

# Alexandria & Ancient Egypt

13 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



*Take in the best of Egypt on this 13 day tour which combines Mediterranean Alexandria and the Commonwealth War Graves of El Alamein, with Cairo and the legendary Pyramids of Giza, Aswan, Luxor and felucca sailing on the River Nile.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Alexandria - Take in the highlights of this beautiful Mediterranean port city, including the Roman Catacombs, Pompey's Pillar, the Library of Alexandria and Qaitbay Fort, the site of the great Lighthouse of Alexandria
- Cairo - Marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Egyptian Museum
- El Alamein - Tour the WWII battlefields, pay your respects at the Commonwealth War Graves and visit the El Alamein Military Museum
- Luxor West Bank - Discover exquisite tombs at the Valley of the Kings, see the towering Colossi of Memnon and explore the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

- Luxor - Roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Aswan - Take a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Nile felucca sailing - Sail the River Nile on board a traditional felucca and spend two nights sleeping under a blanket of stars (or upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruise)
- Kom Ombo - Visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- 8 nights 4-5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck). If booking our Nile Cruise Upgrade, 7 nights 4-5 star hotels and 3 nights Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- Touring - Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan and Luxor
- Touring - Alexandria and the El Alamein Battlefields and museum
- 2 overnight trains from Cairo to Aswan and Luxor to Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 13

- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-80pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$90-110pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt! On arrival at the airport you'll be transferred to our hotel to spend the rest of today exploring Cairo at leisure. **Overnight - Cairo**

### Day 2 : Alexandria sightseeing

Cairo - Alexandria. Discover the port city of Alexandria today as we drive to the Mediterranean coast. We'll explore the ancient Roman catacombs, the largest of its kind in Egypt. The catacombs were only rediscovered in 1900, when a donkey accidentally fell into the access shaft. Our tour will also visit Pompey's Pillar and the impressive Library of Alexandria (exterior)

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before we arrive at the Citadel of Qaitbay. This fortress was built on the site of the legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The lighthouse was destroyed by a powerful earthquake in 1323AD and some of the same stones recovered from the ruins were used in the construction of this famous citadel. **Overnight - Alexandria (B, D)**

## Day 3 : El Alamein



Alexandria - Cairo. Today we visit the sobering Commonwealth War Graves of El Alamein. Two bloody battles were fought here during the Second World War, which eventually saw the Allied forces defeat the Axis powers. This victory eliminated the threat to Egypt and the strategically important Suez Canal. Around 13,000 Allied soldiers were killed in battle. We'll pay our respects to the fallen soldiers and explore the El Alamein Military Museum to learn more about the battles fought here. The museum also houses original war vehicles, weapons and uniforms. After the visit, we return to Cairo. **Overnight - Cairo (B, L)**

## Day 4 : Free Time in Cairo



Today is free to explore Egypt's capital as you please. You may wish to join our morning Backstreets of Cairo tour, which will take you to some of the lesser known sights in the city. Visit the hub of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution in Tahrir Square, wander down El Moez Street

and explore the famous cave church of St Simon. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 5 : Pyramids of Giza & Saqqara



Today we explore Egypt's most famous attraction, with a visit to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. The only surviving of the Ancient Wonders of the World, the pyramids are also the oldest. Gaze in awe at the colossal structures - the largest of the pyramids, Cheops, was the tallest man-made building on Earth for 3,800 years. After our tour we continue to the necropolis of Saqqara to see the famous stepped Pyramid of Zoser, which dates back to 2700BC. A visit to a government supervised Papyrus Museum will also be made at some point during today. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 6 : The Egyptian Museum

Cairo - Aswan. On today's excursion we visit the Grand Egyptian Museum. This newly opened site is just 2km from the pyramids and is home to a vast collection of artefacts from across ancient Egypt's diverse history. Many of the exhibits have never been on public display before and many more have been recalled to the museum from across Egypt and the rest of the world. There is a full exhibition dedicated to the treasures of Tutankhamun and the museum makes use of modern technology including virtual reality. We return to our hotel and there is free time to freshen up before boarding the night train to Aswan this evening.

Note: The Grand Egyptian Museum is set to open in 2020. An official date has yet to be released. If travelling prior to the opening of the new facility we'll visit the Egyptian

Museum this morning. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

## Day 7 : Aswan & Philae Temple



We arrive in Aswan this morning and visit the beautiful Philae Temple. We'll take a boat out into the Nile and sail to Agilkia Island to explore the site. The temple was carefully relocated from its original location to Agilkia in the 1960s, as part of a UNESCO project to save it from rising water levels after the flooding of Lake Nasser. Our final stop today is a perfume oil emporium and this evening is free to explore Aswan at leisure - perhaps check out the vibrant market. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

## Day 8 : Optional Abu Simbel & Felucca Sailing



Aswan - Nile felucca cruise. This morning there's an optional trip to Abu Simbel, the famous temple built by Ramses II and guarded by 4 colossal statues of the pharaoh himself. Later, we board our traditional felucca for a 2 night cruise down the mighty Nile. If sailing by felucca is not your style, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise, please see the tab above for prices. For more information about Nile Cruising please click here. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B, L, D)**

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## Day 9 : Felucca Sailing & Kom Ombo

Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo. Relax onboard the felucca as it makes its way downriver. This afternoon we'll dock near Kom Ombo and visit the famous symmetrical temple, dedicated to the falcon god Horus and the crocodile god Sobek. We then return to the felucca for our final night onboard.  
**Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B, L, D)**

## Day 10 : Luxor



Kom Ombo - Luxor. Disembark the felucca today as we drive to Luxor, where the rest of the day can be spent at leisure. This evening, there's an optional excursion to Luxor Temple, which is beautifully illuminated by hundreds of lights at night. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

## Day 11 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Cairo. Enter the lavishly decorated tombs of famous pharaohs today as we visit the Valley of the Kings. Gaze at the towering Colossi of Memnon and explore the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut - Egypt's second female pharaoh.

Later, discover the majestic Karnak Temple, one of the largest religious buildings in the world. The temple took 1,500 years to complete and features contributions from around 30 different pharaohs. Marvel at the

giant columns of Hypostyle Hall before we return to Cairo on the night train this evening.

**Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

## Day 12 : Free Time in Cairo

We arrive back in Cairo where today is free for you to relax or explore Egypt's capital at leisure. You can opt to visit Khan el Khalili bazaar, the ideal place for some last minute souvenir shopping. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 13 : Cairo

Sunday. Our tour ends today with an included departure transfer to the airport.(B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony (not Nile View as standard) and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel's bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you'll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there's no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt's ancient wonders.



### Sleeper Train

When travelling on an overnight train in Egypt, sleeper carriages offer the highest level of comfort. Cabins are equipped with

two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points and air conditioning. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. The carriages have toilets at each end and there is a club car which serves snacks and beverages. In the morning a very basic breakfast is provided.



### Steigenberger Hotel el Tahrir

Ideally located in the heart of downtown Cairo, the Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir is right by the lively Tahrir Square. Guestrooms offer peace and quiet away from the high-energy of the city, with contemporary decor and sound-proofed windows overlooking views of Cairo. The wellness facilities are state-of-the-art, including a fitness centre, outdoor pool and sauna and massage rooms. Be sure to take advantage of the poolside bar and delicious hotel restaurant, or enjoy the option of 24-hour in-room dining.



### Le Meridien Heliopolis

Just a short drive from Cairo's Old Town and international airport, the 5-star Le Meridien Heliopolis combines comfort with convenience. The guest rooms are spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television and a minibar, plus there's complimentary WiFi throughout the property. Dining options include a choice of four on-site restaurants, serving Egyptian and international cuisine. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment and cocktails at The 51 Bar. During the warmer months hotel guests can take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax

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on a sun lounge on the terrace. There's also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.



## Paradise Inn Le Metropole

Le Metropole is one of the oldest in Alexandria and is a superb example of 18th century architecture. The rooms are cozy and well appointed.



## Tolip Hotel

Set in manicured gardens, the Helnan Aswan is an elegant hotel with impressive views of the Nile. Guest rooms are spacious with modern interiors and located next to the beautiful pool. Wi-fi is available in the lobby and by the pool. There are also two restaurants and bars, a bowling alley, a swimming pool and a cinema. Why not relax by the pool before exploring the rest of Aswan.



## Felucca Sailboat

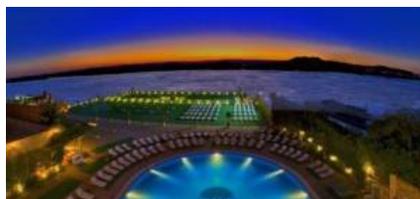
Feluccas are simple, traditional Egyptian sailboats that have plied the Nile since ancient times. Feluccas carry between 10 - 12 passengers comfortably. The boat's deck is draped with soft colourful cushions that serve as your lounging area during the day and as your sleeping area at night. A support boat travels alongside your felucca and is on hand if you need to use the toilet. The support boat is also where your meals

are prepared and eaten. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag/sheet (or hire for a nominal cost) and a towel with you. The crew, as well as being experienced sailors, are responsible for the preparation of the included meals.



## Sonesta St. George Hotel

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.



## Steigenberger Nile Palace

The Steigenberger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

### PRICES / DATES 2020

| Date   | Twin Share | Single    |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 17 Nov | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |

### PRICES / DATES 2021

| Date   | Twin Share | Single    |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 23 Feb | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 09 Mar | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 23 Mar | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 30 Mar | USD 1,994  | USD 2,724 |
| 13 Apr | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 20 Apr | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 04 May | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 18 May | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 01 Jun | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 08 Jun | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 29 Jun | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 13 Jul | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 27 Jul | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 03 Aug | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 10 Aug | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 24 Aug | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 07 Sep | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 21 Sep | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 28 Sep | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 12 Oct | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 19 Oct | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 26 Oct | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 02 Nov | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 09 Nov | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 23 Nov | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |

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## PRICES / DATES 2021

| Date   | Twin Share | Single    |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 07 Dec | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 14 Dec | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 21 Dec | USD 1,994  | USD 2,724 |
| 25 Dec | USD 1,994  | USD 2,724 |

## PRICES / DATES 2022

| Date   | Twin Share | Single    |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 04 Jan | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 18 Jan | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 01 Feb | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 15 Feb | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 22 Feb | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 08 Mar | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 22 Mar | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 05 Apr | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 12 Apr | USD 1,994  | USD 2,724 |
| 19 Apr | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 03 May | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 10 May | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 24 May | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 07 Jun | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 28 Jun | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 05 Jul | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 19 Jul | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 26 Jul | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 09 Aug | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 30 Aug | USD 1,789  | USD 2,321 |
| 13 Sep | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 20 Sep | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 27 Sep | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 04 Oct | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 18 Oct | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 25 Oct | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
| 01 Nov | USD 1,889  | USD 2,544 |
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