

INSPIRING EGYPT

WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO DO & MORE





At Inspiring
Vacations, we're on a
mission to inspire you
to see the world.

If you're dreaming of travelling to the most iconic destinations across the globe, you're in the right place. We couldn't be more excited to get you there.

Inside these pages, we showcase one of our most popular destinations, Egypt. It offers so much to the first time visitor and returning adventurer alike – one visit is just not enough. By the end of this eBook, we're sure you'll be as eager to visit Egypt as we are to get you there! Happy travel planning and, as always – safe travels.

Paul Ryan
CEO / Inspiring Vacations

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WHY TRAVEL WITH INSPIRING VACATIONS?



GLOBAL EXPERTS

When you travel with Inspiring Vacations, you can expect thoughtfully curated tours to iconic destinations across the globe. Our authentic and culturally-rich tours are packed with must-see sights, lesser-known locations and enriching local experience, all at an unbeatable price.



ONLINE ADVANTAGES

Browsing and shopping for your next Inspiring Vacations tour couldn't be easier. We are an online company which means you can shop at your own convenience — anytime, anywhere, even while on tour. Our award-winning website is user-friendly and easy to navigate. We want our customers to be empowered to be able to access and manage their booking at any time — manage upgrades, book optional tours, and more.



Luxor Temple, Luxor

INSPIRING COMMUNITY

Our travel articles, digital magazine, destination videos and member-only Facebook community groups will inspire your wanderlust or if you prefer, have a phone chat with one of our travel specialists for their recommendations.

WHY VISIT EGYPT NOW?



Brendon Cooper

CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER
Inspiring Vacations



16^{HR} FLIGHT

Egypt has been a customer favourite since the inception of Inspiring Vacations. There has never been a better time to visit this iconic country — from the incredibly friendly locals who are ready to welcome you with open arms, to the delicious food, to the incredible sights.



A POPULAR BUCKET LIST

Egypt appears on many a bucket list and for good reason: cruise the Nile in a traditional felucca, retrace the footsteps of the pharaohs, explore the temples of Luxor and more. Visiting Egypt truly is an experience like no other.

Our itineraries are designed to show you the best a country has to offer — start mentally ticking off your bucket list.

My personal favourite first-time must is the Valley of the Kings. The Pyramids will captivate you, but it is Valley of the Kings you'll remember. Gaze at the hieroglyphs as fresh in colour as the day they were painted. Book any of our Egypt tours to experience this must see icon.



UNFORGETTABLE TOURS

If you're a returning visitor, I'd recommend our Egypt Undiscovered tour. Recap your favourite places like the Great Pyramids, cruising the Nile and Abu Simbel before cruising the shores of Lake Nasser, witnessing hidden, ancient gems unseen by most.

No matter which tour you decide on, all our tours offer unparalleled comfort, quality and price — we strive to deliver unbeatable value to Egypt whether it's your first or second visit.

And take it from me, one visit isn't enough.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT?

Egypt, a land of ancient wonders and rich culture, is a traveller's dream. But, when is the best time to go?

(Image: iStockphoto)

A TRIP TO EGYPT is like a voyage back in time. With ancient monuments, temples and landscapes that will simply blow your mind, Egypt is timeless, completely unique and absolutely unforgettable.

There are two things that aren't a problem in Egypt: the rain and the cold. Egypt's location on the edge of the Sahara Desert ensures it's a dry and warm location, but it still experiences some seasonality.

Winter is one of the most comfortable times to visit if you are not keen on high heat. Between October and April, temperatures are still warm during the day and generally much cooler at night, especially in the north. In the capital Cairo, winter temperatures hover around the low twenties, while northern Alexandria tends to be a couple of degrees cooler. Aswan averages lovely warm days in the mid-twenties, and as does Luxor – perfect conditions for exploring the temples, tombs and monuments. Coastal Hurghada also enjoys pleasant days in the low twenties.

In **May**, things start heating up around the country until eventually peaking between May and September.

Cairo and Alexandria in the north are the most comfortable, with average temperatures in the low-to-mid thirties. But further south, Aswan and Luxor will satisfy only serious sun worshippers, with average highs in the low forties. Hurghada also heats up; temperatures linger in the high thirties, but the sea breeze does provide relief.

IF YOU COME PREPARED, YOU COULD ENJOY A NILE CRUISE AND ALL OF THE MONUMENTS, SANS THE CROWDS “”

Summer is the quietest time to travel to Egypt, so if you come prepared, you could enjoy a Nile Cruise and all of the monuments, sans the crowds.

The beginning and end of summer are great shoulder times to travel, as they're considerably quieter than the winter months. Temperatures, while warm, haven't yet peaked, and nights are balmy. If you're a keen snorkeller or diver, the conditions on the coastline are great year-round.

Egypt has plenty of opportunities to experience all of its magic in a season that suits you.

When will you go? ●

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Egypt
weather video.
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▼
Luxor

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Egypt videos
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(Image: Shutterstock)

INTRODUCING →

THE
NEW
EGYPT

SNAPSHOT ON → ABU SIMBEL

One of
Egypt's greatest
ancient discoveries,
Abu Simbel is a
masterclass in the
grandeur of the
pharaohs

SITUATED THREE AND a half hours from Aswan, the temple of Abu Simbel was built by the mighty Pharaoh Ramses II in approximately 1255 BC. The site was dedicated to several ancient gods, namely Amun Ra, Ra Harakhti, Ptah and to Ramses himself. Next to the main temple, Ramses also constructed a smaller, yet equally impressive temple dedicated to his favourite wife, Nefertari and Goddess Hathor. This was the first time a temple had been dedicated to a queen and only the second time in Egyptian history that this ever occurred. As the longest reigning and most powerful pharaoh in Egyptian history, it's fitting that Ramses II was also the builder of its most grandiose monument. ►



Clockwise from right: The colossal statues of the Great Temple of Ramses II; aerial view of Abu Simbel; pharaoh statues at the Great Temple of Ramses II; hieroglyphics on the wall of the Great Temple



► Although records are somewhat conflicting, historians agree that Abu Simbel was once buried under years of desert sand until its rediscovery in 1813 by Ludwig Burckhardt, just a few years after he found the lost city of Petra in Jordan. Emerging from the towering sands were the four gargantuan statues of Ramses II that mark the entrance to the main temple of Abu Simbel. However, the insides weren't visible for several years, until Burckhardt's friend Giovanni Battista, successfully excavated the site and helped himself to the valuables he found inside.

After walking through the visitors centre and over a small hill, you'll come face to face with the enormous main temple. Take some time to examine the unique exterior before stepping inside. The main room of the temple is lined with yet more colossal statues of Ramses II, while every inch of wall space is adorned with intricately carved hieroglyphics and cartouches. There are reliefs of gods like Horus and Isis, in addition to scenes depicting Ramses' victory over the Hittites and other historic moments throughout his reign.



A wander through the temples of Abu Simbel is as close to stepping back through ancient history as you can get.

Perhaps most fascinating about Abu Simbel is its placement on the land. The axis of the main temple was positioned intentionally by ancient architects so that on February 22 and October 22 every year, rays of the sun would infiltrate to the depths of the temple and highlight three of four sculptures carved into the wall. The only figure that is never illuminated is that of Ptah, God of the Underworld.

For the first three thousand years of its existence, Abu Simbel was located on the west bank of the Nile in central Egypt, however, the construction of Aswan's High Dam necessitated the relocation of many archeological sites including this one. In a groundbreaking triumph of engineering, the entire construction was carefully disassembled, labelled, and relocated. This required breaking the enormous structure into individual fragments (weighing up to 20 tonnes each) and transporting them away from the lake. Once the new site was established, the complex had to be reconstructed like a lifesize, ancient jigsaw. Thanks to expert archeologists and engineers, the re-build was executed perfectly and today, it's impossible for the untrained eye to tell it was ever moved. Even the aforementioned highlighting of statues within the temple was duplicated, maintaining the mystique of the great temple. ●

THE AXIS OF THE MAIN TEMPLE WAS POSITIONED INTENTIONALLY BY ANCIENT ARCHITECTS SO THAT ... RAYS OF THE SUN WOULD INFILTRATE TO THE DEPTHS OF THE TEMPLE AND HIGHLIGHT THREE OF FOUR SCULPTURES “”

As the universal symbols of the ancient world, it's no surprise that the Pyramids of Giza attract over ten million people annually

SNAPSHOT ON →
THE PYRAMIDS OF
GIZA

THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA are undoubtedly the most iconic symbols of Egypt and indeed the ancient world. Situated near the sprawling capital city of Cairo, the pyramids are thought to have been constructed between 2550-2490 BC during the reign of three different pharaohs. In ancient Egypt, death was not feared. In the case of kings, it was widely believed that death was simply the next step toward eternal life and that this transition would see them become gods themselves. In order to prepare for this journey, the rulers of ancient Egypt built pyramids as tombs and filled them with things they would need in the afterlife. Antiquities thought to have been left in the tombs were items such as canopic jars, amulets, chalices and statues of various gods. ►



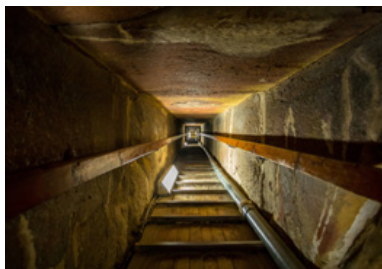
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The Pyramids of Giza



(Image: Shutterstock)



Clockwise from below: A camel overlooking the pyramids; the Sphinx; bedouins camel riding; stairway at the centre of a tomb



► The Giza complex boasts three large pyramids, as well as several small pyramids dedicated to various queens and two cemeteries for important members of society. The Great Pyramid, towering at a mighty 147 metres, was constructed by King Khufu and was the first built at Giza. Made of limestone transported from nearby quarries, experts estimate there to be 2.3 million bricks in Khufu's temple alone. Visitors are allowed to get up-close with the structure and for

was replaced by the Valley of the Kings as the primary royal burial site. This theory explains why no mummies or goods have ever been found inside the Pyramids of Giza.

Wandering through the site, either on foot or with the local method of transport – on camelback – you'll come to the second pyramid. This one was built by Pharaoh Khafre, the son of Khufu. His tomb complex also includes the famous Sphinx – a large figure with the head of a

THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA ARE THE LAST OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD AND ARE TRULY A SIGHT TO BEHOLD “”

a small fee are encouraged to enter. After winding your way through a narrow tunnel and up to a steep set of stairs, you'll come to the bare main chamber of the pyramid, housing only a lid-less sarcophagus. In ancient times, elaborate and multi-layered sarcophagi were built to protect the bodies inside tombs and the precious items inside. However, Egyptologists believe that the pyramids and other tombs throughout Egypt were heavily looted, particularly during the New Kingdom period when Giza

Pharaoh and the body of a lion – which was thought to be there as a custodian. The third and significantly smaller pyramid was built by King Menkaure in the early 25th century BC and featured a more intricate inner complex than the other two pyramids.

The Pyramids of Giza are the last of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and are truly a sight to behold. Venture to the plateau, explore the tombs and prepare to be amazed by the theories of their construction. ●

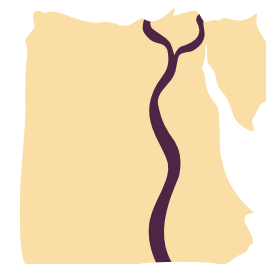


(All images: Shutterstock)

The world's longest river has been sustaining Egypt and northern Africa for millennia

Left: Mövenpick Tower overlooking the Nile

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THE MIGHTY NILE HAS been the lifeblood of Egypt since antiquity. Its fundamentality is frequently referenced in ancient literature and some experts believe it may have been used to transport materials thousands of kilometres for the Pyramids of Giza. Today, a staggering 95 percent of the Egyptian population depend on the river and live close to its banks, making the Nile Valley one of the most densely populated areas in the world. It's also the world's longest river, stretching 6,695km from north to central Africa.

While the Nile is synonymous with Egypt, the river spills into 10 other countries, from Tanzania in East Africa, north through Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, South Sudan and Sudan, before travelling up the centre of Egypt and pouring into the Mediterranean. ►

(Image: Shutterstock)



Clockwise from below: Felucca boat sailing on the Nile; sailing near Aswan, Kom Ombo temple; sunset on the Nile

INSPIRING
VACATIONS

► Along the way, the river passes through arid desert, transforming dry and lifeless land into lush oases. The southern Egyptian city of Aswan is the perfect example of this; it's one of the driest and sunniest places on earth, where summer temperatures regularly exceed 40 degrees, yet it sustains a population of roughly 300,000 people thanks to the water source.

Thousands of years ago, the Nile wasn't revered for giving life as it is today. It didn't even have a name, simply referred to as 'the river' in literature and reliefs (Egyptian wall sculptures). However, the annual *akhet* (inundation season) of the Nile was deified as a minor god named Hapy, and as the flooding allowed crops to grow and nourished the land, Hapy became known as a fertility god. In 1976, the Aswan Dam was built to prevent destruction from the yearly *akhet* and the Nile River hasn't flooded since.

Ancient Egyptian life revolved around the Nile, whether the people recognised this or not, so it's no coincidence that many of the country's most important monuments sit close to the river. Sights like Kom Ombo, Edfu and Philae temples, and the grand Abu Simbel complex are all popular shore excursions on a Nile cruise.



THE BEST WAY FOR VISITORS TO EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE NILE IS ON A FELUCCA CRUISE. THESE TRADITIONAL WOODEN SAILING VESSELS ARE ... A RELAXING WAY TO TAKE IN THE SIGHTS OF THE NILE VALLEY “ ”



The best way for visitors to experience life on the Nile is on a felucca cruise. These traditional wooden sailing vessels are primitive and often lack amenities, but are a relaxing way to take in the sights of the Nile Valley. Cruise past palm trees and vibrant Nubian villages, large cities and agricultural land. Watch the locals cool down on the river banks or cast a line in search of fish. If you're lucky, you may even spot one of many creatures that call the freshwater river home, such as Nile crocodiles and monitor lizards. Felucca boats are often crewed by Nubians, an ethnic group indigenous to Sudan and southern Egypt, so your sailing trip makes for a great opportunity to learn about local culture. ●

(All images: Shutterstock)

The
appeal of these
stunning sites is
far from ancient
history

GUIDE TO → THE WONDERS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

1 THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

Part of the Giza Necropolis — Egypt's most-visited tourist attraction — are the three large Pyramids of Giza. The largest is the Great Pyramid of Giza — also known as the Pyramid of Khufu or the Pyramid of Cheops. A royal tomb standing nearly 140-metres high, it was built from more than two million blocks of limestone, most likely mined from nearby quarries. This reflects the influence of the Fourth Dynasty in Ancient Egypt, which reigned more than 4,000 years ago. The pyramids' original smooth limestone exteriors have long since weathered away, but the chance to explore the site is a chance to reconnect with the past. ►

(Image: Shutterstock)

↙
Clockwise from below: The Great Pyramids of Giza and Sphinx; the temple of Kom Ombo; the gold mask of King Tutankhamun; colossal statue of Pharaohs of The Great Temple of Ramses II; exploring Karnak



2 THE GREAT SPHINX

Also located in Giza, the 73-metre tall Great Sphinx is a monument to the Egyptians ancient myths and religion but its origins remain mysterious. Facing due east and carved into a solid block of limestone in the Giza plateau, it depicts a human head on the body of a lion. The head may be that of the pharaoh Khafre, who also had built the second-largest pyramid in Giza. Another theory is that it was built to honour the ancient Egyptian sun god, Ra. Its name literally translates to 'The Father of Dread,' which perhaps says it all.

(Images: Shutterstock & iStockphoto)

3 KOM OMBO TEMPLE

All ancient Egyptian temples are unique, but the Kom Ombo Temple is the only one that honours two gods with a symmetrical design. Haroeris, the falcon god, and Sobek, the crocodile god, were both enduring figures in Egyptian mythology and led to the construction of this structure's two sets of gateways and chapels. Built during the first century BC, it is a relatively modern structure that survived ancient Egypt's final, 19th dynasty by honouring centuries of tradition, culture and religion.



4 TUTANKHAMUN

The resident of Egypt's most famous pharaoh's tomb — the only one on record to be discovered almost fully preserved and not raided by thieves — remains in his final resting place, but his treasures are on display at the Egyptian Museum. The most stunning artefact, uncovered remains his gold and blue funerary mask, but there's plenty more to explore. Not least are the remnants of the life of a pharaoh who was the son of siblings, began his reign while still a child and whose death marked the end of one of ancient Egypt's noble family lines.

5 ABU SIMBEL TEMPLES

Two gigantic structures carved from mountainside rock, Abu Simbel takes its place among Egypt's most notable landmarks. The temples have an imposing authority that reflects the leader who built them: Ramses the Great, a 19th-dynasty monarch who reigned for seven decades until 1213 BC. Four seated pharaohs, carved onto the outside wall of the larger temple, greet visitors before they journey inside to marvel at a remarkable array of inscriptions, paintings, and statues within both temples. Equally impressive was the project undertaken in the 1960s to relocate both structures from their original site and avoid flooding.

6 KARNAK

A complex of temples not far from Luxor, Karnak is a fantastic site for exploration, boasting a diverse mix of ruins, columns and obelisks. The former capital of ancient Egypt, Karnak — then Thebes — was constructed over centuries and retains its impressive spectacle. Visit Karnak if you want a comprehensive history lesson or are hoping to spot a familiar backdrop from one of the many Hollywood movies that have used it as an otherworldly location. ►





Clockwise from below: Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut; Philae Temple in Aswan with ancient hieroglyphs; a felucca on a Luxor and Aswan Nile Cruise; Luxor Temple

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7 THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Possibly the largest number of pharaohs you'll find commemorated in one place — which for Egypt is a truly impressive claim — is in the Valley of the Kings. Constructed over the course of nearly 500 years, the Valley is a series of tombs each dedicated to ancient Egyptian leaders. The site was maintained until the 11th-century BC and has been excavated and maintained for more than 200 years in the modern era. Among more than 60 tombs and numerous chambers are many startling designs and opulent interiors which, at the time, were filled with valuables. The wall markings alone provide a fascinating lesson in life and death in ancient Egypt.



8 LUXOR TEMPLE

Located near the former capital of ancient Egypt, Luxor is a beautiful city with plenty of modern tourist attractions. At its centre, its ancient temple has stood the test of time as its most recognisable landmark. Built from sandstone during the 2nd century BC, it features a series of open courtyards and impressive statues of Ramses the Great and other Egyptian icons. Open until late, it's a treat to watch the sunset over its columns but not the civilisation that it preserves.



9 PHILAE TEMPLES

One for true explorers and ancient history aficionados, Philae is an island located in a reservoir, with much of what surrounded it at one point now submerged underwater. Surviving today is its iconic temple complex with its largest structure honouring Isis, the ancient Egyptian goddess whose worshippers spread into Italy, Greece and Hungary. The Temple of Isis was part of another relocation project to avoid further flooding and covers about a quarter of the island. It also contains other fascinating remnants of what was a strategic outpost for the Egyptian empire.

10 THE NILE

While the monuments of ancient Egypt are important for remembering what was built, equally fascinating is the river running through its history. No civilisation can flourish without water to sustain itself, something the Nile provided by creating a route for trade and a source of food. Journeying along the river is not only an opportunity to see the sights — many are not far from its banks — but to tap into the consciousness of ancient Egypt. The rising of its tide was attributed to the tears of Isis, one of Egypt's many myths and customs. ●

GUIDE TO → 10 TIPS FOR FIRST TIME TRAVELLERS TO EGYPT

Get acquainted with local customs to fully enjoy your stay

1 APPLY FOR AN E-VISA, OR ORGANISE VISA UPON ARRIVAL

For many citizens, it costs the same amount to organise an e-visa as it does to purchase a visa upon arrival. Australian visitors are eligible for a multiple entry visa, which is valid for 90 days and costs around £455 (AU\$35). If you opt to purchase on arrival, you will need to pay in cash – either in US dollars or Euros.

2 ASK FOR PRICES, BE READY HAGGLE

Part of Egypt's tipping culture is a near-constant negotiation over the prices of goods and services. Hagglng can feel awkward if you're not used to it, but the locals are typically friendly and are unlikely to take offence if you decide to walk away. The way to do this respectfully – or, to decline to engage in any negotiation especially if you're just browsing – is to place your right hand on your chest and shake your head. It is a gesture that thanks to the vendor but conveys that you're not interested in buying. ►

(Image: Shutterstock)



↘ Clockwise from far left: Baskets with spices at east bazaar in Cairo; two men playing backgammon at Souk Khan el-Khalili; buying souvenirs at Sharm el Sheikh; bread seller in Hurghada; keep hydrated with bottled water

3 DON'T CARRY LOTS OF CASH, BUT DO BE PREPARED TO TIP

There is a common culture of *baksheesh* or tipping in Egypt. Much of it is similar to other countries where, for example, service industry workers may expect a tip for taking your bags to your hotel room. You are also expected to tip taxi drivers although Uber can be used to secure a more competitive fare. Other gratuities are more particular to Egypt: tipping a policeman who helps you cross the road or tipping the owner of a camel you wish to photograph next to a popular attraction like a pyramid. To be fair, the latter is hard to replicate anywhere else.

4 PRESENT MONEY AND GIFTS IN YOUR RIGHT HAND

In Egypt, the left hand is commonly used for removing clothing and sanitation, so to offer it to another person is considered rude. Use your right hand when handing or receiving money or goods to avoid any potential embarrassment or offence.

5 BILLS AND PRICES ARE NOT THE SAME

Even in establishments where prices are set and you receive a bill for goods, be prepared to pay a service charge and the equivalent of a sales tax. This is most common in restaurants and hotels, where prices can increase by as much as 25 percent. Visitors are not required to pay a departure tax as this charge is covered in your plane ticket.

6 LEARNING A FEW ARABIC WORDS CAN HELP

While certain aspects of Egyptian culture can catch visitors off-guard, a good way to prepare yourself and navigate any uncertainty is to learn some key phrases in Arabic, the local language. English is spoken widely throughout Egypt — particularly at tourist attractions, hotels and airports — but knowing the popular Egyptian-Arabic forms of “hello” (*as-salām ‘alaykum*), “thank you” (*shukrān*) and practical questions such as asking directions to the restrooms (*el-hammām fain?*) can set your mind at ease and show locals that have an interest in their country and culture.



7 LET LOCALS GUIDE YOUR EATING HABITS

From five-star restaurants to freshly made street food, Egypt has a lot of culinary options. It's all competitively priced and nourishing. Check out where locals eat as this is usually the best indication of where to find food that's authentic and delicious. Street food is considered safe to eat if you can peel it, or if it's served hot. In Egypt, do not put food in your mouth with your left hand or pass food to someone else with that hand — it is considered unhygienic. Your waiter will also require a tip that is separate to the restaurant service charge and sales tax.

8 DRESS CONSERVATIVELY

Like other Muslim countries, Egyptian culture necessitates that both men and women show little bare skin. For women, this means covering their shoulders and knees, particularly when visiting rural locations and religious sites. Female travellers can also cover their hair and heads, which is advisable to shield against the heat. Solo female travellers will, unfortunately, receive more attention from male locals but this can be minimised by both dressing conservatively and touring as part of a group, or with a tour guide. Men can wear shorts and short sleeves, but during the evenings are also advised to cover their legs and their arms.

9 DRINK BOTTLED WATER TO STAY HYDRATED AND AVOID CHLORINE

While tap water in Egypt is considered safe for showering and brushing your teeth, it contains high levels of chlorination and isn't the best to drink. The safest option is to drink bottled water which is widely available but always check that the seal is intact. A local refreshment which is a real favourite is the carbonated malt drink *Fayrouz*, which comes in varieties such as pear and pineapple.

10 EXPECT DIFFERENT OPENING HOURS DURING RAMADAN

Egypt's Muslim culture extends to the public holidays it observes. During Ramadan — the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar, usually April or May — there are local customs that extend to international visitors. These include abstaining from eating, drinking, smoking or chewing gum from sunrise to sunset. While these do not create ideal conditions for non-Muslim tourists, it is a chance to see another side of the country, particularly when restaurants reopen for celebratory feasts after the sun has set. ●

Deserts are
home to some
breathtaking scenery,
but their harsh
climates require
preparation

FROM THE ROLLING DUNES of the Egyptian Sahara to the rugged Sinai peninsula, Egypt is a haven for those seeking unique desert experiences. But the climate isn't to be taken lightly. For the most enjoyable experience, assess your closet well in advance of travel and ensure you have the essentials. Some items will be available to buy on arrival, but others will be hard to find, so avoid the hassle and come prepared. How conservatively you dress is a personal choice, but the recommendations below adhere to the cultural norms recommended by trusted local guides.

If you dream of camel-riding past the Pyramids of Giza, here, how to dress for the desert. ►

GUIDE TO → HOW TO DRESS FOR THE DESERT

(image: Shutterstock)

CLOTHING ESSENTIALS:

Breathable t-shirts

Egypt is a conservative place, so it's best to avoid singlets and anything that shows bare shoulders. Stick to breathable tops in natural fabrics to stay cool. If you're travelling in summer, long-sleeved shirts in light colours are best as they'll protect your skin from the sun.

Long sleeve top and/or jackets

Even if your desert adventure is planned for summer, it's a good idea to pack an extra layer or two as temperatures can become surprisingly chilly in some areas after sundown.

Wide-leg pants

An absolute desert staple year-round, loose pants are both conservative and climate appropriate.

Dark walking shoes

If you plan to do any sort of desert exploration, a comfortable pair of walking shoes is essential. Leave your best, clean sneakers at home and opt for a darker fabric that can take a dose of red dust.

Pashmina/shawl

A great addition to any Egypt packing list, shawls can be thrown over singlets to cover shoulders, or wrapped around your legs at religious sites. It also makes for an extra layer when out in those crisp desert evenings.



All about the fabric

In desert conditions, simply wearing loose clothing isn't sufficient. Opt for breathable natural fabrics such as cotton and linen, as they absorb moisture and dry quickly. Leave heavy synthetics at home.



EXTRAS →

- UV-protection sunglasses
- Wide-brimmed hat
- High SPF sunscreen
- Wet wipes (for cleaning hands, shoes and anything else inevitably covered in dust)



Clockwise from top: Tourist group in summer attire in the Temple of Karnak in Luxor; scarfs and pashminas are a must-pack; bring sunglasses and a scarf for your ATV desert safari; bring loose-fitting clothing like wide-leg pants



THINGS TO AVOID:

Whites

Avoid packing white clothing unless you want to turn it red. Some people envision themselves traipsing around Egypt in flowy white outfits, but when it comes time to wash, you'll never get the red, dirty tinge out of your favourite whites.

Polyester

Polyester traps heat and attracts oils, making it uncomfortable in hot conditions, less absorbent and generally smellier. Unless you have special moisture-wicking tops (like specialised activewear), leave these fabrics at home.

Your favourite clothing item

As above, packing your favourite top or pair of shoes to wear is not advised. Leave it at home. ●

A GREAT ADDITION TO ANY EGYPT PACKING LIST, SHAWLS CAN BE THROWN OVER SINGLETS TO COVER SHOULDERS, OR WRAPPED AROUND YOUR LEGS AT RELIGIOUS SITES “

OUR CUSTOMERS.

Our customers love our Egypt tours
— here's what some of them have to say

“Impressive”

We were extremely impressed with the tour; we had extremely knowledgeable guides. The accommodation was great, and the optional extras were good and good value.

★★★★★

Eric

“Just wow!”

If Egypt is on your bucket list do it now with Inspiring Vacations! We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Egypt.

Opening up the curtain in our first hotel room in Cairo to see a view of the pyramids was the first ‘wow’ moment. Our guide Ahmed was outstanding.

★★★★★

Debbie

“A bit different”

Our small group trip to Egypt was fabulous. The locals were welcoming and we felt completely safe the whole time. There was plenty of time to relax as well. I would thoroughly recommend this tour to anyone that wants to do something a bit different.

★★★★★

Kerry

“Fantastic”

We had the most incredible guide in Egypt, Ahmed. We have made numerous trips overseas both private and with guides. Ahmed was very professional and was a knowledgeable historian. Our accommodation during our 15 days was fantastic.

★★★★★

Lorraine



(Image: Shutterstock)

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