



Your passport to adventure

## Nile Family Adventure

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**Country(ies):** Egypt

**Tour type:** Family

**Transport:** A/C minibus, sleeper train & felucca sailboat

**Group size:** Min: 3 | Max: 16

**Days:** 9 Days

**Start location:** Cairo, Egypt

**End location:** Cairo, Egypt

**Departs On:** Saturday

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 8, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 3

**Highlights:** Pyramids & Sphinx, Tutankhamun exhibit at the Egyptian Museum, Camel ride at the Pyramids, boat trip to Philae temple, overnight Felucca cruise, Luxor temples & tombs

**Places Visited:** Cairo, Aswan & Luxor



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive in Cairo, transfer to hotel

We greet you at Cairo airport and transfer you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to settle into your hotel and relax after your journey.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Cairo - pre-tour || Single room supplement (EGFANA)

## Day 2: Cairo, Pyramids & Museum tour, camel ride, train to Aswan

We start today's tour with a bang, with a visit to the immense Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza. We also include a camel ride at the pyramids, fun for all the family, and a great photo opportunity as well. We then head into the centre of town and visit the Egyptian Museum with its collection of mummies, and of course the familiar and famous Tutankhamun exhibit with the original golden mask on display. This evening we take an overnight sleeper train from Cairo to Aswan (approx. 12 hours, private twin cabins).

**OVERNIGHT:** On board train

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade

## Day 3: Aswan, Philae temple, school visit

The River Nile is at its most picturesque here in Aswan and we take advantage of this with a tour to the beautiful island temple of Philae by boat. During term times we'll also visit a local school where we arrange a fun and informal joint English/Arabic language class with children of a similar age to your group. A Nubian meal is also included today.

**OVERNIGHT:** Aswan hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 4: Aswan, Abu Simbel option, start felucca cruise

There is the option very early this morning for a tour to the temples to Ramses II at Abu Simbel, which have a fascinating story as they were completely dismantled and rebuilt piece by piece to escape the rising waters of Lake Nasser. If you don't do Abu Simbel, the morning is free to explore Aswan's busy and exotic bazaar, or relax in the hotel before we board our felucca sailboat for a few hours sailing on the Nile. We have a fun night's sleep on the deck of the boat and are looked after well by our Nubian crew (toilets and showers are available on a support boat that will join up with us from time to time, and an option to upgrade to a luxury Nile cruise boat is also available).

**OVERNIGHT:** On board felucca

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Nile cruise upgrade || Abu Simbel overland

## Day 5: Felucca sailboat cruise, drive to Luxor

After breakfast, we enjoy some more sailing on the Nile today before driving to Luxor where we check into our hotel by the Nile. The rest of the afternoon is free.

**OVERNIGHT:** Luxor hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 6: Luxor, west bank tour

There is the option today of a sunrise hot air balloon flight over the west bank of the Nile. Today's tour takes in the West bank of the Nile, visiting the Pharaonic tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and the unique temple to Queen Hatchepsut where we learn about her fascinating story. The afternoon is free to relax in the hotel, explore Luxor town, take another felucca trip on the Nile to Banana island, or perhaps visit the Mummification museum.

**OVERNIGHT:** Luxor hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Hot air balloon in Luxor

## Day 7: Luxor, Karnak temple, free time

We tour one of Egypt's biggest and most impressive sites today, Karnak temple, with its huge temples, obelisks, statues and columned halls. The afternoon is free in Luxor before we head to the station to catch the sleeper train back to Cairo (approx. 9 hours). You can upgrade one or both train journeys to internal flights if you prefer.

**OVERNIGHT:** On board train

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 8: Arrive Cairo, city tour

After arriving back in Cairo and checking into our hotel, we have a short tour to explore the mosque and museum at the Citadel overlooking the city, and to wander around and possibly do some haggling and souvenir shopping in the busy Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. We'll visit a traditional local Koshari shop for a snack lunch and in the evening we include a farewell dinner to say goodbye to your Egyptologist guide and fellow travellers.

**OVERNIGHT:** Cairo hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 9: Cairo, tour ends, transfer to the airport

The tour ends today and your time is free until we transfer you to airport for your flight home.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Cairo - post-tour

## Included

- Accommodation in 4 & 5-star hotels & resorts
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Sightseeing tours & Egyptologist guides as per itinerary
- All transport in AC minibus/coach & sleeper train
- Tipping kitty (approx. US\$45)
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary

## Excluded

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa costs (available on arrival for most nationalities for US\$25)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for tour guide & drivers
- Hotel gala dinners (if charged by the hotels on 24 & 31 Dec, see Tour notes)
- Sleeping bag (recommended for the felucca Nov-Feb)
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Notes

### Hotel Gala Dinners

Many of Egypt's hotels and Nile cruise boats arrange a very special gala dinner in the evening on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Payment for these is often optional on Christmas Eve (24 Dec) but may be compulsory on New Year's Eve (31 Dec), whether you attend or not. Prices can range from around US\$50 to over US\$150 per person. Final decisions on prices and whether dinners are compulsory are made relatively close to the time. Gala dinner prices are therefore not included in our prices above, and will be added to your booking if required. More information is available on request.

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting.

However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Single room supplement (EGFANA)

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$395.00

This supplement should be added if you have any single adults (12yrs plus) in your party who require a single room throughout the tour. If your family has just one child under 12, then an extra bed or mattress will be provided in the same room as the parents. If your family has three children, you can choose whether the third child shares a room with the parents or with the other children. We will request connecting or adjacent rooms for children wherever possible. These are subject to availability and allocated on check-in and unfortunately cannot be guaranteed in advance. Please contact us if you have any questions about rooming arrangements for your family.

**Note:** The price shown is a low season price. Slightly higher prices may apply during high and peak seasons - the exact price for your dates will be shown on the online booking form and is always available on request.

## Nile cruise upgrade

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$269.00

If you would prefer some more comfort and luxury than the felucca, then you can upgrade to one of the Nile's famous cruise boats. You join the boat in Aswan and spend 3 nights on board. Sightseeing tours in Aswan and Luxor are done with the main group, but you visit the temples at Edfu and Komombo with the on-board Egyptologist.

On board you enjoy the comfort of an en-suite AC cabin, a restaurant, bar, sun-deck, shop and plunge pool. All meals (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners) are included. Drinks are not included but may be purchased on board.

Single cabin supplements apply, and triple cabins are not available.

## Abu Simbel overland

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$150.00

The temples built by Ramses II at Abu Simbel are one of Egypt's highlights, and have a fascinating story behind

them to go with their impressive size. When Lake Nasser was flooded, the final water level was going to submerge several temples, the most important of which being Abu Simbel. The temple was therefore dismantled completely and rebuilt further up the hillside where it sits today. The temple stands today as a testament to Ramses II and the great building prowess of the ancient Egyptians, as well as to modern engineering. We depart Aswan early in the morning to join an escorted convoy which departs Aswan at around 04.30. This gets us to Abu Simbel to see the temples in the light of the rising sun, and we then have a guided tour with one of our Egyptologists and some free time before we drive back to Aswan (approx. 3 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). All transfers, guide, and entrance fees are included. The tour itinerary is designed so you will not miss any other activities if you choose this option. Note - we choose the overland route to get to Abu Simbel as the flight times there are unreliable and the journey using the flight is much more segmented (you get more rest on the coach), not to mention it is much more expensive to fly.

## Hot air balloon in Luxor

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$150.00

This popular optional tour starts early in the morning so that you experience the sunrise over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, temples and desert. We endeavour to use the earliest flights of the day as they are timed to fit with the rising sun, this means that times may vary. You get around 1 hour in the air.

## Cairo to Aswan flight upgrade

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$145.00

This option provides an upgrade from the overnight sleeper train to an internal flight with Egypt Air. An extra night in the hotel in Cairo is included before you fly to Aswan. Flight times vary and are subject to availability. Single room supplements apply.

## Extra day in Cairo - pre-tour

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$59.00

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Extra day in Cairo - post-tour

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$59.00

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## **Child discount - under 12 (EGFANA)**

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** -300.00

This option can be selected for all children aged under 12 at the date of travel who will share a room with one or two adults. A smaller discount is available for children under 12 who will stay in their own adjacent or connecting room. We recommend that you contact us for a specific quote for your whole family based on the number and ages of your children, and the number of rooms you'll need.

# Tour Notes

## 1. Felucca Sailboat

This tour features an overnight felucca cruise. Feluccas are very basic traditional Nile sailboats and are a fun and relaxing way to travel down the river. You sleep on the deck of the boat (mattresses and some blankets are provided, but we suggest that you bring a sleeping sheet, blanket or light sleeping bag during the winter months of November-February). There are no toilet facilities on board, but you will be joined several times each day and at night by our support boat where a toilet and warm showers will be available. Mosquito nets are provided for use while you are sleeping but you should bring mosquito repellent for the evenings and early mornings. Your Nubian boat crew will cook all your meals while on board and entertain you in the evenings.

## 2. Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. In Egypt we do not use any public tourist buses or overnight coach journeys as we know that people don't sleep on board and end up very tired for the following few days. All the vehicles we use are air-conditioned, many are fitted with speed limiters, and all are inspected and checked daily. Some 4WD vehicles used on desert safaris may not always have air conditioning where they are only used for short periods.

For the overnight train journey between Cairo and Aswan this tour uses the overnight sleeper train. You will have a private lockable twin cabin on board which holds two large seats and fold down beds which the carriage steward will make up for you in the evening. Sheets, blanket & pillows are provided. The cabin also contains a wash basin and storage cupboard. An airline tray-style evening meal and breakfast are provided. The Cairo-Aswan journey takes around 12 hours.

We take an internal flight with Egypt Air from Hurghada to Cairo at the end of the tour (this is more expensive but removes the need for a long drive of around 7 hours, and leaves more time available to spend in Cairo that afternoon).

## 3. Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.

In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#)

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna



contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

## 4. Passports and Visas - Egypt

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

We recommend that you contact your closest Egyptian consulate or embassy for current information for your nationality.

In general official advice is that all nationalities obtain their Egypt visas in advance, as we cannot guarantee that you can get them in the airport. An online e-visa is available through <https://visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa/>. Please do not use any other website as there are many scam sites offering Egypt e-visas.

In practice however, many nationalities (including British and European, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian) can and do obtain their visas on arrival in Cairo airport. The process is much quicker and simpler, the cost is currently **US\$25 p/p** and must be paid in hard currency (i.e. GBP, USD or EUR) - you'll be given change in local currency if necessary. There are no forms to fill in and you don't need to bring passport photos. Visas are issued at one of the bank desks in the immigration hall, before you get to passport control. Our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process.

All African and Indian nationals, and some others, will need to obtain their visas in advance.

For further information on your visa requirements, please either contact us or your local Egyptian embassy/consulate.

## 5. Time

The time in Egypt, Jordan and Israel is GMT plus 2 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

## 6. Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

## 7. Money - Egypt

The local currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound, often denoted 'LE'. The Egyptian Pound can vary significantly in value against the British Pound, but sticks fairly close to the value of the US Dollar. You do not need to arrange to bring any Egyptian Pounds with you to Egypt, as change facilities are available in all the hotels, airports and banks.

You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Egypt you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Egyptian Pounds. You may also need to pay for the tour Tipping Kitty and site Entrance Fees while you are in Egypt. Payments for these may be made to your tour guide in hard currency (USD, GBP, EUR) at the start of your tour. Please see your tour Included/Excluded details for more information and guideline amounts for these.

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 8. Dates & Prices

We run small-group departures on this tour starting on Saturdays that aim to coincide with school holidays. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers and a maximum of 16. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request. If none of our departure dates match your children's school holidays, please let us know and we may be able to add a new departure date. The tour is also always available privately on any date for a small supplement.

## 9. Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You can pay your deposit or full balance online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer. We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

## 10. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

If you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally, or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

## 11. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and an ABTA Member (Y4447) and you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected. Financial failure insurance is provided through Affirma to protect all customers for the land portion of their tour.

Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

## 12. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred

- sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Egypt Uncovered shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 13. Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

[www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered](http://www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered)

[www.twitter.com/encounterstravl](https://www.twitter.com/encounterstravl) (yes, without the 'e')

## 14. Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's ['Travel Aware' campaign](#) which provides further useful and invaluable information.

['Travel Aware' campaign](#)

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**Printed on:** Friday 17th of May 2024

**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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