

Best of the West Bank

Weight limit: 95kg
Nearest airport: Luxor
6 days /5 nights / 4 riding days



A laid-back holiday exclusively on the West Bank of Luxor. This concise tour offers maximum riding & relaxation for those who have already seen the sights of Egypt or only want to ride. Highlights include a sunset desert ride, canters along sugar cane fields and a carriage tour of the West Bank.

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 spirited, quick, and versatile. They are ridden in English tack.

Many of the horses have been rescued from difficult situations 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 do their best to 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). There are 4-7 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.

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 is mainly local specialties - koshari, Egypt's national dish, "bird's tongue" soup and pigeon, falafel and ful medames.



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 favorite restaurants in Luxor where we can get acquainted over some delicious Egyptian food.

Day 2

Ease into the morning with a ride through the lush green farmland around the Nile. Make your way through lovely village streets as you're greeted with friendly smiles and waves. Trot past ancient statues and ruins on the way to lunch near Habu Temple. In the afternoon, venture into the desert where the horses will have the opportunity to show off their speed! On the way back, follow the canal on narrow trails perfect for lengthy canters. Make a stop at Banana Island for an afternoon drink (fresh mango juice or Turkish coffee anyone?). At the end of the day,

you'll be treated to a delicious meal at a popular local spot by the Nile. Stay up for a campfire at the stable or rest up for the next day's adventures.

Day 3

Get an early start with breakfast at the stable. Today you'll ride to the nearby village of Armant, an ancient town believed to be the original home of the rulers of Thebes. You'll trot along narrow dirt trails and canter by fields of corn and sugarcane. Ride on rural streets and see traditional ways of living. Arrive by late morning in time to catch the market, where locals sell fresh vegetables and animals including goats, sheep, cows, and donkeys. Be one of the few tourists to visit a recently discovered temple and have a home-cooked lunch in Armant. Get back in the saddle and take the desert route on your return to the stable. The rest of the afternoon is reserved for touring any one of the incredible historical West Bank wonders on your must-see list. For dinner, indulge in an authentic meal at a Bedouin-style camp and enjoy the laid-back atmosphere as you relax around a campfire with Egyptian tea.

Day 4

Have a relaxed morning while savoring an assortment of local treats for breakfast. Meet at the stable in the late morning to saddle up for an adventurous ride to the mountains. Stunning views of Luxor and the Nile will surround you atop Mount Thebes. Explore the hills around the Valley of the Kings on your sure-footed partner and ride to natural desert caves. Break for a traditional Egyptian lunch at a hidden gem in Korna village. Experience the diverse landscape as you ride through the village and past fields of sugarcane all the way back to the Nile. You and the horses will unwind with a relaxing stroll along the river at sunset. Tonight, you'll get to try your hand at Egyptian cooking – learn how to make your choice of moussaka, feteer, or shakshuka. After dinner, take a special trip around the West Bank in a private carriage!

Day 5

This morning's sunrise expedition will be worth the early start. Pack breakfast to go in your saddlebags and ride towards Hatshepsut Temple. Here you'll be treated to the sight of hot air balloons preparing for take-off. Set up at an ideal viewpoint from the desert to observe the balloons floating magnificently above Luxor. Afterward, you and the horses will get energized with spirited gallops in the desert. Trot along the canal and through Al Aqaltah village back to the stable. The afternoon is spent cruising the Nile, catching sight of local wildlife and making excursions to small islands. Pick up lunch to take with you on the boat as you travel along the river. Navigate back in the evening and experience a breathtaking Luxor sunset from the water. Dinner is barbecue-style at the stable with the horses. Enjoy drinks, games, and music during your last night!

Day 6

If you have the time, tack up for a casual morning ride. Otherwise, relax at the stable with the horses, hang out by the Nile, or pick up some last-minute goodies 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
- Entrance fees and cultural tours
- 4 days riding

Not included

- Flights
- Personal travel expenses
- Visas

- Alcoholic beverages
- Additional activities outside of the itinerary

International flights & Airport transfers

We recommend arriving in the afternoon or earlier on the first day. This allows time for you to get to your hotel and settle in before meeting the group for dinner to kick off your tour. However, we understand if this is not possible and we can still accommodate other travel plans.

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

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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

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or you are unable to travel due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.



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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