



Women-Powered Travel: Helping Women Travel Smarter and Better in the Middle East and North Africa

Egypt: Treasures of the Nile

12 Day Boutique “Best of Egypt” Small-Group Tour (with optional Red Sea retreat add on)

Highlights:

- Experience what ancient explorers must have felt as you climb around inside the Great Pyramid.
- Follow the footsteps of Howard Carter, visiting the “boy king” Tutankhamun’s Tomb and look on his mummy.
- Walk with Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings and see their mummies in the Cairo Museum.
- Go back in time to the Belle Epoque as we spend 3 days on a luxurious boat traveling up the Nile from Aswan to Luxor taking in Upper Egypt’s towering limestone cliffs and ancient temples.
- Explore the twisting cobblestone streets, buzzing Khan Khalili market, and great mosques of Old Cairo.

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Cairo

Arrive in Cairo. You will be met at the airport by a member of our staff and driven to the hotel. Rest after your flight. Evening meeting at the hotel for a quick orientation and to prepare for tomorrow’s exciting day exploring thousands years of Egypt’s ancient history.

Day 2: Great Pyramid, Giza Plateau and Saqqara’s Step Pyramid and Tombs

We begin our day an hour north of Cairo, discovering the pyramids and tombs at Saqqara. Explore Egypt’s first pyramid - Djoser’s Step Pyramid – designed by the legendary architect Imhotep. We will also visit 5th and 6th century tombs. After lunch, we visit the legendary Great Pyramid of Giza. Climb all the way to the Pharaoh’s Burial Chamber inside the last remaining 7 Wonders of the Ancient World. We will also enjoy a camel ride, and ponder the mysteries of the guardian of the pyramids - the Sphinx. In the evening we will enjoy fine Egyptian cuisine at the best Egyptian restaurant in Cairo.

(Included: Breakfast and Dinner)

Day 3: Alexandria

After breakfast, we drive north to Alexandria. Located on the Mediterranean, the city was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. We will visit the spot where one of the seven wonders of the ancient world once stood - the great Pharos Lighthouse. Qaitbey Fort now resides on this spot. Walk along Alexandria’s beautiful corniche which hugs the Mediterranean Sea. Enjoy lunch surrounded by thousands of years of history in Alexandria’s old town. In the afternoon, we explore Pompeii’s Pillar and the Greco-Roman Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa. We arrive back to our Cairo hotel in the evening.

(Included: Breakfast and Dinner)

Highlights:

- Explore the Great Pyramid and the Giza Plateau.
- Marvel at Egypt’s first pyramid at Saqqara designed by the famous architect Imhotep.
- Enjoy the best Egyptian cuisine in Cairo.

Highlights:

- Explore Alexandria, the Delta city founded by Alexander the Great.
- Visit Qaitbey Fort, location of the Pharos Lighthouse, one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World.
- Take in the merging of art styles in the Greco-Roman Catacombs.



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Day 4: Abu Simbel and Aswan

We have our earliest morning this day. We will be ready to leave our hotel very early in the morning to catch our flight to Abu Simbel in the south of Egypt. Abu Simbel is one of the great PR statements of the ancient world. Built by Ramses II, one of Egypt's most productive, prolific and longest-lived Pharaohs, this temple is homage to himself and all he accomplished. Ramses II did nothing small, and this temple is no different – big, bold, beautiful. We then travel back to our hotel in Aswan, enjoy a local lunch, and have some time to rest before exploring the Aswan market. Practice your bargaining skills and shop for items such as saffron, indigo, silver Nubian jewelry, art and other handmade crafts. In the evening, we will dine on wonderful Nubian-Egyptian fusion cuisine.

(Included: Breakfast and Dinner)

Day 5: Aswan and Nile Cruise

Today, we will explore Aswan, where the Nile Valley ends and ancient Nubia begins, before boarding our cruise boat and setting sail down the Nile. We begin our day visiting the prettiest temple in Egypt – the Temple of Philae. This Greco-Roman temple as built to honor the goddess Isis. Philae was one of the most important centers of worship in ancient Egypt. We will continue to the site of the Unfinished Obelisk and the famous High Dam. Visiting the granite quarry and unfinished obelisk, we learn how the famous granite statues and sarcophagi were constructed and transported, usually as one giant piece of granite, down the Nile. Granite in ancient times was one of the rarest materials and usually reserved only for Pharaohs. Then we boat our Nile cruise boat, our home for the next 3 nights. In the afternoon, we set sail and begin our expedition down the Nile River.

(Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Day 6: Nile Cruise and Kom Ombo Temple

We spend the next 3 days sailing down the Nile from Aswan to Luxor, watching the massive limestone cliffs get ever more dramatic as we head down the Nile. Today, we head to the ancient Egyptian temple inspired by the plethora of crocodiles that lived in the area – the imposing Kom Ombo Temple. This temple, located on the banks of the Nile, was dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile-headed god and god of the Nile.

(Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Day 7: Nile Cruise and Edfu Temples

Our day begins at the Nile village of Faris. We will spend the morning exploring typical Egyptian village life before setting sail for the Greco-Roman Temple of Edfu, considered to be one of the best preserved temples in Egypt. Wander its great halls admiring the finely carved glyphs of the great Pharaohs and their long list of accomplishments from military campaigns to trade negotiations. In the evening, relax and catch the sunset from the boat deck – the colors of the setting sun casting a warm glow over the fields, small villages and dramatic desert limestone cliffs off in the distance.

Highlights

- Explore Abu Simbel, Ramses II famous temple complex – a celebration of his reign and accomplishments.
- Learn the groundbreaking effort to preserve and move Abu Simbel when the Aswan dam was built.
- Savor local Nubian cuisine.

Highlights

- Explore Aswan, where the Nile Valley ends and ancient Nubia begins.
- Visit Philae – the prettiest temple in Egypt.
- See how the ancient Egyptians quarried and transported the massive granite sculptures and obelisks.
- Board our boat and set sail down the Nile.

Highlights:

- Explore one of the best preserved temples in Egypt at Kom Ombo.
- Learn about the cult around the god of the Nile, Sobek.

Highlights:

- Discover one of the best preserved temples in Egypt, Edfu and learn about Egyptian history through the wall carvings.
- Sip Hibiscus tea or Arabic coffee as massive limestone cliffs, small villages and



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(Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Day 8: Arrive in Luxor, Karnak Temple, Luxor Temple

In the morning, our journey down the Nile comes to an end, reaching our destination just before Luxor. We enjoy breakfast on our boat before saying goodbye to our memorable ship and check in to our beautiful hotel on the Nile River in Luxor. We spend the morning exploring Luxor Temple. In the afternoon, we visit the vast Temple complex of Karnak. Stretching for 5 km, this extensive open-air museum is the second largest temple complex in the world. Then in the evening we walk through the Temple of Luxor beautifully lit up under a sky of stars. Walk through the Great Hypostyle Hall, Precinct of Amun-Re, Hall of Thutmose III, the Great Court and all the way out to the Sacred Lake; taking in 2,000 years of Egyptian history, culture and religion. Beginning in the Middle Kingdom under Senusret I, Karnak was continually used and expanded through the Ptolemaic Period. After dinner, we return to see Karnak lit up during the evening light show.

(Included: Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 9: Luxor's West Bank, Hatshepsut's Temple, the Valley of the Kings

We start our morning with a dawn hot air balloon ride. Soaring high above the Nile and Luxor's West Bank spot the temples we will visit throughout the day, follow small fertile band on either side of the Nile and watch the sunrise's glow color the western desert in a pink hue. We will then explore the West Bank at Deir el-Bahari, visiting the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatsheput, one of Egypt's female Pharaohs. After learning about her important influence in Egyptian history while walking the halls of her temple, we will visit the Valley of the Kings. Explore the final resting place of many of Egypt's most important and powerful Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings. We will see where Howard Carter discovered the famous Tutankhamun's tomb; including inside the boy king's tomb and his mummy. We will conclude our exploration of Luxor's West Bank with the artisan's tombs at Deir el-Medina and the Colossi of Memnon. In the afternoon, we will visit Luxor's small but excellent Luxor Museum, and then enjoy local cuisine in Luxor.

(Included: Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 10: Back to Cairo; Coptic Cairo, Islamic Cairo, and Egypt's Grand Bazaar - Khan el-Khalili

In the morning, we fly back to Cairo and check into our hotel. We spend the day exploring Old Cairo. Beginning in Coptic Cairo, we explore the historic Hanging Church, Greek Church of St. George, and the Church of St. Sergius. After lunch, we investigate the city's Islamic history. Wonder through the great mosques of Cairo, spanning a few thousand years of Islamic history. Learn about one of the oldest universities in the world. Then it's on to the Citadel and Mohamed Ali mosque. In the evening, you will have a chance to shop at Cairo large, bustling Grand Bazaar, the Khan el-Khalili.

(Included: Breakfast and Dinner)

ancient temples pass by as our ship steams up the Nile.

Highlights:

- Discover the Temple of Luxor.
- Explore the vast 5km ancient religious center, the Temple of Karnak.
- Marvel at the colossal columns of the Hypostyle Halls – the size of old-growth trees.
- Enjoy Karnak lit up at night during the evening light show.

Highlights:

- Visit the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of Egypt's female Pharaohs.
- Walk with the mighty New Kingdom Pharaohs in their tombs at the Valley of the Kings.
- Marvel at the boy-king Tutankhamun's tomb discovered by Howard Carter.

Highlights:

- Discover Egypt's Coptic tradition in Coptic Cairo.
- Investigate Cairo's few thousand years of Islamic history in Old Cairo.
- Bargain for handmade crafts, bronze, gold, silver and silk items at the Khan el-Khalili.



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Day 11: The Citadel and The Cairo Museum

We begin the day at the Citadel of Saladin and Mohamed Ali Mosque. On a clear day, from high up on the Citadel walls we can see all of Cairo laid out and the Pyramids of Giza off in the distance. After lunch, a local guide will walk us through 10,000 years of Egypt's rich ancient history at the Cairo Museum. We will also meet Egypt's most famous Pharaohs in the Royal Mummy exhibit and see the opulent and stunning treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb. In the evening, we will reminisce about our adventures at our farewell dinner at one of the very best Middle East restaurants in Cairo.

(Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 12: Depart for Home.

After an amazing two weeks in Egypt, it is time to depart for home with a suitcase full of memories...and maybe a few mementos.

NOTE: *We do our best to follow this itinerary, but sites can close unexpectedly and without prior notice according to the discretion of the Ministry of Antiquities. For most tomb sites and some temples, there is a rotation between the tombs and areas of the temples open to the public to allow for restoration work.*

Itineraries, transportation and hotels are subject to change. We do our best to follow the laid out itinerary, but sometimes unforeseeable situations arise. Traveling in developing nations, transportation, hotels, restaurants and sites can close with little warning due to continuous growth and change. If we have to change a hotel, form of transportation, restaurant or activity we will substitute it with a place, method of travel, location, or activity of equal value and quality of experience.

Highlights

- Walk through 2,000 years of Islamic history in Old Cairo.
- Visit the great Citadel and Mohamed Ali mosque.
- Explore the full breadth of Egypt's ancient history at the famous Cairo Museum.

ADD ON: el-Gouna and the Red Sea

Inquire about adding on 1 or 2 nights relaxing on the Red Sea.

Relax at this seaside village. Enjoy the warm waters and sandy beaches of the Red Sea. Rest and rejuvenate yourself at our lovely boutique hotel in the heart of el-Gouna village. Take an optional diving, snorkeling or ATV desert excursion or pamper yourself with some rest and relaxation on the beach.



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12-Day Boutique "Best of Egypt" Tour

Included:

- **Small group of 6-12** like-minded travelers .
- **Site entrance fees.** This includes admission fees to the Giza Plateau, Great Pyramid, Menkaure's Pyramid, the Sphinx, Saqqara, tombs and pyramids at Saqqara, Qaitbey Fort, Pompeii's Pillar, the Greco-Roman Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, Abu Simbel, Philae, Unfinished Obelisk, Kom Ombo Temple, Edfu Temple, Luxor Temple, Karnak Temple, Karnak Light Show, Deir el-Bahari, Valley of the Kings (entrance to three tombs), Tutankhamun's Tomb, Deir el-Medina, Colossi of Memnon, Coptic Cairo, Old Islamic Cairo, the Citadel of Saladin and Mohamed Ali Mosque, the Cairo Museum, the Royal Mummy Exhibit. *(Sites may be subject to change. We do our best to follow this itinerary, but sites can close unexpectedly and without prior notice according to the discretion of the Ministry of Antiquities. For most tomb sites and some temples, there is a rotation between the tombs and areas of the temples open to the public to allow for restoration work.)*
- **Dawn Hot Air Balloon Ride over Luxor's West Bank.**
- **All breakfasts, and selected lunches and dinners.**
- **Tour in-country transportation** including all ground transportation while on tour, transportation to and from the airport, and in-country flights between Cairo, Aswan and Luxor.
- **Historic, comfortable, boutique hotels** each with their own story and place in history
- **Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor in a luxury Nile cruise boat.**
- **Tips for our local guides and drivers.** Our expert local female guides and drivers are highly professional, experienced staff. We take care of all wages and tipping.
- **No in-country cash payment.** Many tour companies require in-country cash payments. This is a way to keep the initial tour price appearing low, while you actually pay a much higher price for the tour. We believe in the costs being upfront and no hidden fees. We include all tour costs in the listed price.
- **Optional single supplement.** Looking to bunk by yourself in your own room? We've included a number of single rooms for an additional fee. (We are not matchmakers and even the best attempts to match up solo travelers can sometimes lead to personality conflicts of travelers we pair up. So, we do not match up solo travelers and rather encourage women wishing to bunk with someone else to bring a friend, colleague, travel partner or family member with them on the tour.)
- **Free time.** We know how important it can be to have a little time built in for you to explore on your own or simply take a moment to relax. We've carefully planned our tours to provide you a balance between structured travel and free time. We offer free time in Aswan and Cairo, both locations have been carefully chosen to provide you with the easiest, hassle-free environments and locations to explore on your own if you wish or spend time relaxing.



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Travelers are responsible for:

- Flights to and from Egypt.
- Any alcoholic beverage purchases.
- Bottled water and snacks. We recommended budgeting \$5 per day for bottled water and snacks.
- Optional **Red Sea Add On** excursion.
- Selected lunches and dinners. See the **Detailed Itinerary** for which lunches and dinners are not included. We recommended budgeting \$15-\$20 for lunches and \$20-25 for dinners.
- Meals on arrival day and meals after breakfast on departure day.
- Visa (purchased at the airport when you arrive in Egypt). American can budget \$25 (though this price may be increasing). For other nationalities check with your local embassy for the Egypt Visa costs.
- Traveler's Insurances