

# Explore Egypt

November 11-18th 2023

An 8 day adventure

SOLD OUT

\$1945

*PLEASE NOTE: UP-TO-DATE COVID VACCINES ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS TRIP*

*We specialize in tours for adults only. We take you away from your everyday world and the necessary distractions of family life.*

**Join us in Egypt for a small group adventure** and follow the path of the river Nile as you revel in a taste of Egypt's history, beauty and color on this short but action-packed trip along the longest river in the world. Cruise one of the world's most iconic rivers on a traditional felucca, discover the largest and most impressive pharaonic temples, chat and dine with interesting locals and live it up in this country of deserts, bazaars, monuments and unmatched experiences. This eight-day Cairo round trip will get you feeling desert vibes, ancient wonders and local secrets at every stop.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Get an on-site ancient history lesson when visiting some of the world's premier historic sites – the Pyramids, Sphinx and the Valley of the Kings – with an expert local guide.
- There are so many chances to interact with the locals and experience their culture. Lose yourself in Cairo's colorful Khan al-Khalili bazaar and dine with village folk along your way.
- Your felucca sailing trip not only lets you experience some excellent Nubian hospitality, but is perhaps the perfect way to see the Nile and its gorgeous surroundings at any time of day.
- Admire Karnak Temple – the Cult temple dedicated to Amun, Mut and Khonsu with your small group, and feel the ancient royalty when discovering the mighty Valley of the Kings
- Enjoy a camel ride amongst the famous Pyramids of Giza

*The best time to travel to Egypt is during the winter from September to April as the climate becomes a bit tropical accompanied by a magical atmosphere of warm weather with a winter breeze. Which is why we choose November for this adventure.*

**Note** Airport arrival and departure is not included. I can book them for you through the on the ground team helping me with the trip for \$125 round trip which includes private transfer. Or you can use this link <https://www.getyourguide.com/cairo-l92/cairo-airport-private-transfer-service-t20712/> and order it yourself for about \$35 round trip. Both options are private transfer and will have someone waiting for you with a sign at the airport. This is just one of the ways we give you options to save.

### **Day 1-November 11th**

Destination: Cairo

Welcome to Egypt! Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 4 pm this afternoon. For those arriving early, why not take a walk to get your bearings of the neighborhood, or escape the hustle and bustle and explore the Christian Coptic sector. After your important meeting, head out with your new travel buddies and discover Khan al-Khalili Bazaar, located in Cairo's Islamic center. This traditional souk is a labyrinth of narrow alleys lined with local merchants; a perfect place to get introduced to daily Egyptian life. You'll have plenty of time to lose yourself in the colors and aromas of this fascinating marketplace. one of the world's oldest. We'll learn how various vendors prepare popular food, explore the Al Attarin spice and El Sagha gold markets, and take a break for tea at the iconic Feshawi Café

### **Accommodation**

Barcelo Cairo Pyramids Hotel or similar

<http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en-GB/Hotels/Egypt/Cairo/CairoPyramids/Home>

### **Included Activities**

- Cairo - Khan al-Khalili bazaar visit

### **Day 2 November 12th**

**Destination:** Cairo - Visit Giza Pyramids and Egyptian Museum - Overnight train to Aswan

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

This morning, head to Giza –home to some of the world's most iconic sights. Approach the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx by camel, with panoramic views across the dunes. The Pyramids and the Sphinx are instantly familiar yet retain a mystique and power, getting up close to these incredible pharaonic tombs is captivating. Explore these structures that have stood tall for 4500 years, and for an additional charge you may be able to go inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu, although occasionally it may be closed to visitors. Afterwards, make your way to the Egyptian Museum – home to one of the world's great collections of antiquities. The Egyptian Museum is simply one of the world's great museums, home to a stupendous collection of antiquities and the perfect introduction to your tour, exhibiting many of the region's treasures. Here your expert guide will take you through Egypt's rich and fascinating dynastic history. Afterwards head back to your hotel to freshen up before boarding the overnight train to Aswan (approximately 13 hours).

### Special Information

The inside thoroughfares of the Pyramids of Giza are very small and very warm, so for those suffering from claustrophobia it is not recommended. Please note that you'll be required to walk around the Pyramids complex. It can be hot, so be prepared for little shade and pack appropriate clothing, sun protection, and carry lots of water. Please note that there is an additional EGP 50 fee to take photos in the museum.

*\*Accommodation aboard the overnight train is in two-berth cabins which convert to bunk beds. All bedding is provided on board and western-style toilets are located in each carriage. Your bags will be stored in your cabin, where airline-style dinner and breakfast will be served. However, it may be worth bringing some additional snacks, especially if you are vegetarian or have dietary requirements. Your tour leader can help you to arrange this. Despite being a tourist class train facilities are basic. Please also keep in mind general train cleanliness may not be to the same standards you are accustomed to. But with the right attitude this will be a fun part of our adventure and allows us to not use valuable daylight hours traveling.*

### Accommodation

Sleeper train from Cairo to Aswan

### Included Activities

- Giza Pyramids and Sphinx Entrance
- Camel Ride by the Pyramids
- The Grand Egyptian Museum- Including Tut Treasure

### **Day 3 November 13th**

Destination: Aswan

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

The Nile, Elephantine Island and white-sailed feluccas. Welcome to Aswan – Egypt's southernmost city. Its easy-going charm is due in no small part to its large Nubian population. Upon arrival to Aswan train station get picked up and transferred directly to Philae temple. The beautiful Temple of Isis (the Goddess of health, marriage and wisdom) that was rescued from the rising waters of the Nile and relocated on

Philae Island. It's a marvel of decorative pylons featuring some of Egypt's finest carvings – definitely one of the real gems of Upper Egypt. Access to the temple is by small motorboats.

Afterwards head to the hotel to freshen up for an included group dinner. This evening you'll experience modern Nubian culture first-hand with a visit to a nearby village. You'll join a local Nubian family for a memorable dinner and get an unforgettable insight into the daily life of the local people. Here you will have the chance to see a different side of Egyptian life, try out some wonderful Nubian dishes and swap stories with your welcoming hosts. Enjoy the warm hospitality (and cuisine) of these locals. You will also be treated to some Nubian dancing, and may even have the chance to try some moves yourself.

**Accommodation-** Aswan hotel: Obelisk Aswan

### **Included Activities**

- Aswan - Nubian Village Visit and Dinner
- Philae temple

### **Day 4 - November 14th**

**Destination:** Aswan

**Meals Included:** Breakfast

This morning is at your leisure, sleep in, spend some time at the pool, visit the local sights or do some shopping at the local bazaar

For those interested there is an option to head out of Aswan and visit stunning Abu Simbel this morning. With the four gargantuan statues of Ramses guarding the Great Temple, carved directly out of the mountain on the west bank of the Nile, this is one of Egypt's most memorable sights. Please note this optional activity has a very early start (but it's totally worth it). The journey by land is 3-4 hours each way, with an early departure from Aswan at 4 am. This optional activity requires a minimum of 4 people to participate and cost an additional \$115 USD per person

In the evening get to know the city of Aswan by foot during a walking tour with your leader. Explore the Sharia el Souk, a sprawling and bustling marketplace. Your leader will guide you through a colorful array of stalls selling everything from baked goods to Nubian crafts.

**Accommodation-** Aswan hotel: Obelisk Aswan

### **Included Activities**

- Walking tour in Sharia el Souk

### **Day 5- November 15th**

Destination: Nile Felucca

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

With some free time this morning, perhaps head down and grab a motor boat out to the Tomb of the Nobles or stock up on snacks for your evening on the Nile. Board your included felucca journey just before lunch and spend the afternoon out on the river, watching Egyptian daily life play out on the banks, then spend a night under the stars.

**Felucca cruises** offer travelers a slow meander through history; the chance to travel the **River Nile** as people would have in the time of the Pharaohs. As the **traditional sailboats of Egypt, feluccas** are written into the country's DNA. The iconic image of the single-sailed craft sitting low in the water is often what comes to mind when we think of this part of our world. While feluccas may not have the in-room wireless connectivity, mini-bar or tiled bathrooms of the larger ships that ferry passengers along the ancient river, the opportunity to sleep on the open water of the Nile — looking up at the same star-freckled night sky as those who built the pyramids — is a travel experience not to be missed.

Your Nubian sailing crew provides all the meals which are hearty and delicious. Being a traditional wooden boat with broad canvas sails, your felucca offers some shade and protection from the elements. However, there is no cabin or enclosed section. Nonetheless, watching the sun setting across the Nile in the evening is a sight you won't forget. This is the absolute highlight of the trip for many, especially with some local Nubian entertainment from your crew.

Accommodation- Felucca (1 night)

## Included Activities

- Nile - Felucca overnight sailing trip and sleeping bag rental

**NOTE - A felucca** is an open-decked boat often covered in colorful cushions and pillows for passenger comfort, complete with canvas shelters to block the searing desert sun. Made for sailing over shallow waters, feluccas don't have a keel as such, but a heavy center plate that can be raised over sandbars or when depth is an issue. Accommodation for passengers is on the deck of the boat itself in a shared place. Think of it as a **slumber party**. Conditions will be basic during your felucca trip. If you are prepared for this, you're sure to have a memorable adventure. You'll sleep outside on the deck of the felucca on a mattress. During the colder months (October to March) temperatures can get as low as 5°C at night.

Slight alterations may have to be made to the Nile itinerary throughout the year, depending on winds and currents. As the felucca is a sailing craft without any outboard engine, if there's no wind you won't travel very far. The felucca does have a shared bathroom facility onboard. While feluccas do have mosquito nets when required, we do recommend insect repellent for your day on the Nile.

## Day 6- November 16th

Destination: Luxor

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

This morning, say goodbye to your Nubian friends and take a private van to the 'open-air museum' of Luxor (approximately 3.5 hours travel time). From the spectacular temple complex of Karnak to the Valley of the Kings, Luxor is full of wonderfully preserved reminders of the Pharaohs. This afternoon you will explore the magnificent Karnak Temple, which is perhaps the most impressive of all the ancient Pharaohs' monumental works. One of the world's most celebrated temple complexes, Karnak is a house of the gods built over a period of some 200 years. Your guided tour of the temple reveals its finest sections. The rest of the day will be free to relax, shop in the bazaar, which is open until quite late, or perhaps experience the atmosphere of a local teahouse.

**Accommodation** - Luxor hotel: Aracan Eatabe Luxor

## **Included Activities**

- Luxor - Karnak Temple (entrance fee)

NOTE - You will disembark your Felucca at a point between Aswan and Luxor which will be dependent on sailing winds. You will then continue to Luxor by private mini van. It may not be possible to visit Edfu or Kom Ombo Temples depending on wind and timing, please discuss with your Tour Leader.

## **Day 7 November 17th**

Destination: Luxor West Bank – overnight train to Cairo

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today you'll hop in a private minivan and discover some of the wonder of ancient Thebes. Your first stop is the Colossi of Memnon – two 17-meter-high statues on Luxor's west bank. Carved from granite blocks, they represent the Pharaoh Amenhotep III and were once part of an impressive colonnade. Continue on to the spectacular royal burial site of the Valley of the Kings. Buried under the arid hills here are over 60 richly decorated tombs of pharaohs. With your leader, explore this sprawling and spectacular place, where the pharaohs of the New Kingdom (16th to 11th century BC) were secretly interred for all eternity, and where discoveries are still being made. Your group leader will explain the history and legends of these remarkable people, and the significance of the many paintings and hieroglyphics.

Enjoy a late lunch with a local family before heading back to the hotel to freshen up for tonight's train ride back to Cairo. The rest of your afternoon is free to explore – with the Luxor Museum a great place to visit.

Note- Accommodation aboard the overnight train is in two-berth cabins which convert to bunk beds. All bedding is provided on board and western-style toilets are located in each carriage. Your bags will be stored in your cabin, where airline-style dinner and breakfast will be served. However it may be worth bringing some additional snacks, especially if you are vegetarian or have dietary requirements. Your tour leader can help you to arrange this. Despite being a tourist class train facilities are basic. Please also keep in mind general train cleanliness may not be to the same standards you are accustomed to. It may

be worth bringing some additional snacks, especially if you are vegetarian or have dietary requirements. Your tour leader can help you to arrange this. Despite being a tourist class train facilities are basic. (Ride is 10 hours long)

Accommodation-Sleeper train from Luxor to Cairo

### **Included Activities**

- Luxor - Tut Ank Amon Tomb entrance
- Luxor Home Cooked Lunch
- Luxor Valley of the Kings Tombs Entrance
- Luxor Temple of Queen Hatshepsut Entrance
- Luxor Colossi of Memnon

Please note, there is an additional EGP 300 fee to take photos in the Valley of the Kings.

### **Day 8 November 18th**

Destination: Departure Day

Meals Included: Breakfast

This morning, arrive in Cairo and share breakfast with your group leader and travel crew. After this, there are no activities planned, so you are free to leave at any time. For your comfort and convenience, day rooms are provided on this day until midday (12 pm), for luggage storage and an opportunity to have a shower and freshen up. If you wish to book an onward connection for today, please arrange a flight after 3 pm in case of any delays.

### **Accommodation- day room only**

Barcelo Cairo Pyramids Hotel or similar

<http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en-GB/Hotels/Egypt/Cairo/CairoPyramids/Home>

### **Additional add ons**

Want to have a room to yourself when staying at hotels? Please add an additional \$275

Want to come a day early or stay a day longer? Add \$135 per night

Don't want to book your own Airport transfer using this link?

<https://www.getyourguide.com/cairo-l92/cairo-airport-private-transfer-service-t20712/>

Add an additional \$125

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

Airfare to Egypt

Airport Transfer

Required travel insurance

Tips for guide, leaders, drivers, hosts

Meals and activities not mentioned above

\*Travel insurance is required for all of our trips. If you are under 70 please look here for additional information <https://www.pennypinchingglobetrotter.com/travel-insurance>  
Over 70?

<https://www.insuremytrip.com/?linkId=632359501e53120deeee2fe6>

The trip costs \$1,945

To secure your spot a \$475 deposit is due ASAP

Payment schedule is as follows:

2/1/23 \$490 due

5/1/23 \$490 due

8/1/23 final balance due of \$490 along with any add on options

If you are late with the final payment an additional fee of \$25 per day will be added. If you are more than a week late and have not communicated with me your spot will be given to someone else and our cancellation policy applies.

I accept PayPal, Venmo or I can send an invoice that you can pay with a credit card or ACH but there is a 3.5% fee for the invoice.

My PayPal is melissanance@yahoo.com and I ask that you please select sending to a friend or someone you trust so a fee is not deducted or add 4% to cover the fee.

My Venmo is Melissa-nance-19

Or if you want an invoice please just let me know. Note there is a 3.5% fee.

**Our cancellation policy is as follows:**

Should you cancel no more than 30 days after making your deposit you get a 100% refund minus a \$150 admin fee.

Should you cancel between 30 days of booking to 180 days before the trip you will get a 50% refund minus the \$150 admin fee.

Once we are within 180 days of the trip starting there are no refunds.

Note-should you find someone to fill your spot I can transfer your balance to them minus the \$150 fee. Should you become sick or have other issues it's highly likely the required travel insurance would kick in and reimburse you so be sure and check with your provider.

**Please note proof of current COVID vaccination is required and one will be expected to adhere to any local mask mandates in the areas we are traveling.**

**If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [pennypinchingglobetrotter@yahoo.com](mailto:pennypinchingglobetrotter@yahoo.com)**