

Highlights of Egypt
6 days – 5 nights
Cairo, Memphis, Sakkara, Giza, Luxor, Aswan
Relaxation, History, Culture, Archeology

Day 1: Cairo

Arrival at Cairo International Airport where you will be met and assisted through customs procedures and passport control. You will then be transferred to your hotel for check-in and overnight.

Day 2: Cairo (Memphis, Sakkara, Giza and the Pyramids, Sphinx and Solar Boat)

After breakfast, we will meet in the hotel lobby to begin our day by exploring desert antiquities dating back from the beginnings of a civilization that arose more than 5,000 years ago. In the company of our Egyptologist guide, we venture through the countryside to visit some of Egypt's oldest sites. We first go to Memphis, where remnants of the nation's first capital and once the most cosmopolitan city in Egypt now lie scattered in the desert. We'll also see the carved limestone Colossus of Ramses II. Nearby, we visit the necropolis at Sakkara, where King Djoser's Step Pyramid was "built to last till the ends of time." This vast site in the heart of a desert plateau is the largest necropolis in Egypt. Extending for almost five miles, the complex forms a collection of pyramids, temples and tombs that is fundamental to understanding the history of ancient Egypt. We then visit the Pyramids of Giza. Nothing evokes the long and intriguing history of Egypt as powerfully as the Pyramids. Rising from the desert, Khufu (Cheops), Khafra and Menkaura seems to symbolize the enigmatic tug of Egypt in our imaginations. The Great Pyramid immortalizes the son of Sneferu and Hetepheres. Though little is known of this pharaoh, his monument (the largest of the three) is comprised of 2.3 million stone blocks, each weighing an average 2.5 tons. You will get to enter Great Pyramid and visit the King's Chamber. You will continue to visit the colossal statue of the Great Sphinx. The Sphinx has stood guard over the pyramids for more than 4,500 years. Carved from an outcrop of rock, the Sphinx remains the ultimate symbol of Ancient Egypt, with its lion's body and human head. You will also visit the Solar Boat Museum. The history and the lifestyle of ancient Egyptian pharaohs come alive before our eyes through the skilled narrations of our specialist guide. We return to our hotel for overnight. [B]

Day 3: Cairo, Luxor (Karnak, West Bank)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Cairo Domestic Airport for your flight to Luxor. Upon arrival at Luxor airport, you will be transferred to your hotel followed by a full day tour of the West Bank: Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Karnak temples and the temple of Luxor. Although everything in the valley is very impressive the Temple of Hatshepsut certainly comes on top. Deir el-Bahari, "The Northern Convent" as it translates from Arabic, recalls the existence of the Coptic convent that was built there. Deir el-Bahari is located at the foot of the cliffs that determine the mountainous circus of Thebes, on the left bank of the Nile, facing the city of Luxor and the temple of Karnak, south of the Valley of the Kings. It is a funerary complex, consisting of temples and tombs dating from the 11th Dynasty (2134-1991 BC) to the Ptolemaic period (305-30 BC). Return to the east bank to visit the ruins of Karnak. Here is how Jean-François Champollion (1829) described his visit: "I finally went to the palace, or rather to the city of monuments, to Karnak. There appeared to me all of the Pharaonic magnificence, all the greatest that men have imagined and executed. All that I had seen at Thebes, all that I had enthusiastically admired on the left bank, seemed to me miserable in comparison to the gigantic conceptions with which I was surrounded. It will suffice to add, that in Europe we are only Lilliputians, and that no ancient or modern people have conceived the art of architecture on a scale so sublime, so large, so grand, as the old Egyptians did; they conceived of man a hundred feet high, and we have at most five feet eight inches. The European imagination, which rises well above our porticoes, stops and falls helpless at the foot of the one-hundred-and-forty-columns of the hypostyle hall of Karnak." Return to your hotel for overnight. [B]

Day 4: Luxor, Aswan

Breakfast then transfer to Aswan by car. Upon arrival in Aswan, you will be transferred to your hotel followed by your tour of the Botanical Gardens and Elephantine Island, the High Dam and the Temple

of Philae. The construction of the temple of Philae began under the reign of one of the last pharaohs of the Pharaonic era, Nectanebo I (XXXth Dynasty). It is later, under Greek rule, that the majority of buildings will be added, including the large temple of Isis. It will be finished by the Romans with the addition of the kiosk of Trajan, among others. This temple is one of the best-preserved Ptolemaic temples in Egypt (with the Edfu Temple and the Abydos Complex) and was one of the most important sanctuaries in Egypt and Nubia until in 551 CE, when Emperor Justinian ordered its closure. Isis was very popular in the Roman era and its cult was maintained in the island until the early sixth century CE, even after the closure of Egyptian temples (at that time almost all of Egypt had been Christianized) imposed by the decree of Theodosius in 391 CE. Then return to your hotel for overnight. [B]

Day 5: Aswan, Cairo (Museum & Old Cairo)

Breakfast and transfer to Aswan airport for flight back to Cairo. Upon arrival in Cairo you will start our special tour of the Museum of Antiquities in Cairo. The museum houses the greatest collection of pharaonic treasures in the world. We see these artifacts, including Tutankhamen's Collection of Golden Treasures and discover the museum's expansive collections. We will continue to Old Cairo, starting with the Citadel and Mohamed Ali's Alabaster Mosque, where you get a complete view of Cairo and the Nile River. Continuing to Coptic Cairo, where we visit the famous Suspended Church (Hanging Church), dating to the late 4th and early 5th century. The basilica was named "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built atop the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon. Then we see the Church of St. Sergius, a fifth century Coptic Church. This basilica is built on the cave in which the Holy Family stayed and is regarded by visitors as a source of blessing. As we stroll along, we come to the recently restored Synagogue of Ben Ezra, which marks the place where Moses was rescued by Pharaoh's water girl. This is the oldest Jewish synagogue in Egypt, built in AD 882. After the tour, you will be transferred to your hotel for overnight. [B]

Day 6: Cairo, USA

Breakfast then meeting at the hotel lobby for transfer to Cairo International Airport for your departure flight. [B]

[B] = Breakfast

Your Tour includes:

- All airport transfers
- Meeting and assistance
- 5 nights' accommodation:
 - Cairo - 3 nights
 - Luxor - 1 night
 - Aswan - 1 night
- Breakfast daily
- Sightseeing in Cairo
- Sightseeing in Luxor
- Sightseeing in Aswan
- Private English-speaking Egyptologist guide in Cairo
- Private local English-speaking guides in Luxor and Aswan

- One-way transfer Luxor – Aswan in a private A/C deluxe vehicle
- Entrance fees for visited sites

Tours does not include:

- International airline tickets
- Taxes or surcharges related to airline tickets
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Other meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Entrance fees for sites not included
- Alcoholic, non-alcoholic beverages
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out
- Expenses of personal nature
- Tourism and Harbor taxes

Hotels in Your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Superior First Class		
Cairo	Ramses Hilton	4
	Sonesta Cairo	4
	Le Meridien Pyramids	4
Luxor	Winter Pavillion	4.5
Aswan	Pyramisa Island	4
Deluxe		
Cairo	Intercontinental	4
	Conrad	4.5
Luxor	Sonesta St. George	4.5
	Hilton	5
Aswan	Movenpick	4.5
Super Deluxe		
Cairo	Four Seasons	4.5
	Nile Ritz-Carlton	4.5
	St. Regis	NR
Luxor	Sofitel Old Winter	4.5
	Al Moudira	4.5
Aswan	Sofitel Legend Old	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time at booking

Tour Prices:

Season	Double	Single
Superior First Class		
May – September	\$1,155	\$1,429
October – December 24	\$1,199	\$1,495
December 25 – April '21	\$1,379	\$1,719
Deluxe		
May – September	\$1,239	\$1,599
October – December 24	\$1,315	\$1,679
December 25 – April '21	\$1,509	\$1,929
Super deluxe		
May – September	\$1,839	\$2,435
October – December 24	\$2,185	\$3,055
December 25 – April '21	\$2,515	\$3,509

Prices are per person and may change without notice

Domestic airfare:

Routing	Class	Cost
Cairo – Aswan/Luxor – Cairo	Economy	\$295

This fare may be cheaper if integrated in your international itinerary. Consult your travel agent or HWDT

Tour Code: EG03CAI18TP

