**Included Activities**

This is a list of included activities on this trip. All other activities are optional and at your own expense. For a list of optional activities and sightseeing available on this trip, see the optional activities section below. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not be refunded.  
  
Khan al-Khalili bazaar visit  
Pyramids and Sphinx  
Camel ride at the Pyramids  
Egyptian Museum  
Aswan boat tour  
Nubian village visit and meal  
Overnight felucca sailing trip   
Donkey ride (seasonal - not in Summer)   
Colossi of Memnon  
Valley of the Kings (3 tombs)  
Home cooked traditional meal with local family in Luxor  
Karnak Temple  
ACE (Animal Care Egypt) Sojourn Foundation Project (if time)  
Comfortable overnight sleeper train (both directions- Cairo to Aswan & Luxor to Cairo)

**Optional Activities**

We list the following optional activities for your information. This is not an exhaustive list and should be used as a guide only.  
They are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Sojourn nor included in price of this trip. If you do any of them, you do so at your own risk, and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Sojourn.

These optional activities listed are suggestions about what is possible to do in each location. It may not be possible to do all activities listed in the time that you have. We recommend you do some planning in advance to decide what you most want to do in each location. Please note that the below prices are the entrance fees only and do not include transport fees to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated.   
  
Cairo:  
Citadel – EGP50  
Coptic Museum (Cairo) - EGP50  
Islamic Art Museum (Cairo) - EGP40  
Cairo Tower (Cairo) - EGP65  
Antiquities Museum Mummies Hall (Cairo) - EGP100  
Sufi dance performance at Khan al-Khalili (subject to performance scheduling) - free  
  
Giza Pyramids:  
Entrance to the Great Pyramid of Cheops - EGP100  
Entrance to the 2nd Pyramid of Khafre - EGP30  
Solar Boat Museum - EGP50  
Pyramids Sound and Light Show - EGP75  
Pyramid of Saqqara – 60EGP  
  
Aswan:  
Abu Simbel Temple Entrance - EGP90  
Abu Simbel transport by bus - EGP120  
Abu Simbel flight - from USD150 (book with www.egyptair.com)  
Philae Temple - EGP50 (+ EGP10 for boat)  
Philae Temple Sound and Light Show - EGP75  
Monastery of St. Simeon - EGP25  
Nubian Museum - EGP50  
Tombs of Nobles - EGP30  
Unfinished Obelisk - EGP30  
Kalabsha Temple - EGP35  
  
Luxor East Bank sights:  
Karnak Temple Sound and Light Show - EGP100  
Luxor Temple - EGP50  
Luxor Museum – EGP80  
Mummification Museum - EGP50  
Hot Air Balloon - USD110  
Bicycle hire - EGP10  
  
Luxor West Bank Sights:  
Tomb of Tutankhamun (KV54) (Luxor) - EGP100  
Hatshepsut Temple - EGP30  
Medinat Habu Temple - EGP30  
Ramasseum Temple - EGP30  
Valley of the Queens- EGP35  
Tombs of the Nobles – EGP30  
  
Shopping:  
There are many opportunities to purchase souvenirs and handicrafts while on this trip. Popular purchases include: gold and silver jewellery, perfume and Pyrex perfume bottles, essential oils, papyrus art, alabaster statues and silver including cartouches (hieroglyphics).   
  
While we do not make arrangements for specific shopping excursions due to our passengers feedback, there may be opportunities where your local guides can offer services if you are particularly interested. Please note it is customary for local guides (not Sojourn Group Leaders) to accept commission from the factory or shop in exchange for their service.   
  
You are under no obligation to purchase anything from local guides and we do encourage you to enjoy shopping in the markets to compare prices and quality.  
  
Please note that in Egypt, silver is a common souvenir in the form of jewellery and other items. The silver in Egypt is generally stamped with '800' meaning that it is 80% silver and 20% other metal. This is a reduced quality to the silver you may be more familiar with which is '925'- higher quality.   
  
Hot Air Ballooning in Luxor  
There is a possibility of an optional Balloon Flight on the West Bank of the Nile in Luxor. There are many companies who offer flights. While we can arrange the balloon experience with our preferred operator, who has provided good and safe service in the past, we must advise that you are free to choose your own balloon flight operator if you have specific safety concerns. Please note this is an optional activity so any balloon flight is taken at your own risk.   
  
You may notice other local agents around Luxor selling balloon flights at varying prices. You are free to choose your own options. Balloon rides organised through our preferred operators are sold at a fixed rate throughout the season. Ask your Group Leader to assist on arrival to Luxor.  
  
Generally the activity is advertised as a flight over the Valley of the Kings. No matter what any agent says, this cannot be guaranteed as the flight is entirely dependent on the direction of the wind. From our experience very few flights actually go over the Valley of the Kings and instead fly close to Hatshepsut and the Colossi of Memnon. While you may have booked a 'sunrise' balloon flight, please be aware that this does not always eventuate in time for the sunrise due to logistical reasons and weather conditions.

Got extra time before or after your Sojourn adventure? Maybe there is an URBAN ADVENTURE in one of the cities that you're visiting on your trip?

Sojourn's Urban Adventures are the city tour with a difference - there are more than 100 to choose from in over 30 cities around the world, with new trips added regularly. They are a great way to get under the skin of the city you're visiting, in just a few hours. To make a booking contact your local travel agent, Sojourn consultant or visit [www.urbanadventures.com](http://www.urbanadventures.com)

**Spending Money**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping, participating in optional activities and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

**Tipping**

Tipping - known as 'baksheesh' in the Middle East is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry. If you are satisfied with the services provided a tip - though not compulsory - is appropriate and always appreciated. While it may not be customary to you, it is of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels.   
  
We recommend that any group tips are collected in a envelope and handed directly to the intended recipient as a collective 'thank-you' by the group. The below amounts are suggested figures in USD for ease of calculating budgets, but should always be offered in local currency.   
  
Restaurants: Local markets and basic restaurants - leave the loose change. More up-market restaurants we suggest 5% to 10% of your bill.  
  
Local guides: Throughout your trip you may at times have a local guide in addition to your leader. We suggest US$1-2 per person per day for local guides.  
  
Drivers: You may have a range of private drivers on your trip. Some may be with you for a short journey while others may be with you for several days. We would suggest a higher tip for those more involved with the group however US$1-2 per person per day is generally appropriate.  
  
Public toilet attendants: When using public toilets, there will most likely be an attendant that will expect a tip. 20- 50 cents is appropriate.  
  
Felucca Captains: If you are travelling in Upper Egypt many of our itineraries spend a night on a felucca. US$1-2 per person per day for felucca captains is appropriate.  
  
Desert Camp hosts: If you have a night camping included on your itinerary US$2-3 is appropriate for the camp hosts.  
  
Your Group Leader: You may also consider tipping your leader for outstanding service throughout your trip. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline US$2 per person, per day can be used. Of course you are free to tip more or less as you see fit, depending on your perception of service quality and the length of your trip. Remember, a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service.

**Important Notes**

Travelling in the Middle East:  
The Middle East is a region which may be very different to anything you have experienced before. Heat, pollution, poverty and the crowds can result in initial culture shock but should be seen as an exciting new challenge. During our time here we have come to love this wonderfully different region but we know that we should always expect to encounter some difficulties along the way. You will come across very different attitudes to time keeping, public cleanliness, privacy and service. If you are able to travel with a lot of patience and a sense of humour, then we know that you - like all of us - will be captivated by the fabulous Middle East.  
  
Expense in the Middle East:  
The Middle East is often misjudged as being an inexpensive destination. With tourism booming, the influx of cheap flights from Europe, prices for some items are becoming more equivalent to prices you would be used to at home. Eating in local restaurants, road side stalls and from markets can be inexpensive, but for nights out at tourist friendly restaurants you can expect to pay much more. Budgets are a personal choice but please bear in mind that you should not expect the Middle East to always be a budget destination.  
  
Student cards:  
If you are a student and can produce a valid student card you will be able to get discounted rates at some of the historical sites. Entrance prices are clearly posted at the ticket booth entry points.  
  
Seasons for travelling in the Middle East:  
Please note that as a desert region, the Middle East can have extreme weather!  
Winter (approx. December to February) can be very cold. Consider bringing a sleeping bag, thermals, scarf, gloves and a warm jacket for travel in this period, especially on itineraries which include camping such as on a felucca, in a desert camp, or at a Red Sea beach camp. Some of our guesthouses/hotels do not supply heating. In many cases this would be a major financial and environmental strain on our hotels and the local towns. Summer (approx. June to August) can be very hot everywhere we travel, which means that it can be quite uncomfortable for those not used to the heat. Not all our hotels have air conditioning, and in those that do, it is not always functioning.   
  
Alterations to the itinerary:  
While we operate successful trips in the Middle East throughout the year, some changes may occur in our itineraries due to inclement weather and common seasonal changes to timetables and transport routes. This can happen with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to the route while you are travelling.  
  
Armed convoys and security while travelling:  
Occasionally you may experience armed security and convoys between select towns or regions. Convoys are used to ensure all travellers are transported safely and, in many cases, tourists are only allowed to travel in scheduled convoys of buses and jeeps. On rare occasions you may have an armed guard in your vehicle. We want to warn you so you are not alarmed. This is a practice designed to keep tourists safe, although at time it can appear a little overkill.  
  
Ramadan & the Eid ul-Fitr festival 2018:  
In 2016 the important month of Ramadan will be in progress from the 1st August through till the 30th August, and the Eid ul-Fitr festival will be held directly at its conclusion for 3-4 days. Ramadan is a festival of sacrifice where the devout refrain from eating or drinking during daylight hours. During Ramadan business hours are shortened, including opening hours at some tourist attractions. Alcohol is not permitted during daylight hours and many restaurants will be closed. While you should expect some delays and inconveniences during this period, the month is a fantastic opportunity to travel in a Muslim country and witness this unique period, particularly the nightly celebrations when the sun sets and the fast is broken. Please note that although the Eid ul-Fitr festival can also be a fascinating time to travel it is a period of National holiday. Most government offices and businesses will be closed and some tourist site opening hours may be effected.   
  
Passport photocopies:  
Please bring two (2) copies of your passport. These may be used to assist with hotel check-in, and sometimes at road security points.  
  
A Single Supplement is available on this trip, please refer to your agent for further information. On the following nights, the Single Supplement is not available:  
Day 2 Overnight train  
Day 5 Felucca  
Day 7 Overnight Train

**Group Size**

Maximum of 12 travellers per group

**Accommodation**

Hotels (4nts), felucca (1nt), overnight sleeper train (2nts)  
  
Accommodation:  
The style of accommodation described in the day to day itinerary is a guideline. On rare occasions alternative arrangements may need to be arranged due to availability of rooms in our usual accommodation. A similar standard of accommodation will be used in these instances.   
  
Additional accommodation:   
If you have purchased pre-or post-trip accommodation, you may be required to change rooms at the start or the end of the tour.  
  
Triple Sharing:  
When we have 3 single female travellers or 3 single male travellers on a trip we occasionally make use of triple-share rooms.

are the accommodation styles available for this trip.

**Meals**

While travelling with us you will experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Your group leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. On our camping trips we often cook the region's specialties so you don't miss out. To give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat generally not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility. As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Please check the 'meal inclusions' section of these notes for details of meals included.

Allow USD $145 for meals not included.

**Meal Inclusions**

4 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 4 Dinners  
  
Breakfast is generally a very simple affair and typically consist of bread, jam & tea/coffee & on occasions tomato, cucumber, & juice (or similar).

**Transport**

Overnight sleeper train, private bus, motor boat, felucca, taxi, camel, donkey (seasonal)

**Group Leader**

All Sojourn group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders or our local partners' group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. Sojourn endeavours to provide the services of an experienced leader however, due to the seasonality of travel, rare situations may arise where your leader is new to a particular region or training other group leaders. Your leader will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see and recommend local eating venues. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.  
  
At Sojourn we aim to support local guides who have specialised knowledge of the regions we visit - and who better to hear it from than the locals themselves? If you were interested in delving deeper into the local culture then your leader can recommend a local guide service in the most of the main destinations of your trip.

**Joining Point**

**King Hotel**  
20 Abdel Rehim Sabry Street  
Dokki  
Cairo  
The hotel has 90 rooms with ensuite bathrooms, television and air-conditioning. Other hotel features include laundry service, roof top bar and restaurant.

**Joining Point Instructions**

It is by far the easiest option to take a taxi. Airport taxis shouldn't cost more than 100EGP (be prepared to bargain!). The drive can take between 40 minutes and 1 hour depending on the time of day and subsequent traffic conditions.   
  
Alternatively Sojourn offer a pre-arranged private transfer service option. Enquire with your Agent on booking. If you have pre-purchased an arrival transfer you will be met by a transfer officer in the immigration area from our local representative in Cairo - TravelMark Agency. Look for the Sojourn Logo and your name.   
  
If for any reason you should not make contact with the transfer officer by the time you have cleared customs as can occasionally occur as many flights tend to arrive at once, please call TravelMark Agency on the following numbers:  
Mr Tharwat (+2) 0127 606 605  
Mr Abdel Nasser (+2) 0123 603 748  
Give your exact location in the airport (find a landmark) and you will be attended to promptly.  
  
In the very unlikely event that this process fails, you can find taxis at the front of the airport to take you to your hotel. Please inform your group leader at the initial group meeting if this occurs.   
  
If your flight is going to be early, delayed or cancelled please call ahead on the above numbers to explain the situation and advise alternative flight details  
  
If this is your first trip to Egypt a transfer is recommended.

**Arrival Complications**

We don't expect any problems (and nor should you!) but if for any reason you are unable to commence your   
group trip as scheduled, please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your trip leader.  
  
If you have pre-booked an airport transfer (where available) and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing   
customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions in the Trip   
Notes. Should this occur, please apply to your travel agent for a refund of the transfer cost on your return.  
  
No refund is available on missed transfers or portions of your trip owing to a different flight arrival or delayed flight arrival. Any   
additional cost incurred in order to meet up with your group is at your own expense.

**Finishing Point**

**King Hotel**  
20 Abdel Rehim Sabry Street  
Dokki  
Cairo  
The hotel has 90 rooms with ensuite bathrooms, television and air-conditioning. Other hotel features include laundry service, roof top bar and restaurant.

**Finishing Point Instructions**

Check out time is 12:00 midday. Taxis can easily be hired from the street in front of the Hotel. Bargain for the fare and aim to pay approx 80EGP. Only the new yellow taxis have working meters. The drive can take between 45 minutes and 1 hour depending on the time of day and subsequent traffic conditions.   
  
We can offer a pre arranged private transfer service option. Inform your agent at the time of booking if you are interested.

**Emergency Contact**

In the case of a genuine crisis or emergency, Sojourn's local Cairo-based ground representative for the Middle East can be reached on Tel: +2 019 681 1067. For all other enquiries please contact our Reservations department which is open 24 hours, 6 days per week. For further contact details please use the following page: [http://www.Sojourntravel.com/ourtrips/contact/](http://www.sojourntravel.com/ourtrips/contact/).

**Emergency Funds**

Please also make sure you have access to an additional USD$400, to be used when unforeseen incidents or circumstances outside our control (eg. a natural disaster, civil unrest or an outbreak of bird flu) necessitate a change to our planned route.

**Visas**

Please note that visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as much as possible, but rules do change. It is important that you check for yourself.  
  
Egypt:   
Most nationalities require a visa to enter as a tourist into Egypt. Visas are easily attainable on arrival at Cairo airport for most nationalities for USD$15 to be paid in cash, but please check with your travel agent or embassy before departure. On arrival to Cairo airport you buy your visa at any of the banks before proceeding to immigration. You will be given a stamp that you then need to put into your passport yourself. A single entry visa is valid for three months from date of issue and entitles the bearer to one month in Egypt. Multiple entry visas are not available at the airport or any border crossings.

**Laundry**

Some hotels offer a laundry service which by western standards is generally inexpensive. Self-service laundries are scarce, but laundromats are not uncommon in the main towns. If using a hotel or laundromat service note that damage to clothing is occasionally encountered. Leave your delicate evening wear at home. Consider bringing some bio-degradable laundry soap and hand wash so that you can wash any precious items yourself.

**What to Take**

What you need to bring will vary according to the trip style you have chosen, the countries you are visiting and when you are travelling. Generally speaking you should pack as lightly as possible. On the vast majority of our trips you are expected to carry your own luggage and although you will not be required to walk long distances with your luggage (max 30 minutes) we recommend keeping the weight under 10kg/22lb.   
  
Most travellers carry their luggage in a backpack, although an overnight bag with a shoulder strap would suffice if you travel lightly. Smaller bags or backpacks with wheels are convenient although we recommend your bag has carry straps. You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for daytrips.

The smaller your bag the better! There is often restricted storage space when travelling and if your bag does not fit in these areas, then often the only place to put it is on your lap. So for maximum comfort, aim to pack small and light! It is recommended that your bag can be locked as on some transport it may be necessary to store your luggage separately.  
  
Temperatures in the Middle East are generally hot with little rain. This can become extreme during the summer months of June to August. In the months of December to March it can be very cool at night, particularly next to the river or the ocean and out in the desert where night temperatures can drop dramatically. Even in the hot months, it can get cold in the desert at night.  
  
A light water and windproof jacket is useful and a hat essential. As the countries we visit are Islamic nations, women may find a headscarf useful.  
  
Sleeping bags:  
All of our hotel accommodation contains suitable bedding, and simple light bedding is provided during camping activities such as: overnight felucca, desert camps, or at the Red Sea Beach camp stay. Most Sojourn travellers find the bedding provided here adequate, but for your own comfort and if you are particularly sensitive to the cold, consider bringing your own sleeping bag if your itinerary includes camping over the winter months (approx. Dec-Mar).

**Local Dress**

When packing be aware that dress standards are conservative and you should dress accordingly. To respect the local culture and for your own comfort, we strongly recommend modest clothing. As a guideline, shoulders and knees at the minimum (and everything in between including midriff and cleavage) should be covered at all times. Wearing shorts and singlet tops is not appropriate and may well restrict your entry into sites of a religious nature, family homes, and will limit your local interaction opportunities in general. Loose, lightweight, long clothing (3/4 trousers that come to the calf is fine) is both respectful and cool in the predominantly warm climate.

**Checklist**

The following checklist is to be used as a guide only and is not intended to be a complete packing list. Any other items that you wish to pack are at your own discretion however you should attempt to comply with the suggested luggage weight limit.  
  
Passport  
Visas required for this trip  
Travel insurance; including insurer details, 24hr emergency contact telephone number and policy number  
Flight Tickets  
Sojourn trip confirmation voucher  
Photocopies of important documents to be kept separately (we recommend you keep a copy at home as well)  
Latest trip notes (this information)  
Money, cash, credit cards  
Money belt or pouch  
First aid kit, personal medication/prescriptions  
Prescription glasses or contact lens & solution  
Sunglasses  
High protection sunscreen  
Lip balm  
Hat  
Insect repellent, Insect bite cream  
Antihistamine  
Antibacterial gel  
Ear plugs  
Alarm clock   
Torch/flashlight and spare batteries   
Travel sickness tablets  
Swimming costume & towel  
Comfortable walking shoes with good grip (sturdy trekking shoes are recommended if your itinerary includes climbing Mt Sinai)  
Camera, film, memory card, spare batteries  
Day pack - for your personal needs during the day  
Local language phrase book  
Reading material  
Luggage lock  
Smarter clothes for nights out  
Toiletries  
Sleep sheet   
Travel plug/international adapter  
Mobile phone - check you have international roaming access  
Tampons (can be difficult to find on tour)  
  
Winter suggestions (Approx. Dec to Mar):  
Warm clothes  
Waterproof jacket  
Thermal underwear  
Gloves  
Beanie/woolly hat  
Sleeping bag (Not obligatory, but bring if you are particularly sensitive to the cold, and if your itinerary includes a desert camp, overnight felucca or Red Sea beach camp)  
  
Consider bringing some post cards/pins of your hometown to give to local people. Photos of your family to show local people help to get a conversation and the interaction started.