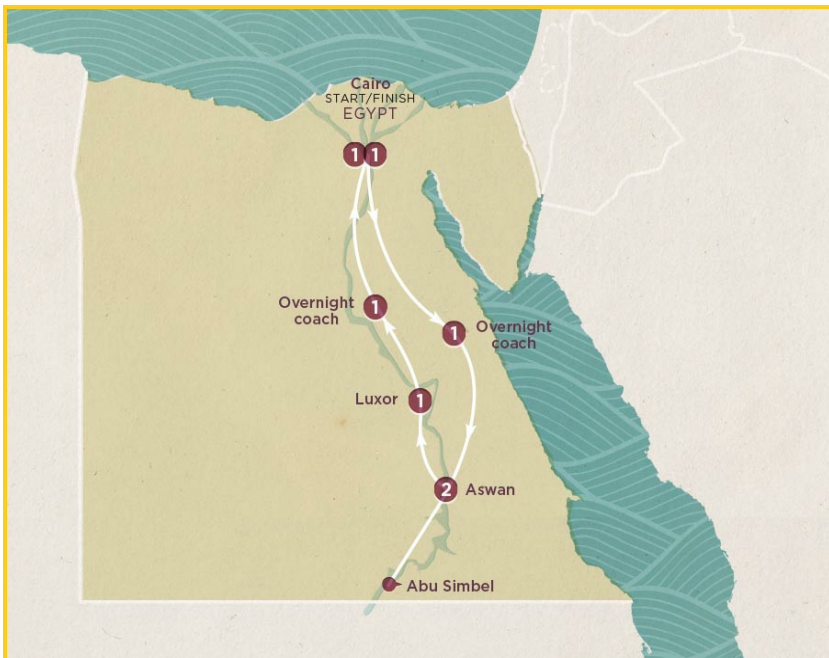


Topdeck

ESSENTIAL EGYPT



TOPDECKER, meet Commissionable

Wanna discover the highlights of Egypt in style? Topdeck's Essential Egypt trip is the one for you! Starting and ending in Cairo, this awesome short trip includes guided tours of the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, the Valley of the Kings, Luxor, the temples of Abu Simbel and more. Trust us "C this trip is made of 100% bucket list material!

WORTH NOTING...

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees need to be paid locally in Egypt. If you have a valid student card, remember to bring it with you as you will receive discounts to some museums and monuments. You can expect entrance fees for your whole trip be to between 507 EGP - 1547 EGP.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sail & Swim



Nights



Download app



Meals

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 transfer
- Visit Coptic Cairo
- Visit Khan el-Khalili market
- Felucca boat ride
- Visit a Nubian village
- Visit Karnak and Luxor temples
- Visit the Valley of the Kings
- Visit the Egyptian Museum
- See the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | CAIRO, EGYPT

Get pumped - you're in Cairo! Go exploring and find out why the Egyptians call this place Umm al-Dunya, or 'the mother of the world'. Just make sure you rock up in time for tonight's welcome meeting, where you'll come face to face with your new trip buddies. It's gonna be an amazing nine days! Please note: On arrival an airport representative with a Topdeck sign will be waiting to assist you with the visa and immigration process. The cost of the visa is not included. For those eligible for a visa on arrival, this will need to be paid in cash in USD (please check the eligibility for your passport). You will then be transferred from the airport to your hotel to check in.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Airport transfer

DAY 2 | CAIRO TO ASWAN VIA OVERNIGHT COACH

First up today: meander the streets of Coptic Cairo and check out the Hanging Church, then head up to Cairo Citadel and get a load of those #views. Later, arm yourself with a pocketful of Egyptian Pounds and prepare to get your haggle on in Khan el-Khalili market. Expect gold, spices and every type of souvenir under the sun. Anyone for a fez or belly dancing costume? After you've shopped and bartered to your heart's content, it's all aboard the overnight coach to Aswan.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Coptic Cairo
- Visit Khan el-Khalili market

DAY 3 | ASWAN

Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, Lord Byron... they've all done it. Now it's your turn! Go low tech with a ride on a felucca sailboat down the Nile and get comfy on the cushion-strewn deck. Try not to doze off, though – we've got a traditional Nubian village to get to! Here you can pick up handmade souvenirs, stroll past pretty multicoloured houses and get up close and personal with Aswan's unique culture. If you fancy it, you can even opt in to take a camel ride (talk about life goals) or chow down on an authentic Nubian dinner. Top tip: try the ful.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Felucca boat ride
- Visit a Nubian village



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Camel ride
- Traditional Nubian dinner

DAY 4 | ASWAN

Roll out of bed, then prepare to feel like a small fry as you gaze up at the four colossal statues of Ramses II at Abu Simbel (you'll want to make sure there's space in your camera roll for this one). Want more? You could always pay an optional visit to the ancient Philae Temple, which is situated in the middle of Agilkia Island, and the impressive two-mile Nile High Dam. Round off a day to remember by drinking in the magic of the river at sunset. Nice one, Mother Nature. The trip ends here (well, breakfast first), but pop on that fedora and keep on exploring, Indy. New York may tout itself as the city that never sleeps, but it's got nothin' on Cairo! -Visit Abu Simbel



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Philae Temple

DAY 5 | ASWAN TO LUXOR

Today it's time for a well-earned touch of Luxor – also known as 'the world's greatest open-air museum'. Once the capital of ancient Egypt, it's now a history-laden landscape of souks and temples. Your challenge today is to see as much of it as possible. And... go! We'll kick things off with tours of Karnak Temple (the largest religious building ever made) and Luxor Temple, one of the best preserved of all of Egypt's ancient monuments. All together now: wowwww.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Karnak and Luxor temples

DAY 6 | LUXOR

Next up: the Valley of the Kings (aka the place everyone in ancient Egypt was 'dying' to get into). Expect tombs, and lots of them – plus a whole bunch of amazingly vibrant wall art that's been waiting for you to come visit it for thousands of years. And did we mention that you'll have a super knowledgeable Egyptologist as your guide? Listen up and learn the stories of the pharaohs as you pass from tomb to tomb. This is one experience with 'bucket list' written all over it!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Valley of the Kings

DAY 7 | LUXOR TO CAIRO VIA OVERNIGHT COACH

Wave bye-bye to Luxor – today it's all aboard the overnight coach again as we head back to Cairo. Settle in and get comfy!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 8 | CAIRO

There's old, and then there's the necropolis of Saqqara. Wander past towering pyramids and soak up some ancient history with a visit to this extensive burial ground before we move on to the Egyptian Museum to check out King Tutankhamun's treasure chest. Then: get some perspective at the base of the 138 m Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx. Trust us, even your goosebumps will get goosebumps! To toast your last night with your fellow Topdeckers, why not take an optional Nile dinner cruise? Fancy.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Egyptian Museum
- See the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Nile dinner cruise

DAY 9 | CAIRO

The trip ends here (well, breakfast first), but pop on that fedora and keep on exploring, Indy. New York may tout itself as the city that never sleeps, but it's got nothin' on Cairo!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Entrance Fees
- Entrance fees need to be paid locally in Egypt. If you have a valid student card, remember to bring it with you as you will receive discounts to some museums and monuments. You can expect entrance fees for your whole trip be to between 507 EGP – 1547 EG
- Important note on Ramadan
- As many Middle Eastern countries are of Islamic faith, it is important to remember that lots of restaurants and shops will either be closed or operating on reduced hours during Ramadan. As a result, some optional and included activities on your trip may b
- Ramadan, which takes place in either April, May or June, 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 highli



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Airport transfer

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.

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>



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!