



Horus

Cairo, Aswan and Luxor
(Including Kom Ombo and Edfu)

Trip Dossier

Highlights

- Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza
- Picturesque Aswan
- Optional Excursion to Abu Simbel
- Karnak Temple
- The Valley of the Kings

Fact Finder

Style: Luxury

Staffing: Service of Egyptologist guide at all the sites stated in the itinerary.

Transport: Private air-conditioned coach/mini van, felucca sailboat and overnight sleeping train.

Accommodation: 6 nights hotel and 2 nights sleeper train.

Meals: 8 breakfasts, 2 dinners

Please allow US\$20-25 per day for additional meals.

Entrance fees: included

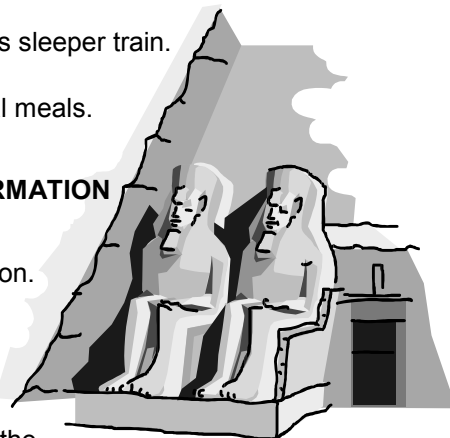
A NOTE ABOUT PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION

This Trip Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with our Pre-Departure Information.

You can download the Pre-departure information from the website

(www.experience-egypt.com)

It is a good idea that you read this dossier & the pre departure information in full before you travel.



Itinerary (9 days / 8 nights)

DAY 1, CAIRO

NO MEALS

Arrive at Cairo Airport where our representative will meet and assist you through customs and you claim your baggage. You will then be transferred to your selected hotel, for a free evening.

Overnight at your Hotel.

ARRIVAL

For details of arrival procedure and transfers please refer to your Pre-Departure Information.

ARRIVAL TRANSFER IS INCLUDED!

TOUR BRIEFING

The representative will give you an overview of all the exciting things you will be seeing and doing during your tour upon your arrival and will answer any other questions or queries you may have.

CAIRO

Cairo was a grand city when many of the world's huge metropolises were but babes, yet she remains a city cloaked in excitement and mystery, dark secrets and bright celebrations. She is a city that often mixes both the many cultures of the world with the many ages of the world.

When you arrive in Cairo you are thrown headlong into the hustle and bustle of this wonderful city. As you wander the streets your senses will be assaulted on all levels by the endless cacophony of noise with cars tooting, donkeys braying and the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer; the mix of smells like the aroma from cooking pots bubbling with fowl (a local dish that you will certainly sample); the delicious taste of mint tea as you sit in a shaded cafe to relax; and the endless river of life that you can watch roll past you – women haggling in the bazaars, men talking whilst enjoying a traditional shisha pipe, cars vying for space on the crowded roads, camels ambling serenely along and children playing in the back streets.



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DAY 2, CAIRO - GREAT PYRAMIDS, SPHINX & SAKKARA BREAKFAST

Morning transfer to the Pyramids, Sphinx, Sakkara. Transfer to train for Aswan Overnight Cairo.

GREAT PYRAMIDS, SPHINX & SAQQARA

Cairo is one of the most amazing places you will ever visit and after seeing pictures of the pyramids, tombs and sights millions of times on TV, in books, and in magazines they are still awe inspiring in person. To get there we weave our way through the manic Cairo traffic, out into the suburbs and then, suddenly, there they are. Huge majestic tombs rising out of the desert, towering above the modern city of Cairo and an incredible testament to the immense achievements of the Ancient Egyptians. Built over five thousand years ago the Pyramids are the only one of the seven wonders of the ancient world that is still standing.

We explore the Pyramids, Sphinx and the Step Pyramids of Saqqara with our Egyptologist guide who can explain all the mysteries surrounding their creation – were they built by aliens or are they aligned to the stars? You will also have the opportunity to climb inside one of the Pyramids and see for yourself the burial chamber inside (not for the claustrophobic) just to say that you have been there and done that!!!

Sakkara is best known for the Step Pyramid, the oldest known of Egypt's 97 pyramids. It was built for King Djoser of the 3rd Dynasty by the architect and genius Imhotep, who designed it and its surrounding complex to be as grand as it was unique and revolutionary.

You start this journey of a lifetime through Egypt with truly an amazing day.

DAY 3, ASWAN NO MEALS

Transfer to hotel upon arrival to Aswan. Your afternoon tour starts with High Dam and its huge lake then take a short ferry ride to Philae Temple this Romantic and Majestic Temple. Overnight Aswan

ASWAN

Aswan is a whole world away from Cairo - the pace of life is much slower and the town is small enough to explore on foot. In Aswan the Nile is at its most beautiful, flowing through amber desert and granite rocks, round emerald islands covered in palm groves and tropical plants. Explore the souk, full of the scent and color of spices, perfumes, scarves and baskets.

The bazaar runs the whole length of town and is crammed with shops and stalls selling everything imaginable - a great place to hone your haggling skills! To relax you can sit at one of the many cafes and enjoy a cup of sweet tea and a game of backgammon.

PHILAE TEMPLE

You board a boat to get across the river to get this temple that was nearly lost to the waters off Nile when the high dam was near completion. It has a romantic and majestic aura that surrounds this temple. It is the temple dedicated to the God Isis

HIGH DAM

The world famous High Dam was an engineering miracle when it was built in the 1960s. It contains 18 times the material used in the Great Pyramid of Cheops. The Dam is 11,811 feet long, 3215 feet thick at the base and 364 feet tall. Today it provides irrigation and electricity for the whole of Egypt and, together with the old Aswan Dam built by the British between 1898 and 1902, 6km down river, wonderful views for visitors. From the top of the two Mile long High Dam you can gaze across Lake Nasser, the huge reservoir created when it was built, to Kalabsha temple in the south and the huge power station to the north. The High Dam added an whole new aspect to Egypt, and a new environment as well. The lake is some 500 miles long and at the time it was built, if not now, was the world's largest artificial lake.



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DAY 4, ASWAN - LUXOR BREAKFAST

Free morning (for those not doing Abu Simbel option) then board the felucca for your visit to Elephantine and Kitchner Islands.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO ABU SIMBEL

ABOUT THE SITE

Not only are the two temples at Abu Simbel among the most magnificent monuments in the world but their removal and reconstruction was an historic event in itself. The Temples at Abu Simbel are one of the highlights of any visit to Egypt and considered unmissable by many travellers. Deep in the heart of the desert, miles from the nearest habitation is a gigantic monolith out of which are carved four colossal statues – each one the seated figure of Ramses II, one of Ancient Egypt's greatest Pharaohs. Built in the 13th century BC, the temples remained totally hidden by sand until 1813, and were almost destined to be submerged again, 150 years later, by the rising waters of Lake Nasser – a man made lake formed after the building of the Aswan High Dam. The conservation efforts to preserve the temple from the soon-to be built High Aswan Dam and its rising waters were begun in the 1960s, images of the colossal statues filled newspapers and books. The temples were dismantled and relocated in 1968 on the desert plateau, 200 feet above and 600 feet west of their original location.

ELEPHANTINE ISLAND

Elephantine Island is a beautiful place to visit, with wonderful gardens and some truly significant artifacts. It is also a good place to spend some leisure time, wondering among the Nubian villages where the people are friendly and the houses are often very colorful.

KITCHNER'S ISLAND

Kitchner's Island is a botanical garden, filled with exotic plants and trees imported from all over the world. It is a perfect place to spend a lazy afternoon in the shade. The island must be reached by boat, and is located on the other side of Elephantine Island from Aswan. The Island was given to Lord Kitchner for his campaigns in the Sudan, and he moved there and created his garden, importing plants and trees from all over the world.

DAY 5, ASWAN - LUXOR BREAKFAST

Early morning departure from Aswan to Luxor stopping off at in Kom Ombo visit the site and then continue onto Edfu temple after visiting Edfu Temple transfer to Luxor then onto your hotel in Luxor.
Overnight Luxor

KOM OMBO

We stop at the lovely temple of Kom Ombo. This beautiful temple is right on the edge of the Nile. The Temple known as Kom Ombo is actually two temples consisting of a Temple to Sobek the crocodile-headed god of fertility and creator of the world, and Haroeris or the ancient falcon-headed Horus, the solar war god. In ancient times, sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the river bank near here. The Temple has scant remains, due first to the changing Nile, then the Copts who once used it as a church, and finally by builders who used the stones for new buildings.

EDFU

Edfu is a magnificent Temple dedicated to Horus, the falcon headed God, and home of many ancient Egyptian legends. This is not only the best preserved ancient temple in Egypt, but the second largest after Karnak. For centuries Edfu was almost completely covered with sand, which has protected the building from the elements. This means that Edfu is one of the best preserved temples in Egypt. Reliefs carved into the temple walls depicting Horus and other Gods on a grand scale, black granite falcon statues standing over two meters tall and a myriad of secret passage ways and hidden rooms make Edfu a temple not to be missed.



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DAY 6, LUXOR BREAKFAST

Free morning the in the afternoon we visit Karnak Temple then onto Luxor Temple for a tour. Overnight Luxor

LUXOR

Luxor has often been called the world's greatest open air museum, as indeed it is and much more. The number and preservation of the monuments in the Luxor area are unparalleled anywhere else in the world that is known of. This was the capital of Egypt in ancient times (then known as Thebes) and there are an endless number of temples, tombs and museums that could keep even the most avid sightseer busy for a week! Charming and evocative, with the Nile along the quiet waters of the river, the small, silent streets of the Bazaar that come to life in the evening with their colours, sounds and lights. The two most impressive sights have to be the massive Karnak Temple complex and the Valley of the Kings.

KARNAK TEMPLE

Arriving at the gates there is an avenue of lion statues leading up to the magnificent gates. But this doesn't prepare you for the sheer size of the temple when you get inside. It was built by many pharaohs over a period of 2,000 years with each one trying to outdo his predecessor in architectural achievement. You could lose yourself inside but don't worry we have an Egyptologist guide who takes you around, pointing out all the most impressive parts of the temple and giving a full insight into the lives of the pharaohs who worshipped there. For those who wish to experience it, there is a sound and light show held at Karnak every evening. The show is unlike other sound and light shows in Egypt, instead of sitting throughout the performance you walk through the temple as the show progresses.

LUXOR TEMPLE

Luxor Temple was the power base of the living divine king, and the foremost national shrine of the king's cult. This doctrine of divine kingship separated the Egyptians from their neighbors in Mesopotamia and from the later medieval "divine selection and right of kings" of Europe. Kingship was believed to be ordained by the gods at the beginning of time in accordance with ma'at., the well-ordered state, truth, justice, cosmic order. The reigning king was also the physical son of the Creator sun-god. This divine conception and birth was recorded on the walls of Luxor Temple, at Deir el-Bahri, and other royal cult temples throughout Egypt.

DAY 7, CAIRO BREAKFAST

Early morning transfer to the west bank of Luxor where you will visit the valley of the Kings Queens and Collis of Memnon. Free afternoon to look around the wondrous city, maybe take in the Luxor Museum or simply relax. In the evening you will transfer to the train station for train to Cairo. Overnight Train.

VALLEY OF THE KINGS

The Egyptian belief that "To speak the name of the dead is to make him live again" is certainly carried out in the building of the tombs. The king's formal names and titles are inscribed in his tomb along with his images and statues. Beginning with the 18th Dynasty and ending with the 20th, the kings abandoned the Memphis area and built their tombs in Thebes. Also abandoned were the pyramid style tombs. Most of the tombs were cut into the limestone following a similar pattern: three corridors, an antechamber and a sunken sarcophagus chamber. These catacombs were harder to rob and were more easily concealed. Construction usually lasted six years, beginning with the new reign. The texts in the tombs are from the Book of the Dead, the Book of the Gates and the Book of the Underworld.

There is not much to see above the ground. But corridors carved deep into the valley lead to the burial chambers far underground. The walls of the tombs are covered in incredibly well preserved paintings depicting the gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt and complex hieroglyphics which your guide will help us decipher. We visit three of the different tombs and there is also the chance to visit the tomb of Tutankhamun, the famous boy king. (an extra ticket is required for entry into this tomb)



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VALLEY OF THE QUEENS

There are between 75 and 80 tombs in the Valley of the Queens, or Biban al-Harim. These belong to Queens of the 18th, 19th and 20th Dynasties including the Tomb of Nefertari (Tomb 66): One of five wives of Ramesses II, Nefertari was his favorite and the tomb here has been said to be one of the most beautiful in Egypt.

HATSHUPSUT

The mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut is one of the most dramatically situated in the world. The queen's architect, Senenmut, designed it and set it at the head of a valley overshadowed by the Peak of the Thebes, the "Lover of Silence," where lived the goddess who presided over the necropolis. A tree lined avenue of sphinxes led up to the temple, and ramps led from terrace to terrace.

DAY 8, CAIRO **NO MEALS**

Transfer to the hotel upon arrival. This morning you will visit the Egyptian Museum and the city tour. Overnight at your hotel.
Optional tours included dinner cruise, felucca cruise and the sound and light show (see optional tour price list on the web site)

THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

What a museum, what a collection! This museum houses the world's greatest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts including many of the treasures discovered in the tombs of Pharaohs, the amazing golden mask of Tutankhamen and a large number of mummies. To put this in perspective, if you spend just one minute at each exhibit it would take more than nine months to see everything.

COPTIC CAIRO

The heart land of Egypt's Coptic community, a haven of tranquility and peace and is rich in history. The hanging church dedicated to the Virgin Mary built into the walls of the Water Gate of the Roman fortress. It is possibly the oldest Christian church in Egypt, dating to around the 4th Century. The Romans built a fortress here which we call Babylon it has rounded towers to the western gate with some of the Roman walls still existing. Ben Ezer's Temple, lying at the end point of church buildings, is reported to have been erected in the 6th or presumably the 9th Century AD. The temple site and the surrounding grounds, originally a property of the church, was acquired by the Jews in return for "kantars of gold".

ISLAMIC CAIRO

Cairo is Islamic, though some areas are more so than others. Actually, this area is no more Islamic than Central Cairo, but as though walking through a time machine we are transported back to Cairo's past Islamic heritage, to a world of ancient mosques and 1,500 hundred year old markets; to medieval forts and the city that was Salah ad-Din's. The Citadel, located on a spur of limestone was the home to Egyptian rulers for some 700 years with 3 main mosques located in the Citadel the biggest and most famous being the Mosque of Mohammed Ali there is also Palaces and Museums to visit. You have great view of the city from the Citadel it is perched on a hill overlooking Cairo.

DAY 9, CAIRO **BREAKFAST**

Tour ends. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Have a great trip!

SUPPLEMENTARY TOUR INFORMATION

You will need to obtain a visa for this tour.
Contact your local Egyptian embassy for more information

REQUIRED

Egypt single entry

(Note: It is possible to obtain an Egyptian single entry visa on arrival at Cairo Airport. The current charge for this is US\$15 payable in US\$ or equivalent in another foreign currency, however as this regulation may change at any time without prior notice.

Please check before your arrival.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of the correct visas for your holiday and onward travel. Experience Egypt cannot accept responsibility for anyone who is refused entry to a country because they lack the correct documentation.

BORDER TAXES

There are no entry or exit taxes payable when entering or leaving Egypt by air.

ENTRANCE FEES

These are included in this trip.

Egypt also has a wealth of other historical sights and museums, which you may wish to visit in your free time please, allow extra money for this option.

FITNESS

None of the activities featured in this trip require special training or skills, just a reasonable level of fitness and a willingness to participate. If you are in any doubt contact your doctor for advice.

TRANSPORT

Private Coach/mini van to travel between hotels, sites & other activities.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

PRICE INCLUDES

- Staffing as shown in the 'Fact Finder'
- Accommodation, meals, transportation, and sightseeing excursions as per itinerary.
- Transfer to hotel on arrival and back to the airport for your departure flight.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Visa costs
- Drinks, tips, laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- International flights
- Meals other than those listed

ARE YOU READY TO GO?

Before you travel you should take the time to read ALL of the following documents which you can download from our website (www.experience-egypt.com)

Trip Dossier (this document)

Pre Departure Information

The itinerary and supplementary information has been compiled with care and provided in good faith, however it may be subject to change and DOES NOT form part of a contract between the client and Experience Egypt / Lady Egypt.



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With
Lady Egypt



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