

*Full Itinerary*

## ENCHANTING EGYPT NILE CRUISE



TALK TO OUR WELL  
TRAVELLED TEAM OF  
EXPERTS

**0844 3350 197**

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00  
GMT



### JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:**

Level 2

**DESTINATION:**

Enchanting Egypt Nile Cruise

**DURATION:**

12 days / 11 nights

**FLIGHT INFORMATION:**

Please arrange your flights into Cairo Airport [CAI] to arrive on Day 1 and to depart from there on Day 12

**PICKUP LOCATION:**

Cairo Airport [CAI]

## OVERVIEW

03 - 14 Nov, 2027

Pyramids, the Sphinx, Pharaohs, temples, bazaars and much more. Discover fascinating Egypt as we discover Cairo and sail the mighty River Nile on a traditional Dahabieh boat

Egypt evokes many tales of past - from the iconic pyramids, to the fishermen of the mighty River Nile, this vast and historic country is full of culture, history and treasures to discover.

Our journey through Egypt starts in Cairo, discovering the city's melting pot of histories and cultures, exploring pyramids at Giza before flying down to Luxor, from where we board our traditional Dahabieh boat to cruise to Aswan. Along the way we will discover ancient ruins and temples which tell of the country's past, as well as lands untouched by time. With a final stop to visit the famous Abu Simbel temples, we make our way back to Cairo.

Join us as we explore the unique country of Egypt.

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

**DAY 1** - Welcome to Egypt

**DAY 2** - The Pyramids, Sphinx & Sakkara

**DAY 3** - Coptic Cairo & the Egyptian National Museum

**DAY 4** - From Cairo to Luxor

**DAY 5** - Valley of the Kings and Queens

**DAY 6** - Ancient Marvels and Riverside Serenity

**DAY 7** - Timeless Villages and Ancient Quarries

**DAY 8** - Temples of the Nile

**DAY 9** - Amazing Aswan

**DAY 10** - Disembarkation, Abu Simel & Return to Cairo

**DAY 11** - Cairo's Historic Heart

**DAY 12** - Farewell to Egypt

## FULL ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - WELCOME TO EGYPT

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, exotic, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sights in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around.

The rest of the day is at leisure to relax before we begin the tour tomorrow.

**Accommodation:** Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

### DAY 2 - THE PYRAMIDS, SPHINX & SAKKARA

Today we head out to visit probably the most famous sights in Egypt, the famous pyramids at Sakkara and the Sphinx.

Your first stop will be Sakkara, the ancient necropolis of Memphis, where you'll discover the Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the world's oldest freestanding stone structure. This unique pyramid, built with six steps, represents the pharaoh's journey to heaven.

We'll enjoy lunch together with breathtaking views of the Giza Plateau. Afterward, visit the iconic Great Pyramids of Giza, the last surviving wonder of the ancient world. Learn about the incredible scale and construction of these monuments, built over 4,500 years ago, and visit the mysterious Sphinx, an enigmatic figure with the body of a lion and the face of a pharaoh.

After your tour, you'll return to your hotel to freshen up before enjoying a welcome dinner at the hotel.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

### DAY 3 - COPTIC CAIRO & THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

A day to delve into Cairo's history, as we first enjoy a tour of Coptic Cairo. The city has been a hub for many different civilizations over the years and our guide will reveal some of the Coptic history as we go.

Visit the beautiful and newly refurbished Coptic Museum, first completed in 1908 using property belonging to the Coptic Church in Egypt. It displays a wonderful collection of sculptures dating from Pre-Christian times up until the 5thC AD, as well as bone carvings, frescoes, icons, relics, colorful textiles and more. Proceed to the Hanging Church, named so because it sits "suspended" on top of the Fortress of Babylon that the Romans built when they came to Egypt. Thought to originate in the seventh century, this church in basilica style was once the seat of the Coptic Patriarchate.

Tradition has it that the church of St. Sergius was built over a location in which Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus rested on their journey in Egypt. Located inside the Roman fortress in Old Cairo, it is believed to have been built by Roman soldiers in the third or fourth centuries and later turned into a Coptic church by the Egyptians. Dedicated to two soldier-saints, Sergius and Bacchus, the church has been rebuilt and restored since medieval times, but it is still considered to be a model of early Coptic churches

We enjoy lunch together before visiting the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

We head to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, a treasure trove of artefacts and finds from the many burial sites and historic locations around the country. Located on the archaeological site of El-Fustat in Old Cairo overlooking the Ain El-Seera Lake. The museum showcases Egyptian civilization from prehistoric times to the present day, highlighting the country's comprehensive heritage.

As the day winds down, return to the hotel to relax and enjoy dinner at leisure tonight.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

### DAY 4 - FROM CAIRO TO LUXOR

After Breakfast, we check out of our hotel in Cairo and make our way to the airport for our flight to Luxor.

Once an Ancient Egyptian capital, is known today as the world's "greatest open-air museum." From the tomb of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings and the magnificent sunset views at the majestic temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor to the exciting and fun Nile cruises, Luxor is the perfect choice for culture vultures. Luxor is divided by the Nile into two areas commonly called the East Bank and West Bank which were considered in Ancient Egyptian times as symbolizing respectively Life and Death.

Upon arrival in Luxor, we will be met by our local guide. Built over a period of two millennia by generations of Pharaohs, our first visit is the 62-acre Temple of Karnak, dedicated to the God Amun. There is plenty to explore here as the numerous pylons, obelisks and smaller temples within could take days to completely explore. The great "Hypostyle Hall" alone is an imposing forest of giant pillars rising 23 meters (75 feet) toward the sky. At the height of its glory, Karnak Temple collected annual tribute from over 65 cities and towns in the region!

After visiting Karnak we will head to the hotel to check in and enjoy lunch.

After lunch, we make our way to the Temple of Luxor, once connected to Karnak via the Avenue of Human-headed Sphinxes. This temple has been the site of many celebrations, the most important being the Festival of Opet which grew over the years to last 27 days. Within the grounds of Luxor Temple is also the Mosque of Abu'l Haggag, built in memory of a 13th century local 'saint' who is still venerated by Luxorians to this day.

We check in to our hotel and enjoy dinner together.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sonesta St. George Hotel Luxor

## DAY 5 - VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS

After breakfast, spend the morning exploring the Valley of the Kings, where ancient pharaohs were buried in secret tombs adorned with vibrant paintings. Your visit includes access to three tombs selected by your expert local guide.

Please note: Certain tombs, such as Seti I and Tutankhamun, carry separate entry fees and are not included in this visit.

Behind the scenes, our local team also manages the use of specialist guides in different regions to ensure you enjoy the very best local insight throughout your journey.

Next, visit the Valley of the Queens, the final resting place of royal wives and children, and marvel at the magnificent Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Before leaving the West Bank, make a brief stop at the iconic Colossi of Memnon.

Next, enjoy a brief stop at the famed Colossi of Memnon and behold the two immense statues of Amenhotep III which, in Pharaonic times, guarded the entrance to his once great temple. During the Roman period, the site became a resort spot where many prominent travelers left their own graffiti carved into the sandstone.

Afterwards, we transfer to the port in Luxor where we board our Dahabeya, our elegant authentic boat.

We enjoy our first lunch on board while sailing toward Esna and Edfu. Relax with afternoon tea and enjoy dinner onboard.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lazuli Karnak or Abydos Dahabeya

## DAY 6 - ANCIENT MARVELS AND RIVERSIDE SERENITY

After breakfast, you'll cruise to El-Kab to visit the tombs of the governors of the ancient city and explore the ruins of the temple where Hathor and Horus used to meet.

Enjoy lunch on board as you sail to Edfu.

In Edfu, you'll visit the Temple of Horus, dedicated to the falcon god. This is the most completely preserved Egyptian temple, and one of the last grand attempts at monument building in ancient Egypt. The temple dominates the west-bank town, though the more modest structures of modern Edfu crowd around its enclosure wall.

Modern Edfu, a friendly town, is also known as a center for sugar production and pottery.

End your day with a barbecue on the serene beach of Fawaza Island, where you'll enjoy the tranquil surroundings before spending the night on

board.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lazuli Karnak or Abydos Dahabeya

## DAY 7 - TIMELESS VILLAGES AND ANCIENT QUARRIES

Start your day with breakfast as you cruise to Bassaw, a charming old fishing village along the Nile.

Stop in Bassaw, a quiet village untouched by tourism, offering a rare opportunity for authentic interactions free from commercial distractions. Here, you may even try fishing the traditional way, as it was done by the ancient Egyptians.

Enjoy lunch on board while sailing to Djebel Silsila on the west bank of the Nile. Explore the Speos of Horemheb, a rock-hewn chapel dedicated to Pharaoh Horemheb (1323–1295 BC) and seven deities, including the local crocodile god Sobek.

Visit the temple from the Horemheb era and the ancient quarry where stones for Egyptian temples were extracted.

After your visit, sail to El Beshir Island, where you'll enjoy dinner and spend the night on board.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lazuli Karnak or Abydos Dahabeya

## DAY 8 - TEMPLES OF THE NILE

After breakfast, cruise to Kom Ombo to visit the temple dedicated to both Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, the hawk god. The Kom Ombo temple stands on a promontory at a bend in the Nile, where sacred crocodiles once basked on the riverbank. This unique dual temple, built during the Ptolemaic period, honors both Sobek and Haroeris.

Enjoy lunch on board while you sail to Herdiab Village.

Upon arrival, visit Herdiab Village, one of the oldest villages on the Nile, where traditional farming methods have been preserved for centuries.

End your day with dinner on Herdiab Island and spend the night on board, reflecting on the day's experiences.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lazuli Karnak or Abydos Dahabeya

## DAY 9 - AMAZING ASWAN

A relaxing morning awaits as we enjoy breakfast on Herdiab beach, where you can swim if you like before sailing to Aswan over lunch.

We will visit the enchanting Philae Temple, a centre for the cult of the Egyptian goddess Isis. Between 1972-1980, the temple was actually moved by UNESCO to save it from the Nile waters. The romantic and majestic aura surrounding the temple complex on the island of Philae has been luring pilgrims for thousands of years. The ruins are one of Egypt's most legendary tourist attractions.

Afterward, visit the Unfinished Obelisk, an enormous granite monolith in Aswan's quarry. Intended to be the largest ever built, it was abandoned due to cracks, offering a unique glimpse into ancient Egyptian quarrying techniques. The visible chisel marks and trenches showcase the incredible skill and labor involved in crafting such monumental structures.

Spend another night aboard the Sanctuary Zein Nile Château, enjoying the serene surroundings and onboard hospitality.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lazuli Karnak or Abydos Dahabeya

## DAY 10 - DISEMBARKATION, ABU SIMEL & RETURN TO CAIRO

This morning, it is sadly time to disembark our Zein Nile Chateau after breakfast as we make our way to the amazing temples at Abu Simel.

We transfer to Aswan Airport for a short flight to Abu Simbel to visit the huge 13th-century BC monument to Ramses II.

The two temples of Ramses II are each fronted by colossal statues up to 20 meters (66 feet) high, and are famed as the most impressive

monuments remaining of Ancient Egypt. Recently, the temples were threatened by the waters of Lake Nasser, and with the help of a UNESCO campaign they were cut into blocks, raised piece by piece and reassembled in a new position higher up the hillside.

After the visit, we will fly back to Cairo and enjoy dinner.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch Box & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

## DAY 11 - CAIRO'S HISTORIC HEART

Your day begins with a guided tour of Islamic Cairo, exploring some of the city's most remarkable historic and architectural treasures. Visit the magnificent Citadel, once the stronghold of Egypt's rulers and home to sweeping views across the city. Continue to the impressive Mosque of Sultan Hassan, a masterpiece of Mamluk design with grand courtyards and towering façades.

Next, visit the historic Mosque of Ibn Tulun, one of Cairo's oldest and most atmospheric mosques, known for its vast open courtyard and elegant spiral minaret. You will also have time to wander through the vibrant lanes of Khan el Khalili Bazaar, where colourful stalls, spices, and handcrafted goods bring Cairo's oldest market to life.

After lunch, return to the hotel, where the day concludes with a memorable farewell dinner, marking the end of your incredible journey through Egypt.

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Four Seasons First Residence, Cairo

## DAY 12 - FAREWELL TO EGYPT

It is time to bid a fond farewell to Egypt. This morning, check out of your hotel and you will be transferred to Cairo Airport for your onward flight home.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at Cairo Airport [CAI] on arrival
- Return domestic economy flights: Cairo [CAI] - Luxor [LXR]; Luxor [LXR] - Aswan [ASW]
- Transport as detailed in the itinerary
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary (or similar standard)
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- English speaking tour guide throughout
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- ATOL Protection
- Flights to/from Cairo Airport [CAI]
- Drinks
- All entrance fees to non-stipulated attractions.
- Visas & Travel insurance.
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above.
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary.
- Any optional activities offered.
- Gratuities
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Flights:** International flights to/from your chosen destination are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company will be happy to provide a quotation for your flights—please contact us for further details.
- **Vaccinations & Health:** Vaccinations may be recommended depending on your destination. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up-to-date medical advice.
- **Visas & Entry Requirements:** Entry requirements vary by destination, and a visa may be required. Please refer to the travel tips section for full details. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.
- **Medical Needs:** Please inform The Big Journey Company prior to travel of any medical conditions or medications you take that we should be aware of to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- **Accommodation Check-in/Out:** Unless otherwise stated in your itinerary, check-in is after 2–3pm and check-out is before 10am. Please note that hotels may be subject to change to the same or similar standard due to availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made within 90 days of departure are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Deposits are non-refundable, and balance payments are due 14 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure adequate travel insurance is in place to protect against the need to cancel your holiday.
- **Minimum Numbers:** The Big Journey Company host will accompany the tour should minimum guest numbers be met. We will confirm this closer to the departure date.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation. This does not affect your statutory rights. All offers are subject to availability and space is limited.
- **The Boat:** The Vessel may moor side-to-side with others in port and it may be necessary to cross other boats to get to the shore. Some daily excursions land directly on the beach or on small jetties. Walking on some of the daily excursions will include moderate activity and on uneven terrain. Therefore, this cruise is not recommended for passengers in wheelchairs or with limited mobility.
- In some events, for example due to adverse weather conditions, the captain can choose to alter the itinerary for the comfort and safety of the passengers.

## BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

*Choose from the list of dates below*

*Call to Book*

**0844 3350 197**

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00 GMT