



# **EGYPT**

## **History Along the Nile**

**January 4-14, 2024**  
**11 Days / 9 Nights**  
**Including 4-night Nile Cruise**



# Egypt

January 4-14, 2024

11 Days / 9 Nights

## ITINERARY

<b>DAY 1</b>	Leave Houston for Cairo, Egypt
<b>DAY 2</b>	Arrive in Cairo / Cairo
<b>DAY 3</b>	Cairo sightseeing / Cairo
<b>DAY 4</b>	Giza & Saqqara sightseeing / Cairo
<b>DAY 5</b>	Fly to Luxor - sightseeing / Nile Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 6</b>	Luxor sightseeing continues / Nile Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 7</b>	Edfu - Kom Ombo / Nile Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 8</b>	Aswan - sightseeing / Nile Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 9</b>	Abu Simbel - Fly to Cairo / Cairo
<b>DAY 10</b>	Cairo sightseeing / Cairo
<b>DAY 11</b>	Departure



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## MAP TRAJECTORY





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## HIGHLIGHTS

**Egyptian Museum with Mummy room visit.**

**In Luxor visit a local village and lunch with a local family.**

**Visit of Egyptian queen Nefertari's tomb.**

**Sakkara with Imhotep Museum and Serapeum.**

**Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza.**

**Karnak and Luxor Temples.**

**Valley of Kings including entry to King Tut's tomb.**

**Queen Hatshepsut's temple.**

**Ptolemaic temples of Nile.**

**Nile cruise on a luxury cruiser from Luxor to Aswan.**

**Nubian Museum.**

**Aswan quarry.**

**Abu Simbel with Ramses II temple.**

**Islamic & Coptic Cairo.**

**Khan el Khalili Bazaar in Cairo.**

**Delicious food and more...**



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## **INCLUDED**

**9 Nights' accommodation at stated hotels and cruise ship.**

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner as indicated in the itinerary.**

**Three domestic flights: Cairo to Luxor / Aswan to Abu Simbel / Abu Simbel to Cairo.**

**Transfers - for travelers on suggested flights.**

**Sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary; related entry fees.**

**Professional English speaking Egyptologist tour guide throughout the tour.**

**Two small bottles of water per person every day on the bus.**

**Porterage at the hotels.**

## **NOT INCLUDED**

**International airfare.**

**Visa fees.**

**Drinks with included meals, except drinking water for meals and tea or coffee for breakfast.**

**Gratuities for guides, cruise personnel and drivers.**

**Personal expenditures like phone calls, laundry, medical expenses.**

**Travel insurance.**



## SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

**Suggested flights are on Turkish Airlines via Istanbul:**

**04 Jan      Houston to Istanbul**  
**TK 34      dep: 8:35 pm / arr: 5:20 pm on 05 Jan**

**05 Jan      Istanbul to Cairo**  
**TK 694     dep: 7:05 pm / arr: 8:30 pm**

**14 Jan      Cairo to Istanbul**  
**TK 691     dep: 10:00 am / arr: 1:30 pm**

**14 Jan      Istanbul to Houston**  
**TK 33      dep: 2:30 pm / arr: 6:55 pm**

**Economy class: \$1,470**

**Business class: \$5,375**

**per person, including taxes, surcharges and fees as of July 9, 2023.**

**Fares may change based on availability.**



## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Cairo - 1st Stay: Steigenberger Pyramids

<https://hrewards.com/en/steigenberger-pyramids-cairo>



### Nile Cruise: M.S. Mayfair

<https://www.mayfaircruises.com/>





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## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Cairo - 2nd Stay: Four Seasons Cairo First Residence**

<https://www.fourseasons.com/cairofr/>







## PROGRAM DETAILS

### DAY 1

**Thu, Jan 4 - Houston-Cairo**

We will leave Houston for Cairo, Egypt.

### DAY 2

**Fri, Jan 5 - Cairo Arrival**

Upon arrival, we will meet our guide at the airport and we will be transferred to our hotel in Cairo.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: -**

**Cairo**, Egypt's sprawling capital, is set on the Nile River. At its heart is Tahrir Square and the vast Egyptian Museum, a trove of antiquities including royal mummies and gilded King Tutankhamun artifacts. Nearby, Giza is the site of the iconic pyramids and Great Sphinx, dating to the 26th century BC.

As the capital city of Egypt, with eighteen million inhabitants, Cairo is not only vibrant, exhilarating, exotic and fascinating, but warm and welcoming, as well. Egyptians call their city "umm ad-dunya"- the mother of the world.



## DAY 3

### Sat, Jan 6 - Cairo

Today we will start our full-day tour with a visit to the incredible Egyptian Museum. Our guide will take us through a time tunnel back to the beginnings and development of the ancient Egypt. We will not, of course, leave the museum without seeing the renowned Mummy Room.

After lunch, we will stroll through the winding streets of the Islamic Cairo and the Citadel stopping by important historic monuments, buildings and places. We will explore the winding streets further to reach the Mosque of Ibn Tulun, arguably the oldest mosque in the city, surviving in its original form, and the largest in Cairo in terms of area. Ironically, El-Arafa necropolis is going to be our last stop today. Known in English as the “City of the Dead”, the cemetery has been around for more than 700 years in a city so crowded that today tens of thousands live here among the tombs.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: B-L-D**

**Al-Azhar Mosque and Madrasa**, founded by the Fatimid dynasty in 10th century, is considered the third oldest university in the world, serving as a center for Arabic literature and Sunni Islamic learning.

**Saladin Citadel**, a medieval Islamic fortification with mosques and museums. Perched on the summit of the citadel, the 19th century Ottoman Mosque of Muhammad Ali represents his efforts to erase the thraces of the Mamluk dynasty that he replaced.



## DAY 4

### Sun, Jan 7 - Cairo - Giza

In the morning, we will drive to Sakkara, the vast, ancient burial ground surviving as the necropolis of the ancient Egyptian capital, Memphis.

We will visit the oldest stone building complex known in history, Djoser's Step Pyramid, as well as the mastabas of Meriruka and Ti. We will also see a very special place in Sakkara, the Serapeum, the burial place of the Apis bulls, living manifestations of the god, Ptah. Before we leave, we will admire the masterpieces of Sakkara at the museum, named for Imhotep, the famous architect of Djoser's Step Pyramid.

We will drive to Giza Plateau to explore the great pyramids, the last remaining of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. After exploring the three pyramids, we will see Khufu's solar ship, the most famous of all solar ships, at the Giza Solar Boat Museum. The ship was disassembled in the 3rd millennium BC into 1224 small pieces before being buried near the Great Pyramid in the boat pit, only to be fully re-assembled in 1968 to be exhibited in the museum.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: B-L-D**

The largest of the three pyramids, which belongs to **Khufu**, is a marvel of engineering from the 3rd millennium BC, the Old Kingdom period. His son, **Khafre's pyramid**, on a nearby site, appears taller than his father's, but this is an illusion, because it was built on a higher ground. Khafre's son, **Menkaura's pyramid** is less than half the height of his grandfather, Khufu's pyramid.

Along with his pyramid, Khafre built the **Great Sphinx** as a part of his complex, that represents Ra-Harakhte, the sun god, as he rises in the east. The face of the Sphinx is a portrait of Khafre.



## DAY 5

### Mon, Jan 8 - Cairo-Luxor-Nile Cruise Boat

We will be transferred to the airport this morning and take a flight to Luxor. Upon arrival, our guide will meet us at the airport and take us to our beautiful Nile cruiser to check in, before heading for amazing heritage sites bequeathed to humanity by the ancient Egyptians.

We will explore the Luxor Temple complex built with sandstone on the east bank of the Nile River in the 2nd century millennium. We will continue our expedition with the nearby Karnak Temple complex, whose construction started during the Middle Kingdom and continued into the Ptolemaic period.

After lunch, we will drive to Deir-Al Medina on the West bank of the Nile River to visit a unique place, which housed a specialized community, artisans and workmen, who built and decorated the royal tombs during the New Kingdom. The workers also built their own tombs, of course, on a much smaller scale than the ones they built for the pharaohs and the noble men at the Valley of the Kings.

While we are on the West bank, we will go to Tombs of the Nobles, located in the Theban necropolis, and admire the Tomb of Ramose, a governor and a vizier during the reigns of Amenhotep III and Akhenaton.

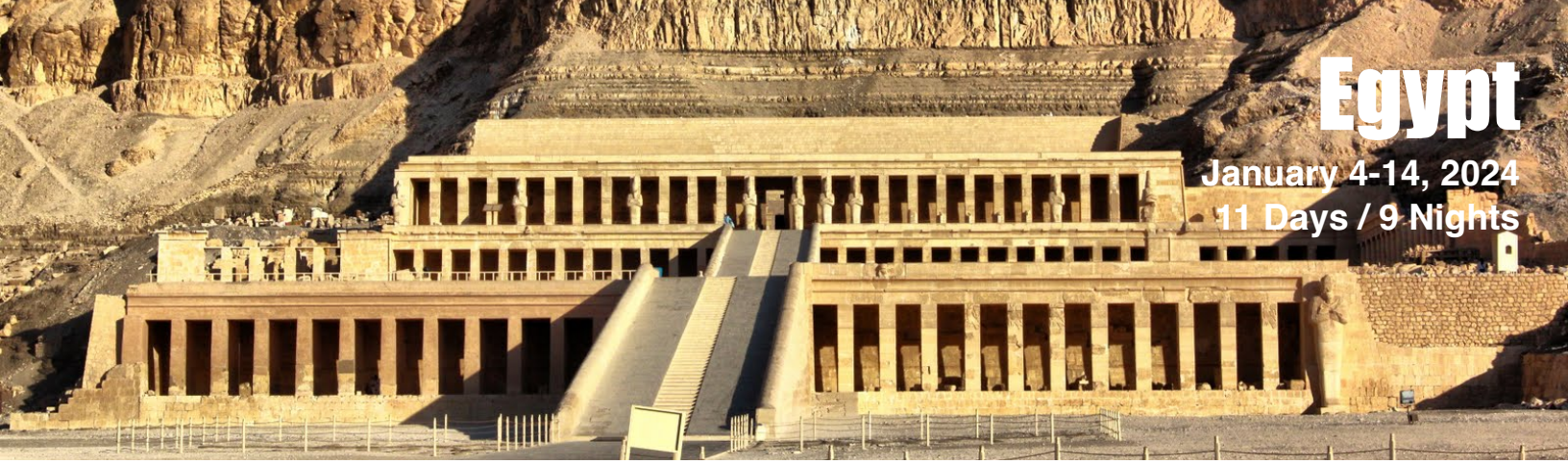
**Overnight on board**

**Meals: B-L-D**

Often acknowledged as the “world's greatest open air museum”, **Luxor** is the site of the city of Thebes, the great capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom era that was dedicated to the god Amon-Ra.

The complex is considered the second largest ancient religious site in the world, after the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and second most visited place in Egypt after the Giza Pyramids.

**Tomb of Ramose:** This fairly large private tomb is unfinished, but the walls were decorated with low reliefs of exquisite quality. Most of the decorations depict the funeral process. We will especially pay attention to an unpainted portrait of a guest at Ramose's funeral banquet, except the eyes. Many scholars feel this particular scene represents one of the best pieces of ancient art to be found in the world. Every curl of a wig, bead of a necklace and soft fold of a garment is rendered in precise detail.



## DAY 6

### Tue, Jan 9 - Luxor

In the morning, we will drive to the Valley of the Kings, nestled in the cliffs on the west bank of the Nile.

Our journey will include a visit to the exciting **Tutankhamun's tomb**, which was discovered nearly intact by Howard Carter and George Herbert in 1922.

Our expedition will continue with the great mortuary temple of the female pharaoh, Hatshepsut at Deir El-Bahari. This elegant terraced structure, one of the most beautiful temples in Egypt, is decorated with carved reliefs illustrating some of the great events of Hatshepsut's reign. Our ship will sail to Edfu this afternoon.

**Overnight on board**

**Meals: B-L-D**

**Valley of the Kings:** Being home to 63 known tombs, carved for the great pharaohs and royal family members of the New Kingdom, the valley is divided into more famous East Valley and the West Valley. The tombs were carved out of the cliffs in long shafts, heading deep underground and terminating in elaborate burial chambers. The tombs are decorated from top to bottom with religious images and texts from the Book of the Dead, designed to aid the journey of the king to the afterlife.



## DAY 7

### Wed, Jan 10 - Nile Cruise: Edfu–Kom Ombo

The site of Edfu contains the most complete and best-preserved temple in Egypt, the Ptolemaic Temple of Hours, which was constructed during the 1st century BC. Among the reliefs that cover the walls, columns, and doorways of the temple, we will especially pay attention to the ones which tell the story of Horus taking his revenge on Seth for the murder of his father, Osiris, an event that was re-enacted annually in the temple. Objects of note in the temple include a colossal statue of Horus as a falcon, which stands at the entrance to the main temple building.

After we return to our ship, we will sail to Kom Ombo to visit another Ptolemaic temple dedicated to Haroeris and Sobek.

After our visit, we will sail to Aswan.

**Overnight on board**

**Meals: B-L-D**

**Temple of Haroeris & Sobek:** The temple is noted for its symmetrical construction; two entrances, two sanctuaries, and a line of symmetry that divided the temple into the domains of Haroeris and Sobek. The worship of Sobek, the crocodile god, is an example of the manner in which the Egyptians turned dangerous creatures into protectors. Sacred crocodiles were kept at the temple here, mummified and buried after death. Haroeris or Horus the Elder, on the other hand, is the sky god whose eyes are the sun and the moon. In various myths, however, he is also identified with the sun god, or functions as his son. Along the inside of the outer wall are images thought to be connected with the Egyptian medicine, including what appear to be birthing chairs and a series of surgical instruments.



## DAY 8

### Thu, Jan 11 - Nile Cruise: Aswan

After we disembark our ship, we will visit the High Dam whose construction was considered pivotal to Egypt's industrialization by the Egyptian Government following the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, by controlling flood, providing water for irrigation, and generating hydroelectricity.

We will continue our tour with a very interesting place, the Aswan quarry, that provided the Great Pyramids of Giza with red, grey and black granite. There's even an unfinished obelisk in the quarry that will make us very curious about the reason why it was abandoned.

We will, then, take a boat to the Philae Temple. Even though the original island of Philae lies underneath the waters of the Lake Nasser, with the help of UNESCO, the entire temple complex was relocated to a new island, Agilkia, just to the south of Aswan. It was the center of the cult of the goddess Isis during the Ptolemaic period.

Then, we will explore the tombs of nobles at Qubbet el-Hawa, a necropolis of a group of rock-cut tombs of various noblemen from the Old Kingdom to the Roman period, on the west bank of the Nile, opposite of Aswan.

Today our tour will be complete with a visit to the Nubian Museum, which is dedicated to the history of Nubia, the area that stretches from Aswan in the north to Sudan in the south. Designed as an innovative interpretation of the traditional Nubian architecture, the museum won the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2001.

**Overnight on board**

**Meals: B-L-D**

**DAY 9****Fri, Jan 12 - Abu Simbel - Cairo**

Early in the morning, we will fly from Aswan to Abu Simbel and start our excursion.

After visiting the temples, we will fly to Cairo.

Upon arrival, we will continue our visits in Old Cairo, Hanging Church, Abu Sarga church in Coptic Cairo and a Synagogue, a remnant of Jewish Heritage of the city.

Then we will have our Farewell dinner with local music and dance show.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: B-L-D**

**Abu Simbel** lies far to the south of the ancient borders of Egypt, in the land of Nubia. Two magnificent rock-cut temples were built here by the 19th Dynasty pharaoh Ramesses I (ca. 13th -12th century BC). The larger of the two, the Great Temple, was dedicated to the gods Amun, Ptah, Re-Horakhty, and the deified Ramesses II, while the Small Temple was dedicated to the goddess Hathor and Ramesses II's principal queen, Nefertari. When the High Dam was built, UNESCO led a massive international campaign to save the temples from the flood. The temples were cut into enormous blocks and re-assembled at a location, 213 ft higher and 689 ft away from the river.





## DAY 10

### Sat, Jan 13 - Cairo

No visit to Egypt and Cairo is complete without a stop at the Khan El-Khalili Bazaar.

We will enjoy the lively atmosphere of the Khan El Khalili Bazaar, which was built

in the 14th century and was named after a Mamluk Prince Jaharkas Al-Khalili. It's famous for its unusual, oriental souvenirs, and crafts. The medieval atmosphere of this traditional market, together with its labyrinth of the narrow streets will charm us.

Rest of the day is ours to explore on our own.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: B-L**



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## DAY 11

### Sun, Jan 14 - Departure

Today we will be transferred to the airport to take a flight back to the U.S.A.

#### Contact Us

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