



SDC Egypt Cairo

Information for participants of the F2F dlgn in Aswan, 13 – 16 May 2013

Pre-flight suggestion

Cairo airport is unfortunately notorious for losing baggage. Therefore, if possible, we recommend traveling only with hand luggage, or if you have sufficient transfer time in Cairo to catch your connecting flight to Aswan (approx. 2 hours should be ok), to check in your luggage only until Cairo, reclaim it and check it in for your flight to Aswan.

Arrival

Upon arrival at Cairo airport, obtain a tourist visa if applicable, pass immigration and reclaim your luggage if it is not checked through to Aswan. If you

- stay overnight in Cairo to catch your connection to Aswan the next day, exit the airport. A driver with a SDC/Swiss Embassy sign will wait for you to drive you to your overnight hotel near the airport. We will also organize pickup and transfer from the hotel to the airport the next day.
- travel onwards to Aswan, check in for your connecting flight to Aswan in Terminal 3. A driver with a SDC/Swiss Embassy sign will wait for you at the exit of the airport in Aswan to drive you to the pier of the Mövenpick Aswan Resort. The Mövenpick Resort has several boats which will take you to the hotel on Elephantine Island.

Dress code

Within the hotel area there is no specific dress code. Outside of the hotel grounds, women should avoid wearing shorts, short skirts and skimpy sleeveless, low-cut, tight-fitting and revealing tops as well as translucent materials. If you want to adapt more to the local context, choose tops that cover your backside and have long sleeves. A light scarf will be useful when visiting mosques, Coptic churches or other religious places. Except for that, foreign women are not expected to cover their hair.

In general, clothing suitable for the hot climate in Aswan will allow air circulation and offer some protection against the scorching sun as well as against the mosquitoes in the evenings. Your best choice will be clothes made of natural fibers such as light cotton or linen trousers or long skirts and loosely fitting shirts/blouses/tops. Remember to bring something to protect your head from the sun, especially for the field excursions and if you plan to extend your stay to visit tourist sites.

Exchange rates

1 USD	EGP 6.87
1 Euro	EGP 9.02
1 CHF	EGP 7.42

(Source: Oanda, 18.04.2013)

Health

The hot and dry climate (over 40 and up to 50 degrees Celsius in May) makes it necessary to drink more water than you might be used to. Only drink bottled water and outside of the hotel, avoid drinks with ice, watered down fruit juices and we also recommend being cautious with salads, fruits and uncooked food. If you should nevertheless get sick or have an accident, medical assistance will be available through the hotel for minor cases and if necessary at the German Hospital (23, Corniche el-Nil, +20 97 2317176, see also emergency card in your welcome folder).

Hotel payment

Participants will have to settle the payment directly with the hotel for the accommodation including breakfast of USD 90 per night on single occupancy basis as well as a conference fee of approx. USD 40 per day which includes tea/coffee breaks and lunch, to be reclaimed from their respective country office/organization (for SDC: credit for staff training). Payment can be done by all major credit cards or in cash with USD or Euros.

Internet

Internet is available at an extra charge; wireless in the lounge (reasonably fast) and in the rooms through cable (rather slow). Charges are as follows.

30 min access with single login	EGP 33
60 min access with multiple login within 24 hours	EGP 44
24 hours access with multiple login within 48 hours	EGP 99

You can ask for an internet access card at the reception. Renewal can be made electronically (www.morgane.com). Make sure you jot down the number code that you will receive.

Money

The functioning of the few ATMs in Aswan and in the Mövenpick Resort cannot be guaranteed. We recommend paying larger amounts by credit card or cash in USD and EURO. It is also advisable to bring USD or Euro which can be changed at banks/exchange offices in the airports, the city, or at the hotel, or alternatively, use the ATM at Cairo Airport for equipping yourself with EGP. Please apply the usual vigilance when using credit cards and handling cash.

Photography

It is forbidden to take photos of airport and military installations. If you want to take pictures of people, in particular women, ask first for their consent.

Security

Aswan is a peaceful city whose economy heavily depends on tourism. It has in general low rates of criminality but we still advise you not to display expensive objects and large amounts of cash but use the safe in your hotel room to store your valuables.

Please do not walk the streets alone after dark and avoid any large gatherings of people. Although Aswan did not experience violent uprisings during the recent political changes in

Egypt, flaring up of demonstrations cannot be entirely excluded due to the overall volatile situation in the country. We will inform you during the event if developments should make any further precautions necessary.

We strongly advise you to carry the emergency card, which is provided in the welcome folder, with you at all times until you leave Egypt.

For more security related information as well as emergency numbers, please see the separate security recommendations.

Taxis in Aswan

Taxis are readily on hand and the best available means of transport for moving within the city, despite the fact that they neither have meters nor air condition, are often in a questionable condition and hardly any of the drivers speaks English. However, they will know the places most frequented by tourists, or you might try to have an Arabic transcription of the place and the address ready. It is also useful to have a card with the address of the hotel in Arabic with you (provided in your welcome folder). Taxis can be hailed directly from the curb. Use your discretion to hail a car that seems to be in a reasonable condition and negotiate the fare before you get in to avoid lengthy discussions with the driver once you arrive.

Fares within Aswan City should be around EGP 5 – 10, in the surrounding of Aswan around EGP 15 – 20, to and from the airport EGP 50 – 60, depending on your negotiation skills.

Tourism

For participants who want to explore some of the sights in Egypt on a private basis, we will invite a couple of tour operators to visit us in the hotel for your convenience. If you haven't made your arrangements until then, these tour operators will be glad to assist you. To visit the sights around Aswan, one to two days should be sufficient, for Abu Simbel you will need one extra day by road.

Voltage/plugs

Electrical power in Egypt has a voltage of 220 V and uses type C outlets, which is the two-pin plug and receptacle used in most Western Europe. Please bring adapters if your equipment has a different plug (e.g. Swiss laptops with three-pin plugs).

Welcome folder

You will receive the welcome folder upon arrival in Aswan.