



SPLENDORS OF EGYPT & NILE RIVER CRUISE ITINERARY

DAY 1, October 26 - Depart the USA

Depart the USA for Cairo.

DAY 2, October 27 – Arrive in Cairo

Upon arrival in Cairo, you will be met by your friendly, Egyptologist guide and will be escorted to your Cairo hotel.

Overnight in 4 Star Cairo Hotel.

DAY 3, October 28 – Cairo

After breakfast, you will be accompanied by your friendly expert Egyptologist guide to explore the City of Cairo. Visit the Pyramids at Giza, built during the third and fourth dynasties. These monumental undertakings stand as a marvelous testimony to the unbelievable skill and determination of their builders. Enjoy an up-close view of the Great Pyramid, built for the Pharaoh Cheops, as well as the Pyramids of Khafren and Mycerinus. Nearby, see the great Sphinx of Giza, the legendary statue that combines the head of King Khfren with a lion's body. Take the optional ride of a lifetime on a camel with the Great Pyramids in the background. Next visit a Papyrus Museum. Discover how important Papyrus was to the ancient Egyptians and see a demonstration of how intricate artifacts on papyrus are made. Next we stop at a perfume factory. Learn how the Egyptians associated these fragrances with the gods and their positive effect on health and well being. Have an included lunch before visiting the Egyptian Museum where you can view 250,000 pieces of art dated back to 5000 years ago, including treasures of Tut Ank Amon, and the famous solid Golden Mask. In the evening, enjoy a complimentary Fellucca ride on the majestic Nile. Then witness the optional world-famous Pyramid Light and Sound and Light Show. Watch as the pyramids and Sphinx are illuminated in multi-colored laser-beam hieroglyphs, and listen to the music and commentary emanating from the Sphinx that tells the stories of ancient Egypt and the pyramids.

Overnight in 4 Star Cairo hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4, October 29 – Cairo, Memphis, Sakkara

After breakfast, drive to Memphis where the first capital of ancient Egypt is located. Then drive To Sakkara where the Step Pyramid exists, built by King Zoser in 2700 B.C. Transfer to the Citadel of Saladin featuring the Alabaster Mosque of Mohamed Ali. Then proceed to Old Cairo where you will visit the Hanging Church and the synagogue, Ben Ezra Temple. After an included lunch, visit a carpet school where you will learn about Egypt's rug-weaving tradition that dates back to the 6th century and then a cotton shop. Closely interwoven with Egypt's history, demand for their luxurious cotton has kept on climbing and it is now a major Egyptian export. Conclude the afternoon at the Khan El Khalili Market, one of Egypt's most impressive oriental markets. It houses the greatest concentration of medieval architectural treasures in Cairo. In the evening, take the optional Nile Dinner Cruise where you will enjoy views of Cairo as it lights up, indulge in a tasty Egyptian dinner, and watch an entertaining belly-dancing show as you glide down the River Nile.

Overnight in 4 Star Cairo hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5, October 30 – Aswan, Nile River Cruise

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Aswan. Upon arrival, transfer to your 5 Star Nile River Cruise ship for embarkation. After lunch served onboard, tour the world famous High Dam, an engineering miracle. Built in 1960, it provides electricity and irrigation for the entire country of Egypt. Next, visit the Philae Temple dedicated to the Goddess Isis featuring various shrines and sanctuaries. Then proceed to the Unfinished Oblisque (the Granite Quarries). Join the optional tour by boat to a traditional a Nubian Village. Your gracious hosts will treat you like a Nubian queen (or king)! Learn more about this fascinating culture with a visit to one of their homes and schools. Transfer back to your Nile River Cruise where you will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner.

Overnight in 4 Star Cairo hotel**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch****Day 6, October 31 - Komombo, Edfu, Nile River Cruise**

In the early morning, take the optional tour to Abu Simbel, one of the most recognizable ancient sites in Egypt, by private AC modern bus. It contains the temples of Pharaoh Ramesses II and Queen Nefertari (1303-1213 B.C). Abu Simbel today is no longer in the same location as it was in ancient times. Following the decision to build a new High Dam at Aswan, the temples were dismantled and relocated in 1968 on the desert plateau where they proudly stand today. Transfer back to Aswan by coach where you will re-embark on your Nile River Cruise. Lunch will be served on board. Then sail to Komombo, where you will visit the famous Komombo Temple, a double Temple dedicated to two Gods: The right-hand temple is dedicated to the Crocodile God, Sobek, while the left-hand temple is dedicated to Horus the Great, the Solar God of War. Sail to Edfu via Esna lock. In the evening, indulge in a continental dinner buffet as we sail to Luxor via the Esna Lock.

Overnight on First Class Nile Cruise**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner****DAY 7 – November 1 - Luxor, Nile River Cruise**

You have not seen the land of the ancient Pharaohs until you have looked down on it from the heavens! See the sun rise over some of Egypt's most famous monuments on this exhilarating optional Luxor and West Bank hot air balloon ride. After breakfast, we visit the East bank of the Nile, the Temple of Luxor & the Temple of Karnak which were linked together by ram-headed Sphinxes. Transfer back to your Nile Cruise for lunch. After lunch, you'll have free time to enjoy the many sights and sounds of this magical land. In the evening we are invited to attend a festive Galabeya Party and Oriental dinner aboard the ship. Then take the optional Luxor Light & Sound Show. This spectacular show narrates the history of the ancient city of Thebes in words, light and music. Walk through the Karnak temple and enjoy fantastic panoramic views and listen to the kings tell their stories.

Overnight on First Class Nile Cruise**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner****DAY 8, November 2 – Valley of the Kings**

Disembark from your Nile Cruise after breakfast. Then tour the West Bank of the Nile, The Valley of the Kings, which was a complex of burial chambers for the Pharaohs from Tutmose I, considered one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Next, we visit Madinet Habu Temple of King Ramesses II, then visit the two Colossi statues of Memnon, two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III. We conclude the afternoon with a visit to an alabaster factory, where you will see how this stone material is carved. It was used by the Egyptians for centuries in the linings of tombs, in the walls and ceilings of temples, and in vases and sacrificial vessels. In the late afternoon, transfer to the Luxor Airport to fly back to Cairo.

Overnight in 4 Star Cairo hotel**Meals: Breakfast****Day 9, November 3 - Alexandria**

In the morning, we take a day tour to the stunning Mediterranean port city of Alexandria by AC Coach. Visit the Catacomb, National Museum & Kaitbay Citadel. Then have lunch on your own in a local restaurant. Transfer back to Cairo by AC coach. In the evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner in Cairo with your fellow passengers while sharing your favorite memories before transferring to the airport for your final departure to the USA.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**DAY 10, November 4 – Arrive back in the USA.**