



Your passport to adventure

Country(ies): Egypt

Tour type: Small Group

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

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 9 days

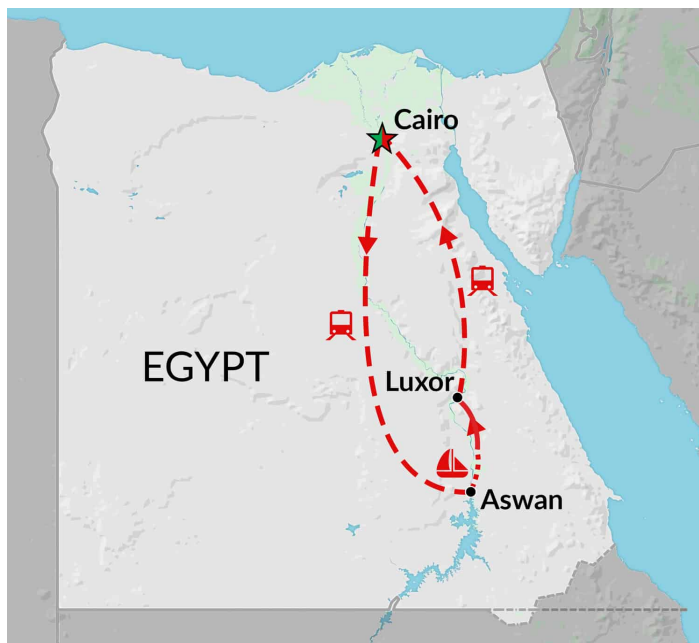
Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Cairo, Egypt

Meals: Breakfasts - 8, Lunches - 2, Dinners - 3

Highlights:

The Pyramids & Sphinx, antiquities of the Egyptian museum, romantic Philae Temple, Abu Simbel option, traditional felucca sailing, ancient Valley of the Kings



Day 1: Arrival in Cairo and Hotel Transfer

Upon your arrival, our team will greet you at the airport, assist you with securing your visa and luggage, and transfer you to your hotel to begin your journey. They will assist you in settling in, familiarise you with the local area, and provide details of tomorrow's plans. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. If you arrive earlier, you may wish to embark on an evening dinner cruise along the Nile or experience an awe-inspiring sound and light show at the pyramids (both can be booked locally upon arrival).

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

Day 2: Excursion to Cairo, Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum Visit

Our journey through Egypt begins with a visit to the Egyptian Museum in the heart of Cairo. Home to the remarkable Tutankhamun exhibit, the museum also houses a vast collection of other ancient Egyptian relics. A local Egyptologist will be guiding you during this and all of your other excursions, offering a wealth of knowledge and a passion for both Egyptian history and their country as a whole. After the museum, we proceed to Giza on the outskirts of Cairo to see the Sphinx and the three grand pyramids of Egypt. The Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops), standing at 500 feet tall and 750 feet wide at its base, is a staggering man-made wonder made of massive stone blocks with a smooth limestone exterior. Over time, much of the casing has been removed, exposing the core structure. Alongside the smaller pyramids of Khafre (Chephren) and Menkaure (Mycerinus), the awe-inspiring view of these colossal monuments emerging from the desert is truly remarkable. You will have the chance to venture inside the pyramids if you wish, although your guide cannot join you (a limited number of tickets are available for the Great Pyramid).

In the evening, we will head to the station to board the overnight sleeper train to Aswan (approximately 12 hours).

OVERNIGHT:

On board train

MEALS:

Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Arrival in Aswan, Nubian Village, and Philae Temple

This morning, we arrive in Aswan and head to our hotel with views of the Nile, which is at its most stunning here, featuring cascading rapids, lush green islands, and feluccas gliding back and forth. Aswan itself is a vibrant blend of African and Middle Eastern cultures, which you can best experience by wandering through the lively markets. It is also part of the ancient Nubian region, which once stretched across southern Egypt and northern Sudan along the Nile. Many of the descendants of the Nubian people still reside here, and we will visit a local Nubian village to admire their colourful homes, simple lifestyle, and enjoy a traditional lunch.

Our tour continues this afternoon with a visit to the Temple of Philae, a stunning island complex dedicated to Isis, which has been reclaimed from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. We reach it by a scenic boat ride. The evening is free for exploring Aswan's spice and general markets, as well as strolling along the popular Corniche by the Nile. Alternatively, you can take a camel ride across the sands on the far bank of the Nile to St. Simeon's monastery. For those who have chosen the Abu Simbel option, an early night is recommended to prepare for a very early departure tomorrow.

OVERNIGHT:

Aswan hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Journey to Aswan, Optional Visit to Abu Simbel, Felucca Sailing Tour

This morning, we have the option to begin our journey early to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Abu Simbel. These remarkable temples, constructed by Ramses II, are among Egypt's most iconic landmarks and attractions. For those not visiting Abu Simbel, there is the option to explore Aswan's bustling markets, enjoy a walk along the Corniche by the river, or visit the Nubian Museum, which offers a captivating collection that highlights the history and culture of the Nubian people in the region.

At lunchtime, we will board our traditional Nile felucca to sail down the river. Cruising on a felucca is one of the most delightful ways to experience Egypt, as you glide along, observing rural Egyptian life on the banks of the Nile. Our Nubian crew will be at the helm, guiding the boat and providing entertainment, while also preparing meals on board. A separate facilities boat will join us intermittently throughout the day and anchor with us overnight. This boat is equipped with a toilet

and showers for comfort, as well as a hygienic kitchen where the crew will prepare a tasty evening meal. Tonight, you will sleep on the felucca deck, with mattresses, blankets, and mosquito nets provided. Alternatively, you may opt to extend your stay with an additional night in the Aswan hotel. In this case, you would remain in Aswan overnight and reunite with the group the following morning, when they leave the felucca at Komombo. All other scheduled activities remain unchanged.

OVERNIGHT:

On board felucca

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Felucca Sailing, Edfu Temple, Luxor Exploration

After breakfast on board, we say goodbye to our felucca crew and travel north from Aswan to Edfu, where we will explore the magnificent Temple of Horus. We will then continue our journey further north to Luxor. Luxor is built on and around the ancient city of Thebes, and it is home to 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-carved tombs, while to the east stand the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. In the evening, we offer an optional walking tour of the smaller Luxor Temple, which is centrally located and beautifully illuminated at night.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Luxor West Bank Exploration with Free Time

We cross the Nile early this morning to begin our exploration of Luxor's West Bank. This region, home to the Valley of the Kings, houses the ancient tombs, which continue to unveil their mysteries, making it one of the most significant archaeological sites globally. Our tour covers several of these Pharaonic tombs, as well as the temples of Queen Hatshepsut and Medinat Habu,

and the grand Colossi of Memnon.

A breathtaking hot air balloon ride over the west bank of the Nile is available this morning (be prepared for an early start to witness the sunrise as the balloon ascends).

In the afternoon, you have free time to unwind and enjoy the amenities of your luxurious 5-star hotel along the Nile. Alternatively, you can further explore Luxor, shop or wander through the market, visit the Mummification Museum, or take a felucca ride to the nearby Banana Island. For those seeking a deeper dive into Egyptian history, additional sightseeing options are available. Notable sites such as the Ramesseum, Workers' Village, and the Valley of the Queens on the west bank of the Nile are all worth visiting. Your guide will be delighted to arrange any additional excursions for you (additional costs will apply to cover transport, entrance fees, and the guide's services).

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Excursion to Luxor, Karnak Temple

You have the morning to yourself today, allowing for a well-deserved lie-in after a series of early mornings. Following lunch, we will explore the vast Karnak temple complex, which was once the religious heart of Thebes and Upper Egypt. This monumental site was connected to Luxor by a grand avenue lined with sphinxes, and the entire complex was linked to the Nile by a canal, through which the sacred boats of the god Amun would travel. As you walk through a smaller avenue flanked by sphinxes, constructed by Ramesses II, you will arrive at the grand pylon entrance. Inside the expansive Courtyard, there are three chapels dedicated to the gods Amun, Khonsu, and Mut. The stunning Hypostyle Hall, with its 134 towering columns, is adorned with intricate carvings of gods, pharaohs, and hieroglyphic inscriptions.

In the evening, we will head to the station to board the overnight sleeper train back to Cairo, a journey of approximately 9 hours.

OVERNIGHT:

On board sleeper train

MEALS:

Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Cairo, Optional Excursions, and the Hidden Alleys of Khan el-Khalili Market

We arrive back in Cairo this morning and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore Cairo at your leisure, or you may choose to join an optional tour. Options include a city tour of Cairo, which visits Coptic Cairo, the Citadel, and the Mohamed Ali Mosque, or a half-day excursion to Saqqara, Dashour, and Memphis, where you can delve into the history and development of pyramid construction. Another full-day option takes you further into the desert outside Cairo to visit the World Heritage Site of the Valley of the Whales at Wadi Rayan.

In the late afternoon, we will embark on a guided walk through the back streets and bazaars of central Cairo. We'll pass through the impressive Bab al-Futuh gateway and explore streets filled with shops selling metalwork, spices, pottery, fabric, jewellery, and much more, before gradually entering the bustling Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. There will be time to pause for a tea and a shisha pipe, and perhaps sample an early dinner of Egypt's unofficial national dish, Kushari, before returning to our hotel.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Cairo and transfer to the airport for departure

You have some free time today for any last-minute sightseeing or shopping before we take you to the airport for your departure flight.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:**Included:**

- All accommodation as outlined in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers in private air-conditioned vehicles
- 24-hour airport arrival and departure transfer service
- Overnight sleeper train in private twin-berth cabins (flight upgrades available)
- Sightseeing tours as specified in the itinerary
- Services of a local Egyptologist guide for all sightseeing excursions
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (upon request)
- Visa charges (most nationalities can obtain on arrival)
- Travel insurance (mandatory, upon request)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees (budget approximately US\$81)
- Gratuity fund (budget US\$65)
- Beverages, snacks, guide gratuities, and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Hotel gala dinners (refer to Tour notes)
- Any additional 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.

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).

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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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Abydos & Dendara



From \$100.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option arranges a fascinating day trip from Luxor to the temples at Abydos and Dendara. These less-visited sites offer a unique glimpse into ancient Egyptian history and architecture.

Dendara, dedicated to the goddess Hathor, is a remarkably well-preserved temple that often captivates visitors, becoming a personal favourite. Nearby Abydos, the cult centre of

Osiris, god of the dead, features a vast necropolis that once served as a pilgrimage and burial site. This historically significant site originally housed at least ten temples.

Please note that this excursion involves approximately 6 hours of total driving time to and from Luxor, requiring a full free day in your itinerary.

Pricing is based on two people travelling and includes return transport, an expert Egyptologist guide, and tours of both sites. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees to the sites are not included (budget approximately USD 7).

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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.

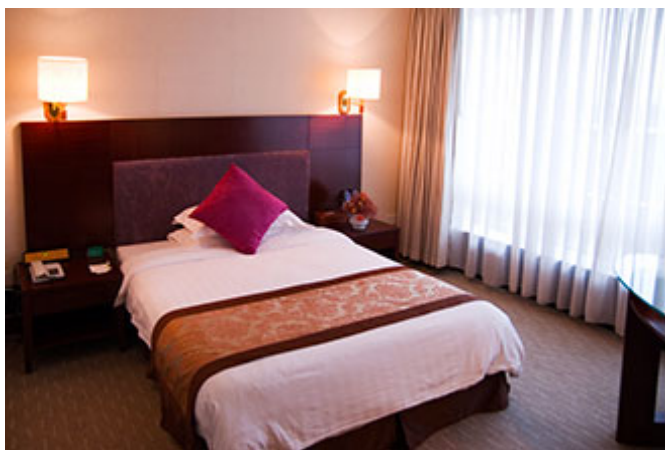
To witness this marvel in the best possible light, we depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 3-4am), aiming to arrive at Abu Simbel as the sun rises. You'll then enjoy a guided tour with one of our expert Egyptologists, followed by free time to explore at your own pace, before we return to Aswan (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 (EGSGNA)



From \$515.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation, where solo travellers are paired with another same-sex member of the group. Should the final group composition preclude a room share, you will not be required to pay the single supplement. However, if you wish to guarantee a single room for the duration of the tour, please add this option to your booking.

Please note: Single supplement prices are subject to seasonal variations.

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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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1. Felucca Sailboat

This tour includes an overnight felucca sailing experience. Feluccas are traditional, basic Nile sailboats, offering a charming and leisurely way to journey along the river. You will sleep on the boat's deck (mattresses and some blankets are supplied, although we recommend bringing a sleeping sheet, blanket, or a light sleeping bag, especially during the colder winter months from November to February). The boat lacks toilet facilities, but a support boat will join you multiple times throughout the day and evening, providing access to a toilet and hot showers. Mosquito nets will be provided for sleeping, but it is advisable to bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings. Your Nubian crew will prepare all meals aboard the felucca and offer entertainment in the evenings.

2. Transport

Our tours incorporate a variety of transport options. Our aim is for you to truly experience the country you're travelling through, while also ensuring you feel refreshed enough to enjoy each new leg of the journey. In Egypt, we avoid using public tourist buses or overnight coach trips, as we understand that passengers often struggle to sleep on board, leaving them fatigued for the days that follow. All of our vehicles are air-conditioned, with many fitted with speed limiters, and each one is thoroughly inspected and checked daily. Some 4WD vehicles used for desert safaris may not have air conditioning, as they are only used for short durations.

For the overnight train trips from Cairo to Aswan (approximately 12 hours) and Luxor to Cairo (approximately 9 hours), we use the overnight sleeper train. This train offers private twin-berth cabins with spacious seats that convert into fold-down beds, complete with sheets, a pillow, and a blanket. The cabins are lockable and feature a washbasin and a storage cupboard, and meals (an airline-style evening meal and breakfast) are provided. If preferred, you can opt to upgrade to flights for these journeys.

3. Dates & Prices

We operate regular small-group tours on this itinerary, typically commencing on most Saturdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 18. Departure dates and prices can be found on our website or on a dedicated dates & prices sheet, available upon request.

Printed on: Wednesday 10th of September 2025

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.
