

FREE GUIDE · OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

Planning Egypt from Australia & New Zealand

When to go, visas, flights, costs, safety, sample itineraries,
a packing checklist and the sights not to miss, from the
Egypt specialists at Noble Travel.

NOBLE TRAVEL

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When to go

October to April is Egypt's main season: warm, dry days and cool nights. November and March are the sweet spots; June to August is very hot in Luxor and Aswan but a good time for the Red Sea.

Month	Cairo high/low	Luxor high/low	Red Sea water	Crowds	Nile touring
January	19 / 9°C	23 / 7°C	22°C	Peak	Ideal
February	21 / 10°C	26 / 9°C	21°C	High	Ideal
March	24 / 12°C	30 / 13°C	22°C	High	Ideal
April	28 / 15°C	35 / 18°C	23°C	Shoulder	Good
May	32 / 18°C	39 / 22°C	25°C	Shoulder	Hot: go early
June	34 / 20°C	41 / 24°C	26°C	Low	Too hot for most
July	35 / 22°C	41 / 25°C	27°C	Low	Too hot for most
August	35 / 22°C	41 / 25°C	28°C	Low	Too hot for most
September	33 / 21°C	38 / 23°C	28°C	Low	Hot: go early
October	30 / 18°C	34 / 19°C	27°C	High	Very good
November	25 / 14°C	29 / 14°C	25°C	High	Ideal
December	21 / 10°C	24 / 9°C	22°C	Peak	Ideal

Typical averages, rounded. Month by month: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-weather/ · 2027 dates: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-tours-2027/

Visas for Australians

Yes, Australians need a visa for Egypt. At the time of writing you can apply online for an e-Visa through the official portal, visa2egypt.gov.eg, or buy a visa on arrival at major airports; a single-entry visa costs approximately US\$25. Your passport must be valid for at least six months from arrival. Always check the official portal and Smartraveller before you travel, as rules and fees can change.

Visa required?	Yes, for Australian passport holders
Options	Official e-Visa online, or visa on arrival
Single-entry fee	Approx. US\$25 at the time of writing
Official site	visa2egypt.gov.eg
Passport validity	At least 6 months from arrival
Sinai-only stamp	Free, for South Sinai resorts only, up to 15 days

Read more: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-travel-guide/egypt-visa-for-australians/

Visas for New Zealanders

Yes, New Zealanders need a visa for Egypt. At the time of writing, NZ passport holders can apply online for an e-Visa through the official portal, visa2egypt.gov.eg, or buy a visa on arrival at major airports, and a tourist visa typically allows up to 30 days. Your passport should be valid for at least six months from arrival. Check the portal and SafeTravel before you fly, as rules and fees change.

Visa required?	Yes, for New Zealand passport holders
Options	Official e-Visa online, or visa on arrival
Official site	visa2egypt.gov.eg
Fee	Set in US dollars; check the portal for the current amount
Passport validity	At least 6 months from arrival
Travel advice	SafeTravel: safetravel.govt.nz

Read more: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-travel-guide/egypt-visa-for-new-zealanders/

Flights from Australia

There are no direct flights from Australia to Egypt. Most travellers fly one-stop via a Gulf hub such as Dubai, Doha or Abu Dhabi into Cairo International Airport (CAI), with a total journey time of roughly 20–26 hours depending on your departure city and connection. Perth offers the shortest trip; east-coast cities add a few hours.

Direct flights?	No; at least one stop
Typical total time	About 20–26 hours
Main hubs	Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi; also Singapore, Istanbul
Main airport	Cairo International (CAI)
Newer airport	Sphinx International (SPX), west of Giza
Time difference	Egypt 7–9 hours behind Sydney

Read more: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-travel-guide/flights-australia-to-egypt/

What a trip costs

As an indicative guide, a 12–14 day Egypt trip from Australia costs roughly AUD 5,000–7,500 per person on a budget, AUD 8,000–13,000 mid-range and AUD 15,000–30,000+ for luxury, including return economy or business flights. Flights are usually AUD 1,600–3,500 in economy. Prices vary with season, exchange rates and availability, so treat these as typical ranges, not quotes.

Return economy flights	Indicatively AUD 1,600–3,500
Budget trip (12–14 days)	Indicatively AUD 5,000–7,500 pp
Mid-range trip	Indicatively AUD 8,000–13,000 pp
Luxury trip	Indicatively AUD 15,000–30,000+ pp
Biggest variables	Flight class, season, cruise category
Currency	Egyptian pound (EGP); US dollars widely used for tourism

Read more: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-travel-guide/cost-of-egypt-trip-from-australia/

Is Egypt safe?

The main tourist areas of Egypt, including Cairo, Giza, Luxor, Aswan and the Red Sea resorts, are visited safely by large numbers of travellers every year, and serious incidents involving tourists are rare. The most common problems are scams, persistent touts, chaotic traffic and stomach upsets. Check Smartraveller for the current advice level and areas to avoid before you book and again before you fly.

Official advice	Check smartraveller.gov.au for the current level
Main tourist areas	Cairo, Giza, Luxor, Aswan, Red Sea, Alexandria
Most common issues	Scams, touts, traffic, upset stomachs
Drinking water	Bottled or filtered only
Tourist police	Stationed at major sites; emergency number 126
Insurance	Comprehensive travel insurance is essential

Read more: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-travel-guide/is-egypt-safe/

Money and tipping

Tipping (baksheesh) is expected for almost every service in Egypt. As an indicative guide, tip a private Egyptologist guide around US\$10–20 (AUD 15–30) per person per day, a driver US\$5–10 (AUD 8–15) per day, Nile cruise crew around US\$5–10 per guest per night into the shared box, 10% at restaurants on top of any service charge, and 10–20 EGP for toilet attendants.

Local term	Baksheesh – a tip, gratuity or small payment for a favour
Best currency	Egyptian pounds for small tips; USD or EGP for guides and crews
Restaurants	About 10% in cash, even when a service charge is added
Guides	Indicatively US\$10–20 (AUD 15–30) per person per day
Toilet attendants	Indicatively 10–20 EGP
Caveat	Amounts are indicative; the EGP exchange rate moves often

Read more: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-travel-guide/tipping-in-egypt/

Sample itineraries

Three proven private routes. Every Noble Travel journey can be changed to suit your dates, pace and interests.

Essential Egypt in 8 Days: Cairo, Giza, Luxor & Aswan

1. **Day 1** Arrive in Cairo
2. **Day 2** Pyramids of Giza and the Grand Egyptian Museum
3. **Day 3** Saqqara, Dahshur and Khan el-Khalili
4. **Day 4** Fly to Luxor, Karnak and Luxor Temple
5. **Day 5** Luxor West Bank: Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut
6. **Day 6** Drive to Aswan via Edfu and Kom Ombo
7. **Day 7** Abu Simbel and a sunset felucca
8. **Day 8** Philae Temple, fly to Cairo and depart

www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-tours/essential-egypt-8-days/

Classic Egypt & Nile Cruise: 12 Days from Cairo to Abu Simbel

1. **Day 1** Arrive in Cairo
2. **Day 2** Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx
3. **Day 3** Grand Egyptian Museum
4. **Day 4** Saqqara, Memphis, Dahshur and Old Cairo
5. **Day 5** Fly to Luxor and board your Nile cruise
6. **Day 6** Valley of the Kings and the Esna lock
7. **Day 7** Edfu and Kom Ombo
8. **Day 8** Aswan: High Dam, Philae and a felucca
9. **Day 9** Abu Simbel
10. **Day 10** Nubian village and a free afternoon
11. **Day 11** Fly to Cairo
12. **Day 12** Depart Cairo

www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-tours/classic-egypt-nile-cruise-12-days/

Egypt & Red Sea in 14 Days: Pyramids, Nile Cruise and El Gouna

1. **Day 1** Arrive in Cairo
2. **Day 2** Pyramids and the Grand Egyptian Museum
3. **Day 3** Saqqara, Dahshur and Khan el-Khalili
4. **Day 4** Fly to Aswan, embark your Nile cruise
5. **Day 5** Abu Simbel and Kom Ombo
6. **Day 6** Edfu, Esna lock and Luxor
7. **Day 7** Valley of the Kings, disembark
8. **Day 8** Drive to El Gouna
9. **Day 9** Giftun Islands snorkelling
10. **Day 10–12** Red Sea at leisure
11. **Day 13** Fly to Cairo
12. **Day 14** Depart Cairo

www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-tours/egypt-and-red-sea-14-days/

Build your own route: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-itinerary-builder/

Twenty sights not to miss

Great Pyramid of Khufu. The Great Pyramid was built for the Fourth Dynasty king Khufu around 2560 BC and stood about 146 metres high, the tallest structure on earth for nearly 4,000 years.

Great Sphinx of Giza. The Great Sphinx is a lion with a king's head carved from the bedrock of the Giza plateau, about 73 metres long and 20 metres high, and most Egyptologists attribute it to Khafre around 2500 BC.

Saqqara Necropolis and the Step Pyramid. Saqqara is the vast burial ground of ancient Memphis, about 45 minutes' drive south of the Giza Plateau, used for more than 3,000 years.

The Egyptian Museum, Tahrir Square. The Egyptian Museum on Tahrir Square is Cairo's original museum of antiquities, opened in 1902 and still open with tens of thousands of objects.

Khan el-Khalili and Islamic Cairo. Khan el-Khalili is Cairo's great medieval bazaar, a maze of lanes in the heart of Islamic Cairo trading since the 14th century.

Karnak Temple Complex. Karnak is the vast temple complex of the god Amun-Ra on Luxor's East Bank, built and extended by around 30 pharaohs over some 2,000 years.

Luxor Temple. Luxor Temple is the great temple in the centre of Luxor, built mainly by Amenhotep III and Ramesses II and linked to Karnak by the 2.7 km Avenue of Sphinxes.

Valley of the Kings. The Valley of the Kings is the royal burial ground of the New Kingdom pharaohs, a desert valley on Luxor's West Bank where more than 60 tombs have been found, including Tutankhamun's.

Temple of Hatshepsut (Deir el-Bahari). The Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari is the terraced mortuary temple of Egypt's most powerful female pharaoh, set dramatically against the cliffs of Luxor's West Bank.

Medinet Habu. Medinet Habu is the mortuary temple of Ramesses III on Luxor's West Bank, one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt, with a fortress-like gate, deeply cut battle reliefs and ceilings that still hold much of their original colour.

Edfu Temple (Temple of Horus). Edfu Temple is the Temple of Horus, the falcon god, built between 237 and 57 BC on the west bank of the Nile roughly halfway between Luxor and Aswan.

Kom Ombo Temple and Crocodile Museum. Kom Ombo is a rare double temple on a bend of the Nile about 45 km north of Aswan, dedicated to two gods at once: Sobek the crocodile god and Haroeris, Horus the Elder.

Philae Temple (Temple of Isis). Philae is the Temple of Isis, a Ptolemaic and Roman sanctuary on Agilkia Island just south of Aswan, reached by a short motorboat ride.

Temple of Nefertari, Abu Simbel. The Temple of Nefertari is the smaller of the two rock-cut temples at Abu Simbel, carved for Ramesses II's chief queen and the goddess Hathor.

Temple of Hathor at Dendera. The Temple of Hathor at Dendera, about 60 km north of Luxor, is one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt, with its roof intact, brilliantly coloured astronomical ceilings and a rooftop chapel holding a cast of the famous Dendera zodiac.

Temple of Seti I at Abydos. The Temple of Seti I at Abydos, about 170 km north of Luxor, holds the finest painted raised relief in Egypt and the Abydos King List, a roll call of 76 earlier pharaohs.

Citadel of Qaitbay. The Citadel of Qaitbay is a Mamluk sea fort built in the late 1470s by Sultan al-Ashraf Qaitbay at the mouth of Alexandria's Eastern Harbour, on the very spot where the Lighthouse of Pharos stood.

White Desert National Park. White Desert National Park is a protected area of roughly 3,000 km² north of Farafra Oasis in Egypt's Western Desert, where wind has carved an ancient chalk seabed into pinnacles nicknamed the Mushroom and the Chicken.

Ras Mohammed National Park. Ras Mohammed National Park protects the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, where the Gulf of Suez meets the Gulf of Aqaba, and its reef walls are among the best dive and snorkel sites in the Red Sea.

St Catherine's Monastery. St Catherine's Monastery is a Greek Orthodox monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai, built under Emperor Justinian in the 6th century around the bush venerated as the Burning Bush.

All 129 sight guides, on a map: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-map/

Packing checklist

The essentials for any season. Add a warm jacket from November to March, and see our builder for cruise, desert, Red Sea and family extras.

- ☐ Passport valid 6+ months beyond your trip, with spare pages
- ☐ Egypt e-Visa printout or your visa plan
- ☐ Travel insurance certificate and the insurer's 24-hour number
- ☐ Two bank cards on different networks
- ☐ Some clean US dollar notes
- ☐ Small Egyptian pound notes for tips
- ☐ Printed and digital copies of documents, stored separately
- ☐ Loose, breathable tops that cover the shoulders
- ☐ Light long trousers, or a maxi skirt or dress
- ☐ A light scarf or shawl for sun, dust and modesty
- ☐ Broken-in walking shoes
- ☐ Sandals for hotels and evenings
- ☐ One smarter outfit for nice dinners
- ☐ Sleepwear, underwear and socks
- ☐ SPF 50+ sunscreen (Australian brands are hard to find there)
- ☐ SPF lip balm and sunglasses
- ☐ Prescription medicines in original packaging, with a doctor's letter
- ☐ Oral rehydration salts and your doctor's advice for stomach upsets
- ☐ Blister plasters, antiseptic and a few bandages
- ☐ After-sun or aloe gel, moisturiser and eye drops
- ☐ Insect repellent for Nile evenings and the oases
- ☐ Hand sanitiser and pocket tissues
- ☐ Two type C plug adaptors (Egypt is 220V)
- ☐ Multi-port USB charger and spare cables
- ☐ Power bank, in your hand luggage
- ☐ Unlocked phone for a local SIM or travel eSIM
- ☐ Offline maps downloaded
- ☐ Headphones for the long flights
- ☐ Spare camera batteries and memory cards
- ☐ One medium soft-sided suitcase per person
- ☐ A backpack or crossbody bag that zips closed
- ☐ A change of clothes, medicines and chargers in your carry-on

Personalised list: www.nobletravel.com.au/egypt-packing-list-builder/

Ready to plan your Egypt trip?

Tell us your dates and interests and an Egypt specialist will send you a private, day-by-day itinerary with a quote in Australian dollars.

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Information correct at the time of writing (October 2026). Visa rules, prices and opening hours change: check official sources such as smartraveller.gov.au and safetravel.govt.nz before you travel.