



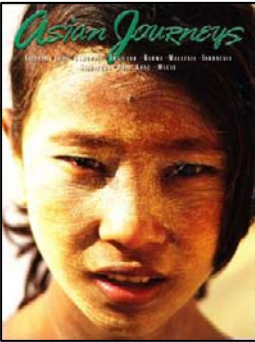
# AUDLEY

TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY TO EGYPT  
FOR MR I HARRIS & MS J WORMLEIGHTON



## AUDLEY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

It was while travelling around Indochina, India, and Australasia in 1991 following his graduation from the London School of Economics that Craig Burkinshaw, Audley's Founder Director, had the idea for a way of sharing his passion for the places he had been. Vietnam was then a little-visited destination with much potential but little infrastructure, a place that seemed off-putting to many people who would love to see the country if there were some way of visiting without pulling on a backpack and going it alone.



For the next couple of years Craig led his own guided small group tours around Vietnam, getting to know both the region and the travel industry, and making lasting friendships with some of his first clients. In 1996 he joined forces with fellow LSE graduate John Brewer to found 'Asian Journeys', a company specialising in tailor-made travel to Southeast Asia. The company's first brochure was produced in September of 1996 and featured the countries of Southeast Asia.

Left: Our first brochure, we were then called Asian Journeys



Iguacu Falls, Brazil

The formula of offering unique private itineraries to clients who wanted to travel according to their own schedule was a successful one, and the company expanded into North & Central Asia in 1998 and the Indian Subcontinent in 1999, quickly outgrowing our small premises in Northampton. In 2000 we moved to a converted barn in the rural Oxfordshire village of Stratton Audley, and in 2001 the name 'Asian Journeys' became obsolete with the creation of a new programme to South America. It was then that the company metamorphosed into 'Audley Travel'.



A lunchtime BBQ at the New Mill

Going from strength to strength, Audley's Africa, Arabia and New Zealand programmes were created in 2003, with Australia following in 2005. Again needing larger premises, in 2006 Audley moved to the New Mill in Witney, Oxfordshire, a handsome converted blanket mill on the banks of the River Windrush. In 2007 we launched a programme to Canada and the Arctic, followed by the expansion of the South America programme into Central America. Our most recent addition, in 2012, is the vast and diverse USA.

Audley now offers tailor-made travel to over 90 countries. The increased size of the company has enabled us to improve our knowledge of each region, with more dedicated specialists and subsequently more research trips being devoted to each country. All employees have travelled extensively to the regions they specialise in, or in some cases have even lived there, and we continue to pride ourselves on offering a personal travel service.

The company is now at a stage where it covers most geographical areas, excluding Europe, and we continue to strengthen our depth of knowledge in all the places we operate. Our Central America team is an example of how this attention to staff expertise is being put into practice. This team is part of a larger Latin America team but is organised into a distinct sub region, led by a dedicated regional manager and supported by seven country specialists. Having this devoted team enables us to focus in much more depth on this region, allowing us to keep right up to date with developments and changes in accommodation, experiences, transport and new regions. It also allows us more time to do things like hand pick guides, check restaurants and measure journey times: all things that can make a huge difference to your trip. The example of Central America team is mirrored throughout Audley. We aim to have more in-depth and thorough knowledge than even the small specialist operators, as ultimately we believe that this will be reflected in the quality of your trip.

Although we do still advertise, the majority of our business now comes from people who have travelled with Audley before or have had the company recommended to them. At the heart of everything we do is a pride in creating the best possible trip for our clients and doing everything we can to ensure that you are delighted with your trip, that you return for your next trip and recommend us to your friends and family.



School boys, Trichy, India



Locals, Phan Thiet, Vietnam

## Responsible Travel

The company grew from Craig's passion for the places he visited and we aim to continue this passion by being as socially and environmentally responsible as possible towards our destinations. We feel strongly that, wherever possible, we should directly benefit the communities we visit through sustainable travel, environmental protection and supporting social projects, without sacrificing the comfort or enjoyment of your trip. We have been awarded five stars by AITO for our responsible tourism, the highest level possible, which reflects the importance that we place on travelling responsibly.



## Recognition

We are proud to have received a number of awards over recent years including the Top Tour Operator in the 2012 Wanderlust Readers' Travel Awards. We have also won awards in the Sunday Times Travel Magazine, Condé Nast Traveller, Daily Telegraph Ultra Travel magazine, and the Guardian and Observer, as well as being one of the few travel companies to be recommended by Which?, the consumer organisation.

These awards are widely recognised as being the most respected in the travel industry as they are professional surveys of the publications' readerships. With over 500 travel companies for you to choose from in the UK alone, we hope you find these awards are an additional reassurance of the quality of service you can expect from Audley.



## THE AUDLEY TRAVELLER'S CODE

In light of our dedication to the conservation of the environment, a fair economic benefit for local communities and the preservation of cultural values, we ask you to read the Audley Traveller's Code before departing on your trip. We hope this will serve not only to ensure the sustainability of the areas you are visiting, but also to improve the quality of your experience overall.

Before you travel, try to learn about local culture and traditions. A little time spent researching the unique customs of the region you will be visiting can avoid embarrassment and offence, as well as providing a useful insight. Openness and willingness to learn about the differences between foreign cultures and our own can open many doors, especially when combined with tolerance of those differences. The notes in your Audley itinerary are there to help you with specific information on the cultural sensitivities of your destination. Try to remember that it is the cultural differences that will make your trip special.

A few words learnt in a local language can be greatly appreciated and can open the doors to a more "authentic" experience. Likewise, listening to local music and reading local literature, whether contemporary or classic, will really help you get the most out of your trip.

Consider adopting cultural practices where appropriate and without being patronising. Try to make sure you know how to dress appropriately in places of worship or significance.

In many regions of the world it is considered offensive to take someone's photograph without obtaining their permission beforehand. Please try not to be offended should they decline, even if you do not understand why. Try to remember that flash photography can be damaging to artworks.

You can help to respect and care for the local environment in many ways, such as not picking wild flowers or plants, disposing of litter responsibly and recycling what you can. Water bottles can often be refilled hygienically. Try to throw away or recycle any extra packaging you may have before you travel, and bring items such as batteries back to the UK to be recycled responsibly.

You can help to preserve resources by complying with local environmental initiatives. If your hotel has a policy for reusing sheets or towels, try to support this as often as you feel you can. Remember to turn off lights and electrical equipment in your room if you are not using them – for example, you could turn televisions off fully rather than leaving them on standby, and turn off air-conditioning units when they are not needed or when you leave the room. Water is often a precious resource so try to keep your usage of it to a minimum, both in your hotel room and whenever possible throughout your trip.

When visiting national parks, stick to set paths in order to preserve natural habitats and leave animals undisturbed. Keeping noise to a minimum also helps, and allows you to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in peace and quiet. Take care not to touch coral reefs when swimming or diving as they are extremely fragile and take decades to grow.

Ancient artefacts and products made from endangered animals and plants were probably acquired illegally, so refusing to buy them is not only in the interests of the local people, the environment and travellers who follow you, it could help you avoid getting into trouble with police and customs. Please also be aware that some crafts encourage deforestation. Your local guide should always be able to advise you if you are in doubt.

We always try to ensure that as much of your money as possible stays in the local area by supporting community run and locally owned business. You can help us, for example by trying to eat in locally owned restaurants and ordering local drinks and produce rather than requesting international brands. You can encourage local community initiatives such as handmade crafts by buying locally produced souvenirs.

Different cultures have different attitudes to tipping, bartering and begging so ask your guide for advice so as not to offend. Keep a light heart and a big smile when bargaining, and try to remember that small amounts can mean a lot more to the vendor than to you.

It sometimes takes a hard heart not to give money to beggars, but remember that if a person earns more than someone who works for a living it may encourage the practice and cause problems for the local economy, and giving money to children might dissuade their parents from sending them to school. If you would like to make a donation to the country you have visited, please talk to our specialists. We will be able to recommend a charity or project that will welcome your donation.

We encourage you to offset the carbon emissions from your flight with a donation to the Friends of Conservation Carbon Reduction programme. Please visit [www.audleytravel.com/offset](http://www.audleytravel.com/offset) for further details or ask the specialist organising your trip.

Ultimately, we strive to ensure that a visit from Audley clients leaves a destination better rather than worse off, and we value your co-operation in helping us to attain this goal whilst also enjoying your trip to the utmost.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR TRIP

### Your Itinerary Reference

**ALG104179-B**

Thank you for choosing to travel with Audley – we hope you have a fantastic trip and return with some wonderful memories. We can happily say that the vast majority of tours are trouble-free. If you do encounter any problems we find that in most cases they can be resolved quickly and easily on the ground by following the steps below.

### Local Guide

If you have a local guide, speak to them about the problem. They are authorised to deal with most situations and we would far prefer you to sort out any problems with them on the spot than allow them to spoil your holiday.

### Local Agent

If the guide is unable to assist or is the source of your concern, please contact our local agent (see details below). These agents are Audley's representatives in the country, have English speaking contacts and will be able to help you with the advantage of operating in the same time zone.

The below numbers include the international dialling codes. If you are calling from within the country, please start with the number in brackets.

#### Egypt

Name of agent: Emeco Travel

Name of contact: Mr Mohamed Ghoneim

Office telephone: +20 (0) 2 2577 4646

Emergency telephone: +20 (0) 100 9999 589

### Contact Audley

If the problem still cannot be resolved, please either phone, email or fax our UK office and we will do all we can to help you. If you send a fax please make sure your contact details are in large letters because interference on the telephone line can result in the fax being unclear when it is received.

It is best if you can call us within our office hours when we are best equipped to deal with the situation. Our office hours are shown in GMT below:

09:00 - 18:00 Monday to Thursday

09:00 – 17:30 on Friday

09:00 – 18:00 on Saturday

09:00 – 17:00 on Sunday

However, emergencies do occur outside of these hours, therefore you can call the emergency number. The emergency number will be answered by a

messaging service and you should leave the following information; your name, the Itinerary reference shown above, the lead client name on the booking, your contact telephone details, when you will be available for us to call and an overview of the problem. The Audley Duty Manager will then call you back. Please note that the email addresses below should only be used in non-urgent situations, as they are not checked 24 hrs.

Office telephone: (0044) 1993 838 000 *(During office hours)*  
Emergency Number: (0044) 1993 838 836 *(Outside office hours)*  
Office fax: (0044) 1993 838 010  
Email: arabia@audleytravel.com *(For non urgent issues only as not checked 24hrs)*

Note: Depending on the nature of the problem, you may need to contact the relevant Embassy or Consulate. For medical emergencies you should call the relevant emergency telephone number on your insurance policy.

### **Contacting you whilst abroad**

Many people like to leave contact details that are given in the 'Other' section at the back of your travel organiser with relatives, work contacts, etc so that they can be reached during their trip. From experience we have found that it is best for them to contact our office with a message if they need to get hold of you. We will then route the message to you by the most appropriate method depending on where you are at the time. If the matter is important then we can usually obtain confirmation that the message has reached you. If people try to reach you by calling/faxing hotels etc it can be extremely difficult to get through in certain destinations because the lines are often bad and the receptionists may have poor English making it difficult to locate people. Similarly, faxes go through but may be lost.

### **Departure Tax**

Most of the time, departure tax is included in your flight ticket but in some countries this is not possible and you will need to put aside some money for this requirement. We have indicated below, current amounts although these can change at any time.

Country	Departure Tax
Egypt	LE 25 (has to be paid in Egyptian Pounds). This is not always imposed, but it is best to have the money ready in case.

### **Travel Insurance**

We do not have any record of any insurance policy covering your travel arrangements - we strongly recommend that you check that you have an

appropriate policy. If you require information on travel insurance please call us or refer to our website.

### **Hotel vouchers for your trip**

We do not issue individual hotel vouchers here in the UK as the section within the travel organiser, your full day by day itinerary represents exactly what is included in terms of hotel accommodation and meal basis. Where individual hotel vouchers are necessary, our local agents will give them to you on arrival in each country or region. The contact details of these agents can be found at the front of this section.

### **Passports**

Please double check your passport is valid for six months beyond the date of return from your trip.

We recommend that you take photocopies of your passports, driving licenses, insurance and other important documents and keep them separately from the originals. This can be helpful if the originals are lost while abroad.

### **Visas**

Egypt

British passport holders can purchase a visa on arrival in Egypt for US\$15 per person.

## YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY WHILST TRAVELLING

Your health and safety whilst you are travelling is of the utmost importance to us. We operate in many diverse countries around the world. All of these countries, and in many cases the regions within them, have differing standards of health and safety and different regulations by which they have to abide. These will not always reach the health and safety standards set in the UK or the EU. Please read the guidelines below to help ensure you have a safe trip.

### Fire safety

When you arrive in a hotel take a moment to familiarise yourself with the procedures in case of a fire, your escape routes and the nearest fire exits. Be especially vigilant about this if you are staying in a hotel that is more than two storeys high.

*Recommendation: You may want to take a torch with you and have it within reach at your bedside.*

### Balconies

Balcony heights and the distance between balcony uprights can vary considerably from country to country. Do take care around balconies, particularly if you are travelling with children. If you are unhappy with the balcony then you should request an alternative room.

*Recommendation: Be aware of balcony furniture as a way for children to climb to dangerous levels.*

### Hotel lifts

Lift safety regulations vary from country to country. If in doubt, use the stairs.

*Recommendation: Never use the lift if you suspect the building is on fire.*

### Trips and slips

Physical guards and warnings of wet floors, uneven steps, holes or other trip hazards may not be provided whether you are inside a building or out on the street. Be careful and watch your step.

### Plate glass

Be aware that large plate glass windows may not have safety markings on them to help indicate that they are there. If an accident does occur where someone walks in to one of these they may shatter. Be particularly careful in bright sunlight.

*Recommendation: Familiarise yourself with the property when you first arrive and be aware of large glass panels and windows.*

### Swimming pools

Hotel pools may not have lifeguards, depth markings or non-slip surfaces around them. Take a moment when you first use the pool to familiarise yourself, and any children with you, with the layout and depth of the pool, making special note of any submerged objects. In the event of an emergency know how to get help or reach any lifesaving equipment provided.

*Recommendation: Avoid using the pool when alone, at night or after consuming alcohol.*

### **Beach safety**

Many beaches around the world will not have lifeguards. Take local advice regarding swells and currents and good places to swim. Take extra care in areas where there may be motorised craft. Be aware of local flag warning systems.

*Recommendation: If in doubt, don't swim.*

### **Sun safety**

The sun in many places around the world is stronger than we are used to in the UK. Be aware that the effects of the sun are even stronger at altitude and in places where the ozone layer is thinner (e.g. Patagonia, Antarctica, New Zealand, Australia). Use a high factor sun screen, avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun in the middle of the day, wear a broad brimmed hat and cover up with appropriate clothing. Always drink plenty of water.

*Recommendation: Try to find shade regularly when outside.*

### **Food and drink**

Use your common sense when selecting where and what to eat. Drink bottled water and avoid ice in your drinks. Always wash your hands before eating.

*Recommendation: Antibacterial hand wash that you can carry with you is worth having.*

### **Activities and excursions**

The local safety standards that apply to activities you undertake whilst away will not always be the same as if they would be in the UK and may be significantly lower. For instance, you may not always be offered a helmet when riding horses or bikes.

You should always follow the instructions of your guide. If you ever feel nervous about the safety of an activity or excursion then do not participate and report your concerns to Audley at the earliest opportunity.

### **Gas safety**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) has no colour, taste or smell and is extremely poisonous. Gas stoves, fires and boilers, gas powered water heaters, paraffin heaters, solid fuel powered stoves, boilers and room heaters are all capable of producing carbon monoxide if they are not installed properly and maintained. You can usually tell if an appliance is working properly by observing the flame. A yellow/orange flame is evidence of possible carbon monoxide presence. A 'healthy' flame should be crisp, vibrant and blue.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can easily be confused with flu or a consumption of excess alcohol: severe headaches, nausea, dizziness and general lethargy. Severe poisoning makes the body change to a cherry red colour. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning get out into fresh air quickly and call for medical help.

## Electrical appliances

Please exercise caution when using locally supplied electrical appliances. When using your own appliances be sure to use relevant adaptors and converters.

## Wildlife

Plants and animals are unlikely to be as harmless as those found in the UK. If setting out along trails alone seek local advice before doing so. If your trip involves excursions specifically designed for animal observation then please remember that these animals are wild and can be unpredictable. In all situations please take care and always follow the advice of your guide.

## Getting around

If travelling by foot be careful when crossing roads, particularly in cities. Traffic may not stop as a matter of course at pedestrian crossings and the traffic may be coming from the opposite direction from that which you are familiar. When travelling by taxi make sure it is licensed; ideally ask your hotel or restaurant to call one for you. When travelling by coach or minibus, if there are no seatbelts, avoid sitting on the front seats, seats behind emergency exits or the middle seat at the back. When travelling by train familiarise yourself with the safety procedures on board and locate your emergency exit route.

## Vehicles and driving standards

We insist on using high standards of vehicles and, where applicable, drivers. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the vehicle or the standard of driving, please advise the driver, our local agent or Audley immediately.

If you are travelling by hire car ask about the local speed limits and traffic laws before setting off if you are not informed as a matter of course. Always obey the speed limits. Never drink and drive. Drive in the daytime where possible.

*Recommendation: In more remote places there can be large distances between roadside service areas. In these areas ensure you have all that you need to complete your journey in comfort each day.*

## Deep-Vein Thrombosis

When travelling on long haul flights (especially those over eight hours) there are a number of recommendations that are believed to reduce the risk of DVT. These include keeping well hydrated, stretching / moving around, wearing compression stockings, avoiding alcohol and avoiding taking sleeping tablets if you will be sleeping in a sitting position.

## Travel insurance

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your holiday. Please take the time to confirm that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy.

## General safety

Take note of what is going on around you and keep away from situations where you do not feel comfortable. Always seek local advice from your guide or staff

at your accommodation if heading out without a guide. Leave your jewellery and valuables at home if you can. Only carry as much money as you need for the day. Respect local customs particularly when visiting religious sites, markets and rural communities.

*Recommendation: If you are visiting religious sites please dress appropriately (you may want to carry additional clothes that enable you to cover from your shoulders to your knees).*

### **Letting Audley know**

You should always use your common sense whilst travelling. If you ever feel nervous about the safety of an activity, excursion, mode of transport or hotel then please report it immediately. Report your concerns to the supplier (hotel manager, excursion operator etc), the local ground handling agent (you will have their contact details in the final itinerary) and your Audley Country Specialist at the earliest opportunity.





## FLIGHT INFORMATION FOR YOUR TRIP

### E-ticket flights issued by Audley

#### What is an E-ticket?

The E-ticket has now replaced the traditional paper ticket which has almost entirely been phased out. Simply take your passport and the Airline Reference Number shown within the below table in bold to the check-in desk and the staff will locate your booking on their system. You will be issued with a boarding pass as usual. In some countries, for immigration purposes, you are required to show your entire flight itinerary in addition to the Airline Reference Number. In these circumstances we will include this information in your ticket wallet.

#### Why have I got an E-ticket?

E-tickets have been introduced for your added convenience as there can be no penalty for mislaid documentation and there is no need to wait for travel documentation to arrive, making last-minute bookings easier to organise.

Please ensure that you keep this e-ticket for the duration of your trip.

### THIS IS YOUR FLIGHT E-TICKET

Dep. Date	Flight No.	From	Dep. Time	To	Arr. Time	Client(s)	Airline Ref. No.	Web Site Ref No.
22/11/12	MS 778	London Heathrow - Terminal 3	14:00	Cairo - Terminal 3	20:45	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris	<b>477U3R</b>	WIX116
25/11/12	MS 335	Cairo - Terminal 3	11:15	Hurghada	12:20	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris	<b>477U3R</b>	WIX116
02/12/12	MS 336	Hurghada	12:50	Cairo - Terminal 3	13:55	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris	<b>477U3R</b>	WIX116
02/12/12	MS 779	Cairo - Terminal 3	17:45	London Heathrow - Terminal 3	21:00	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris	<b>477U3R</b>	WIX116

For additional information, you can view your Egyptair reservation via the internet, by logging onto [www.viewtrip.com](http://www.viewtrip.com) and typing in your surname and the web site reference number shown in the table above. This will allow you to view details such as the duration of your flight, your luggage allowances (select 'electronic ticket receipt') and the aircraft type.

The Arrival Time information shown above assumes same day arrival unless the following symbol is used:

- +1 - Arrive following day
- +2 - Arrive 2 days later
- 1 - Arrive previous day (Crossing international dateline)

### Check-in times

Please check-in for your international flight at least three hours prior to departure and also double check the flight times on your tickets before departure as some timings may have changed. For domestic and international flights issued locally, your ground agent will normally reconfirm any flights for you.

### Cancelled Flights

Whilst on your trip, should you not be able to make a flight for any reason, please ensure that you make your ground agents or Audley aware. In most cases if the airline is not provided with forewarning it will result in the cancellation of other flights with the same airline later in your itinerary.

For full details of flights including airport terminal information please refer to the 'Day by Day' section of this travel organiser.

### Seat Reservations

The following seats have been pre-booked/requested:

From	To	Seat Number(s)	Position	Passenger Names
London	Cairo	46 A / 46 C	Window / Aisle	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris
Cairo	Hurghada	26 A / 26 C	Window / Aisle	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris

From	To	Seat Number(s)	Position	Passenger Names
Hurghada	Cairo	26 A / 26 C	Window / Aisle	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris
Cairo	London	49 A / 49 C	Window / Aisle	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris

Where we have made specific seat requests for your flights it is important to note that sometimes the airline may change the seating plan to accommodate circumstances that are beyond Audley's control. Our position is that we understand how important it is to get 'good' seats on the aircraft and as such we will do everything we can to get you the requested seats direct with the airline. However, we must acknowledge that even at this stage these are never 'guaranteed' by the airline and therefore you may find that your individual seat reservation has been changed. Early check-in is always a good idea.

### **Luggage Allowances**

Please be aware that there may be a significant difference on the luggage allowance between your international flights and your internal flights, particularly if you fly in a premium cabin internationally and economy class internally. Typically international flights allow 20 kilograms of luggage in economy and 30 kilograms in business class or first class. If your flight has been issued by us on an e-ticket then you can view your luggage allowances via the internet, refer to 'E-Ticket flights issued by Audley' earlier within this Travel Organiser.

In addition, whilst most internal scheduled flights also have a 20 kilogrammes limit in economy, there are instances where this drops to 10-15 kilogrammes. If you are flying in a light aircraft (for example when on safari) there will almost certainly be fairly tight restrictions on weight and composition of your luggage. Please check with your Country Specialist for any specific luggage restrictions within your itinerary.

### **Hand Luggage Restrictions**

Due to the ongoing changes in security requirements at airports around the world and by individual airlines, we strongly recommend you check with your Country Specialist, the BAA website or the individual airline website for up to date information regarding hand luggage restrictions. The website address for BAA is [www.baa.co.uk](http://www.baa.co.uk)

### **Carbon Offsetting**

We make an annual contribution to the Friends of Conservation carbon offsetting scheme to compensate for the carbon emissions from our country specialists' educational trips. We encourage you to consider compensating for the effects of your own flight. If you have not already contributed towards carbon offsetting and would like to do so please visit: [www.audleytravel.com/offset](http://www.audleytravel.com/offset)

## YOUR ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY IN BRIEF	ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS
1	<b>Thu 22 Nov 2012</b>	On arrival at Cairo International Airport you will be met by one of our representatives. From here, you will be transferred by private car to your hotel for your 3 night stay in the capital.	The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo 1 x Premier Pyramid View Room for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
2	<b>Fri 23 Nov 2012</b>	Today your own private guide will collect you from your hotel to take you around the vibrant city of Cairo. You will have the opportunity to visit the fascinating Pyramids at Giza, as well as the Sphinx. The afternoon is yours to do as you wish - perhaps enjoy the hotel`s facilities.	The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo 1 x Premier Pyramid View Room for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
3	<b>Sat 24 Nov 2012</b>	Today your own private guide will collect you from your hotel to take you to visit the famous Cairo Museum. The afternoon is yours to do as you wish.	The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo 1 x Premier Pyramid View Room for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
4	<b>Sun 25 Nov 2012</b>	This morning you have an early start as your driver collects you from your hotel and transfers you to the airport for your short flight east to Hurghada. On arrival, your driver will collect you and transfer you to the Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY IN BRIEF	ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS
5	<b>Mon 26 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
6	<b>Tue 27 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
7	<b>Wed 28 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
8	<b>Thu 29 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
9	<b>Fri 30 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
10	<b>Sat 01 Dec 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
11	<b>Sun 02 Dec 2012</b>	Today your driver will collect you from the Oberoi and transfer you to Hurghada Airport for the start of your journey home to the UK.	

## YOUR FULL DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

**Thursday, 22 November 2012**

### **London Heathrow Terminal: 3 to Cairo Terminal: 3**

Egyptair flight - Flight No: MS 778 - Dep: 1400 - Arr: 2045 - (same day) - Duration: 04hr 45min; Class: Economy class; Non-stop flight;

### **Egypt Introduction**

The spectacular heritage of Egypt has been drawing visitors for four thousand years, to marvel at the temples and funerary monuments of Ancient Egypt, to draw inspiration from the dramatic scenery, or to try and plunder some of the legendary riches accumulated around the fertile irrigated banks of the Nile. In Cairo, layer upon layer of medieval history compete for space with Fatimid citadels, Mamluke souqs and Ottoman mosques, overlaid by a vibrant modern city. Outside the cultivated strip of the Nile, the Red Sea's stunning coral reefs are fringed by sandy beaches under year-round sun, while the desert interior shelters lonely oases and monasteries, unchanged by the passage of centuries.

Egypt's attractions are well documented and as popular as ever - hotels, flights, monuments and the like are still receiving plenty of visitors. This does mean that it can be difficult to avoid the crowds if you do want to see the principal sights.

Egypt Air is the only scheduled domestic carrier in Egypt and as such you probably will be taking its flights between cities during this trip. Egypt Air is not the best airline in the world and you should be prepared for this. As well as food that not everyone enjoys, flight times are sometimes changed with little or no reason and delays on the ground are not uncommon. However they do get you to your destination and thousands of people fly Egypt Air each year and have fantastic holidays, so a tolerant and patient approach is the best way to deal with any potential problems! We and our agents are quite used to dealing with Egypt Air and will always endeavour to find the smoothest way for you to get around the country and overcome any problems that do occur. Upgrading to business class on domestic flights is not prohibitively expensive and offers a little more comfort and access to a small lounge in Cairo.

Ramadan in 2013 is expected to start on or around July 9th, and finish on around August 7th. These dates are not fixed, but they should be accurate to within a couple of days. During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink and nicotine during the daylight hours. While food and drink will be available to buy during the day, you should not consume it in public. The best bets are in your vehicle, a restaurant open specifically for visitors, or within your hotel. During the day locals may well be a bit tired and grumpy, so extra patience and understanding may be required. However in the evenings, a festive atmosphere prevails as everyone eats to their hearts content - it is

also a very popular time for shopping and just strolling round town. You might like to visit a local restaurant or cafe at sunset, when locals have Iftar, the meal that breaks the fast, if you want to get a real flavour of Ramadan.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that you should carry some form of photographic ID with you at all times. We would suggest a photocopy of your passport.

Hotel extras bills in Egypt can be settled in local currency (Egyptian pounds, LE). However if the bill is more than LE150 then you may need to produce an exchange receipt to prove that you obtained your Egyptian pounds in a bank rather than through the black market.

Egypt Air serves no alcohol on board, however it is possible to bring your own with you, and staff will be happy to provide mixers as well.

For suggested guidelines on tipping, please refer to the Egypt Travel Fact Sheet. Tipping is always discretionary, and if you feel service has been below par you are by no means obliged to tip. However, tips are expected for services performed adequately, not just those where service exceeds expectation.

Guides will ask you if you want to visit shops (sometimes these will be dressed up as 'factories' or 'museums'). These can sometimes be interesting with demonstrations and worthwhile things to buy; sometimes not. If you are tired or simply do not wish to go then tell the guide this - do not feel pressured to go. You should also not feel rushed around sites of interest in order to fit in time for shopping. If you do feel that you have no choice but to go to shops, or if you feel that shopping is in any way compromising the quality of your trip, then please contact our local representatives at the numbers given at the front of this itinerary and they will take any necessary steps.

If you are with a guide, be aware that they receive commission from any shops you buy from, which will increase the price. Bear in mind that an important part of a guide's income comes from tips and commission from shops.

Throughout the country you will see donkeys drawing wagons and carts, and horses drawing carriages for tourists to ride in. Often it is clear that these animals are maltreated and underfed, and we would encourage you not to use or pay for any excursion or service that makes use of these abused animals. In addition, if it is something you feel strongly about, you may like to learn more about the activities of the Brooke Hospital, who work with suffering mules, donkeys and horses in a number of countries, including Egypt. Their website is [www.thebrooke.org](http://www.thebrooke.org).

UK Consulate in Egypt: (+ +20) (0)2 2791 6000

Duty Officer: (+ +20) (0)2 2794 0852

## **Cairo Introduction**

For over 700 years Cairo has been the largest city in Africa, and it continues to grow at a rapid pace, with Gulf investment driving lush modern developments in the eastern districts. The vast urban sprawl, dusty streets and chaotic driving of the central areas do not endear the city to all, but



those who persevere are rewarded by a diverse, dramatic history and many unsung attractions. The one stop that really must be included in any visit to Egypt is the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, a vast treasure trove handed down across the ages. Typical of the exquisite array of statues, day-to-day artefacts and jewellery are the priceless treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb. Scratch beneath the surface and Cairo reveals its wondrous secrets, beautiful mosques, imposing citadels, labyrinthine bazaars, ancient Coptic churches, and unexpected garden oases. Carving the city in two is the timeless Nile, whose historic waters glide by pretty island suburbs. A constant throughout are its inhabitants - witty, friendly, blessed with inexhaustible patience and a sense of humour that few can fail to warm to.

As one of the most intriguing, varied cities in the Middle East, Cairo is a key part of any visit to Egypt. The wealth of historic monuments are fascinating, the Khan El Khalili bazaar is one of the finest souqs in the world and the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities is hugely useful in piecing together the country's myriad temples, tombs and pyramids, as well as housing some truly beautiful artefacts.

Our full day excursions in Cairo do not include lunch, and we know from experience that a full day exploring the wonderful sights without a break for refreshments can be exhausting! If you arrange it in advance, most hotels will be able to provide you with a picnic at an extra charge. Alternatively, please speak to your guide at the beginning of the day and advise them that you would like to stop at a local restaurant for lunch.

### **Cairo International Airport to Giza Hotels**

***Transfer by private vehicle with driver only***

You will be met on arrival and taken to your hotel.

If arriving in Terminal 3, you must obtain your visa from one of the bank desks on the right hand side of the immigration hall before passing through the immigration desks. Your representative will meet you in the luggage area down the escalator. In all other terminals your representative will help you purchase your visas and direct you through customs and immigration. After collecting your luggage, you will be taken to your hotel.

The number of permits available for our representative to go plane side in the airport is limited, so they are unable to assign one representative per party. Once you have passed through this area, you will be passed on to a 'private' representative.



**The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo**  
Breakfast is included

### **Notes**

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**Friday, 23 November 2012**

**Half day tour of Pyramids and Sphinx**  
*private excursion with your driver and guide*

As the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the pyramids at Giza occupy a unique place in world history, and are a perennial favourite with travellers. The first tourists were the ancient Greeks, some four thousand years ago and the fascination with these mystic monuments has continued unabated ever since. The largest pyramid is the Great Pyramid of Cheops, comprising over 2,300,000 blocks at an average weight of 2.5 tons. The pyramid of Chephren still has part of the original smooth casing intact at the summit, giving an indication of what the pyramids must have looked like upon completion. Guarding the pyramids, the Sphinx is thought to have been moulded by Chephren from a protrusion of soft rock uncovered by the builders of Cheops' pyramid. It was the Greeks who named it the Sphinx after a mythical creature that questioned travellers with riddles, and killed those unable to answer them.

Duration of excursion is approximately three hours.



**The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo**  
Breakfast is included

**Notes**

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**Saturday, 24 November 2012**

**Half day tour of the Egyptian Museum**

*private excursion with your driver and guide*

A visit to the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities is an important part of any trip to marvel at Egypt's historic monuments. There is a vast trove of artefacts here, telling the story of the Ancient Egyptians from their early development into a unified state through to their absorption into the classical world of Rome and Greece. As well as objects of great beauty, day-to-day tools and the stunning array of funerary artefacts typified by the famous contents of Tutankhamun's tomb, the museum also offers a chance to study and understand, at close quarters, various key symbols and architectural devices that you will see writ large across the many temples, pyramids and tombs of Egypt.

Duration of excursion is approximately 3 hours

The Egyptian Museum is one of the most important places to visit in Cairo, putting everything else you will see in Egypt into context and housing a truly breathtaking array of artefacts.

Entrance to the Mummy Room is not included in the Egyptian Museum entry ticket and must be paid for on the second floor of the museum, at a cost of LE 100 per person. Please note that the mummies are displayed in two rooms at opposite ends of the second floor gallery.



**The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo**  
Breakfast is included

**Notes**

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**Sunday, 25 November 2012**

**Giza Hotel to Cairo International Airport**

*transfer by private vehicle with driver only*

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to Cairo International Airport.

**Cairo Terminal: 3 to Hurghada**

Egyptair flight - Flight No: MS 335 - Dep: 1115 - Arr: 1220 - (same day) - Duration: 01hr 05min; Class: Economy class; Non-stop flight;

**Hurghada Airport to Sahl Hasheesh**

*transfer by private vehicle with driver only*

You will be met on arrival at the airport and transferred to Sahl Hasheesh.



**Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada**  
Breakfast is included

**Notes**

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**Monday, 26 November 2012**

Day at leisure



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada  
Breakfast is included

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**Tuesday, 27 November 2012**

Day at leisure



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada  
Breakfast is included

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**Wednesday, 28 November 2012**

Day at leisure



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada  
Breakfast is included

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**Thursday, 29 November 2012**

Day at leisure



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada  
Breakfast is included

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**Friday, 30 November 2012**

Day at leisure



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada  
Breakfast is included

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**Saturday, 01 December 2012**

Day at leisure



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada  
Breakfast is included

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**Sunday, 02 December 2012**

**Sahl Hasheesh to Hurghada Airport**

*transfer by private vehicle with driver only*

You will be collected from your hotel for the 15 minute transfer to the airport.

**Hurghada to Cairo Terminal: 3**

Egyptair flight - Flight No: MS 336 - Dep: 1250 - Arr: 1355 - (same day) - Duration: 01hr 05min; Class: Economy class; Non-stop flight;

**Cairo Terminal: 3 to London Heathrow Terminal: 3**

Egyptair flight - Flight No: MS 779 - Dep: 1745 - Arr: 2100 - (same day) - Duration: 05hr 15min; Class: Economy class; Non-stop flight;

**Notes**

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## ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

### The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo

#### *First Class*

There can be few hotels with a location to match the Mena House, nestled at the foot of the Giza Plateau directly beneath the looming hulk of the Great Pyramid. Built as a hunting lodge and base for exploring the pyramids by Khedive Ismail, a 19th century Egyptian ruler, it was patronised in the early days by international royalty and high society, a trend that continued after its conversion to a hotel. Churchill and Roosevelt met here to plan the D-Day invasions, and there are suites in their names to commemorate the event. The hotel has a mix of classic 19th century Arabesque architecture and design, and more modern areas, complete with a pleasant garden and pool area. The hotel also boasts an 18-hole golf course, the only one in the world where a hooked tee shot can reach the base of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

If at all possible we strongly suggest upgrading from a Garden Wing standard room to at least a pyramid view room. Renovations to the Palace section of the Mena House are loosely scheduled to begin in summer 2012, however this date has already been moved several times, so ask your specialist for an update.

Our opinion: For those looking to stay out by the pyramids of Giza, the Mena House is the only choice. It has considerable history and charm, offering superb views of the pyramids from the beautiful gardens and many of the rooms. The hotel has something for every taste, with rooms rich in character and heritage in the palace itself, contrasting with chic, modern accommodation in the newly refurbished garden wings.



The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo

The Garden Wing has recently undergone a full refurbishment, with all the

rooms now completed. There is also a brand new swimming pool, and work on the few remaining jobs, including a new Italian restaurant and a spa in the Palace Wing, is timed to be unobtrusive to hotel guests. Work on the Palace Wing has been put back a year and will now commence in June 2011.

Pyramids' Road  
Giza  
Cairo

Tel (Day): +20233766644

Tel (Day): +20233773222

Fax: +20233775411

Web address: [www.oberoimenahouse.com](http://www.oberoimenahouse.com)

## Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada

### *Deluxe*

The Oberoi, Sahl Hasheesh, was the first luxury all-suite resort to open on the Red Sea coast. It is an exclusive haven of sophisticated luxury and relaxation and fronts a private beach with beautiful white sand, a coral reef and panoramic views of the sea.

The 102 Arabesque inspired suites are set in forty-eight acres of perfectly maintained grounds and form a stunning array of arches, domes and columns. Each suite's private walled courtyard guarantees privacy and peace and upgraded suites have a private pool. Dining and recreational facilities are all that one would expect from a first class resort and the service is impeccable.

Our opinion: The Sahl Hasheesh is one of the finest beach resorts in Egypt, with a calm and luxurious air that is second to none on the Red Sea. If you want a stay in a resort where the service and food are consistently good and you have all your creature comforts it is harder to find one better than the Sahl Hasheesh. Although there are a few facilities for children, it is primarily suited to adults.

The town of Hurghada is a taxi-ride away. We send a number of guests here and have always received very positive feedback. In addition, the North Africa & Arabia team always really enjoy their stays here! We can warmly recommend it.



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada

\*Please note that the Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh does not have conventional twin rooms, but rather offer Hollywood Twins - two separate mattresses and sets of sheets on a double bedded base.

PO Box 117  
Red Sea  
Hurghada

Tel (Day): +20 65 344 0777  
Fax: +20 65 344 0788  
Web address: [www.oberoihotels.com](http://www.oberoihotels.com)

### **Rooms**

The resort has 102 suites, divided into four different categories. All are spacious and elegantly appointed in traditional Arabic style and benefit from their own outdoor courtyards. Facilities include air-conditioning, TV and walk-in wardrobes.

### **Dining and entertainment**

There are three main dining options at the Sahl Hasheesh. The Pergola is located next to the swimming pool, with beautiful views over the Red Sea. It serves a light menu of pizzas, salads and pastas. In the evening the main restaurant offers an a la carte menu of international fare. The other option is the elegant blue and silver Zafran restaurant which offers Oriental and Indian cuisine which we recommend booking in advance. There is also a bar located near the swimming pool which offers pre-dinner drinks and light entertainment.

### **Activities, sports and relaxation**

The Oberoi Spa is a good place to get pampered with massages, scrubs and beauty therapies to leave you feeling completely rejuvenated. There are also numerous ways to keep fit at the Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh. The gym is located next to the pool and is free of charge to guests. There are also some tennis courts and trips can be arranged through concierge to the golf course that is located 30km from the resort. There is an area where you can hire snorkelling and diving equipment to explore the beautiful coral reefs.

### **Families**

There is a children's activity centre, Play Station, cartoons, bowling, slides, and mini basketball for lively younger guests. Two children up to the age of eight can stay in the parent's room without an additional charge, but only one extra bed can be provided. Children over the age of 12 will require an additional room.

### **Included in the price**

Buffet breakfast is always included at your stay at the Sahl Hasheesh.



# MAPS OF THE REGION





## COUNTRY FACTS: EGYPT

### Geography

Located on the southern coast of the Mediterranean, Egypt straddles the north-eastern corner of Africa and the Middle East. 94% of the land is desert - the ancient Greek historian Herodotus accurately described Egypt as the gift of the Nile; without the fertile band of land around the river, the country would be virtually inhospitable. In fact, 90% of the population lives on just 3% of the land - the Nile Valley and Delta.

The long white sand beaches of the Mediterranean are sparsely developed: a legacy of Second World War landmines, whilst in the south-western corner of the country, the desert rises into a series of spectacular yet virtually inaccessible peaks and plateaus. Crossing the green strip of the Nile, the Red Sea coast is reached, famous for its great coral reefs. The Sinai Peninsula, separated from the rest of the country by the Suez Canal, rises from the coast to a mountainous interior, capped by Mount Sinai.

You will often hear people talk of "Upper" and "Middle" and "Lower" Egypt. Confusingly this refers to the course of the Nile, and so Upper Egypt is in fact the south of the country, around the upper reaches of the Nile and the towns of Luxor and Aswan. Middle East is the centre of the country, around towns like Minya and the site of Armana. Lower Egypt is the north of the country, encompassing Cairo and the Nile Delta.

### Climate

Egypt, for the most part is either warm and dry or hot and dry. In Upper Egypt there is very little rainfall, and the average daily temperature rises from the low twenties Celsius in January, quickly up to the late thirties in the summer, and remaining in the thirties late into the autumn. Whilst it is hot, there is little humidity and with the exception of the summer months, it is comfortable, or tolerable at worst. Even in the summer, if you do your sightseeing early in the morning, and late in the afternoon and have a high tolerance for heat, then it is possible to visit, with the added advantage that the crowds are much thinner than at cooler times of the year.

Cairo does get some rain in the winter - about 5mm a month, but that's still not much. Winter temperatures are cool, perhaps as low as ten degrees Celsius, but spring and autumn are very pleasant, with very little or no rain, and temperatures in the mid-twenties Celsius. Summer does get hot, into the mid-thirties, and can be humid.

The Red Sea also has next to no rain, and does not get as cold as Cairo in the winter, nor as hot as Upper Egypt in the summer, so can be visited year-round.

The best time to go to Egypt is February - April and October - November, although if you are prepared to accept more extreme weather (i.e. cooler, wetter Cairo in December-January or very hot Upper Egypt in May-August) then

prices are often lower and there are far fewer crowds at the monuments and sites.

### **Airport Taxes**

Normally there are no taxes to be paid on departure from Egyptian airports. However, on odd occasions clients have been asked to pay a departure tax of LE25 (payable only in Egyptian pounds). It is worth keeping back this small amount of Egyptian currency just in case this should happen.

### **Language**

Arabic, the official language of Egypt, is not a homogenous tongue: the Arabic spoken in Morocco, differs hugely from that spoken in Yemen, which differs again from that spoken in Egypt, and so on. However Egyptian Arabic is, thanks to the dominance of Egyptian soap operas on Arab television, the most widely understood in the Arab world.

All of the guides and representatives who deal with you will speak reasonable or good English. The drivers' English is likely to be a bit more basic, but communication should be possible. The salesmen and touts who you will encounter at any site of interest are likely to have reasonable English as well! In Upper Egypt, away from the sites, souqs and hotels, it is quite possible that you will encounter locals who speak no English.

### **Passport Requirements**

All visitors to Egypt must hold passports that are valid for at least six months beyond the proposed date of entry to the country. UK citizens must obtain tourist visas - either from the Egyptian consulate or obtained on arrival at the airport for approx \$15US (also payable in pounds). We routinely advise clients to obtain visas on arrival, as it is a simple procedure and there will be a representative of our local agents, Emeco, on hand to assist with the process. Visas issued at the airport are only valid for one month whereas visas obtained from consulates are valid for 3 months. You cannot get a visa at some overland border crossings or at Aswan and Suez (apart from Sinai-only visas).

Non-UK citizens should contact the Egyptian Embassy to check what entry requirements apply to them.

### **Money & Expense**

Egypt's currency is the Egyptian pound (LE). In October 2012, £1 was worth LE9.8. This is just a guide as the exchange rate fluctuates regularly. Banknotes have both Arabic and Western numerals on them and come in the following denominations: LE1, LE5, LE10, LE20, LE50, LE100. You will probably never come into contact with an LE100 note, and if you do, you will be unable to use it anywhere except hotels, restaurants and major shops, as most traders and businesses horde change and will not want to break up LE100 for you. There are sometimes problems with LE50 note because of a spate of forgeries.

There are 100 piastres in an Egyptian pound, and they come in notes of 10pt, 25pt, 50pt, and coins of 5pt, 10pt, 20pt, 25pt, 50pt. Try to establish and keep

a good supply of lower denomination coins and notes, as they are best for tipping with, and for many of the smaller purchases you will make.

Credit cards can be used in hotels, major restaurants and shops, but not in many other places. There are ATMs now in most of the major towns, and money and travellers cheques can be changed at the main bank branches and the Forex private money exchangers.

Hard currency is at a premium, both for the government, and for the man on the street as it is more likely to hold its value. In practice this means that some hotels will require you to settle extras bills in foreign currency, and that you may find tips are better appreciated in sterling or dollars.

## **Tipping**

Tipping, known as baksheesh locally, is endemic and will be variously requested or demanded for every service rendered, no matter how small. You will even find that some people request baksheesh without offering any service - these requests are the easiest to turn down!

As a rule tips for those providing small services - portage, attendants at tombs and temples etc should be pretty small - perhaps around LE5-10. For drivers, pay around LE10-15 per person per transfer or LE30 per person per full-day excursion. For guides, pay around LE60-80 per person per full day excursion.

Other areas where you might be expected to tip include on the cruises - allow about LE50-80 per person per day for the cruise staff, a general tip that is normally put in a communal box at the end of the cruise. Guides are tipped separately - you can use the above guidelines. At airports, there will be a local representative to help you with check-in and arrival; they can be tipped around LE5-10 per person. On your initial arrival into the country, you will probably also have someone to assist you with obtaining your visa and they can be tipped a similar amount. This does mean that there are quite a few people involved when you arrive at airports and are transferred to your hotel - this is partly because only people with certain permits can meet you airside at airports, and partly to ensure that you meet with your local representative early in proceedings.

Ultimately the above suggestions are nothing more than guidelines. Tipping is discretionary: it is an accepted part of culture and you should tip the smaller services no matter how perfunctory they seem. With the drivers, guides and cruise staff, please do not feel obliged to tip to these guidelines if you felt the service was substandard. Expectations on how much to tip vary hugely from nationality to nationality, and individual to individual, so you will meet people who are tipping different amounts to you. The key is to tip however much you feel comfortable with.

These tipping amounts are based on an exchange rate of £1 = LE9.66, correct in Jul 2011. You should try to acquire large amounts of small denomination LE

notes as soon as possible so you have a supply for tipping.

### **Communications**

The international dialling code for Egypt is ++20. There is a good telecommunications network, although on cruises, especially Lake Nasser cruises, there are not always telephones on the boats and calls can only be made in an emergency, via satellite. All the cruises do have land offices as well which can be contacted.

As with many places in the world, there is a hefty premium to pay when making international calls from hotels: be aware of this and if you want to keep costs down, there are PTT (Post, Telephone & Telegraph) offices in most major cities where more sensibly priced international calls can be made.

The local mobile phones run on GSM networks and have roaming agreements with most major operators: check with your mobile phone operator before you go to make sure your phone will work in Egypt. Coverage is reasonable in most towns and cities, but poor outside this. There are also internet cafes in most towns and cities and in most hotels (although again, beware of the price).

### **Time**

GMT plus 2 hours

### **Shopping & Business Hours**

You will have ample opportunity to buy a wide range of souvenirs in Egypt, from tacky, fake Pharaonic offerings, to good quality leather goods and brassware. In the souqs you will find a decent selection of local crafts and jewellery, as well as traditional items like shisha water pipes. Be very wary of buying anything antique or expensive, unless you really know what you are talking about. It is illegal to export genuine antiques, so even if you avoid getting ripped off with a fake antique, you stand a good chance of being arrested at the airport! Similarly there are numerous stories of people buying supposedly top-notch carpets, or jewels or other expensive goods, and getting home to discover either they've been sold a fake, or that the trader has shipped them an alternative, lower-quality offering. The basic law is very much caveat emptor!

Shopping in Egypt can be a high pressure event. Traders will try to drag you into their shops, with offers of tea and cries of "just look!", but once there it is hard to leave without feeling guilty! Be prepared to be polite but firm in your refusals and do not get flustered if they become agitated. Bargaining is expected and you should never pay the first, or marked price but negotiate. There are endless strategies for haggling and you can try whatever method you enjoy the most or find the most effective. As a rule, you should probably be paying between 30-60% of the original suggested price, but this is not always true. If you seem to hit an absolute brick-wall, below which the vendor will not negotiate, you may well have reached the best price you are going to get. If you have the patience, simply hanging around the store and not moving from your preferred price can often pay dividends, as can simply walking off - quite

often you will be pursued with a much reduced offer. The main thing to do is to keep a sense of humour about you!

A word on commissions: it is standard practice for guides to receive a cut of the price on anything you buy with them in attendance: payment for having taken you to a given shop or trader. As a result guides often put unplanned shopping stops into itineraries, sometimes under the pretext of visiting a "carpet school" or a factory of some description: and the sales pressure can be turned up quite high in such circumstances. Our guides have been instructed not to take you shopping unless you specifically request it - so by no means feel obliged to go into shops or to buy, and if you are having significant problems with this, contact either Emeco or ourselves to have the guide replaced.

A definite dual pricing policy exists: whether you are with a guide or not, you will always pay more than a local does. When you consider average wages in the UK compared to average wages in Egypt this seems only fair!

Shopping hours are generally Monday-Saturday 9 am-9 pm. Hours vary in summer and during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Banking hours are generally Sunday-Thursday 8:30 am-2 pm plus an evening shift (5-8pm in winter, 6-9pm in summer); some also open similar hours on Saturday, and from 10am to noon on Sunday. For arriving visitors, the banks at Cairo Airport and the border crossings from Israel are open 24 hours daily, and those at ports whenever a ship docks.

### **Electricity**

Electrical current is 220 volts AC; 50Hz. European two-pin plugs are the most common and an adaptor will be required.

### **Food & Drink**

Most of the food you eat will be in hotels, bigger restaurants and on the cruise vessels. This tends to be an international version of local cuisine: slightly sanitised Lebanese and Turkish cuisine. So expect homous (chickpea paste), tabouleh (diced parsley and tomato), tahina (sesame paste sauce) and the like for starters, kofta (mince patties), kebab, shwarma (slices of marinated lamb) for main courses, and plenty of traditional flat bread. Side dishes of beans and spicy vegetables will usually be available.

Nubian food in the south is more spicy and cooked in earthenware pots, almost Moroccan style. If you take excursions into the desert in the Sinai, you may encounter traditional Bedouin cooking: flat bread baked on the inside wall of a kiln-like oven and normally some sort of mutton-based stew. Prices vary greatly depending on whether you are having a quick, cheap shwarma in pitta bread from a street vendor (approximately LE5-10) or eating in one of Cairo's top restaurants (expect to pay up to LE250 without drinks). Generally most mid-range restaurants will give you a meal for about LE50-100.

The Egyptians have a tradition of brewing that is long, if not all that distinguished. Egyptian wine in particular has not garnered many international fans despite the privatisation of the vineyards several years ago. There are however some Egyptian beers that definitely pass muster, especially after a long days' sightseeing. Stella (absolutely nothing to do with the Belgian beer of the same name!) is the longest-established brewery, founded by a German and brewed to the famous German purity laws. Stella Local also has the distinct advantage of coming in big litre glass bottles. Another brew worth investigating is Saqqara Gold, a more recent addition to the Egyptian bar which perhaps has a slight edge over Stella. A bottle of beer will set you back LE10-15 and local wine about LE40 a bottle. Imported alcohol is much more expensive.

It goes without saying that if you eat and drink in the international hotels and cruise boats, it will cost you more than it would outside these establishments. In resort hotels it is especially worth remembering this as you are something of a captive market.

The question of hygiene is often raised by travellers to Egypt. Of the hundreds of people we have sent to Egypt over the past few years, we have had virtually no incidents of major stomach upsets. The level of precautions you take depends entirely on how susceptible you are to this sort of thing. If you have a fairly cast-iron stomach, then you can get away with just not drinking tap water and sticking to the bottled stuff. If you want to be more cautious, people often advocate avoiding salads as they have been washed in the tap water - although the salads are some of the nicest dishes you'll have, and you could reasonably expect to be safe eating them in good hotels. Avoid food that looks like it has spent too long in the sun and look for clearly fresh produce. People often also avoid having ice cubes in their drinks as these are sometimes made from tap water - a precaution worth taking in more run-down establishments, but again probably not necessary in the major hotels.

### **Social Conventions & Etiquette**

Egypt is a predominantly Muslim country, although government is secular. It is very important to respect Muslim social customs. This involves dressing in a way that will not offend: men should never be in public without a shirt of some sort on, and both sexes should remove shoes before entering a mosque or religious site. The conventions for women are harder to prescribe, but put simply the more you cover up, the less unwelcome hassle and attention you can expect. We would always suggest covering the shoulders and upper arms, perhaps with a loose cotton shirt, avoid displaying lots of cleavage, wear either long, loose dresses or loose shorts that come to the knee or below. Women should also cover their heads in mosques and religious sites. Public displays of affection should be avoided.

Western women on their own in Egypt will unfortunately be the target of a certain amount of unwelcome attention. This can be minimised by taking care over clothing, as detailed above, and always being accompanied, ideally by a male. At a low level, it is best to ignore any approaches or comments. If it



becomes more persistent and unpleasant, or physical, if you are in a public area, confront the individual: by appealing to the decency of those around you, particularly any women, you can shame him into leaving you alone.

Do not photograph anything to do with the military or government buildings - also avoid photographing bridges and canals, or anything that could be construed as having strategic significance. Ask people if they mind before photographing them.

During Ramadan (see Festivals below), do not eat, drink or smoke in public.

In terms of responsible tourism, Egypt is not very advanced, but you can do your bit. Most hotels offer not to launder towels and bedding every day to save water: take them up on this. In general, do whatever you can to save water as this is a very precious resource: an easy step is to shower instead of taking a bath. Litter is a real problem: whilst you can do little to help clear up, you can make sure you don't contribute further to it.

Alms-giving is a central tenant of Islam, and you will be assailed with requests for money (again as baksheesh) from beggars, disabled people and children. You are by no means obliged to give to each and every one of them, but cases that appear more deserving may merit some small gesture.

The treatment of animals in Egypt is far below what we would regard as acceptable. Most notably, you will see donkeys and horses in poor condition being mistreated: whipped, underfed and made to carry huge loads. Caleshes are traditional horse-drawn carriages that you will see at most major tourist sites. Where the horse is clearly not being looked after, avoid using the calesh. Sometimes they are included as part of a set package, but if you insist, alternative transport will be found. For those who want to do more to help these animals, the work of the Brooke Hospital may be of interest. With a string of hospitals across the Middle East, they specialise in looking after mistreated donkeys, mules and horses - more can be found out at their website [www.thebrooke.org](http://www.thebrooke.org) and donations can be made there as well.

## **Health**

Vaccinations are recommended for Typhoid, Hepatitis A & Diphtheria. TB, Hepatitis B & Rabies are worth considering if you are travelling frequently or spending an extended time in the country. All travellers are advised to ensure that tetanus and polio vaccinations are up to date. Recommendations do change from time to time and it is important to discuss your personal requirements with your doctor.

Malarial advice on Egypt varies, so please check with your doctor, but generally Egypt is regarded to be a non-malarial area, with the exception of El Fayoum oasis. Cover up in the evenings and use some mosquito repellent to avoid being bitten.

## **Suggested Clothing & Other Items**

Bring comfortable shoes, a sweater, clothes you can layer and an all-weather coat. Sunscreen and a hat or sunglasses are also recommended. It may be worth women taking a scarf to use for covering their heads at religious sites.

### **Public Holidays & Festivals**

There are a number of holidays and festivals in both the Muslim and Coptic Christian calendar. Those that have the greatest impact are the Muslim ones, as 90% of the population is Muslim.

Ramadan is the major event to be aware of. Muslims observe a total fast from sunrise to sunset for a month, and out of respect you should not eat, drink or smoke in public. Outside of major hotels, most restaurants will be closed during the hours of daylight and in the hotels there may only be one, indoor, outlet open during the day. As sunset approaches, the roads become chaotic - everyone is rushing to get home or to a restaurant to break the fast. The evenings are a time of celebration, with music, eating and shopping taking high priority. Egyptians have, at best, a languid approach to timekeeping: during Ramadan this is stretched even further as most people are noticeably tired and lethargic during the day.

Ramadan is declared with the observation of the new moon, so if the moon is not seen, Ramadan does not start: this means that the exact dates are not fixed and may vary by a day or two.

#### 2012 Public Holidays

Jan 9th: Coptic Christmas Day

Jan 25th: National Day - Celebration of the 2011 revolution

Feb 4th: Birth of the Prophet

Apr 15th: Sham el-Nassim (Coptic Easter)

Apr 25th: Sinai Liberation Day (Sinai only)

May 1st: Labour Day

Jul 20th - Aug 18th: Ramadan

Jul 23rd: National Day - Celebration of the 1953 revolution

Aug 19th: Eid/Aid al-Fitr ( End of Ramadan)

Sep 11th: Coptic New Year

Oct 6th: Armed Forces Day

Oct 21st: Navy Day

Oct 24th: Suez Day

Oct 26th: Eid/Aid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)

Nov 15th: Islamic New Year

Dec 23rd: Suez Victory Day

### **Recommended Reading**

#### HISTORY & TRAVEL

Literature about Ancient Egypt abounds, from the dull and scholarly to the frankly weird and fantastical. A good place to start would be The Penguin Guide to Ancient Egypt by William J Marnane.

An Atlas of Ancient Egypt by Baines & Malek. This large book provides good maps, diagrams and explanations of the Ancient Egyptian sites.

Cairo: The City Victorious by Max Rodenbeck. Rodenbeck manages to examine Cairo's history and present in an entertaining and highly-readable way.

Travels with a Tangerine by Tim Mackintosh-Smith, an Arabist who has lived in Yemen for the past twenty years. In the 1990s he set off to follow the itinerary of Ibn Battutah, a fourteenth century Muslim traveller from Tangier, Morocco. This first volume covers most of North Africa and the Middle East and there is an extensive section on Cairo and other parts of Egypt.

From the Holy Mountain by William Dalrymple. Like Mackintosh-Smith, Dalrymple retraced the steps of a traveller from another age, in this case John Moschos, a monk from Bethlehem. This book also examines the experiences of Christians living in the Middle East today, including the Coptic community in Egypt.

Cairo in the War by Artemis Cooper. A fascinating description of life in Cairo during the Second World War, using the personal accounts of a variety of residents.

Beyond the Pyramids by Douglas Kennedy. Although an account of a trip made in the late 1980s, many of the issues raised by the author still resonate in today's Egypt. As well as visiting the main sites, he also went to a few more "off the beaten track" places, including Siwa and some of the ancient Christian convents and monasteries scattered around the country.

#### LITERATURE

The Cairo Trilogy by Naguib Mahfouz. Mahfouz, a Nobel Laureate, is probably Egypt's greatest writer. This trilogy chronicles the life of a Cairene family through the 20th century and is a fantastic depiction not just of traditional Egyptian life, but also tells something of the history of the country as the family are caught up in the major events that shaped modern Egypt.

The Map of Love by Ahdaf Soueif. Ahdaf Soueif is an Egyptian writer who writes in English. This novel, her most successful work to date, is set partly in the early 1900s and partly in the late 1990s and follows two love stories set against the backdrop of political events in Egypt.

The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al-Aswany. This book caused a storm of controversy when it was published in 2002, because of the way it deals with certain taboos in Egyptian society. It has also been made into a film.

The Cairo House by Samia Serageldin. A semi-autobiographical novel by the niece of one of Egypt's foremost politicians of the twentieth century, this book offers an insight into the troubled political history of the country following the British withdrawal. The author also examines the impact of leaving one's motherland and returning in later life.

The Tragedy of the Korosko by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Set on the upper reaches of the Nile, where Lake Nasser is now to be found, this is the fictional account of a group of Western travellers, abducted from their intrepid Nile cruise by local tribesmen.

#### ART

Egypt: Yesterday and Today by Fabio Bourbon and David Roberts. Roberts' watercolours of the Middle East are famous and many of his works are iconic representations of major monuments that have come to define those monuments in public perception. This book isn't really literature, but complements Roberts' works with modern photographs of the same monuments and as such is a beautiful book.

#### MEMOIR

Oleander Jacaranda by Penelope Lively. The popular author Penelope Lively was born in Cairo and lived there until the age of twelve. In this book she explores memories of her childhood in Egypt and her feelings when re-visiting the country in later life.

Out of Place by Edward Said. Edward Said, the late Palestinian academic, also spent most of his childhood in Cairo. Although pitched as an autobiography, the book also examines Said's experiences of being an "outsider" wherever he lived.

Apricots on the Nile by Colette Rossant. A combination of memoir and recipe-book, this is an account of French-born Rossant's time spent with her father's Egyptian-Jewish relatives in Cairo during the 1930s and 1940s.

#### REFERENCE

Both the Rough Guide and Lonely Planet for Egypt are decent reference books.

## CHARITY SUPPORT

Audley has been supporting carbon reduction projects through Friends of Conservation since 2005 and in addition to this each individual department also supports a charity of their choice with a yearly financial donation. This charity is one that is close to their hearts and the team often chooses to fundraise to add to this amount. Please ask your specialist if you would like to find out more as in most instances they will have visited the charity themselves, or one of their colleagues will have.

### **The Hannan School and Audley's contribution**

Having researched numerous voluntary organisations throughout their region, the Middle East team voted to support the charity Hannan School in Morocco. Impressed with the charity's strong vision of providing a better education and improved welfare to a small Berber community in the remote Middle Atlas Mountains, the team was also keen to support a small organisation, locally based to our offices in Witney, with which they could build a strong and lasting relationship.

The charity founders, Hannah and Hmad Naatit, kindly came to the office to meet the team and introduce them to the Hannan School. As they explained, a World Bank report quoted Morocco as having one of the worst standards of education in the Arab world. To help combat this problem Hannan purchased a building in the village of El Borj and at the time of Hannah and Hmad's visit it was converted into a pre-school and community centre to provide a good standard of easily accessible education for the local community. Keen to support this project the Middle East team organised a souk style cake and craft sale and an auction for a weekend in Morocco and raised over £500. This donation, combined with the annual donation from Audley, enabled Hannan to install the essential water pipes and lavatory facilities in the pre-school and also provided a first aid kit and training.



The pre-school has since gone from strength to strength and the charity has now extended the building to a second floor. This has meant that there is space for storage as well as for teacher meetings, and somewhere for the caretaker to sleep (he was previously sleeping on the kitchen floor). By paying teachers and the caretaker the charity have created employment in the village. The children are getting a great start to their education and are leaping ahead when they go to the government school.

In addition to these projects Hannan also currently sponsors over 71 local children through their education. A monthly donation of £10 provides a child with books, equipment and clothes and there are many more children in the area who could benefit from this scheme. The Middle East team has been sponsoring a young boy called Abed Rahim for the last couple of years and hopes to be able to continue this support in the future.

If you would like further information please speak to your Middle East specialist or visit [www.hannan-school.com](http://www.hannan-school.com). There will also be the opportunity for Audley clients to visit the Hannan project in El Borj if their itinerary takes them between Fez and Marrakesh by car.

## EGYPTIAN MUSEUM GUIDE



### MUSEUM INTRODUCTION

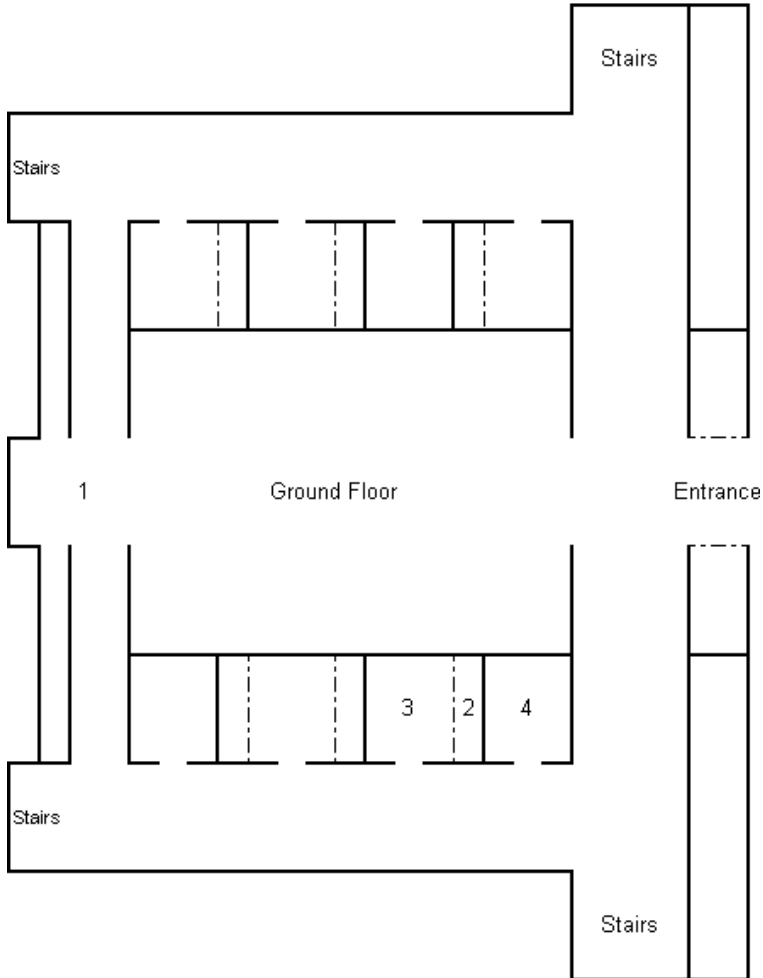
A visit to the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities is an important part of any trip to Egypt. It is bursting at the seams with more than 100,000 artefacts and as a result a new museum will soon open in Giza. All of the artefacts here tell the story of the Ancient Egyptians, from their early development into a unified state through to their absorption into the classical world of Rome and Greece. As well as objects of great beauty, day-to-day tools and the stunning array of funerary artefacts typified by the famous contents of Tutankhamun's tomb, the museum also offers a chance to study and understand, at close quarters, various key symbols and architectural devices that you will see writ large across the many temples, pyramids and tombs of Egypt.

We have put together this guide to help you to make the most of your time in this fantastic building and offer you our own personal recommendations in the "our must sees" section. However, we strongly recommend that you take a guide with you to ensure you are making the most of this fantastic museum. It's easy to miss things and the knowledge you'll take away with you will really help you appreciate your stay in Egypt.

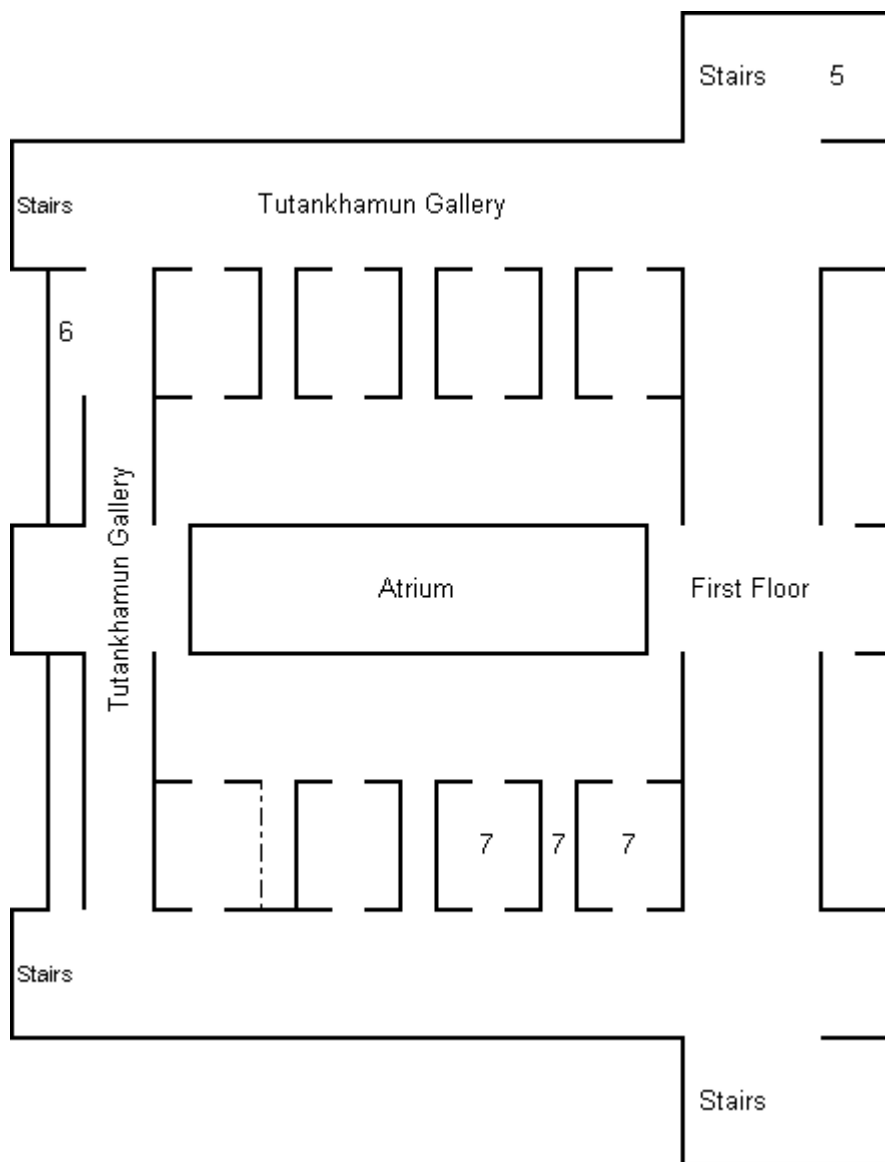
### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Egyptian Museum is not the best organised museum in the world. Rather than just giving you room numbers, we've also provided a floor plan on the following pages. This is a very simplified map but should hopefully make sense once you are at the museum. As with any museum exhibits are moved around or sent off on tours, and new exhibits are introduced. We are not kept abreast of all these developments, so please accept our apologies if the information in

this guide doesn't match what you found in the museum. If you do find any inaccuracies, please do let us know on your return so we can update this guide. The rooms are numbered, although the numbering is reset between the ground and first floor. So there are two rooms of each number, one on the ground and one on the first floor. Generally speaking the rooms of each number are found directly above and below one another. On our floor plan we've indicated where each of our "Must Sees" can be found, and then in the accompanying text given you the exact room numbers







FIRST FLOOR

## OUR MUST-SEES

Please cross-reference our suggestions below with the floor plan on the preceding pages.



### **Megan Shaw, Egypt Specialist**

No 1 (rooms 3, 7-9, Ground Floor) "Sometimes the treasures of the Egyptian Museum bedazzle you simply by their volume and their similarities in style throughout the millennia of the ancient Egyptians. The objects collected during the reign of Akhenaten stand out all the more against this backdrop, and they fascinate me. During his reign, the father of Tutankhamun is believed to have focussed his religious energies on the worship of Aten, breaking with the tradition of multiple gods and reflected in a shift in the craftsmanship of the era. Depictions of Akhenaten himself are notably disfigured - his large stomach and unusually-shaped head may paint a more accurate picture of his looks than the idealised statues and images of Pharaohs gone by, or perhaps they were symbolic of his religious beliefs. Whatever the reasons, the style had disappeared just one generation later, which you see when you visit the Tutankhamun section. This one period of artistic and religious change not only is striking in its own right, but I think it makes every other piece in the Museum shine a little brighter and point to the longevity and skill of the ancient Egyptians."

### **Victoria Kurtaz, Egypt Specialist**

No 2 (room 32, Ground Floor). "The ground floor rooms off the Old Kingdom galleries contain a number of fascinating exhibits which are all the more amazing when you consider they are about four and a half thousand years old. I

love the statues of Prince Rahotep and Princess Nefert found in the Old Kingdom section. Their colouring is incredibly bright and vivid, right down to the depiction of Rahotep's moustache. The detail is wonderful and they make a striking pair. In the same room, on the left hand wall as you walk in, are a series of murals from a tomb – the most impressive is of a flock of geese, perfectly observed and depicted."

### **Nicholas Horncastle, Egypt Specialist**

No 3 (room 37, Ground Floor). "One of the more remarkable feats of excavation and exhibiting is the rock tomb displayed in its entirety in the Old Kingdom room 37. In actual fact I think what has happened is that the size and shape of the tomb have been recreated from modern materials, but the original wall paintings and decorations have been lifted from the original tomb and used to line the modern recreation. The effect is impressive, really giving you a sense for what the smaller tombs of noblemen and rich workers looked like. It's a great taster for the stunning and dramatic tombs of the West Bank at Luxor, if you are continuing on there during your trip."



### **Harry Ring, Egypt Specialist**

No 4 (room 42, Ground Floor). "The Egyptian museum contains such an unequalled wealth of Pharaonic history with its artefacts, jewellery and other trappings of dynastic power that the daily life of the divine rulers has been documented in remarkably impressive detail. However, it is the rare glimpses that we are given into what the daily grind must have been for the more humble masses that have now captured my interest. Carved figures and engraved images represent all-manner of trades - artisans, hunters, soldiers, the first dentist in history, and even the odd peasant make appearances, but the most intriguing is the strikingly life-like wooden statue of the priest Ka-aper which can be found in room 42.

Like much of the museum's arsenal, amusingly inaccurate labelling, a dearth of signposting and an intricate system of rotating the objects on show (known only to the curators themselves) makes it hard to give directions to many of these exhibits - all I can say is that while you are gazing in awe at the relics of the ruling classes, keep an eye out for the little guys that did all the hard work.

### **Fiona Miller, Egypt Specialist**

No 5 (room 53, First Floor). "When visiting The Egyptian Museum be sure to make a stop in 'The Mummy Room'. Located on the first floor this is actually two rooms housing royal individuals from the 17th to the 21st dynasty. The most significant individual in here by far is Ramses II. This king was responsible for some of the most impressive temples in Egypt and seeing the man himself (albeit looking slightly worse for wear) is a fascinating part of any trip to Egypt. Entrance to the Mummy Rooms is not included in the Egyptian Museum entry ticket and must be paid for on the second floor of the museum, at a cost of LE 100 per person."

### **Sarah Whatman, Egypt Specialist**

No 6 (room 4, First Floor). "Room 4, located within the Tutankhamun Gallery, contains a sparkling collection of Ancient Egyptian Jewellery. There are bracelets, necklaces, belts and beads galore, featuring gold and the typical lapis lazuli and coral. Although all the pieces date back thousands of years, I am always struck by how modern the jewellery looks and how the Egyptian style continues to influence designers of today."



### **Alex Grose, Egypt Specialist**

No 7 (rooms 32, 37, 42). "The funerary exhibits of Tutankhamun fully deserve their top billing at the museum, but I've always been a fan of the more everyday glimpses of Ancient Egyptian life. They are some how more personal than massive gilded thrones, not to mention the fact that these exhibits are

deserted in comparison with the hordes that throng through Tutankhamun's galleries. The best window into the Ancient Egyptian world is in rooms 32, 37 and 42 upstairs, all next to each other. Here you'll find scale models from tombs depicting all manner of daily scenes, from rowing vessels with straining oarsmen, or bakeries with perspiring bakers in front of their ovens, beautiful walled gardens, butcher yards attached to kitchens, or a local overlord taking a census of all his cattle. Superbly executed with amazing detail, something that always strikes me is how much the scenes depicted here are still part of rural life in the Nile Valley, still to be seen when exploring Upper Egypt."

## VISITOR INFORMATION



Address: Midan el Tahrir, Cairo, Egypt 11557

Telephone: (202) 5782448

Fax: (202) 579697

Web address: [www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg](http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg)

Opening time: 9am-6pm, daily except Fridays, 9am-1pm

Please note you are no longer allowed to take cameras in the museum. There is a place for you to store your cameras before entering the museum and you are given a ticket which you hand back in to get your camera back afterwards.

The museum has a Gift Shop, Cafeteria and Bank

## WALKING TOUR OF CAIRO

### **Approximate time is 2-3 hours.**

First impressions of downtown Cairo do not make it easy for the visitor to believe that these streets were once modelled on the new boulevards of Paris in the 1860's. Two streets in particular, Talaat Harb and Qasr el-Nile were rebuilt in this European style to impress the dignitaries attending the inauguration of the Suez Canal. Since these streets are integral to the electric atmosphere of downtown Cairo there is no better place to start a walking tour than in this area.

**Disclaimer:** we have done our utmost to ensure that all the information provided is up to date and correct but please be aware that Cairo street names may be spelt differently. This walking tour is only a suggestion for something to do in your free time and Audley Travel is not responsible for its operation. Please be careful crossing roads.

### **Begin at Midan at Tahrir - from here walk north along Shari Talet Harb**

This is one of the busiest streets in Cairo and is popular with shoppers, tourists and city workers. The buildings are a little grimy and dirty due to the high pollution levels in the city but if you look closely, the buildings are clearly similar to those built in Paris during the 1800s.



**Continue along Shari Talet Harb until you reach Midan Talet Harb. This is a roundabout giving access to both Shari Talet Harb and Shari Qasr el-Nil, easily recognisable by the statue of Talaat Harb, a nationalist lawyer and founder of the National Bank**

If now feels like the right time to stop for a coffee you may wish to visit Groppi's. This is a famous coffee house on Midan Talaat Harb, at the intersection with Shari Qasr el-Nil. Giacomo Groppi was a renowned chocolatier from Switzerland and it was his son who founded this well known

café. In the 1930s this was the place to be seen by Cairene society. Today Groppi and his descendents have since left Cairo but the café is still very popular and the old world atmosphere is evident in the ornate mosaics around the entrance doorway.



**From here you should continue walking along Shari Qasr el-Nil until you reach the National Bank at the intersection between Shari Qasr el- Nil and Shari Sharif**

On Fridays at midday, this area serves as an outdoor mosque and the streets are lined with green mats where the faithful recite parts of the Koran.

**Turn left onto Shari Sharif and take the second right onto Shari Adly**

Your landmark on this street is the Shar Hashamain Synagogue. The Jewish community in Cairo is extremely small but the building is still open for Saturday worship. The reliefs on the columns outside the building represent the Tree of Manna whence Heaven's bounty fell upon the Israelites.



### **Continue East on Shari Adly until it terminates at Midan al Opera**

In the 1860s when the downtown area was being rebuilt an Opera House was erected here and the opening performance was a lavish version of Rigoletto. Unfortunately the Opera House burned down in the 70s and a rather depressing multi story car park stands in its place.

### **Continue eastwards onto Midan al Ataba (at this point you will find yourself under a flyover) and turn right onto Shari al-Qala. This street is 2kilometres long and runs directly to the Citadel**

The first half of this street is littered with musical instrument shops where you can see traditional instruments such as the 'ud, tabliah and qanun being made. The shop keepers will give you a demonstration and tell you stories of how they have played with Egypt's finest musicians.

### **Half way down this street you can find Midan Ahmed Mahir. The Museum of Islamic Art and the Egyptian Library are both located here and if you choose to continue walking you should either continue straight onto The Citadel or turn left onto Shari Ahmed Mahir**

On Shari Ahmed Mahir you will find The Red Mosque (Al-Mu'ayyadd) and Bab Zuweila. Bab Zuweila dates back to the 11th century and is one of the most impressive gates in Cairo. Formerly it marked the southern limits of the city and over the years has been a departure point for caravans on their way to Mecca. For simply stunning views you should visit the minarets on top of the gate itself. Entrance to these is through The Al-Mu'ayyadd Mosque.



### **From here it is one straight road to Islamic Cairo and Khan al-Khalili bazaars. The name of the street is Shari al Mu'zz li Din**

The Khan El Khalili refers to a large collection of souqs centred on a 13th century caravanserai where traders could find accommodation as well as space to sell their wares. The area is a warren of passages and alleyways, and some of the walls hide second streets that mirror those outside, except they run along the first floors of the buildings. Each souq contains warehouses and workshops dedicated to a particular trade: gold, ironmongery, perfume spices and so on.



Today the area has become a major tourist attraction and people from all over the world gather to try their hand at bargaining and haggling for goods and souvenirs. The atmosphere of times gone by can still be captured by strolling through the alleyways, chatting to the artisans and perhaps stopping in the famous Fishawi's café for a glass of mint tea and a water pipe. If you have worked up an appetite the Nagib Mahfouz Café in the bazaar is an excellent place to end your walking tour and enjoy some traditional Egyptian food.

The street names in Cairo have been changed over the past fifty years and as a result maps of the city can vary. We recommend that for this walking tour you use the 'Insight Flexi Map' This is produced by Insight Guides and can be purchased in good book shops or on line at [www.insightguides.com](http://www.insightguides.com).

## ARABIC GUIDE

Arabic is the fourth most widely-spoken language in the world and is used in many of our North African and Arabian destinations. There are many regional dialects, but a standard Arabic language is used throughout. We have based this guide on the standard Arabic, meaning that when you speak it you are more likely to be understood, even though it may not be what the locals would habitually use.

Here are a few key phrases that our specialists have put together for you- as many of them are keen students, they will be able to help you with pronunciation should you need it!

### A NOTE ON PRONUNCIATION

Whilst a surprising number of letters in the Arabic alphabet have close equivalents in English, it goes without saying that there are several sounds that appear a little alien to the Western ear at first.

..gh..	To be pronounced like the French r , at the back of the throat.
..kh..	To be pronounced like the ch in the Scottish 'loch'.
..aa..ee..oo..	A long, emphasised vowel.
..'..	A glottal stop, as in the cockney 'bottle'. If it comes at the end of a word, then try and achieve the sound by 'closing the throat'.
..ss.. ..dd..	Doubled consonants; should be pronounced separately, with a tiny pause in the middle.
..h..	The Arabic h; sound is commonly aspirated and should be pronounced especially at the end of a word.

## GREETINGS

Hello	marhaba
How are you?	kayf al-hail?
I'm fine	ana bi-khair / bi-khaira (f)
Welcome!	ahlan wa sahlán
(response)	ahlan bik / bikee (to a female)
Good morning	sabaah al-khair
(response)	sabaah an-noor
Good evening	masaa' al-khair
(response)	masaa' an-noor
Please	min fadlik
Thank-you	shukraan
Yes	na`am
No	laa
I'm British	ana min baritaanya
OK	maashi
You're welcome / My pleasure.	afwaan
I'm sorry.	ana aasif / asfa (f)
What's your name?	issmak ay?
My name is...	issmee ...
Goodbye	ma'a assalaama

## TIME AND DAYS

Today	el-yaum
Yesterday	ams
Tomorrow	bukra
Now	al-aan
Later	ba'dayn
What's the time?	As-saa'a kam?

## SHOPPING

Do you have...?	fee...?
How much is it?	bi-kam?
I want...	ana ayyiz / ayyza (f) ...
...big / bigger	...kabeer / akbar
...small / smaller	...sagheer / asghar
...cheap / cheaper	...rakhees / arkhas
...good / better	...jayyid / ahsan
It's beautiful	haatha jameel
It's very expensive	haatha ghaali jiddan
I don't want it	mish ayyiz / ayyza (f)
I (don't) like this	Ana (laa) uhib haatha

## IN THE RESTAURANT

Restaurant	mat'am
It's delicious	haatha lazeez jiddan
I don't eat meat / fish	ana laa akul lahm / samak
I'm very hungry	ana ja'aan / ja'aana (f) jiddan
I'm very thirsty	ana 'atshaan / 'atshaana (f) jiddan
Can I have the menu please?	ayyiz al-menu min fadlik.
I'd like...	ana ayyiz / ayyza (f) ...
...fresh juice	...'aseer taazij
...coffee	...kahwa
...tea	...shy
...with / without milk	ma'a / bidoon haleeb
...with / without sugar	ma'a / bidoon sukker.
How much is the bill?	kam al hissaab?

## THE NUMBERS

1	wahid	١
2	ithnayn	٢
3	thalaatha	٣
4	arb'aa	٤
5	khamisa	٥
6	sitta	٦
7	sab'aa	٧
8	thamaaniya	٨
9	tiss'a	٩
10	'ashara	١٠
100	miyya	١٠٠
1000	elf	١٠٠٠

## AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ONLY EVER LEARN ONE PHRASE:

Hopefully / Later / We'll see.	In-sha'allah Whilst this phrase has an extremely wide variety of uses, please do not forget that the literal meaning is 'God Willing' and so should not be used inappropriately!
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## RESTAURANT GUIDE – CAIRO

If you would like to book any of these restaurants in advance then please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange this for you. We are also more than happy to arrange any special dietary requirements in advance. Please note that the following descriptions are for your guidance only; they are the opinions of our staff and are quite subjective.

### **Felafela**

**15 Shar'a Hoda Sharaawi, Downtown  
02/392-2833 (Also on Pyramids road)**



This Cairo institution is popular with both Egyptians and visitors. The main downtown branch has a pleasant ambience and quirky décor. Felfela is a good place to taste such Egyptian staples as shorbat 'ads (lentil soup), taamiya (the local version of falafel), and ful (stewed fava beans). The food is similar at the restaurant's other branches and Felfela serves beer.

### **Sequoia**

**53 Abu El Feda, Zamalek  
022/735-0014 Res Required**



One of Cairo's most fashionable restaurants, Sequoia boasts an excellent location on Zamalek Island with great views over the Nile. The internal décor is hip and informal, with large windows, panel floorings, sofas and draped canopies. Food is Mediterranean, incorporating good value Moroccan, Egyptian, Lebanese, Spanish and Greek cuisine, while the restaurant is also licensed and offers areas for smoking shisha.

### **Aubergine,**

**5 Shar'a Sayed Al-Bakry, Zamalek  
02/340-6550 Reservation required**



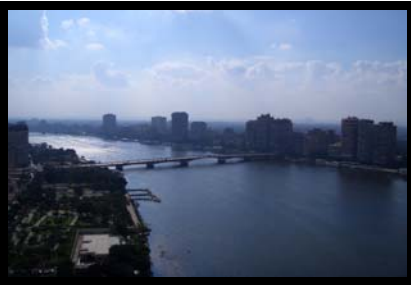
This casual, mostly vegetarian restaurant is a rare find, with an airy Mediterranean-style ground floor and a darker, candlelit upstairs. The always-innovative menu changes daily but usually consists of a soup, a couple of salads, half a dozen baked vegetable dishes, and four or five pastas - as well as a handful of meat and seafood specials.

**Arabesque,**  
6 Shar'a Qasr al-Nil, Downtown  
02/574-7898 Reservation required



Enter through a hidden passage that doubles as an art gallery. The Egyptian-Middle Eastern food is heavy on grilled meats and this restaurant certainly excels at them. This may be a difficult venue for a vegetarian, although there are plenty of houmous/ dips and vegetable side dishes available.

**The Fish Market,**  
Americana Boat, 26 El Nil St  
02 570-9693



Situated on the upper deck of a boat permanently moored on the west bank of the Nile, the scene here is decidedly simple: there's no menu, just a dsplay of unbelievably fresh fish, shrimp, crabs, calamari, and shellfish on ice. Pick what appeals, pay by weight, and the kitchen will prepare it however you like, with a selection of Middle Eastern salads on the side. The delicious bread is baked on the premises in a baladi (country) oven.

**About El Sid**  
157 Sharia 26th of July Street, Zamalek



An intimate bar / restaurant serving traditional Egyptian food, Abou El Sid has a laid back feel that reflects the evening atmosphere on Zamalek Island. There are a range of Lebanese style appetisers to get you started, most of which go perfectly with a cold beer. The main courses are a meat lover's paradise, with dishes such as Egyptian Stew and Veal Tajine to choose from, while braver visitors might also try the Meatball Molokheya, an Egyptian speciality that is something of an acquired taste.



## CONTACT DETAILS FOR FAMILY OR FRIENDS

### Your Itinerary Reference

**ALG104179-B**

This section provides details of the itinerary for Mr I Harris & Ms J Wormleighton and a list of all the accommodation which will be used during the holiday should it be necessary to get in touch.

### Contact Audley

If you are unable to contact Mr I Harris & Ms J Wormleighton at the hotel, please either phone or email our office and we will do all we can to assist.

It is best if you can call us within our office hours when we are best equipped to deal with the situation. Our office hours are shown in GMT below:

09:00 - 18:00 Monday to Thursday

09:00 – 17:30 on Friday

09:00 – 18:00 on Saturday

09:00 – 17:00 on Sunday

However, emergencies do occur outside of these hours, therefore you can call the emergency number. The emergency number will be answered by a messaging service and you should leave the following information; your name, the Itinerary reference shown above, the lead client name on the booking, your contact telephone details, when you will be available for us to call and an overview of the problem. The Audley Duty Manager will then call you back. Please note that the email addresses below should only be used in non-urgent situations, as they are not checked 24 hrs.

Office telephone: (0044) 1993 838 000 *(During office hours)*

Emergency Number: (0044) 1993 838 836 *(Outside office hours)*

Office fax: (0044) 1993 838 010

Email: [arabia@audleytravel.com](mailto:arabia@audleytravel.com) *(For non urgent issues only as not checked 24hrs)*

## YOUR ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY IN BRIEF	ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS
1	<b>Thu 22 Nov 2012</b>	On arrival at Cairo International Airport you will be met by one of our representatives. From here, you will be transferred by private car to your hotel for your 3 night stay in the capital.	The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo 1 x Premier Pyramid View Room for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
2	<b>Fri 23 Nov 2012</b>	Today your own private guide will collect you from your hotel to take you around the vibrant city of Cairo. You will have the opportunity to visit the fascinating Pyramids at Giza, as well as the Sphinx. The afternoon is yours to do as you wish - perhaps enjoy the hotel`s facilities.	The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo 1 x Premier Pyramid View Room for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
3	<b>Sat 24 Nov 2012</b>	Today your own private guide will collect you from your hotel to take you to visit the famous Cairo Museum. The afternoon is yours to do as you wish.	The Mena House Oberoi Hotel, Cairo 1 x Premier Pyramid View Room for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
4	<b>Sun 25 Nov 2012</b>	This morning you have an early start as your driver collects you from your hotel and transfers you to the airport for your short flight east to Hurghada. On arrival, your driver will collect you and transfer you to the Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY IN BRIEF	ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS
5	<b>Mon 26 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
6	<b>Tue 27 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
7	<b>Wed 28 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
8	<b>Thu 29 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
9	<b>Fri 30 Nov 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
10	<b>Sat 01 Dec 2012</b>	The day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel and its facilities.	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada 1 x Grand suite for 2 (Double) - Breakfast is included
11	<b>Sun 02 Dec 2012</b>	Today your driver will collect you from the Oberoi and transfer you to Hurghada Airport for the start of your journey home to the UK.	



## FLIGHT DETAILS

DEP. DATE	FLIGHT NO.	FROM	DEP. TIME	To	ARR. TIME	CLIENT(S)
22/11/12	MS 778	London Heathrow - Terminal 3	14:00	Cairo - Terminal 3	20:45	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris
25/11/12	MS 335	Cairo - Terminal 3	11:15	Hurghada	12:20	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris
02/12/12	MS 336	Hurghada	12:50	Cairo - Terminal 3	13:55	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris
02/12/12	MS 779	Cairo - Terminal 3	17:45	London Heathrow - Terminal 3	21:00	Ms Celia Wormleighton and Mr Ian Harris

The Arrival Time information shown above assumes same day arrival unless the following symbol is used:

+1 - Arrive following day

+2 - Arrive 2 days later

-1 - Arrive previous day (Crossing international dateline)



## HOTEL CONTACT DETAILS

HOTEL	CONTACT DETAILS	CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT DATES
<i>The Mena House Oberoi Hotel Pyramids' Road Giza Cairo</i>	Tel (Day) +20233766644 Tel (Day) +20233773222 Fax +20233775411 Web address <a href="http://www.oberoimenahouse.com">www.oberoimenahouse.com</a>	Thu 22 Nov 2012 - Sun 25 Nov 2012
<i>Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh PO Box 117 Red Sea Hurghada</i>	Tel (Day) +20 65 344 0777 Fax +20 65 344 0788 Web address <a href="http://www.oberoihotels.com">www.oberoihotels.com</a>	Sun 25 Nov 2012 - Sun 02 Dec 2012

Some hotels are difficult to contact, especially in remote locations. If you need to contact a friend or relative staying in a property where no contact details are listed please call Alex Grose on 01993 838412 who will be best placed to get a message to them.

