

# *EGYPT*

A 12-DAY ITINERARY

**TRAVEL WITH US  
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**





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# DAY 1 - CAIRO



A vibrant, exhilarating, exotic, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sights in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. Enjoy a view of the pyramids from your hotel room balcony, visit the capital's medieval markets by Khan El-Khalili, or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern malls. Go to an opera or enjoy oriental music dance shows. Good for short breaks and long stays; you'll get to see the Giza Pyramids, thousands of ancient artifacts in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and much more.

Mena House Hotel is one of the most unique hotels in Cairo, located just moments away from the wonders of the ancient world offering unmatched views of the Pyramids with its own rich and colorful history. Surrounded by 40 acres of verdant green gardens, the royal history of the hotel is reflected in the lavish interiors that are embellished with exquisite antiques, handcrafted furniture, original works of art and magnificent antiques. Recreation options at the hotel include a heated swimming pool and a fully-equipped Spa & Fitness center as well as seven restaurants & lounges.

# DAY 2 - CAIRO

Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel to start your tour.

Begin with the legendary city of Memphis, founded in 3100 BC by Menes, the Pharaoh who united upper and lower Egypt. It became the capital of the Old Kingdom and the heart of Egypt's busy import-export activity, with traders from around the world giving it a cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Next, move on to Sakkara, the former necropolis (cemetery) for the ancient Egyptian city of Memphis and the place where the very first pyramids were built as tombs for kings. Instead of the smooth sides featured on other pyramids, the pyramids here feature six steps on the outside, representing the pharaoh's stepladder to heaven. Discover the famous Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the first pyramid ever built and the world's oldest freestanding stone structure. You could also admire the beautiful tomb art at Sakkara, which gives great insight into the lives of the ancient Egyptians.

The Great Pyramids of Giza are the only present-day survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

They were built over 4,500 years ago as giant tombs for the mummies of the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, who were father, son and grandson respectively. The pyramids are truly monumental in scale, with the largest - Khufu's - constructed from over two million blocks. Contrary to popular beliefs, the pyramids were not built by slaves but by Egyptian peasants, whose labor in building the pyramids paid their taxes to the Pharaoh, who also fed, clothed and housed them.

Nearby sits the enigmatic Sphinx with the body of a lion and the face of a man wearing a royal head cloth, which workers may have based on King Khafre to guard his enormous funerary monument. About a thousand years after the Sphinx was built it was covered in sand until a young prince had a dream in which the Sphinx told him that if he cleared the sand away, he would become Pharaoh. This story is told on the 'Dream Stela' that was placed between the Sphinx's paws by King Tuthmose IV.

At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel. Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.



# DAY 3 - CAIRO



Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel to start your tour.

Tour 7,000 years of history at the Egyptian museum, home to the largest collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts in the world. Key features of the museum include the treasures of the 'boy-king' Tutankhamun, including his gold mask, the solid gold sarcophagus that held his mummy and his beautiful throne.

Visit the Citadel next, a medieval fortress perched high on limestone hills above Cairo, which was built in 1176 to protect the city from crusaders. Today, the citadel complex houses various mosques and museums, including the National Military Museum.

With its grand, soaring architecture and rich decoration, the Mosque of Sultan Hassan, completed in 1363, is one of the finest in Egypt and also houses the mausoleum where Sultan Hassan's sons are buried. A short walk across to the Mosque of Sultan Hassan, discover the much newer Refaie Mosque, completed in 1912 with well-preserved, colorful decoration. Buried in tombs there is a Muslim saint, a companion of the Prophet Mohamed, Egypt's last royal family and the last Shah of Iran.

Finally, visit the fascinating Khan El-Khalili Bazaar which is reputed to be the largest bazaar in the Middle East. Originally founded as a watering stop for caravanserai in the 14th century, the bazaar has now grown to vast proportions. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets to find workshops and stalls selling all manner of things from woodwork and glassware to leather goods and perfumes.

At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel.

Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements

# DAY 4 - CAIRO TO LUXOR

Once an Ancient Egyptian capital, Luxor is known today as the world's "greatest open-air museum." From the tomb of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings and the magnificent sunset views at the majestic temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor to the exciting and fun Nile cruises, Luxor is the perfect choice for culture vultures. Luxor is divided by the Nile into two areas commonly called the East Bank and West Bank which were considered in Ancient Egyptian times as symbolizing respectively Life and Death.

Your Tour Coordinator will escort you to Cairo Airport by air-conditioned vehicle.

Flight from Cairo to Luxor

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle to the hotel.

Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor is a five-star luxury hotel built in 1886 by British explorers and sits perched on the River Nile amid luxuriant tropical gardens and ancient temples. This opulent Luxor hotel blends rich colonial design with the glory of Pharaonic times. This 19th-century palace was once a winter retreat for the Egyptian Royal Family and also the location where Agatha Christie wrote her famed 1937 novel *Death on the Nile*. In the crystal-lit Victorian Lounge savor afternoon tea with decadent pastries and delicate sandwiches and in the historic 1886 restaurant enjoy fine-dine with gourmet French cuisine. Relax by the pool or venture out to explore Luxor Temples or set out to peruse Luxor's bustling market, just a few steps away.



# DAY 5 - LUXOR

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle from the Hotel to the Boat.

Sanctuary Sun Boat IV ensures a distinct sense of being in storied Egypt. Its contemporary-yet-classic design displays the highest levels of luxury and chic. Elegance is elevated with rich teak flooring, Egyptian marble and hand-painted decorative details to fashion an exceptional ambiance. Neutral-toned textiles complement the soft fabrics draped artfully over beds - it's these distinct touches which create an environment a world away from traditional river-cruise cabins. With just forty rooms on board it feels like you're in an intimate floating palace where the softly-lit lounges are as suited to socialising as quiet romance. Interesting textures and natural materials ensure a distinguished aesthetic, while ceramic ornaments and delicately etched metalwork set an elegant tone. Head to the upper sun deck where you're promised iconic tableaus in high-definition, cool cocktails and cool shade, and radiant sunshine as you take a dip in the river-view pool.

Exact entertainment schedules during your cruise are adjusted according to the needs of each group and the sailing schedules of the boat are subject to change. However, every cruise on the Sanctuary Sun Boat IV will include:

- A colorful galabeyya party which gives each guest the opportunity to dress up in traditional Egyptian dress and dance to Arabic music.
- A Folkloric show, accompanied by a whirling dervish show in Aswan.
- A lecture by your Egyptologist guide.

Menus are changed on a seasonal basis to enable the Chef to use the freshest ingredients at all times. However, the following is applicable to every cruise:

- Most meals are served in the restaurant, however, at least one barbecue lunch (while sailing) will be served on deck (weather permitting).
- Mineral water, tea and American coffee are included with every meal.

Please note: The strength of the WI-FI signals unavoidably varies depending on geographical location, especially whilst sailing in the more remote areas of Upper Egypt.

Check-in to your five-star deluxe Nile cruise boat where you are welcomed by the reception staff. Straight away, you have the opportunity to visit the strikingly graceful Temple of Luxor.

After lunch on board, visit the West Bank of Luxor to explore the Valley of the Kings. You also have the chance to visit at least one tomb in the Valley of the Queens and visit the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. On the way back to the river Nile, pass by the famed Colossi of Memnon, known in Ancient Greek times for their haunting voices at dawn.

This evening you are greeted by your Boat Manager for a welcome reception. The Manager reviews your cruise program for the upcoming days. Enjoy Egyptian wine and beer with a selection of freshly-prepared canapés, followed by a gourmet dinner. A folkloric show and a Whirling Dervish show follow.

# DAY 6 & 7

After breakfast on board, begin your day with a visit to the Temple of Karnak.

Lunch is served in the lounge whilst you sail to Esna

After Lunch, your Egyptologist guides you round the Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum at Esna. The beautifully preserved Great Hypostyle Hall was built during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius; it was excavated from the silt that had accumulated through centuries of annual Nile floods and is about nine meters lower than present-day street level.

Afternoon tea is served as you cruise to Edfu and, later, enjoy a gourmet dinner.

Following breakfast, explore the Temple of Edfu.

Lunch is served as you cruise to Kom Ombo and, after, visit the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to the crocodile-god Sobek. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile where in ancient times sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank.

Later, afternoon tea is served in the lounge and you have the chance to take part in an Egyptian cooking lesson as you sail to Aswan.

Tonight's dinner on board is an Egyptian Night costume party for all guests, with a chance to dress up in traditional Egyptian galabeyya. Dinner is a lavish buffet of Egyptian specialities.



# DAY 8 - LUXOR




A breakfast buffet is served on board and the morning is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Enjoy lunch on board, followed by a short motorboat ride to visit the majestic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilika. Next proceed to the Granite Quarries, which supplied the ancient Egyptians with most of the hard stone used in pyramids and temples. Here you see the Unfinished Obelisk, located in the northern region of the stone quarries.

Next take a ride on a felucca (a typical Egyptian sail boat) around Elephantine Island, Lord Kitchener's Botanical Gardens and the Agha Khan Mausoleum (weather permitting, life jackets will be provided).

Afternoon tea is served on board and your farewell dinner is a gala dinner, with white-gloved waiters serving gourmet cuisine, after which a folkloric show and a Whirling Dervish show will follow.



# DAY 9 - ASWAN



With its gentle hospitality, Aswan is a frontier town in ancient times, is a place to simply relax and enjoy an atmosphere that is as much African as it is Middle Eastern. The Nile is at its most beautiful here, flowing around huge granite rocks and palm tree-studded islands, so take a stroll along the riverfront to watch sailboats etch the sky. Walk to the souq in town to buy spices, scarves and baskets, and then view the gorgeous sunset over tea on the terrace of the Old Cataract Hotel, a popular winter resort since the 19th century. When evening comes, enjoy a Nubian dance performance at the town's cultural center. Aswan's name comes from the Nubian phrase *assy wangibu* ("too much water") and this is the place to learn about Nubian culture, as many Nubians resettled here after their lands were flooded during the building of the High Dam.

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle from the Boat to the hotel. After an extensive renovation, redesigned by French interior designer Sybille de Margerie, Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan exudes its iconic heritage enriched with a contemporary design. Dive into the magnificent pool overlooking the Nile which links the two wings of the hotel. Indulge at the luxurious spa with a wide range of rejuvenating treatments. Embark on a voyage back to another century at the 1902 restaurant or relax at the terrace bar perched above the peaceful waters of the Nile.

Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.

# DAY 10 - ASWAN

Optional excursion to Abu Simbel (an absolute MUST)  
Board your 40-minute flight to Abu Simbel.

The two temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel are each fronted by colossal statues up to 20 meters (66 feet) high, and are famed as the most impressive monuments remaining of Ancient Egypt. Recently, the temples were threatened by the waters of Lake Nasser, and with the help of a UNESCO campaign they were cut into blocks, raised piece by piece and reassembled in a new position higher up the hillside.

After your visit, board your return flight to Aswan.



# DAY 11- ASWAN -CAIRO

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle from Aswan hotel to Aswan Airport for flight to Cairo.

Experience the times of Roman rule in Egypt with a visit to the ruins of the Fortress of Babylon in Old Cairo. Originally built in AD 100 by the Emperor Trajan, the fortress was built to defend the frontiers of Trajan's empire.

Tradition has it that the church of St. Sergius was built over a location in which Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus rested on their journey in Egypt. Located inside the Roman fortress in Old Cairo, it is believed to have been built by Roman soldiers in the third or fourth centuries and later turned into a Coptic church by the Egyptians. Dedicated to two soldier-saints, Sergius and Bacchus, the church has been rebuilt and restored since medieval times, but it is still considered to be a model of early Coptic churches.

Next, visit the beautiful and newly refurbished Coptic Museum, first completed in 1908 using property belonging to the Coptic Church in Egypt. It displays a wonderful collection of sculptures dating from Pre-Christian times up until the fifth Century AD, as well as bone carvings, frescoes, icons, relics, colorful textiles and more.

The Hanging Church is named so because it sits "suspended" on top of the Fortress of Babylon that the Romans built when they came to Egypt. Thought to originate in the seventh century, this church in basilica style was once the seat of the Coptic Patriarchate. .

Encased in a glass atrium, fringed with palm trees featuring intimate bars and gourmet dining, Fairmount Towers is a sanctuary located in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo. As you are a little removed from downtown Cairo this is a perfect space for getting away from the hustle of the city. In order to explore the sights of the city, the hotel offers a complimentary one-way shuttle to the Egyptian Museum or souks. Hilton Cairo Heliopolis showcases contemporary architecture with a blend of classic and innovative design. Dining options at the hotel are extensive, ranging from traditional Egyptian to continental and Oriental cuisine in addition to one of the city's first gourmet restaurants, The Aqua e Luce, bringing fine dining to your doorstep. A vast selection of sports and leisure activities are on offer including squash, tennis and beach volley courts, a fully-equipped health club, beauty salon, a children's playground and a range of boutiques.

At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel. Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements



# *DAY 12 - CAIRO*

Your Tour Coordinator will escort you to Cairo Airport by air-conditioned vehicle and ensure you get checked in safely for your return flight





## INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP

- Accommodation as indicated
- Domestic flights from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo
- Airport transfers in modern air-conditioned vehicle with the services of a tour coordinator escorting guests from each point to their next destination
- All tours as described in the programme are accompanied by a private English-speaking Egyptologist (in Cairo only) and a shared local guide with other guests whilst on the cruise
- All admissions for sightseeing as stated in the programme
- All meals as mentioned in the programme including tea, coffee and mineral water
- Portage at airports and hotels
- Mineral water in vehicle
- Egypt Entry Visa

## NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP

- International flights to Egypt
- Any meal that is not mentioned in the programme
- Beverages other than mentioned under inclusions
- Gratuities for the guides and drivers or any other kind of tips
- Entry ticket to King Seti I tomb at the Valley of the Kings
- Entry ticket to Queen Nefertari tomb at the Valley of the Queens
- Abu Simbel excursion in a shared vehicle and with a local guide,

## PLEASE NOTE

- Quotation is based on 2 people travelling on a double occupancy basis
- All rates are subject to reconfirmation if an actual booking is made
- Accommodation is subject to availability unless otherwise stated
- Airfares subject to change until tickets are issued
- No actual reservations are confirmed until deposit has been received
- The flight times are subject to change
- Cruise sightseeing is subject to change for reasons beyond our control

*PRICE ON REQUEST*