



Pyramids, Cairo

Trip Notes: Egypt

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Egypt are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least two blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

It is strongly recommend that all travelers to Egypt apply for e-visas in advance, online at <https://www.visa2egypt.gov.eg/>

It is recommended you complete this at least 4 weeks before departure.

Visas can be acquired on arrival into Egypt. Entry visa fees are always payable in US dollars cash when purchased on arrival, and cost 30USD (subject to change without notice).

CURRENCY

Egypt's national currency is the Egyptian Pound. Currency is readily available throughout the country at foreign exchanges and ATMs found in just about every major hotel and airport, and at banks. US dollars are widely accepted but will not get the most favorable exchange rate; We recommends carrying Egyptian pound if you plan to shop at Egypt's wonderful markets.

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. Credit cards will usually attract a fee of 3-10%.

TIPPING

Service staff in Egypt depend on tips as part of their livelihood, and the custom of tipping for all services is deeply entrenched; even the usher in a theater expects a tip. As a guideline, hotel porters get about \$1 per bag carried each way. City restaurant staff are tipped \$1 per person per meal. Bar waiters at 10% - 15% value of the beverages purchased. Airport transfer drivers at \$2 per person per transfer. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a driver and a guide, the driver should receive \$5 per person per day.

It is recommended to carry small dominations of cash for unexpected service tips.

CLIMATE

Egypt has a hot, arid desert climate characterized by long, hot summers (May-Sept) and mild winters (Oct-April). Rainfall is very low, mainly occurring on the Mediterranean coast, while the interior is extremely dry. The climate is increasingly impacted by climate change, with rising temperatures and more frequent heatwaves



📍 Hurghada Coast



📍 Aswan, Egypt



📍 Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

LANGUAGE

The official language is the Modern Standard Arabic used in government, education, and media. However, the most spoken dialect is Egyptian Arabic, which is dominant in daily spoken forms.

English is extensively spoken as a second language, particularly among the educated and urban populations.

VACCINATIONS

No vaccinations or medications are currently required for entry to Egypt. All travelers to Egypt should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations based on their complete itinerary, personal health profile and the latest policies at their destinations.

POWER

Egypt operates on 220V supply voltage and 50Hz, utilizing Type C and Type F sockets (two round pins). Travelers from the US (120V) need a plug adapter and likely a voltage converter for non-dual voltage appliances. A "Schuko" Type F adapter or a standard European/Type C adapter is required.

ETIQUETTE

Egyptian etiquette blends deep-seated Islamic traditions with warm hospitality. Key customs include dressing modestly (covering shoulders and knees), using only the right hand for eating and greetings, and removing shoes before entering homes or mosques. Punctuality is relaxed, while respect for elders and avoiding public displays of affection are highly important.

SHOPPING & VAT

Top items to buy in Egypt include authentic papyrus scrolls, high-quality Egyptian cotton garments and linens, and handcrafted alabaster vases or statues from Luxor. For unique, smaller gifts, consider brass lanterns from Khan el-Khalili, personalized cartouche jewelry, aromatic perfumes, spices like hibiscus and cumin, or intricate sand bottles.

Egyptians enjoy, and expect, to barter on prices. In stores and at markets.

Egypt applies a standard 14% Value Added Tax (VAT) on most goods and services, including shopping for retail items and, as of 2025, a 1% tax for shops within malls. Visitors can claim a VAT refund on purchases exceeding 1,500 EGP if they leave within three months and use specialized, approved stores.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Egypt is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 10 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

PHONES

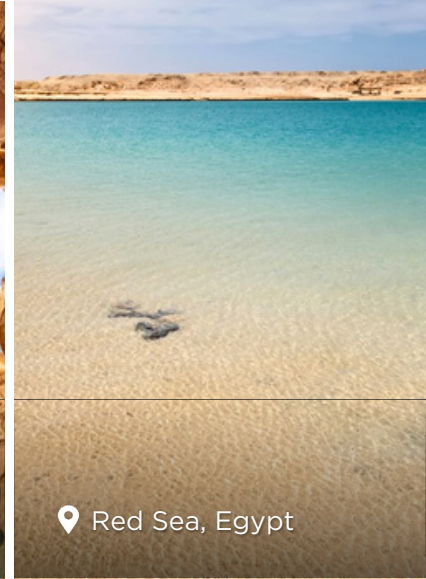
To dial Egypt from the US: 011 + 20 + number
To dial the US from Egypt: 000 + 1 + area code + number.



📍 Ancient Egyptian Temple



📍 Karnak Columns



📍 Red Sea, Egypt

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Egypt is generally safe for tourists in major areas like Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, and Red Sea resorts, with a high security presence. However, a significant threat of terrorism exists nationwide, prompting many countries to advise increased caution. Visitors should be aware of harassment, petty scams, and risks in specific border.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial 112 for the unified emergency service, which covers police, ambulance, and fire services. This is the most crucial number to know in a crisis, especially for tourists.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Pack lightweight, breathable linen or cotton clothing to stay cool, combined with modest, conservative layers that cover shoulders and knees for visiting religious sites. Essential items include comfortable, broken-in walking shoes, a sun hat, sunglasses, a versatile scarf for sun/modesty, sunscreen, a power bank, and a small medical kit for stomach issues.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- 7 January - **Coptic Christmas Day**
- 25 January - **Revolution Day (observed 29 January)**
- 31 March - **Eid el Fitr (observed 22-23 March)**
- 13 April - **Spring Festival**
- 25 April - **Sinai Liberation Day**
- 1 May - **Labor Day**
- 26 May - **Arafat Day (tentative), (observed 28 May)**
- 27 May **Eid-al- Adha (tentative), (observed 29 May)**
- 17 June - **Muharram (tentative)**
- 30 June - **June 30 Revolution (observed 2 July)**
- 23 July - **Revolution Day 23 July**
- 26 August - **Prophet Mohamed's Birthday**
- 6 October - **Armed Forces Day (observed 8 October)**

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

US State Department Travel Advisories

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Egypt

<https://eg.usembassy.gov/>

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov>

US Passports

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

International Travel Guidance

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

This information is provided by Travel Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/egypt.html> While Travel Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.