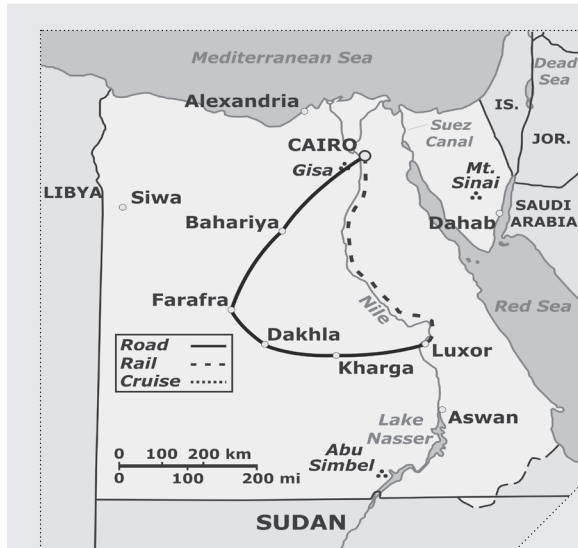


Deserts & Tombs



9 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / DESERT SAFARI /

Isolated in a sea of sand, Egypt's western oases aren't visited by tourists much, and provide the chance to get away from the tourist trail and into a landscape mainly untouched by man. This tour does a loop through the Western desert visiting the Bahariya, Farafra, Dakhla and Kharga oases en-route to Luxor, where we visit the main sites on the West Bank before returning to Cairo. We also feature an overnight jeep safari into the stunning scenery of the White Desert.



FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE
See below 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 see notes below or our website for details

FLIGHTS INCLUDED:* ✗	LOCAL PAYMENT: ✗	ENTRANCE FEES: ✗	AIRPORT TRANSFERS: ✓
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To book visit: www.egypt-uncovered.com, email: tours@egypt-uncovered.com or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49 Please quote Tour Code: MAEGDT when booking

TOUR FACTS

Tour Code:	MAEGDT
Group Size & Age:	Min. 3 Max. 18 / Min. age - 12 (group deps only)
Travel Idea:	Desert Safari
Activity Level:	Mild
Comfort Rating:	Basic
Accommodation:	3 nights in hotels (mainly 4-star), 3 nights in 1-2-star desert hotels, 1 night desert camp, 1 overnight sleeper train
Transport:	sleeper train, A/C bus/minibus, 4x4 jeep

YOUR 9 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Cairo. Transfer from airport to hotel.
- Day 2:** Cairo - Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum tour.
- Day 3:** Cairo - Drive to Bahariya oasis. Tour the oasis
- Day 4:** White desert jeep safari. Bedouin camp.
- Day 5:** Finish desert safari in Farafra oasis. Drive to Dakhla oasis.
- Day 6:** Drive to Kharga oasis & tour. Drive to Luxor (optional Sound & Light show at Karnak temple)
- Day 7:** Luxor - (hot air balloon option) West bank tour. Overnight sleeper train to Cairo.
- Day 8:** Cairo - Free day (optional City tour or Alexandria day trip). You can fly home this afternoon if required.
- Day 9:** Cairo - Free time. Transfer to airport for departure.

"Would you like to extend this tour to visit the Red Sea in Dahab? ...then check out our Deserts, Tombs & Beaches tour"

Deserts & Tombs continued...



9 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / DESERT SAFARI /

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 a hotel in Cairo.

DAY 2 / CAIRO. PYRAMIDS & SPHINX TOUR

After breakfast we have a short pre-tour briefing before we take you on a full-day tour of Giza and the Egyptian Museum.

Giza was built around 4600 years ago as a necropolis (cemetery) for the pharaoh Khufu (Cheops). The successor of Sneferu, Khufu was known as a tyrant and in his arrogance decided to have built a tomb that was bigger and better than all others. At 500 feet high and 750 feet wide at its base the Pyramid of Khufu is an awesome man-made structure constructed of giant stone blocks with a hard limestone casing. The casing has, over the years, been stripped away to leave exposed the inner block structure. Together with the smaller pyramids of Khafre (Chephern) and Menkaure (Mycerinus), the majestic sight of these enormous structures rising out of the desert is a breathtaking spectacle.

Here you have the chance to climb inside one of the pyramids (there are a limited number of tickets available in the Great Pyramid, so we cannot guarantee entry), and also to take a camel ride.

Close by, the mysterious Sphinx stands guard, as it has done so for thousands of years. You have another guided tour around the sphinx and some free time to walk around and take photos.

After a break for lunch, our next stop is the famous Egyptian Museum which houses a vast collection of artefacts from Egypt's past, including the famous King Tutunkhamun display.

Finally we head back to the hotel where you will have a free evening and a chance to try one of the hotel's restaurants or head into town.

Overnight at a hotel in Cairo.

DAY 2 EXTRA OPTIONS

Sound and Light show at the Pyramids

DAY 3 / DRIVE TO BAHARYA OASIS

After breakfast, we checkout of our hotel and then drive to the Baharya Oasis (private AC car or minibus – approx. 4 hours).

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 basic but comfortable hotel. We have a tour of the Oasis this afternoon which includes a visit to the English House, which is the ruined remains of a WW1 fort perched atop a nearby hill, some Greek & Roman tombs, a mummy museum, and the 'Black Mountain'.

In the evening we have the chance to take a dip in one of the nearby hot springs.

Overnight at a basic hotel in Baharya (B L D).

DAY 4 / WHITE DESERT, JEEP SAFARI

After breakfast we take a tour into the Black Desert using 4X4 jeeps. After lunch in a small village, we head into the White Desert. 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 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 5 / FINISH SAFARI. FARAFRA & DAKHLA OASES

We break camp this morning, and continue in the jeeps to the oasis at Farafra, where 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 still 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.

From Farafra we leave the jeeps and drive on a good road to Dakhla Oasis, where we do a short tour including stops at Mut, Al Qasr, and Deir al Haggar. before checking into our hotel.

Overnight at a hotel in Dakhla (B L D).

DAY 6 / KHARGA OASIS

We leave early this morning to drive to Kharga Oasis (approx. 2 hours). Kharga is a medium sized town, rather than a small oasis village, and surprisingly busy and developed considering its remote location. If time allows we will visit the ruins at Qasr al Labeka en-route. We do a short tour in Kharga, which includes visiting some of the tombs in the Necropolis. We will also visit the Temple of Hibis when restoration works there are completed. In the afternoon we continue our road journey to Luxor (approx. 4 hours).

After arriving in Luxor, you can visit Luxor temple, or the Sound & Light show at Karnak temple.

Overnight at a hotel in Luxor (B L).

DAY 6 EXTRA OPTIONS

Sound and Light show at Karnak Temple

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Deserts & Tombs continued...



9 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / DESERT SAFARI /

DAY 7 / LUXOR, WEST BANK TOUR. OVERNIGHT SLEEPER TRAIN TO CAIRO

After a very early breakfast, we take a tour to the West Bank of the Nile, starting with the Valley of the Kings. A hot air balloon flight is available this morning over the west bank if you wish.

In the Valley of the Kings, you will see several of the elaborately painted underground tombs in which the Pharaohs were buried. Your guide will choose the best tombs open during your visit (the main entry ticket covers 3 tombs – extra visits are also available to the tombs of Tutankhamun and Ramses V & VI). Next we take you to visit the unique three-tiered Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Dedicated to the God Amun this temple complex framed by towering cliffs is a wondrous sight. We then visit Medinat Habu, a temple of Ramses III, which is not on most tourist itineraries, but has some of the very deepest carved hieroglyphs, and the best preserved coloured wall paintings, really giving you an idea of how these Egyptian temples looked in their prime. Finally you will stop to see the Colossi of Memnon, two huge 50 feet high statues of King Amenhotep II, before returning to Luxor for lunch. In the evening, we transfer to the overnight sleeper train back to Cairo.

Overnight on sleeper train to Cairo (B D).

DAY 7 EXTRA OPTIONS Hot air balloon option

DAY 8 / CAIRO, FREE DAY

We arrive in Cairo this morning and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax, do a city tour, explore the shops and bazaars, or revisit the Egyptian Museum. You also have the option of a day trip to Alexandria or Wadi Rayan and the Valley of the Whales today. In the evening you can take a dinner cruise or felucca trip on the Nile, or revisit the pyramids for a spectacular sound and light show.

Overnight at a hotel in Cairo (B).

DAY 8 EXTRA OPTIONS

Cairo city tour,
Alexandria day trip,
Wadi Rayan & Valley of the Whales

DAY 9 / 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).

SMALL GROUP, PRIVATE AND TAILOR-MADE TOURS

SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES:

We have regular small group departures on this tour starting on Saturdays throughout the year. Departure dates are given on our website and on request. Our desert tours require a minimum of 3 passengers to go ahead with additional supplements.

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 three types

A - Those that must be booked and paid for in advance (mainly accommodation based).

B - Those that may be booked in advance or in Egypt (generally things you may know you definitely want to do. eg. hot air balloon flights, day trips out of Cairo)

C - Those that are arranged while you are in Egypt (eg. extra city tours, dinner cruises, sound & light shows etc.). Leaving decisions about these until you get to Egypt 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.

Prices:

Prices for all of these options are given on our website and/or in a separate Option Price List provided on your arrival in Egypt and from our UK office.

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

If you are a single traveller joining tours like this at our 'Basic' comfort rating, 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

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Deserts & Tombs continued...



9 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / DESERT SAFARI /

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 hotel & 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. If you wish, you may book a hotel at a higher or lower level than that used on the tour. In this case, we can offer a transfer to/from the group hotel for a small charge (paid locally). Prices include a night in the hotel, breakfast, all taxes and your airport transfer. Single room supplements apply.

Luxor/Cairo flight option - Price: on request

The overnight sleeper train timings fit in well with the tour, but if you do want to upgrade, this option provides an extra night in the hotel, all transfers, and an internal flight with Egypt Air instead of the train. Flights are subject to availability and prices are given on request.

B - OPTIONS BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE AND 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). Once booked and paid for, these options are not refundable if you choose not to do them while on the tour.

Hot air balloon flight

This runs early in the morning in Luxor, so that you catch the early morning sun while you float over the west bank of the Nile. The option price is based on using one of the first flights of the day to see the rising sun over the West Bank of the Nile, so it is a very early start. All transfers are included and you get around 1 hour in the air. You do not miss out on any other activities.

If flights are cancelled for any reason (eg. very strong winds), a refund will be provided.

Note: *Please remember to check that your travel insurance will cover hot air balloon flights as many require you to book and pay for the flight in advance. The balloon operators we use are fully licensed and insured - you may see cheaper options advertised locally for later start times and with operators which don't have all this cover in place.*

Al Fayoum & Valley of the Whales

This option departs Cairo for the approx. 90 min drive to the Fayoum area after a short break for refreshments following your arrival on the overnight sleeper train from Luxor.

After arriving in Fayoum, learning about the history of the area as Egypt and the Middle East's bread basket, and passing through some extensively irrigated farmland, we head for Wadi Rayan This Protected Area 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, and host to 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.

Alexandria day trip

This option departs Cairo for the approx. 3 hour drive to Alexandria after a short break for refreshments following your arrival on the overnight sleeper train from Luxor. The guided tour is flexible, but generally always features the Roman amphitheatre, which has twelve semi-circular marble tiers and is in remarkably good condition, Pompey's Pillar, the Citadel built on the site of the famous ancient 'Pharos' lighthouse, and the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa, which is the largest Roman cemetery in Alexandria. Dating from the beginning of the Second Century AD this cemetery displays a unique blend of Pharaonic and Roman art. We may also visit the Al-Montazah Palace in its peaceful garden setting and the impressive new Library of Alexandria. Lunch is included, and you should have a little time to stroll around Alexandria before returning to Cairo (approx. 4 hrs drive).

C - OPTIONS BOOKABLE 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. Some examples are given below.

Payments may be made with hard currency (GB Pounds, Euros, US Dollars) or in local currency 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).

Once booked and paid for, options are generally not refundable if you choose not to do them for any reason later in the tour.

Sound & Light show at the Pyramids (Cairo)

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Deserts & Tombs continued...



9 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / DESERT SAFARI /

Sound & Light show at Karnak Temple (Luxor)
Nile Dinner cruise (Cairo)
Cairo City Tour (Citadel, Coptic Cairo, Khan-el-Khalili bazaar)
Cairo Night-time tour
Sunset Felucca sailboat trip on the Nile in Cairo

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
- Tipping Kitty
- Sleeper train upgrade

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

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

ACCOMMODATION:

This tour is set at our 'Basic' comfort rating because it features several nights in the oases staying in fairly simple but comfortable hotels at around the 2-star level, as well as enjoying one night sleeping under the stars in the White Desert. The hotels in Cairo and Luxor are of a higher standard, at around 4-star level, with en-suite AC rooms and swimming pools. The hotels in Baharya and Dakhla are normally en-suite but do not always have air-conditioning as the desert nights tend

to be cooler than in the Nile Valley.

Please note that for the night in the Western desert, mattresses and a blanket are provided, but you will need to bring a sleeping bag 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.

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

TRANSPORT:

This tour aims at balancing a comfortable and enjoyable travelling experience with seeing as much of Egypt and Egyptian life as possible. We therefore use the overnight sleeper train for the journeys between Luxor and Cairo instead of the much more basic sitting train, and private air-conditioned minibuses and coaches for all the sightseeing tours and transfers. Most vehicles used are fitted with speed limiters and all are inspected & checked daily.

A 4x4 jeep is used for the White desert safari section 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 3 people. You can join our group departures as an individual, couple, group of friends, or family (min age 12).

For this tour we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking Egyptologist to act as your tour guide whilst you are in Cairo and Luxor.

One of our reps from Cairo will accompany you throughout the desert loop, together with a Bedouin driver & assistant who have good local knowledge of the desert and oases. Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service, and will be handling all the practical arrangements for the tour.

Our policy at Egypt Uncovered is to use only local guides and reps in Egypt. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. More details are given 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£40 per person (50% for minors or ISIC card holders), 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.

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Deserts & Tombs continued...



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TIPPING:

Tipping is very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs. To make our prices more transparent and so it is easier for you to budget and less hassle while in Egypt, we include a 'Tipping Kitty' in your tour price. This provides tips for a wide range of people you'll meet along the tour including hotel porters, train and station staff, drivers, local reps etc.. Your Egyptologist and Bedouin guides are not included in this kitty and you may tip them at the end of your tour subject to your satisfaction with and appreciation of the service they have provided.

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:

Many nationalities (including UK, USA, European, Australian, Canadian) can obtain their Egyptian visa on arrival in Cairo airport (cost US\$15 or equivalent).

All African nationals will need to arrange their Egypt visa in advance.

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.

COUNTRY GUIDE:

For an in-depth overview of Egypt, please checkout the country guide pages 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.

FACEBOOK / TWITTER / UNCOVER THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

Uncover the World recently joined the Facebook community; it would be great if you joined us and shared some of your travel photos and stories. It's also a great way to stay in touch with your fellow travellers, share photos, and also keep updated with special offers and news about new tours and destinations from us - click on www.facebook.com/UncoverTheWorld and 'Like' us.

You can also follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/utworld

If you'd like to post a blog about your trip you can also visit our community page - <http://yourspace.uncovertheworld.travel>



There were so many surprises everyday that it kept me anticipating the great things that would happen the next day. I'd really recommend this trip to anyone who would be interested in doing something different and unique.

BRENDA O'DONOGHUE



We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.



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