



Itinerary

13 Day Treasures of Egypt Small Group Tour With Flights

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

DAY 1: Depart Australia [Wednesday]

Today you will depart for your flight to Cairo, Egypt from either Sydney, Melbourne or *Brisbane. *Note: Some flights may depart on Day 0*

MEALS: In-flight

OVERNIGHT: In-flight

DAY 2: Arrive Cairo, Egypt

Upon arrival to Cairo, you will be met by a representative at the airport and transferred to the hotel.

MEALS: In-Flight

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

DAY 3: Sphinx & Pyramids

After breakfast, join your private Egyptologist guide for a visit to the enigmatic Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza. At 500 feet high and 750 feet wide at its base, the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) is a breathtaking man-made structure, built from enormous stone blocks with a white limestone covering. Along with the smaller pyramids, the sight of these huge structures is unforgettable. Afterwards, head into downtown Cairo and join a guided tour of the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, home to the famous Tutankhamun exhibit and a huge number of other ancient Egyptian artefacts. Then, visit a Papyrus Institute on your way to explore the streets of Khan el Khalili Bazaar, the major souk in the historic centre of Cairo.

In the late afternoon, be transferred to the train station to board the overnight train to Luxor.

Accommodation aboard the overnight train comprises a two-berth cabin that is converted to bunk beds. All bedding is provided, and Western-style toilets are in each carriage. Bags are stored in the cabin, and airline-style dinner and breakfasts will be served in-cabin.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Sleeper train, private twin cabin with shared facilities

OPTIONAL: Flight and extra night instead of Night Train \$400

DAY 4: Begin Nile Cruise: Temple of Luxor & Karnak Temple [Saturday]

This morning the train will arrive at Luxor. After breakfast on board, you will be transferred to the ship to begin your 4 Night 5-Star Nile Cruise. Lunch will be enjoyed on board. The cruise begins as you visit the East Bank of the Nile starting with the especially graceful Temple of Luxor, a large Ancient Egyptian temple, before proceeding onwards to the North of Luxor to the Karnak Temple.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Solaris I or II Nile Cruise or similar

DAY 5: Nile Cruise ~ Valley of The Kings ~ Edfu

This morning, the ship will cross to the West Bank of the Nile for the tour to begin with your guide exploring the Valley of the Kings, known as the "Gateway to the Afterlife"; which provides a window to the past. The ancient Egyptians built massive public monuments to their pharaohs of which the most famed collection of these tombs is the Valley of the Kings. Rising out of the desert plain in a series of terraces you will also see the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. On the way back to the river Nile, the road passes by the famed Colossi of Memnon, two massive stone statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III.

This afternoon, sail to Esna where you will cross the Esna Lock as the boat continues onto to Edfu where it will remain docked overnight.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Solaris I or II Nile Cruise or similar

DAY 6: Nile Cruise ~ Kom Ombo

After breakfast, join the tour guide for a visit to the extraordinary Temple of Horus at Edfu; travelling there and back by horse and carriage. The Temple of Horus was the 'home' and cultural centre of the falcon god Horus of Behdet (the ancient name for Edfu). Once back onboard, continue sailing to Kom Ombo where you will visit the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god, while overlooking the Nile.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Solaris I or II Nile Cruise or similar

DAY 7: Nile Cruise ~ Aswan

Today the guide will take you on a tour to the Aswan High Dam before proceeding to the Granite Quarries, which reveals the techniques used by the ancient Egyptians to quarry and cut the stone that forms the Great Pyramid of Giza and the huge Unfinished Obelisk. Afterwards, take a short motorboat ride to visit the romantic and majestic Philae Temple on Philae Island. Philae Island was a rocky island in the middle of the River Nile and the Temple was an ancient pilgrimage centre for the cult of Isis and has dazzled travellers with its power for centuries. This sacred site was venerated from the Pharaonic era up to the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine periods. In the afternoon (if weather permitting) take a ride on a Felucca, a traditional wooden sailing boat, around Elephantine Island.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Solaris I or II Nile Cruise or similar

DAY 8: Aswan ~ Abu Simbel ~ Cairo

After the final breakfast on board join a tour to Abu Simbel Temples, the two famous massive rock temples situated on the western bank of Lake Nasser. Here, travelers may recognize the four colossus statues of Ramses guarding the Great Temple. This outstanding archaeological area contains magnificent monuments such as the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and the Sanctuary of Isis at Philae, which were saved from the rising waters of the Nile thanks to the International Campaign launched by UNESCO, in 1960 to 1980. Transfer on to Aswan Airport for the flight back to Cairo. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

DAY 9: Cairo ~ Alexandria

After breakfast, drive to Alexandria (220km) and enjoy the remainder of the day free at leisure to explore this Mediterranean port city.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Grand Plaza Alexandria, Alexandria

DAY 10: Alexandria ~ Cairo

After breakfast, visit the Catacomb and Pompey's Pillar, a Roman triumphal column in Alexandria, the largest of its type constructed outside the imperial capitals of Rome and Constantinople. Then, continue on to see the Citadel of Qaitbay, a 15th-century defensive fortress located on the Mediterranean sea coast established in 1477 AD by Sultan Al-Ashraf Sayfand. Afterwards enjoy a visit to El Montazah Royal gardens before driving back to Cairo.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

DAY 11: Cairo

This morning enjoy a visit to Cairo's oldest souk, Khan al-Khalili Bazaar. Located in the heart of Cairo, the souk is a popular destination and a must for everyone visiting the area. Afterwards, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

DAY 12: End of Tour ~ Departure

After breakfast and check out you will be transferred to the airport for the return flight back to Australia. *Please note: if your flight departs early, breakfast will be arranged for pick up from the hotel reception the night before.*

MEALS: Breakfast, In-Flight

OVERNIGHT: In-Flight

DAY 13: Arrive Australia

Arrive back home in Australia today. *Please note that due to flight scheduling some flights may arrive on Day 14.*

MEALS: In-Flight