



# TRAVEL GUIDE

# Travel & Flights

Hack Club covers all on-the-ground costs, including lodging, meals and local transportation. Participants are responsible for booking their own flights.

To help make travel more accessible, after participants qualify for Horizons Equinox they may continue building projects to earn travel stipends at a rate of US\$8.50 per additional hour of building.

## Visas & Entry Requirements

Most participants will require either a visa or an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization) to enter Egypt, while a small number of nationalities may not require either. Entry requirements vary depending on your citizenship, so please check the official Egyptian immigration guidance for your country before booking travel.

ETAs typically cost approximately US\$30 and can often be obtained online before travel or upon arrival. Traditional visas however, generally require an application before departure and may have additional requirements such as supporting documents, processing fees or proof of travel plans.

If you require a visa, we recommend applying at least a month in advance, as processing times can vary significantly between countries. In most cases, participants should apply for a tourist visa.

Some embassies or consulates may request documentation explaining the purpose of your trip. If you need a Letter of Introduction from Hack Club, please email [equinox@horizons.hackclub.com](mailto:equinox@horizons.hackclub.com) once you have reached 50% qualification for the event, and we will be happy to prepare one for you.

Participants may use travel stipends earned to help cover visa, ETA and other travel-related costs. Through the travel stipends, Hack Club can cover the cost of a typical ETA by redeeming approximately 3.5 hours of project time.

Some countries may be required to get certain vaccinations before travelling to Egypt. For instance, Kenyans are required to have Yellow Fever and Polio vaccination. Please check in with local authorities on what vaccines you are required to have before travelling to Egypt.

Please note that obtaining the correct travel authorisation and ensuring that your passport meets all entry requirements is ultimately your responsibility. We strongly recommend verifying requirements well in advance of travel.

## **Arrival and Departure**

Please ensure that you arrive on the morning of August 14th before 10:00 AM local time at either Cairo International Airport (CAI) or Sphinx International Airport (SPX).

Most international flights arrive through Cairo International Airport. However, if you find a better itinerary arriving at Sphinx International Airport, we will still arrange transportation and pickup.

On August 16th, attendees will be escorted by staff to their departure airports beginning at 3:00 PM. Please book return flights accordingly (aim for a departure from around 6:00PM). Earlier airport drop-offs can be arranged if necessary.

## **Local Transportation**

We plan to provide private transportation between major event destinations, including the venue, accommodations, and planned activities at no additional cost to participants.

We will be using a private bus to transport attendees from the venue to different points such as the Pyramids of Giza. Attendees will be transported at no cost, and will be supervised by a staff member at all times.

## **Currency & Payments**

While Hack Club will cover most of your attendance costs. If you wish to get some souvenirs or something to take home you are welcome to do so. The local currency is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted at hotels, restaurants, malls, and many tourist attractions. However, participants may wish to carry a small amount of local currency for smaller purchases, markets, or independent shops.

## **SIM Cards & Internet Access**

Wi-Fi will be available at event venues and accommodations.

Participants who would like mobile data during their stay can purchase a local SIM card at the airport upon arrival. Major providers include Vodafone Egypt, Orange Egypt, Etisalat by e&, and WE. Many modern devices also support eSIM services.

## **Weather, Heat & Hydration**

August in Cairo and Giza is very hot. Daytime temperatures frequently exceed 35°C (95°F) and can occasionally reach 40°C (104°F) or higher. While our main venue will have ample air conditioning, we'd still recommend you:

- Drink lots of water regularly throughout the day.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Bring a hat or other sun protection.
- Wear lightweight and comfortable clothing suitable for hot weather.
- Take advantage of shaded and air-conditioned spaces when available.

Water will be readily available throughout the event, and organisers will monitor weather conditions to ensure participant safety.

## **Cultural Awareness**

Egypt is a welcoming and diverse country with a rich history and culture. As with any international destination, visitors may come across customs, social norms, and expectations that differ from those in their home countries.

Participants are encouraged to be respectful of local customs, particularly when visiting historical landmarks and residential neighborhoods. While Cairo and Giza are large, modern cities with people from many different backgrounds and lifestyles, being mindful of local customs helps ensure positive interactions with the people you may interact with.

Hack Club always welcomes participants from all backgrounds and identities. Our staff will be available throughout the event to help attendees navigate any cultural differences they may encounter and to ensure everyone has a positive experience.

## **Drinking Water & Food Safety**

Participants should drink bottled or filtered water provided by the venue, organisers, hotels or other reputable sources.

All meals provided by the event will be selected with participant safety and dietary needs in mind. Dietary restrictions, allergies, and other medical considerations can be submitted through a form in the future.

# Safety and Support

To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, Hack Club uses a comprehensive Youth Protection Plan that outlines the procedures and policies in place to protect our youth participants. All full-time Hack Club staff and volunteers are background checked and receive safety training.

Additionally, all staff members are required to complete the Hack Club Youth Protection Training program. This training ensures that all individuals are knowledgeable about:

- Recognising signs of abuse and neglect.
- Appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.
- Procedures for reporting suspected abuse or misconduct.
- Strategies for maintaining a safe and inclusive environment.

## Participant Registration and Parental Consent

All participants under the age of 18 may sign up independently and begin working on projects online. To attend the in-person event, participants under 18 must have a consent form and liability waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.

We collect emergency contact information, dietary requirements, allergies, and other relevant medical information.

You will be given access to the Attend platform, where they can submit required information and complete event forms. Attendees whose guardians have signed a freedom waiver may have opportunities to explore designated areas independently, subject to event policies and local conditions.

Closer to the event, we will host virtual information sessions for parents, teachers, and other stakeholders. These sessions will provide additional information and opportunities to speak directly with staff members.

## Regarding Regional Security

We understand that some parents may have concerns about travel to the Middle East.

The event is being held in Cairo and Giza, two of Egypt's most visited regions. We continuously monitor travel advisories, local conditions and guidance from trusted sources when planning our events.

Participant safety remains our highest priority. Should conditions change we will communicate this with participants and families.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions, please reach out to [equinox@horizons.hackclub.com](mailto:equinox@horizons.hackclub.com). Additional contact options will be shared closer to the event.

During the event, parents and guardians can call our 24/7 hotline at +1 (855) 625-HACK (+1 (855) 625-4225) to speak with a staff member immediately.

We look forward to seeing what you build at Horizons Equinox!