

# 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	Feb.	Oct.
Cairo	70°F/52°F	86°F/67°F
Luxor	78°F/47°F	95°F/65°F
Esna	77°F/44°F	95°F/63°F
Aswan	78°F/53°F	97°F/72°F

**Currency:** Egypt's currency is the Egyptian Pound.  
Egyptian Pounds, 100 piastres = 1 pound  
1 US Dollar = 48.78 EGP  
1 EGP = \$.20 USD

Much like travel in Mexico or the Caribbean, Egyptians love U.S. dollars. Tips are gladly accepted in dollars. Guests can pay for small purchases in U.S. dollars but should expect change in a mix of U.S. and Egyptian currency. Money exchange locations give the same rate in town as at the airport. The hotel gives the worst exchange rate. ATMs are available as well.

Most mid- and high-end tourist hotels will accept major credit cards, with Visa and MasterCard having the widest acceptance in Egypt. American Express is less commonly accepted but still useful in higher-end facilities. Diner's Club and Discover are never accepted in Egypt. The majority of restaurants and shops remain cash-only.

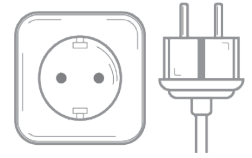
Currency exchange rates fluctuate on a daily basis. A helpful website for referencing current rates is [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

**International Guide:** Holiday Vacations has arranged for an Egyptologist guide to provide cultural insight into the regions you will be visiting. Your international guide will also discuss currency exchange, customs, language, and history.

**Gratuities:** Please know that Egypt has a tipping culture. Everyone will have their hand out if they perform any kind of service for you, such as taking a picture of their camel or showing you the way to a shop.

- The suggested gratuity for your Holiday Vacations Tour Director is \$8 to \$10 per person, per day. Any tipping is on an individual basis and is given directly to the Tour Director at the end of the tour.
- Egyptian Coach Drivers: \$2.50 per person, per day – to be given the last day of service
- Egyptologist Guide: Recommended amount of \$8.00 per person, per day of service – to be given the last day of service.
- Combined Cruise Ship Staff: Recommended amount of \$12.00 per person per day – 5 days of service – to be given the last day of the cruise

**Electrical Current:** The electric current is 220 volts, 50 cycles (Type C and Type F). Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department and electronics stores. Hair dryer are provided at the hotels and on the ship.



**Popular Souvenirs:**

- Papyrus – inexpensive varieties are printed on dried banana peels and only cost a few dollars, authentic hand-painted recreations can only be found at Specialists shops in Cairo.
- Brass and copperware
- Jewelry – some people like to buy a cartouche, ankh, or scarab necklace or bracelet.
- Ancient Egypt memorabilia – can be really tacky
- Wood inlay boxes
- Camel skin products – wallets, purses, etc.
- Galabia that can be worn for Egyptian night on the cruise

**Toilets:** Few official public toilets exist, but it's acceptable to use one in a restaurant or hotel even if you're not a customer. Toilet paper is seldom in stalls – an attendant may provide it as you enter, for a tip. Guests may want to bring small packages of tissues along for this purpose. Do not flush paper – deposit it in the bin next to the toilet. Many toilets have an integrated bidet tube, which unfortunately can get quite mucky. The knob for the bidet is usually to the right of the toilet tank – open it very slowly to gauge the pressure. Some toilets are of the 'squat' variety – use the hose (and bucket, if provided) to 'flush' and wash your hands. In cities, it's a good idea to make a

**Vaccinations:** Talk to your doctor about Hepatitis A & B and Typhoid vaccines.

**Water:** To avoid Pharaoh's Revenge – a stomach infection that happens to people who travel away from their place of residence – it is advisable to drink only bottled water. Water will be available for you in the hotel rooms, on the cruise ship, and in the buses on this tour. Also, be careful of unpeeled fruit and fresh salad that was washed in water.