

# 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.



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First of all, **THANK YOU!**



I am so happy to share that everyone has successfully met the deadline for the final trip payment.

Thank you for being so timely and for making the planning process much easier on our end.

### **Optional Excursions Payment Reminder**

A quick note regarding payment for the optional activities. We have unfortunately experienced a few issues with Zelle payments, so we kindly ask that you use one of the following payment methods instead when payign for the options:

- ✓ Check—Payable to either aktiv planet or Armelle Fée.
- ✓ Bank Deposit—You may use the same bank account information previously provided.
- ✓ PayPal—Send to [armelle32@netzero.com](mailto:armelle32@netzero.com). Please select “Friends and Family” to avoid PayPal fees. (Any fees incurred are the responsibility of the traveler.)
- ✓ Cash—Some of you have preferred this option, and that is perfectly fine! Cash can be deposited in my mailbox (please notify me of the time you plan to drop it off), or given to me in person.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation as we finalize these last details for our Egypt adventure! July 2026



# Excursions



Now, let's review a few important items that aktiv planet has communicated via email over the past few weeks as we want to make sure that no one misses any important details as we get closer to our trip!

## Let's Finalize Optional Activities

These optional activities were carefully selected to enhance your Egyptian adventure and allow you to discover even more of this incredible country. There is absolutely no obligation to participate — they are simply opportunities to add special moments to your journey.

If you choose only ONE optional experience, aktiv planet's recommends...

### ...Abu Simbel

Why? Because Abu Simbel is one of Egypt's most extraordinary sites. Located near the border with Sudan, these magnificent temples were built by Pharaoh Ramses II over 3,000 years ago and are famous for:

- The enormous statues of Ramses II carved directly into the mountain
- The incredible precision of ancient Egyptian engineering
- The fascinating story of the temple rescue project when it was moved to save it from the rising waters of the Aswan High Dam

It is one of those places where you truly feel the scale, ambition, and genius of ancient Egypt. Many travelers say Abu Simbel is one of the highlights of their entire Egypt experience — and we believe it is worth making the effort while we are already there.

To finalize your options, [click here to access the Options document](#). You may also call Armelle at ☎ 315-597-2305 and let her know your choices.



Payment deadline for optional activities: July 31, 2026

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# Arrival in Egypt



## Pre-Trip Hotel Booking

A reminder regarding hotel nights. Our included hotel nights are 19-30 October (included). If you arrive before 19 October, aktiv planet can arrange your additional hotel night(s) for \$55 per person per night. This is important because by booking your pre-trip hotel through aktiv planet, we are able to coordinate:

- Visa assistance
- Airport transfer

This visa + transfer service is something we are gifting to everyone in the group. However, to benefit from this service, you must book your additional hotel through aktiv planet and provide your flight information before 31 August 2026. You are absolutely welcome to book your own hotel and flights independently. However, if you do so, you will be responsible for:

- Obtaining your own visa
- Arranging your own airport transportation
- Making your own way to our group hotel on October 19 (The hotel address will be shared closer to the trip.)

You are also welcome to book flights on your own, but it is essential that you share your flight information with us so we can properly coordinate arrivals and departures.

## Return Airport Transfers

For travelers departing Egypt on 31 October, you will receive an airport transfer regardless of your departure time. Some are leaving as early as 1 AM. No problem—we've got you! Our team will coordinate transportation so everyone can get safely to the airport for their return journey.

Thank you again for helping us finalize these last details. July 2026





# VIP Arrival Experience

## (Part 1)



### A Smooth Welcome to Egypt

We understand that arriving in a new country can sometimes feel a little overwhelming, especially after a long international flight. That is why aktiv planet and our Egyptian partners have arranged a VIP airport arrival experience to make your arrival as easy and stress-free as possible.

This complimentary service includes:

- VIP Visa Assistance Upon Arrival
- Airport Transfer to Your Hotel

Here is what you can expect.

### Traveling together

For travelers arriving within minutes of one another, the process will be coordinated as a group. For example, we currently have 15 travelers arriving during the 6:00 PM hour on 18 October.

In this situation:

- You will meet your aktiv planet representative at the designated meeting point, which is **BEFORE immigration** (look for someone holding the aktiv planet sign/logo and give them your name).
- You will wait together with your aktiv planet representative for the remaining travelers from your arrival group to arrive.
- Once everyone has gathered, your aktiv planet representative will guide the group together through the VIP visa process.

This allows everyone arriving around the same time to benefit from the same smooth and organized experience.





# VIP Arrival Experience (Part 2)



## Visa process at Cairo airport

Once the group has gathered, your aktiv planet representative will assist you with the visa process before proceeding through immigration. He/she will help ensure that arrival formalities are completed properly and efficiently. The visa fee is fully covered by aktiv planet and our Egyptian partner as part of the VIP arrival service. You do not need to arrange payment for the visa upon arrival. Our team will take care of this process for you. After the visa process is completed, you will proceed through immigration with the rest of the required arrival procedures.

## Getting to our hotel

Once the visa process and airport formalities are completed, a member of our Operations team will take you to your driver. The team will:

- Escort you to your vehicle
- Transfer you safely to your hotel
- Assist with the hotel check-in process
- Make sure you are comfortably settled before departing

## Individual Attention for Every Traveler

Please note that this service is arranged for every traveler\*. Even if they arrive on different flights, at different times and/or on different arrival days. Our Egyptian team will coordinate each arrival separately. You do not need to worry about arriving alone — our local team is prepared and available to welcome and assist you.

Your journey begins the moment you land, and our goal is for you to feel welcomed, supported, and ready to enjoy the incredible adventure ahead.

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\*As per previously stated conditions.





# Our Hotel



When Armelle created your Egyptian adventure, one of the main goals both she and Demosthenes agreed on was to **focus on experiences** over fancy hotels. Because let's be honest... you are not traveling to Egypt to sit in a hotel room! You are traveling to stand in front of thousands of years of history, walk in the Holy Family's footsteps, sail the Nile, explore incredible temples, and experience the magic of Egypt.

**However...** There was one thing Armelle was absolutely not willing to compromise on: a **rooftop view of the Pyramids**. Because... hello?!?!? If you are going to Egypt, shouldn't you have the chance to get your fill of looking at the Great Pyramids standing proudly in the distance? So, aktiv planet booked a hotel category with a rooftop view of the Pyramids.

And then... our Egyptian partner contacted Armelle and said: *Good news! We have worked with our hotel partners and will be upgrading your group.* Her reaction was: *That's amazing! But... WAIT... does this mean the rooftop Pyramids view is gone?!?!?! Because priorities... (Next page for the answer but before that...)*

A little reality check—Giza is not the “fancy-schmancy” neighborhood of Cairo. It is a busy, energetic area because travelers from around the world come here specifically because the location is unbeatable. The streets are lively, the area is full of movement. And thus...

✓ **aktiv planet PRO TIP:** Armelle's golden rule when traveling: always pack earplugs. This cannot be emphasized enough in Cairo! Cairo is alive 24/7. Cars, horns, people, activity... the city does not exactly whisper. You have been warned!

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# A Little Egypt Surprise



Well... we are happy to announce:

## Upgrade Surprise!

The upgrade means we will also have a little rooftop pool! After exploring temples, walking through history, and taking in the incredible sights of Egypt, you can relax by a rooftop pool with a view of the Pyramids. What a wonderful surprise! We hope you will all enjoy this unexpected bonus.

Important note: Another nice thing about the upgraded hotel is that it is not a dry hotel and offers evening drink options. Enjoy Egypt your way, whether relaxing with a beverage, a mocktail by the rooftop pool, or simply taking in the Pyramid views.

## Dining Options Nearby

Our hotel does have a restaurant onsite, but of course, we encourage you to explore and experience different dining options, such as *Akemi Egypt Restaurant*, an elegant rooftop dining venue about a 3-minute drive away, specializing in fresh sushi, international grills, and premium cocktails. About 10 minutes away by taxi, is *139 Pavilion* in the historic Marriott Mena House complex, offering international and Egyptian à la carte options with an incredible atmosphere. For those looking for upscale and authentic Egyptian cuisine, these restaurants are often considered among Cairo's favorites: Khufu's (7-min drive), Zitouni (30-min drive), and Al Khal (40-min drive).

Of course, "the best" restaurant is always a matter of personal taste, but these are excellent choices for those wanting a memorable Egyptian dining experience. Armelle is thinking Al Khal... Who's in?

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# Flying South to Ancient Egypt



After exploring the energy of Cairo, we'll head south to **Luxor**, often called the world's greatest open-air museum. It is here that we will embark on our **5-day Nile cruise**, sailing through a region that holds some of the greatest treasures of ancient Egypt. Along the way, we will discover magnificent temples, royal tombs, and landscapes that have changed remarkably little since the days of the pharaohs over 3,000 years ago.

**aktiv planet** and our local partner are pleased to include one free checked bag per traveler on your domestic flights. The allowance is 30 kg (66 lbs), with a max. size of 203 cm (80 inches) (length + width + height combined). Standard airline security rules still apply. Any overweight or oversized baggage fees are the traveler's sole responsibility.

After our **Nile cruise**, we will fly from Aswan back to Cairo, where we will return to our hotel for one final evening. Depending on your international flight schedule, some of you will enjoy a decent night's sleep, others may only have a few hours before heading back to the airport... and for those with the 1:00 AM departures—well, you are the brave souls of the group!

✓ **aktiv planet PRO TIP:** Armelle's absolute favorite moments on a Nile cruise is simply standing on deck with a mocktail in hand, leaning on the railing as the boat quietly glides along the river and watching life unfold on the riverbanks: farmers and their animals plowing fields, a woman beating a rug outside a tiny village mosque, fishermen casting their nets, children playing soccer, and little ferries crossing the mighty Nile. It is peaceful, timeless, and beautifully ordinary. And while you're watching... keep your eyes peeled. You never know—you just might spot a Nile crocodile!





# FAQ



## **Can we get early check-in at the hotel?**

Whether you have booked a room on 18 October or arrive on 19 October in Cairo, the hotel will graciously allow us to check in at noon, free of charge. If you wish to have the room ready prior to 12 p.m., you will need to book the previous night at the rate of \$55 per person.

## **What if I don't want to go on the visits on one of the days?**

Since we are staying at the same hotel in Cairo, you are welcome to skip a day of visit if you wish to, and pick up with the group the next day. That's perfectly OK. When we are cruising, we will be going from point A to point B, so you may stay onboard and relax. If you choose to debark on your own, you are fully responsible for rejoining the group. We definitely don't encourage autonomous exploration during the cruise.

## **Is the cruise full board?**

As mentioned in an earlier aktiv planet Travel Dispatch, we are on a full-board basis while cruise. However, drinks are not included, and travelers will need to purchase their drinks, from water to champagne to everything in between. Coffee, tea and juice are complimentary during breakfast.

## **What entrance fees are not covered?**

All visits on the schedule are included in your trip package. Tips are not.

## **What if I have questions for the guide during a visit?**

Questions are encouraged. Ask away! Our guides are highly educated and experts in their field and they will love to satisfy curious minds. So, don't be shy and ask away!



# FAQ



## What can I do on 31 Oct if my flight leaves later during the day?

You are welcome to stay at the hotel until your transfer to the airport. After checking out of your room, the hotel will keep your luggage while you relax on the roof top, enjoy the pool, grab lunch at the hotel restaurant, or simply relax.

## What if my flights to Egypt are delayed?

Travel delays happen. We'll do our utmost to adjust your airport pickup accordingly. However, travelers are responsible for notifying us immediately of delays or itinerary changes by email and/or text message:

✉ [info@aktivplanet.com](mailto:info@aktivplanet.com)

📞 +1 (315) 597-2305

The sooner we receive your updated flight information, the sooner we can coordinate with our team in Egypt to adapt your airport welcome and transfer arrangements.

## What if I have not communicated my flight information to aktiv planet by August 31, 2026?

To receive the complimentary Egyptian visa and airport transfers, aktiv planet must receive your flight information by August 31, 2026.

After this deadline, you will be responsible for obtaining your own visa and arranging your own transfers to join the group. Our Cairo hotel name and address will be shared about one month before departure.

Thank you for your understanding. Coordinating arrivals for a large group traveling on many different flights/days requires significant planning, and receiving everyone's flight information by the deadline allows us to provide the high level of service we are pleased to offer.

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# FAQ



## Passport - What aktiv planet recommends

### Should I carry my passport with me every day?

Your passport is your most important travel document, so treat it accordingly. While Egyptian law requires visitors to be able to identify themselves, aktiv planet recommends leaving your passport securely locked in your hotel room or cruise cabin safe whenever practical and carrying a photocopy or digital copy during sightseeing. There are a few exceptions: Airport travel days, hotel check-ins, and any time your tour leader specifically asks you to bring it. If you choose to carry your passport, keep it in a secure, zippered bag or money belt.

### Should I make copies of my passport?

Absolutely! In fact, we recommend it. Before leaving home, make one paper photocopy of your passport's photo page and pack it separately from your passport. Take a clear photo of the photo page (including the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) at the bottom) and save it on your phone. Share that photo with someone else traveling with you. If you lose both your passport and your phone, someone you trust has a copy, which can significantly speed up the process of replacing a lost passport.

### What should I do if I lose my passport?

First, don't panic. While it's certainly an inconvenience, thousands of travelers successfully replace lost passports every year. If your passport is lost or stolen, notify your tour leader (that's me!) immediately. aktiv planet will work with its business partner to contact the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, so they can assist with issuing an emergency passport. We will do everything to help guide you through the process, but having those copies ahead of time is one of the best ways to reduce stress if the unexpected happens.



# Contact Us



## EMAILS

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Let the journey  
transform you.