



EGYPT

Capital: Cairo

Language: Arabic

Population: 82 million

Time Zone: EST plus 6 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 82 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 Naquib 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 AND PASSPORTS



A visa for your visit to Egypt is **necessary** for U.S. 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 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 Web site and

toll-free number. Call (800) 845-8968, email info@genvisa.com, or visit their below web sites for additional information. Our travelers receive discounted prices and other special services:

- For Globus, visit: www.genvisa.com/globus
- For Avalon, visit: www.genvisa.com/avalon
- For Cosmos, visit www.genvisa.com/cosmos

All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave 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 U.S./Canada) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Egypt are 8-10 digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011 20+###+####+#####.



CURRENCY

The currency throughout Egypt is the Egyptian Pound.

1 EGYPTIAN POUND (LE) = 100 Piasters

- Banknote denominations: 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 LE
- Coin denominations: 25 and 50 Piastres; 1 LE

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

You may find that U.S. dollars or Euro are accepted alongside local currency (Egyptian Pound) but may come at a premium for using them. Credit cards are not widely accepted and 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 5 LE .

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately 55 LE .

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately 85 LE .



TIPPING

In Egypt, it is not uncommon for all service personnel to ask for a tip for any service or help offered. It is recommended you tip a small amount unless you feel service was very bad.

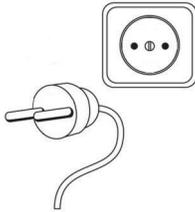
- Restaurants in Egypt add a service charge to the bill. However, it is common to add an additional tip on top of that (12% is usually an acceptable amount). Tips should be left in cash and not added to the credit card payment.
- For taxis, round up fares to the nearest figure on the meter. It is best 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.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

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

Outlets in Egypt usually look like:



Type C



TEMPERATURES

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for 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 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Bean/lentil/couscous/chickpea dishes including hummus, kebabs, lamb, and chicken dishes; grilled aubergines; *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, **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.

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