ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

*Your passport to adventure*

# Arabian Adventure

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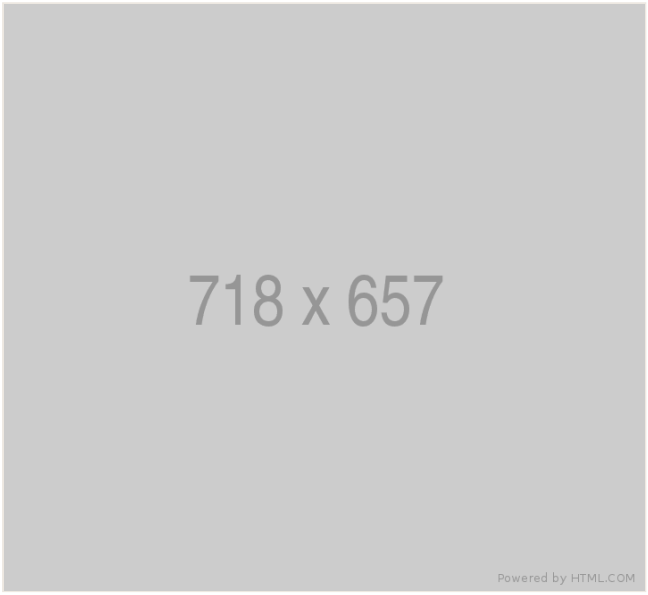
|---|---|
| COUNTRY(IES) | Egypt , Jordan , Lebanon |
| TOUR TYPE | Small Group |
| TRANSPORT | A/C car/minibus/coach, sleeper train, felucca sailboat, ferry & Bedouin jeep |
| GROUP SIZE | Min: 2 \| Max: 18 |
| DURATION | 23 days |
| STARTS | Beirut, Lebanon |
| ENDS | Amman, Jordan |
| MEALS | Breakfasts - 22, Lunches - 4, Dinners - 4 |

**TOUR ROUTE MAP** **23 Days**




**ROUTE:** **Beirut** (Start) → **Kadisha Valley** → **Byblos** → **Baalbek** → **Beirut** → **Cairo** → **Aswan** → **Edfu** → **Luxor** → **Cairo** → **Dahab** → **Wadi Rum** → **Petra** → **Madaba** → **Amman** (End)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Beirut, Beiteddine, Tyre, Sidon, Baalbek, Ksara Caves, Qadisha Valley, Baatara Gorge, Byblos, Jeita Grotto, Harissa, Pyramids, Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Philae Temple, Felucca, Karnak, Valley of Kings, Red Sea, Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp, Petra, Dead Sea

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Arrive in Beirut, transfer to hotel

Meet the representative at Beirut International Airport and transfer to the hotel for the included overnight stay. The source provides only these arrival arrangements and does not confirm free time, sightseeing or a welcome meeting. The description therefore avoids adding any unsupported activity and keeps the collection focused entirely on the airport reception, hotel transfer and first night in the Lebanese capital.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrival at Beirut International Airport**

  Arrive at Beirut International Airport and meet your tour representative at the arrivals hall. You will be assisted

before beginning your transfer into the city to check in at your hotel.

- **Beirut Airport to City Hotel**
  Take a comfortable transfer from Beirut International Airport to your hotel in the city. This short journey brings you into Lebanon's vibrant capital to begin your stay.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gems Hotel | None | Extra day in Beirut - pre-tour |

## DAY 2 Jeita Grotto, Harissa cable car & Baatara Gorge

After leaving Beirut and heading north towards Byblos, we'll experience a thrilling visit to the spectacular Jeita Grotto. Here a system of limestone caves spans a distance of almost 9 kilometres, and contains one of the largest holdings of stalactites and stalagmites in the world. It is a symbol of the country and was a finalist in the New 7 Wonders of Nature competition. Depending on the water level you can explore both on foot and by boat. Next, we visit Harissa, famous for containing an important Christian shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary, known as Our Lady of Lebanon. We take a cable car to the top of the Basilica, from where we can enjoy a spectacular view of the Bay of Jounieh, considered one of the most beautiful bays in the Middle East. Then, we'll head inland to visit the unique Baatara Gorge sinkhole, where during the spring and especially rainy periods a 255-metre waterfall cascades into an enormous cavern known as the Baatara Pothole. The cave is also called the Cave of the Three Bridges, for the three natural stone arches over which the waterfall drops. This is a spectacular natural phenomenon and we have time for a short hike here, and can also explore nearby Douma Village. A traditional Lebanese lunch is included today. The day finishes with a short drive to the beautiful Qadisha Valley where we spend the night in the Monastery of St. Anthony, in a separate building with simple but comfortable en-suite accommodation (a nearby guesthouse will be used if the monastery is closed to visitors or unavailable).

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Beirut → Jeita**
  Leave Beirut and drive into the nearby hills towards Jeita. Pass coastal suburbs before heading inland to the grotto area.
- **Visit Jeita Grotto**
  Explore the impressive Jeita Grotto, a vast network of limestone caves featuring striking stalactites and stalagmites. Depending on water levels, you may visit both the upper galleries on foot and the lower caves by boat.
- **Drive Jeita → Harissa**
  Continue by road up the mountainside to Harissa above Jounieh Bay. Enjoy increasingly panoramic views of the coastline as you ascend.
- **Visit Harissa (Our Lady of Lebanon)**
  Visit the important Christian shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa and ascend by cable car to the hilltop basilica. From here, enjoy sweeping views across the Bay of Jounieh, one of the Middle East's most beautiful coastlines.

- **Drive Harissa → Baatara Gorge**
  Drive inland through mountain scenery to reach the Baatara Gorge sinkhole. Journey past rural villages and terraced hillsides on the way.
- **Visit Baatara Gorge**
  Discover the Baatara Gorge sinkhole, a dramatic cavern with three natural stone bridges and a seasonal 255-metre waterfall. The site offers spectacular views, short walking trails, and a chance to explore the surrounding mountain village of Douma.
- **Drive Baatara Gorge → Douma Village**
  Travel a short distance to the traditional mountain village of Douma. Arrive in time to wander its old streets and squares.
- **Visit Douma Village**
  Stroll through Douma, known for its stone houses and red-tiled roofs. Enjoy a traditional lunch and experience rural Lebanese village life.
- **Drive Douma Village → Qadisha Valley**
  Drive onward to the scenic Qadisha (Holy) Valley. Arrive at the monastery or guesthouse where you will spend the night.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Kozhaya Monastery | Breakfast,Lunch |

## DAY 3 Qadisha Valley, Cedars Ski Resort & Becharre

Those interested may rise early this morning to join morning prayers with the monks of the monastery. After breakfast, we have time to explore the Qadisha Valley, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is known as the Holy Valley, and the Holy River, Nahr Qadisha, flows through it. Many caves are found along its steep cliffs, used as shelters and burial sites in ancient times, and it's a great place for a short morning hike. Our first stop after leaving the valley is the nearby village of Becharre, the birthplace of the iconic novelist and poet of Lebanon, Kahlil Gibran. The village contains a museum dedicated to him, featuring his paintings and manuscripts. Next, we stop at the Cedars Ski Resort, famous for skiing and snowboarding. The area known as the Cedars of God is found nearby, and contains the last remaining groves of the cedar forests that once thrived in the region. The famous cedar trees of Lebanon - Cedrus Libani- are mentioned in the Old Testament and are the national symbol of the country. Later today we arrive in Byblos, an ancient Phoenician city that is thought to have been inhabited for up to 7000 years. Locally, the city is known as Jbeil and is another UNESCO World Heritage site. Byblos is filled with significant historical and archaeological sites, and also features a lovely Phoenician harbour.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Hike Qadisha Valley**
  Enjoy a short morning hike through the Qadisha Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its dramatic cliffs and hidden monastic caves. The valley offers peaceful scenery, historic hermit sites, and beautiful natural landscapes.

- **Drive Qadisha Valley → Becharre**
  Travel from the valley up to the nearby town of Becharre. Enjoy views over forested slopes and mountain peaks on the way.
- **Visit Becharre (Gibran Museum)**
  Visit the Gibran Museum in Becharre, dedicated to the life and works of Lebanese poet and artist Kahlil Gibran. Explore his manuscripts, paintings, and personal belongings in the village where he was born.
- **Drive Becharre → Cedars of God Forest**
  Drive from Becharre up towards the high mountain slopes above the town. The road leads to the famous cedar groves.
- **Visit Cedars of God Forest**
  Explore the Cedars of God, one of Lebanon's last surviving ancient cedar groves mentioned in the Old Testament. This protected forest offers beautiful mountain scenery and a glimpse of the country's national tree.
- **Drive Cedars of God Forest → Byblos**
  Descend from the cedar forests and drive west to the coastal city of Byblos. You travel from mountain scenery back down to the Mediterranean shore.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Aleph Boutique Hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 4 Morning in Byblos, Ksara Winery

We spend this morning exploring the harbour area and highlights of Byblos. Our destination today will be the village of of Zahle, however we'll be making a stop along the way at the Ksara Winery which is possibly the oldest winery in Lebanon. The caves and tunnels have a total length of approximately 2 miles and have been unsed for generations as wine cellars. You'll have a guided tour of the caves and winery before sampling (and buying if you wish) some of the produce in a wine tasting session.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Byblos → Ksara**
  Travel from Byblos to the Ksara region, passing coastal landscapes and rolling inland hills. This scenic route leads you toward Lebanon's historic wine-producing heartland.
- **Visit Ksara Winery**
  Visit Chateau Ksara, Lebanon's oldest winery, known for its vast cave tunnels used as natural cellars. Enjoy a guided tour of the historic site followed by a wine tasting session featuring the estate's renowned varieties.
- **Drive Ksara → Zahlé**
  Continue from Ksara to nearby Zahlé, a charming town in the Beqaa Valley. The short journey offers views of vineyards, fertile plains, and the surrounding mountains.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Beit El Kroum Guest House | Breakfast |

## DAY 5 Baalbek & Anjar

Spend the first part of the day at Baalbek and explore the major Roman temple complex before travelling to Anjar in the Bekaa Valley. The second site focuses on the remains of an eighth-century Umayyad settlement with planned streets, palaces, mosques, baths and commercial areas. Once both archaeological visits are complete, travel back to Beirut. No winery, farm or other Bekaa Valley stop is included in this particular collection.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Baalbek Temple Complex**
  Explore the vast Baalbek temple complex, one of the greatest surviving examples of Roman architecture. Wander through monumental temples dedicated to Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury, each showcasing intricate stonework and extraordinary preservation.
- **Drive Baalbek → Anjar**
  Drive from Baalbek to the nearby Umayyad site of Anjar. Cross the Bekaa Valley past orchards and villages.
- **Visit Anjar Ruins**
  Visit the Umayyad ruins of Anjar, a planned 8th-century city built by Caliph Walid. Discover its mosques, palaces, baths, and over 600 ancient shops that once formed an important commercial hub in the Bekaa Valley.
- **Drive Anjar → Beirut**
  Travel from Anjar back to Beirut through the scenic Bekaa Valley and surrounding mountains. This afternoon drive brings you to the city for your overnight stay.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Gems Hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 6 Deir al Qamar, Beiteddine & Beirut City Tour

Travel from Beirut to Deir al Qamar and spend time among the historic village surroundings before continuing to Beiteddine Palace. Afterwards, return to the capital for sightseeing around the Beirut Souks, Corniche and Downtown area, with Pigeon Grotto providing the final coastal landmark. The day combines Chouf Mountain heritage with an introduction to central Beirut.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Beirut → Deir al Qamar**
  Travel from Beirut into the Chouf Mountains toward the historic village of Deir al Qamar. The scenic drive passes traditional stone houses and terraced hillsides, offering a glimpse of rural Lebanese landscapes.
- **Visit Deir al Qamar**
  Explore the historic village of Deir al Qamar, once the capital of Lebanon in the 17th century. Its narrow lanes, stone houses and historic squares showcase the character and heritage of the Chouf region.
- **Drive Deir al Qamar → Beiteddine Palace**
  Continue from Deir al Qamar to the nearby Beiteddine Palace through winding mountain roads. The short drive

offers views of forested hills and traditional villages along the route.

- **Visit Beiteddine Palace**
  Visit the 19th-century Beiteddine Palace, an architectural masterpiece built by Emir Bashir. Its ornate courtyards, arched halls, and preserved interiors reflect the luxury and craftsmanship of the Ottoman era.
- **Drive Beiteddine → Beirut**
  Travel from Beiteddine back to Beirut, descending from the Chouf Mountains toward the Mediterranean coast. The drive offers changing scenery as rural landscapes give way to the vibrant capital.
- **Beirut City Walk**
  Take a city walk through Beirut, exploring its blend of modern architecture, historic quarters, and coastal scenery. Highlights include the Beirut Souks, the Corniche, downtown landmarks, and the famous Raouché Pigeon Rocks.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Gems Hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 7 Tyre & Sidon

Today we tour the south of Lebanon. We begin by visiting Tyre, also known as Sour in Arabic. It is more than 4,000 years old and was a great ancient Phoenician city. Tyre is filled with important historical landmarks and is currently a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our next destination is Sidon, or Saida, also an ancient Phoenician city, possibly the oldest. The city became wealthy due its excellent production of glass, as well as a purple dye extracted from murex, a type of shellfish. It is now a fast-growing city, and important both administratively and commercially. In Saida, we will visit the Crusader Sea Castle, the great Mosque, Khan el Franj, and other interesting sites. You will also get the chance to stroll through the old souks. Overnight in Beirut.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Beirut → Tyre**
  Drive south from Beirut along the coast towards Tyre. The journey follows the Mediterranean shoreline past several coastal towns.
- **Visit Tyre Archaeological Site**
  Explore the ancient city of Tyre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site rich in Phoenician and Roman history. The archaeological area showcases extensive ruins, coastal views, and centuries of cultural significance.
- **Drive Tyre → Sidon**
  Leave Tyre and drive north to Sidon. The short coastal drive links two of Lebanon's most historic ports.
- **Visit Sidon Sea Castle**
  Visit Sidon, one of the oldest Phoenician cities, known for its Crusader Sea Castle and historic old town. Explore its mosques, old markets, and traditional caravanserai, reflecting centuries of coastal Lebanese culture.
- **Visit Sidon Great Mosque (Al-Omari Mosque)**
  Visit the historic Sidon Great Mosque, a significant medieval Islamic landmark built over a former Crusader structure. Its courtyard, arches, and restored prayer hall reflect centuries of Lebanese coastal heritage.

- **Visit Khan el Franj**
  Explore Khan el Franj, a 17th-century caravanserai built for merchants and travelers. Its stone courtyard and arcaded rooms offer insight into Sidon's former role as a major Levantine trading hub.
- **Visit Sidon Old Souks**
  Walk through Sidon's atmospheric old souks, filled with traditional workshops, spice stalls, and local crafts. These narrow market streets reflect the city's vibrant everyday culture and historic trading traditions.
- **Drive Sidon → Beirut**
  Travel north from Sidon along the Mediterranean coast to reach Beirut. This scenic transfer links two of Lebanon's most historic and vibrant cities.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Gems Hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 8 Fly to Cairo and transfer to hotel

Transfer from Beirut to the airport for the flight to Cairo, noting that the flight cost is not included in the tour price and may be booked separately. On arrival in Egypt, meet the local staff for assistance with visa formalities and luggage before continuing to the hotel. After settling in and receiving information about the local area and following day, enjoy free time, with optional Cairo sightseeing available separately for early arrivals.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Beirut → Beirut International Airport**
  Transfer from your Beirut hotel to Beirut International Airport for your onward flight. This short drive marks the start of your travel day as you depart Lebanon and head to Egypt.
- **Flight Beirut → Cairo**
  Fly from Beirut to Cairo to begin the Egypt section of your tour. This cross-country flight brings you from Lebanon's coastline to the heart of Egypt, where your local team will be waiting on arrival.
- **Arrival at Cairo International Airport**
  Arrival at Cairo International Airport with meet & assist for visa and luggage handling.
- **Cairo Airport to City Hotel**
  Enjoy a comfortable transfer from Cairo International Airport to your city hotel. Sit back and take in your first glimpses of Egypt's bustling capital as you travel through its lively streets.
- **Free time / Leisure at Cairo**
  Enjoy some leisure time in Cairo to relax, explore local cafés, or take in the city's vibrant streets before continuing your journey.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sheraton Cairo Hotel & Casino, Crowne Plaza West Cairo - Arkan, Sonesta Hotel Tower & Casino, Conrad Hotel, Cairo Pyramids Hotel | Breakfast | Cairo city tour, Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales), Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis |

## DAY 9 Cairo, Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum tour

Begin with Giza and the Sphinx under the guidance of a local Egyptologist, then continue to the Egyptian Museum. Entry inside a pyramid is not guaranteed because ticket numbers are limited and the guide cannot accompany guests within. In the evening, transfer to the station for the sleeper train to Aswan, a journey of roughly twelve hours. Dinner and sleeping arrangements are provided in the private twin-berth compartment.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Cairo → Giza**
  Travel from central Cairo to the Giza Plateau, gateway to Egypt's most iconic ancient monuments. This drive takes you from the modern city into the historic desert landscape of the pyramids.
- **Visit Great Sphinx of Giza**
  Marvel at the enigmatic Great Sphinx, guarding the plateau with its lion's body and human face. This ancient monument is one of Egypt's most enduring symbols, shrouded in mystery and legend.
- **Visit the Great Pyramids of Giza**
  Stand in awe before the Great Pyramids of Giza, the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World. Learn about its construction and the pharaohs who built these monumental tombs that have stood for over 4,000 years.
- **Visit Pyramid of Khafre**
  Discover the Pyramid of Khafre, the second-largest of Giza's trio, easily recognized by the limestone casing still visible near its summit. A striking reminder of Egypt's architectural brilliance.
- **Visit Pyramid of Menkaure**
  Explore the smallest yet most refined of the Giza pyramids, the Pyramid of Menkaure. Its unique proportions and granite base showcase the evolution of pyramid design during Egypt's Old Kingdom.
- **Visit the Egyptian Museum**
  Explore the world-renowned Egyptian Museum, home to one of the greatest collections of ancient artefacts including the treasures of Tutankhamun. Your early morning visit offers a fascinating glimpse into Egypt's royal past.
- **Transfer to Station & Overnight Train Cairo → Aswan**
  Board the overnight seater train to Aswan from Ramses Station in Cairo. Relax in your private cabin and enjoy the rhythmic journey along the Nile Valley as Egypt's landscapes unfold by night.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sleeper train | Breakfast,Dinner | Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade |

## DAY 10 Aswan, Nubian Village and Philae Temple

Arrive in Aswan and transfer to the hotel before the scheduled Nubian village visit and traditional lunch. The afternoon includes the boat journey to Philae Temple and the guided archaeological visit. After that, no further included activities are planned. Travellers may independently explore the markets or Corniche, and an optional

camel excursion to St Simeon’s Monastery can be arranged separately. Those booked for Abu Simbel should prepare for the early departure the next morning.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrive in Aswan**
  Arrive in the serene riverside city of Aswan, where the Nile flows wide and calm. This laid-back southern gateway to ancient Nubia welcomes you with warm sunshine, friendly locals, and stunning river views.
- **Nubian Village Experience**
  Sail along the Nile on a relaxing trip to a traditional Nubian village where you'll spend the night at a Nubian style guesthouse. Discover vibrant mud-brick homes painted in bold colours, meet friendly locals, and experience authentic Nubian hospitality that reflects centuries of culture along the river.
- **Visit Philae Temple**
  Sail across the Nile to the magnificent Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. This beautiful island sanctuary is one of Egypt's most atmospheric sites, with intricate carvings and tranquil surroundings that tell stories of ancient devotion.
- **Free Time/ Leisure - Aswan**
  Spend the morning exploring Aswan at your own pace. Visit the colourful local markets, stroll the Corniche along the Nile, or explore the Nubian Museum to learn about the history and culture of the region.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Felucca Sailboat, Tolip Aswan Hotel | Breakfast,Lunch |

## DAY 11 Abu Simbel option. Nile Felucca Cruise

Travellers may choose an optional Abu Simbel excursion before dawn or remain in Aswan for a free morning. Around lunchtime, embark on the felucca and begin sailing down the Nile. The Nubian crew handles the sailing and meal preparation, while a separate support boat provides toilet and shower facilities. Sleeping is normally on the felucca deck using supplied mattresses, blankets and mosquito nets, though an optional hotel upgrade is available.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Board Felucca: Aswan to Downstream**
  Board a traditional felucca and drift downstream along the Nile, taking in serene views of palm-lined banks and timeless Nubian landscapes. This slow, graceful sail captures the essence of the Egyptian River experience.
- **Overnight Sail on Felucca**
  Spend a peaceful night aboard a traditional felucca, drifting down the Nile beneath a canopy of stars. This authentic sailing experience offers a rare glimpse of Egypt's timeless river life.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Felucca Sailboat | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner | Abu Simbel overland, Upgrade from felucca to hotel in Aswan |

DAY 12

## Edfu temple, Luxor temple at night

The programme begins with breakfast aboard the felucca, followed by disembarkation and a visit to Edfu Temple. Continue to Luxor and check into a luxury five-star Nile-side hotel, with afternoon leisure time by the pool. The scheduled evening activity is a walking tour of Luxor Temple. No Karnak or West Bank sightseeing is included in this collection.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Visit Temple of Edfu**
  Explore the magnificent Temple of Horus in Edfu, one of Egypt's best-preserved ancient temples. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, its towering columns and hieroglyphs offer a vivid glimpse into Ptolemaic-era craftsmanship.
- **Drive Edfu → Luxor**
  Travel along the scenic Nile Valley as you journey from Edfu to Luxor. Enjoy views of fertile farmlands, small riverside villages, and glimpses of ancient temples that line this historic route.
- **Visit Luxor Temple at Night**
  Explore the magnificent Luxor Temple under the night sky, when its ancient columns and hieroglyphs are bathed in golden light. The illuminated complex creates a magical atmosphere that brings Egypt's history vividly to life.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel | Breakfast |

DAY 13

## Luxor, West bank tour, Karnak temple

We cross the Nile early this morning to begin our tour of Luxor’s West Bank. Home to the Valley of the Kings, the dusty tombs in this ancient burial site are still revealing their secrets today and so it remains one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Our tour includes several of these Pharaonic tombs, as well as the temple of Queen Hatchepsut, Deir-el-Medina (the Valley of the Craftsmen), and the huge Colossi of Memnon. A spectacular hot air balloon flight over the west bank of the Nile is available this morning (expect an early start to catch sunrise as the balloon rises). After lunch we'll tour the huge temple complex at Karnak , once the religious centre of Thebes and Upper Egypt. It was linked to Luxor by an extensive avenue, lined with sphinxes, and the whole complex was in turn linked to the Nile via a canal through which moved the sacred boats of the god Amun. Entering through a smaller sphinx-lined avenue, built by Ramesses II, you come to the immense pylon entrance. Inside the huge Courtyard are three chapels dedicated to the gods Amun, Khous and Mut. The remarkable Hypostyle Hall has 134 towering columns, each carved with scenes of gods and pharaohs, and hieroglyphic inscriptions adorn the walls. Later this evening we transfer to the station for the overnight sleeper train back to Cairo (approx. 9 hours).

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Luxor → West Bank**
  Cross from Luxor's East Bank to the West Bank by road. Enter the desert hills that hide the necropolises of the New Kingdom pharaohs.
- **West Bank Tour in Luxor**
  Explore Luxor's legendary West Bank with visits to the Colossi of Memnon, the Valley of the Kings, and the striking Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Continue to Medinat Habu, known for its colourful and remarkably preserved hieroglyphics, before heading back to Luxor for a relaxing afternoon.
- **Visit Valley of the Kings**
  Explore the legendary Valley of the Kings, burial site of Egypt's greatest pharaohs, including Tutankhamun. Step inside beautifully painted tombs that reveal stories of the afterlife and royal power.
- **Visit Temple of Hatshepsut**
  Admire the stunning mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of ancient Egypt's most remarkable female rulers. Set beneath dramatic cliffs, its elegant terraces celebrate her reign and divine legacy.
- **Visit Deir el-Medina**
  Discover Deir el-Medina, the ancient village of artisans who built and decorated the royal tombs. Its beautifully preserved wall paintings and workers' homes reveal the daily life of Egypt's master craftsmen.
- **Visit Colossi of Memnon**
  Marvel at the towering Colossi of Memnon, twin statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III that have watched over the Theban Necropolis for more than 3,000 years. A breathtaking photo stop amid Luxor's open-air history.
- **Visit Karnak Temple**
  Wander through the awe-inspiring Karnak Temple complex, an enormous sanctuary dedicated to Amun-Ra. Its forest of columns, sacred lake, and intricate reliefs capture the grandeur of Egypt's New Kingdom.
- **Transfer to Station & Overnight Train Luxor → Cairo**
  Board the overnight seater train from Luxor to Cairo and travel in comfort as the rhythmic sound of the rails carries you north. Enjoy the unique experience of a night on board, with dinner and breakfast served while passing through the timeless Egyptian landscape.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| VIP Seater Train | Breakfast,Dinner | Hot air balloon in Luxor |

## DAY 14 — Cairo, optional tours, back streets of the Khan-el-Khalili bazzar

Arrive back in Cairo and transfer to the hotel. The daytime is mostly free, with several separately optional excursions available. Later, the included activity is a guided walk from Bab al-Futuh through market streets devoted to trades such as metalwork, spices, pottery, fabric and jewellery towards Khan el-Khalili. A tea and shisha break is included in the description, while an early Koshari dinner is presented as a possibility rather than a guaranteed meal.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free time / Leisure at Cairo**

  Enjoy some leisure time in Cairo to relax, explore local cafés, or take in the city's vibrant streets before continuing your journey.

- **Walk Through Old Cairo Bazaars**

  Take a guided walk through Old Cairo's atmospheric back streets, passing traditional workshops and specialty market lanes. This route offers an authentic glimpse into the city's historic trading culture.

- **Visit Bab al-Futuh Gate**

  Explore Bab al-Futuh, one of the monumental medieval gateways to Old Cairo. The gate's towers and thick stone walls mark the historic northern entrance to the city's ancient market district.

- **Visit Khan El Khalili Bazaar**

  Wander through the lively Khan El Khalili Bazaar, Cairo's most famous marketplace. Explore its maze of alleys filled with crafts, spices, jewellery, textiles, and traditional cafés offering a glimpse into Egypt's vibrant heritage.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sheraton Cairo Hotel & Casino, Crowne Plaza West Cairo - Arkan, Sonesta Hotel Tower & Casino, Conrad Hotel, Cairo Pyramids Hotel | Breakfast | Cairo city tour, Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales), Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis |

## DAY 15 — Drive through Sinai to Dahab

The standard journey is by road from Cairo to Dahab through Sinai and beneath the Suez Canal. A Cairo to Sharm el Sheikh flight is an optional upgrade and should not be presented as included. After arrival, the afternoon is free for pool, beach or independent time in Assalah. Restaurants and local seafood are personal choices rather than organised meals or activities.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Cairo → Dahab**

  Travel from Cairo through the Sinai Peninsula on a scenic overland journey to Dahab. The drive passes dramatic desert terrain and the Suez Canal area before reaching the Red Sea coast.

- **Free Time / Leisure – Dahab**

  Enjoy free time in Dahab to relax by the beach, explore the town, or unwind at your hotel. Whether swimming, dining in Assalah, or strolling along the bay, the afternoon is yours to enjoy.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Dahab Paradise Hotel | Breakfast |

DAY 16

## Dahab Free day (options available)

Enjoy a fully unstructured day in Dahab. The source lists several optional excursions and activities, including snorkelling, scuba diving, Ras Abu Galum, the Blue Hole, canyon visits, Mount Sinai, St Catherine’s and a Bedouin evening. These must remain clearly optional rather than being presented as scheduled. Relaxing at beachside restaurants or on the beach is also independent free-time use.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time / Leisure – Dahab**
  Enjoy free time in Dahab to relax by the beach, explore the town, or unwind at your hotel. Whether swimming, dining in Assalah, or strolling along the bay, the afternoon is yours to enjoy.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Dahab Paradise Hotel | Breakfast |

DAY 17

## Further free day in Dahab

You have another free day in Dahab today, to relax or explore the local area further on another of our optional tours. Any free period can be used at your own pace for rest or independent plans. Use the available hours in a way that suits you, while any separately offered excursions remain entirely optional.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time / Leisure – Dahab**
  Enjoy free time in Dahab to relax by the beach, explore the town, or unwind at your hotel. Whether swimming, dining in Assalah, or strolling along the bay, the afternoon is yours to enjoy.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Dahab Paradise Hotel | Breakfast |

DAY 18

## Ferry to Jordan & overnight Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp

The included travel is Dahab to Taba Heights by road, ferry to Aqaba and onward transfer to the Wadi Rum camp. The source gives approximate travel times of two hours by road and one hour by ferry. Dinner is included and may feature Zarb. Sunset camel riding and telescope stargazing are optional and should not be treated as guaranteed parts of the standard programme.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Dahab → Taba Heights**
  Travel from Dahab along the Red Sea coastline to Taba Heights for your onward ferry crossing. This scenic drive passes rugged mountains and coastal views en route to the border region.
- **Ferry Taba → Aqaba**
  Cross the Gulf of Aqaba by ferry from Taba Heights to Jordan. The journey offers clear views of the surrounding mountains before arriving at Aqaba port.
- **Drive Aqaba → Wadi Rum**
  Depart from the coastal city of Aqaba and drive into the desert wilderness of Wadi Rum. The journey takes you from the Red Sea shoreline into a landscape of towering sandstone cliffs and vast open valleys, a true taste of Jordan's rugged beauty.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp | Breakfast,Dinner |

## DAY 19 — A jeep safari and Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum, travel to Petra

Start the day with a jeep safari in Wadi Rum before joining local activities based on Bedouin traditions. The experience includes time with a shepherd and opportunities to learn about practices such as shearing, milking, grinding grain, making bread and roasting coffee. Afterwards, return to camp and drive towards Petra, stopping at the Petra Bakery for traditional bread and a light lunch. The Petra by Night walk is available separately as an optional evening activity.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Jeep Safari & Bedouin Experience – Wadi Rum**
  Experience an adventurous jeep safari through the golden sands and towering cliffs of Wadi Rum. Join local Bedouins for an authentic cultural encounter, walking with shepherds, learning traditional crafts, and sharing a freshly prepared meal in their desert camp.
- **Drive Wadi Rum → Petra**
  Depart Wadi Rum after your Bedouin adventure and drive north through Jordan's rugged desert landscapes toward Petra. Enjoy the scenic journey to the rose-red city, with the option to join the magical Petra by Night tour upon arrival.
- **Visit Petra Bakery for Traditional Bread and a Light Lunch**
  The Petra Bakery on the road into Petra offers a chance to watch local bakers at work making traditional bread, with a light lunch available afterwards.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Petra Elite Hotel, Petra Moon Hotel | Breakfast,Lunch |

DAY 20

# Reverse-route mountain hike to Petra via Little Petra

Today is all about exploring the Nabatean site of Petra. It was once the ancient capital of the Nabataean commercial empire until the Romans finally took over in 106AD. For a long period of time, Petra was forgotten - except by the local Bedouins - before it was rediscovered in 1812 by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Petra can be found at the edge of the Wadi Aruba desert, where canyon walls and towering hills make it virtually impossible to reach, except via a narrow cleft in the rock, known as the Siq. There are very few free-standing buildings in Petra, as the Nabateans chose to carve their dwellings into the multi coloured sandstone cliffs. Petra has become one of Jordan's main tourist attractions and the Jordanian Government is well aware of this. The tourism infrastructure in the adjoining village of Wadi Musa is booming, though, thankfully, once you enter through the Siq, the site is protected, there aren't that many touts or souvenir sellers, and all the building feels miles away. We have most of the day available today to explore this ancient city, though as an added bonus, we'll be exploring Petra via the back-route which starts at Little Petra. Before embarking on our hike into Petra, we'll explore the small but equally interesting site of Little Petra, or Siq al-Barid. From here we'll take a short jeep ride to the start of the mountail trail which links Little Petra to the Monastery and main site of Petra. The back-route into Petra makes for an interesting and much less crowded way of visiting, and what's more, you'll be rewarded with incredible mountain views towards the Holy Land. Whilst hiking the back-route you'll still have the opportunity to see all of the same monuments visited on the normal route, with the addition of Little Petra and the Monastery. The route starts with the ascent of a number of rock hewn steps and paths which straddle the mountain edge. After reaching a plateau, there is an opportunity to stop for refreshments at a small cafe from where you'll have some fantastic photo opportunities. From here the path continues until you'll have a glimpse of 'Ad-Deir' (or the Monastery) where you can have a well deserved rest before descending down into the main site of Petra. Once in Petra the valley opens out, and you'll see tombs carved into the rock on both sides. You'll get a glimpse of the ruined Roman amphitheatre and colonnaded streets. As we continue through the ancient city of Petra, we'll eventually reach The Khazneh (Treasury) which is probably the most familiar monument of Petra. Whilst the back-route hike into Petra isn't particularly difficult, as a number of ascents/descents and a significant number of steps are required, this route is only suitable for those who have no issue in hiking in this type of terrain for a minimum of 2-3 hours as far as the Monastery and then a further few hours walking on sandy terrain, whilst exploring the main site of Petra. For those with less mobility or who are worried about the distance, horse carriages are available for around 20JD (USD 28) for an agreed period of time (only available within the main site of Petra, not on the hiking route). We do not recommend riding the horses that are available.

## ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Little Petra (Siq al-Barid)**
  Explore Little Petra, a smaller Nabataean site featuring carved façades, narrow passages, and ancient frescoes. The area provides a fascinating introduction to the region before beginning the back-route hike into Petra.
- **Drive Little Petra → Trailhead (Jeep Ride)**
  Take a short jeep transfer from Little Petra to the mountain trailhead. This quick ride positions you at the starting point of the scenic back-route trail leading into the Petra highlands.

- **Hike Little Petra → Petra**
  Begin your adventure with a scenic hike from Little Petra along the mountain trail leading into the main site of Petra. This lesser-travelled back route offers stunning desert views, peaceful solitude, and a rewarding arrival at the magnificent Monastery before descending into the ancient city below.
- **Visit the Monastery (Ad-Deir)**
  Climb the famous stone staircase to reach the Monastery, one of Petra's most impressive monuments. Its enormous façade offers panoramic views across Wadi Araba and the surrounding desert. A rewarding trek for adventurous visitors.
- **Explore Petra Main Site**
  Spend the day exploring Petra, Jordan's breathtaking Nabataean capital and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Walk through the Siq to the Treasury, admire the carved tombs and temples, and trace the ancient colonnaded streets that once thrived with traders and pilgrims.
- **Visit the Treasury (Al-Khazneh)**
  Visit Petra's world-famous Treasury, a stunning façade carved into rose-red sandstone cliffs. Learn about its Nabataean design, cultural significance, and the legends surrounding its purpose. A highlight of any tour through Petra.
- **Visit the Roman Amphitheatre in Jordan**
  Visit Petra's ancient Roman amphitheatre, carved largely into the rock and later expanded by the Romans. With space for thousands of spectators, it highlights the blend of Nabataean and Roman design. The structure sits prominently within the heart of the archaeological site.
- **Walk the Colonnaded Street**
  Walk along Petra's ancient colonnaded street, once the commercial heart of the city. The remains of columns, shops, and public buildings line this broad avenue. A major axis of the archaeological site.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Petra Elite Hotel, Petra Moon Hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 21 — Dead Sea road to Wadi Mujib - Siq Trail Hike. Dead Sea 'swim'

Travel north from Petra to Wadi Mujib. Between April and October, complete the Siq Trail through shallow water and small waterfalls, allowing roughly two to three hours for the return hike. Lunch at the visitor centre is not included. From November to March, Bethany is included instead, with visits to Tell Mar Elias, the Baptism Pools and John the Baptist’s Church. Finish at the Dead Sea resort with free time to float or use the pool.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Petra → Wadi Mujib**
  Travel north from Petra along the Dead Sea highway toward Wadi Mujib. The drive offers striking views of desert cliffs, deep valleys, and the shimmering southern basin of the Dead Sea.
- **Visit Wadi Mujib Visitor Centre**
  Arrive at the Wadi Mujib Visitor Centre to prepare for your Siq Trail hike. This is the entry point to the reserve

where you can rent gear, get safety instructions, and enjoy views of the gorge entrance.

- **Hike Wadi Mujib Siq Trail**
  Embark on an adventurous hike through the Wadi Mujib Siq Trail, a narrow gorge filled with flowing water and natural pools. Between April and October, you'll wade, climb, and swim beneath waterfalls in one of Jordan's most thrilling outdoor experiences.
- **Drive Wadi Mujib → Dead Sea Resort**
  Continue south along the Dead Sea shoreline toward your resort. The road offers sweeping coastal views and a tranquil descent toward the lowest point on Earth.
- **Dead Sea swim / float**
  Relax and float effortlessly in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. After your day's adventure, unwind at your resort, enjoy the therapeutic mud, and capture the iconic newspaper photo as you drift on the surface.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Dead Sea Spa Resort | Breakfast |

## DAY 22 — Madaba, Mount Nebo and Roman Jerash

After a restful night we head to nearby Madaba, where we'll marvel at the Byzantine mosaics and the 'Madaba Map' - which is the oldest preserved map of the Holy Land. From Madaba, we'll make our way to Mount Nebo, the place where the prophet Moses looked across the Promised Land and is also his burial place. On a clear day, which is most of the time, you get great views towards Jericho and beyond from here. Our final visit of the day is to the ancient city of Jerash - known for being one of the largest and well-preserved Greco-Roman cities outside of Europe. Once we arrive in Jerash, we'll visit the Forum, explore its Roman colonnaded streets, the Nymphaeum and the Temple of Artemis - built on one of the highest points in the city. We end our day with a return drive to Amman, where we'll spend our final night in Jordan.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Visit Madaba**
  Discover the ancient city of Madaba, renowned for its stunning Byzantine mosaics. Visit St. George's Church to see the famous Madaba Map, the oldest surviving cartographic depiction of the Holy Land.
- **Visit Madaba Mosaic Map Church**
  Visit St. George's Church in Madaba to view the famous sixth-century mosaic thought to be the oldest surviving map of Palestine and neighbouring territories.
- **Drive Madaba → Mount Nebo**
  Continue from Madaba to Mount Nebo along a scenic hillside road. This short ascent brings you to one of Jordan's most significant biblical viewpoints.
- **Visit Mount Nebo**
  Visit Mount Nebo, where tradition says Moses viewed the Promised Land. Enjoy sweeping vistas toward the

Jordan Valley and Jericho, and see the site's beautifully restored mosaics and memorial church.

- **Drive Mount Nebo → Jerash**
  Travel north from Mount Nebo toward the ancient Roman city of Jerash. The route passes agricultural plains and rolling landscapes before reaching the archaeological site.
- **Visit Jerash**
  Explore Jerash, one of the best-preserved Greco-Roman cities outside Europe. Walk through the oval Forum, visit the Nymphaeum, and admire the grand Temple of Artemis overlooking the ancient city.
- **Visit the Nymphaeum (Jerash)**
  Visit the ornate Nymphaeum, Jerash's main public fountain decorated with elaborate carvings and columns. It once served as a central gathering point supplied by the city's advanced water system.
- **Visit the Temple of Artemis**
  Climb to the Temple of Artemis, dedicated to the city's patron goddess and positioned on one of Jerash's highest points. Its towering Corinthian columns are among the most impressive remains in the site.
- **Drive Jerash → Amman**
  Travel south from Jerash back to Amman, enjoying views of Jordan's hill country along the way.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| La Casa Hotel, Al Qasr Metropole, Corp Hotel | Breakfast |

## DAY 23 — Free time in Amman, hotel to airport transfer included

Enjoy free time in Amman before departure and use the morning or early afternoon to relax or explore independently. If your flight leaves later in the day, additional sightseeing can be arranged separately, including an optional visit to the Baptism Site at Bethany on the Jordan River. At the appropriate time, meet the included hotel pickup and transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time / Leisure – Amman**
  Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring Amman's lively streets and local culture. Wander through its historic districts, discover charming cafés and markets, or visit highlights like the Citadel and Roman Theatre. This is the perfect opportunity to unwind after your flight and soak up the city's friendly atmosphere.
- **Departure Transfer Amman → Airport**
  Enjoy some free time in Amman before your scheduled airport transfer. We'll pick you up from your hotel and take you to Queen Alia International Airport in time for your departure flight.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS | EXTRAS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| N/A | Breakfast | Extra day in Beirut - post-tour |

## INCLUDED

- 16 nights in 3, 4 & 5-star hotels
- 1 night in guesthouse/hotel in Zahle
- 1 night in monastery accommodation in Qadisha Valley
- 1 night on board felucca sailboat with support boat (hotel upgrade available)
- 2 nights on board sleeper train from Cairo/Aswan & Luxor/Cairo (flight & hotel upgrade available)
- 1 night Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum in comfortable tents
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles
- Entrance fees to sites visited whilst in Lebanon
- All sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Wine tasting in Ksara Caves
- 4x4 jeep safari and Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum
- English speaking guide in Lebanon & Jordan
- International Ferry from Taba (Egypt) to Aqaba (Jordan)
- Services of a local Egyptologist guide for all the sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

## EXCLUDED

- International flights (available on request)
- Beirut to Cairo Flight (available on request)
- Lebanon Visa fees (free on arrival for most nationalities)
- Egypt Visa fees (US$25 available on arrival for most nationalities)
- Jordan Visa fees (available free as part of the Jordan Pass)
- Egypt Entrance fees to sites visited (allow approx. US$81)
- Jordan Entrance fees (discounted package included in the Jordan Pass, available in advance for JD70)
- Tipping kitty whilst in Egypt (allow US$65)
- Tips in Lebanon & Jordan
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Hotel gala dinner supplements if applied on Christmas & New Year's Eve
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Any other items not mentioned above

# Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

**Hot air balloon in Luxor** *Min numbers: 1*

This popular optional tour starts early in the morning so that you experience the sunrise over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, temples and desert. We endeavour to use the earliest flights of the day as they are timed to fit with the rising sun, this means that times may vary. You get around 1 hour in the air.
The price of this option is approximately $170.00. Please note that this option is only available to be booked locally, via your tour guide who will also advise you of the current price.

## Alexandria day trip

*Min numbers: 1*

Alexandria is about 2.5 hours drive, north of Cairo on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. This ex colonial city is the second largest in Egypt and our visit will include the Roman amphitheatre with its twelve semi-circular marble tiers, the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa which is the largest Roman cemetery in Alexandria, Pompey's Pillar, Fort Qaitbey (from outside), the famous modern library before returning to Cairo. If time allows you can tour inside Fort Qaitbey and we may also visit the Montazah Palace gardens. Lunch at a seafood restaurant is included. As the tour takes a full day you will either need a late evening flight departure on the last day of the tour to accommodated it, or to add an extra day to the start or end of your trip.

Prices are based on a minimum of 2 travellers choosing the option. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees to sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 28)

## Cairo city tour

*Min numbers: 1*

This half day guided tour of Cairo tour begins with Islamic areas including the Citadel of Saladdin, boasting the famous Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. Then we head onto the Coptic area of Cairo where the Romans constructed the fortress of Babylon. The church of St. Mary was built over the ruins of two towers of the fortress whilst it is more commonly known as the Hanging Church next stop is St. Sergius which is said to be the resting place of the Holy Family. The tour finishes at the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. The entrance fees budget covers the Coptic Museum, the Citadel and the Sultan Hassan Mosque. Depending on your day, you may not have time to visit all of these.
Entrance fees to sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 22)

Prices shown are based on a minimum of 2 people travelling. Solo traveller supplements apply.

## Abu Simbel overland

*Min numbers: 2*

The temples built by Ramses II at Abu Simbel are one of Egypt's highlights, and have a fascinating story behind them to go with their impressive size. When Lake Nasser was flooded, the final water level was going to submerge several temples, the most important of which being Abu Simbel. The temple was therefore dismantled completely and rebuilt further up the hillside where it sits today. The temple stands today as a testament to Ramses II and the great building prowess of the ancient Egyptians, as well as to modern engineering. We depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 4am), with the aim of getting to Abu Simbel to see the temples in the light of the rising sun.

We then have a guided tour with one of our Egyptologists and some free time before we drive back to Aswan (approx. 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). The tour itinerary is designed so you will not miss any other activities if you choose this option.
Note - we choose the overland route to get to Abu Simbel as the flight times there are unreliable and the journey using the flight is much more segmented (you get more rest on the coach), not to mention it is much more expensive to fly. Please note that we only offer Abu Simbel by Flight on private or tailor-made tours.
Entrance fees to the site (approx. US$17, 50% for children) are not included in the option price and should be paid locally . A minimum of 2 people is required to operate this option.

## Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis

*Min numbers: 1*

This half day guided tour on the outskirts of Cairo tour provides more insight into the history and evolution of pyramid building, and of the Egyptian civilisation. Our tours are based in the area of ancient Memphis, a former capital of Egypt. First we'll visit Saqqara, a huge desert necropolis which was built for the kings and nobles of the Old Kingdom. Here we see Zoser's 'step' pyramid and the adjacent Imhotep museum where we learn more about Memphis and the history of the region. Next we head to Dashour to see one of the next attempts at pyramid building. Dashour's moniker of the 'bent pyramid' shows they still had a bit to learn, but this is a fascinating site and the pyramid still has much of its original limestone cladding. We'll then return you to your hotel.

Prices are based on a minimum of 2 people choosing the option. Entrance fees to the sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 21). Solo traveller supplements apply.

## Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Standard level

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note**: This option is applicable to those who have booked the standard level of accommodation. If you have booked the superior accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.
**Note**: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds on a fun sunset or sunrise camel ride through the Wadi Rum desert.

## Extra day in Beirut - pre-tour

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people

sharing.

*Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.*

## Pyramids Camel Ride

*Min numbers: 1*

Experience the Giza Pyramids from a unique vantage point with an optional camel ride. This excursion takes you across the desert to a scenic view point, offering panoramic views of the pyramids. Capture memorable photos and enjoy the desert landscape.

## Cairo Sunset Felucca

*Min numbers: 1*

Take a relaxing felucca ride on the Nile at sunset. See Cairo's landmarks from the water as the sky changes colour. Enjoy a peaceful break from the city, and get great photo opportunities of the skyline. This trip offers a calm way to experience the Nile and create memorable moments of your time in Egypt.

The price of this option is based on a minimum of 2 travellers, single supplements may apply when this tour is operated for just 1 passenger.

## Cairo Tower inc.transfers

*Min numbers: 1*

Experience breathtaking panoramic views of Cairo by night with an optional evening visit to the iconic Cairo Tower. This trip includes convenient round-trip transfers from your hotel, ensuring a comfortable and hassle-free journey. Ascend to the tower's observation deck and witness the city's glittering skyline, the Nile River, and the illuminated landmarks stretching into the distance.

**Please note:** The Cairo Tower entrance fee is not included and is approximately $8. Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers, a single supplement applies when this tour is operated for just 1 adult.

## Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Visit

*Min numbers: 1*

Elevate your Egyptian exploration with an unmissable optional guided visit to the awe-inspiring, brand new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Cairo. This monumental museum is a landmark achievement, eagerly anticipated for years, and now ready to share its treasures with the world. We will provide comfortable and convenient return transportation directly from your accommodation to the museum, allowing you to relax and anticipate the wonders ahead without the hassle of navigating Cairo's bustling streets.

Upon arrival, you will embark on an enlightening tour led by an expert guide. They will bring the wonders of the GEM to life, providing fascinating insights into Egypt's rich and captivating history and navigating you through its vast collections. Your guide will highlight the most significant artefacts, ensuring you don't miss the key exhibits,

including colossal statues, intricate jewellery, and the famed treasures of Tutankhamun, all presented in a state-of-the-art setting befitting their historical importance. This guided experience will deepen your understanding and appreciation of the splendours on display.

Please be aware that the entrance fee to the Grand Egyptian Museum is not included in the cost of this optional excursion. As of the time of publication (June 2026), the standard entrance fee is approximately $35 per person.

Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to be among the early visitors to what is destined to become one of the world's most important cultural institutions, all while benefiting from the knowledge and passion of a dedicated guide. Secure your place on this excursion and prepare for an unforgettable and insightful encounter with the splendours of ancient Egypt in a truly twenty-first-century museum.

## Karnak Sound & Light Show

*Min numbers: 1*

Experience the magic of Karnak Temple at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the Egyptian sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

## Siwa Oasis Extension (3 Nights)

*Min numbers: 1*

Discover the wonders of Siwa Oasis on a 4-day optional tour from Cairo, featuring ancient sites, unique natural landscapes like salt lakes and desert springs, and cultural experiences before returning to Cairo.

## Petra by night

*Min numbers: 1*

This magical experience takes you in through the narrow and winding Siq to the Treasury at the entrance to Petra. The whole route and the sand in front of the Treasury is lit up by numerous candles creating a beautiful and atmospheric sight. While at the Treasury you'll also enjoy some traditional Bedouin music and tea.

Pricing includes your entrance ticket and any transfers required to and from your hotel. Please bring a flashlight/torch with you for this trip as the path through the Siq is rough underfoot in places and while there are candles all the way, a torch provides extra assurance against mis-stepping.

**Please Note: This is a local payment option, payment will be collected by your tour guide whilst in Jordan.**

## Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class

*Min numbers: 1*

Enhance your Petra experience with a delightful evening immersed in Jordanian culture and cuisine at the renowned Petra Kitchen. This popular optional activity offers a fantastic opportunity to participate in a hands-on cookery class, working alongside local chefs and women to prepare a range of traditional Jordanian dishes. You'll learn about local ingredients, master authentic techniques, and discover the secrets behind delicious regional specialities, typically culminating in enjoying the multi-course feast you've helped create together. It's a fun, interactive, and social way to spend an evening after exploring the wonders of Petra.

Please note that spaces for the Petra Kitchen Cookery Class are limited and it is exceptionally popular. Therefore, pre-booking is essential to guarantee your participation, and we strongly recommend securing your spot well in advance to avoid disappointment due to high demand.

## Wadi Rum Astronomy Experience

*Min numbers: 1*

Venture into the heart of Wadi Rum's captivating desert landscape after nightfall and witness a celestial display like no other. Far from city lights, the vast, clear skies above this ancient valley reveal a breathtaking panorama of stars.

Join our optional astronomy tour and embark on a journey through the cosmos. Our expert guides will illuminate the constellations, planets, and deep-sky objects visible to the naked eye, sharing fascinating insights into their mythology and scientific significance.

Experience the profound silence and tranquillity of the desert night as you gaze upon the Milky Way's shimmering expanse. With the aid of powerful telescopes, you'll delve deeper into the universe, observing distant galaxies and nebulae with remarkable clarity. This is an unforgettable opportunity to connect with the cosmos and appreciate the sheer scale and beauty of the night sky in one of the world's most spectacular natural settings.

## Wadi Rum Hot Air Balloon Flight

*Min numbers: 1*

Enhance your Wadi Rum visit with an optional hot air balloon flight. Experience a sunrise view of the 'Valley of the Moon' from above. Observe the desert landscape as the sun rises, providing unique photographic opportunities. Flights are early morning, conducted by professional pilots, and subject to weather conditions. Bookings are confirmed the evening before. A full refund is provided if the flight is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

## Wadi Rum Quad Bikes

*Min numbers: 1*

Unleash your adventurous spirit and explore the magnificent desert landscapes of Wadi Rum on an exhilarating quad biking excursion. This optional activity puts you in control of your own All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), allowing you to navigate the sandy plains and weave between the iconic towering rock formations under the guidance of local experts. 1 Feel the thrill as you power through the stunning scenery of the 'Valley of the Moon', accessing unique viewpoints and experiencing the vastness of the desert in a truly dynamic way. It's a perfect add-on for those seeking an adrenaline rush and a different perspective on Wadi Rum's breathtaking beauty.

### Extra day in Beirut - pre-tour

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note**: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

### Extra day in Beirut - post-tour

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note**: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

### Extra day in Beirut - post-tour

*Min numbers: 1*

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability) on a bed & breakfast basis. Your airport departure transfer is not included and will be charged as an additional supplement if required based on the number of people in your party. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

*Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.*

## Important Notes

### 1 Accommodation

**Lebanon:**

This tour uses a mix of accommodation including good quality 4-star hotels in Beirut and Byblos, a comfortable guesthouse Zahle and rooms in a separate new block at Monastery of St. Anthony in Qozhaya. Rooms at the monastery are simple but comfortable and en-suite and you may join the monks for their morning prayers.

Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this tour. These are subject to change to alternative properties of a similar standard. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation for a private tour.

**Egypt:**

Most of our small group tours use high quality hotels at the Egyptian 5-star level in Cairo, Aswan, Luxor and

Hurghada, all with swimming pools and a choice of restaurants and bars.

However, some of our lower budget trips (eg. Egypt Express) use good quality 3 and 4-star level hotels, all with air-conditioned en-suite bathrooms. On some tours we also use a Nubian guesthouse in Aswan which is full of character and has a great location by the Nile.

Our private/tailor-made tour itineraries use a wider mix of hotels, from comfortable mid-range hotels at the 3-4 star level (generally the best available in some of the less visited places included in the particular itinerary) up to some of the very best deluxe 5-star properties in the country.

Please check the Accommodation tab on the tour page or download these Tour Notes for details of the normal hotels used. On our group tours, these hotels may change from time to time for other properties of a similar standard. If you would like to guarantee a particular hotel, please request a tailor-made tour.

Nile cruise tours are generally based on Egyptian 5-star level boats - perhaps equivalent to a decent international 4-star hotel standard. Please check the Accommodation section on the tour page for details. Deluxe 5-star level boats, all-suite boats, and Dahabiyas are also available on private and tailor-made tours. Please contact us for details.

Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms/cabins with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room/cabin. Triple cabins are not available on Nile cruise boats.

**Jordan:**

The hotels used on this tour are rated at the Jordanian 3 and 4-star level. Local star ratings may vary from international standards but we ensure we use some of the best hotels available at the level stated. We have also aimed to use hotels in Amman that have a better location than most, with a range of cafes and restaurants within easy walking distance. Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples will have a private double room. In Wadi Rum we use a Bedouin camp located inside the Wadi Rum Protected Area. Accommodation is in permanent traditional goat hair tents with proper beds and all bedding provided. Bathrooms are separate, though some en-suite tents are also available and subject to availability you can upgrade to these locally if you wish. You can also bring a sleeping bag if you wish, and find a sheltered spot on the rocks on the edge of the camp and sleep under the stars.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour

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## 2 Felucca Sailboat

This tour features an overnight felucca cruise. Feluccas are very basic traditional Nile sailboats and are a fun and relaxing way to travel down the river. You sleep on the deck of the boat (mattresses and some blankets are provided, but we suggest that you bring a sleeping sheet, blanket or light sleeping bag during the winter months of November-February). There are no toilet facilities on board, but you will be joined several times each day and at night by our support boat where a toilet and warm showers will be available. Mosquito nets are provided for use while you are sleeping but you should bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings. Your Nubian

boat crew will cook all your meals while on board and entertain you in the evenings.

## 3 Transport

**Lebanon:**

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. Our routes in Lebanon and the small distances involved mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour. Vehicles will be selected to be comfortable for the number of travellers in the group.

**Egypt:**

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. In Egypt we do not use any public tourist buses or overnight coach journeys as we know that people don't sleep on board and end up very tired for the following few days. All the vehicles we use are air-conditioned, many are fitted with speed limiters, and all are inspected and checked daily. Some 4WD vehicles used on desert safaris may not always have air conditioning where they are only used for short periods.
For the overnight train journey between Cairo and Aswan this tour uses the overnight sleeper train. You will have a private lockable twin cabin on board which holds two large seats and fold down beds which the carriage steward will make up for you in the evening. Sheets, blanket & pillows are provided. The cabin also contains a wash basin and storage cupboard. An airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast are provided. The Cairo-Aswan journey takes around 12 hours.

**Jordan:**

The small distances involved in Jordan mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour. These will be minivans, minibuses or coaches, depending on the number of travellers in the group. The jeeps used in Wadi Rum are provided by the local Bedouins we work with, and while suitable for your desert safari, they may fall below the normal safety and quality standards for vehicles we use during the rest of our tours.

## 4 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don’t normally include international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we’ll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour, along with day 8 in Beirut and Cairo when travelling between countries. You should plan to fly into Beirut on day 1 and out of Amman on day 23. You will also require a flight between Beirut and Cairo on day 8 which is not included in the price of the tour.

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices

will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued. Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

## 5 Activity level

This tour includes several walks or hikes in Jordan and while you do not need to be super fit by any means, you should bring suitable footwear.

In Wadi Mujib we'll hike along the Siq Trail which is a water trail through the canyons of Wadi Mujib. The majority of this hike is relatively easy, however there are a number of small waterfalls which must be ascended in order to reach the end of the route. At these waterfalls, ladders and ropes are provided for assistance. We highly recommend bringing along a dry-bag (so your camera or mobile phone don't get wet) and water shoes. It is possible to hire a dry bag at the visitors centre for around US$7.00 and purchase water shoes for US$7.00).

In Dana Biosphere Reserve we'll take a short walk through the hills around the restored Dana village. Trails are generally always dry and a little rocky but we won't be taking one of the longer more challenging hikes here.

In Petra, you will be doing a lot of walking to explore the site. This tour includes the back route hike from Little Petra, to the Monastery and then through the main site of Petra. Whilst the back-route hike into Petra isn't particularly difficult, as a number of ascents/descents and a significant number of steps are required, this route is only suitable for those who have no issue in hiking in this type of terrain for a minimum of 2-3 hours as far as the Monastery and then a further few hours walking on sandy terrain, whilst exploring the main site of Petra. You can take everything at your own pace, but do be prepared for a long day. Again comfortable walking shoes and a daypack are required.

There are no walks of similar durations on the Egypt and Lebanon sections of the tour. However, in Egypt, access on and off the feluccas is by way of planks and steps, and you do need to be fairly mobile for this part of the trip.

## 6 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. There’s no point in us providing great guides if you’ve got to peer over 30-40 shoulders to see them! So, we won’t ever put you in a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and just one guide. Instead, we set our small-group departures to have a maximum of 18 travellers.

In Lebanon we provide fully trained, local English-speaking guides for all of the sightseeing tours. At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

In Egypt we provide fully trained, local English-speaking graduate Egyptologist guides to run your tour and escort you during all of the sightseeing in Cairo and the Nile Valley. We also have permanent local reps in all the main

towns/cities and Red Sea resorts who are also at your service, and will be handling all the practical arrangements for the tour. We use local Bedouin guides for tours through the desert.

On some departures we may use one guide in Cairo, and a second guide if you are travelling between Aswan and Luxor.

In Jordan, to accompany you on the tour we provide an English speaking local tour leader/driver and specialist guides in Jerash, Amman and Petra. Groups of 6 or more will have both a driver and a professional guide throughout the trip.

At Encounters Travel we only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

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## 7 Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

**Lebanon:**

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. If you visit any sites not mentioned in the itinerary then you will need to cover the entrance fee costs.

**Egypt:**

Our Small Group tours do not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. We do however normally include these in prices for Tailor-Made and Escorted tours. Please check the Inclusions and Exclusions section below the tour itinerary for a details about your tour and the amount you may need to budget. This amount is subject to change and will be reconfirmed in Egypt at the start of your tour. A 50% discount for minors or ISIC card holders is often, but not always available.

Your guide will be happy to collect payment for all the entrance fees at the start of the tour, and pay them for you as you go along if you wish. This payment is normally collected in US Dollars cash together with payment for any Tipping Kitty used on the tour, though you may also pay with Egyptian Pounds or other currencies, converted to USD. Local exchange rates are set on a monthly basis and based on local bank rates so may not match the exact rates you may find online on the day.

**Jordan:**

The tour price does not include entrance fees to the sites visited on the tour.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a **Jordan Pass** prior to your travel to Jordan. This is a special package that has been designed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for tourists visiting Jordan. As well as including a discounted package of entrance fees covering all the sites in Jordan that you will visit on this tour (plus many others), the Jordan Pass also provides free downloadable digital brochures on each attraction, plus a free tourist visa for entering the country (40JD if obtained on arrival in Jordan). It also allows us to speed up our entry to each site as if everyone has the Jordan Pass we won't need to queue for tickets.

A handful of sites that we visit on our tours are not covered by the Jordan Pass (eg. Mt. Nebo, St. George's Church at Madaba, and the Shawmuri & Azraq Reserves), so to keep things simple for you while you are in Jordan, where these are visited in our itineraries, the entry fees are included in your tour price. If you visit any other sites not covered by the Jordan Pass during your free time or on additional tours you arrange while in Jordan, you will need to pay the entrance fee at the site.

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** which is suitable for all our tours which visit Petra on one day is JD70 (approx. US$99). You should also check if your tour visits the Baptism Site at Bethany and if it does, add on the supplement for this site (an extra JD8, discounted from the JD12 payable at the site). Passes are available by completing a simple online form before you travel, taking care to make sure your passport details are entered correctly as this doubles as your visa application. Your Jordan Pass will then be emailed to you as a pdf document, which you should print out and bring with you. You will then need to show this print out at the immigration desk on arrival in Jordan to obtain your free entry visa, and also at each attraction where it will be scanned to confirm your entry. Obtain your Jordan Pass here

If you do not obtain the Jordan Pass before arriving in Jordan, you will need to pay the entry fees when you arrive at each site and also pay JD40 for your Jordan visa when you enter the country (or arrange your visa in advance).

More information about the Jordan Pass.

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## 8 Tipping

**Lebanon:**

Tipping is common practice in Lebanon, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. GBP 5 / USD 8 per person per day would be appropriate.

**Egypt:**

Tipping is very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs. To make our prices more transparent and so it is easier for you to budget and less hassle while in Egypt, on our small group tours we organise a 'Tipping Kitty' which needs to be paid as a local payment and will be around US$30-80 depending on the length of your trip. Payment is collected in US Dollars cash or can also be paid with Egyptian Pounds or other currencies converted to US Dollars at our local monthly exchange rate. This kitty provides tips for a wide range of people you'll meet along the tour including hotel porters, housekeeping staff, train and station staff, drivers, site guards, local reps etc. Please check the Included/Excluded notes below the tour itinerary for more information on how much to budget for this kitty.

Your Egyptologist guide (and Bedouin guides in the desert) is not included in this kitty and you may tip them at the end of your tour subject to your satisfaction with and appreciation of the service they have provided. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. USD 10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.

Children under the age of 12 do not need to pay this tipping kitty.

**Jordan:**

Tipping for services provided is part of the local culture in Jordan, is often expected, and will be very gratefully received. While the amount you tip is subject to your satisfaction with the services provided and your personal budget, we are often asked for help and guidelines and can therefore suggest that you allow approx.:

Tour guides: US$8-10 per person per day

Drivers: US$3-5 per person per day

Restaurants: 10% or leave the change

Petra horse boys: US$2-5 (we recommend against riding the horses for animal welfare and safety concerns, but the boys may still expect a tip)

## 9 What to take

**Lebanon:**

**Luggage**: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Lebanon. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips - you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

**Luggage limits**: There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Clothing:** The Lebanese climate varies widely from hot days in the summer to cold and wintry days in the winter. At night, especially in the mountains, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool and potentially wet conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required. Modesty rates highly in some parts of Lebanon, especially for women, so to respect the local culture and people, we recommend all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). When visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered. Bikinis and swimwear are however commonplace on some of the country's beaches.

**Other items**: We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

**Egypt:**

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Egypt. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips – you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

**Luggage limits:** There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Clothing:** Most of your time in Egypt will be in a hot climate. However, at night, and especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required on the cruise boats or in 5-star hotel restaurants. Long sleeves are recommended to protect from mosquitoes if you are on the felucca. Modesty rates highly in Egypt, especially for women, so to respect the local culture & people, please ensure all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). In the centre of Cairo, and when visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

**Other items:** If you will be travelling on a felucca then we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner all year round for comfort, and a light sleeping bag in the winter months (November to February). We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, small towel, money belt,

small torch, camera & charger.

**Jordan:**

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Jordan. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips - you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

**Luggage limits:** There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

**Clothing:** The climate in Jordan varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. At night, especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required. Modesty rates highly in Jordan, especially for women, so to respect the local culture and people, please ensure all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). When visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

**Other items:** If your tour includes an overnight Bedouin camp then bedding is provided but we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner for comfort all year round (even with the best efforts, sand does find its way pretty much everywhere). In the winter months, or if you think you would like to sleep under the stars instead of in your tent, then we recommend you bring a sleeping bag with you as it can get very cold at night. We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

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## 10 Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on Saturdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 18. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

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## 11 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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## 12 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

## 13 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 14 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

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## 15 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

**Covid-19**

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.**

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## 16 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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## 17 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

**How Water-to-Go Technology works:**

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

**The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:**

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

**Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide**

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

**Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!**

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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## 18 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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## 19 Passports and Visas - Egypt

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

We recommend that you contact your closest Egyptian consulate or embassy for current information for your nationality.

In general official advice is that all nationalities obtain their Egypt visas in advance, as we cannot guarantee that you can get them in the airport. An online e-visa is available through visa2egypt. Please do not use any other website as there are many scam sites offering Egypt e-visas.
In practice however, many nationalities (including British and European, Australian, New Zealand, USA) can and do obtain their visas on arrival in Cairo airport. The process is much quicker and simpler, the cost is currently **US$30 p/p** and must be paid in hard currency (i.e. GBP, USD or EUR) - you'll be given change in local currency if necessary. There are no forms to fill in and you don't need to bring passport photos. Visas are issued at one of the bank desks in the immigration hall, before you get to passport control. If flying into Cairo International Airport our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process.

**Important Update from 1st August 2026:**
As per the ongoing efforts to enhance visitor services and facilitate entry procedures into Egypt, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new Digital Visa-on-Arrival System.
The new system replaces the current paper visa sticker with a fully digital process, providing a faster, more efficient, and seamless arrival experience for international travelers.

**Pilot Phase:**
The pilot phase will start on 1 August 2026 at Cairo International Airport (all arrival terminals) as the first stage of implementation.
During this pilot phase, both the new digital system and the current paper visa system will operate in parallel for a limited period to ensure a smooth transition. The duration of the pilot phase will be announced in due course.
Following the successful completion of the pilot phase, the current paper visa-on-arrival system will be discontinued, and the digital system will become the standard visa-on-arrival process. The rollout to all other Egyptian airports will then take place gradually according to an implementation schedule, which will be shared with you in advance.

- **Key Features of the New System:**
  Travelers may obtain a Visa QR Code instead of the current paper sticker, this will be through: the official online portal (https://apps.visaonarrival.gov.eg/); the dedicated mobile application; or a self-service machine (SSM) located in Cairo International Airport arrival halls.
- After receiving the QR code; on email, or printed from the SSMs, it will be scanned by the passport control officer upon checking in with his/her passport.
- The QR Code may be issued before travel, onboard of a flight, or after arrival to the entry port, either by the traveler or through a travel agency.
- The QR Code will remain valid for up to 48 hours from the time of issuance.
- The total fees will be USD36, comprising: USD30 visa fee; and USD6 issuing and service fee (please note that whilst debit cards are accepted, credit cards are not).
- Once the new system is fully implemented, the current paper visa sticker will no longer be available.
- According to the progress of the Pilot Phase, we will announce the time plan for implementation in the other airports in Egypt.

All African & Indian nationals, and some others, will need to obtain their visas in advance.

For further information on your visa requirements, please either contact us or your local Egyptian embassy/consulate.

## 20 Money - Egypt

The local currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound, often denoted 'LE'. The Egyptian Pound can vary significantly in value against the British Pound, but sticks fairly close to the value of the US Dollar. You do not need to arrange to bring any Egyptian Pounds with you to Egypt, as change facilities are available in all the hotels, airports and banks. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Egypt you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Egyptian Pounds. You may also need to pay for the tour Tipping Kitty and site Entrance Fees while you are in Egypt. Payments for these may be made to your tour guide in hard currency (USD, GBP, EUR) at the start of your tour. Please see your tour Included/Excluded details for more information and guideline amounts for these.

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 21 Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

## 22 Time

The time in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon is GMT plus 2 hours and in UAE GMT plus 3 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

## 23 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination.  You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.
In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A
Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A
Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis
Lebanon: Dipheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

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## 24 Passports and Visas - Jordan

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

To promote tourism to the country, the Jordanian government has designed the **Jordan Pass**. This provides adults of most nationalities with a free single entry Jordan visa (for stays of 3 nights or more), a discounted package of entrance fees, and free digital brochures for the various sites in Jordan. Please check the Jordan Pass tour note for more information.

**Please note that whilst the Jordan Pass is recommended for the vast majority of our Jordan Tours where entrance fees are not included, this is not recommended for our Petra & the Bedouin Trail tour as entrance fees to Petra and Wadi Rum are already included in the cost of this tour.**

Double or multi entry visas for Jordan are no longer available and you will need to arrange two visas if you are doing a combination tour (eg. with Egypt and/or Israel) that visits Jordan more than once. Exceptions may occur if you are crossing to and from Israel via the King Hussein Bridge - please contact us for details.

If you wish to arrange your visa separately in advance, or if your stay will be shorter than four days/3 nights, then a visa fee of 40JD (approx. USD 57) will be due.

Families with children under 12 are recommended not to purchase the Jordan Pass for the children as entrance fees are not charged in Jordan for children under 12. Instead, the adults should purchase a Jordan Pass and we will arrange a free visa for the children which you will receive when we meet you on arrival into Amman airport.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Jordanian embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details. In addition, if you plan to enter Jordan via the southern Wadi Araba crossing (Eilat-Aqaba) or the Allenby Bridge/King Hussein border with Israel in the north, you will need to obtain your Jordan visa in advance as these are not available on arrival at the border.

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## 25 Money - Jordan

The local currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You do not need to arrange to bring any Jordanian Dinar with you to Jordan as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Jordan you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Jordanian Dinar, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

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## 26 Money - Lebanon

The local currency in Lebanon is the Lebanese Pound (called Lira). You do not need to arrange to bring any Lebanese currency with you as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge additional fees - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

Due to the huge recent devaluation of the Lebanese currency, if you withdraw money from an ATM or pay for things with your credit card you will be charged the official bank exchange rate which is very different to the actual operating rate used locally. We therefore recommend that you bring enough US Dollars or Euros in cash with you to cover your required spending money during the tour and do not plan to use your credit card while in Lebanon. You can change this hard currency to Lebanese pounds at the current rates while you are there - please ask your guide for assistance on appropriate places to change your money.

While in Lebanon you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in local currency, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 25-35 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 27 Transfers

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

## 28 Passports and Visas - Lebanon

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

For many nationalities visiting Lebanon a visa on arrival is possible at Beirut International Airport. This applies to most countries of the Commonwealth, European Union, Russia, Japan and the US continent. Even if you are eligible for a visa on arrival, it is prudent to check up to date requirements with your nearest Lebanese consulate.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Lebanese embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details.

IMPORTANT: The Government of Lebanon denies entry to Israeli passport holders, Israeli visa holders (valid or expired) and those with any evidence of travel to Israel within their passport.