

EGYPT

Follow in the Footsteps of the Holy Family, Alexander the Great & Ancient Pharaohs

Egypt • October 18–31, 2026

A collaboration between aktiv planet & the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Rochester

aktiv planet travel dispatch

EXPLORE BOLDLY. TRAVEL RESPECTFULLY.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to prepare travelers not just for the journey ahead, but for meaningful, respectful engagement with the cultures, landscapes, and people they encounter. Through each dispatch, we aim to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding, and build a sense of shared adventure — empowering travelers to explore boldly, connect authentically, and move through the world with intention.

Purpose of an aktiv planet travel dispatch

An aktiv planet travel dispatch aims to:

1. Prepare with Purpose

It provides practical information and cultural context so travelers feel confident, informed, and grounded. From packing tips to etiquette guides, the dispatch ensures that everyone arrives not just ready to explore, but ready to connect.

2. Deepen Cultural Understanding

Each dispatch highlights the people, history, customs, and unique spirit of the destination. It promotes respectful travel by fostering curiosity and awareness — turning a trip into a meaningful cultural exchange.

3. Build Excitement

It builds anticipation and unity among travelers. Through sneak peeks of the itinerary, local phrases, and fun facts, the dispatch fuels that "we're-really-going!" energy and invites travelers to imagine themselves there.

4. Strengthen the aktiv planet Community

The dispatch encourages communication and collaboration — travelers are reminded to check shared documents, use the questions section, and stay engaged with the aktiv planet team and each other.

5. Deliver in aktiv planet's Voice

Written in a tone that's warm, curious, respectful, and just a little playful, the dispatch reflects aktiv planet's core values: responsible adventure, cultural respect, curiosity, and connection.

All photos in this publication are public domain unless noted otherwise.



First things first... The trip is still ON!



We know many of you are keeping an eye on developments in the Middle East, and rightly so. At this time, travel to Egypt is not affected by current regional events. At the time of writing this aktiv planet Travel Dispatch, Egypt currently holds a **Level 2** – Exercise Increased Caution advisory from the U.S. Department of State—the same advisory level as destinations such as Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Morocco, and the Bahamas, among several others. Conditions can change, however, and travelers are responsible for staying informed and monitoring official updates regularly.

We recommend that all travelers register with the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**, a free, secure service for U.S. citizens traveling abroad to receive security updates and emergency assistance from the nearest U.S. embassy.

How to Register for STEP:

- **Visit the Website:** Go to step.state.gov to initiate enrollment.
- **Create or Sign In:** Create a Login.gov account for full control, allowing you to manage, update, or cancel your trip details later.
- **Guest Option:** If you do not wish to create an account, you can select the "continue as guest" option.
- **Enter Trip Details:** Provide your destination, dates of travel, contact information (email/phone), and emergency contact information.
- **Finalize:** Once you receive a confirmation email, your enrollment is active.

Travel Requirements



A Gentle Reminder and Summary (Part 1)

We encourage everyone to periodically review the official Egypt advisory page here: [U.S. Department of State – Egypt Travel Advisory](#).

And while you are there, do not forget to review the Travel Requirements section. The good news? We are happy to summarize things for you.

Visa Information

Visas are currently required for travel to Egypt. As of March 2026, the official fee for a single-entry tourist visa to Egypt for Americans is \$30.

Note that:

- Travelers arriving in Egypt on 19 October will receive **complimentary visa and transfers** arranged by aktiv planet and its Egyptian partner.
- Travelers who choose to arrive earlier (several of you arrive 18 October) and book their pre-trip hotel through aktiv planet will also receive their visa at no cost, along with airport transfers.
- Travelers who choose to arrive earlier and arrange accommodations independently are welcome to do so. In this case, however, such travelers are responsible for obtaining their own Egyptian visa (either online before departure or upon arrival at the airport), arranging their own airport transfer and joining the group on 19 October at the designated hotel in Cairo.

No worries—we will share the name and address of the Cairo hotel in a future aktiv planet Travel Dispatch.

May 2026



Travel Requirements



A Gentle Reminder and Summary (Part 2)

Health & Vaccination Requirements

Another common question: vaccinations.

At this time, there are no mandatory vaccination requirements for Egypt, unless you are arriving from a yellow-fever affected area, in which case proof of vaccination may be required.

That said, every traveler is unique. We recommend speaking with your physician or travel clinic about your personal medical history and travel profile to determine whether additional vaccinations or preventive measures may be appropriate.

Passport Requirements

Please take a moment to check your passport now—not the week before departure. Your passport must:

- Be valid for at least six (6) months beyond your arrival date in Egypt
- Contain at least one blank passport page for entry requirements
- Stamp from Israel in your passport? Egypt and Israel have diplomatic relations and a peace treaty, and Egypt does not prohibit entry to visitors who have previously visited Israel

Currency Restrictions

A quick but important reminder regarding cash declarations:

Currency on entry and exit is restricted to:

- Entry: Less than USD \$10,000
- Exit: Less than USD \$10,000



Travel Insurance



If you have not yet obtained travel insurance, please do so promptly.

As some of you have already discovered, travel insurance can sometimes feel like navigating a maze worthy of an ancient pyramid. We have recently learned from one traveler that certain insurers may no longer include Egypt under some single-trip policies. One traveler informed aktiv planet that Allianz no longer covers Egypt under their policy options. Curiously, when aktiv planet checked another destination—Libya—coverage appeared available. Strange, in our opinion... but insurance logic occasionally seems to operate under its own mysterious set of hieroglyphics. Perhaps insurers have determined that travelers are more likely to cancel Egypt than actually travel to Libya... but we will leave that mystery to the actuaries.

Humor aside, this is an important reminder to:

- Read the fine print carefully
- Call the insurer's help line with questions
- Confirm that the policy—and level of coverage—works for your personal needs and travel plans

As mentioned previously to travelers who contacted aktiv planet regarding insurance, aktiv planet cannot recommend a specific travel insurance provider or policy. Our recommendation remains simply—and strongly—that **you purchase travel insurance and ensure you understand exactly what your chosen policy covers.**

For info: A few travelers have purchased their Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) insurance through Travel Insured International

Flight Arrangements (Part 1)



If you have not yet booked your flights to and from Egypt, please do so promptly.

A helpful planning reminder: the group will fly from Aswan back to Cairo during the day on 30 October. Consequently, international return flights to the USA—or wherever home may be for you—may begin on 31 October.

Now for an **important Egypt travel reality**... many international flights departing Cairo for the United States leave VERY early. And by “very early,” we truly mean the middle of the night.

For example, if you book a flight that begins with Qatar Airways flight QR1306 departing Cairo (CAI) at 01:20 AM, your journey technically begins on 31 October, but practically speaking, you would not spend the night at the Cairo hotel. Instead, airport transfer arrangements would occur during the evening of 30 October to align with your departure schedule.

For travelers who prefer a more relaxed departure pace—or who have flights leaving later—we are happy to arrange an additional post-trip hotel night in Cairo.

You have two options:

- Book your additional hotel night through aktiv planet, which allows us to continue coordinating your airport transfer support, OR
- Book independently, which is perfectly fine as well—however, travelers choosing this option will be responsible for their transfers to that independently booked hotel and their transfers from that hotel to the airport.





Flight Arrangements (Part 2)

Booking your flights

Some travelers have already booked flights independently, while others have requested assistance.

Independent travelers

If you have booked your own flights, we kindly ask that you **provide your full flight itinerary** to both aktiv planet and the Church (Demos) as soon as possible, along with any pertinent information or special requests. Just as importantly, you are responsible for keeping us informed of any delays or schedule changes so we may reorganize visa support and transfer arrangements *where applicable* (see page 4).

Need assistance?

For travelers seeking assistance, several members of the group have booked through the air consolidator used by aktiv planet.

Armelle is happy to assist with flight reservations. Please note that bookings made through this service include a \$40 booking fee per airline ticket. If you would like assistance, simply let us know.

A small but important clarification when booking with Armelle's help:

- While aktiv planet can assist with booking your flights, issues arising during travel itself—such as cancellations, missed connections, airline schedule disruptions, or ticket changes—must be handled directly through the air consolidator's support service
- The good news? Your flight receipt includes the dedicated phone number to contact, and their team can and will assist you during travel. If you can't find the information, just send us an email.

Airline/Flt. No.	Destination	Gate	Time	Remarks
DELTA 9379	AMSTERDAM	153	12:30P	CLOSED
AERO MEH. 783	GUADALAJARA	137	12:34P	DEPARTED
SINGAPORE 5701	SEOUL INCHEON	150	12:40P	FINAL GA
UNITED 7925	TOKYO NARITA	148	1:10P	ON TIME
JAL 15	TOKYO HANEDA	154	2:10P	ON TIME
AIR INDIA 8640	FRANKFURT	150	4:00P	DELAYED
KLH 2379	PARIS	148	3:20P	ON TIME
VOLARIS 919	GUADALAJARA	139	3:47P	ON TIME
AEROFLOT 107	MOSCOW	153	4:05P	ON TIME
VOLARIS 901	GUADALAJARA	141	4:44P	ON TIME
BRITISH 280	LONDON HEATHROW	152	4:45P	ON TIME
AERO MEH. 643	MEXICO CITY		5:45P	ON TIME
VOLARIS 915	GUADALAJARA		6:14P	ON TIME
DELTA 1630	SEATTLE		7:55P	ON TIME
AIR NEW Z. 3	AUCKLAND	159	9:35P	ON TIME
KIAHLEN AIR 830	KIAHLEN		12:15A	ON TIME
LATAM AIR. 8425	SEOUL INCHEON	154	12:20A	ON TIME
VOLARIS 913	GUADALAJARA		12:51A	ON TIME
CATHAY PAC 881	HONG KONG		1:15A	ON TIME

Flight Arrangements (Part 3)



Staying Connected About Flight Changes & Delays

All travelers are required to keep Armelle, Demos, and our Egyptian partner—who will be coordinating visas and airport transfers (contact information will be shared as we approach departure)—fully informed of any flight changes, delays, cancellations, schedule modifications, or other travel disruptions. **You are responsible for promptly communicating all flight-related changes.**

We hope your journey unfolds smoothly and according to plan. However, seasoned travelers know that airlines occasionally like to add a little suspense to the adventure. With this reality in mind, aktiv planet intentionally designed this itinerary with flexibility and contingency planning built into it. This is one reason why the group remains Cairo-based through 25 October inclusive. What does this mean for you?

- Should flight disruptions occur, rejoining the group after a delay remains possible. While a delayed arrival may unfortunately result in missing certain activities, excursions, or scheduled visits, our Cairo-based schedule during the early portion of the journey provides valuable flexibility and increases the likelihood that travelers experiencing delays can reconnect with the group without jeopardizing the entire experience.

In short: **communication is essential.**

- The sooner we know about a disruption, the sooner we can work together to reorganize visa assistance, transfer logistics, and rejoining arrangements where possible.

Final Payment: Process



It is time to make the final payment phase of our Egypt journey. A personal email was sent today to travelers' emails on record with the Church with the payment due.

To help keep this process smooth and organized for everyone, we kindly ask that you carefully review and follow the payment process below.

Your final payment to aktiv planet should include 1. Full remaining balance of the trip + cruise cabin upgrade if applicable, and 2. Names of all travelers covered under the payment.

Please ONLY include payment as indicated in a private email sent by Demos. Extra hotel nights, optional excursions or activities will be handled separately.

Travelers may submit payment by 21 June 2026 (unless noted otherwise) using one of the following payment methods below, given in order of preference, ease and speed of fund availability:

- Option 1 – Deposit at any Citizens Bank: Simplest and fastest
- Option 2 – Bank Wire Transfer
- Option 3 – Zelle: If your bank participates
- Option 4 – PayPal transfer to armelle32@netzero.com
- Option 5 – Check Payment – To the order of aktiv planet. Checks must be received no later than 19 June 2026

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION AND MAILING ADDRESS AVAILABLE IN THE ONE-PAGE PDF DOCUMENT TITLED “FINAL PAYMENT: PROCESS” EMAILED TO YOU BY DEMOS. PLEASE REFER TO THAT DOCUMENT TO COMPLETE PAYMENT IN A TIMELY MANNER - THANK YOU.

NOTE: You are responsible for any fees applicable to your transaction of choice.

May 2026



Final Payment: Important Dates



Deadline reminder

We respectfully remind travelers that all payment dates and deadlines must be strictly respected:

- All bank deposits, wire transfers, and Zelle payments must be received by aktiv planet no later than 21 June 2026
- Checks must physically arrive at the address below no later than 19 June 2026 to allow sufficient time for deposit and bank clearing (Armelle Fée 4775 Rushmore Road, Palmyra NY14522)

Failure to meet required payment deadlines may lead to forfeiture of monies previously paid or increased travel costs. We do not anticipate such situations, of course, and greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping us finalize arrangements smoothly and on time.

Need an invoice?

If you would like an invoice for your final trip payment, simply email aktiv planet. To help us prepare the document accurately, please provide the full names of all travelers to be included on the invoice. Please note that invoices issued for final payment will include the total trip and applicable cabin upgrade selections. Invoices will not include optional activities or additional hotel arrangements, as these are managed separately. They can be added in September upon request to update.

Thank you in advance for helping us keep this process organized and efficient. Every payment brings us one step closer to temples, ancient pyramids, monasteries, sunsets on the Nile, and so many more unforgettable discoveries!



Contact Us



EMAILS

Contact Demosthenes Euclid at
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Let the journey
transform you.