

# Private 12-Day Cairo & Upper Egypt Expedition

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

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## tour.duration Tour Type Tour Runs

12 Days / 11 Nights Classic Tour Everyday

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## tour.overview

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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

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### 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**

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**? International airfare**

**? Egypt entry visa**

**? Tipping**

**? Personal expenses**

**? Optional activities**


**tour**

**tour.price**

**4500\$** /Per Person