Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise
16 days | Istanbul to Cairo

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

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

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

What's Included
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- 14 breakfasts and 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- 7 nights 4 star and special class hotels in Turkey, 3 nights 4 - 5 star hotels in Egypt
- 3 nights aboard a five star Nile cruiser
- 2 nights overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival transfer in Turkey day 1 and departure shuttle on day 8 at 11am and 1:30pm to Istanbul Airport
- Cairo - Airport arrival transfer on day 8 and departure transfer on day 16
- Touring of Istanbul, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Pergamum, Pamukkale Hierapolis
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan & Luxor
- Escorted by degree qualified tour guides in Turkey and Egypt
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles
- Flight from Denizli (Pamukkale) to Istanbul

What's Not Included
- Tip for your tour guides in Turkey and Egypt. We recommend you allow USD$100-120pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD$160-180pp, paid in local currency
- International flights (including the flight from Istanbul to Cairo), visas and tipping
- Tip for your tour guides in Turkey and Egypt. We recommend you allow USD$5 - 7 per person, per day. For your driver in Turkey we recommend USD$2 per person per day. Tipping of these persons mentioned above is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

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

Day 2: The Old City
Istanbul. After a good night’s rest and breakfast, we meet all our tour group
Day 3 : Gallipoli

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

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

Day 4 : Troy and Coastal Kusadasi

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

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

Day 5 : Legendary Ephesus

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

Day 6 : Pamukkale Travertines

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

Pamukkale was formed when warm, calcium rich mineral water cascaded over the cliff edge, cooling and depositing in the process. The calcium built natural shelves and pools on the cliffs, known as travertines. Today, some of the pools are closed. However, areas of the travertines can be walked upon, albeit in bare feet. We can however opt to enjoy a unique and very pleasant dip in the warm waters at the Pamukkale Thermal, with its submerged...
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Day 9 : Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara

Cairo – Aswan. After a good nights 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. Throughout the tour, you’ll be fully briefed by your tour leader as regards touring arrangements. We then visit the famous pyramids and huge Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek-listed Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet’s oldest tourist attraction! Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were already more than 2,000 years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stonemasons did the job of building the pyramids. 100,000 slaves 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 Zhoser’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. At the train station, there’ll be the opportunity to buy more water and snacks before boarding the overnight sleeper train to Aswan. Overnight - Sleeper train (B)

Day 10 : Aswan

Arrive into Aswan this morning and board your 5 star Nile Cruiser where you will spend the next three nights. In the afternoon enjoy a leisurely boat trip to Agilkia Island for a guided tour of the romantic Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. As the sun sets, free time to shop in the colourful souqs and markets or simply relax and watch an amazing sunset in Egypt’s southern most town straddling the River Nile.

5 STAR NILE CRUISER: You will be provided with the cruising schedule upon arrival to Aswan. Cruise schedules vary. Boarding of the cruise ship will be on day 10 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 11 for a period of 3 nights. Facilities on board the Nile cruiser include a bar, lounge, dining room and outdoor recreation area. The boat deck offers plenty of space for relaxation and there is a swimming pool. Your outward facing cabin located on the main or upper deck offers air-conditioning, a private bathroom and views of the Nile as we sail. In the evening, low-key entertainment is on hand. All meals are included, buffet style.

Your cruise 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 to 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 11-12 : Nile Cruising

Aswan – Nile cruise - Luxor. Optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel. Travelling due south through the vast sandy desert we arrive at the site. Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder is possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its mammoth rock-cut façade. Abu Simbel was created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple, the four famous colossal statues of Ramses II sit majestically, staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. In a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, the temple was famously re-located further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser, which had threatened to erode the foundations of this monolithic temple complex.

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

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

On day 12 relax, enjoy a swim in the pool and chill out in the sun on deck. Let your troubles melt away as we cruise the River Nile to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its best. Arriving into Luxor in the afternoon the rest of the day is free to explore the city before we spend our final night aboard the cruiser.

Please note: For those who book the optional excursion to Abu Simbel, the cruiser remains in port until your return from Abu Simbel. On a rare occasion the ship may have already set sail from Aswan by the time we return, if this happens you will be transferred by road to the nearest dock to rendezvous with your cruiser. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (2) (B,2; L,2; D,2)**

Day 13 : Luxor

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

Day 14 : Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. The first monument you'll see on the West Bank is the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III. Further highlights include the legendary Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs, constructed to house the regal sarcophagi enclosed mummies of the mighty pharaohs awaiting their passage into the after-life. Some of the best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Discovered intact in 1922 by Howard Carter, it represented possibly one of the most dazzling archaeological finds ever. King Tutankhamen's solid gold funerary mask and his priceless cache of treasures entombed with him for his journey to the afterlife, are now on display at the world famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In all, more than 60 tombs have been excavated. Deir el-Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut rises out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces partly rockcut, partly freestanding, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments.

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

Later this afternoon after time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak - a spectacular temple on a gigantic scale dedicated to the Theban gods. Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. Gigantic in proportion, at over 15km by 800m and the fact that almost every pharaoh left his (or her) mark here with evolving artistic and architectural styles, wandering through the temple is one of the highlights of a visit to Egypt. Tonight, we return to Cairo by sleeper train. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 15 : Egyptian Museum

Arrive Cairo and guided visit to the 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 Tutankhamen. Opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish. Remainder of the day free to relax, shop and explore. Perhaps head to Khan el-Khalili bazaar and pick up a few souvenirs. An
optional Cairo city tour is also available locally.

Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 16 : Cairo
Sunday. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to airport.(B)

HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Ramada Old City

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

Tusan Hotel

The family run Tusan Hotel offers modern facilities in a tranquil setting. Rooms are comfortable and well equipped and offer guests beautiful forest or sea views. The hotel benefits from a private beach and an indoor and outdoor restaurant. A refreshing pint of beer in the English Pub whilst challenging the bar staff to a game of pool is a great way to spend the evening. This accommodation sits within a beautiful pine forest looking across the Dardanelles with a magnificent view of the City and Sea. The perfect way to end the day. Located very close to the Historical part of the city with major Monuments are all walking distance.

Marina Hotel

Marina hotel is a modern hotel with a sea view and balcony from nearly every spacious room. It has recently been renovated and features an indoor and outdoor pool and you may also use the facilities and beach of 5-Star Pine Bay.

Colossae Thermal Spa Hotel

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

Istanbul to Cairo Flight

Please note: The flight from Istanbul to Cairo is not included in the cost of this tour. Turkish Airlines and EgyptAir offer flights between Istanbul and Cairo, check the THY or Egyptair websites for more details.

Groups & Guides

Groups: The longest Signature Tour we offer is not included in the cost of this tour. Turkish Airlines and EgyptAir offer flights between Istanbul and Cairo, check the THY or Egyptair websites for more details.

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.

El Alamein day trip - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm.

Alexandria & El Alamein - 3 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.

For further information about Add-ons, please refer to our website: www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Tour-Add-ons

Domestic Flights - Baggage Allowance

Please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy Class travel on flights within Turkey is generally 15 or 20kg (varying by airline) with 5 - 7kg for hand luggage. Additional weight is charged per kilo and varies between airlines. Please ensure that

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updated on 25-06-2019

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 setting. 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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you check these requirements prior to travel, if travelling with more.

Arrival Transfer - Egypt
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 either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

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 to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

2020 Tour Changes
Please note: In 2020 the arrangements of this tour will change. You will spend seven days in Turkey rather than eight, flying to Cairo on the Friday. The change will ensure there is ample time to explore the new Grand Egyptian Museum set to open fully in 2020. The 2020 itinerary will be as follows...

Days 1 - 6 No changes. As per itinerary
Day 7 Friday. Pamukkale - Istanbul - Cairo.
Transfer to Denizli Airport for a morning flight to Istanbul Airport arriving at approx. 08:50am. In the afternoon fly from Istanbul to Cairo (this flight is not included in the price).

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. At 7pm meet your Egyptian guide at the Welcome Meeting. Overnight - Cairo

Please Note: Please ensure you book your international flight from Istanbul to Cairo departing Istanbul after 1pm, allowing for domestic flight delays. Turkish Airlines and Egyptair offer direct flights between Istanbul and Cairo, check the THY or Egyptair websites for more details.

Day 8 Guided tour of the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and Saqqara. Overnight Cairo (B)
Day 9 Guided tour of the new Grand Egyptian Museum in the morning. Afternoon at leisure to relax by the pool or independently explore before boarding the overnight sleeper train to Aswan. Overnight Sleeper Train (B)

Days 10 - 14 As per our standard itinerary
Day 15 Arrive into Cairo and spend the day at leisure. Overnight Cairo (B)
Day 16 Transfer to the airport
If you have any questions about these new arrangements please do not hesitate to contact us.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Day 1 - Hotel Check-in & Welcome Meeting
Upon arrival, please check in with the hotel reception, you will need to complete a hotel registration card and hand over your passport to which you can collect from reception later in the day. Please look for the welcome sign located in the hotel foyer which will outline our arrangements for the coming days (including the exact time of your welcome meeting this evening, usually at 8pm) and the name of your tour guide. You'll then receive a room key and you can head up to your room.

Please note that most accommodation is based upon twin share, i.e. rooms are made up as twin rooms with two single beds. At time of booking we do take requests for those who wish to share a double bed though with the constraints of each hotels inventory this cannot be guaranteed.

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

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

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

ARRIVING INTO ISTANBUL AIRPORT
When you enter the arrival hall in Istanbul Airport our representative will be waiting for you, holding an On The Go sign. Remember, the representative won’t know what you look like, so it will be important to look out for our company sign, to facilitate rendezvous.

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

If your tour or sailing holiday does not include an arrival transfer, you will need to make your own way to the tour start point. Details of the tour/ sailing holiday start point can be found on your Tour Voucher.

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

Entrance fees
On group tours, entrance fees to tourist sites are not included in our tour price (except on our City of Sultans tour). Funds will be collected in Turkey (and Egypt if travelling on one of our combo tours) for your entrance fees, that are payable in local currency - Turkish Lira and Egyptian Pounds and will be collected by your tour guide. You will find the cost of entrance fees noted under 'What's Not Included' on page 1 of this document.

Entrance fee amounts do change, therefore upon arrival in Turkey your tour leader will outline the exact total of your entrance fees and collect this amount in Turkish Lira on day 2 of your tour. A breakdown of these costs is available upon request from your guide.

Tipping Kitty
It is customary to tip in Turkey. At the start of your tour we collect a small tipping kitty from all tour participants to cover tips en-route (to be paid in Turkish Lira). This saves...
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you the hassle of when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, waiters, your airport representative and other support staff throughout your tour. This tipping kitty does not include a tip for your tour guide (for a job well done!) where we recommend an amount of approximately USD $4-5 per day, though the amount to tip your guide is up to you.

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

Departure Transfers
We offer the following complimentary departure transfers: Christmas Turkey, Turkey Unplugged, Turkey and Tutankhamun - departure transfers at 11am and 1:30pm on the final day of your tour (day 8 for Turkey & Tutankhamen tour) to Istanbul Airport. Turkey Discovered: Departure transfer on the final day of your tour at 9am and 1pm. Should you require a departure transfer at any other time, this can be booked in advance or locally.

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 constantly 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 cannot be held responsible.

Important: RSA, Chinese and passport holders from a number of other countries cannot 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 3377070
- 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...
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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 Saqara. 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
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us on the felucca or onward to Jordan.

Felucca (Egypt): We suggest hiring locally a fishing boat for your Nile cruise. Felucca are very basic and offer little luxury. Wadi Rum Camp (Jordan): All bedding (which is freshly laundered) is provided at Wadi Rum Camp (Jordan). The cost for the 2 night stay is USD$15 (total) for the 2 night stay.

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

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Turkey & Tutankhamun with Cruise - 16 days

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bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Turkey Country Guide

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

Turkey: Visas
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 Turkey. After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible.

African passport holders currently need an E Visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

Canadian passport holders, USD$20 for tourist e-visa online prior to departure. Costs are currently USD$60 for Australian and Canadian passport holders, USD$20 for British, USA and Irish passport holders. South African passport holders currently need an e-visa but there is no charge for this. New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

To arrange a Turkey e-visa online go to: www.evisa.gov.tr

After suspending all visa services for U.S citizens in October 2018, the Turkish Government have now announced the resumption of limited visa services for U.S. citizens. U.S citizens are not eligible for E Visas and must apply for a visa via their nearest consulate or embassy. Please note that the Turkish Government may change the visa requirements/restrictions at any time. If you are a U.S Citizen who plans to visit Turkey, it is essential that you contact your local Turkish embassy/consulate for the latest advice.

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

Turkey: Fact File
Official Name: Republic of Turkey
Capital: Ankara
Population: 70 million
Total Area: 780,580 square kilometres
Official Language: Turkish. Kurdish, English and French also spoken
Religions: Islam 99.8%, Christian and Jewish 0.2%
Voltage: 230 volts
Dialling Code: +90

Time Difference: GMT/UTC +2. For other time differences please visit www.timeanddate.com

Turkey: Brief history
Present-day Turkey was created in 1923 from the Turkish remnants of the Ottoman Empire. In 1945 Turkey joined the UN, and in 1952 it became a member of NATO. Turkey intervened militarily on Cyprus in 1974 to protect Turkish Cypriots and prevent a Greek takeover of the island; the northern 37 percent of the island remains under Turkish Cypriot control. Relations between Turkey and Greece have improved greatly over the past few years. Politically, modern Turkey was almost entirely the creation of one man, Mustafa Ataturk.

Turkey: Time & Voltage
Turkey is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October, Turkey observes Daylight Saving and is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 230 - 240 volts. Primary sockets generally require the 3 round-pin variety, similar though not identical to European sockets. Greek sockets are of the 2 round-pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter and plug adaptor to use U.S. appliances.

Turkey: Currency
The official currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira.

Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be exchanged locally or in advance of departure. Istanbul Airport offers currency exchange facilities. Additionally, exchange facilities are available at various bureaux de change and banks in major towns have ATMs. 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.

Turkey: Geography And Climate
Turkey has borders with Greece, Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq and Syria with easy land and sea access to the Gulf States, the Levant and North Africa. It is the ninth largest country in the Middle East and the third largest in Europe. Turkey only consists of 23,000 sq. km in Europe: the remainder is in Asia. The Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits separate the European (Thrace) and Asian (Anatolian) parts of Turkey. Anatolia is a high plateau region, rising progressively towards the east and broken by the valleys of some 15 rivers, including the Tigris and the Euphrates. There are numerous lakes including Lake Van, which is really an inland sea. In the north the chain of the Pontine Mountains runs parallel to the Black Sea; in the south, the Taurus Mountains almost touch the narrow, fertile coastal plain. The climate is temperate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters (harsher in interior). Turkey is a destination that can be visited year-round. Temperatures in Turkey during the Northern Hemisphere summer are generally high, particularly during the summer months from June through September. April can spring up surprising results. Days can be amazingly warm, though temperatures do
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Drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes. Summer in Turkey for the most part is hot and dry. For the beach worshipper, June through September is best, when you’ll enjoy glorious Mediterranean sun. Turkey is a lovely winter destination, the weather is usually temperate, although from December through to February you may enjoy a little snow in Istanbul, Anatolia or Cappadocia. Whatever month you consider, you’ll be rewarded with seasonal variations that range from leaf-strewn autumns to sun-kissed summers. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Turkey: Money

All prices stated in this dossier are given as a guide only and are subject to change. All prices are quoted in US dollars.

Local currency

The monetary unit in Turkey is the lira, TL. For up to date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.oanda.com or www.xe.com. Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

Rates for foreign currency are always better inside Turkey. Private exchange offices have competitive rates and no commission. Banks are generally open Monday – Friday 8.30am – noon and 1.30pm -5pm. Most charge a commission of US$2.50 for travellers cheques. ATMs are widely available in cities.

Entrance fees

Generally speaking most entrance fees will be covered by the recommended spending money. There are, however, other sites and museums that are not part of the tour programme which you may wish to visit in your free time. If you have an International Student Card you will often be entitled to reduced entrance fees.

Tipping

Many workers in Turkey are poorly paid and depend on tips for their main income. As tips are a normal part of everyday culture in Turkey we operate a compulsory tipping kitty to save you money and embarrassment. Each member of the group contributes to the kitty (approx US $15 per person per week) and this is then used to pay tips to any people who provide services to the group as a whole e.g. porters, housekeeping staff in hotels etc. Except at the cheapest restaurants, a 10%-15% charge is added to the bill. As the money does not necessarily find its way to the waiter, you may want to leave an additional 10% on the table or hand it to the waiter.

Turkey: Optional Excursions

A full list of the main excursions available on each tour can be found on daily itinerary on these trip notes. All prices given are approximate and are subject to change due to local inflation or exchange rates.

Turkey: Local Transport

In Istanbul many of the sights are within walking distance of each other and the best way to get to know the area is on foot. However, it’s easy and relatively cheap to jump in a taxi and criss-crossing the Bosphorus by ferry is great fun.

Turkey: Security

Most people find that Turkey is a safe and friendly country but as in any foreign place you should exercise a reasonable degree of caution. Don’t walk around lonely back streets at night (particularly in Istanbul), don’t wear expensive looking jewellery or a classy watch and don’t carry a wallet in your back pocket. Don’t carry your camera openly; always have it in a small day pack which is firmly attached to your body, preferably in the front in crowded places. Take particular care not to become too relaxed if you have had a few drinks and are returning to your hotel at night – it is best to always take a taxi. Always wear a money belt or leave your valuables, including your passport, in the hotel security box.

Turkey: Essential Packing

• A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
• A photocopy of your passport data pages
• The voltage in Turkey is generally 220V and outlets fit a two-pin European plug. You should pack a Universal Adaptor and check that it is suitable for Turkey
• Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
• If you fancy a tipple, take advantage of Duty Free
• Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
• Buy a phrasebook and practice your Turkish

• Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions

Is This Holiday For You?

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

Turkey is a country of unparalleled contrasts, a destination where you’ll be afforded plenty of unique encounters, and if you can travel with an open mind you will have a wonderful time here. In return, please remember to demonstrate sensitivity and respect for local customs.

Turkey: Local Food And Drink

Evening meals and lunches will generally be eaten in local restaurants. Please see your tour notes for details about any included meals. Simple snack - $2-$5 Meal - $5-$15 Fancy restaurant - $20-$25

Your tour leader will take you to local restaurants, so you can experience the vast variety of Turkish cuisine.

Food

Lots of tasty treats are available in Turkey. Snacks include borek or poca (small pastries filled with meat, cheese or potato) sold from snack carts in the street, also simit (sesame-seed bread rings). Other snacks are lahmacun (small pizzas with meat based toppings) and in coastal cities midye tave (deep fried mussels). Main meals include several variations of the kebab, fish and seafood are good, but usually pricey and sold by the weight rather than by the item. Most budget restaurants are alcohol free. A useful exception is a meyhane (tavern) which usually serves mezes, an extensive array of cold appetisers as well as grilled kebabs and fish. Most common mezes are dolma (pepper or vine leaves stuffed with...
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Turkey: Shopping

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

Opening hours: Mon - Saturday 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

The Egyptian Spice Bazaar at Eminonu near Istanbul is an easy continuance from the Grand Bazaar. Here, you can buy a dizzying array of spices at a fraction of the cost you’d expect to pay back home. Pine Kernels, peppercorns, real Iranian saffron and other precious commodities are hawked here at knockdown prices! Real Turkish delight is available by the tonne as well. Why not the milk-based Turkish delight studded with pistachios!

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All drinks such as bottled water or soft drinks are at your own expense at all times and are fairly inexpensive. Water from a tap or well should not be considered safe to drink. Bottled water, carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are widely available throughout the country. Alcoholic drinks vary in price, with beer generally being the cheapest option.

1 l of water - $0.50
30cl bottle of soft drink - $0.50-$1
40cl bottle of beer - $2-$3

Turkish coffee is served in tiny cups and can be very strong. The same can be said for the tea (chay) which is served in delightful tulip-shaped glasses. The local firewater is anis-flavoured raki, stronger than Greek Ouzo. Alcoholic drinks are available in most places, but in smaller towns it is not as widely obtainable.

Turkey: National Holidays

1 January - New Year’s Day
23 April - Children’s Day
1 May - Labour Day
19 May - Youth Day
30 August - Victory Day
6 October - Liberation War Day
25 December - Christmas Day

Important: there are several religious public holidays whose dates are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar and differ every year according to the Gregorian calendar.

The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well.

During the day, people must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual activity, so if you encounter someone who is a bit grumpy please be understanding, flexible and sympathetic. As tourists you will be generally unaffected although some places may close early, but your tour leader will do their best to plan around this. Most hotels bars and tourist restaurants will remain open.

In the evening you will experience a celebratory atmosphere at iftar, when people break their fast. To witness Ramazan is a real highlight making your tour in the region that bit more interesting. Each year it begins a bit later depending on the Islamic lunar calendar.

Turkey: Site Opening Times

Popular sightseeing spot in Istanbul are closed on specific days. Please plan your visit accordingly.

Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays
Grand Bazaar - Closed Sundays
Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times and Friday’s until 3pm

The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows for 2019:
- 01 January
- 04, 05, 06 June
- 11, 12, 13, 14 August
- 29 October

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The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows for 2020:
- 01 January
- 24, 25, 26 May
- 31 July
- 1, 2, 3 August
- 29 October

All museums in Turkey will close at 1pm, on the
- 14th of June and 20th of August 2019
- 24th of May and 31st of July 2020

During Ramadan (known as Ramazan in Turkey), some restaurants and shops (excluding those catering mainly for tourists) and attractions may close earlier, so itinerary scheduling may be slightly altered to ensure featured attractions are visited.

Approximate Ramazan dates:
- 24 April - 23 May 2020
- 13 April - 12 May 2021