

Day 1: USA / Cairo, Egypt

Meals: N/A

Arrival Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)

Traveler Name: Flight Number: Arrival Time:

In-Country Contact: Hesham

Phone Number: will be provided in final itinerary

Welcome to Cairo, the capital city of Egypt! This famous city is associated with ancient Egypt, the famous Giza Pyramids, and the Nile River. We hope you will enjoy your time in this historic and incredible city. Our in-country team will do all they can to make sure you get to see and enjoy the many sights here.

**Afternoon:** Arrive at Cairo International Airport in Cairo, Egypt. After disembarking the plane, you will proceed to customs and immigration. Please note that, if you are a citizen of the United States, you will need a \$25 visa, which can be purchased upon arrival. The entire process of clearing customs and immigration should take about an hour, after which you will exit into the arrival hall. Transfer from the airport to the hotel is <u>NOT</u> included and needs to be arranged on your own, unless you would prefer that we set up the transfer for you. Please contact our in-country director, Hesham (number above), if your flight is delayed or if you need further assistance with your airport transfer.



## Add-On: Hotel Transfer

**Evening:** This evening, we will have a welcome dinner and have our first taste of local cuisine. Your adventure begins tomorrow!

Accommodation: Paradise Boutique Hotel or Similar

Address: 18th B 26th of July Downtown Cairo Governorate, Egypt

Phone: +20 106 977 7674

Day 2: Cairo, Egypt Meals: B

**Breakfast:** Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel before setting out on your first full day in Egypt.

**Morning:** After you've enjoyed your breakfast, please proceed to the lobby of the hotel where you will meet your guide for your full-day tour of Cairo. Your tour guide will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby with a sign that says "**Acanela Expeditions**." During our tour, we will visit the Giza pyramids, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. At the foot of the pyramids lies the Sphinx with the face of king Chephren and the body of a lion. The tour also includes a visit to the Valley Temple, which belongs to the Pyramids of Chephren, and the wishing well. (If you wish to enter the pyramids as part of your tour, please be sure to notify your guide before you pass through the main entrance. While Acanela covers the entrance to *see* the pyramids, you'll need to pay \$20 USD out of pocket to actually enter the pyramids. Please tell your guide beforehand so they can assist you in purchasing the right ticket to enter the pyramid if you wish.)

**Lunch:** After a full morning of touring, you will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch at a local restaurant (own expense). Cairo has a myriad of available food options, so please communicate directly with your guide on your preferences.

**Afternoon:** In the afternoon tour to Memphis, Egypt's capital until the end of the Old Kingdom (3200 BCE) with the famous colossal statue of King Ramses II. After touring Memphis, we will drive to Sakkara, the City of the Dead with the famous step pyramid of Djosser (the world's oldest major stone structure). It was built in the 3rd Dynasty (around 2630 BCE) for King Djoser.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner at your leisure, or choose to add-on an evening food tour of Cairo (with plenty of delicious bites to sample and dine on as you learn about Cairo's culture and history through its food).

Add-on: Cairo Market Tour and Dinner

**Evening:** Overnight at hotel

Accommodation: Paradise Boutique Hotel or Similar

Address: 18th B 26th of July Downtown Cairo Governorate, Egypt

Phone: +20 106 977 7674



Day 3: Cairo, Egypt Meals: B

**Breakfast:** Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel before setting out on your full day in Egypt.

**Morning:** After you've enjoyed your breakfast, please proceed to the lobby of the hotel where you will meet your guide to start your visit to the Egyptian Museum. Your tour guide will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby with a sign that says "**Acanela Expeditions**." At the museum, you will see a rare collection of 5,000 years of art, which is considered the largest most precious collection of Egyptian art in the world. Over 250,000 genuine artifacts are presented, including an exhibit dedicated to Tutankhamen and a collection of treasure, gold and jewelry. Your museum entry fee is covered by Acanela, but if you want to enter the mummy chamber, you will need to pay an additional \$15 USD. (If you want to enter the mummy chamber, please be sure to notify your guide before entering the museum so they can assist you.)

**Lunch:** After a full morning of touring, you will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch at a local restaurant (own expense).

**Afternoon:** In the afternoon proceed to visit Old Cairo via Metro where you will have free time to enjoy the Hanging Church of the 3rd century (built from tower remains from the Babylon fortress), the Church of Abu Serga (where you can see the holy crypt), and the Ben Ezra Jewish Synagogue. Close by, the Coptic Museum has the largest collection of Egyptian Christian artifacts in the world and is available for entrance at 40EGP.

**Dinner:** You'll be on your own for dinner, so before separating for the day, be sure to ask your guide about their favorite local dining spots. Cairo has a variety of cuisines available, so don't be shy about visiting some of the main local spots.

**Evening:** Board a sleeper train to Luxor at around 7:45 p.m.

Accommodation: Overnight Train

## Day 4: Luxor, Egypt

Meals: B

**Breakfast:** Enjoy breakfast on the train.

**Morning:** This morning, we will arrive at 6 a.m. Your guide will meet you at the station, holding an "Acanela Expeditions" sign. From here, you will be brought by air-conditioned van to your hotel, where you can enjoy breakfast before heading out for the afternoon.

**Afternoon:** This afternoon, we will take the ferry over to the East Bank. Our expert guide will lead us to the striking Luxor Temple, dedicated to the god Amun. We will see its courtyard and the granite statues of Ramses the Great. We will also visit the Karnak temples before heading back to the hotel.

**Evening:** Enjoy dinner at your leisure. You may also choose to add-on a sunset felucca (traditional Egyptian sailboat) ride on the Nile River.

## Add-On: Sunset Felucca Ride

Accommodation: Sunflower Guest House Luxor West Bank or similar Address:
Phone:

Day 5: Luxor, Egypt

Meals: B

Breakfast: Wake up and get ready for an early start with a delicious breakfast at the hotel.

**Morning:** Today, we will explore the West Bank of Luxor to explore the Valley of the Kings. You will also have the chance to visit the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. On the way back to the hotel, you will pass by the famed Colossi of Memnon, known in Ancient Greek times for their haunting voices at dawn.

**Afternoon:** Enjoy lunch on the West Bank before enjoying free time in Luxor for the rest of the day. You may also choose to add on a hot air balloon tour of Luxor.

Add-on: Hot Air Balloon Tour or Luxor

**Evening:** Enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Accommodation: Sunflower Guest House Luxor West Bank or similar Address:
Phone

Day 6: Edfu, Egypt

Meals: B

**Breakfast:** Dine on a delicious breakfast at the hotel.

**Morning:** This morning we'll travel by train to Edfu. Once you arrive in Edfu, your guide will meet you and bring you to the legendary Temple of Horus. This Ptolemaic temple, built between 237 and 57 BCE, is one of the best-preserved monuments in Egypt. Preserved by desert sand, which filled the place after the pagan cult was banned, the temple is dedicated to Horus, the avenging son of Isis and Osiris. With its roof intact, it is also one of the most atmospheric ancient buildings in the country.

**Afternoon**: Enjoy lunch at your leisure before enjoying free time in Edfu for the rest of the day. You may also choose to add on a tour of the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to Sobek, the god of crocodiles. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile, where sacred crocodiles basked in the sun during ancient times.

Add-on: Tour of the Temple of Kom Ombo

**Evening:** Enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Accommodation: Local Edfu Guesthouse or similar

Address: Phone Day 7: Aswan, Egypt Meals: B

**Breakfast**: Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel.

**Morning:** Today, we're off to Aswan! We will travel by train, leaving Edfu at 9 a.m.

**Afternoon:** Once we arrive in Aswan, we will take a short motorboat ride to the majestic Philae Temple on Agilika Island. From there, we'll proceed to the granite quarries, which provided most of the stone used to build ancient pyramids and temples, where we can still see a massive, unfinished obelisk. We will also visit the High Dam before checking in to the hotel.

**Lunch:** We will have lunch on own in Aswan — get out and explore! There's lots waiting to be uncovered.

**Evening:** Overnight in Aswan, grabbing dinner at your leisure.

Accommodation: Marhaba Hotel Aswan or similar

Address: Phone:

## Day 8: Aswan, Egypt/USA

Meals: B

**Breakfast:** Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy your morning exploring around the city before catching your transportation to the airport for your departure home or to Ethiopia, if you opt to extend your travels.

**Departure Airport:** Aswan International Airport (ASW)

Traveler Name: Flight Number: Arrival Time: