

# Classical Egypt & Nile Cruise

11 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Discover the ancient wonders of Egypt and cruise the River Nile in style on this 11 day tour which takes in the highlights of Cairo, Luxor and Aswan. Marvel at the Pyramids of Giza, visit King Tut's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, explore the mighty temple of Karnak and more.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - gaze in awe at the ancient Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the new 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
- Dendera - explore the beautifully preserved Temple of Hathor, with its exquisitely decorated ceiling
- Nile cruising - cruise the River Nile from Luxor to Aswan on board a 5 star river cruiser
- Aswan - take leisurely boat trip to Agilkia Island to explore the romantic Philae

Temple and wander around the colourful souqs

- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- 4 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 4 nights aboard a 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Luxor and Aswan - Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 11
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor, Dendera and Aswan
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$90-100pp, paid in local currency
- Tip for your tour guide, we recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tip for your Nile Cruise staff, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guide and the cruise staff is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Sunday. Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or those arriving early can opt to join a Backstreets Tour of Cairo which departs the hotel at 10am. At 7pm this evening meet your guide and the rest of the group at a Welcome Meeting.

Note: If you would like to extend your stay we offer an Alexandria Day Trip on the Saturday before your tour starts or on the final day and can arrange pre/post tour accommodation upon request. **Overnight - Cairo**

### Day 2 : Pyramids of Giza



Today see the incredible pyramids and the iconic Sphinx at The Giza Plateau. Perhaps opt to ride a camel. Later we travel to Saqqara, to explore the myriad of tombs and temples

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at the site and see Zoser's step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 3 : Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Luxor. We take a guided tour of the vast new Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza this morning. In this incredible 490,000 sq.m complex we'll discover a mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history, including the treasures of King Tutankhamun. The afternoon is free to relax by the pool at the hotel or independently explore before we board the overnight sleeper train to Luxor this evening. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

## Day 4 : Luxor & Dendera



We arrive into Luxor this morning and drive to Dendera which is one of Egypt's best preserved temple complexes, located 60km north of Luxor. This vast complex covers 40,000 square meters and its temples, chapels and shrines were gradually built over thousands of years. Dendera's crowning glory is the 2000 year old Temple of Hathor with its exquisitely decorated ceiling. After our guided tour of this incredible site we return to Luxor where the afternoon is free to spend at leisure. Take a stroll around town or enjoy a refreshing swim in the pool and soak up the sunshine.

This evening there is an optional visit to view the beautiful Temple of Luxor at night. Book and pay locally. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

## Day 5 : Valley of the Kings & Karnak Temples



4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its very best and this morning we visit Luxor's famous West Bank. Our first stop is the famous Valley of the Kings, which is studded with beautifully decorated tombs, including the tombs of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, King Tutankhamen. After exploring this incredible site we travel on to visit the beautiful limestone, colonnaded Temple of Hatshepsut, who was one of only three Egyptian ruling queens. On the West Bank we'll also see the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which are all that remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

Returning to the East Bank we check-in on board a 5 star Nile cruiser which will be our home for the next four nights. Enjoy lunch and some rest and relaxation on board before we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak later this afternoon. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 6 : Nile Cruising



Nile cruising. Today we set sail downstream to Edfu. Relax on deck and go for a swim, soak up the sunshine and enjoy the views

as we cruise the River Nile. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

## Day 7 : Kom Ombo Temple

Nile cruising. Enjoy another day relaxing on board the cruiser as we sail the Nile to the Temple of Kom Ombo today, which is dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. This temple is unusual because everything is architecturally doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. After a guided tour of the temple we continue our journey, arriving into Aswan this evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 8 : Aswan, Abu Simbel & the Philae Temple



Consider the optional early morning excursion to the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel today. Please see our Abu Simbel by Road add-on for more info. Alternatively you can spend the morning at leisure.

This afternoon we take a short motorboat trip to Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures. In danger of being completely submerged by the rising water of Lake Nasser, in 1972 UNESCO stepped in and an 8-year rescue effort was undertaken to relocate the entire temple 20m higher on nearby Agilkia Island.

**Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

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## Day 9 : Aswan at leisure



Aswan - Cairo. Today offers free time for you to discover Aswan - your way. Consider a visit to the Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie wrote the novel *Death on the Nile* or opt for a visit to the well-curated Nubian Museum.

Late this afternoon, we board the overnight train (twin berth sleeper cabins provided) for our journey back to Cairo. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

## Day 10 : Cairo - Old City tour or relax

Arriving into Cairo this morning, transfer to the hotel and check in. The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy the hotel facilities or you can opt to or join us for an optional tour visiting Old Cairo, Coptic Cairo and the Citadel of Saladin (book locally). **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 11 : Cairo

Wednesday. Our tour comes to an end today with a transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (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. If you require a complete list of the confirmed hotels for your tour please request this from your reservations consultant two weeks prior to your departure. **Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

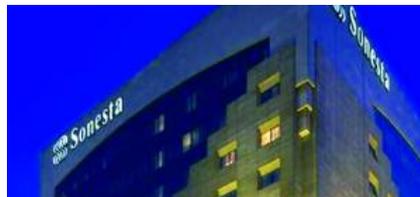
### Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

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.



### Sonesta Heliopolis Hotel

The Sonesta Hotel & Casino is a sophisticated and luxurious hotel with spacious rooms. The poolside bar and full-service spa with a Turkish steam bath are havens for relaxation.



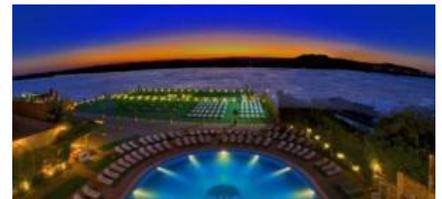
### Le Meridien Heliopolis

Just a short drive from Cairo's Old Town and international airport, the 5-star Le Meridien Heliopolis combines comfort with convenience. The guest rooms are spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television and a minibar, plus there's complimentary WiFi throughout the property. Dining options include a choice of four on-site restaurants, serving Egyptian and international cuisine. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment and cocktails at The 51 Bar. During the warmer months hotel guests can take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax on a sun lounger on the terrace. There's also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.



### 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 Steigenberger 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.



### M/S Farah

The M/S Farah is a stylish and modern cruise boat, with large cabins that face out over the Nile. Contemporary in decor, the Farah has a large sun deck and swimming pool.

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## Moon Dance

Moondance is a five star deluxe ship designed for luxury cruising on the Nile, accommodating up to 145 passengers. The vessel has 60 cabins and 8 suites offering exquisite comfort amidst an elegant yet intimate décor.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing. If a roommate cannot be found, the single room supplement will apply.

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
16 Feb	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
23 Feb	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
01 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
08 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
15 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
22 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
29 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
05 Apr	GBP 1,465	GBP 2,135
12 Apr	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
19 Apr	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
26 Apr	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
03 May	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
10 May	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
24 May	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
07 Jun	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
21 Jun	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
05 Jul	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
19 Jul	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
02 Aug	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
16 Aug	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
23 Aug	GBP 1,150	GBP 1,820
06 Sep	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
13 Sep	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
20 Sep	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
27 Sep	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
04 Oct	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
11 Oct	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
18 Oct	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
25 Oct	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
01 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
08 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
15 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
22 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
06 Dec	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,975
24 Dec	GBP 1,465	GBP 2,135

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