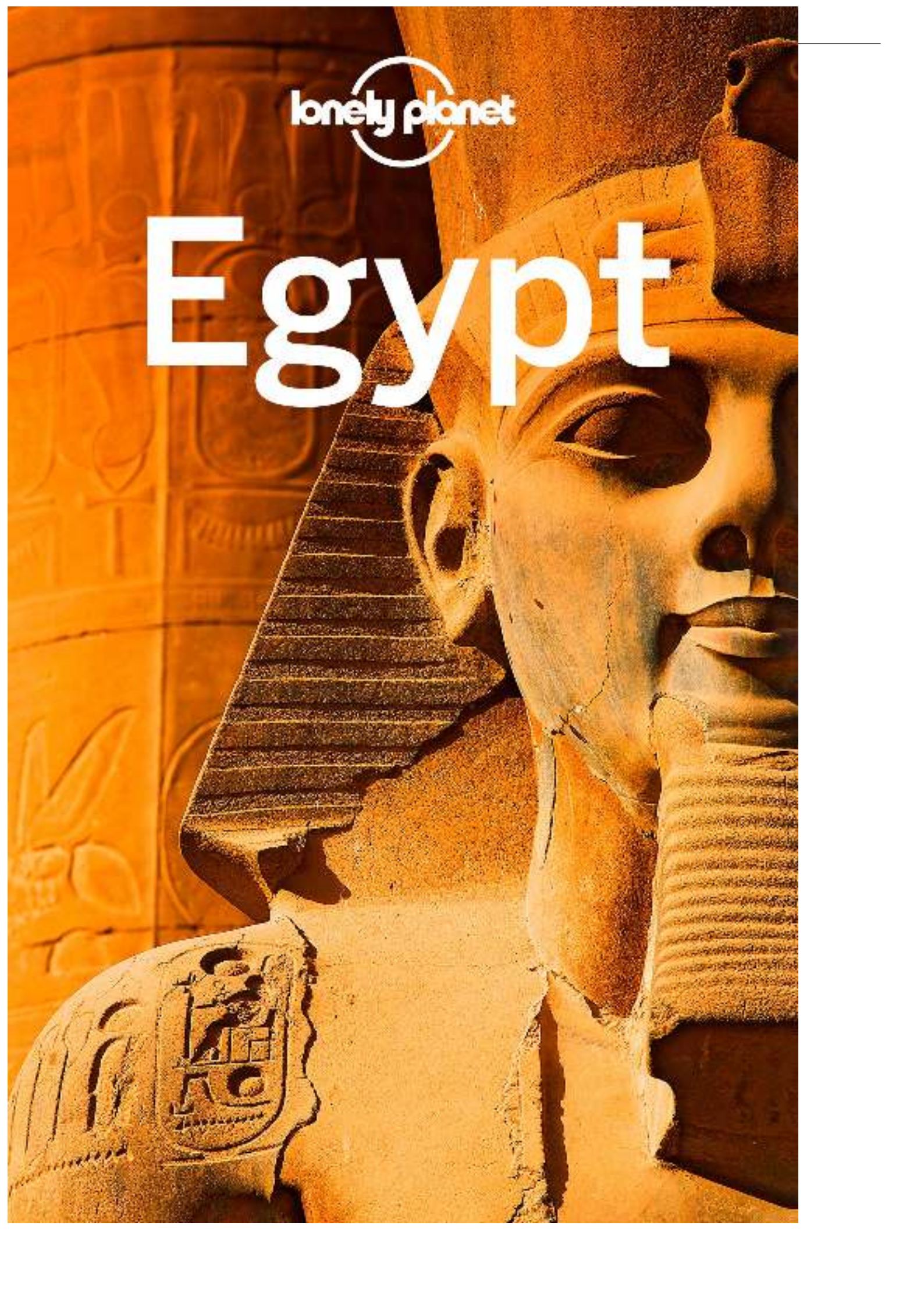


The Lonely Planet logo, consisting of the words "lonely planet" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with a white circle around the letter "o" in "planet".

lonely planet

# Egypt





# Egypt



# How to Use This eBook

4 easy-to-use sections

1

## PLAN YOUR TRIP

Your planning tool kit  
Photos & suggestions  
to help you create the  
perfect trip.

2

## ON THE ROAD

Your complete guide  
Expert reviews,  
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3

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Learn about the big  
picture, to make sense  
of what you see.

4

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your at-a-glance guide  
Vital practical  
information to help you  
have a smooth trip.

Look for these symbols to quickly identify listings:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Sights             |  Eating                  |
|  Activities         |  Drinking                |
|  Courses            |  Entertainment           |
|  Tours              |  Shopping                |
|  Festivals & Events |  Information & Transport |
|  Sleeping           |   |

**All reviews** are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

**Sights** are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them, and within this order, by author preference.

**Eating and Sleeping reviews** are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and within these ranges, by author preference.

These symbols give vital information for each listing:

- ★ Must-visit recommendation
- 🌿 Sustainable or green recommendation

**FREE** No payment required

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Telephone number |  Vegetarian selection |
|  Opening hours    |  Family-friendly      |
|  Parking          |  Pet-friendly         |
|  Nonsmoking       |  Bus                  |
|  Air-conditioning |  Ferry                |
|  Internet access  |  Tram                 |
|  Wi-fi access     |  Train                |
|  Swimming pool    |  |

For symbols used on maps, see the Map Legend at the end of this eBook.



# The key to the perfect trip

Lonely Planet eBooks make trip planning and on-the-road travelling easier than ever

## 1. Discover amazing experiences

Gorgeous photos of top sights with links to author recommendations help you plan where to go.

### Montenegro's Top 16

#### Sveti Stefan



1 The gorgeous island of Sveti Stefan is a unique island in the Adriatic Sea. It's a small island with a white tower and a red roof. It's a unique island in the Adriatic Sea. It's a small island with a white tower and a red roof. It's a unique island in the Adriatic Sea. It's a small island with a white tower and a red roof.

#### Sveti Stefan

#### Sights

##### Sveti Stefan Beach

The main point of coming time horizontal as possible

## 2. Content when you need it

Downloading eBooks on the road is simple, and you can carry as many guides as you need.



## 3. Plan your perfect trip

Search for destinations, bookmark favourites and add notes to customise your guide.



Double tap then pinch and zoom



Art Gallery of Western Australia  
MAP GOOGLE MAP

Map links to reviews mean you can find info quickly.

Zoom-in maps make it easy to navigate in a new place.

Offline maps mean no data-roaming charges.

To get the most out of the maps in this guide, use the zoom function on your device, or visit <http://media.lonelyplanet.com/ebookmaps> to grab a PDF of the maps.



# Egypt

0 100 km  
0 100 miles



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# Welcome to Egypt

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*In spite of political, financial and social turmoil, Egyptians remain proud and defiant and are as welcoming as ever to visitors to their land.*

## Pyramids & More

With sand-covered tombs, austere pyramids and towering Pharaonic temples, Egypt brings out the explorer in all of us. Visit the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, where Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed, and see the glittering finds in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Hop off a Nile boat to visit Dendara, Edfu or one of the other waterside temples, cross Lake Nasser to see Ramses II's masterpiece at Abu Simbel, or trek into the desert to find the traces of Roman trading outposts. You never know – your donkey might stumble across yet another find, for that is the way many previous discoveries were made.

## Two Religions

Egypt once ruled an empire from Al-Qahira – Cairo, the 'city victorious'. The metropolis is packed with soaring minarets and medieval schools and mosques, some of the greatest architecture of medieval Islam. At the same time, Egypt's native Christians, the Copts, have carried on their traditions – such as the church's liturgical language and the traditional calendar – that in many respects link back to the time of the pharaohs. Tap into this history in remote desert monasteries and ancient churches.

## Beaches & Beyond

That empty beach with nothing but a candlelit cabin, and a teeming coral reef offshore: they're waiting for you in Egypt. The coast along the Red Sea has a rugged desert beauty above the waterline and a psychedelic vibrancy below – explore it on a multiday outing to one of the globe's great dive sites or on an afternoon's snorkelling jaunt along a coral wall. There is just as much space and beauty in Egypt's vast deserts. Whether you're watching the sun rise between the beautiful shapes of the White Desert or the shimmering horizon from the comfort of a hot spring in Siwa Oasis, Egypt's landscapes are endlessly fascinating.

## Going With the Flow

The old saying that Egypt is the gift of the Nile still rings true: without the river there would be no fertile land, no food, no electricity. And although people's lives are increasingly physically detached from the water, the Nile still exerts a uniquely powerful role. Luckily for visitors, the river is also the perfect place from which to see many of the most spectacular ancient monuments, which is one reason why a Nile cruise remains such a popular way to travel.



Luxor Temple  
JEAN-PIERRE LESCOURRET / GETTY IMAGES ©



## Why I Love Egypt

By Anthony Sattin, Author

Is it the way the glorious past casts long shadows over the present? Is it the way the lush Nile Valley gives way, from one footstep to another, to the harshness of the desert? Is it the light in the eyes of the person telling me a story in a cafe, who has just burst into laughter? The intensity of the light, the love of life and the sense of family are just three reasons of many, many more.



# Egypt's Top 17

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## Pyramids of Giza

Towering over the urban sprawl of Cairo and the desert plains beyond, the [Pyramids of Giza](#) and the Sphinx are at the top of almost every traveller's itinerary. Bring lots of water, an empty memory card and plenty of patience! You may have to fend off a few eager locals pushing horse rides and Bedouin headdresses in order to enjoy this ancient funerary complex, but no trip to Egypt is complete without a photo of you in front of the last surviving ancient wonder of the world. For the best, and also the most clichéd, pic of all, head for the cliff beyond the third pyramid, with a panoramic view of the three pyramids with all of Cairo as a background.



Pyramids of Giza  
SHANNA BAKER / GETTY IMAGES ©

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## Top Experiences

### Luxor

With the greatest concentration of ancient monuments of anywhere in Egypt, you can spend days, or weeks, visiting Luxor. Walk through the columned halls of the great temple complexes of Luxor and Karnak on the east bank of the Nile, or climb into the tombs of pharaohs, their queens, courtiers and workmen, cut into the Theban hills on the west bank. Watching the sun rise over the Nile or set behind the Theban hills are some of Egypt's unforgettable moments.





## Top Experiences

### Cruising the Nile

The Nile is Egypt's lifeline, the artery that runs through the entire country, from south to north. Only by being adrift on it can you appreciate its importance and beauty, and more practically only by boat can you see some archaeological sites as they were meant to be seen. Sailing is by far the slowest and most relaxing way to go, but even from the deck of a multistorey floating hotel you're likely to glimpse the magic.



Nile River at Aswan  
J.D. DALLET / GETTY IMAGES ©



### Old Kingdom Art

The walls of the tombs around the Step Pyramid of **Saqqara** (adult/student E£50/25; 🕒 8am-4pm) are adorned with some of the world's oldest art works. The exquisite painted reliefs in the Mastaba of Ti or tombs of Akhethotep and Ptahhotep give a subtle and very detailed account of daily life in 2500BC. The first rooms in the Egyptian Museum show the most brilliant Old Kingdom art. Looking at these masterpieces is essential to understanding what comes in the thousands of years that follow.



Step Pyramid of Zoser, Saqqara  
A. MARTIN UW PHOTOGRAPHY / GETTY IMAGES ©

## Top Experiences

### Desert Safaris

Whether you travel by 4WD, by camel or on foot, for a couple of hours or a couple of weeks, you'll be able to taste the simple beauty and sheer isolation of wildest Egypt. The highlights of an excursion in Egypt's Western Desert include camping under a star-studded sky among the surreal formations of the White Desert, crossing the mesmerising dunes of the Great Sand Sea, and heading deep into the desert to live out *English Patient* fantasies at the remote Gifl Kebir.



White Desert National Park  
DENIS-HUOT / HEMIS.FR / GETTY IMAGES ©

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