

# Trip Details

## Egypt & Jordan Discovered By Nile Cruise

Prepare to witness some of the greatest monuments and cultures of the ancient world. Pose with the Pyramids, kiss the Sphinx and sail your felucca down the Nile like an Egyptian. Sunbathe by the Red Sea and prepare for the breath-taking Wadi Rum. The amazing Petra awaits you before you float in the Dead Sea.

<b>Duration</b>	15 Days	<b>Group Size</b>	13-35 People
<b>Destination</b>	Egypt / Jordan	<b>Age Req.</b>	18+
<b>Start/Ends in</b>	Cairo/Amman	<b>Trip Theme</b>	Classic, Cruising
<b>Hotels</b>	5 & 4 & 3 Star	<b>Departs</b>	All Year Round

## Why You Will Love This Tour

- \* This 15-day trek through Egypt and Jordan is the ultimate balance of seaside relaxation, river cruising, ancient history, desert-living and bustling city vibes.
- \* Feel the relaxing breeze of the Nile River during a 3-night luxurious Egyptian Cruise with stops along the way in Aswan, Philae Temple and more.
- \* Start your journey in the capital of Egypt and end it in the capital of Jordan, Amman, accompanied by local guides who'll show you around the best sites, chaotic bazaars and the hidden gems of these busy cities.
- \* Tick off bucket-list wonders of the world including the Lost City of Petra and the Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Egypt.
- \* Get your swimsuits ready and dive in as you head to Dahab for incredible coral reefs and turquoise beaches. Explore at your own pace with optional extras such as snorkelling and scuba diving.
- \* Then it's off to the desert for a night under the stars at the Wadi Rum desert camp! The engines will be revving for an included 4x4 safari, before a traditional Jordanian dinner around the campfire.

## Arrival Details

The group welcome meeting with you guide and other travellers is held around 18:30 at the hotel lobby on Day 1 of your tour, unless otherwise notified.

### Meeting Point

#### The Oasis Hotel Pyramids – CAIRO

**Address :** Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road P.O Box 44 Pyramids 12556 - Cairo / Egypt

**Phone :** +202 38387333    **Emergency Number:** +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

### Airport Transfers

All tours starting in Cairo include arrival airport transfer if your flight lands in Cairo on the first day of your tour between 5am and 11:30pm or if you have booked pre-accommodation with us. To arrange your airport transfer please email us the following information at least 2 weeks before your departure date.

- Travel Date
- Flight Number
- Local Arrival Time
- Name/s of the Passengers

## Making Your Own Way to the Starting Point

The arrival hotel is located in the pyramids area, 32 km away from the Cairo Airport (CAI). It takes about 40 minutes - 1 hour by taxi depending on the traffic. You can take a taxi from the airport directly to the hotel, which is expected to cost around 350-400 EGP. You can also use Uber as long as you have data access (Please note that taxi numbers are in Arabic so you may have difficulty in finding the vehicle). Another option is to arrange a private transfer via [cairoshuttlebus.com](http://cairoshuttlebus.com), you can visit their desk at the airport, or prebook and pay at the airport. It may be 50-70 EGP more expensive than the other options. We recommend to avoid white cabs as these can be more costly.

## Finishing Point

### The Sulaf Luxury Hotel – AMMAN

**Address :** Al-Madina Al-Monawara St, Amman

**Phone :** +962 6 554 4515 **Emergency Number:** +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

## Highlights

- \* **Aswan:** Sunniest city of Egypt and a popular touristic stop for many cruises. The local market here is an excellent place to do some shopping and to find Egyptian fresh spices.
- \* **Cairo:** With the Great Pyramids of Giza, ancient temples, magnificent monuments and the Egyptian Antiquities Museum, Cairo offers an experience of a lifetime.
- \* **Edfu:** Edfu has the most complete and best-preserved temple in Egypt, the Ptolemaic Temple of Horus, which was constructed between 237 BC and 57 BC.
- \* **Giza:** The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the only one still remaining to this day. An absolute must see.
- \* **Komombo:** Kom Ombo means “hill of the gold” crowned with Temple of Komombo. The temple is unusual as one side is dedicated to the god Haroehis and the other side to Sobek.
- \* **Luxor:** A top travel destination in Egypt with a wealth of historic monuments and buildings bringing Egypt’s fabled past to life. Luxor is called the world’s greatest open air museum.
- \* **Philae Temple:** Philae Temple, a beautiful temple complex is one of the most picturesque in all of Egypt. It sits on Aglika Island just south of the old Aswan Dam.
- \* **Dead Sea:** Dead Sea is a 30 minute drive from Amman and you reach this unique spot in Jordan. Dead Sea brings a sense of unreality to any traveler passing through.
- \* **Petra:** Petra, A UNESCO World Heritage Site, is described as “one of the most precious cultural properties of mankind’s cultural heritage”. Simply amazing.
- \* **Wadi Rum:** Absolutely stunning is its natural beauty, Wadi Rum summarizes the romance of the desert. You may meet some friendly Bedouins living close by at the desert.

## Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary may be subject to small changes depending on the conditions during the tour. Alternative accommodation of similar standards may be used depending on the group size and hotel availability.

### Day 1: Cairo

Welcome to Egypt! At the Cairo terminal keep your eyes peeled for the Travel Talk sign for your transfer to the hotel. Freshen up and meet in the lobby around 6:00pm for an informal meeting with your guide and other tour members. Afterwards you have free time to start exploring vibrant Cairo or board a cruise for an optional group dinner.

- **Accommodation**

The Oasis Hotel – 4 Star

- **Included Activities**

Welcome Meeting

- **Optional Activities**

Group Dinner on Cruise – 450 EGP

### Day 2: Cairo City Tour, Overnight Sleeper Train

Set your alarms for 7.30am and fill up on plenty of breakfast before a big day exploring Egypt's iconic Ancient Wonder of the World – the Pyramids and Sphinx! Follow your guide for a tour across the ancient site to learn about the 4,600-year-old wonders. After everyone has had their dose of awe, we'll head out to Sakkara to see the iconic step pyramid built in 2700 B.C. Later in the afternoon, board an overnight sleeper

- **Accommodation**

Overnight Sleeper Train

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Dinner

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Giza Pyramids

Sightseeing of Sphinx

Sightseeing of Sakkara Pyramid

- **Entrance Fees**

Giza Pyramids/Sphinx – 200 EGP

Sakkara Pyramid – 180 EGP

### Day 3: Nile Cruise

Wake up in Aswan, ready to explore on a city tour with your local guide. Visit the Unfinished Obelisk for a look into the incredible building methods used to create the four-sided, hallmark monuments that are placed at the entrances of Egyptian temples. Take some time to walk along the 42-metre long lying bed of granite and learn about its significance from your guide. Visit the Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis, divine mother of the pharaohs. The temple is set beautifully on an island in the middle of the Nile. Then all aboard the a 5-star Nile Cruiser as we check in to our private cabins and prepare for three nights on the Nile River. Tonight, we'll have the option to join a traditional Nubian dinner in the evening.

- **Accommodation**

Nile Cruiser - 5 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Aswan City tour

Sightseeing of Philae Temple

Sightseeing of Unfinished Obelisks of Aswan

- **Optional Activities**

Nubian Dinner – 26 USD

- **Entrance Fees**

Philae Temple – 180 EGP

#### Day 4: Nile Cruise

Wake up well rested after your first night on board the Nile Cruiser. Watch beautiful scenery pass you by and wave to the locals swimming and fishing on the riverbanks. Today we will visit Kom Ombo Temple, dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek. If you are feeling up to it in the afternoon, join the optional trip to the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Abu Simbel. It is a must-do for all keen historians!

- **Accommodation**

Nile Cruiser - 5 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Komombo Temple

- **Optional Activities**

Abu Simbel – 94 USD

- **Entrance Fees**

Komombo Temple – 140 EGP

#### Day 5: Nile Cruise, Edfu, Luxor

Take it easy today as we continue our Cruise down the Nile River. Next stop will be Edfu, home to one of the largest and best-preserved temples in Egypt. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, the temple was built over 180-years from 237 BC to 57 BC. Cruise to Luxor in the afternoon.

- **Accommodation**

Nile Cruiser - 5 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Edfu Temple

- **Entrance Fees**

Edfu Temple – 180 EGP

#### Day 6: Luxor

After a final breakfast onboard our 5-star Nile Cruiser, we'll check out and later check in to our luxurious hotel in Luxor. After dark, we'll visit Luxor Temple to explore the dimly-light temple and learn from your guide of the temple complexes ancient history, dating back to the 14th century B.C.

- **Accommodation**

Steigenberger Nile palace Hotel – 5 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Luxor Temple

- **Entrance Fees**

Luxor Temple – 160 EGP

### Day 7: Luxor, Overnight Sleeper Train

The West bank of the Nile River awaits you! Follow your guide to the Valley of the Kings, also known as the 'City of the Dead', home to fancy royal tombs carved into desert rocks and filled with treasures for the Pharaoh afterlife. Next up, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut and Colossi of Memnon. Not to forget, a visit to the vast Karnak Temple Complex, one of the most important religious centres of ancient Egypt with its marvellous temples. Your Egyptologist guide will enlighten you with the most intriguing stories and mythologies from the temple complex. Feeling adventurous? Take to the skies on an optional hot air balloon ride over Luxor. In the evening, board an overnight sleeper train to Cairo.

- **Accommodation**

Overnight Sleeper Train

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Dinner

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Karnak Temple

Sightseeing of Hatshepsut Temple & Colossi of Memnon

- **Entrance Fees**

Valley Of The Kings – 244 EGP

Hatshepsut Temple – 142 EGP

- **Optional Activities**

Hot Air Balloon- 124 USD

### Day 8: Cairo City Tour

The journey continues with one of the most important museums dedicated to the ancient world. Egyptian Museum of Cairo houses around 120,000 ancient Egyptian relics and antiquities. Then roam around Cairo stopping by the Citadel of Saladin, Mosque of Mohammed Ali, the Hanging Church and the world-famous Khan el-Khalili bazaar. Make sure to wear your haggling hats and brace for the mayhem!

- **Accommodation**

The Oasis Hotel - 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Cairo

Sightseeing of Egyptian Museum

Sightseeing of Citadel of Saladin

Sightseeing of Mohammed Ali Mosque

Sightseeing of Hanging Church

Sightseeing of Bazaar Khan El- Khalili

- **Entrance Fees**

Egyptian Museum – 220 EGP

Citadel of Saladin – 180 EGP

### Day 9: Cairo, Dahab

Following an early breakfast, head out to the Red Sea paradise of Dahab. Pack your swimsuit close and ready for a dip in the sea. You'll get plenty of swimming, snorkeling, diving and sunbathing. The perfect way to relax after a week of cultural discovery.

- **Accommodation**

Dahab Paradise Hotel - 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

### Day 10: Dahab

Today our Dahab experience starts with an optional snorkeling trip to the famous Blue Hole. Here you can snorkel off the shore, swim along colourful fish and experience the beauty of the coral reefs. Dahab is renowned for being one of the best diving destinations in the region, offering an unforgettable experience to divers of all levels. Following your return, why not try out camel trekking or water sports.

- **Accommodation**

Dahab Paradise Hotel - 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Dahab

- **Optional Activities**

Snorkelling at Blue Hole – 34 USD

### Day 11: Dahab, Taba, Aqaba, Wadi Rum

Time for the second leg of your adventure. Depart early for Nuweiba, where we'll hop onboard a local ferry as we cross into Jordan via Aqaba. On arrival in Jordan, we will make tracks for our campsite in Wadi Rum Desert. Enjoy free time to explore and relax in the afternoon or join an optional camel trek through the otherworldly desert landscapes. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Jordanian dinner under the stars. Followed by music and dance around the campfire as we get to know the locals of Wadi Rum!

- **Accommodation**

Hilawi Camp Site

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Dinner

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Wadi Rum

- **Optional Activities**

Camel Ride in Wadi Rum - 17 USD

- **Entrance Fees**

Wadi Rum – 7 USD

### Day 12: Wadi Rum, Petra

Kick off the day with an included Jeep safari through the incredibly vast and rocky landscapes of the desert. In the afternoon, farewell Wadi Rum as we head towards the Lost City of Petra! Recognised as one of the amazing 7 Wonders of the World, the city of Petra is a serious sight to behold, carved from rose-coloured

Enjoy free time on arrival in Petra to relax and unpack before an optional Petra by Night tour in the evening for a magical first glimpse of the ancient city lit by over 1,5000 glimmering candles.

- **Accommodation**

Petra Palace Hotel – 3 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Jeep Safari in Wadi Rum

- **Entrance Fees**

Petra Ancient City – 70 USD

- **Optional Activities**

Petra By Night Tour – 25 USD

### Day 13 : Petra

Get your cameras ready for a full day exploring all the sights of Petra. Be sure to pack comfortable shoes as there will be plenty of walking today. Follow your guide as they lead you towards the inner city to the Paraoth's Castle, Triumphal Arch, Amphitheatre, Siq, Treasury and plenty more. Learn fascinating stories about the rediscovery of this ancient city lost in time.

- **Accommodation**

Petra Palace Hotel – 3 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Petra Ancient City

- **Entrance Fees**

Petra Ancient City – 70 USD

### Day 14: Petra, Shobak Castle, Dead Sea , Amman

Fill up on breakfast before a jam-packed day! First up we'll visit the Shobak Castle, the first Crusader fortress in the territory of East Jordan (Oultrejourdain). Learn from your guide about the history of these ruins built in 1115. Then, hop back on board the coach as we head towards the lowest point of dry land on Earth – the Dead Sea! Also known as 'Sea of Salt', the Dead Sea is hundreds of metres below sea level and holds incredibly salty water that keeps you afloat! Throw on your swimsuit, cover yourself in a cleansing mud bath and jump into the salty sea to bath in the natural minerals! we will also visit the Citadel and Amphitheatre before check into hotel in Amman.

- **Accommodation**

The Sulaf Luxury Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Dead Sea

Swim and Float At Dead Sea

Sightseeing of Shobak Castle

- **Entrance Fees**

Dead Sea – 10 USD

- **Optional Activities**

Lunch at Dead Sea – 12 USD

### Day 15: Amman

Enjoy one final breakfast with the tour group and check out of the hotel, share final farewells with your new travel mates and start counting down the days until your next adventure with Travel Talk!

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

## Inclusions & Exclusions

The tour price covers the following services:

<b>Accommodation:</b>	5 and 4 star hotels in Egypt, 3 Star hotels and desert camp in Jordan
<b>Airport Transfer:</b>	Arrival transfers on first day of the trip
<b>Meals:</b>	14 breakfasts   2 lunches   3 dinners
<b>Transportation:</b>	Air-conditioned modern coach or mini-bus, Nile Cruiser
<b>Guide:</b>	Services of experienced Travel Talk local guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism
<b>Sightseeing:</b>	Giza Pyramids, Sphinx, Sakkara Pyramid, Philae Temple, Unfinished Obeliks of Aswan Edfu Temple, Komombo Temple, Luxor Temple, Karnak Temple, Egyptian Museum Hatshepsut Temple & Colossi of Memnon, Citadel of Saladin, Mohammed Ali Mosque Hanging Church, Bazaar Khan El- Khalili, St. Catherine Monastery, Petra, Amman, Ajloun Jerash, Wadi Rum

### What is NOT included in the tour price?

- Any flights not mentioned above
- Travel insurance
- Meals not stated above
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips & gestures
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums
- Optional activities
- Other services not stated in the itinerary

## Hotels & Accommodation

Solo travellers will be roomed with another solo traveller of the same gender in a twin or triple room, or can upgrade to a solo room by paying the single supplement. You may choose the solo room option when booking online or contact us to arrange a private room.

### THE OASIS HOTEL PYRAMIDS – CAIRO – 4 Star

The hotel is located very close to Pyramids of Giza. The Egyptian Museum and Great Sphinx. Hotel offers a sundeck, swimming pool, tennis court, gym and fitness center.

### STEIGENBER HOTEL – LUXOR – 5 Star

This 5 star hotel, located in the heart of Luxor by the Nile River, provides an outdoor pool, fitness centre and sauna. All rooms feature air-conditioning and satellite TV.

### TOLIP HOTEL – ASWAN – 5 Star

This 5 star hotel overlooking the river, offers a pool, nightclub and spa centre. Air- conditioned rooms are equipped with a minibar and a satellite TV, also free wif-fi access.

### SLEEPER CABIN TRAINS- CAIRO TO ASWAN & LUXOR TO CAIRO

Privacy, a comfortable bed in which to sleep, a fine dinner and excellent service are the hallmarks of Egypt's sleeper trains. The twin share cabins are equipped with bunk beds.



### **HILLAWI CAMP – WADI RUM – 3 Star**

Staying in Wadi Rum is an experience not to be missed. This camp is large, yet has a wonderful atmosphere, nice rooms with attached bathroom and wonderful staff who makes your stay wonderful.

### **PETRA PALACE HOTEL – PETRA – 3 Star**

This hotel is very centrally located, it's only 50 meters away from Petra entrance. This hotel has also an outdoor swimming pool to offer. It features 2 outdoor swimming pools with sun terrace.

### **SULAF LUXURY HOTEL – AMMAN – 4 Star**

This hotel is located in the heart of Amman. The Sulaf Luxury Hotel has been specially designed to provide every level of comfort and service in keeping with today's demands.

## **Distances**

Please find below the distances between the sights visited in Egypt and the approximate driving times. We will always strive to take a short break every few hours to enable passengers to stretch their legs, purchase snacks and use wash facilities during long drives.

- Cairo – Aswan : 982 kms - 12 hrs
- Aswan – Luxor: 247 kms - 3 hrs
- Aswan – Abu Simbel: 309 kms - 3.5 hrs
- Luxor – Cairo: 735 kms - 9 hrs
- Cairo – Dahab : 550 kms - 6.5 hrs
- Wadi Rum – Petra: 115 Km - 1h 45 min
- Petra - Dead Sea: 200 Km - 3h 30 min
- Dead Sea – Amman: 60 Km - 1h
- Amman – Ajlun: 70 Km – 1h 20 min
- Jerash – Amman: 51 Km - 1h

## **Nile Cruiser**

We use 5-star cruisers on our Nile Cruise tours. On the Nile Cruise boat, there is ample deck space, a large sundeck and a spacious, shaded seating area with its own bar and the best views of the majestic Nile. Meals are served in the air-conditioned restaurant and there is a lounge bar where you can enjoy your evening listening to music or playing cards. The air-conditioned cabins have a private ensuite shower, toilet and washbasin as well as a large window offering a panoramic view of the river. Although the meals are included in the tour price, drinks will cost extra and please note that the prices on the cruise boat can be higher than the usual Egyptian restaurants & bars.

## **Budgeting**

Please note that entrance fees to sights and optional activities are not included in the tour price. Optional activities are not operated by Travel Talk and may require a certain number of attendees to run. Your guide will be happy to inform you further about the available optional activities at the start of your tour.

### **Entrance Fees ( Egypt )**

- |                        |         |                       |         |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| • Giza Pyramids/Sphinx | EGP 200 | • Edfu Temple         | EGP 180 |
| • Sakkara Pyramid      | EGP 180 | • Komombo Temple      | EGP 140 |
| • Egyptian Museum      | EGP 220 | • Luxor Temple        | EGP 160 |
| • Citadel of Saladin   | EGP 180 | • Hatshepsut Temple   | EGP 142 |
| • Philae Temple        | EGP 180 | • Valley Of The Kings | EGP 244 |

**Total 1826 EGP (approx. 120 USD)**

### Entrance Fees ( Jordan )

• Jerash	10 USD	• Dead Sea	10 USD
• Wadi Rum	7 USD	• Shobak Castle	1,5 USD
• Petra Ancient City	70 USD	• Ajloun	10 USD

**Total 108,5 USD**

### Optional Activities

Please note that Optional Activities are not operated by Travel Talk.

• Hot-Air Ballooning	124 USD	• Quad Biking	29 USD
• Abu Simbel	94 USD	• Lunch at Dead Sea	12 USD
• Nubian Dinner	26 USD	• Group Dinner Jordan	22 USD
• Group Dinner Egypt	10-15 USD	• Camel Ride in Wadi Rum	17 USD
• Mountain Dinner	24 USD	• Petra By Night Tour	25 USD
• Snorkelling at Blue Hole	34 USD		

### Personal Spending

The currency of **Egypt** is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). Most majors cities and towns in Egypt have ATMs and credit or debits cards are widely accepted in the tourist areas. If you plan to travel off the beaten track, be prepared to have cash for souqs, small meals and entrance fees.

The currency of **Jordan** is the Jordan Dinor (JOD). ATMS are widely available in major towns and cities across Jordan. Credit and debit cards are generally accepted, but cash remains king in the souqs and regions such as Wadi Rum.

While every traveller's spending habits may differ slightly, we have estimated the average daily expenses to help with budgeting for your next trip. Here you will find the average cost for a meal or drink and advice for

#### Meals ( Egypt )

Lunch at restaurant	US\$ 4-8
Dinner at restaurant	US\$ 10-15
Shawarma (lamb pitta) at a stall	US\$ 1-2
Zalabya - Egyptian Donut ball	US\$ 0.30

#### Drinks ( Egypt )

Bottle of water	US\$ 0.5
Coffee	US\$ 1.5-2
Tea	US\$ 1-2
Bottle of beer	US\$ 3-4

#### Meals ( Jordan )

Lunch at restaurant	US\$ 3-7
Dinner at restaurant	US\$ 10-13
Falafel sandwich at a stall	US\$ 2
Kanafeh Sweet	US\$ 1

#### Drinks ( Jordan )

Bottle of water	US\$ 0.6
Coffee	US\$ 1-2
Tea	US\$ 0.5-1.5
Bottle of beer	US\$ 4-5

### Tipping

Tipping, known as 'baksheesh' in the Middle East and while it is not mandatory, is common reward for good service paid by both tourists and locals alike. It is reasonable to tip around 10%, if a service charge is not already applied to a bill. While on tour, a budget of 5-10 USD per day will usually cover tips. Your Guide and Driver would also appreciate this kind of gratitude at the end of your tour or their service.

### Egypt Shopping

Souqs, or local markets, along with larger bazaars are not only the perfect place to shop for souvenirs but also among the most remarkable attractions of Egypt.

The biggest and most famous soup is the 500-year-old Khan El Khalili Bazaar in Cairo. Quality can vary quite significantly depending on how much you spend and where you shop, so feel free to always ask your expert guide for their advice while on tour.

Haggling and bargaining over prices in bazaars and souqs is a fundamental part of shopping in Egypt. The key is to start low and work your way up but always have a maximum value in mind.

### **Cartouche Jewellery**

Cartouche, commonly known as hieroglyphics, are an ornate Egyptian scroll featuring engravings and inscriptions.

It is common to find gold and silver jewellers all over Egypt selling personalised Cartouche pendants. Silver jewellery featuring a cartouche pendant is a common souvenir across Egypt but to buy quality, we recommend purchasing silver that is stamped with '925' quality. Prices for quality Cartouche jewellery can range between 10 USD – 1,000 USD depending on the metals.

### **Perfume**

Egypt is a major trading centre for the perfume industry, and you can't escape the country without visiting an essential-oil dealer to try a few for yourself! Got a favourite perfume that you would like to purchase on the cheap?

Local shops across Egypt will duplicate famous perfumes at a reasonable price. Lotus (sawsan) and Jasmine (full) are the most distinctively Egyptian scents, and you can expect to pay approximately 15-25 USD for a duplicate perfume.

### **Muski Glassware**

Since medieval times, Muski glass has been hand-blown to create incredible plates, vases, candleholders, glasses and more to fashion through the homes of local Egyptians.

This bubble-shot glassware comes in vibrant shades of blue, green and purple, and is known to be extremely fragile so pack with caution!

### **Jordan Shopping**

Traditionally, the people of Jordan have always crafted the goods they needed - meaning overtime they have developed a strong craftsmanship for certain goods. We recommend keeping an eye out at local souqs and markets across the country for a glimpse into the local arts. Unlike neighbouring countries such as Egypt, haggling in Jordan is far less fierce or common.

### **Traditional Keffiyehs**

The most iconic textile in Jordan would have to be the headscarf, called keffiyeh. The traditional design is a houndstooth, red and white pattern, frequently worn by the Bedouins. They are incredibly practical for exploring the desert and their compactness makes for the perfect gift to take home! Expect to pay between 5-10 USD.

### **Gold Jewellery**

The Bedouin's place a high value of jewellery with past ancestors traditionally investing their money in jewellery rather than banks. The Gold Souk in Downtown Amman offers distinct jewellery of Jordanian design from striking necklaces to semiprecious stones.

### **Hand-painted Ceramics**

Mosaics are a distinctly Jordanian art form and while purchasing mosaic goods while travelling can be both expensive and weighty, mosaic-style ceramics is a great alternative. Throughout the souqs and along the streets of Amman you'll find local artists customising mosaic designs on all kinds of traditional pottery including mugs, plates and vases. Prices for customise products start at approximately 15 USD.

# Essential Information: Egypt & Jordan

## Passport & Visas ( Egypt )

Visas to enter Egypt are compulsory for all tourists. It is possible to obtain a tourist visa when you get to Cairo International Airport for most nationalities. However, we recommend applying for a Visa online two weeks prior to arrival in Egypt, via <https://www.visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa>

Please note passport holders from UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the EU may purchase their visa stamp upon arrival, while South Africans must arrange their visa prior to arrival.

If you wish to get a visa on arrival, you can do so at approved bank kiosks within airport arrival halls, before reaching immigration counters. The visa fee is US\$25, payable in in GBP, USD or EUR. Visas granted on arrival are valid for a maximum of 30 days.

Passport validity entry requirements: Travellers entering Egypt must also carry a passport or travel document valid for at least 6 months from your arrival date.

## Passport & Visas ( Jordan )

All visitors to Jordan are required to have a visa, which can be arranged through Jordanian consulates worldwide or upon arrival in Jordan. Visitors from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the EU and South Africa may acquire their visa upon arrival in Jordan. Single-entry tourist visa fee is 40 JOD and it can only be paid in JOD (Jordanian Dinar).

You can visit the Jordan Tourism Board website to check if you are able to obtain a visa upon arrival, <http://international.visitjordan.com>. Please ensure that you check with the Jordanian Embassy or Consulate of your country for up-to-date visa information. You may also purchase the Jordan Pass which waives the visa fees for tourists while covering the entrance fees to many touristic sites.

Passport validity entry requirements: Travellers entering Jordan must also carry a passport or travel document valid for at least 6 months.

## Jordan Pass

Jordan Pass is considered to be the best option for tourists visiting Jordan. It covers the entrances fees to more than 40 touristic sites, including Petra, and waives the visa fees for tourists. Jordan Pass must be purchased 3 days prior to your arrival date. We strongly recommend that you get the Jordan Explorer package instead of the Jordan Wanderer, so that you may enter Petra more than once. You can check all the details from the link below and buy the Jordan Pass online. It costs about JD75 (USD106).

This information is provided as a guidance, we strongly advise that you check with the consulate or embassy as this information can change at any time and with little notice. It is your responsibility to make sure that all the required travel documents are ready when travelling.

## Travel Advice

We are closely monitoring the latest travel updates to Egypt & Jordan and follow the advice of the UK Foreign Office. For the latest travel advice from UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office , please <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/egypt> <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/jordan>

We recommend all travellers to check their Government National Travel Advisory prior to their departure:

Australia	-	<a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/">https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/</a>
Canada	-	<a href="https://travel.gc.ca/">https://travel.gc.ca/</a>
New Zealand	-	<a href="https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/">https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/</a>
USA	-	<a href="https://travel.state.gov/">https://travel.state.gov/</a>

## Travel Insurance

All passengers travelling with Travel Talk are required to have personal travel insurance before participating in any of our tours.

Your guide will collect your travel insurance details on the first day of your trip.

It is your responsibility to make sure you have an adequate and suitable travel insurance for you in place, you may read more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/travel-insurance>

## Health & Safety

The health and safety of our passengers, staff and communities visited is of utmost priority. As we monitor and comply with the official advice from the UK Foreign Office, as well as World Health Organization and government authorities regularly, we have implemented several policies and precautions on our tours for your wellbeing. You may find our Safe Travels Protocols at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels>



Travel Talk Adventures has received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), which allows travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols – so consumers can experience ‘Safe Travels’.

Please make sure to regularly check your Government’s travel advice before travelling and be well-informed of any requirements. Your tour guide will also notify you of the regulations and protocols to follow throughout your trip with us.

Please note that if any traveller is unable to complete the itinerary or possess a potential risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to remove them from all or part of a trip.

Please consult with your doctor for the latest medical travel information and any vaccinations you may need. We recommend that you bring any personal medical requirements and medications with you as these may be difficult to obtain while on tour.

## Weather

**Egypt** is a year-round destination with sunny days, warm climate and very little rain. The summer months, from June to August, can be particularly hot, especially towards the south of the country in Luxor and Aswan where temperatures can hit 40 degrees Celsius. If you are visiting Egypt during this time, take plenty of sunscreen and hydrate regularly throughout the day. The best time to visit Egypt, and also traditionally the busiest season, is from October to late March. During these months, the days are usually bright and sunny. If you are travelling during these winter months and plan to trek in the Sinai or cruise on the Nile river, you should expect temperatures to fall considerably overnight, especially near Mt. Sinai – Come prepared with some extra layers to rug up overnight. Spring and Autumn are only short seasons and during the 50 days (Khamaseen) between the end of March and mid-May, dust storms can occur sporadically.

The best time to visit **Jordan** is typically during Spring and Autumn, when temperatures sit in the high twenties with warm, pleasant days perfect for exploring. During the Spring, travellers can also expect to see Jordan's beautiful flora in bloom as mountains and fields are coated with rich greenery and wildflowers. With 90% of Jordan covered by desert, the summer months can be very hot with July and August seeing its hottest temperatures in the forties. While these temperatures can be challenging for those not accustomed to the heat, it is still worth considering a trip at this time if you are not adversely affected by heat, as you will have the chance to see the nation's best sites, such as Petra, without the crowds! It is worth remembering that the nights can be cold, though – the sands of Wadi Rum dropping to 4°C in winter.

	Cairo		Luxor		Aswan		Dahab		Aqaba		Amman		Petra	
Months	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F
January	18	65	21	70	21	70	22	72	18	65	22	72	2	54
February	20	68	23	74	23	74	23	73	20	69	27	81	13	57
March	22	73	28	83	27	82	26	78	23	75	28	84	17	63
April	27	82	33	93	33	92	30	86	29	85	36	97	23	74
May	31	89	37	100	37	99	34	94	33	92	38	101	27	81
June	33	93	40	104	39	103	38	100	36	97	38	102	31	88
July	33	93	40	104	39	103	38	100	37	99	41	106	32	90
August	33	92	38	102	38	102	38	101	36	98	41	107	32	90
September	32	90	37	99	37	99	36	96	34	94	37	100	31	88
October	29	85	33	93	33	93	32	89	31	88	34	94	26	79
November	23	75	27	81	26	80	28	81	25	78	30	86	18	66
December	19	67	22	73	22	72	24	74	20	68	26	79	13	57

## Money Matters

The local currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP) and the local currency of Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JOD).

Major credit and debit cards are widely accepted in major cities and tourist sites across Egypt and Jordan. However, if you're travelling off the beaten track, come prepared with a small stash of cash on hand inexpensive purchases at local markets, souqs, entrance fees or small meals. ATMs can be easily found in many places across the cities, however, are not as common in rural areas. We recommend you do not exchange bulk sums of money at the airport, as the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the major cities. Your tour leader will be happy to help if you need any assistance.

Please remember that everyone has different spending habits, some prefer to spend more on souvenirs, some on experiences and others on a night out! Make sure to budget your trip to your spending habits for shopping, drinking, and tipping.

Tipping is known as 'baksheesh' in the Middle East and while it is not mandatory, is common reward for good service paid by both tourists and locals alike. It is reasonable to tip around 10% if a service charge is not already applied to a bill. While on tour, a budget of 5-10 USD per day will usually cover tips. Your Tour Guide and Driver would also appreciate this kind of gratitude at the end of your tour or their service.

It is common for group members to contribute to a "Tipping Kitty" to minimise worries regarding tipping, such that the guide may collect tips at the start of the tour for the whole group in order to avoid the hassle while adventuring throughout Egypt. "Tipping Kitty" is voluntary and does not cover tips for the tour leader or driver. We recommend to budget 5-10 USD per person per day for tipping in Egypt. There is no "Tipping Kitty" in Jordan.



## Egypt Eating & Drinking

Egyptian food combines elements of Mediterranean, Middle-Eastern and French cuisines. Egypt's staples are bread and beans. Eating and drinking in Egypt will introduce travellers to the native foods of the country, many of which are already commonplace in Western countries – including pita bread, falafel, and hummus. We strongly recommend not to drink tap water in Egypt and to exercise caution if buying refreshments in markets and bazaars due to the uncertainty regarding the quality of water used. Bottled water and soft drinks are inexpensive and readily available across the country.

Egyptian eating habits differ from the norm with restaurants normally serving lunch between 13:00-16:00 and dinner between 20:00-24:00. Searching for unique and authentic dishes can often be overwhelming if you're not a local, so here's a few must-try dishes to get you started in Egypt.

**Fuul:** Commonly known as fava beans, Fuul is quite cheap and can be prepared in several ways including boiled or mashed with tomatoes, onions, and spices. Often served as part of a larger mezze with babaganoush, hummus and labne – this dish has a long history and was said to have been invented over

**Ta'meya:** Commonly known as Falafel, Taamiya is deep-fried patties of spiced green beans are crunch on the outside, soft on the inside and considered a Middle Eastern staple! Usually served in pitta bread with salads, pickles, and tahina sauce, Taamiya can be purchased at street stalls for quick, cheap meals.

**Koshary:** Koshary is considered one of Egypt's most well-known dishes, consisting of pasta, rice, lentils, fried onions, beans, garlic, vinegar, chillies and smothered in tomato paste. That mix may sound strange, but it is worth a try! The dish is sold at hole-in-the-wall eateries and street carts.

**Hamam Mahshi:** A North African acclaimed delicacy, Hamam - roasted pigeon stuffed with cracked wheat and rice – can be found on the menu of most traditional Egyptian restaurants.

**Shawarma:** A popular street food, similar to the famed Greek gyros, with an Egyptian twist. Shawarma is made up of a choice of either chicken or beef marinated with Middle Eastern spices and cooked on a spit. The shaven meat is served in a wrap with tahini.

As a predominantly Muslim country, Egypt give alcohol a low profile. Most of the hotels serve alcoholic drinks, but during Ramadan some hotels may close their bars. Public drunkenness is not widely accepted however alcohol can be obtained in most places and local beers 'Luxor' and 'Stella' are worth a try! Egypt's national beverage is tea (shai) while every main street is teeming with stand-up juice stands offering freshly squeezed banana, guava or mango juice.

## Jordan Eating & Drinking

Jordanian food is delicious and full of flavour, sharing a lot of similarities with neighbouring Middle Eastern nations. Dishes such as falafel, hummus, lamb, mezze, and kebabs can be found in every market stall, village, or city! Searching for unique and authentic dishes can often be overwhelming if you are not a local, so here are a few must-try dishes to get you started in Jordan;

**Baklava:** The quintessential Middle Eastern dessert, Baklava is a sweet syrupy layered pastry with honey and nuts.

**Falafel:** A combination of ground chickpeas, mixed with a variety of spices, then deep fried into mini patty like shapes. Falafels are one of the most common street food snacks in Jordan.

**Moutabel:** Like baba ghanoush, this dip consists of eggplant roasted over an open fire. The creamy and smoky flavours are further accentuated with yoghurt, tahini, garlic and lemon juice.

**Galayet Bandora:** This dish consists of tomatoes stewed until soft and pureed, with a few seasonings like garlic, olive oil, and salt. The tartness and sweetness of the tomatoes is what really shines, and it tastes great scooped up with bread or eaten with rice.

**Tabbouleh:** Tabbouleh is a mixture of finely minced parsley, tomatoes, garlic, and wheat, all dressed in lemon juice, salt, and olive oil. In Jordan the dish is served as a starter or salad, and is not scooped up with bread like Hummus or Moutabel dips would be.

**Manakish:** Sometimes referred to as the Arabic Pizza, Manakish is a round of dough topped with Za'atar (Thyme spice mixture), olive oil and sometimes halloumi, eggs or ground meat. It is commonly cooked in a brick oven and is a common buy at food stalls and marketplaces.

**Mujadara:** A typical everyday Jordanian food – Mujadara is mixed with lentils, rice and seasoning and is a favourite vegetarian dish nationwide. The rice is often cooked with the lentils, so the flavours melt and

**Mensef:** Known as a national dish of Jordan, this Bedouin meal consists of lamb or goat cooked with herbs in a yoghurt sauce and served with rice and bread.

Throughout the Middle East, drinking tea is quite common with Jordan being no exception, especially if you are shopping or meeting people for the first time. Mint, thyme, or sage are often used to flavour the tea. Although Jordan is a Muslim country, alcohol is commonly available with Amstel the most popular beer of choice, followed by the local brew Petra. There is also a great range of wine available across Jordan with cabernet, merlot, sauvignon blanc and chardonnay the most notable varieties. It is important to note that during Ramadan, some hotels and shops may limit their sale of alcohol for religious reasons.

## Internet Access

### Egypt

Internet access has become increasingly common in hotels, cafes and restaurants in large Egyptian cities, however the quality of connection differs. Many internet cafes can be found in the cities as well. Make sure to enable data roaming on your mobile if you wish to use 3G/4G abroad, although the connection may be unreliable in smaller towns and rural areas. Purchasing an Egyptian SIM card for the duration of your tour may be a cost-effective option. Your guide will be happy to advise on this.

### Jordan

Internet access has become increasingly common and available across hotels, cafes, and restaurants in large Jordanian cities such as Amman and Aqaba. Make sure to enable data roaming on your mobile if you wish to use 3G/4G abroad, although the connection may be unreliable in smaller towns and rural areas. Purchasing a Jordan SIM card for the duration of your tour may be a cost-effective option. Your Tour Guide will be happy to advise on this.

## Essentials to Bring

- \* Face mask/cover and hand sanitiser enough for your personal use throughout the trip – See more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels>
- \* Travel Documents: Passport, Visa (if required), flight or transport ticket (and photocopies)
- \* Travel Talk Tour Voucher (printed or digital)
- \* Travel Insurance Policy (and photocopy)
- \* Personal medical kit and medicine
- \* Money (cash, credit card, travellers' cheques)
- \* Power Adapter



- \* Reusable water bottle
- \* Ear plugs and eye mask
- \* Sun protection – hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- \* Comfortable, closed walking shoes
- \* Wind/water proof jacket
- \* Warm clothes, hat, and gloves for cold weather
- \* Sandals, swimwear, shorts for warm weather

## Culture and Traditions

### Egypt

Egypt's culture is a fusion of both ancient and modern, bound by a strong sense of community across the country. Egyptian traditions and culture stand amongst the oldest civilisations', and can be seen through impressive sites, architecture, and artwork. Home to breath-taking monuments such as the world-famous Pyramids of Giza and Abu Simbel, the unparalleled history accumulated over millennia around the Nile is unique. Throughout Egypt, family remains the most important link in the social chain, particularly among the Bedouin of the deserts. Tourism plays a crucial role in the country and Egyptians are friendly, open to other cultures and known for showing good hospitality towards tourists. Egyptians see their country as the gateway between Western society and the rest of the Arabian world. This mixing is most apparent in major cities such as Alexandria and Cairo where international franchises and traditional eateries stand side by side in a fusion of old and new.

### Jordan

Jordan is an ideal destination for those seeking cultural knowledge, spiritual enrichment and sights of marvel. Officially known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, it is a gem of the Levant region and home to fascinating ancient history. While predominantly an Arabic nation, Jordan truly values the diversity of its population's ethnicity and religious beliefs, providing cultural rights to all of its citizens. There is a strong tolerance and appreciation for cultural differences in Jordan, contributing to the nation's stability and peace.

The desert-dwelling Bedouin population have a distinct and noteworthy culture. Living the largely nomadic lifestyle across barren landscapes in Jordan, their traditions have been passed down for centuries. The Bedouin people rely on the herding of animals and creation of handicrafts, as the lands they populate are not fertile for farming. If lucky, Travel Talk travellers may get to witness the Bedouin traditions of music and dance during the Desert Camping experience in Wadi Rum.

## Religion, Etiquette and How to Dress

### Egypt

Religion plays a big role in the life of Egyptians, and it is intermingled with daily activities of Muslims and Christians. Approximately 90% of the population are Muslim, and the way people dress and interact with each other is largely influenced by religion – it affects many parts of societal life, is permitted by the law and life entails daily prayer. The religious holidays of Ramadan and Eid are the most significant events for Muslims. A wide array of cultural norms, including how people dress and interact with the opposite sex, are influenced as such. In traditional homes, women are largely defined by their role as a mother and matron of the house, whereas men are expected to be the provider.

As a general guideline, we recommend wearing lightweight, comfortable, loose fitting clothing and walking shoes while travelling Egypt. Please also keep in mind that when visiting religious sites, appropriate attire is required.

It is recommended to pack at least one set of modest clothing that covers both shoulders and knees, to be worn when visiting mosques and other religious complexes. A headscarf for women is necessary when visiting religious complexes in Egypt.

## Jordan

More than 92% of Jordanians are Sunni Muslims and approximately 5% are Christians. The majority of Christians belong to the Greek Orthodox Church. As Jordan is predominantly an Islamic country, religious traditions are strong with spectacular mosques signalling the call to prayer five times a day and Ramadan widely observed each year. It is important to keep these religious beliefs in mind when packing for your trip and determining how you plan to dress when visiting Jordan.

Jordanians place a great emphasis on personal grooming and style of dress that tends to differ from that shown in the Western world. Men are expected to dress in long trousers where possible across city, country, and desert locations. When trousers are not possible, we recommend wearing loose-fitting knee-length shorts. Wearing T-shirts or any top covering your shoulders is acceptable. For females, we recommend loose-fitting, opaque clothes that cover your legs, arms, and chest with either high collars or thin cotton scarfs to cover your neck.

Please also keep in mind that when visiting religious sites, appropriate attire is required. It is recommended to pack at least one set of modest clothing that covers both shoulders and knees, to be worn when visiting mosques and other religious complexes. A headscarf for women is necessary when visiting religious sites.

In summer, cotton clothing is much more comfortable than materials like nylon. Clothing that will protect you from sunburn is an absolute necessity. Especially in summer months, white or light coloured, long sleeve cotton shirts are preferable. In winter (December-March) you will need some warm, woollen clothing but in general, the weather is still quite warm. Always ensure to pack comfortable closed walking shoes.

## Solo Travellers

We have many solo travellers joining our tours. Solo travellers will be roomed with another traveller of the same gender. If you would like a private solo room, please contact us.

## Rules to Follow

We are committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. We do not tolerate any form of violence (physical or verbal), bullying or harassment involving customers, partners, Travel Talk staff or locals. Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a passenger are forbidden.

We will not tolerate any illegal activity, including but not limited to: use and possession of illegal drugs, trespassing, and disrupting public order. If you consume alcohol, please ensure that you drink responsibly and follow the local laws and regulations.

You must follow the advice of your tour leader and local officials regarding health and safety measures. We operate all tours under Safe Travels protocols for the wellbeing of our passengers, staff and communities visited. Please ensure that you have read the <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels/> and are fully prepared for your trip.

If someone is acting inappropriately regarding these matters, please notify your tour leader immediately or contact us on the emergency contact number provided below.

Your tour leader has the right to remove from the group anyone not abiding by these rules, with no right of compensation or refund. See more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/booking-terms/>

Please remember that our travellers come from different parts of the world and will have various needs and preferences. Be understanding and patient with your fellow travellers, and always strive to be on time.

## Responsible Travel

We believe that travel is a force for good and show our support through various initiatives and charity organizations, as well as keeping the principals of responsible and sustainable travel at the core of our ethos. These values are engrained in our business culture and the design of our trips just the same. Together with you, we strive to make a positive impact on local people and economies, respecting the local culture, environment, social fabric and customs; encouraging respectful and meaningful cross-cultural exchange.

Read more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/responsible-travel/>