

Full Itinerary

ENCHANTING EGYPT NILE CRUISE



TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

0844 3350 197

Monday - Thursday 9:00am -
8:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm
(London time)



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Enchanting Egypt Nile Cruise

DURATION:

12 days / 11 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights into Cairo Airport [CAI] to arrive on Day 1 and to depart from there on Day 12

PICKUP LOCATION:

Cairo Airport [CAI]

OVERVIEW

05 - 16 Nov, 2025

Pyramids, the Sphinx, Pharaohs, temples, bazaars and much more. Discover fascinating Egypt as we discover Cairo and sail the mighty River Nile on a traditional Dahabieh boat

Egypt evokes many tales of past - from the iconic pyramids, to the fishermen of the mighty River Nile, this vast and historic country is full of culture, history and treasures to discover.

Our journey through Egypt starts in Cairo, discovering the city's melting pot of histories and cultures, exploring pyramids at Giza before flying down to Luxor, from where we board our traditional Dahabieh boat to cruise to Aswan. Along the way we will discover ancient ruins and temples which tell of the country's past, as well as lands untouched by time. With a final stop to visit the famous Abu Simbel temples, we make our way back to Cairo.

Join us as we explore the unique country of Egypt.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Welcome to Egypt

DAY 2 - The Pyramids, Sphinx & Sakkara

DAY 3 - Coptic Cairo & The Egyptian National Museum

DAY 4 - From Cairo to Luxor

DAY 5 - Valley of the Kings and Queens

DAY 6 - El Hegz to Fawaza: Temples and Tranquility

DAY 7 - Exploring Bassaw, Djebel Silsila & El Beshir

DAY 8 - Exploring Kom Ombo & Herdiab

DAY 9 - Amazing Aswan

DAY 10 - Disembarkation, Abu Simel & Return to Cairo

DAY 11 - Islamic Cairo and The Grand Egyptian Museum

DAY 12 - Farewell to Egypt

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - WELCOME TO EGYPT

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, exotic, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sights in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around.

The rest of the day is at leisure to relax before we begin the tour tomorrow.

Accommodation: Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

DAY 2 - THE PYRAMIDS, SPHINX & SAKKARA

Today we head out to visit probably the most famous sights in Egypt, the famous pyramids at Sakkara and the Sphinx.

Your first stop will be Sakkara, the ancient necropolis of Memphis, where you'll discover the Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the world's oldest freestanding stone structure. This unique pyramid, built with six steps, represents the pharaoh's journey to heaven.

We'll enjoy lunch together with breathtaking views of the Giza Plateau. Afterward, visit the iconic Great Pyramids of Giza, the last surviving wonder of the ancient world. Learn about the incredible scale and construction of these monuments, built over 4,500 years ago, and visit the mysterious Sphinx, an enigmatic figure with the body of a lion and the face of a pharaoh.

After your tour, you'll return to your hotel to freshen up before enjoying a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

DAY 3 - COPTIC CAIRO & THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

A day to delve into Cairo's history, as we first enjoy a tour of Coptic Cairo. The city has been a hub for many different civilizations over the years and our guide will reveal some of the Coptic history as we go.

Visit the beautiful and newly refurbished Coptic Museum, first completed in 1908 using property belonging to the Coptic Church in Egypt. It displays a wonderful collection of sculptures dating from Pre-Christian times up until the 5thC AD, as well as bone carvings, frescoes, icons, relics, colorful textiles and more. Proceed to the Hanging Church, named so because it sits "suspended" on top of the Fortress of Babylon that the Romans built when they came to Egypt. Thought to originate in the seventh century, this church in basilica style was once the seat of the Coptic Patriarchate.

Tradition has it that the church of St. Sergius was built over a location in which Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus rested on their journey in Egypt. Located inside the Roman fortress in Old Cairo, it is believed to have been built by Roman soldiers in the third or fourth centuries and later turned into a Coptic church by the Egyptians. Dedicated to two soldier-saints, Sergius and Bacchus, the church has been rebuilt and restored since medieval times, but it is still considered to be a model of early Coptic churches

We enjoy lunch together before visiting the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

We head to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, a treasure trove of artefacts and finds from the many burial sites and historic locations around the country. Located on the archaeological site of El-Fustat in Old Cairo overlooking the Ain El-Seera Lake. The museum showcases Egyptian civilization from prehistoric times to the present day, highlighting the country's comprehensive heritage.

As the day winds down, return to the hotel to relax and enjoy dinner at leisure tonight.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

DAY 4 - FROM CAIRO TO LUXOR

After Breakfast, we check out of our hotel in Cairo and make our way to the airport for our flight to Luxor.

Once an Ancient Egyptian capital, is known today as the world's "greatest open-air museum." From the tomb of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings and the magnificent sunset views at the majestic temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor to the exciting and fun Nile cruises, Luxor is the perfect choice for culture vultures. Luxor is divided by the Nile into two areas commonly called the East Bank and West Bank which were considered in Ancient Egyptian times as symbolizing respectively Life and Death.

Upon arrival in Luxor, we will be met by our local guide. Built over a period of two millennia by generations of Pharaohs, our first visit is the 62-acre Temple of Karnak, dedicated to the God Amun. There is plenty to explore here as the numerous pylons, obelisks and smaller temples within could take days to completely explore. The great "Hypostyle Hall" alone is an imposing forest of giant pillars rising 23 meters (75 feet) toward the sky. At the height of its glory, Karnak Temple collected annual tribute from over 65 cities and towns in the region!

After visiting Karnak we will head to the hotel to check in and enjoy lunch.

After lunch, we make our way to the Temple of Luxor, once connected to Karnak via the Avenue of Human-headed Sphinxes. This temple has been the site of many celebrations, the most important being the Festival of Opet which grew over the years to last 27 days. Within the grounds of Luxor Temple is also the Mosque of Abu'l Haggag, built in memory of a 13th century local 'saint' who is still venerated by Luxorians to this day.

We check in to our hotel and enjoy dinner together.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Sonesta Luxor Hotel

DAY 5 - VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS

After breakfast, spend the morning exploring the Valley of the Kings, where ancient pharaohs were buried in secret tombs adorned with vibrant paintings. Next, visit the Valley of the Queens, the final resting place of royal wives and children, and marvel at the magnificent Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Before leaving the West Bank, make a brief stop at the iconic Colossi of Memnon.

Next, enjoy a brief stop at the famed Colossi of Memnon and behold the two immense statues of Amenhotep III which, in Pharaonic times, guarded the entrance to his once great temple. During the Roman period, the site became a resort spot where many prominent travelers left their own graffiti carved into the sandstone.

Afterwards, we transfer to the port in Luxor where we board our dahabeya, our elegant authentic boat.

We enjoy our first lunch on board, while sailing toward El-Hegz.

Relax with afternoon tea and enjoy dinner onboard.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Dahabeya

DAY 6 - EL HEGZ TO FAWAZA: TEMPLES AND TRANQUILITY

After breakfast, we will sail on to El-Kab, where we will explore the tombs of the ancient city's governors and the fascinating ruins of a temple once believed to be the meeting place of Hathor and Horus.

We will enjoy lunch on board as we sail towards Edfu, home to the magnificent Temple of Horus. This remarkably well-preserved structure is one of Egypt's last great monumental temples, showcasing the grandeur of ancient Egyptian architecture. Standing majestically on the west bank, the temple dominates the landscape, while the bustling town of Edfu, known for its sugar and pottery industries, provides a vibrant contrast to its ancient surroundings.

This evening, we will enjoy a barbecue on the beach of Fawaza Island.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Dahabeya

DAY 7 - EXPLORING BASSAW, DJEBEL SILSILA & EL BESHIR

We begin our day with breakfast while cruising to Bassaw, a charming fishing village along the Nile. Since it remains untouched by mass

tourism, we'll have a unique opportunity to connect with the locals and even try our hand at traditional Egyptian fishing techniques.

As we enjoy lunch on board, we'll sail towards Djebel Silsila, where we'll explore the Speos of Horemheb, a fascinating rock-hewn chapel dedicated to Pharaoh Horemheb (1323-1295 BC) and seven deities, including the crocodile god Sobek. We'll also visit the ancient quarry that supplied stone for Egypt's grand temples.

After our visit, we'll continue cruising to El Beshir Island, where we'll enjoy dinner and spend a peaceful night on board the Dahabeya.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Dahabeya

DAY 8 - EXPLORING KOM OMBO & HERDIAB

After a relaxed breakfast on board, we set sail towards Kom Ombo, home to the fascinating temple dedicated to both Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, the hawk god. Standing proudly on a bend in the Nile, this unique dual temple once watched over sacred crocodiles lounging along the riverbanks. Dating back to the Ptolemaic era, its intricate sandstone carvings offer a glimpse into ancient Egyptian mythology and rituals.

As we continue our journey, we enjoy lunch while cruising toward Herdiab Village, one of the oldest farming communities along the Nile. Here, we'll step ashore to experience a way of life that has remained largely unchanged for centuries, witnessing the authentic traditions of rural Egypt.

The day ends with a memorable dinner on Herdiab Island before we retire to our comfortable cabins aboard the Dahabeya for another peaceful night on the river.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Dahabeya

DAY 9 - AMAZING ASWAN

A relaxing morning awaits as we enjoy breakfast on Herdiab beach, where you can swim if you like before sailing to Aswan over lunch.

We will visit the enchanting Philae Temple, a centre for the cult of the Egyptian goddess Isis. Between 1972-1980, the temple was actually moved by UNESCO to save it from the Nile waters. The romantic and majestic aura surrounding the temple complex on the island of Philae has been luring pilgrims for thousands of years. The ruins are one of Egypt's most legendary tourist attractions.

Afterward, visit the Unfinished Obelisk, an enormous granite monolith in Aswan's quarry. Intended to be the largest ever built, it was abandoned due to cracks, offering a unique glimpse into ancient Egyptian quarrying techniques. The visible chisel marks and trenches showcase the incredible skill and labor involved in crafting such monumental structures.

Spend another night aboard the Dahabeya, enjoying the serene surroundings and onboard hospitality.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Dahabeya

DAY 10 - DISEMBARKATION, ABU SIMEL & RETURN TO CAIRO

This morning, it is sadly time to disembark our Dahabeya after breakfast as we make our way to the amazing temples at Abu Simel.

We transfer to Aswan Airport for a short flight to Abu Simbel to visit the huge 13th-century BC monument to Ramses II.

The two temples of Ramses II are each fronted by colossal statues up to 20 meters (66 feet) high, and are famed as the most impressive monuments remaining of Ancient Egypt. Recently, the temples were threatened by the waters of Lake Nasser, and with the help of a UNESCO campaign they were cut into blocks, raised piece by piece and reassembled in a new position higher up the hillside.

After the visit, we will fly back to Cairo and enjoy dinner.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch Box & Dinner

Accommodation: Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

DAY 11 - ISLAMIC CAIRO AND THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Your day begins with a guided tour of Islamic Cairo, where you'll visit the impressive Sultan Hassan Mosque, an outstanding example of Mamluk architecture with its towering walls and elegant design. Nearby, explore the Refaie Mosque, home to Egypt's royal crypts and rich in history.

Continue to the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), a modern facility showcasing one of the world's most comprehensive collections of Egyptian artifacts. Highlights include the iconic statue of King Ramses II and exhibits spanning Egypt's history, from prehistoric times to the Graeco-Roman period. You'll also have the opportunity to visit the museum's commercial area.

After lunch, we return to the hotel, where the day concludes with a farewell dinner, marking the end of a memorable experience in Egypt.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

DAY 12 - FAREWELL TO EGYPT

It is time to bid a fond farewell to Egypt. This morning, check out of your hotel and you will be transferred to Cairo Airport for your onward flight home.

Included meals: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at Cairo Airport [CAI] on arrival
- Return domestic economy flights: Cairo [CAI] - Luxor [LXR]; Luxor [LXR] - Aswan [ASW]
- Transport as detailed in the itinerary
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary (or similar standard)
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- English speaking tour guide throughout
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- ATOL Protection
- Flights to/from Cairo Airport [CAI] - please ask us for a flight quotation
Departures from regional airports available on request at a supplement
- Drinks
- All entrance fees to non-stipulated attractions.
- Visas, travel insurance.
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above.
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary.
- Any optional activities offered.
- Gratuities
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Please note, flights to/from Egypt are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company would be happy to provide a quotation for your flights - please contact us for further details
- Please let The Big Journey Company know prior to travelling if you have any medical needs or take any medication that we need to be made aware of to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant journey.
- Check in is after 2-3pm and check out is before 10am unless otherwise specified in the itinerary.
- Cancellation 90 - 0 days prior to departure cancellation fee is 100%. It is your responsibility to ensure the correct travel insurance in place to protect you against the need to cancel your holiday. Deposits are non-refundable.
- A non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. Full balance will be due 14 weeks prior to departure.
- Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation request. This does not affect your statutory rights. This offer is subject to availability and space is limited.
- Please consult your doctor letting them know your travel plans so that they can advise you about any vaccinations/medications you may need to take.
- Please let The Big Journey Company know prior to travelling if you have any medical needs or take any medication that we need to be made aware of to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant tour
- Prices are based on two people sharing and do not include increases in government taxes, fuel surcharges.
- The boat may moor side-to-side with others in port and it may be necessary to cross other boats to get to the shore. Some daily excursions land directly on the beach or on small jetties. Walking on some of the daily excursions will include moderate activity and on uneven terrain. Therefore, this cruise is not recommended for passengers in wheelchairs or with limited mobility.
- In some events, for example due to adverse weather conditions, the captain can choose to alter the itinerary for the comfort and safety of the passengers.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

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