Itinerary

16 Day Egypt & Mediterranean Tour and Cruise with Flights

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

Day 1: Depart Australia

Depart Australia today on your flight to Cairo, where your Egypt adventure begins. Depending on your departure city and airline, your flight may include a connection along the way.

On arrival in Cairo on Day 2, you will be met by our local representative.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Depending on airline schedules and availability, you may need to depart Australia one day earlier (Day 0).

Flights may travel via the Middle East, with airlines such as Emirates, Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways or similar.

If you prefer not to fly with a particular airline or transit through a specific country or region, please let us know in the booking notes when making your reservation.

We will do our best to accommodate your preferences, although alternative flights are subject to availability and may involve additional costs, longer travel times or extra connections.

MEALS: In-flight,

OVERNIGHT: In-flight

Day 2: Arrive Cairo, Egypt

Arrive at Cairo International Airport, where you will be met by our local representative. After collecting your luggage and clearing immigration and customs, you will be transferred to your hotel in an air-conditioned vehicle.

Once at the hotel, check in and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to relax after your flight or head out and explore the local area.

IMPORTANT TRANSFER INFORMATION:

The included airport transfer is a group transfer, arranged around the arrival times of the majority of guests. Depending on your flight arrival time, you may need to wait at the airport for other travellers before departing for the hotel.

If your flight arrives significantly earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer, or you prefer not to wait, a private transfer can be arranged at an additional cost. Alternatively, you may make your own way to the hotel.

NOTE: Hotel check-in is generally available from 3:00pm. If you arrive earlier, you may need to wait until your room is ready. Early check-in may be available at an additional cost, subject to hotel availability.

MEALS: In-flight

OVERNIGHT: Baron Heliopolis Hotel, Cairo

Day 3: Cairo ~ Luxor ~ Karnak & Luxor Temples ~ Embark Nile River Cruise

After an early breakfast at the hotel, or a breakfast box if departing before breakfast service, take your private transfer to Cairo Airport for your included domestic flight to Luxor.

On arrival in Luxor, meet your English-speaking guide and begin exploring the ancient sites on the east bank of the Nile. Visit the impressive Karnak Temple Complex, famous for its towering columns, vast courtyards and ancient monuments, before continuing to Luxor Temple, one of the city's most important historic landmarks.

After sightseeing, transfer to your Nile cruise ship and check in for your four-night cruise. Enjoy lunch onboard, with the remainder of the afternoon free to relax and settle in before dinner.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT INFORMATION:

The domestic flight from Cairo to Luxor is included and will be arranged by our local supplier. Flight times and airline details will be confirmed in your final travel documents.

The expected checked baggage allowance is 20kg per person, subject to confirmation with the airline and ticketed fare. Additional baggage may incur extra charges, payable directly to the airline.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise or similar

Day 4: Nile River Cruise ~ Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut Temple & Colossi of Memnon ~ Edfu

After breakfast, head to Luxor's West Bank with your English-speaking guide to explore some of Egypt's most famous ancient sites. Begin at the Valley of the Kings, where you will visit a selection of tombs belonging to the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Continue to the impressive Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, built into the cliffs at Deir el-Bahari, before stopping to see the Colossi of Memnon, two enormous statues that have stood for thousands of years.

Return to your cruise ship for lunch before setting sail towards Edfu, passing through Esna Lock along the way. Spend the afternoon relaxing onboard and enjoying the changing scenery along the Nile. Dinner will be served onboard, with the evening at leisure.

IMPORTANT SIGHTSEEING INFORMATION:

Your visit to the Valley of the Kings includes entry to selected tombs, which your guide will confirm on the day. Entry to special tombs, including Tutankhamun's Tomb, is not included and requires an additional ticket, payable locally.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise or similar

Day 5: Nile River Cruise ~ Edfu & Kom Ombo Temples ~ Aswan

After breakfast, visit the Temple of Edfu, dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god. One of the best-preserved temples in Egypt, Edfu is known for its impressive entrance, large courtyards and detailed carvings. Your English-speaking guide will take you through the temple and explain its history and significance.

Return to your cruise ship for lunch before sailing along the Nile towards Kom Ombo. Here, you will visit the unusual double temple, dedicated to two gods: Sobek, the crocodile god, and Horus the Elder. Unlike most Egyptian temples, Kom Ombo has two sets of entrances, halls and sanctuaries, reflecting its dedication to both gods.

After your visit, return to the ship and continue sailing towards Aswan. Enjoy the scenery along the Nile before dinner onboard, with the evening at leisure.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise or similar

Day 6: Nile River Cruise ~ Aswan High Dam, Unfinished Obelisk, Philae Temple & Felucca Sailing

After breakfast, head out with your English-speaking guide to explore some of Aswan's most important sights. Begin with a visit to the Aswan High Dam, built to control the flow of the Nile, before continuing to the Unfinished Obelisk, which still lies in the ancient granite quarry where it was being carved.

Next, visit the beautiful Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Originally located on Philae Island, the temple was carefully dismantled and relocated to nearby Agilkia Island to protect it from rising water levels following the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

Return to your cruise ship for lunch. Later in the afternoon, enjoy a relaxing felucca sailing trip along the Nile aboard a traditional Egyptian sailing boat. Take in the river scenery and surrounding islands before returning to the ship for dinner and your final night onboard.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise or similar

Day 7: Disembark Nile River Cruise ~ Abu Simbel Temples ~ Cairo

After an early breakfast, or a breakfast box provided by the cruise ship, disembark and travel by private air-conditioned vehicle to Abu Simbel. The drive takes approximately 3 to 3.5 hours each way, passing

through the desert landscape of southern Egypt.

On arrival, visit the impressive Abu Simbel Temples, built during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II. Explore the Great Temple of Ramesses II, famous for the four enormous statues at its entrance, before visiting the smaller temple dedicated to the goddess Hathor and Queen Nefertari. Your guide will explain the history of these remarkable temples, including how they were relocated to higher ground in the 1960s to protect them from the rising waters of Lake Nasser.

After your visit, enjoy your provided lunch box before travelling back to Aswan Airport for your included domestic flight to Cairo. On arrival in Cairo, you will be met by our local representative and transferred privately to your hotel for the night.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT INFORMATION:

The domestic flight from Aswan to Cairo is included and will be arranged by our local supplier. Flight times and airline details will be confirmed in your final travel documents.

The expected checked baggage allowance is 20kg per person, subject to confirmation with the airline and ticketed fare. Additional baggage may incur extra charges, payable directly to the airline.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME: 6–7 hours return

APPROXIMATE DRIVING DISTANCE: 560 km return

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Baron Heliopolis Hotel, Cairo

Day 8: Cairo City Tour ~ Pyramids of Giza, Great Sphinx, Saqqara & Memphis

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking guide and travel by air-conditioned vehicle to Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt. Here, you will explore the remains of this once-important city before continuing to Saqqara, home to the famous Step Pyramid of Djoser, one of the earliest large stone structures ever built. Your guide will show you around the archaeological site and explain its importance in ancient Egyptian history.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before heading to the Pyramids of Giza, one of Egypt's most famous attractions. See the three great pyramids of Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, and learn about their construction and the pharaohs they were built for. You will also visit the Great Sphinx, the enormous limestone statue with the body of a lion and the head of a human.

After a full day of sightseeing, return to your hotel in Cairo, with the evening free to relax or explore at your own pace.

IMPORTANT PYRAMID ENTRY INFORMATION: Entrance fees to go inside the pyramids, including the Great Pyramid of Khufu, are **NOT included** in your tour package. If you wish to enter any of the pyramids, additional tickets can be purchased on-site, subject to availability and local opening conditions. Please note that your guide will not accompany you inside the pyramids, and any internal visits will be undertaken independently. Your guide will advise you of the available options and where to purchase tickets.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Baron Heliopolis Hotel, Cairo

Day 9: Cairo ~ Grand Egyptian Museum ~ Alexandria

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking guide and visit the Grand Egyptian Museum, one of the world's largest museums dedicated to ancient Egyptian history. Explore its impressive galleries, the Grand Staircase and the remarkable collection of artefacts from ancient Egypt, including treasures associated with Tutankhamun and other Egyptian pharaohs. Your guide will explain the history and significance of the exhibits as you make your way through the museum.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before departing Cairo for Alexandria, located on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. The journey is approximately 220 km and takes around 2.5–3 hours, depending on traffic.

On arrival in Alexandria, check in at your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure. You may wish to relax after the journey or head out and explore the local area at your own pace.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME: 2.5–3 hours

APPROXIMATE DRIVING DISTANCE: 220 km

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Romance Alexandria Hotel, Alexandria

Day 10: Alexandria ~ Embark Celestyal Journey

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your English-speaking guide for your transfer to Alexandria Cruise Port, where you will board Celestyal Journey.

If time permits before embarkation, enjoy a short sightseeing tour of Alexandria, Egypt's historic Mediterranean port city. Possible highlights include the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, Pompey's Pillar, a photo stop outside Qaitbay Fort and a panoramic stop at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Should time be limited, you will transfer directly to the cruise terminal to ensure you arrive in time for check-in and embarkation. Once onboard, settle into your cabin and enjoy the ship's facilities before dinner.

The ship will remain docked in Alexandria overnight, with departure scheduled for 1:00pm the following day.

IMPORTANT EMBARKATION INFORMATION:

Although Alexandria is an intermediate port of call, special embarkation arrangements have been organised with Celestyal Cruises to allow guests travelling on this package to join the ship in Alexandria.

Your final boarding time, check-in instructions and luggage arrangements will be provided in your travel documentation. Sightseeing is subject to time availability and may be shortened or omitted to prioritise embarkation.

SHIP ARRIVAL: 7:00am

SHIP DEPARTURE: 1:00pm the following day

BERTH TYPE: Dock

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 11: Depart Alexandria, Egypt

Enjoy breakfast onboard Celestyal Journey as the ship remains docked in Alexandria. With no sightseeing planned this morning, you can enjoy a leisurely start to the day, relax onboard or take in the views of Alexandria's harbour.

At 1:00pm, Celestyal Journey departs Alexandria and begins sailing across the Mediterranean towards Limassol, Cyprus.

Spend the afternoon at sea, making the most of the ship's facilities. Enjoy lunch and dinner onboard, followed by an evening of entertainment, or simply relax as you continue your journey towards Cyprus.

SHIP DEPARTURE: 1:00pm

BERTH TYPE: Dock

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 12: Limassol, Cyprus

Arrive in Limassol, Cyprus, at 8:00am. Today is yours to explore at your own pace or join one of the optional shore excursions offered by Celestyal Cruises.

If you prefer to explore independently, Limassol's old town, medieval castle, waterfront promenade and marina are all worth visiting. You can also take a shore excursion to discover more of Cyprus, including the ancient ruins of Kourion, traditional villages near the Troodos Mountains or the historic city of Paphos.

Return to Celestyal Journey in time for its 6:00pm departure as you continue your Mediterranean cruise towards Rhodes, Greece.

SHIP ARRIVAL: 8:00am

SHIP DEPARTURE: 6:00pm

BERTH TYPE: Dock

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL SHORE EXCURSIONS:

A Journey Through Apostle's Sanctuary, Kourion and Limassol

Explore Cyprus's religious heritage, visit the ancient archaeological site of Kourion and discover the highlights of Limassol.

Curium, the Wine Village of Omodos & Limassol

Visit the ancient ruins of Kourion before continuing to Omodos, a traditional Cypriot village known for its cobbled streets and wine-making heritage.

Experience the Tradition

Discover local Cypriot culture, customs and traditions, with activities depending on the excursion programme.

Nicosia Unveiled: A Canvas of History, Art and Culture

Visit Cyprus's capital, Nicosia, and explore its history, architecture and cultural landmarks.

Panoramic Limassol and Curium

Explore the archaeological site of Kourion and enjoy a panoramic tour of Limassol, taking in some of the city's main sights.

Paphos, the City of UNESCO

Discover the ancient city of Paphos, known for its UNESCO-listed archaeological sites and well-preserved Roman mosaics.

IMPORTANT SHORE EXCURSION INFORMATION:

All shore excursions are optional and are not included in your package price. Excursions can be booked through Celestyal Cruises at an additional cost and are subject to availability and confirmation of the final excursion programme. If exploring independently, please ensure you return to the ship before the required all-aboard time.

Day 13: Rhodes, Greece

Celestyal Journey arrives in Rhodes, Greece, at 12:00pm, giving you the afternoon and evening to explore this beautiful Greek island at your own pace or join an optional shore excursion.

Rhodes is famous for its UNESCO World Heritage-listed medieval Old Town, surrounded by impressive stone walls and filled with narrow cobbled streets, historic buildings, shops and cafés. Take a walk along the Street of the Knights and visit the Palace of the Grand Master, one of the island's most recognisable landmarks.

Alternatively, you may wish to join an optional excursion to Lindos, a picturesque village known for its whitewashed houses and ancient hilltop Acropolis, or spend some time exploring the waterfront and harbour.

With the ship remaining in port until 10:00pm, there is plenty of time to enjoy Rhodes in the evening, perhaps stopping for a meal at a local taverna before returning onboard.

SHIP ARRIVAL: 12:00pm

SHIP DEPARTURE: 10:00pm

BERTH TYPE: Dock

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL SHORE EXCURSIONS:

Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights

Visit the picturesque village of Lindos and its ancient hilltop Acropolis, then discover the medieval history of Rhodes and its impressive fortifications.

Medieval Tour: Filerimos Church & the Palace of the Knights

Explore the historic Filerimos area before visiting the Palace of the Grand Master, one of the most important buildings in Rhodes' medieval Old Town.

Walking Tour in the Medieval Town of Rhodes

Discover the narrow streets, historic buildings and impressive architecture of the UNESCO-listed Old Town on a guided walking tour.

IMPORTANT SHORE EXCURSION INFORMATION:

All shore excursions are optional and are not included in your package price. Excursions can be booked through Celestyal Cruises at an additional cost and are subject to availability and confirmation of the final excursion programme. If exploring independently, please ensure you return to the ship before the required all-aboard time.

Day 14: At Sea

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as Celestyal Journey continues its voyage towards Istanbul, Türkiye.

Start your morning with a leisurely breakfast before spending the day enjoying the ship's facilities. You might like to relax by the pool, find a quiet spot in one of the lounges or simply sit back and take in the sea views.

There are also plenty of activities available throughout the day, from organised entertainment and onboard events to the fitness centre and spa. If you feel like treating yourself, you can book a massage or spa treatment at an additional cost.

Enjoy lunch and dinner onboard, followed by an evening of live entertainment or a relaxing drink in one of the ship's bars as you sail towards Istanbul, where you are scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

Day 15: Istanbul, Türkiye ~ Disembark Celestyal Journey

Celestyal Journey arrives in Istanbul, Türkiye, at 8:00am, bringing your Mediterranean cruise to an end.

After breakfast onboard, disembark the ship and make your own way to the airport for your return flight to Australia, which will be scheduled for the afternoon or evening. Airport transfers are not included, so you will need to arrange your own transport from the cruise terminal.

If you're not quite ready to head home, why not extend your holiday and spend a few extra days exploring Türkiye? Istanbul has plenty to offer, from the famous Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque to the Grand Bazaar and Bosphorus. You could also venture further afield to Cappadocia, known for its unique landscapes and hot air balloons, or visit the ancient ruins of Ephesus.

Alternatively, you may wish to continue your travels to Greece, spending time in Athens or exploring the Greek islands. MyHoliday2 can assist with arranging additional accommodation, flights, tours and transfers at an extra cost.

IMPORTANT AIRPORT TRANSFER INFORMATION:

Transfers from the cruise port to Istanbul Airport are **NOT included** in your package. Guests are responsible for arranging and paying for their own transport to the airport. Please allow sufficient time for disembarkation, traffic and airline check-in requirements.

SHIP ARRIVAL: 8:00am

BERTH TYPE: Dock

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: In-flight

Day 16: Arrive Australia

Arrive back in Australia following your holiday exploring the wonders of Egypt and cruising through the Mediterranean.

After landing, clear immigration and customs, collect your luggage and make your own way home.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Depending on your airline, flight connections and departure city, you may arrive back in Australia on Day 17. Your exact arrival date and time will be confirmed in your final flight itinerary.

MEALS: In-flight