



Adventure Tours to the Middle East and North Africa

Egypt: Treasures of the Nile

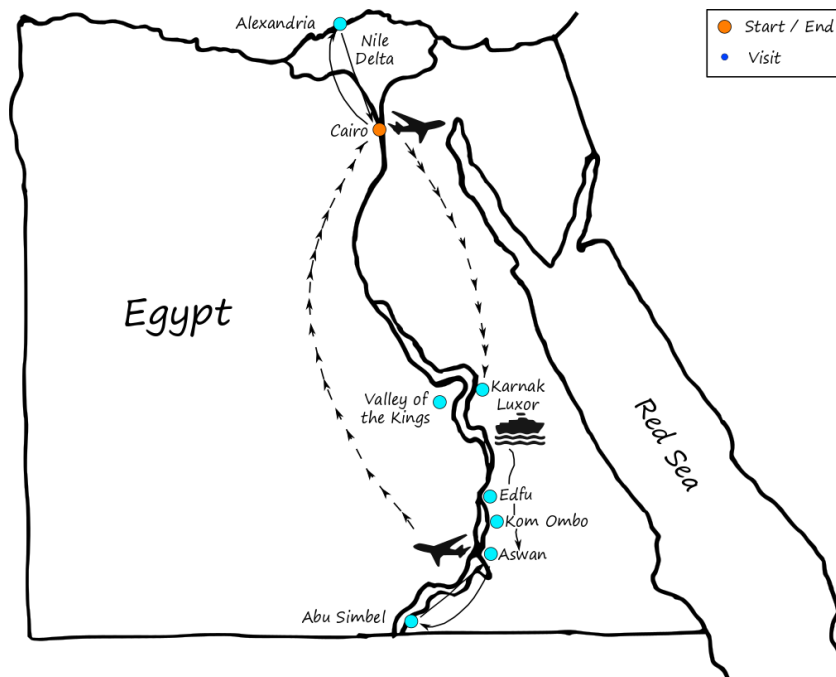
12-Day Boutique “Best of Egypt” Small-Group Adventure Tour (with optional Red Sea retreat add on)

The Pharaohs, ancient temples and monuments, and legendary tombs of Egypt still draw us in millennia after this ancient civilization. Whether visiting the legendary Pyramids of Giza or diving in the Red Sea or marveling at Tutankhamun’s treasures or mosque-hopping in Islamic Cairo or a pilgrimage to important religious sites – Egypt has an adventure or two for every traveler. Come join us exploring this exciting country and write your own story.

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 **private Dahabiyah boat traveling up the Nile** from Luxor to Aswan 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**.
- Discover Egypt with a small-group tour of like-minded travelers. **Limited to 12 adventurous travelers**.
- Relax and rejuvenate on our optional **Red Sea retreat** at the quaint, beautiful seaside village of el-Gouna.

Optional 2-day Red Sea Add-on: 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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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, welcome tea, 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: B/D)

Day 4: : 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. We'll explore the mosques, Coptic churches and old cobbled streets of Islamic Cairo and the Coptic neighborhood. 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, enjoy free time to explore the famous Khan el-Khalili market.

(Included: B/L)

Highlights:

- Airport transfer our hotel.
- Evening welcome tea and meeting.

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.

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.
- Bargain for handmade crafts, bronze, gold, silver and silk items at the Khan el-Khalili.



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Day 5: Luxor, Luxor Temple, Temple of Karnak

Our day starts with an early morning flight to Luxor, one of ancient Egypt's great capitols and funerary centers. After lunch, our group explores the mysteries and wonders of Luxor's East Bank. Our first stop is the lovely Temple of Luxor. Then it's on to the vast temple complex of Karnak. Stretching for 5 km, this extensive open-air museum is the second largest temple complex in the world. Walk through the Great Hypostyle Hall, Precinct of Amun-Re, Hall of Thuthmosis 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 walk through Karnak Temple beautifully lit up under a sky of stars.

(Included: B/D)

Day 6: Luxor's West Bank, Hatshepsut's Temple, the Valley of the Kings; begin Nile Cruise

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 the 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. Leaving the West Bank of Luxor we drive south to Esna and check into our classic elegant Dahabiya boat; our home for the next few days. In the evening, watch the sunset over the Nile from the deck of our boat.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 7: Nile Cruise and Edfu Temple

Our day begins at 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. If time permits, we will visit a small village on the Nile. 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.

(Included: B/L/D)

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:

- Enjoy a breathtaking sunrise soaring high above the Nile River in a hot air balloon.
- 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.
- Begin our Nile cruise on our private Dahabiya boat.

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



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Day 8: Nile Cruise and Kom Ombo Temple

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. After lunch, if sailing conditions permit we will explore ancient sandstone quarries and rock-cut chapels of Horemheb, Seti I, Ramesses II and Merenptah. In the evening, catch another breathtaking sunset over the expansive Nile valley from the deck of our Nile cruise Dahabiya.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 9: Nile Cruise; Camel Market, Traditional Villages

We continue our journey up the Nile deep into Nubia to Aswan. We will explore small islands along the Nile, enjoy a walk along the banks of the river, and visit small villages to learn more about traditional life in northern Egypt. After lunch, we will visit the Daraw Camel market, one of the largest camel markets in northern Egypt. Learn about the importance of camels in every-day life. In the evening, we will take in one more spectacular sunset from aboard our Dahabiya as the rugged cliffs of Aswan grow near.

(Included: B/L/D)

Day 10: Philae, Abu Simbel, Aswan

In the morning, our journey up the Nile comes to an end, reaching our destination of Aswan, where the Nile Valley ends and ancient Nubia begins. We enjoy breakfast on our boat before disembarking. 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. After lunch, we drive to Abu Simbel. 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 enjoy the unique experience of spending the night at a wonderful guesthouse new Abu Simbel.

(Included: B)

Day 11: Return to Cairo

After traveling back to Aswan, we will depart upper Egypt and fly back to Cairo. The afternoon is free to explore downtown Cairo, Garden City or even make a last minute run to the Khan el-Khalili. In the evening, we will celebrate a wonderful trip with our farewell dinner.

(Included: B/D)

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

- Visit the Daraw Camel market.
- Enjoy a hike along the banks of the Nile
- Learn about traditional life in northern Egypt.

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.
- Explore Philae – one of the prettiest temples in Egypt.

Highlights:

- Free time to explore Cairo.
- Farewell dinner.



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Day 12: Depart for Home.

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

Optional 2-Day Red Sea Retreat Add-on

Day 12: Fly to the Red Sea

After saying goodbye to the rest of the group the night before, we fly in the morning the short fly from Cairo to Hurghada on the Red Sea. A quick drive from the Hurghada Airport, is the beautiful seaside community of el-Gouna. 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.

(Included: Breakfast)

Day 13: Red Sea

Enjoy free time on the Red Sea to explore the beautiful village of el-Gouna and the outlying area at your pace. We will work with you to develop your own Red Sea itinerary to – whether it's taking excursions, relaxing at the spa, participating in a sunrise yoga session, enjoying the pool, or strolling through the quaint village of el-Gouna.

(Included: Breakfast)

Day 14: Fly back to Cairo

Wrapping up our Red Sea, we depart in the morning for Cairo. We will take you to your hotel or help you transfer to the international terminal at Cairo International Airport for your flight home.

(Included: Breakfast)

Highlights:

- Relax and rejuvenate at the quaint seaside Red Sea village of el-Gouna.
- Optional excursions and activities include: diving, snorkeling, ATV desert excursion, spa treatments, yoga.

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. If we need to change Nile cruise boats due to unforeseen situations or boat cancellations, we will upgrade the Nile cruise to a larger Nile cruise yacht, which will be shared with other travelers.



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Included:

- **Small group of 6-12** like-minded travelers.
- Knowledgeable, engaging **local female expert guides** who will bring to life Egypt's rich, complex and important history, as well as, help you understand Egypt and its culture from a female perspective.
- Experienced, knowledgeable, Egypt-expert **ArchaeoAdventures' Tour Director** who will help facilitate a wonderful time in Egypt.
- **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.** Meals that are not covered are carefully chosen to give travelers the most flexibility in variety, enjoying free time, and the chance to explore new food they wish to try. Where lunches and dinners are not covered there will still be organized restaurant plans if travelers wish to join the Tour Director at one of her favorite restaurants. For meals which aren't covered travelers should budget \$10-\$15 lunches and \$15-\$20 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 Luxor to Aswan in a luxury Nile cruise boat.**
- **All 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.
- **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, Cairo, and el-Gouna if you chose to add-on the Red Sea retreat. These 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.

Travelers are responsible for:

- **Flights to and from Egypt.** Note this tour begins and ends in Cairo, Egypt.
- Beverage purchases at meals. Water will be provided at meals. **Travelers are responsible for additional beverages.**
- Any **alcoholic beverage** purchases.
- **Bottled water (outside of meals) and snacks.** We recommended budgeting \$5 per day for bottled water and snacks.
- Optional **Red Sea Add On excursions.**



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- **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). Americans can budget \$25 (though this price may be increasing). For other nationalities check with your local embassy for the Egypt Visa costs.
- **Traveler's Insurance.** All travelers are required to have traveler's insurance for this trip. Plans usually start at \$80 and can cost as much as \$500 depending on the extent of the coverage you wish to have. Check with your health insurance company regarding if they cover illness overseas and how to file a claim if you are sick overseas. Not all insurance companies cover overseas illness. We require all travelers to be fully covered for medical coverage and trip cancellation.

Is This Trip Right for You?

Can you enjoy traveling in a developing nation? Egypt is a developing nation that has been steadily moving through a fast period of growth and change. It's an exciting and fascinating time to experience Egypt. As a developing nation many services, systems and levels of environmental cleanliness are not the same as they are in Europe and the States. While exploring the country you will see pollution, poverty, overcrowded cities, and sadly malnourished people and animals. You will also see an Egypt working hard toward finding its way to solutions for its economic, social and political challenges. You will experience the modern-day culture that went through the changes of the Arab Spring. We will also learn about Egypt's fascinating Islamic and Coptic history, meet friendly locals, enjoy the warmth and hospitality of Egyptians, and enjoy the stunning natural beauty of the Nile valley and surrounding deserts.

This trip requires moderate activity level – sustained walking for 2-3 hours over rough terrain, cobblestone, hills, sand dunes and in the heat unassisted. Some days you may be on your feet for the majority of the day with only short breaks. A few days there will be up to 8 hours of driving. This trip is not appropriate for travelers using walkers, wheelchairs, other mobility aids, or who cannot stand on their feet for 2-3 hours while visiting sites and walking around museums. Our tours often involve a number of hours outside in hot temperatures (70 – 85F, some trips as high as 90s Fahrenheit).

If you do not think you'll be able to meet this level of activity requirement, or you have any questions or concerns please email our helpful staff at tours@archaeoadventures.com.

Contact Details:

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