

*We Know*

# EGYPT

Egypt is a country developed around the Nile, whose population utilizes only about 5% of the total land area. The Nile gives Egypt's southern border the name "Upper Egypt." Within this stretch of the Nile is the world's most intensive concentration of temples, tombs and palaces constructed over the span of 4,000 years. It is only after one arrives in Cairo, that the history of Egypt can be realized. A tour of Egypt is a journey back into time.



# EGYPT

## Useful Information



### CLIMATE

Egypt's climate has two seasons, a mild winter from November to April, with an average daily high temperature below 72°F, and a hot, dry summer from May to October, with an average daily high temperature above 90°F. Temperatures vary greatly, both between seasons and between cities and even between day and night.

### CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

Egypt's official currency is the Egyptian pound (EGP) which is divided into 100 piastres. The smallest denominations are 25 piastres and 50 piastres. Visitors can bring up to 10,000 USD or the equivalent in foreign currency and exchange it for Egyptian pounds at a currency exchange found in all airports, banks, and many big hotels. Smaller notes are especially useful for tipping, taxis, and bargaining in small markets.

Cash is king in Egypt and many local restaurants, shops, and vendors will not have card facilities. ATMs are readily available in big cities, but some ATMs have an EGP 2,000 limit. Credit cards, including VISA, Mastercard, American Express and Diners Club, are widely accepted in major hotels, restaurants, and stores. Check with your bank for any fees you may be charged. Note: If carrying cash, it is recommended that you take only recently minted U.S. currency.

### SHOPPING HOURS

Shops are generally open from 10:00am to 8:00pm or later, but closed on Fridays between 11:00am and 1:00pm for prayers. Many shops are closed on Sundays. During summer, shops may close during the heat of the day, reopening in late afternoon and remaining open until 10:00pm or later. Shopping hours during Ramadan may differ. If travelling during this time, it is best to check at the hotel concierge desk or with your guide.

### LANGUAGE

Arabic is the national language and English is the second language. The traveler will usually be able to make himself understood in English.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Be respectful of the local people's outlook towards photography and only take pictures if permitted by the person or people the picture is being taken. Never try to "steal" a photo against the will of the person concerned. Let your tour guide help you negotiate terms before you start taking pictures. You must obtain permission to take photographs in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and the Coptic Museum. You are not allowed to take pictures of military zones, bridges, public works or strategic places, such as the Aswan High Dam.

### VOLTAGE

The usual voltage in Egypt is 220AC - 50 cycles. Wall plugs are the round, two pronged European type, but it is important to bring adapter plugs and transformers.

### ELECTRICAL PLUGS



220V 50Hz

