



**CAPTIVATING
EGYPT** 

Custom Egypt Tour Siwa

***Cairo, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Luxor with Nile Cruise,
Alexandria, Siwa Oasis & Marsa Matruh***

15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS

Round trip Cairo

Hotel Category 5* Hotels & 5* Nile cruise

Day By Day Itinerary

Custom Itinerary of Egypt exploring by boat, land, and air



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 in Steignberger Pyramids Hotel or similar
No meals

DAY 2 (Saturday) CAIRO (The Pyramids, Saqqara) + Fly 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. We include the opportunity to climb up inside the Great Pyramid to the **burial chamber** of King Cheops. 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 go inside the **Step Pyramid of King Zoser** which has been opened for visitors at the beginning of 2020, constructed in 2648 BC. At Saqqara we explore the 4,300-year-old **Tomb of Mehu** which was discovered in the 1940s but only opened to the public in December 2018, after extensive restoration, Imhotep Museum the greatest engineer ever and serapeum, it was a burial place of Apis bulls.

This afternoon we fly from Cairo to **Aswan**, deep in the south of Egypt, where the graceful Felucca sailboats glide among the islands of the Nile.

First of 2 nights in Movenpick Resort Aswan or similar
Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 3 (Sunday) Philae Temple + Nubian Village by Felucca

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. This afternoon we take a **Felucca ride** to visit the local **Nubian people** to see how the ordinary people of today's Egypt live in their simple villages.

Second of 2 nights in Movenpick Resort Aswan or similar
Breakfast



DAY 4 (Monday) Included Trip to the Massive Temple Rock Abu Simbel - Nile Cruise

This morning we get up early and drive from Aswan through the desert to **Abu Simbel**. At Abu Simbel, we see two huge temples which were built in the 13th Century B.C. and dedicated to **Ramses II** and his favourite wife, Nefertari. The four enormous seated statues of Ramses are among the most famous images of ancient Egypt. The interior of the Ramses temple is also fascinating, being decorated with images of the Battle of Kadesh fought between the Egyptians and the Hittites of what today is Turkey in 1274 BC. The two temples are carved out of the solid hillside and so the task of cutting them up, moving them piece by piece and reassembling them in the 1960s is considered one of the marvels of modern engineering. We drive back to Aswan and board our luxurious cruise ship in time for lunch. 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 Luxor 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**, including the **Tomb of Tutankhamun** – which caused a worldwide sensation in 1922 when it was discovered by archaeologist **Howard Carter**. 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 **painting 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.

This evening we have a guided tour of **Luxor Temple** by night. 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.

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



DAY 7 (Thursday) Hot Air Balloon + Karnak

At sunrise this morning we take a magical **hot air balloon ride** over the farms and villages of the West Bank, seeing the Nile stretching into the distance both north and south. As we glide majestically through the dawn sky, we see the temples and burial grounds of the pharaohs from a unique perspective. Back to the cruise for breakfast and disembark from the cruise then transfer to our hotel in Luxor.

Afternoon 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.

Overnight in Luxor Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel or similar
Breakfast

DAY 8 (Friday) Luxor Free Time + Fly to Cairo & Drive to Alexandria

This morning we will visit a papyrus art gallery. Our guide will demonstrate how papyrus is made, he put himself through college making papyrus. The rest of the morning you are free to relax or explore Luxor's shops for some of the wonderful bargains in gold, Papyrus paper, cotton, leather, and other unique Egyptian souvenirs. This afternoon we fly from Luxor to Cairo & Drive to Alexandria.

Overnight in Sheraton Alexandria Hotel or similar
Breakfast

DAY 9 (Saturday) Alexandria

Today we are on the **Mediterranean coast** and visit Egypt's second largest city - **Alexandria**.

Alexandria is a city principally of 19th and 20th Century buildings but it is built over what was one of the most important cities in the Greco-Roman world. Founded by **Alexander the Great** in 331 BC, the city grew in size and stature under the Ptolemies - the Greek-speaking rulers of Egypt for the next 300 years. Alexandria was a famous centre of learning and housed the most important library in the Ancient World.

This afternoon we tour Alexandria's important sites from the Greek and Roman eras. We include a visit to the **Catacombs** which descend 3 levels underground and include some beautifully decorated tombs which combine Roman and Egyptian decorations in a unique way. We visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina library**, a 21st Century interpretation of the great classical Library of Alexandria. Included are 3 museums and 5 specialized research institutes. We also visit **Pompey's Pillar**. Originally from the temple of the Serapis, it was constructed in honor of Emperor Diocletian.

Overnight in Sheraton Alexandria Hotel or similar
Breakfast, light Lunch & Dinner

DAY 10 (Sunday) Alexandria – Siwa Oasis

Today we drive west along the **Mediterranean coast** and then cut inland into the **Western Desert** to remote **Siwa Oasis**.

We stop midway to visit Alameen Museum and Commonwealth Cemeteries.

**First of 2 nights in Siwa Oasis. Ghaliet Ecolodge Siwa or similar
Breakfast & Dinner**

DAY 11 (Monday) Siwa Oasis

We have a full day to explore isolated Siwa Oasis, which produces the best dates in Egypt. We visit Mountain of the Dead, Siwa House Museum (the old fortress of Shali) and the ruins of the Amun Temple where Alexander the Great was crowned pharaoh. We will then head to one of Siwa's therapeutic salt lakes to soak in its healing waters. These lakes are twice as salty as the dead sea and will heal your body, mind and soul.

**Second of 2 nights in Siwa Oasis Ghaliet Ecolodge Siwa or similar
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

DAY 12 (Tuesday) Siwa Oasis – Marssa Matruh

Today we drive to Marssa Matruh a seaside town on the Mediterranean and explore Cleopatra bath. We will also have time to relax at the beach.

**First night in Jaz Almaza Bay Resort or similar
Breakfast & Dinner**

DAY 13 (Wednesday) Back to Cairo

Today we drive back to Cairo

**First of 2 nights in Cairo. Sheraton Cairo Hotel or similar
Breakfast & Dinner**

DAY 14 (Thursday) Egyptian Museum + Old Cairo Tour

This morning we 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.

**Second of 2 nights in Cairo Sheraton Cairo Hotel or similar
Breakfast & Dinner**



DAY 15 (Friday) 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 except in remote Siwa Oasis, 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.
- ✓ Flights: Cairo – Aswan and Luxor – Cairo.
- ✓ Sightseeing and entrance fees as mentioned in the itinerary.
- ✓ All tips for group activities EXCEPT for your tour leader/guide.
- ✓ All the tour itinerary mentioned meals.
- ✓ Porterage for one piece of luggage per person. Please make sure your luggage has wheels so you can move your own luggage for short distances when necessary.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Entry fee to go inside the great Pyramid of Giza.
- ✓ Entry fee to visit Meho's tomb at Saqqara.
- ✓ Entry fee to visit King Tut at the Valley of the Kings.
- ✓ Hot Air Balloon In Luxor.

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.**

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 Pyramids view premium Room | 1 Nights |
| Cairo | Sheraton Cairo Hotel or similar | B.B Standard room | 2 Nights |
| Aswan | Movenpick Resort Aswan or similar | B.B Standard Room | 2 Nights |
| Luxor | Steignberger Nile palace Luxor or similar | B.B Standard Room | 1 Night |
| Alexandria | Sheraton Alexandria Hotel or similar | B.B Mediterranean view Room | 2 Night |
| Siwa | Ghaliel Ecolodge Siwa or similar | B.B Standard Room | 2 Nights |
| MarsaMatruh | Jaz Almaza Bay Resort or similar | H.B Sea view Room | 1 Night |
| 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 |

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.