Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Palms, Pyramids and Pharaohs

EGYPT

This is your chance to gallop across the desert and admire the **Pyramids of Giza**, the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the World, from the back of a horse. You will also visit the fascinating Grand Egyptian Museum and the royal tombs of the **Valley of the Kings**, and marvel at the temples of Luxor, where you'll ride through the countryside to the Nile and enjoy a stunning sunrise ride as hot air balloons fill the morning sky. Next you'll journey to Hurghada, where you can swim with the horses in the ocean before enjoying a camel ride and some quad biking in the desert. Finally, there's a chance to spot dolphins in the Red Sea on a private boat trip. This popular holiday is designed for those who want to combine culture and adventure on a fun-filled tour through this mystical land.

Trail Riding	**8 days (5 days riding)**	**From £2,649**		Open to non-riders


Palms, Pyramids and Pharaohs


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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Discover three incredible destinations in one holiday (Cairo, Luxor and Hurghada).
- Fly across the desert on powerful Arabian horses beneath the Great Pyramids of Giza.
- See the mythical Sphinx and take a tour of the Grand Egyptian Museum.
- Visit Luxor's remarkable archaeological sites including the Valley of the Kings, and ride through its quiet countryside to the Nile.
- Swim with horses in the sea and enjoy a truly unforgettable experience.
- Take a trip to the desert for quad biking and a camel ride (or a final desert sunset ride).
- Spot wild dolphins and go snorkelling on a private boat tour in the crystal-clear waters of the Red Sea.

Day 1 — 1: ARRIVE IN CAIRO - No riding

International flight to Cairo (flights are not included but can be booked on request).

Please plan to arrive no later than 5pm, so you can join the welcome dinner. Please note: you can choose to arrive either at Cairo International Airport or Sphinx International Airport, depending on flights available.

You will be welcomed at the airport and transferred to your hotel overlooking the pyramids.

Dinner and overnight in Cairo.

Day 2 — 2: PYRAMIDS, SPHINX AND GEM MUSEUM - 2 hours riding

You'll kick off the week with a morning ride beneath the breathtaking Pyramids, enjoying some fun gallops across the desert and taking some very special photos. After riding, you'll have a private walking tour of the famous Sphinx, followed by lunch with a fantastic view.

In the afternoon, you'll head to the spectacular Grand Egyptian Museum, which is home to countless Egyptian artefacts and the world's largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities, for a tour with your Egyptology guide.

In the evening, you'll transfer back to the airport to take a domestic flight to Luxor (not included in the price). You should book a flight departing at approximately 6pm. Please check with your travel advisor before purchasing your ticket.

Overnight in Luxor.

Day 3 — 3: VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND LUXOR RIDE - 2 hours riding

Today you'll enjoy an exciting morning of sightseeing, starting with a visit to the famous Valley of the Kings. For nearly 500 years during the New Kingdom, this valley served as the royal burial ground where tombs were carved into the rock for pharaohs and powerful nobles. Afterwards, you'll visit the magnificent Temple of Hatshepsut, before returning to the hotel for lunch and a relax by the swimming pool.

In the afternoon, you'll head to the stables in Luxor for a tour and then head out on a ride through the beautiful countryside, passing through villages, farmland and along the Nile, offering a first glimpse into the quieter, authentic side of Egypt beyond the tourist trail.

Dinner and overnight in Luxor.

Day 4 — 4: LUXOR AND KARNAK TEMPLE - 4 hours riding

You'll set out on a longer, faster-paced trail ride today winding through farmlands, desert tracks, sugar cane plantations and along the Nile. Prepare to fall in love with the magnificent Arabian horses, renowned for their beauty, speed and endurance. Along the way, you will see villagers and farmers working their fields using traditional methods with the help of their water buffalo. Curious children eagerly run out to greet you as you ride through the narrow streets of the villages.

Lunch is served at a local restaurant, where you can also enjoy the swimming pool before returning to the hotel in the afternoon to relax.

In the early evening, you'll attend the spectacular Sound and Light Show at Karnak Temple, where the stories of ancient Egypt are brought dramatically to life beneath the night sky.

Dinner and overnight in Luxor.

Day 5 — 5: SUNRISE RIDE AND TRANSFER TO THE RED SEA - 3 hours riding

You'll wake up early today to enjoy a very special sunrise ride through the Luxor countryside, which is an unforgettable experience as colourful hot air balloons fill the morning sky. You will stop at the Colossi of Memnon, two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III, who ruled Egypt during the Eighteenth Dynasty. They have stood in the Theban Necropolis for approximately 3,400 years (since 1350 BC).

You'll then continue to the magnificent Temple of Ramses III (Habu Temple) where you will have time to visit the site before enjoying breakfast.

Afterwards, you'll return to the hotel for lunch, check-out, and have time to relax before transferring by road to Hurghada and the Red Sea coast (a journey of approximately 4½ hours). On arrival, you will usually have time to see the sunset overlooking the beach—the perfect ending to a memorable day.

Dinner and overnight in Hurghada.

Day 6 — 6: FREE MORNING AND DOLPHIN TOUR - No riding

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After breakfast you'll have a free morning, either to relax at the hotel/beach or to enjoy some fun souvenir shopping (a member of the team can accompany you if needed).

Then it's lunch, followed by a private boat trip on the Red Sea to enjoy dolphin watching and snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters. Later, you'll return to the hotel for a hot shower and dinner by the water.

Dinner and overnight in Hurghada.

Please note: the boat excursion is subject to favourable weather conditions. The dolphins are wild, which means all encounters are on their terms and their welfare is respected. There is no chasing or forced interactions.

Day 7 — 7: SWIMMING WITH HORSES AND DESERT TRIP - 1 hour riding

The horses will meet you directly at your beach front hotel this morning and you'll set off on a bareback ride (approx. 1 hour) before swimming with the horses in the beautiful waters of the Red Sea -- a truly unforgettable experience.

Lunch will be served at the hotel, and in the afternoon, you'll have a choice between a final sunset ride through Hurghada's desert or a private safari combining quad biking and a camel ride. In the evening, you'll enjoy a farewell dinner at the marina.

Dinner and overnight in Hurghada.

Please note: Swimming with the horses is subject to suitable weather conditions.

Day 8 — 8: DEPARTURE - No riding

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight home.
(Please ensure to book a flight from Hurghada airport). Hotel check-out is at 11:30am.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
18/11/2026	25/11/2026	£2,649	Guaranteed departure
05/12/2026	12/12/2026	£2,649	Guaranteed departure
23/01/2027	30/01/2027	£2,649	Open
27/02/2027	06/03/2027	£2,649	Guaranteed departure
23/03/2027	30/03/2027	£2,649	Guaranteed departure
10/04/2027	17/04/2027	£2,649	Guaranteed departure
22/05/2027	29/05/2027	£2,649	Open

Price details

- International and domestic flights are not included.

- Please plan to arrive in Cairo before 5pm on the first day so you can join the welcome dinner (you can choose to arrive at either Cairo International or Sphinx International Airport). You will also need to book a domestic flight from Cairo to Luxor departing at 6pm on Day 2 of the trip, (please check with us before booking). You should plan to depart from Hurghada International Airport on the last day (any time, check out is at 11:30am).

- Rates are per person and based on two riders sharing a twin or double room. To guarantee a single room, there is a single room supplement of £500 / €585 / $670. There is no single supplement if you are willing to share.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 12 international riders, plus guides.

- Airport transfers are not included. Transport from the airport in Cairo on Day 1, and to Hurghada airport on Day 8, is priced at a total of £70 / €80 / $95 per person.

- Tickets to local sites are included in the price.

- A tip of US$150 per person (in cash) is payable on arrival and covers tips for everything during your stay: transfers, hotels, housekeeping, restaurants, horse guides, Egyptology guides and water taxis in all locations on your trip.

- Non-riders are very welcome on this ride and will be kept busy. Non-riders receive a discount of £300 / €350 / $400.

- In Luxor, a hot air balloon flight is available (not included), and is priced at approximately £130 / €150 / 175, payable locally.

- It may also be possible to arrange a beach photoshoot with a horse during your stay (not included), which is priced at approximately £190 / €220 / $250. Please note, this needs to be pre-booked before arrival. Guests doing the photoshoot may also need to skip one of the scheduled activities in Hurghada. Please contact us to arrange.

- You may also want to add extra hotel nights or tours during your trip. Please contact us for advice.

- Please note that swimming with the horses, hot air balloon flights and the boat trip are all weather dependent.
Please Note
The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.
The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

English-speaking horse guide

LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider
1 support vehicle
A team of grooms

MEALS

Full board accommodation in guesthouses or hotel
Mineral water

EXTRAS

Site entry fees

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights (arriving in Cairo and departing from Hurghada)
Domestic flight between Cairo and Luxor
Airport transfers

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team - please see note above
Visa to enter Egypt

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

You will find three types of horses: Arab, Arabian Cross and Baladi. They are renowned for their stamina and are ideal for long distance rides in the Egyptian desert. Each location (Hurghada, Luxor, Cairo) has its own stable so you will be riding different horses during the trip.

Guide & local team

Emma is the owner of the business and has lived in Egypt for more than 15 years. The guides speak English and Arabic collectively. Your hosts and drivers all speak English.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You must be at least an intermediate rider, competent in all paces (walk, trot and canter) and you must be used to riding in open spaces and over different types of terrain. The horses are sensible and well mannered but they are fit and forward-going, not suitable for novice riders.

There is a maximum rider weight of 90kg / 14st / 198 lbs.

PACE

Much of the ride is at a walk, but there are plenty of opportunities for trots and canters, as well as some gallops. You can spread out in the desert in Cairo but riding in Luxor is mostly on tracks and you may be riding stallions, so you will be asked to remain in single file. In Hurghada, the pace may depend on the group, please follow the instructions of the local team.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

The horses are groomed and tacked up for you. You can help with this (in Luxor especially) but this is not mandatory.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Participants should have a good level of fitness and be comfortable spending several hours in the saddle. Previous experience of multi-day riding holidays is an advantage but is not essential. Riders who do not ride regularly are asked to get riding fit before joining the trip.

Please note that some mornings, afternoons or days do not include riding: this holiday is designed for guests who want to ride and also learn about Egyptian culture and ancient history.

Travelling through different cultures also requires an open mind, respect, and an appreciation of local customs and traditions.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English or Endurance tack.
There are no saddlebags on this ride.
Equus Journeys strongly recommends that all riders wear a helmet, and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

You will spend 1 night (the first night) in Cairo at a 2-3* hotel with a rooftop overlooking the pyramids.
You will stay 3 nights in Luxor at a garden hotel with a bar and a pool, not far from the stables.

You will spend the last 3 nights Hurghada in a hotel by the sea.

MEALS

All meals are included on this riding holiday.

Breakfast: Pancakes, juice, bread, cheese and eggs, tea and coffee.
Lunch: salads, falafels, rice, aubergine, grilled chicken.
Dinner: hot meals (tajines with chicken, meat or fish), rice, salads, mussaka

Water is provided on the ride. Soft drinks, alcohol and other extras are not included and payable locally.

CLIMATE

Hot temperatures are common all year round. Temperatures generally range from 18-25C during winter and spring. This ride does not run in the summer as it is too hot for riders and horses. Rain is not common, and blue skies with sunshine is the norm every day.

Even though the day temperature is usually very hot during the day, it will become much cooler at night once the sun has set. For this reason we recommend you take some warmer clothes to keep you warm during the evenings and nights.

TIPS

Tipping in Egypt is a way of life. It is considered a norm to leave small tips in services you have received, such as restaurants, hotels, drivers, tour guides, etc. A tip envelope of $150 (or the equivalent amount in euros or GBP) will be given to your guide on day 1 and distributed during the week to cover all of the tips mentioned above. This way you don't have to worry about currency exchange and wondering if you should have tipped or not.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. As you will be taking a domestic flight, please check the luggage allowance for hand baggage and checked baggage with the airline. Please bring a soft-sided bag which can more easily be transported. Please note that while Egypt is a Muslim country, the dress code is less strict than elsewhere. You are welcome to wear swimsuits and bikinis on the beach, as well as shorts, sun-dresses and the usual holiday clothing during your trip, while bearing in mind / being respectful of local customs.

Head
- A riding helmet is strongly recommended. We recommend you take your own to ensure the correct fit.
- Sun hat for when not riding.
- Sunglasses-with a cord attached so they don't fly away when galloping.
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun and dust.

Upper body
- Long sleeved shirts to provide protection from the sun.
- T-shirts.
- Lightweight fleece, jumper or cardigan for cool evenings.
- Light waterproof jacket (optional). Although it doesn't rain much Egypt, you may want to be prepared.

Legs
- Lightweight riding trousers or jodhpurs. We recommend riding in them at home to ensure they won't rub during your holiday.
- Casual clothes for the non-riding times (we recommend lightweight trousers, skirts or shorts).

Hands and Feet
- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may take long chaps or long boots.
- Lightweight shoes such as sandals or trainers for the non-riding times.
- Several pairs of socks.
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding.

Nightwear
- Pyjamas.

Other useful items:
- Swimsuit and a small travel towel.
- Bumbag for carrying small items.
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre).
- Ear plugs and eye mask (for light sleepers).

Medical kit and personal cosmetics, including:
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor.
- Insect repellent - a must in Egypt, please take a high quality spray.
- Any medication you regularly take.
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs.
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses.
- Eye drops.
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication.
- Re-hydration sachets.
- Antiseptic wipes.
- Hand wash gel.

Other recommendations:
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes / any essentials and valuables in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Please print copies of your passport and insurance documents and take them with you.
- Backpacks should not be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .