CAPTIVATING EGYPT

Classic Egypt Tour

Cairo, Aswan, Luxor with Nile Cruise

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Minimum two travellers

Hotel Category **5* Hotels & 5* Nile cruise**

DAY 1 (Friday) Arrive CAIRO

Welcome to Cairo, the second largest city on the African continent! Our representative will meet you and provide assistance with custom procedures at Cairo International Airport. You will then be comfortably transferred to your hotel.

Overnight. Steignberger Pyramids Hotel or similar
No meals

DAY 2 (Saturday) CAIRO (The Pyramids, Saqqara) + sleeper train to Aswan

This morning we visit the Pyramids and Sphinx. Built around four and a half thousand years ago, the **Pyramids** are the only monuments of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World which are largely intact today. Later this morning we see the enigmatic **Sphinx** (optional camel ride at the Pyramids). This afternoon we visit the Old Kingdom burial site of **Saqqara** and the **Step Pyramid of King Zoser**
This evening we catch overnight sleeper train to **Aswan**, deep in the south of Egypt, where the graceful Felucca sailboats glide among the islands of the Nile.

Overnight Sleeper Train
Breakfast & dinner

DAY 3 (Sunday) Philae Temple

This morning we take a **motorboat** out across a lake for a guided tour of the beautiful island **Temple of Philae**. From the very earliest times, Aswan has been the source of a special pink granite used in statues for thousands of years.
Afternoon we explore the colorful spices market of Aswan.

Overnight in Tolip Aswan Hotel or similar
Breakfast

DAY 4 (Monday) Nile Cruise

After breakfast board our luxurious cruise ship in time for lunch. (**Optional tour to Abu Simbel temple**)
The rest of the afternoon is free for you to relax by the Nile or explore Aswan's lively markets.

First of 3 nights on our 5-Star cruise ship
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 (Tuesday) Nile Cruise + KomOmbo Temple + Edfu Temple

Leaving Aswan early this morning, we make our way down the Nile to the famous temple of **KomOmbo**. This is an unusual temple in that it is dedicated to two Egyptian gods - Horus the falcon god and Sobek the crocodile god. One interesting frieze shows ancient birthing and other medical techniques. Our guided tour also includes the **Nilometer**, a well-like structure used to measure the bounty of the Nile and as a way of setting tax levels. Reboarding our cruise ship we set sail again, enjoying breakfast and lunch as we glide by the riverbank villages that have changed very little since Pharaonic times. This afternoon we take **horse-drawn carriages** for a guided tour of the gigantic **Temple of Edfu**, the most perfectly-preserved temple in Egypt. Although built by the Greek-speaking Ptolemies between 237 BC and 57 AD, the temple building and decorations are in the ancient Egyptian style. This evening we pass through the **locks at Esna** and continue **cruising down the Nile**, with the lights of the villages twinkling all around us, to Luxor.

Second of 3 nights on our 5-Star cruise ship
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 (Wednesday) Valley of the Kings + Queen Hatshepsut Temple

Starting out early this morning, we travel across the Nile to the **West Bank**, the location of the tombs of the great pharaohs of the New Kingdom. We take a guided tour of several of the most important tombs in the **Valley of the Kings** We also have a guided tour of the funerary temple of the first woman to rule as a pharaoh, **Queen Hatshepsut**. Some of the most interesting **painted scenes** in the temple are of a trading expedition she mounted to the Land of Punt on the Red Sea coast. On our way back to the Nile we stop to view the gigantic **Colossi of Memnon** statues, where new excavations have discovered the remains of vast funeral temples. We return to our cruise ship for lunch.

Third of 3 nights on our 5-star cruise ship
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 Thursday) Karnak + Luxor Temple + Sleeper Train back to Cairo

This morning we have a guided tour of the **Temple of Karnak**. This is a vast complex of buildings added to and rebuilt over thirteen centuries but reaching its apex during the New Kingdom period when the capital of Egypt was located in **Thebes** (today's Luxor) and the temple's main god, Amun-Ra, was made the state god. One of the most impressive sections of the temple is the **Great Hypostyle Hall** with its 137 huge columns.
This afternoon we have a guided tour of **Luxor Temple**. As with most Egyptian temples, this temple is really a series of buildings begun by one pharaoh (in this case the 13th century BC Pharaoh Amenhotep III) and added to by several subsequent rulers.

Overnight Sleeper Train to cairo
Breakfast & dinner

DAY 8 (Friday) Cairo & Egyptian Museum + Old Cairo Tour

This morning we arrive to Cairo and visit the **Egyptian Museum** with its collection of thousands of priceless artifacts from Ancient Egypt. Of course, the most famous pieces in the museum are those which were found in the tomb of the boy king **Tutankhamun**, including his solid gold death mask. Later this morning we visit **Old Cairo** (also known as **Coptic Cairo**) where we explore the narrow streets and visit some of the Coptic (Egyptian Orthodox) churches found within the city walls. One of these churches, El Muallaqa (the "**Hanging Church**"), was constructed into the walls of the Roman fortress of Babylon. Another of the churches, **Saint Sergius**, is reputed to be built over a cave where the Holy Family rested during their flight to Egypt.
We will then go to the famous "Street of the Tentmakers" and then Kheymiya Market and end our day in the old walled section of Cairo.

Overnight in Steignberger Cairo Hotel or similar
Breakfast

DAY 9 (Saturday) Fly Cairo - Home

It's time to bid farewell to beautiful Egypt. Escorted transfer to Cairo International Airport for the final departure will be provided.

Breakfast

TOUR INCLUDES:

Accommodations in 5-Star hotels in Egypt, where we stay at the best available hotel. All our hotels have in-suite bathrooms.

- ✓ 3 nights on our Deluxe Nile cruise ship.
- ✓ Land and water transport by coach, motor boat, cruise ship, horse-drawn carriage, and ferry.
- ✓ Sleeper Train: Cairo – Aswan and Luxor – Cairo.
- ✓ Sightseeing and entrance fees as mentioned in the itinerary.
- ✓ All the tour itinerary mentioned meals.
- ✓ Unlimited bottled water while travelling on our buses. Water at the hotels and on the cruise ship is as provided by them according to their own policies.
- ✓ Arrival & departure transfers.
- ✓ Private tours in Luxor and Aswan with Egyptologist Tour guide.
- ✓ All transportation are A/C private vehicles.

NOT INCLUDED:

- x Visa fee. American passport holders require a visa for Egypt (currently $25/person. Your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond the date you leave Egypt.
- x Trip Cancellation / Interruption and Medical Insurance. Please buy this yourself before leaving home.
- x Personal Expenses such as souvenirs, laundry, all drinks at meals.
- x International flights.
- x **Egyptologist guide gratuity of $25.00 per person/day.**
- x Tipping Kitty 120 $ per Person for the whole Trip

SINGLE TRAVELERS: Our price is based on two people sharing a room. If you wish to be **guaranteed** a single room, there is a Single Supplement. **The number of Single rooms is very limited.** To have a chance of a Single room, you must book early.

Offered Hotels& Nile Cruise OR SIMILAR (Standard Room):

Based on availability by time of booking

Destinations	5*Hotels & 5* Nile Cruise	Category	No. of Nights
Cairo	Steignberger Pyramids Hotel or similar	B.B Standard room	1 Nights
Cairo	Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir Cairo or similar	B.B Standard room	1 Nights
Aswan	Tolip Aswan or similar	B.B Nileview room	1 Nights
5* Nile Cruise	5*Deluxe Nile Cruise " The exact boat name will be according to availability on the day of the booking"	Standard Cabin Full board	3 Nights
Train	Sleeper Train	Twin Cabin	2 Nights

SPECIAL NOTES:

Please consult your local travel health clinic about any immunizations you may need.
This tour not suitable for those people who need walking/mobility assistance in the form of walking sticks or canes, as we walk on a lot of uneven surfaces.
The timing of our excursions from our cruise ship is dependent on sailing conditions and the number of other cruise ships visiting the sites when we wish to visit.