



Your passport to adventure

**Country(ies):** Egypt

**Tour type:** Small Group

**Transport:** AC minibus/coach, overnight train

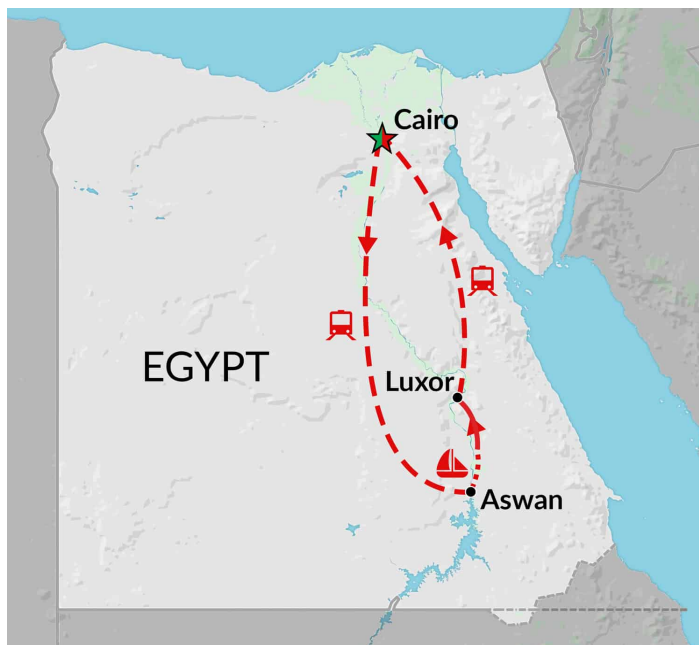
**Group size:** Min: 2 | Max: 18

**Days:** 6 days

**Start Location:** Cairo, Egypt

**End Location:** Cairo, Egypt

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 5, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 1



**Highlights:**

The great Pyramids & Sphinx, beautiful Philae temple by boat, Nile felucca cruise, Traditional Nubian Villages Pharaonic sites of Luxor's East and West Banks, back streets of the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar

## **Day 1: Arrive into Cairo, transfer to hotel**

Upon arrival, our staff will greet you at the airport, assist you with visa processing and luggage retrieval, and then transfer you to your hotel in central Cairo to begin your trip. They will help you settle in, familiarize you with the local area, and outline the arrangements for the following day. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Should you arrive early, you might consider an optional evening dinner cruise on the Nile or experiencing the captivating sound and light show at the pyramids, both of which can be booked locally upon arrival.

### **OVERNIGHT:**

Cairo 4-star hotel

### **MEALS:**

### **EXTRAS:**

Extra day in Cairo pre-tour (3-star)

Single Room Supplement (EGSHES)

## **Day 2: Cairo, Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza. Included Koshary Lunch. Overnight train to Aswan**

Our Egyptian adventure begins with a visit to the iconic Great Pyramids of Giza, situated just outside Cairo. Arguably the most recognizable ancient structures globally, these three magnificent pyramids were constructed around 2500 BC by the Pharaohs Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure. Here, our Egyptologist guide will introduce you to the fascinating history of Egypt, explaining the construction and purpose of these monumental tombs and their significance within the broader narrative of ancient Pharaonic civilization. For the adventurous (and those without claustrophobia), there will be an opportunity to descend into the interior of one of these remarkable structures.

Nearby, we will then explore the majestic Sphinx, a captivating monument that was fully excavated only in the 1920s. Following this awe-inspiring encounter, we will pause for a delicious Koshary lunch. This quintessential Egyptian dish is a flavorful and satisfying blend of fluffy rice, lentils, macaroni, and chickpeas, all layered with a zesty tomato sauce and topped with crispy fried onions – a true taste of Egypt's culinary heritage that will energize you for the afternoon.

After lunch, you will have free time to explore the renowned Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, home to an unparalleled collection of ancient Egyptian treasures.

In the evening, we will board an overnight VIP seated train from Cairo to Aswan. For those seeking enhanced comfort, an upgrade to the sleeper train is available, offering private cabins and included airline-style meals.

**OVERNIGHT:**

Overnight seater train

**MEALS:**

Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

Two way sleeper train upgrade

## **Day 3: Arrive in Aswan. Philae Temple & Nubian village**

Following our overnight train journey, we arrived in Aswan and settled into a Nubian-style hotel in a vibrant Nubian village. This ancient region of Nubia once encompassed the Nile Valley in parts of present-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan, and many Nubian descendants still reside around Aswan, evident in their colorful homes.

The next morning, we embarked on a boat trip to the Temple of Philae, a stunningly located sanctuary dedicated to Isis and remarkably salvaged from the waters of Lake Nasser. Afterwards, we ventured south of Aswan to immerse ourselves in Nubian culture. We experienced the local way of life, visited Nubian homes, and spent the night in our Nubian-style hotel.

**OVERNIGHT:**

Aswan - Nubian Village hotel

**MEALS:****EXTRAS:**

## **Day 4: Abu Simbel option. Nile Felucca Cruise**

This morning offers an optional excursion to the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site of Abu Simbel, home to the temples of Ramses II. We'll depart in the early hours to witness the breathtaking sight of the sunrise illuminating these ancient wonders. For those not participating in the Abu Simbel visit, the morning is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

Around lunchtime, we'll embark on a traditional Nile felucca for a relaxing afternoon sail. Drifting along the Nile on a felucca provides a unique perspective on local Egyptian life as the rural landscapes unfold along the riverbanks. Our Nubian crew will expertly navigate the boat, entertain you with their culture, and prepare your meals. A separate support boat, equipped with toilets,

showers, and a hygienic kitchen, will accompany us during the day and moor alongside us at night. Tonight, you'll sleep under the stars on the deck of the felucca, with mattresses, blankets, and mosquito nets provided for a fun, albeit basic, experience. For those seeking more comfort, an optional upgrade to spend the night back at the Aswan hotel is available. You'll then rejoin the group the following morning.

**OVERNIGHT:**

On board felucca

**MEALS:**

Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:**

Abu Simbel overland

Felucca to Hotel upgrade

## **Day 5: To Luxor via Edfu. Optional Luxor temple at night**

This morning, we lingered onboard the Felucca, savoring breakfast with the crew before a reluctant farewell. Afterward, we journeyed north to Luxor, pausing to explore the magnificent Edfu Temple along the way. Luxor, often called the jewel of Egypt, boasts the Nile Valley's, if not the world's, most extensive collection of ancient ruins. These are divided by the Nile: the West Bank, the City of the Dead, reveals numerous mortuary temples and tombs carved into the rugged mountains. On the East Bank, the impressive Temples of Luxor and Karnak, connected by the Avenue of Sphinxes, stand as highlights. This evening offers an optional excursion to Luxor Temple, centrally located and beautifully illuminated at night. Alternatively, you might choose to venture into town, discovering Luxor's lively outdoor cafes, perhaps engaging in a game of backgammon and trying a shisha pipe with the locals. Our accommodation for the night is a comfortable four-star hotel with a pool, situated on the banks of the Nile.

**OVERNIGHT:**

Luxor 4-star hotel

**MEALS:**

Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

Hot air balloon in Luxor

## **Day 6: Luxor, West Bank tour. Optional Karnak temple tour. Train to Cairo**

This morning's excursion takes us to the West Bank of the Nile. There, we will explore the magnificent Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, delve into the ancient tombs of the Valley of the Kings, and gain insights into the lives of the skilled laborers at Deir El-Medina, also known as the Valley of the Artisans. Our visit will also include a stop to marvel at the imposing Colossi of Memnon.

The afternoon offers you leisure time to unwind at the hotel or the chance to join an optional tour to discover the vast temple complex of Karnak. For a truly unforgettable experience, a spectacular hot air balloon flight over the West Bank of the Nile is also available today, requiring an early start to witness the breathtaking sunrise from above.

This evening, we will board the overnight VIP seating train back to Cairo. For those seeking enhanced comfort, an upgrade to the sleeper train is available.

### **OVERNIGHT:**

Overnight seater train

### **MEALS:**

Breakfast

### **EXTRAS:**

Hot air balloon in Luxor

Karnak Temple tour

Two way sleeper train upgrade

## **Day 7: Arrive in Cairo. Optional day trips available**

This morning, we'll arrive back in Cairo and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to explore Cairo independently, or you may choose to participate in an optional tour. Several options are available, including a city tour of Cairo that visits Coptic Cairo, the Citadel, and the Mohamed Ali Mosque. Alternatively, you could take a half-day tour to Saqqara, Dashour, and Memphis to delve into the history and evolution of pyramid construction. For a full-day excursion further afield, consider a trip into the desert outside Cairo to experience the World Heritage Site of the Valley of the Whales at Wadi Rayan.

If you haven't opted for one of the full-day optional tours, an opportunity awaits in the afternoon for a guided walk through the back streets and vibrant bazaars of central Cairo. Our exploration will begin as we pass through the grand Bab al-Futuh gateway, leading us through fascinating streets

dedicated to metalwork, spices, pottery, fabric, jewelry, and a myriad of other crafts. We'll gradually make our way into the more bustling and tourist-friendly Khan el-Khalili bazaar. Here, we'll pause for a refreshing break to savor some tea and perhaps try a shisha pipe. You might also consider enjoying an early dinner of Kushari, Egypt's unofficial national dish, before we return to our hotel.

**OVERNIGHT:**

Cairo 3-star hotel

**MEALS:**

**EXTRAS:**

Alexandria day trip

Cairo city tour

Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

## **Day 8: Cairo, Optional Museum & City tour. Departure airport transfer**

Enjoy your free time this morning for last-minute sightseeing or shopping before your transfer to the airport for your departure flight. To make the most of your day, we suggest booking an afternoon or evening flight, allowing you time to visit the remarkable Egyptian Museum and explore more of Cairo. Should you wish to extend your stay, extra nights in Cairo are available.

**OVERNIGHT:**

N/A

**MEALS:**

Breakfast

**EXTRAS:**

Extra day in Cairo post-tour (3-star)

Saqqara, Dashour & Memphis

**Included:**

- **Hotel Stays:** 3 nights in well-appointed 3- or 4-star hotels.

- **Aswan Experience:** 1 night in a uniquely designed Nubian-style hotel.
- **Nile Adventure:** 1 night on a traditional felucca sailboat cruise. A separate support boat will accompany the felucca, equipped with toilet and shower facilities for your comfort.
- **Overnight Train:** 2 nights will be spent on an overnight seater train. For enhanced comfort, a sleeper train upgrade is available.
- All transportation and transfers throughout the tour will be provided in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles.
- Enjoy the convenience of a 24-hour airport arrival and departure transfer service.
- All sightseeing tours will be led by knowledgeable and engaging specialist Egyptologist tour guides.
- Meals will be provided as specified in the detailed itinerary.

#### **Excluded:**

- International flights (available upon request)
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available upon request)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Tipping kitty (allow approximately US\$45)
- Entrance fees (budget approximately US\$75)
- Drinks, snacks, guide and driver tips, and other personal expenses (e.g., laundry)
- Hotel Gala Dinners (refer to Tour Notes for details)
- Tour Guide Tips
- Any other items not explicitly mentioned

## 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.

## Luxor Museum tour



**From \$40.00**

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

The Luxor Museum, though smaller than Cairo's Egyptian Museum, boasts a beautifully curated collection with significant artefacts. Highlights include a colossal red granite head of Amenhotep III, a calcite statue of the crocodile god Sobek, and items from Tutankhamun's tomb, such as boats, sandals, and arrows. The museum also houses objects from periods following Pharaonic Egypt.

The museum typically opens from 9 am to 2 pm and then again from 5 pm to 9 pm. Your guide will confirm the current opening times and arrange a guided visit that complements your other sightseeing activities.

Prices are based on a minimum of two people travelling. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees to the museum are not included (budget approximately USD 9).

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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Extra day in Cairo (4-star) - pre-tour



**From \$65.00**

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This option allows you to begin your tour a day early, staying at the same hotel as your main tour (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing.

Please note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

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#### Extra day in Cairo post-tour (3-star)



**From \$55.00**

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This option allows you to extend your tour by an extra day, staying at the same hotel as your main tour (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing.

Please note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

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#### Two way sleeper train upgrade

**From \$80.00**



Min numbers:

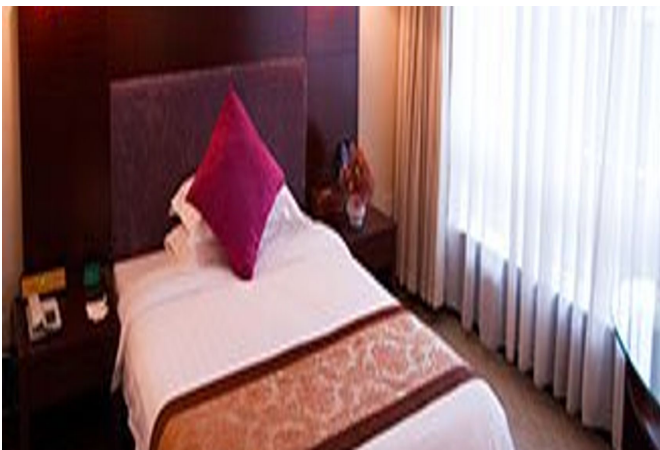
\*Based on person/s

This option provides an upgrade to the sleeper train from the overnight coach that we use on the standard tour for the Cairo-Aswan and Luxor-Cairo journeys. On the sleeper train you have a private twin-berthed cabin, which features two large seats; fold down beds with mattress, sheets, pillow, blanket; storage locker and wash basin. An airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast are included. The carriage steward will make up and put away your beds in the evening and morning. All transfers between your hotel and the station are also included. Single cabin supplements apply.

**Note:** We can also arrange an internal flight upgrade in place of the sleeper train upgrade - please contact us for details.

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#### Single Room Supplement (EGSHES)



**From \$195.00**

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation. Solo travellers will be paired with another group member of the same sex. If no suitable room share is available due to group composition, the single supplement will be waived.

If you prefer to guarantee your own room throughout the tour, you can add the single supplement option to your booking.

**Please note:** Single supplement rates may vary depending on the season.

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### Karnak Temple tour



**From \$55.00**

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This tour takes you to the magnificent Karnak Temple Complex, located on the East bank of the Nile in Luxor. Karnak is linked to Luxor Temple by a 2.4km avenue of Sphinxes, which is currently being restored and opened to the public. Construction of the site began over 4,000 years ago and continued through to Roman times, with numerous Pharaohs adding their own enhancements and changes. The entire complex spans roughly 200 acres

(1.5km x 0.8km) and is often regarded as the largest religious structure in the world. The site features temples dedicated to various gods, a grand Hypostyle Hall with 134 towering columns, multiple obelisks, including a 30m tall one erected by Queen Hatshepsut, and a sacred stone-walled lake.

You will spend several hours exploring the site with one of our knowledgeable Egyptologist guides, and transfers to and from your hotel are included.

Prices are based on a minimum of two people travelling. Solo travellers will incur an additional supplement. Entrance fees are not included (approximately \$7).

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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.

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Extra day in Cairo pre-tour (3-star)



From \$0

Min numbers:

\*Based on person/s

This option extends your tour by one extra day at the beginning, with accommodation in the same hotel used during the main tour (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer remains included. Prices are per person based on twin sharing.

**Please note:** Single room and peak season supplements may apply.

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## 1. Transport

Our tours incorporate a variety of transportation methods, carefully chosen to provide an authentic experience of the country you're exploring while ensuring you arrive at each destination feeling refreshed and ready for the next part of your adventure. In Egypt, we prioritize your comfort by exclusively using air-conditioned vehicles that undergo daily inspection. Many of these vehicles are also equipped with speed limiters for added safety. Please note that some 4WD vehicles used for short desert safari excursions may not always have air conditioning.

For the overnight train journeys between Cairo and Aswan (approximately 12 hours) and Luxor and Cairo (approximately 9 hours), this tour utilizes the VIP overnight seater train. The seats on these trains are generously sized, allowing you to relax comfortably. However, for those desiring an enhanced level of comfort, we offer an optional upgrade to the sleeper train. The sleeper train features private twin-berth cabins with spacious seats that convert into fold-down beds, complete with sheets, a pillow, and a blanket. These lockable cabins also include a washbasin and a storage cupboard, as well as an airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast.

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## 2. Felucca Sailboat

This tour includes an overnight experience on a traditional Nile sailboat known as a felucca, offering a unique and relaxing way to journey down the river. Please note that feluccas are quite basic; sleeping arrangements are on the deck with provided mattresses and some blankets. For added warmth during the cooler months (November to February), it is recommended to bring a sleeping sheet, blanket, or light sleeping bag.

While the felucca itself does not have toilet facilities, a support boat with a toilet and shower will meet the group several times throughout the day and night for your convenience. Mosquito nets are provided for sleeping, but bringing mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings is advisable. Your Nubian boat crew will prepare your meals onboard and provide evening entertainment.

For travellers seeking more comfort, a local upgrade to a hotel for the night in Aswan is available as an option. This allows you to still enjoy an afternoon on the felucca and have dinner with the group, after which you will return to the hotel for the night. The upgrade cost includes hotel accommodation, breakfast, and the necessary transfers back to the hotel and to rejoin the group after their time on the felucca concludes.

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## 3. Dates & Prices

This tour features regularly scheduled small-group departures every Saturday throughout the year. We guarantee that all departures will proceed with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 26 travelers. For specific departure dates and pricing information, please refer to our website or the separate dates & prices sheet, which is available upon 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.

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