PRINCIPIA LIFELONG LEARNING
Engage. Travel. Learn.

Footsteps of Faith: A Biblical Exploration of Egypt

Packing List and Travel Tips

The following are suggested items you may want to pack for this tour. Not all items will apply to all travelers.

Luggage

- One suitcase to check in, plus a backpack or small carry-on bag for essentials and to use as a daypack. You may need to carry your suitcase and backpack at times, so pack accordingly.
- Consider packing an extra soft duffle bag, backpack, or sturdy shopping bag to carry any local crafts, treasures, and items you may want to purchase. You can also purchase bags for this purpose at the local markets.
- Light backpack or a crossbody bag for daily excursions

Travel Documents

- Passport - must be valid for six months after the date of the tour and have sufficient blank pages for entry and exit stamps.
- Tourist visas for Egypt for most travelers will be provided by Holy Kemet upon arrival. If you are a citizen of the United States, Australia, Canada, Mexico, or United Kingdom, your tourist visa for Egypt is included in your registration and will be provided upon arrival by our travel partner, Holy Kemet. If you are not a citizen of the above countries, please contact the nearest diplomatic or consular office of the country/countries you plan to visit to obtain specific entry requirements.
- Cash, ATM (bank) card, credit cards
- Photocopies of your passport and credit cards
- Driver's license/ID
- Flight information/E-tickets
- Travel insurance documents
- Health insurance card
- Contact list provided by Principia

Clothing

We have included a full list of possible clothing items to help you pack. Personal style preferences will vary. For daytime touring throughout Egypt, lightweight breathable clothing, comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a sun hat are generally sufficient. There is no need for heavy winter coats, bulky jackets, or cold-weather gear. Layering is the most practical approach and will allow you to adapt comfortably throughout the trip.

- Lightweight, breathable clothing that is comfortable, and easy to layer for changing temperatures, especially for cool evenings. While there is laundry service at many hotels it can be expensive, and lightweight items can be easily washed by hand and will dry overnight.
- A sweatshirt/sweater and windbreaker can be helpful when layering
- Conservative clothing is recommended when sightseeing, with shoulders and knees covered. When visiting churches, monasteries and mosques, men should have knee-length shorts or pants and women should have skirts or pants that cover the knees. Remember to cover your shoulders as well. A scarf is easy to carry and useful for many purposes.
- Swimsuit - for beach and/or some hotels

- Comfortable and sturdy walking shoes - appropriate for sand and rocky roads
- Sandals are fine at times (e.g., at dinner or around the hotel or pool/beach) but we encourage you to wear comfortable closed-toe walking shoes most days.
- Dressier but still casual attire is suitable for evening dining
- Undergarments
- Pajamas
- Socks
- Shirts/tops
- Sweaters/sweatshirts
- Pants/shorts
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Dressy casual attire
- Fleece/light jacket
- Light rain jacket
- Belts
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Wide-brimmed hat or cap to protect the head, neck & eyes from the sun
- Scarf for head and shoulders

Guests planning to climb Mt. Sinai should bring:

- Layered clothing
- Fleece or insulated jacket
- Comfortable hiking or walking shoes
- Hat and gloves (optional but recommended for those sensitive to cold)
- Small flashlight or headlamp
- Hiking sticks

Toiletries/Wellness

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Brush/comb
- Shaving supplies
- Packs of tissues
- Skincare products
- Hair accessories/products
- Small hand mirror
- Nail clippers/file
- Tweezers
- Contact lens wearers - have case and cleaner fluids with you at all times as well as eyeglasses. Consider bringing an extra pair of eyewear or contact lenses if applicable and/or prescription.
- Sunscreen (minimum SPF 30) & lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Travel toilet paper (not for the hotels, but will need at some rest stops)
- Sanitary wipes and/or antibacterial hand sanitizer

Miscellaneous

- Detergent for hand washing clothes
- Zip-lock plastic bags for packing purchased liquid or fragile items
- Neck pouch or money belt to keep money and passport safe
- Small flashlight

- Books/reading material
- Cell phone, headphones, charger
- Travel-size umbrella
- Camera (wide-angle lens recommended), memory cards and battery charger
- Earplugs (especially if sharing a room)
- TSA approved travel locks for your luggage with an extra set of keys
- Small binoculars if you are interested in bird watching on the boat
- All electrical devices must have a 220- to 110-volt transformer. Laptop computers and smart phones do have built-in transformers, but you will need a European style adapter plug. (see image below)



Protection and Precautions

- Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport and carry the copies separately from the original. Consider leaving a second copy at home with a family member/close friend.
- Purchase comprehensive travel insurance, including coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, medical expenses, and baggage.
- Keep valuables, including cash, passports, and electronic devices, secured in your hotel or ship safe. Avoid leaving them unattended.
- Exercise caution when using credit/debit cards to minimize the risk of fraudulent charges.

Communications

- Check with your cell phone provider about international roaming capabilities and activation requirements.
- We will establish a group text through WhatsApp on your cell phone. We encourage you to add **WhatsApp** to your smartphone before you depart. This is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family (who also have WhatsApp) while abroad. When used with Wi-Fi, there is no charge to send texts or make calls through the app.
- If email access is essential, verify availability in advance.

Weather

November is one of the most pleasant months to travel in Egypt. Travelers can generally expect warm, sunny days with very little rainfall and comfortable evenings. For this reason, travelers do not need heavy winter clothing. Lightweight layers are generally the best approach. A fleece, sweater, or windproof jacket is recommended for evenings, early morning departures, Nile cruising, and the Mt. Sinai excursion.

Cairo & Northern Egypt

- Average daytime temperatures: 72°F–82°F (22°C–28°C)
- Evening temperatures: 57°F–66°F (14°C–19°C)

Luxor, Nile Valley & Aswan

- Average daytime temperatures: 79°F–90°F (26°C–32°C)
- Evening temperatures: 57°F–68°F (14°C–20°C)

Sinai Region (St. Catherine)

- Daytime temperatures: 61°F–75°F (16°C–24°C)
- Nighttime temperatures: 39°F–52°F (4°C–11°C)

Currency Exchange

The local currency is the Egyptian Pound, divided into 100 Piasters.

US dollars are widely accepted. You may be offered a lower price if you use American dollars in Egypt. Major credit cards are generally accepted, but Diner's Club is less commonly accepted. Exchange currency only at authorized outlets like banks and hotels, and save all receipts. Currency exchange rates can fluctuate, so it's recommended to check the latest rates before departure. You may receive a better exchange rate if you exchange US dollars into Egyptian pounds while you are in Egypt rather than doing so in your home country.

Current Rates of Exchange as of 9/14/26

$ 1 USA = 51.30 Egyptian Pounds

€ 1 Euro = 59.50 Egyptian Pounds

Tipping or Baksheesh / Gratitude

This is part of everyday life in Egypt. It is customary, and you will be expected to tip for good service for most local people. Although tipping is included on our tour, we recommend bringing small notes (1, 5, and 10 USD in good condition and minted after 2006) for personal tipping.

Shopping

Shop for quality Egyptian-made items like gold/silver jewelry, leather goods, carpets, glassware, and perfumes at authorized souvenir stores, not at tourist bazaars/souks which often sell lower quality goods. Recommended items include gold/silver cartouches, wooden boxes, brass/copper work, alabaster, hand-made textiles, papyrus, and essential oils/perfumes. Avoid purchasing valuable/expensive items from tourist bazaars - consult your guide for reputable shops.

Shopping Tips

Bargaining is expected. Try to pay about two-thirds of the original asking price. Keep all sales receipts and pack purchases separately for customs declarations. Be wary of high shipping costs or long delivery times when purchasing items to ship home. Shopping is not compulsory - inform your guide if you feel pressured to make purchases.

Etiquette

- Dress conservatively, avoid revealing clothing.

- Ask permission before photographing people, especially children.
- Photography may be restricted at some sites, check with your guide.
- Understand local people may expect payment to be photographed.

Electrical

Egypt uses 220-240V electricity, 50Hz. Bring voltage converters as needed.

Time

Egypt is in the Eastern European Time Zone (GMT +3) and is typically 7 hours ahead of U.S. Central Time and 6 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time in November.