

For tours departing beyond 2009, itineraries may be subject to change. This will be confirmed by the publication of the 2010 brochure (issued in Oct 09).

**2009**  
Tour Dossier

**EXPLORE!**  
WORLDWIDE

**EGYPT** Dossier Ref. DEG

## Nile Dahabiya Journey

Amended 13 Aug 2009. Valid from 01 Aug 2009 to 31 Dec 2009  
Since first issue this dossier has been updated with amendments to the following sections: itinerary (day 11)

As our itineraries may be amended from time to time, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers, please ensure you have the most up-to-date copy of this dossier immediately before you travel. You can download the dossier from our website, [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk). Of course we will notify you of any significant changes, but sometimes minor changes may simply be added to the tour dossier.

### JOINING TOUR ABROAD

**12 days/11 nights Land Only**  
Cairo to Luxor

Join Cairo (day 1)

End Luxor (day 12)

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Cairo. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

### GROUP TRAVEL FROM LONDON

**12 days/11 nights Tour including**  
Connecting Group Flights  
London-Cairo & Luxor-London

Depart London Heathrow Airport to join tour in Cairo the same day (day 1 of itinerary).

Return Luxor (day 12 of itinerary) and arrive London Heathrow the same day.

Passengers with non-group flights booked through Explore should refer to their individual confirmation invoice for flight details. Transfers to and from the airport are not included unless purchased in addition to the tour package.

### SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- \* **CAIRO** Half-day guided tour to the Pyramids and Sphinx and Egyptian Museum.
- \* **LUXOR** Guided tour of Karnak with 'calesh' between hotel and temple; Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple by donkey.
- \* **NILE LANDSCAPES** Elegant cruising along the Nile valley in a traditional Dahabiya.

### CO<sub>2</sub> Offsets Included

The biggest environmental impact of your holiday with Explore is the CO<sub>2</sub> generated by your flights. As a responsible tour operator, we have included in our tour prices the costs of offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all international and domestic flights forming part of the tour. Our chosen offset partner is Climate Care. If you are making independent flight arrangements to join one of our tours, may we urge you to take responsibility for your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by offsetting through Climate Care, or a similar offsetting scheme.

- \* **ASWAN** Options to visit the funerary temples of Abu Simbel and St Simeon's Monastery.

The Egypt of today is still a wonder to behold, from the Pyramid complex of Giza and the Valley of the Kings in ancient Thebes, to the Temple of Abu Simbel and the Nile itself, the longest river in the world. Flowing through a timeless landscape, dotted with the ghosts and memories of its long and glorious past, this majestic river affords a unique glimpse into the land of the ancient Pharaohs, and what better way to explore it than in a style so beloved of the nobility of yesteryear. Our trip starts in the vibrant city of Cairo, 'The Mother of the World' and the most populous and lively capital in Africa. Here the fabled 4,500-year-old Pyramids, the Sphinx and the treasures of the Egyptian Museum await us, including the incredible golden death mask of Tutankhamun himself. After a chance to explore Egypt's bustling capital we journey by train to Upper Egypt, where we spend two days exploring the remarkable treasures of Luxor. Once the ancient Pharaonic capital of Thebes, it is filled with testaments to the power of some of Egypt's mightiest dynasties and we spend our time here exploring the mighty temple of Karnak and enjoy a donkey trek to Queen Hatshepsut's Temple and visit the wonders of the Valley of the Kings to explore the final, intricately decorated, resting places of some of Egypt's mightiest kings, including Ramses II, Tutankhamun and Seti I. Then it is time to board our elegant dahabiya for a three night cruise along the Nile's fertile course, taking in the matchless landscapes of riverside villages and fabulous temples as we journey into Upper Egypt. In colourful Aswan, where Egypt and Africa come together in a vibrant mix of cultures, we get a chance to travel by camel to the impressive desert Monastery of St Simien and visit the rock cut temples of Abu Simbel (both optional), before another train journey brings us back to Luxor and a final opportunity to take in the sumptuous wonders of this fascinating country before we return home. Travelling in a style that recounts the heady days of 19th century exploration we enjoy the benefits of some of the finest hotels and boats along the Nile Valley, as we explore the very best of Egypt's ancient and modern worlds, spanning millennia of history and culture and presenting us with a dazzling heritage unsurpassed anywhere.

### LAND ONLY ITINERARY

**Be Prepared:** While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day route as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Places visited and routes may vary depending on local road, river and weather conditions.

### Earth Matters

- As recycling does not exist in Egypt, we recommend that you bring your own water filter to reduce plastic bottle waste. Using biodegradable soap will also reduce pollution as waste water on the boat is untreated.
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>



Please note, you will be required to send in a clear photocopy of your passport to the Explore office once you have booked to enable us to obtain permits and secure other ground arrangements for this tour'

**Accommodation and Included Meals:** please find the key to our accommodation ratings overleaf, and note that included meals are indicated in the itinerary below and are shown on the day they are provided (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

### Day 1. Join tour Cairo

Overnight in the Mena Hotel which is located in the shadow of the Great Pyramids and within forty acres of jasmine scented gardens. The hotel boasts luxurious interiors with exquisite antiques and handcrafted furniture within its walls built in 1869. This is the perfect place to begin your explorations of Cairo. **2 nights hotel H+.**

### Mena House Hotel

Lying in the shadow of the mighty Pyramids, the Mena House has been catering to the discerning traveller since 1869. Set within 40 acres of jasmine scented gardens it can boast a guest list that has included the nobility and crowned heads of Europe for nearly 150 years. Beautifully appointed throughout with antiques, handmade furnishings and rich textiles, it is one of the finest hotels in the city, superbly reflecting its regal heritage. And how many hotels on earth can offer the last remaining wonder of ancient antiquity as a backdrop from its stunningly sited swimming pool?

### Day 2. Full day sightseeing of the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum

In the 12th century an Arab historian wrote, "...all things fear time, but time fears the Pyramids". Today we visit this last remaining wonder of the ancient world, the magnificent Pyramids of Giza. Sandwiched between the sprawling mass of Cairo and the open plains of the desert, even today the mighty Pyramids

To book please call 0844 499 0901 • [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)

For bookings outside the UK please contact your local travel agent representing Explore.

Page 1 of 4

can evoke awe and wonder in the newly arrived visitor. The Great Pyramid of Cheops, the largest of the group, originally 145m high and measuring 232m at its base, dominates the plateau. It was built over a period of some 20 or so years, in about 2600 BC, using only the simplest implements and without the aid of draught animals or even the wheel! Second in size is the Pyramid of Chephren, whilst the smallest of the trio is that of Mykerinos. You can opt to venture inside, or visit the magnificent Solar Boat, designed to transport the Pharaoh's soul to the afterlife (both these visits are optional). The complex also includes the splendid Granite Temple and the enigmatic and mysterious Sphinx, the Father of Terror, a crouching lion with a human head, carved from a single piece of solid rock. From the Pyramids we head for the Egyptian Museum, via a papyrus institute, where you can learn something of the ancient methods of paper making in the Egypt of the pharaohs. The museum itself is a spectacular repository of some 120,000 items encompassing all aspects of the world of the Ancient Egyptians, from ornate jewellery and towering granite statues, to mummified remains and, of course, the treasures of Tutankhamun himself. This evening there will be a briefing on the coming adventures we have ahead of us. **(Included meals: B).**

### Day 3. Free day in Cairo; overnight sleeper train to Luxor

Today is free to continue enjoying this most unique of cities as you wish. You might like to pay a visit to the pyramid complexes at Dashur and Saqqara, one of the richest archaeological sites in Egypt and site of the world's oldest stone building, the Stepped Pyramid of Zoser. Or perhaps take a tour of old Islamic or Coptic Cairo. Alternatively you may wish to use the time to do some last minute shopping in the Khan el Khalili, with its narrow alleys full to overflowing with shops and bazaars. Later this evening we will transfer to the railway station to board the overnight train south, following the fertile ribbon of the Nile Valley into Upper Egypt, towards the once ancient city of Thebes. **Overnight sleeper train (included meals: B, D).**

### Day 4. Arrive Luxor; PM visit to Karnak Temple by calesh

Described by Homer as the 'city of a hundred gates' and the capital of Egypt under some of its most famous and powerful pharaohs; Ramses, Tutmoses, Akhenaten and, of course, Tutankhamun, Thebes, or Luxor as it is now known, is situated on the east bank of the Nile. It is a vibrant mix of the traditional and the modern, where the daily bustle sees horse drawn carriages (caleshes), goats and splendidly robed Egyptians sharing the streets with the trappings of modern life. Arriving this morning we will transfer to the Al Moudira Hotel and a morning to relax and freshen up after our train journey. The hotel's traditional design is very much in tune with its surroundings along with individually crafted Arabian styled rooms decorated with furniture and murals. This afternoon we travel by calesh, to visit the stupendous Temple of Amun at Karnak, built under the watchful eyes of numerous pharaohs. Dating from around 2000 BC, the scale and grandeur of the site is amazing, covering an area the size of 10 European cathedrals. An avenue of silent sphinxes leads up to the entrance, where the Temple Precinct encloses the Festival Temple

of Tutmosis and the Hypostyle Hall, built with 134 towering pillars carved with scenes of the life of the ancient King worshipping Amun (the principle God of Egypt at the time of the Middle Kingdom). We visit Hatshepsut's obelisks, explore a myriad of chambers and temples, and gaze across the Sacred Lake. In the Court of the Cachette an upstanding stele documents a pact between Ramses II and the Hittite king and is one of the first international treaties ever recorded. After our guided tour of the principal sites of the temple we return to our hotel. **2 nights hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

#### Al Moudira Hotel

*Set amidst the barren landscapes of the west bank, the Al Moudira is one of the most extraordinary settings in Luxor, where shaded pavilions and internal courtyards enclose a beautiful garden and pool, to create an idyllic oasis on the edge of the Western Desert. Built using traditional resources, the Al Moudira was designed to evoke the great Arabic palaces of old and has actually incorporated materials into its construction that are steeped in the history of this land. Original sculpted columns and Ottoman frames decorate the main building, whilst hand-painted frescoes and traditional tiles decorate the walls and floors of the rooms.*

### Day 5. Donkey trek to Hatshepsut Temple and visit the Valley of the Kings

Rising very early this morning, we cross the Nile to enjoy an adventurous donkey trek passing through an enchanting landscape of irrigated farmland and mud brick villages en route, pausing to view the famous Colossi of Memnon, the last remains of the once mighty temple of Amenhotep III then on to the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh, who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tutmoses III. The scale of the temple and its magnificent setting are breathtaking, but perhaps even more remarkable are the details - look out for the fine carving of the 'Expedition to the Land of Punt'. We then take a short taxi ride to the Valley of the Kings' to explore some of the more important sites made famous in 1922 by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. We visit three tombs with a local guide. This afternoon is free to indulge as you wish, perhaps to spend it exploring the magnificence of Luxor Temple, lying besides the banks of the Nile, offering another view of pharaonic splendour, or perhaps wandering the halls of Luxor's impressive museum, considered by many to be the best in the country. **(Included meals: B).**

#### Donkeys to Hatshepsut Temple

The comfort and safety of both donkeys and their riders is of great importance to us. Given this, donkeys are available to travellers of 85kg/13st, or under. We shall provide taxi transfers to the site for non-riders, or indeed anyone preferring to make the journey by road.

### Day 6. Drive to Esna and board Dahabiya; sail to El Fouza Island via Edfu

Continuing along the Nile Valley today we head next for the town of Esna, where we board the elegant Princess Donia for our voyage along

the timeless Nile landscapes towards Aswan. Our home for the next three nights this graceful Dahabiya takes us back to a time of sophisticated adventure, when the European elite journeyed through antiquity in a manner befitting royalty, taking in these beguiling landscapes aboard finely appointed floating palaces. Perfect for sedate cruising ideal for avoiding the usual crowded mooring points of the Nile's larger river boats, this enchanting vessel affords us an opportunity to explore the Nile's bewitching highlights in a style all but forgotten in the constant rush for modern convenience. Our first port of call will be the small town of Edfu, home to a magnificent Ptolemaic temple that, after Karnak, is the largest in the Nile Valley. Dating back to the 3rd-1st centuries BC, according to legend it is built on the site where the god Horus met and vanquished Seth, the murderer of his father Osiris. A sacred falcon-headed god, almost perfectly preserved, guards the dark entranceway into the Temple of Horus, once only accessible by the pharaoh and the high priests themselves. The massive Pylon, or Gateway, is 79m wide by 35m high and covered with intricate carvings attesting to the might and power of the ancient kings and the temple is one of the best preserved in Egypt, thanks largely to the fact that it lay buried beneath the desert sands for centuries, until it was excavated by the French in the 1860s. Indeed you can still find the odd bits of graffiti left by Napoleon's troops amongst the upper reaches of the high walls. Setting sail once more we then head for the island of El Fouza, where we will moor up for the night and enjoy dinner besides the tranquil banks of the Nile. **3 nights Dahabiya (included meals: B, L, D).**

#### Princess Donia

*Evoking the serene elegance of a bygone age, but retaining the luxuries so beloved of the discerning traveller, this beautiful sailing vessel combines the very best of tradition and comfort, to present an unsurpassed experience of the majestic Nile. Following in the footsteps of the European elite of the early 20th century the Princess Donia offers en suite convenience, tasteful sophistication and a personal steward, to afford the finest in Nile cruising. Intimate, sedate and offering the selectivity of mooring sites away from the crowds, it captures a little something of the golden age of Nile exploration.*

### Day 7. Sail to Gebel el Silsila

Our journey up river continues today, towards the ancient stone quarries of Gebel el Silsila, once famed throughout ancient Egypt for their finest quality sandstone. Workers toiled in these riverside quarries for centuries, cutting stone for Thebes and Karnak, Edfu and Kom Ombo. The great Stele of Akhenaten came from here and it is believed that some 3,000 workers laboured amidst these desert landscapes to produce the stone that went into the building of the Ramesseum. This also marked the boundary between Egypt and ancient Nubia and it was one of the prime centres for the worship of Hapy, the god of the river, who was believed to inhabit a cave close to the Nile cataracts, from where he controlled the yearly inundations of the River Nile. We plan to moor up on the west bank, opposite the

## Booking a Single Room

All of our tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. On this particular tour we are pleased to be able to offer customers the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room. Due to the variety of accommodation used on this tour, single rooms are available for a majority of the nightstays, however it would still mean sharing at El Fouza, Gebel El Silsila and Island near Kom Ombo.

**EXPLORE ACCOMMODATION RATINGS :** An important feature of many Explore tours is the wide range of accommodation used, and since the beginning our philosophy has been to select accommodation to suit the itinerary - not the other way round.

To help gauge the comfort level on your chosen tour, we have graded the accommodation standards at all night-stops using the rating guide below. Please keep in mind however that standards can vary from one trip to the next, and occasionally we may need to change a night-stop without advance warning.

#### Hotels / lodges / guesthouses - or similar

**H+ :** Standard hotels, lodges or guesthouses, usually with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. These are generally standard, no-frills hotels with adequate amenities and service standards. Whilst comfort levels are perfectly acceptable to most, please don't expect too much! These are often small, family run establishments.

**Note:** other accommodation, for example, aboard boats or on overnight sleeper trains is described individually at the appropriate point in the tour itinerary above.

**To book please call 0844 499 0901 • [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)**

For bookings outside the UK please contact your local travel agent representing Explore.

Page 2 of 4

workings and close to the rock cut temple of Horemheb, the last pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. If possible, dinner this evening will be served in the grounds of the illuminated temples, or else on the upper deck of the Princess Donia, affording us a quite spectacular setting overlooking the tranquil waters of the Nile. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

**Day 8. Sail to Kom Ombo and visit temple, then continue to island mooring**

As we journey along the river this morning we pass Nubian villages and fishing boats, the banks awash with papyrus and beyond them fields of sugar cane. From the distant shores we may hear a donkey bray, or the laughter of children playing in the life giving waters of the Nile. Our destination are the magnificent ruins of the Ptolemaic temple at Kom Ombo, built around a symmetrical central axis and unique in that it is dedicated to not one, but two gods: Horus, the falcon headed god and Sobek the crocodile god, a useful deity to have on your side given that this stretch of the river was inundated with crocodiles until the early years of the last century! In a small museum close to the entrance there still remain some mummified crocodiles that were recovered from the nearby necropolis. After visiting the temple we head for our final mooring, a small island setting, where we shall enjoy an intimate gala dinner and a final opportunity to truly experience the hypnotic majesty of this great river. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

**Day 9. Boat and bus to Aswan; PM optional camel trek to St Simion's Monastery**

Sailing back to Kom Ombo this morning we disembark and continue to Aswan by road, finally reaching the southernmost point of our journey later this morning. After checking into the Isis Island Hotel and taking some time to freshen up, this afternoon is free to explore something of the city at your leisure. Aswan was traditionally regarded as the frontier post of Upper Egypt, sited on the east bank, just below the first Cataract and it is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and black Africa, presenting us with a fascinating city of vibrancy and colour. One option for this afternoon is a camel trek to the Monastery of St Simeon on the west bank. One of the largest Coptic monasteries in Egypt, St Simeon's was built in the seventh century and finally abandoned in the thirteenth, after the constant attempts to keep it supplied with water and the endless attacks from Bedouin nomads finally became too much for the hard pressed monks. It now sits in splendid isolation at the end of a desert valley, an impressive sight indeed, looking more like a desert fortress than a place of worship, and what better way to approach this imposing edifice than on the back of a camel. After the visit you transfer back to the east bank, where there should be time to wander through the streets of this fascinating town and explore the excellent souq, reflecting the fusion between Arab and African cultures. **2 nights hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

*Isis Island Hotel has a unique location in the middle of the Nile on an island near the centre of Aswan. The hotel is surrounded by 28 acres of landscaped gardens with magnificent views of the Nile, mountains and Aswan city. The Isis Island Hotel is a few minutes sailing from Aswan and its many attractions.*

**Day 10. AM optional visit to Abu Simbel. PM free**

There is the option this morning to take an early morning bus or flight across the desert to the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel, a major highlight of any tour to this region. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61m to save it from inundation by the artificial lake created by

the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the Great Builder and one of the most powerful Pharaohs of the New Kingdom. Those of you not wishing to travel down to Abu Simbel may like to spend your free time exploring the mystical island temple of Philae, or perhaps enjoying Aswan's bustling spice markets. Another alternative is a visit to the impressive Aswan High Dam and the granite quarries of the ancient pharaohs, which includes the immense unfinished obelisk, a huge pillar of granite said to weigh over 1300 tons and which was abandoned in situ when a crack appeared as it was being hacked out of the surrounding stone. You may prefer to spend your time cruising amongst its river islands by traditional felucca, perhaps visiting the impressive botanical gardens on Kitchener Island. This evening there may be an opportunity to visit Philae once more for the spectacular Son et Lumiere Show (optional). **(Included meals: B).**

**Day 11. Bus to Luxor**

An early bus this morning takes us back to Luxor, where we have a final day to enjoy the many splendours that ancient Thebes still has to offer, perhaps returning to the west bank to visit the remarkable tombs of the Valley of the Queens, final resting place of the Pharaohs' consorts, including the enigmatic Queen Nefetari. Another exceptional visit is to the workers village of Deir al-Medina, where the artisans and labourers involved in the building and decorating of the tombs lived. This provides a unique insight into the lives (and deaths) of these generally unsung workers and offers an intriguing comparison between the pharaohs and their subjects. **Overnight hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

**Old Winter Palace**

*Recapturing the grandeur of late 19th century Europe and located close to the ancient setting of Luxor Temple, this grand old hotel first heralded the news of Howard Carter's remarkable discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb. Built to attract the European nobility on their grand tours, the Old Winter Palace still retains much of the charm and style of its glory days, its great lobby a picture of colonial opulence. Rooms are individually appointed and face onto either the Nile or the tropical gardens where Carter spent much of his time right up to his untimely death.*

**Day 12. Tour ends Luxor (Included meals: B).**

**PERSONAL EXPENSES**

You'll also need some extra money to cover meals not included in tour price. Also allow for other sightseeing, souvenirs etc, and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

**Foreign Exchange**

**Local Currency:** Egyptian Pounds can be easily obtained before arrival.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Sterling, Euros and US\$ are widely accepted. It is worth taking some money in cash. You can get local currency from exchange offices at home.

**Where to Exchange:** Cairo, Luxor and Aswan have exchange offices and banks.

**ATM Availability:** ATM's are available in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** In hotels and some larger shops/restaurants.

**Travellers Cheques:** Commission on Travellers Cheques can be high. Travellers cheques, if brought should be accompanied by a receipt.

**Additional Information:** Scottish notes and Australian Travellers Cheques are not accepted in Egypt.

**Camera/Video Fees:** At some sites an additional camera charge of up to £2 per site may be payable. Video filming fees can be as much as £20 at some sites, so budget accordingly.

Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currency-express.com/explore/>

**Meal Plan**

**Local Food and Drink:** 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners are included on this trip; please be prepared to pay for all other meals. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location and the prices below are given as an average guide only.

	UK	Egypt
Coffee/Tea	£1.20	£0.70
Soft drink	0.80	1.00
Bottle of water	0.80	1.00
Bottle of Beer	2.50	2.00
2 Course Meal*	10.00	6.00
3 Course Meal**	18.00	8.00
Bottle of wine	10.00	12.00

Note: £ = UK Sterling, not Egyptian pounds.

\*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant.

\*\*Typical food in a simple reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

**Tipping**

**Local Staff:** In this area, tipping is a recognised part of life. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. You should allow £35 for tipping. Your tour leader will account for any organised tipping.

**Tour Leader:** At your discretion you might also consider tipping your tour leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

**Other Sightseeing**

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below in £GBP (ie. UK sterling, not Egyptian pounds) for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

**LUXOR** Balloon flight £75.00, Valley of the Queens £23.00, Villages calesh ride £6.00, Tutankhamun's Tomb £9.00.

**ASWAN** Camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery £12.00, Philae Temple £15.00, Felucca cruise £5.00; Dinner in Nubian Village £8.00.

**ABU SIMBEL** Excursion from Aswan by bus £45.00 or by air £120.00.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Seasonal Climate

Winter in Egypt is cool (particularly on the Nile) and dry, Nov-Mar average day temperature 18°C. Summer temperatures Apr-Oct average 32°C, but can frequently rise to 40°C. Winter nights are cold in the desert.

Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

### Visa Requirements

A single entry tourist visa for Egypt is required by all nationalities. For British passport holders with British citizenship, Egyptian visas can be obtained conveniently and inexpensively on arrival at the airport. Alternatively, visas can be obtained through your travel agent or through Explore's visa service. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

**Please note:** you are required to send us a copy of your passport upon booking this tour. This will enable our agent to register all passengers with the Tourist Police for the cruise element of your tour. Please send your passport copy at your earliest convenience, and no less than 4 weeks prior to departure.

### Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. Though malaria does exist in Egypt it is not normally found in the areas in which we travel. For the most up to date advice please consult your travel clinic.

**Special Note:** Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

### Electric Supply and Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in the countries visited, follow the relevant link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

### Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. You must take your policy document with you on tour, as your tour leader will ask to see this at the start of the trip. Your documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for your period of travel. Your policy document must also indicate that you have medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover and a 24-hour contact telephone number for your Insurance Company must be shown on your documentation in case of emergency.

#### RAMADAN 2009.

**21st August – 19th September 2009**

**Please note** that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day in most countries.

**If you are unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip you will not be allowed to join the trip.** If you have purchased Explore Insurance you should carry the Master Certificate leaflet with you, which outlines the conditions of the policy together with a copy of your Confirmation Invoice, which is your proof of purchase of insurance. Explore Worldwide are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority.

### Know Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs, including advice re: the legality of and local attitudes towards same-sex relationships. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

## PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's '**General Information Booklet**', available after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

**Luggage:** One main piece and a daysac. Total allowance: **44lbs/20kgs**. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage – so don't overload yourself.

**Clothing:** Pack essentially for '**Hot Conditions**'. You should also wear loose fitting trousers on the donkey trek and for ladies a sports bra may be useful. Pack as for '**All Tours**' from November to March as night temperatures drop dramatically and warm clothing will be needed (particularly in December). We recommend a fleece, windproof jacket, woollen gloves and a hat at this time. Don't forget swimming costumes.

**Please note:** Egypt is a Muslim country and it is important to dress with respect for local customs. Brief shorts/skirts should be avoided in towns and you should cover your head when entering a mosque. In more traditional towns and market areas we advise women to wear long loose fitting trousers or skirts and shoulder covering to avoid unwanted attention. Men should also be aware that shorts are not generally worn by Egyptians.

**Footwear:** Lightweight trail boots. Trainers, shoes or sandals will also be useful for relaxing. Smart footwear should be bought for evenings.

### Luxor - Hot Air Balloon

Man originally conquered the air with the hot air balloon and it is still possible to recreate that sense of wonder that those first aviators enjoyed - and what a location! There can be few places around the world that can rival the incredible flight over the Theban remains of West Bank near Luxor as you float almost silently above, a lighter than air experience! Explore has teamed up with the region's most experienced balloon pilots to offer this once in a lifetime opportunity. The flight is on offer and can be booked through your Tour Leader and lasts on average 45 minutes and costing approximately **£75 p.p.** (subject to increase). Clients may pay in any major currency, subject to the prevailing bank rate and credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and Diners are accepted. Please note that in the interest of safety and your enjoyment, all balloon flights are subject to suitable flying conditions.



**Equipment:** A torch, water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lip salve with sun protection are also useful. Please note that on the donkey trek we cannot supply hard hats - if head protection is felt to be necessary please bring your own with you to Egypt, as hard hats are not available to buy locally.

**Trek Kit Bag:** For an exclusively designed Explore Trek Bag, follow the relevant link at [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore)

**Personal First Aid Kit:** For an exclusively designed Explore Medical Kit, visit [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore)

### Need help on clothing or equipment?

Then we suggest you contact Nomad Travel, our equipment partner, who specialise in kitting people out for adventurous travel. You receive a special 10% discount in-store or online. Visit one of their stores, phone 0845 260 0044, or visit their website [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore) for further information.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Area:** 1,001,450 sq. km.

**Population:** 67 million.

**Language:** Arabic, English and French.

**Religion:** Sunni Muslim 90%, Coptic Christian 7%.

**Local Time:** GMT +2.

**Electric Supply & Plugs:** 220v. Round pin adaptors.

**Recommended Books:** Tutankhamun Christine El Mahdy, Egypt: A Traveller's Anthology, Christopher Pick, Death on the Nile Agatha Christie, The Innocents Abroad Mark Twain, Gods and Myths of Ancient Egypt Robert A. Armour.

## THE SUNSHINE PROJECT – LUXOR

Explore supports the Sunshine Project in Luxor which cares for abandoned children. In a country where the family is so important, unwanted children carry a great stigma that can affect them for the rest of their lives. State resources are stretched so Sunshine is working to give these children a decent start in life by providing a caring home and schooling. This is a small but very dedicated organisation currently caring for over 70 children aged from birth to 16 years. Most of the children come as babies, commonly wrapped in pieces of rag and in desperate need of love and care. Sunshine offers these children a home for life. We were delighted to see the completion of the new building in 2008.

### What you can do

If you are travelling to Luxor, Sunshine always extends a warm welcome to visitors. Your tour leader will be able to pass on any gifts – see the wish list on the Sunshine website to see what kind of gifts are most appropriate. Whether you visit or not, you can sponsor a child or donate (online please to receive Gift Aid!)

[www.sunshine-international.org.uk](http://www.sunshine-international.org.uk)

**To book please call 0844 499 0901 • [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)**

For bookings outside the UK please contact your local travel agent representing Explore.

Page 4 of 4