



A-Z Information for your Tour of Egypt

Useful information that might help during you stay in Egypt.

Arabic language: You will be surprised how many Egyptians do speak a good English and have no problem to communicate. English and French are the most studied second languages in Egypt.

Banks: Most banks in Egypt are opened from 08.00 am – 03.00 pm. Whenever you wish to change money, cash traveler checks or cash money as an advance from your credit card you need to present your passport.

Baksheesh: The Arabic word for “tips, is often heard while traveling in Egypt. In Cairo our Flash Tour Director will collect from each person \$35 to tip everyone in Cairo. This tip is for Bus Drivers, baggage handlers and ect... On our Cruise the tips have been included for Bus drivers, baggage handlers and cruiseship personal. Our Flash Tours leader will take care of tips on your behalf. You may always tip anyone something extra that has given you extra help. The tip for the Egyptologist will be collected by Sam. (\$3 to \$5 dollars per day is normal.)

Bargaining: This is a part of the local culture and except for the modern shopping centers and supermarkets, you should bargain everywhere.

Credit cards: The most common ones are Visa and Master Card; a few establishments might accept American Express. Diners Card is not known. In general a handling fee of about 3% is added when paying with Credit Card and the transaction is either made in Egyptian Pounds or US Dollars. You will find many cash point machines (ATM's) in the hotels and around the resorts.

Doctors: are available around the clock in all tourist resorts and on the cruise ship. In case you need a doctor during your stay please contact your tour leader or the cruise / hotel reception they will assist you.

Drinks: Egypt is a Muslim country, availability of alcohol outside of tourist establishments can be limited.

Dress code: Egypt has a more conservative dress code. Bermudas and T-Shirts with short sleeves are fully accepted, so are bathing suites or bikinis around the pool areas, but short shorts, tank tops and topless sunbathing are not.

Electricity: Most of the hotel and cruises ships run on 220 V with European standard plugs. For appliances brought from home, for example hairdryer etc. you will need an adapter to be able to use the plug and voltage.

Fruits: You will find a large variety of fresh fruits. In case you buy fruits in the street markets it is highly recommended to wash them properly before eating, or even better to peel the skin off.

Food: Best way experience local cuisine is on the cruise or in the hotel, as there the preparation is according to international standards. Kebab and Kofta are the most popular meat dishes, which is beef, veal or lamb grilled BBQ style. "Om Ali" is a delicious dessert, which will remind you of a bread pudding.

Gold: You will have lots of possibilities to buy a typical souvenir made out of gold. The quality is 18 or 24 carat. Be careful and ask for proper certificates. In case you are not sure ask your tour leader for advice.

Hhealth service: In case of any health problem please refer to your tour leader, who will indicate to you a private international hospital or a private clinic.

Insurance: in case you are having travel insurance please inform the doctor/clinic/hospital about it so they can in contact with your insurance provider to establish the form of payment for any needed treatment.

Juices: Known fresh juices, like orange, lime or strawberry are fine, but please be careful when trying for example local sugar cane juice as this can be challenging to the stomach.

Karkadeh: A typical drink which is served cold in the summer and hot in the winter. It is a tea/juice prepared from the flower of the hibiscus.

Literature: you can buy guide books and information material about all the ancient Egyptian sites in the book and souvenir shops, in all languages.

Money: the local currency is the Egyptian pound. 1 Egyptian pound = 100 piaster. There are bills with value as small as 25 piaster. The biggest note is a 200 Egyptian pounds note. In the tourist resorts you might be able to pay with USD, but normally only the local currency is accepted when paying cash. Current exchange rate is about 5.5 pounds to a dollar.

Nightlife: is something that has developed very much over the past decade and today you find in Cairo and the beach resorts all kind of famous and trendy international clubs like the Hard rock Café, Buddha Bar, Ministry of Music and many more .

Pharmacy: there are plenty of pharmacies everywhere and most products are sold as well without a doctor prescription, as long as you know exactly what you need. Pharmacies in general are opened from 10 am until 23 pm and in some places even longer.

Photos: people in general do not mind to be photographed but especially in Upper Egypt it is always better to ask prior taking a photo of somebody. Note that in a lot of public and governmental areas it is forbidden to take photos for example in the airports, train stations, governmental buildings etc.

Post office: in case you wish to send a postcard from Egypt, please consider it will take a while to reach the USA. It is easier to purchase the postcard directly with the stamps.

Phones: it is quite expensive to call international from Egypt, therefore it is recommended to buy a telephone card, which are sold in the shops at the hotel or around the resorts. International country code for Canada / USA is 001 followed by the city code and the telephone number.

Quality: Especially the locally made handicraft products, if bought in the right places, are of good quality and craftsmanship.

Shops: you will find that some of the shops are opened until late. There are no laws for opening and closing hours of shops.

Safety: Crime rate in Egypt is very low. Walking through the streets, even far after midnight is no problem. However any place where too many people gather will also attract those willing to take advantage, so take care of your belongings when in a crowd and do not carry too much cash with you.

Safety box: You will find this service in all hotels and cruise ships, for your valuable belongings.

Souvenirs: You will find a wide choice of typical Egyptian items, like perfume essences and oils, papyrus, cartouches made out of gold or silver showing your name written in hieroglyphics are perfect presents. .

Sun: Is strong in Egypt, so please whenever staying in the sun cover your head and use a high sunscreen lotion. One should avoid the very hot hours between 1 pm – 3 pm.

Traffic: Using public transportation is not recommended. Please in case you wish to explore the country on your own, follow the suggestions of the tour leader or tourism office.

Taxi: Taxis are clearly marked with a TAXI sign. It is strongly recommended to avoid all kind of private limousines and other private like offers. Always fix the price prior to start of your trip.

Tax: All prices in Egypt are already inclusive of all taxes. There is no tax refund system in place for foreigners buying items in Egypt.

Temperature: varies between day and night especially in the areas near the deserts. While along the Red Sea the temperatures are mild as well during the winter (daytime high 22 degree / nighttime low 15 degree), the nighttime temperature in Cairo can drop to 8 degrees and reach in certain periods a maximum high of only 18 degrees during the day. In summer, which is from March to October, the temperatures all over the country are above 30 degrees during daytime and above 20 degrees during nighttime. Except for the region of Upper Egypt where during the hot summer months July and August it can be higher than that.

Time zone: Egypt is + 2hrs GMT.

Visa: We will all purchase a Visa at the airport on arrival. It has to be paid for in US currency (\$15 USD per person).

Water: it is not recommend to drink tap water in Egypt. It has a high percentage of chlorine and it tastes bitter. Please use bottled water for drinking, it is available everywhere.

Wine: during the past years the growing of grapes for the local wine production has increased steadily and the products have improved substantially. Today good Egyptian wines can be found, red or white and even sparkling wines are available.