

ONE WAY AMERICA

Your Guide to Egypt

TELEPHONE: Country code (+20). Cairo area code: 2. When calling Egypt from the United States, dial 011 + 20 + the Egyptian telephone number.

STANDARD TIME: Egypt is GMT/UTC +2 during standard time and GMT/UTC +3 during daylight saving time. Egypt's daylight-saving dates may change and should be checked annually.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Metric.

ELECTRICITY: 220v AC, 50Hz. Standard European-style two-round-pin plugs (Types C and F) are commonly used. U.S. appliances designed for 110–120v may require a voltage converter unless they are dual-voltage.

INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS: Travellers should be up to date with routine vaccinations. Depending on individual circumstances and length of stay, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Typhoid vaccinations may be recommended. Rabies vaccination may be considered for those with increased exposure to animals. Medical advice should be obtained before travelling.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: New Year's Day, Coptic Christmas January 7th, Revolution and Police Day, Eid Al-Fitr, Sham El Nessim, Sinai Liberation Day, Labour Day, Arafat Day, Eid Al-Adha, Islamic New Year, June 30 Revolution Day, July 23 Revolution Day, Mawlid Al-Nabi and Armed Forces Day October 6th. Islamic holidays vary each year according to the lunar calendar, and the government may change the observed date of certain holidays. PPresidency of Egypt

OFFICE HOURS: Traditionally Sunday to Thursday, with Friday and Saturday generally observed as the weekend. Working hours vary by employer and sector. Government offices and some businesses may operate reduced hours during Ramadan.

BANK HOURS: Generally Sunday to Thursday. Opening hours vary between banks and branches, so current hours should be checked with the individual bank.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 122 – Police; 123 – Ambulance; 180 – Fire; 126 – Tourist Police.

U.S. EMBASSY IN EGYPT:

U.S. Embassy Cairo 5 Tawfik Diab Street Garden City, Cairo, Egypt Telephone: +20 2 2797 3300
Website: U.S. Embassy Cairo The Embassy provides consular services and assistance to U.S. citizens in Egypt.

EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES:

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt 3521 International Court NW Washington, DC 20008, USA
Telephone: +1 202-895-5400 Consular: +1 202-966-6342 Emergency: +1 202-895-5408 Website:
Embassy of Egypt in Washington, D.C.

EGYPTIAN CONSULATES GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES:

New York: 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 586, New York, NY 10017. Tel: +1 212-759-7120.

Chicago: 180 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601. Tel: +1 312-332-7210 / +1 312-332-7214.

Los Angeles: 6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1890, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Tel: +1 323-933-9700.

Houston: 5718 Westheimer Road, Suite 1350, Houston, TX 77057. Tel: +1 713-961-4915 / +1 713-961-4916.

Consular jurisdictions should be confirmed directly with the relevant Egyptian mission before applying.

Moving from the United States to Egypt

The Arab Republic of Egypt

Relocating to Egypt is an exciting opportunity to experience one of the world's oldest civilizations while living in a country that connects Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Egypt offers a wide range of lifestyles, from the busy metropolitan environment of Cairo and Giza to the Mediterranean atmosphere of Alexandria and the resort communities along the Red Sea.

This guide provides general information for U.S. citizens and residents planning to relocate to Egypt. It covers practical matters including daily life, healthcare, education, utilities, customs, household goods, vehicles, pets and U.S. consular assistance.

Requirements and regulations can change, particularly immigration, customs, taxation, health and import regulations. Always confirm current requirements with the relevant Egyptian or U.S. authority before making arrangements.

PART 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON EGYPT

Background

Egypt has one of the world's longest recorded histories. The Nile Valley supported the development of ancient Egyptian civilization, with a unified kingdom emerging around 3200 BC. Over the

following thousands of years, Egypt was ruled by successive Egyptian dynasties and later by Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Mamluk and Ottoman rulers.

The Arab conquest in the seventh century introduced Islam and Arabic, both of which have had a profound influence on Egyptian society and culture. Egypt later came under Ottoman rule before experiencing increasing European influence during the nineteenth century.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 established Egypt as a major international transportation and trade centre. Britain occupied Egypt in 1882, while Egypt formally became independent from Britain in stages during the twentieth century, with the monarchy ending following the 1952 revolution.

Modern Egypt is a republic and remains one of the most populous countries in Africa and the Arab world. The Nile continues to play a central role in agriculture, settlement and economic activity.

For new residents, Egypt combines a rich historical and cultural heritage with rapidly developing urban areas, expanding infrastructure and a growing private sector.

Geography

Egypt is located in northeastern Africa, with the Sinai Peninsula extending into Asia. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Red Sea to the east, Libya to the west and Sudan to the south. Israel and the Gaza Strip are located to the northeast.

Cairo is the capital and largest metropolitan area.

Most of Egypt's population and economic activity is concentrated around the Nile Valley and Nile Delta, while the remainder of the country consists largely of desert.

Egypt has coastlines along both the Mediterranean and Red Seas and includes major cities and destinations such as Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor, Aswan, Hurghada and Sharm El Sheikh.

The country's environment faces challenges including pressure on water resources, urban expansion, agricultural land loss, desertification, pollution and the long-term management of the Nile.

Climate

Egypt has a predominantly hot desert climate with generally low rainfall and abundant sunshine.

Cairo and much of the interior experience hot summers and mild winters. Alexandria and other Mediterranean coastal areas tend to have somewhat cooler and more humid conditions.

The Red Sea resorts generally experience hot, dry conditions for much of the year.

Sand and dust storms can occur, particularly during spring. Summer temperatures can become extremely high, while winter evenings can be surprisingly cool, particularly in desert areas.

New residents should consider air conditioning an important part of everyday life during the summer months.

Economy

Egypt has one of the largest economies in Africa and the Middle East. Important sectors include tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, energy, telecommunications, transportation, financial services and trade.

The Suez Canal is particularly important to Egypt's economy because of its role in international shipping.

Egypt has undergone significant economic reforms in recent years. The economy continues to experience challenges including inflation, currency fluctuations, government debt and foreign-exchange pressures, while growth prospects remain linked to investment, tourism, infrastructure and economic reform.

The World Bank's latest available data records Egypt's population at approximately 118.4 million in 2025 and reported GDP growth of approximately 4.4% in 2025. Economic conditions, inflation and exchange rates can change considerably, so prospective residents should obtain current figures before relocating.

Population

Egypt's population is concentrated heavily along the Nile Valley and Delta, with Cairo and its surrounding metropolitan area forming the country's largest urban centre.

The World Bank recorded a population of approximately 118.4 million in 2025. Population growth, urbanisation and infrastructure development continue to influence housing, transport, employment and public services.

Language

Arabic is the official language of Egypt.

Egyptian Arabic is the predominant spoken form of Arabic in everyday life.

English is widely used in business, tourism, private education and many professional environments. French is also spoken by some Egyptians.

American expatriates living in major cities and international communities will generally find English-speaking professionals, businesses and service providers, although learning basic Egyptian Arabic can make everyday life considerably easier.

Religion and Culture

Islam is the official religion of Egypt and the majority of Egyptians are Muslim. Egypt also has a large Coptic Christian community and other religious minorities.

Religion plays an important role in Egyptian society and can influence working hours, public holidays, social customs and everyday life.

During Ramadan, working hours and business schedules may change. Eating, drinking and smoking in public during daylight hours may also be subject to local customs and restrictions.

New residents should take time to understand local customs and dress appropriately, particularly when visiting religious sites or more conservative areas.

Currency

The official currency is the Egyptian Pound (EGP), commonly written as E£ or LE.

One Egyptian pound is divided into 100 piastres.

Banknotes and coins are issued in a range of denominations. Cash remains widely used, although cards and electronic payments are increasingly accepted in major businesses, hotels, supermarkets and restaurants.

Exchange rates can fluctuate significantly. Residents should monitor current exchange rates rather than relying on figures printed in older relocation information.

U.S. citizens should also retain appropriate records of international transfers and foreign financial accounts for U.S. tax and reporting purposes.

U.S. Tax Considerations

Moving to Egypt does not automatically end a U.S. citizen's U.S. tax obligations.

U.S. citizens and U.S. resident aliens living abroad generally remain subject to U.S. federal tax rules and may need to report worldwide income. Depending on individual circumstances, foreign earned income exclusions, foreign tax credits and other provisions may apply.

U.S. taxpayers may also have additional reporting obligations for foreign financial accounts and assets. For example, the FBAR generally applies where qualifying foreign financial accounts exceed an aggregate value of \$10,000 at any time during the year.

Anyone moving permanently to Egypt should obtain professional tax advice concerning their individual circumstances before and after the move.

Official IRS guidance should always be checked for current requirements.

Time Zone

Egypt uses Eastern European Time.

Standard time is UTC/GMT +2.

Egypt also observes daylight saving time during part of the year, when the time becomes UTC/GMT +3. The exact dates should be checked annually.

Egypt is generally several hours ahead of the United States, with the difference varying according to U.S. and Egyptian daylight-saving schedules.

Telephone

International country code: +20

When calling Egypt from the United States, dial:

011 + 20 + Egyptian number

For international formatting, Egyptian landline and mobile numbers should generally be written using the +20 country code.

Mobile numbers commonly begin with Egyptian mobile prefixes such as 010, 011, 012 or 015 when written domestically.

Weights and Measures

Egypt uses the metric system.

- Distance: kilometres
- Weight: kilograms
- Temperature: Celsius
- Volume: litres

Americans relocating to Egypt will need to become familiar with metric measurements in everyday life.

Electricity

Electricity supply: 220 volts / 50Hz

Egypt commonly uses European-style round two-pin plugs, particularly Type C and Type F.

U.S. electrical appliances are generally designed for 110–120 volts and 60Hz. A simple plug adapter changes the shape of the plug but does **not** convert voltage.

Before bringing appliances from the United States, check whether the appliance is dual-voltage. Appliances designed only for 110–120V may require an appropriate voltage converter/transformer, and some appliances may be better replaced after arrival.

Healthcare

Egypt has both public and private healthcare systems.

Healthcare availability varies significantly depending on location and provider. Major cities such as Cairo and Alexandria have private hospitals, clinics and specialists, including facilities that serve international residents.

Many expatriates choose private healthcare and international medical insurance because it can provide greater choice and access to private facilities.

Before relocating, U.S. residents should check:

- Whether their existing U.S. health insurance provides international coverage.
- Whether their employer provides international medical insurance.
- Whether evacuation and repatriation are covered.
- Whether prescriptions are available in Egypt.
- Whether specialist treatment is available locally.
- Whether their insurance requires pre-authorisation.

Private international health insurance is worth considering for long-term residents, particularly families.

Inoculations and Vaccinations

U.S. residents should consult a doctor or travel-health clinic before relocating.

The CDC currently recommends that travellers to Egypt be up to date with routine vaccinations. Hepatitis A is recommended for unvaccinated travellers, Hepatitis B is recommended for many unvaccinated travellers, and Typhoid is recommended for most travellers. Rabies vaccination may be considered depending on activities and potential animal exposure.

The CDC also advises checking vaccination requirements if travelling onward from countries where yellow fever occurs.

Health recommendations can change, so residents should check the latest CDC guidance before departure.

Food and Water

New residents should take reasonable precautions with food and drinking water.

Many expatriates choose bottled or appropriately filtered water for drinking, particularly during their initial adjustment period.

Food safety practices are particularly important when eating from unfamiliar establishments.

Wash hands regularly and take care with raw foods, unwashed produce and food that has not been properly refrigerated.

Education

Egypt has a mixture of public, private and international schools.

For U.S. families, international education is an important consideration when choosing where to live.

Schools in Egypt may offer:

- Egyptian national curriculum
- American curriculum
- British curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Other international programmes

American-curriculum schools can be particularly attractive to families expecting to return to the United States or continue their children's education within the U.S. system.

When choosing a school, parents should consider:

- Curriculum
- Accreditation
- Tuition fees
- School location
- Transportation
- Class sizes
- Language of instruction
- Admissions requirements
- Academic calendar
- Extracurricular activities
- University preparation

School places can be competitive, particularly at established international schools, so families should begin enquiries well before their planned relocation.

Public Holidays

Egypt observes a mixture of national, religious and cultural public holidays.

These include holidays associated with:

- Coptic Christmas
- Revolution and Police Day
- Sinai Liberation Day
- Labour Day
- Sham El Nessim
- Eid Al-Fitr
- Eid Al-Adha
- Islamic New Year
- June 30 Revolution
- July 23 Revolution
- Armed Forces Day
- Mawlid Al-Nabi

Islamic holidays are based on the lunar calendar and therefore move each year. Government authorities may also announce substituted or additional days off.

For this reason, a permanent relocation guide should not rely on a fixed list of dates. Current dates should be checked each year before publication.

Office Hours

Egypt generally follows a Sunday-to-Thursday working week, with Friday and Saturday commonly forming the weekend.

Actual working hours vary by employer, industry and location.

Government offices, private businesses, international companies and retail businesses may operate different schedules.

During Ramadan, working hours can be reduced or altered.

Bank Hours

Banks generally operate Sunday through Thursday, although opening hours vary between banks and branches.

Some branches in shopping centres and major commercial areas may have different schedules.

Residents should check the current opening hours of their chosen bank before visiting.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

For emergencies in Egypt:

Emergency services: 123

Other useful numbers include:

Police: 122 **Tourist Police:** 126 **Fire:** 180 **Child Emergency Helpline:** 16000 **National Council for Women:** 15115

For U.S. citizens experiencing an emergency after contacting local emergency services:

U.S. Embassy Cairo: +20-2-2797-3300

The U.S. Department of State advises U.S. citizens to keep the embassy's contact details accessible and to enrol in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

U.S. Embassy in Egypt

U.S. Embassy Cairo

5 Tawfik Diab Street Garden City Cairo, Egypt

Telephone: +20-2-2797-3300

Website: U.S. Embassy Cairo

The U.S. Embassy provides consular services and assistance to U.S. citizens in Egypt, including assistance relating to passports, emergencies, arrests or detention, welfare concerns and other consular matters.

The embassy cannot provide the same services as a U.S. government agency located inside the United States and cannot override Egyptian law or court decisions.

U.S. citizens should keep their passport and important documents secure and maintain copies of essential documents.

Egyptian Embassy in the United States

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt – Washington, D.C.

3521 International Court NW Washington, DC 20008 USA

Telephone: +1 202-895-5400 **Consular:** +1 202-966-6342 **Emergency:** +1 202-895-5408 **Email:** consulate@egyptembassy.net

The Egyptian Embassy provides consular services for Egyptian citizens and visa and other services for people travelling to or relocating to Egypt.

Consular jurisdiction should be checked before applying because different Egyptian consulates serve different U.S. states.

Egyptian Consulates General in the United States

New York

866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 586 New York, NY 10017 USA

Telephone: +1 212-759-7120

Generally serving New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Ohio and Puerto Rico.

Chicago

180 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1150 Chicago, IL 60601 USA

Telephone: +1 312-332-7210 / +1 312-332-7214

Generally serving Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Los Angeles

6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1890 Los Angeles, CA 90048 USA

Telephone: +1 323-933-9700

Generally serving California, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Utah.

Houston

5718 Westheimer Street, Suite 1350 Houston, TX 77057 USA

Telephone: +1 713-961-4915 / +1 713-961-4916

Generally serving Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Jurisdictions and contact details should be confirmed directly with the Egyptian Embassy before submitting documents.

Visas and Entry Requirements for U.S. Citizens

U.S. citizens require a visa to enter Egypt.

Egypt offers electronic visa facilities for eligible nationalities, including U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens may also be eligible for a visa on arrival for eligible visits.

However, **a tourist visa is not the same as permission to live or work in Egypt.**

Anyone relocating for employment, business, study, retirement or another long-term purpose should establish the appropriate immigration status before moving.

Visa and residence requirements can change. U.S. citizens should check the latest information from the Egyptian authorities and the U.S. Department of State before travelling.

Passports should generally have at least six months' validity remaining for entry.

Dual U.S.-Egyptian Citizens

People who hold both U.S. and Egyptian citizenship should understand that Egyptian authorities may treat them as Egyptian citizens while they are in Egypt.

The U.S. Department of State specifically warns that the ability of the U.S. Embassy to provide consular assistance can be limited for dual U.S.-Egyptian nationals.

Egyptian military-service requirements may also apply to certain Egyptian male citizens.

Anyone with dual nationality should obtain specific advice before relocating, particularly if they are travelling with children or have military-service obligations.

Safety and Security

The U.S. Department of State currently advises U.S. citizens to exercise increased caution in Egypt because of terrorism, crime and health concerns.

Certain areas carry additional restrictions or risks, including parts of the Sinai Peninsula, Egyptian border areas and parts of the Western Desert.

Residents should:

- Monitor official travel and security information.
- Avoid demonstrations and large political gatherings.
- Follow local laws.

- Carry copies of important documents.
- Keep emergency contacts accessible.
- Exercise particular care when travelling outside major population centres.
- Check local conditions before travelling to remote or border areas.
- Use licensed travel operators where required.

Security conditions can change, so the latest U.S. Department of State advisory should be reviewed before travelling.

Driving in Egypt

Driving conditions in Egypt can be very different from those experienced in the United States.

Traffic in Cairo and other major cities can be heavy and unpredictable. Road conditions and driving standards vary.

Before driving, residents should ensure they have the appropriate Egyptian driving documentation and insurance.

An International Driving Permit may be useful for short-term visitors, but long-term residents should establish whether they need an Egyptian licence.

Many expatriates choose to use professional drivers, taxis or established ride-hailing services rather than drive themselves, particularly in major cities.

Residents should not assume that their U.S. driver's licence alone permits long-term driving in Egypt.

Banking

International residents should consider maintaining appropriate access to both U.S. and Egyptian banking services.

Before departure, check with U.S. banks and credit-card providers regarding:

- International transaction fees
- Foreign ATM fees
- Card usage overseas
- Fraud alerts
- International transfers
- Two-factor authentication
- Maintaining a U.S. mailing address
- Access to online banking while overseas

Egyptian banks may require identification, residency documentation and other paperwork to open accounts.

Exchange rates and currency regulations can change, so residents should obtain current banking information before transferring significant amounts of money.

Importing Household Goods and Personal Effects

Moving household goods from the United States to Egypt requires advance planning.

Egyptian Customs regulates the importation of household goods and personal effects. Customs requirements can differ depending on whether the shipment belongs to:

- A returning Egyptian citizen
- A foreign resident
- A diplomat
- A temporary resident
- A business or organisation

The consignee may need to provide documentation such as:

- Passport
- Residence or work documentation
- Detailed inventory
- Packing list
- Shipping documentation
- Customs documentation
- Employer or diplomatic documentation where applicable

All shipments may be subject to customs inspection.

Because customs treatment can depend on the individual's immigration status, ownership of the goods, length of residence and the nature of the shipment, a professional international mover should confirm the applicable requirements before packing.

Egyptian Customs Law provides for certain customs exemptions, including provisions concerning personal belongings of passengers and other categories, subject to applicable conditions and regulations.

Do not rely on the older 2017 customs rules contained in previous versions of this guide.

Preparing Your Inventory

A detailed inventory is strongly recommended for any international shipment.

The inventory should identify items clearly rather than using general descriptions such as:

"Household goods – 10 boxes."

Instead, use descriptions such as:

"Kitchen – stainless steel cookware – used."

For valuable electrical equipment, include:

- Make
- Model
- Serial number
- Approximate value

Keep a copy of the complete inventory with your shipping documents.

Your international mover should confirm whether additional documentation is required before the shipment leaves the United States.

Customs Inspection

Household goods entering Egypt may be inspected by Egyptian Customs.

Inspection can result in additional charges and may delay delivery.

Packing should therefore be organised so that individual items can be identified easily.

Do not pack prohibited or restricted items simply because they are legal to own in the United States.

An item that is legal in the United States may nevertheless be restricted or prohibited for import into Egypt.

Restricted and Prohibited Items

Import restrictions can apply to a wide range of goods.

Particular care should be taken with:

- Weapons and ammunition
- Firearms
- Knives and other bladed items
- Drones
- Radio and communications equipment
- Surveillance equipment
- Certain satellite and telecommunications equipment
- Medicines and pharmaceutical products
- Food
- Plants and seeds
- Animals and animal products
- High-value artwork

- Gold and precious metals
- Commercial quantities of goods
- Materials subject to Egyptian censorship or other regulatory controls

Do not pack restricted items without first obtaining written confirmation that they may be imported.

Drones are particularly important: current U.S. government guidance states that bringing any type of drone into Egypt is illegal.

Medicines

Prescription medicines should be researched carefully before relocation.

A medicine that is routinely prescribed or sold in the United States may be controlled or restricted in Egypt.

Before travelling, residents should:

- Keep medicines in their original packaging.
- Carry a copy of the prescription.
- Carry a letter from their doctor where appropriate.
- Check Egyptian requirements for controlled medicines.
- Bring only an appropriate personal supply.
- Confirm whether the medication is legal to import.

Do not assume that a U.S. prescription automatically authorises importation into Egypt.

Food

Food imports can be subject to Egyptian customs and health regulations.

Avoid placing large quantities of food into a household shipment without first checking whether they are permitted.

Commercial quantities may be treated differently from normal personal effects.

Alcohol and Tobacco

Alcohol and tobacco products may be subject to specific Egyptian customs restrictions, duties or allowances.

Diplomatic exemptions, where applicable, are subject to separate rules.

Residents should confirm current allowances before shipping or carrying these products into Egypt.

Artwork, Antiques and Valuable Items

High-value artwork, antiques and cultural objects may require additional documentation or examination.

Before shipping valuable artwork or antiques, retain evidence of ownership and value.

Items that may have cultural, archaeological or protected-status implications should receive specialist advice before shipment.

Gold, Jewellery and Cash

Residents should take particular care when transporting significant quantities of:

- Gold
- Jewellery
- Precious metals
- Cash
- Collectible coins

Egyptian authorities impose rules concerning the amount and nature of currency and valuables that may be brought into or taken out of the country.

U.S. citizens should declare items where required and retain supporting documentation.

The U.S. Department of State currently advises that bringing more than US\$10,000 into or out of Egypt is illegal and that Egypt places restrictions on quantities of gold that individuals may import.

Motor Vehicles

Importing a vehicle from the United States to Egypt can be complicated and potentially expensive.

Eligibility, customs duties, taxes, documentation and registration requirements depend on the vehicle, ownership circumstances, import status and the individual's circumstances.

Before shipping a vehicle, obtain a written assessment of the likely Egyptian import costs.

Documents may include:

- Original vehicle title
- Registration documentation
- Passport
- Purchase documentation
- Shipping documents
- Proof of ownership
- Applicable residence or work documentation
- Customs documents

Do not ship a vehicle based solely on an estimate from a U.S. dealer or shipping company.

The vehicle should be checked for compliance with Egyptian requirements before shipment.

Moving Pets to Egypt

Pet relocation requires advance preparation.

Dogs and cats may require veterinary documentation and vaccinations before entering Egypt. Airline requirements will also apply and may differ between carriers.

Before relocating a pet, confirm:

- Microchip requirements
- Rabies vaccination
- Other required vaccinations
- Veterinary health certificate
- Import documentation
- Airline requirements
- Quarantine requirements, if applicable
- Arrival procedures
- Rules for returning the animal to the United States

Pet import regulations can change, so the requirements should be confirmed with the relevant Egyptian authorities, airline and veterinarian before travel.

Endangered Species and CITES

The international trade in protected animals, plants and products made from protected species is regulated under CITES.

Items that may be affected include:

- Ivory
- Certain animal skins
- Certain furs
- Trophies
- Protected plants
- Certain antique or decorative objects containing protected materials

Old pianos and other antiques can sometimes contain ivory.

Do not ship a potentially protected item without establishing whether CITES documentation is required.

For a U.S.-origin shipment, both U.S. export requirements and Egyptian import requirements may need to be considered.

Wooden Packing Materials

Wooden crates and other wood packaging used for international transportation may be required to comply with ISPM 15 international phytosanitary requirements.

Where wooden packaging is used, the international mover should ensure that it has been appropriately treated and marked.

This should be confirmed before packing rather than after the shipment has departed the United States.

Shipping Household Goods from the United States

Choose an international moving company experienced in Egypt shipments.

Before signing a contract, ask the mover to confirm:

- Origin services
- Packing
- Ocean or air freight
- Destination customs clearance
- Port or airport charges
- Customs inspection charges
- Storage
- Delivery to residence
- Unpacking
- Insurance
- Documentation requirements
- Estimated transit time
- Egyptian customs requirements
- Whether any items require prior approval

Do not assume that a U.S. moving company's standard international package automatically includes Egyptian customs clearance or all destination charges.

Housing

Housing options vary considerably throughout Egypt.

In Cairo and surrounding areas, expatriates may consider areas such as:

- Maadi
- New Cairo
- Zamalek

- Heliopolis
- Sheikh Zayed City
- 6th of October City

Other popular locations include Alexandria, Hurghada and Sharm El Sheikh.

When choosing accommodation, consider:

- Distance from work
- School location
- Traffic
- Security
- Access to healthcare
- Shopping
- Public transport
- Internet availability
- Air conditioning
- Backup power
- Water supply
- Parking
- Building management
- Furnished versus unfurnished accommodation

Rental agreements should be reviewed carefully before signing.

Communications and Internet

Internet access is widely available in major Egyptian cities, with a variety of fixed-line and mobile providers.

Before moving, residents should check whether their U.S. mobile phone is unlocked and compatible with Egyptian networks.

A local SIM or eSIM may provide more economical access to mobile data and calls.

Keep U.S. mobile service active if necessary for banking, authentication codes and other accounts.

Working in Egypt

Foreign nationals intending to work in Egypt should ensure they have the appropriate immigration and work authorisation.

A tourist visa should not be assumed to permit employment.

Employers should normally assist employees with the relevant work and residence procedures.

Before accepting employment, confirm:

- Salary and currency
 - Tax treatment
 - Work permit arrangements
 - Residence status
 - Health insurance
 - Housing allowance
 - Schooling benefits
 - Flights
 - Relocation expenses
 - Tax equalisation, if applicable
 - U.S. tax implications
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Social Security and U.S. Benefits

Americans living overseas should review how relocation may affect Social Security, Medicare, pensions, investments and employer benefits.

U.S. citizens living abroad may continue to have U.S. tax and reporting responsibilities.

Medicare generally does not provide broad medical coverage outside the United States, so Americans relocating permanently should make alternative healthcare arrangements.

Practical Advice for U.S. Families

Before leaving the United States:

- Check passport validity.
- Obtain the appropriate Egyptian visa or immigration documentation.
- Obtain international health insurance.
- Arrange prescriptions.
- Confirm school places.
- Organise international movers.
- Prepare a detailed inventory.
- Check electrical appliances.
- Review pet requirements.
- Notify banks and credit-card providers.
- Arrange international access to important accounts.
- Review U.S. tax obligations.
- Make copies of passports and important documents.
- Obtain appropriate driving documentation.
- Register for the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program.

After arrival:

- Complete residence and immigration procedures.
- Register with relevant local authorities where required.
- Arrange local banking.

- Obtain a local mobile number.
 - Confirm healthcare arrangements.
 - Familiarise yourself with local emergency numbers.
 - Locate your nearest hospital, pharmacy and police station.
 - Learn basic Arabic phrases.
 - Understand local customs and regulations.
 - Keep U.S. and Egyptian documentation secure.
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Useful Emergency Contacts

Emergency Services: 123 Police: 122 Fire: 180 Tourist Police: 126 Child Emergency: 16000 National Council for Women: 15115

U.S. Embassy Cairo: +20-2-2797-3300

For U.S. citizens, the U.S. Department of State recommends keeping emergency contact information available and enrolling in STEP.

Important U.S. Government Resources

U.S. Embassy Cairo

[U.S. Embassy Cairo](#)

U.S. Department of State – Egypt

[U.S. Department of State Egypt Travel Information](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[CDC Egypt Travel Health Information](#)

Internal Revenue Service – Americans Abroad

[IRS – U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#)

Embassy of Egypt in Washington, D.C.

[Embassy of Egypt in Washington, D.C.](#)

Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to provide useful and accurate information, this guide is intended for general relocation purposes only and should not be regarded as legal, immigration, tax, medical or customs advice.

Immigration rules, visa requirements, customs regulations, taxation, healthcare recommendations, public holidays, import restrictions and other government requirements can change without notice.

Prospective residents should verify current requirements with the appropriate Egyptian and U.S. government authorities and obtain professional advice where appropriate before making relocation, shipping, employment, tax, healthcare or immigration decisions.

Information relating to customs and importation is particularly subject to change. A professional international moving company should be consulted before shipping household goods, vehicles, pets or restricted items.

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More info on our website: <https://onewayamerica.com>.