



## **SPLENDORS OF EGYPT & NILE RIVER CRUISE ITINERARY**

**DAY 1, Friday, March 1, 2024** - Depart the USA Depart the USA for Cairo.

### **Day 2, Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Upon arrival in Cairo, you will be met by your friendly expert Egyptologist guide and be escorted to a Welcome Dinner with your fellow passengers. After dinner, you'll have the opportunity to witness an included Pyramids Sound & Light Show, then transfer to your hotel for a good night's rest at the 5-Star Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel in Giza where you can marvel at spectacular views of the Pyramids and enjoy the many amenities the hotel offers.

**Meals: Dinner**

**Overnight: Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel or similar\*\*\*\*\***

### **DAY 3, Sunday, March 3, 2024 – Cairo**

After enjoying an included breakfast, you will be accompanied by your 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 Khefren 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. After an included lunch, we visit 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 an included Felucca ride on the majestic Nile. Then, embark on a memorable optional Nile River 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 Nile River.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Overnight: Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel or similar\*\*\*\*\***

**Optional AM: Pyramids Camel Ride**

**Optional PM: Nile River Dinner Cruise with Entertainment**

### **DAY 4, Monday, March 4, 2024 – Aswan, Nile River Cruise**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Aswan. Upon arrival in Aswan, 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 drive to your 5-Star Nile River Cruise ship for embarkation. The splendid Iberotel Crown Emperor with its professional and experienced staff will provide an atmosphere of supreme comfort, grace and charm, where your preferences will be noted, and your wishes are fulfilled. After lunch served onboard, join the optional tour by boat to a traditional 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. Transfer back to your Nile River Cruise where you will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Overnight: Iberotel Crown Emperor Nile Cruise\*\*\*\*\***

**Optional: Visit by boat to a traditional a Nubian Village**

**DAY 5, Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - Komombo, 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. It is considered one of the greatest engineering feats of all times. 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 Kom Ombo, where you will visit the famous Kom Ombo 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. In the evening, indulge in a continental dinner buffet.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Overnight: Iberotel Crown Emperor Nile Cruise\*\*\*\*\***

**Optional: Tour of Abu Simbel**

**DAY 6, Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - Edfu, Luxor, Nile River Cruise**

After breakfast, visit the Edfu temple dedicated to the God Horus, considered one of the best-preserved temples in all of Egypt. Sail to Luxor via Esna lock. Relax onboard the ship while taking in the beautiful scenery along the Nile River. In the evening you are invited to attend a festive Galabeya Party and Oriental dinner aboard the ship. Then take the optional Karnak Sound and Light Show. This spectacular show narrates the history of the ancient city of Thebes in words, light and music. Walk through the Karnak temple on the East Bank of the Nile and enjoy fantastic panoramic views while listening to the kings tell their stories.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Overnight: Iberotel Crown Emperor Nile Cruise\*\*\*\*\***

**Optional: Karnak Sound and Light Show**

**DAY 7, Thursday, March 7, 2024 – Valley of the Kings**

After breakfast, disembark the cruise, then tour the West Bank of the Nile, beginning with 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'll make a photo stop at the Temple of Hatshepsut, a colonnaded structure surrounded by cliffs and learn about the life of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's famous female ruler. Then we visit an alabaster factory, where you will see how this beautiful stone material is carved. After an included lunch, travel by coach to the Luxor Airport to fly back to Cairo. Upon arrival in Cairo, transfer to your hotel, the 4-Star Novotel Hotel near the Cairo Airport.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Overnight: Novotel Cairo Airport Hotel or similar\*\*\*\***

**DAY 8, Friday, March 8, 2024 - Memphis, Sakkara, Cairo**

After breakfast, drive to Memphis where the first capital of ancient Egypt is located. Then drive To Sakkara home of the Step Pyramid, 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, we visit a perfume factory. Learn how the Egyptians associated these fragrances with the gods and their positive effect on health and well-being. Then we visit 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, you're invited to our Farewell Dinner where you will enjoy spectacular views of Cairo at night while sharing your favorite memories of Egypt with your fellow passengers. Then transfer to the airport for your departure to the USA taking in the beautiful sights of Egypt at night along the way.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAY 9, Saturday, March 9, 2024** – Arrive back in the USA on the afternoon of March 9, 2024 with amazing memories of our Egypt and Nile River Cruise.

*Note: The order of the itinerary may be changed due to traffic, weather conditions and other factors beyond our control.*