



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: 12 days

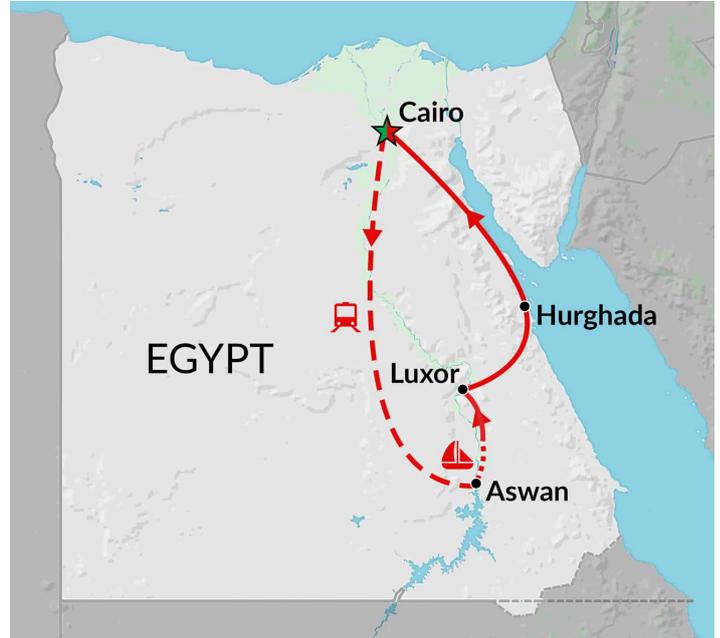
Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Cairo, Egypt

Meals: Breakfasts - 11, Lunches - 5, Dinners - 6

Highlights:

The great Pyramids & Sphinx, antiquities of the Egyptian museum, Abu Simbel option, hidden tombs - Valley of the Kings, relaxing on a traditional Felucca, Red Sea at Hurghada



Day 1: Cairo Arrival and Hotel Transfer

Once you arrive, our team will be at the airport to welcome you, help you get your visa and collect your luggage, and then take you to your hotel to start your trip. They'll help you settle in, show you around the local area, and give you details about the plans for the next day. You can then spend the rest of the day relaxing. If you arrive early, you might like to take an evening dinner cruise along the Nile or see a fantastic sound and light show at the pyramids (both can be booked locally when you arrive).

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo 5-star hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

Day 2: Cairo, Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum Excursion

Our journey through Egypt begins with a scenic drive to Giza, located on the edge of Cairo, where we will explore the iconic Sphinx and the three grand pyramids. A local Egyptologist will guide you throughout this tour, as well as all subsequent sightseeing excursions, offering vast knowledge and passionate insights into Egyptian history and culture. Standing at an impressive 500 feet in height and 750 feet in width at its base, the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) is an awe-inspiring monument made from enormous stone blocks with a durable limestone exterior. Over time, the limestone casing has been removed, revealing the internal structure of the pyramid. Alongside the smaller pyramids of Khafre (Chephren) and Menkaure (Mycerinus), the view of these monumental structures rising from the desert is truly spectacular. You'll also have the chance to venture inside the pyramids, should you wish, although your guide will not be able to accompany you. (Please note that there is a limited number of tickets available for entry to the Great Pyramid). After visiting the pyramids, we'll proceed to the Egyptian Museum, which houses the remarkable Tutankhamun exhibit, along with a vast collection of other ancient Egyptian artefacts.

In the evening, we transfer to the station to board the overnight sleeper train to Aswan (approximately 12 hours). Dinner will be served on board in your private twin-berth compartment, before the steward prepares your beds for a restful night's sleep.

OVERNIGHT:

Sleeper train

MEALS:

Breakfast,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Journey to Aswan, Nubian Village, and Philae Temple

This morning, we arrive in Aswan and transfer to our hotel, which overlooks the Nile at its most scenic, with verdant islands and feluccas drifting by. Aswan is a vibrant mix of African and Middle Eastern influences, best explored by strolling through its lively markets. It also lies within the historic region of Nubia, which once spanned parts of modern southern Egypt and northern Sudan along the Nile. Many descendants of the Nubian people still live in this area, and we will visit a local Nubian village to admire their colourful homes, simple lifestyle, and enjoy a traditional meal.

In the afternoon, we continue our tour with a visit to the Temple of Philae, an exquisite island temple dedicated to Isis, rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser, which we reach via a scenic boat ride. The evening is free to explore Aswan's spice and general markets, as well as to stroll along the popular Corniche by the Nile. For those interested, an optional camel ride is available across the sands to St. Simeon's Monastery on the far bank. If you've chosen the Abu Simbel excursion, make sure to rest early this evening in preparation for a very early start tomorrow.

OVERNIGHT:

Aswan 5 star hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Abu Simbel Tour Option and Nile Felucca Sailing Experience

This morning, you have the opportunity to visit the temples of Ramses II at the incredible UNESCO World Heritage site of Abu Simbel. We depart early with the goal of witnessing the sunrise over the temples. If you choose not to visit Abu Simbel, the morning is free for you to enjoy at your leisure.

At lunchtime, we embark on a traditional Nile felucca for a relaxing afternoon sailing down the river. Cruising along the Nile on a felucca is one of Egypt's most delightful activities, allowing you to observe rural Egyptian life along the riverbanks as we drift by. Our Nubian crew will sail the boat, provide entertainment, and prepare meals for you throughout the journey. Our separate facilities boat will join us intermittently during the day and dock with us overnight. This boat features a toilet and shower facilities, as well as a hygienic kitchen. Tonight, you will sleep on the deck of the

felucca (mattresses, blankets, and mosquito nets are provided). While this is a fun yet simple experience, an optional upgrade is available for those who prefer more comfort. You can opt to spend the night in the Aswan hotel instead of on the felucca and rejoin the group the following morning.

OVERNIGHT:

On board felucca

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Excursion to Edfu Temple and Luxor Temple by Night

After breakfast on board, we say our goodbyes to the felucca crew and head to the nearby temple at Edfu for a visit, before continuing our journey north to Luxor. The town of Luxor is built upon and around the ancient site of Thebes, and it is home to the largest concentration of ancient ruins in the Nile Valley, and arguably the world. To the west of the Nile lies the City of the Dead, with its mortuary temples and tombs carved into the rock, while to the east are the majestic Temples of Luxor and Karnak.

We check in to a luxurious 5-star hotel on the banks of the Nile, where you will have time to relax and unwind by the pool this afternoon.

Later this evening, we will embark on a walking tour of the smaller Luxor Temple, located right in the heart of the town, which is beautifully illuminated at night.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor 5-star hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Luxor Excursion: West Bank Exploration and Karnak Temple Visit

We cross the Nile early this morning to commence our exploration of Luxor's West Bank. Renowned for the Valley of the Kings, the ancient tombs in this burial site continue to reveal their mysteries, maintaining its status as one of the world's most significant archaeological locations. Our journey includes visits to several of these Pharaonic tombs, the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Deir El-Medina (the Valley of the Artisans), and the grand Colossi of Memnon.

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

Following lunch, we will visit the vast temple complex at Karnak, once the spiritual heart of Thebes and Upper Egypt. This site was connected to Luxor by a grand avenue lined with sphinxes, and the entire complex was linked to the Nile by a canal that transported the sacred boats of the god Amun. Entering through a smaller sphinx-lined avenue, constructed by Ramesses II, you arrive at the monumental pylon entrance. Inside the expansive Courtyard are three chapels dedicated to the gods Amun, Khons, and Mut. The impressive Hypostyle Hall features 134 towering columns, each adorned with scenes of gods and pharaohs, while the walls are covered in hieroglyphic inscriptions.

OVERNIGHT:

Luxor 5-star hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Excursion to Luxor and the Red Sea at Hurghada

Following a relaxed morning, we depart from the Nile Valley and journey to the Red Sea resort of Hurghada, where we check in to a 5-star hotel. Your accommodation here is on a 'soft all-inclusive' basis, including all meals, soft drinks, and snacks, but excluding alcoholic drinks.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada - 5-star resort

MEALS:

Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Red Sea at Hurghada, Day of Leisure

You have the day off today to unwind and make the most of your time by the Red Sea. Hurghada is renowned worldwide for its scuba diving and snorkelling, with the vibrant marine life of the Red Sea attracting divers from across the globe. Other thrilling activities available include windsurfing, kite surfing, glass-bottomed boat trips, quad biking, camel rides, and sea fishing excursions. Our local representative in Hurghada will be available to assist with any arrangements you may need. The town itself boasts an intriguing marina and an old town worth exploring. Alternatively, you can spend the next few days here simply relaxing by the pool or on the beach, soaking up the year-round sunshine.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada 5-star resort

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Hurghada, Leisure Time

You have another day of leisure in Hurghada today, either to unwind or to explore some of the exciting activities available. Our local representative will be delighted to assist with any arrangements.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada - 5-star resort

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Hurghada, Leisure Time

This is your final full day in Hurghada to bask in the sunshine or enjoy some last-minute optional activities, which our local representative will be pleased to assist you with arranging.

OVERNIGHT:

Hurghada - 5-star resort

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 11: Drive to Cairo, Old Cairo & Khan-el-Khalili Bazaar Tour

We return to Cairo this morning (approximately 5 hours) and check into a hotel in the city centre. An upgrade to an internal flight is available upon request. In the late afternoon, we embark on a guided walk through the hidden streets and markets of Old Cairo. We'll pass through the grand Bab al-Futuh gateway and explore lanes filled with metalwork, spices, pottery, textiles, jewellery, and all sorts of goods, gradually making our way into the more tourist-focused Khan-el-Khalili bazaar.

There will be a chance to take a break, enjoy some mint tea and a shisha pipe, and this is the perfect opportunity to pick up some final souvenirs from your time in Egypt.

OVERNIGHT:

Cairo 5-star hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 12: Cairo, Leisure Time, Departure Transfer to Airport

You have some free time today for any last-minute sightseeing or shopping before we transfer you to the airport for your departure. Should your flight be in the afternoon or evening, we offer a half-day tour of Coptic Cairo and the Citadel, or a further half-day tour to explore the development of pyramid construction at Saqqara, Dashour, and Memphis. Additional tours are available today. Alternatively, you may extend your stay in Cairo, giving you the opportunity to take a day trip to the historic city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast, or visit 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:**Included:**

- Nine nights in deluxe 5-star accommodation
- One unforgettable night on a traditional felucca sailboat with a support vessel (option to upgrade to a luxury cabin)
- One night aboard a sleeper train in a private twin-berth cabin (option to upgrade to a flight or hotel stay)
- 24-hour airport pick-up and drop-off service
- Travel in comfort with private air-conditioned vehicles throughout your journey
- Immersive sightseeing excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Expert guidance from a local Egyptologist for all excursions
- Delicious meals as outlined in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (payable on arrival for most nationalities)
- Travel insurance (compulsory and available on request)
- Meals not detailed in the itinerary
- Entrance fees (approximately US\$81)
- Gratuities (suggested contribution of US\$65)
- Drinks, snacks, additional guide gratuities, 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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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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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.

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.

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.

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.

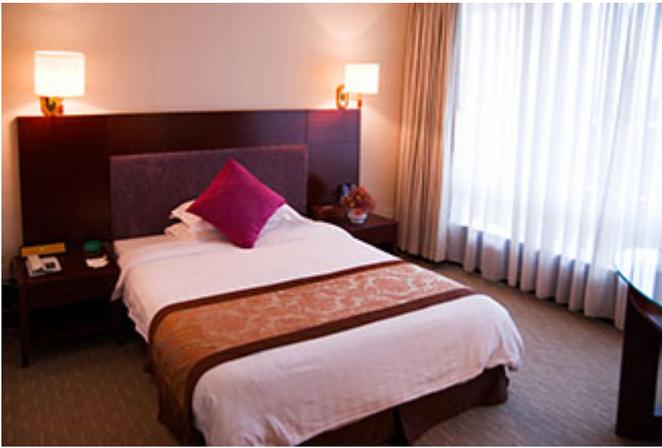
To witness this marvel in the best possible light, we depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 3-4am), aiming to arrive at Abu Simbel as the sun rises. You'll then enjoy a guided tour with one of our expert Egyptologists, followed by free time to explore at your own pace, before we return to Aswan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



From \$705.00

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.

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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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.
