



PASSAGE THROUGH EGYPT

13 DAYS | *OBEROI PHILAE* | FROM \$11,460 TO \$17,870*

2022 DEPARTURE DATES: Jan. 14, Jan. 28 ☺, Feb. 11, Feb. 25 ☺, Mar. 11, Mar. 25 ☺, Sep. 23, Oct. 7 ☺, Oct. 21, Nov. 4 ☺, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 ☺

☺The ship portion of these voyages travels in reverse.

DAY 1 & 2: U.S./Cairo, Egypt

Fly overnight to Cairo and check in to the Nile Ritz-Carlton, your home for the next four nights. The hotel overlooks the Nile in the heart of this great city, and your room will face the Nile, with the Pyramids visible in the distance (weather permitting).

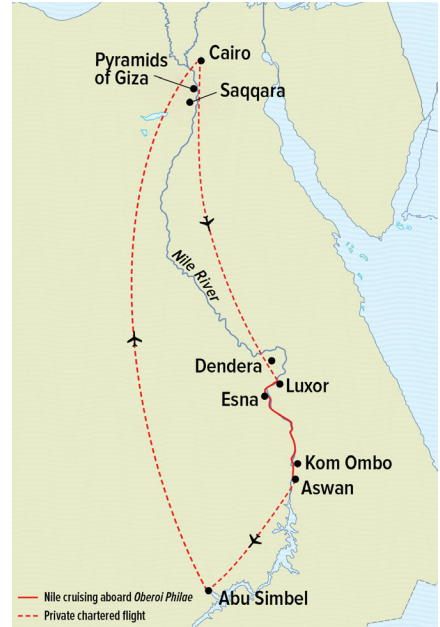
DAY 3: Cairo, Pyramids & Sphinx

After a morning welcome briefing, we start the day exploring the most iconic and mysterious of all things in Egypt: the Pyramids and Sphinx complex in Giza. Among the seven wonders of the ancient world, only the Pyramids of Giza have survived. The magnificent Pyramid of Cheops was built from over two million blocks of stone and took tens of thousands of workers twenty years to build. Nearby is the great Sphinx, carved out of a single massive piece of stone, showing the Pharaoh Chefren's head on the body of a lion. You'll have the chance to go inside the Great Pyramid, following the narrow passageway of the Grand Gallery to the burial chamber of Cheops. Your Egyptologist will regale you with stories and details of the site's construction while your Certified Photography Instructor will be on hand to ensure you get the perfect photos. Marvel at the Solar Boat, built about 2500 BC for the Pharaoh Khufu's use in the afterworld. You'll have the chance to ride a camel if you wish.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then return to the hotel where you can enjoy the hotel amenities, chat with the Egyptologist, or explore on your own. This evening we'll gather for a daily Recap and welcome reception, followed by dinner at your leisure. (B,L)

DAY 4: Cairo, Grand Egyptian Museum & Saqqara

The treasures of Egypt are vast and the stuff of legend. No trip to Egypt would be complete without expertly-guided visits of amazing collections. Tour the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), scheduled to open in late 2021, which holds an almost endless collection of some of the greatest masterpieces ever crafted, including the treasures of Tutankhamun, the brightly painted limestone sculptures of Prince Rahotep and Princess Nofret, the bizarre relief of Akhenaten, and pharaoh mummies including Ramses II. Note: If the GEM is not opened as scheduled, we will instead visit the Antiquities Museum which houses a grand collection of ancient marvels, and is scheduled to close when the GEM opens.



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After lunch we travel to Saqqara to see the Step Pyramid of the pharaoh Zoser, a revolutionary design that initiated the art of pyramid-building. We will also see some of Egypt's most charming wall paintings and reliefs, showing scenes of harvesting, fishing, music making and dancing, as well as the elaborate and exquisite mastaba of Mereruka, the largest in Saqqara. While not a royal, Mereruka (or Meri) was, among other things, "Chief Justice and Vizier" to Pharaoh Teti of the Sixth Dynasty, wealthy enough to build such a large and colorful tomb for his afterlife. (B,L,D)



DAY 5: Islamic Cairo

Enjoy a change of pace today as you explore some of Cairo's greatest architecture and monuments to Islam, interpreted and brought to life by your Egyptologist through stories and personal experiences. Among the sites you'll visit is the Ottoman-era Muhammad Ali Mosque, completed in 1848. It occupies a commanding position overlooking Cairo from atop the Citadel, and its five domes can be seen throughout the city. Continue to the mosque of Sultan Hassan, built between 1356 and 1363 during the Bahri Mamluk period. Renowned for its size and use of unorthodox architectural elements, the Sultan Hassan mosque and madrasa is considered one of the best examples of Islamic art in Cairo. We have lunch at a local restaurant, then explore the Khan el Khalili bazaar, a maze of streets with thousands of shops selling everything from filigreed silverwork to camel saddles. (B,L,D)



DAY 6: Luxor/Embark *Oberoi Philae*

Fly via private charter flight to Luxor, in Upper Egypt, where we'll visit Karnak Temple. For 2,000 years some 30 pharaohs added their own monuments and shrines to this vast temple. The 134 columns of the great hall create a forest of stone 70 feet high, while the towering obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut shadows the rear of the temple. The reliefs and carvings, created by some of Ancient Egypt's finest artisans, are dramatic. We'll then embark the elegant, privately chartered *Oberoi Philae*, our home for the next six nights, in time for lunch. Onboard you will find spacious cabins, warm public areas and a welcoming Egyptian crew offering impeccable service.



This afternoon we will tour the Luxor Museum, which contains some of Egypt's finest statuary, beautifully lit and displayed, including the mummies of Ahmos I and Ramesses I. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Dendera/Sailing the Nile*/Luxor Temple

We start the day sailing through some of Upper Egypt's most stunning scenery to arrive at the remote temple of Dendera, constructed during the time of the Roman emperors, noted for its dramatic columns and magnificent ceilings. The reliefs on the temple walls depict the empress Cleopatra. Hundreds of years of black soot was delicately removed to reveal the stunning and colorful artwork beneath, considered among the finest in all Egypt.



Next we explore the exquisite Luxor Temple, guarded by massive statues of Ramses II, with magnificent pylons, columns and statues. It has been a place of worship for millennia, as attested to by the mosque that was built atop the site. Luxor Temple is well-lit in the evenings and a wonderful site to visit after sunset. After dinner onboard have an opportunity to enjoy the evening in Luxor.

*Please note that we will drive via motorcoaches between Luxor and Dendera Temple if our arrival coincides with low water, and cruise this section of the Nile during high water times. (B,L,D)

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DAY 8: West Bank/Sailing the Nile

Rise early for an optional hot air balloon ride and a panoramic view of the Luxor area. This morning we will cross the Nile to the fabled West Bank and Valley of the Kings, burial ground for hundreds of years to Egypt's greatest pharaohs. Explore and photograph the tombs of Set I and Tutankhamun. Visit the Valley of the Queens and the most remarkable tomb of them all: that of Nefertari. Vivid paintings show the queen's beauty and depict her journey to the afterlife in exquisite color and quality found nowhere else in Egypt. See the temple of Hatshepsut, dramatically set beneath sandstone cliffs.

Return to the ship for lunch and time to relax as we cast off from Luxor on the most luxurious ship on the Nile to spend the afternoon marveling at the rich and verdent riverbanks and farmland that has sustained life along the Nile for thousands of years. Enjoy the views from your suite or join your friends in the lounge or on the top deck to watch life and history go by. We'll continue our program with presentations and Recap from your Egyptologists and Certified Photo Instructor later this evening. Pass through the lock before enjoying an elegant dinner and overnighting in Esna. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Esna/Sailing the Nile

Walk to the nearby Temple of Khnum, which lies beneath the contemporary town of Esna and has not been fully excavated. Your Egyptologist will explain how silt from centuries of the Nile's annual floods buried the temple, which sits below street level. Walk back to the ship through the narrow streets of Esna, talking with locals, sharing stories and smiles, and learning about everyday Egyptian small-town life. Enjoy more time onboard where you can relax, dip into the ship's library of Egyptian history, or take a cool swim in the pool. Presentations and Recap onboard will cover Egyptology as well as modern Egypt plus photo instruction that take into account the sites and lighting you are experiencing. We overnight in Kom Ombo, just under the riverside temple. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Kom Ombo/Aswan

Set strikingly atop a hill overlooking the Nile we will visit Kom Ombo, built during the Ptolemaic era, dedicated to two gods—hawk-headed Haroeris and crocodile headed Sobek. It is richly decorated, and even has a hieroglyphic calendar. Stand on deck as we approach Aswan, a glorious location on the Nile, backed by hills, with granite rocks protruding from the riverbed and sailboats (called feluccas) plying the water. It is just downstream of the northernmost Nile cataract, which historically made it a frontier town and trading center with Nubia. This afternoon we visit the fine Nubian Museum where you'll learn about the Nubian history and culture of Upper Egypt, as well as the architectural marvel that is Abu Simbel. We will end the day with High Tea at the legendary Old Cataract Hotel, from where commanding views of the Nile and Elephantine are sure to please. This evening enjoy a Nubian cultural show onboard *Oberoi Philae*. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: Aswan

This morning we visit the lovely Temple of Isis on the island of Philae, from which the *Oberoi Philae* gets its name. In Greek, Philae means "the end" and the island was aptly named due to its location on the border with ancient Nubia. Like Abu Simbel, the Temple of Isis would have been lost to the floods caused by the building of the High Dam if not painstakingly dismantled, moved and reconstructed at its present location. Visit a granite quarry to learn about how massive obelisks and other structures were carefully cut from solid rock and transported to the river for sailing the Nile. Get a

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good look at an unfinished obelisk on site. This afternoon enjoy a relaxing sail on a traditional felucca as the Nubian crew sing local songs and show you the beauty of the cataracts in the afternoon light. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Disembark/Abu Simbel/Cairo

Disembark *Oberoi Philae* and fly by private-charter to southern Nubia and the remarkable site of Abu Simbel, on a sun-baked island in the azure waters of Lake Nasser. Two temples are found here; one large, dedicated to Ramses II's victory at Kadesh, and one small, dedicated to his beloved Queen Nefertari. Constructed in the mid-13th century BC, Abu Simbel was excavated from the sand in 1817. The temples were moved piece-by-piece to where it sits today to avoid being lost again, this time not to sand and neglect but to the creation of modern Lake Nasser.

After lunch, reboard our privately-chartered aircraft to Cairo and check-in to the 5-star InterContinental Citystars Hotel. Gather for our final dinner with the group this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 13: Cairo/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Explore Jordan for 6-days post-voyage. Visit www.expeditions.com/jordan for details.
- Add 2 days before your expedition in Cairo. Visit www.expeditions.com/cairo for details.



*See our website at expeditions.com for the most up-to-date pricing, which may vary by departure date. Prices are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposits are made. For best pricing, book early.

Sample Airfares: Economy: from \$1,025 Business: from \$3,500. Airfares are subject to change.

Internal Air: \$890 per person Cairo-Luxor/Aswan-Abu Simbel-Cairo. Airfares subject to change.

Advance Payment: \$1,500

Cost Includes: Services of private Egyptologists and Certified Photo Instructor, accommodations aboard privately-chartered ship and in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and non-alcoholic beverages aboard ship, meals on land as indicated, select alcoholic drinks at group lunches and dinners on land and aboard ship, excursions (with entrance fees and photo permits) as indicated, transfers to and from international flights, Egypt visa on arrival, tips to all service staff (including Egyptologists and ship crew), laundry service aboard ship, internet access aboard ship and in hotels, taxes and service charges.

Cost Does Not Include: Air transportation to and from Egypt, flights within Egypt as indicated (priced separately), optional extensions, passport or immigration fees, meals not indicated, excursions not indicated, hot air balloon ride in Luxor, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature such as drinks not indicated and laundry service at the hotels.

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/

Cancellation Plan: Review our cancellation plan: www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/

Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

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