

EGYPT: TREASURES OF CAIRO AND THE NILE

13 – 26 NOVEMBER 2024



FROM
£8,380
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Bridget Wheeler


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



This captivating tour is a comprehensive introduction to Egypt, one of the most intriguing countries in the world, where the legacy of its ancient civilisation is preserved in its magnificent architectural and artistic treasures, and celebrated sights.

We begin our journey in Cairo, Egypt's capital and best known for preserving one of the last Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid of Giza, and where we explore the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, the Citadel and mosque as well as the bustling Khan El Khalili Bazaar filled with small shops and factories.

We then explore Luxor, often characterised as the 'world's greatest open-air museum' and the site of the ancient city of Thebes with its temples and tombs of the west bank Necropolis including the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens.

We embark on a five-night cruise onboard the Hadeel Dahabyia on the Nile, a river steeped in mystery and romance and rich in the history of ancient Egypt. We then fly to Aswan and continue to the fabled Abu Simbel to see the world-renowned temple of Ramses II and his Queen Nefertari.

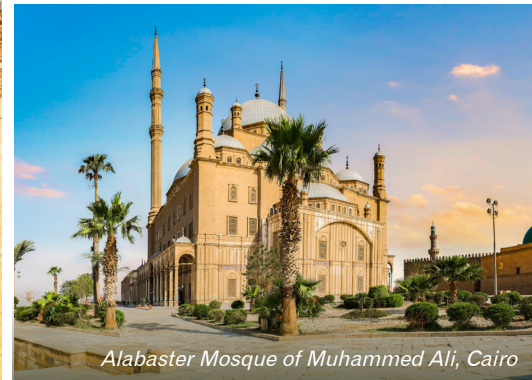
The tour ends in Alexandria where we explore the ancient port city. We visit the Al Alamein War Museum and WWII Commonwealth Cemeteries and explore the fine Greco-Roman remains at Cyrene and Appollonia. We also visit the Graeco Roman Museum, Catacombs and also the Pompey Pillar and Qayet Bey Fort.



Great Pyramid of Giza, Cairo



Khan El Khalili bazaar



Alabaster Mosque of Muhammed Ali, Cairo

14-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 13 NOVEMBER 2024

13 November London / Cairo

Depart London Heathrow on Egypt Air MS 778 at 14.00 hrs arriving Cairo at 20.45 hrs. Transfer to the Kempinski Nile Hotel where three nights are spent. Located directly on the banks of the Nile, just a kilometre from the main downtown area, this hotel offers a fusion of contemporary European flair with Egyptian charm. Dinner under own arrangements.

14 November Cairo

Morning visit to the Pyramids, which are the only survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Nearby lies the mysterious Sphinx, an ancient figure shrouded in mystery and legend.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit Sakkara to see the Step Pyramid – the first proper pyramid, which dates from the 27th century BC. Visit three tombs of ancient Egyptian nobles and enjoy the beauty of ancient Egyptian art which gives us an insight into daily life. Continue to the royal necropolis of Dahshur, to see its pyramids including the Bent Pyramid which is one of the oldest largest and best preserved in Egypt. Dinner at the hotel.

15 November Cairo

Explore Cairo beginning with the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, which houses the world's greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities, including thousands of statues,

jewels and artefacts from nearly every period of ancient Egypt. Continue exploring Islamic Cairo, including the ancient Citadel with its four museums and three mosques, including the exquisite Alabaster Mosque of Muhammed Ali.

Lunch at a local restaurant in the Khan El Khalili Bazaar. After lunch roam through the bustling maze of the Khan El Khalili Bazaar known for its jewellery, lanterns and other trinkets. Dinner at El Kababgy at the Sofitel El Gezira Hotel.

16 November Cairo / Luxor

This morning depart (with luggage) and visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. This is the first museum focusing on the earliest civilization in history across various key historical phases, starting with the pre-dynastic and ancient Egyptian periods and continuing across the Greco-Roman, Coptic, Islamic and contemporary modern times.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Transfer to Cairo Airport for a domestic Egypt Air flight to Luxor. Transfer to the Al Moudira Hotel for one night. The hotel has the feel of a grand country house, embellished historic details, with courtyards and surrounded by palm groves and exotic gardens. Dinner at the hotel.

17 November Luxor

Depart (with luggage) to explore the Valley of the Kings, a vast City of

the Dead where the pharaohs-built tombs, many of which still retain their exquisite painted or carved relief decoration. Visit some of the most important of these before continuing to the superbly restored Queen Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple, which rises out of the desert plain in a series of terraces. Also see the Colossi of Memnon, two gigantic and much damaged statues, which have stared out across the desert for thousands of years. Transfer to board your Nile cruise vessel, the Hadeel Dahabyia, home for the next five nights. This vintage Nile Dahabyia boat, offers a combination of traditional style and modern luxury. There are eight comfortable en-suite cabins as well as a restaurant, a lounge bar, spacious sun deck and jacuzzi.



Entrance of Luxor Temple

Lunch on board. Visit two of Egypt's greatest temples, beginning with Karnak, the most overwhelming of Egypt's temple sites, with its huge Hypostyle Hall and 134 richly carved columns, numerous temples, shrines, pylons, courts, gigantic statues of the pharaohs and avenues



Hadeel Dahabyia



Temple of Philae



Hadeel Dahabyia Lounge

of sphinxes, which cover a vast area – the result of continuous building for over a thousand years. Then continue to the Temple of Luxor, which developed over many centuries, built overlooking the Nile and is dedicated to the god Amun. Dinner on board.

18 November Esna / El Kab

All day sailing, relaxing on deck and watching the unchanging life along the banks of the river unfold before us. Some scenes appear almost biblical - the banks lined with palm trees, boys riding donkeys, fields of crops and mud brick villages with roofs made of palm leaves.

Lunch and dinner on board.

19 November El Kab / Edfu

This morning sail on to El Kab which consists of prehistoric and ancient Egyptian settlements, rock-cut tombs of the early Eighteenth Dynasty (1550-1295 BC), remains of temples dating from the Early Dynastic period (3100-2686 BC) to the Ptolemaic Kingdom (332-30 BC), as well as part of the walls of a Coptic monastery.

Lunch on board. Continue to sail to Edfu and visit the extraordinary 2,000-year-old Temple of Horus which is the largest and most completely preserved Pharaonic temple in Egypt. Dinner on board.

20 November Edfu / Gebel El Silsila

Sail this morning to Gebel El Silsila

to visit the Granite Quarries, which supplied the stone for so many of Egypt's ancient monuments, and the gigantic Unfinished Obelisk. Continue to sail towards Kom Ombo.

Lunch on board. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner on board.

21 November Gebel El Silsila / Kom Ombo

On arrival in Kom Ombo enjoy a visit to the temple, which was discovered by accident buried under the desert sands. Standing on a promontory at a bend in the Nile, it is still impressive despite its ruined state, and is unique in being dedicated to two gods – Sobek and Haroeris.

Lunch on board. Afternoon at leisure. Remain at Kom Ombo overnight. Dinner on board.



Kom Ombo Temple

22 November Nile Cruise / Aswan

Depart to Aswan and visit the High Dam, built by President Nasser in the 1960's on the creation of Lake Nasser. Also visit the Temple of

Philae, rebuilt in a beautiful setting on the Island of Agilka. Built to honour the goddess Isis, this was the last temple built in the classical Egyptian style. Construction began around 690 BC, and it was one of the last outposts where the goddess was worshipped. Transfer to the hotel and check into the Sonesta Nouba Hotel for two nights, a Nubian Style hotel located along the banks of the river Nile.

Lunch under own arrangements. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner under own arrangements.

23 November Aswan / Abu Simbel / Aswan

Depart to Aswan Airport for a short Egypt Air flight to Abu Simbel and visit the relocated temples built by Pharaoh Ramses II in 1200 BC.

Lunch under own arrangements. Return to Abu Simbel airport for an Egypt Air flight to Aswan and transfer to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.



Sonesta Nouba Hotel



24 November Aswan / Cairo / Alexandria

This morning transfer to Aswan Airport for a short Egypt Air flight to Cairo and continue by the desert road to El Alamein, site of the critical and decisive British victory in the North Africa campaign of 1940/43, when the British Eighth Army under Montgomery halted the advance of the German Afrika Corps under Rommel towards the Nile. Visit the Alamein Museum, which houses war-time memorabilia and artefacts, and the British and Commonwealth, German and Italian Cemeteries.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Drive to Alexandria and check into the Steigenberger Cecil Hotel, overlooking the bay and yacht club, where two nights are spent. Dinner at the hotel.

25 November Alexandria

Visit Alexandria's Graeco-Roman Museum which was first opened in 1892, before moving to a larger space in 1895. The extraordinary quality of the collection reflects the luxurious nature of ancient Alexandria and the surrounding area. Continue to The Roman Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa also known as the hill of treasure, regarded as a huge necropolis and royal cemetery. The necropolis consists of a series of Alexandrian tombs, statues and archaeological objects of the Pharaonic funerary cult with Hellenistic and early Imperial Roman influences.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit Pompey's Pillar, a name given to a Roman triumphal column in Alexandria, Egypt. Set up in honour of the Roman emperor Diocletian between 298–302 AD, the giant Corinthian column originally supported a colossal of the emperor in arr the Qait Bay Fort, which houses the naval museum. Dinner at a local sea food restaurant.

26 November Alexandria / Cairo / London

After breakfast transfer from the hotel in Alexandria to Cairo.

Lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to Cairo airport for Egypt Air flight MS 779 departing at 17.45 hrs and arriving London Heathrow at 21.00 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£8,380
Single Supplement	£2,375

PRICE INCLUDES

- International flights
- Air passenger duty, passenger service charge, airline security charges, airport taxes and fuel surcharges where applicable – currently £367 (liable to change without notice)
- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 10 lunches; 10 dinners
- Entry visa upon arrival
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to driver/s; portorage
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 24/01/24



Valley of the Kings- Luxor'



YOUR TOUR LEADER



BRIDGET WHEELER

Bridget has worked in the travel industry for 35 years. After obtaining a degree from London University she started her career at Montpelier Travel before setting up Riverside Travel in the late 1990s, which then amalgamated with The Ultimate Travel Company in the early 2000s. She now divides her time between her office in Hampshire and The Ultimate Travel Company in Fulham. She has travelled extensively and has led numerous groups to various diverse destinations including Ethiopia, Cuba, Jordan, the Baltic States and Georgia. She has a wide knowledge and love of Egypt.



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