

LAND OF THE PHAROHS

Trip code: FMN
 Country: Egypt
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**FAMILY
GROUP**

**TEENAGE
DEPARTURE T**



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Our Excellent Local Guides** - highly knowledgeable and passionate about Egypt.
- **The Egyptian museum** - see the fantastic riches of Tutankhamun's tomb.
- **The Pyramids** - explore the history and architecture of the extraordinary pyramids.
- **Fun for all the family!** - a felucca ride on the Nile and a camel ride in the desert.
- **The Valley of the Kings** - where Egyptian treasure remained hidden for thousands of years.
- **Karnak Temple** - where the ancient columns tower over you!
- **Abu Simbel. (optional)** - Moved from the banks of the Nile to Lake Nasser - amazing!
- **The Red Sea** - relax or snorkel in the clear waters.

SUMMARY



Egypt is a truly fascinating country steeped in history and charm. This fun and varied trip combines awe-inspiring monuments and ancient world treasures with fun and relaxation on the Nile and by the Red Sea - the perfect introduction to a captivating land. We delve into the country's glorious past as we visit Giza's Great Pyramids, see the riches

of Tutankhamun and visit the grand temples and tombs at ancient Thebes. These sights (and our great guides) never fail to captivate children and adults alike as they bring these ancient sites back to life. Upstream, we experience Aswan's vibrant Nubian culture, relax on a traditional felucca sail boat on the Nile and there is even an optional visit to the spectacular temples at Abu Simbel. Towards the end of our trip we head to the Red Sea coast with its sandy beaches, clear waters and colourful reefs. There is time here for various excursions or you can simply relax - the choice is yours.

IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU?

Adventure travel is a fantastic way to travel as a family, but we strongly recommend that you read the introductory pages of the Family Adventures brochure or the introductory sections of our website before booking this holiday.

Specifically to this trip, we would highlight the following issues for you to consider:

Egypt can get hot, especially during our summer, which can cause discomfort whilst travelling. Care should be taken to drink a lot of water and you should be careful where and what you eat.

The train journey used is an overnight sleeper train. The facilities used are good by Egyptian standards although they may not be quite up to the Swiss Rail network! (See accommodation for further information).

Although start times for the activities will be confirmed locally, please be aware that on some days this may mean an early start in order to avoid the full heat of the day.



The minimum age of clients on this holiday is 5 years

Ramadan

Please note that the Muslim month of Ramadan will take place from 11th August - 9th September 2010 (dates can shift slightly). This is a time when followers of Islam do not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. This can sometimes affect the opening hours of certain tourist sites. However we will ensure that that the itinerary is affected as little as possible if you travel during this period. Food and drink is available to tourists during the day.

JOINING THE TRIP IN LONDON

11 days, depart London and end London.

Please note that this trip departs on various days of the week – please check the brochure/website or with our sales team for the days this trip runs.

Itinerary start

The group flight from London is a daytime flight departing on Day 1 of the itinerary.

Flights from London

We normally use the scheduled services of **British Midland** (depending on availability). As flight timings and schedules change regularly, we recommend you call one of our specialist sales staff or your agent to confirm up-to-date timings. Please note timings may change at a later date and cannot be confirmed until approximately two weeks before departure.

Flights within Egypt are with Egypt Air

UK Regional Flights

Exodus can arrange flights from the majority of the UK's regional airports that are more flexible and convenient than if booked separately. Please contact our sales team for details.

Please note that if booking your regional flights other than with Exodus, you must allow a minimum connecting time (in addition to the international check in time) of 1 hour at Gatwick, and 1.5 hours at Heathrow; this is longer than the official minimum connecting time, but baggage handling at Heathrow is known to be subject to delays.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are included for those on the group flights. Please note that transfers are not included for clients arriving on any other flight, even if Exodus has booked it. Those arriving from London on non-group flights should read the airport transfer section below for information on reaching the start point. Please check with the Exodus office if you are unsure whether or not a transfer is included.

JOINING THE TRIP IN CAIRO

11 days, start Cairo [day 1], end El Gouna [day 11].

Itinerary start

Your trip normally starts at our hotel in Cairo on the afternoon of Day 1 of the itinerary listed below. Details of how to reach the start point are given in the Final Joining Instructions. Hotel check-in times are normally from around 3pm.

Airport Transfers

If you require airport transfers, you may (by prior arrangement only) be able to join the group transfer. Transfers are arranged to coincide with the arrival time of the group flight.

Group flights can be rescheduled, so you must check the group flight details 2 weeks before departure. If you do not take this transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense. Joining the group transfer is free of charge.

If you would like us to organise a private transfer for you, the cost is £36 (for 2 people), £45 (for 3 people), £42 (for 4 people) and £48 (for 5 people) and is payable before departure. Please ensure that you provide us with all relevant information at least 2 weeks before departure. Please note that the cost of a taxi is likely to be about £150-£180 should you decide to make your way independently. We would recommend that you agree a fare with the taxi driver before the journey and please note that the majority of taxis do not have air conditioning. Visitors do tend to get charged more than Egyptians for taxi rides.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

The entries in **bold** at the end of each day indicate the type of accommodation normally used (see accommodation section overleaf for key to codes) and meals included (**B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner)

Day 1 Start Cairo. On arrival at Cairo International Airport, for those on the group transfer, a local representative will meet you just before you enter the baggage hall. **CH**

Day 2 We have a relaxing morning before heading to the famous Egyptian Museum of Antiquity in the centre of Cairo. The museum contains relics dating back to 4000 BC, including the fantastic riches of Tutankhamun's tomb. Here is the unique opportunity to survey many fabulous treasures of Egypt in one place and it will give you a good base to start your exploration of Egypt's impressive past. **CH (B)**

Day 3: This morning we visit the impressive Pyramids at Giza, on the western outskirts of Cairo. Home to the Great Pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus and the timeless and enigmatic Sphinx, these great monuments to the afterlife defy the imagination. Only the throng of sightseers, Egyptian and foreign, milling around their huge foundations keep the viewer in the 21st century. We take a camel ride here too, the perfect opportunity to take a few classic photos! In the afternoon we also spend time in a local Papyrus institute, learning how papyrus is made and then having the chance to decorate our own papyrus. In the evening we travel by sleeper train to Aswan. **ST (B,D)**



Day 4 We arrive at Aswan, the most southerly city in Egypt and the traditional trading post linking Nubia and Black Africa with the Nile River. The desert sands come almost to the water's edge in this quiet but ever growing city. After we disembark the train and check into our hotel, we take a felucca ride to the botanical garden on Kitchener's Island and to the West Bank for excellent views over the Nile to the city. In the afternoon there is time to relax by the pool or for optional visits to Aswan's Nubian museum (close to the hotel) or to Aswan high dam and the unfinished obelisk, the largest known ancient obelisk. **CH (B)**

Day 5 Today many people will take the chance for an optional visit to Abu Simbel, 300 km to the south through the Nubian Desert. The road to Abu Simbel is now open and the temple can also be visited by air. Built by Ramses II the two temples are certainly some of the most spectacular in Egypt. Originally on the banks of the Nile, the temples were raised stone by stone to a new site above the lake in the late 1960's by UNESCO, as the waters from the new Lake Nasser rose behind the Aswan High Dam. The four great-seated statues of Ramses II now stare east towards the rising sun. Back in Aswan by early afternoon, the rest of the day is free to relax by the hotel swimming pool or explore the famous Nubian Bazaar in the back streets of Aswan. Alternatively for either morning or afternoon there is a possible optional trip to the Ptolemaic island-temple of Philae. **CH (B)**

Day 6 Today we travel by road to Luxor. The journey is approximately 3 hours but we make two important stops enroute to visit temples at Kom Ombo and Edfu. The temple at Kom Ombo is dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. It is very special, and indeed unique, as it is in fact a double temple. Two temples are combined in one with each side having its own gateways and chapels. The temple of Horus in Edfu is the most completely preserved out of all the Egyptian temples and is equally impressive. In the afternoon there is time for relaxation at our hotel in Luxor. **CH**



(B)

Day 7 We cross the Nile in the morning to the West Bank. Here we see the Valley of the Kings, which contains the once hidden tombs of over 64 Pharaohs, including Tutankhamun, Seti I, Ramses III and IV. A discreet entrance in the hillside takes the visitor underground, through a series of corridors and anti-chambers that lead us down to the burial chamber and sarcophagus. The walls are covered in brightly painted images and hieroglyphs - a map of the afterlife to ensure the king's safe passage. One ticket allows us to see three tombs. Visits to tombs are now strictly controlled to halt further deterioration of wall paintings - each tomb is periodically closed for a number of weeks. Our guide will attempt to choose three tombs, which represent a range of styles. Tutankhamun's tomb is visited with a separate ticket. The energetic can walk over a small but steep ridge (about 30 mins) to Queen Hatshepsut's Temple at Dehr El Bahri, otherwise we drive. Cut from an east-facing cliff, the temple is famed for its carved reliefs and paintings, as well as its impressive proportions, best viewed from above. The half-day finishes with a visit to the Colossi of Memnon and a view of the Ramesseum - a now fittingly dilapidated epitaph to Ramses II, who built so much for his own glory. For the children, we also include a donkey ride today. In the afternoon we head to the mummification museum. The museum helps us to understand the ancient art of mummification and the techniques the Ancient Egyptians used. Ancient Egyptians didn't just mummify humans and at the museum we can also see cats, fish and crocodiles! **CH (B)**

Day 8 Today we visit the stunning Karnak and Luxor temples. Built over 1500 years, Karnak is a confusion of pylons, courtyards, halls and sanctuaries. Its Hypostyle hall has 134 columns 23 metres high and 15 metres in circumference! After visiting Karnak temple complex we travel to Luxor temple. The afternoon is then free to relax by the hotel pool, visit the bazaar or stroll along the corniche. **CH (B)**

Day 9 In the early morning leave the Ancient Egyptian sites behind and head along the Nile valley to Qena. We then turn into the Eastern Desert and travel through a dramatic range of mountains on to the Red Sea coastal resort of El Gouna - a total distance of about 300 km (approximately 4 ½ hours). **CH (B)**

Day 10 El Gouna is a small resort on the Red Sea offering access to the reefs, coral islands and beaches. El Gouna has a relaxed feel and we stay in a small hotel close to the marina, and there are some nice restaurants and cafes close by. The hotel has pool access and just a short walk from the hotel is a beach. Our day is free for relaxation or you can join an optional full day's snorkelling trip to a coral island and reef, with lunch of salad and fish freshly cooked on board. With respect for the environment, we would ask that passengers are very careful not to damage the reef and refrain from removing or taking home any coral. Snorkelling equipment of variable quality is available locally. Qualified divers should bring their BSAC or PADI certification card and logbook if they want to dive. **CH (B)**



Day 11 End El Gouna. (B)

Please note El Gouna is 30 minutes from Hurghada airport. For those on group flights, we will take a flight from Hurghada to Cairo and then transfer to our international flight from Cairo to London.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

New for 2010, we are ending our trip in El Gouna, a small resort by the Red Sea. Why not extend your stay so you have more time to relax on the coast?

If you would like to extend your stay then please speak to one of our sales team to arrange post-tour accommodation in El Gouna.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotels - We use comfortable 4/5 star hotels (Egyptian Classification) on a twin-share basis. **The Basma Hotel** in Aswan is located on the West

Bank on Aswan's highest hill directly opposite the fantastic Nubian museum. All the rooms have balconies with views of the Nile or the surrounding desert. The facilities in the rooms and in the hotel itself are excellent, including a choice of bars and restaurants, a huge swimming pool and all set amongst well-maintained gardens. Our 4 star (Egyptian classification) Luxor hotel has a good location right on the banks of the Nile, and is only a short distance from the Luxor Temple (15 mins walk). In Cairo we now use the **Pyramids Park Hotel** in the Giza area which has excellent facilities and a shuttle service into the downtown area. In El Gouna, by the Red Sea, we stay close to the marina. There are a number of good restaurants and cafes close by and the beach is just a short walk away.

All hotels have access to a pool - and by the Red Sea there is the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the clear waters there!

Sleeper Trains - These are air-conditioned and deemed first class by Egyptian standards with sleeper cabins and bunks. The train has toilet and dining facilities but it is basic.

Rooming for hotels

Family of two to four - All family groupings of two and four will be put into either one or two twin rooms. How you decide to share is up to the discretion of the adults.

Family of three - Wherever possible we will put you in a triple room. Please be aware that in some places triple rooms are in short supply. This means that, in practice, a triple room will often simply be a twin room with a mattress on the floor or a further bed squashed in. Where it is impossible to provide a triple room, you will have to decide which of your party takes the single room.

Family of five or more - For larger families, we will provide twin rooms as standard, with a triple room if there is an odd number.

Whilst we will do our very best to ensure that families are roomed close together (in some cases, we can arrange adjoining rooms), we can't guarantee this. Most family holidays occur during peak season and we sometimes have little to no control over where you will be put. You need to come prepared for this.

Rooming on the overnight sleeper trains - Each cabin can accommodate a maximum of 2 people. Families of an odd number will be accommodated using twin rooms and one single cabin, you will have to decide which one of you takes the single cabin. On some occasions we will be able to get two interconnecting cabins for families. Our local agents will always try to book these but because of high demand they can never be guaranteed.

Single Accommodation

There may be instances when you specifically want a single room. Perhaps granny needs one or parents of a family of three or five want to ensure they get a bit of space! You only need to pay for this if you want to ensure a single room. The cost for a single room is £175 (£200 at Christmas).

KEY TO ACCOMMODATION:

We indicate in the itinerary what type of accommodation is provided on each day. The descriptions are guidelines only and are used to give an idea of the accommodation offered, rather than an exact description.

CH Comfortable Hotel, Lodge or Gite - *twin rooms with en suite facilities, reliable electricity and water supply, good service and some added amenities.*

ST Overnight sleeper train - sleeper cabins and bunks. The train has dining facilities and toilet but is basic.

FOOD & TRANSPORT

Food

In the itinerary we state which meals are included on each day.

All breakfasts and dinner on the sleeper train are included. We suggest you allow \$110-US\$140 for meals not included.

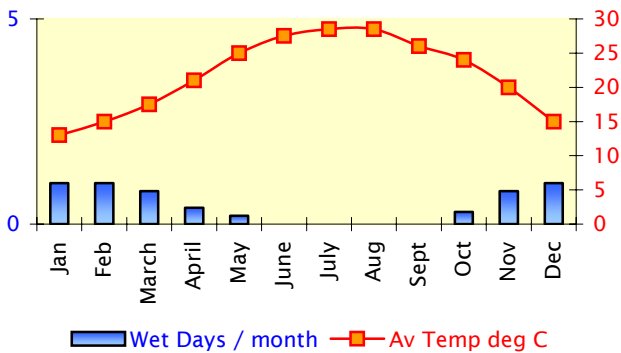
Food in Egypt involves such things as kebabs, chicken, stews, pitta-bread, felafel, beans, aubergine and other vegetables, pickles, salads and the like. Dishes tend to be simple and wholesome and vegetarians can be catered for if they accept that the options may be somewhat limited.

Transport

Road transport is by private air-conditioned mini/midi-bus and Egypt's roads are generally good. Travelling is generally restricted to a few hours a day and the mode of transport is varied. As detailed above, during our trip we use plane, train, felucca, bus and foot. Camel and bicycle are optional!

WEATHER

Weather chart for Cairo



Rain is very rare in all parts of Egypt and most days are sunny and clear. Summer temperatures often reach the upper 30's, and as a family you must consider this. Are your children used to hot temperatures? The winter months can be surprisingly cold, especially on the Nile or at night. In the summer these temperatures are 35°C and 22°C respectively. Daytime temperatures are on average 3 or 4 degrees higher in Aswan.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Tourism can be a real help to local communities, providing income, positive cultural exchanges and a financial incentive to protect their natural environment.

Ours is a 'total approach' to responsible tourism, covering everything from the way we plan and operate our trips to the practices of Exodus as a company. Exodus trips are designed to allow a high degree of economic benefit to the local communities; we buy local produce, eat local food and use local services, thus ensuring that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies and the host communities. With our responsible tourism policy we are continually reassessing our holidays, trying at all times to ensure that they are socially, economically and environmentally sound.

Recent awards for our work on Responsible Tourism

British Travel Awards: Environmentally Responsible Tourism Company.

Responsible Travel Awards: Best Tour Operator.

BA Tourism for Tomorrow Awards: Highly Commended.

For full details of our Responsible Tourism Policy please visit:

www.exodus.co.uk/responsible-travel



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visas are required by all non-Arab nationalities and currently cost \$15. Please note that the Egyptian Visa can be obtained on arrival, just before passing through passport control, from the Visa office and is payable in \$US, £UK, Eur and EGP.

Please note that recently Egyptian officials have also requested tourists carry a copy of their passport with them whilst in the country.

Visa regulations can and do change without notice and if you are not a British passport holder please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

For information on how to obtain visas please call Travcour on 020 7223 5295 or visit their website: <http://www.travcour.com>

Vaccinations and Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

You need international certificates of vaccination against yellow fever only if arriving from infected areas. We recommend that you are protected against typhoid, polio and tetanus, and that you have a hepatitis A vaccination.

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements for this trip, however it is advised that you are vaccinated against Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid and Hepatitis A.

You should bring a basic medical kit for you and your family.

Please consult your doctor or vaccination centre for up-to-date information.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions in regards to travel health we strongly recommend you contact your GP or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information.

Nomad Travel Clinics are experts in preparing people for travel, providing expert advice on vaccinations, anti-malarial and staying healthy whilst overseas. We have arranged a special 10% discount for Exodus passengers on any vaccinations that you may require. For information visit the community section of our website or click on this link www.nomadtravel.co.uk/pages/exodus.

For additional information please visit: www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk

Insurance - Are you adequately covered?

Please ask for details of the Exodus insurance policy that has been tailored to provide specific cover for our trips. It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). If taking an alternative policy you must be sure that you are covered for any activities that are part of this trip or optional activities that you intend to take part in. For further information please see the insurance section of the Exodus Travel Advice guide or visit www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/travel-insurance.

Local Time is GMT +2

Group, Staff and Support

All Exodus leaders are qualified Egyptologists.

Minimum group size is 6, maximum 20.

We need to stress that you need to be responsible for your children on these holidays. Our leaders and local staff are there to guide, help and advise and ensure that the holiday runs properly and professionally. They are not qualified child minders and you should not put them or other group members in a position where they are responsible for your own children.

Join the Exodus Online Community:

Don't forget to visit the Community area on our website. You can view our range of Exodus videos and podcasts, read trip write-ups that have featured in the national media and take advantage of some special deals on travel gear and equipment.

In the Compass Café forum you'll find the Departure Lounge where you can discuss your trip with fellow travellers before you depart. When you get back from your holiday remember to upload your images to the relevant trip page on our website. This helps other people see what our holidays are really like and you'll be automatically entered into our monthly photo competition.

To make full use of the Compass Cafe you'll need to join My Exodus. It's free, registration is simple and easy... so what are you waiting for?

<http://www.exodus.co.uk/community>

MONEY MATTERS

Exodus and Local Payments

There is no local payment on this holiday. Exodus no longer uses local payments to cover part of the cost of the holiday.

If you are comparing prices with other operators, please check the total price paid, as we believe that Exodus continues to offer the best balance between value for money and operational quality.

Currency Information

The Egyptian unit of currency is the Pound (EGP), divided into 100 piastres. In September 2009 the official tourist rate of exchange is approx: £1 = EGP 8.9 There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into the country, and we do not recommend you to get Egyptian currency prior to departure. Money can be changed at the airport on arrival or at the hotel in Cairo. When you leave Egypt it is possible, though not easy, to re-exchange Egyptian Pounds into foreign currency.

It is advisable to bring your personal spending money in small denomination travellers cheques or cash. Any hard currency (e.g. UK£, US\$, Euro etc.) is acceptable at banks in Egypt.

Hotels can also usually change money at a good rate, and they are often quicker than banks. We suggest that you take some money in cash, as hotels will often not accept travellers cheques.

ATM availability

There are ATM machines in many parts of Egypt and you can use Visa, MasterCard and Switch using your normal PIN number.

Credit Card Acceptance

Although they are accepted in most tourist bazaars, please do not rely on any credit cards in Egypt. It is possible to purchase larger items such as carpets with Visa, American Express and some other major cards.

Commission Free Holiday Currency

For your commission free holiday currency, pre loaded cash cards and travellers cheques delivered directly to your door at very competitive rates, visit us on www.currency-express.com/exodus and receive free delivery on orders over £300.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Optional excursions (approximate, depending on group sizes) and subject to confirmation for 2010. Please note these prices may rise and we will update the trip notes when new prices are issued. Prices are in US\$ and are approximate conversions from local currency.

Cairo: Sound and light show, Giza \$34 (valid for 6 clients +)

Entrance fee for Great Pyramids \$19

Entrance fee for Mummies room at Egyptian Museum \$19

Aswan: Abu Simbel flight excursion approx. \$213 (\$198 per child)

Abu Simbel road excursion approx. \$93 (valid for 6 clients +)

Tour of Philae, High Dam & Obelisk \$50 (valid for 6 clients +)

Sound and Light show at Philae \$37 (valid for 6 clients +)

Luxor: Sound and light show, Karnak Temple \$20 (entrance only)

Hot Air Balloon (Luxor) \$160

Please note you must not take any mobile phones (with cameras), cameras or video cameras on-board the hot air balloon.

Half day bicycle hire West Bank \$5

Half day taxi hire West Bank \$15

Entrance for additional tombs on the West Bank approximately \$34

El Gouna: Full day boat and snorkelling trip to coral island with lunch \$35 (including land transfers to start point)

If travelling to Abu Simbel, we strongly recommend the flight excursion rather than the road transfer. Travelling by road takes a few hours and at some points the road is in poor condition.

Tipping (leader and local staff)

Tipping "Baksheesh" is an ever-present fact of life in Egypt, and you will be asked for tips as a regular occurrence by hotel/railway porters, restaurant staff etc. We suggest you allow \$65 per person exclusively for this purpose. Your guide will often take this amount off you at the start of the trip and use it to tip for services on your behalf. This is purely to take the hassle out of this activity for you and is not compulsory.

Tipping your Leader. You may feel that your leader has performed well over the course of your time in Egypt and want to show your appreciation of their services. If you would like to tip your leader we suggest a figure of approximately GBP£1-2 (or equivalent in USD\$) per person per day. For confirmation the Baksheesh figure stated in the section above does not include any tip for your trip leader.

WHAT TO TAKE

Essential Equipment and Clothing

This should be read in conjunction with our 'What to Pack' section in the Travel Advice Booklet (sent on booking).

Please also be aware that Egypt is a Muslim country and there are times when you may be asked to cover up.

In addition to your basic clothing you will need the following:

Essential: good sun protection lotion or cream, sun hat, day pack, lightweight walking shoes, fleece for early mornings, a light wet weather top, swimwear and swimming towels.

Recommended: binoculars, books and cards, camera (and plenty of film if it's not digital) and torch.

Baggage and baggage allowance

Exodus kitbags are available for purchase at £25, which includes postage, packaging and VAT. Please note that they are only available to UK residents.

The luggage allowance on most flights to and from London is 20 kg, with a maximum of 2 bags per passenger. Please check luggage allowances shown on your tickets. You may bring your belongings in a soft holdall or rucksack.

In the unlikely event of any of your luggage being misplaced or damaged, a Property Irregularity Report (PIR) must be filed with the appropriate airline if you subsequently wish to make a claim against the

airline or on your travel insurance. This must be done at the airport where your baggage arrived, or should have arrived.

READING LIST

There are numerous guidebooks to choose from. Both Lonely Planet and Rough Guide cover Egypt; others, which we have read and found useful, are listed below.

Guide to Egypt, *Michael Haag*, Excellent readable guide with much detailed sightseeing information and useful practical sections.

Fodor's Guide to Egypt, *Hoddor & Stoughton*, A typical Fodor guide.

The Search For Ancient Egypt, *Thames and Hudson*, A very interesting summary of the re-discovery of Ancient Egypt.

An Introduction to Ancient Egypt, *T. G. H. Jame*, Another fairly exhaustive archaeological guide.

Mt Sinai, *Joseph Hobbs*

The Map of Love, *Ahdad Souief*, Shortlisted for the 1999 Booker prize.

The Nobel Prize-winning novelist *Naguib Mahfouz* is also well worth reading.

For further information contact Stanfords at Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP. Tel: 020 7836 1321. Website: www.stanfords.co.uk

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL CLIENTS

Exodus operate a 24 hour duty office for emergencies, which can be contacted on 0044 (0) 1582 644 100.

Anytime that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure or at www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/essential-information?

On all trips the staff are there to help ensure the holiday runs as smoothly as possible and, in the unlikely event that it does not, to sort out the best possible alternatives. What they cannot do is act as child minders or babysitters; they will treat your children as 'young adults', but it is your responsibility to look after your young ones. During free time or if you decide to opt out of part of the itinerary, you are responsible for your family and any arrangements that need to be made. Under no circumstances should this responsibility fall on our staff or any of your fellow travellers outside of your immediate family.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons – climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best alternative arrangements possible that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Where differences exist in the information between these Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes are the correct version and supersede the brochure. Abnormal conditions or other events beyond our control can prevail at any time, particularly in remote or off the beaten track destinations, therefore all holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

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HOW TO BOOK YOUR TRIP

- 1. Check availability** Go online to check availability, or contact us by phone or email.
- 2. Secure your place** You can provisionally hold a place on this trip, usually for between three and seven days.
- 3. Complete your booking and payment** When you're ready to book, go to www.exodus.co.uk for online booking, book over the phone or you can complete a booking form (available online or on request by calling us). We accept all major credit and debit cards, or you can pay by cheque.

Book with confidence Exodus is fully licensed and bonded as a tour operator. We hold Air Traffic Organisers Licence (ATOL) number 2582 issued and bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). We are also bonded to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and we are members of the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO) and ABTA - The Travel Association. This means you can book your Exodus holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected.

