



Belly Dance Egypt Revisited

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A few of you have asked me a lot of questions, and I will answer some out of personal experience.

Please note: This FAQ is based on our experiences and just a guide.

Why Travel to Egypt with us?

We have been running dance groups to Egypt and Lebanon since 1999 and work with very reliable and friendly tour companies in Cairo.

Each Year is different for offerings of the dance classes and workshops available.

Why Travel to Egypt?

An Egypt tour should have a place on everyone's bucket list. Discover the Land of the Pharaohs with your knowledgeable private guides organised by Amera and Yasmina to get a glimpse into mysterious ancient Egyptian civilization and the local Egyptian way of life. Ride a camel strolling around the Great Pyramid of Giza and Sphinx. Step into the Egyptian Museum to see Pharaonic antiquities. Cruise along the scenic Nile River and explore the ancient temples and tombs by the riverside, like the Temples of Edfu, Valley of the Kings, Temples of Luxor, Temples of Abu Simbel, etc.

Visit The library in Alexandria and the ancient catacombs.

Is English widely used in Egypt?

The official language of Egypt is Arabic, but English is also widely spoken in some of Egypt's major cities and tourist areas. During the trip with us, your private guides can communicate with you in good English.

Is it common to use credit cards, travel cards in Egypt?

Credit cards are accepted at most high-end hotels, restaurants, and shopping malls. But for daily consumption, Egyptian Pound cash is more welcomed. So, it is recommended to have some loose change to pay for groceries, snacks, and so on.

Currency:

Preferred currency in Egypt is **Egyptian pound**, but **US dollar** is also well liked as well, Australian dollars can be changed in Egypt in most money exchanges, and in the markets (Khan El Khalili markets) there is always a currency exchange place. When arriving at the airport, it is not a bad idea to change a bit (example like \$50) at the currency exchange, into smaller Egyptian pound notes, for tips etc.

Is it a customary practice to give tips in Egypt?

Yes, tips prevail in Egypt. Although the government has no express regulations on tip, it has become a customary practice in the service industry. Normally, you should tip around 10% of the bill to the waiter at the restaurant.

A few pounds tips are always nice for the baggage handlers or bus driver We can do a 'group tip' for our guides and drivers at the end.

What should I wear?

Long sleeve cotton tops, long pants, t-shirts are fine, but out of respect for cultural customs, no wearing shorts in the street or tight t-shirts that show your tummy!

There are no legal requirements when it comes to what tourists should wear in Egypt. Just remember to dress appropriately and conservatively in religious sites like mosques.

When going out to the nightclubs you can dress up as you would at home, just bring a pashmina or wrap for when walking out in the street – you can wear what you want in the nightclubs. All nightclubs are priced with dinner, where there is alcohol, there is always a cover charge that includes food, whether you want to eat or not.

International Flights

Flights to and from Cairo are not included

Suggested International flights will be shared and discussed with you. I frequently have used Wafik Gobran from Twin Wings travel, Marrickville as my go to travel agent for international airline tickets to Egypt.

I have been using his services for over 20 years – although you are at liberty to shop around with other travel agents once airlines release their flights for next year.

(Please note on the rare occasions there may not be enough minimum participants to run the trip we will advise many months in advance. This is a rare occurrence and has only happened once in 23 years!)

Contact: wafik@twinwingstravel.com.au.
Mobile: 0411 768 777

Visas, Vaccinations etc

Visas - <https://www.visa-egypt.com/>
(Information obtained Monday 17th July – please check for updates)

Or at the airport the visa on arrival must be paid for in U.S. dollars. Card payment is not accepted. Travellers should aim to have the exact amount ready to pay for the Egypt visa.

To successfully obtain an Egypt visa on arrival it is necessary to have a valid Australian passport with at least six months remaining. There is a **\$25USD visa fee** to be paid in cash.

To avoid complications, it is better to have the exact amount.

It is the responsibility of all passengers regardless of nationality and destination to check with the consulate of the

country they are visiting for current entry requirements and to obtain the required entry visa.

Passports need to be current with at least 6-month validity from date of departure. A Visa is required.

As visa and health requirements are subject to change without notice we recommend that you verify health and visa requirements with the appropriate consulate prior to departure.

Should I get vaccinations or medical insurance?

We do not give medical advice – Again check with your doctor/travel agents usually offer travel insurance- so this is up to you.

There are no special vaccinations required to enter Egypt from Australia, but it is necessary to consult your doctor regarding routine medical concerns inherent in international travel.

Medical Conditions Cancellation Policy

If you are affected by a condition, medical or otherwise that may affect your or other clients' participation in the holiday, it is your responsibility to advise us of this at the time of booking. We cannot accept responsibility for your condition, but we do need to be aware of it. It is your responsibility to make sure you are fit and well enough to participate in the holiday. Please consult your medical practitioner if necessary before you book. It is your responsibility to ensure you have taken out insurance for any condition, medical or otherwise.

PERSONAL FITNESS – Cairo is a city with lots of stairs, high pavements etc. There is some walking involved in these trips and the terrain is not always smooth. Please consider this before booking.

Deposit: Non-Refundable*

29 - 16 days before arrival date 35% cancellation fee

15 - 08 days before arrival date 50% cancellation fee

07 days before arrival date 100% cancellation fee

There will be no refund for any reason once the trip has begun unless through our fault you do not receive the trip you paid for. There will be no refund for unused hotel rooms, meals, sightseeing or any other charges once the trip begins.

Please be aware that we only arrange the land and air (internally) part of the tour arrangements within Egypt. In the case of cancellation of the tour before we travel due to things out of our control, we will refund the full amount paid by each participant.

If you do decide to cancel after paying your deposit close to departure date, you may have to forfeit monies that have been sent to secure your place. We send all deposits in USD to Egypt – the dollar is subject to fluctuations some items on the agenda may increase in cost – we will do all we can to minimise this.

***If due to unseen circumstances, it will be at the discretion of tour organizers.**

Surcharges

As prices for holidays are set many months in advance, on rare occasions we may have to impose a surcharge, if this happens, we will let you know at least 28 days prior to the departure date. If the surcharge is more than 10% you will be entitled to cancel with a full refund, however you must let us know within 14 days of the date of our surcharge invoice. We must stress that surcharges very rarely happen. Since we started tours 23 years this has only happened once.

Extra money is needed for:

- **Classes** - if you do want to do a belly class - budget from \$30- \$100 USD per person - prices that teachers charge is their choice not ours.
- **Alcohol /soft drinks/extra water /snacks / taxis on your own**
- **Water** - it is recommended to buy bottled water in Egypt, it is not expensive but try and buy things like this outside the hotel. (We can help you)
- **Room service in the hotel** - Room taxes, buying things inside the hotel can be expensive. The hotel will ask for a Credit card for any extras that you clock up whilst you are there. Be aware that hotel may charge taxes on items. We will be advising which hotel early in the year. The hotel will be in the Pyramids area.
- **Shopping!** - Check your baggage allowance - (There is so many wonderful shopping experiences in Egypt.)

Weather in Egypt

The Weather around September/ October is quite mild (like our spring), but nights can get chilly so make sure you bring some warm snuggles.

Excited? So are we!

Extra Information

Also register and visit at <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au> (information obtained 22nd January 2022 – please check for updates)