



Desert Travel Information

- Desert Travel** We are aware that most people in Europe are unfamiliar with desert travel. Our paramount concern is that clients are able to enjoy the different environment with full confidence in the experience of our guides and our utmost care of safety
- Guides** Each of our pre-arranged journeys is accompanied by a Sinai Adventures English speaking leader and a local guide. Both are experienced in desert travel and knowledgeable about Sinai and Western Egypt. They will introduce you to the desert environment, guide you round the historical and biblical sites, talk, discuss and answer questions, sharing their knowledge and experience with you.
- Bedouin** We have long-standing friendships with the local Bedouin with whom we work. They are honest and hospitable people.
- Accommodation** Each itinerary will specify the accommodation for the journey. In the desert we normally sleep “under the stars”, the most beautiful way to sleep in the Sinai and Western Desert as the night skies are remarkable. Clients are required to bring their own sleeping bags and mats. Some itineraries include hotel accommodation on the Oasis or in Dahab. Requests for single rooms (a supplement is payable) should be included on your voucher.
- Meals and Water** In the desert we provide 2 cooked meals and a picnic lunch each day as well as water for drinking and tea. Clients are required to bring their own water bottle. The food is plentiful, it is hygienically prepared and is a mixture of European and local e.g. rice, pasta, chicken, fish, salads, freshly baked Bedouin bread.
- Camel Trip** The camels are provided and led by local Bedouin. The saddles are well padded and there are plenty of rest stops and interest spots along the way. It is a pleasant and relaxing way to travel.
- Itineraries** Due to the nature of our journeys, changes may be necessary or advisable due to weather and other local factors. We do our utmost to limit the impact of any changes.
- Money** Although nearly everything on your itinerary is included in the price of your holiday, you might want to bring some money for postcards, presents, drinks, etc... You will be able to buy Bedouin craft work and there is a good bookshop at St. Catherine’s Monastery. The local currency is Egyptian pounds. Travellers cheques and credit cards can be taken as a back-up although they are only accepted in a very limited number of places. **Small denomination notes are best.**
- Vaccinations** Please ensure you have had the recommended injections, tetanus, polio, typhoid, hepatitis A & B. Please consult your doctor for more precision.
- Voltage** For those staying in hotels you might want to bring an electric razor, hair-drier, battery charger etc... The voltage is 220 V with 50 Hz and you should be prepared for failures of the electricity supply which still occur sometimes.
- Sleeping under the stars** Each evening you will arrive at camp with plenty of time to choose a comfortable spot for the night. If you are unused to sleeping outside, help is always available. Sleeping out in the Sinai or Western Desert is very safe, it is the best way to enjoy the remarkable night skies. Many people bring a planisphere.
- Washing** In the desert there is only a limited amount of water for washing. But as the desert is dry and clean, you tend to become dusty rather than dirty. Each morning and evening there will be a small amount of water for washing. In the mountains or near the Oasis of the Western Desert more water may be available but please be careful not to contaminate any of the water sources (rock pools, springs and wells), with shampoo, toothpaste, etc...



Desert Travel Information

Toilets, desert and mountains

There are no formal arrangements! But in the desert and mountains, whether we are driving, trekking or camping, there will be always be enough discreet places to disappear behind. As the desert preserves everything we can not leave any litter. You will therefore need to put all lavatory paper and any sanitary products into small plastic bags which then go, at a convenient moment, into a camp rubbish bag which we dispose of in an appropriate way.

Insects

There are surprisingly few insects and creepy crawlies in the desert. Although there are snakes and scorpions, it is unusual to come across them. It is however best to be on the safe side; sleeping bags, packs etc... should be kept closed until needed. You should bring some insect repellent and insect bite cream as a precaution.

Climate

The climate in the desert can be extremely pleasant; warm and dry with a gentle breeze. It is very easy to underestimate the power of the sun. To avoid sun related problems, they are three things you need to guard against at all times:

Dehydration : drink a little water often (you should drink 3 litres a day min.)

Heatstroke : keep your head and neck covered at all times during the day.

Sunburn : wear long sleeves, long trousers and high factor sun cream or sun block .

Tips and presents for the Bedouin

We tip on behalf of the group, having a central system helps avoid any confusion. However you may want to tip those people who have helped you specially; this is fine. Clients often ask us about bringing presents and clothes for the Bedouin. Whilst they are welcome, please be aware of the precedents that may be set and the consequential problems, particularly in the remote areas we visit. It is best to ask your guide.

Further Information

We are always happy to answer questions and talk more about our journeys, so please do not hesitate to call our agent.