



Egypt The Majestic Nile

Your Tour Dossier

Ancient shrines adorned with hieroglyphics and vast temple complexes built for the gods lie beside the iconic archaeological wonders of the Giza Pyramids in Egypt, a country rich in history, mysticism and centuries-old culture. Explore the famed sights of Cairo before sailing the world's longest river on a scenic 7-night Nile River cruise, visiting the incredible temples of Luxor, the sacred memorial of Hatshepsut and the atmospheric ruins of Aswan on this 10-day journey across land, desert and water.

Itinerary and Details



Highlights

- Embark on a 7-night cruise along the Nile, visiting riverside cities and ruins along the way
- Full-day tour of Cairo led by a professional Egyptology guide
- The Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and Tutankhamun's golden mask
- The Temples of Horus, Karnak, Kom Ombo and Philae
- See Aswan from a traditional 'felucca' boat
- The Colossi of Memnon and Temple of Hatshepsut in Luxor

Itinerary

✈ Day 1

UK to Cairo

Depart on your scheduled flight to Cairo. On arrival in the evening, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the heart of Cairo, Egypt's lively capital.

Transfer Times: Drive one hour from Airport to Cairo.

Day 2

Cairo

Includes Breakfast & Lunch

The past and present intertwine in Cairo, a sprawling city on the banks of the Nile that is home to both ancient sites and modern, high-rise districts. African in location but Middle Eastern in its cultural leanings, Egypt's traditions, food and history offer a unique experience as you embark on today's full-day city tour. Gain a fascinating insight into the city's sights and past as a professional Egyptology guide leads the way, with your first stop at the mighty Giza Pyramids. Inspiring movies, books and conspiracy theories, these six iconic pyramids tower over the desert landscape, with the Great Pyramid standing taller than the Statue of Liberty. Explore these amazingly constructed structures, built using techniques beyond their time, then marvel at the massive half-lion, half-human form of the Sphinx, as it guards the temples and tombs of Ancient Egypt. Travel onward to the Egyptian Museum and wander the treasure trove of artefacts under its roof, including Tutankhamen's gleaming golden mask. Return to your hotel after a full day of sightseeing for an evening at leisure.

✈ Day 3

Cairo to Luxor

Includes Breakfast & Dinner

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight from Cairo to Luxor, your departure point for your thrilling Nile cruise. Check into your sailing vessel before an afternoon of sightseeing in Luxor. Known as the 'world's greatest open-air museum' for the multitude of age-old sites and ruins that lie within the city limits, Luxor rivals Cairo in its archaeological splendour. Your afternoon tour starts with a visit to the vast Karnak Temple complex - over 200 acres housing temples and sanctuaries adorned with intricate hieroglyphics. Continue on to the beautifully preserved Luxor Temple and explore the interior, statues and carvings of this religious site. Return to your ship for a night moored in Luxor.

Transfer Times: Drive one hour to airport, fly one hour and a half to Luxor. Drive thirty minutes to dock.

Day 4

Nile River Cruise

Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning, drive to the west bank of Luxor, where the great valleys of Ancient Egypt's royalty are guarded by the massive twin statues of the Colossi of Memnon. Pass these gatekeepers of the valley then continue on to the Temple of Hatshepsut, a magnificent memorial temple built into the cliffs of this sacred valley. After time to explore this wonder, return to your vessel and sail onward to Edfu, a scenic cruise that allows you to take in life on the shores of the Nile. Pass through the Esna lock and sail through the night as you make your way to Edfu.

Day 5

Nile River Cruise

Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Dock in Edfu in the early hours of the morning, in time for breakfast and a visit to the impressive Temple of Horus. Enter through the massive gateways of the temple, guarded by huge granite statues of Horus, and explore the halls and chambers of this colossal ode to the gods. Return to your ship for a day and night of cruising as you journey towards Aswan, passing the picturesque agricultural town of Kom Ombo along the way.

Day 6

Nile River Cruise

Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Arrive in Aswan this morning and disembark for a chance to tour this colourful riverside city, nestled between water and desert. Start with a visit to the gigantic Aswan High Dam; the construction of this source of hydro-electricity required the movement of a number of nearby monuments to protect them from flooding. Continue on to the Unfinished Obelisk, a massive slab of granite that was carved but never erected, though it retains its status as the world's largest ancient obelisk. Travel to the river island of Agilkia and take in the splendid Temples of Philae, built by the cult of Isis in honour of the Egyptian goddess of health and marriage. Make your way back to your vessel, remaining for the night in the tranquil waters off Aswan.

Day 7

Nile River Cruise

Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Enjoy a morning at leisure to relax or explore at your own pace, perhaps taking in the rock-cut Tombs of the Nobles, the views from the hilltop Aga Khan Mausoleum or the fragrant spices, woven baskets and colourful robes of the city's souk. Alternatively, opt to visit Abu Simbel (at a fee), a series of temples intricately cut into a rocky cliff overlooking the Nile. After lunch, enjoy a unique sailing experience as you breathe in fresh river breezes during a ride on a felucca, a traditional wooden sailing boat which carries you to the botanical gardens of Kitchener's Island. Wander among palm fronds and exotic, brightly coloured blooms in this tranquil setting, returning to your ship for an overnight stay in Aswan.

Day 8

Nile River Cruise

Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast, a free morning allows for your last shopping excursions or explorations in Aswan. After lunch, weigh anchor and sail north to Kom Ombo where you'll disembark for a trip to the impressive Temple of Kom Ombo. The temple is unique as it is dedicated to both Sorek, god of crocodiles, and Horus, god of the sky, with separate gateways and chapels for each god. The amazingly detailed etchings and carvings on the columns and walls of these temples are one of its most incredible features and a walk through the interior takes you into elaborately decorated chambers and passageways. In the early evening, depart for Edfu, arriving late tonight for your overnight stay.

Day 9

Nile River Cruise

Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today offers a leisurely day of cruising as you depart Edfu bound for Luxor. Enjoy a day on board to soak in the sights on the river shores, lounge on the sun deck, take a dip in the swimming pool or relax on the deck with a cocktail. Round off a relaxing day of river cruising with tonight's last dinner on board, marking the end of your awe-inspiring Egyptian journey.

✈ Day 10

Luxor to UK

Includes Breakfast

After breakfast, transfer to the airport in Luxor for your return flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

Transfer Times: Drive thirty minutes to airport.

Itinerary Notes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Accommodation Details

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist compared to what you might expect in the UK. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

The hotels listed below are provided for guidance only and vary on different departure dates. The final confirmation of your hotels will be sent 21 days before travel.

Steigenberger Pyramids Cairo

★★★★★ 5.0 star rating

Located in Cairo, just 2.3 km from the Giza Pyramids, Steigenberger Pyramids Cairo presents accommodations with a garden, private parking, a restaurant, and a bar. This 5-star hotel provides room service, a 24-hour front desk, and complimentary WiFi.



Hotel information

 Cairo - Alexandria Desert Rd
Kafr Nassar
Pyramids
Giza Governorate 3515011
Egypt
Cairo
Egypt
 +20 2 33772555

MS Crown Emperor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5.0 star rating

This 5-star Cruise boat is a fantastic way to see the River Nile. There is an extensive range of entertainment available on the Cruise boat for all guests to enjoy. Cabins will be furnished with Satellite TV, a private bathroom and a hairdryer.



Hotel information

📍 River Nile Cruise
River Nile
Egypt

What you need for your tour

Religious And Public Holidays

Ramadan is the most important month in the Muslim Calendar, and it is a time for people to be with their loved ones, self-reflect and renew their faith. During this time Muslims fast from dawn until dusk and abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and chewing gum. If you are a tourist visiting Oman, you will not be expected to fast. While eating, drinking and smoking is strictly prohibited in public places, hotels will offer meals and nonalcoholic drinks at many of their restaurants and bars. If you wish to consume alcohol during your trip, you may do so in your hotel room during the day, and some bars will be open as normal after sunset. Your guide during your tour will be on hand to give you any additional information that you require. When packing for your trip, it's important you include a couple of different outfit options, so you're prepared for all the activities you wish to take part in. When you're relaxing by the hotel pool or sunbathing on the resort beach it's fine to wear swim wear and beach clothes. However, when out in public during the day, it is advisable to be more covered up to show respect to the local customs. We would recommend that women cover their shoulders and knees and men should wear knee length shorts or trousers when out in public areas.

Payment

If booking more than 12 weeks before departure a deposit of £295.00pp will need to be paid at the time of booking with the full amount payable at 12 weeks prior to departure. The deposit applies to adults and children. If you are within 12 weeks of travel then the full balance of the holiday will be payable.

Visa

A visa is required for entry into Egypt. British passport holders need a visa for visits of up to 30 days. You can get a visa on arrival by payment in Sterling, US Dollars or Euros; the visa fee is US\$25 at approved bank kiosks within airport arrival halls, before reaching immigration counters. Alternatively, we work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote 'Mercury Holidays'. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into Egypt. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destination's tourist board or embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you

provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Currency

The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. However, cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency.

Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £300-£400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Tipping It is at your discretion to tip both your driver, guide and crew members. We would recommend to tip approximately £5 (150 Egyptian Pound) per person per day. This is a total of £50 (1,500 Egyptian Pound) per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Flight

Your initial flight is to Cairo International Airport with EgyptAir, departing from London Heathrow Terminal 2. Your return flight is from Luxor International Airport, via Cairo, with EgyptAir. **Baggage allowance (per person):** Each passenger is entitled to 1 piece of hold luggage with each bag not exceeding 23kg. **Hand luggage:** One piece not exceeding 8kg and with maximum total dimensions not exceeding 118 cm (55 cm x 40 cm x 23 cm). Should you wish to take additional luggage, you will need to pay extra at check-in. Please refer to the airline's website for further details and the most up-to-date information. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing steep stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 1-2. If in the unlikely event there are less than 1-2 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guide

Your transfers will be with an English-Speaking Driver. During your excursion in Cairo, this will be with an English-Speaking Guide. On board your cruise you will have an English-speaking guide who will accompany you during your included excursions. Your return airport transfers will be with an English-speaking driver. Your cruise and excursions are not exclusive to Mercury Holidays and will be shared with other travellers.

Meals

During your stay in Cairo your breakfast will be at the hotel, with lunch in a local restaurant. During your cruise all meals will be served on board the boat. As there is a specialist chef on board, all dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.

Credit Card Info

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels as well as American Express.

What to Pack

- Warm clothes in case of cold weather
- Insect repellent
- Suncream and a hat
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses and reusable bags

- Towel and swimsuit (Please note the hotels and cruise provide towels)
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Travel plug adapter – the electricity supply on board the boat is 220V. You will need a 2 pin round plug adapter

Joining Instructions

On Arrival Information

On your arrival in Cairo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Travco Egypt, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Touring International representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries.

Emergency Contact Numbers

If you need to contact Touring International during your stay the details are:

Travco Egypt: Travco Center, 26th July Corridor, El Sheikh Zayed City, 6th October 12588, Giza. Egypt.
Contact number: 00201221107303 E-mail: alaa.berzi@travco.com

Emergency contact information: Please find below the emergency contact details for Travco Egypt 24 hour telephone 00201221107303 24 hour E-mail alaa.berzi@travco.com

Climate Data

Egypt Temperatures (°C)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14°C	16°C	18°C	22°C	26°C	28°C	29°C	30°C	28°C	24°C	20°C	16°C

