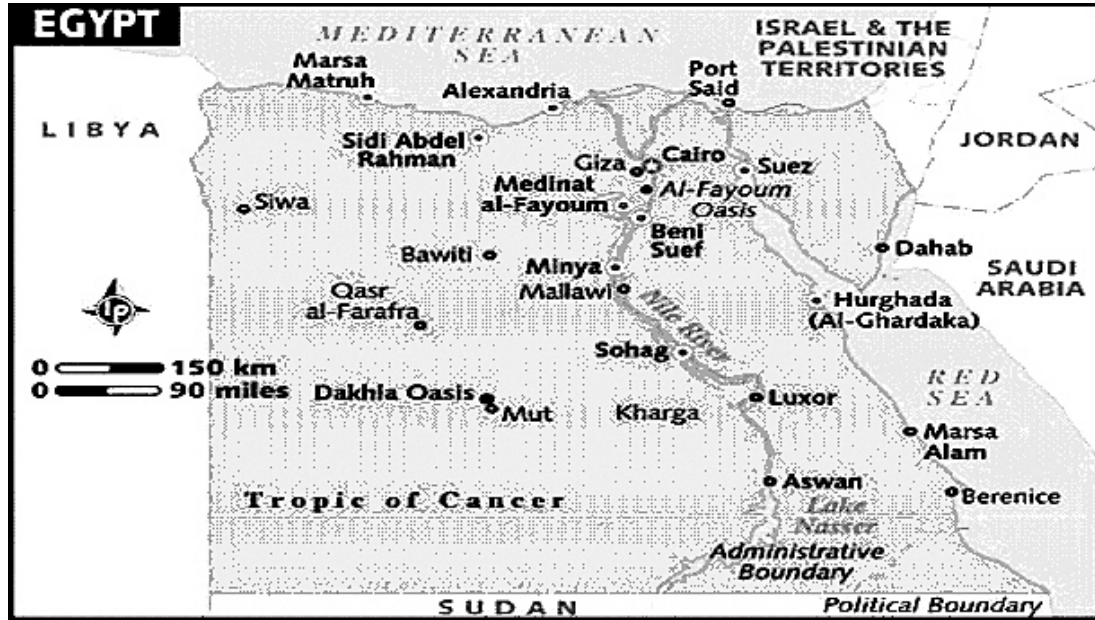


Travel Tips To Egypt

- **Official Name** Arab Republic of Egypt
- **Population** 81,731,000
- **Capital City** Cairo (13.2 million)
- **Largest Cities** Cairo, Alexandria, El Qahira



| DESTINATION | KILOMETERS |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| CAIRO - Bahariya Oasis | 365 |
| Bahariya Oasis - Farafra Oasis | 180 |
| Bahariya - White Desert | 140 |
| Bahariya- Siwa (OFF-ROAD) | 420 |
| CAIRO - Siwa Oasis | 800 |
| FARAFRA - DAKHLA | 320 |
| DAKHLA - KHARGA | 200 |
| KHARGA Oasis - LUXOR | 300 |
| CAIRO - KHARGA Oasis | 550 |
| Cairo Airport - Cairo Center | 22 |
| CAIRO - Wadi Rayan Fayoum | 160 |
| Cairo Airport - Cairo Center | 22 |
| Cairo Center - Giza Pyramids | 10 |
| Cairo Center - Sakkara | 24 |
| Cairo - Aswan | 926 |

| DESTINATION | KILOMETERS |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Cairo - Luxor | 679 |
| Aswan - Luxor | 247 |
| Aswan - Hurghada | 528 |
| Luxor - Hurghada | 281 |
| Cairo - Hurghada | 510 |
| Aswan - Abu Simbel | 309 |
| Sharm El Sheikh - Cairo | 481 |
| Sharm El Sheikh - Dahab | 95 |
| Sharm El Sheikh - Ras Mohamed | 53 |
| St.Catherine - Taba | 173 |
| Taba - Nuweiba | 63 |
| Nuweiba - Dahab | 50 |
| Cairo - Alexandria | 218 |
| Cairo - Suez | 140 |

Language

Arabic is the official language. English is the predominant foreign language and French is widely spoken.

Time difference

Egypt is 3 1/2hrs Behind from India

Climate

Egypt has one of the hottest and sunniest climates in the world. Summer (May - October) is hot and dry, 35- 40 degrees, the heat is less taxing than elsewhere because of low humidity. Winter (November - February) is dry and mild with mostly sunny days and temperatures ranging between 13 and 21 degrees Celsius. Rain is rare, except on the coast, and is virtually unknown in Upper Egypt

Currency

The Currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound (LE) and it is divided into 100 piaster. Here you will find 25 and 50 piaster notes and various sized coins down to the 5 piaster.

Approximate Conversions : 1 US Dollar = 5.65 Egyptian pounds Purchase US \$ from India, which then can be easily converted in LE (Egyptian Pounds) in Cairo. Kindly do Exchange the currency at local Authorised Foreign Exchange dealers only, avoid currency change at Airport or in the Hotel.

Note : Most of the major credit/debit cards, such as American Express, MasterCard, Visa, all Euro cards and JCB, are widely accepted in various hotels and shops. If you want to use an ATM machine, they mostly accept Visa, MasterCard and Cirrus cards

Customs at Cairo Airport

You are allowed to bring 250 grams of tobacco, two cartons of cigarettes, one litre of alcohol and personal stuff.

Local Transport

It is very easy to **hire a taxi** at reasonable rates. Remember to set the price before the journey. The price you set will include the tips, so do not be persuaded by the driver to pay more at the end of the journey!

The horse carriage is also a reliable means of transportation at Upper Egypt, although their prices tend to be higher than a taxi - again the same rules apply to setting the price in advance.

Smoking

It is not forbidden to smoke inside restaurants and in any enclosed public areas of hotels.

Valuables

We strongly advise you to keep all valuables in the safety boxes provided at the Reception desk. Never leave them unattended in your room or cabin. This includes Travelers Cheques, cash, credit cards, passport and your air ticket which should be retained for departure.

The hotels and cruises accept no responsibility for the loss or damage of any valuables left unattended.

Tipping is Way of Life in Egypt

Tipping in Egypt is called baksheesh. Salaries are low and baksheesh is regarded as an essential way of supplementing income.

It is for this reason that cruises have set up a system by which passengers either hand in the suggested amount to their Tour Manager who will distribute all tips accordingly to drivers, porters, temple guards, felucca sailors etc. or Passengers may handle the tipping themselves. Your Tour Manager will be able to advise you how much and when to tip as you go along.

Generally it is accepted that customers pay a tip directly, to the waiter serving, of 10% of the total bill. This is, of course, entirely at your own discretion and should only be paid if you are satisfied with your service.

In Egypt you will be expected to tip many people including your tour guides, drivers, waiters, porters, and hotel concierge, guards in museums and tombs, and shoe minders in mosques. Please try and keep cool about this and don't let it spoil your holiday.

Power Adapters

It is advisable to carry Power Adapters, a power converter. Egypt uses 220 volt and plugs are two prong rounded.

Health Tips

- Drink plenty of water in-order to avoid dehydration. You will find it a lot cheaper to buy in the various shops, than buying at your hotel or cruise boat
- **Never drink the tap water!** It is okay to wash, shower and clean your teeth with it, but not advised to drink. Bottled water is cheap and plentiful; use it instead!
- Avoid eating in really cheap places at roadside.

Clothes And Accessories

- Loose comfortable Cotton Outfits during summer. Avoid synthetic outfits.
- Warm Woollen clothes as there will strong chilly winds during winters.
- If you wish to enter a mosque or church, it also advisable to cover your legs and arms.
- One or two dressy outfits for evenings out, especially for parties
- Swimsuit, as most good hotels and cruise ships have nice, warm, swimming pools

Foot Wear

- Wear comfortable footwear when visiting the various sites. High heels and open toe shoes are not advisable. The floors of most sites are either sand or rough-cut, uneven stone. Inside many tombs, wooden floorboards have been installed, but thin heels could get caught in the gaps between the floorboards

Things to carry

- Sunscreens Lotion (High Factor Advised)
- Pair of Sun glasses/An extra pair of spectacle/contact lenses if you wear
- Comfortable Sports Shoes , quiet a lot of walking around especially in the temples
- Cap / Hat / Something to Cover Your Head during sightseeing.
- Wet Tissues
- Camera/Video camera
- Take a small, pocket, flashlight with you when visiting the sites. Many tombs, temples etc. use the natural light for illumination

- Water bottles
- Some tidbits especially for kids like Waffers, Choclates, candies, Biscuits etc
- Take things to keep the children entertained at the airport and on the flight. Books, paper, pens, travel games, packs of cards - anything that will keep them occupied. If possible take an old favorite and something new as a surprise.
- Take some favorite snacks for the kids in your hand luggage in case the in flight meal isn't to their taste.
- Few dry eatables such as Farsan, Thepla, Khakhra, Dry fruits.etc
- Make up a small “**medical-kit**” before you go! Include things like safety pins, plasters (different sizes), antiseptic cream, Tablets for diarrhea, nausea, headache cold, fever Etc . Sickness pills, Etc. If you take prescribed medicine make sure that you take enough for your stay in Egypt.

Shopping in Egypt

Best Buys (*Bargaining is a trend*)

- Papyrus Painting, Handicrafts, Carpets
- Cotton Apparels, Leather Shoes.....
- Perfumes bottles, Candle Holders etc
- Hibiscus Tea / Spices/dry fruits/Dates.....
- Real antiques /Gold , Silver Jewellery

Shopping places: Khan el Khallilli Bazaars, Zamalek's Street, City Stars Mall (For niche Buying)

Don't's

- Do not buy anything from the vendors at the sight seeing places
- Be sure about Original Papyrus vs Banana leaf Paintings
- Clarify whether the vendor mentioned the price in Egyptian Pound or US Dollar
- When shopping for bargains, keep your own currency and credit cards out of sight, and separate from your LE.

Recommendations : Local Delicacies

- Felafel / Tamir : is one of the most popular Egyptian food: Available in variations of Veg AND Non Veg Delicacies .
- Fatir is a yummy pizzas / pancake: You can choose from different toppings such as cheese, tomato, meat, coconut, icing sugar and etc..
- Koshery: is a veg dish made-up of rice, macroni, lentils, .fried onions and tasty sweet and spicy sauces
- In Egypt, you get lots of fresh fruit and vegetables which are safe to Eat as long as the food has been washed correctly

★ *We also provide customize Packages .* ★