Beyond the Pyramids 12 days

Explore Egypt's best loved sights, from the pyramids to the Valley of Kings, then get off the beaten track & discover coastal Alexandria & Siwa - a verdent date palm oasis & reclusive community isolated by the Great Sand Sea.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: Tuesdays - fortnightly year round
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:11, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 5 star (+ Siwan style hotel)
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

Egypt Prices ::: Why Us for Egypt? ::: Egypt Reviews ::: Our Egypt Blog ::: Top Spots in Egypt ::: Best time to Travel ::: Hotels in Egypt ::: Festivals & Events ::: Egypt - Useful Info ::: Felucca Sailing ::: FAQs on Egypt ::: Egypt Visas ::: Egypt Gallery

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Day 1: Cairo

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrive Cairo, included airport arrival transfer to hotel and overnight. Overnight - Cairo

Day 2: Pyramids of Giza & Saqqara

Cairo - Luxor. Today, a visit to the incredible pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau. It's estimated the largest - Khufu (Cheops) was constructed from no less than 2.5 million quarried limestone blocks, weighing around 6 million tonnes. No mean feat, when you consider the pyramids were built without the use of modern equipment! Maybe opt for a camel ride. Travelling on to the necropolis of Saqqara, innumerable sand strewn temples and tombs await discovery. It's at Saqqara where you'll see Zhoser's step pyramid. Rising 6 steps, it served as the prototype for ancient Egypt's most enduring architectural legacy. Overnight train to Luxor - considering upgrading to a sleeper cabin. Overnight - Train

Day 3: Luxor

Arrive and check into hotel. One of the world's greatest open-air museums, the 4000 year old site of ancient Thebes - known today as Luxor is our base for two exciting days of exploration. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. Tonight, these is an optional visit to Temple of Luxor, which is magically illuminated by a thousand coloured lights at night fall. Remainder of the evening at leisure with a chance to enjoy the facilities of our hotel. Overnight - Luxor

Day 4: Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. There is the option to float over Luxor in a hot air balloon at sunrise. From high above we look down upon ancient Thebes, remarkable landscape and local villages waking up to start their day. Afterward we cross to the West Bank of the Nile. The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are the first monuments we'll see as we start our day's sightseeing. They are all that remains of the temple of Amenophis III. Today, we visit the Valleys of the Kings and the imposing colonnaded temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Returning to our hotel, we enjoy free time. Later in the afternoon, we visit Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons and obelisks, built on a grand scale. During the height of Theban power, Karnak was the most important place of worship. Lose yourself here in the stone papyrus forest of the Hypostle Hall and go crazy with your camera. It's ancient Egypt at it's zenith. Tonight, we return to Cairo by overnight train. Overnight - Train

Day 5: The Egyptian Museum

Arrive to Cairo and hotel check-in. Later, a guided visit to the Egyptian Museum. See the famous King Tutankhamen solid gold death mask or opt to see the Royal Mummy room. Remains of the afternoon and evening free to do your own thing. Overnight - Cairo

Day 6: El Alamein to Siwa

Sunday. Cairo – El Alamein – Siwa. Starting early (7am) we drive North-west toward the Mediterranean coastline, to the World War II cemeteries of El Alamein. In 1942 the Allies under Britain's field Marshal Montgomery halted the German- Italian advance towards the River Nile. Marked as a major victory for the Allies, though not without loss of life, with some 11,000 killed and 60,000 wounded. We visit the Commonwealth cemetery and recently erected memorials funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments. Through the arches and beyond the gardens, 7,000 white headstones commemorate the Australian, New Zealand and British soldiers who fought and died. Stopping for a light lunch in Marsa Matrouh we continue onward to Siwa. Evening walk and opportunity for optional dinner in a typical Siwan style restaurant. Overnight - Siwa Oasis

Day 7: Siwa Oasis

This morning we take a leisurely bicycle ride through the verdant date palm groves, visiting the local sights en-route. Our first stop is the Temple of the Oracle, dating back to near 570BC, whose most famous petitioner was Alexander the Great. Alexander visited the Siwa in the spring of 331BC, seeking confirmation from the Oracle that he was the son of Zeus (whom the Greek's identified with

Amun – the sun god and creator of all life in Pharaonic history). We cycle to Cleopatra Spring for a dip in the pool as the spring fed warm water bubbles to the surface. Afternoon at leisure or optional (book/pay locally) sunset dinner, swim and campfire at the 'Great Saltwater Lake'. Overnight - Siwa Oasis

Day 8: Mountain of the Dead & 4x4 Safari

Today we visit Mountain of the Dead and explore Old Shali. Old Shali is the old city abandoned in 1926 after 3 days of rain that literally melted the mud brick city. A hermetic labyrinth of secret corridors, homes, shops, granaries and mosques are all waiting to be explored. Afternoon - Desert Safari. 4x4 through the massive sand dunes of the Great Sand Sea, stopping off at an amazing natural spring fed lake surrounded by miles of sandy desert. We also visit the site of an ancient ocean abundant with marine fossils and finish the day at the hot spring of Bir Wahed for swimming and sunset dinner. Overnight - Siwa Oasis

Day 9: Marsa Matrouh

Siwa – Marsa Matrouh – Alexandria. An early start, we drive along the north coast to Marsa Matrouh. The city has a large Libyan/Berber population, distinctive in custom and dress. We stop for lunch, swim in the Med and have time to explore the Libyan souq (if open) before driving onward to Alexandria. Total - 9hrs drive. Overnight - Alexandria

Day 10: Alexandria

A free morning to relax, afternoon sightseeing of Montazzah Palace, home to King Farouk – the last monarch of the Mohamed Ali dynasty who abdicated and fled to Italy and Quat Bay Fort, the site of the Pharos – Alexandria's great lighthouse. Evening tram ride into the downtown to shop followed by famous Alexandrian Fateer for dinner. Overnight - Alexandria

Day 11: Roman Catacombs & sites of Antiquity

Alexandria - Cairo. Today, sightseeing is undertaken with a qualified Egyptologist, visiting the Alexandria's best loved sights - the Catacombs, Pompeii's Pillar, National Museum and later a stop at the Library of Alexandria. After lunch, we return to Cairo. Overnight - Cairo

Day 12: Cairo

Saturday. Our tour concludes after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza Plateau
- Necropolis of Saqqara & Egyptian Museum
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings
- Colossi of Memnon & Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- El Alamein – World War II, Commonwealth War Cemetery
- Siwa oasis and village walking tour
- Siwa sights - Temple of the Oracle, Amun Temple and Cleopatra Spring
- Jeep safari – Great Sand Sea, golden sand dunes, cold lake, hot springs, fossil ocean and Bir Wahed
- Marsa Matrouh – Mediterranean seaside - beach & swim
- Libyan market – Marsa Matrouh
- Alexandria – sightseeing, Quat Bay Fort, Montazzah Palace, Library of Alexandria - forecourt, Catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, National Museum

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- 3 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 3 nights 4 star Siwan style hotel, 3 nights 3 star hotels
- 2 nights train: Cairo - Luxor & Luxor - Cairo. (seater class)

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- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor, Siwa, Marsa Matrouh & Alexandria
- 4x4 jeep safari into the Great Sand Sea
- Bike ride tour of Siwa & swimming in natural springs
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 12
- Escorted by English speaking tour leader days 6 - 12
- Qualified Egyptologist guide day 1 - 5 and at Alexandrian sights of antiquity
- Siwa - specialist local jeep drivers and local commentary
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow $3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tip for your Felucca Crew/ Nile Cruise staff, we recommend you allow $10 USD. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa
- Entrance Fees: $85-95 USD
- Tipping Kitty: $45-55 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Sleeper Train Upgrade - one way - USD $89

On our Jewel of the Nile, Family tours and many tailor-made itineraries we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. On all other tours (taking the Nefertiti Seater Train) we offer the option to upgrade to a sleeper cabin on the Sleeper train. Cabins are lockable, equipped with 2 bunk beds, linen, washbasin and towel, allowing passengers to relax and stretch out.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,869

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 2 travellers.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
18 JUN - 29 JUN	USD $1,869	USD $499
16 JUL - 27 JUL	USD $1,869	USD $499
13 AUG - 24 AUG	USD $1,869	USD $499
03 SEP - 14 SEP	USD $1,999	USD $499
17 SEP - 28 SEP	USD $1,999	USD $499
01 OCT - 12 OCT	USD $1,999	USD $499
15 OCT - 26 OCT	USD $1,999	USD $499
29 OCT - 09 NOV	USD $1,999	USD $499

2014

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
21 JAN - 01 FEB	USD $1,999	USD $499
11 FEB - 22 FEB	USD $1,999	USD $499
04 MAR - 15 MAR	USD $1,999	USD $499
25 MAR - 05 APR	USD $1,999	USD $499
15 APR - 26 APR	USD $1,999	USD $499
06 MAY - 17 MAY	USD $1,999	USD $499
03 JUN - 14 JUN	USD $1,869	USD $499
01 JUL - 12 JUL	USD $1,869	USD $499
05 AUG - 16 AUG	USD $1,869	USD $499
26 AUG - 06 SEP	USD $1,869	USD $499
09 SEP - 20 SEP	USD $1,999	USD $499
23 SEP - 04 OCT	USD $1,999	USD $499
07 OCT - 18 OCT	USD $1,999	USD $499
21 OCT - 01 NOV	USD $1,999	USD $499
04 NOV - 15 NOV	USD $1,999	USD $499
18 NOV - 29 NOV	USD $1,999	USD $499
02 DEC - 13 DEC	USD $1,999	USD $499

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Pre Accom - Cairo	USD $79	USD $20
Post Accom Cairo	USD $79	USD $20