

General Info

Visa

Obtain visa in advance unless you are traveling only to the Eastern Coast of Sinai from the Taba Terminal (10 km. south of Eilat).

General Regulations

Non-Egyptian visitors arriving in Egypt are required to be in possession of a minimum 6 months valid passport. Entry visas may be obtained from Egyptian Diplomatic and Consular Missions abroad or from the Entry Visa Department at the Travel Documents, Immigration and Nationality Administration (TDINA). It is, however, possible for most tourists and visitors to obtain an entry visa at any of the major ports of entry. Please check with the nearest Egyptian Consulate for specific details and regulations relevant to your nationality.

Although we will be constantly updating the content of our information, it is the responsibility of the traveler to check that the below regulations are still valid. In case of any doubt please contact the Egyptian Embassy or Consulate in your country. Remember you will need to carry your passport with you at all times. If you are traveling between Red Sea cities or to a national park in Egypt, it is especially important to have your passport to be able to enter and cross possible check points between cities.

There are three types of Egyptian visa

- Tourist Visa: is usually valid for a period of 30 days and granted on either single or multiple entry basis.

- Entry Visa: is required for any foreigner arriving in Egypt for purposes other than tourism, (e.g. work, study, etc); the possession of a valid Entry Visa is needed to complete the residence procedure in Egypt.

- Transit Visa

In case your nation is not on the list of countries that need a pre-arrival-visa (please see list below), you can get your visa when you arrive in Egypt. The process is straightforward. You have to buy "visa stamps" for the amount of the fee required for your nationality. These fees vary from 15 to 50 US\$ and can not be paid in Egyptian pounds. The stamps are stuck in your passport and you can proceed to the customs desk. Passports and Identity Cards

All nationalities, except for Italian, German, Luxembourgish and Belgium need a passport with minimum 6 months validity.

Italian and German citizens can enter Egypt with their identity cards; the identity card must be valid for travel abroad and have a minimum validity of at least 6 months from arrival date. In such a case visitors need to have:

- 2 recent pictures
- 1 photocopy of the identity card

Upon arrival (or during the flight) they will be asked to fill in a form that will be handed over in the customs desk. Children

Children must be in their parents' passport or being in possession of their own passport or (for Italian and German citizens) identity card valid for travel abroad.

If the child is more than 10 years old, a recent picture must be on parents' passport. Children more than 11 years old cannot be in parent's passport and need a personal passport. Nationalities that need pre-arrival visa

Most European citizens can purchase an entry or tourist visa upon arrival in Egypt. Citizens of the following countries though are required to be in possession of a pre-arrival visa:

- :: All African countries
- :: Afghanistan
- :: Armenia
- :: Azerbaijan
- :: Bangladesh

:: Bosnia and Herzegovina
 :: Chechnya
 :: Croatia
 :: Georgia
 :: India
 :: Indonesia
 :: Iran
 :: Iraq
 :: Israel
 :: Kazakhstan

:: Kyrgyzstan
 :: Lebanon
 :: Macau
 :: Macedonia
 :: Moldova
 :: Pakistan
 :: Palestine
 :: Philippines
 :: Serbia and Montenegro
 :: Sri Lanka
 :: Tajikistan
 :: Thailand
 :: Turkey
 :: Turkmenistan
 :: Uzbekistan

To apply for a visa, please contact the nearest Egyptian consulate. For a list of all diplomatic missions, see the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs' website. Your application requires the following documents:

A passport that is valid for at least another six months
 One passport-sized photograph
 A completed application form

The visa fee depends on your nationality. South African and Sudanese citizens pay no fee; others pay between 20 and 60 US\$. A tourist visa is valid for three months from the date of issue and allows you to stay in Egypt for 30 days from the date of your arrival

Transit Visa

• Foreigners arriving in Egypt on board cruising ships are granted a permission to visit the port of arrival for 24 hours and catch their ship at the same port. They can also be granted a permission to enter the country for a visit not exceeding a period of 2 days before catching their ship at the port of arrival or at any other port.

• Air passengers transiting in Egyptian airports are allowed entry for a quick trip not exceeding the period of 24 hours. In the event of emergency landing, passengers are entitled to enter Egypt for a period of:

24 hours in case of poor weather conditions.

48 hours in case of technical faults to the aircraft. Notes: Visitors entering Egypt at the overland border post to Taba to visit Gulf of Aqaba coast (from Taba to Sharm El Sheikh excluding Ras Mohammed National Park) and St. Catherine only, can be exempted from visa and granted a free residence permit for fourteen days to visit the area.

Those in possession of a residence permit in Egypt are not required to obtain an entry visa if they leave the country and return to it within the validity of their residence permit or within six months, whichever period is less.

Passport is valid for at least 6 months and is required by all. Currency:

The currency for the Egyptian are Egyptian Pound (E£) = 100 Piastres. Notes are in denominations of £200; £100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 1, 0.50, 0.25 and Coins are in denominations of 100; 50, 25, 20, 10 and 5 Piastres. Please note that 100 Piasters make £1 pound Egyptian

Credit cards: MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club and Visa are widely accepted. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available. Travelers cheques:

To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travelers are advised to take travelers cheques in US Dollars or Pounds Sterling. Currency Restrictions:

The import or export of local currency is limited to E£1000. There are no restrictions on the import or export of foreign currency as long as it is declared in an official customs form. Banking Hours:

The banking hours are Sunday to Thursday, 8.30 am to 5 pm. Social Conventions:

The Egyptians are generally courteous and hospitable thus expects similar respect from visitors. The form of handshaking will suffice as a greeting. Woman should dress conservatively and not wear revealing clothes, particularly when in religious buildings and in towns. The Western style of dress is accepted in the modern nightclubs, restaurants, hotels and bars of bigger towns.

Getting There: Air The national airline is Egypt Air (MS). All main carriers service throughout Egypt.

Sea The main coastal ports are Alexandria, Port Said and Suez. A car ferry service is also available from port to port.

Borders There are two border crossings between Israel and Egypt: one runs from Cairo via El Arish to Rafah on the north Sinai coast, and the other from Cairo via Suez and Taba to Eilat. Daily coaches leave early in the morning. Passengers in taxis and rented cars are not permitted to cross the borders between Israel and Egypt. Privately owned vehicles may be taken across the border, provided the appropriate documentation is obtained. Visas should normally be obtained in advance; however, travelers entering Egypt via Taba may be able to obtain visas at the border.

Getting Around: Air Egypt Air operates daily flights between Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor, Aswan, Abu Simbel, New Valley, Sharm El Sheikh and Hurghada.

Sea/River There is a steamer service that provides daily ferry service from cities. The traditional Nile sailing boats, or better known as feluccas, can be hired by the hour for a more relaxed sailing on the Nile. There are over 160 individually-owned boats of all categories operating on the Nile.

Rail A comprehensive rail network offering a high standard of service is operated along the East West axis from Salloom on the Libyan border to Alexandria and Cairo, and along the Nile to Luxor and Aswan. There are also links to Port Said and Suez. There are frequent trains from Cairo to Alexandria, and also several luxury air-conditioned day and night trains with sleeping and restaurant cars from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan for the Nile Valley tourist trade. For the overnight train, bookings should be made two weeks in advance through a travel agent.

Road Drivers drive on the right side of the road. Besides the Nile Valley and Delta, which holds an extensive road network, there are paved roads along the Mediterranean and African Red Sea coasts. The speed limit is usually 90kph (56mph) on motorways and 100kph (62mph) on the desert motorway. Private motoring in the desert regions is not recommended without suitable vehicles and a guide.

Bus The national bus system serves the Nile Valley and the coastal road. Main routes are from Cairo to St Catherine, Sharm el-Sheikh, Dahab, Ras Sudr, El-Tour, Taba and Rafah; from Suez to El-Tour and Sharm El Sheikh; and from Sharm el-Sheikh to Taba, Nuweiba, El-Tour, Dahab and St Catherine.

Taxi Taxis are available in the larger cities and are metered. Long-distance group taxis for all destinations are cheap, although fares should be agreed in advance.

Documentation

Visitors owning an International Driving Permit are required to drive any motor vehicle. All vehicles including motorcycles are required by law to carry a fire extinguisher and a red hazard triangle.

Duty Free

The following goods may be imported into Egypt without incurring customs duty:

- (a) 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 200g of tobacco.
 - (b) 1 liter of alcoholic beverages.
 - (c) A reasonable amount of perfume and 1 liter of eau de cologne.
- Please note that you can use the Duty free within 2 days Starting of the arrival date stamped on your passport

Prohibited items:

The items are: narcotics, firearms and cotton; for a full list, contact the Egyptian State Tourist Office.

Tipping

Tipping worth 10-12% is added to hotel and restaurant bills but an extra tip of 5% is normal. Taxi drivers generally expect 10%