



Your passport to adventure

Country(ies): Egypt

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C minibus, sleeper train, felucca sailboat

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 10 days

Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Cairo, Egypt

Meals: Breakfasts - 9, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 5



Highlights:

The Pyramids & Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Philae Temple, Abu Simbel option, Nile felucca cruise, Temple of Karnak & Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Red Sea at Hurghada

Day 1: Arrive into Cairo and transfer to hotel

When you arrive, our staff will meet you at the airport to help with your visa and luggage, then transfer you to your hotel. They will assist you with settling in, introduce you to the local area, and confirm the plans for the following day. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure. If you arrive in the early, you might like to consider an optional dinner cruise on the Nile or a spectacular sound and light show at the pyramids, which you can book upon arrival.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour

Single room supplement (EGSGDE)

Day 2: Visit the Pyramids & Sphinx in Giza. Traditional Koshary Lunch. Egyptian Museum Visit. Sleeper Train to Aswan

Our Discover Egypt Tour begins at the renowned Egyptian Museum in Cairo's Tahrir Square. You'll immerse yourself in ancient Egyptian history, exploring the Tutankhamun exhibit and countless other artefacts with our expert Egyptologist guide, who will share their extensive knowledge and passion for the culture.

Next, prepare to be awestruck by the iconic pyramids of Giza. You'll marvel at the Great Pyramid of Khufu, a monumental structure over 150 metres tall and spanning 230 metres at its base. Constructed with massive stone blocks and once adorned with a hard limestone casing, this architectural masterpiece is truly breathtaking. Alongside the Great Pyramid, you'll admire the smaller but equally impressive pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure. You'll even have the chance to venture inside the pyramids for an unforgettable experience (limited tickets are available for the Great Pyramid).

Between these captivating visits, you'll enjoy a delicious Koshary lunch. This traditional Egyptian dish is a culinary delight, featuring a medley of rice, lentils, macaroni, chickpeas, and a tangy tomato sauce, all topped with crispy fried onions. It's a perfect taste of Egypt's rich culinary heritage.

As the day ends, we'll transfer to the station for an overnight sleeper train to Aswan. The 12-hour journey includes accommodation in a twin-berth cabin, where an airline-style dinner and breakfast

will be served.

OVERNIGHT:

Sleeper Train Cabin

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade

Day 3: Arrive in Aswan and visit Philae Temple. Nubian Village experience

After an overnight journey, we arrive in Aswan, a city rich with ancient Nubian history. The Nubian people have inhabited this region for millennia, their culture closely tied to the Nile. We'll be spending the night immersed in this vibrant culture, staying in a Nubian-style hotel within a local village. You'll be charmed by the brightly painted houses, adorned with symbolic patterns, and can explore the bustling markets for unique souvenirs and spices.

Before heading to the Nubian village, we'll take a boat trip to the breathtaking Philae Temple. Dedicated to the goddess Isis, this complex was famously saved from the rising waters of Lake Nasser by being meticulously dismantled and relocated to its current island location, preserving its beauty for all to see.

Following our visit to the temple, we'll journey to a traditional Nubian village south of Aswan. Here, you'll have the unique opportunity to experience the local way of life firsthand, wandering through the village, visiting homes, and learning about their customs and traditions. In the evening, we'll share a delicious home-cooked dinner with a Nubian family, savouring traditional dishes and enjoying their warm hospitality. We'll then spend the night in a Nubian-style hotel, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the peaceful rhythm of village life.

OVERNIGHT:

Aswan - Nubian Village hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Optional visit to Abu Simbel. Sail down the River Nile on a traditional Felucca sailboat

For an awe-inspiring adventure, an optional early morning excursion to Abu Simbel is available. This UNESCO World Heritage Site features two magnificent temples carved into a mountainside by Ramses II. With their colossal statues and intricate reliefs, these monumental structures stand as a testament to the grandeur of ancient Egypt and are a highlight of the trip.

At lunchtime, our Egyptian adventure continues with a classic felucca sailing trip on the Nile. These traditional wooden sailboats provide a unique view of the river's beauty and the rural life along its banks. Our Nubian crew will expertly navigate the felucca, ensuring a relaxing journey while also sharing their local knowledge and preparing delicious meals.

To ensure your comfort, a separate facilities boat will accompany us, equipped with toilets, showers, and a hygienic kitchen. In the evening, we'll moor on the riverbank for a dinner prepared by our crew. You'll then enjoy a magical night's sleep on the deck under the stars, with mattresses, blankets, and mosquito nets all provided.

If you would prefer a more conventional stay, you can upgrade to an overnight in a comfortable hotel in Aswan. You would then rejoin the group the following morning when the felucca reaches Kom Ombo, and this upgrade will not impact the rest of your itinerary.

OVERNIGHT:

Felucca Sailboat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Abu Simbel overland

Upgrade from felucca to hotel in Aswan

Day 5: Disembark Felucca and visit Edfu Temple. Drive to Luxor and visit Luxor Temple by Night

After breakfast on the felucca, we bid farewell to our Nubian crew and continue our journey north by road. Our first stop is Edfu, home to the impressive Temple of Horus. Dedicated to the falcon-headed god, this is one of Egypt's largest and most completely preserved temples. We'll have time to explore its towering pylons, hypostyle halls, and intricate reliefs, immersing ourselves in the mythology and grandeur of ancient Egyptian religion.

From Edfu, we continue northwards to the legendary city of Luxor. Built upon the ancient site of Thebes, Luxor boasts an unparalleled concentration of historical wonders. Often referred to as the world's greatest open-air museum, it is divided by the Nile into two distinct areas: the East Bank, with its vibrant city life and magnificent temples, and the West Bank, a necropolis of royal tombs and mortuary temples.

This evening, we have a special treat in store: a guided tour of Luxor Temple at night. Situated in the heart of the modern city, this beautifully illuminated temple offers a truly magical experience after dark. Our guide will bring the temple's history to life, revealing its secrets and explaining its centuries-long significance as a centre of worship.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Visits to Valley of the Kings, Temple of Hatchepsut, Workers Village, Colossi of Memnon. Afternoon visit Karnak Temple

This morning, we journey to the West Bank of Luxor, a realm of ancient history and the final resting places of the pharaohs. Our exploration begins at the Valley of the Kings, a vast necropolis containing the elaborately decorated tombs of generations of rulers. We'll venture into several tombs, marvelling at the vibrant hieroglyphs and intricate paintings that cover their walls. As new discoveries are still being made, the Valley of the Kings remains one of the world's most significant archaeological sites.

Our West Bank adventure continues with a visit to Deir el-Medina, a fascinating ancient village that was home to the skilled artisans who built and decorated the royal tombs. We'll explore the remains of this community to gain an insight into the lives of these workers and their families. Next, we'll be captivated by the unique Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, built into the cliffs with elegant colonnades and terraces offering stunning views. A visit to the West Bank wouldn't be complete without seeing the Colossi of Memnon, two colossal statues that have guarded the Theban necropolis for millennia.

In the afternoon, we'll cross back to the East Bank to explore the sprawling Karnak Temple complex. Dedicated to the Theban Triad, Karnak is a masterpiece of ancient Egyptian architecture. We'll wander through its vast courtyards and admire its towering columns and intricate carvings. Our guide will help unravel the temple's complex history, explaining its significance as a religious and cultural centre for more than 2,000 years.

An optional hot air balloon flight is available this morning for those seeking an unforgettable experience. Imagine soaring above the Valley of the Kings, the temples, and the Nile as the sun rises, painting the landscape in golden hues. It's a truly magical way to witness Luxor's grandeur from a unique perspective, though it does require an early start to catch the sunrise.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Hot air balloon in Luxor

Day 7: Leave Luxor and Drive to the Red Sea resort of Hurghada

This morning, we'll say goodbye to the Nile and travel east towards the Red Sea's shimmering shores. We're heading to Hurghada, a lively resort town famous for its beautiful beaches, crystal-clear waters, and fantastic opportunities for diving and snorkelling.

Once we arrive, we'll check into our 5-star resort, a haven of comfort and relaxation with exceptional amenities and impeccable service. Your accommodation is on a 'soft all-inclusive' basis, which means all meals, soft drinks, and snacks are included. You can enjoy delicious buffets, poolside snacks, and refreshing beverages without any extra cost, although please note that alcoholic drinks are not part of this package.

The resort offers a wide range of facilities to enhance your time here. You can take a dip in the pool, relax on the sun-drenched terrace, or stroll along the pristine beach. For those who prefer to be active, there are opportunities for water sports, beach volleyball, and other activities. Alternatively, you might choose to be pampered with a spa treatment.

With its idyllic setting, luxurious amenities, and convenient all-inclusive package, your stay in Hurghada is sure to be a relaxing and rejuvenating escape.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada Resort

MEALS:

Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Enjoy the Red Sea in Hurghada, optional excursions available

Today is yours to enjoy the Red Sea at your leisure. You can relax on the beach, sunbathe, or take a swim in the clear waters. Hurghada is world-renowned for its diving and snorkelling, with vibrant coral reefs and marine life attracting enthusiasts globally. For those feeling adventurous, a variety of activities are available, including windsurfing, kitesurfing, a glass-bottomed submarine tour, quad biking in the desert, camel riding, or sea fishing. Our local representative will be on hand to help you arrange any of these exciting excursions.

If you'd rather stay close to the shore, Hurghada also has a charming marina and an atmospheric old town to explore. You can wander through its bustling streets, browse local shops, and soak up the lively feel of this coastal town.

Should you be captivated by Hurghada, we can arrange extra nights at the resort to extend your time here. Please be aware that choosing to stay longer means you will leave the group. You can either end your tour in Hurghada or arrange a flight back to Cairo for a later date. Please contact us for more information and personalised pricing.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada Resort

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Drive to Cairo, optional Khan-el-Khalili Bazaar visit

We drive back to Cairo this morning (approx.. 5hrs) and check into our hotel. An upgrade to an internal flight is also available on request.

In the afternoon there is the option to take a guided walk through the back streets and bazaars in central Cairo. We'll walk through the huge Bab al-Futuh gateway and explore streets dedicated to metalwork, spices, pottery, fabric, jewellery and anything else you can imagine as we gradually enter the more touristy Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. We'll have time for a break to try some tea and a shisha pipe and perhaps enjoy an early dinner of Egypt's unofficial national dish, Kushari before returning to our hotel.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Cairo, free time, departure airport transfer

Your time is free today for some last minute sightseeing or shopping until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight. If you have an afternoon or evening flight departure, then a half-day tour of Coptic Cairo and the Citadel is available today, or you could take another half-day tour to learn more about the evolution of pyramid building at Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis. tours are also available today. Alternatively you can add extra nights to your time in Cairo which would allow you to take a day trip to the colonial city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast, or a trip into the desert outside Cairo to see the World Heritage Site of the Valley of the Whales at Wadi Rayan.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - post-tour

Included:

- 6 nights in 5-star hotels in Cairo and Luxor
- 1 night onboard the overnight sleeper train - private twin-berth cabins (flight upgrade available)
- 1 night in a traditional Nubian style hotel in Aswan
- 1 night on a felucca sailboat with accompanying support boat with toilet & shower
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Traditional Koshary Lunch in Cairo
- Nubian Village Experience in Aswan
- Red Sea Relaxation in Hurghada
- All transport and transfers in private AC vehicles
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service

- Services of a local Egyptologist guide for all sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (available on arrival for most nationalities)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees (allow approx. US\$99)
- Tipping kitty (allow US\$80)
- Drinks, snacks, guide tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Hotel gala dinners (see Tour notes)
- Any other items not mentioned 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.

Hot air balloon in Luxor



From \$130.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

An early morning departure is required for this popular optional tour, designed to capture the sunrise over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, ancient temples, and desert scenery. We prioritize the earliest flights possible, as their timing aligns with the sunrise; therefore, departure times may fluctuate. This flight offers roughly one hour of aerial viewing.

The approximate cost is \$170.00, and booking is exclusively available locally through your tour guide, who will provide the most up-to-date pricing.

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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.

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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.

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Saqqara, 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.

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - post-tour



From \$105.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option allows you to extend your tour by an additional day, with accommodation at the same hotel as your main tour (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer remains included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing. Please note that single-room and peak-season supplements are applicable.

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Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour



From \$105.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option allows you to begin your tour a day early, staying at your tour hotel (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer remains included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing. Please note that single-room and peak-season supplements apply.

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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.

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Abu Simbel overland



From \$140.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The temples of Abu Simbel, built by Ramses II, are a true highlight of any trip to Egypt. Their impressive scale is matched only by the fascinating story of their relocation. When Lake Nasser was flooded, these magnificent temples were in danger of being submerged. In a remarkable feat of engineering, the entire complex was dismantled and rebuilt further up the hillside, where it stands today as a testament to both ancient Egyptian prowess and modern ingenuity.

To witness this marvel in the best possible light, we depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 3-4am), aiming to arrive at Abu Simbel as the sun rises. You'll then enjoy a guided tour with one of our expert Egyptologists, followed by free time to explore at your own pace, before we return to Aswan (approximately 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). This tour is carefully designed to ensure you won't miss any other activities on your itinerary.

We choose the overland route to Abu Simbel as flight schedules are unreliable, leading to a more fragmented and less restful journey. Furthermore, flying is significantly more expensive.

Please note that entrance fees to the site (approximately US\$17, with a 50% discount for children) are not included in the tour price and should be paid locally. A minimum of two people is required for this tour to operate.

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Single room supplement (EGSGDE)



From \$615.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation. This option guarantees a single room in all accommodations throughout the tour for solo travellers.

If you're happy to share a room with another traveller of the same sex, please let us know and we'll do our best to find a suitable roommate for you. If a room share isn't possible at the time of booking, the single room supplement will be added to your booking and will be payable with your balance payment. However, if we are able to arrange a room share for you before your balance is due, this supplement will be removed from your invoice. If a room share becomes available after you've paid the supplement, we will refund it to you. Room shares are allocated in order of booking.

Please note: Single-room supplement prices may vary seasonally.

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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.

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Felucca to Hotel upgrade



From \$60.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

If you'd prefer a bit more comfort instead of sleeping on the felucca deck, this option offers an additional night in a hotel in Aswan. You'll rejoin the group after their felucca cruise. Your time in Aswan is free to relax or explore, with optional sightseeing tours available locally upon request.

Please note: Single room supplements apply.

Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade



From \$0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option offers an upgrade from the overnight sleeper train to an internal flight with Egypt Air. An additional night's accommodation in your Cairo or Aswan hotel is included in lieu of the train journey. Flight times are subject to availability and may vary. Breakfast is included at the hotel. However, you will forgo the airline-style dinner provided on the sleeper train. Single-room supplements are applicable.

Upgrade from felucca to hotel in Aswan



From \$0

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

While our overnight felucca journey is often a tour highlight, its rustic overnight accommodation on the boat's deck isn't suited to everyone. This upgrade offers a more comfortable alternative, replacing the overnight felucca experience.

You have the option to enjoy a couple of hours sailing on the felucca with the main group, including lunch and dinner on board, before being transferred back to your Aswan hotel in the evening. Alternatively, you may choose to spend the entire afternoon independently exploring Aswan's markets and Corniche, forgoing the sailing altogether (please note, no meals are included if you remain in Aswan).

Your night in Aswan will be spent in a 5-star hotel. The following morning, we will arrange your transfer to rejoin the group after they disembark from the felucca, and your tour will continue as scheduled. Prices shown are based on travel during the low season (April to September) and accommodation in a shared twin/double room.

High-season and single-room supplements are applicable.

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1. Felucca Sailboat

This tour features an overnight felucca cruise. Feluccas are very basic traditional Nile sailboats and are a fun and relaxing way to travel down the river. You sleep on the deck of the boat (mattresses and some blankets are provided, but we suggest that you bring a sleeping sheet, blanket or light sleeping bag during the winter months of November-February). There are no toilet facilities on board, but you will be joined several times each day and at night by our support boat where a toilet and warm showers will be available. Mosquito nets are provided for use while you are sleeping but you should bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings. Your Nubian boat crew will cook all your meals while on board and entertain you in the evenings.

2. Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. In Egypt we do not use any public tourist buses or overnight coach journeys as we know that people don't sleep on board and end up very tired for the following few days. All the vehicles we use are air-conditioned, many are fitted with speed limiters, and all are inspected and checked daily. Some 4WD vehicles used on desert safaris may not always have air conditioning where they are only used for short periods.

For the overnight train journey between Cairo and Aswan this tour uses the overnight sleeper train. You will have a private lockable twin cabin on board which holds two large seats and fold down beds which the carriage steward will make up for you in the evening. Sheets, blanket & pillows are provided. The cabin also contains a wash basin and storage cupboard. An airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast are provided. The Cairo-Aswan journey takes around 12 hours.

3. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on Saturdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 18. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
