

SECRETS OF EGYPT

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for **Cairo Egypt**.

Day 2: Upon arrival meet your guide and transfer to hotel

Day 3: Meet your guide and depart to visit one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the **Great Khufu's (Cheops) Pyramid** dating 2690 BC. Explore the rest of the **Giza plateau** including the sight of Khafre's Pyramid. Khafre was Khufu's son and is the second largest Pyramid on the Giza strip. See also the smallest Pyramid the Mecernes Pyramid. Spend time wondering at the iconic **Sphinx**. Visit ancient **Memphis**, 20 km South of Cairo which was the capital of Egypt as well as the **ancient burial ground Sakkara** a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating 4750 years ago. See the famous Step Pyramid. Tonight take the sleeper train to **Luxor**.



Day 4: Arrive Luxor. Luxor was the ancient city of Thebes and was the capital of Egypt in the New Kingdom. Today because the ruins of temple complexes are found within the modern city it is considered to be an open air museum. Transfer to your **Nile Cruise**. This afternoon visit the impressive **Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple**. Karnak is the second largest ancient religious site in the world. Approximately 30 pharaohs contributed something to this massive structure. Luxor Temple was founded in 1400 BC.

Day 5: Morning excursion to the **Valley of the Kings**, home to the tombs of the great pharaohs of the New Kingdom (1550 – 190 BC). The tombs are well hidden with only 63 of them known and 15 open to the public. Perhaps the most famous but not the most important one is that of **Tutankhamun**. **Queen Hatshepsut** was the first known for certain to build a tomb within the valley. Today visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and the **Colossi of Memnon** two gigantic statues guarding the mortuary tomb of Amenhotep III. After lunch sail to **Edfu**.



Day 6: Visit the well preserved **Ptolemaic Temple** dedicated to Horus at Edfu. It is considered the best preserved cult temple in all of Egypt. Then sail to Kom Ombo to see the **Temple of Sobek the crocodile god**. Continue sailing to **Aswan**.

Day 7: Start your morning early today for your visit to Abu Simbel. When the Aswan Dam was created, the waters of the Nile River threatened to submerge the two temples built by the Egyptian King Ramses II. In the 1960's the Egyptian Government and UNESCO sponsored a project to save the site and by means of a complex engineering feat these temples were dismantled and reconstructed 200 feet (60 metres) above their previous site. Some 16,000 blocks were moved. This afternoon sail around **Elephantine Island** on a local felucca boat.

Day 8: Enjoy a day's sightseeing in Aswan. See the High Dam and then the Temple of Philae which is devoted to the goddess Isis and **Hathor**. Tonight board your sleeper train for return to Cairo.

Day 9: Arrive this morning in Cairo. Explore the treasures of the **Egyptian Museum** which is famous for its antiquities from Egypt's pharaoh periods and dates back some 50 centuries. Later discover spiritual Cairo which includes Coptic Cairo. Visit the famous Hanging Church, the crypt where the holy family took shelter for 2 weeks during their flights from Jerusalem to Egypt and the **Old Synagogue** where the prophet Moses prayed to God to save the Israelis from the pharaohs. Then discover Islamic Cairo and the Khan el Kalili market.



Day 10: Today transfer to the airport for your flight home.

POSSIBLE EXTENSION: The White desert is made up of unusual white rock formations, the result of erosion of the limestone bases, over centuries of wind blowing through the desert. The shapes are incredible, defying gravity with their small bases holding up huge rocks. Everywhere you look, different formations rise up out of the desert floor, forming a variety of shapes. Colors change with the changing light of the day, with moonlight giving an eerie feel to the snowy looking surroundings and sun turning the rocks into delicate pink and orange hues. Camping out in the desert gives the opportunity to see the changing colours of this incredible landscape. You will also get to see desert foxes that seem to have a radar for camp fires and the possibility of scraps of food. The ride into and out of the White Desert is an experience in itself. 4x4 jeeps bump through the desert roads. Lunch will be at el haiz Village where you can refresh in a warm water spring. Stop at Al agabat for photographs. Overnight in a tent. Day 2 drive to the black desert which is an area covered with volcanic shaped mountains. Back to Cairo before sunset.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare Cairo
- Return airport / train/ cruise transfers
- Assistance upon arrival
- 2 overnight sleeper train transfers
- 4 night Nile Cruise
- All coaching throughout tour as described in itinerary
- 8 nights accommodation:
 - o 2 on train
 - o 4 nights on cruise
 - o 2 nights hotel
- Breakfast daily
- Lunches aboard cruise
- Dinners aboard cruise
- Guided sightseeing tours / visits including entrance fees
 - o Great Pyramids and Giza
 - o Memphis and Sakkara
 - o Karnak Temple
 - o Luxor Temple
 - o Valley of the Kings
 - o Horus Temple at Edfu
 - o Kom Ombo Temple of Sobek
 - o Abu Simbel
 - o Felucca ride on Nile
 - o Temple of Philae
 - o Egyptian Museum
 - o Hanging Church
 - o Old Synagogue

