



Pyramids and Oasis Trail

8 days / 7 nights / 5 riding days

Fly to: Cairo, Egypt

Weight limit: 90kg



This exceptional horse riding holiday in Egypt combines ancient history, spectacular desert landscapes and an authentic cultural experience. From the legendary Pyramids of Giza to the unspoilt beauty of Siwa Oasis and the vast expanse of the Great Sand Sea, this itinerary offers riders a unique opportunity to discover some of Egypt's most iconic and remote locations on horseback. Throughout the journey, you will enjoy local cuisine, warm Egyptian hospitality and unforgettable riding experiences on Baladi horses, perfectly suited to desert conditions.

The Riding

Prepare for an adventure unlike any other! This holiday is packed with exhilarating rides that will satisfy your need for speed, particularly across the vast open spaces.

When riding through villages or exploring the oasis, however, the pace becomes more relaxed. Here, the emphasis is on enjoying the experience at a gentler pace, with walking, trotting and graceful canters. It is an opportunity to appreciate the enchanting scenery and connect with your horse.

Your adventure begins in Cairo, where you will be welcomed by the local team and meet your fellow riders.

The following morning, you will experience one of the world's most iconic rides: galloping through the desert with the Pyramids as your backdrop. After this unforgettable experience, you will travel to the mysterious Siwa Oasis in a comfortable vehicle, crossing vast desert landscapes along the way.

In Siwa, the pace slows and nature takes centre stage. You will visit Cleopatra's Spring, famous for its mineral-rich waters and peaceful atmosphere, before enjoying a ride around the oasis. Another day is dedicated to riding to the Temple of the Oracle of Amun, a place steeped in history where ancient pilgrims once travelled in search of wisdom and guidance. In the afternoon, a 4x4 excursion will take you into the heart of the desert for a spectacular adventure across the dunes, with breathtaking panoramic views and the opportunity to try sandboarding.

Riding Ability and Fitness

This holiday is specifically designed for intermediate and advanced riders who have a good command of riding skills and are ready for exciting challenges. Whether galloping through magnificent landscapes or navigating more challenging terrain, you will find plenty of exhilarating experiences awaiting you.

Guides and Group

Your guide, Mohamed, is a true master horseman. With his extensive knowledge of horse training and behaviour, he will introduce you to the world of horses from a new perspective.

Agnes, a former veterinary nurse, brings something special to the team. It is not unusual for her to return home with new animals, reflecting her passion and love for all creatures.

Then there is Ahmed, the proud owner of the magnificent Amir, nicknamed "Model Ahmed" because he is always ready for photographs. His dedication to the horses and attentiveness to guests are truly remarkable.

Hamdee, always full of joy, brightens the team with his positive energy.

Ibrahim, although young, could certainly never be described as lazy. He is constantly looking for something to tidy or organise, demonstrating just how hardworking he is.

Finally, there is another Ibrahim, whom we call "Strong Ibrahim". His impressive physical strength allows him to work tirelessly without ever seeming to become tired.

Minimum 2 riders, maximum 8 riders.

Horses

Arabian and Baladi horses are two distinct breeds that embody the rich equestrian heritage of the Arab world. Arabian horses, known for their elegance, endurance and striking beauty, are one of the oldest horse breeds in the world, originating from the Arabian Peninsula.

They are characterised by their distinctive head shape, arched necks and powerful bodies, making them exceptional athletes across various equestrian disciplines. Baladi horses, on the other hand, are native to Egypt and reflect the country's long relationship with horses. Often regarded as resilient and adaptable, Baladi horses are well suited to local environments and traditional practices, including agricultural work and transport. Both breeds hold significant cultural importance, symbolising grace and strength in their respective regions and reflecting the deep connection between people and horses throughout Arab heritage.

Tack

English tack includes equipment such as saddles, bridles and various accessories specifically designed for English-style riding. The English saddle, with its close-contact design, allows for better communication between horse and rider while providing comfort and freedom of movement for the horse.

English tack is versatile and suitable for a variety of equestrian disciplines, allowing effective communication between horse and rider.

Accommodation in Cairo

The accommodation offers a terrace with spectacular views of the Pyramids. Watch the sunset cast a golden glow over these incredible monuments and enjoy the sound and light show from the terrace or your balcony.

[Pyramids Valley Boutique Hotel](#)

[Nine Pyramids View](#)

[Gate Pyramids View](#)

Facilities include a 24-hour reception, air-conditioned rooms with flat-screen televisions and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Accommodation in Siwa

In the heart of Siwa, a comfortable and authentic guesthouse awaits you. Nestled among palm trees and surrounded by picturesque scenery, it offers the opportunity to experience the charm and hospitality of the local culture. Its traditional architecture showcases local craftsmanship.

You can also enjoy an outdoor swimming pool.

[Happy Oasis Hotel](#)

[Hotel Talid](#)

*Accommodation may change depending on group size and hotel availability.

Enjoy a wide variety of traditional Egyptian dishes, renowned for their rich and diverse flavours. Meals feature a delicious selection of cooked vegetables, flavourful meats, tender chicken and kofta, either grilled or served on skewers.

During your horse riding excursions, lunch will take the form of a picnic: a light meal consisting of fresh fruit, tasty snacks, bread and a variety of dips, designed to keep you refreshed while enjoying the magnificent surrounding scenery.

Each dish is carefully prepared using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Itinerary

Day 1

As your plane lands in Cairo, an enchanting world opens up before you. You set foot on Egyptian soil, where thousands of years of history meet the vibrant energy of modern life. From bustling streets to iconic monuments, your adventure begins as soon as you arrive in the capital. You will meet the Desert Dreams team and your fellow travellers before enjoying a local dinner with exceptional views of the Pyramids. An Egyptian meal is a true explosion of flavours, with vibrant colours, aromatic spices and fragrant herbs coming together to create a unique sensory experience.

Day 2

After enjoying local breakfast specialities accompanied by coffee or tea, you will prepare for your first riding adventure. You will discover vast desert landscapes offering plenty of opportunities to canter and gallop while admiring the magnificent Pyramids of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. This ride features on many riders' bucket lists, and it is easy to understand why. Imagine riding across golden sands with the iconic Pyramids as your backdrop (approximately 1½–2 hours of riding).

After the ride, return to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy lunch before setting off towards the magical Siwa Oasis. The journey takes approximately eight hours by minibus or air-conditioned vehicle, with snacks and regular stops to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable journey.

Day 3

Begin your day with a traditional Egyptian breakfast. The morning is free for relaxation before visiting the famous Cleopatra's Spring. Rich in minerals, its waters are ideal for swimming and unwinding. Lunch will be served overlooking the spring.

After lunch, prepare for a horse ride through the landscapes of Siwa. You will then enjoy a relaxed dinner at your guesthouse.

Day 4

After enjoying local breakfast specialities accompanied by coffee or tea, you will prepare for another day of adventure. You will leave the guesthouse on horseback and ride to the

Temple of the Oracle, where your guide will introduce you to this fascinating historical site. This ancient temple is associated with the famous Oracle of Amun, to which pilgrims travelled in antiquity in search of wisdom and guidance.

Following your morning ride, your experienced driver will take you on a 4x4 desert adventure. This off-road excursion will take you through spectacular landscapes of rolling dunes, rock formations and vast expanses of golden sand. You will have the opportunity to climb the dunes for breathtaking panoramic views and, for the more adventurous, try sandboarding.

Day 5

Today you will explore the Great Sand Sea on horseback. Prepare for an exhilarating four-to-five-hour riding adventure through spectacular landscapes and breathtaking wilderness. You will cross endless stretches of desert and fully experience the magic of this enchanting place.

It is difficult to describe the unique sensation of galloping across the seemingly endless desert, but you will have the opportunity to experience it for yourself. Here, it is simply called the "Yalla" moment. When your guide calls out this magical word, the wind begins to rush past as you and your horse set off together across the immense expanses of golden sand.

The local horses, known as Baladi horses, are a unique breed native to Egypt. With their elegant movement and flowing manes, they are a remarkable sight. These horses are renowned for their courage, strength, intelligence, gentle nature and willingness to please. Many stories tell of their loyalty to their owners. Horses played an essential role in Bedouin culture, with mares often kept inside family tents, helping to explain their particularly close bond with people. They are the ideal companions for a great desert crossing.

Day 6

Today you will ride towards the famous salt lakes of Siwa. These lakes are known for their high salt content, which allows you to float naturally and effortlessly. The surrounding landscapes are simply fascinating, with lush palm groves, green vegetation and striking contrasts between the intense blue of the water and the brilliant white salt formations.

This experience is much more than a simple moment of relaxation. Salt is recognised for its therapeutic properties and benefits for the skin and body. It is also believed to help relieve certain skin conditions and promote a deep sense of relaxation.

Day 7

Today, before returning to Cairo, you will visit Shali Fortress, a site of great historical importance dating back to the 12th century. Built mainly from local mud bricks mixed with salt and sand, this citadel provides a remarkable example of the oasis's traditional architecture. As you enter the fortress, you will discover a labyrinth of narrow streets and winding passages. These were originally designed as a defensive strategy to protect the town from invaders. Today, the ruins of Shali offer a fascinating glimpse into the region's history.

After lunch, you will begin your journey back to Cairo. This scenic drive starts through the fascinating landscapes of the Western Desert before passing several coastal towns. The journey is also the perfect opportunity to reflect on the adventures you have experienced and the unforgettable memories created over the past few days.

You will spend the night in Cairo, in the Giza district.

Day 8

After breakfast, you will check out of the hotel.

Flights and Airport Transfers

Please do not book your flights until you have received your booking confirmation email from saddletravel.fr. It is important to arrange your flights as follows:

On the first day, you can arrive at any time during the day at Cairo International Airport or Cairo Sphinx Airport (SPX). Hotel check-in is available from 2:00pm (earlier check-in may be possible subject to availability). However, we recommend avoiding a very late arrival, as the riding begins the following morning.

Price Includes

- Horse ride near the Pyramids
- Visit to Shali Fortress
- Visit to the Temple of the Oracle
- Visit to Cleopatra's Spring
- Guided horse riding excursions as described in the itinerary
- 4x4 jeep safari
- Transfers between Cairo and Siwa
- Transfers during the holiday
- Accommodation
- Water, coffee and tea
- Guide

Price Excludes

- International flights
- Visa
- Airport transfers
- Insurance
- Entrance fees to sites (museums, temples, etc.)
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks
- Tips
- Activities outside the itinerary
- Personal expenses

What to Bring

We recommend bringing warm clothing. During the winter months, the days are warm and sunny, but the nights can become cold.

Egypt has a conservative social culture, and both men and women tend to dress modestly. You will see local people wearing a mixture of traditional clothing (such as galabiyas) and Western-style clothing. Tourists are not expected to wear traditional local clothing, and women are not required to cover their hair. However, we recommend dressing modestly out of respect for the local culture. Please avoid very revealing clothing (short shorts, crop tops, low-cut tops, transparent clothing, etc.), as well as military-style and camouflage clothing.

- Riding breeches or jodhpurs (2–3 pairs recommended)
- Riding boots or ankle boots and half chaps
- Riding helmet
- Riding gloves
- Lightweight, breathable tops (short and long sleeves)
- Lightweight jacket
- Casual clothing (long trousers, jeans, dresses or skirts recommended)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Swimwear
- Bum bag or waist pouch (for carrying small personal items during rides or excursions; saddlebags are provided)
- Backpack or travel bag for day trips/camping
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight scarf (for sun protection, cool evenings and mosque visits)
- Sunscreen
- Travel adaptor
- Binoculars
- Small first aid kit
- Travel toilet paper
- Hand sanitiser
- Lip balm

Climate

Egypt enjoys sunshine and warm temperatures throughout the year. We only organise riding holidays from September to May. We do not offer rides from June to August in order to protect the horses from the extreme heat during this period.

The months immediately before and after summer are still quite hot and dry, with daytime temperatures of approximately 32–38°C.

The winter months are mild and comfortable, with daytime temperatures of approximately 24–29°C. You may be surprised by how cool it can become at night during winter, when temperatures can fall to around 5°C.

Health

Consult your GP at least eight weeks before departure so they can advise you and, where necessary, arrange any vaccinations appropriate to your age and health.

Travel Documents & Visas

Visas:

Visas can be obtained on arrival at the airport or online in advance. A single-entry visa is valid for 90 days, with a maximum stay of 30 days, and costs USD 25. If purchasing a visa on arrival, you must pay USD 25 in cash.

If you choose to apply for an e-Visa online, you must submit your application at least seven days before departure and no more than two months before departure. A printed copy is required at the airport. The only official website for applying for an e-Visa is <https://www.visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa/Home>.

UK nationals travelling individually or in groups may enter Egypt with a passport that remains valid for at least six months after their return date.

Currency and Tipping

Cash, Credit Cards & ATMs:

Egypt is primarily a cash-based country, and the local currency is the Egyptian pound (EGP).

Tipping is an important part of Egyptian culture and is expected for most services. However, you do not need to worry about tipping drivers, cultural guides or hotel staff, as their tips are included in the holiday price. Please note that in some situations, we suggest giving your own tip. For example, tips may be expected at public toilets or if a member of staff at a temple or tomb offers a short tour or takes photographs of you. We recommend carrying some small change for tipping in these situations. Tips are generally small amounts, between EGP 5 and 20, or approximately USD \$1. You may also choose to tip your riding guide or guides at the end of your holiday.

Obtaining local currency: Local currency can be obtained before your trip or upon arrival at the airport bank or an ATM. ATMs are available at airports and in various locations throughout Cairo and Luxor, with withdrawal fees varying depending on the bank. If you arrive in Luxor, we can help you exchange foreign currency if necessary.

Foreign currency and credit/debit cards: Foreign currency and credit/debit cards are generally accepted at airports and in larger shops. To avoid any problems using your card in Egypt, you should inform your bank of your travel plans before departure and check whether foreign transaction fees apply. Foreign currency in cash or credit/debit cards can be used to pay for additional expenses at the end of the holiday (entrance tickets, drinks and tips), as well as any extra activities or rides booked with us.

Insurance

All Saddletravel.com customers must take out travel insurance covering horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance will be required during the booking process.