

Egyptian Desert Safari from only £500pp*

8 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / STANDARD TOUR /



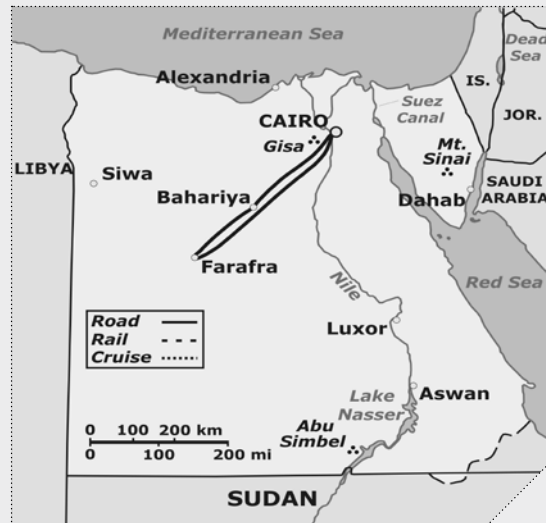
Ideal for a second visit to Egypt, this tour visits several different desert regions including the Wadi Rayan Protected Area with its freshwater desert lake, and the Valley of the Whales World Heritage Site where numerous fossilised whales litter the beautiful desert scenery. We also enjoy a jeep safari into Western Deserts to visit the Bahariya & Farafra Oases and spend a night camping under the starry desert sky amidst the weird rock formations in the White Desert.

FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See page 4 for details

Regular small-group departures run all year round. Call or check the website for dates and prices. Private and tailor-made options are also available on request.

Please refer to page 3 or website for details.



FLIGHTS INCLUDED:* ✗	LOCAL PAYMENT: ✗	ENTRANCE FEES: ✗	AIRPORT TRANSFERS: ✓
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TOUR FACTS

Tour Code & Class:	ADEGED / Standard
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 2 Max. - 18 / Min. age - 12
Activity - Multi:	Sightseeing, camel ride (optional), desert jeep safari
Activity Level:	Low
Accommodation:	3 nights in hotels (approx. 3-star), 2 nights basic oasis hotels, 2 night desert camping
Transport:	A/C bus/minibus/car, 4x4 jeep
Meals:	7 Breakfasts (B), 3 Lunches (L) and 4 Dinners (D)

YOUR 8 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Cairo. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Drive to Meidum pyramid, Fayoum oasis tour.
- Day 3:** Wadi Rayan protected area, and the Valley of the Whales.
- Day 4:** Drive from Cairo to Bahariya.
- Day 5:** Bahariya oasis tour. White Desert jeep safari. Overnight camp.
- Day 6:** Jeep safari. Farafra oasis.
- Day 7:** Bahariya. Drive to Cairo.
- Day 8:** Cairo - Free time. Transfer to airport for departure.

"Would you like to visit the Red Sea and mountains of the Sinai Peninsula? ...then check out our Sinai Safari tour"

**To book visit: www.egypt-uncovered.com,
email: tours@egypt-uncovered.com or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49
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DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 / ARRIVE IN CAIRO

You arrive at Cairo airport where we greet and transfer you to your hotel. Our Egypt Uncovered rep. welcomes you, helps you settle into the hotel, and outlines the plan for the next few days.

Overnight at 3-star hotel in Cairo.

DAY 2 / FAYOUM TOUR, MEIDUM PYRAMID

After arriving into Cairo by train, we head out to the Fayoum region. This extensively irrigated area is the most fertile region in Egypt and for centuries has supplied Egypt with wheat and numerous other crops. We stop to see the water wheels which have powered the irrigation for centuries, visit a natural spring, and see the Birket Qarn salt lake, home to many different birds including flamingos on one of the islands. En-route to Fayoum we visit the Meidum Pyramid, one of the very first attempts in Egypt at building a true pyramid. We drive by jeep to Wadi Hitan where we will stay overnight at a basic but comfortable camp surrounded by spectacular cliffs with great views over the valley.

Overnight at Wadi Hitan Camp (D).

DAY 3 / WADI RAYAN, VALLEY OF THE WHALES

After breakfast we begin our tours of Wadi Rayan Protected Area. Wadi Rayan surrounds a fresh-water lake in the middle of the desert, which is filled by the remaining irrigation water from the Fayoum area. There are several waterfalls here, and a bird hide which gives good views of the lakes birdlife, particularly in the winter months when the lake is an important stop for migrating water-birds. We also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, which hosts many different plants and animals, including Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox and Fennec Fox. After a stop for a packed lunch, we then drive into the

stunning desert & mountain scenery of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is accepted as the most significant site in the world to demonstrate the evolution of whales, and we take a 2-3km walk here to see several specimens of fossilised whales of different types sitting on the surface of the sand, as well as fossilised mangroves and the remains of crab holes.

We head back to Cairo after today's tours where we will stay overnight in a 3 star hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Cairo (B L).

DAY 4 / DRIVE TO BAHARYA OASIS

We leave Cairo this morning and drive into the barren Western Deserts, to the Baharya oasis (approx. 4-5 hour drive). Situated in a depression covering some 2000 sq km Baharya is divided between 4 villages, the largest of which is Bawiti. Famous for its dates, wine and hot springs, it is a peaceful and picturesque setting amid the harsh, barren landscape of the desert. Here we stay in a simple but comfortable hotel.

Overnight at hotel, Baharya (B D).

DAY 5 / WHITE DESERT, JEEP SAFARI

After breakfast, we take a tour around the Baharya oasis. This will include a visit to the English House, which is the ruined remains of a WW1 fort perched atop a nearby hill, and The Black Mountain. Next, we head heading into the White Desert using 4X4 jeeps. The White Desert is named after its white mica ground cover, and white rocks, shaped into curious toadstool, castles, and pillar like formations. On the way we stop to visit huge golden sand dunes and the dazzling Crystal Mountain, a rocky outcrop consisting of quartz crystals that lie strewn across the sand. At the foot of the hill a natural rock arch stands defying gravity. From here we head to our campsite in the White Desert and along the way collect wood for the campfire.

Our guide will prepare our meal and then you can relax, reflect on

the stunning desert scenery you've seen today, and appreciate the silence and bright starry night sky that can only be found in such a vast uninhabited place.

Overnight in White Desert (B L D).

DAY 6 / FINISH SAFARI, FARAFRA OASIS

After breakfast in the White Desert we finish our safari in the Farafra Oasis, stopping on our way at the Black Desert to see the "flowers of the desert". These spiky chunks of black rock are formed by the rapid crystallization of volcanic eruptions under the sea, and are scattered all across the barren landscape.

At Farafra we take a short tour of the oasis and break for lunch. This is the smallest and most peaceful of the Western Desert oases, and many of the inhabitants are Bedouins who adhere to some of their ancient traditions. You'll see small mud-brick houses in the old area of town, many painted with verses of the Koran and paintings depicting their journeys to Mecca, and can stop to see the sand paintings, and sculptures of the world famous local artist, Badr Abd El Moghny. After a final stop in the oasis for a dip in one of the springs, we drive back through the desert to Baharya and our hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Baharya (B L D).

DAY 7 / BAHARYA OASIS, TOUR

We checkout of the hotel, and set off into the desert again, to arrive back in Cairo soon after midday. We check in at our hotel and have the rest of the day free to do some shopping in the bazaar, take an evening dinner cruise on the Nile, or go back to the pyramids for a memorable sound & light show.

Overnight at hotel in Cairo (B).

DAY 8 / TOUR ENDS

Our tour ends after breakfast and your day is free until we transfer you to the airport in time for your flight home. (B).

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SMALL GROUP, PRIVATE AND TAILOR-MADE TOURS

SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES:

We have regular small group departures on this tour throughout the year. There is a minimum of 4 people required for the tour to run, but you can join as individuals or couples. Departure dates are given on our website, and on request.

PRIVATE DEPARTURES:

You can also choose to do the tour privately, following the itinerary above, but on any other date. We add a small supplement for these departures. Please contact us first to check availability.

TAILOR-MADE TOURS:

This tour can also be used as a base for a private tailor-made itinerary, to be run on any dates. You can make adjustments as per your own requirements (for example, adding extra days, slightly shortening the tour, adding a scuba-diving course etc.).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OPTIONS:

Booking and paying for options:

Options are split into two types

A - Those that must be booked in advance (mainly accommodation based). Prices for these are set in GB Pounds and must be booked and paid for in advance of your arrival.

B - Those that may be arranged in Egypt (eg. hot air balloon flights, extra city tours, sound & light shows etc.). Prices for these are set in Egyptian Pounds, and they are paid for while you are in Egypt. This gives you more flexibility and means you won't lose out if you were to book an option in advance and then not do it.

A - ADVANCE BOOKING OPTIONS

These may be booked by selecting them on our online reservation form, and can also be added after you have made your booking, subject to availability at the time.

Single room supplement - Price: £70

If you are a single traveller joining one of our Standard level group tours, then if you are happy to, you may share a twin room with another single traveller on the tour of the same sex. If there are no other single travellers available for you to pair up with at the time of your booking, then we will need to add the single supplement to your tour price, but will refund this if we are able to pair you up later on.

Note: Couples will always be given a private double room, and triple/family rooms are available on request.

Extra days - Price: subject to party make-up

These are available on request in Cairo before and after the main tour. If you want to add extra days into the time elsewhere, we can arrange this, but please request a tailor-made tour. The price includes a night in the hotel, breakfast, all taxes and transfers (single room supplements apply).

B - OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN EGYPT

You will receive more information on all the options available to you while you are in Egypt in the Welcome Pack we provide on your arrival, together with information on how and when to book and pay for them with your guide or our local reps.

Prices are set in Egyptian Pounds but payments may also be made with hard currency (GB Pounds, Euros, US Dollars) at our local exchange rate at the time, which is set monthly. Credit card payments are also accepted in Cairo for these payments (3% fee).

Sound & Light shows - Price: see Options sheet

These are available at the Pyramids in Cairo, Philae Temple in Aswan, and Karnak Temple in Luxor. Prices include all transfers and your entrance ticket. Please check the start time for the English language show before booking as they can be very late.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- Accommodation
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Tours & guides as indicated on the itinerary
- All transport

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Sleeping bag (needed for the night in the desert safari)
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATION:

Our Standard tours use good quality hotels from 2 to 4 star, in which all rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. In Cairo, subject to availability, we like to use a pyramids area hotel with a pool in the summer months, and a city centre hotel when it is cooler in the winter months. The felucca is covered and mattresses are provided.

In Baharya we use a comfortable but basic hotel where air-conditioning is not guaranteed in the rooms. Our two nights in the desert are spent in one permanent camp (Wadi Hitan)

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with Bedouin style tents, rugs, mattresses and cushions, and in a mobile camp (White Desert) where we take in blankets and mattresses. Many people spend this night sleeping outside under the stars. Mattresses and some blankets are provided, and you can sleep inside a tent if you wish.

Please note that for the felucca cruise and desert safaris you will need to bring a light sleeping bag or blanket with you.

If you are joining one of our group tours, or booking a private departure on the normal tour itinerary, then we will confirm your hotels a couple of weeks before departure. If you want to guarantee a stay in a particular hotel, then please request a tailor-made tour.

Hotels used on this tour (subject to availability):

Cairo:

- 1st stay - Oasis Hotel (4-star)
- Other stays - Zayed Hotel (3-star)

Wadi Hitan:

- Wadi Hitan Camp

Baharya (2-star):

- Panorama Hotel, Golden Valley Hotel.

At certain times of the year or where circumstances & availability dictate we may need to use a different hotel from the ones listed above. In this event alternative hotels will always be of a similar standard.

Please see our website for more current details of the hotels that would be used on the tour.

TRANSPORT:

This tour uses private air-conditioned minibuses for all the sightseeing tours and transfers. All coaches and minibuses are fitted with speed limiters. A 4x4 jeep is used for the desert safari sections

where we need to go off-road.

TRANSFERS:

The tour includes a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Cairo airport, your arrival and departure airport transfers and all other transfers.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

In order to keep our tours flexible, and to make them accessible to as many people as possible, we do not include your international flights in the set tour itinerary or price.

However, we do hold an ATOL (UK flight sales license) and are happy to book your flights for you. If you let us know your ideal dates and departure airport, then we will be happy to provide you with some flight options that we can arrange for you. You can then choose whether to book the flights through us, or make your own arrangements. Either way, your airport arrival & departure transfers are included.

TOUR LEADERS/GUIDES:

In order to provide the most personal service, and to make sure that you get as much out of our tours as possible, we like to keep our groups small. We therefore set the maximum number at 18 and the minimum at 2 people. You can join our group departures as an individual, couple, group of friends, or family.

For this tour we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking Egyptologist to act as your tour guide whilst you are in Egypt. He/she will be with you for all of the sightseeing tours in Cairo.

One of our reps from Cairo will accompany you throughout the desert section, together with a Bedouin driver & assistant who have good local knowledge of the desert and oases.

Our policy at Egypt Uncovered is to use only local guides and reps in Egypt and for more details on our reasons for this please visit the

'Tour Type' page on our website.

ENTRANCE FEES:

The tour price does not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You should allow around GB£15 per person (50% for minors), to cover all of the sites we visit in Egypt. Your guide will be happy to collect payment for all the entrance fees at the start of the tour, and pay them for you as you go along if you wish. Entrance fees are included for the visit to Wadi Rayan and the Valley of the Whales.

COUNTRY GUIDE:

For an in-depth overview of Egypt, please check out the country guide pages on our website.

DATES & PRICES:

We run regular small-group departures on this tour, normally every two weeks, throughout the year. These departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request. We can also run the set tour itinerary privately for you on other dates, or customise it to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

HEALTH:

For up to date health information & vaccination requirements for Egypt we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel clinic (1st Contact travel clinic gives free advice tel. 0800 0393073).

General vaccination recommendations for Egypt include Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio and Hepatitis A.

VISAS:

British, European, and many other nationalities can obtain

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their Egyptian visa on arrival in Cairo airport (cost US\$15 or equivalent). All African nationals will need to arrange their visa in advance. For further information on your visa requirements, please contact us, or checkout the visa pages on our website.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM:

We take responsible travel seriously, and as well as taking this into consideration when we design our itineraries, and select the people and agents we work with, we also donate £2 for every person travelling on of our Egyptian tours. This is split between two projects - the Dar Al Rahman orphanage in Cairo, and a desert clean-up project in Wadi Rayan, near Al Fayoum. You will have the chance to visit the orphanage if you wish during your time in Cairo, and if you would like to support either of these projects while you are in Egypt, you would be very welcome.

Full details of our responsible travel policy are given on our website.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

After booking, we will provide you with detailed information to help you prepare for the tour. This will include helpful advice on money, health, insurance, tipping, climate, clothing etc.

We also provide a Welcome Pack when you arrive in Egypt with more information including a tipping guide, local travel guide and an options information & booking sheet. Further information is also available in the County & Travel guides on our website.

YOUR SPACE @ UNCOVER THE WORLD:

We have launched a community space for use by past, present and future travellers with us. Here you can make contact with fellow travellers in your group before you travel, or share photos and stay in contact with them after you return home. You can also ask questions of our staff and read updates on itineraries and destination news etc. For further details, please check...

<http://yourspace.uncovertheworld.travel>

We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.



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