



TOPDECKER, meet Middle East & Nth Africa

Is this trip for you? TIMELESS. MAGICAL. MOMENTOUS.

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.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a principal
package.

This trip includes an overnight stay aboard a traditional felucca sailing boat - don't forget to pack a sleeping bag. Sweet!

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Visit the Egyptian Museum
- + See the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau
- + Visit Aswan Bazaar
- + Visit the Temples of Abu Simbel
- + Overnight stay on a traditional Felucca (sleeping bag recommended)
- + Visit the Valley of the Kings
- + Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut
- + Visit the Colossi of Memnon

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Airport transfers
- + Visit the Egyptian Museum
- + Walking tour of the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau
- + Visit Aswan Bazaar
- + 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



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | CAIRO, EGYPT

This is your chance to dive 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). Dump your stuff at the hotel and meet the gang by the pool. We may be a small group of misfits, but we're all in it together – the way it's supposed to be. Tonight, head to Khan el-Khalili to explore the maze of colourful stalls or seek out a backstreet restaurant serving koshari. It tastes wayyy better than it looks, trust us.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Airport transfers

DAY 2 | CAIRO TO ASWAN VIA OVERNIGHT COACH

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 alllll the fascinating facts. Win! After a full day of exploring, we'll get cosy with our trip mates 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 at Giza Plateau

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 miss-match of antique storefronts and brightly coloured stalls of Aswan Bazaar. Then? The rest is 100% up to you. But if you need some suggestions, we got you. You could explore the Temple of Isis in nearby Philae. Or head out on the Nile for a spot of kayaking. Keen to delve a bit deeper into the unique culture here? Opt in to visit a Nubian village and tuck into dinner with the locals. This is as authentic as it gets.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Aswan Bazaar



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Visit the Temple of Isis in Philae: from 57 USD
- + Visit a Nubian village (with traditional Nubian dinner): from 36 USD
- + Kayaking on the Nile: from 30 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 TO 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 a toilet and shower on board.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Felucca sailing (sleeping bag recommended)

DAY 6 | FELUCCA SAILING TO LUXOR

Wake to the sun rising slowly over the Nile and enjoy the fresh air lapping at our felucca's sails. After breakfast, we'll make a pit stop at Kom Ombo for an optional look at the Temple and Crocodile Museum. 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:
from prices available locally
+ Visit Karnak Temple: from 70
USD
+ Experience the Karnak
Temple Sound & Light Show:
from 30 USD

DAY 7 | LUXOR TO 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 Memnon. 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. Tonight, we'll get the gang together for an included dinner. Sweet!



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 TO CAIRO

Disclaimer: we're out of here this afternoon. So, don't waste a sun-soaked second. Spend the morning topping up the tan by the pool or staring out to sea under a thatched beach umbrella. 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, we'll catch up on some zzzs on the drive back to Cairo.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Hurghada snorkelling boat trip: from 70 USD

DAY 9 | CAIRO

You came. You saw. You embrace 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?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

MEALS

Breakfasts are included every day on most trips (except on the first morning). A typical breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yoghurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, cheese and a range of spreads, with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast, though on some occasions there may be some hot food available as well.

Included evening meals are in local restaurants or your place of accommodation. In most cases table water is provided with the meals, and if you wish to purchase additional drinks you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your travel agent or Topdeck Customer Service Consultant when you book. But please be aware that although we will do everything in our power to arrange it, we cannot guarantee that every restaurant we use will be able to cater to all dietary needs. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

Your included meals are detailed in the 'More Inclusions' section of this document.

Important note on Ramadan: As many Middle Eastern countries are of Islamic faith, it is important to remember that many restaurants and shops will either be closed or operating on reduced hours during this time. Some Optional and Included Activities may also be affected. Despite some of these restraints, Ramadan is an incredibly important and sacred month for Muslims. When equipped with some basic knowledge, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in this special tradition and experience all its highlights.

TIPPING

NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing

better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, 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 details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck 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.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

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

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers 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. 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 could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn'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 again.

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 of 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 (trust us).

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 holiday AND have 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 hotel 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!

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

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 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.

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.

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!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 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 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



THAT'S IT!