



## Itinerary

### 13 Day Treasures of Egypt Small Group Tour With Flights

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### Day 1: Depart Australia [Wednesday]

Today you will depart Australia for your flight to Egypt.

**NOTE:** Depending on airline schedules and availability, you may be required to depart on Day 0.

**MEALS:** In-Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** In-Flight

#### Day 2: Arrive Cairo, Egypt

On arrival in Cairo, you will be welcomed at the airport by a local representative. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be transferred to your hotel. Once checked in, you can take some time to relax and recover from your journey, or enjoy your first glimpse of the vibrant city of Cairo.

**NOTE:** The included transfer is a group transfer and will be scheduled according to the arrival times of the majority of guests. If you arrive earlier and prefer not to wait, or if your flight arrives after the scheduled group transfer, you may arrange a private transfer (additional charges apply) or make your own way to the hotel.

**MEALS:** In flight

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

#### Day 3: Cairo ~ Sphinx & Pyramids

After breakfast, you will meet your private Egyptologist guide and head out to explore one of the most iconic sites in the world, the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx. Stand in awe before the Great Pyramid of Khufu, rising around 500 feet high and stretching 750 feet across its base. Built from massive stone blocks and once covered in smooth white limestone, this incredible structure has stood for thousands of years. Together with the surrounding pyramids, it is an unforgettable sight and a true highlight of your journey.

You will then travel into downtown Cairo for a guided visit to the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities. Here you will discover one of the world's greatest collections of ancient Egyptian artefacts, including the famous treasures of Tutankhamun. Your guide will bring history to life as you learn about pharaohs, mummies, and daily life in ancient Egypt.

Later, visit a traditional Papyrus Institute to see how this ancient paper is made, before continuing to the bustling Khan el Khalili Bazaar. Wander through narrow lanes filled with spices, jewellery, textiles and souvenirs, and soak up the lively atmosphere of Cairo's historic marketplace.

In the late afternoon, you will be transferred to the train station to board your overnight sleeper train to Luxor. You will travel in a private two berth cabin with bunk beds. All bedding is provided, luggage is stored in your cabin, and Western style toilets are available in each carriage. Dinner and breakfast are served in your cabin, allowing you to relax as you journey south along the Nile.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Sleeper train, private twin cabin with shared facilities

**OPTIONAL:** Flight and extra night accommodation instead of the overnight train, \$400 per person

#### Day 4: Luxor ~ Embark Nile Cruise: Temple of Luxor & Karnak Temple [Saturday]

This morning your train arrives in Luxor. After enjoying breakfast on board, you will be met and transferred to your ship to begin your 4 night Nile cruise. Once checked in, take some time to settle into your cabin before enjoying lunch on board as the journey along the Nile begins.

Later, head ashore to explore the East Bank of the Nile with your expert guide. Start with a visit to the elegant Luxor Temple, an impressive ancient complex that once played a central role in religious festivals. You will then continue north to the vast Karnak Temple, one of the largest temple complexes ever built. Walk among towering columns and grand courtyards as your guide explains the history and significance of this remarkable site.

Return to the ship in the evening for dinner on board and your first overnight stay on the Nile.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris I or II Nile Cruise, or similar

#### Day 5: Nile Cruise ~ Valley of The Kings ~ Edfu

This morning, your ship crosses to the West Bank of the Nile for a guided tour of some of Egypt's most famous ancient sites. Begin at the Valley of the Kings, often called the gateway to the afterlife. Here, you will explore royal tombs carved deep into the desert hills, where pharaohs were laid to rest with elaborate decorations that offer a fascinating glimpse into ancient Egyptian beliefs.

You will then visit the striking Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising from the desert plain in a series of grand terraces, this elegant temple honours one of Egypt's most powerful female pharaohs and is one of the country's most impressive architectural achievements.

On the return journey to the river, pass by the famous Colossi of Memnon, two enormous stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III that have stood guard over the West Bank for thousands of years.

This afternoon, relax on board as the ship sails south to Esna. Experience the passage through the Esna Lock, an interesting highlight of the journey, before continuing on to Edfu. The ship remains docked here overnight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris I or II Nile Cruise, or similar

### Day 6: Nile Cruise ~ Kom Ombo

After breakfast, head ashore with your guide for a visit to the remarkable Temple of Horus at Edfu. Travel to and from the temple by traditional horse and carriage, offering a charming glimpse of local life. The Temple of Horus is one of the best preserved temples in Egypt and was once the religious and cultural centre dedicated to Horus of Behdet, the falcon god.

Return to the ship and continue sailing along the Nile toward Kom Ombo. On arrival, visit the unique Temple of Kom Ombo, set on a scenic bend of the river. This unusual double temple is dedicated to two gods, Sobek the crocodile god and Horus the falcon headed god. From its elevated position, enjoy lovely views across the Nile as you explore this fascinating site.

After the visit, return to the ship for dinner and another relaxing evening on board.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris I or II Nile Cruise, or similar

### Day 7: Nile Cruise ~ Aswan

Today you will join your guide for a fascinating tour of Aswan and its surrounding highlights. Begin with a visit to the Aswan High Dam, an impressive modern engineering achievement that controls the flow of the Nile and created Lake Nasser.

You will then continue to the Granite Quarries, where you will see the famous Unfinished Obelisk. This site reveals how the ancient Egyptians quarried and shaped massive stone blocks, including those used to build the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Next, enjoy a short motorboat ride across the Nile to reach the beautiful Philae Temple, located on Philae Island. This romantic and atmospheric temple was an important pilgrimage centre dedicated to the goddess Isis. Admired for centuries, it was revered from Pharaonic times through the Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods.

In the afternoon, weather permitting, relax with a peaceful felucca ride on the Nile. Sail in a traditional wooden boat around Elephantine Island and enjoy the gentle pace and scenic views of the river.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris I or II Nile Cruise, or similar

### Day 8: Aswan ~ Abu Simbel ~ Cairo

After your final breakfast on board, you will disembark and set out on a guided tour to the remarkable Abu Simbel Temples. Located on the western bank of Lake Nasser, these enormous rock temples are among Egypt's most awe inspiring sights. As you arrive, you will see the four towering statues of Ramses II standing guard at the entrance to the Great Temple.

Your guide will explain the incredible history of this site, including the international effort led by UNESCO to relocate the temples between 1960 and 1980, saving them from rising waters after the construction of the Aswan High Dam. This extraordinary achievement preserved some of Egypt's most important monuments for future generations.

After the visit, you will be transferred to Aswan Airport for your flight back to Cairo. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure, whether you choose to relax or explore more of the city at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

### Day 9: Cairo ~ Alexandria

After breakfast, you will depart by road for Alexandria, travelling approximately 220 kilometres along the Mediterranean coast. On arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. You may wish to take a stroll along the waterfront, explore the city streets, or relax and soak up the coastal atmosphere of this historic port city.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Grand Plaza Alexandria, Alexandria

### Day 10: Alexandria ~ Cairo

After breakfast, set out on a guided tour of Alexandria's key historical sights. Begin with a visit to the Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa, an impressive underground burial site that blends Egyptian, Greek and Roman influences. Continue on to Pompey's Pillar, a towering Roman triumphal column and the largest of its kind built outside the imperial capitals of Rome and Constantinople.

You will then visit the Citadel of Qaitbay, a striking 15th century fortress located on the Mediterranean coastline. Built in 1477 AD by Sultan Al Ashraf Qaitbay, the citadel once defended the city and now offers wonderful sea views.

Later, enjoy time exploring the peaceful El Montazah Royal Gardens, known for their landscaped grounds and coastal setting. In the afternoon, drive back to Cairo and transfer to your hotel for the evening.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

### Day 11: Cairo

This morning, enjoy a visit to Cairo's oldest and most famous souk, Khan el Khalili Bazaar. Located in the heart of the city, this lively marketplace is filled with narrow laneways, colourful stalls and traditional shops selling spices, jewellery, textiles and souvenirs. It is a must see for anyone visiting Cairo and a great place to soak up the local atmosphere.

After your visit, the rest of the day is free at leisure. You may choose to relax at your hotel, explore more of the city, or enjoy some last minute shopping at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Oasis Pyramids, Cairo

### Day 12: End of Tour ~ Departure

After breakfast and check out from your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight back to Australia. *Please note: if your flight departs early, breakfast will be arranged for collection from the hotel reception the night before.*

**NOTE:** The included transfer is a group transfer and will be scheduled according to the departure times of the majority of guests. If your flight departs earlier than the scheduled group transfer, or if you prefer to leave at a different time, you may arrange a private transfer (additional charges apply) or make your own way to the airport.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, In flight

**OVERNIGHT:** In flight

### Day 13: Arrive Australia

Today you arrive home, marking the end of your incredible journey.

**NOTE:** Depending on airline schedules and availability, you may arrive on Day 14.

**MEALS:** In Flight