

# Egyptian Splendor River Cruise

**10 DAYS – FLY TO AND RETURN FROM CAIRO, EGYPT**

*Voyage through the Kingdom of the Pharaohs, marvel at King Tutankhamun's treasures, visit the enigmatic Sphinx, and see the Great Pyramids of Giza.*

Fly to Aswan for a 4-night Nile River cruise to Luxor. Visit the Aswan Dam, Temple of Isis, Valley of Kings and Valley of Queens and Luxor Temple. Ride through Edfu to the Temple of Horus, visiting colorful local bazaars and exploring the stunning monuments of Karnak.

**DAY**

**1 HOME CITIES to CAIRO, EGYPT:** (Overnight Flight) Friday. Begin your exciting holiday with an overnight flight to Cairo.

**2 CAIRO:** (2 nights) *Saturday.* A welcome drink awaits you at your hotel; settle in and start soaking up the atmosphere of this exciting city.

**3 CAIRO:** *Sunday.* Meet your Egyptologist and travelling companions at 8:00 a.m. Sightseeing in and around Africa's largest metropolis starts at the EGYPTIAN MUSEUM with Tutankhamun's fabulous treasures, an exciting first encounter with the splendor of three millennia of Egyptian civilization. Then, leave for ancient MEMPHIS to admire the 40-foot statue of Ramses II and the Alabaster Sphinx. On to SAKKARA'S "stairway to the sky," the oldest of all pyramids. At GIZA, take a close-up look at the enigmatic SPHINX and the daunting Great Pyramids. Cheops, with an original height of 496 feet, is the most colossal pyramid ever built. A suggestion for tonight: enjoy an optional dinner cruise on the Nile River. *Meals included: breakfast.*

**4 CAIRO to ASWAN:** *Monday.* Enjoy time this morning for independent activities or join an optional excursion to walled Old Cairo. Saladin's 12th-century Citadel, the Alabaster Mosque, and the labyrinthine bazaar are well worth a visit. In the afternoon, fly 500 miles up the Nile Valley to the lovely resort town of Aswan. *Meals included: breakfast, dinner.*

**5 ASWAN:** *Tuesday.* Morning at leisure in Aswan. You may want to join an optional flight (weather permitting) to the huge sandstone temples of Abu Simbel. Then, check into your elegant river-ruise vessel in time for lunch. In the afternoon, a special treat: board a felucca and sail right across the blue waters of the river. Enroute, see the ancient "nilometer" on Elephantine Island, Kitchener Island's lush BOTANICAL GARDENS, and the splendid Aga Khan Mausoleum on the left bank. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

**6 ASWAN to KOM OMBO:** *Wednesday.* Take a morning excursion to the turn-of-the-century OLD DAM—to this day the widest dam in the world—and to the gigantic Aswan HIGH DAM, completed in 1970. Board a motor launch to the island of Agilika between the two dams and visit the TEMPLE OF ISIS, transplanted from the submerged island of Philae. Also stop at the ancient GRANITE QUARRIES to see the famous unfinished obelisk. Before lunch, start your leisurely cruise down Egypt's river of destiny. Dock at KOM OMBO for a short walk



**2010 DEPARTURE DATES**  
**10 Days: October 29**  
**2011 DEPARTURE DATES**  
**10 Days: January 28,**  
**February 25**  
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to its bluff-top temple dedicated to the crocodile and falcon gods. Haggle for bargains in the local market before returning to the boat. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

**7 KOM OMBO to LUXOR:** *Thursday.* Board a horse-drawn carriage for the drive through Edfu to the TEMPLE OF HORUS with its menacing black stone statue of the falcon god. Built in the time of Cleopatra about 2,000 years ago, it is recent by Egyptian standards and beautifully preserved. See white-clad farmers with their donkeys, camels, and water buffaloes work lush, green fields. Ever present on the horizon beyond the palm trees is the desert. Tonight, dock at Luxor and take advantage of the optional sound and light show at Karnak. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

**8 LUXOR:** *Friday.* Focus on the VALLEY OF KINGS and VALLEY OF QUEENS on the west bank of the Nile, where generations of pharaohs and nobles were buried in great splendor in crypts cut into the cliffs. Sixty-two royal tombs have been uncovered so far, of which only the tomb of Tutankhamun was nearly intact when discovered in 1922. Visit DEIR EL-BAHRI, Queen Hatshepsut's monumental rock temple. Stop for pictures at the two COLOSSI OF MEMNON guarding the valleys. The afternoon is dedicated to LUXOR TEMPLE. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

**9 LUXOR to CAIRO:** *Saturday.* Experience a grand finale to your sightseeing in the Nile Valley with the stunning monuments of KARNAK, the greatest city of ancient Egypt. To walk among the pillars of the colossal TEMPLE OF AMON RA and along the AVENUE OF THE SPHINXES is an experience you will treasure the rest of your life. Afterward, a late-morning flight takes you from Luxor back to Cairo. An afternoon at leisure lets you catch up on your postcard writing and souvenir shopping. Tonight's optional sound and light show at Giza might be just the way to top off an exciting touring adventure. *Meals included: breakfast.*

**10 CAIRO:** *Sunday.* Your tour ends, leaving you with many pleasant memories of a wonderful holiday. *Meals included: breakfast.*

**DAY YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

- 1** Overnight flight
- 2 – 3** Cairo: Oberoi Mena House (garden view) or Fairmont Heliopolis
- 4 – 5** Aswan: Mövenpick Resort Aswan
- 6 – 8** Nile Cruise: Royal Lotus
- 9** Cairo: Oberoi Mena House (garden view) or Fairmont Heliopolis

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 17 Meals: 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners
- Egyptian Museum
- Sphinx
- Old Dam
- Granite Quarries
- Valley of Kings
- Deir El-Bahri
- Luxor Temple
- Avenue of Sphinxes
- Memphis
- Botanical Gardens
- High Dam
- Kom Ombo
- Valley of Queens
- Colossi of Memnon
- Temple of Amon RA
- Sakkara's
- Temple of Isis
- Temple of Horus