

Private 12-Day Cairo & Upper Egypt Expedition

Giza / Cairo / Alexandria / Aswan / Abu Simbel / Luxor / Dendara / Abydos / Sahara.

tour.duration Tour Type Tour Runs

12 Days / 11 Nights Classic Tour Everyday

tour.overview

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Egypt's greatest wonders with our **12-Day Cairo & Upper Egypt Tour**, curated in partnership with **Your Egypt Tours**. Led by expert Egyptologists, this premium adventure blends iconic landmarks, hidden gems, and luxury accommodations for an unparalleled experience.

Highlights:

Cairo: Explore the **Giza Pyramids**, **Khan El-Khalili Bazaar**, **Hanging Church**, **Amr Ibn Al-As Mosque**, and the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**.

Alexandria: Discover the **Alexandria Library**, **Qaitbay Citadel**, and **Catacombs of Alexandria**.

Luxor & Aswan: Uncover the **Karnak Temple**, **Valley of the Kings**, **Hatshepsut Temple**, **Philae Temple**, and the majestic **Abu Simbel Temples**.

Hidden Treasures: Visit **Abydos Temple**, **Dendera Temple**, and the breathtaking **Bahariya Oasis**.

tour.itinerary

Day 1

Welcome to Egypt

Upon arrival at **Cairo International Airport**, you'll be greeted by our representative and escorted to your **5-star hotel** for a seamless check-in.

Evening Magic:

Nile cruise dinner with stunning city views.

Enjoy live **belly dancing**, **folklore shows**, and captivating stories from your guide.

Overnight: Cairo hotel

Meals: Dinner

Day 2

Pyramids & Ancient Wonders

Morning Highlights:

Giza Pyramids Complex: Stand before the **Great Pyramid of Khufu** (147m tall, 4,500+ years old).

Great Sphinx: Marvel at the legendary guardian with the body of a lion and Pharaoh Khafre's face.

Valley Temple: Discover the ancient mummification site.

Grand Egyptian Museum: See treasures like the **Statue of Ramses II, Hanging Obelisk, and King Tutankhamun's treasures.**

Afternoon Exploration:

Lunch at a top local restaurant.

Saqqara Step Pyramid: The world's first stone pyramid, built for **King Djoser.**

Memphis: Walk through Egypt's ancient capital, dedicated to **Ptah.**

Overnight: Cairo hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3

Aswan Discovery

Morning:

Fly from **Cairo** to ? **Aswan**.

Visit the **Aswan High Dam**, a modern engineering marvel that transformed Egypt's irrigation and energy supply.

Explore the **Unfinished Obelisk**, a colossal monument abandoned mid-construction, revealing ancient stone-carving techniques.

Lunch:

Enjoy a delicious meal with **Nile views** at a local restaurant.

Afternoon:

Discover **Philae Temple**, a breathtaking sanctuary dedicated to **Isis**, relocated by UNESCO to **Agilkia Island**. Admire its intricate carvings and legends of **Osiris**.

Evening:

Check into your **5-star hotel** in Aswan.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Aswan Hotel

Day 4

Abu Simbel Adventure

Early Morning:

Depart **Aswan** at dawn with packed breakfast

Journey through the desert to **Abu Simbel**, Egypt's most awe-inspiring rock-cut temples

The Temples:

Great Temple of Ramses II: Marvel at the 20m-tall colossi and intricate battle reliefs commemorating the **Battle of Kadesh** (1274 BC)

Temple of Nefertari: Admire the exquisite carvings honoring Ramses' beloved queen

Learn about the **Sun Alignment Phenomenon** (Oct 22/Feb 22) when sunlight illuminates the inner sanctum

Midday:

Return to **Aswan**

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant

Evening:

Free time to relax at your **5-star hotel**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Aswan

Day 5

Luxor East Bank Wonders

Morning:

First-class train from **Aswan to Luxor**

Begin at **Karnak Temple**, the world's largest religious complex:

Walk through the **Great Hypostyle Hall** (134 towering columns)

See obelisks honoring **Pharaohs Hatshepsut & Thutmose III**

Discover sanctuaries of the **Theban Triad (Amun-Ra, Mut, Khonsu)**

Midday:

Lunch with **Nile views** at a premium restaurant

Check-in at your **5-star Luxor hotel**

Evening Magic:

Night visit to **Luxor Temple**, illuminated against the dark sky:

Walk the **Sphinx Avenue** entrance

See where pharaohs were crowned during the **Opet Festival**

Marvel at **Alexander the Great's chapel**

Overnight: Luxor

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6

Luxor West Bank Treasures

Morning Highlights:

Valley of the Kings:

Explore 3 royal tombs (including **Tutankhamun's** or **Ramses VI's**)

Decipher colorful **Book of the Dead** wall paintings

Learn about mummification rituals in this vast necropolis

Midday:

Hatshepsut's Temple:

Walk the grand terraces of Egypt's greatest female pharaoh

See rare **divine birth reliefs** and trading expedition records

Authentic **Egyptian lunch** at a local restaurant

Afternoon:

Colossi of Memnon:

Stand before the 18m-tall "singing statues" of Amenhotep III

Hear legends of the mysterious dawn "vocalizations"

Evening:

Free time at your **5-star hotel** or optional:

Sunset felucca ride on the Nile

Sound & Light show at Karnak

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Luxor

Day 7

Sacred Temples of Dendera & Abydos

Morning:

Dendera Temple Complex:

Marvel at the **Hathor Temple's** vibrant ceiling zodiac and crypts

See the famous "**Dendera Light**" relief (ancient electricity myth)

Explore the **sacred lake** and Cleopatra-era carvings

Midday:

Scenic drive through **Qena countryside**

Authentic **Egyptian lunch** in Luxor

Afternoon:

Abydos Temple:

Discover the **Osireion** - legendary tomb of Osiris

Study the perfect **Abydos King List** (76 pharaohs carved in stone)

Admire **Seti I's exquisite reliefs** - considered Egypt's finest

Evening:

Return to Luxor

Free time at your **5-star hotel**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Luxor

Day 8

Cairo's Historical tapestry

Morning:

Fly from **Luxor to ? Cairo**

Salah El Din Citadel:

Panoramic city views from this 12th-century fortress

Visit the **Alabaster Mosque** (Mohamed Ali Mosque)

Traditional **Egyptian lunch**

Afternoon:

Coptic Cairo:

Hanging Church (suspended over Roman towers)

Ben Ezra Synagogue (legendary Moses connection)

Amr Ibn Al-As Mosque (Africa's first mosque)

National Museum of Egyptian Civilization:

Modern showcase of pharaonic heritage

Must-see: **22 royal mummies** in climate-controlled gallery

Evening:

Walk **Al-Muizz Street** - "The Street of a Thousand Minarets"

Shop at **Khan el-Khalili Bazaar** for souvenirs & spices

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Cairo

Day 9

Alexandria - Mediterranean Marvels

Morning Departure:

Scenic 3-hour drive to the **Mediterranean coast**

Kom El Shoqafa Catacombs:

Descend into this **3-level underground necropolis**

Marvel at **Greco-Roman-Egyptian fusion art**

See the unique **carved banquet hall** for mourners

Midday Exploration:

Pompey's Pillar:

27m red granite monolith towering over ancient ruins

Last remaining structure of the **Serapeum temple complex**

Qaitbay Citadel:

15th-century fortress built with stones from the **Lighthouse of Alexandria**

Stunning **harbor views** from the ramparts

Lunch:

Fresh **seafood feast** at a Mediterranean-view restaurant

Afternoon Highlight:

Bibliotheca Alexandrina:

Architectural marvel honoring the ancient **Great Library**

Visit the **manuscript museum & planetarium**

See the **reading hall** - one of world's largest at 11 cascading levels

Evening:

Return to Cairo (~3.5hr drive)

Relax at your **5-star hotel**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Cairo

Day 10

White Desert Adventure

Morning:

4-hour scenic drive from **Cairo to Bahariya Oasis**

Traditional **lunch in Al-Bawiti** village

Afternoon Safari:

4x4 adventure through:

Black Desert – Volcanic hills resembling a moonscape

Crystal Mountain – Natural quartz formations glittering in sunlight

Agabat Valley – Surreal wind-carved "alien" rock formations

Evening Magic:

Arrive at **White Desert National Park**

Sunset photography among:

Mushroom Rocks

Chalk Monoliths

Bedouin camp experience:

Star-lit BBQ dinner

Traditional music around campfire

Overnight in private tents

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Luxury Camping

Day 11

Desert Sunrise & Return to Cairo

Pre-Dawn:

Witness **sunrise transforming the desert** into pastel hues

Visit **natural hot springs**

Midday:

Return to **Cairo**

Check into **5-star hotel**

Free afternoon for relaxation

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12

Departure Day

Morning:

Enjoy a leisurely **final breakfast** at your hotel

Take in last views of the Nile or Cairo skyline

Departure:

Smooth **airport transfer**

Assistance with check-in and security

Meals: Breakfast

tour.included

Airport & Travel Services

Meet & assist at all airports

Accommodation

5 nights – Cairo, at a 5? hotel (B&B)

2 nights – Aswan, at a 5? hotel (B&B)

3 nights – Luxor, at a 5? hotel (B&B)

1 night – White Desert luxury camping (full board)

Domestic Flights

Cairo ? Aswan / Luxor ? Cairo

Transportation

1st class train: Aswan ? Luxor

All transfers in modern A/C vehicles

Guided Tours

Expert Egyptologist guide for all tours

Sightseeing & Activities

All entry fees to listed sites

Meals as specified in itinerary

Taxes & Fees

All taxes & service charges

Exclusion

? International airfare

? Egypt entry visa

? Tipping

? Personal expenses

? Optional activities

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4500\$ /Per Person