



Egypt

Nov 27 - Dec 16, 2022

Nov 27, Sun **SFO ~ Cairo**
 Leave US

Nov 28, Mon **Cairo - 1 night**
 Arrive 6:40pm
 Overnight **Meridien Cairo Airport**

There is a walking bridge connecting hotel to Terminal 3. There is also a free shuttle if you arrive at terminal 1 or 2.

Nov 29, Tue **Cairo ~ Fayoum - 3 nights**
Transfer to Fayoum and Nazla Village Visit

10:00am - (Tour Starts)

Our representative will welcome you at the lobby of Hotel Meridien Cairo Airport for our drive to Fayoum (2.5hrs)

Kom El Dikka. 3 nights including breakfast, Partial Lake View



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Located less than two hours south west of Cairo, Fayoum Oasis is undoubtedly one of the country's hidden treasures. Made up of many lakes and canals, this large region is an ideal place to start your journey in the place where the Pharaohs spent their summers.

Lake Qaroun is a safe haven and warm cradle for thousands of migrant birds fleeing the severe cold of Europe. It is also the incubator and the happy nest that embraces infant birds on the lake islets during reproduction time. Various kinds of fish live in the lake waters, while many species of mammals, reptiles and birds live in this wonderful reserve.

Also El Fayoum is famous for its more than 200 waterwheels, which have become a prominent symbol of the town and the oasis.

Kom El Dikka Agri lodge is a 30-year old privately owned Olive farm, which has been developed into an Agri-tourism lodge. Overlooking Lake Qarun, this property occupies a beachfront location.

After check-in and a light lunch (included) we will visit **Nazla Village** where a very particular technique to make spherical pots, based on very old and traditional methods, is still being used

Nazla village is one of three pottery production sites at Fayoum and one of the rare Egyptian sites which produces terracotta pottery from Nile silt

The site inspired classic Egyptian movies like Nightingale's Prayer; Post Office as well as the classic epic poem Al-Sirah Al-Hilallia,

For over ten years forty families have worked in pottery production at Nazla. They inherited the trade from their ancestors who have passed down the craft for generations.

Currently, only twelve families are keeping up with this tradition

Nov 30, Wed Fayoum

Wady Rayan Waterfalls & Wadi Hitan (Unesco WH)

A lovely day in nature in this desert oasis and protected park, with a magical lake, cascading waterfalls and a valley of ancient whales. The fossils of Al-Hitan show the youngest whales 'archaeocetes', in the last stages of losing their hind limbs. Other fossil material in the site makes it possible to reconstruct the ecological conditions of this prehistoric time. These fossils represent one of the major stories of evolution: the emergence of the whale as an ocean-going mammal from a previous life as a land-based animal.

After lunch (included) at a Rest House in Wadi Rayan, we will have time to enjoy the sunset over the Magic Lake, named for the changing colors as the sun reflects on it, and the unique Mudawara Mountains.

Dec 01, Thu Fayoum

Birding and visiting local communities

Bird enthusiasts will take an early morning drive to Lake Qaroun to start a bird watching experience with our specialized bird watching guide.

Return to hotel to have breakfast.

After breakfast we will have time to visit local farms, enjoy the Islamic architecture in Earth/ Islamic design of our Inn which is both beautiful and functional, especially in managing hot and dry weather, horse back riding, boating on the lake while the "Cairenes" arrive for their weekend to relax here where the Pharaohs used to retreat.

Fayoum is an amazing bird watching destination in Egypt, and it is very famous for its tasty fruits and vegetables. Birds migrate to the oasis for the lush plants and the waters of Lake Quarun, the largest salt water lake in Egypt and one of the oldest natural lakes in the world.

The Fayoum depression is also home to the Rayyan Valley, or Wadi Ar-Rayyan, which includes 11,450 hectares of lakes, 1,580 hectares of wetlands and 160,949 hectares of desert lands.

Dec 02, Fri Fayoum ~ Cairo ~ Luxor - 1 night

Morning transfer to the Cairo airport for our short flight to Luxor leaving at 1:55pm

Upon arrival in Luxor transfer to our hotel

Sofitel Pavillion Winter Palace, 1 night Garden view including breakfast

Afternoon free to enjoy the town of Luxor, stroll on its pleasant corniche and visit its important Museum.

This wonderful museum has a well-chosen and brilliantly displayed and explained collection of antiquities dating from the end of the Old Kingdom right through to the Mamluk period, mostly gathered from the Theban temples and necropolis.

- Evening Optional Luxor Temple Sound & Light show



Dec 03, Sat Luxor ~ Start our 7 night Dahabeya cruise

Cruise Embarkation El Amirat - 7 nights full board

Standard Cabin (drinks/wifi not included)

Half day visiting the temple complexes in Luxor - Karnak & Luxor Temple

After lunch on board, we will leave with our private guide to discover the magnificent temple complex of Amon-Ra at Karnak. We will finish our visit at the Luxor Temple.

Karnak, at its peak, was the largest and most important religious complex in ancient Egypt. The most significant structure and the largest religious building ever built is the Temple of Amun-Ra, considered to be where the god lived on earth with his wife Mutand and son Khonsu, who also have temples at the site.

Luxor Temple in Thebes is one of the most extraordinary and beautiful temples in Egypt. The entrance alone with its Avenue of Sphinxes is inspiring. It was considered "the place of the First Occasion," where the god Amon experienced rebirth during the pharaoh's annually reenacted coronation ceremony.

Dec 04, Sun Luxor ~ Esna

Our guide will lead us through the amazing Valley of the Kings. This is the site where Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen in 1922 then to the Temple of Hatshepsut, one of the world's most striking architectural masterpieces commissioned by the only woman Pharaoh.

Continue to the temple of Medinet Habu, famous for its vast amount of well preserved reliefs and massive statues of Ramesses III.

We will then sail to Esna to overnight at a nearby island.

Dec 05, Mon Esna ~ Edfu



Today we will visit the Temple of Esna and overnight at Gebel El Kelh.

Dec 06, Tue Edfu ~ Kom Ombo

In the morning, we will explore Edfu's wonderfully preserved Temple of Horus and continue to Wadi El Chatt where we will disembark and walk to see Pharaonic inscriptions, passing fields and villages on our way.

Edfu's temple is one of the Ptolemy Dynasty's most impressive feats of construction and due to its youth - it was built in the 2nd Century BC - it's also one of

Egypt's best preserved temples.

Stone sentinels of the falcon-headed god Horus watch over the Great Pylon, while stone reliefs on either side of the gate sing the praises of Ptolemy King Neos Dionysos.

On our way back we will stop at Gebel El Silsila to visit a small temple.

Over the centuries, between the New Kingdom to the Greco-Roman period, Silsila became the largest sandstone quarry in Egypt, providing the building materials for major temples including Dendera, Luxor, Karnak, Esna, and Edfu. As much as seven million tons of sandstone were quarried from the site during the Pharaonic period alone.

Overnight moored beside Maneeha island with dinner on the island.

Dec 07, Wed Kom Ombo

We will sail to Kom Ombo to see the Ptolemaic temple dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon-headed Horus.

The temple is an unusual double temple and features a unique and intriguing engraving that is thought to be among the first representations of medical and surgical instruments. The depicted surgical instruments include scalpels, curettes, forceps, speculators, scissors, medicine bottles, and prescriptions. The image is completed with two goddesses sitting on birthing chairs. At the time the relief was carved, Egyptian medical science was almost certainly the most advanced in the world.

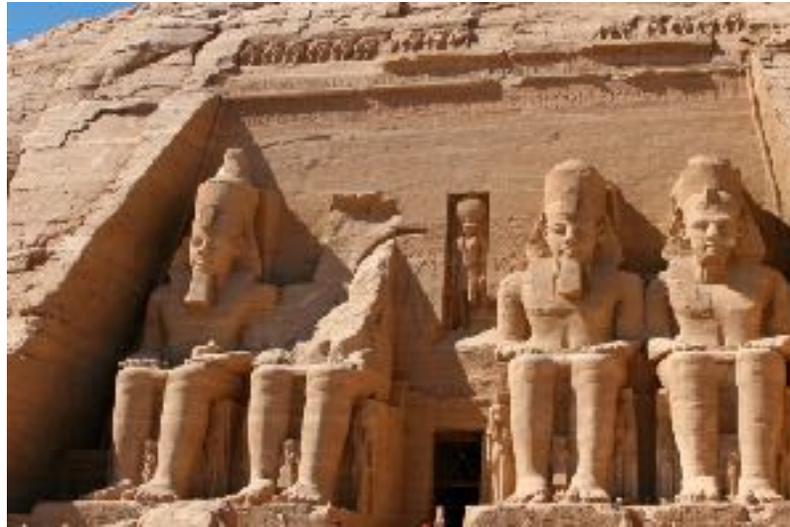
Overnight near Kom Ombo.

Dec 08, Thu Kom Ombo ~ Aswan

Sail to Aswan to visit the Temple of Philae and the Unfinished Obelisk

Egypt's ancient center for the cult of Isis, the Temples of Philae, was venerated from the Pharaonic era through the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine periods with each ruler making their own additions to the temples. This sacred site has dazzled travelers and is one of Nubia's most important monument sites.

Abandoned thousands of years ago in the quarries of Aswan, the Unfinished Obelisk is a granite would-be monument that was never finished. It is one of the most important archaeological finds in Egypt for the insight it has provided into ancient stonemasonry methods. It's thought that the female pharaoh Hatshepsut commissioned the work during the 18th dynasty, more than 3,500 years ago.



Dec 09, Fri Aswan

Abu Simbel visit with private guide

7:45am flight to Abu Simbel. Return to Aswan at 12:30pm.

The overpowering Temple of Ramses II, Abu Simbel, which was moved to its present location when the controversial High Dam was constructed in 1970. The dam created one of the world's largest artificial lakes, Lake Nasser.

In the afternoon, we will sail on a felucca, a traditional sailboat, and view the town from the watery highway that once made Aswan an important trading post. We will visit the botanical garden on Kitchener Island or the Coptic Monastery of St Simeon.

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The river in Aswan is speckled with islands with picturesque mud-brick Nubian villages and hemmed by the West Bank's colossal sand dunes. It's all incredibly photogenic, particularly at sunset when hundreds of lateen-sailed feluccas take to the water, and the river shimmers in the setting sun.

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Dec 10, Sat Aswan ~ Cairo ~ Alexandria - 1 night

9:00am departure from Aswan Airport. Arrive in Cairo at 10:30am where we will be met and transferred to Alexandria. (3.5hrs)

Hilton Corniche - 1 night Sea view room, includes breakfast

After check in City tour, including the catacombs, Roman Theater, Citadel and Alexandria Library

In the evening we can enjoy the corniche and the many outstanding sea food restaurants overlooking the sea.

Discover the legendary city of Alexandria and the traces of ancient Egyptians and Roman armies. Descend into the catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa to see fascinating artworks that blend two cultures, visit Pompey's Pillar, and take in views from the 15th-century fortifications at the Citadel of Qaitbay. Explore the city's new library—a tribute to the library that burned in antiquity.

Dec 11, Sun Alexandria ~ Cairo - 5 nights

City Tour & Pompey Pillar

The heart of Alexandria is truly its Corniche, the coastal road that hugs the Mediterranean Sea on one side and the city on the other. Walking down the Corniche and seeing the fishing boats bobbing on the water, you can really imagine what the ancient city was like in its heyday over 2,000 years ago.

In the early afternoon, return to Cairo with a stop at some of the desert monasteries if time permits.

Hotel Belle Epoque - 5 nights Standard Suites including breakfast

A country house with colonial verandas, a luscious garden, swimming pool, and an excellent traditional restaurant.

Romantic, family friendly, and chic, this home-away-from-home is located in Cairo's lushly landscaped quarter the Maddi District. Wealthy, cosmopolitan Cairenes built their stately residences in the district and filled their sprawling gardens with a stunning array of exotic plants and trees. The district is now home to over a dozen embassies and much of the capital's multi-cultural expatriate community.

Dec 12, Mon Cairo

Egypt Museum and Arabian Horse Stud Farm

Today we will visit the Grand Egyptian Museum.** Here our private guide will describe in depth the monuments we visited while sailing from Luxor to Aswan.

** *If the Grand Museum is not open, we will visit the Cairo Museum.*

In the afternoon we will visit Ezzaman Arabian Stud Farm known for its medal winning horses

Dec 13, Tue Cairo

Giza Plateau; The Great Pyramids & The Sphinx

A full day tour visiting the Giza Plateau. We will continue to Sakkara to visit the Pyramid of Zoser and the New Tombs.

So many aspects of the Giza Plateau are shrouded in mystery. The 4th

Dynasty pyramids represent the apex of Egyptian engineering. For the next few thousand years, no successive Egyptian dynasty would ever be able to match it.



No human endeavor has been more associated with mystery than the huge, ancient lion that has a human head, resting on the rocky plateau a stroll from the Great Pyramids

Dec 14, Wed Cairo

Medieval Cairo: El Shekh Moayed Mosque and Bab Zuweila ~ Bab El Fatouh Gate and El Muezz Street ~ Grand Bazaar and Tent Maker's Souk

El Shekh Moayed Mosque was built into the Fatimid walls between 1415 and 1421 and laid out on the site of a prison where its patron Mamluk Sultan had earlier languished. Its entrance portal, dripping with stalactite vaulting, is particularly grand. The enormous bronze door is thought to have been pilfered from the Mosque of Sultan Hassan.

Bab Zuweila is part of the original Fatimid fortifications. This massive gate, surmounted on either side by the minarets of the Al-Muayyad Mosque, was one of three main portals to the city. Painstakingly restored in 2001, it is the centerpiece of a plan to revive the area around the gate. The elegant twin minarets soaring over the gate of Bab Zuweila have become one of the city's landmarks.

El-Muezz Street was once the heart of fortified Cairo. It will lead us into Khan el Khalili Bazaar where we can browse the rest of the afternoon and stop at the Tent Maker's Souk, one of the remaining medieval speciality quarters. It takes its name from the artisans who produce the bright fabrics used for the ceremonial tents at wakes, weddings and feasts.

Dec 15, Thu Cairo

Coptic Cairo & Modern Cairo : Hanging Church and Ben Ezra Synagogue ~ Local book stores and coffee shops

Hanging Church; Standing atop 2nd century Roman ruins, this iconic and oldest church has a number of architecturally distinguishing features. Two bell towers loom above the church, which as a whole is modeled to resemble Noah's ark. Notably, the church is one of the first in Egypt to be built in the style of a basilica. The porch, which dates to the 11th century, has somewhat miraculously survived centuries of shuffling feet and processions

Located deep in the winding alleys of Coptic Cairo, Ben Ezra Synagogue is the oldest Jewish temple in Cairo, dating from the 9th century. The discovery of a huge cache of documents, the synagogue's treasury, which recorded the history and transactions of Cairo's Jewish community since the 11th century, provided the most complete account of medieval Jewry anywhere in the world

Today we will enjoy a farewell home hosted lunch.
Afterwards visit to some of the popular bookshops in Cairo.

Dec 16, Fri **Cairo ~ US**

Private transfer to airport for departure

 *Wishing you a pleasant return home with many wonderful memories* 