



Day 1: Depart for Egypt

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Cairo.

Day 2: Cairo

Arrive in Cairo: Welcome to the City of a Thousand Minarets. When you arrive, settle into this capital city and rest up for an exciting day ahead.

Day 3: Cairo

Sightseeing tour of Memphis, Sakkara and Giza: Your full-day tour starts at the beginning of Egyptian history; in the ancient city of Memphis, the first capital of a united Egypt dating back to 3100 B.C. Continue to Sakkara, the site of the oldest Egyptian pyramids, including the Step Pyramid built by Zoser during the 3rd Dynasty. In Giza, view one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Narrow passageways lead to the king's chamber, deep in the heart of the 6-million-ton mausoleum. Depending on restoration work in progress, you will visit either the second or third pyramid of Giza. You'll also see the beguiling 4,500-year-old limestone Sphinx. Some believe that the man-headed lion portrays the face of Pharaoh Cheops himself.

Day 4: Nile River cruise

Travel to Luxor or Aswan: Board a morning flight to your disembarkment city (Luxor or Aswan, depending on scheduling) and prepare to sail down the Nile.

Nile River cruise: Set sail on a 4-night cruise along Egypt's legendary Nile River. On the first leg of your journey, you'll explore the Nile's West Bank. Visit the Temple of Edfu and the Valley of the Kings, the spectacular burial site used by Egyptian rulers, including Tutankhamon. Then, admire the Colossi of Memnon and Queen Hatshepsut's terraced temple. Continue on to the East Bank of Luxor and see where the Avenue of the Sphinxes connects the Temple of Karnak with the Temple of Luxor.

Day 5: Nile River cruise

Edfu: Spend the day sailing at a leisurely pace to Edfu. Pass the locks of Esna on the way to visit the Greek-built Temple of Horus. This well-preserved temple holds majestic statues and wall paintings bearing sacrificial scenes and historical inscriptions.

Day 6: Nile River cruise

Kom Ombo: Your cruise continues to the town of Kom Ombo. Here, see the Temple of Sobek and Haroeris, dedicated to the crocodile-headed god Sobek and the falcon-headed god Haroeris. Continue toward Aswan and sail on a felucca, a traditional Egyptian boat.

Day 7: Nile River cruise

📍 **Abu Simbel:** See the ancient Pharaohs, immortalized in stone, that flank the entrances to the temples of Abu Simbel. You'll venture inside the Great Temple of Ramses II, whose walls highlight the lives of Ramses and his consort Nefertari, and depict vivid stories of battle. Those who choose not to join today's excursion will enjoy free time aboard the ship.

Day 8: Aswan | Cairo

Explore Aswan: Your cruise concludes in Aswan, where you'll disembark. Visit the over two-mile-long Aswan High Dam, a feat of engineering built to tame the Nile. You'll also see the granite quarries and unfinished obelisk of Aswan, from which ancient Egyptians obtained the materials for their temples and sarcophagi.

Fly to Cairo: Board an afternoon flight and return to Cairo.

Day 9: Cairo

Sightseeing tour of Cairo: Get better acquainted with Cairo. See the Citadel, one of the world's greatest monuments to medieval warfare, and the Mohammed Ali Mosque, built in Ottoman baroque style that imitates the great religious mosques of Istanbul.

Egyptian Museum: Explore papyrus scrolls covered in Egyptian hieroglyphics and thousands of keepsakes once prized by ancient Pharaohs.

Day 10: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

📍 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 10: Alexandria

Sightseeing tour of Alexandria: Begin your two-day extension in Alexandria. On your sightseeing tour, your Tour Director introduces you to this Mediterranean coastal city, founded by and named after Alexander the Great. Visit the royal Montazah Gardens and the New Library, which contain four museums and numerous art galleries and research centers dedicated to the academic inquiry in the tradition of its ancient founders. Later that afternoon, enjoy some free time in Alexandria.

Day 11: Alexandria | Cairo

Explore Alexandria: Visit two of the city's treasured sites, including the white marbled Roman Amphitheater. Then make your way to the Catacombs, also known as Kom el Shoqafa, one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages. Here, you'll find sarcophagi and architectural artifacts significant to Roman, Greek and Egyptian history.

Return to Cairo: Make your way back to Cairo in the afternoon, where you'll spend your last night.

Day 12: Depart for home

Your Tour Director assists with your early morning transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.