

## DESTINATION INFORMATION FOR WINGS OVER ISRAEL, JORDAN & EGYPT

### What You Need to Know Before You Go

#### PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

In order to enter Israel, Jordan and Egypt as a citizen of the United States, you will need:

A signed, valid passport and a tourist visa for both Egypt and Jordan. Your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months beyond the completion of your trip.

It is also imperative that your passport has enough blank visa pages available for entry and exit stamps.

#### ISRAEL

Holders of U.S. passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Israel for stays of up to 90 days. You will be issued an Israel entry card upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) in Tel Aviv. It is recommended that you bring a large paperclip to help secure your entry card to your passport during the course of your journey.

#### VISAS JORDAN

A tourist visa for Jordan is required for U.S. passport holders and must be obtained prior to departure. Visas on arrival cannot be obtained in Aqaba.

#### VISAS EGYPT

A tourist visa for Egypt is required for U.S. passport holders. Visas can be obtained either prior to departure (eVisa, visa stamp) or on arrival.

**Visa on Arrival:** A tourist visa can be obtained on arrival at Cairo International Airport (CAI). The current fee for a single-entry visa is \$25 (subject to change without notice) and must be paid in cash in U.S. dollars.

**Electronic Visa (eVisa):** To apply for an eVisa, visit [visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa/Home](https://visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa/Home). The current fee for a single-entry visa is \$25 (subject to change without notice.) Read and follow all instructions carefully to avoid any possible complications on arrival in Egypt. Please be aware that eVisas for Egypt require that your passport must remain valid for **at least eight (8) months** beyond the completion of your journey, as opposed to the normal six month validity.

**Visa Stamp:** A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to an Egyptian consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer additional assistance in the visa process.

Contact our partner, VisaCentral for easy, efficient passport and visa processing. Call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001 or visit our Travel Store at [www.abercrombiekent.com/travel\\_store](http://www.abercrombiekent.com/travel_store).

If you are not a citizen of the United States, your entry requirements may vary. Please consult your nearest diplomatic or consular office of the country or countries you will be visiting.

#### CONSULAR INFORMATION

The U.S. State Department provides Country Specific Information sheets for every country in the world, as well as Travel Alerts and Warnings. Find this information by calling 888 407 4747 or 202 501 4444 or online at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

## CURRENCY

Israel's unit of currency is the Shekel; Jordan's is the Jordanian Dinar and Egypt's is the Egyptian Pound.

We recommend travelling with some cash and at least two different major credit cards, such as Visa and Mastercard, so you have back up if your card is not accepted or lost. Contact your bank and credit card companies to let them know where and when you'll be travelling, as well as confirm any foreign transaction fees.

When carrying cash, try to travel only with recently issued currency in smaller denominations; many merchants overseas won't accept wrinkled or torn bills. Only exchange currency at authorized outlets such as currency exchanges, banks and hotels, or withdraw local currency from ATM machines where available. Save receipts as they may be required for exit.

In all three countries cash transactions can be made in either U.S. dollars or local currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted for goods and services. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns but may be limited in rural areas.

## HEALTH

It is important to familiarize yourself with any potential health issues or concerns related to your destination, and so we strongly recommend consulting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for up-to-date information on required and recommended vaccines and medications. Visit them online at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) or call 800 232 4636. Plan to visit your doctor or local travel clinic at least 4-6 weeks before departure to allow time for any vaccinations to take effect or to fill any prescriptions.

### Required Vaccination

A yellow fever vaccination is required to enter **Jordan** and **Egypt** only if you are arriving from or have transited through a yellow fever endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC provides a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; without it, you may be denied entry. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country(ies) that you are visiting.

Required Vaccination Israel: None

## WEATHER

**Israel** experiences many warm, cloudless days throughout the year. In the spring (April and May) or autumn (September and October) temperatures are mild in most areas. November and March are likewise pleasant but do see some rain, especially in the coastal areas and in the northern part of the country. Winter (mid-November to mid-March) can be surprisingly chilly, with heavy rain along the coast and frost in the highlands.

Climate in **Jordan** is conditioned partly by altitude, with the lowest areas such as the Jordan Valley and Gulf of Aqaba being the warmest and most humid during summer months. The higher central and northern areas, in contrast, can be quite cold in winter (November to February)

**Egypt** is largely a desert, an extension of the great Sahara that bands North Africa. Save for the thin strip of watered land along the Nile River, very little could survive here. Generally, the summers are hot and dry and the winters, moderate. Alexandria gets the most rainfall, while there is very little rainfall in the Nile Valley.

Use a website such as [weather.com](http://weather.com) to find average temperatures and rainfall during your travel times.

## ELECTRICAL SERVICE

**Israel, Jordan and Egypt** all supply electricity at 220-240 volts / 50 hertz.

Be sure to pack a universal travel adapter. You can purchase one through A&K's Travel Store at [usa.thetraveloutfitter.com/index.php](http://usa.thetraveloutfitter.com/index.php)

## WHAT TO PACK

Bring materials that breathe; wear layers that can be taken off during the heat of the day and put back on for cool evenings.

Conservative clothing such as lightweight pants, loose shorts, long skirts or trousers and at least short-sleeved shirts are recommended for both sexes when sightseeing in towns.

Somewhat smarter clothing is appropriate for evening dining in city restaurants and aboard your Nile Cruise vessel.

Temples, mosques and other religious sites require conservative dress. Both sexes should cover their arms, legs and shoulders. Wear or carry a pair of socks, since shoes must be removed when entering religious buildings.

Women should pack a scarf large enough to cover bare neck and shoulders.

An umbrella – to use as a sun shade.

Pack a swimming suit; many local hotels have swimming pools.

Carry a sweater or lightweight jacket for evenings and fiercely air-conditioned interiors.

Pack comfortable, walking shoes. Sandals may not be appropriate for some sightseeing activities. Shoes with crepe or rubber soles are best for walking in the desert and temple sites.

Sunglasses, sun block and a sunhat.

Collapsible walking stick.

A small flashlight is useful in case of a local power failure.

If you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, be sure to pack an extra pair(s).

Simple first-aid kit. Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)

Charging cables for electronics. Voltage converter and adapter plugs.

Laundry Service is available at most hotels and on Nile Cruise vessels. Dry cleaning is available in larger cities.

Note: We recommend that guests do not bring binoculars when travelling to Jordan. There have been reports of binoculars being confiscated upon arrival resulting in delays at the airport or border crossings.

## Baggage Restrictions

On Charter Air flights within the Middle East, each passenger is limited to approximately 70 pounds (32 kilograms) of checked baggage. For carry-on baggage, passengers are allowed one piece of baggage with a maximum weight of approximately 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms.) Dimensions of your carry-on bag must not exceed 7 inches (18 centimeters) x 15 inches (38 centimeters) x 21 inches (53 centimeters). Carry-on bags for your group will be stowed with the checked luggage and not be accessible during flights.

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

## What You Need to Know When You Arrive

### TIME ZONES

**Israel, Jordan and Egypt** all operate on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 2 hours.

At 9:00 a.m. in these countries, it is:

EST	2:00 a.m. the same day
CST	1:00 a.m. the same day
MST	12:00 a.m. the same day
PST	11:00 p.m. the previous day

### LANGUAGE

While both Hebrew and Arabic are official languages in **Israel**, Hebrew is by far the most widely spoken. Although many Israelis with whom you will come into contact speak and understand English, as well as other European languages.

The official language of both **Jordan** and **Egypt** is Arabic, although many Jordanians and Egyptians with whom you will come into contact speak and understand English, as well as many other European languages. Please consult with your guide on translations, if needed.

### AIRPORT INFORMATION

At international airports in **Israel**, passengers cannot be met inside secured areas. This includes Immigration, Customs halls and Baggage Claim. Your A&K representative will greet you as you exit these restricted areas; look for the person holding the distinctive A&K signboard.

Before departing, remember to tag your checked luggage with the A&K luggage tags provided. These brightly colored markers help identify you and your luggage quickly.

Note: As mentioned in the “What to Pack” section, we recommend that guests do not bring binoculars when travelling to **Jordan**. There have been reports of binoculars being confiscated upon arrival resulting in delays at the airport or border crossings.

### PROTECTION AND PRECAUTIONS

Use the safes where available in your accommodations to secure your valuables, especially passports, medications, jewelry, money and electronics. If you must carry valuables, keep them on your person at all times. Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra caution in crowds.

Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport; leave one copy with a family member or friend and pack another separately from the passport itself. You may want to scan and email a copy to yourself for easy, online access. This will help you to quickly secure a replacement should the need arise.

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

### ETIQUETTE & PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless you are shooting a crowded public scene, it is considered courteous to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, especially small children. Please be respectful of local people who do not care to be photographed.

Still camera and video camera fees are applicable at most sights and museums. Local people may expect to be compensated if you include them in a photograph. It's best to determine if your intended subject expects to be paid before taking a photo.

Photography is not permitted at some locations, which may include government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc. Photography in Egypt is also often restricted at certain sites to preserve antiquities which can be damaged by flash photography. These areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask; this will avoid having your camera confiscated. Flash photography is prohibited in some situations.

Be sure to pack ample amounts of batteries and memory cards or film for your camera and video equipment, along with the appropriate charging cables. A dustproof case or sealable plastic bags and lens brush are also recommended.

## FOOD AND DRINK

Do not use tap water for drinking or brushing teeth. Even "purified" water in open containers should be avoided. It is always preferable and safer to use only bottled water.

Regardless of precautions, changes in water and diet can result in mild abdominal upsets and nausea. To prevent serious illness, avoid suspect foods such as uncooked vegetables, peeled fruit, unpasteurized milk and milk products. Beware of any food or drink sold by street vendors.

## SHOPPING

Many A&K guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as A&K's endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made.

The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your Abercrombie & Kent representative.

To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

- Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing.
- Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue. If you choose to ship purchases, we suggest taking a picture of the item(s) and/or marking them in some way to ensure you receive what was purchased. For example, you could write your name on the backside of a rug. Determine if your shipment will be delivered door-to-door or to the nearest customs facility, as is often the case. Most goods shipped from other countries to the United States are subject to Customs duty.
- Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf. Currently, each person is entitled to an \$800 duty-free exemption, however, may only bring one liter of alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars.
- Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S.

Consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for more details. <http://www.cbp.gov/>

## COMMUNICATIONS

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required.

If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey:

	<b>Wings Over the World Journeys</b>	<b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>
Resident Tour Director in Israel & Jordan, Egyptologist	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides in Israel or Jordan (driving own vehicle)	Not applicable	\$40 per person, per day (full day)
Local Guides in Israel or Jordan (with separate driver)	Not applicable	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Local Guides or Egyptologist in Egypt	Not applicable	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Nile Cruise Vessel (if applicable)	Included	\$10-\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted on board and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

*For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a small group journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journey guidelines for these days only.*

Please Note: In **Egypt** it is extremely common to encounter restroom attendants in airports, bazaars, and other sites frequented by tourists. While not compulsory, it is customary to tip these individuals an amount in Egyptian Pounds equal to approximately .25 to .50 cents.