



EGYPT

Capital: Cairo

Language: Arabic

Population: 100 million

Time Zone: EST plus 7 hours

Currency: Egyptian Pound (EGP or LE)

Electricity: 220V. 50Hz

Fun Facts



- Ancient Egyptians used cosmetics as far back as 5,000 years ago.
- Egyptians were among the very first people to invent writing, along with ink and paper.
- The earliest known wine cellars have been discovered in Egypt.
- Egyptians are known to have invented the 365-days calendar and the 24-hour division of the day.

The land of the pharaoh and the cradle of civilization dates back more than 5,000 years, a unique combination of mystery and beauty. Throughout the centuries, the culture of ancient Egypt has fascinated the whole world. Some of the greatest monuments in the history of mankind are found here: the temples at Karnak and Luxor, the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, and the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramids.

Situated in northeast Africa, Egypt is at the junction of the land routes joining Africa to the Near and Middle East. It covers an area of approximately 386,000 square miles with a population of about 100 million people. Egyptian weather is gloriously sunny year round with star-studded night skies. Its people are very proud of their ex-president and unforgettable hero Anwar Sadat, who won the Nobel Prize for peace. The novelist Naqib Mahfouz won the 1988 Nobel Prize for literature. Egypt is the principal filmmaking country in the Arab world.

Egypt offers a variety of cuisine—from international to spicy Middle-Eastern recipes—and memorable highlights. Imagine a camel ride in the desert to enjoy the "Heat of Egypt" or a felucca ride on the Nile. It is one of the best places to shop for cotton clothing, gold and silver jewelry, handmade carpets, perfumes, and, of course, papyrus.

VISAS, PASSPORTS, AND OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A visa for your visit to Egypt is **necessary** for US citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Egypt.

In general, going through a visa service is more expensive but it offers convenience and peace of mind. If you choose to go this route, we recommend contacting Generations Visa Services (GenVisa), our preferred partner for visa and passport services, at least 90 days prior to departure. GenVisa has a special website and toll-free number. Call 800.845.8968, email info@genvisa.com, or visit their below websites for additional information. Our travelers receive discounted prices and other special services:

- For Globus, visit: genvisa.com/globus

All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Most countries require that the passport be valid for at least six (6) months beyond the conclusion of your trip, so please check the expiration



date carefully. It is also recommended you have a minimum of three blank pages in your passport when traveling, as many countries require blank pages. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room. Most countries have laws that require you to carry your passport with you at all times.



COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Egypt is 20. When calling to Egypt from overseas, dial your international access code (011 from the US/Canada), followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Egypt are 8-10 digits in length. Dialing from the US/Canada: 011 20+##+###+####.



CURRENCY

The currency throughout Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (LE).

Bank hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday through Thursday.

1 EGYPTIAN POUND (LE) = 100 Piastres

- Banknote denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 LE
- Coin denominations: 50 Piastres; 1 LE

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our website at globusfamily.com/currency.

You may find that U.S. Dollars or Euro are accepted alongside local currency (Egyptian Pounds) but use of them may come at a premium. Credit cards (mostly Visa and MasterCard) are becoming more widely accepted (in the more high-end establishments), but they should be used with caution, due to the prevalence of fraud. Most transactions will need to be made in cash.

For ATM transactions, bring your PIN code(s) consisting of numbers, NOT letters, as ATMs in Egypt have numerical key pads only. Money exchange is usually available at hotels.



BUDGETING AND SHOPPING

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

- The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is 9-15 LE.
- An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately 55 LE.
- Dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately 85 LE.

Shopping specialties: pottery, blown glass, jewelry, papyrus, carpets, leather goods and basketware.

Prices in market shops and souks are usually not fixed and you are expected to bargain with the vendor - all part of the fun of Egypt!

Counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available; be aware that under local law transactions involving such products may be illegal, and bringing them home may result in confiscation and fines.



TIPPING

In Egypt, it is common for all service personnel to ask for a tip for any service or help offered (“baksheesh”). It is recommended you tip a small amount unless you feel service was very bad.

- Restaurants in Egypt add a service charge to the bill. However, it is common to add an additional tip on top of that (12% is usually an acceptable amount). Tips should be left in cash and not added to the credit card payment.
- For taxis, round up fares to the nearest figure on the meter. It is best to negotiate the fare in advance to avoid being overcharged at your destination.
- For hotel staff, a tip of 10 LE for doormen and room service is usually acceptable.
- Restroom attendants expect a small gratuity as well. 3 LE is a common tip.

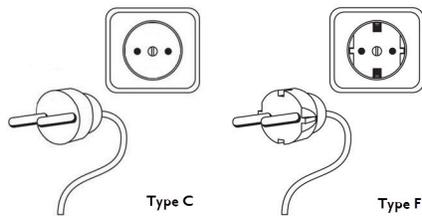


ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Outlets

Voltage for outlets is 220V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, you will need a converter for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet, but these may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary.

Plug points in Egypt usually look like:



TEMPERATURES

The climate is semi desert in the Cairo region, temperate along the Nile Valley, and desert in the South of the country. Winter (October-February) is mostly sunny and warm, with occasional rainfall. To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Egypt.

Cairo

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
45/66°F	47/69°F	54/75°F	56/83°F	62/90°F	68/95°F	71/96°F	71/95°F	68/89°F	63/85°F	57/78°F	49/69°F

To convert to Celsius, subtract 30, then divide by 2. While not exact, this simple formula will give a close estimation.



CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

Visitors are advised to dress and behave conservatively, consistent with local custom and sensitivities (women should be seen with a companion to avoid unwelcome attention). Women should be aware that sitting in the front passenger seat of a taxi could be misinterpreted by the driver.

During Ramadan, discretion should be exercised between sunrise and sunset by not eating, drinking or smoking in public.

Flash photography is prohibited at museums and tombs. Video filming, where allowed, will usually incur a charge.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Bean/lentil/couscous/chickpea dishes including hummus; kofta, kebabs, lamb, chicken, and pigeon dishes; grilled aubergines; milk custard and rice pudding; kahwa (thick, strong coffee), shay bil na'na' (mint tea), and karkaday (red drink from hibiscus flowers).



A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

Arabic (pronounced as):

Good morning: Sabah el khair, **Good evening:** Masaa el khair, **Thank you:** Shokrun, **Please:** Men Fadluck, **Yes:** Aiwa, **No:** La, **Excuse me:** Asif, **Do you speak English?:** Be'tetkalem englizi?, **I don't understand:** Ana mosh fahem, **Please write it down:** Ekteb hali men fadlak, **How much is this?:** Bikam dah?, **1:** Wahed, **2:** Ethnein, **3:** Thalàtha, **4:** Arba'a, **5:** Hamsà, **6:** Seta, **7:** Seba'a, **8:** Thamània, **9:** Tesa'a, **10:** Ash'ra, **20:** Eshreen, **30:** Thalatheen, **40:** Arbae'en, **50:** Hamseen, **60:** Seteen, **70:** Sabèen, **80:** Thamanen, **90:** Tesa'een, **100:** May'a, **150:** May'a u hamseen, **200:** Metein, **Where is...?:** Fain...?, **Telephone:** Telephone, **Bathroom:** Hammam, **Bottled water:** Maya maadaneya, **Tea:** Shaay, **Coffee:** Ahwa.

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE COUNTRY INFORMATION

Additional country-specific information for US citizens can be found on the US Government's website www.travel.state.gov. Here, you can find the most up-to-date information about destination descriptions, passports/visas, safety and security, transportation, travel local laws, alerts/warnings, vaccinations, and more. For citizens of other nations, we recommend you consult your local consulate for travel information, regulations, and requirements.

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