DAY 1: Depart
Fly overnight to Cairo, Egypt.

DAY 2: Cairo
Arrive in Cairo and transfer to the Nile Ritz-Carlton, your home for the next two nights. The hotel has a prime location along 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
This morning, explore Old Cairo, founded by the Romans long before the modern city arose. It’s known for its Coptic churches, including the 4th century “Hanging Church” and the Church of Abu Serga, which stands on the spot where the Holy Family is said to have rested. Then stroll through winding streets to the 1000-year-old Ben Ezra Synagogue.

Lunch is included at a local restaurant. This afternoon, you will tour the Egyptian Museum, 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, and the bizarre relief of Akhenaten. You’ll also see mummies of some of Egypt’s pharaohs.

This evening, we’ll have festive welcome drinks and dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

2019 Departure Dates:
29 Sep
13 Oct, 27 Oct
24 Nov
8 Dec

2020 Departure Dates:
19 Jan
2 Feb, 16 Feb
1 Mar, 15 Mar, 29 Mar
27 Sep
11 Oct, 25 Oct
8 Nov, 22 Nov
6 Dec

2021 Departure Dates:
17 Jan, 31 Jan
14 Feb, 28 Feb
14 Mar, 28 Mar
26 Sep
10 Oct, 24 Oct
7 Nov, 21 Nov
5 Dec

Advance Payment:
$1,000
DAY 4: Luxor
This morning, we board our private charter flight to Luxor, in Upper Egypt. You’ll then visit Karnak Temple, where for 2,000 years some 30 pharaohs added their own monuments and shrines. Karnak’s scale is vast. 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 Oberoi Philae, our home for the next six nights, in time for lunch. This afternoon we explore exquisite Luxor Temple, on the banks of the Nile. The temple is guarded by massive statues of Ramses II, and has 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. In the late afternoon, we continue to the Luxor Museum, which contains some of Egypt’s finest statuary, beautifully lit and displayed. We return to our ship for the evening.

(B,L,D)

DAY 5: Luxor
This morning we’ll explore Luxor’s fabled West Bank. After stopping to see the Colossus of Memnon, we travel through the desert to the Valley of the Kings. For four centuries, this area served as the burial ground for Egypt’s greatest pharaohs. Although not all the tombs are always open, visit three tombs in the Valley including those of Tutankhamon and Seti I (which require special permits, which we will obtain for you). We continue to the Ramesseum, the mortuary temple of Ramses II, whose toppled statue inspired Shelley’s poem Ozymandias.

We have lunch at a restaurant on Luxor’s West Bank, then continue our explorations. We’ve made special arrangements to visit one of the most remarkable tombs of all: that of Nefertari, located in the Valley of the Queens. The tomb paintings are in vivid colors, show Nefertari’s beauty, and depict her journey to the afterlife. After our visit we’ll continue to the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, which lies in a dramatic setting beneath sandstone cliffs, and which contains wonderful interior reliefs that tell the story of the Queen’s expedition to the land of Punt.

(B,L,D)

DAY 6: Dendera/Sailing the Nile
This morning we drive northward to visit the beautifully preserved temple of Dendera. It was constructed during the time of the Roman emperors, and the reliefs on the temple walls depict the empress Cleopatra. Also of note are the dramatic columns topped with images of the cow-headed goddess of love, Hathor.

We return to Luxor and in the afternoon sail south to Esna, transiting the Esna Lock. Life along the banks of the Nile is very much in the traditional manner, and we’re afforded a glimpse into Egyptian life through the centuries.

(B,L,D)
DAY 7: Esna/Sailing the Nile/Edfu
This morning we visit Temple of Khnum at Esna. The part we can explore is small, in contrast to many of the other sites we visit, since much of the temple complex lies beneath the contemporary town of Esna and has not been excavated. The base of the temple sits well below street level, showing how much silt was deposited by the Nile’s annual floods. We’ll also explore the town of Esna on foot, to get a glimpse of small-town life in Egypt.

We continue sailing southward to the town of Edfu, and in the late afternoon visit Edfu Temple to view what’s considered to be the best-preserved monument of the Ancient World: the temple of Horus, the falcon god. Because the roof is intact, the play of light and shadow is much as it must have been during Ptolemaic times. The art and architecture here are extraordinary, and the statue of the god Horus as a falcon is iconic. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Sailing the Nile/Kom Ombo
This morning we sail to Kom Ombo, strikingly set atop a hill overlooking the Nile. Built during the Ptolemaic era, it is unique in being dedicated to two gods—hawk-headed Haroeris and crocodile-headed Sobek. It is richly decorated, and even has a hieroglyphic calendar. We then return to our ship and sail on towards Aswan. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Aswan
Aswan occupies 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 a center for trading with Nubia. This morning we visit the lovely temple of Philae, located on an island in the river and dedicated to the goddess Isis, and the quarries where the famous pink granite was mined, where there is an unfinished obelisk from ancient times. We’ll also visit the fine Nubian Museum. This afternoon, you’ll have high tea at the legendary Old Cataract Hotel, whose view of the Nile cataract is extraordinary, and sail on a felucca (traditional sailboat). This evening, enjoy a Nubian cultural show onboard Oberoi Philae followed by dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Abu Simbel/Cairo
This morning we stop at the Aswan High Dam, then take a private charter flight to Abu Simbel, where we visit the two great temples built by Ramses II. When the Nile was dammed at Aswan, the temples were disassembled and moved, block by massive block, to higher ground. Our aircraft waits for us, and we take our private flight to Cairo and transfer to the exquisite Four Seasons First Residence, located next to the botanical gardens on the Giza side of the Nile. From this luxurious hotel, we have easy access to the sites we still have to explore on our journey—the pyramids of Giza, Saqqara and the treasures of Islamic Cairo. You are encouraged to enjoy all of Four Seasons’ amenities including full spa and wellness center, large elegant rooms with pyramid-view (weather permitting), open swimming pool with views of the city, and more. Dinner is at the hotel. (B,L,D)
DAY 11: Saqqara, Pyramids, & the Sphinx
This morning, we visit 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.

After lunch, we explore the Pyramids and Sphinx. 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. We’ll see the Solar Boat, built about 2500 BC and rediscovered in 1954, and you’ll have the chance to ride a camel if you wish. Tonight we return to the Pyramids for the renowned Sound & Light show. As lights and shadows play on these great monuments, the narrative recounts their history. Dinner this evening will be on your own. The Four Seasons First Residence has several excellent restaurants to choose from, or you may go out if you wish. (B,L)

DAY 12: Cairo
Cairo is a treasure trove of great Islamic architecture and art, and this morning you’ll explore some of its greatest monuments, including 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 elegant Ibn Tulun Mosque, which dates originally from 879 and which has preserved much of its original design. Then visit one of Cairo’s jewels: the Gayer-Anderson Museum, a house built in the 16th and 17th centuries that between 1935 and 1942 was the home of a British military officer who collected furniture, carpets and other objects. 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! This evening we gather for a farewell reception, followed by dinner at the Four Seasons First Residence. (B,L,D)

DAY 13: Depart
Transfer to the airport for flights home, or to Jordan for our extension. (B)
## Oberoi Philae

### COST PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

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(1) 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 lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian 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: https://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/

(2) Cancellation Plan
Review our cancellation plan:
https://www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/