EGYPT UNCOVERED

Your passport to adventure

Country(ies): Egypt

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: A/C minibus/coach & 5-star deluxe cruise boat

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 10

Days: 15 days

Start Location: Cairo, Egypt

End Location: Luxor or Aswan

Meals:
15D: Breakfasts - 14, Lunches - 13, Dinners - 14
11D: Breakfasts - 10, Lunches - 9, Dinners - 10
1D: Breakfasts - 1, Lunches - 1, Dinners - 1

Highlights:

Pyramids, Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Tuna al Gebel, Tel el Amarna, Beni Hassan, Abydos, Dendera, Valley of the Kings, Temple of Karnak, Edfu, Komombo, Philae Temple

Map Image

Aswan Cruise Day 1: Arrival in Cairo and Transfer to Cruise Ship

Upon your arrival at Cairo airport, we will welcome you and escort you directly to your Nile Cruise vessel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to settle in and unwind on board, or to begin exploring Cairo. The evening will be spent docked on the Nile in Cairo. Additional nights in a hotel in Cairo can be arranged should you wish to arrive earlier.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 2: Experiencing the Wonders of Ancient Egypt: Pyramids, Sphinx & Egyptian Museum

Your journey begins today with visits to some of Egypt's most iconic landmarks. Your first destination is the renowned Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Following this, you will head into central Cairo to immerse yourself in Pharaonic history at the Egyptian Museum, which also houses the treasures from King Tutankhamun's tomb. The evening will be enjoyed aboard your Nile Cruise boat in Cairo.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 3: Journey to Memphis, Saqqara & Coptic Cairo

Today, we journey to the outskirts of Cairo to delve deeper into the history and development of pyramid construction, as well as the rich legacy of Egyptian civilisation. Our first stop is Saqqara, an expansive desert burial site constructed for the pharaohs and elites of the Old Kingdom. Here, we will explore Zoser's 'step' pyramid, followed by a visit to the nearby Imhotep Museum, where we can learn more about Memphis and the surrounding area's history. Afterward, we'll proceed to Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt.
Later, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Coptic district in Cairo, where the Romans built the Babylon fortress. The Church of St. Mary, also known as the Hanging Church, was erected atop the ruins of two towers from the fortress. Our next stop will be St. Sergius Church, believed to be the resting place of the Holy Family. We'll also take the opportunity to visit the Coptic Museum.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 4: Set Sail for Beni Suef

Today, we begin our journey southwards to Beni Suef. As the vessel glides along the Nile, you will have the opportunity to observe rural Egyptian life unfolding before you. The entire day is yours to relax and take full advantage of the ship's facilities.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 5: Set Sail for Minya

We begin our cruise early today, prior to breakfast. The voyage to Minya is a lengthy one, and we plan to arrive there just after lunch, around 2pm. Once we arrive, we will spend the afternoon visiting the nearby sites. Our first stop will be Tuna al-Gebel, where you'll explore the Tomb of Petosiris, an intriguing blend of Greek and Egyptian architectural styles. Following this, we will head to Ashmunein, the site of Hermopolis, once a significant city in antiquity, before returning to

your cruise ship for the night in Minya.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 6: Exploring Ancient Egypt: Tuna el-Gebel, Ashmunein & Beni Hassan

This morning, we will head to Tuna al-Gabel, a site named after the ancient necropolis nearby. In Pharaonic times, this area served as a religious centre where pilgrims gathered to honour the god Thoth. Many of these pilgrims brought Ibises and Baboons to offer to the priests, who would embalm them. It is estimated that more than 2 million of these animals were sacrificed here. The embalmed remains were placed in a necropolis, some believe extending as far as Hermopolis. The tomb of Petosiris and his family is the best-preserved site at Tuna al-Gabel. Petosiris, who lived during the reign of Alexander the Great, is entombed in a structure that exhibits a blend of Greek and Egyptian architectural styles.

Later, we will visit Beni Hassan. Of the 39 tombs here, most remain unfinished; however, they showcase the transitional phase between the traditional Mastaba tombs of the Old Kingdom and the deeper cut tombs found in the Valley of the Kings. During the Middle Kingdom, provincial officials began to assert their independence by commissioning elaborate tombs in their local regions, rather than opting for burial sites such as Saqqara. The tombs are adorned with Pharaonic symbols and distinctive murals, including depictions of wrestling scenes. We will spend the night on board in Minya.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 7: Voyage to Tel El Amarna and onward to Asyut

Embark on a journey to Tel El Amarna, where you'll immerse yourself in the unique 'Amarnian experience'.

Explore the northern tombs of Tel El Amarna, including the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, the northern palace, and the small temples dedicated to Aten. As you pass Prince Tawdrous Monastery, your guide will share insights into the significance of this historic site.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 8: A Day's Sailing to Sohag

We will enjoy a peaceful day today, cruising south to Sohag. Meals will be provided throughout the day, and you'll have the chance to unwind by the pool on board, while observing the traditional Egyptian life along the banks of the River Nile. In the evening, music will be played in the bar.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 9: Exploring Abydos and Sailing to Naga Hammadi

Our excursion today will guide us to Abydos, the legendary birthplace of Osiris. The ancient Egyptians believed that after Osiris was murdered by his brother Seth, he was resurrected at Abydos. It was here that Osiris was bestowed with the powers to reign as the lord of the Afterlife. During our time in Abydos, you'll also explore the temple of Seti I, the founder of Abydos. Although the temple was not completed in Seti's lifetime, it was eventually finished under the reign of his famous son, Ramses II.

Afterwards, we'll return to the boat and cruise towards Naga Hammadi, passing through the Naga Hammadi Bridges.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 10: Dendera Temple Tour and Luxor Sailing Excursion

Today, we journey a bit further south to the Temple of Dendera. This significant temple is devoted to Hathor – the goddess of joy, dance, and love. The ancient Egyptians held the belief that Hathor possessed healing abilities, which is why they would often bring the ill to Dendera for treatment. After spending ample time discovering the temple, we will resume our sail towards Luxor. In the evening, we will be entertained by a belly dancer, showcasing traditional performances.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 11: West Bank Tours in Luxor

Luxor is commonly known as the largest open-air museum in the world, and this morning we crossed the Nile at dawn to start our exploration of the West Bank. The West Bank is home to the Valley of the Kings, where the ancient tombs continue to uncover their secrets, making it one of the most significant archaeological sites globally. Our itinerary covers several of these Pharaonic tombs, along with the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 12: Luxor East Bank Exploration and Edfu Sailing Adventure

Today, we'll have breakfast on board before exploring the vast Karnak temple complex, which was once the religious heart of Thebes and Upper Egypt. This grand site was connected to Luxor by a long avenue lined with sphinxes, and the entire complex was also connected to the Nile through a canal that carried the sacred boats of the god Amun. Entering through a smaller avenue of sphinxes built by Ramesses II, you arrive at the colossal pylon entrance. Within the expansive Courtyard, there are three chapels dedicated to the gods Amun, Khons, and Mut. The awe-inspiring Hypostyle Hall boasts 134 towering columns, each intricately carved with scenes of gods and pharaohs, with hieroglyphic inscriptions adorning the walls.
We'll also visit the smaller Luxor temple, located in the heart of the city. You will then have a little more free time in Luxor before the boat continues its journey south towards Edfu, where we will spend the night on board.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 13: Edfu and Kom Ombo Temples: A Nile Sailing Adventure

Today, we explore the magnificent riverside Temple of Edfu, dedicated to the god Horus. This temple is one of the best-preserved in Egypt, making it a visit you certainly don't want to miss. Continuing our journey southwards towards Aswan, we will make a stop at the remarkable double temple of Komombo, which honours the gods Sobek and Horus. The temple's distinctive design ensures perfect symmetry along its central axis. During your visit, you may also have the opportunity to view one of the mummified crocodiles on display here. After Komombo, we will continue our sail towards Aswan, where you will spend the night on board.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 14: Exploring Aswan

This morning, we embark on a brief boat ride to the stunning Philae Island Temple. We will also drive over the Aswan High Dam, which controls the waters of Lake Nasser. After lunch, we'll have some time to explore the Nubian Museum, where you can discover more about the Nubian people who reside in much of southern Egypt.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Aswan Cruise Day 15: Tour concludes in Aswan, airport transfer provided

Your tour concludes today after breakfast, though you may choose to take an optional sunrise excursion to the magnificent temples of Abu Simbel, located on the shores of Lake Nasser. This tour requires an early start, with a return to Aswan anticipated by 1pm. We suggest scheduling a departure flight from Aswan no earlier than 6pm to account for potential delays on the return journey from Abu Simbel.

If needed, we can arrange additional hotel nights in Aswan, as well as international flights into Cairo and out of Aswan (returning via Cairo with EgyptAir). Please enquire for further details.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 1: Arrival in Cairo and Transfer to Cruise Boat

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be met and welcomed, then transferred directly to your Nile cruise boat. The remainder of the day is yours to settle in, unwind on board, or begin exploring Cairo. The evening will be spent docked on the Nile in Cairo. Additional hotel nights in Cairo are available should you wish to arrive earlier.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 2: Exploring Pyramids, the Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum

Today, your tour begins with visits to some of Egypt's most renowned landmarks. Your first destination is the iconic Pyramids and Sphinx in Giza, one of the ancient world's seven wonders. Afterward, you'll head to central Cairo to delve into Pharaonic history at the Egyptian Museum, which also houses the treasures from King Tutankhamun's Tomb. In the evening, you will relax on board your Nile Cruise boat in Cairo.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day3: Journey to Memphis, Saqqara & Coptic Cairo

Today, we journey to the outskirts of Cairo to gain a deeper understanding of the history and development of pyramid construction and Egyptian civilisation. Our first stop is Saqqara, an extensive desert necropolis created for the kings and nobility of the Old Kingdom. Here, we'll explore Zoser's 'step' pyramid and the nearby Imhotep Museum, where we'll delve further into the history of Memphis and the region. Following this, we'll visit Memphis, once the capital of Ancient Egypt.

Later, we'll enjoy a guided tour of Cairo's Coptic quarter, where the Romans built the Fortress of Babylon. The Church of St. Mary, often referred to as the Hanging Church, was constructed over the ruins of two towers of this fortress. Our next destination is St. Sergius, believed to be a resting place of the Holy Family. We'll also make time to visit the Coptic Museum.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 4: Set Sail for Beni Suef

Today, we begin our journey southwards to Beni Suef. As the ship glides along the Nile, you'll have the chance to observe scenes of rural Egyptian life unfolding onshore. The day is yours to relax and enjoy the ship's facilities at your leisure.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 5: Set Sail for Minya

We begin our cruise early this morning, before breakfast. The journey to Minya is lengthy, and we plan to arrive there just after lunch, around 2 pm, where we will spend the afternoon visiting nearby sites. Our first stop of the afternoon is Tuna al-Gebel, where you'll explore the Tomb of Petosiris, a remarkable blend of Greek and Egyptian architectural styles. Following this, you'll visit Ashmunein, the site of the ancient city of Hermopolis, before returning to spend the night aboard the cruise ship in Minya.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 6: Journey to Tuna el-Gebel, Ashmunein & Beni Hasan

This morning, we'll explore Tuna al-Gebel, named after the nearby ancient necropolis. During the Pharaonic era, this area served as a pilgrimage site where devotees came to honour the god Thoth. Pilgrims often brought ibises and baboons as offerings, which priests would then embalm. It's believed that more than two million of these animals were sacrificed here. Their mummified remains were placed in a necropolis, which some suggest extends all the way to Hermopolis. Tuna al-Gebel's most well-preserved site is the tomb of Petosiris and his family. Petosiris, who lived during Alexander the Great's time, is remembered for his tomb's unique blend of Greek and Egyptian architectural styles.

In the afternoon, we'll visit Beni Hassan. Of the 39 tombs here, most remain unfinished, yet they reflect the transition from the traditional Old Kingdom mastaba tombs to the deeply cut tombs seen in the Valley of the Kings. This Middle Kingdom period marked a shift as local dignitaries commissioned elaborate burials in their own regions, moving away from centralised sites like Saqqara. The tombs are adorned with Pharaonic symbols and remarkable murals, including rare depictions of wrestling scenes. Overnight stay on board in Minya.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 7: Journey to Tel El Amarna and onward to Asyut

Today, you will journey to Tel El Amarna, the site of the 'Amarnian experience'.

- Explore the northern tombs of Tel El Amarna.
- Visit the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten.
- Discover the northern palace and the smaller temples dedicated to Aten.
- Pause in front of the Prince Tawdrous Monastery to admire its structure from the boat (your guide will provide insights into the monastery's significance).

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 8: A Day's Sailing to Sohag

Today will be a tranquil day as we sail southwards towards Sohag. Throughout the day, meals will be provided, and you'll have the chance to unwind by the pool, taking in the sights of everyday Egyptian life along the River Nile. In the evening, live music will be playing in the bar.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 9: Trip to Abydos and Sail to Naga Hammadi

Our excursion today will lead us to Abydos, the birthplace of the Osiris myth. The ancient Egyptians held that Osiris was brought back to life at Abydos after being slain by his brother Seth. He was then endowed with the powers to become the ruler of the Afterlife.
During our visit to Abydos, you will also explore the Temple of Seti I, who established the city. Although the temple was left incomplete during Seti's reign, it was eventually finished under the rule of his renowned son, Ramses II.
Afterward, we will return to the boat and cruise towards Naga Hammadi via the Naga Hammadi Bridges.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 10: Dendera Temple Tour and Luxor Sailing Excursion

Today, we journey a bit further south to the Temple of Dendera. This significant temple is devoted to Hathor – the goddess of joy, dance, and love. The ancient Egyptians believed Hathor possessed healing abilities, and as a result, they frequently brought their ailing ones to Dendera in hopes of a cure. After spending ample time exploring the temple, we'll proceed with our journey towards Luxor. In the evening, a belly dancer will join us to provide traditional entertainment.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 11: West Bank Tours in Luxor

Luxor is commonly known as the largest open-air museum in the world. This morning, we crossed the Nile at dawn to begin our journey on the West Bank. It is the site of the Valley of the Kings, where the timeworn tombs continue to uncover their mysteries, making it one of the most significant archaeological locations globally. Our excursion will take us through several of these ancient royal tombs, as well as the temple dedicated to Queen Hatshepsut.

OVERNIGHT:

Nile cruise boat

MEALS:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Luxor Cruise Day 12: Your Luxor adventure concludes with a seamless transfer to the airport

Your tour concludes today after breakfast, but you may wish to extend your stay in Luxor.

We are able to help arrange additional hotel accommodation in Aswan if needed, as well as international flights into Cairo and departing from Luxor (these will connect via Cairo with Egypt Air). Please enquire for further details.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Included:

- Accommodation aboard the 5-star deluxe cruise vessel (Movenpick M/S Darakum)
- Meals as specified (full board while on the boat)

- All transfers, including a 24-hour airport transfer service in Cairo and Aswan
- Excursions and guides as detailed in the itinerary, accompanied by a shared Nile Cruise guide
- All transport necessary for sightseeing en route
- All entrance fees to sites

Excluded:

- International flights (available upon request)
- Visa charges (USD 25, payable on arrival for most nationalities)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages, snacks, and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Gratuities
- Gala dinners on the cruise boat (if charged by the boat on 24 & 31 Dec, see Tour notes)
- Any additional items not listed above

Options

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.

Alexandria day trip

Alexandria day trip

From $125.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

Discover Alexandria, a 2.5-hour drive north of Cairo on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. This full-day tour showcases the city's highlights, including the Roman amphitheatre, the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa, Pompey's Pillar, Fort Qaitbey (exterior view), and the modern Library of Alexandria. Depending on time, you may also visit Fort Qaitbey's interior and Montazah Palace gardens. A seafood lunch is provided. This tour requires either a late-night departure flight on your final day or an extra day added to your trip.

Pricing is based on a minimum of two travellers; solo supplements apply. Entrance fees (approximately USD 18) are not included.

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour

Extra day in Cairo (5-star) - pre-tour

From $105.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option allows you to begin your tour a day early, staying at your tour hotel (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer remains included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing. Please note that single-room and peak-season supplements apply.

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

From $110.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour offers a striking contrast to the Pharaonic sites encountered on your main itinerary. Departing Cairo, we journey to the Fayoum region, where we'll explore the Wadi Rayan Protected Area. This area surrounds a freshwater lake, nestled amidst the desert, fed by surplus irrigation water from the Fayoum. You'll find several waterfalls here (a popular backdrop in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide offering excellent views of the lake's avian population, particularly during the winter migration. We'll also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, including the Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox, and Fennec Fox.

Before lunch, we'll pause at the sand dunes around Wadi Rayan for a spot of sandboarding. Following a packed lunch, we'll venture into the dramatic desert and mountain landscapes of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is globally recognised as a pivotal location for understanding whale evolution. We'll embark

on a 2-3km walk to observe various fossilised whale specimens, exposed on the desert surface, alongside fossilised mangroves and the remnants of crab burrows.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged directly after your return from Luxor/Aswan via the overnight sleeper train. Alternatively, it can be incorporated into any tour with the addition of extra days at the beginning or end. Prices are based on two or more persons travelling, with a supplementary charge for solo travellers.

The price includes lunch in Wadi Hitan and all entrance fees.

Abu Simbel overland

Abu Simbel overland

From $140.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The temples of Abu Simbel, built by Ramses II, are a true highlight of any trip to Egypt. Their impressive scale is matched only by the fascinating story of their relocation. When Lake Nasser was flooded, these magnificent temples were in danger of being submerged. In a remarkable feat of engineering, the entire complex was dismantled and rebuilt further up the hillside, where it stands today as a testament to both ancient Egyptian prowess and modern ingenuity.

To witness this marvel in the best possible light, we depart Aswan very early in the morning (around 3-4am), aiming to arrive at Abu Simbel as the sun rises. You'll then enjoy a guided tour with one of our expert Egyptologists, followed by free time to explore

at your own pace, before we return to Aswan (approximately 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). This tour is carefully designed to ensure you won't miss any other activities on your itinerary.

We choose the overland route to Abu Simbel as flight schedules are unreliable, leading to a more fragmented and less restful journey. Furthermore, flying is significantly more expensive.

Please note that entrance fees to the site (approximately US$17, with a 50% discount for children) are not included in the tour price and should be paid locally. A minimum of two people is required for this tour to operate.

Single cabin supplement - 15 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

Single cabin supplement - 15 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

From $4225.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option guarantees a single cabin on the Nile Cruise (M/S Darakum) for the 15-day journey. If your booking includes any solo travellers, they will need to add this supplement. We do not arrange shared cabins between individuals who are not already acquainted on this tour.

Please note: Solo travellers may be able to travel without paying any supplement on some departures. This offer is based on staying in a lower-deck cabin and is subject to availability at the time of booking. Please contact us for details.

Single cabin supplement - 12 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

Single cabin supplement - 12 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

From $3330.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option guarantees a single cabin on the Nile Cruise (M/S Darakum) for the 12-day journey. If your booking includes any solo travellers, they will need to add this supplement. We do not arrange shared cabins between individuals who are not already acquainted on this tour.

Please note: Solo travellers may be able to travel without paying any supplement on some departures. This offer is based on staying in a lower-deck cabin and is subject to availability at the time of booking. Please contact us for details.

1. Transport

The majority of the travel during this tour takes place aboard the Nile Cruise boat, which is one of the primary highlights of the journey. Sightseeing excursions are conducted from the boat using air-conditioned minibuses or coaches.

Nile cruise itineraries are subject to changes depending on the local conditions at the time of travel. Some cruising may occur during the night. Between Luxor and Aswan, boats may be moored next to one another overnight, which may require crossing through other vessels to reach the shore. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the cruise boats typically host a special Gala Dinner. The cost for this is generally mandatory, regardless of attendance, and is included in the price of our group tours. It will also be added to private and tailor-made tour quotes as needed.

2. Dates & Prices

This cruise operates on limited dates and is dependent on the availability and operation of the cruise boat. We advise you to contact us in advance to confirm availability before booking any international flights.

- Shorter itineraries are available upon request for other dates:
    - 12-day Cairo-Luxor
    - 13-day Aswan-Cairo
    - 10-day Luxor-Cairo

3. 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.

December 2024 update: As of December 2024, we are required to provide a copy of your passport photo page to the Egyptian Authorities prior to your arrival. Our sales team will request this from you prior to your trip start date. It is not yet clear if this will be a temporary or permanent requirement.

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 visa2egypt. 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) 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. If flying into Cairo International Airport our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process.

Imporant Note: Due to recent changes in the visa regime for Canadians, a visa on arrival or e-visa will no longer be possible for Canadian Citizens entering Egypt after October 1st 2023. Until further notice Canadian passport holders must obtain a visa prior to arrival, from the nearest Egyptian Consulate.

All African & 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.

4. Transfers

Our Egypt tours include a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Cairo airport, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers. Our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport before you get to passport control (if you are flying into Sphinx International Airport, our representative will be waiting outside, after you have passed through immigration and re-claimed your luggage). They will assist with visa formalities before helping you collect your luggage and taking you to your hotel.

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

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5. International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't normally include international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. Nearly all our Egyptian tours start and finish in Cairo. You can fly into Cairo International Airport (CAI) or Sphinx International Arport (SPX).

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Travel Zoo / Groupon Flight Inclusive Packages
Encounters Travel occasionally offer flight inclusive packages - In this case, your international flights will be included as per the package you have purchased. Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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6. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We pride ourselves on being a small group operator, as this allows travellers to connect better with their companions and fully engage with their guide. Having a great guide is of little benefit if you're stuck behind 30-40 others trying to catch a glimpse. That's why we'll never place you on a 50-seater coach with 49 other people and a single guide. Instead, our Egypt small-group tours are capped at 18 travellers.

Shoestring tours accommodate a maximum of 26 participants. For dedicated Nile Cruise tours, sightseeing excursions may involve larger boat groups, although you can book a private Egyptologist guide for an additional

fee (advance booking required). Specialist escorted tours and workshops may have varying group sizes—please refer to the Tour Notes for specifics.

In Egypt, we work with fully trained, local English-speaking graduate Egyptologist guides who will accompany you during all sightseeing in Cairo and the Nile Valley. Additionally, we have permanent local representatives in all major towns, cities, and Red Sea resorts who manage the practical aspects of your tour. For desert excursions, we partner with local Bedouin guides.

While most of our tours are guided in English, we also offer a limited selection of small group departures led by experienced Egyptologist guides fluent in French or Spanish. These are marked clearly alongside the departure dates. Private tours with guides fluent in other languages, such as German, Italian, or Polish, can also be arranged—please get in touch for details and pricing.

On certain itineraries, one guide may accompany you in Cairo, with another taking over for the journey between Aswan and Luxor.

At Egypt Uncovered, we exclusively employ local Egyptian guides and representatives. This ensures you gain the most authentic and insightful experience of Egypt and its incredible sites. Visit our website to learn more and discover profiles of some of our renowned Egyptian guides.

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7. Entrance Fees

Our Small Group tours do not include entrance fees to the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. We do however normally include these in prices for Tailor-Made and Escorted tours. Please check the Inclusions and Exclusions section below the tour itinerary for a details about your tour and the amount you may need to budget. This amount is subject to change and will be reconfirmed in Egypt at the start of your tour. A 50% discount for minors or ISIC card holders is often, but not always available.

Your guide will be happy to collect payment for all the entrance fees at the start of the tour, and pay them for you as you go along if you wish. This payment is normally collected in US Dollars cash together with payment for any Tipping Kitty used on the tour, though you may also pay with Egyptian Pounds or other currencies, converted to USD. Local exchange rates are set on a monthly basis and based on local bank rates so may not match the exact rates you may find online on the day.

Entrance Fee Increases:
Please note that whilst we make every effort to keep the amounts we advise for local entrance fees as up to date as possible, these amounts should be considered a guide only due to fluctuating exchange rates and local rate changes imposed by the Egyptian government. We are aware that the Egyptian Government will be updating their entrance fees in November 2024 and our website will be updated at that time to reflect the revised fees.

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8. Tipping

Tipping is very much a part of Egyptian culture and customs. To make our prices more transparent and so it is easier for you to budget and less hassle while in Egypt, on our small group tours we organise a ‘Tipping Kitty’ which needs to be paid as a local payment and will be around US$30-80 depending on the length of your trip. Payment is collected in US Dollars cash or can also be paid with Egyptian Pounds or other currencies converted to US Dollars at our local monthly exchange rate, or by credit card (3% fee). This kitty provides tips for a wide range of people you’ll meet along the tour including hotel porters, housekeeping staff, train and station staff, drivers, site guards, local reps etc. Please check the Included/Excluded notes below the tour itinerary for more information on how much to budget for this kitty.

Your Egyptologist guide (and Bedouin guides in the desert) is not included in this kitty and you may tip them at the end of your tour subject to your satisfaction with and appreciation of the service they have provided. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. USD 10-15 per person per day would be appropriate.

Children under the age of 12 do not need to pay this tipping kitty.

On private/tailor-made tours we can also arrange a tipping kitty if you wish, or you can tip people as you go along the tour. Your guide will be happy to help advise either way.

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9. Accommodation

Most of our small group tours use high quality hotels at the Egyptian 5-star level in Cairo, Aswan, Luxor and Hurghada, all with swimming pools and a choice of restaurants and bars.

However, some of our lower budget trips (eg. Egypt Express, Pharaonic Encounters and Sands & Seas) use good quality 3 and 4-star level hotels, all with air-conditioned en-suite bathrooms. On some tours we also use a Nubian styled hotel in Aswan which is full of character and has a great location by the Nile and in the heart of a Nubian village.

Our private/tailor-made tour itineraries use a wider mix of hotels, from comfortable mid-range hotels at the 3-4 star level (generally the best available in some of the less visited places included in the particular itinerary) up to some of the very best deluxe 5-star properties in the country.

Please check the Accommodation tab on the tour page or download these Tour Notes for details of the normal hotels used. On our group tours, these hotels may change from time to time for other properties of a similar standard. If you would like to guarantee a particular hotel, please request a tailor-made tour.

Nile cruise tours are generally based on Egyptian 5-star level boats - perhaps equivalent to a decent international 4-star hotel standard. Please check the Accommodation section on the tour page for details. Deluxe 5-star level boats, all-suite boats, and Dahabiyas are also available on private and tailor-made tours. Please contact us for details.

Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms/cabins with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room/cabin. Triple cabins are not available on Nile cruise boats.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

Gala Dinners
Many of Egypt's hotels and Nile cruise boats arrange a very special gala dinner with entertainment 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$180 per person. Final decisions on prices and whether dinners are compulsory are made relatively close to the time. We aim to always select hotels that make their Gala Dinners optional, though this is is not always possible. Gala dinner prices are therefore not included in our prices above, but will be added to your booking if they become required. More information is available on request.

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10. Voltage - Egypt

The sockets in this area are two-pronged and provide 220 volts. Universal adaptors can be found in most airport shops if you haven't already got one. Standard European adapters will also work, though they may fit a bit loosely in the sockets. Every hotel room comes equipped with electrical sockets for charging devices like cameras and phones. Hair dryers are typically available upon request at the hotel reception if not already provided in your room. If you're travelling with US appliances, you'll need both a voltage converter and a plug adapter.

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11. 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.

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12. What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Egypt. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips – you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

Luggage limits: There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

Clothing: Most of your time in Egypt will be in a hot climate. However, at night, and especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required on the cruise boats or in 5-star hotel restaurants. Long sleeves are recommended to protect from mosquitoes if you are on the felucca. Modesty rates highly in Egypt, especially for women, so to respect the local culture & people, please ensure all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). In the centre of Cairo, and when visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: If you will be travelling on a felucca then we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner all year round for comfort, and a light sleeping bag in the winter months (November to February). We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, small towel, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

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13. Time

The time zones for Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon are GMT +2, while the UAE operates on GMT +3. Daylight saving time has been implemented intermittently in the past. Currently, Egypt is expected to maintain a consistent time zone of GMT +2 from 2016 onwards, with no changes planned for daylight saving, though this could alter with little notice, affecting flight schedules and times. In Jordan and Israel, a one-hour daylight saving shift is typically observed from the end of March to the end of October, changing the time to GMT +3. The exact dates of this shift vary each year, and in some cases, the adjustments may not take place at all.

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14. Health and Vaccinations

It's important to ensure you have full medical insurance coverage, including for emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Vaccination requirements and other health precautions depend on both your destination and where you are travelling from. We advise speaking to your GP, a healthcare provider, or a travel clinic to get the latest details on the necessary vaccinations for your trip. You should also make sure that you are up to date with any vaccines and boosters recommended for your general health at home, including those for occupational risks, lifestyle factors, and pre-existing conditions.

In addition, the following vaccinations are typically advised for travel to countries in this region:

- **Egypt**: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A
- **Jordan**: Tetanus, Hepatitis A
- **Israel**: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis
- **Lebanon**: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not commonly present unless contracted abroad, so malaria prophylaxis is generally not necessary.

For further details, refer to the following links: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon

Important Note: We are aware that some places in Egypt use 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye called PPD (paraphenylenediamine), which can cause severe allergic reactions and scarring. To be on the safe side, we recommend avoiding henna tattoos in Egypt unless you are certain they are made with pure brown henna.

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15. Airport Transfers

This tour includes a meet-and-greet service and airport transfer on the first day. Our representative will be waiting with an Egypt Uncovered signboard or your name clearly displayed for easy identification. If you are unable to locate our representative, emergency contact numbers will be provided on your tour confirmation voucher.

A transfer to the airport is also included at the end of the tour. Please review the tour itinerary and your flight times carefully. Most international flights departing from Khartoum are scheduled in the early hours of the morning. If you have upgraded to a 4 or 5-star hotel in Khartoum, only a day-use room is typically included for your final day. A full night's stay is provided at the standard 3-star hotel. If you require a full night’s accommodation in an upgraded hotel, an additional charge may apply.

Refunds are not available for missed transfers or parts of your trip due to incorrect flight details or delayed arrivals. Any additional expenses incurred to join the group will be your responsibility.

If your flights are scheduled to arrive before the tour starts or depart after the tour ends, we can arrange extra accommodation and airport transfers. We will strive to book these at the same hotel as the main tour, subject to availability (upgraded hotels can also be arranged upon request). Please note that if you do not book additional accommodation through us, arrival and departure transfer services will not be included, and you will need to organise your own transport.

Arrival Procedure

Be prepared for potential delays at immigration, especially if you are obtaining a “visa on arrival” (refer to the Passports and Visas section). After passport control, proceed to baggage reclaim, where further waiting times are common. Once you collect your luggage, you will need to show your baggage receipts (typically attached to your boarding pass), and your bags may be manually inspected by airport staff. This is standard procedure to ensure no prohibited items, such as alcohol or inappropriate materials, are brought into Sudan. Be aware that some magazines with certain images might also be considered inappropriate and could be confiscated without return.

After completing these formalities, you will find our representative waiting just outside the glass doors with an Egypt Uncovered signboard or your name clearly displayed.

original

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correct

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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.