



## EGYPT ALONG THE RIVER NILE\*

March 18 - 27, 2022

### Highlights

- Tour the Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza, steps from your hotel
- Spend a day visiting the pyramids of Dahshour and the ancient capital of Memphis
- Sail on a 5-night Nile River cruise aboard a luxurious Dahabiya, a distinctive two-sail boat
- Visit the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens in Ancient Thebes
- Marvel at the magnificent Temples of Luxor, Karnak, Horus, and Kom Ombo
- Take a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum containing the treasures of King Tut
- Explore all the sights with expert Egyptologists and private drivers
- Experience regional cuisine, bustling bazaars, magnificent monuments, cultural events, and luxurious lodging with a small, friendly group!

### Day 1 Giza

Arrive at Cairo airport and proceed through passport control and customs. You will be met by a greeter in the Arrivals Hall who will escort you to your driver for the 45-minute private transfer to the Mena House Hotel. Originally established as a hunting lodge, the hotel is considered one of the greatest colonial era hotels situated next to the Giza Pyramids. Now a 5-star resort, it has amazing views of the Pyramids from all areas of the hotel, including from the balcony of your premium, pyramid-view room.

Mena House Hotel (3 nights) [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/caimn-marriott-mena-house-cairo](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/caimn-marriott-mena-house-cairo)

### Day 2 Giza

After a leisurely breakfast, meet your Egyptologist in the lobby and begin the day with an unforgettable tour of the Great Pyramids of Giza, a short walking distance from the hotel. The only present-day survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the pyramids are among the greatest attractions in the modern world. Included in your visit will be a stop to see the Solar Boat Museum located beside the Great Pyramid of Cheops, considered to be the single most important archeological find in Egypt since the Tomb of Tutankhamen. No trip to Egypt would be complete without a ride on a “ship of the desert”, so today you have the (optional) opportunity to mount your individual camel for a short ride across the sands of Giza to the Great Sphinx, a giant limestone sculpture of a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a Pharaoh. Visit a nearby papyrus factory and learn how the ancients created

this thin, smooth writing surface from the papyrus plant. In the evening, gather with your friends at the hotel's outdoor restaurant for a *'ahlaan bik* to Egypt dinner. (BD)

### Day 3 Giza – Memphis – Giza

This morning your Egyptologist and private driver will escort you to one of the most important Pyramids in Egypt, the nearby Dahshour Pyramids. Several pyramids can be found here, including the famed Bent Pyramid and Red Pyramid. Continue on to nearby Sakkara where you will see the famous Step Pyramid, the first freestanding stone structure in the world. Visit tombs that show the beauty and excellence of Ancient Egyptian art on their walls and give insight into the daily life of Ancient Egypt. After lunch at one of the restaurants at the Sakkara site, drive a short distance to Memphis where you will see the ancient capital that once stood as a flourishing metropolis during the time of the Pharaohs. The site of this Old City is thickly surrounded by lush palm groves and bushes, isolating it from modern civilization. (BL)

### Day 4 Giza -- Luxor

Take a short morning flight to Luxor, site of ancient Thebes. Meet your Egyptologist and private driver to begin your sightseeing tour in Luxor. Visit the Valley of the Kings, a vast City of the Dead where magnificent tombs were carved into the desert rocks, richly decorated, and filled with treasures for the afterlife by generations of Pharaohs. Also visit the Valley of the Queens with the Temple of Hatshepsut, Ancient Egypt's only female Pharaoh. Proceed to the temple of Karnak, built over more than a thousand years by generations of Pharaohs. End your tour in nearby Esna and board the Dahabiya Aida, a luxurious sailing ship, for your 5-night luxury cruise along the Nile. Set sail on your journey, overnighing close to El Hegz Island. (BLD)

Dahabiya Aida (5 nights) [www.nile-dahabeya.com/Cruise/dahabeya-aida](http://www.nile-dahabeya.com/Cruise/dahabeya-aida)

### Day 5 Luxor – Edfu – El Fouza Island

Gently sailing on your way to Edfu, enjoy breakfast at your leisure. Today, you will visit the Edfu Temple by horse carriage. The Temple is one of the largest intact temples of Egypt's monuments. Two beautiful granite statues of the Falcon God Horus flank the entrance. After touring the area, you will continue sailing to a private island, El Fouza, where you will disembark for dinner, served on the edge of the Nile. (BLD)

### Day 6 El Fouza Island – Silslea

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast while gently sailing up the Nile to Silslea. You will be amazed as the crew ties up alongside the Speos of Hormheb, the site where the Ancient Egyptians brought the limestone to build their temples. Depending on conditions, dinner will be served on the grounds of the illuminated temple or on the upper deck of the boat, accompanied by music to match the tranquil and magical setting. (BLD)

### Day 7 Silslea – Kom Ombo

As you have breakfast while sailing to Kom Ombo, listen to the sounds of the water buffalo as they wade in the shallow water beside the banks of the Nile. Observe the various birdlife of the river and the donkeys on the shore as they go about their day-to-day business, scarcely changed since ancient times. In Kom Ombo, visit the Greco Roman Temple, a totally symmetrical building with two entrances, two halls, and two sanctuaries dedicated to the Falcon God Haroeris (Horus the Elder) and the Crocodile God Sobek. Moored near an island for the evening, enjoy dinner surrounded by ancient nighttime sights and sounds. (BLD)

### Day 8 Kom Ombo – Aswan

Enjoy breakfast as you sail to Aswan, the gateway to Nubia and Sudan. Today you will visit some of Aswan's highlights: the Temple of Philae, the High Dam, and the Aswan Souk (Old Market). This colorful, exotic bazaar sells a variety of goods such as perfume, spices, peanuts, talismans, baskets, carpets, and stuffed crocodiles. Back at the dahabeya, prepare yourself for Egyptian party night celebrating with local cuisine and Arabic music. Dress in a Gallabeyah, a traditional Egyptian garment native to the Nile Valley, chosen personally for you. (BLD)

### Day 9 Aswan – Cairo

After breakfast, bid *wadaeann* to your guide and crew. You will be transferred to the Aswan airport for your short, morning flight to Cairo. Upon arrival in Cairo, you will be met by a private driver who will take you to the Ritz Carlton Hotel in the center of Cairo. Later in the afternoon, reunite with your Cairo Egyptologist for a short walk to the nearby Egyptian Museum of Antiquities. Your guide will expertly lead you through the vast museum, home to the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities in the world. View the world-famous and priceless golden treasures from King Tutankhamen's tomb. Enter the fabulous Royal Mummies Room where the mummies of the royal kings, queens, and Pharaohs lie in state. Later in the evening, gather with your friends and special guests at the hotel's renowned outdoor restaurant to bid *tawdie-firaq* to Egypt. (BD)

The Nile Ritz-Carlton (1 night) [www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/middle-east/cairo](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/middle-east/cairo)

### Day 10 Cairo – USA / Cairo – Athens

Depart the hotel by taxi to the Cairo Airport for your flight home or on to your next adventure!

**\$3,850 per person/double**

Includes

All accommodations, meals, admissions specified in the itinerary

Services of expert local guides and professional drivers

In-country flights and airport transfers

Gratuities for guides and drivers

**Thayer Tours**

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\*Dates, itinerary, accommodations, and price are tentative at this time and subject to change.



