

## Risk Analysis Report:

While there are always risks involved in travel, even to the safest places in the world, I am making personal safety my highest priority and taking every precaution possible to make sure that all participants are safe. I have personally travelled and lived in Egypt with my own children many years, and my father is currently living there as well. I would not bring members of the Sewanee community to Egypt if I thought I was putting them in danger.

### Country overview:

Egypt, a republic with a developing economy, is located in North Africa, with a land bridge to Southwest Asia. A tourist location, there are well-developed facilities for travelers in Egypt. We are aware that recent events have made certain parts of Egypt less stable and predictable for tourists, and intend to follow all State Department guidelines regarding travel to and within the country.

Egypt's population is clustered tightly in the Nile Valley, the fertile land along the banks of the Nile River which runs from its southern border with Sudan to the Nile Delta, a complex of smaller waterways that let out into the Mediterranean Sea in the North. We will spend most of our trip in Cairo, which is the seat of the government, and the most tightly patrolled and regulated part of the country. The areas we will visit in Upper Egypt are also carefully regulated and monitored by the National Security Administration in the interest of protecting tourists and by extension the tourist industry. You will find that the vast majority of Egyptian people, far from being hostile to foreigners, are eager to make a good impression on foreign visitors to their country.



1. Potential hazards and risks: According to the US Department of State, travelers to Egypt are “unlikely to encounter serious security problems as long as they observe sensible precautions and avoid offending Muslim sensibilities.” However, trip leaders and participants should be aware of the following potential hazards and risks of travel to Egypt.

- Traffic: The Egyptian capital is notorious for its congestion, a universal source of frustration that affects the entire social spectrum of the population. At least 1,000 Cairenes die each year in traffic related accidents (of whom more than half are

pedestrians) and over 4,000 are injured. These rates are far higher than those recorded in most other major cities of the world. Participants are advised to ride in cars that have safety belts and avoid crossing fast-moving traffic, even when local pedestrians are doing so.

- Crime: Crime levels in Cairo are moderate. The vast majority of criminal acts against foreigners involve scams common to tourist destinations world-wide, that result in visitors being overcharged for various services, or being tricked into paying for goods and services that they do not want. Vendors at Egypt's many temples and archaeological sites, for example, will offer "free" gifts to tourists that, once accepted, lead to demands for money. Such vendors can be aggressive and annoying, but are rarely dangerous. Most sites have specially designated tourist police who can assist in uncomfortable situations. Harassment of women on the street is a very real problem in Egypt. Offenses can range from lewd comments and gestures to indecent exposures and inappropriate physical contact.
- Health concerns: Exposure to the water in the Nile and its canals, especially stagnant water can lead to exposure to bacterial and other infections and the parasitic disease schistosomiasis (bilharzia). It should never be consumed, and bare skin contact is to be avoided. It is generally safe to eat freshly prepared cooked food in hotels, and in restaurants with plenty of customer traffic. Food and fresh juice carts that operate without a source of running water are to be absolutely avoided. Tap water in the city is potable, but high levels of chlorine and other minerals may cause an upset stomach, so travelers are advised to drink bottled beverages whose seal is intact. The Center for Disease Control issued a travel health warning at the lowest level (watch level 1) on June 23, 2015 following reports of 167 human cases of H5N1 bird flu between that date and November 2014. The CDC recommends that travelers to Egypt protect themselves from H5N1 by avoiding contact with wild birds, live or uncooked poultry, and body fluids from birds and poultry.
- Political Violence, Demonstrations, and Public Disorder: Egypt's demonstrations law prohibits gatherings of more than ten persons without advance notification to the Ministry of Interior, but political protests can occur without warning anywhere in Egypt. Demonstrations have led to violent clashes between police and protesters, resulting in deaths, injuries, and property damage. Peaceful demonstrators and bystanders may be subject to questioning, detention, arrest, and conviction for participating in or being in proximity to unauthorized demonstrations. It is illegal to photograph police stations, military barracks, and certain other sensitive public buildings, and enforcement of this law is particularly strict at demonstrations. Participants will be kept abreast of any civil unrest by our contacts who are subscribers to the American University in Cairo [Emergency Communication System](#).

- Terrorism: Terrorist attacks in Egypt are rare, and as such affect a small portion of the population (death rates by violence in Egypt are significantly less than those in the US). Recent attacks in Egypt have been attributed primarily to jihadists operating in Egypt's border areas with Gaza and Libya, including the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt's Western desert (the large, mostly isolated area west of greater Cairo and the Nile Valley). There are active military operations against terrorist elements in these regions, and our itinerary will not take us near those areas. The Egyptian government maintains a heavy security presence at major tourist sites, especially the resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh and the many temples and archaeological sites located in and around Cairo, Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbal.

## 2. Travel Advisories for Egypt

- Egypt falls under the Worldwide Caution issued by the US Department of State. (see: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/worldwide-caution.html> )
- The US Department of State currently has no "travel warning" pending for the areas in Egypt where the trip will take place. Travel warnings are meant to warn (but not ban) US citizens from travel to a given region.
- The US Department of State currently has no "travel alert" in place for the areas where the "Exploring Egypt" trip is scheduled to visit. Department of State travel alerts are issued for short-term events that are intended to provide information about short-term conditions that may pose significant risks.
- The most recent travel alert issued in Egypt was on November 2, 2015. The US Department of State website stated that "As a precautionary measure, the United States Embassy has instructed its employees not to travel anywhere in the Sinai Peninsula pending the outcome of the investigation into the tragic crash of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt on October 31."

## 3. Risk mitigation: The following policies and procedures will be undertaken to mitigate the risks associated with travel to Egypt:

- Well-informed participants: Besides the extensive preparations that participants enrolled in the course "Representing Egypt", program leaders will host two pre-departure orientation sessions for all participants on Wednesday, February 10 and Tuesday, March 8. These sessions will cover cultural differences, packing tips, travel arrangements, safety concerns, details of the emergency plan, medical and health information, accommodation and meals, and financial matters. The orientations will present verbally and in writing clear expectations for participant conduct, and trip policies for termination of participation.

- Well-connected participants: Participants will be able to contact the leader and other participants at all times, either during time spent together as a group, or using cellular phones and wireless devices. All devices will be pre-programmed with emergency contact numbers including the U.S. Embassy and group leaders.
- Safe itinerary: We will abide by the Department of State's September 3, 2015 recommendation that "urges U.S. citizens to be alert, exercise good judgment, and follow good security practices everywhere in the country. U.S. citizens should avoid travel outside metropolitan Cairo and Alexandria and major tourist and resort areas."
- Official Registration: All participants will enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages from the US Department of State, and to facilitate their location by authorities in an emergency.
- Healthy travelers: All participants are required to be up to date on all of their routine vaccinations. According to the [Center for Disease Control Travelers' Health](#) page, travelers to Egypt should make sure to be including:
  - measles-mumps-rubella (MMR),
  - diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis,
  - varicella (chickenpox),
  - polio.

CDC also recommends the Hepatitis A vaccine and typhoid vaccine for travelers to Egypt, to protect you in the unlikely event that you are exposed to these diseases through contaminated food or water.

Participants are also advised to consult Health Services at the University of the South for recommendations about any other vaccinations for Egypt.

Participants are required to submit proof of coverage through the University Health Insurance or other international health insurance coverage that will cover health expenses accrued while in Egypt (According to University Health Services, students carrying University Health Insurance are covered for services required while in Egypt).

Participants whose health insurance will not cover medical expenses accrued in Egypt must purchase a short-term international health insurance policy. [InsureMyTrip](#) helps you compare policies and premiums.

Reputable medical facilities in Cairo and Luxor include:

El Salam Hospital  
3 Syria St., Mohandessin  
Tel: 303-0502  
Ambulance:303-4780/1

Nile Badrawi Hospital  
Kornish El-Nil, Maadi  
Tel: 524-0022/0349  
Ambulance: 524-0212

Luxor medical Center  
Villa Kamal, St Joseph st (3 Mahdy st)  
Luxor, Egypt.  
(002) 0952284092, (002) 01020047091