

EGYPT

TRAVEL GUIDE

DECEMBER • WEATHER • CAIRO • FOOD • CURRENCY • TRAVEL TIPS



EGYPTIAN FOOD



KHAN EL-KHALILI



THE NILE

DISCOVER EGYPT

Egypt in December: A Detailed Visitor Guide

A Detailed Travel Guide to Egypt in December

Weather • Cairo & Giza • Attractions • Food • Currency • Clothing • Practical Travel Advice

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Introduction

Egypt is a destination where history, culture, nature, food and modern city life come together in a unique way. It is home to some of the world's most famous archaeological monuments, including the Pyramids of Giza, the Great Sphinx, the temples of Luxor and Karnak, and the tombs of the Valley of the Kings. At the same time, visitors can enjoy the River Nile, traditional markets, modern restaurants, Red Sea beaches, desert landscapes and a rich local food culture.

December is one of the most comfortable months for visiting Egypt. It is winter, but Egyptian winters are generally mild compared with those in Europe and North America. Days are often sunny and pleasant, while mornings and evenings can be cool. This makes December particularly suitable for walking tours, archaeological visits, Nile cruises and desert excursions.

For a first visit, **Cairo and Giza should receive special attention**, as they provide an excellent introduction to ancient Egyptian history as well as Islamic, Coptic and modern Egyptian culture. Cairo is a huge and vibrant city built around the Nile, while neighbouring Giza contains the country's most internationally recognised monuments. Egypt's official tourism authority presents Greater Cairo as a destination combining the ancient wonders of Giza, medieval Historic Cairo, Downtown Cairo and modern neighbourhoods along the Nile.

1. The Climate of Egypt in December

Egypt has a predominantly dry desert climate. However, weather conditions vary significantly between northern Egypt, Cairo, Upper Egypt, the desert and the Red Sea coast.

December is part of Egypt's winter season. Rainfall is generally limited, especially in Upper Egypt and desert regions, while northern coastal areas such as Alexandria have a greater possibility of rain.

Cairo and Giza

December in Cairo is generally mild during the day and noticeably cooler after sunset.

Historical climate averages for Cairo indicate an average December daytime high of about **21°C (69°F)** and an average nighttime low of approximately **12°C (53°F)**.

The middle of the day can feel pleasantly warm when the sun is shining. However, early mornings, shaded areas, outdoor restaurants and late evenings can feel much cooler than international visitors may expect.

Because Cairo is a large city, visitors may also experience some haze or reduced visibility on certain days.

A typical December day in Cairo might begin with a cool morning, become sunny and comfortable around midday, and turn cool again after sunset.

For this reason, **layered clothing is the best choice**.

Luxor

Luxor is warmer and much drier than Cairo during the daytime. December is considered an excellent period for visiting temples and archaeological sites because the intense summer heat is absent.

Average December temperatures are approximately **24°C (76°F) during the day and 9°C (48°F) at night**. Rain is extremely rare.

The difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures can therefore be considerable. A visitor may be comfortable in a shirt during an afternoon temple visit but require a jacket for an early-morning balloon trip or an evening outdoors.

Aswan

Aswan has a very dry desert climate and normally experiences sunny days in December. It is an excellent winter destination for visitors interested in Nubian culture, Philae Temple, the Nile and Abu Simbel.

Days are generally warm and comfortable, while evenings and early mornings can be cool.

Because of the strong sun, sunglasses and sun protection remain useful even during winter.

Hurghada and the Red Sea

Hurghada and other Red Sea resorts remain popular during December.

Historical averages in Hurghada are around **24°C (75°F) during the day and 13°C (56°F) at night**.

It may still be possible to swim, snorkel and dive, especially during sunny daytime hours. However, wind can make the temperature feel cooler, particularly after leaving the water.

A light jacket or sweater is therefore recommended for evenings.

Alexandria

Alexandria is located on the Mediterranean coast and has a different winter climate from southern Egypt.

December temperatures are cooler, and the city can experience rain, wind and higher humidity. Historical climate comparisons put the average December high at roughly **19°C (67°F)** and the average low at about **11°C (52°F)**.

Visitors planning to spend time in Alexandria should therefore bring a slightly warmer jacket and, ideally, a small umbrella.

2. Why December Is a Good Time to Visit Egypt

December offers several advantages.

The first is the temperature. Sites such as the Giza Plateau, Saqqara, Karnak and the Valley of the Kings involve considerable outdoor walking. Exploring them is much more comfortable in winter than during the extremely hot summer months.

December is also ideal for Nile cruises between Luxor and Aswan, desert excursions and long walking tours around Historic Cairo.

However, December is also a popular tourism period, particularly around **Christmas and New Year**. Hotels, Nile cruises and flights can therefore become busier and more expensive toward the end of the month.

Visitors travelling during the Christmas and New Year period should book important accommodation, domestic flights and major tours in advance.

3. Cairo and Giza – The Heart of the Egyptian Experience

Cairo deserves several days rather than a short stop.

Greater Cairo offers visitors several historical layers within one metropolitan area: Pharaonic Egypt in Giza and nearby Saqqara, Roman and Christian heritage in Old Cairo, medieval Islamic monuments in Historic Cairo, nineteenth- and twentieth-century architecture in Downtown Cairo, and contemporary Egyptian life in areas such as Zamalek and New Cairo.

Traffic can be heavy, so it is better to organise each day geographically rather than trying to travel repeatedly between distant areas.

4. The Pyramids of Giza

The **Giza Plateau** is the most famous archaeological area in Egypt and should normally be one of the first destinations for a visitor to Cairo.

The site contains the three principal pyramids of:

Khufu – the Great Pyramid

Khafre

Menkaure

The Great Pyramid of Khufu is more than 4,500 years old and is the only surviving structure among the traditional Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

However, the Giza Plateau contains much more than three pyramids. The wider archaeological landscape includes smaller queens' pyramids, mastaba tombs, mortuary temples, workers' remains and other structures associated with the royal pyramid complexes.

Visitors should allow several hours to explore the area properly.

The Great Sphinx

The Great Sphinx is located near the pyramid complex of King Khafre.

It was carved from limestone and combines the body of a lion with a human head. It is one of the largest and most recognisable ancient sculptures in the world.

Practical Advice for the Pyramids

December is particularly pleasant for visiting Giza because visitors are exposed to the sun for several hours.

It is best to wear comfortable shoes, use sunscreen and bring water even though the weather is not hot.

An early start is usually preferable because it provides more time to explore the site.

Visitors should also agree on the price before taking optional camel, horse or carriage rides.

5. The Grand Egyptian Museum

The **Grand Egyptian Museum, or GEM**, is located close to the Giza Pyramids and is one of the most important cultural attractions in modern Egypt.

The museum is dedicated to ancient Egyptian civilization and contains tens of thousands of archaeological objects.

One of its most important features is the presentation of the treasures associated with King Tutankhamun. The museum also contains the colossal statue of Ramesses II, the Grand Staircase, royal statues, sarcophagi and objects covering thousands of years of Egyptian history.

The official tourism information currently lists twelve main permanent exhibition halls covering Egyptian history from prehistoric periods through the Roman era.

The GEM and Giza Pyramids work particularly well together as a full-day programme because they are located in the same general part of Greater Cairo.

Visitors interested in archaeology should avoid rushing through the museum. Several hours can easily be spent inside.

6. The Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square

The historic **Egyptian Museum** is located in Downtown Cairo at Tahrir Square.

It is the oldest archaeological museum in the Middle East and North Africa region and contains collections covering Egyptian history from the Predynastic period through the Graeco-Roman period.

The building itself is an important part of Cairo's modern history.

Even with the Grand Egyptian Museum now serving as a major attraction in Giza, the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir remains interesting for visitors who want to understand the long development of Egyptian archaeology and museum collections.

7. Historic and Islamic Cairo

A visitor should not think of Cairo only as the city of the pyramids.

Historic Cairo contains one of the world's richest concentrations of Islamic architecture.

Al-Muizz Street

Al-Muizz Street is one of the best locations for exploring medieval Cairo.

The area contains mosques, madrasas, historic houses, mausoleums and traditional architecture representing different periods of Islamic history.

Egypt's tourism authority describes Al-Muizz as a major open-air display of Islamic architectural masterpieces.

Walking through this district in the late afternoon and evening is one of the most atmospheric experiences in Cairo.

Khan El-Khalili

Khan El-Khalili is Cairo's famous traditional bazaar.

Visitors will find shops selling jewellery, lanterns, perfumes, textiles, spices, leather goods, souvenirs and handicrafts.

It is also an excellent area for experiencing traditional cafés and the atmosphere of old Cairo.

Shopping here is different from shopping in a modern mall. Bargaining is common, particularly for souvenirs and handicrafts.

A visitor should ask for the price first and negotiate politely.

Salah El-Din Citadel

The Citadel of Salah El-Din is one of the most recognisable landmarks of Islamic Cairo and originated as a major medieval defensive complex.

Inside the Citadel is the famous **Muhammad Ali Mosque**, also known as the Alabaster Mosque.

Its elevated position provides impressive views across Cairo on clear days.

8. Coptic Cairo and Old Cairo

Old Cairo contains several sites associated with the development of Christianity in Egypt.

One of the most important is the **Hanging Church**, which was constructed above the remains of a Roman fortress and contains important religious icons.

Visitors can also explore the Coptic Museum, the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus and other historic religious sites in the district.

The area can be combined with nearby Islamic sites to provide visitors with a better understanding of Egypt's religious and cultural diversity.

9. The Nile Experience

The River Nile has shaped Egyptian civilization for thousands of years and remains central to the character of Cairo.

One of the simplest and most enjoyable experiences is a **felucca ride**.

A felucca is a traditional sailing boat. A trip close to sunset provides an opportunity to see the city's skyline from the water while escaping some of the noise and traffic of the streets.

Visitors can also choose larger dinner cruises with entertainment and meals.

Areas around Zamalek, Garden City and Downtown Cairo provide many views of the river.

10. Downtown Cairo and Zamalek

Downtown Cairo provides a completely different experience from the ancient monuments.

Its streets contain nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings, cafés, shops, cultural institutions and busy public squares.

Tahrir Square is located in this district.

Zamalek, on Gezira Island, has a quieter atmosphere and is popular for cafés, restaurants, galleries and evening walks.

It can be a good location for dinner after a day of sightseeing.

11. Saqqara, Memphis and Dahshur

Visitors with an additional day should consider travelling south of central Cairo to explore earlier stages of Egyptian pyramid development.

Saqqara

Saqqara contains the famous **Step Pyramid of King Djoser**, one of Egypt's earliest monumental stone structures. Egypt's official tourism information identifies Saqqara as the location of Egypt's oldest stone monument.

The archaeological area also contains tombs, smaller pyramids and the Serapeum.

Memphis

Memphis was one of the ancient capitals of Egypt.

Its archaeological remains include important statues and monuments.

Dahshur

Dahshur is particularly valuable for understanding how Egyptian pyramid architecture developed.

The famous **Bent Pyramid** and **Red Pyramid** demonstrate important stages in the transition toward the smooth-sided pyramids later constructed at Giza.

12. Suggested Four-Day Cairo Programme

For a more relaxed visit, four full days are preferable.

Day One – Giza: Begin early at the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. After lunch, spend the afternoon at the Grand Egyptian Museum. Finish with dinner in Giza or at a restaurant with a pyramid view.

Day Two – Islamic Cairo: Visit Salah El-Din Citadel and Muhammad Ali Mosque in the morning. Continue to Al-Muizz Street and explore medieval Cairo before spending the evening in Khan El-Khalili.

Day Three – Downtown and Old Cairo: Visit the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, explore Downtown Cairo, then continue to Coptic Cairo. End the day with a sunset felucca ride followed by dinner in Zamalek.

Day Four – Saqqara, Memphis and Dahshur: Take a day excursion south of Cairo to understand the development of ancient Egyptian pyramid architecture.

This programme avoids attempting to cross the city repeatedly during the same day, which can save considerable travel time.

13. Luxor

Luxor is one of the world's greatest archaeological destinations.

Ancient Thebes, located in the modern Luxor region, forms part of a UNESCO World Heritage area and includes monumental temples, royal tombs and religious complexes.

On the **East Bank**, visitors can explore Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple.

On the **West Bank**, major sites include the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari and the Colossi of Memnon.

A hot-air balloon flight is also a popular early-morning activity.

Because December mornings can be cold in Luxor, visitors taking balloon rides should wear warmer layers.

14. Aswan and Abu Simbel

Aswan has a slower atmosphere than Cairo and Luxor and is particularly beautiful during winter.

Visitors can explore **Philae Temple**, sail on the Nile, visit Nubian communities and enjoy the natural scenery around the islands and granite rocks of the river.

A trip to **Abu Simbel** is highly recommended for visitors interested in ancient Egyptian history.

The temples were carved into the mountain during the reign of Ramesses II. The main temple is famous for the four enormous seated statues dominating its façade.

15. Nile Cruises

One of the classic ways to experience Egypt is to take a Nile cruise between Luxor and Aswan.

Cruises generally include stops at important archaeological sites along the river.

December is particularly suitable because passengers can spend time on deck without the extreme summer temperatures.

Visitors should still bring a jacket because mornings and evenings on the river can feel cold.

16. Red Sea Holidays

Visitors who want to combine culture with relaxation can add several days on the Red Sea.

Hurghada

Hurghada offers beaches, diving, snorkelling, boat excursions and desert activities.

Sharm El-Sheikh

Sharm El-Sheikh is well known for diving, coral reefs, beach resorts and excursions in southern Sinai.

Marsa Alam

Marsa Alam is often preferred by visitors looking for a quieter Red Sea experience and strong diving and marine-life opportunities.

Even in December, sunscreen is important because the sun remains strong.

17. Alexandria

Alexandria provides a completely different Egyptian experience.

Located on the Mediterranean Sea, it combines Egyptian, Greco-Roman and Mediterranean cultural influences.

Visitors can see the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, **Qaitbay Citadel**, the Corniche, archaeological sites and Montaza.

Alexandria is also famous for fish and seafood restaurants.

Because December can be rainy and windy, a light waterproof jacket or umbrella is useful.

18. Siwa, Fayoum and the Western Desert

Travellers interested in nature and adventure may prefer Egypt's desert destinations.

Siwa Oasis is known for traditional local culture, palm groves, salt lakes, desert scenery and natural springs.

Fayoum offers lakes, desert landscapes, archaeological locations and areas such as Wadi El-Hitan.

The **White Desert** is famous for extraordinary white chalk formations shaped naturally by wind erosion.

December is one of the best periods for desert tourism because daytime temperatures are more comfortable.

However, desert nights can become surprisingly cold.

19. Egyptian Food – An Essential Part of the Visit

Egyptian cuisine reflects the country's agricultural history, Mediterranean influences and long-established street-food culture.

Koshari

Koshari is probably Egypt's most famous everyday dish.

It combines rice, lentils, pasta and chickpeas and is topped with tomato sauce, crispy fried onions and usually a garlic-vinegar sauce.

It is inexpensive, filling and widely available.

Ful Medames

Ful is made from slowly cooked fava beans.

It is commonly eaten for breakfast and may be seasoned with lemon, cumin, olive oil, tomatoes or chilli.

It is usually eaten with Egyptian baladi bread.

Ta'ameya

Egyptian ta'ameya is similar to falafel but is traditionally made mainly from fava beans rather than chickpeas.

It is often eaten at breakfast with bread, salad and tahini.

Molokhia

Molokhia is prepared from finely chopped green leaves and has a distinctive texture.

It is usually served with rice and chicken, meat or rabbit.

Mahshi

Mahshi refers to vegetables stuffed with seasoned rice and herbs.

Common varieties include cabbage leaves, vine leaves, courgettes, peppers and aubergines.

Hawawshi

Hawawshi consists of seasoned minced meat cooked inside Egyptian bread.
It is particularly popular as a quick and satisfying meal.

Fattah

Fattah is traditionally prepared with layers of bread and rice accompanied by meat and a garlic-vinegar sauce.
It is often associated with celebrations and family meals.

Kebab and Kofta

Kebab usually refers to pieces of grilled meat, while kofta consists of seasoned minced meat grilled on skewers.
Both are widely available in Egyptian restaurants.

Seafood

Alexandria and Red Sea destinations are especially good choices for visitors who enjoy seafood.
Many restaurants allow customers to choose fresh fish before it is prepared.

20. Egyptian Desserts

Egyptian sweets are usually rich and sweet.
Om Ali is a warm dessert prepared from pastry, milk or cream and nuts.
Basbousa is a semolina cake soaked in sweet syrup.
Konafa is made using fine pastry strands and may contain cream, nuts or modern fillings.
Roz Bel Laban, Egyptian rice pudding, is another simple but popular dessert.
During winter, visitors may also find **sweet potatoes roasted in street carts**, especially in Cairo.

21. Traditional Drinks

Tea is one of the most common drinks in Egypt and is served throughout the day.
Coffee is also widely consumed.
Visitors should try **Karkadeh**, a hibiscus drink that can be served hot or cold.
Fresh sugarcane juice is another popular local drink and can be found at specialised juice shops.
Fresh mango, guava, strawberry and other seasonal fruit juices are also common.

22. Currency in Egypt

Egypt's official currency is the **Egyptian Pound**, internationally abbreviated as **EGP**.
Prices may sometimes be written using **LE**, which comes from the French expression *Livre Égyptienne*.
As of **6 September 2026**, exchange rates are approximately:

Foreign Currency	Approximate Value
1 US Dollar	EGP 50.95
1 Euro	EGP 59.21
1 British Pound	EGP 68.95
1 Saudi Riyal	EGP 13.58

These figures should be treated only as a reference. **Exchange rates can change before a December trip**, so travellers should check the current rate immediately before exchanging money.
For example, at an indicative rate of approximately EGP 50.95 per US dollar, USD 100 would equal approximately EGP 5,095 before any charges or differences between buying and selling rates.

23. How to Exchange Money in Egypt

Visitors have several options for obtaining Egyptian Pounds.

Banks

Banks are among the safest places to exchange foreign currency.

A passport may sometimes be requested for certain transactions.

Licensed Exchange Offices

Official currency-exchange companies operate in major tourist areas and cities.

Visitors should check the displayed buying rate before completing the transaction.

ATMs

ATMs are widely available in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Luxor, Aswan, Hurghada and other major destinations.

International bank cards can often be used to withdraw Egyptian Pounds directly.

The traveller's own bank may charge international withdrawal or currency-conversion fees.

If an ATM or payment machine offers to charge the transaction in the traveller's home currency instead of Egyptian Pounds, it is useful to check the conversion rate carefully. In many cases, allowing the traveller's own bank to perform the conversion may provide a better rate than optional dynamic currency conversion.

Credit and Debit Cards

Visa and Mastercard are commonly accepted at major hotels, shopping malls, larger restaurants, supermarkets and many tourist establishments.

However, visitors should **not depend entirely on cards**.

Cash remains useful for taxis, tips, traditional markets, small cafés, street food and small purchases.

Carrying several small Egyptian Pound notes is therefore extremely helpful.

24. Clothing in Egypt in December

Clothing should be selected for both the weather and the activities planned.

The most important principle is **layering**.

Clothing in Cairo

During a sunny afternoon, a T-shirt or long-sleeved shirt with trousers may be enough.

Early in the morning and after sunset, add a sweater, cardigan or jacket.

A medium-weight jacket can be very useful on colder December evenings.

Clothing for the Pyramids

Wear comfortable walking shoes because the ground can be sandy, uneven and rocky.

Light trousers or jeans are suitable.

A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are also useful.

Clothing in Luxor and Aswan

Daytime clothing can be relatively light.

However, early-morning excursions and evenings require additional layers.

A warm sweater or light jacket is particularly important for sunrise activities.

Clothing at the Red Sea

Bring swimwear, beach clothes and sandals for daytime activities.

Also bring a sweater or wind-resistant jacket for the evening.

Clothing for Desert Trips

Desert temperature changes can be dramatic.

A warm jacket, closed shoes, trousers and a scarf are recommended for overnight desert excursions.

25. Modest Clothing and Religious Sites

Egypt is a modern society but remains culturally conservative in many areas.

Tourists do not normally need to dress in traditional Egyptian clothing.

However, relatively modest clothing is appreciated when visiting residential neighbourhoods, markets and religious sites.

When entering mosques, shoulders and knees should normally be covered. Footwear is generally removed before entering prayer areas.

Women may be requested to cover their hair in some mosques, although arrangements and requirements vary by site.

At Red Sea beach resorts and hotel swimming pools, standard swimwear is normal.

Beachwear should generally remain within beach and resort areas rather than being worn while visiting historic city districts.

26. What to Pack for a December Trip

A useful packing checklist includes:

- Passport and copies of important documents
- Travel insurance information
- T-shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Jeans or comfortable trousers
- Sweater or cardigan
- Light or medium-weight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sandals or flip-flops
- Swimwear for Red Sea destinations
- Scarf or shawl
- Sunglasses
- Hat or cap
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Moisturiser, especially for desert travel
- Small backpack
- Reusable water bottle
- Personal medication
- Hand sanitiser
- Tissues
- Mobile telephone charger
- Power bank
- Travel adapter if required
- Small amount of Egyptian cash

Egypt generally uses European-style round-pin electrical plugs, and visitors should check whether their electrical equipment requires an adapter before travelling.

27. Transportation in Cairo

Cairo is enormous, and transportation planning is important.

Ride-hailing services can be convenient because the route and estimated cost are normally displayed before or during the journey.

Traditional taxis are also available.

Uber, Didi and on drive services are available

The **Cairo Metro** can be useful for some areas and avoids road traffic, although it does not directly connect every tourist attraction.

Private drivers and organised tours can be particularly convenient for Giza, Saqqara and Dahshur.

Visitors should always allow additional time when travelling to airports, railway stations or scheduled tours because traffic conditions can vary considerably.

28. Transportation Between Egyptian Cities

Several transportation methods connect Egypt's major tourist destinations.

Domestic flights are useful for longer routes such as Cairo–Luxor, Cairo–Aswan and Cairo–Sharm El-Sheikh.

Trains connect Cairo with Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan.

Tourist buses and private transfers are also available between many destinations.

A Nile cruise is one of the most attractive ways to travel between Luxor and Aswan while visiting archaeological sites along the route.

29. Drinking Water and Food Hygiene

International visitors often prefer bottled drinking water.

Bottled water is widely available.

When eating street food, choose busy places with a high turnover of customers and food that is freshly cooked and served hot.

Visitors with sensitive stomachs may wish to introduce unfamiliar foods gradually rather than trying many rich dishes on their first day.

30. Shopping and Bargaining

Traditional markets are an important part of Egyptian culture.

In places such as Khan El-Khalili, bargaining is common.

Negotiation should remain friendly and respectful.

If you are not interested in purchasing an item, a polite **“No, thank you”** is usually sufficient.

In modern shopping malls, supermarkets and many formal stores, prices are fixed.

Popular Egyptian souvenirs include cotton products, decorative lanterns, spices, jewellery, handmade textiles, perfume oils, papyrus-style artwork and traditional crafts.

31. Tipping

Small tips are common in Egypt and are often referred to locally as **baksheesh**.

It is useful to keep small Egyptian Pound notes available.

Tipping may be appropriate for hotel staff, drivers, guides and restaurant service depending on the service received.

Visitors should not feel obliged to tip repeatedly without receiving a service.

32. Language

Arabic is the official language.

English is widely understood in many hotels, archaeological sites, tourist restaurants and tourism businesses.

Learning a few Arabic expressions can make interactions more enjoyable.

For example:

Shukran means “Thank you.”

Min fadlak / min fadlik means “Please.”

Salam alaikum is a common greeting.

La, shukran means “No, thank you.”

33. A Recommended Seven-Day First Visit

For travellers with approximately one week, a balanced programme could be:

Days 1–3: Cairo and Giza. Explore the Pyramids, the Grand Egyptian Museum, Historic Cairo, Khan El-Khalili, Coptic Cairo and the Nile.

Day 4: Fly or travel to Luxor. Visit Karnak and Luxor Temple.

Day 5: West Bank of Luxor. Explore the Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut Temple and the Colossi of Memnon.

Day 6: Travel toward Aswan. Explore the Nile scenery and Aswan.

Day 7: Visit Philae or make an excursion to Abu Simbel before continuing the journey or returning to Cairo.

For visitors who prefer relaxation, two or three additional days can be added in Hurghada or Sharm El-Sheikh.

34. Suggested Ten-Day Egypt Programme

A ten-day trip allows visitors to experience the country at a more comfortable pace.

Spend approximately **three to four days in Cairo**, followed by **two days in Luxor**, **two days in Aswan**, and **two or three days at the Red Sea**.

Another excellent option is to replace part of the overland programme with a Nile cruise.

This combination gives visitors five different aspects of Egypt: ancient civilization, Islamic and Coptic heritage, modern Egyptian city life, the Nile Valley and the Red Sea.

35. Important Advice for a December Visit

Visitors should remember that December temperatures can be deceptive.

Egypt may appear warm in photographs, but winter mornings and evenings can feel genuinely cold, especially after spending several hours outside.

Always carry an extra layer in your day bag.

Start archaeological visits early whenever possible.

Keep Egyptian cash in small denominations.

Wear comfortable shoes.

Allow extra transportation time in Cairo.

Drink enough water even when the weather is cool.

Use sun protection during long outdoor excursions.

Respect local customs when entering religious buildings.

Most importantly, avoid trying to see too many monuments in one day. Egypt's major archaeological sites deserve time.

Conclusion

Egypt in December offers one of the best combinations of climate, culture and sightseeing opportunities available during the year.

The mild winter weather makes it possible to explore archaeological sites comfortably, walk through Cairo's historic neighbourhoods, cruise along the Nile, visit desert landscapes and still enjoy the beaches of the Red Sea.

For first-time visitors, **Cairo and Giza should form the centre of the journey**. The Pyramids and Sphinx provide an introduction to ancient Egypt, while the Grand Egyptian Museum expands that experience through thousands of archaeological objects. Historic Cairo, Coptic Cairo, Khan El-Khalili, the Citadel, Downtown and the Nile reveal completely

different sides of Egyptian history and everyday life. The wider Cairo region also provides access to Saqqara, Memphis and Dahshur, where visitors can explore the evolution of pyramid construction.

A longer journey should combine Cairo with **Luxor and Aswan** for archaeology and Nile scenery, followed by the **Red Sea** for relaxation, swimming and diving. Travellers with additional time can also discover Alexandria, Siwa, Fayoum and the Western Desert.

Egypt is not simply a destination where visitors look at ancient monuments. It is a place where ancient history exists beside modern cities, traditional markets, cafés, local food, the Nile and everyday Egyptian life.

With appropriate clothing, comfortable footwear, some Egyptian cash and a well-planned itinerary, **December can be an excellent time to experience the country.**