

# Helpful Hints for Travelers

## Egyptian Adventure Tour

Directed by Ferrell & Elizabeth Jenkins

January 16 – 26, 2009

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**Note:** Some of you have traveled many places and may take this information for granted. Let me assure you that Egypt is different from most any place you have been. I have updated this information to reflect some of the important things you need to know **Please read carefully.**

This publication contains the information you need to know in order to get ready for the tour. In order for it to be as pleasurable as you wish, it will be necessary for you to make adequate preparation. Read the material carefully. It should answer most of your questions and give you several helpful hints.

**1. Passport.** Secure your passport as early as possible. It is the most important item in getting ready to make the tour. The application must be obtained and submitted in person at your nearest Passport Office. You must have a birth certificate with a seal in it. You will need two photos as specified in the application. It is usually not difficult to find a photographer who knows how to prepare passport photos. Some drug stores, copy shops, AAA, and other places do them in a matter of minutes. The total cost of the passport is \$97 for a new passport which is valid for 10 years. To those who already have passports: Be sure the validity date of your passport is valid for six months beyond our return date (July 26, 2009). The cost of passport renewal has risen to \$67. Take extra passport photos with you (in a separate place from your passport) in case your passport is lost or stolen during the tour. Another good idea is to carry, in a separate place, a photocopy of the page in your passport which shows your photo and identification information.

**2. Visas.** A visa is required for Egypt. We will secure a group visa. The cost for the visa is included in the fees we will collect with your final payment.

**3. Airport Taxes and Other Fees.** The United States and other countries charge a tax prior to departure from the country. The total taxes and fuel surcharges for this tour amount to \$405 for each person and is added to your invoice. Please understand that these surcharges are beyond our control. If they go up we must pass along the increase.

**4. Tips.** Throughout the years I have learned that it is necessary to tip guides, drivers, and waiters in order to have a good tour. My procedure is to collect this in advance. For this tour we are collecting \$110 from each traveler for this purpose. This does not include personal gratuities which you may want to give for some special favor shown you.

**5. Meeting in New York.** Plan to be at the Delta Terminal at Kennedy International airport at least **two to three hours prior to departure** on January 16. Here is the flight schedule as it now stands:

**Departure from New York:**

Jan. 16 – DL 10 – 4:20 pm – Ar. Cairo – 10:35 am (17th)

**Departure from Cairo:**

Jan. 26 – DL 9 – 12:30 pm – Ar. JFK-NY – 5:40 pm

*Flight schedule is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any changes.* Please don't take a chance on a close connection with your domestic flight! Note

### Books

See the section on Reading Suggestions (#26) and the arrangement we have for you to buy these books at a discount.

### Our Tour Website

**[tours.biblicalstudies.info](http://tours.biblicalstudies.info)**

Check the website regularly for updates, and new travel links of interest.

that the arrival in New York on January 26 is late in the afternoon. This may necessitate an overnight stay. Later we will make suggestions for hotels in the JFK area in the event you plan to be there before or after the tour.

**6. Domestic Air Travel.** Arrangements for this tour have been made through Nawas International Travel, a company we have used for many tours. They are not a travel agency, but a tour wholesaler who does not make domestic arrangements. You should make your arrangements with your local travel agent or directly with the airline.

Please remember that our international flights are subject to change. We advise that you not book your domestic flights too early. **You will not have your international ticket until about two weeks prior to the tour.** Several domestic carriers have special offers for seniors. Check with your travel agent or the airline for details.

**7. Health Regulations.** No shots or vaccinations are required for this tour. A Tetanus booster is suggested every 10 years.

**8. Cameras.** Be sure you have used your camera and know how it operates. If you have a fairly new foreign made camera you must check it with Customs (or carry your receipts) to avoid paying duty when you return. This can be done at Kennedy Airport or at any customs office. You must have the camera with you at the time you register it. Note: I have never known anyone having a problem with the camera. Carry your receipt if the camera is new.

**9. Film.** Most travelers now use digital cameras, but there may be a few who carry a film camera. Name brand film is available almost everywhere we go, but you will find the price to be higher than in the U.S.A. It is best to buy your supply before you go. Some of the film sold in foreign countries sits out in the heat, and it may be Grey Market film. I suggest a film speed of 200 for Egypt. Take a small notebook in which to record the pictures you take. Number the rolls of film and the notebook accordingly. Remember that this is the trip of a lifetime. Plan to take 36 or more photos per day. A Film Shield bag is helpful if you plan to carry the film in your camera bag. The Super Film Shield bag is best for the new high speed films. Some foreign airports refuse a hand search of carry-on items, and it is often a hassle in the USA. Even though the X-Ray machines usually

carry a notice that film will be unharmed, not every photographer agrees with this. Here is a web site that explains about Grey Market film:

<http://www.leicagallery.com/greymarket.htm>

**Digital photography.** Many travelers are now using digital cameras. The number of images you make will likely be in the hundreds each day. Be sure to **carry enough memory cards**. Most of the major retailers (BestBuy, Circuit City, etc.) run sales weekly. These cards will be much more costly overseas.

**Batteries.** Don't take a chance with dead batteries. Replace the batteries in your camera before you go. Be sure to carry spares. The size you need may be difficult or impossible to locate. If you carry a charger be sure it will run on the electrical currency in Egypt.

**10. Baggage.** Each airline has a different program for baggage. It appears that a bag not exceeding 50 pounds will be acceptable for this tour. Airlines usually allow a personal item such as a camera or computer bag. Be sure to pack light.

**11. Money.** I no longer suggest Traveler Checks. The commission rate for exchange is high. Most of your travel arrangements are prepaid so there is no reason for you to carry large amounts of currency. You will need money for lunch on some days and whatever shopping you wish to do. Take at least 25 or more \$1 bills for tips and small purchases. Major credit cards (Visa, Master Card) are widely accepted. American Express is not as popular with many merchants. Many shops we visit will take your personal check. Take along a few personal checks just in case you decide on an unexpected purchase. Local currency may be taken from an ATM machine, but you must have your pin number. Be **sure** that you contact your bank prior to departure to tell them where you will be and the dates of the trip.

**12. Mail.** Forget it, except for cards you might like to send to a friend. It usually takes at least 7 to 10 days for air mail service between the U. S. and most European and middle eastern cities. This makes it impractical to expect mail on a short tour. About a week or two before departure we will send you a list of mailing contacts, fax and telephone numbers. You can leave the list with family or friends in case they wish to contact you. **Hidden Hint:** Before you leave home, secure some small address labels. Address labels for everyone to whom you plan to send a card. This way you won't

overlook anyone. No need to take U. S. stamps! (Some have.) Postage for each card you mail will usually cost about 50 cents.

**Email.** You may have opportunity to access the Internet several times during the tour. If your Internet provider does not have web-based Email I suggest you set up an account with Gmail or Yahoo.

**13. Insurance.** Luggage insurance is highly recommended. You can buy it and/or accident insurance for the number of days of the tour. Nawas International has a policy available for this tour. **Trip cancellation/interruption** insurance is included in their policy and is a good idea in the event of a sickness or emergency in the family. A copy of the application form will be sent to you. Be sure to read the information and then make your decision. Your luggage *may* be covered by your homeowner's policy. Check with your agent. Nawas International provides flight insurance in the amount of \$100,000 for each passenger on the international portion of the tour.

**14. Duty Free Purchases.** Purchases up to \$800 per person (with some exceptions) are now allowed back in the U.S. duty free. Additional purchases up to \$1000 are charged a flat 10% duty. You may have certain gifts mailed from a foreign country to the U. S. duty free. We suggest you get the booklet *Know Before You Go* from U. S. Customs, P. O. Box 7407, Washington, D.C. 20044. It is free. You may read it or download a copy in PDF at this URL:  
<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/>

**15. Pack Light.** A typical mistake for unseasoned travelers is to take too many clothes. If your suitcase is loaded with clothes when you leave, where will the souvenirs go?

**16. Washing.** Take a clothes line. An elastic one requiring no pins is ideal. Take Woolite or packets of powdered soap. Pack liquids in plastic bottles, then in plastic bags. If you will need a washcloth take one with you (few hotels provide them). A few plastic bags may come in handy in the rare event that some clothes don't get dry in time for hotel departure.

**Laundry.** When we are in a hotel for two days or more you can send clothes out with one-day service.

**Laundry on the Cruise.** On the previous Nile cruise in Egypt the laundry could be sent out on a daily

basis for one fee. It was very reasonable. I assume our ship this year will do the same.

**Throw Away Clothes.** Some travelers take older clothes, wear them, and then leave them in the hotel room. You can be sure that they will be put to good use by the people who clean the rooms.

**17. Personal Items.** Take travel sizes of toilet preparations and cosmetics. Some American brands of shaving cream, toothpaste, etc. can usually be bought in Cairo. Take a few home remedies. It is a good idea to take along a strong antibiotic for colds, etc. Take along a remedy for dysentery — just in case. Imodium AD seems to be a good preparation for the Middle East. Some suggest that all medication be carried in the original containers. I carry only the amount of medication I might need in a small case I secured at a luggage store. Be sure to label everything. Carry your medications with you on the plane. Do not check them in your suitcase.

**18. Beauty Shops.** Beauty shops are available in many of the hotels.

**19. Weather.** The minimum and maximum temperatures for some of the cities to be visited are as follows: Cairo, 47° – 66°; Luxor, 42° – 74°; Aswan, 46° – 75°. The evenings are cool in Egypt. You may be surprised how quickly the temperature changes when the sun goes down. Certainly you know that past statistics are not always an indication of the weather when you are there! **Hidden Hint.** The sun is bright in Egypt and is reflected off the water and sand. You need to have sun protection. A hat with sun-block protection is a great idea. A cap doesn't do much to protect your face and neck. Sun screen is essential.

**Rainfall.** "Cairo receives a little more than one centimeter [.4 of an inch] of precipitation each year. The city, however, reports humidity as high as 77 percent during the summer. But during the rest of the year, humidity is low. The areas south of Cairo receive only traces of rainfall. Some areas will go years without rain and then experience sudden downpours that result in flash floods" (TourEgypt.net). A small umbrella is useful for rain or sun protection.

**20. Food.** The food should be excellent throughout the tour. I always take a few of my favorite snacks. They are especially nice for the coach tours. As you use these, the space will be available for souvenirs, etc.

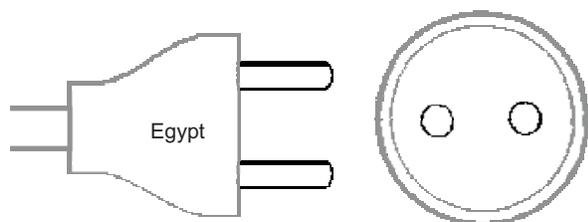
**21. Health Tips: Eating and Drinking.** Please visit the CDC web site and read everything about this. We will try to keep a current link on our travel web site. Here are a few tips.

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked foods or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: **boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.**
- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Don't drink beverages with ice.
- Don't eat dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized. [Skip the ice cream out on the street.]
- Don't swim in fresh water, including the Nile.

**22. Travel goods.** If you can not find what you need locally we suggest you contact Magellan's and ask for a catalog. Their number is 1 800 962-4943. On our travel web page you will find a link to their web site along with several other good suppliers.

**23. Souvenir Bags.** Carry some small self-closing plastic bags with a 3" x 5" piece of paper inside each. As you collect seashells, stones, pieces of pottery, and other items, you can keep them separate with details of place of origin, etc.

**24. Electrical Appliances.** Current varies in different countries. The voltage in Egypt is 220. Egypt uses a round-pronged, European 2-pin plug. If your electrical appliances are dual voltage (110-220) this is all you will need. If your appliances are only 110 volts you will need a transformer and a set of adaptor plugs. Many electrical appliances (hair dryers, razors, etc.) can be run on 110 or 220 (dual voltage). In this case a transformer is not necessary. I like to carry a short extension cord. The plugs never seem to be in the right position. Transformers and adaptors are usually available at luggage stores, electric razor shops, Radio Shack, etc. See #22 for another source. **Hidden Hint:** I have found the



Visit [www.kropla.com](http://www.kropla.com) for full info.

two-prong plug to be the most useful. On the website we have listed some sites with good info on this. Start with [www.kropla.com](http://www.kropla.com). Then try Magellans [www.magellans.com](http://www.magellans.com).

**Charging batteries.** If your camera uses AA or AAA batteries you might consider a Dual-Voltage Battery Charger. Magellans also carries this item.

Recent laptop computers operate on both 110 and 220 volts through a transformer. Be sure your equipment will operate on the 220 voltage. You will still need an adaptor plug. If you plan to connect by modem you may need special phone plugs.

**25. Clothing Suggestions.** An important factor in a travel wardrobe is a basic color scheme. Shoes and other accessories should be chosen in a color that blends with the entire wardrobe rather than different color sets that add weight. Clothing should be chosen for comfort, style and easy packing.

**For Women:** Select garments that serve various purposes. A well-cut sheath with matching jacket is good for wear any time of the day and appropriate for evening wear too. Separates provide for greater flexibility. Skirts and blouses or shells should be selected to mix and match with scarves, pins, beads, or belts for variation. Wash and wear skirts, blouses, and under garments are best. Jersey dresses take less space than bulky knits. The lighter weight knits are very good. A good, comfortable pair of broken-in walking shoes for sightseeing is a must. A pair of folding slippers in your tote bag will add to your comfort on the flights and motor coaches. A sweater is important for cool evenings and for travel comfort. Just remember that it might be hot in a city by day, but cool at night.

The suggestions below are based on the experience of other travelers. You must give careful thought to your travel wardrobe and make your own decisions. These lists include items you will be wearing when you leave the United States. But remember to pack light.

**For the Ladies:** Hose; 3 sets of under garments; 1 sweater; 1 pair of dress shoes; 1 pair of sturdy, comfortable walking shoes; 1 pair folding slippers; 1 pajamas/robe; 4 to 6 daytime outfits (pant outfits or skirts, blouses and shells. Mix and Match is best); 2 outfits for evening wear (not formal), preferably with jacket or sweater. A crushable hat, like a Tilley hat, to protect from the mid-day sun might be nice. Some religious

buildings we enter require women to have their shoulders covered.

**For the Men:** 1 sweater or London Fog-type jacket; 1 suit or 1 sport coat, 2 pair trousers (or similar mix and match combination). It will likely be cool enough for a jacket in the evening. Jeans, or pants you feel comfortable in for daily wear. 4 shirts; 4 pair of socks; 4 sets of underwear; 4 hankies (disposable mansize Kleenex hankies might be better); 1 pajamas; 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes. I like to have a second pair to wear on the flights and in the hotels. A good hat, like a Tilley, is a great idea. (See the web page for the link to Tilley.)

**26. Reading Suggestions.** We will update our *Egyptian Adventure Tour Notebook*, and get it to you prior to the tour. Likely it will be mailed with the tickets a few weeks before departure.

There are some excellent books we suggest for your study before and during the tour. We are now able to make available to you most of these books through *Amazon.com* at a 20% or more savings. Elizabeth and I order from Amazon and enjoy their selection, ease of ordering, fast delivery, etc. Go to our tour web site for this list of books. Click on one of them and go directly to Amazon.com in order to complete your order. Below is a list of books which we recommend for your use.

Some of the best travel guides are written for the individual traveler, but contain helpful information for anyone. Here are some that I think you will find helpful: *Egypt* in the Eyewitness Travel Guides set; *A Rough Guide to Egypt* in the Rough Guide set; *Lonely Planet Egypt* in the Lonely Planet set.

The books below are more biblically related and would make good additions to your personal Bible study library.

Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt: The evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition* (Oxford, 1996). Hoffmeier is an Egyptologist as well as a conservative biblical scholar. You may read some pages from this book at Amazon.

Kitchen, Kenneth A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2003). Kitchen is a highly esteemed Egyptologist from Liverpool, England. The book covers much more than Egypt, of course. See pages of the book at Amazon.

Frank, Harry Thomas (ed.). *Atlas of the Bible Lands* (Broadman). Concise atlas; excellent maps.

Vos, Howard F. *The Wycliffe Historical Geography of Bible Lands* (Hendrickson). This is the completely revised 2003 edition. The book was originally published in 1967, edited by Pfeiffer and Vos. **Excellent.**

**26. Jet Lag.** If you have traveled across several time zones by plane you know what “jet lag” is. The human body works on a pattern of rhythms which govern such activities as sleeping, heartbeat, digestion, etc. When these patterns are interrupted the result can be fatigue and mental disorientation, commonly called “jet lag.” If you can gradually go to bed earlier and rise earlier you will be in good shape for a trip. (Not very practical, I find.) After a good night of rest in Egypt we probably won’t have much trouble.

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Please be mindful of the fact that these *Helpful Hints* are based on our best information at the time of preparation. All items regarding airline schedules, fares, government regulations, taxes, health requirements, currency exchange rates, etc. are all subject to change. The weather is subject to change too! We will try to keep you informed of changes through our informational bulletins.

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## Ferrell Jenkins

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## Travel Website:

[tours.biblicallstudies.info](http://tours.biblicallstudies.info)

## Ferrell’s Travel Blog:

[ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com](http://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com)

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