Wendy Wu Tours



EGYPT & JORDAN ADVENTURE

Classic Tour | 20 Days | Physical Level 1

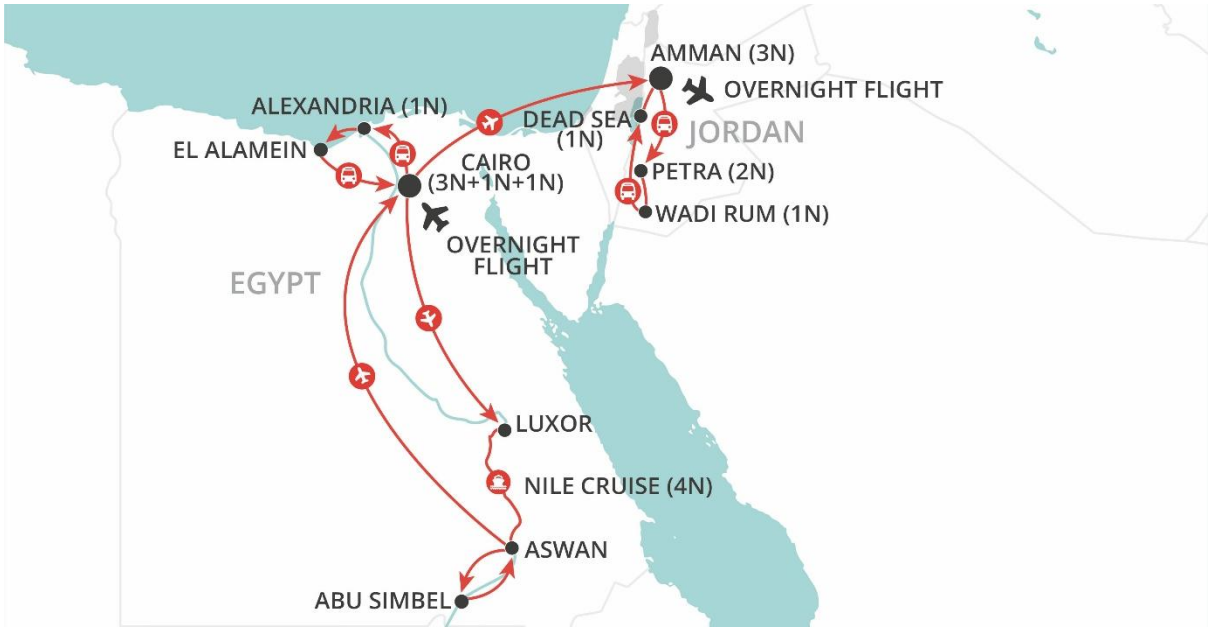
Cairo – Alexandria – El Alamein – Luxor – Edfu – Kom Ombo – Aswan – Abu Simbel – Amman – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea

The legendary romance of Egypt meets the adventurous spirit of Jordan on this 20-day two-country tour. See Egypt from top to toe, taking in ancient pyramids, hidden catacombs, Coptic monasteries and the glorious Nile. Then fly east to Jordan on the trail of Lawrence of Arabia. Explore Petra by day, learn the secrets of Levantine cooking, and experience Bedouin hospitality at a desert camp in Wadi Rum.

- Travel the full length of Egypt
- Delve into the Catacombs of Alexandria
- Explore the Temples of Karnak and Luxor
- Visit King Tut's tomb in the Valley of the Kings
- Enjoy a four-night cruise from Luxor to Aswan
- Discover Petra by day and night
- Take a Levantine cookery class
- Camp Bedouin style in the Wadi Rum desert
- Float in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea

Wendy Wu Tours

TOUR MAP



EGYPT & JORDAN ADVENTURE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Egypt visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Jordan visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Wendy Wu Tours

CLASSIC TOURS:

See the classic sights in the company of expert guides so you can really understand the history and culture of the destination. On our classic tours, we take care of everything, leaving you to sit back and enjoy the experience to the full. The tours are fully inclusive with all meals and a comprehensive touring programme.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Egypt & Jordan Adventure' is rated 1 (5 being the highest) on the physical scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required, but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around and climbing some steps. Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 20 days in duration including international flights or 18 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Cairo and end the tour on Day 19 in Amman. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Wendy Wu Tours

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: **Fly to Cairo** Meals: D



Fly to Cairo, the 'city of a thousand minarets'. You will be met and transferred to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's welcome dinner and briefing.

Destination Information

Cairo – Egypt's capital, located on the banks of the Nile River, is one of the largest cities in Africa and the Middle East. Chaotically beautiful and brimming with history, it is a true melting pot of old and new, with modern towers slotting snugly between Fatimid monuments. Though 'Cairo proper' was founded in 969AD, its history runs much deeper. Its roots are in nearby ancient Memphis, founded by Narmer, the southern king who triumphed over the north and to establish a unified Egypt. Cairo's modern status is largely the result of the medieval Islamic Fatimid Caliphate, who founded Fustat (now absorbed into Old Cairo) on the site of the earlier settlements.

Day 3: **Pyramids of Giza & The Sphinx** Meals: B, L, D



Visit Egypt's most iconic sites: the Pyramids of Giza and the unblinking Sphinx, guardian of the mortuary complex. The Sphinx was poetically described by the writer John Lawson Stoddard as "grand in its loneliness; veiled in the mystery of unnamed ages."

After lunch, explore the atmospheric Grand Egyptian Museum with its incredible collections of statues, mummies and pharaonic treasures. Later, explore the Khan el Khalili Bazaar, a souk famed for its precious and semiprecious jewellery.

Destination Information

Pyramids of Giza - The last surviving Wonder of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid of Giza comprises over two million blocks of stone and stands at a height of 479 feet. It is believed to have been intended as the tomb of Egyptian King Khufu (Cheops), who reigned from 2589-2566 BCE. The neighbouring pyramids are those of his son and grandson – Khafre and Menkaure.

The Sphinx – It is unknown what the original Old Kingdom builders of the Sphinx called the monument. In the New Kingdom, it was described as Hor-em-akhet; the 'Horus of the Horizon'. It was not until at least 2,000 years later that it became known as the Sphinx, after a similar Greek creature. The modern Egyptian Arabic name is Abu al Hul, which translates to 'The Terrifying One', or literally 'Father of Dread'.

Wendy Wu Tours

Day 4: Old Cairo – Coptic Quarter & Ancient Sakkara Meals: B, L, D



Spend the morning exploring Cairo's oldest district, the Coptic Quarter. Marvel at its Coptic churches and the impressive Christian artefact collection at the Coptic Museum.

Later, continue to Sakkara, an ancient necropolis famed for its painted catacombs and the famous Step Pyramid of Djoser. Built for the Pharoah by his architect, the high priest Imhotep, this 27th BC structure was Egypt's first ever pyramid. Inside, you'll see wonderful carvings on the alabaster stone walls.

Visiting the Step Pyramid of Djoser requires some crouching to walk down a short sloping tunnel. The tunnel is both the entrance and exit and you will be able to turn around if at any point you feel uncomfortable. You can also opt out and wait for the group outside the pyramid if you prefer.

Day 5: Alexandria Meals: B, L, D



Take the desert road to Alexandria, on Egypt's northern coast. This afternoon, discover Alexandria's breathtaking highlights, from the Roman theatre to the beautifully-carved Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, a 2nd century constriction and one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages. Three tiers of underground tombs are found here, with atmospheric reliefs of gods and serpentine spirits carved into the walls.

Pause to admire the renovated 15th-century Qaitbay Citadel, once an important defensive stronghold on Africa's Mediterranean coastline.

Destination Information

Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa – An underground archaeological site, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages and are the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt. They consist of three tiers of tombs and chambers cut 35mm into the bedrock, with otherworldly wall art creating a sense of mystery and grandeur. Multiple families were buried here, along with one hall dedicated to the horses of the Emperor Caracalla.

Qaitbay Citadel – A 15th century defensive fortress, located at the entrance of the eastern harbour and built upon the ruins of the famous Lighthouse of Alexandria. It was built by the Mamluk sultans for the purpose of defending Alexandria from the advances of the Ottoman Empire. Though damaged by British bombardment in 1882, it has since been restored to its former glory.

Wendy Wu Tours

Day 6: El Alamein & The Monastery of St Macarius the Great Meals: B, L, D

Depart Alexandria and visit nearby El Alamein, the site of two key battles during World War II. The Allied victory in the second battle was instrumental in ending the Axis threat to Egypt. Visit the military museum and Commonwealth war cemeteries.



Head southeast back to Cairo, stopping en route to visit the historic Monastery of St Macarius the Great, continuously inhabited by Coptic Orthodox monks from the 4th century up to the present day.

Destination Information

First Battle of El Alamein – Fought from 1st – 27th July 1942, the first battle here ended in a stalemate with heavy losses on both sides, but prevented the Axis powers from advancing further into North Africa. The Axis forces (Panzer Army) were commanded by Erwin Rommel, 'the Desert Fox', while the Allied forces were led by Auchinleck.

Second Battle of El Alamein – Fought from 23rd October – 11th November 1942, British general Auchinleck had been relieved of command leaving Harold Alexander and Bernard Montgomery leading the Allied forces to a decisive success against Erwin Rommel, forcing the Axis line back into Tunisia. Montgomery would later go on to command all Allied ground forces in the Battle of Normandy.

Day 7: Flight to Luxor & Cruise Embarkation Meals: B, L, D

Take a short flight from Cairo to the city of Luxor, boarding your 5-star Nile cruise ship before lunch. This afternoon, we visit sites around Luxor's East Bank, exploring the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. Both are dedicated to the Theban Triad: the sun god Amun the Creator, his consort Mut (mother of the world) and their son Khonsu, god of the moon. Return to the ship for dinner.



Destination Information

Temple of Karnak – Known as Thebes in antiquity, Luxor was the political capital of Egypt in the Middle and New Kingdoms (2160-1065BC). You will be able to marvel in awe at the majestic Hypostle Hall which covers an area of 50,000 sq ft and is filled with over 100 gigantic stone columns. The hall was built by Seti I, which inscribed the northern wing, and was added to by later pharaohs such as Ramesses II and Ramesses IV.

Temple of Luxor – Begun by Pharoah Amenhotep III (1390-1352BC) and developed by others like Tutankhamun and Ramesses II, the Temple of Luxor is a smaller site but well-preserved. It has a smaller Hypostyle Hall than Karnak.

Avenue of the Sphinxes – A two-mile road lined with sphinx-like statues runs between the temples of Karnak and Luxor. In ancient years, the road was a key part of the Festival of Opet, when the ancient Egyptians would ceremoniously parade the statue of the god Amun-re from Karnak to Luxor, where it was reunited with its Luxor equivalent. The festival was believed to renew the Pharaoh's power.

Day 8: Explore Luxor's Western Bank

Meals: B, L, D



Start the day with a visit to Luxor's West Bank, one of the most stunning landscapes in Egypt. Our day begins with a stop at the eerie Colossi of Memnon statues before continuing to the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir-el-Bahari, the mortuary complex of one of Egypt's earliest female pharaohs.

Continue to the Valley of the Kings, burials site of almost all New Kingdom pharaohs of the 18th, 19th and 20th dynasties. Visit the tomb of Tutankhamun, along with some other tombs of your choice. The Valley's many-chambered tombs are richly decorated with vibrant wall paintings depicting the stories of their rule, their gods and legends of the afterlife. This evening, the ship sails to the farming town of Esna.

Destination Information

Colossi of Memnon – 64-foot twin stone statues of the Pharoah Amenhotep III, who reigned during the 18th dynasty and founded the Temple of Luxor. The Colossi have survived for 3,400 years; they once flanked the entrance to his lost mortuary temple, which has vanished into the sands.

Temple of Hatshepsut – The mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, located beneath the cliffs of Deir-el-Bahari. It mirrored her predecessor Mentuhotep II's temple, but on a much grander scale as Hatshepsut needed to establish her authority and legitimacy of her reign in a more obvious way than male predecessors.

Day 9: Kom Ombo

Meals: B, L, D



Continue to Edfu, south of Esna, to visit the Temple of Horus and its wealth of inscriptions. Although it was built under the Ptolemaic dynasty, its styles appears much older, and it remains impressively intact. During lunch, sail to the agricultural town of Kom Ombo, famous for its Ptolemaic-era twin temples to falcon-headed Horus and crocodile-headed Sobek. This evening, sail toward Aswan.

Wendy Wu Tours

Destination Information

Temple of Edfu – Built from 237 – 257BC and buried under centuries of sand and silt until the nineteeth century, when French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette rediscovered the site. The complex is one of the most well-preserved sites in Egypt today. Its architecture is very much intact, and the building contains a wealth of legible inscriptions on its walls. It is dedicated to the falcon god, Horus.

Kom Ombo Temple – A symmetrical double temple dedicated to two gods: Horus and the local crocodile god, Sobek. Its twin dedication is clearly reflected in its twin entrance, two linked hypostyle halls with carvings of two gods on either side, and twin sanctuaries. Built under the Ptolemaic dynasty in 180-47BC, it shows many Greek and Roman influences, and even representations of Roman emperors making offerings to Egyptian gods.

Day 10: Abu Simbel

Meals: B, L, D



Rise early and journey southwest to the iconic temples of Abu Simbel, at Egypt's furthest edge. The Great Temple here is dedicated to Ramesses II, sometimes said to be the greatest pharaoh of the New Kingdom; four 66-foot-high statues of him flank its entrance, and many more enormous statues and halls filled with wall paintings are to be seen inside.

To the right of the Ramesses temple entrance is the Small Temple, dedicated to Nefertari (Ramesses' chief queen) and the sky deity Hathor, the symbolic mother of pharaohs. Return to the ship in Aswan.

Destination Information

Abu Simbel – The drive from Aswan to Abu Simbel sit on the western bank of Lake Nasser, the largest man-made reservoir in the world. Originally carved out of the mountain on the 13th century BC, they were later buried by sand, until their rediscovery by Swiss Johan Ludwig Burckhardy in 1813. In the 1960s, the temples were threatened by the rising water levels caused by the Aswan Dam; UNESCO saved them by moving them 200 metres from their original location – a phenomenal feat of archaeological engineering.

Wendy Wu Tours

Day 11: Aswan Highlights & Flight to Cairo Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning exploring the great monuments around Aswan. You'll visit the 3600-metre long High Dam, the Unfinished Obelisk and the majestic Temple of Philae.



This afternoon, board a traditional felucca boat and enjoy a relaxing cruise around the area before dinner. This evening, fly back to Cairo, where you'll stay in a hotel near the airport ahead of tomorrow's flight to Jordan.

Destination Information

Unfinished Obelisk – The largest known ancient obelisk, created on the orders of Hatshepsut. It would have been 42 metres if completed; one-third larger than any Egyptian obelisk ever erected. It is carved directly out of bedrock, but cracks appeared in the granite and the project was abandoned. Thirty-six centuries later, it remains visible in the quarry, now an open-air museum.

Aswan High Dam – The world's largest embankment dam, built across the Nile in Aswan in the 1960s. It serves the irrigation needs of both Egypt and Sudan and generates hydroelectric power.

Day 12: Fly Cairo to Amman Meals: B, L, D

Fly to Amman and be transferred to your city centre hotel.



Destination Information

Amman – Jordan's capital city is also the largest in the Levant, with a population of around 4 million and history spanning some 12,000 years. Like Rome, it was initially spead over 7 hills (jabals) that number has increased to 17. It is the seat of the Jordanian Royal Family. Amman is a blend of both and new and old, being not only a prosperous centre of commerce and finance but also home to many ruins, including a magnificent Roman amphitheatre the Byzantine Basilica and the Temple of Hercules or Great Temple of Amman. Despite Amman's impressive ages, it has the feel of a young and liberal capital with an exciting future ahead.

Day 13: Explore Amman Meals: B, L, D



Continue to Jerash, an ancient Roman city known as the 'Pompeii of the East'; it is one of the best-reserved Roman towns outside Italy. Learn about the city's history and explore its many archaeological remains.

Take a short drive on to the town of Ajloun, a small town overlooked by the Saracen fortress of Qa'lat Al Rabad in the Jordan Valley. Stop by the Biscuit House, a community project providing employment to local women, and try your hand at one of the heritage crafts preserved here. After, head back to Amman and relax before dinner.

Destination Information

Jerash – Widely agreed by scholars to be one of the most important Roman cities on the eastern fringes of its empire, Jerash is Jordan's most impressive Roman settlement and one of the best-preserved Roman sites outside of Italy. Ruins here include Emperor Hadrian's Arch, the Hippodrome, the Temple of Artemis and the iconic Forum, bordered by 160 columns.

Ajloun – This small town is well known for its historic castle that sits atop Mount Auf, an important Saracen stronghold in the fight against the Crusaders.

Day 14: Amman & the Desert Castles Meals: B, L, D



Enjoy a tour of the old city of Amman this morning, exploring Amman's Roman amphitheatre and the hilltop Citadel, home to ruins from many periods of Amman's history.

Later, head out of the city for a visit to some of Jordan's Desert Castles, cinluding the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Qasr Amra, a stunning example of early Islamic art and architecture and boasting impressive frescoed ceilings. Stop at the mysterious site of Al Karanah, a many-roomed house or palace about which little is known, before visiting the intriguing Azraq Castle. Built in the 13th century, Azraq also served as Lawrence of Arabia's headquarters in the winter of 1917, during the Great Arab Revolt.

Wendy Wu Tours

Destination Information

The Citadel – One of Amman's most famous ruins, the Citadel sits on Jebel Al Qala'a Hill and overlooks the old city. Approaching the Citadel, you will see sections of the 1700-metre wall that dates to the Bronze Age. Inside you will find the Temple of Hercules, built under Emperor Marcus Aurelius with an original height of 13 metres; the eighth-century Umayyad Palace complex and the sixth-century Byzantine Church.

Amman's Roman Amphitheatre – Dating back to the second century AD, this well-preserved Roman site once housed up to 6000 spectators. The angle at which the amphitheatre was carved into the hillside protected the Roman audience members from the sun as well as creating perfect acoustics for the actors on stage.

Day 15: Mt Nebo, Madaba & Petra

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, you will make your way to Mount Nebo. It is said to be from here that Moses viewed the promised land in Canaan before his death. Explore the ruins of Nebos from the 4th and 5th century, whose floors are still covered with marvellous and intricate mosaics. Continue to the town of Madaba to visit the Orthodox Church of St George and the Madaba Mosaic Map, the oldest surviving depiction of the Holy Land.



Your evening ends in the town of Petra, where we'll enjoy an authentic Levantine cooking class, preparing soup, appetisers and a main course under the expert eye of a local chef.

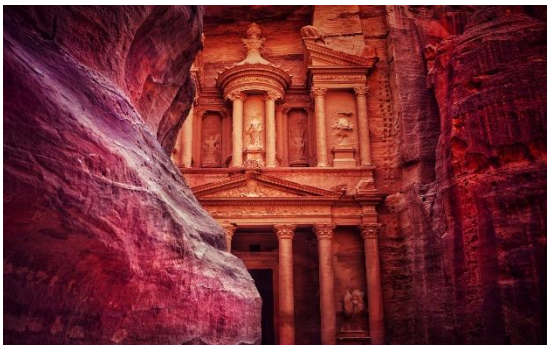
Destination Information

Mount Nebo – One of the most important holy sites in Jordan, the church here was abandoned in 1564 and fell into disrepair before being purchased by the Franciscan Order, who restored the area and built a monastery there. Pope John Paul II visited the monastery in 2000, planting an olive tree beside the chapel.

Madaba – On the East Bank and on the King's Highway sits Madaba, 'The City of Mosaics'. True to its name, many of these excavated mosaics are on display in the town's museum, but it is estimated that almost every house in the town may sit above ancient Byzantine mosaics just waiting to be discovered.

Wendy Wu Tours

Day 16: Petra by Day & Night Meals: B, L, D



This morning you will marvel at the beauty of Petra, the 'Lost City of the Nabateans' carved directly into the rugged sandstone cliffs. Surrounded by imposing mountains, the former capital of the Nabatean Empire is approached through a deep cleft in the rocks known as the Siq. Rounding the last corner of the Siq and being confronted with the magnificent façade of the famous Treasury is an emotive experience for many travellers.

Your guide will introduce you to Petra's many secrets before an afternoon at leisure. This evening, we'll return to Petra and experience the unforgettable sight of the Treasury lit by over a thousand candles. Enhanced by the play of light and shadow, 'Petra by Candlelight' is an altogether overwhelming experience.

Destination Information

Petra – One of the world's most prized UNESCO World Heritage Sites and voted in 2007 as one of the 'New Seven Wonders of the World', this prehistoric city is nestled within desert canyons and carved deep into the sandstone cliff faces. Capital of the Nabataean Empire between 400 BCV-600 AD, the site gradually grew to prominence and has stood throughout history as one of the world's most unique attractions, with scenes from films such as Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade shot from the outside and within the city.

Day 17: Wadi Rum Camp Meals: B, L, D



Spend the morning at Little Petra, a nearby Nabatean site on a smaller scale and less well-known to visitors. Look out for the Painted Biclinium room with its remains of Nebatean wall-paintings.

Journey to Wadi Rum; the 'Valley of the Moon'. This adventurer's paradise epitomises the romance of the Arabian desert, with ancient valleys and towering sandstone mountains erupting dramatically from the white and pink sands. This evening you will stay in a unique desert camp – a wonderful opportunity for stargazing and a chance to experience diyafah (Bedouin hospitality).

Destination Information

Wadi Rum – A 4x4 will whisk you through the dunes to see 'Lawrence's Road', visiting the most spectacular sights of Wadi Rum. Hear its long history and role in the Great Arab Revolt and the story of Lawrence of Arabia. Drive among sand dunes and canyons with Bedouin petroglyphs, and venture through the dry oasis to see the iconic Seven Pillars of Wisdom. These rough, coarse columns of sandstone and granite were originally called Jabal Al-Mazmar, and renamed after Lawrence's autobiography.

Wendy Wu Tours

Day 18: Dead Sea Meals: B

Depart Wadi Rum this morning, heading north along the Jordanian/Israeli border to the Dead Sea – the lowest point on earth. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters and the high salt content and mineral-rich mud are said to bring many health benefits.



After lunch, you are free to enjoy the delights of the Dead Sea, bathing in its super-buoyant waters, or perhaps simply relax in your hotel room before dinner.

Destination Information

Dead Sea – This landlocked salt lake is located in the Jordan Rift Valley and sits on the border between Jordan and Israel. At 304 metres deep, rain and surface water flows into the Dead Sea, but apart from evaporation, the water has no escape. The continuous evaporation in combination with the high salt content means that for over 65,000 years, the salinity levels of the Dead Sea have been ever increasing.

Days 19-20: Departure from Jordan Meals: B

After breakfast you will transfer to the airport for your flight home, arriving the following day. Please note that a breakfast box will be provided for early morning departures.



Wendy Wu Tours

EGYPT & JORDAN ADVENTURE TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Egypt:
New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Egypt, which is issued upon arrival. For Wendy Wu Tours group tours, the cost of the visa is included and it will be arranged for you upon arrival.

Jordan:
New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Jordan, which is issued upon arrival. For Wendy Wu Tours group tours, the cost of the visa is included and it will be arranged for you upon arrival.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. There will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

Wendy Wu Tours

EATING IN EGYPT & JORDAN:

Egyptian food combines many different elements of Lebanese, Turkish, Syrian, Greek & French dishes. You will find Mediterranean influences in Alexandria, versus spicier Nubian flavours in the south, which is influenced by the historic spice trade via its Red Sea ports. Many dishes are based on fruit and vegetables from the Nile's rich Delta region.

Jordanian cuisine is wonderfully rich and flavourful, with the inspiration for much of its cuisine dating back hundreds of years when Jordan was a vital stage on the spice routes from China and India. Hearty dishes such mansaf (lamb, rice and rehydrated yoghurt), fragrant zarb (succulent chicken, herbs and vegetables cooked in a pot beneath the desert sands in true Bedouin style), baba ghanoush (grilled aubergines with fresh parsley and pomegranate molasses), fresh hummus, olives, and endless varieties of dates all contribute to the wonderful cuisine to be found here. The city of Amman has a particular history of offering sanctuary to various displaced groups from neighbouring countries, and has subsequently developed a distinctly multicultural culinary scene, fusing elements of cuisine from all corners of the Middle East.

It is not advisable to drink tap water throughout Egypt. Please ensure you have bottled water with you at all times and remember to use the bottled water supplied or your own bottle.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for – just make sure to inform us of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their economic and cultural importance. You may meet 'hawkers' at sites such as the Great Pyramid – if you are not interested, a firm 'no thank you' is usually enough to dissuade them.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. Hotels used in Jordan are generally rated as local four-star standard and in Egypt are local four to five-star standard. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, TV & telephone. You will also stay in a desert camp in Wadi Rum, with electricity and an en-suite bathroom.

Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and occasionally the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. Please note that double bed requests can be made at the time of booking but can't be guaranteed.

Wendy Wu Tours

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in Egypt have a reputation for being very congested. Roads in Egypt have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

A list of optional activities and approximate costs will be provided with your final documents. These can be arranged by your guide and are paid for locally.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and the Middle East is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting religious sites, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable whilst sightseeing at religious sites.

Wendy Wu Tours

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Updated: November 2026