



Best of the Nile: Total Solar Eclipse

9 Night Group Tour

In August 2027, the heavens will unveil one of nature's most extraordinary spectacles - a total solar eclipse - when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun, casting a breathtaking shadow that turns daylight into darkness. Egypt lies directly in the path of totality, offering front-row seats to this rare cosmic alignment, set against the timeless backdrop of the Nile.

The Best of the Nile: Total Solar Eclipse journey combines this once-in-a-lifetime event with an unforgettable exploration of Egypt's ancient treasures. Admire the remarkable collections of the Grand Egyptian Museum, stand in awe before the Pyramids of Giza, and sail the legendary Nile River in comfort and style.

This exceptional voyage invites you to witness one of the universe's greatest wonders while tracing the footsteps of pharaohs - a journey where time, nature, and civilisation converge in perfect harmony.

Highlights:

- Witness the 2027 Total Solar Eclipse in Luxor.
- Explore the Grand Egyptian Museum and Tutankhamun's treasures.
- See the Great Pyramids of Giza and the mysterious Sphinx.
- Visit the temples of Abydos and the colourful Red Monastery.
- Sail the legendary Nile River on a relaxing cruise.
- Visit the awe-inspiring temples of Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, and Edfu.
- Explore the magnificent Valley of the Kings and the grand temples of Karnak and Luxor.

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 air-conditioned vehicles or buses, overnight sleeper train
- Accommodation: 9 nights total duration - 2 nights Cairo, 2 nights sleeper train, 1 night Sohag, 4 nights Nile River Cruise
- Meals: 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 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* Novotel 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.

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 Sohag

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 3: Sohag and Abydos Adventure

Your journey begins as you arrive at Sohag Railway Station and transfer directly to your floating hotel on the Nile. After enjoying breakfast onboard, set out on a full day excursion into the heart of Upper Egypt's spiritual heritage.

Visit the atmospheric Red Monastery, with its vivid frescoes that still glow with colour after more than a thousand years. Continue onwards to the sacred Temple of Abydos, built by Seti I and revered as the holy centre of Osiris worship.

After a day steeped in legend and history, return to your hotel for lunch and dinner, spending the night moored in Sohag.

ACCOMMODATION: MS Coral I or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 4: Arrival in Luxor and Eclipse Viewing

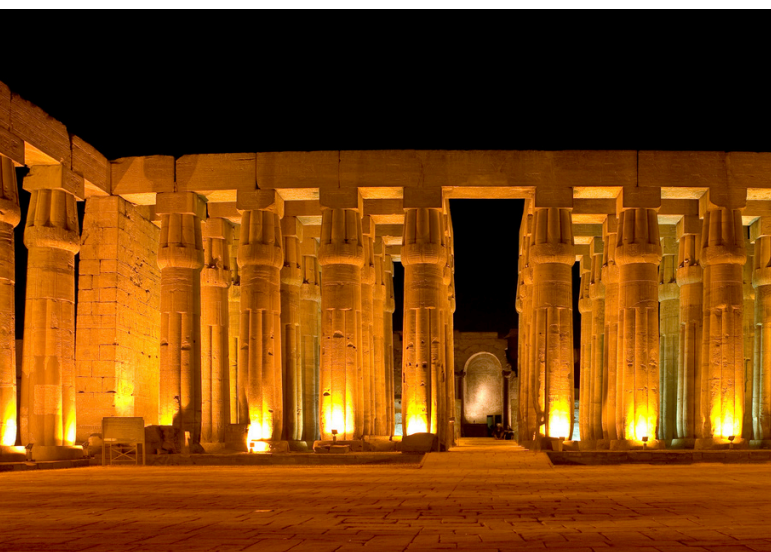
This morning, travel by private bus to Luxor, the city of pharaohs and legends. Here, a once in a lifetime moment awaits as you witness the Total Solar Eclipse from the deck of your Nile Cruise.

Alternatively, you may choose to join an optional open-air BBQ experience (at an additional cost), set in a stunning green field location. Shuttle transfers are included, and the site offers comfortable seating with umbrellas, refreshments, and a unique viewing setup for this extraordinary event.

In the evening, settle into your cruise and step ashore to explore the illuminated Luxor Temple, glowing with history under the night sky. Return onboard for dinner and spend the night moored in Luxor.

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 5: West Bank and Karnak

Rise early to cross the Nile to Luxor's fabled West Bank, where the Valley of the Kings reveals the tombs of Egypt's mighty pharaohs.

Continue to the elegant Temple of Hatshepsut, a masterpiece of terraces rising from the desert cliffs, and pause before the towering Colossi of Memnon, silent guardians of the Theban necropolis. Returning to the East Bank, explore the awe-inspiring Karnak Temple, the largest religious complex of the ancient world.

In the afternoon, your cruise sets sail southward, gliding along the timeless river towards Edfu, where you spend the night onboard.

Please note:

Your 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 6: Temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo

This morning, step ashore in Edfu to explore the grand Temple of Horus, one of the best-preserved sanctuaries in all of Egypt, where towering columns and intricate carvings still honour the falcon god.

As your ship continues its graceful journey along the Nile, you arrive at Kom Ombo, home to the remarkable twin temple dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, the falcon god. Later, sail onwards to Aswan, where your cruise moors for the night beneath the southern skies.

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 7: Highlights of Aswan

Begin the day in Aswan, where modern engineering meets ancient history.

Visit the monumental High Dam, before continuing to the vast quarries to see the Unfinished Obelisk, still lying in the rock as though its carvers had just stepped away.

Then sail to the enchanting island of Philae, where the Temple of Isis rises gracefully from the waters. In the afternoon, relax aboard a traditional felucca, under the golden Aswan sun.

ACCOMMODATION: Q Nile Cruiser or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 8: Abu Simbel and return to Cairo

Rise before dawn for an optional but unforgettable journey to the awe-inspiring temples of Abu Simbel (at an additional cost), carved by Ramses II and guarded for eternity by colossal statues gazing over the desert. This is one of Egypt's most magnificent monuments, and witnessing it is an experience not to be missed. In the evening, bid farewell to Aswan as you transfer to the station and board the sleeper train, settling in for an overnight journey back to Cairo.

ACCOMMODATION: Overnight train from Aswan to Cairo

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 9: Historic Cairo and Cultural Farewell

After an early breakfast, you will arrive in Cairo, where you will be met at the railway station and transferred to your hotel for check-in.

In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of Al-Muizz Street, famous for its stunning mosques and Islamic architecture. The tour will conclude with your final shopping stop at the vibrant Khan El Khalili Bazaar.

In the evening, you will have the option to enjoy an authentic dinner at Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant (at an additional cost), named after the Nobel Prize-winning novelist and inspired by his famous work *Zuqaq al-Midaq* (Midaq Alley).

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Novotel Cairo or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

Day 10: Farewell Egypt

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and transfer to Cairo Airport for your flight back home to the UK.

As you leave Egypt behind, carry with you not just souvenirs but a lifetime of memories – from standing in awe beneath the shadow of the total solar eclipse, to wandering among temples that have stood for millennia, to sailing the timeless waters of the Nile.

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★ NOVOTEL CAIRO

Located just 15 minutes from the Grand Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids of Giza, the Novotel Cairo offers a contemporary and welcoming retreat after a day of exploration. The hotel features spacious rooms with modern amenities, an outdoor swimming pool, fitness centre, and a choice of international dining options. With friendly service and convenient access to Cairo's major sites, it provides an ideal balance of comfort and practicality for your time in the capital.



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.



ACCOMMODATION

SLEEPER TRAIN – CAIRO TO SOHAG / 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

ARE ECLIPSE GLASSES INCLUDED?

Eclipse glasses are not included in your tour package. We recommend bringing your own pair of certified solar eclipse glasses to safely enjoy this rare celestial event.

WHY DO I NEED SPECIAL GLASSES?

Looking directly at the sun — even during a partial eclipse — can cause serious and permanent eye damage, including retinal burns. Only ISO-certified solar eclipse glasses provide the proper protection to safely view the eclipse.

WHAT IS THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THIS SPECIAL DEPARTURE?

To secure your place on this once-in-a-lifetime journey, the full balance is required at the time of booking.

WHAT IF MY PLANS CHANGE?

We understand that flexibility is important when planning a special trip.

Up until 31st Jan 2026 you will receive a 90% refund if you need to cancel.

From 1st February 2026 you will receive a 75% refund if you need to cancel.

From 1st February 2027, the holiday become non-refundable, as final preparations for this exclusive experience will be underway.

We recommend securing comprehensive travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

FAQs continued

WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE ECLIPSE EXPERIENCE?

The Ultimate Eclipse Experience is an optional open-air eclipse viewing barbecue. Guests will enjoy a specially arranged greenfield setting with chairs and umbrellas for comfort, along with refreshments and a barbecue lunch. This provides a relaxed and scenic way to watch the eclipse while enjoying good food and company.

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.

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.