

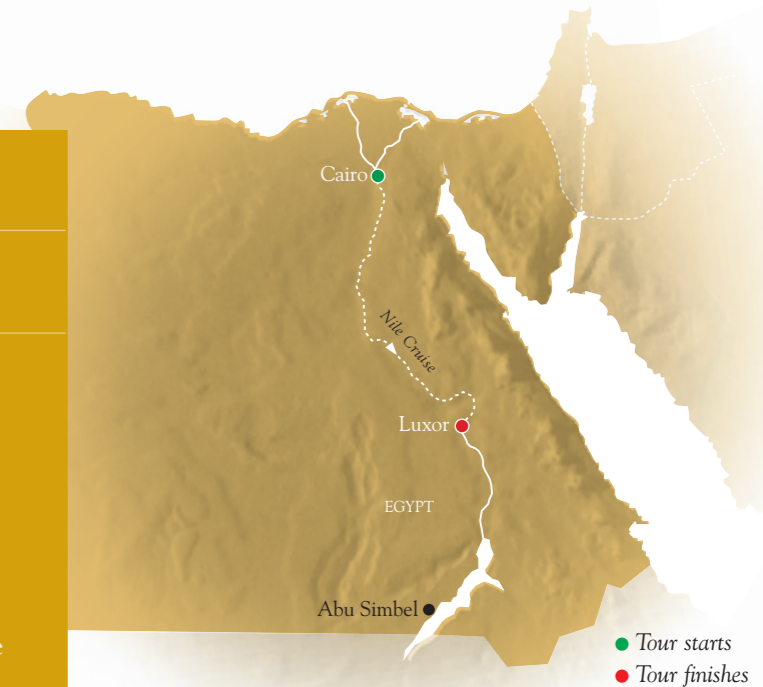
The Very Best of Egypt

Prices start from £2,995

Fully escorted 14-day tour

Tour highlights

- * Visit the Egyptian Museum including the Tutankhamun collection and Royal Mummies Hall
- * See the world famous Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza
- * Enjoy a relaxing 7 night luxury cruise on the River Nile
- * Visit the key archaeological sites of Edfu, Kom Ombo, Karnak and Luxor Temple
- * Experience the magnificent Abu Simbel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- * Visit The Valley of The Kings and Valley of The Queens
- * Option to extend your tour at a luxury hotel on the Red Sea



Tour itinerary

Day 1 Departure from London Heathrow

Join your Tour Manager and fellow travelling companions at Heathrow for complimentary drinks and snacks in the executive lounge before boarding your BMI scheduled flight to Cairo. Upon arrival, we will transfer to the luxurious Mena House Oberoi hotel, which is located right at the famous Pyramids, for a four night stay. The rest of the day is yours to settle in and relax. Later this evening we meet up for welcome drinks and dinner.
Meals: Inflight, Dinner in hotel **Hotel: Mena House Oberoi**

Day 2 Cairo

Today we visit Cairo's Egyptian Museum, an extremely large museum in the city centre which holds the world's largest collection of ancient Egyptian finds and archaeological treasures. Probably the most famous and consequently the most popular of the 120,000 exhibits is the Tutankhamun collection. These items which were discovered in the young King's tomb by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon, the only tomb to ever have been found intact. From the solid gold, richly decorated funerary mask and solid gold coffin, to the furniture, royal throne and jewellery, the exhibits are fascinating. The Royal Mummies Hall is also quite a popular visit but there is a great deal more to see too. Your afternoon is at leisure so you can relax at the hotel or head out and explore this vibrant city independently.
Meals: Breakfast **Hotel: Mena House Oberoi**



Pyramids of Giza



Burial mask of the King Tutankhamun



Statue of Ramses II, Karnak

Day 3 Cairo

After breakfast we explore the Pyramids and Sphinx complex, without which no visit to Egypt would be complete. The source of much fascination, and one of the seven wonders of the world, you will learn how, when and why the Pyramids were built. You can choose to actually go into a pyramid and see what it is like inside, or simply admire from outside. The Sphinx represents a lion's body with a human head and was carved from soft sandstone about 4,500 years ago. If it had not have been buried for most of its life, it probably would have disappeared long ago. Although now eroded with time, this is still an impressive, must-see site. The rest of the day and evening are free for you to do as you wish. The Pyramids will clearly be visible from your hotel – a constant reminder of today's visit.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Mena House Oberoi

Day 4 Cairo

Today is a completely free day. There are plenty of options to choose from and your Tour Manager will be happy to offer recommendations if you wish. You may consider visiting the Citadel which was built by Saladin in the 12th Century, the 19th Century Mosque of Mohammed Ali or the Khan El Kalili souk for some serious bartering and shopping, in that order! If you enjoyed yesterday's visit, you may wish to consider visiting Memphis and Sakkhara which are better preserved and considered to be particularly interesting. The city of Memphis was a principal necropolis site and within it, Sakkara was the principal area for old kingdom burials and most 1st and 2nd dynasty Kings were buried there. It is most famous for the Djoser or Stepped Pyramid which was built for King Djoser of the 3rd dynasty who wanted a tomb that was grand in scale and unique and imposing in design. In addition to the Royal tombs there are also private tombs with interesting scenes of everyday life such as painting, furniture making and hunting, and some animal tombs. Alternatively you can just relax and enjoy your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Mena House Oberoi

Day 5 Cairo to Luxor

Morning flight from Cairo to Luxor to join the M/S Darakum for our 7-night luxury Nile cruise. All cabins are well appointed and have large windows. The ships has a restaurant, swimming pool, sundeck, bar, lounge, gift shop and mini gym, though one of the real pleasures of a Nile Cruise is simply to take in the views and watch life gently pass by as you sail. The onboard Egyptologist will explain about the importance of the Nile and its bearing on Egyptian civilisation. End your first day on board with a sundowner and dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum

MS Darakum – undeniably one of the most luxurious Nile cruise ships

This is 5 star all the way both in terms of comfort and service. With only 44 cabins and 8 suites you can expect a genuine personal service. As for the facilities, there is a large restaurant serving high quality food, a lounge bar and a good old-fashioned pub. The sundeck boasts a swimming pool, recreation area and a bar. All cabins have large windows facing the Nile and have either two twin beds or a king-size bed, private bathroom with bath and hair dryer, mini-bar, satellite tv, internal telephone, individually controlled air conditioning and safe deposit box.



MS Darakum cruising The Nile



MS Darakum, restaurant



MS Darakum, bedroom

Day 6 Karnak and Luxor Temples

After breakfast, we leave the cruise ship to visit Karnak, which is a very large city complex and a place of pilgrimage for nearly 4,000 years. The hypostyle hall measures 50,000 square feet and has 134 columns making it one of the largest rooms of any religious building in the world. Besides the main sanctuary there are smaller temples and a vast sacred lake. We then visit Luxor Temple which is the largest temple complex on the east bank. It certainly has an impressive and dramatic entrance with a 1.5 miles long avenue of ram headed Sphinxes, lining both sides of the pathway.

We return to our cruise ship and set sail for Edfu.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum

Day 7 Temple of Horus and Kom Ombo

Today we start by visiting Edfu Temple on the west bank of the Nile, Egypt's second largest temple. Dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god, this temple is in very good condition and gives real insight into what the temples and coloured paintings would have looked like at the time. Later we set sail for the temple of Kom Ombo which will be visible as our cruise ship moors up. This temple is unusual in that it is a double temple with one side dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile god, and the other side dedicated to Haroeris, the falcon headed god. In ancient times, Kom Ombo had an important position on the crossroads between the caravan route from Nubia and the trails from the gold mines in the eastern desert. Back on board we continue to Aswan.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum

Day 8 Aswan and Philae Temple

After breakfast we visit Aswan's High Dam, a feat of engineering providing electricity to rural Egypt and therefore of great importance in the country's economy, and then the Unfinished Obelisk which weighs 1,100 tons. If a crack had not developed during construction, this would have been the heaviest obelisk in Ancient Egypt. Next is Philae Island which is dedicated to the goddess Isis and then to Kitchener Island to see the Botanical Gardens, a surprisingly lush and tranquil location with plenty of exotic trees and plants with carefully planned walkways. Your short journey to and from the island will be on Egypt's most traditional sailing vessel, the felucca.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum



Temple of Philae, Aswan



Ram Sphinxes, Karnak

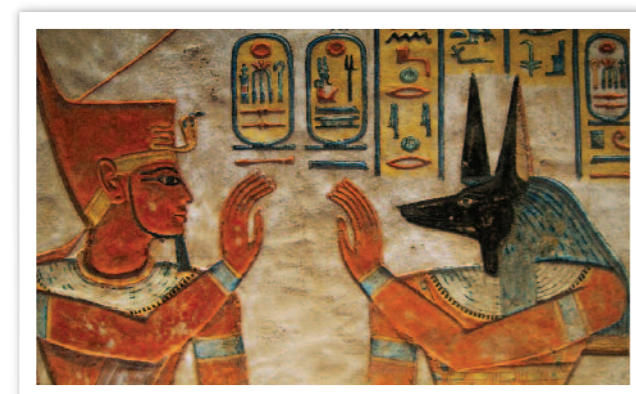


Temple of Rameses, Abu Simbel

Day 9 Abu Simbel

This morning we take a short flight southwards to see the magnificent temple complex of Abu Simbel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built by one of Egypt's greatest Pharaohs, Rameses II. There are two temples, one dedicated to Rameses, and the other to his wife Nefertari. To say the site is enormous is not an understatement. Many of the Egyptian archaeological sites you will visit on this tour are large and impressive but Abu Simbel is significantly more so. The two seated statues on the facade of the Rameses temple measure twenty metres in height. The precision engineering and construction is particularly impressive, not least because the inner sanctuary which contains four seated statues of three gods and Rameses himself only gets sunlight on two specific days each a year – the king's birthday and coronation day. Afterwards we return to our cruise ship.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum



Valley of the Kings, Luxor

Day 10 Cruise Aswan to Luxor

A completely free relaxing day on board our cruise ship as we cruise back to Luxor.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum

Day 11 Valley of the Kings

Today we visit the west bank of Luxor, home to the world famous Valley of The Kings where Egypt's rulers were laid to rest. At first sight, the rocky, desolate terrain looks fairly nondescript, but it was for this reason that it was chosen. It needed to look as if it was the last place you would bury a king to prevent the site being identified and the risk that the tombs would be robbed for the jewels, money and lavish gifts they contained. In fact the only tomb that ever managed to remain undetected was that of Tutankhamun. Many tombs feature beautiful wall paintings depicting the king's life and achievements and his journey into the afterlife. We also visit The Valley of The Queens and Medinet Habu, the Mortuary Temple of Rameses III. We return to the cruise ship for our final evening on board.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Vessel: M/S Darakum

Day 12 Luxor

After breakfast, we leave our cruise ship and transfer to the Hilton Luxor Resort and Spa where the day is yours to do as you wish.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Hilton Luxor Resort and Spa



Aswan

Day 13 Luxor

Today is a completely free day for you to enjoy the delights of Luxor or simply relax at your hotel which has one of the world's best situated infinity pools overlooking the Nile and excellent views towards The Valley of the Kings. This evening we get together for a farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Hilton Luxor Resort and Spa

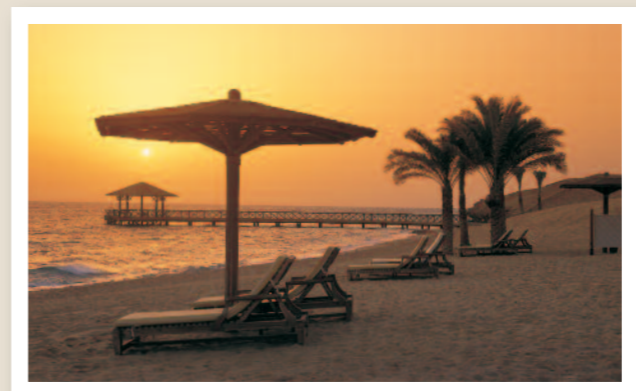
Day 14 Arrive London Heathrow

Today we return home, flying from Luxor on Egyptair to Cairo and connecting with our BMI flight to London Heathrow.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Your tour hotels

For full details of all the hotels featured on this tour please see pages 30-31.



Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh

Extend your holiday

Why not extend your visit to Egypt with a relaxing few days on the Red Sea coast? You'll stay at the luxury Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh beachfront hotel. See pages 6 - 7 for further details.

Departure dates & prices

The Very Best of Egypt

Departure date	Price per person
2011 20 October	£2,995
10 November	£3,145
24 November	£3,195
2012 02 February	£3,295
23 February	£3,345
08 March	£3,295

Prices per person, based on double/twin share.

Single supplement: £945

Flight upgrades

Supplements for British Midland Business Class are available on request

Independent arrival – see page 4 for details

Deduct £220 from the tour price above

Your 14-day tour includes:

- * The services of your JOD Tour Manager
- * Return scheduled flights on British Midland and internal flight on Egyptair
- * Invitation to the airport executive lounge at London Heathrow
- * Quality hotels handpicked for location and high standards
- * 13 breakfasts
- * 6 lunches
- * 9 dinners
- * Guided tours of Cairo and the Pyramids
- * 7 night Nile Cruise on the M/S Darakum with all meals and all excursions included, including the Valley of the Kings, Abu Simbel and more
- * Travel by air-conditioned coach, internal flights and cruise
- * Luggage service throughout
- * All local and state taxes

Flying time

London to Cairo 5 hours

Time difference

GMT + 2 hours

Average monthly temperatures

Cairo

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
18°	21°	24°	28°	33°	35°	35°	35°	32°	30°	26°	20°