

# EGYPT

*History Along the Nile*



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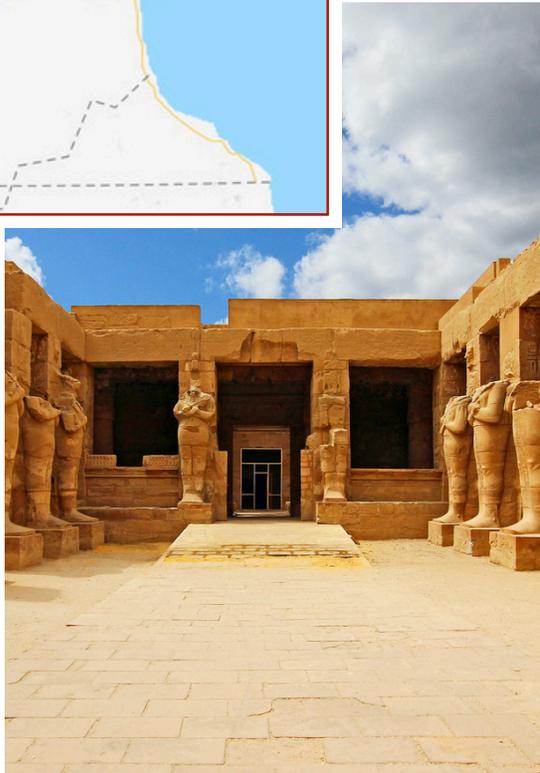
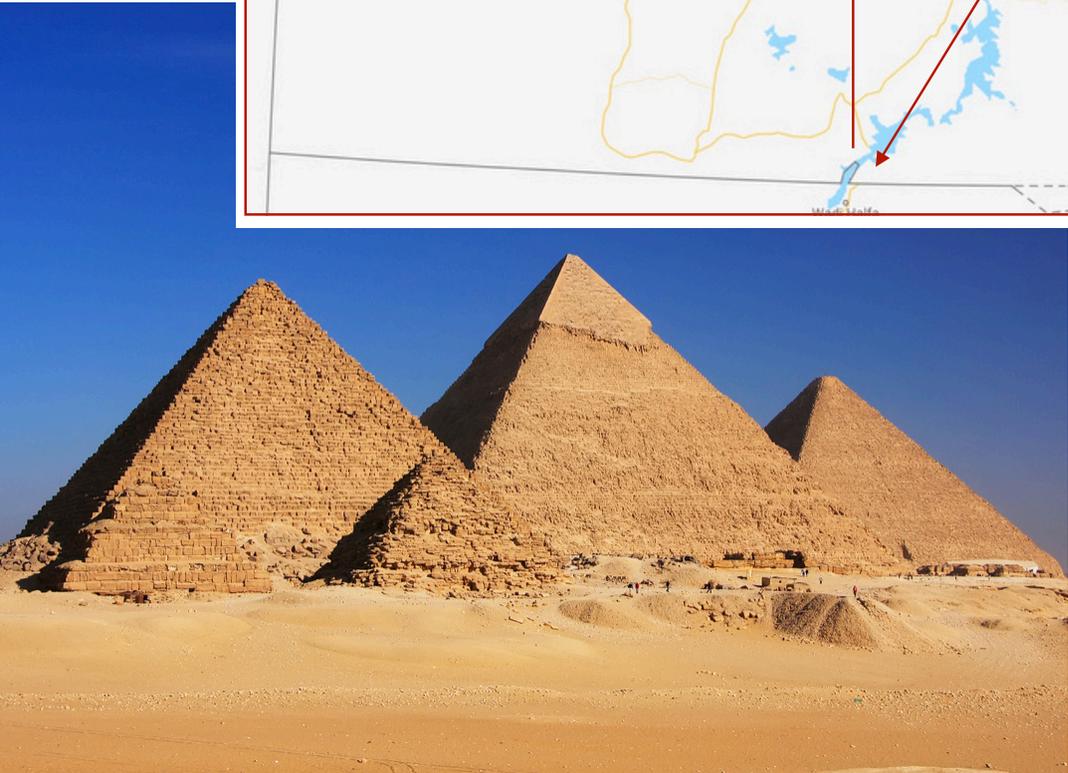
January 15-25, 2026



# ITINERARY

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Thu, Jan 15, 2026</b>	Leave USA	
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Fri, Jan 16, 2026</b>	Arrive in Cairo	Cairo
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Sat, Jan 17, 2026</b>	Cairo sightseeing	Cairo
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Sun, Jan 18, 2026</b>	Giza sightseeing	Cairo
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Mon, Jan 19, 2026</b>	Fly to Luxor - Sightseeing	Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Tue, Jan 20, 2026</b>	Luxor sightseeing	Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Wed, Jan 21, 2026</b>	Edfu - Kom Ombo	Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Thu, Jan 22, 2026</b>	Aswan sightseeing	Cruise Ship
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Fri, Jan 23, 2026</b>	Abu Simbel - Cairo	Cairo
<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>Sat, Jan 24, 2026</b>	Cairo sightseeing	Cairo
<b>DAY 11</b>	<b>Sun, Jan 25, 2026</b>	Departure	

# MAP TRAJECTORY





## HIGHLIGHTS

**Grand Egyptian Museum**

**National Museum of Egyptian  
Civilization with Royal Mummies**

**Visit of Pharaoh Seti I'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**



## **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 guide, cruise personnel and drivers.**

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

**Travel Insurance**



## SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights are on [Turkish Airlines](#) and partner airlines:

- 15 Jan TK 34**      **USA to Istanbul dep: 9:05 pm / arr: 6:05 pm on Jan 16**  
**Istanbul 4hr layover**
- 16 Jan TK 686**      **Istanbul to Cairo dep: 10:25 pm / arr: 11:50 pm**
- 25 Jan TK 691**      **Cairo to Istanbul dep: 10:15 am / arr: 1:50 pm**  
**Istanbul 1hr layover**
- 25 Jan TK 33**      **Istanbul to USA dep: 2:50 pm / arr: 7:10 pm**

**Economy class: \$1,047**

**Business class: \$4,027**

**per person, including taxes, surcharges and fees as of June 23, 2025.**

**Fares may change based on availability.**

Preferred Travel Partner



January 15-25, 2026  
11 Days / 9 Nights

# ACCOMMODATIONS

January 15-25, 2026  
11 Days / 9 Nights

## Hyatt Regency Cairo West

Cairo

[hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/](https://hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/)



## Nile Cruise: M.S. DWA

Nile River

[nilecruisevacation.com](https://nilecruisevacation.com)



## Four Seasons Cairo First Residence

Cairo

[www.fourseasons.com/caiouro/](https://www.fourseasons.com/caiouro/)





# PROGRAM DETAILS

**Day 1: Thu, Jan 15**

**Leave USA**

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We will leave Houston for Cairo, Egypt.

**Overnight en route**

**Day 2: Fri, Jan 16**

**Cairo Arrival**

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Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide at Cairo International Airport and transferred to your hotel.

Cairo, Egypt's captivating capital, rests on the banks of the Nile and serves as a gateway to a land of timeless treasures. At its heart lies Tahrir Square and the renowned Egyptian Museum, home to an extraordinary collection of ancient relics. Just beyond the city, on the Giza Plateau, rise the iconic Pyramids and the enigmatic Sphinx, monuments that have stood for over 4,000 years.

With a population of over eighteen million, Cairo is a bustling, colorful, and endlessly fascinating metropolis. The Egyptians call it "Umm ad-Dunya" – the "Mother of the World" – a city with warmth, energy, and heritage, making it the perfect starting point for your journey through this extraordinary land.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: D**



**Day 3: Sat, Jan 17**

**The Heart of Cairo - Ancient Wonders and Islamic heritage**

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Founded on the banks of the Nile in the 10th century AD by Jawhar al-Siqilli of the Fatimid dynasty, Cairo has long been a center of political and cultural life. Its heritage is deeply rooted in its proximity to the ancient capitals of Memphis, Giza, and Fustat – making it a city where millennia of history come alive.

Today, we begin with a visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum, a spectacular new home for Egypt's ancient treasures. After years of meticulous planning and construction, this state-of-the-art museum opened its doors to showcase an unrivaled collection of Pharaonic relics – including the treasures of King Tutankhamun – in a space designed for both awe and accessibility. Our expert guide will lead you through a captivating journey, tracing the evolution of ancient Egypt from its very beginnings to its glory days.

After lunch, we'll explore the winding streets of Islamic Cairo, a historic quarter rich in heritage and architectural marvels. Our first stop is the Al-Azhar Mosque and Madrasa, founded by the Fatimid dynasty in the 10th century. Renowned as one of the oldest universities in the world, Al-Azhar has served for over a millennium as a beacon of Arabic literature and Sunni Islamic learning.

From there, we'll ascend to the Saladin Citadel, an imposing fortress built to defend the city. At its heart stands the magnificent Mosque of Muhammad Ali, a 19th-century Ottoman landmark symbolizing the end of Mamluk rule and the rise of a new era. Its graceful domes and soaring minarets dominate Cairo's skyline and offer panoramic views of the city.

We continue our journey with a visit to the Mosque of Ibn Tulun, one of Cairo's oldest and largest mosques. Renowned for its striking design and serene courtyard, it has survived in its original form for over a millennium.

Our final stop is the City of the Dead (El-Arafa), a sprawling necropolis that has been in use for more than 700 years. Today, it serves as both a historic cemetery and a bustling neighborhood where tens of thousands of people live and work among the tombs, making it one of Cairo's most intriguing and poignant sights.

**Overnight in Cairo**

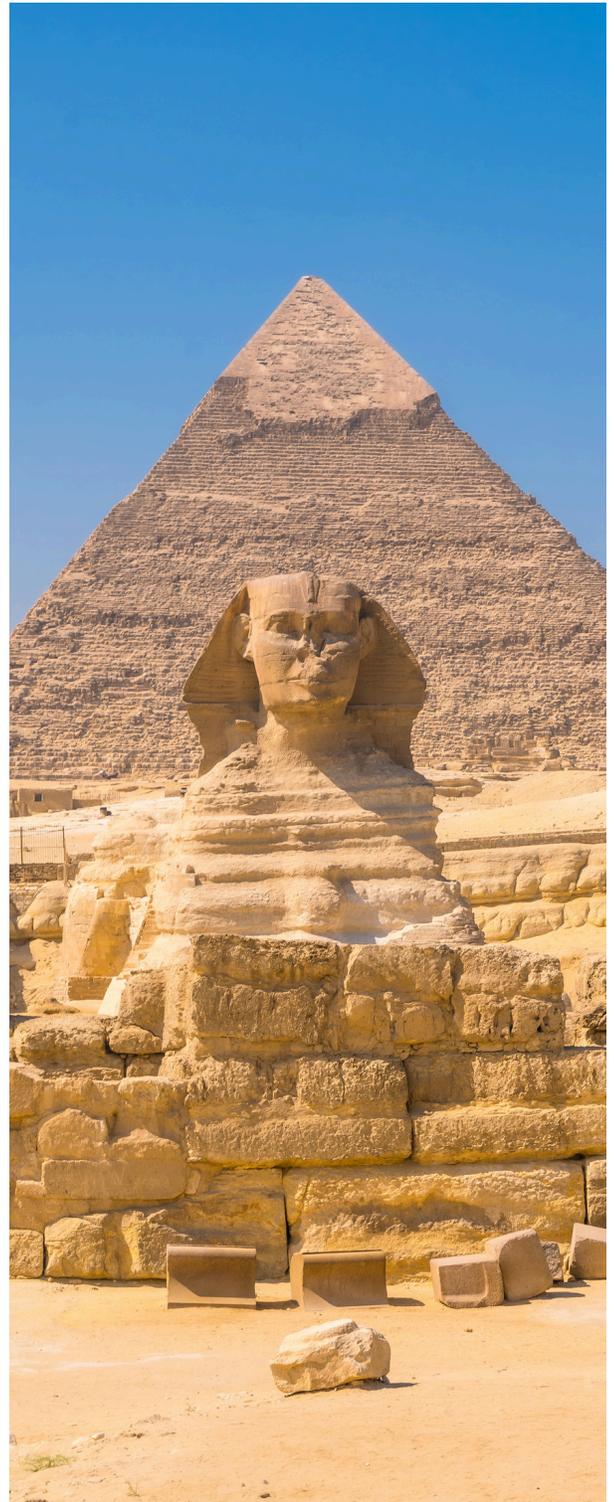
**Meals: B –L- D**

Today, we journey to Sakkara, the sprawling ancient necropolis that served as the burial grounds for the old Egyptian capital of Memphis. Here, you'll witness the beginnings of Egypt's pyramid building tradition and some of its finest masterpieces.

Our first stop is the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the oldest stone structure of its kind, built in the 27th century BC. Designed by the visionary architect Imhotep, this revolutionary pyramid complex set the stage for the great monuments that would follow. We'll also explore the nearby mastabas of Mereruka and Ti, beautifully adorned tombs that reveal vivid stories of daily life and the afterlife. Another highlight is the Serapeum, the sacred burial site of the Apis bulls – holy creatures believed to be living manifestations of the god Ptah. Before departing, we'll visit the Imhotep Museum, which showcases an extraordinary collection of statues, reliefs, and artifacts that capture the ingenuity and craftsmanship of ancient Sakkara.

From Sakkara, we continue to the Giza Plateau for an awe-inspiring encounter with the iconic pyramids. Dominating the skyline is the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the largest and oldest of the three pyramids, and the only surviving wonder of the ancient world. Its massive scale and precision engineering remain a testament to Egypt's Old Kingdom era.

Nearby stands the Pyramid of Khafre, appearing taller due to its position on higher ground, and its smaller neighbor, the Pyramid of Menkaure, which is less than half the height of Khufu's but no less captivating. Guarding these royal tombs is the enigmatic Great Sphinx, a colossal statue with the body of a lion and the face of Khafre. Believed to represent Ra-Harakhty, the rising sun god, this timeless monument embodies the spiritual and architectural mastery that define ancient Egypt.





**Day 5: Mon, Jan 19**

**Cairo – Luxor – Nile Cruise Boat**

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This morning, we'll fly from Cairo to Luxor. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to your elegant Nile cruiser to check in, before setting out to explore some of the greatest heritage sites left to humanity by the ancient Egyptians.

Often called the “world’s greatest open-air museum,” Luxor occupies the site of ancient Thebes, the great capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom, and a sacred city dedicated to the god Amon-Ra. Our journey begins on the East Bank with a visit to the Luxor Temple, a magnificent sandstone complex built in the 2nd millennium BC. We'll then continue to the sprawling Karnak Temple, a vast religious site developed from the Middle Kingdom through the Ptolemaic era. Second only to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Karnak is Egypt's second most visited site after the Giza Pyramids.

After lunch, we cross the Nile to the West Bank for a unique and immersive experience. Our first stop is Deir El-Medina, an ancient village that housed the highly skilled artisans and workmen who built and adorned the royal tombs during the New Kingdom. Here, we'll admire their own modest tombs, richly decorated with artwork that, despite its smaller scale, rivals the beauty of the royal tombs. This is an extraordinary opportunity to witness the everyday craftsmanship of ancient Egypt, away from the crowds. We continue to the Tombs of the Nobles within the Theban Necropolis, where we'll visit the Tomb of Ramose, a governor and vizier during the reigns of Amenhotep III and Akhenaton. Though unfinished, this tomb showcases exquisitely carved low reliefs and beautifully rendered scenes. Among its masterpieces is an unpainted depiction of a guest at Ramose's funeral banquet, except for the eyes. This scene is celebrated by scholars as one of the finest examples of ancient Egyptian artistry – a remarkable testament to the precision and beauty of the era.

**Overnight on the cruise**

**Meals: B - L - D**

**Day 6: Tue, Jan 20****Luxor - The Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Hatshepsut**

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This morning, we'll drive to the Valley of the Kings, nestled deep within the cliffs of the West Bank of the Nile. Home to 63 known tombs, this sacred site served as the final resting place for Egypt's New Kingdom pharaohs and their families. The valley is divided into its more famous East Valley and its quieter West Valley, both featuring tombs carved deep into the rock. These tombs, adorned from top to bottom with intricate religious texts and vivid imagery from the Book of the Dead, were designed to guide the kings and queens on their journey to the afterlife.

A highlight of the morning will be a visit to the tomb of Tutankhamun, discovered almost intact by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in 1922 — one of the greatest archaeological finds in history. Its beautifully preserved chambers reveal the treasures and rituals that defined ancient Egyptian immortality.

We'll then continue to the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari, an elegant terraced structure built for Egypt's most celebrated female pharaoh. Its walls are adorned with exquisite reliefs, capturing moments from Hatshepsut's remarkable reign, including her famous trading expedition to the land of Punt. In the afternoon, we'll return to our Nile cruiser and set sail towards Edfu, enjoying the timeless beauty of the Nile as we journey to our next destination.

**Overnight on the cruise****Meals: B - L - D****Day 7: Wed, Jan 21****Nile Cruise: Edfu – Kom Ombo**

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This morning, we visit Edfu, home to the best-preserved and most complete temple in Egypt — the Ptolemaic Temple of Horus, built in the 1st century BC. Its towering walls, columns, and doorways are adorned with beautifully carved reliefs, including vivid depictions of Horus avenging the murder of his father, Osiris, by defeating the god Seth. This captivating myth was reenacted here every year, and the temple still conveys its sacred atmosphere. At its entrance, you'll be greeted by a colossal statue of Horus as a falcon, a striking symbol of strength and kingship.

After returning to the ship, we'll set sail to Kom Ombo to explore a unique double temple dedicated to Haroeris (Horus the Elder) and Sobek, the crocodile god. The temple's striking symmetrical design reflects its dual dedication, with two entrances, two sanctuaries, and a central line dividing the spaces for each deity. The ancient Egyptians often revered dangerous creatures as protectors, and Sobek — the crocodile god — was no exception. Sacred crocodiles were kept and later mummified here, honoring their divine role. Meanwhile, Haroeris, associated with the sun and the moon, was celebrated as a celestial god, sometimes linked to Ra, the sun god, or depicted as his son.

Of special interest are the reliefs along the outer walls, thought to depict ancient medical practices, including birthing chairs and a variety of surgical instruments — a fascinating glimpse into the medical knowledge of the era. In the afternoon, we'll return to our ship and continue our journey down the Nile to Aswan, enjoying the serene beauty of the river as we sail.

**Overnight on the cruise****Meals: B - L - D**

After disembarking from our Nile cruise, we'll begin with a visit to the Aswan High Dam, a pivotal engineering feat in Egypt's modern era. Constructed following the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, the dam revolutionized agriculture and industry by controlling flooding, providing vital irrigation, and generating hydroelectric power — reshaping life along the Nile.

We'll then move on to the fascinating Aswan Granite Quarries, where ancient workers sourced the red, grey, and black granite used in the construction of the pyramids and temples. Here, we'll see the remarkable Unfinished Obelisk, still attached to its bed of rock. Its abandoned state offers intriguing clues about ancient carving techniques and the reasons why it was left incomplete.

Next, we'll take a boat to the Philae Temple, a captivating site dedicated to the goddess Isis. Though its original location now rests beneath the waters of Lake Nasser, this beautiful temple was meticulously relocated, stone by stone, to the nearby Agilkia Island with the help of UNESCO. Today, it stands as a testament to Egypt's heritage and its Ptolemaic legacy. We'll then continue to the Qubbet el-Hawa, an ancient necropolis perched high on the west bank of the Nile. This site contains a series of beautifully decorated rock-cut tombs belonging to nobles and administrators from the Old Kingdom through to the Roman period, offering insights into the lives and traditions of ancient Egypt.

To conclude the day, we'll visit the Nubian Museum, a beautifully designed space dedicated to the heritage of Nubia — the land that stretches from Aswan to Sudan. Created as an innovative interpretation of traditional Nubian architecture, the museum was honored with the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2001 and offers a compelling glimpse into a fascinating chapter of Egypt's cultural story.

**Overnight on the cruise****Meals: B - L - D**



**Day 9: Fri, Jan 23**

**Abu Simbel - Cairo**

Today, an early morning flight takes us from Aswan to Abu Simbel, deep in the heart of Nubia. Here, we'll marvel at two magnificent rock-cut temples built during the 19th Dynasty by Pharaoh Ramesses II (13th–12th century BC). The Great Temple is dedicated to the gods Amun, Ptah, and Re-Horakhty, as well as to the deified Ramesses II himself. The smaller, yet equally captivating Temple of Hathor, was built in honor of the goddess and Ramesses II's beloved wife, Queen Nefertari.

These remarkable monuments were saved from the rising waters of the High Dam in a historic rescue mission led by UNESCO. The temples were meticulously dismantled and reassembled block by block at a new site, 213 feet higher and 689 feet from their original location, preserving their timeless grandeur for future generations.

After exploring Abu Simbel, we'll fly back to Cairo and continue to Old Cairo, a district rich in heritage and spirituality. Here, we'll visit the Hanging Church, one of Egypt's oldest and most cherished Coptic churches, the Church of Abu Serga, believed to stand on the site where the Holy Family once sheltered, and a historic Synagogue, a poignant reminder of Egypt's Jewish heritage.

In the evening, we'll gather for a memorable Farewell Dinner, featuring local music and traditional dance, as we celebrate the sights, stories, and moments shared throughout this extraordinary journey across Egypt.

**Overnight in Cairo**

**Meals: B - L - D**

## Day 10: Sat, Jan 24

## Cairo

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No journey to Egypt is complete without a visit to the bustling Khan El-Khalili Bazaar. Founded in the 14th century and named after the Mamluk Prince Jaharkas Al-Khalili, this historic market is a maze of narrow alleyways, colorful stalls, and captivating sights. From handcrafted jewelry and traditional textiles to fragrant spices and artisanal souvenirs, the bazaar offers a glimpse into Cairo's rich heritage. Its timeless atmosphere, steeped in centuries of commerce and culture, will charm and delight as you explore this iconic landmark.

In the afternoon, we'll continue to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), a state-of-the-art museum that showcases the breadth and depth of Egypt's heritage. Its crown jewel is the Royal Mummies Hall, an extraordinary exhibit where ancient kings and queens – including Ramses II and Hatshepsut – rest in a serene, climate-controlled space. The museum also presents a fascinating journey through Egypt's history, from prehistoric times to the present, highlighting its evolving culture, innovations, and traditions. With this enriching experience, we conclude our captivating exploration of Egypt – a land where ancient wonders and timeless traditions come to life.

### Overnight in Cairo

**Meals: B - L - D**

## Day 11: Sun, Jan 25

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

**Meals: B**





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