

Egypt Experience Holiday 2024

tour.duration

12 day

tour.overview

Classic tour of Egypt for those with little vacation time.

Explore the highlights of Cairo, Aswan, and Luxor through a guided tour.

Visit several pyramids located in Giza and Sakkara.

Explore the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings as well as the famous temples in Luxor and Aswan.

Experience the Nile River on a relaxing and luxurious Nile Cruise.

tour.itinerary

Day 1

Cairo

Arrive at Cairo International Airport, where our representative will meet and assist you with all airport procedures. Transfer to your hotel in Cairo for check-in and prepare for an exciting adventure across Egypt.

Overnight: Hotel in Cairo

Day 2

Cairo

After breakfast at your hotel, journey to the Giza Plateau and explore its many wonders. Your Egyptologist guide will introduce you to the [Pyramids of Giza](#), the remaining survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. After being introduced to these legendary structures, you will have free time to partake in several optional activities to enhance your experience.

Optional Activities (additional cost):

Explore the burial chambers of the Giza Pyramids.

Roam around the Pyramids of Giza on camelback.

Please Note: Your guide will not be permitted to enter the pyramids with you to avoid overcrowding.

Transition to the city side of the plateau before arriving at the legendary [Sphinx](#). This wondrous monument was carved from a single rock and has stood for thousands of years. Your Egyptologist guide will introduce you to this enigmatic symbol of Egypt before continuing to Sakkara, home to Egypt's oldest pyramid.

After your tour, you will drive back to your hotel for drop-off.

Overnight: Hotel in Cairo | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 3

Alexandria

Jump in a private van today and drive following the 'desert road' to the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria (approximately 3 hours). Egypt's second-largest city and main port, locals call this vibrant city the Bride of the Mediterranean Sea. The Greek architect Dinocrates built Alexandria in 331 BC under the orders of Alexander the Great. The city, immortalizing Alexander's name, quickly flourished into a prominent cultural, intellectual, political, and economic metropolis. It was the renowned capital of Ancient Egypt's last royal dynasty, the Ptolemies, and the site of the Pharos. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this lighthouse acted as a beacon, guiding sailors away from this notoriously treacherous stretch of coastline. On arrival, head underground and delve into the mysteries of the Kom ash-Shuqqafa catacombs. This Roman burial site is the largest of its kind in Egypt and discovered, quite accidentally, by a hapless donkey. The crypts are 20 meters below street level, and what probably began as a small family tomb grew into a labyrinth of chambers that could accommodate more than 300 bodies. Murals and reliefs inside show how Alexandria was a place where Egyptian and Greek funerary myths coexisted. Stop by the strikingly modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina, inspired by the original great library of Alexandria and built to hold over 8 million books. Take some time to stroll along the Corniche and around Fort Qaitbey to enjoy the fresh Mediterranean air.

Overnight: Hotel in Alexandria | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 4

Alexandria

This morning, pay a visit to Al Montazah Palace and Gardens. Montazah garden is home to two palaces, one built in 1892 and

another in 1932 by King Fuad I, and acres of picturesque gardens. The gardens are located along the shoreline and flow from splendidly landscaped gardens into great beaches. Soak up the surroundings before returning by private van to Cairo (approximately 3 hours). Take some time to relax or get some supplies before you board an overnight sleeper train to Aswan (approximately 13 hours).

Overnight: Sleeper Train | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 5

Aswan

The Nile, Elephantine Island and white-sailed feluccas: welcome to Aswan, Egypt's southernmost city. Its easy-going charm is due in no small part to its large Nubian population. The city is Egypt's southern gateway to Africa and an important market town, so take time here to check out one of the country's best bazaars. When you arrive you will explore the beautiful Temple of Isis (the Goddess of health, marriage, and wisdom), which was rescued from the rising waters of the Nile and relocated on Philae Island. It is a marvel of decorative pylons featuring some of Egypt's finest carvings – definitely one of the real gems of Upper Egypt. In any free time, you might choose to visit the excellent Nubian Museum, which displays the history, art, and culture of the Nubians. This evening you will experience the modern Nubian culture first-hand with a visit to a nearby village. You will join a local Nubian family for dinner and get an unforgettable insight into the daily life of the local people. This is a rare and memorable experience, giving you the chance to become fully immersed in the local culture.

Overnight: Hotel in Aswan | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 6

Nile Cruise

This morning take a short flight (approximately 45 minutes) from Aswan to Abu Simbel, where you will explore some magnificent temples (flights not included). Built by Ramses II. It was the gateway to Egypt for Southern Africans and its imposing facade clearly delineated the line between what was the Pharaoh's land and what was not. With the four gargantuan statues of Ramses guarding the Great Temple, carved directly out of the mountain on the west bank of the Nile. This is one of Egypt's most memorable sights. Return from Abu Simbel and transfer to meet your Nile cruise boat. Enjoy a fantastic mix of total relaxation and organized sightseeing on an iconic Nile River cruise to Luxor. At some point today, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the river from a felucca, a traditional Nile sailboat.

Overnight: Onboard Nile Cruise | **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

Nile Cruise

Continue your leisurely cruise down the Nile, with today's stop Kom Ombo Temple, north of Aswan. Built on a high dune overlooking the Nile, the complex sits picturesquely ruined on the river's edge and dates back to the early 2nd century BC. The complex is unique because it has a mirror-image design, divided down the middle, with either side dedicated to a different set of Gods. One-half is known as the Temple of Sobek (the crocodile-headed god of fertility), and it includes details on the Ancient Egyptian's relationship with crocodiles, whom they revered and feared in equal measure. The other half dedicated to Haroeris (also known as Horus the falcon God). In addition, the whole temple is full of fascinating reliefs. Return to the cruise boat where you'll continue traveling upriver. With free time

relaxing on the sundeck. Then take in the surrounding sights desert hills forming a backdrop to lush riverbanks. Fishermen casting their nets and farmers working their land.

Overnight: Onboard Nile Cruise | **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Nile Cruise

Today finds you moored near Edfu, a beautifully preserved temple also dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god. You will disembark and discover the lively streets of Edfu town – get acquainted the bustling town center and the bazaar. Then continue to the temple, perhaps the best preserved in the whole country. The scale is incredibly impressive, with soaring sandstone walls covered in reliefs and hieroglyphics. You'll pass through the Grand Temple entranceway into a colossal courtyard ringed with 32 towering columns. Each richly decorated with patterns, and once the site of a great altar. As you explore further you'll discover endless reliefs. Like of the gods Horus and Thoth pouring sacred water over King Neos Dionysos – the library, a laboratory, and the holy sanctuary where a golden statue of Horus once stood. The sense of awe that comes from touring this temple is incredible. Return to your boat for your final night aboard. And make the most of the incredible views of one of the world's greatest rivers.

Overnight: Onboard Nile Cruise | **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

Luxor

Your Nile cruise ends in the open-air museum of Luxor from the spectacular temple complex of Karnak to the Valley of the Kings. Luxor is full of wonderfully preserved reminders of the Pharaohs. Today you will visit the magnificent Karnak Temple, which is perhaps the most impressive of all the ancient Pharaohs' monumental works. One of the world's most celebrated temple complexes. Karnak is a house of the gods built over a period of some 200 years. Your guided tour of this vast temple of impressive pylons, obelisks, and chapels will reveal its finest sections. Such as the Avenue of Sphinxes and the Great Temple of Amun. The rest of the day is free for you to relax. Then shop in the excellent bazaar (open until quite late) or perhaps experience the atmosphere of a local teahouse.

Overnight: Hotel in Luxor | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 10

Luxor

Today you will hop in a private minivan and discover some of the many wonders of ancient Thebes. Your first stop is the Colossi of Memnon, two 17 meter-high statues on Luxor's west bank. Carved from granite blocks, they represent the Pharaoh Amenhotep III and were once part of an impressive colonnade. Continue on to the spectacular royal burial site of the Valley of the Kings. Buried under the arid hills here are over 60 tombs of pharaohs, many richly decorated with reliefs and paintings. With your leader. Explore this sprawling and spectacular place. Where the pharaohs of the New Kingdom (16th to 11th century BC) secretly interred for all eternity. Your group leader will explain the history and legends of these remarkable people, their funerary rites. Moreover, the significance of the many paintings and hieroglyphics, still well preserved in the

deepest tombs. You will visit three of the most interesting royal tombs and then continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. A stunning colonnaded building set against high cliffs creates a spectacular natural amphitheater. One of our Egyptian great queens; built this temple to prove her importance among the ancestors. The afternoon is yours to explore. Perhaps you would like to shop in the market. Alternatively, visit the world's first Mummification Museum to discover the secrets of pharaonic preservation.

Overnight: Hotel in Luxor | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 11

Cairo

Catch a short flight back up to Cairo this morning (approximately 1.5 hours). On your return to the capital. Visit the Islamic parts of the city. In addition, the frenetic backstreets of the local bazaar (Khan el-Khalili) with your trip leader. A labyrinth of narrow streets and passageways, Khan is one of the biggest and oldest markets in the world. The 'Khan'. Sprawling around an old area known as Al-Azhar is a quintessentially Cairo experience. A warren of alleys with stalls serving up a succession of intoxicating scenes. It retains a distinctly medieval feel. You might explore the gold market. Then maybe gather your fellow travelers for a celebratory kebab, kofta, or sheesha as this Egypt Experience ends.

Overnight: Hotel in Cairo | **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 12

Cairo

There are no activities planned for the final day and you are able to depart the accommodation at any time.

tour.included

Meet-and-assist services upon arrival and departure.

Transportation on private air-conditioned vehicles.

Accommodation at 5-star hotel, including breakfast.

4 days, 3 nights on board a 5-star Deluxe Nile Cruise

All sightseeing tours in Cairo, Luxor, Abu Simbel, Aswan and Alexandria including English-speaking Egyptologist guides, all entrance fees, and transfers.

Sleeper train (Cairo-Aswan; Luxor-Cairo).

Portage when needed.

All service charge and taxes.

Exclusion

International Airfare

Gratuities/Tipping (Recommended).

Meals except where indicated.

Drinks and any personal expenses.

Entry visa to Egypt.

Entrance fees to the burial chambers of the pyramids.

Camel ride around the pyramids area

Optional night activities not included as part of the itinerary.

1 Person

3999\$ Per Person

2-4 Persons

2999\$ Per Person

5-8 Persons

2750\$ Per Person

9-16 Persons

2500\$ Per Person

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2500\$ /Per Person