

# Classical Egypt & Nile Cruise

11 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Discover the ancient wonders of Egypt and cruise the River Nile in style on this 11 day tour which takes in the highlights of Cairo, Luxor and Aswan. Marvel at the Pyramids of Giza, explore pharaoh's tombs at the Valley of the Kings, the mighty temple of Karnak and more.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Gaze in awe at the ancient Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Grand Egyptian Museum
- Luxor West Bank - Discover exquisite tombs at the Valley of the Kings, see the towering Colossi of Memnon and explore the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Luxor - Roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Dendera - Explore the beautifully preserved Temple of Hathor, with its exquisitely decorated ceiling
- Nile cruising - Cruise the River Nile from Luxor to Aswan on board a 5 star river cruiser

- Aswan - Take a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Kom Ombo - Visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 4 dinners
- 4 nights 4-5 star hotels, 4 nights aboard a 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo (private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- An airport arrival transfer on day 1 and a departure transfer on day 11
- Touring - Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor, Dendera and Aswan
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$110-120pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for Nile Cruise staff. Tip for your tour guide - we recommend you allow USD \$5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide,

though ultimately tipping is an entirely personal gesture

## COVID SAFE GUIDE

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Sunday. Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or those arriving early can opt to join a Backstreets Tour of Cairo which departs the hotel at 10am. At 7pm this evening meet your guide and the rest of the group at a Welcome Meeting.

Note: If you would like to extend your stay we offer an [[Alexandria Day Trip|122837]] on the Saturday before your tour starts or on the final day and can arrange pre/post tour accommodation upon request. **Overnight - Cairo**

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## Day 2 : Pyramids of Giza



Today see the incredible pyramids and the iconic Sphinx at The Giza Plateau. Perhaps opt to ride a camel. Later we travel to Saqqara, to explore the myriad of tombs and temples at the site and see Zoser's step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 3 : Grand Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Luxor. We take a guided tour of the vast new Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza this morning. In this incredible 490,000 sq.m complex we'll discover a mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history, including the treasures of King Tutankhamun. Then we head over to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization to visit the fascinating Royal Mummies' Hall, where the mummies of ancient Egyptian kings and queens are on display. Returning to the hotel there's time to relax by the pool before we board the overnight sleeper train to Luxor this evening.

Please Note: the Grand Egyptian Museum is scheduled to open in summer 2022, though an official opening date has yet to be released. If travelling prior to the opening of the new facility we'll visit the Egyptian Museum instead. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

## Day 4 : Luxor & Dendera



We arrive into Luxor this morning and drive to Dendera which is one of Egypt's best preserved temple complexes, located 60km north of Luxor. This vast complex covers 40,000 square meters and its temples, chapels and shrines were gradually built over thousands of years. Dendera's crowning glory is the 2000 year old Temple of Hathor with its exquisitely decorated ceiling. After our guided tour of this incredible site we return to Luxor where the afternoon is free to spend at leisure. Take a stroll around town or enjoy a refreshing swim in the pool and soak up the sunshine.

This evening there is an optional visit to view the beautiful Temple of Luxor at night. Book and pay locally. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

## Day 5 : Valley of the Kings & Karnak Temples



4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its very best and this morning we visit Luxor's famous West Bank. Our first stop is the famous Valley of the Kings, which is studded with beautifully decorated pharaoh's tombs, some of which you can enter. After exploring this incredible site we travel on to visit the striking limestone, colonnaded Temple of Hatshepsut, who was one of only three Egyptian ruling queens. On the West Bank we'll also see the imposing 18m-high Colossi

of Memnon, which are all that remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

Returning to the East Bank we check-in on board a 5 star Nile cruiser which will be our home for the next four nights. Enjoy lunch and some rest and relaxation on board before we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak later this afternoon. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers.

**Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 6 : Nile Cruising



Nile cruising. Today we set sail downstream. Relax on deck and go for a swim, soak up the sunshine and enjoy the views as we cruise the River Nile. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

## Day 7 : Kom Ombo Temple

Nile cruising. Enjoy another day relaxing on board the cruiser as we sail the Nile to the Temple of Kom Ombo today, which is dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. This temple is unusual because everything is architecturally doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. After a guided tour of the temple we continue our journey, arriving into Aswan this evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

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## Day 8 : Aswan, Abu Simbel & the Philae Temple



Consider the optional early morning excursion to the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel today. Please see our Abu Simbel by Road add-on for more info. Alternatively you can spend the morning at leisure.

This afternoon we take a short motorboat trip to Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures. In danger of being completely submerged by the rising water of Lake Nasser, in 1972 UNESCO stepped in and an 8-year rescue effort was undertaken to relocate the entire temple 20m higher on nearby Agilkia Island.

**Overnight - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

## Day 9 : Aswan at leisure



Aswan - Cairo. Today offers free time for you to discover Aswan - your way. Consider a visit to the Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie wrote the novel Death on the Nile or opt for a visit to the well-curated Nubian Museum.

Late this afternoon, we board the overnight train (twin berth sleeper cabins provided) for

our journey back to Cairo. **Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B)

## Day 10 : Cairo - Old City tour or relax

Arriving into Cairo this morning, transfer to the hotel and check in. The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy the hotel facilities or you can opt to or join us for an optional tour visiting Old Cairo, Coptic Cairo and the Citadel of Saladin (book locally). **Overnight - Cairo** (B)

## Day 11 : Cairo

Wednesday. Our tour comes to an end today with a transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony (not Nile View as standard) and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel's bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you'll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there's no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt's ancient wonders.



### Sleeper Train

When travelling on an overnight train in Egypt, sleeper carriages offer the highest level of comfort. Cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points and air conditioning. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. The carriages have toilets at each end and there is a club car which serves snacks and beverages. In the morning a very basic breakfast is provided.



### Sonesta Hotel Cairo

The Sonesta Hotel & Casino is a sophisticated and luxurious hotel offering spacious, en-suite rooms with opulent furnishings. Enjoy a cocktail at the poolside bar or indulge in a relaxing massage or Turkish steam bath at the full-service spa. With 5 restaurants located within the hotel you'll be spoilt for choice over dining options.



### Sonesta St. George Hotel

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.

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## Steigenberger Nile Palace

The Steigenberger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.



## M/S Medea

The M/S Medea is elegantly furnished with rich fabrics, wood panelling and classic style furniture, offering a refined setting for your Nile cruise. The restaurant offers 120 covers with a combination of waiter service and buffet meals which allows to sample both Egyptian and international cuisine. The spacious lounge bar is tastefully furnished with Chesterfield sofas and offers panoramic views of the Nile River.



## M/S La Traviata

M/S La Traviata has proved to be a long term favourite with many regular Nile cruise guests. The cosy restaurant on the lower deck serves 88 guests and serves both - international and Egyptian cuisine. Lounge bar with dance floor and music system for evening entertainment. The sundeck offers a pool as well as sun loungers and a shaded

area. The reception offers full services including an international phone. The gift shop on board has a wide range of gifts and souvenirs from Egypt.



## M/S Miriam

M/S Miriam is a beautiful Nile cruise boat offering 59 spacious cabins. Onboard you'll find a fantastic restaurant serving both international and Egyptian cuisine. As your cruiser makes its way along the mighty Nile river, take the opportunity to relax on deck and watch the changing scenery or perhaps indulge in a book.



## M/S Medea

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## PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. 'Twin Share' prices are per person when there are

2 people sharing a room. 'Single Room' prices are applicable to those who don't have anyone to share a room with or anyone wanting the privacy of a single room. If you're a solo traveller and happy to share a room this can be arranged, subject to there being another solo traveller of the same gender for you to share with. Please book a single room and contact us if your preference is to room share. Please note: For tours departing from 01 July 2022 single rooms will no longer be compulsory for solo travellers. If you're a solo traveller who is happy to share a room, you can pay the Twin Share price even if we are unable to match you up.

## PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
16 May	USD 1,659	USD 2,411
30 May	USD 1,659	USD 2,411
27 Jun	USD 1,659	USD 2,411
25 Jul	USD 1,659	USD 2,411
08 Aug	USD 1,659	USD 2,411
05 Sep	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
19 Sep	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
03 Oct	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
10 Oct	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
24 Oct	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
31 Oct	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
07 Nov	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
21 Nov	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
05 Dec	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
19 Dec	USD 1,995	USD 2,815
26 Dec	USD 1,995	USD 2,815

## PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
02 Jan	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
16 Jan	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
30 Jan	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
13 Feb	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
06 Mar	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
20 Mar	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
03 Apr	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
17 Apr	USD 1,995	USD 2,815
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28 Aug	USD 1,659	USD 2,411
11 Sep	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
18 Sep	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
25 Sep	USD 1,736	USD 2,488
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