Alexandria & Ancient Egypt 2020
13 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo

Take in the best of Egypt on this 13 day tour which combines Mediterranean Alexandria and the Commonwealth War Graves of El Alamein, with Cairo and the legendary Pyramids of Giza, Aswan, Luxor and felucca sailing on the River Nile.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**
- Alexandria - take in the highlights of this beautiful Mediterranean port city, including the Roman Catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, the Library of Alexandria and Qaitbay Fort, site of the great Lighthouse of Alexandria
- El Alamein - tour the WWII battlefields, pay your respects at the Commonwealth War Graves and visit the El Alamein military museum
- Cairo - marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Grand Egyptian Museum
- Luxor West Bank - discover exquisite tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Luxor - roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Aswan - take leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Nile felucca sailing - sail the River Nile on board a traditional felucca and spend two nights sleeping under a blanket of stars (or upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruise)
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

**What's Included**
- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- 8 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck). If booking our Nile Cruise Upgrade, 7 nights 4 - 5 star hotels and 3 nights Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 13
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan & Luxor
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Touring of Alexandria and the El Alamein Battlefields and museum

**What's Not Included**
- Tipping Kitty: USD$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD$90-110pp, paid in local currency
- International visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- International Flights

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1 : Cairo**
Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt! On arrival at the airport you’ll be transferred to our hotel to spend the rest of today exploring Cairo at leisure. **Overnight - Cairo**

**Day 2 : Alexandria sightseeing**
Cairo - Alexandria. Discover the port city of Alexandria today as we drive to the Mediterranean coast. We’ll explore the ancient Roman catacombs, the largest of its kind in Egypt. The catacombs were only rediscovered in 1900, when a donkey accidentally fell into the access shaft. Our tour will also visit Pompey’s Pillar and the impressive Library of Alexandria (exterior) before we arrive at the Citadel of Qaitbay. This fortress was built on the site of the
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legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The lighthouse was destroyed by a powerful earthquake in 1323AD and some of the same stones recovered from the ruins were used in the construction of this famous citadel. Overnight - Alexandria (B, D)

Day 3 : El Alamein

Alexandria - Cairo. Today we visit the sobering Commonwealth War Graves of El Alamein. Two bloody battles were fought here during the Second World War, which eventually saw the Allied forces defeat the Axis powers. This victory eliminated the threat to Egypt and the strategically important Suez Canal. Around 13,000 Allied soldiers were killed in battle. We'll pay our respects to the fallen soldiers and explore the El Alamein Military Museum to learn more about the battles fought here. The museum also houses original war vehicles, weapons and uniforms. After the visit, we return to Cairo. Overnight - Cairo (B, L)

Day 4 : Free Time in Cairo

Today is free to explore Egypt’s capital as you please. You may wish to join our morning Backstreets of Cairo tour, which will take you to some of the lesser known sights in the city. Visit the hub of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution in Tahrir Square, wander down El Moez Street and explore the famous cave church of St Simon. Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 5 : Pyramids & Saqqara

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Day 6 : The Grand Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Aswan. On today’s excursion we visit the Grand Egyptian Museum. This newly opened site is just 2km from the pyramids and is home to a vast collection of artefacts from across ancient Egypt’s diverse history. Many of the exhibits have never been on public display before and many more have been recalled to the museum from across Egypt and the rest of the world. There is a full exhibition dedicated to the treasures of Tutankhamun and the museum makes use of modern technology including virtual reality. After our visit, we return to the hotel to relax, then board the night train to Aswan this evening. Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)

Day 7 : Aswan & Philae Temple

Aswan - Nile felucca cruise. This morning there’s an optional trip to Abu Simbel, the famous temple built by Ramses II and guarded by 4 colossal statues of the pharaoh himself. Later, we board our traditional felucca for a 2 night cruise down the mighty Nile. If sailing by felucca is not your style, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise, please see the tab above for prices. For more information about Nile Cruising please click here. Overnight - Felucca Cruising (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Abu Simbel & Felucca Sailing

Aswan - Nile felucca cruise. This morning we arrive in Aswan this morning and visit the beautiful Philae Temple. We’ll take a boat out into the Nile and sail to Agilkia Island to explore the site. The temple was carefully relocated from its original location to Agilkia in the 1960s, as part of a UNESCO project to save it from rising water levels after the flooding of Lake Nasser. Our final stop today is a perfume oil emporium and this evening is free to explore Aswan at leisure - perhaps check out the vibrant market. Overnight - Aswan (B)

Day 9 : Felucca Sailing & Kom Ombo

Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo. Relax onboard the felucca as it makes its way downstream. This afternoon we’ll dock near Kom Ombo and visit the famous symmetrical temple, dedicated to the falcon god Horus and the crocodile god Sobek. We then return to the felucca for our final night onboard. Overnight - Felucca Cruising (B, L, D)

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of setting. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Day 10 : Luxor

Kom Ombo - Luxor. Disembark the felucca today as we drive to Luxor, where the rest of the day can be spent at leisure. This evening, there’s an optional excursion to Luxor Temple, which is beautifully illuminated by hundreds of lights at night. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

Day 11 : Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. Enter the lavishly decorated tombs of famous pharaohs today as we visit the Valley of the Kings. Gaze at the towering Colossi of Memnon and explore the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut - Egypt’s second female pharaoh.

Later, walk down the Avenue of Sphinxes and discover the majestic Karnak Temple, one of the largest religious buildings in the world. The temple took 1,500 years to complete and features contributions from around 30 different pharaohs. Marvel at the giant columns of Hypostyle Hall before we return to Cairo on the night train this evening. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 12 : Free Time in Cairo

We arrive back in Cairo where today is free for you to relax or explore Egypt’s capital at leisure. Why not visit the Khan el Khalili bazaar and barter for souvenirs? **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 13 : Cairo

Sunday. Our tour ends today with an included departure transfer to the airport.(B)

**HOTELS**

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

**Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi**

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel’s bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you’ll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there’s no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt’s ancient wonders.

**Sleeper Train**

When taking the train in Egypt, the most comfortable way to go is in a sleeper carriage. Cabins are equipped with 2 beds (one above the other), a sink, electric points and air conditioning. Each carriage has toilets at each end and there is a club car as well. In the early evening an attendant will make up your beds for you.

**Steigenberger Hotel el Tahrir**

Ideally located in the heart of downtown Cairo, the Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir is right by the lively Tahrir Square. Guestrooms offer peace and quiet away from the high-energy of the city, with contemporary decor and sound-proofed windows overlooking views of Cairo. The wellness facilities are state-of-the-art, including a fitness centre, outdoor pool and sauna and massage rooms. Be sure to take advantage of the poolside bar and delicious hotel restaurant, or enjoy the option of 24-hour in-room dining.

**Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx**

In a great location for the Pyramids, the Mercure Cairo Le Sphinx is a contemporary hotel with excellent amenities. Guest rooms are well furnished with modern interiors and en suite facilities. Wi-fi is available in the lobby and there is a beautiful outdoor pool, which is perfect for relaxing by. Why not head to the restaurant on the roof for a delicious meal and impressive views of the Pyramids.

**Paradise Inn Le Metropole**

Le Metropole is one of the oldest in Alexandria and is a superb example of 18th century architecture. The rooms are are cozy and well appointed.
**Tolip Hotel, formerly Helnan Aswan**

Set in manicured gardens, the Helnan Aswan is an elegant hotel with impressive views of the Nile. Guest rooms are spacious with modern interiors and located next to the beautiful pool. Wi-fi is available in the lobby and by the pool. There are also two restaurants and bars, a bowling alley, a swimming pool and a cinema. Why not relax by the pool before exploring the rest of Aswan.

**Sonesta St. George Hotel**

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.

**Steigenberger Nile Palace**

The Steigenburger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.

**PRICES / DATES 2020**

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