



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **USTOA Assures Egypt-bound Travelers**

The U.S. Tour Operators Association is reassuring Egypt-bound travelers on its member company tours and vacation packages that their safety and security is of utmost importance. "The USTOA community has always taken steps to maximize traveler protection while at any destination," says Terry Dale, USTOA President.

Passengers on escorted tours are always in contact through their tour manager, who is knowledgeable and well versed on local conditions. Many USTOA companies also have local offices or affiliates throughout major tourist destinations, including Egypt, to ensure constant communication with their tour managers and guests.

For travelers on an independent vacation package or a custom itinerary planned through a USTOA member, there is a company contact in case of emergency. The company also has a record of each traveler, so they are able to reach them.

In addition USTOA –member companies closely monitor all situations and have crisis management teams who are trained to handle emergency situations. Working with a tour operator with years of experience and strong relationships empowers travelers, and gives them a safety net they wouldn't have if they made all their arrangements by themselves.

#### Future travel arrangements

The association advises travelers planning an Egypt trip to check with their individual company, tour operator, or travel agent regarding future travel arrangements, as policies on rebooking are up to each individual company, and vary by company.

In an informal poll of USTOA members serving Egypt, all respondents said they are assisting their clients. Most are either allowing travelers to reschedule their trips for a future date without penalties, issuing credits for future travel, offering clients alternate destinations, or refunding payments. Other companies are working with their clients on an individual basis. As of January 28, 35% of responding members said they had cancelled their Egypt itineraries.

For a list of USTOA member companies serving Egypt, visit [http://bit.ly/USTOA\\_Egypt](http://bit.ly/USTOA_Egypt).

For more information on USTOA and for a list of its member companies visit: [www.USTOA.com](http://www.USTOA.com), or [www.USTOA.travel](http://www.USTOA.travel). USTOA member companies have met the travel industry's highest standards, including participation in the association's Travelers Assistance Program, which among other things protects consumer payments up to \$1 million in case the company goes out of business. USTOA is the

premier association of companies providing vacation packages, tours, and custom travel itineraries for more than 11 million people yearly.

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