Egypt & the Nile

12 days | 16 days with Jordan extension

Descend into a world of ancient wonders to discover the lands behind the legends. Walk past towering stone icons, through avenues of sphinxes, and into royal valleys amid the desert sands. Then, cruise down the Nile and anchor at remote islands and beside the Theban Hills. End your adventure in Cairo, where historic mosques mingle with today’s modern bustle.

Your tour package includes

- 6 nights in handpicked hotels
- 4 nights aboard the Nile River cruise ship
- 10 breakfasts
- 6 lunches
- 8 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 guided sightseeing tours
- Egyptologist, who’s also your Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

Included highlights

- Pyramids of Giza
- Great Sphinx
- Temples of Karnak and Luxor
- Luxor Museum
- Valley of the Kings
- Aswan
- Felucca sailboat ride
- Museum of Egyptian Antiquities

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you’ll walk for about 2.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and paved roads, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15—35
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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Cairo today.

Giza → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Cairo & transfer to Giza
Included meals: dinner
Welcome to Egypt! Arrive in Cairo and transfer to Giza. This evening, enjoy an included dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Giza
Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch
Meet up with a professional Egyptologist, who’s also your Tour Director, and set off on a guided tour of Giza.
- Uncover the Pyramids of Giza, the only Wonder of the Ancient World to have survived the modern era
- Visit the enigmatic Great Sphinx, the largest monolith statue in the world
- Continue to Saqqara, the pharaohs’ royal graveyard for more than 3,000 years, and enter the Imhotep Museum
Gather with your group for a welcome lunch this afternoon.

Day 4: Free day in Giza
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in Giza or add an excursion.
+ Alexandria

Nile River Cruise → 4 nights

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Luxor & cruise embarkation
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
(Please note: Some cruise departures will follow days 5–9 in reverse.)
Fly to Luxor and set off on a guided tour.
- View the painstakingly excavated Temples of Karnak and Luxor, once connected by an avenue of sphinxes
- Step inside the Luxor Museum to see one of the world’s highest-quality collections of Egyptian artifacts, including a statue recovered from King Tutankhamen’s tomb
Later this afternoon, you’ll board your cruise ship and enjoy an included lunch and dinner aboard the ship.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of the Nile’s West Bank
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Spend the day touring the Nile’s West Bank with your Egyptologist as your guide.
- Explore the Valley of the Kings, a series of tombs hidden in the Theban hills
- Tour the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, devoted to one of the few female pharaohs
- View the 64-foot-high Colossi of Memnon
This afternoon, enjoy an included lunch before sailing toward Edfu. Then, sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Temple of Kom Ombo
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Continue your exploration of the wonders of Egypt today.
- Sail along the Nile and learn about Edfu’s Temple of Horus during an engaging talk led by your Egyptologist from the comfort of the ship
- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
- Dock in Kom Ombo to visit the Temple of Kom Ombo, built during the Greco-Roman period and noted for its twin deities, Sobek and Horus
Later today, arrive in the busy market city of Aswan and sit down for an included dinner aboard the ship.

Day 8: Felucca sailboat ride
Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
Enjoy a free morning on board the ship or add an excursion.
Please note: Depending on flight schedules, the Abu Simbel optional excursion may be offered on day 9 instead of day 8.
Later, enjoy an included lunch before climbing aboard a felucca, a traditional sailboat, to ride past Elephantine Island.
- See the dark granite rocks that resemble a herd of elephants bathing in the river
- Take in panoramic views of the water from the hilltop mausoleum of Agha Khan
Sit down for an included dinner aboard the ship this evening.
+ Abu Simbel

Day 9: Disembarkation & sightseeing tour of Aswan
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Your cruise ends this morning in Aswan, where you’ll visit the Aswan High Dam, one of the crowning achievements of modern Egypt. Then, your Egyptologist will introduce you to the temples at Philae.
After dinner with the group, enjoy a free evening in Aswan or add an excursion.
Please note: The Philae by Night optional excursion may be offered on day 8, instead of day 9, on some departures.
+ Philae by Night

Aswan → 1 night

Day 10: Flight to Cairo
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Enjoy a free morning in Aswan or add an excursion.
Please note: The Nubian Village Visit optional excursion may be offered on day 9, instead of day 10, on some departures.
Fly to Cairo this afternoon and transfer to your hotel. Then, sit down for an included dinner.
+ Nubian Village Visit

Cairo → 2 nights

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Cairo
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Explore Cairo on a sightseeing tour lead by your Egyptologist.
- View a number of the city’s 500 mosques, which display some of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in the world
- Visit the citadel that was built in the 12th century by mighty Salah el-Din and originally used as a fortress before it became the residence of the Sultans until 1850
- Stop at Mohammed Ali Mosque, also known as the Alabaster Mosque
• Enter the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, which houses the famous masks of Tutankhamen
• Enjoy an included lunch

Celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at tonight’s farewell dinner.

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**Flight Home**

**Day 12: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home. If you are continuing your tour in Jordan, fly to Amman today.

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**+ Jordan extension**

Since July 1994, when Jordan’s King Hussein and the Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a declaration ending the animosity between their two countries, Jordan has opened its doors to the west. Encompassing sweeping verdant and arid landscapes and relics of some of the world’s oldest civilizations, Jordan is one of the warmest and most welcoming countries on earth.

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**Petra → 2 nights**

**Day 12: Flight to Jordan**

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Fly to Amman this morning and transfer to Petra to settle in to your hotel. This evening, enjoy a home-hosted dinner with a local Jordanian family.

• Talk with the family to learn about the local culture
• Try local specialties such as a famous rice dish called *maqluba*, a traditional style of chicken known as *musakhan*, and *mansaf*, the national dish of Jordan

**Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Petra**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Discover Petra, a city lost to the outside world for centuries. Carved into the red rocks of Mount Hor, Petra has fascinated visitors since its rediscovery in 1812.

*Please note: In order to enter Petra, customers should be able to walk two miles round-trip in hot weather. Other modes of transportation may be available for you to book upon your arrival.*

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Spend a free evening in Petra or add an excursion.

+ Traditional Jordan: Bedouin Camp Visit & Dinner

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**Amman → 1 night**

**Day 14: Amman via Madaba & Mount Nebo**

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Today, further explore the history and culture of Jordan on guided tours before continuing on to Amman, the capital city.

• Visit Madaba to tour the City of Mosaics and visit St. George’s Church
• Stop at Mount Nebo, Moses’ burial site, and Wadi Mujib

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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**Overnight Flight → 1 night**

**Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Amman, the Dead Sea & departure**

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Spend your last day in Jordan getting to know the city of Amman and relaxing in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea.

• Take a guided tour of the Jordanian capital, entering the citadel and Roman theater
• Travel to the Dead Sea for time to float in the salty water and share a farewell lunch with your fellow travelers

Later, return to Amman to board your late-night flight home.

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**Arrive Home**

**Day 16: Travel day**

Arrive home after your overnight flight.
Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save $10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/ENE | 800-597-0350

Day 4: Alexandria
$125/$135* (12 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)
Travel to Egypt's second-largest city, where you'll explore the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the modern successor to the famous Library of Alexandria that was destroyed centuries ago. Here, you'll enjoy a brief tour with the curator. You'll also visit the Catacombs of Kom el-Shoqafa, Egypt's largest known Roman funerary complex, and the recently excavated Roman amphitheatre. Lunch is included. Please note: This optional is weather-dependent.

Day 8: Abu Simbel
$329 (6 hours, departs in the morning)
Fly from Aswan to Abu Simbel, where you'll visit the temples of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari, relocated block by block to the shores of Lake Nasser after the construction of the Aswan High Dam. The temples' statues now stand 680 feet from their original site and 200 feet higher, but their original grandeur endures. Please note: This excursion involves extensive walking on rugged terrain, so sturdy footwear is advised. Headwear and extra sunscreen are also recommended. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked by 20 days prior to departure.

Day 9: Philae by Night
$55/$65* (2.5 hours, departs in the evening)
After sunset, the area around Philae is cleared for the Sound and Light Show. Watch a performance of synchronized light and music amid the ancient monuments of Egypt. Seeing these ancient temples lit up at night will create memories to last a lifetime. Please note: Travelers are advised to bring a flashlight and comfortable shoes. Also, this excursion involves walking on uneven terrain.

Day 10: Nubian Village Visit
$49/$59* (3 hours, departs in the morning)
Board a motorboat in Aswan and cruise down the Nile to a Nubian village located near Soheil Island and the Aswan Dam. Along the way, pass by the First Cataract of Aswan, comprised of picturesque shallow rapids flowing through the Nile. Once on land, explore the local village and meet with a Nubian family. You'll visit their house and enjoy some tea as you learn about their daily life, community, and culture. Then, stop by a nearby school and visit one of the classrooms for a short Nubian language lesson. Please note: Visiting the school is dependent on timing and if classes are in session.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Traditional Jordan: Bedouin Camp Visit & Dinner
$65/$75* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Tonight, you'll head into the desert to meet with a group of local Bedouins and enjoy a traditional dinner at their camp. The Bedouins, meaning desert dwellers, are an ethnic group largely regarded as the Jordan's first inhabitants. Sit down to enjoy tea, appetizers, and dinner. You'll try traditional foods including Zarb, a barbeque-style dish that's cooked in a pot underground, and chicken with a local style of rice called freekah. For dessert, fried sweets such as Awamat and Asabe Zainab may be served. Throughout the evening, you'll hear Jordanian music and have the opportunity to interact with the local Bedouins to learn about their traditions, clothing, language, and lifestyle. Please note: No alcoholic beverages will be served in accordance with Bedouin traditions.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms.