

# EXPLORE!



## Nile Cruise + Red Sea Extension

15 days

Egypt - Trip code EGR

## Nile Cruise + Red Sea Extension

On this action-packed journey we discover some of the world's most remarkable archaeological sites including the Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza. In the vibrant Nubian city of Aswan we board our Nile cruise boat, set sail and explore the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo on our way to Luxor, where we visit the Valley of the Kings and Karnak Temple

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Cairo** - Marvel at the majestic Pyramids and Sphinx, then tour the Egyptian Museum
- ★ **Luxor** - Take a horse drawn 'calesh' to Karnak Temple; explore the Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple
- ★ **Nile cruise boat** - Cruise from Aswan to Luxor via the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo on board our 5 star boat.
- ★ **Meet the locals** - Egyptians are some of the friendliest and welcoming people on the planet. Enjoy a coffee and a chat in one of the many local coffee bars and learn about their interesting history

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### TRIP PACE:

##### Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

#### GROUP SIZE:

##### 10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip Cairo

Arrive at Cairo and check-in at the hotel. Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, exotic, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. If you arrive early, you may wish to catch your first glimpse of the mighty Nile River, visit the capital's medieval markets at Khan El-Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade.



**Accommodation: Santana Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - In Cairo; visit the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum

Africa's largest capital, Cairo, is situated mainly on the east bank of the Nile. Driving to Giza, we see the Pyramids and Sphinx; among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the largest of the group (originally 145m high with a 232m square base). Second is the Pyramid of Chephren (136m high, width 210m). The complex includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock and the splendid Granite Temple. After the Pyramids, we head for the Egyptian Museum, via a papyrus institute, where you can learn something of the ancient methods of paper making in the Egypt of the pharaohs. The museum itself is a spectacular repository of some 120,000 items encompassing all aspects of the world of the ancient Egyptians; from ornate jewellery and towering granite statues, to creepy mummified remains and, of course, the remarkable golden treasures of Tutankhamun himself. This evening we enjoy a traditional meal in a local restaurant.



**Accommodation: Santana Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Free day in Cairo to explore, overnight train to Aswan

Today is a free day for optional trips to Saqqara, the impressive steppe pyramid/necropolis of Zozer (Djoser) - the earliest of the pyramids of Egypt and the recently opened Red and Bent Pyramids at Dashur. An optional trip to Islamic Cairo to visit the illustrious Citadel, one of Saladin's many strongholds during the Crusades period, is also available. There will also be the opportunity to enter one or more of the medieval mosques of Cairo. Alternatively you could use this free time to revisit the vast Egyptian museum. This evening we travel with the locals on an overnight train down to Aswan.



**Accommodation: Overnight Train: Cairo to Aswan**



Standard Overnight Train



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

## DAY 4 - In Aswan; optional St Simeon's Monastery and Philae Temple visits

Aswan is Egypt's most southerly city, traditionally regarded as the frontier post of Upper Egypt. Sited on the east bank, it stands just below the First Cataract and is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and black Africa. Today we have time to explore Aswan and the surrounding area. A popular optional excursion is the camel trek to the deserted coptic monastery of St. Simeon. One of the largest Coptic monasteries in Egypt, St Simeon's was built in the 7th century and finally abandoned in the 13th century. It now sits in splendid isolation at the end of a desert valley. Providing an impressive sight, the monastery appears more like a desert fortress than a place of worship. You may wish to take an excursion to Philae Temple, situated on a picturesque island in the Nile.



**Accommodation: Marhaba Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Enjoy Aswan; optional Abu Simbel tour, board cruise

Today we have the chance to travel by bus or air to the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61m to save it from inundation by the artificial lake created by the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the great builder. Alternatively, wander the streets of this fascinating city, where stalls laden with colourful spices line the streets. This afternoon we board our Nile River cruise boat, our home for the next few nights.



**Accommodation: M/S Blue Shadow** (or similar)



Premium Boat



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## DAY 6 - Cruising down the Nile River, visit Kom Ombo and Edfu Temples

We sail north (downstream) this morning and disembark to visit Kom Ombo. Situated on the bank of the river, this temple is particularly unique because it is dedicated to two gods; Haroeris and Sobek, the crocodile god. It is thought that this part of the Nile used to have a large crocodile population, hence the dedication to Sobek. We re-board our boat and continue upstream to Edfu, the largest Egyptian temple after Karnak. The falcon-headed god Horus guards the temple dedicated to him which is in almost perfect condition. In fact the temple is unusual in that its roof has survived intact.



**Accommodation: M/S Blue Shadow** (or similar)



Premium Boat



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## DAY 7 - Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and Valley of the Kings; free time to explore

After breakfast we visit the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh, who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tuthmoses III. The scale of the temple and its magnificent setting are breathtaking, but perhaps even more remarkable are the details - look out for the fine carving of the 'Expedition to the Land of Punt'. We then take a short bus ride to the Valley of the Kings to explore some of the more important sites made famous in 1922 by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. We visit three tombs. The remainder of the day is left free for personal exploration in Luxor, during which you may like to take a calesh tour of local villages.



**Accommodation: M/S Blue Shadow** (or similar)



Premium Boat



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner


## DAY 8 - Cruise ends, visit Karnak Temple

Arriving in Luxor, this afternoon we have included a visit by calesh (horse drawn carriage) to the stupendous Temple of Amun at Karnak, the labour of numerous pharaohs. Begun about 2000 BC, this vast temple was still being added to in Cleopatra's time (1st century BC). This evening there is the opportunity to experience the sound and light show at Karnak Temple, an incredible show where Karnak and the story of Egypt comes alive.




**Accommodation: Eatabe Hotel** (or similar)


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 Premium Hotel

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 Swimming pool available

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 9 - Chance to explore the west bank

Today there is a chance to explore the west bank in more detail. This trip includes Deir El Medina, an ancient Egyptian village which was home to the artisans who created the tombs in the Valley of the Kings. This site is situated in a small natural amphitheatre, close to the Valley of the Kings. It is also possible to visit Habu Temple today, one of the best preserved temples in the west bank.




**Accommodation: Eatabe Hotel** (or similar)


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 Premium Hotel

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 Swimming pool available

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 10 - Transfer to Safaga by road

This morning we leave Luxor and make our way to Safaga on the Red Sea. The drive takes around 4 hours, so we will have the afternoon to relax on the beach.




**Accommodation: Lotus Bay Hotel** (or similar)


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 Premium Hotel

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 Swimming pool available

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 11 - Optional snorkelling in the Red Sea

The Red Sea is famous for its superb coral reefs and multi-coloured fish. Living in such favourable conditions are schools of beautifully marked and iridescent species, alongside barracudas and small sharks. We will arrange an optional snorkelling trip by boat (6 to 8 hours) over the coral reefs around Safaga. Scuba diving is another possibility or simply laze on the beach or by the pool casting an occasional eye on the boats plying the Red Sea.




**Accommodation: Lotus Bay Hotel** (or similar)


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 Premium Hotel

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 Swimming pool available

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 12 - Free day in Safaga

Today we can try our hand at scuba diving (optional). This is a full day for divers of all levels. Those who have never dived before will spend the morning learning the basics in a pool before going for an afternoon dive. There are also refresher courses available for those who have not dived for over a year and there are advanced dives available for anyone holding a PADI or equivalent qualification. Please note that all training, instruction and accompanied dives are operated with fully qualified instructors. Alternatively, you can simply enjoy relaxing on the beaches.




**Accommodation: Lotus Bay Hotel** (or similar)


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 Premium Hotel

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 Swimming pool available

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 13 - Transfer to Cairo by road

This morning there is a chance for one last dip in the sea before boarding our bus for the drive back to Cairo (8-10 hour journey). Leaving Safaga we follow the long, arid coastal road north along the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez. As we approach the Nile Valley the landscape changes, becoming more fertile and densely populated. Finally we arrive back in Cairo.




**Accommodation: Santana Hotel** (or similar)

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 Premium Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 14 - Free day in Cairo

A full day in Cairo to enjoy some of the sites of the capital not visited at the start of the tour. Among the options available is a visit to the wonderful mosques and the Citadel of Islamic Cairo and a chance to discover the markets of the world famous Khan el Khalili. Alternatively the impressive Step Pyramid complex of Saqqara is well worth a visit in conjunction with the Red and Bent Pyramids at Dashur.




**Accommodation: Santana Hotel** (or similar)

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 Premium Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 15 - Tour ends in Cairo

Tour ends in Cairo after breakfast.

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 14  
Lunch: 3  
Dinner: 4



## Transport

Bus  
Flight  
Train



## Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader  
Boat Crew  
Driver(s)



## Accommodation

3 nights premium boat  
9 nights premium hotel  
1 nights standard hotel  
1 nights standard overnight train

# Trip information

## Country information

## Egypt Holidays & Tours

### Climate

Egypt's climate is hot and dry, typical of a desert environment. In summer it can be very hot and remains hot overnight whereas winter days are milder by comparison and temperatures can drop considerably at night. The mildest area is along the Mediterranean coast with temperatures ranging from 23-31°C in summer and 10-17°C in winter. In the desert region temperatures fluctuate in summer dropping as low as 7°C at night and up to 40°C during the day and in winter it can vary from 0°C at night to 18°C in the day. Aswan is one of the hottest cities with Cairo and Alexandria generally slightly cooler. Egypt receives very little rainfall annually and rainfall in summer is very rare.

### Time difference to GMT

+2

### Plugs

2 Pin Round

### Religion

Islamic, Christian

### Language

Arabic

## Budgeting and packing

## Optional activities

Luxor - Habu Temple and Workers Tomb USD50.00, Villages calesh ride (2-hours) USD17.00, Tutankhamun's Tomb USD16.00, Karnak Sound and Light USD25.00, Donkey trek (2-hours) USD19.00, Guided visit to Valley of the Queens and Deir al-Medina USD45.00, Valley of the Queens (non-guided) USD35.00 Aswan - Camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery USD30.00, Philae Temple, Obelisque and Aswan High am USD45.00, Felucca cruise USD15.00, Dinner in a Nubian Village USD15.00, Philae Sound and Light Show USD30.00, Nubian Museum USD15.00. Cairo - Saqqara and Dashur Pyramids USD45.00, Half day Islamic Cairo USD30.00. Abu Simbel - Excursion from Aswan by bus USD90.00 or by air USD315.00. Safaga - Snorkelling Day trip with Lunch US\$35.00;



Scuba Diving US\$95.00 Please note that all optional prices are in US Dollars, though local currency or US Dollars will be

## Clothing

Women are advised not to wear shorts or dresses that are too revealing as this can attract unwelcome attention in the streets of Muslim towns - loose fitting trousers or slacks are ideal. Women should also cover their head and shoulders when entering a mosque and men should wear long trousers.

## Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals are recommended.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

## Equipment

Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, sunglasses and a small torch for examining wall carvings. Please note that on the optional donkey trek we cannot supply hard hats - if head protection is felt to be necessary please bring your own with you to Egypt, as hard hats are not available to buy locally. You may want to bring wet-wipes and water-free hand sanitiser will be an invaluable addition to your daypack.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow £20.00 for tipping.

## Country Information

### Egypt Holidays & Tours

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

##### Lunch price

£6

##### Dinner price

£8

##### Beer price

£1.7

##### Water price

£0.75

#### Foreign Exchange

##### Local currency

Egyptian Pound

##### Recommended Currency For Exchange

We recommend that you bring your money in cash, £GBP, US\$ or Euros which are readily changeable.

##### Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

**ATM Availability**

You may also bring an ATM card, as these are available in main towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Credit cards are rarely accepted.

**Travellers Cheques**

You may find it useful to bring some Travellers Cheques as a back up.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Flight, Train

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

**Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa Information

Egypt: An entry visa is required by all nationalities. UK citizens can obtain a visa on arrival at the airport for the current cost of 25USD. Please note, you must purchase a visa stamp at one of the nearby banks before proceeding to the immigration desk.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

**Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

**Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour

only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Egypt Holidays & Tours

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. Though malaria does exist in Egypt it is not normally found in the areas in which we travel. Please note that all travellers aged over 9 months old will be required to supply a yellow fever certificate if you have travelled from or have transited via a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission. For the most up to date advice please consult your travel clinic.