



# **Long Nile Cruise**

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 - 14, Dinners - 14 12D: Breakfasts - 11, Lunches - 12, Dinners - 11

#### **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



# **Itinerary**

#### Aswan Cruise Day 1: Arrive in Cairo, transfer to cruise boat

Upon arrival at Cairo airport, we will meet & greet you and transfer you directly to your Nile Cruise boat. The rest of the day is free for you to settle in and relax on board the boat or start to explore Cairo. The evening is spent moored up on the Nile in Cairo. Extra days in a hotel in Cairo are available if you would like to arrive earlier.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat

**MEALS:** Lunch.Dinner

EXTRAS: Single cabin supplement - 15 Day Cruise (EGSGLN) Extra day in Cairo (4-star) - pre-tour

# Aswan Cruise Day 2: Egyptian Museum, Coptic Cairo and the Pyramids and Sphinx

Your day begins with breakfast on board, setting you up for a day of exploration. You'll delve into ancient history with a visit to the renowned Egyptian Museum, home to an extensive collection of artefacts from pharaonic Egypt. Following this, you'll explore Coptic Cairo, taking in the rich history and architecture of the area, including visits to the Hanging Church, the Coptic Museum, and the Ben Ezra Synagogue, offering insights into the diverse religious heritage of Egypt. A break for lunch is scheduled, with an international buffet served on board. The afternoon is dedicated to the iconic Giza Plateau, where you'll witness the majestic Pyramids and the enigmatic Sphinx. As evening approaches, a Lebanese buffet will be served on board for dinner. Finally, you'll settle in for an overnight stay onboard in Cairo.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS**:

# Aswan Cruise Day 3: Exploring Memphis, Saqqara and the Grand Egyptian Museum

Your day starts with breakfast on board, preparing you for a day filled with exploration. You will then visit Memphis and Saqara, immersing yourself in the ancient history and impressive architecture of these significant sites. A Mediterranean buffet lunch will be served on board. Following lunch, you'll explore the Grand Egyptian Museum, a remarkable institution housing a vast collection of Egyptian antiquities, offering a comprehensive overview of the country's rich past. In the evening, a set menu dinner will be served on board. After dinner, you can enjoy an Oriental Takht show, experiencing traditional music and entertainment.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

Aswan Cruise Day 4: Start sailing to Beni Suef

Your day commences with breakfast on board, providing sustenance for a full day of sailing. You will spend the entire day sailing towards Beni Suef, a city with a rich history and strategic importance along the Nile. Beni Suef, the capital of the Beni Suef Governorate, is an agricultural centre known for its fertile lands and production of crops like cotton and wheat. Historically, it has served as a vital trading point and has witnessed the passage of countless travellers and goods throughout the ages. While sailing towards Beni Suef, you can relax on deck, soak in the tranquil beauty of the Nile River, and observe the changing landscapes that unfold along its banks. Midday brings a delightful Mexican buffet lunch served on board. As evening descends, a BBQ dinner will be prepared, accompanied by live music from a singer, enhancing the dining experience with local flavours and entertainment. Finally, you will moor in Beni Suef and stay overnight, allowing you to appreciate the city's atmosphere and perhaps explore its local markets or historical sites if time permits, before continuing your cruise the following day.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS**:

#### Aswan Cruise Day 5: Sail south towards Minya

Your day begins with an early sail to Minya, a city steeped in ancient Egyptian history and often overlooked by mainstream tourism, offering a more authentic glimpse into Egyptian life. Minya, the capital of the Minya Governorate in Upper Egypt, sits on the west bank of the Nile and was once a vital centre of trade and religious significance. The surrounding area boasts remarkable archaeological sites, showcasing the region's rich past. After settling in, breakfast will be served on board. As the day progresses, a French buffet lunch will be available on board. Minya's historical importance includes its role as the capital of the 16th Upper Egyptian Nome and its association with the pharaoh Akhenaten, who attempted to establish a monotheistic religion. The region is also known for its agricultural productivity, particularly for cotton and sugarcane. In the evening, a set menu dinner will be served on board, followed by a Folkloric Party, providing entertainment and a taste of Egyptian culture. You will then stay overnight in Minya, giving you the chance to experience the unique atmosphere of this historical city.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS**:

## Aswan Cruise Day 6: Tuna El Gebel, Ashmunein & Beni Hassan

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a journey into ancient Egyptian history. You'll then visit Tuna El Gebel and Ashmunein. Tuna El Gebel is an important archaeological site, known for its extensive necropolis and the well-preserved tomb of Petosiris, offering insights into the transition between pharaonic and Hellenistic periods. Ashmunein, once a significant city, boasts remnants of a temple dedicated to Thoth, the god of wisdom and writing, and provides a glimpse into the religious practices of the era. A light buffet lunch will be served on board. Following lunch, you'll embark on an excursion to the Beni Hassan tombs, located approximately a one-hour drive from the Minya dock. This site contains a collection of rock-cut tombs belonging to high-ranking officials from the Middle Kingdom. You'll have approximately two hours to explore these fascinating tombs, including the Tomb of Baqet III (BH15), notable for its detailed depictions of daily life; the Tomb of Khety (BH17), showcasing scenes of wrestling and other activities; the Tomb of Amenemhet (BH2), with its vibrant paintings; and the Tomb of Khnumhotep II (BH3), renowned for its depictions of exotic animals and trade. These tombs provide valuable information about the social structure, artistic conventions, and beliefs of ancient Egyptians. After your visit to Beni Hassan, you'll return to the boat. In the evening, an Italian buffet dinner will be served on board. You will stay overnight in Minya.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Aswan Cruise Day 7: Tel El Amarna & sail towards Asyut

Your day begins early as you set sail for Tel El Amarna, a site of immense historical significance, offering a unique glimpse into the 'Amarnian period. At Tel El Amarna, you will experience the legacy of the pharaoh Akhenaten's revolutionary reign. Breakfast will be served on board as you journey. Upon arrival at Tel El Amarna, you will visit the northern tombs, including the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, though much of its decoration has been lost, its very presence speaks to the radical changes of his rule. You'll also explore the Northern Palace, offering a sense of the royal court's life, and the Small Temples of Aten, dedicated to the sun disc, the focus of Akhenaten's monotheistic religion. These sites provide invaluable insights into the art, architecture, and religious beliefs of this fascinating era. Aboard the ship, an English buffet lunch will be served as you continue sailing towards Assyut. As you sail, you'll make a stop in front of the Prince Tawdrous Monastery. While you will view the monastery from the boat, your guide will provide commentary on its historical and religious importance. This Coptic monastery, nestled on the cliffs, stands as a testament to the enduring Christian presence in Egypt. The day concludes with a BBQ dinner on board, accompanied by a lively Galabia Party, offering a chance to experience Egyptian culture. You will stay overnight in Assyut.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Aswan Cruise Day 8: Sailing day to Sohag

Your day starts early as you set sail for Sohag. After a few hours of cruising along the Nile, breakfast will be served on board, providing sustenance for the day ahead. The journey to Sohag itself offers opportunities to observe the changing landscapes of Upper Egypt, with glimpses of rural life and the fertile banks of the river. Sohag, a city with a rich history, serves as a gateway to exploring the surrounding area. Aboard the ship, an international buffet lunch will be served. As evening approaches, an Oriental buffet dinner will be available on board, offering a taste of local flavours and cuisine. Finally, you will stay overnight in Sohag, ready for the next leg of your journey.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Aswan Cruise Day 9: Abydos visit & sail to Naga Hammadi

Your day begins very early as you set sail for El Balyana. After a few hours of sailing, breakfast will be served on board, preparing you for the day's explorations. You will then visit the Abydos temple, a significant archaeological site and once a holy city dedicated to Osiris, the god of the dead. Abydos holds immense historical and religious importance, and you will have the opportunity to explore the impressive Temple of Seti I, a remarkable example of New Kingdom architecture, known for its well-preserved reliefs and intricate carvings. This temple offers a fascinating insight into the religious beliefs and artistic skills of the ancient Egyptians. Following your visit to Abydos, you will return to the boat and continue sailing towards Naga Hammadi. This journey involves navigating the Naga Hammadi lock and bridges, an interesting experience in itself, showcasing modern engineering

alongside the timeless flow of the Nile. A Moroccan buffet lunch will be served on board as you cruise. In the evening, a BBQ dinner will be available on board. You will then arrive and stay overnight in Naga Hammadi.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Aswan Cruise Day 10: Tour of Dendera, sail to Luxor

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for an excursion to the Dendara Temple complex. Following breakfast, you will travel to the Dendara Temple, a relatively short drive from the ship. This magnificent temple, dedicated to Hathor, the goddess of love, music, and motherhood, is remarkably well-preserved and offers a fascinating glimpse into ancient Egyptian religious practices. The temple's intricate carvings and astronomical ceilings are particularly noteworthy, showcasing the advanced skills and knowledge of the ancient Egyptians. You'll have time to explore the various chambers and courtyards of the temple, taking in its grandeur and absorbing the atmosphere of this sacred site. After your visit to Dendara, you will return to the boat and set sail for Luxor. A delicious Asian buffet lunch will be served on board as you cruise along the Nile. As evening approaches, a more casual dining experience awaits, with a "sandwich street food" themed dinner offered on board. Finally, you'll stay overnight in Luxor, ready to explore the wonders of this ancient city.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Aswan Cruise Day 11: Luxor, West Bank tours

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a day of exploration on Luxor's West Bank. You will then visit the Valley of the Kings, a vast and awe-inspiring burial ground for pharaohs of the New Kingdom. Here, you'll have the opportunity to explore several richly decorated tombs, each offering a glimpse into the beliefs and funerary practices of ancient Egypt. The vibrant colours and intricate hieroglyphics adorning the walls provide a sense of the power and wealth of these rulers. Following the Valley of the Kings, you will visit the Temple of Hatshepsut, a stunning mortuary temple dedicated to the female pharaoh Hatshepsut. Its unique, terraced architecture blends seamlessly into the surrounding cliffs, creating a visually impressive monument. The temple's design and decorations reflect Hatshepsut's reign and her attempts to legitimise her rule. A light buffet lunch will be served on board. As evening falls, an Indian buffet dinner will be available. After dinner, you can enjoy a captivating belly dancer show, a traditional Egyptian performance that showcases skill, grace, and cultural heritage. You will then stay overnight in Luxor.

OVERNIGHT: Nile cruise boat
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
EXTRAS: Hot air balloon in Luxor

## Aswan Cruise Day 12: Luxor, East Bank tour, sail to Edfu

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a morning of exploration. You will then visit the East Bank, a treasure trove of ancient Egyptian wonders. Here, you will experience the grandeur of the Karnak Temple complex, an immense and awe-inspiring site dedicated to the Theban Triad. This sprawling complex, built over centuries, features colossal columns, intricate hieroglyphics, and towering statues, offering a glimpse into the

religious and political heart of ancient Egypt. Also on the East Bank, you will visit the majestic Luxor Temple, connected to Karnak by the Avenue of the Sphinxes. Luxor Temple, with its elegant colonnades and impressive architecture, was dedicated to the god Amun and served as a place of worship and celebration. Following your exploration of these magnificent temples, an international buffet lunch will be served on board. After lunch, passengers ending their cruise in Luxor will disembark. The ship will then set sail for Edfu, navigating through the Esna lock, an experience in itself, showcasing the engineering prowess required to traverse the changing water levels of the Nile. As evening approaches, a set menu dinner will be served on board. You will then stay overnight in Edfu, ready for the next day's adventures.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS**:

#### Aswan Cruise Day 13: Edfu & Komombo temple, sail to Aswan

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a day of exploration. You will then visit the Temple of Edfu, a remarkably well-preserved ancient Egyptian temple dedicated to the falcon god Horus. This impressive structure, built during the Ptolemaic period, offers a fascinating glimpse into the religious beliefs and architectural prowess of the time. Its intricate carvings and detailed reliefs provide valuable insights into the rituals and mythology associated with Horus. Following your visit to Edfu, the ship will sail to Kom Ombo. The journey along the Nile provides scenic views of the Egyptian countryside. Lunch, featuring an Egyptian meal, will be served on board. In the afternoon, you will explore the unique Kom Ombo Temple. Unusually, this temple is dedicated to two deities: Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, a form of Horus. The temple's dual dedication is reflected in its symmetrical design, with separate sections dedicated to each god. Its location overlooking the Nile adds to its dramatic setting. As evening approaches, a BBQ dinner will be served on board. Finally, you will stay overnight in Aswan.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

# Aswan Cruise Day 14: Sightseeing in Aswan

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a day of exploration in Aswan. You will then visit the High Dam, a modern engineering marvel that significantly altered the flow of the Nile and provides irrigation and hydroelectric power. The sheer scale of the dam is impressive, and it offers panoramic views of Lake Nasser, one of the largest man-made lakes in the world. Following this, you'll explore the Philae Temple, a beautiful temple complex dedicated to the goddess Isis. Originally located on the island of Philae, the temple was moved to Agilkia Island to save it from the rising waters of Lake Nasser after the construction of the High Dam. The intricate carvings and impressive architecture of Philae Temple offer a glimpse into ancient Egyptian religious beliefs and practices. A seafood buffet lunch will be served on board. In the afternoon, you will visit the Nubian Museum, which showcases the rich history and culture of the Nubian people, who have inhabited the region for thousands of years. The museum's collection includes artefacts, traditional clothing, and exhibits that highlight the unique customs, art, and history of Nubia. For dinner, a flambé will be prepared on board, providing a delightful culinary experience. The evening culminates in a Nubian party, offering a chance to experience Nubian music, dance, and traditions, providing a vibrant and immersive cultural experience. You will stay overnight in Aswan.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS**:

# Aswan Cruise Day 15: Tour ends in Aswan, transfer to airport

Your tour end today after breakfast, but you may consider taking an optional sunrise tour to the stunning temples of Abu Simbel, situated on the shores of Lake Nasser. This optional tour requires a very early start and should expect to arrive back into Aswan by 1pm. We recommend booking a flight out of Aswan no earlier than 6pm to allow for of any delays on the road back from Abu Simbel.

We can assist with extra nights' hotel accommodation in Aswan if required as well as international flights into Cairo and out of Aswan (these will return via Cairo with Egypt Air). Please ask for details.

OVERNIGHT: N/A MEALS: Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Abu Simbel overland

## Luxor Cruise Day 1: Arrive in Cairo, transfer to cruise boat

Upon arrival at Cairo airport, we will meet & greet you and transfer you directly to your Nile Cruise boat. The rest of the day is free for you to settle in and relax on board the boat or start to explore Cairo. The evening is spent moored up on the Nile in Cairo. Extra days in a hotel in Cairo are available if you would like to arrive earlier.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat

**MEALS:** Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Single cabin supplement - 12 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

# Luxor Cruise Day 2: Egyptian Museum, Coptic Cairo and the Pyramids and Sphinx

Your day begins with breakfast on board, setting you up for a day of exploration. You'll delve into ancient history with a visit to the renowned Egyptian Museum, home to an extensive collection of artefacts from pharaonic Egypt. Following this, you'll explore Coptic Cairo, taking in the rich history and architecture of the area, including visits to the Hanging Church, the Coptic Museum, and the Ben Ezra Synagogue, offering insights into the diverse religious heritage of Egypt. A break for lunch is scheduled, with an international buffet served on board. The afternoon is dedicated to the iconic Giza Plateau, where you'll witness the majestic Pyramids and the enigmatic Sphinx. As evening approaches, a Lebanese buffet will be served on board for dinner. Finally, you'll settle in for an overnight stay onboard in Cairo.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

# **Luxor Cruise Day 3: Exploring Memphis, Saqqara and the Grand Egyptian Museum**

Your day starts with breakfast on board, preparing you for a day filled with exploration. You will then visit Memphis and Saqqara, immersing yourself in the ancient history and impressive architecture of these significant sites. A Mediterranean buffet lunch will be served on board. Following lunch, you'll explore the Grand Egyptian Museum, a remarkable institution housing a vast collection of Egyptian antiquities, offering a comprehensive overview of the country's rich past. In the evening, a set menu dinner will be served on board. After dinner, you can enjoy an Oriental Takht show, experiencing traditional music and entertainment.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS**:

#### Luxor Cruise Day 4: Start sailing to Beni Suef

Your day commences with breakfast on board, providing sustenance for a full day of sailing. You will spend the entire day sailing towards Beni Suef, a city with a rich history and strategic importance along the Nile. Beni Suef, the capital of the Beni Suef Governorate, is an agricultural centre known for its fertile lands and production of crops like cotton and wheat. Historically, it has served as a vital trading point and has witnessed the passage of countless travellers and goods throughout the ages. While sailing towards Beni Suef, you can relax on deck, soak in the tranquil beauty of the Nile River, and observe the changing landscapes that unfold along its banks. Midday brings a delightful Mexican buffet lunch served on board. As evening descends, a BBQ dinner will be prepared, accompanied by live music from a singer, enhancing the dining experience with local flavours and entertainment. Finally, you will moor in Beni Suef and stay overnight, allowing you to appreciate the city's atmosphere and perhaps explore its local markets or historical sites if time permits, before continuing your cruise the following day.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

## **Luxor Cruise Day 5: Sail south towards Minya**

Your day begins with an early sail to Minya, a city steeped in ancient Egyptian history and often overlooked by mainstream tourism, offering a more authentic glimpse into Egyptian life. Minya, the capital of the Minya Governorate in Upper Egypt, sits on the west bank of the Nile and was once a vital centre of trade and religious significance. The surrounding area boasts remarkable archaeological sites, showcasing the region's rich past. After settling in, breakfast will be served on board. As the day progresses, a French buffet lunch will be available on board. Minya's historical importance includes its role as the capital of the 16th Upper Egyptian Nome and its association with the pharaoh Akhenaten, who attempted to establish a monotheistic religion. The region is also known for its agricultural productivity, particularly for cotton and sugarcane. In the evening, a set menu dinner will be served on board, followed by a Folkloric Party, providing entertainment and a taste of Egyptian culture. You will then stay overnight in Minya, giving you the chance to experience the unique atmosphere of this historical city.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

Luxor Cruise Day 6: Tuna El Gebel, Ashmunein & Beni Hassan

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a journey into ancient Egyptian history. You'll then visit Tuna El Gebel and Ashmunein. Tuna El Gebel is an important archaeological site, known for its extensive necropolis and the well-preserved tomb of Petosiris, offering insights into the transition between pharaonic and Hellenistic periods. Ashmunein, once a significant city, boasts remnants of a temple dedicated to Thoth, the god of wisdom and writing, and provides a glimpse into the religious practices of the era. A light buffet lunch will be served on board. Following lunch, you'll embark on an excursion to the Beni Hassan tombs, located approximately a one-hour drive from the Minya dock. This site contains a collection of rock-cut tombs belonging to high-ranking officials from the Middle Kingdom. You'll have approximately two hours to explore these fascinating tombs, including the Tomb of Baqet III (BH15), notable for its detailed depictions of daily life; the Tomb of Khety (BH17), showcasing scenes of wrestling and other activities; the Tomb of Amenemhet (BH2), with its vibrant paintings; and the Tomb of Khnumhotep II (BH3), renowned for its depictions of exotic animals and trade. These tombs provide valuable information about the social structure, artistic conventions, and beliefs of ancient Egyptians. After your visit to Beni Hassan, you'll return to the boat. In the evening, an Italian buffet dinner will be served on board. You will stay overnight in Minya.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

## Luxor Cruise Day 7: Tel El Amarna & sail towards Asyut

Your day begins early as you set sail for Tel El Amarna, a site of immense historical significance, offering a unique glimpse into the 'Amarnian period. At Tel El Amarna, you will experience the legacy of the pharaoh Akhenaten's revolutionary reign. Breakfast will be served on board as you journey. Upon arrival at Tel El Amarna, you will visit the northern tombs, including the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, though much of its decoration has been lost, its very presence speaks to the radical changes of his rule. You'll also explore the Northern Palace, offering a sense of the royal court's life, and the Small Temples of Aten, dedicated to the sun disc, the focus of Akhenaten's monotheistic religion. These sites provide invaluable insights into the art, architecture, and religious beliefs of this fascinating era. Aboard the ship, an English buffet lunch will be served as you continue sailing towards Assyut. As you sail, you'll make a stop in front of the Prince Tawdrous Monastery. While you will view the monastery from the boat, your guide will provide commentary on its historical and religious importance. This Coptic monastery, nestled on the cliffs, stands as a testament to the enduring Christian presence in Egypt. The day concludes with a BBQ dinner on board, accompanied by a lively Galabia Party, offering a chance to experience Egyptian culture. You will stay overnight in Assyut.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

### Luxor Cruise Day 8: Sailing day to Sohag

Your day starts early as you set sail for Sohag. After a few hours of cruising along the Nile, breakfast will be served on board, providing sustenance for the day ahead. The journey to Sohag itself offers opportunities to observe the changing landscapes of Upper Egypt, with glimpses of rural life and the fertile banks of the river. Sohag, a city with a rich history, serves as a gateway to exploring the surrounding area. Aboard the ship, an international buffet lunch will be served. As evening approaches, an Oriental buffet dinner will be available on board, offering a taste of local flavours and cuisine. Finally, you will stay overnight in Sohag, ready for the next leg of your journey.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat

**MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

## Luxor Cruise Day 9: Abydos visit & sail to Naga Hammadi

Your day begins very early as you set sail for El Balyana. After a few hours of sailing, breakfast will be served on board, preparing you for the day's explorations. You will then visit the Abydos temple, a significant archaeological site and once a holy city dedicated to Osiris, the god of the dead. Abydos holds immense historical and religious importance, and you will have the opportunity to explore the impressive Temple of Seti I, a remarkable example of New Kingdom architecture, known for its well-preserved reliefs and intricate carvings. This temple offers a fascinating insight into the religious beliefs and artistic skills of the ancient Egyptians. Following your visit to Abydos, you will return to the boat and continue sailing towards Naga Hammadi. This journey involves navigating the Naga Hammadi lock and bridges, an interesting experience in itself, showcasing modern engineering alongside the timeless flow of the Nile. A Moroccan buffet lunch will be served on board as you cruise. In the evening, a BBQ dinner will be available on board. You will then arrive and stay overnight in Naga Hammadi.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Luxor Cruise Day 10: Tour of Dendera, sail to Luxor

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for an excursion to the Dendara Temple complex. Following breakfast, you will travel to the Dendara Temple, a relatively short drive from the ship. This magnificent temple, dedicated to Hathor, the goddess of love, music, and motherhood, is remarkably well-preserved and offers a fascinating glimpse into ancient Egyptian religious practices. The temple's intricate carvings and astronomical ceilings are particularly noteworthy, showcasing the advanced skills and knowledge of the ancient Egyptians. You'll have time to explore the various chambers and courtyards of the temple, taking in its grandeur and absorbing the atmosphere of this sacred site. After your visit to Dendara, you will return to the boat and set sail for Luxor. A delicious Asian buffet lunch will be served on board as you cruise along the Nile. As evening approaches, a more casual dining experience awaits, with a "sandwich street food" themed dinner offered on board. Finally, you'll stay overnight in Luxor, ready to explore the wonders of this ancient city.

**OVERNIGHT:** Nile cruise boat **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

## Luxor Cruise Day 11: Luxor, West Bank tours

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a day of exploration on Luxor's West Bank. You will then visit the Valley of the Kings, a vast and awe-inspiring burial ground for pharaohs of the New Kingdom. Here, you'll have the opportunity to explore several richly decorated tombs, each offering a glimpse into the beliefs and funerary practices of ancient Egypt. The vibrant colours and intricate hieroglyphics adorning the walls provide a sense of the power and wealth of these rulers. Following the Valley of the Kings, you will visit the Temple of Hatshepsut, a stunning mortuary temple dedicated to the female pharaoh Hatshepsut. Its unique, terraced architecture blends seamlessly into the surrounding cliffs, creating a visually impressive monument. The temple's design and decorations reflect Hatshepsut's reign and her attempts to legitimise her rule. A light buffet lunch will be served on board. As evening falls, an Indian buffet dinner will be available. After dinner, you can enjoy a captivating belly dancer show, a traditional Egyptian performance that showcases skill, grace, and cultural

heritage. You will then stay overnight in Luxor.

OVERNIGHT: Nile cruise boat

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Hot air balloon in Luxor

# Luxor Cruise Day 12: Luxor East Bank Tours. Disembark in Luxor where your cruise ends

Your day begins with breakfast on board, preparing you for a morning of exploration. You will then visit the East Bank, a treasure trove of ancient Egyptian wonders. Here, you will experience the grandeur of the Karnak Temple complex, an immense and awe-inspiring site dedicated to the Theban Triad. This sprawling complex, built over centuries, features colossal columns, intricate hieroglyphics, and towering statues, offering a glimpse into the religious and political heart of ancient Egypt. Also on the East Bank, you will visit the majestic Luxor Temple, connected to Karnak by the Avenue of the Sphinxes. Luxor Temple, with its elegant colonnades and impressive architecture, was dedicated to the god Amun and served as a place of worship and celebration. Following your exploration of these magnificent temples, an international buffet lunch will be served on board. After lunch, passengers ending their cruise in Luxor will disembark and their journey will come to an end.

We can assist with extra nights' hotel accommodation in Luxor if required as well as international flights into Cairo and out of Luxor (these will return via Cairo with Egypt Air). Please ask for details.

**OVERNIGHT: N/A** 

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Included:

- Accommodation on 5-star deluxe cruise boat (Movenpick M/S Darakum)
- Meals as indicated (full board whilst on board the boat)
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service in Cairo and Aswan
- Tours & guides as indicated on the itinerary with a shared Nile Cruise guide
- All transport required for sightseeing along the way
- All site entrance fees

#### **Excluded:**

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (USD 25 available on arrival for most nationalities)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Cruise boat gala dinners (if charged by the boat on 24 & 31 Dec, see Tour notes)
- Any other items not mentioned above

#### **Notes**

#### **Cruise Boat 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\$150 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 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.

# **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.

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.

#### Alexandria day trip

Min numbers: 1

Alexandria is about 2.5 hours drive, north of Cairo on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. This ex colonial city is the second largest in Egypt and our visit will include the Roman amphitheatre with its twelve semi-circular marble tiers, the Catacombs of Kom al-Shoqafa which is the largest Roman cemetery in Alexandria, Pompey's Pillar, Fort Qaitbey (from outside), the famous modern library before returning to Cairo. If time allows you can tour inside Fort Qaitbey and we may also visit the Montazah Palace gardens. Lunch at a seafood restaurant is included. As the tour takes a full day you will either need a late evening flight departure on the last day of the tour to accommodated it, or to add an extra day to the start or end of your trip.

Prices are based on a minimum of 2 travellers choosing the option. Solo traveller supplements apply. Entrance fees to sites visited are not included (budget approx. USD 10)

### Wadi Rayan day trip (Valley of the Whales)

Min numbers: 1

This tour provides a great contrast to the Pharaonic sites you have visited on the rest of your tour. We leave Cairo and head to the Fayoum region where we head for the Wadi Rayan Protected Area, which surrounds a fresh-water lake in the middle of the desert, filled by the remaining irrigation water from the Fayoum area. There are several waterfalls here (popular in Egyptian pop music videos), and a bird hide which gives good views of the lakes birdlife, particularly in the winter months when the lake is an important stop for migrating water-birds. We also visit the Springs Oasis area, a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis, and host to many different plants and animals, including Dorcas Gazelle, Ruppell's Sand Fox and Fennec Fox. Before lunch, we'll make a stop in the sand dunes surrounding Wadi Rayan to have a go at Sandboarding. After a stop for a packed lunch, we then drive into the stunning desert & mountain scenery of Wadi Hitan (Valley of the Whales). This World Heritage Site is accepted as the most significant site in the world to demonstrate the evolution of whales, and we take a 2-3km walk here to see several specimens of fossilised whales of different types sitting on the surface of the sand, as well as fossilised mangroves and the remains of crab holes.

This tour requires a full free day in Cairo, but can also be arranged straight after you arrive back in Cairo from Luxor/Aswan from the overnight sleeper train. We can also arrange it on any tour if you add extra days before and after your main tour. Prices shown are based on 2 or more people travelling, with an additional supplement due for solo travellers.

Price includes lunch whilst in Wadi Hitan and entrance fees.

### Single cabin supplement - 15 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

Min numbers: 1

This option books a single cabin on the Nile Cruise (M/S Darakum) for the 15 day cruise. If there are any single travellers included in your booking, they will need to add this supplement. We do not arrange shared cabins between people who do not already know each other on this tour.

**Note:** Single 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 on availability at the time of booking. Please contact us for details.

#### Abu Simbel overland

Min numbers: 2

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 very early in the morning (around 4am), with the aim of getting to Abu Simbel to see the temples in the light of the rising sun. We then have a guided tour with one of our Egyptologists and some free time before we drive back to Aswan (approx. 3 1/2 hours drive each way, with around 2 hours at the temples). 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.

Entrance fees to the site (approx. US\$10, 50% for children) are not included in the option price and should be paid locally. A minimum of 2 people is required to operate this option.

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

Min numbers: 1

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.

## Single cabin supplement - 12 Day Cruise (EGSGLN)

Min numbers: 1

This option books a single cabin on the Nile Cruise (M/S Darakum) for the 12 day cruise. If there are any single travellers included in your booking, they will need to add this supplement. We do not arrange shared cabins between people who do not already know each other on this tour.

**Note:** Single 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 on availability at the time of booking. Please contact us for details.

# **Pyramids Camel Ride**

Min numbers: 1

Experience the Giza Pyramids from a unique vantage point with an optional camel ride. This excursion takes you across the desert to a scenic view point, offering panoramic views of the pyramids. Capture memorable photos and enjoy the desert landscape.

## **Pyramids Sound & Light Show**

Min numbers: 1

Experience the magic of the Giza Pyramids at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the desert sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

#### Cairo Sunset Felucca

Min numbers: 1

Take a relaxing felucca ride on the Nile at sunset. See Cairo's landmarks from the water as the sky changes colour. Enjoy a peaceful break from the city, and get great photo opportunities of the skyline. This trip offers a calm way to experience the Nile and create memorable moments of your time in Egypt.

The price of this option is based on a minimum of 2 travellers, single supplements may apply when this tour is operated for just 1 passenger.

#### Cairo Tower inc.transfers

Min numbers: 1

Experience breathtaking panoramic views of Cairo by night with an optional evening visit to the iconic Cairo Tower. This trip includes convenient round-trip transfers from your hotel, ensuring a comfortable and hassle-free journey. Ascend to the tower's observation deck and witness the city's glittering skyline, the Nile River, and the illuminated landmarks stretching into the distance.

**Please note:** The Cairo Tower entrance fee is not included and is approximately \$7. Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers, a single supplement applies when this tour is operated for just 1 adult.

### **Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Visit**

Min numbers: 1

Elevate your Egyptian exploration with an unmissable optional guided visit to the awe-inspiring, brand new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Cairo. This monumental museum is a landmark achievement, eagerly anticipated for years, and now ready to share its treasures with the world. We will provide comfortable and convenient return transportation directly from your accommodation to the museum, allowing you to relax and anticipate the wonders ahead without the hassle of navigating Cairo's bustling streets.

Upon arrival, you will embark on an enlightening tour led by an expert guide. They will bring the wonders of the GEM to life, providing fascinating insights into Egypt's rich and captivating history and navigating you through its vast collections. Your guide will highlight the most significant artefacts, ensuring you don't miss the key exhibits, including colossal statues, intricate jewellery, and the famed treasures of Tutankhamun, all presented in a state-of-the-art setting befitting their historical importance. This guided experience will deepen your understanding and appreciation of the splendours on display.

Please be aware that the entrance fee to the Grand Egyptian Museum is not included in the cost of this optional excursion. As of the time of publication (May 2025), the standard entrance fee is approximately \$26 per person. However, it is anticipated that this fee will increase to around \$30 per person in the near future. We recommend verifying the current entrance fee closer to your travel date.

Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to be among the early visitors to what is destined to become one of the world's most important cultural institutions, all while benefiting from the knowledge and passion of a dedicated guide. Secure your place on this excursion and prepare for an unforgettable and insightful encounter with the splendours of ancient Egypt in a truly twenty-first-century museum.

### **Karnak Sound & Light Show**

Min numbers: 1

Experience the magic of Karnak Temple at night with a captivating sound and light show. This optional extra includes convenient round-trip transport from your hotel, ensuring a hassle-free evening as you witness the ancient wonders illuminated against the Egyptian sky.

Pricing is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Supplements may apply when this option is operated for just 1 passenger.

# **Siwa Oasis Extension (3 Nights)**

Min numbers: 1

Discover the wonders of Siwa Oasis on a 4-day optional tour from Cairo, featuring ancient sites, unique natural landscapes like salt lakes and desert springs, and cultural experiences before returning to Cairo.

#### 1. Transport

The vast majority of the travel on this tour is done on the Nile Cruise boat, and that is one of the main attractions of this trip. Sightseeing tours are done from the boat using air-conditioned minibuses or coaches.

Nile cruise boat itineraries are subject to alterations depending on local conditions at the time of travel. Some sailing may be done after dark. Between Luxor and Aswan, boats may moor up alongside each other at night, requiring you to cross through other boats to reach the shore. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve the cruise boats normally run a special Gala Dinner. The cost of this is normally compulsory, whether you attend or not, and is included in our group tour prices, and will be added to private and tailor-made tour quotes as required.

#### 2. Dates & Prices

This cruise operates on very restricted dates and runs subject to availability and operation of the cruise boat. Please contact us to confirm availability before booking any international flights.

Shorter itineraries are also available on request on other dates (12-days Cairo-Luxor, 13-days Aswan-Cairo, 10 days Luxor-Cairo).

Printed on: Tuesday 11th of November 2025

**Note:** Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.