



OPTIONAL NILE CRUISE EXTENSION - 6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

Tuesday – Cairo/Aswan –Optional Abu Simbel/Nile Cruise

This morning a short flight will bring you to Aswan to board your Nile Cruise or you may select the optional pre cruise three-hour Abu Simbel excursion to visit the great Temples of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. The colossal statues were originally carved into the side of a natural cliff that had to be rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. After your excursion and upon your return to Aswan you will embark your Nile cruise. After lunch, visit Aswan's High Dam, Granite Quarries, and Unfinished Obelisk. Then continue by felucca to enjoy Kitcheners Island with its beautiful gardens and to view the mausoleum of the Agha Khan.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP (B, L, D)

Wednesday – Nile Cruise Aswan/Kom Ombo/Edfu

After breakfast sail in a small boat to the Philae Temple, situated on the island of Agilika. Like Abu Simbel, the temple was relocated in order to protect it from the rising water of the High Dam, built in 1960. The main sanctuary on the island is dedicated to the Goddess Isis and her son Horus. Ancient Egyptians believed that Isis was the Goddess of Magic, and when she wept, the Nile flooded. This afternoon set sail for the city of Kom Ombo, known as "Ombos" in ancient times. Its location on the Nile, gave it strategic importance to control the routes from Nubia to the Nile Valley. The city became prosperous when the temple in the Ptolemaic era was built and divided into two symmetrical halves. The left side is dedicated to the falcon-headed god, "Heroeris," and the right side to the crocodile god, "Sobek". Reliefs of Ptolemaic Pharaohs are found in the porch area. The remainder of the temple consists of a crypt, chapels, Roman wells where sacred crocodiles may have been kept, and the remains of a birth house. On the walls of the temple, look for the first recorded representation of medical instruments. Sail onto Edfu, midway between Aswan and Luxor.

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Thursday – Nile Cruise Edfu/Luxor

Begin your day by visiting the magnificently preserved temple of Edfu. The sandstone temple of Horus the Sun God, was built under the Ptolemies and completed by the mid first century, BC. In the colonnaded court, we will see the surviving statue of a pair of falcons representing Horus. A series of smaller chambers leads to the Sanctuary of the God, which is lit by three openings in the ceiling. Ceremonies, celebrations, and war scenes are shown on the walls of the temple. Later today, we sail to Esna, pass the lock, and arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes. This afternoon explore the East Bank of the Nile including the Temple of Luxor. Here, the Avenue of Sphinxes, famous for its artistic degree of uniformity, leads to the entrance of the temple where a seated colossus of Ramses II and a towering Obelisk are situated. Continue to the Karnak Temple, one of the most impressive monuments of ancient art and architecture in the world. The carvings, which adorn all the walls, depict the history and conquests of many of Egypt's Pharaohs. This evening you may join an optional excursion to the Karnak Temple for a spectacular Sound and Light Show

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Friday – Luxor

Disembark the ship in the morning and cross the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings. The Valley of the Kings houses 63 tombs belonging to the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom, including the famous tomb of King Tutankhamen, and tomb KV 63 found in 2005. KV 63 is the first tomb discovered in the Valley of the Kings since King Tut's KV 62 tomb in 1922. Many of the tombs, carved out of the bedrock, retain their original bright colors and fine relief's and scenes, thought to guarantee the safe passage of the Ka to the after life. Afterwards continue on to Deir El Bahri to visit the mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, considered being one of the finest buildings in Egypt. Hatshepsut ruled Egypt as Queen for 20 years

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Saturday – Luxor/Cairo

Disembark the cruise ship and transfer to the airport for a return flight in Cairo.

ACCOMMODATIONS: HELIOPOLIS FAIRMONT HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, D)

Sunday – Departure

Farewell to Egypt as you transfer to the airport for your return flight to New York. Arrive home your hearts and minds filled with happy memories of ancient and modern day Egypt. **(B)**



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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Domestic Air Cairo/Aswan-Luxor/Cairo
- 5 days/4 nights 5-star deluxe Nile Cruise
- 1 night accommodation in Cairo at the Heliopolis Fairmont Hotel or similar
- All transfers: Cairo/Aswan/Luxor
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe motor coach
- English speaking guide throughout Egypt
- All entrance fees and shore excursions on Nile Cruise
- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners
- Hotel taxes and service charges and portorage

Please Note: Itinerary sequence subject to change without prior notice due to government regulations and hotel/cruise confirmations.

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