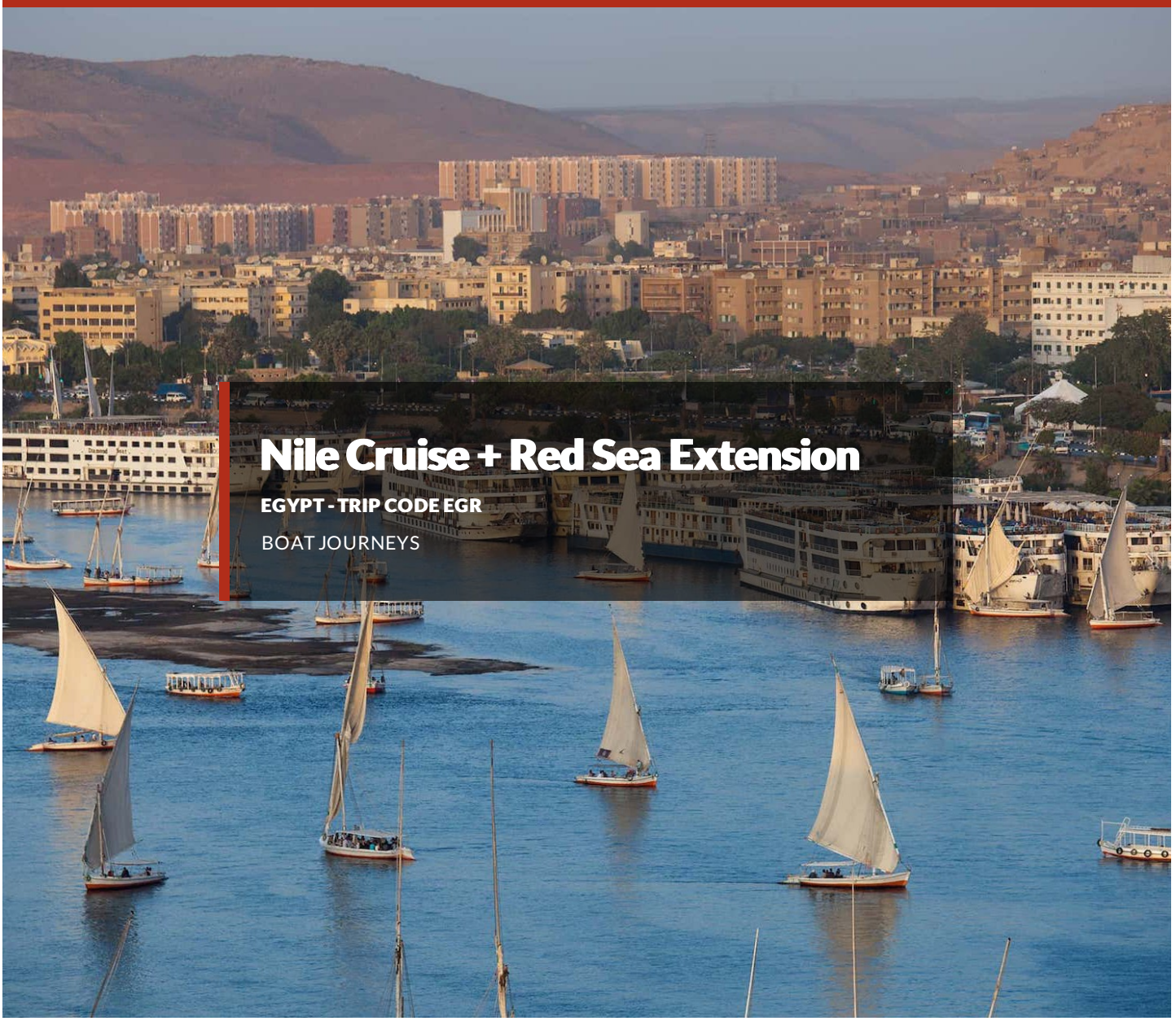
EXPLORE!

Book with confidence



Nile Cruise + Red Sea Extension

EGYPT - TRIP CODE EGR

BOAT JOURNEYS

Why book this trip?

This action-packed trip takes in some of the world's most remarkable archaeological sites including the Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza, as well as a chance to discover the buzz of the capital; Cairo, explore the Valley of the Kings and journey down the Nile.

- **Ancient history** - See the pyramids, temples and sphinxes for which Egypt is famed
- **Nile cruise boat** - Watch the sun set over the Nile on a luxury cruise from Aswan to Luxor
- **Egyptian life** - People watch over a strong coffee in the bustling cities and wave at the curious children playing in the water as you sail down the Nile

INCLUDED MEALS	TRIP STAFF	TRANSPORT	ACCOMMODATION	TRIP PACE:	GROUP SIZE:
Breakfast: 12 Lunch: 3 Dinner: 4	Explore Tour Leader Boat Crew Driver(s)	Bus Flight Train	3 nights premium boat 8 nights premium hotel 1 nights simple overnight train	Full on	10 - 16

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip Cairo

Arrive in Cairo, Egypt's vibrant and exhilarating capital. A welcoming place that is home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in Egypt; there is an incredible amount to discover here.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Cairo at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Cairo International Airport (CAI), which is 30-45 minutes\ drive to the hotel. As most flights arrive into Cairo late evening, our welcome meeting will take place in the morning of day two at 7.30am after breakfast.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to catch your first glimpse of the mighty Nile River, visit the capital's medieval market at Khan el Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade.

ACCOMMODATION:
Pyramid Park Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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

This morning, after our Leader does an inital welcome meeting, we make our way to Giza, where we see the Pyramids and Sphinx; among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. We explore the pyramid complex, which includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock and the splendid Granite Temple, with a local guide. After the Pyramids, we visit a papyrus institute, where we will learn about the ancient methods of paper making in the Egypt of the Pharaohs. We'll then have a picnic lunch before visiting the Egyptian Museum; a spectacular repository of over 120,000 items encompassing all aspects of ancient Egyptian life, including ornate jewellery and towering granite statues, mummified remains and, of course, the remarkable golden treasures of Tutankhamun himself. This evening we enjoy a traditional meal in a local restaurant.

ACCOMMODATION:
Pyramid Park Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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

Today is a free day for optional trips in the capital. This morning there is the opportunity to visit Saqqara, the impressive steppe pyramid/necropolis of Zozer (Djoser) - the earliest of the pyramids of Egypt; whilst this afternoon you can take a trip to Islamic Cairo to visit the illustrious Citadel, one of Saladin's many strongholds during the Crusades period. There will also be the chance 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 depart for Aswan on an overnight train in sleeper compartments. The individual compartments contain a bench seat which converts into bunk beds. The carriage steward sets this up and provides bed linen, blankets and pillows. Each cabin is lockable and has a night light and

cupboard that houses a small sink, shelf, mirror, towel and power socket plus there is a removable table top that folds into the wall. Dinner and breakfast are provided by the carriage steward who delivers the meals directly to you. Two western style toilets are located at the end of each carriage and there are is a communal lounge carriage with a bar serving soft drinks.

ACCOMMODATION:
Overnight Train: Cairo to Aswan

Grade: Simple Overnight Train

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 4 - In Aswan; optional Philae Temple and Nubian Village Dinner

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. Our early arrival allows us time to take an optional excursion to the High Dam, Philae Temple marooned on a picturesque island, and the Unfinished Obelisk. Returning to our hotel around lunch time there is time to relax this afternoon and enjoy independent sightseeing. This evening there will be the opportunity to take a motor boat journey to a traditional Nubian village for a home cooked dinner with a family who have been friends for many years!

Please note: If visiting the Nubian village, you may like to bring some small gifts for the children such as notebooks and pencils. However, please do not give sweets or money.

ACCOMMODATION:
Isis Corniche Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Board cruise boat and optional felucca sailing trip

After breakfast we offer an optional excursion across to the West Bank to St Simeon's Monastery. We travel here by boat and camel as we head out across the desert. One of the largest Coptic monasteries in Egypt, St Simeon's was built in the 7th century and abandoned in the 13th century. It now sits in isolation at the end of a desert valley, an impressive sight. A 45 minute camel ride brings us to the monastery where we will meet our local guide. After the visit we remount and return along the bank to our boat.

We return to Aswan and board a river cruise boat, our home for the next three nights, just in time for lunch. This afternoon is free for you to enjoy the facilities on board and relax, or alternatively take a traditional felucca boat and sail around the Aswan islands including a visit to the Botanical Gardens. This evening's meal is served back on board.

Princess Sara II M

On board the Princess Sara II M, you'll definitely be travelling in style. The entire top deck is a large seating area with swimming pool, providing a great place to relax and take in the stunning Nile views. The interior comprises several large communal areas; the lounge and bar is a great place to socialise with other passengers. The spacious cabins are spread between three floors - each hosting a king or twin beds, en suite facilities, a TV and mini-bar. All are fitted with air-conditioning and wifi (chargeable). There is also a large restaurant, reading area and several shops on board. Evening entertainment is provided on one night during your cruise.

ACCOMMODATION:
Princess Sara II M/S (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 6 - Optional excursion to Abu Simbel, begin sailing and visit Kom Ombo Temple

Today you may like to take a very early morning trip 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 floods created by the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the great builder.

We return in time for our cruise to begin and start sailing, heading north (downstream) towards Kom Ombo where we disembark. Situated on the banks 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. This evening, we continue upstream to Edfu city where we overnight.

ACCOMMODATION:
Princess Sara II M/S (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 7 - Visit Edfu Temple and Arrive in Luxor

After breakfast we disembark and visit the extraordinary Temple of Edfu, dating from the time of the Ptolemies (3rd -1st century BC). A sacred falcon-headed god guards the Temple of Horus, which is in almost perfect condition. We return to our boat and sail on to Luxor, arriving in the late afternoon which allows some free time to wander around the souks and busy streets before dinner. Tonight there is the opportunity to experience the Sound and Light Show at Karnak Temple, an incredible display where Karnak and the story of Egypt comes alive.

ACCOMMODATION:
Princess Sara II M/S (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

DAY 8 - Cruise ends, visit Karnak Temple

This morning we disembark for the final time and drop our bags at the hotel before taking a traditional calesh ride (horse drawn carriage) to the Temple of Amun at Karnak, the labour of numerous pharaohs. Built around 2000 BC, this vast temple was still in progress during Cleopatra's reign during the 1st century BC. This afternoon is free to relax after a busy few days or you may like to visit the Workers Tombs and Habu Temple.

ACCOMMODATION:
Eatabe Luxor Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Explore the West Bank and Valley of the Kings

Arguably Egypt's most well known site, this morning we visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and the Valley of the Kings. Pharaoh Hatshepsut is believed to be the most successful reigning female power of Egypt, no mean feat during Ancient Egyptian times, and was buried alongside her male counterparts in the Valley of the Kings. Historians throughout modern history offer contrasting information about her reign but walking into the shadow of Hatshepsut's immense temple, which is built into the limestone rock face on

Luxor's West Bank, is a key symbol of her achievements. The structure is unexpectedly modern by design and was once linked directly with Karnak Temple on the East Bank.

We will then transfer on to the world-famous Valley of the Kings, most well known as the burial site of Tutankhamun discovered in 1922 by British Egyptology Howard Carter, along with another 62 royal tombs. Our visit includes entrance to three of the tombs which will be decided on the day, as many are periodically closed for resting and renovation to protect them. After the three, there will be an option to pay a supplement to visit Tutankhamun's.

We arrive back to our hotel in time to relax for the rest of the afternoon, or you may like to take a stroll to the Luxor Temple and Museum, both of which are within easy walking distance of our hotel.

ACCOMMODATION:
Eatabe Luxor Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Transfer to Safaga by road

This morning say goodbye to our local leader and leave Luxor to make our way to Safaga on the Red Sea. The drive takes around 4 hours, so we will have the afternoon to relax when we reach the hotel.

ACCOMMODATION:
Lotus Bay Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 11 - Optional snorkelling in the Red Sea

The Red Sea is famous for its superb coral reefs and multi-coloured fish. Schools of beautifully marked and iridescent species swim alongside barracudas and small sharks. There is the option to book a snorkelling trip by boat (6 to 8 hours) over the coral reefs around Safaga. Scuba diving is another possibility or you may prefer to simply laze on the beach or by the pool and enjoy the hotel facilities

ACCOMMODATION:
Lotus Bay Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 12 - Free day relaxing in Safaga

Your time is your own; you can take it easy relaxing on the beach or by the pool and just enjoy your beautiful surroundings.

ACCOMMODATION:
Lotus Bay Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel

SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Tour ends in Safaga

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Safaga

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Safaga at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel, if you wish to explore more of the town before you depart. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Hurghada International Airport (HRG), which is approximately a one hour drive from the hotel.

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Egypt

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	Plugs	Religion	Language
+2	2 Pin Round	Islamic, Christian	Arabic

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Egyptian adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on this.

Luxor -
Habu Temple and Workers Tomb 1190LE per person including transportation and guide.
Villages calesh ride (2-hours) 425LE per person
Entry to Tutankhamun's Tomb at Valley of the Kings 300LE per person (entrance ticket only)
Karnak Sound and Light Show 300LE per person (entrance ticket only)
Donkey trek (2-hours) 510LE per person including transportation
Guided visit to Valley of the Queens and Deir al-Medina 1190LE per person including transportation
Luxor Museum 170LE per person
Luxor Mummification Museum 150LE per person

Aswan -
Camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery with boat crossings 820LE per person
Guided tour to Philae Temple, Obelisque and Aswan High Dam including bus and boat transfers 1100LE per person
Felucca cruise 250LE per person
Dinner in a Nubian Village including return boat journey 510LE per person

Abu Simbel (Aswan) -
Excursion from Aswan by bus 2300LE per person or by air from 5950LE per person.
(The Abu Simbul excursion will be booked and payment take on the first day of the trip).

Cairo -
Saqqara and Unas Pyramids 1190LE per person including transportation
Half day Islamic Cairo 850LE per person including transportation
Entrance to Solar Boat Museum 150LE per person
Mummies Rooms in Egyptian Museum 235LE per person

Please note that all optionals prices are in LE Egyptian Pounds, though US Dollars and GBP Pounds are also accepted. There may be a minimum requirement of 5 passengers on certain optional excursions; your

Explore leader will be able to advise.

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
Tour Leader: In Egypt, it is customary to tip the tour leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive. We would recommend allowing approximately GBP£3-£5 per person per day as a guideline but this is at your discretion.

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, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow approx. £35.00 per person for group tipping, , (your Tour Leader will request the equivalent of 750 Egyptian Pounds per person).

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

Egypt

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	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£6	£8	£1.7	£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. Please contact your bank prior to travelling to determine if your card will work in Egypt.

Credit Card Acceptance
Credit cards are rarely accepted. Please contact you bank prior to travelling to determine if your card will work in Egypt.

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

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Flight, Train

Accommodation notes

On the overnight train we use individual compartments, each containing a bench seat which converts into bunk beds. The carriage steward sets this up and provides bed linen, blankets and pillows. Each cabin is lockable and has a night light and cupboard that houses a small sink, shelf, mirror, towel and power socket plus there is a removable table top that folds into the wall. Dinner and breakfast is delivered by the carriage steward directly to you. Two western style toilets are located at the end of each carriage and there is a communal lounge carriage with a bar serving soft drinks.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety 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 citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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.
Alternatively you can obtain a single entry E-visa prior to departure via the e-visa website: https://www.visa2egypt.gov.eg/eVisa. You will need to print a copy of your e-visa approval letter and present this with your passport and final documents at immigration upon your arrival. The approval letter will take a minimum of 7 days to be processed so we strongly advise for you to apply within plenty of time before your departure. You will be permitted to stay within Egypt for up to 90 days. We strongly recommend for you to read the How to Apply and FAQ sections on the e-visa website before applying.

Please ensure you read the FCO advice if you are travelling with prescribed medication.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

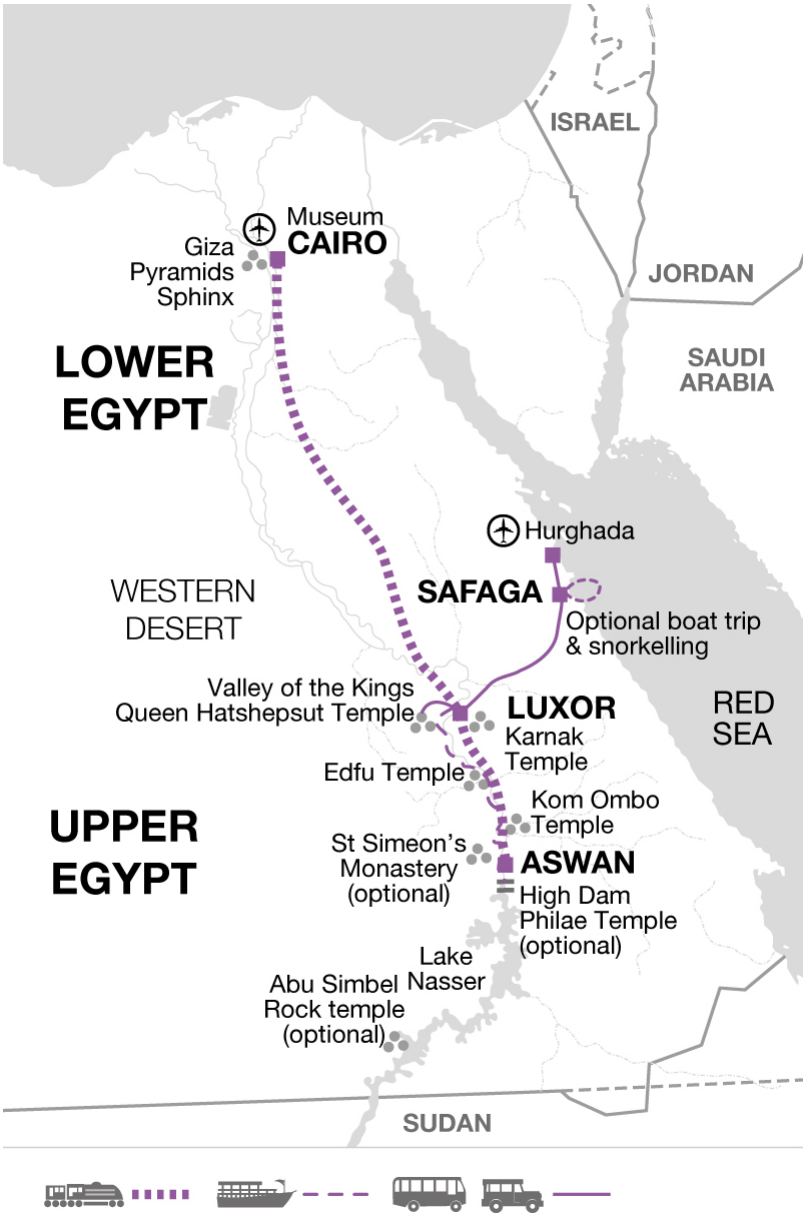
On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Egypt

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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Ramadan



Ramadan
In 2022, Ramadan runs from 02 April to 02 May. Read more about travelling during Ramadan.

The following 2022 departures of Nile Cruise + Red Sea Extension will coincide with Ramadan:
26 March 2022

Reviews

AWARD WINNING EXPLORE LEADERS	PRICE GUARANTEE PROMISE	AIRPORT TRANSFERS