

Egyptian Golden Age & Nile Cruise

Cairo • Luxor • Valleys of the Kings and Queens • Edfu • Aswan
10 days

YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: NEWYORK/CAIRO

We depart on an international overnight flight to Cairo. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

DAY 2: CAIRO

Upon arrival in Cairo, we are greeted by our Tour Escort, and then board our motorcoach for transfer to our hotel. We enjoy some leisure time before dinner. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (D)

DAY 3: CAIRO

Today's full day sightseeing tour takes us in the morning to the Egyptian Museum to see the largest artifacts collection from pharaonic times, including the unparalleled treasures of the tomb of Tutankhamun, the "Boy King". Our Egyptologist shows you the gold mask, toys, jewelry, and throne, all found in the pharaoh's tomb across the Nile from Luxor. Then we visit the Old City of Cairo including the Mohammed Ali Mosque and the Citadel. We enjoy a walk through the bazaar of Khan el Khalili where stalls and shops overflow with jewelry, copper, brass, carpets, and spices. We finish our day with a special reception and a presentation by an Egyptian archaeologist. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B/D)

DAY 4: CAIRO/GIZA PYRAMIDS/SPHINX/SAQQARA/CAIRO

Experience one of the oldest forms of transportation, a camelback ride, to the base of the Giza Pyramids. Examine Cheops's Great Pyramid which is 4,500 years old and covers acres at its base. The famous Giza plateau also includes Chephren and Mycerinus Pyramids and the Sphinx, protector of the pharaohs. A visit is included to the fascinating Solar Boat Museum meant to transport the pharaoh to the afterlife. Next we tour Memphis, once the capital of ancient Egypt, and the necropolis at Saqqara to see Djoser's Step Pyramid, the oldest freestanding stone structure in the world. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B/D)

DAY 5: CAIRO/LUXOR/NILE CRUISE

In the morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to the upper Nile Valley to Luxor; known as Thebes in pharaonic times. We visit the Karnak Temple complex built by generations of pharaohs and covering 60 acres, then follow the partially buried two-mile Avenue of the Ramheaded Sphinxes to Luxor Temple, which was well-preserved by its cover of desert sand until its discovery in 9th century. We embark on a deluxe river cruiser for our four-night cruise up the Nile. We attend the Sound and Light Show this evening back at the Karnak Temple. Dinner and overnight on the ship. (B/L/D)

DAY 6: VALLEYS OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS

We start our day by crossing to the west shore of the Nile to the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, the famed necropolis where tombs of 64 pharaohs have been found, including that of Tutankhamun, whose treasures were miraculously intact after 3,000 years. You visit the tomb, not normally seen by tourists. See the unique colonnaded temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the Colossi of Memnon before returning to our ship. Dinner and overnight on the ship. (B/L/D)

DAY 7: EDFU/KOM OMBO

This morning our ship sails to Edfu for a visit to the nearly intact Temple of Horus, the falcon god, built by Ptolemy III in 0 BC. After lunch, we continue cruising up the Nile past small villages, palm trees and farmers working in fields much the same as they did 2,000 years ago with donkeys and camels. We dock at Kom Ombo to visit the twin temples dedicated to Horus and to Sobek, the Crocodile God. The temples are a classic example of Egyptian symmetry and design in construction. Dinner and overnight on the ship. (B/L/D)



DAY 8: ASWAN

Today we are dock in Aswan, location of the largest landfill dam in the world, the High Dam, which was built to control the annual flooding of the Nile and to provide electricity. The rest of the day is at leisure, or we can join the optional tour to Abu Simbel (at additional cost). We met our motorcoach that takes us to see the colossal temple that was carved from solid rock in 1235 BC by the great Rameses II. Beside it stands the Temple of Hathor, built to honor the Pharaoh's wife, Nefertari. In the 1960's, the temples were moved piece-by-piece up the hill to preserve them from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. We return to the ship in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight on the ship. (B/L/D)

DAY 9: ASWAN/PHILAE TEMPLE/CAIRO

After breakfast we visit the Philae Temple, relocated from another island to save it from the rising river waters when the dam was built, and see the granite quarry where an ancient obelisk lies cracked and unfinished. Late in the afternoon, we visit the International Museum of Nubia which houses statues and monuments from the time of the Pharaohs, plus Coptic and Islamic treasures. In the late afternoon we transfer to the airport for the flight to Cairo. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B/D)

DAY 10: CAIRO

After breakfast we transfer to Cairo airport for our flight back home arriving the same day. (B)