

EGYPT

By now, you must be very excited about your upcoming trip to Egypt. It's a country with a rich history and culture, and we're sure that you'll have an unforgettable experience. To help you prepare for your trip, we've put together a list of tips and information that we hope you'll find useful.



Dress appropriately: Egypt is a conservative country, and it's important to dress modestly out of respect for local customs. Women should avoid wearing tight-fitting or revealing clothing and should cover their shoulders and knees. Men should avoid wearing shorts in public. If you're visiting a mosque, you'll need to remove your shoes and cover your head, arms, and legs. It's also a good idea to bring comfortable shoes for walking and exploring.

Stay hydrated: Egypt is hot and dry, and it's important to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. We recommend bringing a refillable water bottle and drinking bottled water when available. It's also a good idea to avoid drinking tap water and to be cautious when eating raw fruits and vegetables that may have been washed in tap water.

Take precautions against the sun: The sun in Egypt can be intense, and it's important to protect yourself from sunburn and heatstroke. Be sure to wear sunscreen with a high SPF, a hat, and sunglasses. It's also a good idea to seek shade during the hottest part of the day.

Know Before You Go

Learn some Arabic phrases: While many people in Egypt speak English, it's always helpful to learn a few Arabic phrases. "Salam" means hello, "Shukran" means thank you, and "Ma'assalama" means goodbye. Learning some basic phrases can help you communicate with locals and show that you respect their culture.

Be aware of cultural customs: Egypt is a Muslim country, and it's important to be respectful of local customs. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, so avoid eating, drinking, or smoking in public during this time. Ask for permission before taking photos of locals and be mindful of dress codes when visiting mosques and other religious sites.

Prepare for transportation: Taxis and ride-sharing services are readily available in Egypt, but it's important to negotiate the fare before getting in the car. If you're taking a train, be sure to book your tickets in advance, especially if you're traveling during peak season. Egypt also has an extensive network of buses that can be a more affordable way to travel between cities.



Money matters: The official currency of Egypt is the Egyptian pound. ATMs are widely available in cities and tourist areas, but it's always a good idea to have cash on hand for small purchases or for tipping. Credit cards are accepted in larger hotels, restaurants, and shops, but it's always a good idea to carry cash as a backup.

Know Before You Go cont.

Safety considerations: Egypt is generally a safe country, but it's always a good idea to take precautions to ensure your safety. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry in public. Be wary of pickpockets in crowded areas and be cautious when walking alone at night. It's also a good idea to check the latest travel advisories before your trip to stay informed about any potential risks or security concerns.

What to Pack?, please check out this blog post, many people find it extremely useful when doubts may arise as to the proper attire for Egypt. [Click here to read blog post](#)

General Questions: Check out both sections from the website, there is a lot of useful information for you.

[FAQ](#)
[Egypt Travel Guide](#)

Restaurant Reservations: Reach out to our Team Travelab and we will be more than happy to help you.

Money Exchanger: Before travelling, please consult with your financial institution with regards to any foreign transaction fees should you withdraw money from an ATM or pay with your debit card. ATM machines are everywhere, we suggest withdrawing cash when you arrive, outside of customs, there are many ATMs. Your escort will direct you to the right location.

WhatsApp Group: We ask that you please download this app, so we can create a group chat with your guide and your Travelab agent. This will be a priceless tool for everyone involved.

Tipping: Always appreciated in Egypt, and many times expected. Please make sure to have either dollar bills or small Egyptian banknotes for the occasional tips.

Regarding tips for driver during your stay, we recommend \$3-5 USD per day (per person) for the drivers. They are with you the entire day and are a valuable asset during your stay. You will most likely have the same driver during your entire stay in each city. As far as your guide, a good rule of thumb is \$10-15 USD per day (per person). The guide is a crucial part of the experience, and will work arduously to make your journey unforgettable and seamless.

Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages are available in select restaurants and bars, as well as all hotels. Additionally, there is a chain of liquor stores found through the city (and the country) called Drinkies. They have a good selection of Egyptian wines, beers, and spirits. These stores open from noon to 11pm, accept cash or credit card and are easily accessible. If you have a favorite wine or spirit, I suggest buying it at duty free either at your departure airport (please make sure, if you are connecting, to purchase it at your connecting airport as you might have to clear security and will be subject to the 3-1-1 rule or 100ml rule.

The legal drinking age in Egypt is 18. As a reminder, please make sure to only consume alcoholic beverages in areas where alcohol is being served. Please do not walk around with an open container or display any intoxicated behavior in public areas that do not serve alcohol.

Traffic: Cairo can be very chaotic, and I know most of you are not accustomed to this. Please be mindful when crossing the street, as there seldom are pedestrian crosswalks, traffic lights or speed bumps. You will notice Egyptians cross the street anywhere they like and might even do it in phases – as to dodge traffic. A useful trick I've adopted is to find someone looking to cross, and cross the street beside them, mimicking their exact steps – they not only will be your guide, but also your shield.

Know Before You Go cont.

Weekends: The workweek is structured a bit differently in Egypt and most Muslim countries. Fridays and Saturdays are the weekend, and the work week is from Sunday-Thursday. You will however find everything you need open 7 days a week. Also, store hours are usually from 11am-11pm, with small convenience stores open 24 hours. Lastly, bars and restaurants close at 1am.

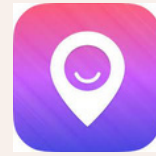
Temperatures: Please be mindful of the temperature. Daytime can be extremely hot, but nights can be cool and breezy. Always pack a light jacket or cardigan for those cool desert nights.

Credit Cards: Widely accepted in Egypt, mostly Visa and MasterCard, unfortunately for those of you loyal to American Express - you might have some issues. Again, check with your credit cards company with regards to foreign transaction fees. Should you bring cash, there are many currency exchange places around, make sure you take your passport with you when you are ready to exchange money.

Pharmacies: are usually open 24 hours and sell most items including antibiotics without the need for a prescription.

Prescription medications from home are best left in their original container, showing doctor's prescription information. Certain controlled substances are not allowed in Egypt, for a full detail of these restrictions please click on the following link.

[List of Prohibited Medications](#)



Trip Plans App

TRIP PLANS App: The icon resembles a purple guitar pick with a smile. Download and create an account, you will be able to access your full itinerary including all uploaded docs. You can have access offline as well - and it has a convenient chat option as well. Let us know if you have any issues.

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