



## Egyptian me-time



### Tour Overview

We invite you to a feel-good tour.

See the main attractions of Egypt (Pyramids, Egyptian Museum, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Luxor) combined with special accommodation.

Beyond the anonymous hotel complexes, we bring you to historical or authentic accommodation.

Understand the stories of the ancient pharaohs, whose spirit can still be felt at the famous sites, because you can really rest at night and let the impressions of the day sink in.

### **Highlights**

- Abu Simbel Temple
- Karnak Temple
- Valley of the Kings

Duration:	8 Days / 7 Nights
Groupe size:	2 - 15 Pax
Trip available:	All year round
Price:	From 00\$/pp

### Route summary

(Cairo) - Aswan - Abu Simbel - Aswan - Luxor - Cairo.



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"Believe you can and you are halfway there."

Theodore Roosevelt



## Tour Outline

### **Day 1: Cairo - Aswan (flight).**

The idyllic city of Aswan, formerly known as Swenett, is located in southern Egypt. The word Aswan is derived from the ancient Egyptian word “Soun”, which means souk or market.

Aswan earned its name because it was a strategic gateway to the South. In ancient times, it was the main provider of granite used for obelisks and sculptures. Aswan is known for its beautiful Nile Valley scenery, significant archaeological sites and its peaceful aura. Its weather is warm all year round, which makes it a perfect winter destination.

Immerse yourself in Aswan’s rich history and culture. We bring you closer to spectacular destinations individually.

Airport transfer to your accommodation Eco Nubia. Its competitive edge includes being the only ecolodge of its kind in the area built with all eco-friendly materials, the only lodge with a view of Philae Temple. It helps local communities to discover their own natural and cultural heritage treasures and put them into action using sustainable tourism practices in order to gain financial and psychological benefit.

Check-Inn – Welcome- meeting with your guide.

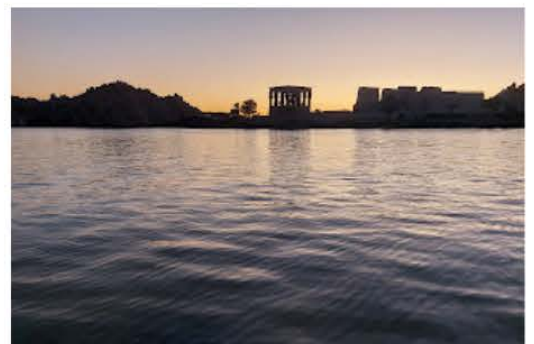
Overnight Eco Nubia or similar

### **Day 2: Abu Simbel - Kalabsha Temple- Highdam - Tombs Westbank**

Along Lake Nasser’s shore the site Abu Simbel Temples is among the most awe-inspiring monuments in all Egypt after the Giza Pyramids. Built by the greatest of the Pharaohs, Ramses II, these huge rock cut temples marked the southern border of the Egyptian Empire with Nubia at the peak of its power during the New Kingdom.

Today, they still convey the spirit of a great era, that has stood test of time.

Flight to Abu Simbel and back in the morning. In the afternoon visit of Kalabsha Temple. This beautiful and remarkably well-preserved monument is the largest free-standing temple in Lower Nubia. It was built during the reign of Augustus (30 BC–14 AD), the first Roman emperor. Primarily dedicated to the Nubian god Mandulis, the gods Isis and her husband Osiris



were worshipped here too.

Afterwards you get an idea about the famous High Dam of Aswan.

The Aswan Dam controls the flow of the Nile River. The Aswan Dam, or more specifically since the 1970s, the Aswan High Dam, is one of the world's largest embankment dams, which was built across the Nile in Aswan, Egypt, between 1960 and 1970.

The dam protects people living near the banks of the Nile from both floods and drought. The constant, regulated flow of water helps farmers irrigate their crops all year.

We end the day with a sun-downer from your accommodation overlooking the Philae temple – another landmark of the region. Overnight Eco Nubia or similar (B)



### **Day 3: Aswan - Philae Temple - Elephantine - Souk**

Let's enjoy sightseeing in and around Aswan. Since you are staying with a view of Philae Temple anyway, it is time now to visit it.

After breakfast you just have to travel a short distance to reach Philae by boat. Built during the reign of Ptolemy II (Egypt's Greco-Roman Period), the Temple of Isis at Philae is dedicated to Isis, Osiris, and Horus. The temple walls contain scenes from Egyptian mythology of Isis bringing Osiris back to life, giving birth to Horus, and mummifying Osiris after his death.

Take 1.5 hours to wander around.

Let's hop from one island to the next – Elephantine is our next destination.

The island of Elephantine is one of major Aswan attractions floating on the Nile. The island is 12000 meters situated in the center of the Nile. It had an important strategic position of protecting the southern borders of Ancient Egypt, and during the 6th dynasty which meant more than 3000 B.C, ancient Egyptian kings constructed a fortress on the island. In addition it was the cult center of god Khnum and the dwelling of his temple.

After a short break, immerse yourself in the world of a souk. Aswan Souk is a colorful bazaar that offers Egyptian and African goods, Locally known as Sharia as- Souq, it is the cheapest place to buy souvenirs in Aswan.



Call it a Dream

Egyptian me-time

Treat yourself to a special end to the day and visit the Old Cataract Hotel for a sundowner.

Built in 1899, under the impulse of Thomas Cook, The Old Cataract opened in January 1900. It is an architectural jewel. The exterior is typical of the late Victorian era, while on the inside the hotel exudes a rich arabesque feel with lavishly decorated Moorish furniture and wood carvings.

Overnight: Eco Nubia or similar (B)



#### **Day 4: Aswan - Kom Ombo - Edfu - Esna - Luxor**

After breakfast check-out at Eco Nubia and start your way to Luxor by car (distance to travel direct 240 km)

This will be on your way: The temple of Kom Ombo is unique for its dedication to two different deities: the local crocodile-headed god Sobek, and the first "god of the Kingdom", the falcon-headed god Horus the Elder (also called Haroeris). This double dedication was deliberate. Edfu is an Egyptian city, located on the west bank of the Nile River between Esna and Aswan, with a population of approximately sixty thousand people. Edfu is the site of the Ptolemaic Temple of Horus and an ancient settlement, Tell Edfu.

About 5 km south of Edfu are remains of ancient pyramids.

The modern town of Esna is famous among tourists for its barrage bridges built on the Nile River by the British in 1906 and the "Electricity Bridge" built in the 1990s. Arrival to Luxor in the evening.

Overnight Pavillion Winter Palace or similar (B)



#### **Day 5: Luxor - Luxor Temple - Karnak Temple - (Optional: Hot Air Balloon Flight)**

For an early morning adventure, see the world from above. Hot Air Balloon is an amazing way to see world's largest open air museum.

Pick-up from your hotel, the Balloon ride takes 45 minutes then you will be transferred back to your hotel. Notes: \*The Balloon is scheduled to take off between 3.00 till 4.00 am in summer and between 4.00 till 5.00 am in winter. In any case after a proper breakfast you visit that "open air museum" on the ground.

Luxor Temple, Ipet-resyt "Southern Sanctuary" to the ancient



Egyptians, was so called because of its location within ancient Thebes (modern Luxor). It is located around three kilometers to the south of Karnak Temple, to which it was once linked with a processional

way bordered with sphinxes. The oldest evidence for this temple dates to the Eighteenth Dynasty (c.1550–1295 BC).

Ipet-resyt, unlike most other ancient Egyptian temples, is not laid out on an east-west axis, but is oriented towards Karnak. This is because Luxor Temple was the main venue for one the most important of ancient Egyptian religious celebrations, when the cult images of Amun, his wife Mut, and their son, the lunar god Khonsu, were taken from their temples in Karnak, and transported in a grand procession to Luxor Temple so they could visit the god that resides there, Amenemopet. This was the Opet Festival.

The Karnak Temple Complex is home to three main temples, several smaller enclosed temples, and a number of outer temples - combining the achievements of many generations of ancient builders over a period of 1500 years.

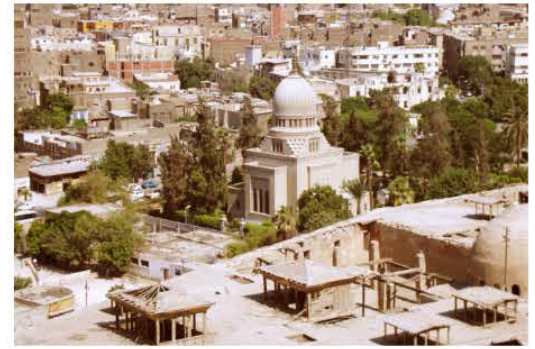
Around thirty different pharaohs contributed to the building process of this site, enabling it to reach a size, complexity and diversity not seen elsewhere. It was after all the New Kingdom's most sacred site.

The Ancient complex covers a total area of 2 sq. km, and its name "Karnak" means "fortified settlement" in Arabic. The temple of Amun, the complex's main structure, is the largest place of worship ever built. It is surrounded by two other gigantic temples, dedicated to Amun's wife, Mut and his son, Khonsu, respectively. Although it might seem badly ruined today, there are still many features to Karnak that make it one of the largest and most impressive of all ancient sites in Egypt.

Overnight Pavillon Winter Palace or similar. (B)

### Day 6: Luxor Westbank - Valley of the Kings - Cairo

After breakfast you follow again the footsteps of history. The West Bank of Luxor is one of the most important archaeological sites in the World. It's approximately nine square kilometers encompass the Famous Valley of the Kings, the breathtaking tomb of Queen Nefertari at Valley of the Queens, Temples of ancient Egyptian Pharaohs and the most striking of them the



Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Habu Temple and huge number of Nobel Tombs and more. The ancient Egyptian saw the sun sets at the west, that's way they buried their dead generally at the West Bank of the Nile and they call the West Bank, the city of the dead. The Valley of the kings was part of the ancient city of Thebes and was the burial site of almost all the kings (pharaohs) of the 18th, 19th, and 20th dynasties (1539–1075 bce), from Thutmose I to Ramses X. Located in the hills behind Dayr al-Baḥrī, the 62 known tombs exhibit variety both in plan and in decoration. King Tutankhamun is said to be one of the most important pharaohs to ever lived. He became a king while still a child after the demise of his father Ramses I. He died after an accident and was buried with a lot of precious treasures. His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. All the treasure found in his tomb can now be viewed in the Egyptian Museum In the evening 1 h flight back to Cairo.



Transfer to a special place for overnight:

Overnight Villa Belle Époque or similar (B)

Situated in the heart of Maadi, Villa Belle Époque allows visitors to relive the comfort & elegance of a bygone era while enjoying every modern amenity. Villa Belle Époque was built in the 1920s, and recently refurbished to reflect its colonial origins. Occupying a 1300 square meter plot, the hotel, its swimming pool, sun decks and patios are surrounded by lemon, mango, olive and guava trees, intermingled with centennial palms. Richly, yet understatedly decorated with a period feel and embellished with works of contemporary Egyptian art, Villa Belle Époque offers guests a unique experience of history and art.



### Day 7: Cairo - Pyramids of Gizeh - Egyptian Museum

After breakfast you are off to more miracles. Every visitor to Egypt should visit the pyramids at least once.

The pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx are among the most popular tourist destinations in the world, and indeed already were even in Roman times. Your guide will be ready to answer your questions. After a lunch break you continue to another must-see destination:

The Egyptian Museum is the oldest archaeological museum in the Middle East, and houses the largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities in the world. The museum displays an extensive



ollection spanning from the Predynastic Period to the Greco-Roman Era. After your visit in Luxor, here are the preserved treasures.

The architect of the building was selected through an international competition in 1895, which was the first of its kind, and was won by the French architect, Marcel Dourgnon.

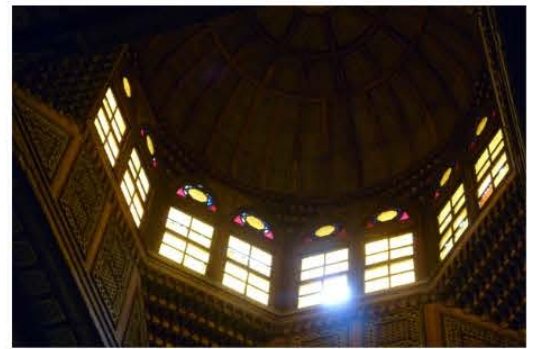
The museum was inaugurated in 1902 by Khedive Abbas Helmy II, and has become a historic landmark in downtown Cairo, and home to some of the world’s most magnificent ancient masterpieces.

The circle closes. Time for a few purchases, a stop in a café to observe the life and hustle and bustle around, to review the trip. Overnight Villa Belle Epoque or similar. (B)

**Day 8: Hotel - Airport**

After breakfast Airport – Transfer. (B)

NOTE: Possibility of extension in Cairo!



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**Trip includes**

- Private Tour
- 7 Hotel or Lodges accommodation
- meals: 7 B
- all transfers
- Program like mentioned above,
- Local guides in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan

**Trip excludes**

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Archeological Entry fees
- National Park entry fees.
- Travel insurance and all kind of insurances.
- Meals and drinks not mentioned.
- Tips for guide, drivers...
- Anything that is not mentioned in the program.

**Note**

The program is given as an indication, it depends on the local conditions of the moment, governmental regulations or any force majeure related to the weather. The order of the visits can be modified but the entirety of the program will be respected.

Tipping Guide lines:

- Guide 8-10\$/ day / pp
- Driver 2-3\$ / day / vehicle

