to climb up ladders, clamber across boulders and be happy to wade through water. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea. For those not interested in taking the full hike, you can walk part of or wait by the Visitor Centre till the group returns. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea.

After check in at the Dead Sea, re-confirming your arrangements for travel to the Israel border on day 16, and answering any questions you may have, it will be time to say goodbye to your tour guide who will be returning to Amman today. Your time at the Dead Sea is offered purely as rest and relaxation and with no formal arrangements your guide will take his leave.

Note: Lunch and dinner at the Dead Sea are not included in our stay. A buffet lunch is offered daily at a cost of 13 JD and a dinner buffet nightly at a cost of 19 JD per person. There is also an a la carte menu and other restaurant choice available onsite. Overnight - Dead Sea (B)

Day 15: Relaxing At The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is a natural phenomena and high on most travellers’ bucket lists. Lucky for us we have a whole day to spend here, whiling away the time bobbing in its mineral-rich buoyant waters and lathering up with a detoxifying mud bath. Option to visit the Ma’in hot springs and the site where it is believed that pirates hid their treasure. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner at our desert camp. Overnight - Dead Sea (B)

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thought Jesus Christ was baptised by John (book locally). Overnight - Dead Sea (B)

Day 16: Dead Sea to Jerusalem

Dead Sea – Jerusalem (West Bank). This morning you’ll be picked up at 9:00am and transferred to the King Hussein (Jordanian Border) where after departure formalities you will transfer by public shuttle bus 1 kilometre at a cost of approx 7.5JD and 1JD per bag across to the Allenby bridge (Israeli Border point). At times (dependant upon the group size) a private transfer across the border is allowed with no associated costs.

After attending to immigration and passport control, you will be met by your Israeli driver, who will be standing next to the currency exchange office from 11am onward. Your driver will then transfer you to your hotel in Jerusalem.

It is a good idea to arrange a packed lunch or pack snacks with you before setting off from Jordan as the border process can be as quick as 30 minutes and at other times several hours.

The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore. Today is the Sabbath and hotel check-in will not be until after sundown. You are welcome to wait at the hotel until check-in or you can use the time to head out and wander around the World Heritage Listed city on foot whilst the city is devoid of traffic or opt to visit the Israel Museum. Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 17: Bethlehem

Today we enjoy a guided tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem (both located in the West Bank). Our first stop is the holy Mount of Olives where there are amazing panoramic views of the old city. We take a walking tour of the atmospheric old city; wander through the Armenian and Jewish quarters to the Cardo (ancient Roman road). We continue on through the old city and the Christian quarter, visiting the famous Wailing Wall - a place of constant prayer and one of the most revered Hebrew sites. Retracing the final laboured steps of Jesus, burdened under the weight of the cross, we walk along the Via Dolorosa to the hallowed Church of the Sepulchre; the site of the crucifixion, Jesus’ tomb and the resurrection.

A short drive from Jerusalem is Bethlehem – the birthplace of Jesus; where we visit Manger Square and the Church of Nativity, which is reputed to be the oldest Church in the world and the site where Jesus was born. Returning to Jerusalem the evening is spent at leisure. Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)

Day 18: Haifa, Caesarea & Jaffa

Jerusalem – Haifa – Caesarea – Jaffa – Tel Aviv. We bid farewell to Jerusalem today and head north to the port city of Haifa. Here we’ll visit the UNESCO world heritage listed Bahai Shrine and the beautiful tropical gardens set on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Travelling down the coast we stop in the historic city of Caesarea where Roman and Crusader-era ruins are strewn along the sea front. Continuing south we reach Jaffa, an ancient port where we enjoy a walking tour of the picturesque fortified town and marvel at the hilltop views. Then it’s just a short drive to the vibrant, modern and cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv, where we spend our final night. Dubbed “the city that never sleeps” Tel Aviv is renowned for its hedonistic nightlife and the city also has a plethora of trendy bistros, high-end restaurants and delicious street food stalls to choose from for dinner. Overnight - Tel Aviv (B)

Day 19: Tel Aviv

Tuesday. Our tour ends today with an included transfer from Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion Airport at any time of day.

There’s so much to see and do in Tel Aviv that we highly recommend extending your stay to enjoy its beautiful beaches, art galleries and markets, including the popular Nachiket Benjamin market, which is only open on Tuesdays. We can book post tour accommodation upon request. (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.

TRIP NOTES

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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.

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 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.

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.

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 Resort

Continental Resort Hurghada fits perfectly into its surroundings on Hurghada Bay. Lush gardens and a private beach, marina and freshwater pool are steps from your door.

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.

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 sauna and spa treatments to relax after the day’s activities. You can also wine and dine at one of the many great restaurants and bars.
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Petra Moon Hotel
Just 300 ft from the entrance gate to Petra, the Petra Moon hotel features spacious rooms with private balconies and flat-screen TVs. It also has a roof garden with a seasonal outdoor pool. The soundproofed rooms and suites at Petra Moon come with satellite channels, a DVD player and extra-long beds. Each has air conditioning and a private bathroom. The hotel’s restaurant serves a delicious selection of international meals in both buffet-style and a la carte.

Old Village Resort
Located above Wadi Mousa, Old Village Resort has a wonderfully traditional feel about it with open stonework and original architecture. Rooms are full of character, some with delightful archways and all directly accessed from the outside. The hotel boasts an indoor swimming pool and sauna and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. For dinner why not dine al fresco at the restaurant overlooking the mountains. Well located in forested wadis facing Petra’s mountains.

Rainbow Camp
A row of permanent tents in the desert make up the popular Rainbow Camp. Inside the tents are comfortable camp beds and warm bedding. Showers and toilets are close by and are cleaned thoroughly every day. Guests can relax in the communal area which is adorned with colourful rugs and cushions. The food at Rainbow Camp always gets rave reviews. Taking an evening stroll around the beautiful surroundings is a great way to work up an appetite before dinner. This accommodation is well located in the heart of Wadi Rum.

Holiday Inn Resort
Graced with interconnecting palm fringed swimming pools leading to the Dead Sea, the Holiday Inn is an Arabesque style hotel. Guest rooms are elegantly furnished and benefit from complimentary high speed internet. The hotel also has an on site fitness centre and a fine choice of Spa facilities. The 24 hour sleek bar is the perfect place for a tipple at any time of the day or night. The accommodation is located on the shores of the world famous Dead Sea.

Eyal Hotel
Opened in 2014, the Eyal Hotel offers a modern stay in the ancient city of Jerusalem. It boasts an excellent location within walking distance of many points of interest, such as the Great Synagogue, the Damascus Gate and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, to name just a few. Each guestroom is fully equipped with essential amenities, with WiFi available free of charge, and the hotel also features an onsite buffet restaurant. However, its real highlight is the rooftop terrace, from which you can enjoy fantastic views over the city center and ancient city walls.

Prima Park Hotel
Located at the entrance to Jerusalem, Prima Park is the perfect starting point for exploring this ancient city and its surrounding wineries. Its guestrooms feature contemporary décor, with a mini fridge, free WiFi and fantastic views over the city. Enjoy a lavish Israeli breakfast buffet each morning in the Patio dining room, with the wine lounge bar being a great spot to unwind after a day of sightseeing. Guests also benefit from complimentary access to the Hebrew University’s fitness centre, where you can take a dip in the indoor pool or relax in the sauna.

Prima Kings Hotel
Offering an excellent location between Jerusalem’s exclusive Rahavia neighborhood and the Old City, Prima Kings is just metres away from the Great Synagogue. It’s façade features colourful bougainvillea cascading over each balcony, with guestrooms offering free WiFi, a private bathroom with a bath and soft carpeted floors. A buffet breakfast and dinner are served daily in the Carmel and Zion Hall, with a coffee shop also selling an array of snacks and drinks. Be sure to also take advantage of the hotel’s spa facilities, which include a fitness centre, sauna and a range of rejuvenating treatments and massages.
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land with Cruise

BY 14 Hotel
Well-located on one of Tel Aviv’s central streets, this boutique hotel is just minutes from the Carmel Market, Dizengoff Square and the lively cafes and restaurants of Sheinkein Street. Its guestrooms are spacious and comfortable, featuring modern décor and free high-speed WiFi. An extensive sweet and savoury breakfast is served daily in the hotel’s café, and guests can also take advantage of the free gym and bike rental. Although as the beach is just footsteps away, you’ll most likely be spending your time soaking up the sun on the sands.

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, 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. Arrangements in Jordan, Israel and Turkey will be conducted by qualified tour guides each local to the country you are visiting.

Perseid’s Meteor Shower
depture – 31 July 2020
The 31 July 2020 departure offer the chance to witness the spectacular Perseids Meteor Shower which occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At its peak the meteors rain down at a rate of about 60 meteors per hour. Special arrangements on this tour are as follows:

Days 1 - 12: Arrangements as per normal Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land itinerary.

PLEASE NOTE: Petra by Night (candlelight walk along the Siq) cannot be not offered if staying in Petra on a Friday and Saturday evenings, as the site is closed during this time.

Day 13: Petra - Wadi Rum. There is a chance to revisit Petra this morning before leaving at noon to drive to Wadi Rum. Upon arrival in Wadi Rum, we enjoy a jeep safari through the area once favoured by the legendary Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab uprising. Wadi Rum is a vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebels that rise from the desert floor, the desert scape of Wadi Rum represents some of the most stunning countryside on the planet.

Tonight, we’ll tuck into a Jordanian dinner before the stargazing begins. The Perseids Meteor Shower occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At its peak the meteors rain down at a rate of about 60 meteors per hour. The clear and night sky of the Jordanian desert is the ideal place from which to view these celestial wonders. The Perseids were traditionally known as the “tears of St Lawrence” because they often appeared around the saint’s feast day.

In previous years, our groups have enjoyed a spectacular showering up well into the night and counting well over 150 meteors shooting across the sky and we hope to have the same experience this year. Overnight – Wadi Rum (B, D)

Day 14: Wadi Rum - Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. This morning we get the chance to experience Wadi Rum as the Bedouins do - by camel. Until recently, the Bedouins were a nomadic people who made their living through looking after their herds of goats. Although most of the Bedouins have now become villagers, they still rely on the goats for the milk, yoghurt and cheese, and some families do return for a part of the year to a wandering existence, minding their flocks. As we ride through Wadi Rum on camel back we have a chance to see some of the desert wildlife including many small birds and various Geckos and Agamas, including the striking bright blue Agama.

Departing Wadi Rum, we’ll head up the King’s Highway to Wadi Mujib. We’ll embark on a moderate paced two-hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan’s most remarkable natural features. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the level of rainfall. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species.

After our trek, we make our way to the Dead Sea. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost. Overnight – Dead Sea (B)

PLEASE NOTE: We are unable to visit Shobak Crusader Castle today as is usually done on the Road to Jerusalem year round tour, due to the altered itinerary and time constraints.

Days 15: Onwards, arrangements as per normal Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land itinerary.

Wadi Rum Desert Camp
In Jordan we include a night in Wadi Rum at a Bedouin desert camp, where camping is the best way for us to experience the beautiful desert landscape. You can choose to spend the night camping under the stars or bedding down in our comfortable permanent tents with twin beds and linen provided, although you may want to bring your own sleeping bag liner. If visiting in winter (Nov - Mar) it
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land with Cruise

can be very cold at night in the desert and you may wish to bring your own sleeping bag for warmth. There are environmentally friendly shared bathroom facilities with hot and cold running water, toilets and showers. Our communal tent furnished with small tables and cushioned seating area, is the place to gather at night where we enjoy a hearty Jordanian meal and some traditional Bedouin music.

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

Arriving into Israel

To complete your Israeli Immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation is Israel. We use 3 properties in Jerusalem and the specific property changes on a week to week basis. All properties are part of the ‘Prima’ hotel chain, with linked reservation system so please use the following hotel name/address:

Prima Hotel
2 Vilnay Street, 95435 Jerusalem
Phone: +972-3-552-2220

If you need assistance whilst in Israel, please contact our Operations Manager:
Ms Yettie Kalifa - Mobile: 00972 546 664 261 or Heike Kluss-Oiknine - Mobile 00972 54 620 8798

After completing immigration, please meet our driver or representative at the ‘Help Counter’ which is located between the custom desk and the exit door.

If for any reason you have not made contact with your driver, please Do NOT leave the border, contact our Operations Manager, on the number detailed above.

After meeting, our driver will transfer you to the Prima Royale/ Prima Kings or Prima Park Hotel. As today is the Sabbath hotel check in may/ may not be till after sunset. The afternoon and evening offers free time. Use the time to head out and explore the old city (which is not half as busy today as normal) or the Jerusalem Museum which is a 30 min walk from the hotel.

Israeli Passport Stamps

Israeli Immigration do not stamp passports but instead provide a ticket (similar to a bus ticket) confirming you have legally entered the country. You should keep this ticket with your passport till your departure from the country.

The following countries, AND ONLY THESE COUNTRIES (Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) take issue with passports containing evidence of travel to Israel. Should you be planning to travel to any of the countries and wish for your passport NOT to contain evidence of having travelled to Israel, you will need to have your Jordanian exit stamp (given at the King Hussein/ Allenby Bridge Border crossing), stamped upon a separate piece of paper, which Jordanian officials are willing to do.

Wadi Mujib Gorge

If travelling between 01 Apr - 31 Oct, you have the option to take a walk through the canyons of Wadi Mujib. Starting at the visitor’s centre near the Mujib Bridge we walk/wade upstream through the gorge nestled deep within the sandstone outcrop to the base of a large waterfall. Depending on seasonal rainfall levels, the gorge may contain pools deep enough for swimming. It’s an ideal walk to take slowly and enjoy the cool water and shade, especially in the heat of the summer. Despite being relatively easy at times, it does have hidden risks. When the water level is high you should be prepared for having to climb up ladders, clamber across boulders and be happy to wade through water. The river bed changes after each winter flood and this can create deep pools and strong currents making this walk harder (speak to your guide about the current conditions). Always take care along the walk, avoid pools and rapids, respect any rope barriers and take care if scaling up wet rocks using the ropes. Depending on conditions this would be unsuitable for travellers that are not confident swimmers.

What you need to bring:

Clothes: Should be light and comfortable. T-shirts and long shorts are advisable (to protect legs). You are advised to wear a bathing suit under your clothes and bear in mind that all your clothes will get totally wet so don't wear anything that you don’t mind getting ruined. Shoes will also get totally wet. Therefore wear something that is not slippery and avoid flip flops or thongs - rugged water shoes are a good option. You may wear hiking sandals as well. Sunscreen is important along with caps. (The beginning of the hike is under the sun but later you are shaded by the mountains). You may want to bring clothes to change into after the walk. Prescription eye glasses and sunglasses may get damaged and are best left behind.

Arriving to Jordan

Please be advised that 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 Jordan.

As a registered holiday operator we are able to obtain Jordan tourist visas free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders travelling with us on a holiday including a stay of more than 2 consecutive nights in Jordan or if arriving via a land border staying more than 3 nights. If your holiday complies with these requirements we will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land with Cruise

If we are obtaining a free of charge visa on your behalf, our airport representative will meet your PRIOR to immigration at Amman International Airport and escort you through immigration presenting your free visa approval letter to officials. If you are unable to make contact with our representative prior to immigration please do NOT proceed through immigration (as you will need to pay the visa cost) but instead call our emergency contact number.

Please be sure to provide us with your full passport details at least 4 weeks prior to your arrival in order for the free visa to be arranged.

Should you NOT wish to take advantage of a free visa or you are not staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at a cost of 40JD/USD$60/EURO42 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

If you are arranging your visa independently, our airport representative will meet you in the Arrivals Hall. (Representatives are not permitted to enter the immigration area to assist clients who have/will arrange their visa independently).

It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan. If planning to leave Jordan and travel to Egypt or Israel and re-enter Jordan at a later date you will need to arrange a second visa. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain this second visa for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

On departure (via land or sea), a 10JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If you are departing Jordan by air then the departure tax is included in the airfare.

**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.

**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.

It is common practice to tip the conductor and crew a small amount per day. A suggested amount per day is USD$5.

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).

**Visas - Egypt**

Visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of

**Entry 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.

**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.
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land with Cruise - 19 days

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
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
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- 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.

- 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.

Israel Country Guide

Welcome to Israel

Israel and the Palestinian Territories are both fascinating and beautiful, rich in culture, steeped in history and home to some of the world’s most holy sites, at the cornerstone of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths. The revered Holy Lands, once walked upon by Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, the apostles, Baha’i saints, and the Prophet Muhammad (in a miraculous Night Journey), have been a sought-after destination for pilgrims across the world, from ancient times until today. Whilst cosmopolitan Tel Aviv, offers all things modern, the ancient port city of Jaffa which is medieval in appearance, has a laid back Mediterranean seaside resort appeal and the Dead Sea provides the unique opportunity to float in its famously buoyant waters.

Climate

Temperatures vary widely, especially from December – early March. The more mountainous regions can be windy, cold
Pyramids, Petra, Promised Land with Cruise - 19 days

and sometimes snowy, Mount Hermon’s peak is covered with snow most of the year and Jerusalem usually receives at least one snowfall each year. Temperatures at this time of year average 10-15°C in most places, but approx 5°C in Jerusalem and the Galilee hills - where it can be very cold at night. In January and February there is often heavy rain.

Meanwhile, coastal cities, such as Tel Aviv and Haifa have a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers (May to early September) when temperatures range from 27°C – 32°C and rainfall is minimal.

Time & Voltage
Israel is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). Daylight Saving time starts on the Friday before the 02 April. The move back to standard time occurs late September/early October according to the Jewish calendar falling on a Saturday night between Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur. During this period, Israel is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts, 50Hz AC. Primary sockets require the Continental or European, 2 small round pin 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.

Arrival Airport Transfers
Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, our representative, carrying an On The Go Tours signboard, will be waiting to meet you just after passport control before you collect your luggage. Please hand this tour voucher to him/her. If for any reason you are unable to commence your tour as scheduled, or on arrival are unable to make contact with our rep (within 20 minutes) please do not exit the airport, call our emergency contact number as detailed above.

Essential Packing
• Bring your own beach towel to make the most of the perfect Tel Aviv Mediterranean beaches
• If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella
• If visiting in summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
• 3 pin ‘type H’ Israel electrical adaptor
• Tour voucher and a copy of your travel insurance
• Two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
• Proper walking shoes (joggers/ trainers) for sightseeing in the old city of Jerusalem

Health Requirements
You should seek medical advice before travelling to Israel from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus and Hepatitis A are strongly recommended. The tap water in Israel is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Currency
The currency of Israel is Israeli New Shekel. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Israel. ATMs and exchange facilities are available everywhere. It’s advisable to request bank 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 and incur high fees.

Visas - Israel
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 Israel, with two blank pages.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. British, South African, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian passport holders do not require a visa to enter Israel. For all other nationalities please visit the Israeli embassy website: http://israel.embassyhomepage.com

Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel.

ISRAELI LAND BORDER TAXES: On both arrival into Israel from Jordan, you must take the official border shuttle bus or chartered coach at a cost of JD 6 (about $8), payable in USD or JD.

Food, Wine & Kosher meals
Food in Israel is extremely diverse and generally very good. A well known favourite is falafel – small fried balls of mashed chickpeas, usually served inside unleavened pita bread with houmous (a cream of chickpeas, tehina, onion, lemon and olive oil). Another popular dish is Shawarma, sliced turkey meat which is also served in pita bread. Also try Me’orav Yerushalmi (Jerusalemite mix) which contain several types of meat, or Schnitzel. Fresh fruit and salads are very popular in Israeli cuisine.

Israeli sweets are delightful, try Teiglach - tiny marble sized dough balls drenched in a honey syrup or Ingberlach - ginger candies shaped into small sticks. The Mohn Khel is a circular or rectangular wafer sprinkled with poppy seed. Pirushkes, or turnovers are little cakes fried in honey or dipped in molasses after they are baked. Strudel is served for dessert.

Alcohol is available at many hotels and restaurant (excluding the Palestinian territories) Maccabee and Gold star, both palatable pale lagers and certified kosher. Israeli wine is produced by hundreds of wineries. The nation’s modern Israeli wine industry was founded by Baron Edmond James de Rothschild, owner of the Bordeaux estate Château Lafitte-Rothschild. Much of the country is suited for viticulture, prices are fair and top drop can be enjoyed with every meal.

If your tour includes dinner in Jerusalem, you are best to re-confirm this information with the hotel reception upon check in. Meals (breakfast and dinners) in the hotel are Kosher. Meaning that you will never find dairy products served served with beef. Pork will not be served nor will various types of shellfish. The combinations may seem a little unusual though their is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal.
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Lunches: Where lunch is not included within your itinerary (most days or all days) we suggest you budget $25 - $30 per day for an average meal.

Culture & Dress
Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Israel. Israel is generally a very relaxed country with a western-oriented outlook. Respect for religion is important to most Israeli’s and there are a few situations when this should be kept in mind.

Visitors to some synagogues, most churches and all mosques should be aware that entry will normally not be permitted to those with exposed legs or women with exposed upper arms. Women may be asked to cover bare arms and legs in both mosques and synagogues. Carry a wrap or bring along long sleeve shirts for these occasions. Further, men should cover their heads when entering a synagogue with a hemispherical shaped skullcap called a kippah or yarmulke (often provided by the synagogue) though a normal sunhat is also acceptable and in mosques both men and women will be required to take off their shoes before entry.

Israelis are generally quite direct in what they have to say. Openness and honesty are often valued over politeness and projection of niceness. Direct personal questions are common and should not be taken as offensive. Israelis are also very kind and hospitable. When you make a friend here, they will do their best to take care of you while you’re in their country. Foreign visitors are deeply appreciated and are generally shown the utmost respect by locals.

Jordan Country Guide

Arriving to Jordan
For all clients that arrive to into Amman Queen Alia International airport to start their Jordan touring program, to give you our informative welcome letter and to answer any questions you may have.

If for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes at immigration) or your flight to Jordan is delayed, please call or send a text message to emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Mosques, Religion & Ramadan
93% of the population are Muslim. Others are Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. If visiting a mosque you will need to dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

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. 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

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

Visas - Jordan
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 Jordan.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services.

As a registered holiday operator we are able to obtain Jordan tourist visas free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders travelling with us on a holiday including a stay of more than 2 consecutive nights in Jordan or if arriving via a land border staying more than 3 nights. If your holiday complies with these requirements we will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.

If we are obtaining a free of charge visa on your behalf, our airport representative will meet you PRIOR to immigration at Amman International Airport and escort you through immigration presenting your free visa approval letter to officials. If you are unable to make contact with our representative prior to immigration please do NOT proceed through immigration (as you will need to pay the visa cost) but instead call our emergency contact number.

Please be sure to provide us with your full passport details at least 4 weeks prior to your arrival in order for the free visa to be arranged.

TRIP NOTES

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.
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Should you NOT wish to take advantage of a free visa or you are not staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at a cost of 40JD/USD$60/EUR042 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

If you are arranging your visa independently, our airport representative will meet you in the Arrivals Hall. (Representatives are not permitted to enter the immigration area to assist clients who have/will arrange their visa independently).

It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan. If planning to leave Jordan and travel to Egypt or Israel and re-enter Jordan at a later date you will need to arrange a second visa. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain this second visa for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

On departure (via land or sea), a 10JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If departing Jordan by air then the departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain this second visa for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

On departure (via land or sea), a 10JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If departing Jordan by air then the departure tax is included in the airfare.

Currency

The maximum daily temperature in Amman ranges from 12°C in January to 32°C in August. The weather in the Jordan Valley (Petra) and south of the country is very hot during the summer months of April through to September. At this time of year daytime temperatures can exceed 38°C and increase to as high as 49°C. The sun can be fierce so it is advised to apply plenty of sunscreen, especially at the Dead Sea.

In winter (December to February) temperatures can range from 0°C to 12°C. If visiting during winter you will need to pack warm clothes for sightseeing, although the Dead Sea region will still be quite warm. If your holiday includes a stay in the Wadi Rum desert, winter wear items such as hat, scarf and gloves are also advised.

Essential Packing

- Camp at Wadi Rum - All bedding (of a well-launched standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. It is of a personal choice should you wish to bring your own sleep sheet or sleeping bag
- Pack insect repellent and a torch or headlamp if staying in Wadi Rum
- If visiting in winter pack warm clothes and an umbrella
- In summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- UK 3 pin and European 2 prong (European more so for Israel) electrical adaptors as the sockets vary from one hotel to another
- A copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Proper walking shoes (joggers/trainers) for sightseeing in Petra
- If visiting Wadi Mujib Siq trail/canyon you'll need clothing and footwear that can get wet. Ideally a t-shirt & shorts or swimmers and trainers/walking shoes that will spend most of the walk submerged
- Binoculars IMPORTANT - are considered as surveillance equipment. Should you be carrying binoculars expect that you'll be asked to hand these over briefly at times (with your passport) by police or military for inspection. You should not be concerned by the event, as this is merely a routine inspection of the item

Petra Park Services Charge

The cost of the entrance ticket to Petra includes a compulsory 7JD fee to ride an Arabian horse. This Government-approved directive is in support of the local Bedouin who own the horses and also live in the surrounding town of Wadi Musa. As you have paid this obligatory charge, you are indeed entitled to ride a horse 800 metres down to the entrance gate at Petra. However, please be aware that you'll need to tip the horse handler an extra 2JD. IMPORTANT- On The Go Tours only recommends that you do so if you are an experienced rider. The decision to ride a horse is a personal one.

Shopping

Jordan offers a range of quality souvenirs. Look out for high-quality artefacts including rugs, pottery, paintings, jewellery, embroidery and woven items produced by local Jordanian women under the auspices of the Noor- Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund. A popular form of ceramic ware is ‘Jerusalem Pottery’. Platters are highly decorated with biblically-inspired designs including fish, peacocks, grapes and goblets of wine. Known as Hebron glass, colourful handmade glassware in brilliant colours is a nice buy, as is silver jewellery crafted by the Bedouin people. Dead Sea products of all guises, olive oil and soaps, sweetmeats and olive wood objects are also uniquely Jordanian souvenirs.

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

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bought in country or shipping arrangements.
Proceed with caution.