

Gems of Egypt & the Nile

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Time Zone: Eastern European Time is the standard time zone in Israel which is GMT+2. Egypt is 8 hours ahead of Central Time Zone and 7 hours ahead of Eastern Time Zone. Currently, Egypt does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

Weather: Average High/Low

City	February	March	October	November
Cairo	70°F/52°F	76°F/59°F	86°F/67°F	86°F/67°F
Luxor	78°F/47°F	86°F/53°F	95°F/65°F	86°F/67°F
Esna	77°F/44°F	85°F/59°F	95°F/63°F	86°F/67°F
Aswan	78°F/53°F	86°F/61°F	97°F/72°F	86°F/67°F

Currency: Egypt's currency is the Egyptian Pound.

Similar to travel in Mexico or the Caribbean, U.S. dollars are widely appreciated in Egypt. Tipping in U.S. dollars is common and welcomed. While small purchases can often be made using U.S. currency, change may be given in a combination of U.D. dollars and Egyptian pounds.

Currency exchange services offer consistent rates both in town and at the airport. However, hotel exchange rates are typically less favorable. ATMs are readily available throughout the country.

Most mid- and high-end hotels accept major credit cards, with Visa and MasterCard being the most widely accepted. American Express is accepted at some upscale establishments, while Diner's Club and Discover are generally not accepted. Many restaurants and shops operate on a cash-only basis.

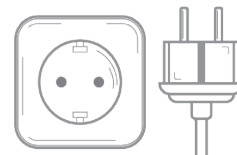
Exchange rates fluctuate daily. For up-to-date information, visit www.oanda.com.

Tour Guide Services: Holiday Vacations has arranged for a professional Egyptologist to accompany your tour. This guide will provide cultural insights and discuss topics such as local customs, language, historical content, and currency exchange.

Gratuities: Tipping is an integral part of Egyptian culture. It is customary to offer a gratuity for any service rendered, including casual interactions such as taking a photo of a camel or receiving directions. Recommended gratuities:

- **Holiday Vacations Tour Director:** \$8 - \$10 per person, per day (given directly at the end of your tour).
- **Egyptian Coach Drivers:** \$2.50 per person, per day (give directly on the final day of the service)
- **Egyptologist Guide:** \$8 per person per day (give directly on the final day of service).
- **Cruise Ship Staff:** \$12 per person, per day (given on the last day of the cruise)
- **Egyptian Coach Drivers:** \$2.50 per person, per day – to be given the last day of service

Electrical Current: Egypt uses 220 volts, 50 Hz (Type C and Type F plugs). North American travelers will need an adapter to use their devices. A voltage converter is only necessary if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Devices labeled 110-220V do not require a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronic stores. Hair dryers are provided at hotels and on the cruise ship.



Popular Souvenirs:

- Papyrus: Authentic hand-painted versions are available at specialty shops in Cairo; inexpensive imitations are often made from banana leaves.
- Brass and copperware
- Jewelry: Popular items include cartouches, ankhs, and scarab-themed pieces.
- Ancient Egypt memorabilia: Quality varies widely.
- Wood inlay boxes
- Camel skin products: wallets, purses, and more.
- Galabia: Traditional attire, often worn during themed cruise event.

Restroom Facilities: Public restrooms are limited. It is generally acceptable to use facilities in restaurants or hotels, even without making a purchase. Toilet paper is rarely stocked in stalls; attendants may provide it in exchange for a small tip. Travelers are advised to carry tissue packets.

Do not flush toilet paper. Dispose of it in the bin provided. Many toilets include a bidet house; use caution when adjusting the water pressure. Some facilities may feature squat toilets, which require manual flushing with a hose or Buket. In urban areas, fast food restaurants often provide reliable restroom access.

Vaccinations: Consult your physician regarding Hepatitis A & B and Typhoid vaccines.

Water Safety: To avoid gastrointestinal illness (commonly referred to as Pharaoh's Revenge), drink only bottled water. This includes using when brushing your teeth. Bottled water will be provided in hotel rooms, on the cruise ship, and on tour buses. Avoid unpeeled fruits and salads washed in tap water.