



PROJECT DOSSIER

AN EGYPTIAN ENCOUNTER

CAIRO TO CAIRO

21 Days

3,800kms

Egypt

Itinerary Guideline

FROM CAIRO TO CAIRO

- Day 1:** In Cairo - Museums & bazaars.
- Day 2:** Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx. Overnight at Giza.
- Day 3:** To Alexandria and the Mediterranean coast to El Alamein.
- Day 4:** To Marsa Matruh - Ubayyad beach & coves.
- Day 5:** Inland to the Great Sand Sea & Siwa Oasis.
- Day 6:** To Bahariya Oasis.
- Day 7:** Western Desert to Farafra & Dakhla Oases.
- Day 8:** On camel-back into dunes & desert rock formations, overnight.
- Day 9:** Return Dakhla & drive to Kharja Oasis.
- Days 10 & 11:** Desert tracks across El Wahat el Kharja to the Nile & Luxor.
- Day 12:** In Luxor - Valley of the Kings, Temples of Amun.
- Day 13:** Luxor & to Aswan.
- Days 14 & 15:** In Aswan - Island & Temples of Philae (and optional day side-trip to Abu Simbel).
- Days 16 & 17:** By felucca sailing boat down Nile to Kom Ombo. Temples & tombs of Kom Ombo.
- Day 18:** To the Red Sea & Sharm el Naga
- Day 19:** Sharm el Naga - Red Sea beaches & coral reefs.
- Day 20:** Red Sea to St Anthony's Monastery.



- Day 21:** Gulf of Suez to Suez Canal & back to Cairo. Evening arrival, end arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

Highlights & Route

CAIRO (Days 1 & 2)

The Egyptian Museum contains the world's finest collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts, and the fabulous Treasures of Tutankhamun. The crowded streets and artisans' bazaars, long history and loud presence of this incredible city of the Nile. The great Pyramids of Giza and the inscrutable stare of the Sphinx.

MEDITERRANEAN (Days 3 & 4)

To Alexandria - crossroads of North Africa, city of Cleopatra, the Roman & Byzantine empires. Along the Mediterranean coast to El Alamein - cemeteries, memories and relics of terrible warfare in the desert. Near Marsa Matrouh are the country's best sand beaches at Ubayyad, the crystal-clear waters and turquoise depths of Agiiba's beautiful cove.

WESTERN DESERT & OASES (Days 5-11)

Inland, skirting the infamous Qattara Depression to Siwa Oasis at the edge of the Great Sand Sea. Thick palm groves cluster around freshwater springs and salt lakes in this ancient Bedouin oasis. South from here the shifting seas of dunes stretch 650 kms to the Tropic of Cancer - unknown, and impassable to camel, human or vehicle. In 525 BC the legendary Army of Cambyses disappeared into a sandstorm here. Alexander also came to this wild and lonely place to consult the oracle - part of his coronation hall still stands among the relics of the desert. New roads into the Western Desert have opened a route to the oases of Bahariya & Farafra. Development has brought its concrete consequences, but the great oases - low lying depressions of freshwater and sulphur springs and the cool shade of date palms - remain as timeless as the traditions and ways of their peoples. They are studded with history and desert lore, aloof and proud in their isolation. From Dakhla Oasis we travel by camel for a day and a half across the dunes and rose-hued landscapes to small and remote oases, hidden rock springs & pools, and the solitude of the sands. Then for two days, from Dakhla to Luxor, we drive the emptiness of the Wahat el Kharja - along ill-defined and seldom used desert tracks to the green lifeline of the Nile.

THE NILE (Days 12-17)

Luxor was the southern capital of the Pharaohs - Egypt's richest area of colossal monuments and amazing past. Here is the great temple of Amun at Karnak (Thebes) and the crags of the Valleys of the Kings where the Tomb of Tutankhamun was discovered. A day's drive along the banks of the Nile is Aswan on the northern tip of Lake Nasser. The great river is studded with rocks and islands amongst which glide graceful white feluccas, the traditional shallow-draft sailing boats of the Nile. On one of these islands is Philae and the lovely Temples of Isis. Gleaming gold and white pillars of sculpted rock are built across time-by Egyptians, Greeks & Romans, all honouring the island where the first land emerged from the primordial waters of Chaos.

(Optional 1 day return trip by chartered vehicle to the southern end of Lake Nasser, to the Sun Temple & statues of Ramses & Nefertari at Abu Simbel. Fronting this incredible rock temple, four colossal statues of Ramses II guard the southern approaches to Egypt. Approx US\$ 50).

From Aswan we board simple Nile feluccas to sail slowly down stream (one & a half days) to Kom Ombo's temples and the tombs of the 'Old Kingdom'.

RED SEA & SUEZ (Days 18-20)

A short drive across the eastern desert brings us to Sharm el Naga on the Red Sea - an undeveloped peninsula jutting into the brilliant reefs of coral and clear waters in this scuba-divers' paradise. Time to rest and relax, swim & explore the coral reefs (or even take a one day diver's certification course - approx US\$ 40). Along the Gulf of Suez to the Monastery of St Anthony - of caves, well-springs and churches where Moses and the Exodus are reputed to have rested before their crossing of the Red Sea. To today's Suez Canal and tomorrow's promises from the minarets of Cairo.

GROUP SIZE

24 max including Encounter staff. Local guides will be employed at certain places of interest where their knowledge advantageous to our visit.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

An easier project with few physical demands, although Egypt can be difficult if you are unused to hot climates.

THE LOCAL PAYMENT (as in the brochure)

This is the payment made to the Project Leader at the point of departure. This payment must be made paid in US\$ dollars, either in cash notes or recognised Travellers Cheques. This payment completes the total inclusive price of the project. This amount will be utilised by the project Leader to cover a proportion but not all of the 'on the ground' running costs of this project. There are no hidden extra payments.

INCLUDED IN PROJECT COST

All transport, food (except as noted under Meals Cooking & Food below), camping equipment & supplies, hotel in Cairo on Day 1, local guides as stated above, camping fees, entrance fees & activities as follows: To Egyptian Museum & Citadel in Cairo, the site of the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, Valley of the Kings by donkey inc. 3 Tombs (N.B. Tutankhamen's Tomb optional), Karnak Temple in Luxor, Philae Temple in Aswan and the Kom Ombo Temple.

There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

PROJECT COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from home & Cairo, transfers to/from airport & airport taxes, vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, some lunches in major centres (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Other individual entry fees to museums/sights not stated above (allow US\$ 30 - 40). Accommodation and meals in Cairo before/after the expedition.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Encounter truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit etc.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Your personal clothing and baggage including a sleeping bag. A recommended list of what to bring, is supplied in the Pre-departure information pack at the time of booking.

TRANSPORT

Encounter expedition truck, on camelback for one & a half days from Dakhla Oasis, on Donkeys to visit the Valley of the Kings, felucca sailing boats for one & half days from Aswan - Kom Ombo.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel in Cairo (1 night), Nile felucca (1 night). Otherwise camping throughout. Occasional basic campground facilities in main centres only, usually extending to simple washing/showering & toilet arrangements. Otherwise open 'bush' camping with no facilities other than standard Encounter truck equipment. Everyone is involved in camp set up and cooking.

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Hotel/restaurant meals on Day 1 in Cairo. Camp cooked breakfasts & evening meals, picnic lunches. Expedition members are involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. (Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat where available, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves, supplemented by canned & dried goods in areas where no fresh supplies available). Meals prepared by camel drivers on overnight camel trip from Dakhla Oasis, and by felucca crews on Nile. In larger cities where a day is spent in individual sightseeing or activities away from the truck, lunch will sometimes be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal.

(Evening meal in Cairo on Day 21 is not included).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than **6 months** after the end of the expedition, and which contains not less than **2 blank pages**. All nationalities require a visa to visit Egypt, details of this are detailed in the Pre-departure information pack.

INSURANCE

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all the aspects described on page 60 of the brochure. Please bring a copy of your policy with you to the pre-departure meeting. If your policy does not cover this minimum level then Encounter will not accept responsibility for the consequences.

MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS

All vaccination requirements and medical recommendations are detailed in the pre-departure information pack at the time of booking.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

You should allow approximately **US\$130 per week** to cover personal day to day expenditure en route - drinks, snacks, occasional lunches in major centres, souvenirs and additional museum/site entrance fees that are not included in the project cost.

You should also budget **US\$40 per day** that you spend in Cairo before or after the project to cover hotel, meals & incidentals.

The optional activities - Abu Simbel and a 1 day diving course on the Red Sea - do not need to be arranged in advance, so no need to decide on them until you get there. These costs are taken in to consideration in the weekly budget. Encounter has no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in Egypt.

ARRIVING AT START OF THE PROJECT

You must arrive in Cairo and be at the meeting point at 08.00 hrs on the morning of Day 1 for the Pre-departure meeting. (If you are arriving early, Cairo is a frenetic & fascinating city: Goldsmiths bazaar & the soukhs, horse racing at Gezira, football matches complete with armed riot police, river taxis on the Nile, the camel market, opera & ballet, theatre, cinemas, cafes & an unusual nightlife). Reservations at our Cairo hotel before departure may be made through Encounter, with payment by you directly to hotel on arrival.

LEAVING AT END OF PROJECT

Arrangements end on arrival at the Cairo hotel on the evening of Day 21. Only very late night flight connections out of Cairo could be made on this day. Any flight connections could be met the next day.

INTERESTING READING

Gods, Graves and Scholars (C.W. Ceram), Incidents in Zafraani Alley (Gamal al-Ghitani), In Search of the Forty Day Road (Michael Asher). A full list of recommended reading in history, guidebooks and fiction is given in our pre-departure information.

SPECIFIC DETAILS

On the best ways to organise and carry your spending money, clothing/packing lists, how to get from Cairo airport to our hotel etc are all contained in our Pre-departure information pack.

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Local payment.....
Return flights.....
Visas.....
Vaccinations.....
Insurance.....
Personal spending money.....
Total _____

The information in this dossier has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and Encounter Overland Ltd.