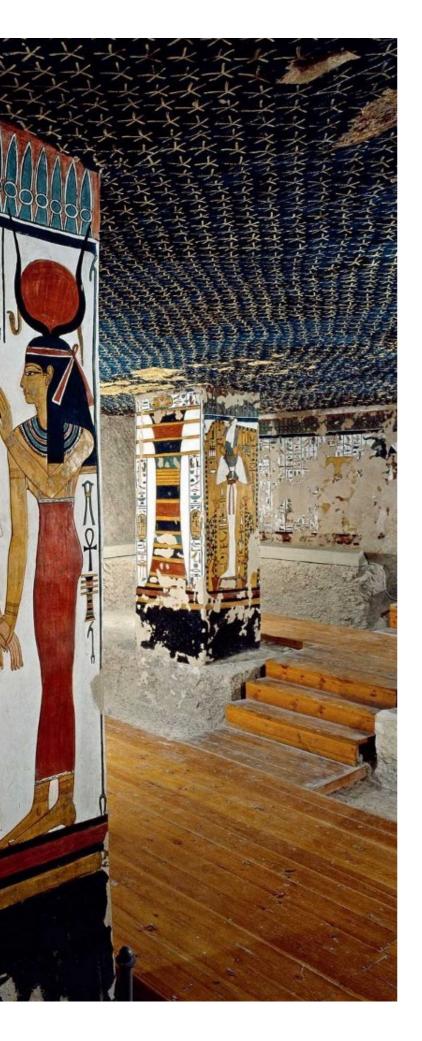
EXPERIENCE EGYPT LIKE NEVER BEFORE

# EXPO EGYPT

## VISITING EGYPT GUIDE

YOUR KEY TO UNLOCKING AND DISCOVERING EGYPT'S EXCELLENCE





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### WHY SHOULD YOU VISIT EGYPT

Egypt has consistently been ranked as one of the top destinations to visit year after year by the world's travel experts. Egypt's popularity is rapidly growing further in recent years due to the restorations of ancient temples, the upcoming opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum, and the exciting new archeological discoveries being made.

Egypt is a world of its own, one that has continued to reinvent itself through its attractions, culture, and food for the past 6,000 years. No matter who you ask, Egypt is a bucket list destination. It is a country that appeals to every type of person as it is the land of hidden gems, marvelous monuments, breathtaking views, and remarkable history.

#### EGYPT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN PYRAMIDS

You'll probably want to visit the oldest and only surviving ancient wonder of the world, the Great Pyramids of Giza. Without a doubt, it's one of the main attractions that amazes us each time we see it. However, experiencing the pyramids is only a snippet of the exciting journeys and amazing memories that form one's story in Egypt.

It may surprise you that Egypt is a thriving beacon of arts and culture, a flavorful scene of diverse cuisine, a holy land with majestic deserts and mountains waiting to be explored, and a beautiful coast to beaches with vibrant reefs. Expo Egypt provides its guests with the opportunity to capture this essence and experience Egypt's excellence like never before.

#### WHAT THE TRAVEL EXPERTS SAY:



"The best holiday destinations for 2022"



"Where to Go in 2022, Africa & the Middle East"



#### TRAVEL+ LEISURE

"The 50 Best Places to Travel in 2022"

lonely 😯 planet

"Best Places to Visit in 2022, Best in Travel"

## EGYPT'S EXCELLENCE

#### WHY EGYPT IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST DESTINATION

Whether it's holding the title of being the first, the oldest, the greatest, the largest, the longest, or the most important; Egypt is home to excellence, some examples include:



The Great Pyramids, the oldest & last surviving Wonder of the World.



Luxor, the world's largest open air museum.



The Nile River, the most scenic cruises along the world's longest river.



**Mount Sinai**, is one of the holiest lands across all Abrahamic faiths.



**Siwa**, surreal salt lakes offer a therapeutic spot with healing properties.



Aswan, home to Nubia, one of the oldest African civilizations.



The Red Sea, is one of the top destinations for diving, relaxation, and water sports.



Cairo, has some of the best, oldest, and most diverse architecture and art on earth.



The Grand Egyptian

Museum, will be the

world's largest

archaeological museum.

### WHY EXPO EGYPT?

#### WHAT MAKES US #1? OUR VISION.

#### • Opportunity

 Unlocking the potential of all of Egypt's cities to provide for its local economies and citizens

#### • Inclusivity

 Accommodating every member of the global community; we have something for everyone

#### • Authenticity

 Delivering the true Egypt, we're not about giving cliche tours. Instead, we want to create memories

#### Legacy

 Ensuring that our visitors have great experiences that they will share with the world and come back for more

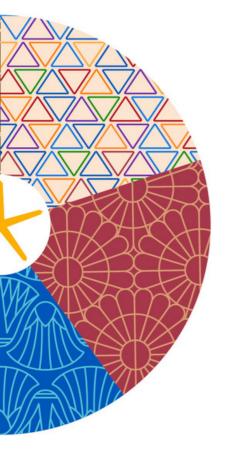


#### INTRODUCTION

Expo Egypt is the nation's premier travel and tourism company. We are the preferred choice for travelers due to our unmatched experiences through our unrivaled hospitality with our unparalleled vision; one that focuses on developing the local economy in Egypt by helping small businesses, while providing our guests with memorable hassle-free experiences through exceptional service.

Our passionate and dedicated team is the most knowledgeable and experienced in the industry. We are determined to craft unique and memorable experiences that cater to our diverse clients around the globe. Whether it's flying on private jets or riding a camel, Expo Egypt can take on any request and serve the needs of any client.

The vision for Expo Egypt has always been based on a clear market need to experience Egypt like never before, with a world-class standard of excellence in quality and service. Our popularity and eye for showcasing Egypt's beauty has gained our initiative millions of admirers through our social media and thousands of happy guests.



#### THE PERKS OF TRAVELING WITH US

- 24/7 support during your trip
- Expert knowledge of Egypt and its experiences
- Custom & unrivaled experiences
- Professional photographers available
- Zoom call support for groups with questions
- Extension trips to surrounding countries
- International & Domestic flight bookings
- Expert Egyptologists who speak the client's language of choice proficiently
- Potential reposts of your trip on our popular social media platforms

## **BOOKING WITH EXPO EGYPT**

#### WHAT TO EXPECT



Expo Egypt specializes in custom and unique experiences. When booking with Expo Egypt, expect to get a response within two business days. Expo Egypt prides itself in providing excellent customer service. We provide support via email, text, WhatsApp, and phone. This support extends to you before, during, and after your trip.

Even if you don't plan on traveling to Egypt through Expo Egypt, we will assist you with your travel arrangements.

Any travel to Egypt supports the local economy, and Expo Egypt prides itself on being the go-to source of all information related to Egypt.



We can cater to almost any request for custom experiences, from reserving the Pyramids just for you, to flying by private jet. For any custom experiences, we require a non-refundable deposit (applied to your trip as a credit).

## TIME OF BOOKING

Expo Egypt can do fast turnarounds to cater to your needs if you are traveling within two weeks. However, we highly recommend booking your trip at least three months in advance (preferably more) to ensure the availability of your experience.

Before finalizing your trip with Expo Egypt, ensure you have a passport that's valid for at least six months of your planned departure date.

## SAFETY, SECURITY, & HEALTH

#### EGYPT IS A SAFE COUNTRY

With a culture based on solidarity and hospitality, Egypt remains a safe country to travel to. A recent report published in 2019, by Gallup's Global Law and Order team, ranked Egypt among the ten safest countries in the world, outranking the United States, the United Kingdom, and most countries in Europe.

#### **EXPO EGYPT'S PROMISE**

When traveling with Expo Egypt, safety will never be a concern. Our team coordinates with the government to ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained and that our guests are shielded from any harm or hassle. Since our founding, our guests have never experienced safety concerns or issues in their experiences with us.

Tourists can also play their part, by following our travel advice, staying with our guides, and taking practical precautions. A good approach to ensure your experience runs successfully is by reading this guide to understand Egypt better and to avoid any misunderstandings.

## STAYING HEALTHY: PRECAUTIONS & PROTOCOLS



Vaccinations: Aside from the COVID vaccine, no vaccinations are currently needed for visitors to Egypt, unless you are arriving from countries where yellow fever is endemic.

Advice: Always stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, but only drink bottled water, and stay away from tap water. Avoid ice in your drink unless it's made from mineral water. Avoid salads and all types of fruit that can't be peeled. Only eat vegetables that have been cooked.

\*\*Please inform Expo Egypt of any special dietary requirements/allergies at least three weeks before your departure date; We will do our best to comply with your needs.

Guests with physical disabilities or those who require frequent medical attention should inform Expo Egypt at the time of booking.

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend that you have travel insurance when you visit.

Your travel insurance should cover:

- Any medical emergencies that happen during the journey
- Any cancellations that occur due to travel bans
- Any cancellation because you have contracted COVID-19 and are unable to travel
- Any part of the tour that you are unable to attend due to an illness
- Flight cancellations

#### COVID PROTOCOL\*

All travelers must be in possession of a negative PCR test certificate for COVID-19 with a QR code, taken at a maximum of 72 hours before their flight departure time or show a certificate with a QR code of getting two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine

## WEATHER GUIDE

#### SUNSHINE 12 MONTHS A YEAR

Egypt is a country with one of the best weather conditions globally. It is sunny almost all year round, and the temperatures are not too hot or too cold. There is little rain throughout the year, and Egypt hasn't been exposed to natural disasters in centuries.

## Time Difference GMT+2 in summer and GMT+3 in winter

Egypt is a great destination to visit any time of the year. The high season for traveling to Egypt is between September and March. With sunshine 12 months a year, it's important to protect yourself from the sun, we recommend bringing a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. The chart below provides you with the average highs and lows in Fahrenheit for the popular cities in Egypt. Generally speaking, the temperatures do not fluctuate drastically between the different cities.

Average High and Lows (°F) Weather Temperatures in Egypt												
City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cairo	67° / 50°	70° / 52°	76° / 56°	84° / 61°	91° / 66°	95° / 72°	96° / 74°	95° / 75°	92° / 72°	86° / 67°	77° / 59°	69° / 52°
Aswan	74° / 50°	78° / 53°	87° / 60°	96° / 68°	103° / 76°	107° / 80°	108° / 82°	107° / 82°	104° / 78°	97° / 72°	86° / 61°	77° / 53°
Luxor	73° / 44°	78° / 47°	86° / 54°	95° / 63°	102° / 71°	106° / 75°	106° / 77°	105° / 76°	102° / 72°	95° / 65°	84° / 54°	76° / 46°
Alexandria	65° / 48°	66° / 48°	70° / 52°	76° / 57°	80°/63°	84° / 69°	86° / 74°	87° / 74°	86°/71°	82° / 65°	75° / 57°	68° / 51°
Hurghada	72° / 53°	74° / 54°	79° / 59°	86° / 65°	93° / 73°	97° / 79°	99° / 82°	99° / 82°	95° / 78°	90° / 71°	82° / 63°	75° / 56°
Sharm el-Sheikh	72° / 57°	75° / 60°	80° / 64°	87° / 70°	94° / 76°	e99°/81°	101° / 84°	101° / 84°	96°/81°	90° / 75°	82° / 68°	75° / 60°
Siwa	68° / 44°	71° / 46°	78° / 51°	87° / 59°	94° / 65°	100° / 71°	101° / 73°	101° / 74°	97° / 70°	88° / 62°	78° / 52°	69° / 46°

## **CULTURE & CUSTOMS**

#### IMMERSE YOURSELF IN OUR COUNTRY

Egypt's culture is diverse, with each region adhering to its local heritage. You will experience our cultural commitment to tolerance and hospitality throughout the entire country.

#### WHAT TO PACK

It is advisable to wear light cotton clothing during the warmer months (April to September) and a light jacket for the evenings during the cooler months (October to March). However, our guests come from all around the world and are used to different temperatures; please refer to the Weather and Temperature Guide (on pg. 8), to know what you are more likely to be comfortable wearing.

- Blouses/shirts with long sleeves to protect you from the sun
- Short sleeve cotton t-shirts and tops
- Personal toiletries, sunscreen, lip balm, and insect repellent
- Hat and sunglasses
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera
- Bring a book or arrange all your favorite Netflix downloads for the long journey to Egypt. You'll want to do it ahead of time to not burn your internet data



#### DRESS CODE

There is no formal dress code in Egypt for tourists. However, we do have recommendations for respecting the culture around you. We encourage people to dress modestly. A good rule of thumb is to cover your back and shoulders outside the hotel. As most of our experiences require a decent amount of walking, we highly recommended bringing comfortable walking shoes. For outdoor experiences, we recommended bringing a hat and sunglasses for protection against the sun. Beachwear should only be worn at the beach or the pool area of a resort, hotel, or cruise ship.

#### Visiting Mosques

 Men and women will be required to take off their shoes (keeping socks on is allowed) or cover their shoes using the plastic covers that are usually provided by several mosques. Women are generally required to cover their hair with a scarf.

#### • Helpful Tips

 If you plan on riding camels by the Pyramids, we advise you to wear slacks or jeans. If someone offers you to wear a headdress, do not be tempted to accept the offer and politely decline.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Photographing Locals

 As a gesture of respect, it's customary to ask for permission when taking a photograph of locals. Usually, Egyptians are welcoming, others might be camera shy, so it's always nice to ask them first.

#### Equipment

 If you plan to travel with digital photographic and/or video equipment, pack the specific charging apparatus for each piece of equipment (as well as the appropriate socket plug adapter and voltage converter if required).

#### Restricted Areas

• There are historic sites where it is prohibited to take photographs and where you may need to buy an additional ticket to take photos. It is illegal to take pictures of police or military personnel.

#### Drones

• Drones are illegal and will be confiscated at the airport.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRINKING

 Alcohol is legal and available in hotel outlets, nightclubs, bars and some restaurants.



## **CURRENCY & PAYMENTS**

#### MONEY IN EGYPT

The official currency of Egypt is the Egyptian pound (abbreviated as LE or L.E). \$1 USD equals approximately 18.25 LE.

#### Exchanging Currency

Banks and money exchange bureaus can be found throughout Egypt, and all major hotels will also readily exchange currency for guests.

#### o Card vs. Cash

• American Express, Visa, and Mastercard are all accepted in Egypt. However, we highly recommend you carry cash for purchases made in local areas. The official currency is the Egyptian Pound, but US dollars are usually accepted at tourist sites.

#### **TIPPING GUIDE**



Gratuities are discretionary and optional. However, Egypt is a tipping culture, where tips are commonly referred to as "baksheesh." Here are the general expectations for tipping in Egypt; the table below can be used as a quick reference:

People	USD	EGP
Egyptologists & Tour Guides	\$10 per traveler per day	ج.م 200~
Drivers	\$4 per traveler per day	ج.م 80~
Camel & Horse Operators	\$3 per traveler	ج.م 50~
Porters, Luggage Carriers, Washroom	\$1	ج.م 20 ~
Cleaners & Hotel Cleaning Staff	\$1	ج.م 20~

#### Service

Restaurants & Cafes	10% of total bill
Hotel Room Service	10% of total bill

## LANGUAGES

#### TALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

The official language of Egypt is Arabic. Each part of Egypt has its own unique dialect, but the most common dialect spoken is Egyptian Arabic, which was influenced by the ancient Egyptian language, French, Turkish, and Italian.

Nubian, an Ancient African language, is only spoken in Aswan.

The Ancient Egyptian language is no longer spoken, except in its final form, the Coptic language. It is still recited today in Coptic Orthodox Churches, to which about 10% of the population adheres to; but generally only Clergy and Egyptologists understand it.

Arabic	
Hello	Ahlan
How are you?	Ezayak?
I'm good	Ana Kowayes
God Willing	Inshallah
Goodbye	Ma salama

	عَرَبِيّ
Thank you	Shokran
How much?	Bi Kam?
My name is	Ana Ismi
I'm from	Ana min
Long Live Egypt	Tahya Masr

Nubian	NYBIAN
How are you?	Meenabo
I'm fine	Maskagar
What's your name?	Ekenayera
With Love	Ekadoli
Good Bye	Afiyago

Coptic	†метреміхны		
Hello	Nofri		
How are you?	Ash pe pekreayti		
I am fine	Tiouoj		
Thank you	Tishphmot ntotk		
Egypt	Khemi		

### TRANSPORTATION

#### **GETTING AROUND**

#### VIA EXPO EGYPT

In all our experiences, Expo Egypt can handle all your transportation needs, including transportation from the airport, between sites, and domestic flights. International flights can be done upon request.



#### ON YOUR OWN:

We highly recommend you use Expo Egypt's travel and transportation services.

If you would like to travel on your own, the following are the methods of doing so:

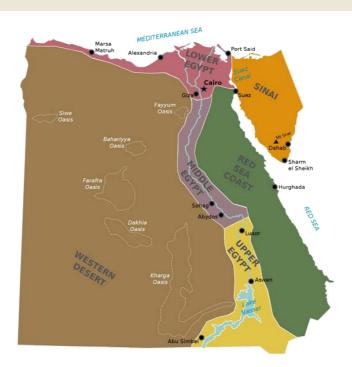
**Ride-sharing Apps:** Uber and Careem are reliable ride-sharing platforms, only available in Cairo and Alexandria. The drivers usually don't know the routes that well, so don't be surprised if a journey takes longer than estimated.

**Regular Taxi (White Taxi):** Before entering a cab, ask and ensure the meter is working. Expect some reckless driving, especially in Cairo.

**Trains:** Whether it's a short trip to a neighboring city or crossing the country on a sleeper train, Egypt's air-conditioned trains will take you to your destination while enjoying the beautiful scenery of the countryside.

**Buses:** Egypt has a comprehensive network of bus services linking all major cities, districts, towns, and villages. The most popular and reliable company is GO BUS. Expo Egypt also has a fleet of buses and vans through our partnerships.

**Flights:** When possible, we recommend flying. The main airport is the Cairo International Airport (CAI) which connects us to the world and ties all our domestic airports together.



### ACCOMMODATION

#### YOUR HOME WHILE YOUR HERE

Egypt's hotel standards are one of the highest in the world. The average 3 or 4 star tends to be a higher standard than in that of the United States. Many of the 5-star hotels in Egypt are former palaces of past rulers of Egypt and have accommodated world leaders and celebrities over the centuries. Hotels on the Red Sea, such as Hurghada and Sharm El-Sheikh, tend to be all-inclusive, while The Nile cruises and Dahabiyas are always all-inclusive.

#### EXAMPLES OF HOTELS WE WORK WITH



Marriot Mena House - Cairo
Old Cataract Hotel - Aswan
Four Seasons - Cairo, Alexandria,
Sharm El Sheikh
Winter Palace Hotel - Luxor
Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh - Hurghada
Adrere Amellal - Siwa



Steigenberger - Cairo, Alexandria Mercure Hotel - Hurghada



Sun Goddess, SS Sudan, Oberoi Philae, Solaris II, Royal Isadora, Princess Sarah, and Blue Shadow









## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

#### STAYING CONNECTED

Egypt's country code is +20 or 0020. You can stay connected with a temporary SIM card or utilize roaming with your current carrier. We recommend utilizing your current carrier rather than getting a new sim card

- **Getting a SIM Card**: Expo Egypt can help you get a SIM card at one of the top carriers in Egypt upon arrival.
- **US Carriers**: Most US carriers offer \$10 a day unlimited call and text, with some data. It is recommended to check with your carrier for details before you travel.

#### • Emergency Numbers

o Police: 122

Ambulance service: 123Fire Department: 125



## **FOOD & CUISINE**

#### CULINARY EXPERIENCES FOR EVERYONE

Egypt holds a uniquely diverse culinary scene that allows you to dive into a history of global flavors. Our cuisine is influenced by every civilization that came to share their recipes with us in the past 6,000 years. Within each Expo Egypt experience, we incorporate Egyptian food and hospitality throughout your journey. Here are some of Egypt's unique dishes and how they may apply to your dietary needs.

#### Egypt's Most Popular Dishes

#### Koshary



Our national dish that's a global fusion of influences, with rice, lentils, macaroni, chickpeas, crispy onions, and tomato sauce.



#### Molokhia

A garlicky green soup made for the pharaohs and was reserved to be served only to monarchs throughout centuries.



#### **Baladi Bread**

Since Ancient times, the staple of Egyptian diets has been bread, or "life" as we call it. It's eaten at every meal.



#### Ful 🖤

A spiced fava bean dip that's popular for breakfast nationwide, with every region adding their own unique twist.



#### Hawashi 🔍



An Egyptian burger or beef patty which has marinated spicy beef that's baked in the oven inside Baladi Bread.



#### Tamiya / Falafel



A global favorite that actually originated from Egypt, where its still made from fava beans for a healthier and crispier falafel.



#### Feteer Meshaltet



A Southern Egyptian favorite that dates back to the pharaohs who offered slices of this flaky pastry to Gods.



#### **Kebab and Kofta**

Skewers, sausages, and meatballs of spicy lamb and/or beef. Typically served with grilled vegetables, rice, & tahini



#### **Shawerma**

Thin slices of meat or chicken slowly roasted on a rotisserie are put into the most popular street sandwich in the region.





Egypt is stuffed vegetable mania: grape leaves, cabbages, tomatoes, bell peppers, zucchini, and eggplant.



#### **Drinks & Desserts**

Asab

Sugarcane Juice



Karkade Hibiscus Tea



Spiced Orchid Milk Tea



#### Om Ali **Bread Pudding**



**Roz bil Laban** Sweet Rice Pudding



#### **Assorted Sweets** Basbousa, Konafa, Baklava, Halva, Kahk



## WHAT TO VISIT

#### **OUR RECOMMENDATIONS & TIMELINES**

We believe the ideal amount of time to spend in Egypt is a minimum of 10 days. It will allow you to see the historical attractions, go on city tours, cruise the Nile, and even enjoy some of the most fabulous beaches in the world along the Red Sea.

Here is a guide of what you typically (not limited to) would experience based on the number of days you stay. In all our itineraries, we include both arrival and departure days; we adjust how much we can fit in those days depending on the time of your flights. We recommend arriving early in the morning and departing late in the evening to make the most of Egypt during your stay.



## **VISAS**

#### EGYPT, A WELCOMING NATION

Egypt is ranked in the top 30 most welcoming countries in 2022 by Global Mobility Intelligence, based on how many foreign countries we accept visa-free or visa on arrival. Find the country of the passport(s) you hold to determine if you need a visa to visit Egypt.

## VISA FREE Bahrain ■ China ■ Hong Kong ■ Jordan ■ Kuwait ■ Macao ■ Oman ■ Saudi Arabia ■ United Arab Emirates ■

#### VISA ON ARRIVAL / E-VISA

\$25 (cash or card), Expo Egypt assists you through customs process.



#### **VISA REQUIRED**

Visit your country's local Egyptian embassy and submit:

- Original Passport with at least 6 months validity & a minimum of 3 blank pages
- Visa Application form: completed and signed
- 2 recent Photos: color photo with white background, photos should be no more than 6 months old and must be 3.5cm by 4cm
- Personal Cover letter: explaining purpose of travel to the country
- Original Bank Statement: stamped & updated for last 6 months with bank seal
- Travel Tickets with proof of return flight tickets from and back to your home country
- Hotel Reservation with proof of accommodation for your entire stay



## **FAQS**

#### COMMON QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

#### Is Egypt Safe?

Yes. Egypt has a very low crime rate compared to other countries, and there's also a good amount of security around touristic attractions; the government makes an exceptional effort to keep tourists safe. (see pg. 7)

#### How do I avoid getting scammed/ in trouble?

Like any buzzing touristic destination, there are opportunists that will take advantage of visitors. We recommend that you stay close to your Expo Egypt guide as much as possible; they will take care of you and shield you from any harm or hassle. In the event that you can't be with an Expo Egypt guide and are met with pushy sellers, be firm when saying no and walk away; understand that nothing is "for free," as this is a strategy used to lure people in. Most Egyptians are kind, friendly, and helpful, but visitors should be just as cautious as they would be in their home country.

#### Do I need a visa?

Find the country of the passport(s) you hold to determine if you need a visa to visit Egypt. (see pg. 17)

#### Can I bring a drone to Egypt?

No. Drones are illegal in Egypt and will result in confiscation at the airport.

#### What vaccinations are required for traveling to Egypt?

None. To enter Egypt, you'll only need to show that you have taken a negative PCR test within the last 72 hours, printed out on paper with a QR code. Or you can show your PCR vaccination information with a QR code.

#### What electrical plugs and voltage are used in Egypt?

Egypt has a voltage supply of 220V, and the plugs are the 2-round pin type common throughout Europe and other countries. You can purchase the adaptors from Amazon or any electronics store.

#### Is alcohol available in Egypt?

Yes! Alcohol can be consumed in restaurants and bars. Most restaurants will not serve alcohol unless they are in a tourist area or a hotel. (see pg. 10)

#### Can I travel in Ramadan?

Yes. However, during Ramadan, some sites might close earlier than usual. Most of our experiences are done early in the day, so your schedules or experiences won't be affected.

#### Can you accommodate special dietary requests?

Expo Egypt will make its best effort to accommodate any dietary requests and restrictions at no additional charge. Please notify us about it before your trip.

#### When is the best time to visit Egypt?

We recommend visiting Egypt any time during the year. The high season for traveling to Egypt is September to March. (see pg. 8)





We look forward to welcoming you to Egypt! Stay connected to us by following us on our social media or by contacting us through the following links below:

## CONTACT US



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