



## Itinerary

### 17 Day Uncover Egypt and Jordan Small Group Tour

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

#### Day 1: Arrival Cairo, Egypt

On arrival in Cairo, you will be welcomed at the airport by a local representative. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be transferred to your hotel. Once checked in, you can take some time to relax and recover from your journey, or enjoy your first glimpse of the vibrant city of Cairo.

**NOTE:** The included transfer is a group transfer and will be scheduled according to the arrival times of the majority of guests. If you arrive earlier and prefer not to wait, or if your flight arrives after the scheduled group transfer, you may arrange a private transfer (additional charges apply) or make your own way to the hotel.

**MEALS:** Nil

**OVERNIGHT:** Jaz Pyramids Hotel, Cairo

#### Day 2: Cairo ~ Full Day Tour

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before setting off on a full-day guided tour of Cairo's most iconic sights. Begin your exploration with a visit to the legendary Giza Plateau, home to the world-famous Pyramids of Giza. Stand in awe before the Great Pyramid of Cheops, the largest and oldest of the three pyramids, and the only remaining wonder of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Continue to the Pyramid of Chephren, the best-preserved of the trio, and the Pyramid of Mycerinus.

Nearby, marvel at the Great Sphinx of Giza, an extraordinary statue carved from a natural rocky outcrop. With the body of a lion stretching 45 metres and paws 15 metres long, it remains one of Egypt's most recognisable landmarks.

Your cultural journey continues with a visit to the Papyrus Institute, where you'll learn how ancient Egyptians crafted the first paper. Enjoy some time shopping at the adjacent Papyrus Museum, perfume factory, and jewellery shop for unique souvenirs and gifts.

A delicious lunch at a local restaurant is included.

In the afternoon, explore the incredible Grand Egyptian Museum, the largest archaeological museum in the Middle East. The collection spans from the Predynastic Period to the Greco-Roman Era, featuring some of the most significant artefacts of ancient Egypt, including treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Return to your hotel in Cairo for the evening at leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Jaz Pyramids Hotel, Cairo

### Day 3: Alexandria Day Tour

Breakfast in hotel and pick-up to explore Alexandria. The majority of Alexandria's surviving monuments are its necropoleis (cemeteries). The most impressive of these is the Roman-era Kom al-Shoqafa near the Serapeum. This contains Greek-style catacombs, triclinia burial chambers, a funerary chapel, and a banqueting hall once used by families during funeral rites. After breakfast at your hotel, we depart on a full-day excursion to Alexandria, Egypt's historic Mediterranean city renowned for its rich Greco-Roman heritage.

Our first stop is the remarkable Kom al-Shoqafa, one of the most fascinating Roman-era necropoleis in Egypt. This underground complex features Greek-style catacombs, triclinia burial chambers, a funerary chapel, and a banqueting hall once used by families during funeral rites. The beautifully preserved paintings and reliefs reflect a unique fusion of ancient Egyptian and Greek art and beliefs.

Next, visit the impressive Pompey's Pillar, a towering Roman triumphal column standing near the ruins of the Serapeum, the main temple dedicated to Sarapis, the Greco-Egyptian deity. Although the Serapeum was destroyed in 391 AD following the outlawing of paganism by Emperor Theodosius, the site still evokes the grandeur of Alexandria's ancient past.

Enjoy a fresh seafood lunch (included) at a local restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, a perfect way to experience Alexandria's coastal charm.

In the afternoon, take a relaxing stroll through the Montazah Gardens, a peaceful retreat with beautifully landscaped grounds once part of a royal summer palace complex.

After exploring the city, return to your hotel in Cairo for an evening at leisure. The Kom al-Shoqafa contains Greco-Roman elements like triclinia burials, a funerary chapel, and a banqueting area that was used during funerals. Paintings and reliefs gracefully combine ancient Egyptian and Greek beliefs and artistic traditions. Visit Pompey's Pillar. It stands immediately next to the site of the Serapeum, the principal temple of Sarapis, the national god of ancient Egypt during this period. It was unfortunately destroyed when the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius outlawed paganism in 391 AD. Lunch in a seafood restaurant. Visit Montazah garden before driving back to your hotel in Cairo.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Jaz Pyramids Hotel, Cairo

### Day 4: Cairo ~ Islamic and Coptic Day Tour

After breakfast, embark on a fascinating journey through Islamic and Coptic Cairo, uncovering the spiritual and architectural legacy of two great cultures that shaped the city's identity.

We begin the day with a visit to the Citadel of Salah El Din, an iconic medieval fortress that dominates Cairo's skyline. Built in the 12th century, this grand complex is one of the world's most impressive examples of medieval military architecture, featuring imposing gates, defensive towers, and massive stone walls. Within the Citadel grounds, explore several significant sites including the magnificent Mosque of Mohamed Ali, known for its elegant domes and towering minarets. Also discover the Carriage Museum,

Military Museum, and Garden Museum, each offering unique insights into Cairo's Islamic history and heritage.

Following this historical exploration, enjoy a traditional lunch (included) at a local restaurant, where you can savour authentic Egyptian flavours.

In the afternoon, delve into the rich spiritual traditions of Coptic Cairo. The Copts, followers of the Coptic Orthodox Church, represent the largest Christian community in Egypt and are considered direct descendants of the Ancient Egyptians. The word "Copt" originates from the Arabic "Qibt," which itself is derived from the Greek "Egyptos," linking the faith directly to the land's ancient roots.

Learn about the Coptic Church's deep connection to early Christian monasticism, which originated in Egypt. While this tour focuses on Cairo's highlights, you'll gain insight into the country's most significant Coptic sites, such as the Monastery of St. Simeon in Aswan, the Monasteries of St. Anthony and St. Paul in the Red Sea mountains, and Deir Al-Kashef in the Western Desert.

Some of Egypt's churches, including the Church of the Virgin in Asyut and the Coptic Cathedral of St. Mark in Alexandria, are among the oldest Christian landmarks in the world. Your afternoon will be spent exploring this rich religious heritage before returning to your hotel for the evening.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Jaz Pyramids Hotel, Cairo

#### Day 5: Cairo ~ Aswan ~ Embark Nile River Cruise

You may have an early transfer this morning so enjoy a packed breakfast from the hotel in the way to Cairo International Airport for your domestic flight to Aswan.

Upon arrival at Aswan Airport, you will be greeted by your local MyHoliday2 representative and begin your exploration of this charming southern city. Your morning starts with a visit to two of Aswan's most iconic landmarks:

- The High Dam, an engineering marvel of the 20th century that revolutionised Egypt's irrigation and electricity supply.
- The majestic Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Located on Agilkia Island, this beautifully preserved temple was one of the last active worship sites of ancient Egypt. It remained in use until the 6th century AD when Emperor Justinian I closed all pagan temples. Remarkably, it is here that the last known hieroglyphic inscription was carved in 394 AD. Later converted into a Christian church, parts of the temple were altered or defaced as Egypt transitioned into a new religious era.

After your tour, transfer to your Nile cruise ship for check-in. Enjoy a delicious lunch on board as you settle into your cabin and begin your luxurious journey along the Nile.

In the afternoon, set sail on a serene Felucca cruise—a traditional wooden sailing boat—gliding along the Nile at sunset. Take in the magical views of Aswan's palm-lined shores and golden hills as the sun dips below the horizon.

Return to the cruise for dinner on board, and spend the night docked in Aswan.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris Nile Cruise

## Day 6: Nile River Cruise ~ Abu Simbel Temple & Kom Ombo Temple

After an early breakfast on board, prepare for a truly unforgettable experience with a guided excursion to the magnificent Great Temple of Abu Simbel, located in Nubia, near Egypt's southern border. This awe-inspiring monument, carved directly into the mountainside by King Ramesses II around 1264 BC, is one of Egypt's most iconic and grandiose sites.

The temple's façade is dominated by four colossal seated statues of the pharaoh himself, each standing over 20 metres tall. Though one of these figures collapsed in antiquity due to an earthquake, its scattered remains add to the powerful atmosphere of this ancient marvel. The interior features a series of halls and chambers adorned with elaborate carvings celebrating Ramesses' military victories and divine legacy.

Return to Aswan where your cruise awaits. Enjoy lunch on board as your ship sets sail north along the Nile toward Kom Ombo.

In the afternoon, arrive in Kom Ombo and disembark to explore the Temple of Kom Ombo, one of the most unique structures in Egypt. What sets this temple apart is its symmetrical "double" design—each half dedicated to a different trio of deities:

- The southern half honours Sobek, the crocodile god of fertility, alongside Hathor and Khonsu.
- The northern half is dedicated to Haroeris (Horus the Elder), with Tasenetnofret (a form of Hathor or Tefnut) and Panebtawy (Lord of the Two Lands).

Every sanctuary, hall, and courtyard is mirrored on either side, creating an extraordinary architectural balance.

After exploring the temple, return to your cruise for a lovely dinner on board. Relax as the boat continues its journey along the storied waters of the Nile.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris Nile Cruise

## Day 7: Nile River Cruise ~ Edfou Temple Tour

Begin your day with breakfast on board, then disembark for a visit to one of the best-preserved ancient temples in Egypt—the Temple of Horus at Edfu. Built during the Ptolemaic Kingdom between 237 and 57 BC, this majestic structure offers profound insight into the language, mythology, and religious traditions of Egypt during the Hellenistic period.

The temple's richly inscribed walls detail both its construction and its mythological significance, depicting the temple as the Island of Creation—a symbolic origin point for all temples in Egypt. Of particular note

are the dramatic reliefs illustrating the eternal conflict between Horus and Seth, offering a fascinating glimpse into ancient religious narratives and rituals.

Return to your cruise for lunch on board as you sail onward to Luxor, one of Egypt's most historically rich cities.

In the afternoon, visit the magnificent Luxor Temple, located on the east bank of the Nile. Unlike many other temples in Egypt, Luxor Temple was not dedicated to a deity, but rather to the concept of kingship. It was here that pharaohs were believed to have undergone spiritual rejuvenation, and it may have served as a ceremonial site for coronations—including that of Alexander the Great, who claimed to have been crowned here.

After your visit, return to your cruise for a beautiful dinner service on board, as you unwind and prepare for the next chapter of your Nile adventure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Solaris Nile Cruise

#### Day 8: Disembark Nile River Cruise ~ West Bank ~ Cairo

Enjoy your final breakfast on board before disembarking the cruise and beginning a full day of exploration on the west and east banks of Luxor.

Your first stop is the awe-inspiring Valley of the Kings, the ancient royal necropolis nestled on the Nile's west bank. Chosen for its secluded location and symbolic association with the setting sun, this sacred valley became the final resting place of New Kingdom pharaohs, including Tutankhamun and Ramesses the Great. The west was considered the land of the dead, as the sun god set in the west to be reborn in the east—giving this burial site deep spiritual significance.

Continue to the stunning Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir al-Bahari. Built for Egypt's most successful female pharaoh (c.1473–1458 BC), this architectural masterpiece features three ascending terraces that blend seamlessly into the cliffs behind it. The site, sacred to Hathor, the goddess who nursed kings and gods, reflects a powerful blend of myth, reverence, and grandeur.

Afterwards, enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant before crossing to the east bank to explore the majestic Karnak Temple Complex. Known in ancient times as Ipet-Sut or "The Most Select of Places," Karnak was the religious heart of ancient Thebes and one of the most important temple sites in Egypt. Dedicated to the great god Amun, it was a place of immense wealth, spiritual importance, and political influence. Marvel at its colossal pillars, sacred lakes, and towering obelisks that span over 2,000 years of construction.

At the conclusion of your tour, transfer to Luxor Airport for your domestic flight back to Cairo. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Cairo for the evening.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Jaz Pyramids Hotel, Cairo

#### Day 9: Cairo ~ Oyoun Musa ~ Sharm El Sheikh

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and begin your scenic overland journey to Sharm El Sheikh, crossing from mainland Egypt into the Sinai Peninsula via the Ahmed Hamdy Tunnel, which passes beneath the iconic Suez Canal.

En route, stop to visit the legendary Springs of Moses (Ayun Musa), located approximately 20 km south of the tunnel in South Sinai. According to tradition, this site marks the place where the prophet Moses, guided by Yahweh, cast a branch—possibly from a barberry tree—into the bitter waters, turning them sweet and drinkable for his people. These freshwater springs, set amid the desert, are both a natural and spiritual landmark steeped in biblical significance.

Continue your drive to Sharm El Sheikh, a world-renowned Red Sea resort town. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before checking in to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to relax and unwind in this coastal paradise.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dreams Vacations Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh

#### **Day 10: Sharm El Sheikh ~ Free Day**

Today is a free day to explore Sharm El Sheikh at your own pace. Relax by the beach or pool, take in the Red Sea views, or explore the vibrant town with its bustling souks, cafés, and promenades.

Enjoy this opportunity to unwind and soak up the sun in one of Egypt's most beautiful coastal destinations.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dreams Vacations, Sharm El Sheikh

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:**

- Boating
- Diving
- Snorkelling

*Contact MyHoliday2 for more details and availability.*

#### **Day 11: Sharm El Sheikh ~ St Catherine & Blue Hole Day Tour**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for a day of exploration in the heart of South Sinai.

Travel through a dramatic mountain landscape to reach the revered St Catherine's Monastery (4 hours travel time), nestled in a remote gorge beneath Mount Sinai. Founded in the 6th century, this sacred site is one of the oldest continuously operating Christian monasteries in the world and a proud UNESCO

World Heritage Site. The monastery belongs to the Eastern Orthodox Church and is surrounded by millennia of history and faith.

Discover an incredible collection of ancient icons, religious manuscripts, and early Christian artworks, including pieces from the world's oldest operational library. The site also includes the Well of Moses, said to be where the prophet first met his wife. For a truly memorable experience, attend or observe mass in the Church of the Transfiguration, conducted by devout monks in an atmosphere rich with spiritual tradition. We highly recommend hiring a local guide to fully appreciate the depth of the site's religious and historical significance.

After your visit, transfer to the coast to explore the legendary Blue Hole near Dahab, a world-famous diving and snorkelling site. This stunning submarine sinkhole reaches depths of over 100 metres (328 ft) and is known for its unique underwater features, such as the Saddle and the Arch, as well as its vibrant coral and rich marine life. It's a favourite spot for freedivers and snorkellers alike, thanks to its accessible depth, calm conditions, and abundant reef fish.

Enjoy a relaxed lunch in Dahab, a charming coastal town with a laid-back atmosphere. Afterward, return to Sharm El Sheikh for an evening at leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dreams Vacations, Sharm El Sheikh

### Day 12: Sharm El Sheikh ~ Free Day

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, followed by a full day at leisure to relax and enjoy Sharm El Sheikh at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dreams Vacations, Sharm El Sheikh

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

- Boating
- Diving
- Snorkelling

*Contact MyHoliday2 for more details and availability.*

### Day 13: Sharm El Sheikh ~ Nuweiba Port ~ Aqaba, Jordan ~ Wadi Rum

Early breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to Nuweiba Port to begin your journey into Jordan.

You may like to pack some snacks/refreshments to enjoy on board the ferry (included) across the Gulf of Aqaba to Aqaba Port, where you'll be met by a MyHoliday2 representative upon arrival. Your entry visa

into Jordan will be pre-arranged by our team for a smooth transition.

From Aqaba, enjoy a scenic 1-hour transfer to Wadi Rum, the breathtaking desert valley famously known as the “Valley of the Moon.” Upon arrival, prepare to immerse yourself in the otherworldly landscapes of southern Jordan. Your included 4 x jeep excursion may be scheduled for tonight or tomorrow morning time permitting

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Sun City Hotel, Wadi Rum

#### **Day 14: Wadi Rum ~ Petra ~ The Dead Sea**

After breakfast in the desert, set off on a thrilling 2-hour wilderness adventure by 4x4 jeep through the majestic landscapes of Wadi Rum. Follow in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia as you traverse vast valleys, climb rolling sand dunes, and marvel at dramatic sandstone mountains that rise out of the golden desert floor.

Continue your journey north to the legendary city of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Known as the "Red Rose City", Petra was carved into the rose-hued cliffs by the ancient Nabataeans more than 2,000 years ago.

Begin your exploration with a walk through the narrow Siq, a winding gorge flanked by towering rock walls. At the end, be awestruck by the sight of the Treasury (Al-Khazneh), Petra's most iconic façade, dramatically emerging from the canyon as if frozen in time. Continue to explore the city's many tombs, caves, and temples, each telling stories of a civilisation long gone yet remarkably preserved.

In the late afternoon, transfer to your hotel near Petra and enjoy a delicious dinner, reflecting on one of the most unforgettable days of your journey.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dead Sea Spa Hotel

#### **Day 15: The Dead Sea ~ Free Day**

After breakfast at the hotel, spend a relaxing day at the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, known for its healing waters and mineral-rich mud.

Float effortlessly in the hypersaline waters, a truly unique experience, and try a natural mud bath renowned for its rejuvenating and cleansing properties. Take time to unwind, enjoy the sunshine, and soak in the tranquil surroundings.

As the day winds down, witness a breathtaking sunset over the hills of the West Bank, with views stretching toward Jerusalem—a spectacular finale to your journey through Egypt and Jordan.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Dead Sea Spa Hotel

#### **Day 16: The Dead Sea ~ Amman**

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and begin your journey to the historic town of Madaba, renowned for its exceptional Byzantine mosaics. Explore the archaeological sites scattered throughout the town, including the famous Madaba Map—the oldest preserved mosaic map of the Holy Land, dating back to the 6th century.

Continue to Mount Nebo, a site of profound biblical significance. According to tradition, it was from this mountain that Moses viewed the Promised Land before his death. On a clear day, take in sweeping panoramic views across the Jordan Valley, Jericho, and even Jerusalem in the distance.

In the afternoon, arrive in Amman, Jordan's vibrant capital, for a short city tour. Visit the historic Amman Citadel, perched atop Jabal al-Qala'a, offering incredible views and ancient ruins, followed by the impressive Roman Theatre, a remnant of the city's time as the Greco-Roman city of Philadelphia.

Wrap up the day with a stroll through Downtown Amman, where you'll have time for shopping in local markets and boutiques, a perfect opportunity to pick up souvenirs and experience the city's modern-day culture.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Harir Palace Hotel, Amman

#### Day 17: End of Tour ~ Amman

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel before checking out. You will then be transferred to Amman International Airport for your onward flight.

We thank you for choosing to travel with MyHoliday2 and hope you have had a truly memorable journey through Egypt and Jordan.

Wishing you a safe and pleasant journey home—we look forward to welcoming you again on your next adventure!

**MEALS:** Breakfast