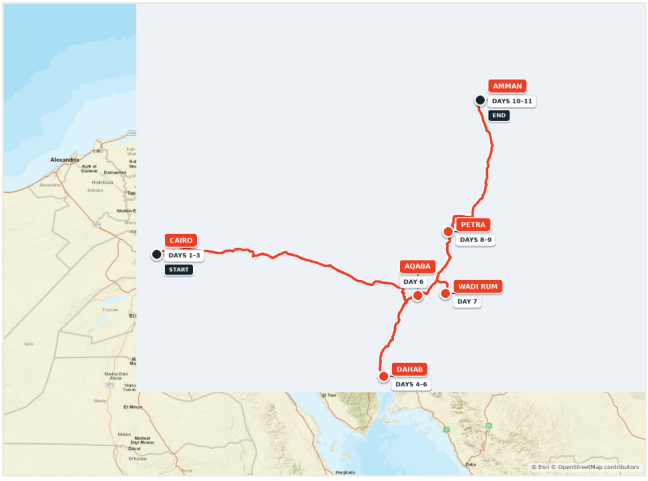
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Pyramids & Petra

COUNTRY(IES)	Egypt , Jordan
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	A/C car/minibus/coach, ferry & Bedouin jeep
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 14
DURATION	11 days
STARTS	Cairo, Egypt
ENDS	Amman, Jordan
MEALS	Breakfasts - 10, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 1

TOUR ROUTE MAP **11 Days**



ROUTE: **Cairo** (Start) → **Dahab** → **Aqaba** → **Wadi Rum** → **Petra** → **Amman** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Pyramids & Sphinx, Red Sea in Dahab, Jerash Roman ruins, Dead Sea swim, Wadi Mujib Siq Trail, Petra tour, Wadi Rum safari & camp,

Itinerary

DAY 1 — Welcome to Cairo! Hotel transfers Included

Arrive in Cairo and meet the local team at the airport, where assistance is provided with visas and luggage before the transfer to your city hotel. Once settled, the rest of the day is free to rest after travelling or explore nearby streets and cafés independently. The relaxed arrival gives you time to adjust to the capital before the organised sightseeing begins, while keeping the schedule free of fixed visits.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrive at Cairo International Airport**
  Arrival at Cairo International Airport with meet & assist for visa and luggage handling.
- **Transfer from 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 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
Cairo hotel	None	Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour, Single room supplement (JOSGJE18)

DAY 2 Pyramids, Sphinx and Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) tour

Start with a visit to the Giza Plateau for the three main pyramids and the Sphinx. Afterwards, travel into Cairo and spend the afternoon at the Egyptian Museum, where collections of ancient Egyptian objects provide further historical context after the archaeological site. The day is centred on two major experiences, first the monuments at Giza and then the museum holdings, without adding further sightseeing beyond those named.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Cairo to 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.
- **Explore 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.
- **Explore 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.
- **Explore 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.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Cairo hotel	Breakfast

DAY 3 Drive through Sinai to Dahab

Depart Cairo this morning for the drive to Dahab, a journey that takes you under the Suez Canal and through the Sinai region; if you prefer to fly, an optional Cairo to Sharm el Sheikh flight upgrade is also offered. The rest of the afternoon is free to relax by the hotel pool or the Red Sea beach, or to head into Assalah and enjoy the unique feel of this friendly village. The word Dahab in Arabic means gold and refers to the fine yellow sand that colours the beaches either side of the main bay, while the nearby Bedouin village of Assalah lies along the shore of Ghazala

Bay and is a holdings of campsites, hotels, restaurants, shops, dive-centres and bars, dotted with palm trees. It is here that you'll experience the Bohemian feel that makes Dahab so special, and most hotels provide shuttle buses while taxis to and fro are cheap as well. The evenings provide a perfect opportunity to try out some of the many restaurants and the excellent local seafood.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Cairo to 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 in 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 hotel	Breakfast

DAY 4 Dahab Free day (options available)

You have another free day in Dahab today, to relax or explore the local area further on another of our optional tours.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in 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 hotel	Breakfast

DAY 5 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.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in 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 hotel	Breakfast

DAY 6 Ferry to Jordan & overnight Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp

Travel along the scenic coastline of the Sinai Peninsula as you journey from Dahab to Taba Heights, passing stretches of rugged mountains and shimmering Red Sea views. On arrival at the border port, prepare to depart Egypt for your ferry across the Gulf of Aqaba, marking the transition from the Sinai deserts to the landscapes of Jordan.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Dahab to 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.
- **Travel from Ferry Taba to 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.

Aqaba Arrival & Wadi Rum Desert Camp

Enter Jordan at Aqaba and travel onwards to Wadi Rum for arrival at the Bedouin camp. The scenery changes quickly from the Red Sea coast to open desert, red sand and sandstone formations. Once at camp, the remaining time is free to settle in and enjoy the quieter surroundings before the desert activities that follow.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Aqaba to 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.
- **Free Time in Wadi Rum**
  Enjoy free time at your Wadi Rum desert camp. Relax, unwind, and take in the unique desert scenery. A peaceful evening surrounded by towering sandstone cliffs.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp	Breakfast,Dinner

DAY 7 A jeep safari and Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum, travel to Petra

After breakfast in the camp, set out on a jeep safari through the sands and beneath the towering jebels of Wadi Rum, stopping to climb sand dunes and to see some of the strange rock formations, including a spectacular rock bridge. Local activities inspired by Bedouin tradition follow, walking with a local shepherd and his sheep and goats to a Bedouin tent, and there is the chance to join in and learn about other traditional Bedouin activities such as shearing the sheep and goats’ hair, milking, grinding grains, making bread and roasting coffee. Finally, after really getting a feel for nomadic Bedouin life, return by jeep to the camp and drive on to Petra. En route there is a stop at the Petra Bakery, where you can watch the locals making traditional bread and have a light lunch. Tonight there is

the option of a spectacular and atmospheric introduction to Petra with the Petra by Night tour, walking through the Siq to the Treasury with the whole route lit by hundreds of candles.

ACTIVITIES

- **Jeep Safari and 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 from Wadi Rum to 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.
- **Explore 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.
- **Free Time in Petra**
  Relax for the evening in Petra with time to unwind, explore shops, or enjoy local cafés. Optional experiences such as Petra by Night are available for those seeking a magical introduction to the site.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Petra hotel	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 8 Reverse-route mountain hike to Petra via Little Petra

Visit Little Petra before transferring by jeep to the starting point for the back-route hike into Petra. The walk leads into the main archaeological area and continues through the Royal Tombs, Amphitheatre and Colonnaded Street before reaching the Treasury. Once the organised sightseeing is complete, the remaining time is free, allowing you to continue exploring independently without adding further scheduled activities.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Little Petra (Siq al in 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 from Little Petra to 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 from Little Petra to 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 Petra Main Sites (Royal Tombs, Amphitheatre and Colonnaded Street)**
  Explore the core of Petra, including the Royal Tombs, the Roman amphitheatre, and the ancient colonnaded street. These structures showcase the city's blend of Nabataean craftsmanship and Roman architectural influence. A central part of the guided visit.
- **Explore the Treasury (Al in 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.
- **Free Time in Petra**
  Relax for the evening in Petra with time to unwind, explore shops, or enjoy local cafés. Optional experiences such as Petra by Night are available for those seeking a magical introduction to the site.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Petra hotel	Breakfast

DAY 9 Dead Sea road to Wadi Mujib - Siq Trail Hike. Dead Sea 'swim'

After breakfast in Petra, follow the Dead Sea road north to Wadi Mujib, rewarded along the way with great views of the Salt Flats at the southern end of the Dead Sea. Continuing along the shores of the Dead Sea, the route reaches the visitor centre of Wadi Mujib, where you have time for lunch (not included) before entering the water and embarking on the hike. Descending into the gorge, you enter the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve, where between the months of April and October it is possible to take an exciting hike along the Siq Trail through the shallow waters that fill the narrow sandstone canyon; along the way you'll climb up small waterfalls where steps have been installed to make it easier, until eventually you reach the end of the gorge and can relax beneath a large waterfall. The entire hike generally takes two to three hours round trip, and a dry-bag (so your camera or mobile phone don't get wet) and water shoes are highly recommended , it is possible to hire a dry bag at the visitor centre for around US$7.00 and to purchase water shoes for US$7.00. Please note that in the months from November to March, when it isn't possible to hike along the Siq Trail, a visit to the Baptism site in Bethany is included instead: a relatively recently excavated site believed to be the biblical 'Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan' where John baptised Jesus Christ, where several churches, caves and pools dating from Roman and Byzantine periods have been discovered and where both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have visited, with an electric minibus taking you from the visitor centre to the three sites of Tell Mar Elias, the Baptism Pools and John the Baptist's Church. After a day of activities, continue to the resort right on the banks of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, where free time allows you to swim , or rather float , in its incredibly salty waters and to relax by the hotel pool; don't forget a newspaper or magazine for your iconic Dead Sea photo.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Petra to 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.

- **Explore 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 the 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 from Wadi Mujib to 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 and 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.
- **Free Time in Dead Sea**
  Enjoy free time at your Dead Sea resort, perfect for unwinding after a day of travel. Relax by the shore, enjoy the hotel's facilities, or explore the tranquil surroundings at your own pace.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Dead Sea hotel	Breakfast

DAY 10 Madaba, Mount Nebo and Roman Jerash

Visit Madaba for the mosaic at St George’s Church, then continue to Mount Nebo before travelling onwards to Jerash. The archaeological exploration includes the Oval Forum, colonnaded avenues, Nymphaeum and Temple of Artemis. Views from Mount Nebo depend on weather and visibility. Once the Jerash visit is complete, return to Amman and settle in for the evening.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Amman to Madaba**
  Travel to the nearby town of Madaba, known for its Byzantine mosaics and historic churches. This short drive marks the start of your day exploring central Jordan.
- **Explore 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 from Madaba to 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.

- **Explore 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 from Mount Nebo to 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.
- **Explore 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.
- **Explore 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.
- **Explore 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 from Jerash to Amman**
  Travel south from Jerash back to Amman, enjoying views of Jordan's hill country along the way.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Amman hotel	Breakfast

DAY 11 — Free time in Amman, hotel to airport transfer included

The morning is free in Amman, allowing time for rest, shopping or an independent café visit before departure. Bethany on the Jordan River remains an optional excursion when timing allows. Later in the day, meet the airport transfer and travel to the terminal for your onward flight, completing the final organised journey after your time in Jordan.

ACTIVITIES

- **Departure Transfer Amman to 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.
- **Departure from Amman Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Amman Airport, where you complete departure formalities and continue with your onward flight.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast	Extra day in Amman - post-tour - Standard level

INCLUDED

- 9 nights in 3 to 5-star hotels
- Overnight Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum in comfortable tents
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles (plus Bedouin jeeps in Wadi Rum)
- 4x4 jeep safari and Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum
- English speaking guide(s) in Jordan
- English speaking Egyptologist guide in Egypt
- International Ferry from Taba (Egypt) to Aqaba (Jordan)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

EXCLUDED

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (in Jordan - available free as part of the Jordan Pass)
- Entrance fees (budget $40 in Egypt, in Jordan a discounted package included in the Jordan Pass, available in advance for JD70)
- 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)
- Tips for tour guides in Jordan and Egypt
- Tipping kitty in Egypt (budget $40) and other tips in Jordan
- 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.

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)

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

Min numbers: 1

This tour provides a great contrast to the Pharaonic sites you have visited on the rest of your tour. We leave Cairo and head to the Fayoum region where we head for the Wadi Rayan Protected Area, which surrounds a fresh-water lake in the middle of the desert, filled by the remaining irrigation water from the Fayoum area. There are several waterfalls here (popular in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide which gives good views of the lakes birdlife, particularly in the winter months when the lake is an important stop for migrating water-birds. We also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, and host to many different plants and animals, including Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox and Fennec Fox. Before lunch, we'll make a stop in the sand dunes surrounding Wadi Rayan to have a go at Sandboarding. After a stop for a packed lunch, we then drive into the stunning desert & mountain scenery of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is accepted as the most significant site in the world to demonstrate the evolution of whales, and we take a 2-3km walk here to see several specimens of fossilised whales of different types sitting on the surface of the sand, as well as fossilised mangroves and the remains of crab holes.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged straight after you arrive back in Cairo from Luxor/Aswan from the overnight sleeper train. We can also arrange it on any tour if you add extra days before and after your main tour. Prices shown are based on 2 or more people travelling, with an additional supplement due for solo travellers.

Entrance fees are excluded, please budget $25 per person.

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 Cairo (5-star) - 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 Amman - 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 arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

Min numbers: 1

Escape the hustle and bustle of Amman for a real adventure, exploring the canyons of Wadi Mujib, following the famous Siq Trail.
Leaving Amman, we'll drive around 90 minutes to the shores of the Dead Sea where our journey along the Siq Trail begins from the Wadi Mujib visitors centre. Descending down into the gorge we enter the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve where between months of April and October it's possible to take an exciting hike through the shallow waters that fill the gorge. Along the way you'll climb up small waterfalls where steps have being installed to make it easier, until eventually you'll reach the end of the gorge where you can relax beneath a large waterfall. The entire hike generally takes 2 to 3 hours roundtrip.

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).

Note: On most tours it's necessary to add an extra night pre or post-tour to have enough time to take this tour. If you have a late departure on your final day however, it may be possible to visit Wadi Mujib on your departure day.

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 (local payment)

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.

Important Notes

1 Accommodation

The hotels used on this tour are rated at Egyptian 3-star level and 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.

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

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.

2 Transport

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. 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.

3 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. So, on our small group tours we won't ever put you in a full size coach packed with other people and just one guide. Having a smaller group size also allows us to stay in more interesting accommodation, like the homestay in Rasoun (on our Jordan Encounters Tour), and to include some activities and experiences that just wouldn't be possible with large numbers.

This tour has a minimum group size of 2, and maximum of 14.

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 Jordanian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

4 Activity level

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

In Dana Nature Reserve we take a walk around the village and depending on the weather may also spend an hour or two walking through the surrounding countryside. Trails are generally always dry and rocky.

In Petra, you will be doing a lot of walking to explore the site. The minimum distance you'll walk, from the entrance to the Siq, through the Siq to the Treasury, through the site to the Theatre and Byzantime church, and then back out again, is around 8km. If you would like to hike up to the Monastery, or High Place of Sacrifice, you should expect to add another 2 or 3km, much of it up or down. 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.

5 Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and maximum of 14. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website (please check for up-to-date prices and special offers).

The tour can also be run privately on any other dates for a small supplement, with the itinerary then being customisable to fit your personal requirements and budget.

6 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 include your 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.

On tours combining Jordan and Egypt we do not include the connecting flight between the two countries in the tour price (normally between Amman (AMM) and Cairo (CAI) - see the inclusions/exclusions or extension option sections for details). This flight can often be built into your main international flight ticket, or we may be able to book this flight for you separately if you prefer - please contact us and we will advise you on available airlines, times and prices.

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.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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7 Tipping

Jordan: Tipping is common practice in Jordan, 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. US$10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.

Egypt: Tipping is also very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs, and many people you meet along the way will expect and make it clear they are waiting for a tip. To make it easier for you to budget and to remove much of the stress and hassle of tipping lots of people as you go along, we collect a 'Tipping Kitty' at the start of

your time in Egypt. The kitty provides tips for a wide range of people you'll meet along the tour including hotel porters, train and station staff, drivers, site guards, local reps etc. Your guide will pay some of these tips as you go along on behalf of the group, and others are paid by our local reps in each location before or after your visit (eg. hotel housekeeping staff). Please check the Excluded section below the tour itinerary for a budget for this tour.
Your Egyptologist guide 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. Again you should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. As a guideline, approx. US$10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.
Children under the age of 12 do not need to pay this tipping kitty.

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8 Transfers

Our Egypt and Jordan tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Amman and Cairo airports, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers.

On arrival in Jordan our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Amman airport, before passport control. They will assist with visa formalities and then help you with your luggage and take you to your hotel.

On arrival in Egypt, our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport before you get to passport control. They will assist with visa formalities before helping you collect your luggage and taking you to your hotel.

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.

On our Shoestring group tours we do offer optional hotel upgrades in Jordan. This may mean that additional pick-up and drop-offs are required each day. We do endeavour to ensure that all hotels used are close to each other and to streamline and time arrangements to limit any extra driving time as much as possible.

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9 Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

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

Jordan:

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.

Egypt:

In Egypt, the tour price does not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. Please check the Exclusions section for a guide to the amount you should allow for this tour (a 50% discount for minors or ISIC card holders is often, but not always available and prices are changed from time to time). For your convenience, your guide will be normally collect payment for all the entrance fees in cash at the start of the tour, and pay them for you as you go along.

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10 What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Egypt and 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: Most of your time in Egypt will be in a hot weather, while the climate in Jordan varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. 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 4 or 5-star hotel restaurants. Long sleeves are recommended to protect from mosquitoes if you are on the felucca. Modesty rates highly in Egypt and Jordan, 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 Amman, and when visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: We recommend that you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, small towel, money belt, small torch, camera & charger. If you will be travelling on a felucca sailboat in Egypt 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). If your tour includes an overnight Bedouin camp in Jordan then

bedding (sheets, blankets, pillow) 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.

Footwear: For tours that are going on board a felucca sailboat, or walking on the Siq Trail in Wadi Mujib, we recommend that you bring some footwear that you don't mind getting completely wet. As there is a fair amount of walking involved on many of our tours in Jordan and Egypt, whether that be just sightseeing or some hiking, we recommend you bring comfortable walking shoes with you. You do not need any smart dress shoes, unless you want to visit some fancy restaurants and to dresss up accordingly.

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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.

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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).

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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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.
