

READY TO PLAN FOR YOUR TRIP?

Jordan & the Gems of Egypt

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

WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC DETAILS

Visas: Tourist visas are required for Jordan & Egypt and are included in the cost of your vacation. Both visas will be obtained upon arrival at the airport in Amman & Cairo.

Time Zones: Jordan is GMT+3 and is 9 hours ahead of the Central Time Zone and 8 hours ahead of the Eastern Time Zone. Jordan observes European Summer Time all year and the clocks do not change.

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

Weather: Average High/Low

Jordan

City	March	November
Amman	63° F/44° F	67° F/47° F
Madaba	65° F/39° F	69° F/42° F
Petra	69° F/44° F	71° F/46° F

Egypt

City	March	November
Cairo	76° F/56° F	77° F/59° F
Luxor	86° F/54° F	84° F/54° F
Esna	82° F/52° F	86° F/55° F
Aswan	87° F/60° F	86° F/61° F

Currency: Jordan's currency is the Dinar. 100 piastres = 1 Dinar. 1 US Dollar = .71 Dinar. 1 Dinar = 1.41 US Dollars.

Egypt's currency is the Egyptian Pound. Egyptian Pounds, 100 piastres = 1 pound.
1 US Dollar = 30.20 Egyptian Pounds. 1 Egyptian Pound = \$.03 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 local 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 establishments 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 Jordan or 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.

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 \$7 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.
- Jordanian & Egyptian Coach Drivers: \$3.00 per person, per day – to be given on the last day of service
- Jordan Guide & Egyptologist Guide: Recommended Amount \$7.00 per person, per day of service – to be given on the last day of service.
- Combined Cruise Ship Staff: Recommended Amount \$10.00 per person per day – 5 days of service – to be given on 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 dryers are provided at the hotels and on the ship.

Popular Souvenirs:

Jordan

- Mosaic Tilework
- Bedouin Weavings
- Arabic Coffee Pots
- Traditional Ceramics
- Organic Skin Care

Egypt

- Papyrus – inexpensive varieties are printed on dried banana peels and only cost a few dollars, authentic hand-painted recreations can only be found at specialist 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: In Jordan, western-style toilets are prevalent here, but not toilet paper. It is wise to travel with small packages of tissues and remember not to flush the paper after it is used, their pipes are too small to accommodate this. Put the used paper in the basket provided.

In Egypt, 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 mental note of all Western-style fast-food joints and five-star hotels, as these are where you'll find the most sanitary facilities.

Vaccinations: Talk to your Doctor about Hepatitis A and B as well as 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.