Itinerary

12 Day Best of Egypt: Pyramids, River Cruise & Sharm El Sheikh

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

Day 1: Arrive Cairo, Egypt [MONDAY]

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: Pyramid Front Hotel, Cairo

Day 2: Cairo ~ Pyramids, Sphinx and Grand Egyptian Museum Tour

After breakfast, meet your Egyptologist guide and begin exploring ancient Egypt with a visit to the legendary Pyramids of Giza. See the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the largest of the three main pyramids and the only surviving wonder of the ancient world. You will also see the Pyramid of Khafre and the Pyramid of Menkaure, each offering a powerful glimpse into Egypt's extraordinary past.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Entrance inside the pyramid tombs is not included and is payable locally. This includes entry to the tombs inside the Pyramids of Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure.

Nearby, stand before the Great Sphinx, one of Egypt's most recognisable monuments. Carved from natural rock, this impressive figure has the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh. It remains one of the most iconic sights in Cairo and a true highlight of your journey.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the Grand Egyptian Museum for a guided visit. Here you will see remarkable displays, including the Hanging Obelisk, the Statue of King Ramesses II, the ten statues of Senusret, the Victory Column of Merenptah, Ptolemaic royal statues and the Grand Staircase Gallery. There will also be time to browse the GEM Gift Shop before returning to your hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Pyramid Front Hotel, Cairo

Day 3: Cairo ~ Free Day

After breakfast, enjoy a free day in Cairo to relax or explore at your own pace. You may choose to unwind at the hotel, revisit a favourite part of the city, or speak with your guide about local suggestions.

This is a good opportunity to slow the pace before continuing your Egypt Tour. You may also choose to discover more of Cairo independently, enjoy the hotel facilities, or simply take time to rest.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Pyramid Front Hotel, Cairo

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Full Day Alexandria Tour

Travel from Cairo to Alexandria by road, with the journey taking approximately two and a half hours. On arrival, explore Egypt's famous Mediterranean city, known for its coastal setting, Greco-Roman history and links to the ancient Library of Alexandria.

Visit the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, one of Alexandria's most fascinating ancient sites. Then continue to Pompey's Pillar, an impressive red Aswan granite column built in honour of Emperor Diocletian.

Later, enjoy a photo stop from outside Qaitbay Fort. This 15th century fortress sits near the site of the ancient Lighthouse of Alexandria, once one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

You will also enjoy a panoramic visit from outside the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. This striking modern library was created to recapture the spirit of learning and scholarship of the ancient library.

After sightseeing, return by road to Cairo for the evening.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME: 5 Hours return

APPROXIMATE DRIVING DISTANCE: 450 km return

Important Information:

- This is an optional activity at an additional cost
- Pre booking is recommended
- Tour operates subject to minimum numbers and availability
- Lunch may be included depending on the final package arrangements
- Order of sightseeing may change due to local conditions

Day 4: Cairo ~ Islamic and Coptic Cairo Tour

After breakfast, meet your private Egyptologist guide and begin exploring Islamic and Coptic Cairo. Today offers a different side of the city, moving beyond the ancient pyramids and into Cairo's rich religious and cultural history.

Visit the Citadel of Salah El Din, one of Cairo's most important medieval landmarks. Set high above the city, this impressive fortress is known for its large gateways, defensive walls and sweeping views over Cairo.

Within the Citadel area, see the famous Mosque of Mohamed Ali. With its grand domes, tall minarets and Ottoman style architecture, it remains one of the most recognisable sights in the Egyptian capital.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Coptic Cairo and visit St George Church. Dating back to around the 7th or 8th century, this unique round church was built over the foundations of an ancient Roman tower.

After sightseeing, return to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Pyramid Front Hotel, Cairo

Day 5: Cairo ~ Aswan ~ Embark Nile River Cruise [FRIDAY]

After breakfast, check out of your Cairo hotel and transfer to Cairo International Airport for your flight to Aswan. On arrival, you will be met and assisted before continuing your sightseeing in southern Egypt.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT NOTE: The domestic flight from Cairo to Aswan is booked by our local supplier. Flight details may not be provided in advance and are usually confirmed once you are on tour.

Begin with a visit to the Aswan High Dam, one of Egypt's major modern engineering achievements. This important landmark helped control Nile flooding and supports irrigation and power generation across the region.

Continue to Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Set on an island, this beautiful temple complex is one of Aswan's most scenic ancient sites and offers a memorable introduction to Upper Egypt.

After sightseeing, transfer to your Nile cruise and check in. Enjoy lunch on board and take time to settle into your cabin as your journey along the Nile begins.

Later, enjoy a traditional felucca sailing experience around Aswan. Watch the sunset from the water and take in views across the Nile, including the area around Elephantine Island.

Return to your cruise for dinner and overnight on board.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 6: Nile River Cruise: Abu Simbel & Kom Ombo

After breakfast, depart by air-conditioned vehicle for Abu Simbel. The drive takes approximately three hours each way, travelling through the desert landscapes of southern Egypt.

On arrival, visit the incredible Abu Simbel Temples, built by King Ramesses II. The larger temple is dedicated to Ra-Horakhty, while the smaller temple honours Queen Nefertari. With their massive rock-cut statues and dramatic setting, these temples are among Egypt's most impressive ancient sites.

After your visit, return towards Aswan and rejoin your Nile cruise. Then, sail along the Nile towards Kom Ombo, enjoying time on board as the river scenery unfolds.

Later, visit Kom Ombo Temple, beautifully positioned on a bend of the Nile. This unusual double temple was dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile-headed god, and Horus the Elder.

Afterwards, visit the Crocodile Museum, home to ancient mummified crocodiles. The museum offers a fascinating insight into the importance of Sobek worship in this region.

Return to your cruise for dinner and overnight on board.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME: 6 Hours return

APPROXIMATE DRIVING DISTANCE: 560 km return

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 7: Nile River Cruise Edfu, Karnak & Luxor Temple

After breakfast on board, meet your guide and visit Edfu Temple. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, this impressive temple is one of the best preserved ancient shrines in Egypt.

The temple was built during the Ptolemaic period between 237 and 57 BC. Its detailed wall carvings and inscriptions offer a fascinating insight into ancient Egyptian religion, mythology and temple life.

After your visit, return to the cruise and continue sailing towards Luxor. Enjoy lunch on board as you take in the changing Nile scenery and relax between sightseeing stops.

On arrival in Luxor, visit Luxor Temple, one of the city's most atmospheric ancient sites. This striking temple complex was closely linked to kingship and may have been used during coronation ceremonies.

Continue to Karnak Temple, one of the most important temple complexes in ancient Thebes. Dedicated mainly to the god Amun, Karnak was a major religious centre and remains one of Egypt's most remarkable archaeological sites.

Return to your cruise for dinner and overnight on board in Luxor.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hapi 5 Nile Cruise

Day 8: Disembark Nile River Cruise: Valley of the Kings & Hatshepsut Temple ~ Cairo

After breakfast on board, check out of your Nile cruise and meet your guide for a visit to Luxor's West Bank. This remarkable area is home to some of Egypt's most important royal tombs and ancient monuments.

Visit the Valley of the Kings, where many pharaohs were laid to rest in richly decorated tombs. Your guide will explain the history of the valley and the selected tombs included in your visit. Entry to special tombs, including Tutankhamun's Tomb, is not included and is payable locally.

Continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari. Built into the cliffs, this striking temple honours one of Egypt's most successful female pharaohs and remains one of Luxor's most impressive

sites.

Afterwards, stop to see the Colossi of Memnon. These two massive stone statues once guarded a grand mortuary temple and are now one of the West Bank's most iconic photo stops.

After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Luxor Airport for your flight back to Cairo. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check in and overnight.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT NOTE: The domestic flight from Luxor to Cairo is booked by our local supplier. Flight details may not be provided in advance and are usually confirmed once you are on tour.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Baron Heliopolis, Cairo

Day 9: Cairo ~ Sharm El Sheikh

After breakfast, check out from your hotel in Cairo and begin your journey to Sharm El Sheikh.

Travel towards Egypt's famous resort region, known for clear waters, warm sunshine and a relaxed coastal atmosphere.

On arrival in Sharm El Sheikh, transfer to your hotel and check in. The rest of the day is free to relax, enjoy the resort facilities or settle into your beachside escape.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME: 7 Hours

APPROXIMATE DRIVING DISTANCE: 500 km

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Dreams Vacation Resort, Sharm El Sheikh

Day 10: Sharm El Sheikh

After breakfast, enjoy a free day in Sharm El Sheikh.

Today is yours to enjoy at your own pace. You may choose to relax by the pool, spend time by the water, or make the most of the resort facilities.

Alternatively, join one of the optional local activities available from Sharm El Sheikh. Options may include a sea trip, snorkelling, Ras Mohamed National Park, a desert safari or a glass boat experience.

This is a great chance to unwind after your time exploring Cairo, the Nile and Luxor. Enjoy the slower pace before your journey comes to an end.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Dreams Vacation Resort, Sharm El Sheikh

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Optional activities are subject to availability and payable locally.

Sea Trip

Spend time out on the water with the chance to relax, swim and enjoy the coastal scenery around Sharm El Sheikh.

Snorkelling Trip

Enjoy the chance to snorkel in clear waters and see colourful marine life. This is one of the most popular ways to experience Sharm El Sheikh.

Ras Mohamed National Park

Visit one of Egypt's most famous natural areas, known for its coastal scenery, clear waters and excellent snorkelling opportunities.

Desert Safari

Head into the surrounding desert for a change of scenery. Take in the open landscapes and experience a different side of Egypt.

Glass Boat Trip

See marine life from above the water on a glass boat trip. This is a relaxed option for guests who prefer not to snorkel.

Day 11: Sharm El Sheikh

After breakfast, enjoy another free day in Sharm El Sheikh.

Today is yours to relax and enjoy at your own pace. You may like to spend time by the pool, unwind at the resort, or enjoy the warm coastal atmosphere.

Alternatively, choose from optional activities available locally. These may include a sea trip, snorkelling, Ras Mohamed National Park, a desert safari or a glass boat experience.

This is your final full day in Sharm El Sheikh, so take the opportunity to slow down before your journey home tomorrow.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Dreams Vacation Resort, Sharm El Sheikh

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Optional activities are subject to availability and payable locally.

Sea Trip

Spend time out on the water with the chance to relax, swim and enjoy the coastal scenery around Sharm El Sheikh.

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Glass Boat Trip

See marine life from above the water on a glass boat trip. This is a relaxed option for guests who prefer not to snorkel.

Day 12: Depart Sharm El Sheikh

After breakfast, check out from your hotel in Sharm El Sheikh.

Depending on your flight time, enjoy some final time at leisure. You may wish to relax at the resort, take a final walk, or prepare for your journey home.

At the appropriate time, transfer to Sharm El Sheikh Airport for your onward flight.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIME: 30 Minutes

APPROXIMATE DRIVING DISTANCE: 15 km

MEALS: Breakfast