

# Your passport to adventure

Country(ies): Egypt

Tour type: City Break

Transport: A/C minibus

Group size: Min: 1 | Max: 0

Days: 5 days

Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Cairo, Egypt

Meals: Breakfasts - 4, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

### Highlights:

Old Cairo, El Moez Street, All-suite boutique hotel, Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, walking distance from Khan-el-Khalili bazaar



## Day 1: Arrive in Cairo and transfer to your hotel

Upon your arrival at Cairo airport, we will greet you and guide you through the visa process and baggage claim, then transfer you to your upscale boutique hotel located in the heart of Old Cairo. After helping you get settled into your room, you will have the remainder of the day to enjoy at your own pace. Should your flight arrive earlier than expected, you might want to catch a glimpse of the pyramids during the stunning sound and light show, or simply wander around El Moez Street to discover the local area.

OVERNIGHT:		
Cairo boutique hotel		
MEALS:		
EXTRAS:		

# Day 2: Half-Day Tour of Cairo, Pyramids & Sphinx

Your adventure in Egypt begins this morning with a delicious breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, our local representative will provide you with an overview of the hotel, share some tips on navigating Old Cairo, and discuss any optional tours that you have either pre-booked or might like to arrange during your stay.

In the early afternoon, embark on a sightseeing tour for your first encounter with ancient Egypt, visiting the iconic Sphinx and the three grand pyramids. The Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops), standing 500 feet tall and 750 feet wide at its base, is an awe-inspiring feat of engineering, originally covered in white limestone, though much of it has since been removed to reveal the internal block structure. Alongside the smaller pyramids of Khafre (Chephern) and Menkaure (Mycerinus), these magnificent structures rising from the desert are a sight you won't forget. A knowledgeable Egyptologist guide will be with you to explain the history of pyramid construction and the different dynasties of ancient Egypt.

If you wish, you may explore the interior of the pyramids on your own, although your guide cannot accompany you (limited tickets are available for the Great Pyramid). Afterward, we will visit the nearby Sphinx, which was uncovered only in the last century. Finally, we return to the hotel, where you can enjoy the vibrant yet relaxed atmosphere of El Moez Street as it comes to life in the evening.

#### **OVERNIGHT:**

Cairo boutique hotel

MEALS:
Breakfast
EXTRAS:
Day 3: Cairo Free Day, Optional Excursions
Your next two days are yours to explore at your own pace or enjoy additional guided tours. The neighborhood of Old Islamic Cairo, surrounding your hotel, is one of the city's most picturesque areas, featuring bustling markets, narrow alleyways, historic buildings, and mosques. This district of Cairo best preserves its historical charm and has seen little change over time. It has been the subject of numerous works, from the tales in <i>Arabian Nights</i> to the acclaimed writings of Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz. One of the delights of staying here is wandering through the winding lanes from the hotel to the nearby Khan-el-Khalili bazaar, where you may enjoy the charm of getting pleasantly lost.
Alternatively, a guided walking tour is available, offering insight into the local environment and the chance to explore the various markets, bazaars, and architectural gems in the area. Other optional excursions include a City Tour, which takes you to the Citadel for panoramic city views, the narrow lanes and churches of Coptic Cairo, and the renowned Egyptian Museum, home to the world-famous Tutankhamun collection. For history enthusiasts, trips are available to the ancient sites of Memphis, Saqqara, and Dashour, where you can delve into the history of pyramid construction, or you might enjoy a full-day tour to the charming colonial city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast.
Additionally, you have the option to take a flight to Luxor, the Nile-side city in Upper Egypt, known for its wealth of ancient Egyptian temples, tombs, and monuments. This overnight excursion includes a visit to the majestic Karnak Temple on the East Bank of the Nile, along with the Valley of the Kings, Queen Hatshepsut's Temple, and the Valley of the Artisans on the West Bank. You'll spend the night in a luxurious 5-star hotel overlooking the Nile before returning to Cairo the following day.
OVERNIGHT:
Cairo boutique hotel
MEALS:
Breakfast
EXTRAS:

Day 4: Cairo Free Day, Optional Excursions

OVERNIGHT:
Cairo boutique hotel
MEALS:
Breakfast
EXTRAS:
Day 5: Cairo, leisure time, transfer to departure airport
You have the rest of the day free for some final sightseeing or shopping before we transfer you to the airport for your departure. Alternatively, you can choose to extend your stay in Cairo with additional nights.
OVERNIGHT:
N/A
MEALS:
Breakfast
EXTRAS:
Included:
<ul> <li>Stay in a luxurious boutique all-suite hotel located in the heart of Old Cairo</li> <li>All transportation and transfers in private, air-conditioned vehicles</li> <li>24/7 airport arrival and departure transfer service</li> <li>Daily breakfast included</li> </ul>

You have another free day in Cairo today, with all the same optional tours offered.

### **Excluded:**

• International flights (can be arranged upon request)

• Admission fees for the Pyramids and Sphinx included

• City tax, service fees, and VAT covered

• Visa fees (US\$25, payable on arrival for most nationalities)

• Guided tour of the Pyramids and Sphinx with an expert Egyptologist

- Mandatory travel insurance (available upon request)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, and other personal expenses (e.g., laundry services)
- Optional excursions
- Gratuities for tour guides and hotel staff
- Hotel gala dinners (additional US\$170 per person for New Year's Eve, Dec 31)
- Any other items not listed above

## **Options**

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

### Alexandria day trip



From \$125.00

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

Discover Alexandria, a 2.5-hour drive north of Cairo on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. This full-day tour showcases the city's highlights, including the Roman amphitheatre, the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa, Pompey's Pillar, Fort Qaitbey (exterior view), and the modern Library of Alexandria. Depending on time, you may also visit Fort Qaitbey's interior and Montazah Palace gardens. A seafood lunch is provided. This tour requires either a late-night departure flight on your final day or an extra day added to your trip.

Pricing is based on a minimum of two travellers; solo supplements apply. Entrance fees (approximately USD 18) are not included.

### Cairo city tour



From \$75.00

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This half-day guided tour of Cairo commences in the Islamic quarter, featuring the Citadel of Saladin, home to the renowned Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. We then proceed to the Coptic area of Cairo, where the Romans erected the fortress of Babylon. The Church of St. Mary, more commonly known as the Hanging Church, was built upon the remnants of two fortress towers. Our next stop is St. Sergius, believed to be the resting place of the Holy Family. The tour concludes at the bustling Khan el-Khalili bazaar. The entrance fee budget covers the Coptic Museum, the Citadel, and the Sultan Hassan Mosque. Please be aware that depending on the day's schedule, it may not be possible to visit all of these sites.

Entrance fees for visited sites are not included (budget approximately USD 17).

Prices quoted are based on a minimum of two persons travelling. Solo traveller supplements are applicable.

### Saggara, Dashour & Memphis



From \$90.00

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This half-day guided tour, venturing to the outskirts of Cairo, offers a fascinating insight into the history and evolution of pyramid building, and the wider narrative of Egyptian civilisation. Our explorations are centred on the area of ancient Memphis, a former capital of Egypt.

We begin with a visit to Saqqara, a vast desert necropolis constructed for the kings and nobles of the Old Kingdom. Here, we'll see Zoser's 'step' pyramid and the adjacent Imhotep Museum, where we can delve deeper into the history of Memphis and the surrounding region. Next, we journey to Dashur to witness one of the subsequent attempts at pyramid construction. Dashur's 'bent pyramid' – a testament to the ongoing learning process – is a captivating site, retaining much of its original limestone casing. We will then return you to your hotel.

Prices quoted are based on a minimum of two persons choosing this option. Entrance fees to the sites visited are not included (budget approximately USD 18). Solo traveller supplements are applicable.

### Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)



From \$110.00

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This tour offers a striking contrast to the Pharaonic sites encountered on your main itinerary. Departing Cairo, we journey to the Fayoum region, where we'll explore the Wadi Rayan Protected Area. This area surrounds a freshwater lake, nestled amidst the desert, fed by surplus irrigation water from the Fayoum. You'll find several waterfalls here (a popular backdrop in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide offering excellent views of the lake's avian population, particularly during the winter migration. We'll also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, including the Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox, and Fennec Fox.

Before lunch, we'll pause at the sand dunes around Wadi Rayan for a spot of sandboarding. Following a packed lunch, we'll venture into the dramatic desert and mountain landscapes of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is globally recognised as a pivotal location for understanding whale evolution. We'll embark

on a 2-3km walk to observe various fossilised whale specimens, exposed on the desert surface, alongside fossilised mangroves and the remnants of crab burrows.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged directly after your return from Luxor/Aswan via the overnight sleeper train. Alternatively, it can be incorporated into any tour with the addition of extra days at the beginning or end. Prices are based on two or more persons travelling, with a supplementary charge for solo travellers.

The price includes lunch in Wadi Hitan and all entrance fees.

Khan-el-Khaliali bazaar walking tour



From \$75.00

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This guided walking tour takes you on a captivating journey along El Moez Street, just a stone's throw from Bab el-Futuh, one of the main gates granting access to the historic walled city. This charming district is a treasure trove of covered markets, narrow lanes, ancient buildings, and mosques.

Departing from the hotel, we'll encounter numerous Ottoman houses, mosques, and architectural gems before reaching the bustling heart of the Khan el-Khalili bazaar. Venturing beyond the main tourist thoroughfare, we'll delve into the vibrant fabric, jewellery, and craft bazaars, gradually winding our way back to the hotel. This immersive tour lasts approximately 3 hours.

Prices are based on a minimum of two people travelling, with solo traveller supplements available.

### 1. Dates & Prices

This tour operates throughout the year, with private departures available on any day of the week. Pricing varies seasonally and is based on a minimum of 2 participants. Supplements for solo travellers can be requested.

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**Note:** Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.