

March 30, 2026

Dear Travelers,

We are writing to provide you with an important update regarding our upcoming Egypt Group journey (October 19–31, 2026), as well as to reiterate key recommendations concerning travel insurance and flight arrangements.

At the time of this communication, Egypt is in no way impacted by the current events in the Middle East. The United States currently maintains a Level 2 travel advisory for Egypt, which is consistent with other popular destinations such as Greece, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, and other countries throughout the world. Accordingly, this trip is proceeding as planned and is neither canceled nor delayed.

We would also like to reiterate that both aktiv planet and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Rochester, NY strongly recommended—during our in-person Meet & Greet at the Church, as well as in prior electronic communications—that all travelers purchase comprehensive travel insurance at the time of their initial deposit, specifically a Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) policy. CFAR coverage allows travelers to cancel their trip at their discretion, subject to the terms of their policy, and to seek reimbursement directly through their insurance provider for eligible expenses incurred.

Tourism remains a cornerstone of Egypt's economy, with approximately 19 million visitors in 2025 and an estimated \$18.8 billion in tourism revenue (source: The African Travel & Tourism Association, London, U.K.). As such, the Egyptian government places a high priority on the safety and security of its visitors.

In furtherance of this commitment, and to provide additional reassurance, aktiv planet has worked closely with its Egyptian partner to arrange the following enhanced safety measures **at no additional cost to travelers**:

- As part of standard operating procedures, all itinerary visits are communicated in advance to the Egyptian Tourism Police.
- A dedicated police escort vehicle will accompany the group during movements, along with professional security personnel, to enhance safety and comfort throughout the journey.
- While Nile cruises typically involve shared group excursions, our group will benefit from private guides and dedicated transportation for all included visits.

We trust that these measures reflect the seriousness with which aktiv planet and its partners approach your safety and well-being.

That said, participation in this trip remains entirely voluntary. Should you feel uncomfortable traveling, you retain the right to cancel your participation; however, please note that you remain responsible for all applicable payments. aktiv planet, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, and our Egyptian partner remain fully committed to operating this journey as planned, which is scheduled to take place approximately six and a half months from now.

Regarding flights:

We have received several inquiries on this topic and would like to clarify the following:

- The trip officially begins on October 19, 2026. You are expected to arrive in Egypt no later than that date. In the event of travel delays requiring you to join the group after the trip has commenced, you will be responsible for any associated costs; however, aktiv planet will assist you with the logistics of rejoining the group. Should you arrive late but before our domestic flight to Upper Egypt, any associated costs should be minimal, though you may miss some scheduled visits. Please note that the group will remain in Cairo through October 25 (inclusive).
- We strongly recommend arriving one day prior to the start of the journey (October 18, 2026) to mitigate the risk of delays. We will be pleased to assist with airport transfers; to do so, please provide your flight details to aktiv planet in advance.
- For your return to the United States, please note that most transatlantic departures from Cairo occur in the early morning hours. Following our return flight from Upper Egypt on October 30, 2026, you may depart on October 31, 2026; however, this may result in a shortened night of rest.
- The night of October 30, 2026 is included in your trip package, and airport transfers from our Cairo hotel will be provided regardless of your departure time. Should you wish to extend your stay, aktiv planet can arrange additional hotel nights at our hotel and at your expense. Transfers will continue to be provided if you remain at the group hotel; alternative accommodations and associated transfers will be your responsibility.
- For your convenience, aktiv planet can assist with booking your flights. Please note that a \$40 booking fee per person applies for this service.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact both Armelle and Demos via email.

Please be assured that aktiv planet, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, and our Egyptian partner remain fully committed to your safety. The enhanced security arrangements outlined above are a reflection of this commitment and are provided **at no additional cost to you**. Ultimately, comprehensive travel insurance—particularly CFAR coverage—remains the most effective means of ensuring personal peace of mind.

We sincerely look forward to sharing this extraordinary journey with you.

Warm regards,

aktiv planet
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Rochester, NY