

# Egypt & Jordan Adventure



16 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / CULTURAL ADVENTURE /

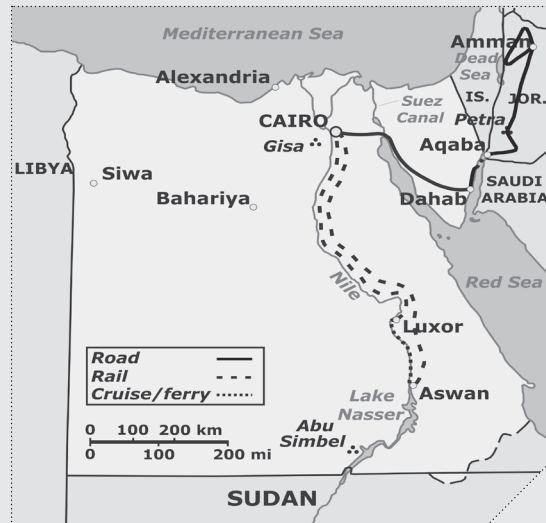
Throughout history Egypt's vast array of breathtaking monuments has proved an irresistible draw to travellers from all over the world. Jordan's treasures are different, and newer to the world's tourists, but equally impressive and interesting in their own right. Combined with warm and friendly people, Egypt and Jordan are countries you cannot afford to miss. This comprehensive tour explores all the main sites in Cairo, the Nile Valley and Jordan and features a felucca or luxury Nile cruise and time by the Red Sea.

**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



<b>FLIGHTS INCLUDED:*</b> ✗	<b>LOCAL PAYMENT:</b> ✗	<b>ENTRANCE FEES:</b> ✗ ✓	<b>AIRPORT TRANSFERS:</b> ✓
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## TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Code:</b>	CUEGGJ
<b>Group Size &amp; Age:</b>	Min. 2 Max. 18 / Min. age - 12 (group deps only)
<b>Travel Idea:</b>	Cultural Adventure
<b>Activity Level:</b>	Mild
<b>Comfort Rating:</b>	Standard
<b>Accommodation:</b>	10 nights in hotels (mainly 4-star), 2 nights on a felucca, 2 overnight sleeper trains, 1 night camp
<b>Transport:</b>	Sleeper train, A/C bus/minibus/jeep, felucca sailboat

## YOUR 16 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

<b>Day 1:</b>	Arrive in Cairo. Transfer from airport to hotel.
<b>Day 2:</b>	Cairo - Pyramids, Sphinx & Musuem tour. Overnight sleeper train to Aswan.
<b>Day 3:</b>	Aswan - Tour to Philae temple, Aswan dam.
<b>Day 4:</b>	Aswan - (Abu Simbel option). Island boat trip. Felucca cruise.
<b>Day 5:</b>	Felucca cruise to Komombo.
<b>Day 6:</b>	Tour Komombo & Edfu. Drive to Luxor, East bank tour.
<b>Day 7:</b>	Luxor - (hot air balloon option) West bank tour. Overnight sleeper train to Cairo.
<b>Day 8:</b>	Cairo - Free day (optional city tour, Alexandria day trip).
<b>Day 9:</b>	Drive to Dahab, free time.
<b>Day 10:</b>	Dahab - Free day (Optional Snorkelling at the Blue Hole)
<b>Day 11:</b>	Ferry to Aqaba. Wadi Rum jeep safari. Bedouin camp
<b>Day 12-13:</b>	Petra. Full tour and free time in main site. Visit Little Petra
<b>Day 14:</b>	Kings Highway to Amman via Kerak, Madaba, Mt. Nebo.
<b>Day 15-16:</b>	Amman. Dead Sea & Jerash tour. Departure airport transfer.

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## DETAILED ITINERARY

### DAY 1 / ARRIVE IN CAIRO

You arrive at Cairo airport where we greet you and transfer you to your hotel. Our rep will help you settle into the hotel and its surroundings, and outline the plan for the next few days.

*Overnight at 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 Tutankhamun display. At the end of your day in Cairo there is a little free time and an option to visit the orphanage that we support in Cairo before we transfer you to the

train station for an overnight sleeper train journey to Aswan.

For this, and all of your sightseeing tours, a local English-speaking Egyptologist guide will accompany you.

*Overnight on sleeper train to Aswan (B,D)*

### DAY 3 / ASWAN, PHILAE TEMPLE

After arriving in Aswan, we visit the Temple of Philae, a complex dedicated to Isis and reclaimed from the rising waters of Lake Nasser, which we reach by a scenic boat ride. We may also stop to visit the huge Aswan Dam. We then check into a hotel with great views over the Nile.

Aswan is Egypt's most southerly city and throughout history has controlled the trade routes both to the north and the south, and has acted as a gateway to and from Africa. Situated on the banks of the Nile it now lies at the northern end of Lake Nasser. This 360 mile long and 6 mile wide lake was created after the building of the High Dam, and covers the area once occupied by the ancient kingdom of Nubia. The Nile here is at its most picturesque, with cascading rapids, lush green islands, and feluccas sailing to and fro. The city is a melting pot of African and Middle Eastern cultures, most easily experienced by wandering through the busy souqs, which assail the senses with a riot of colours, sounds, and smells.

*Overnight at hotel in Aswan (B)*

### DAY 3 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Dahabiya and Luxury cruise upgrades**

### DAY 4 / ASWAN, FELUCCA CRUISE

This morning is free for you to explore the town, stroll through the bazaars, and walk along the Nile at your leisure. Alternatively you can take the chance to visit the remarkable temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel, which were dismantled and rebuilt when Lake Nasser was flooded.

After checking out of our hotel, we visit the islands in the Nile at

Aswan by felucca or motorboat (depending on the weather). These include Elephantine Island, with its Nubian villages, Pharaonic ruins, museum and Nileometer; and Kitchener Island, with its beautiful and peaceful botanical gardens. Later in the afternoon, we board a traditional felucca sailboat for a 2-night cruise on the Nile. We sail a short way out of Aswan and spend the night moored by the banks of the river. We can sometimes arrange to visit a traditional Nubian house this evening before you dine on board the boat with typical Egyptian food prepared by the boat captain & crew. After a fun and relaxing evening, you drift asleep under the stars.

Note - Whilst onboard the felucca you will be met from time to time by another boat where toilets and showers are available onboard (see Note on feluccas below).

*Overnight on board a felucca (B D).*

### DAY 4 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Abu Simbel option**

### DAY 5 / FELUCCA CRUISE, KOMOMBO

After breakfast on board, we spend the day sailing peacefully downriver relaxing in the sun and watching the world drift by.

We spend the night on the boat just before Komombo where there are the remains of a temple dedicated to the Gods Sobek and Haroeris. If you're keen, this evening we may enjoy some typical Nubian musical entertainment from the boat crew (do join in!).

**Note:** the felucca cruise itinerary is subject to slight alterations en-route.

*Overnight on board a felucca (B L D).*

### DAY 6 / KOMOMBO & EDFU, LUXOR EAST BANK TOUR

We finish our felucca cruise after breakfast with a tour of the temple at Komombo before transferring by coach to Luxor via Edfu Temple, a well-preserved complex dedicated to the God Horus.

The town of Luxor is built on and around the ancient site of

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Thebes, and boasts the largest concentration of ancient ruins in the Nile Valley, if not the world. To the West of the Nile lies the City of the Dead, with its mortuary temples and rock-hewn tombs, whilst to the east is the modern town and Karnak & Luxor temples.

This afternoon we start our tours of the East Bank at Karnak. The great Temple of Amun at Karnak was once the religious centre of Thebes and Upper Egypt. It was linked to Luxor by an extensive avenue, lined with sphinxes, and the whole complex was in turn linked to the Nile via a canal through which moved the sacred boats of the god Amun. Entering through a smaller sphinx-lined avenue, built by Ramesses II, you come to the immense pylon entrance. Inside the huge Courtyard are three chapels dedicated to the gods Amun, Mut and Khous. The remarkable Hypostyle Hall has 134 towering columns, each carved with scenes of gods and pharaohs, and hieroglyphic inscriptions adorn the walls.

Lying 3 km to the south of Karnak in the centre of town, the Temple of Luxor was built by Amenophis III and later enlarged by Ramses II. The partially damaged statues inside all represent Ramses II, and it was he who built the colonnaded forecourt. The Colonnade and Court of Amenophis III are perhaps the most striking parts of the temple. We normally visit here in the evening when the temple is evocatively lit up by spotlights.

*Overnight at hotel in Luxor (B).*

## DAY 7 / LUXOR, WEST BANK TOUR. 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. We start early today to avoid the crowds and extreme heat in the middle of the day.

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 may also be available

to the tombs of Tutankhamun and Ramses V & VI).

Next we take you to visit the unique three-tiered Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatchepsut. 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 train to Cairo (B,D).*

## DAY 7 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Hot air balloon option**

## DAY 8 / CAIRO, FREE DAY

You arrive in Cairo early this morning, and transfer straight to your hotel (you may need to wait a short while before your rooms are available). The rest of the day is free to relax, do a city tour or other day trip option, 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 hotel in Cairo (B)*

## DAY 8 EXTRA OPTIONS

**City tour, Pyramids sound & light show, Nile dinner cruise, Alexandria day trip, Al Fayoum & Valley of the Whales day trip**

## DAY 9/ DRIVE TO DAHAB, FREE TIME

We leave Cairo early this morning for the drive to Dahab (approx. 7-10 hours depending on the traffic and how many stops we make). The afternoon is free to relax by the hotel pool or beach, or head into Assalah to enjoy the unique feel of this friendly village.

The word Dahab in Arabic means gold and refers to the fine yellow sand that colours the beaches either side of the main bay. The Bedouin village of Assalah lies along the shore of Ghazala Bay and is a collection of campsites, hotels, restaurants, shops, dive-centres and bars, dotted with palm trees. It is here that you'll experience the Bohemian feel that makes Dahab so special (most hotels provide shuttle buses and taxis to and fro are cheap as well). The evenings provide a perfect opportunity to try out some of the many restaurants and excellent local seafood.

**Note:** You may join with travellers from two of our other small-group tours for the time in Dahab and Jordan.

*Overnight at hotel in Dahab (B).*

## DAY 9 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Overnight Mount Sinai climb**

## DAY 10 / DAHAB. FREE TIME

We have a free day today, with plenty of time for you to relax or try an introductory scuba-dive. We also offer an option to travel a short way out of town, and go snorkelling at the famous Blue Hole, an 80m-deep, reef lined pool (equipment included). Here we spend time relaxing and exploring the wonders of the Red Sea. The clear blue waters are home to myriad marine life including many varieties of colourful fish and corals.

*Overnight at hotel in Dahab (B)*

## DAY 10 EXTRA OPTIONS

**Snorkelling at the Blue Hole**

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## DAY 11 / DRIVE TO JORDAN. WADI RUM JEEP SAFARI.

We leave Dahab early this morning and head North to Nuweiba to take the early morning ferry to Aqaba, Jordan. One of our Jordanian reps greets you on arrival in Aqaba and assists with visa formalities. You will then enjoy breakfast at a local restaurant and visit Aqaba fort. We leave the Red Sea for the spectacular desert & mountains of Wadi Rum (approx. 45 mins drive). The desert here, with its towering rust coloured rocky 'jebels' awed TE Lawrence during his visits during the Arab Revolt of 1917-18, and was later made famous in the film Lawrence of Arabia.

After arriving in Wadi Rum, we take a jeep safari through the beautiful desert scenery, seeing more of the sheer cliffs and bizarre rock formations, and breaking for a Bedouin lunch en-route.

We then spend a memorable night here at a Bedouin camp where we enjoy their hospitality, traditional food, and plenty of tea. You can sleep in the Bedouin tents, or outside under the stars if you prefer. During the summer months when the weather is warmer, we use a mobile camp, and in winter (approx. Nov-Feb) when it is cold and more prone to rain, we use a fixed camp with more facilities and shelter.

**Note:** If the ferry is not running for any reason, we will cross into Jordan overland via Eilat in Israel.

*Overnight Bedouin Camp (B L D).*

## DAY 12 / PETRA

This morning as we drive out through the desert to rejoin the Desert Highway, the Jebels get smaller, and the desert more expansive. After a short time on the main road, we start to climb into the hills, and turn off towards Petra. Also made more famous by a film, this time the rather different 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade', Petra is, for good reason, Jordan's tourism highlight.

The ancient capital of the Nabataean commercial empire until the Romans finally took over in 106AD, Petra was largely forgotten, except by the local Bedouins, until it was 'discovered' in 1812 by a

young Swiss explorer, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. This was partly due to its remoteness, and its situation on the edge of Wadi Aruba, whose canyon walls and surrounding hills make it almost impossible to approach except through a narrow, winding cleft in the rock, called the Siq. The city itself has very few free-standing buildings, as the Nabateans chose to carve their homes, buildings and tombs into the multi-coloured sandstone cliffs. Nowadays, the Jordanian government and local people are well aware of Petra's interest to tourists, and the tourism infrastructure in the adjoining village of Wadi Musa is booming, though, thankfully, once you enter through the Siq, the site is protected, and all the building feels miles away.

We have a whole day today to tour this fascinating city, escorted by an expert local guide (4 hour tour, then free time to explore yourselves). We start by walking through the Siq, which rises to 200m above us, and narrows to just 2m wide in places. The ancient Nabatean water channel can still be seen on one wall, as well as some remnants of the terracotta pipes that brought water into the city. All of a sudden, a now classic view appears around one corner, and one of Petra's most impressive monuments, the Khazneh (Treasury) comes into view. Our guide will explain how this, and the other buildings here, are mainly elaborate facades carved into the rock from the top down, and also discuss the spiritual significance of the building style. From the Khazneh, the valley opens out, with tombs carved into the rock on both sides. We'll see the ruined Roman amphitheatre, and colonnaded street, and can walk up a steep and narrow winding gorge past beautifully coloured sandstone cliff walls to the huge and imposing 'Monastery'. The biggest of Petra's carved monuments at 50m high and 45m wide, this is truly spectacular, as are the distant views west across Wadi Aruba and the Jordan valley. Another climb can take us to the High Place of Sacrifice, and Lion Fountain.

All in all, this is a full & tiring, but hugely rewarding day touring one of the world's most famous ancient sites. We spend the evening and night relaxing at our hotel.

An option is available to return to the Siq in the evening for the

Petra by Candlelight tour through the Siq to the Treasury.

*Overnight at hotel in Petra (B L).*

## DAY 13 / MORNING TOUR TO VISIT LITTLE PETRA

This morning we visit Siq al-Berid, often known to tourists as 'Little Petra'. The whole of Little Petra was once a thriving community and almost every nook and cranny provides evidence of Nabatean habitation. When you first enter the Siq you will discover why this was once referred to as the 'Cold Siq'. Almost no sunlight reaches the ground, and because of this the area stays cold most of the time. Little Petra differs from the main Petra site due to the density of the rock carved houses and temples and also the rock cut steps which lead off in all directions to a multi-storey alley-way which must have once buzzed with life. Our guide will ensure that you visit the main highlights whilst at Little Petra and you will also have some free time to explore on your own. In the afternoon you can relax in the hotel, explore the village of Wadi Musa, or return to the main Petra site where you will have more free time to continue exploring this amazing site (a 2-day ticket is included for Petra.)

*Overnight at hotel in Petra (B)*

## DAY 14 / PETRA, KERAK, MADABA, MT. NEBO

We leave Petra this morning and drive north to Amman up the King's Highway (a slower, but much more interesting and beautiful drive than the busy Desert Highway). Our first stop is at the old Crusader town and castle at Kerak, which lies on the ancient Egypt-Syrian caravan routes. Built in 1132AD by the Crusader King, Baldwin 1 of Jerusalem, the castle fell to Saladin in 1188AD. It is still a hugely impressive building with commanding views over the surrounding hills & plains.

From Kerak, we head further north crossing several deep Wadis, including the majestic Wadi al-Mujib, where the road winds down and back up the other side of this 1km deep canyon.

Arriving in Madaba, an important Christian town in Jordan,

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we stop to see some of its famous and priceless Byzantine era mosaics, including one of a 6th century map of Palestine in the Greek Orthodox St. George's church, which was laid out in 560AD on an area of well over 100square metres, using more than 2 million pieces.

Close to Madaba is the Mt. Nebo area, used as a memorial to Moses. There are 3 peaks, with spectacular views to the Dead Sea, and on a clear day, all the way to the church spires of Jerusalem.

We finish our journey today with a short drive into Jordan's capital city, Amman.

*Overnight at hotel in Amman (B).*

## DAY 15/ AMMAN, JERASH, DEAD SEA

We have a couple of visits today, first to the Roman ruins at Jerash, and then to the Dead Sea where we stop to enjoy a swim in this strange place, over 200m below sea level. Our visit to Jerash takes us to what is probably Jordan's second most visited tourist site. As with Petra, this is for good reason, as the Roman ruins here are very well preserved, and an excellent example of a Roman provincial city.

In the afternoon we arrive at the Dead Sea, where the intense salinity of the waters here (around 33%), caused by the intense evaporation rate, leads to a very strange swimming experience. In fact, normal swimming is not really possible, and it is easier (and more photogenic!) just to float, sitting or lying in the water. Be careful not to get any water in your eyes, as it will sting very strongly - you'll also discover various tiny cuts you never thought you had. We ensure we bathe where there are clean water springs or shower facilities so that you can wash the salty water off before it dries and starts to itch!

We return to Amman late in the afternoon where we have time for a sunset tour before turning to our hotel.

*Overnight at hotel in Amman (B).*

## DAY 16 / AMMAN, TOUR ENDS

Your tour ends after breakfast and your time is free until we transfer you to the airport for your flight home. A day trip into Israel to visit Jerusalem and Bethlehem is available on request (this may require you to add an extra night in the hotel in Amman as well). (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.

### 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. Abu Simbel option, 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 'Standard' 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 later on.

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**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 in Amman 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.

## Cairo/Aswan or 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.

## Dahabiya upgrade (in place of the felucca cruise)

This Dahabiya upgrade option is a very special experience, as Dahabiyas are normally only available on very exclusive and expensive holidays. Dahabiyas are beautifully crafted sailing-boats which became popular during the British colonisation of Egypt, and we have sourced an excellent boat to use for this option. They provide the best features of a felucca and cruise boat, with the comfort of en-suite AC cabins, and the peace and quiet of a sailing boat, and also give you the most actual sailing time on the river.

You join the boat in Aswan and spend 4 nights on board; one in Aswan and one in Luxor, and two en-route as you sail down-river. Sightseeing tours in Aswan and Luxor are done with the main group, but you visit the temples at Edfu and Komombo with the on-board Egyptologist.

All meals (4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners) are included. Drinks are

not included but may be purchased on board.

The boat takes a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 16 travellers. Single cabin supplements apply, and triple cabins are not available.

## Luxury Nile cruise upgrade

Note: This option is only offered when the Dahabiya option has been fully taken up and is subject to cruise boat availability.

You join the boat in Aswan and spend 3 nights on board, in Aswan, Edfu and Luxor, with your final night in Luxor in the hotel with the travellers doing the felucca option. Sightseeing tours in Aswan and Luxor are done with the main group, but you visit the temples at Edfu and Komombo with the on-board Egyptologist.

On board you enjoy the comfort of an en-suite AC cabin, a restaurant, bar, sun-deck, shop and plunge pool. All meals (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners) are included. Drinks are not included but may be purchased on board.

Single cabin supplements apply, and triple cabins are not available.

## 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.

## Abu Simbel tour

In the morning on Day 4, there is the option of an early morning tour to Abu Simbel. Lying 280 km south of Aswan this remarkable temple,

dismantled and rebuilt stone by stone to escape the rising waters of Lake Nasser, stands as a testament to the greatness of the Pharaoh Ramses II, and to modern engineering.

We join the early morning convoy which departs at 04.30, returning to Aswan around midday (approx. 3 hours drive each way, with 2 hours at the temples). You do not miss out on any other activities.

## 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

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# Egypt & Jordan Adventure continued...



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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)

Sound & Light show at Philae Temple (Aswan)

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

Overnight Mt. Sinai climb with St. Katherine's Monastery (Dahab)

Desert Jeep safari (Dahab)

Desert Quad Biking (Dahab)

Sunset camel ride (Dahab)

Snorkelling at the Blue Hole (Dahab)

Introductory Scuba-dive (Dahab)

Petra by Candlelight (Petra)

## 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
- Entrance fees in Jordan

## 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 felucca Sep-Mar)
- Entrance fees to all sites in Egypt
- Travel insurance
- Any other items not mentioned above

## ACCOMMODATION:

Tours set at our 'Standard' comfort rating use good quality hotels at around the 4-star level in Egypt and 3-star in Jordan. All rooms are air-conditioned with en-suite bathrooms. Most hotels have swimming pools and a choice of restaurants and bars.

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.

## BEDOUIN CAMP IN WADI RUM:

We use two different styles of Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum, depending on the time of year and weather. During the summer months (generally Mar-Oct) we use a mobile camp which allows us to find a remote location away from other travellers and enjoy a quiet night under the stars. In the winter months (generally Nov-Feb) and if the weather is bad, we use a fixed, well-organised camp with more facilities and traditional Bedouin tents. Mattresses and blankets are provided at both camps and you can sleep under cover or under the stars if you prefer. Basic toilet facilities are provided.

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## FELUCCA SAILBOAT:

This tour features a 2-night felucca cruise. Feluccas are very basic traditional Nile sailboats and make for an extremely relaxing and enjoyable way to travel down the river. You sleep on the deck of the boat (mattresses are provided, but you will need a blanket or light sleeping bag). There are no toilet facilities on board, but you will be joined several times each day and at night by another boat where a toilet and warm showers will be available. (Note - this boat will not be in service until after October 2011. Until then the crew will continue to dig a basic latrine on shore at night and you can use facilities at sites visited during the day). Mosquito nets are provided for use while you are sleeping but you should bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings.

You can see some photos of typical feluccas in the slide-shows on our website.

## TRANSPORT:

This tour aims at balancing a comfortable and enjoyable travelling experience with seeing as much of Egypt and Jordan and local life as possible. We therefore use the overnight sleeper train for the journeys between Cairo and Aswan/Luxor 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. In Wadi Rum we use basic 4x4 jeeps which are owned by the local Bedouin. Local regulations do not allow us to send vehicles into Wadi Rum and while suitable for use in the desert, the jeeps used may not reach our normal vehicle safety standards.

## 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 (min age 12).

For this tour we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking Egyptologist to act as your tour guide. He/she will be with you for all of the sightseeing tours in Cairo and the Nile Valley. 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. For some private tours and groups of fewer than 4 people, we may use one guide in Cairo, and a second guide for the Aswan to Luxor section.

We have a permanent rep in Dahab who will look after everything there for you. He will travel with you to Nuweiba where you board the ferry to Aqaba, where you will be met by a Jordanian driver and rep.

In Jordan, small groups (up to 5 people) will travel with a vehicle and English speaking driver, using specialist local guides at each of the sites. Larger groups will have an escort guide and driver throughout.

Our policy at Egypt Uncovered is to use only local guides and reps

in Egypt and Jordan. 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 EGYPTIAN tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. However, entrance fees to all the sites in JORDAN are included (this includes a 2-day ticket into Petra). You should allow around GB£65 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.

## TIPPING:

Tipping is very much a part of Egyptian and Jordanian culture and customs. To make our prices more transparent and so it is easier for you to budget and less hassle while you travel, 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 guide and Jordanian guide(s) and/or driver 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.

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## HEALTH:

For up to date health information & vaccination requirements for Egypt and Jordan 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 and Jordan include Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio and Hepatitis A.

## VISAS:

### Egypt:

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.

### Jordan:

For many nationalities (including UK, USA, European, Australian, Canadian) the group visa we can obtain on arrival in Aqaba for groups of 5 or more people is free. However, as our travellers often depart from Amman on different flights, you are no longer considered to be part of a group and the visa fee of 10JD (British/European citizens) is due. Please have 10JD (or equivalent in Aqaba) ready to pay for this visa when you arrive in Aqaba or when you leave from Amman airport.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance please contact your local consulate for details.

## 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 and Jordan, 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](http://www.facebook.com/UncoverTheWorld) and 'Like' us.

You can also follow us on Twitter - [www.twitter.com/utworld](http://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>

We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.



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