Classical Egypt - 9 days

Experience the wonders of ancient Egypt in nine intoxicating days - the Pyramids, tomb strewn Valley of the Kings, King Ramses II - Abu Simbel and a relaxing cruise, meandering the River Nile onboard a stately Nile Cruiser.

Day 1: <u>Cairo</u>

Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrive Cairo, included transfer to hotel and overnight. Overnight - <u>Cairo</u>

Day 2: Pyramids & Saqqara

Today we tour the Pyramids at Giza Plateau. Gaze in awe at Cheops (Khufu) - the largest of the three great pyramids. Constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks, it is thought to have taken more than 20 years to construct. The other two - Chephren and Mycerinus are equally impressive. Afterward we tour the tomb-strewn necropolis of Saqqara, featuring King Zhoser's step pyramid. Constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC, this was the template for all future pyramid construction. Overnight - <u>Cairo</u> (B)

Day 3: Egyptian Museum

This morning we venture to old Islamic Cairo and the Egyptian Museum, home to the most extensive collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the stunning solid gold funerary mask of the boy-King Tutankhamen. An entire gallery is devoted to the treasures unearthed by Howard Carter at Tutankhamen's tomb in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. Overnight - <u>Cairo</u> (B)

Day 4: <u>Abu Simbel</u>

Cairo - Abu Simbel - Aswan. A short flight down south to explore the temples of Abu Simbel, created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple (built between 1290 and 1224 BC) hewn into the side of a mountain are four famous colossal statues of the pharaoh himself. In a fit of architectural wisdom, Ramses II had the entire temple carefully angled and oriented in order that the sun's rays would align twice a year on his date of ascension to the throne (in February) and on his birthday (in October) and illuminate the inner sanctum of the temple. The other rock cut temple at Abu Simbel is the Temple of Hathor, which is fronted by six massive standing statues. Four of them represent King Ramses II, the other two are of his beloved wife - Queen Nefertari. Famously, both temples were re-located in a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser.

This afternoon we fly to Aswan where you will have free time to perhaps do some shopping in the colorful souqs and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile. Overnight - <u>Aswan</u> (B)

Day 5: <u>The Philae Temple</u>

Morning at leisure, afternoon sightseeing - Philae Temple and Aswan High Dam. Philae temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis, was rescued in an enormous UNESCO effort in the 1970s. Due to high water levels in the reservoir created by the Old Aswan Dam and further aquatic drama due to the creation of the mighty High Dam, Philae temple was relocated stone by stone on higher ground on nearby Agilika Island. This afternoon we board our luxury Nile cruiser. Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)

Day 6: <u>Nile Cruising</u>

Relax and take in the riverside village views perched on the top deck! A stop will be made at the waterside Temple of Kom Ombo. Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)

Day 7: Nile Cruising

Having the distinction of being the largest and most completely preserved pharaonic, albeit Greek-built, temple in Egypt, the Temple of Horus at Edfu, dedicated to the falcon-headed god Horus, was one of the last monumental temples built on a large scale. An early morning stop is made to view the temple and onward sailing to Luxor. Evening viewing of the Luxor temple. Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)

Day 8: Ancient Thebes

Today we disembark at Luxor and explore the best of Ancient Thebes; Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Temple of Hatshepsut and later Karnak temple. Karnak is a spectacular myriad of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. Evening flight to Cairo. Overnight - <u>Cairo</u> (B)

Day 9: Cairo

After breakfast, onward departure transfer to the airport. (B) Extend your stay with a little Red Sea relaxation! Cairo Cruise & Coast - 13 days.

There's no better way to cap your Egyptian adventure than relaxing by the famous Red Sea resort town of Hurghada. Pyramids & pharaohs, ancient architecture & antiquity, cruising the River Nile, sunshine, sand & sea!

Prices & Departure Dates

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply

Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value.

Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Classical Egypt - 9 days	\$ 1485	\$ 445

What You See and What You Get

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza Plateau Mohamed Ali Mosque and Khan el Khalili Bazaar The Temples of Abu Simbel Nile cruising - islands en route Edfu - Temple of Horus Luxor - Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Colossi of Memnon and Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

Necropolis of Saggara Egyptian Museum Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo Luxor - Temples of Karnak & Luxor Temple by night

What's Included

Breakfast daily 3 nights 5 star Nile Cruiser Economy class flight Cairo - Abu Simbel, Abu Simbel - Aswan, Luxor - Cairo Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 9 Private air-conditioned transportation, all relevant Entrance fees for all included sightseeing transfers

What's Not Included

International flights and visa Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature All meals aboard Nile Cruiser 5 nights 4/5 star hotels (specific to your chosen itinerary) Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Edfu and Luxor Qualified Egyptologist guide at all sites of antiquity

Tipping - an entirely personal gesture