

**DEPARTURE INFORMATION FOR EGYPT**

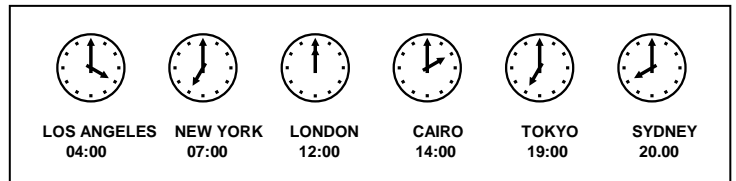


**Orientation:**

Egypt lies at the crux of Africa and the Middle East, and is bordered by Sudan in the South, Libya in the West, and Israel in the East. The southern area by Luxor and Aswan is known as "Upper Egypt", as the Nile flows from here "down" through the capital city, Cairo, to the Mediterranean Sea near Alexandria.

**Time zone:**

Egypt is two hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) during winter. During summer, from May 1<sup>st</sup> till October 1<sup>st</sup>, the clocks move one hour forward.



**Temperature:**

Local daytime temperatures range as follows for the year (°C):

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cairo	High	19	21	24	28	32	35	35	35	32	30	24	21
	Low	9	9	11	14	17	18	22	22	20	18	14	11
Luxor	High	23	25	29	35	40	41	41	41	39	35	30	25
	Low	5	7	11	16	21	23	24	24	22	18	12	8
Aswan	High	24	30	35	39	42	41	41	40	36	30	25	25
	Low	8	9	13	17	21	24	24	25	22	9	14	10
Sharm El-Sheikh	High	23	26	29	33	36	34	34	34	33	28	23	23
	Low	16	17	18	21	24	26	27	27	26	23	20	16

**Visas:**

All nationalities require tourist visas for Egypt. Europeans, Americans and Australians can purchase these on arrival at the airport; other nationalities should check with their local Embassies for latest regulations.

**Language:**

The national language in Egypt is Arabic. However, tourists will rarely find a problem communicating as English is widely spoken in hotels and shops, with French a close second, and many staff in tourist areas also speaking German or Italian.



**Currency:**

The local currency is the Egyptian pound, or 'LE', which is divided into 100 piastres. At the moment, US\$ 1.00 is worth around LE 6.75.

**Tipping:**

It's customary to tip often in Egypt and you may want to think about carrying small bills in your pocket for this purpose. Visitors would normally consider tipping their Egyptologist guide, driver on tours, hotel staff, and waiters in restaurants.

**Photography:**

If you are taking photographs of local people, always ask their permission beforehand. Your guide can assist you in this. Do not take photographs of military installations or airports. Film is readily available in all tourist areas. It is advisable to carry your camera in a dust-proof bag. Photography or camera fees are applicable at most sights and museums; your guide can give you details of the latest charges.

**Electricity:**

Egypt electrical current is 220V, and sockets take the standard continental European dual round-pronged plug.

**Health:**

No vaccinations are currently needed for visitors to Egypt. During your stay, it is preferable to drink only bottled water and to avoid eating from street stalls. Take care from the sun, which can often feel cooler than it really is due to the cool coastal breezes and lack of humidity. Drink plenty of water when staying outside during the day.

**Dress Code:**

Egypt is a country very used to tourists, and for sightseeing in popular areas such as the Pyramids or the main sights of Upper Egypt, shorts and T-shirts are fine. However, you should allow for a more conservative dress code when walking in central Cairo and other cities, and especially in rural areas. When visiting mosques or other religious sites, casual, comfortable clothing covering knees and elbows is best, in order to respect the local culture. Around the pool at your hotel or on a cruise, low necklines, sleeveless shirts, or shorts can be comfortably worn; and at the beach in Red Sea resorts, feel free to dress as you would at home.