DELVE DEEP: EGYPT

TOPDECKER, meet Middle East & North Africa (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. The pyramids, the Sphinx, the Nile... they're all here. But where are you? You've seen them in books. You've seen them in documentaries. You've seen them in movie after movie after movie. But experiencing them in real life = a whole different level of AMAZING. Ancient, archaeological and wall-to-wall ICONIC, this sure as hell isn't your average holiday. But then – you're not your average traveller.

WORTH NOTING...

Psst! All our Egyptian Topdeck Trip Leaders are qualified Egyptologists. Meaning? You're gonna have more fact-filled days than you can poke a mummified finger at. This trip includes an overnight stay aboard a traditional felucca sailing boat – don't

WHAT YOU **NEED TO KNOW**

Delve Deep

8 Nights

Download app

12 Meals

forget to pack a sleeping bag. Sweet!

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?

The countdown's on…

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Airport transfers
- Visit the Egyptian Museum
- Walking tour of the pyramids and Sphinx with Trip Leader
- Visit Aswan Bazaar
- Kayaking on the Nile
- Visit the Temples of Abu Simbel
- Felucca sailing (sleeping bag recommended)
- Visit the Valley of the Kings
- Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut
- Visit the Colossi of Memnon

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Cairo
Egypt

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Cairo
Egypt

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Egypt - EGP

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | CAIRO (EGYPT)

This is your chance to delve deeper, to explore more. To experience a new and exotic destination to the absolute fullest. Ladies and gents - welcome to Egypt. Spot your Topdeck Rep at the airport (hint: they're holding a placard with your name on it). Then: dump your stuff at the hotel and meet your fellow explorers by the pool. Tonight, we'll dig into our first included group dinner at a local restaurant. Time to talk tombs, swap pharaoh facts, and discover how many times everyone's watched The Mummy.

MEALS:

- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Airport transfers

DAY 2 | CAIRO – OVERNIGHT COACH TO ASWAN

You've read about them in books. Seen them in documentaries. And watched them play backdrop to movie after movie. But today, you're gonna experience the AMAZING Pyramids of Giza in real life. First though, we'll get the low-down on the world's largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities at the Egyptian Museum. Then: prepare to feel insignificant (in the best possible way) as you stand before the Great Pyramids and the legendary Sphinx. We mentioned your Trip Leader is a qualified Egyptologist, right? So, our walking tour is gonna be filled with allll the fascinating facts. Win! After a full day of exploring, we'll jump on an overnight coach to Aswan. Note to self: bring a neck pillow and plenty of snacks - this one's a long one.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Egyptian Museum
- Walking tour of the pyramids and Sphinx with Trip Leader

DAY 3 | ASWAN

Disembark our noble steed, freshen up at the hotel and slip on your Birks - we're gonna take a wander around the jumble of antique storefronts and brightly coloured stalls of Aswan Bazaar. After, we're heading out on the Nile for a spot of kayaking. Then? The rest is 100% up to you. Need some suggestions? Explore the Temple of Isis in nearby Philae. Then check out the beaut sound and light show at the temple complex. If you're keen to delve a bit deeper into the unique culture here, opt to visit a Nubian village and tuck into dinner with the locals. This is as authentic as it gets.

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Aswan Bazaar
- Kayaking on the Nile

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Temple of Isis in Philae: from 45 USD
- Watch the Sound & Light Show at Philae Temple: from 55 USD
- Visit a Nubian village (with traditional Nubian dinner): from 20 USD

DAY 4 | ASWAN, INCLUDING ABU SIMBEL

Crank the ancient history knob a little higher - today we're exploring the great temples of Abu Simbel. Carved within the mountains on the bank of the Nile, these babies are full of WOW factor. Take it alllll in as we wander through the great halls of the Great Temple of Ramses II and gape at the detail within the Temple of Hathor - dedicated to Ramses' favourite wife: Queen Nefertari. Later, get the gang together for a wander along Aswan's Corniche in search of a riverside terrace for dinner. Our Trip Leader knows where to get the best fattah. Or watch the sunset from the Ferial Gardens. This is livin'.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Temples of Abu Simbel

DAY 5 | ASWAN – FELUCCA SAILING

Imagine: the sun on your back, the wind in your sails and THE BEST people you could ever hope to meet sharing stories, food and music in one rug-strewn love-in. Today, we're ditching the wheels and embarking on a journey down the Nile - aboard a traditional wooden felucca boat, of course. Pull up a cushion, turn off the tech and lose yourself in the moment as we watch rural Egyptian life play out along the banks of this mighty river. After plenty of home-cooked food, swim stops and games of UNO with the gang - we'll spend the night under a star-filled sky. This is the real Egypt. *Felucca facts: You're spending the night on a traditional wooden boat. Meaning? No cabins. The boat's broad canvas sails offer shade and protection from the elements by day. And by night, we'll sleep outdoors on comfy mattresses - so don't forget a sleeping bag. And for other... things? DW there's toilets and somewhere for you to freshen up on board.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Felucca sailing (sleeping bag recommended)

DAY 6 | FELUCCA SAILING – LUXOR

Wake to the sun rising slowly over the Nile and enjoy the fresh air lapping at our felucca's sails. After breakfast, there's an optional pit stop at Kom Ombo for a look at the Temple and Crocodile Museum. Or why not check out Edfu Temple that's dedicated to the mighty Horus instead? Then, it's onwards to INCREDIBLE Luxor. They say this place is the world's greatest open-air museum -?and you've got all afternoon free to uncover what 'they' mean. Explore the ancient temple of Karnak on an optional visit -stick around for the sound and light show later if you want. Or do your own thing and head to Egypt's largest Pharaonic temple or the fascinating Luxor Museum. Tonight, dinner is on you - so get the crew together and hunt down a local restaurant for some fiteer (aka Egyptian pizza). Mmmm.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Kom Ombo Temple: prices available locally
- Visit Edfu Temple: prices available locally
- Visit Karnak Temple: from 35 USD
- Experience the Karnak Temple Sound & Light Show: from 45 USD

DAY 7 | LUXOR – HURGHADA

Another day, another bucket-list item well-and-truly ticked off the list. Insert: Valley of the Kings. We'll spend the morning getting schooled on the funerary rites of the ancient Egyptians and the many hieroglyphics painted throughout three significant royal tombs - including Hatshepsut Temple and the Colossi of Memmon. Give a silent salute to Queen Hatshepsut (who ruled ancient Egypt for 20 years), before we jump back on the coach and hit the road to Hurghada. Want to explore? We got you. An optional walking tour with a local guide will give you alllll the inside knowledge on this coastal paradise. Or spend the afternoon horizontal by the pool or beachside. And later? Dinner's on us. Get. In.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Valley of the Kings
- Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut
- Visit the Colossi of Memnon

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Locally guided tour of Hurghada: from 30 USD

DAY 8 | HURGHADA – CAIRO

Disclaimer: we're out of here this afternoon. So don't waste a sun-soaked second. Spend the morning discovering the Old Town of El Dahar, chock-full of local restaurants, shops, and a traditional souk (read: market) selling leather, spices and shisha pipes. Heard about the incredible Red Sea diving here? Yeah, us too. Jump aboard an optional snorkelling boat trip and explore the abundance of marine life and coral reefs for yourself. Waterlogged and sunkissed, finally we'll make a beeline back to Cairo for our last group dinner at a local eatery. What. A. Week.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hurghada snorkelling boat trip: from 90 USD

DAY 9 | CAIRO

You came. You saw. You embraced it all. And now, just like that, it's all over. Get down to breakfast and swap those digits with your trip mates - you'll be catching up later for sure. Where to next? We've got Delve Deep trips in Morocco and Turkey, timed perfectly so you can hop straight over. Just saying...

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple **https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866**

Android **https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en**

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, remember to avoid walking alone – particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking – and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana – even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip immediately. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER: if you are found in possession of drugs, not only do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!

- Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home too – so they're sure to know some tried- and-tested ways to beat the blues
- Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: **https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely**

RESPECT ON THE ROAD

RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow tripmates . The golden rules? Respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation, and treat others how you'd wish to be treated. Easy!

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome adventure AND a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your room towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets, and book tours and activities run by local guides
- Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

Head to our FAQ for more info: **https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0**

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: **https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact**

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements: **https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions**

PLEASE NOTE: some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- 4 shirts/T-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear
- 1 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear

THAT'S IT!