

EGYPT: GROUP TRAVEL PROGRAMS - 3

DISCOVERING ANCIENT EGYPT (Includes a Luxury Cruise!)

8 nights: Arrive Cairo, 3 nights; fly to Luxor and board 5 star cruise ship, 4 nights; disembark cruise ship at Aswan and fly to Cairo, 1 night; depart Cairo.

Day 1, Saturday: Arrive Cairo

Arrive Cairo airport. Transfer to the Nile Hilton (Nile view room). At leisure.

Day 2, Sunday: Cairo

Morning, visit the three impressive great pyramids at Giza, the oldest and one of the only surviving Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Enter a passageway into the second pyramid, visit the solar funerary boat museum, and legendary statue of the sphinx. Also take a delightful calache ride, and watch a demo in making papyrus parchment. Lunch at Le Meridien Giza. Afternoon, experience Coptic (Christian) Cairo. Visit the Hanging Church, built on the remains of a Roman fortress, and Church of St. Sergius, where the Holy Family stayed in exile. Also visit the impressive St. George Greek Orthodox Church, and simple yet significant Ben Ezra Synagogue.

B, L

Day 3, Monday: Cairo

Visit the Citadel, Mohammed Ali mosque, Sultan Hassan and El Refai mosques. Then, enjoy an authentic Egyptian lunch at a city restaurant, with free time to explore colorful wares at Khan El Khaleli bazaar. This afternoon, explore ancient treasures at the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities (including Mummies room).

B, L

Day 4, Tuesday: Cairo - Luxor - On Board Cruise Ship (Luxor)

Morning flight to Luxor. Board 5 star cruise ship Radamis II/Sonesta Sun Goddess at Luxor. Afternoon, take a ship's tour to appreciate the temples of Karnak, with massive pylons and pillared columns. Also explore the impressive Luxor temple dedicated to god Amon Ra, famous for its huge columns that end in the form of a papyrus plant. Overnight on board at Luxor.

B, L, D

Day 5, Wednesday: On Board Cruise Ship (Esna - Edfu)

Ship's tour of West bank sites: cross the Nile River and discover a maze of antiquity. Visit the Colossi of Memnon, Valley of Kings, with tombs carved in rock-faces, and Queen Hatshepsut's temple, a magnificent three-tier temple dedicated to the only woman to rule Egypt in Pharaonic times. This afternoon, set sail for Esna (for a brief visit of the temple) and Edfu. Overnight on board at Edfu.

B, L, D

Day 6, Thursday: On Board Cruise Ship (Edfu - Aswan)

Visit Horus Temple at Edfu. Then, sail to Kom Ombo, a magnificent Ptolemaic temple, famous for its twin entrances, halls and sanctuaries. Late afternoon, we sail further south to Aswan, arriving by evening at this pretty town of modern and ancient contrasts. Enjoy a pleasant evening on board ship at Aswan.

B, L, D

Day 7, Friday: On Board Cruise Ship (Aswan)

This morning, take a ship's tour to visit the Aswan High Dam, unfinished obelisk, and Lake Nasser area. Late afternoon, enjoy a pleasant boat ride to visit the magnificent island Temple of Philae, dismantled and rebuilt on Agilika Island; a beautiful setting, with artistic shrines, sanctuaries and pylons. Overnight on board ship at Aswan.

B, L, D

Day 8, Saturday: Disembark Cruise Ship (Aswan) - Cairo

Disembark your luxury cruise ship after breakfast. Take a late morning flight to Cairo and transfer to the Nile Hilton. This evening, to conclude this program, attend a spectacular and befitting sound and light show at the Giza Pyramids that portrays the glory of the Pharaohs.

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Day 9, Sunday: Depart Cairo

Morning transfer to Cairo airport for international departure.

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