



Magic of Luxor

Weight limit: 95kg

Nearest airport: Luxor

6 days / 5 nights / 4 riding days



Ride, relax, and immerse yourself in the local culture and the magic of Luxor. Highlights include a visit to the Valley of the Kings, canters along sugar cane fields and a sunrise hot air balloon ride.

Discover Egypt from a unique perspective: between the ears of one of our rescue horses. Our partners in Egypt are an Egyptian and American owned company based in Luxor. If you crave adventure, exciting horseback experiences and deeply authentic travel, then this trail is a great choice, designed to show you the very best of riding and sightseeing in Egypt. Explore Egypt's ancient landscapes and incredible history with the teams well-mannered horses. Not only will it

be an unforgettable adventure, but by riding in Egypt you will be supporting important rescue work in Luxor.

Highlights

- Ride through the heart of Ancient Egypt
- Visit the Valley of the Kings and iconic ancient monuments
- Experience unforgettable desert canters and gallops
- Immerse yourself in authentic Egyptian culture
- Ride remarkable rescued Baladi horses

Guides & Group sizes

Your guide Ganun has made a name for himself in the horse world in Egypt. He is well-known around the streets of Luxor and can't go far without someone trying to sell him a horse!

Ganun has worked with horses since a young age and his understanding of them is remarkable. From Sharm El-Sheikh to Luxor, he has excelled as a guide leading horseback riding tours for over 16 years. He was even featured as a top tour guide in Luxor in 2016. In addition to leading tours, he has extensive experience training, breeding, showing, and rehabilitating horses.

The group size for this ride is limited to 2-8 people.

Horses and Tack

All of the horses are Egyptian or "Baladi" horses, the type of horse most commonly found across Egypt. Baladi horses are native to Egypt but have mixed bloodlines with Arabian and European influences. They are responsive, willing and versatile. They are ridden in English tack.

Many of the horses have been rescued and rehabilitated. They are forward-going and responsive with impressive stamina for long days in the saddle. Each horse has their own unique personality, and your guides will match horse to rider based on riding ability and personal preferences.

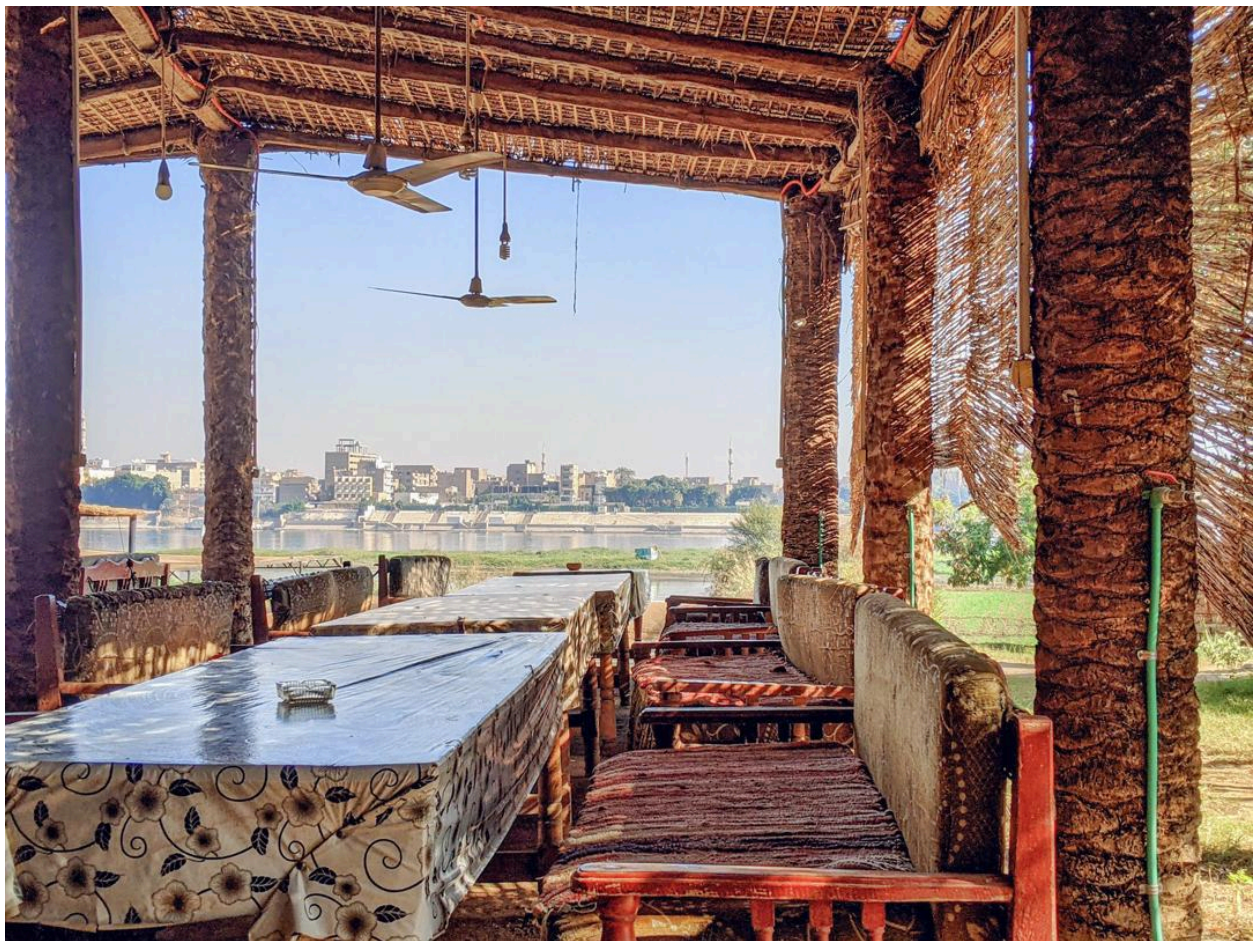
Level of riding and fitness

You should be comfortable with the basics of riding (in control at the walk, trot, and canter) but do not need to be an expert. There are 4-6 hours of riding a day so a good level of general fitness is beneficial. Although there is an age limit of 16 years or older, younger riders may be considered if they have sufficient riding ability. The weight limit is 95kg.

Accommodation & Dining

You will stay on the tranquil West Bank, the quieter side of the Nile with fewer tourists. The riding base is in a small village surrounded by farmland not far from the sights; the atmosphere is laid back and relaxing. You might be in a charming villa with traditional dome rooms, a vibrantly decorated guest house with views of the Nile, or your own fully equipped flat. In any of the places, you will be well accommodated while still feeling integrated with the local area. When camping, you will spend the night in a Bedouin style tent or under the stars with sleeping bags alongside the horses.

The cuisine on this ride features many local specialties - kosheri, falafel and ful medames (fava beans)



Itinerary

Day 1

You've arrived at the land of the pharaohs! Pickup is at Luxor International Airport. Our driver will bring you to your accommodation to get settled in and unwind after your travels. You're welcome to come to the stable to meet the horses and hang out before dinner. We'll take you to one of our favourite restaurants in Luxor where we can get acquainted over some delicious Egyptian food.

Day 2

After breakfast, we begin with scenic riding through lush farmland around the Nile River. You'll be transported back in time as we trot and canter past farmers working the fields with traditional tools, donkeys pulling carts of wheat and clover, and water buffalo cooling off in the Nile. Soon we approach quaint village streets where you can get a glimpse of daily life in rural Egypt. Shortly outside town, we pass sprawling archeological sites and stop to marvel at the impressive Colossi of Memnon, two towering pharaonic statues set dramatically against the backdrop of the Theban Mountains. At the outskirts of the desert, we have the opportunity for exhilarating gallops and race each other across the sand. We then make our way to Banana Island, riding between leafy banana plants to our lunch stop. Enjoy freshly baked feteer, a delicious pastry-like bread served with feta cheese, molasses, and tahini along with fresh fruit juice. On the way back to the stable, we ride in parallel with the boats drifting along the Nile River. After the morning's ride, prepare for an afternoon of amazing sightseeing! Your first stop is Luxor Museum, home to incredibly well preserved mummies, sarcophagi, and other ancient relics. Then stroll along the famous Avenue of Sphinxes and through the historic walls of Luxor Temple. After sundown, visit the bustling market filled with spices, colourful Egyptian clothing, and beautiful arrays of jewellery and trinkets. Back on the quiet west bank, we finish the day with a multi-course dinner at one of our favourite local restaurants.

Day 3

This morning you will visit one of the most famous sites in Luxor: the Valley of the Kings, where you will explore the spectacular tombs of renowned Egyptian pharaohs including Ramses IV, Merneptah, and Seti I. Next, learn the fascinating story behind Egypt's longest-reigning female pharaoh on a tour of the Temple of Hatshepsut, built into the foothills of the Theban mountains. After your tours, come to the stable for lunch and enjoy pita sandwiches with hot falafel, shakshuka, and moussaka along with some Egyptian tea before the afternoon ride. The sightseeing continues as we ride past incredible structures built by Ramses II on our way to Habu Temple, where we dismount for a tour. When we get back in the saddle, we ride into the desert to watch the sun set behind the mountains before returning to the stable. Back at your accommodation, a home-cooked Egyptian dinner will be waiting for you after the long day.

Day 4

Today begins with a truly magical experience: a spectacular sunrise hot air balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings. Seeing Luxor glow in the early morning sun as you drift above the tomb-filled mountains, ancient temples of the west bank, and the Nile River is simply unforgettable. (Option: If you would prefer, you can ride to watch the hot air balloons take off at sunrise from horseback instead). After the balloon ride, you will take a water taxi to the east bank for a tour of the impressive Karnak Temple Complex, the largest religious site ever constructed and another must see in Luxor. Lunch is back on the west bank, and then you'll have a midday break to relax by the pool at your accommodation. In the late afternoon, enjoy sailing the Nile River in a traditional felucca and see a stunning sunset on the water. Dinner is at the stable with the horses; enjoy a barbecue of fresh meat and vegetables cooked over a fire while listening to some Egyptian music.

Day 5

Today you will visit the Dendera Temple, dedicated to the goddess Hathor about a 1 hour drive from Luxor in the city of Qena. This temple sees fewer tourists because of its location, but it is one of the best-preserved temple complexes of ancient Egypt and well worth the visit. Dendera temple has many passages and chambers to explore, you have the option to go inside the crypts with an extra ticket. The guided tour fills the morning (3 hours). Lunch will be served at a restaurant on the route back to the hotel. Then enjoy some downtime in the afternoon before a sunset boat trip on the Nile river (2 hours). Dinner will be served at a restaurant.

Day 6

If you have the time, tack up for a casual morning ride. Otherwise, relax at the stable with the horses, take a dip in the pool, or pick up some last-minute souvenirs to bring home. Our driver will take you to the Luxor Airport to catch your flight. Until next time!



Price includes

- Accommodation and meals
- Transfers to and from Luxor airport
- Other ground transportation
- 4 Days riding

Not included

- Flights
- Personal travel expenses
- Visas
- Alcoholic beverages
- Additional activities outside of the itinerary
- Entrance fees and cultural tours

International flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking Confirmation email from saddletravel.com

- Arrival airport: Luxor (LXR)
- Arrival time: Afternoon or earlier, this allows time for you to get to your hotel and settle in before meeting the group for dinner to kick off your tour
- Departure time: You can choose to enjoy one more final ride in the morning before your afternoon/evening flight.
- Transfer arrangements: Included

What to bring

We recommend packing layers. In the winter months, the days are warm and sunny, but the nights get cold. The low humidity can even make it feel chilly during the day in the shade. They are also good to have for sun protection.

Egypt has a conservative social culture, and both men and women tend to dress modestly. You will find the locals wearing a mix of traditional clothing (for example, galabayas) as well as Western-style clothing. In the cities and popular tourist areas, you will see tourists wearing all varieties of clothes including shorts and sleeveless tops. It is not expected that tourists dress in the local attire or for women to cover their hair (unless entering a mosque). However, we'd suggest dressing on the modest side to be respectful of the local culture. Please avoid excessively revealing clothing, military clothing, and camo.

- Riding Pants/Breeches (2-3 pairs recommended)
- Riding boots
- Helmet
- Half Chaps
- Riding Gloves
- Lightweight/breathable tops (short and long sleeves)
- Light to mid-weight jacket
- Casual bottoms (long pants/jeans/dresses/skirts recommended)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Swimsuit
- bumbag (for carrying small personal items on rides or tours; saddle bags are provided for your use)
- Backpack or overnight bag for day trips/camping

- Sunglasses (bring an extra pair if you have one)
- Light scarf (for sun protection, cool nights, and mosque visits)
- Sunscreen
- Type C or Type F travel adapter (if required)
- Binoculars (optional for boat trips and hot air balloon rides)
- Small First Aid kit
- Travel Toilet Paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Chapstick/lip balm



Climate

Egypt offers sun and warm temperatures all year round. We operate tours through the months of September – May only. We do not offer tours from June – August to protect the horses from the extreme heat during this time of year. The months on either end of the summer are still quite hot and dry, with temperatures around 32- 38°C during the day. The winter months are very temperate and comfortable, with temperatures around 24-29°C. You may be surprised at

how cool it gets at night in the winter – temperatures can drop to around 5°C.

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Egypt for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/egypt>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

Tipping is important in Egyptian culture and expected for most services. That said, you will not have to worry about tipping the drivers, cultural tour guides, and hotel staff that are part of your trip. We have factored that into our pricing and will distribute those tips on your behalf.

Please note that there are some cases where we'd suggest you give your own tip. For example, it may be expected at public bathrooms, or if an employee at a temple or tomb provides a brief tour or takes photos for you. We recommend having some small bills with you to tip in these situations. Tips amounts are small, anywhere between 5 to 20 LE or about \$1. You may also choose to tip your riding guide(s) at the end of your tour.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil



Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.

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