



Ultimate Nile Experience - Essential

13 Night Group Tour - 28 April 2026

Set sail on a journey few travellers ever make.

The Ultimate Nile Experience - Essential invites you to explore the full length of the legendary river, drifting through tranquil waters, remote landscapes, and hidden treasures that most visitors never get to see. This is a voyage for those who crave serenity, discovery, and the quiet magic that unfolds when you travel at the river's own unhurried pace.

Designed with freedom in mind, the Essential version keeps all excursions optional - giving you the flexibility to shape each day exactly as you wish. Choose the experiences that speak to you, savour the peaceful moments in between, and let the Nile reveal itself in its purest form.

Highlights:

- Marvel at the Great Pyramids of Giza and the treasures of Tutankhamun at the Grand Egyptian Museum.
- Cruise the Nile in comfort from Aswan to Cairo, sailing the full length of Egypt's legendary river.
- Enjoy Optional Shore Excursions such as:
 - Visit the awe-inspiring temples of Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, and Edfu
 - Witness the magnificent Valley of the Kings and the grand temples of Karnak and Luxor.
 - Venture beyond the usual cruise route to see the beautifully preserved temples of Dendera and Abydos.
 - Step back in time at the ancient city of Tel El Amarna, following in the footsteps of Akhenaten and Nefertiti.

What's included:

- Getting there: Return flights to Cairo
- Meet and greet at the airport in Egypt to help with the visa/check in
- Transport: Private return airport transfers and private vehicles return to the cruise, overnight sleeper train
- Accommodation: 13 nights total duration - 2 nights Cairo, 1 nights sleeper train, 10 nights Egyptian Nile River Cruise
- Meals: 13 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners
- Local English speaking tour guides throughout the trip

Not included:

- Any meals (other than the one mentioned in the itinerary), drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature.
- Services not specified in the program
- Early/late check-in/out service at hotels (surcharge if requested)
- Travel insurance

Full Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive In Cairo

Upon arrival in Cairo you will be transferred to your hotel for a comfortable overnight stay, preparing for the adventure ahead.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Baron Hotel Heliopolis or 5* Hilton Pyramids Golf, Cairo or similar



Day 2: Pyramids and Grand Egyptian Museum

Today, after breakfast, you will begin your adventure with a visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum – a landmark project that took Egypt over ten years to complete. It houses the largest collection of Pharaonic treasures in the world, including the magnificent artefacts of Tutankhamun.

Later, you will head to the Giza Plateau to enjoy lunch with spectacular views of the iconic Pyramids.

Afterwards, explore the Pyramids themselves and admire the enigmatic Sphinx before returning to your hotel for the evening.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Baron Hotel Heliopolis or 5* Hilton Pyramids Golf, Cairo or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

Day 3: Cairo City Tour and onwards to Aswan

Enjoy breakfast and a leisurely free morning. Before lunch, you will head out to explore Old Cairo.

After dining at an authentic local restaurant, your tour continues with visits to both Coptic and Islamic Cairo, where centuries of history and faith intertwine. In the evening, you will transfer to the railway station to board the overnight Egyptian sleeper train to Aswan.

Dinner will be served in your cabin, airline-style, as you travel south along the Nile Valley.

ACCOMMODATION: Overnight train from Cairo to Aswan

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 4: Highlights of Aswan

Upon arrival in Aswan, board your Nile cruise boat and settle in. You may choose to begin your sightseeing with an optional excursion to the High Dam, followed by a visit to the Unfinished Obelisk, an extraordinary monument frozen in time that reveals the ancient stone-carving techniques of the pharaohs. You can also opt to visit the Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis and beautifully relocated to its island setting after the construction of the dam. Surrounded by the Nile's shimmering waters, this temple is one of Egypt's most atmospheric sites.

Later in the afternoon, after lunch, you may wish to unwind with an optional traditional felucca sailing trip, gliding gently along the Nile and passing the picturesque islands of Aswan, where palm trees, ancient rocks, and elegant domed mausoleums rise from the riverbanks.

Stay overnight onboard your cruise boat.

Optional Excursions (not included in the tour price):

- High Dam, Unfinished Obelisk and Temple of Philae - £74 pp
- Felucca and Nubian Village - £50 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 5: Abu Simbel and Kom Ombo

After breakfast, you may choose to take an optional excursion to Abu Simbel, a journey of around four hours each way. The trip is well worth it, as Abu Simbel is considered the greatest temple complex in Egypt and a true masterpiece of ancient civilisation.

Upon returning from Abu Simbel (for those who choose to visit), your cruise will begin sailing towards Kom Ombo. Here, you may opt to visit the unique optional excursion to the double temple dedicated to Sobek and Horus. Afterwards, continue sailing to Edfu, where you will stay overnight on board.

Optional Excursions (not included in the tour price):

- Abu Simbel - £128 pp
- Kom Ombo Temple - £30 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 6: Edfu and Esna Lock

Early in the morning, you have the option to visit the Temple of Edfu, the best-preserved temple in all of Egypt and a magnificent example of Ptolemaic architecture. After the excursion (for those who choose to join), return to the boat for breakfast as you begin sailing towards Esna.

Here you will experience the fascinating process of crossing the Esna Lock, where the boat is carefully lowered from the higher water level of the Upper Nile to the lower level below.

This is an impressive sight, as the lock gradually fills and releases water, allowing your vessel to pass through. Continue sailing towards Luxor, enjoying a full day of leisurely cruising along the Nile, watching timeless riverside villages, palm groves, and farmlands unfold before you.

Optional Excursion (not included in the tour price):

- Temple of Edfu - £40 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 7: Exploring Luxor's West Bank

This morning, you may choose to join an optional excursion to explore the West Bank of Luxor, beginning with the Valley of the Kings, the ancient royal necropolis where Egypt's pharaohs were laid to rest.

Continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, an architectural masterpiece built into the cliffs of Deir el-Bahari, and finish with a stop at the Colossi of Memnon, the towering statues that have guarded Thebes for millennia. Afterwards, return to the boat for lunch.

In the afternoon, you have the option to visit the magnificent Karnak Temple complex, the largest religious site of the ancient world, followed by the elegant Luxor Temple. Later, return to the boat for your overnight stay.

Optional Excursions (not included in the tour price):

- Luxor West Bank - £79 pp
- Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple - £79 pp

Please note:

Your optional visit to the Valley of the Kings includes access to the following tombs (subject to site regulations on the day) - Ramesses VII, Ramesses III, Merneptah, Ramesses IV, Ramesses IX, Ramesses I, Siptah, Tausret.

Access to the following tombs is not included in the standard ticket and can be added at an additional cost: Tutankhamun, Seti I and Ramesses VI

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 8: Luxor to Gena

After breakfast, the boat will sail north towards Gena, where you have the option to visit the beautifully preserved Temple of Dendera, dedicated to the goddess Hathor.

This remarkable site is renowned for its vivid astronomical ceiling, impressive columns, and sacred sanctuary. In the evening, continue sailing to Naga Hammadi, where you will spend the night.

Optional Excursion (not included in the tour price):

- Temple of Dendera - £79 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 9: Abydos and Sailing to Sohag

Sail onward to El Balyana, where you have the option to visit the Temple of Abydos, one of Egypt's most important cult centres, dedicated to Osiris, God of the afterlife.

After the excursion (for those who choose to join), return to the boat and continue the journey north toward Sohag. Spend the evening on board with entertainment and overnight in Sohag.

Optional Excursion (not included in the tour price):

- Temple of Abydos - £119 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 10: Monastery of Prince Tawdrous and Tel El Amarna

Cruise from Sohag toward Tel El Amarna, passing through the Asyut Lock. Along the way, a guided explanation as you view Prince Tawdrous Monastery from the boat, an important Coptic Christian landmark on the Nile.

Arrive at Tel El Amarna and overnight on board.

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 11: In the Footsteps of Akhenaten

Today, you may choose to join an optional excursion to explore the ancient city of Tel El Amarna, the short-lived capital of Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti. Here you'll see the Northern Tombs, the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, the Northern Palace, and the Small Temples of Aten, all reflecting Egypt's brief experiment with monotheism.

Continue to Ashmunein, once a centre dedicated to Thoth, and then on to Tuna El Gabal, famous for its catacombs, animal necropolis, and painted tombs that blend Egyptian and Greco-Roman traditions. Afterwards, relax on board as you sail to Minya for an overnight stay.

Optional Excursion (not included in the tour price):

- Tel El Amarna - £114 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 12: Beni Hassan Tombs and Sailing to Beni Suef

You may choose to join an optional excursion to the cliffs of Beni Hassan, where rock-cut tombs reveal colourful scenes of daily life, wrestling, agriculture, and foreign delegations from over 4,000 years ago. Among the most impressive are the tombs of Baqet III, Khety, Amenemhat, and Khnumhotep II. After the visit (for those who join), the boat will continue sailing towards Beni Suef, where you can enjoy the changing Nile landscape. Overnight in Beni Suef.

Optional Excursion (not included in the tour price):

- Beni Hassan - £89 pp

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 13: Arrival in Cairo and Old City Tour

Sail into Cairo and step ashore for a tour through the vibrant old city. Stroll along Al-Muizz Street and lose yourself in the colourful alleys of Khan El Khalili Bazaar, where spices, handicrafts, and souvenirs fill every corner. Return to your boat for overnight in Cairo.

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 14: Farewell Egypt

After breakfast, disembark from your boat and transfer to Cairo International Airport for your flight home, carrying unforgettable memories of sailing the full length of the Egyptian Nile from Luxor to Cairo.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Your journey through Egypt combines comfort and character, with each stay carefully selected to complement your travel experience. From a stylish modern base in Cairo to the timeless charm of a Nile cruise and the romance of travelling by sleeper train, you'll enjoy quality accommodation, warm hospitality, and a relaxed atmosphere throughout your stay.

CAIRO – 4★ BARON HOTEL

Ideally located in the elegant district of Heliopolis, the 4★ Baron Hotel offers a welcoming blend of comfort, convenience, and traditional Egyptian hospitality. Overlooking the historic Baron Empain Palace, the hotel provides easy access to both Cairo International Airport and the city's major attractions. Guests can relax in spacious, well-appointed rooms featuring modern amenities, enjoy international cuisine at the main restaurant, or unwind with a drink at the rooftop bar while taking in panoramic city views.



CAIRO – 5★ HILTON PYRAMIDS GOLF

Set within the prestigious Dreamland Golf Resort, the 5★ Hilton Pyramids Golf offers a luxurious retreat just a short drive from the Grand Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids of Giza. Surrounded by lush fairways and tranquil lakes, the hotel combines resort-style relaxation with easy access to Cairo's ancient wonders. Guests can unwind in spacious, elegantly furnished rooms with private balconies, indulge in a choice of international restaurants and bars, or rejuvenate at the spa and outdoor pool.



ACCOMMODATION

NILE CRUISE – Q NILE CRUISE (5★)

Q Nile Cruise offers a five-star experience and a calm, exclusive way to explore the Nile through a resort-style sailing journey, complete with all facilities designed for relaxation and enjoyment.

Onboard highlights include two restaurants with à la carte and buffet dining, wellness and fitness facilities, yoga sessions, a beauty centre, a swimming pool, lounges, retail space, and spacious outdoor areas. Themed dinners and attentive service complete a modern premium Nile experience.



SLEEPER TRAIN – CAIRO TO ASWAN

Travelling by sleeper train offers both comfort and a touch of old-world adventure. Cabins are designed to European standards, with twin bunk beds, private washbasins, and dedicated attendants providing bed linen and evening meals served airline-style in your compartment. Wake to the scenery of the Nile Valley unfolding outside your window, making your journey as memorable as the destinations themselves.



FAQs

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE FOR EXCURSIONS DURING THE TRIP?

For all guided excursions on this trip, the maximum group size will be 35 people to ensure a comfortable and personalized experience. Please note that while on the Nile cruise, the number of guests on board will naturally be higher, but excursions and activities off the boat will adhere to this maximum limit.

CAN I BOOK OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ONLINE?

Optional excursions cannot be booked online at the time of reservation. However, they can be easily added after booking by contacting our Operations team, who will be happy to assist with adding your chosen experiences to your itinerary.

VISAS

British passport holders require a visa for travel to Egypt.

You can apply online for an e-visa, which is valid for up to 3 months, or you can obtain a visa on arrival at the airport before immigration. Please note that your passport should also be valid for at least 6 months from arrival into Egypt. Please check the FCDO website for more information.

HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

Please note that there are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter Egypt. However, we recommend consulting your GP or a travel health clinic before you travel to ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date and to receive any personalised health advice.

TIPPING

Tipping is customary on Nile cruises and is an important part of the local tourism industry. Most cruise operators, including ours, operate a pooled gratuity system, where guests leave a contribution at reception at the end of the cruise that is shared amongst the onboard crew.

As a guide, we recommend allowing approximately US\$5 per person, per night for cruise staff, with additional gratuities for the Tour Guide at your discretion, given directly to the guide.

SHOPS

Throughout the itinerary, there will be some stops at local shops. If you'd prefer not to participate, please let your guide know. While these shops may be slightly more expensive, they offer the reassurance of guaranteed returns, even after you've returned home.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

This tour is suitable for most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It includes activities such as climbing steep stairs, walking on uneven ground during excursions, and getting on and off coaches, vehicles, and boats.

CURRENCY

The official currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP), but USD is widely accepted. We recommend exchanging some currency before leaving the UK for convenience. However, cash machines are readily available in all major cities, allowing you to withdraw money in the local currency if needed.