

Egypt and Nile Cruise

Day 1

(Meals in flight)

Depart USA on an overnight flight

Day 2 – Cairo

(No meals)

2 nights

You will be met by our local English speaking representative and transferred to your hotel

Day 3 - Cairo

(Breakfast)

Visible from parts of the city, the Giza Pyramids are deservedly one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Still in tact after centuries, the 3 main pyramids: Cheops, Chephren, Mykerinus, stand majestically in the desert. You might want to take the chance to ride a camel the short distance to the mighty Sphinx, standing guard over the area.

Our next stop is the Egyptian Museum in Cairo for a view of ancient history up close. Since most of the tombs have been raided over the centuries, the government has gone to great lengths to preserve the priceless artifacts. The crown jewel of the museum is the King Tut display of treasures. Here you'll learn about the ancient Egyptians' belief in the afterlife.

This evening, the amazing pyramids will come to life at the Giza Sound and Light Show set against the evening sky. This interactive spectacle is both entertaining and educational.

Day 4 – Sharm El-Sheikh

(Breakfast)

2 nights

Transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to the Sinai Peninsula. The resort area along the Red Sea is a delightful respite from the desert. Enjoy the swimming pool and spa facilities or check with the dive master for snorkeling opportunities (at own expense). Explore the amazing coral reefs and shipwrecks in the clear, calm waters.

Day 5– Sharm El-Sheikh

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Scuba Divers consider this a world-class dive location, especially at the Ras Mohammed National Park May through August. Religious pilgrims might prefer to get up at 2:00 am to make the trek up 2285 meter Mount St. Sinai. According to Jewish and Christian tradition this is the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments. According to Bedouin tradition, this is where God gave laws to the Israelites. The Monastery of St. Catherine is located nearby at an elevation of around 1550 m. This evening, take a drive out into the desert where you'll climb atop a camel, the Ships of the Desert, taking you to a Bedouin outpost for dinner. Relax under the tent as our local hosts provide their specialty tea and an authentic dinner. Climbing the nearby hill for a marvelous sunset caps off this magical evening.

Day 6 – Nile Cruise

(Breakfast, Dinner)

4 night cruise

This morning, we depart on a flight to Luxor. After landing, prepare for a full day of sightseeing, beginning with a visit to the West Bank of the Nile. There, you will see such famous landmarks as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir El-Bahari, the most powerful female pharaoh, and the Valley of Kings where we'll descend into 2 of the tombs. (Additional fees to visit inside the Tomb of Tutankamoun). We will also see the Two Colossi of Memnon, and later in the afternoon make our way to the Temple of Luxor. This evening, we board the elegant 5* cruise ship for the start of our Nile cruise.

Day 7– Nile Cruise

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

After breakfast aboard your cruise ship, we will disembark for a tour of the Nile's East Bank. You will visit sites such as the Temple of Karnak. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail toward Esna. Take this time to relax and enjoy the luxury of your five star cruise liner – take a dip in the pool, lounge on the sun deck, and take photos of locals along the shoreline. After crossing through the locks at Esna, we will make our way along the Nile to Edfu, arriving as evening falls.

Day 8 – Nile Cruise (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Today we'll go ashore for a tour of the Temple of Edfu. This historic temple is dedicated to the god Horus. After the tour, head back to the cruise ship for lunch as we sail on to Kom-Ombo where we will visit the Temple of Kom-Ombo, dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris. In the evening, we will make our way back on board the MS Jasmin for dinner and a relaxing evening. Entertainment is provided aboard.

Day 9 – Nile Cruise (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

This morning we will sail to Aswan where we'll tour the beautiful Temple of Philae. Afterward, sail on the tradition a felucca around Elephantine Island, the Botanical Garden Island, and view the Aga Khan Mausoleum. The day includes a tour of Aswan, featuring such historical sites and the High Dam – a feat of modern engineering – and the Unfinished Obelisk, a remarkable example of the architecture and technique of the ancient Egyptians. Dinner and our last evening afloat on the Nile.

Day 10 – Cairo (Breakfast) 1 night

Disembark the ship for the last time and fly to Cairo. Upon arrival, we'll go on a tour to Memphis. Founded around 3,100 BC, it is the legendary city of Menes, the King who united Upper and Lower Egypt. Early on, Memphis was more like a fortress from which Menes controlled the land and water routes between Upper Egypt and the Delta. Our next stop is Sakkara, home of Egypt's oldest pyramid. Built by Imhotep for pharaoh Zoser in 2650BC, the famous Step Pyramid is well preserved. Sakkara is one section of the great necropolis of Memphis, the Old Kingdom capital.

Day 11 – Depart

Transfer to the Cairo airport for your departure flight home