



Itinerary

16 Day Wonders of Egypt and the Middle East with Flights

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

Day 1: Depart Australia

Today you depart Australia and begin your adventure to Egypt and the Middle East.

NOTE: Depending on flight schedules, you may be required to depart on Day 0.

MEALS: In flight

OVERNIGHT: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Cairo, Egypt

This morning, after breakfast and check-out, you'll be transferred to Istanbul International Airport for your flight to Cairo, Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, you'll be met by our local tour representative and transferred to your hotel.

The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

MEALS: In flight

OVERNIGHT: Barcelo Pyramids, Cairo

Day 3: Cairo ~ Luxor ~ Embark Cruise – Karnak & Luxor Temples

After breakfast and check-out from your hotel, you'll be transferred to Cairo Airport for your short flight to Luxor. Upon arrival, you'll be met by our local tour representative for a guided visit to Karnak Temple.

Known to the ancient Egyptians as Ipet-Sut or "The Most Select of Places", Karnak was the most important temple complex in Thebes (modern Luxor). It was the centre of the cult of Amun, and its priesthood held immense wealth and political power.

After the tour, you'll transfer to your Nile cruise ship for embarkation and enjoy lunch on board.

In the afternoon, visit the magnificent Luxor Temple, dedicated to the rejuvenation of kingship. It was likely the ceremonial site of many pharaohs' coronations—both actual and symbolic—including Alexander the Great.

Return to the ship for dinner and your first night aboard the Nile cruise.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 4: Visit the West Bank

After breakfast on board, you'll be picked up for a fascinating excursion to the West Bank of the Nile, beginning with a visit to the legendary Valley of the Kings. This royal burial ground was purposefully located on the west bank, symbolising the place of the setting sun and therefore associated with death and rebirth in Ancient Egyptian belief.

Next, explore the remarkable Temple of Hatshepsut, located at Deir al-Bahari. This magnificent temple complex, built for Egypt's most powerful female pharaoh, is composed of three grand terraces rising up toward the cliffs. The site was sacred to Hathor, goddess of motherhood and kingship, adding to its spiritual importance.

Return to the ship for lunch as you begin sailing toward Esna. After passing through the Esna Lock, the journey continues to Edfou. Enjoy dinner on board and settle in for another relaxing evening on the Nile.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 5: Visit Edfou Temple and Kom Ombo Temple

After breakfast on board, you'll be picked up for a visit to the impressive Temple of Edfou, one of the best-preserved ancient shrines in Egypt. Built during the Ptolemaic period (237–57 BC), the temple walls are inscribed with significant texts detailing construction techniques, religious beliefs, and mythological stories—particularly the epic struggle between Horus and Seth.

Return to the cruise for lunch as you continue sailing towards Kom Ombo. Upon arrival, explore the Temple of Kom Ombo, a unique double temple dedicated to two sets of gods. The southern half honours Sobek, the crocodile god of fertility, along with Hathor and Khonsu. The northern half is devoted to Haroeris (Horus the Elder), alongside Tasenetnofret and Panebtawy. The temple's perfectly symmetrical design along its main axis makes it architecturally distinct.

After the visit, return to the ship and continue sailing to Aswan. Enjoy dinner on board and settle in for the night.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 6: Aswan ~ Philae Temple

Enjoy breakfast on board before being picked up for a morning visit to the remarkable High Dam, a modern engineering marvel that has transformed Egypt's agriculture and energy production.

Next, explore the beautifully preserved Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis. This sacred site was among the last of the ancient Egyptian temples to remain in operation, continuing well into the

Byzantine era. The final known hieroglyphic inscription dated 394 AD, was carved by an Isis priest named Esmet-Akhom. The temple was later converted into a Christian church, and some inscriptions were defaced during this time.

Return to the ship for lunch on board. In the late afternoon, unwind on a traditional Felucca boat ride on the Nile, taking in the serene waters and views of Aswan as the sun sets.

Return to the cruise for dinner and enjoy your final night on board the Hapi 5 Nile Cruise.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 7: Aswan ~ Cairo – Pyramids, Sphinx & Egyptian Museum

After breakfast, we check out and transfer to the airport for our morning flight back to Cairo.

Upon arrival, we begin with a visit to the incredible Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops), the largest of the three, is estimated to have been constructed using over 2.5 million limestone blocks, weighing approximately 6 million tonnes—an astonishing feat considering the lack of modern machinery.

We'll also stop at a local Papyrus Institute and enjoy some free time for shopping.

In the afternoon, continue to the world-renowned Egyptian Museum, where you'll spend around two hours exploring its immense collection. Your guide will highlight key exhibits, especially the treasures of King Tutankhamun, including his famous golden funerary mask.

Later, visit the bustling Khan El Khalili Market, Cairo's historic souq, where you can pick up unique souvenirs and experience the vibrant atmosphere of old Cairo.

Transfer to your hotel for check-in and overnight stay.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Barcelo Pyramids, Cairo

Day 8: Depart Cairo ~ Arrive Doha, Qatar – Embark Cruise

After breakfast and check-out, you'll be transferred to Cairo International Airport for your flight to Doha, Qatar. Upon arrival, you'll be met at Doha International Airport and transferred to the port.

Depending on your arrival time at the port, you may be able to check in and board immediately. If not, you'll have the opportunity to drop off your luggage and enjoy some free time exploring Doha.

Step into multicultural Doha, where tradition and modern innovation blend effortlessly. Wander through the bustling souks to stock up on exotic spices, browse designer boutiques in one of the city's sleek malls, or take a scenic walk along the Corniche with its panoramic views of Doha's futuristic skyline. Relax at one of the many vibrant waterfront cafés or restaurants offering cuisine from around the world.

Ship Departure: 23:00

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 9: At Sea

Enjoy a full day at sea as we continue our journey through the Middle East. Take this time to relax onboard, soak in the ocean views, and make the most of the ship's excellent facilities and amenities.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 10: Dubai, UAE

Arrive in Dubai at 07:00am and enjoy a full day docked in this dazzling metropolis, renowned for its futuristic skyline, luxury shopping, and rich cultural heritage. Take the opportunity to explore iconic landmarks such as the Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, and the historic Al Fahidi district.

ARRIVAL: 07:00am

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 11: Dubai, UAE

Your stay in Dubai continues, with an early morning arrival recorded at 00:01, offering you additional time to discover more of this vibrant and ever-evolving city. Whether you're taking in panoramic views from the Burj Khalifa, enjoying a desert safari, or strolling through the historic souks, there's something for everyone in Dubai.

DEPARTURE: 16:00

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 12: Sir Bani Yas Island, UAE

Arrive at the natural paradise of Sir Bani Yas Island at 09:00am. Enjoy a full day of adventure and relaxation, with options ranging from wildlife safaris to beach lounging and nature walks.

Go wild for this island oasis, where nature and luxury intertwine on the shores of the Persian Gulf. One of the eight desert islands of Al Dhafra, Sir Bani Yas offers a unique escape with the Arabian Wildlife Park—home to thousands of free-roaming animals including gazelles, hyenas, and cheetahs. Explore ancient heritage sites or unwind on pristine beaches perfect for sunbathing and snorkelling. At Al Yamm beach, you may even catch a glimpse of flamingos in the nearby lagoon. A true paradise for nature lovers.

ARRIVAL: 09:00am

DEPARTURE: 19:00pm

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 13: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Arrive in the elegant capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, at 08:00am. This city offers a perfect blend of modern sophistication and deep-rooted cultural heritage.

Discover the majestic allure of Abu Dhabi, set on an island and connected to the mainland by a series of bridges. This opulent oasis features spectacular architecture, serene beaches, and luxurious hospitality. Explore iconic landmarks such as the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the Louvre Abu Dhabi, or enjoy a day of world-class shopping and cultural experiences.

An ideal destination to bask in the warm winter sun, Abu Dhabi's waterfront is lined with beautiful beaches and cultural highlights. Enjoy a day of exploration filled with tradition, innovation, and unforgettable sights.

ARRIVAL: 08:00am

DEPARTURE: 17:00

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 14: Khalifa Bin Salman Port, Bahrain

Arrive at Khalifa Bin Salman Port at 11:00am for a day in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where ancient traditions blend seamlessly with modern luxuries.

Nestled in the heart of the Persian Gulf, Bahrain offers a unique cultural tapestry and warm Arabian hospitality. As your cruise ship docks, step into a destination where history meets modernity. Wander through the vibrant streets of Manama's souks, filled with the aroma of exotic spices and traditional wares. Discover the island's rich heritage at the Bahrain National Museum or explore the timeworn ramparts of the ancient Bahrain Fort.

Take time to enjoy the local cuisine and unwind on Bahrain's pristine beaches. Whether you seek cultural discovery or relaxation, Bahrain offers an unforgettable experience for the curious and discerning traveller.

ARRIVAL: 11:00am

DEPARTURE: 18:00

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 15: Doha, Qatar – Departure

Arrive in Doha at 08:00am for disembarkation and make your own way to the airport for your return flight home.

Bid farewell to your unforgettable journey as you step ashore in Qatar's vibrant capital. With its stunning skyline, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality, Doha provides the perfect closing chapter to your Middle Eastern adventure.

We trust you leave with wonderful memories and stories to share from this extraordinary voyage.

ARRIVAL: 08:00am

MEALS: Breakfast, In Flight

OVERNIGHT: In Flight

Day 16: Arrive Australia

Arrive back in Australia, bringing your incredible journey through Egypt and the Middle East to a close.

NOTE: Depending on your flight schedule, you may arrive home on Day 17.

MEALS: In Flight