

INSPIRING  
VACATIONS

## 12 Days Egypt Experience

Cairo

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Travelling with Inspiring Vacations allows you to explore the wonders of the world in a variety of different ways. We have partnered with a worldwide network of local travel experts to bring you culturally unique and delightfully unforgettable travel experiences. Whether it is meandering through narrow canyons by rail, cruising the idyllic waters of the Mediterranean or touring through t...

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## TOUR ITINERARY



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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1

Destination	Cairo
Meals included	
Hotel	Hotel in Cairo, or similar

Salaam Aleikum! Welcome to Egypt. You'll be met on arrival at Cairo International Airport and transferred to your hotel, and your Egyptian adventure begins with an important welcome meeting at 6 pm this evening. Cairo is one of the great cities of antiquity and its history can be symbolised by two imposing landmarks – the Pyramids of Giza and the Mosque of Mohammed Ali. If you have some time spare, perhaps get out and explore the busy streets of this city of contrasts – from donkey carts to expensive cars, desert slums to modern shopping malls. You could also travel along the river by felucca – a traditional wooden sailboat – or head out to explore the Khan al-Khalili markets.

#### Included Activities:

- Complimentary Airport Arrival Transfer

#### Special Information:

- It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

The arrival transfer is only valid if arriving on Day 1 or if you have booked pre-trip accommodation through Intrepid. Please provide your flight details at the time of booking, or at a minimum 14 days prior to travel, as we may not be able to confirm a request made within 14 days of travel.

### DAY 2

Destination	Cairo
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel in Cairo, or similar

This morning after breakfast you'll see some of the world's most iconic sights – the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Explore these structures that have stood tall for over 4500 years, and for an additional charge, you may be able to go inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu, although occasionally it's closed to visitors. Afterwards, your adventure continues to the Egyptian Museum, home to one of the world's great collections of ancient artefacts. Wander the treasure-filled halls, and make sure to check out the optional Mummies Hall for a close encounter with some of the country's most important

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queens and pharaohs. The masses of gleaming artefacts recovered from the tomb of Tutankhamun are an impressive sight – from jewellery to the famous golden death mask and his gilded sarcophagi, this pharaoh was certainly prepared for the afterlife.

### Included Activities:

- Cairo - Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx
- Cairo - The Egyptian Museum headset
- Cairo - Egyptian Museum

### Special Information:

- The inside thoroughfares of the Pyramids of Giza are very small and very warm, so for those suffering from claustrophobia, it is not recommended. Please note that you'll be required to walk around the Pyramids complex. It can be very hot in the summer months, so be prepared for little shade and pack appropriate clothing, sun protection, and carry lots of water.

### DAY 3

Destination	Alexandria
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel in Alexandria, or similar

Jump in a private van today and drive to the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria (approximately 3 hours). Egypt's second-largest city and main port, locals call this vibrant city the Bride of the Mediterranean Sea. The Greek architect Dinocrates built Alexandria in 331 BC under the orders of Alexander the Great. The city, immortalising Alexander's name, quickly flourished into a prominent cultural, intellectual, political and economic metropolis. On arrival, head underground and delve into the mysteries of the Kom ash-Shuqqafa catacombs. This Roman burial site is the largest of its kind in Egypt. The crypts are 20 metres below street level, and what probably began as a small family tomb grew into a labyrinth of chambers that could accommodate more than 300 bodies. Afterwards, stop by the strikingly modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina, inspired by the original great library of Alexandria and built to hold over eight million books. Take some time to stroll along the Corniche and around Fort Qaitbey to enjoy the fresh Mediterranean air.

### Included Activities:

- Alexandria - Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa
- Alexandria - Bibliotheca Alexandrina

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### DAY 4

Destination	Alexandria 🚗 Cairo 🚗 Aswan
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Train	Overnight sleeper train, or similar

This morning, pay a visit to Al Montazah Palace and Gardens. Montazah Gardens is home to two palaces, one built in 1892 and another in 1932 by King Fuad I, and acres of manicured gardens. They are located along the shoreline and flow from splendidly landscaped gardens into great beaches. Soak up the surroundings before returning by private van to Cairo (approximately 3 hours). Take some time to relax or get some snacks before you board an overnight sleeper train to Aswan (approximately 13 hours).

Overnight train journeys are a fast way to cross long distances, allowing you to avoid traffic jams and arrive right into the city centre. You will share two-berth cabins which are comfortable and air-conditioned. All bedding is provided on board by the porter. Western-style toilets are located in each carriage, but we recommend bringing additional toilet paper. Keep in mind general train cleanliness may not be to the same standards you are accustomed to. An included dinner and breakfast are served on board. You may want to purchase something extra beforehand to supplement your meal, particularly if you're a vegetarian as only a single type of meal is served for dinner, which always includes meat. In rare circumstances you may be paired in your cabin with a group member of the opposite sex, depending on the group configuration. On other occasions, you might be sharing with another traveller of the same gender who may not be part of our group, again determined by the group configuration.

#### Included Activities:

- Alexandria - Al Montazah Palace & Gardens

#### Special Information:

- Please note that for the departure on 4th April 2021 we will not take the overnight train due to lack of documented COVID-19 protocols by Egyptian Railways. We will instead replace this journey with a flight.

### DAY 5

Destination	Aswan
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	Hotel in Aswan, or similar

The Nile, Elephantine Island and white-sailed feluccas. Welcome to Aswan – Egypt's southernmost city. Its easy-going

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## TOUR ITINERARY

charm is due in no small part to its large Nubian population. The city is Egypt's southern gateway to Africa and an important market town, so take time here to check out one of the country's best bazaars. When you arrive, you'll explore the beautiful Temple of Isis (the Goddess of health, marriage and wisdom), which was rescued from the rising waters of the Nile and relocated on Philae Island. It's a marvel of decorative pylons featuring some of Egypt's finest carvings – definitely one of the real gems of Upper Egypt. In any free time, you might choose to visit the excellent Nubian Museum, which showcases the history, art and culture of the Nubians. This evening you'll experience modern Nubian culture firsthand with a visit to a nearby village. Join a local Nubian family for a memorable dinner and get an insight into the daily life of the local people.

### Included Activities:

- Aswan - Nubian Village Visit and Dinner
- Aswan - Philae Temple

### DAY 6

Destination	Aswan ✈️ Abu Simbel 🏛️ Nile River
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Cruise Boat (Nile River), or similar

This morning, take a short flight (approximately 45 minutes) from Aswan to Abu Simbel, where you'll explore some magnificent temples. Built by Ramses II, it was the gateway to Egypt for Southern Africans and its imposing facade clearly delineated the line between what was the Pharaoh's land and what was not. With the four gargantuan statues of Ramses guarding the Great Temple, carved directly out of the mountain on the west bank of the Nile, this is one of Egypt's most memorable sights. Return from Abu Simbel and transfer to meet your Nile cruise boat. Enjoy a fantastic mix of total relaxation and organised sightseeing on a Nile River Cruise to Luxor.

Your included flight to Abu Simbel from Aswan will be early, usually around 7 am. You will have two hours on site which includes transport to and from the temple. The expected arrival back to Aswan is before midday (12 pm). Due to scheduling and availability, these times may change. On rare occasions, the group may be split over several flights or this included activity may take place tomorrow before setting sail from Aswan. If this occurs, an additional local guide will join you to ensure that full guiding services are included at the temple for the entire group.

The total duration of the Abu Simbel Excursion will be between 4-5 hours.

### Included Activities:

- Abu Simbel - Abu Simbel temples

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## TOUR ITINERARY

- Aswan - Felucca Sail

### Special Information:

- Please note that for the departure on 4th April 2021 due to flights being cancelled we will travel by private vehicle (approximately 3.5 hours each way) to and from Abu Simbel.

### DAY 7

Destination	🚢 Nile River 🚢
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Cruise Boat (Nile River), or similar

Continue your leisurely cruise down the Nile, with today's stop at Kom Ombo Temple, north of Aswan. Built on a high dune overlooking the Nile, the complex sits picturesquely ruined on the river's edge and dates back to the second century BC. The complex is unique because it has a mirror-image design, divided down the middle, with either side dedicated to a different set of gods. One half is known as the Temple of Sobek (the crocodile-headed god of fertility), and it includes details on the Ancient Egyptian's relationship with crocodiles, whom they revered and feared in equal measure. The other half is dedicated to Haroeris (also known as Horus the falcon god), and the whole temple is full of fascinating reliefs. Afterwards, return to the boat and travel upriver, with free time relaxing on the sundeck and taking in the surrounding sights – desert hills forming a backdrop to lush riverbanks, fishermen casting their nets and farmers working their land. This is living.

### Included Activities:

- Izbat Al Bayyarah - Kom Ombo Temple

### Special Information:

- Nile cruise boats are typically very large with a passenger capacity of around 150. All cabins have private facilities and the boat is fully air-conditioned. Evenings will be spent on the boat, so make full use of the boat's facilities where you can relax on the top deck by the pool and watch stunning Nile scenery pass by. All meals are included onboard. Although we use the best possible five-star rated cruise boats available, please note that the local equivalent of five stars isn't to the same standard that you might expect at home. Nile cruise boats are not luxurious, but they are very comfortable and a great way to experience the Nile. Due to varying schedules, we are not able to provide advance notice of which exact boat you'll be sailing on.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 8

Destination	🚢 Nile River 🚢
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Cruise Boat (Nile River), or similar

Today finds you moored near Edfu – a beautifully preserved temple also dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god. You will disembark and discover the lively streets of Edfu town, so get acquainted the bustling town centre and the bazaar. You'll have time to visit the City of Edfu if you wish (please see our notes below regarding visiting Edfu Temple) Back on board, continue towards Luxor passing through the Esna Locks. It is not uncommon to have to queue to proceed through the locks, a great opportunity to check out the process from deck with a cool drink in hand, and listen to the shouts of the many captains as they navigate their way through the various small boats of merchants selling their wares to a captive audience – life on the Nile. Chill out and make the most of the incredible views across one of the world's greatest rivers and your last night on board.

#### Special Information:

- The only mode of transport available to visit the Edfu temple is by locally managed horse and carriages. As a responsible travel-focused business, animal welfare is extremely important to us and we want to ensure that we are not promoting any activities where the working animals are not properly cared for. Unfortunately, some operators of the horse and carriages have been found to be in breach of our animal welfare guidelines and it is, for this reason, we no longer include a visit to the Edfu Temple. In addition to the animal welfare concerns, we have had a substantial amount of feedback suggesting that the experience itself is quite uncomfortable due to the nature of the vendors and local suppliers outside the site. While we recommend that you do not use the horse and carriage to visit the Temple, the decision is ultimately up to you. Edfu is an included port stop on the Nile River cruise schedule.
- The duration of the walk is about 30 mins each way, but be aware the road is busy and there is the risk

### DAY 9

Destination	🚢 Nile River, Disembark Cruise 🚗 Luxor
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel in Luxor, or similar

Your Nile cruise comes to an end in the open-air museum of Luxor – from the spectacular temple complex of Karnak to the Valley of the Kings, Luxor is full of wonderfully preserved reminders of the Pharaohs. Today you'll explore the Karnak Temple, which is perhaps the most impressive of all the ancient Pharaoh's monumental works. One of the world's most celebrated temple complexes, Karnak is a house of the gods built over a period of some 200 years. Your guided tour of this vast temple of impressive pylons, obelisks and chapels will reveal its finest sections, such as the Avenue of Sphinxes

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## TOUR ITINERARY

and the Great Temple of Amun. The rest of the day is free for you to relax, shop in the excellent bazaar (open until quite late) or perhaps experience the atmosphere of a local teahouse.

### Included Activities:

- Luxor - Karnak Temple -Entry Fee

### Special Information:

- Please note that some of the Tombs incur a fee if you choose to take your camera inside. For more information, please speak to your group leader.

## DAY 10

Destination	Luxor
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel in Luxor, or similar

Today you'll hop in a private minivan and discover ancient Thebes. Your first stop is the Colossi of Memnon – two 17-metre-high statues on Luxor's west bank. Continue on to the Valley of the Kings. Buried under the arid hills here are over 60 tombs of pharaohs, many richly decorated with reliefs and paintings. With your leader, explore this place, where the pharaohs of the New Kingdom (16th to 11th century BC) were secretly interred for all eternity, and where discoveries are still being made. Your group leader will explain the history and legends of these remarkable people, and the significance of the many paintings and hieroglyphics, still well preserved in the deepest tombs. You will visit three of the royal tombs and then continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut – a colonnaded building set against high cliffs that create a spectacular natural amphitheatre. The afternoon is yours to explore – perhaps you'd like to shop in the market or visit the world's first Mummification Museum to discover the secrets of pharaonic preservation.

### Included Activities:

- Luxor - Colossi of Memnon
- Luxor - Valley of the Kings (entrance to 3 tombs)
- Luxor - Tomb of Tut Ankh Amun
- Luxor - Hatshepsut Temple

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## TOUR ITINERARY

- You are able to purchase a photo ticket that will entitle you to take photos in any of the three tombs that you visit as part of your tour. The cost of the camera ticket is around EGP 300.
- It is possible to do a hot air balloon over the Valley of the Kings and the Temples of antiquities on the West Bank. Your Leader can reserve this service for you. We use Dream Balloons in Luxor. Pick up will be from your hotel between 0430 and 0500; balloon capacity is 16-25; Cameras are prohibited in the basket but cell phones are allowed. Activity is subject to weather conditions. Payment by card is possible and will attract a 3% bank service fee.

### DAY 11

Destination	Luxor → Cairo
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel in Cairo, or similar

Catch a short flight back up to Cairo this morning (approximately 1.5 hours). On your return to the capital, visit the Islamic parts of the city and the frenetic backstreets of the bazaar with your leader. A labyrinth of narrow streets and passageways, Khan is one of the biggest and oldest markets in the world. The 'Khan', sprawling around an old area known as Al-Azhar, is a quintessentially Cairo experience – a warren of alleys with stalls serving up a succession of intoxicating scenes. You might explore the gold market, 'Perfume Street' and the spice market, where heady aromas hang in the air like a thick blanket of Damascene cloth – which you could purchase next door in the cloth market! Tonight, perhaps gather together you fellow travellers for a celebratory kebab, kofta, sheesha, or all of the above.

#### Included Activities:

- Cairo - Khan al-Khalili bazaar visit

### DAY 12

Destination	Cairo
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

There are no activities planned for the final day and you are free to depart at any time. Please ensure you confirm your hotel check-out time with your leader.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Travel with Intrepid Travel
- Complimentary Airport Arrival Transfer
- Learn about Pharaohs, feluccas, temples and tombs
- See the pyramids, bazaars, mummies and catacombs
- Marvel and discover Egypt in this cultural expedition to its highlights
- Understand how time has stood still and why you'll need a history lesson at every turn
- Lose yourself in the colour and chaos of Cairo's Khan al-Khalili Bazaar
- Stand at the feet of Abu Simbel's monumental temples
- Set sail down the iconic Nile and feel grand in the Valley of the Kings
- With all your comforts cared for and questions answered by knowledgeable local leaders
- Discover Egypt's all the historic, symbolic and pharaonic goods
- 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners

### Fine Print

#### BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

Inspiring Vacations has been globally recognised and awarded for its handling of COVID-19 during the pandemic. The safety and wellbeing of our guests is our highest concern during this time of uncertainty, and we are continuously monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation.

We have adopted the advice of the WHO to ensure all customers can travel with the knowledge of how to travel safely and with confidence.

#### **Australian owned and operated with 100% Australian Customer Service support**

We are proudly 100% Australian owned and operated, with our head office located in Melbourne, Victoria. When you make your booking, you will receive dedicated and ongoing support from our team of travel professionals throughout your booking, up until you are due to depart.

#### **Flexible Date Change Option**

Book now, change later with our Flexible Date Change option. You may select this \$99pp

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## TOUR ITINERARY

option at time of purchase, giving travellers the flexibility to change your date without penalty (subject to availability, less third party costs incurred, plus any applicable surcharges for the new date selected).

Date change must be requested prior to 65 days before your original selected departure date\*. Once inside 65 days of departure, date changes are not permitted. \*some packages may have a varied period in which you can request a date change due to limitations with the third-party provider.

Please refer to our 'Book with Confidence' section for terms and conditions.

The Flexible Date Change option does not cover cost incurred for components not fulfilled by Inspiring Vacations or in the event extra services have been booked with Inspiring Vacations outside of the standard package, including but not limited to airfares, pre/post accommodation or insurance.

### **Cooling off period**

If you change your mind within 7 days of making your booking online, you can request a refund of your initial deposit payment as part of our cooling off period. Once your purchase date falls outside of the 7 day period, our standard terms and conditions will apply.

Please ensure that any request to cancel your booking is received via email to [support@inspiringvacations.com](mailto:support@inspiringvacations.com), including the reason for cancellation.



## TOUR ITINERARY

### HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

#### Deposit & Payments

- Please follow the 'book now' prompts to view the deposit amount
- A second installment will be due 28 days after your initial deposit of 10% per person
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure

#### Booking Process

- 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password
- Then select the red 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the red 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is on request and will be confirmed by Inspiring Vacations once all components of your package have been secured with our partners, please see below for further information

#### Booking On Request

- Your Inspiring Vacations package is made up of multiple components and travel partners. Once your booking is made and passenger details form submitted, we will begin to confirm all of your arrangements. Please note, this process can take several business days to complete
- Once all elements have been confirmed we will send you an email confirmation, if we are unable to confirm we will provide you with alternative dates or offer a full refund of your deposit or re-credit your account if a travel credit was used
- Please DO NOT book any additional services, such as flights, until we have confirmed your Inspiring Vacations package in writing. Inspiring Vacations will not be liable for any fees or charges incurred to change or cancel components not booked by Inspiring Vacations should your selected package be unavailable

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### COVID-19

Due to COVID there maybe disruptions to standard operating schedules of particular components of this itinerary. Should a component be effected a substitute will be confirmed

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prior to departure.

### **Fitness Requirements**

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard.

### **Single Supplement**

Please follow the 'book now' prompts and select 1 passenger to view the single supplement cost

### **Triple Share**

Not Available

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation including, e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

### **Group Size**

Group size varies from package to package. Depending on the services provided, the group size might range from private 2 person experiences up to coaches of 50 people depending on your selected holiday.

### **Tour Type - Independent**

On these packages you will travel from city to city on your own, exploring at your own pace. We have arranged transportation in most cases and day tours for you to see the destination. Enjoy the time and flexibility to linger longer or pick up the pace and see as much as possible. The choice is yours.

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### Children

Children must share a room with parents at all times and are charged the same price as adults.

### EXCLUSIONS

- Flights
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)

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