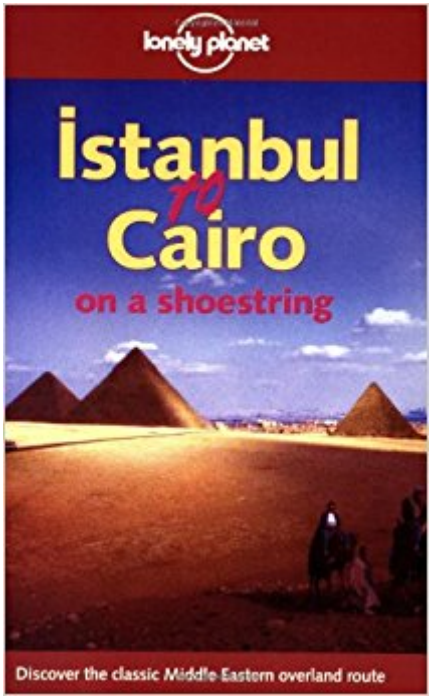
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Istanbul To Cairo On A Shoestring (Lonely Planet Istanbul To Cairo: Classic Overland Route)



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Synopsis

Guides the budget traveller along the popular Istanbul to Cairo route covering the Middle East's most fascinating and accessible countries - Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and Egypt. Includes up-to-date information on border crossings, visa formalities and transport options.

Book Information

Series: Lonely Planet Istanbul to Cairo: Classic Overland Route
Paperback: 512 pages
Publisher: Lonely Planet Publications (January 2000)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0864427492
ISBN-13: 978-0864427496
Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 5.1 x 1.1 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #3,610,215 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > Cairo #164 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Asia > Turkey > Istanbul #526 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > General

Customer Reviews

'Lonely Planet books speak the language of youthful, independent, tourist-trap-avoiding travellers'--Sports Illustrated

I bought this for my first trip to the Middle East, in the fall of 2003, and I couldn't have been happier with it. It tells you everything you need to know as a beginner and a tourist -- it's basically training wheels for people who are new to the region, which I definitely needed at the time, and which made traveling, even as a solo female, very easy.Of course, once you get used to traveling as a tourist, then the fun really begins. You can start to find your own way and go off the beaten track, to the places where few or no guidebooks have anything to say. And thank God this guidebook doesn't give away all the secrets of the Middle East, otherwise there would be nothing to discover.My trip really began in Amman, Jordan, when I started talking to journalists and foreign aid workers, and their stories intrigued me so much, I decided to veer off my intended route and visit the West Bank of the Palestinian Territories. I ended up living there two years and writing a book about it (Fast

Times in Palestine)!Thanks, Lonely Planet, for what you say and what you don't say!

It wasn't perfect shape but it gave me the message I was looking for. I think it was priced a little high as it was bought at goodwill for about 20% of what I paid.

Wandering through the bustling Istanbul Grand Bazaar, exploring the Syrian desert oasis ruins of Palmyra, feeling like Indiana Jones in front of the amazing rock temples and treasuries of Petra, floating along the Nile, and swimming with schools of the most remarkable exotic fish in the Red Sea are just a fraction of the adventures to be had while exploring the 'cradle of civilizaion.' Lonely Planet once again scores big with a very accurate and informative guidebook that is ESSENTIAL for navigating through this region of the world. I used this book as my primary guide along the Istanbul-Cairo route and found its maps, hotel and restaurant suggestions, itinerary suggestions, and even bus/train timetables to be right on cue with reality and far more informative than its rival guidebook companies. The Istanbul to Cairo overland route is an amazing experience, and this book has a great abundance of information about travelling through there. Still, however, I suggest as always purchasing LP's individual country books as well, in that they go more into depth. If you are interested primarily in travelling though this book's countries (Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and Egypt) then I would suggest this book over LP's general Middle East book and DEFINITELY over the Let's Go Middle East book, for this edition has more maps, accurate info, and details than either of its two rivals. Good luck and safe travels!

This book outlines an excellent journey from Istanbul to Cairo, with all the detail and information we expect from Lonely Planet. The only problem emerges if you want to take a different route than the one they've outlined. They make hardly any allowance for this possibility, and this is the book's fatal flaw. Use it as a suggestion book, as a guide; but consider buying a guide to the Middle East instead, and thus providing yourself with much more information on the places between Istanbul and Cairo, places you may want to visit even though they're "off the beaten track." For instance, with more information I chose to go South through Jordan, ferry to Egypt, and then go back North into Israel, ending in Jerusalem. This made sites such as Petra in Jordan and St. Anthony's Monastery in Egypt fit nicely on the itinerary, and for me ending in Jerusalem provided a more fitting climax. No one trip can fit everyone. Whatever your desires, consider a guidebook that presents more options. Make sure you include Istanbul, Ephesus, Damascus, Baalbek, Beirut, Petra, Jerusalem, Cairo. Strongly consider Nazareth, Haifa, Luxor, and Mt. Sinai. Have fun!

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I have backpacked in this area extensively. Most of the guides I have used in the past weren't really that useful. I was therefore really surprised by this guide. I found it useful in Turkey, Jordan and Eygpt - detailing all the major sites (relatively in depth for a guide this length) and finding cheap guesthouses. It wasn't, however, very helpful in getting around - for example - the "travel agencies" recommended in Istanbul beyond being run by westerners for backpackers were much more expensive than any of the other local agencies. However, as I've never lived in any of those countries I can't really give a proper opinion beyond saying I personally found the guide helpful. On Israel it's a different matter - and I can only say well done to the writers - I didn't know you could find such cheap guesthouses in Israel, and I've travelled around the country quite a bit. I still use this guide when I travel here which says alot - especially seeing as I only bought the guide for its coverage of the neighbouring countries. All in all I recommend this guide and the route it contains.

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