

Cairo/Nile Cruise/Cairo – 12 Days / 11 Nights

DETAILED ITINERARY – Days 1 & 2

Day 1: Thursday, November 19, 2026 – Arrival in Cairo

Welcome to Egypt! Upon landing at Cairo International Airport, you'll be warmly greeted by our professional representative, who will assist you through customs and airport formalities with ease.

From there, relax as you're transferred to the luxurious Hilton Grand Nile Hotel in Cairo, where your adventure begins.

-  **Dinner:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Enjoy a delicious welcome dinner featuring a variety of local and international dishes.
-  **Meet & Greet:** 8:00 PM join us in the conference room for an engaging orientation session where you'll meet fellow travelers, receive important trip details, and get inspired for the days ahead.

 **Overnight stay:** Hilton Grand Nile Hotel in Cairo – unwind in comfort and prepare for the wonders to come.

Day 2: Friday, November 20, 2026 – Ancient Marvels of Cairo

After a hearty breakfast, set off with your expert Egyptologist guide for a day steeped in history and awe.

-  **Giza Plateau Tour** Stand face-to-face with the majestic Sphinx and explore the legendary pyramids of Giza:
 - The towering **Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops)** – over 150 meters high
 - The impressive **Khafre (Chephren)** – 136 meters
 - The elegant **Menkaure (Mycerinus)** – 61 meters

These ancient wonders, built from massive limestone blocks, continue to captivate the world with their scale and mystery.

-  **Lunch** Savor a flavorful meal at a local restaurant featuring authentic Oriental Egyptian cuisine.
-  **Grand Egyptian Museum Tour** Discover one of the most ambitious cultural projects of the century. With its cutting-edge design and priceless artifacts, the Grand Egyptian Museum offers a deep dive into Egypt's rich heritage and global significance.
-  **Dinner:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Return to the Hilton for a relaxing dinner and reflection on the day's discoveries.

- 🏛️ **Optional Visit: 7:30 PM** For those interested, join a meaningful visit to the **Heliopolis SDA Church**, offering a moment of spiritual connection in a historic setting.
- 🛌 **Return to Hilton: 9:00 PM** Enjoy a restful evening at the hotel, recharging for the journey ahead.

DETAILED ITINERARY – Days 3 & 4

Day 3: Saturday, November 21, 2026 – Sabbath in Cairo

Begin your Sabbath morning with a nourishing breakfast before departing for a spiritually enriching visit to **Heliopolis SDA Church**, where you'll join in worship and fellowship with the local congregation.

- 🍽️ **Lunch** Enjoy a delicious midday meal, either hosted at the church or at a pre-arranged restaurant serving traditional Egyptian cuisine.
- 🏛️ **Afternoon Coptic Heritage Tour** After lunch, embark on a guided exploration of **Old Coptic Cairo**, a sacred district steeped in biblical history and architectural beauty:
 - Visit the iconic **Hanging Church**, suspended above ancient Roman ruins
 - Step into **St. Sergius Church** (4th century) and the **Holy Family Cave**, where tradition holds that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus stayed for over three months
 - Continue to the **Church of St. George** and the **Fortress of Babylon**, landmarks along the Holy Family's journey
- 🕌 **Citadel & Mosque Tour** Ascend to the **Citadel of Sultan Salah al-Din (Saladin)** and marvel at the grandeur of the **Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali**, a masterpiece of Ottoman architecture offering panoramic views of Cairo.
- ✨ **Evening Spectacle** Cap off the day with a mesmerizing **Sound & Light Show at the Pyramids**, where history comes alive under the stars.

🏠 Return to the Hilton Cairo for a peaceful overnight stay.

Day 4: Sunday, November 22, 2026 – Museum & Optional Alexandria Excursion

- 🕒 **Morning Exploration** After breakfast, join your Egyptologist guide for a captivating tour of the **Egyptian Museum**, home to thousands of ancient artifacts, including:
 - Intricately carved statues
 - Ornate sarcophagi
 - Royal mummies, including the legendary **Ramses II**
- 🍴 **Lunch** Enjoy a flavorful meal at a charming restaurant featuring Oriental Egyptian specialties.

🏠 Return to the Hilton Cairo for a relaxing afternoon and evening.

Optional Day Trip: Alexandria Adventure

For those seeking to expand their journey, an optional full-day excursion to **Alexandria** is available:

- 🚗 **Departure:** After breakfast, travel north in a private air-conditioned vehicle (approx. 3 hours)
- 🏛️ **Guided Highlights:**
 - **Roman Theater** (4th century) – a beautifully preserved amphitheater
 - **The Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa** – a subterranean wonder, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages
 - **Pompey's Pillar** – a towering monument with a fascinating backstory, unrelated to the Roman general it's named after
- 🍽️ **Lunch:** Served during the tour at a local restaurant

✈️ Return to Cairo in the evening for overnight at the Hilton.

💰 **Supplement:** \$95 USD per person (includes lunch; minimum 30 participants required)

DETAILED ITINERARY – Days 5 to 7

Day 5: Monday, November 23, 2026 – Cairo to Luxor & Nile Cruise Embarkation

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Cairo after breakfast, with time to relax or explore on your own.

- ✈️ **Midday Transfer:** At 12:00 PM, depart for Cairo Airport for your short flight to Luxor.
- 🚢 Upon arrival, you'll be met and assisted by our team, then transferred to your luxurious Nile cruise ship: **Sonesta Moon Goddess** or **Royal Elite**.
- 🛳️ **Embarkation:** Settle into your cabin and prepare for the next chapter of your Egyptian adventure.
- 🌙 **Dinner & Overnight:** Enjoy your first evening onboard, docked in Luxor, surrounded by the serenity of the Nile.

Day 6: Tuesday, November 24, 2026 – Temples of Luxor & Sail to Edfu

Rise early and meet your guide for a day of awe-inspiring exploration.

- 🏛️ **Temple of Karnak** Step into one of the largest religious complexes ever built—an ancient “holy city” filled with towering columns, colossal statues, sacred shrines, and legendary obelisks. Don't miss the famous **scarab statue**, said to bring good fortune to those who walk around it.
- 🏛️ **Luxor Temple** Continue to the majestic **Luxor Temple**, once connected to Karnak by an avenue of ram-headed sphinxes, many of which still stand guard today.
- 🍴 **Lunch Onboard:** Return to the cruise ship for a relaxing lunch.

-  **Afternoon Sailing:** Begin your scenic journey southward to **Edfu**, gliding along the timeless waters of the Nile.
-  **Overnight Onboard:** Enjoy the tranquil evening onboard your floating hotel.

Day 7: Wednesday, November 25, 2026 – Edfu, Kom Ombo & Arrival in Aswan

-  **Morning Excursion:** After breakfast, visit the **Temple of Horus in Edfu**, one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt. Dedicated to the falcon-headed god of the sky, this Ptolemaic masterpiece showcases stunning architecture and vivid carvings that transport you back in time.
-  **Sail to Kom Ombo:** Continue your voyage toward Aswan, passing through the riverside town of Kom Ombo, known for its unique double temple dedicated to Sobek and Horus.
-  **Overnight Onboard:** Arrive in Aswan and settle in for another peaceful night on the Nile.

DETAILED ITINERARY – Days 8 to 9

Day 8: Thursday, November 26, 2026 – Aswan: Engineering Marvels & Island Temples

After breakfast onboard, meet your guide for a day of discovery in Aswan, a city where ancient wonders meet modern ingenuity.

-  **Aswan High Dam** Begin with a visit to the monumental **Aswan High Dam**, a modern engineering triumph that transformed Egypt's economy and water management.
-  **Unfinished Obelisk** Next, explore the **Unfinished Obelisk**, a massive granite monument still attached to its quarry bed—offering insight into ancient stone-carving techniques.
-  **Temple of Philae** Continue to the enchanting **Temple of Philae**, dedicated to **Goddess Isis**, the deity of love and healing. Located on an island, this temple is renowned for its graceful columns and mythological significance.
-  **Lunch Onboard** Return to the cruise ship for a relaxing lunch as you soak in the views of the Nile.
-  **Felucca Ride** In the afternoon, enjoy a serene **Felucca sailboat ride** around Aswan's **Botanical Garden**, a lush oasis filled with exotic plants and peaceful ambiance.

 **Overnight Onboard:** Docked in Aswan, surrounded by the gentle rhythm of the river.

Day 9: Friday, November 27, 2026 – Optional Abu Simbel & Sailing to Edfu

-  **Morning Leisure** Enjoy a relaxed morning in Aswan, with time to unwind or explore at your own pace.

-  **Optional Excursion: Abu Simbel Temples** *(Additional cost)* For those seeking deeper adventure, embark on an unforgettable journey to the **Abu Simbel Temples**.
 - Marvel at the colossal statues of **Ramses II** and the beautifully preserved temple of **Queen Nefertari**
 - Learn how this entire complex was relocated stone by stone to save it from rising Nile waters—a feat of modern preservation
 - Return to the cruise before lunch
-  **Lunch Onboard** Enjoy a midday meal as the ship begins its journey northward.
-  **Kom Ombo Temple Visit** Stop at the riverside **Temple of Kom Ombo**, uniquely designed as a **double temple** honoring two gods:
 - **Haroeris**, the falcon-headed god of the sky
 - **Sobek**, the crocodile-headed god of fertility and the Nile

Its romantic setting along a curve of the river makes it one of the most picturesque temples in Egypt.

-  **Evening Sailing to Edfu** Return onboard and continue sailing toward Edfu.

🌙 **Dinner & Overnight:** Enjoy a peaceful night on the Nile, docked in Edfu.

DETAILED ITINERARY – Days 10 to 13

Day 10: Saturday, November 28, 2026 – Sabbath on the Nile

Spend this sacred day in reflection and fellowship as you sail toward Luxor.

-  **Sabbath Morning Worship:** 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM Join onboard **church services** for a spiritually uplifting morning filled with praise, prayer, and community.
-  **Evening Vespers:** 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Gather again for a peaceful **vespers service**, closing the Sabbath with gratitude and grace.

 **Sailing to Luxor:** Enjoy the scenic passage through the **Esna Lock**, a fascinating moment in your Nile journey. 🌙 **Overnight Onboard:** Docked in Luxor, ready to explore its ancient treasures.

Day 11: Sunday, November 29, 2026 – West Bank of Luxor

After breakfast, embark on a guided tour of the **West Bank of Luxor**, home to the legendary **Necropolis of Thebes**—a vast burial ground of pharaohs and nobles.

-  **Valley of the Kings** Explore the tombs of Egypt's ancient rulers, adorned with vivid hieroglyphs and sacred symbols.

-  **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut (El Deir El Bahari)** Marvel at the architectural elegance of Egypt's most powerful female pharaoh. Discover the story of her divine birth from the sun god Ra, beautifully inscribed on the temple walls.
-  **Colossi of Memnon** Stand before these towering twin statues, silent sentinels of the Theban necropolis.

 **Lunch:** Return to the ship before lunch.  **Afternoon Leisure:** Enjoy free time in Luxor to relax or explore at your own pace.  **Dinner & Overnight:** Onboard in Luxor.

 **Optional Experience:** Start your day with a **sunrise hot air balloon ride** over the West Bank for breathtaking aerial views of Luxor's temples and tombs. *(Additional cost; details TBA)*

Day 12: Monday, November 30, 2026 – Return to Cairo

After breakfast, disembark from your cruise and transfer to **Luxor Airport** for your flight back to Cairo.

 Upon arrival, you'll be met and assisted, then transferred to your hotel.

 **Afternoon Leisure:** Enjoy your final afternoon in Cairo—perfect for last-minute shopping, sightseeing, or quiet reflection.  **Overnight in Cairo**

Day 13: Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – Final Departure

After breakfast, transfer to **Cairo International Airport** for your flight home.

We hope this journey has been a blessing—filled with discovery, connection, and unforgettable moments.