



ETERNAL EGYPT

Day 1 ***DEPART for CAIRO, EGYPT***

Depart from your hometown today to begin your Egyptian adventure.

Day 2 ***ARRIVE CAIRO***

Today you will arrive at Cairo International Airport. Cairo is the largest city in the Middle East and Africa, and lies at the center of all routes that lead to and from Asia, Africa and Europe. Not only is it Africa's most populous city, it is also the cultural center of the Arab world.

After clearing Immigration and Customs, our local representative will be on hand to welcome you and transfer you to tonight's accommodations.

FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA

Day 3 ***CAIRO***

This morning's tour brings you to the world-renowned Egyptian Museum. In its present-day location, this formidable museum first opened in 1902. Glimpse at Egypt's mysterious past as you view the many artifacts on display. The second floor is filled with treasures from the tomb of King Tutankhamen, and the Museum is replete with the statuary of ancient Egypt, the Royal Mummies and solid silver sarcophagi of the 21st Dynasty Kings.

Savor a felucca lunch while taking in the scenery along the Nile.

In the afternoon, the sights and sounds of the city will surround you on a drive to the Citadel for a panoramic view of the minarets and domes of Islamic Cairo. See the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali, an all-important landmark. Below lies the 14th century Sultan Hassan Mosque, and next door in the Mosque of El Refai are the burial places of Farouk, the last King of Egypt and the Shah of Iran.



Explore the largest and oldest bazaar in Cairo, the Khan El Khalili Bazaar built in 1382 by Sultan Barquq's Master Garkas El Khalili. This is one of Cairo's most important shopping areas today, but more importantly it represents the market tradition which originally established Cairo as a major center of trade. Delight in the brasswork and coppersmith markets or street of the goldsellers. Fill your senses as you visit the spice market, browse thru the multitude of carpets, and perhaps get fitted in local dress, ranging from Bedouin to belly dancing.

Return to the hotel and freshen up in time for tonight's welcome dinner.

FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA

Day 4 CAIRO

Begin your day in the presence of the sole survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - the Pyramids! According to Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, the Great Pyramid of Cheops took the work of 1,000,000 men each year, twenty years to complete. Envision yourself in that time period while riding on a camel. Venture inside a funeral chamber, visit the solar boat of the Pharaohs and gaze at the Great Sphinx of Giza. This legendary creature comprised of the body of a lion and a Pharaoh's head faces the direction of the sunrise, and is glorified as "the greatness of ancient Egypt." Standing 65 feet high, it is carved from a single block of limestone.

This afternoon's excursion takes you to Memphis, Egypt's first capital, where Upper and Lower Egypt were united under the First Dynasty. Visit the magnificent recumbent statue of Ramses II and the 80-ton alabaster Sphinx. Nearby is the Necropolis of Sakkara, where the world's first great stone structure, the Step Pyramid of Zoser is located. Also see the Tomb of Ti, containing fascinating wall decorations, which depict the life and customs of the ancient Egyptians.

FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA**Day 5** CAIRO – LUXOR

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight to Luxor, considered to be the most important destination for any visit to Egypt. Located approximately 420 miles upstream from Cairo, Luxor is "the city of palaces" and the Imperial Capital of Pharaonic Egypt.

Today's emphasis will be on Luxor's East Bank for a fascinating visit of the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. The Temple of Karnak, dedicated mainly to the God Amun-Ra, is built on one side of the Nile while on the other side stands the Temple of Luxor. Between these Temples – built during the New Kingdom era – were beautiful gardens bordered by the extraordinary Avenue of the Sphinxes. This boulevard once fostered hundreds of human-headed lions, which lined both sides of the paved drive.

Board your lovely Nile River cruise ship this afternoon, your home for the next four nights.

M/S SONESTA ST GEORGE I**Day 6** LUXOR – EDFU

The focus of today's sightseeing is Luxor's West Bank where Thebes, the capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom, is located. Thebes was also known as the "City of the Dead," and stands at the head of the famous Valley of the Kings, the burial site for generations of Pharaohs where there are over 65 known beautifully painted tombs. These tombs have been designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO, however, only about ten are actually open at this time.



You'll also visit the Valley of Queens, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at

Day 6 – cont. LUXOR – EDFU

Deir El Bahari and the Colossi of Memnon: a pair of looming towers which sit isolated over the entrance road to the Necropolis and the Temple of Medinet.

Cruise to Edfu this evening for overnight.

M/S SONESTA ST GEORGE I

Day 7 EDFU – KOM OMBO

This morning in Edfu, visit the 2,000-year-old sandstone Temple of Horus. Its foundation was laid in 237 B.C. during the reign of Ptolemy III and took 200 years to complete. It is one of the finest examples of Ptolemaic art in Egypt, and its bas-reliefs offer a vivid picture of life in Ancient Egypt.

Sailing on to Kom Ombo, you'll view the dramatically imposing Ptolemaic Temples of the Crocodile God Sobek and the Falcon Head God Horus.

M/S SONESTA ST GEORGE I

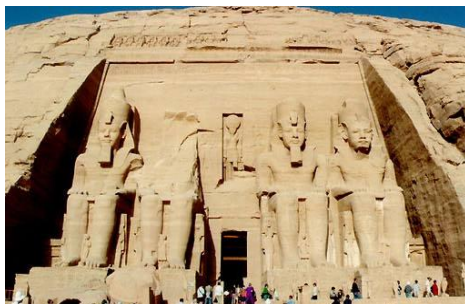
Day 8 KOM OMBO – ASWAN

Arrive in Aswan this morning. Visit the Old Dam and the new High Dam, built to control the flooding of the Nile that for millennia has plagued Egyptian life. Visit the granite quarries where an immense unfinished 1170-ton obelisk illustrates the magnitude of ancient Egyptian skill.

Continue your morning sightseeing visiting the Temple of Philae, a sacred temple complex dedicated to the Goddess Isis. During the 1960's and before the completion of the new Aswan Dam, this temple was partially inundated with water six months of the year. With the assistance of UNESCO over a period of eight years, the Temple of Philae, originally constructed on an island of the same name, was relocated stone by stone to Agilika Island – 65 feet away.

In the afternoon visit the Botanical Garden by felucca, and in the evening relax on board your deluxe cruiser.

M/S SONESTA ST GEORGE I

Day 9 ASWAN – ABU SIMBEL – ASWAN

This morning disembark your cruise ship, and continue by air to arrive in Abu Simbel where one of the most prodigious feats of engineering in the world will be viewed. The entire complex of temples which represented the Great Temple of Ramses II was dismantled prior to the completion of the new Aswan Dam and reassembled at its present location – 90 feet above the old site which is now flooded. Built by Ramses II, this temple complex is 3,300 years old and features two temples near the border of Egypt and Sudan.

Day 9 – cont. ASWAN – ABU SIMBEL – ASWAN

The Great Temple is dedicated to Ramses II, seated along with three other gods; the Small Temple is dedicated to Nefertari, the favorite wife of Ramses II.

Return to Aswan in the afternoon where you are transferred to your overnight accommodations.

MOVENPICK ELEPHANTINE ISLAND RESORT

Day 10 ASWAN – CAIRO

This morning transfer to the airport in Aswan for the return flight to Cairo.



Upon arrival, proceed to discover Coptic Cairo, a part of old Cairo. Here you find the remnants of Babylon Fortress, many churches, and even a synagogue, Egypt's oldest, dating back to the 9th century. Three of the world's four major religions are all present in this one area. It is believed that the Holy Family visited here and stayed at the site of the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus. You will visit the Jewish Synagogue and the Hanging Church, also known as El Muallaqa.

Note: Appropriate dress covering the body, including shoulders and legs, is required for entering both Coptic and Islamic monuments.

In the afternoon, proceed to your luxurious accommodations for the next two nights.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO at the FIRST RESIDENCE

This evening attend the Sound & Light Show at the Pyramids, where preferred seating has been arranged for you.

Day 11 CAIRO

The day is at leisure for independent pursuits in this fascinating city.

In the evening, return to the hotel and celebrate the journey at a farewell dinner party.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO at the FIRST RESIDENCE

Day 12 FLIGHT HOME

Following breakfast this morning, check-out of the hotel and transfer to Cairo International Airport in time for your departure flight.

The journey draws to a close as you board your flight – greatly enriched and enlightened by the sights and experiences you have had in Egypt.

ACCOMMODATIONS



FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA, Cairo Nile view rooms

This beacon of sophisticated hospitality rises on the legendary Corniche along the bank of the river. With commanding views of both the Nile and the Citadel, Four Seasons unites its timeless, caring, personalized attention with the dynamism of fast-forward Cairo.

"This four-year-old hotel, only a 15-minute walk from the Egyptian Museum 'emanates a gracious calm throughout.' "
Condé Nast Traveler - Gold List, January 2009
www.fourseasons.com/caironp/



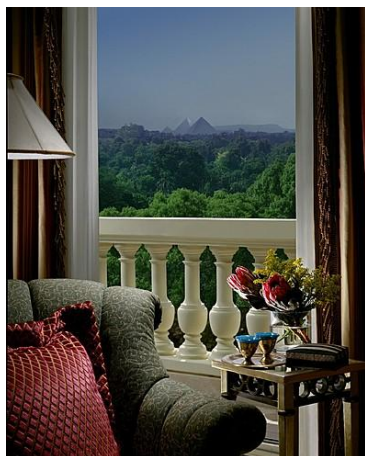
SONESTA ST. GEORGE I, 4-night Nile Cruise Presidential Suites

The newest ship of the Sonesta Nile fleet is the *Sonesta St. George I* Nile Cruise, with 47 deluxe cabins and 10 suites, all featuring the highest quality furnishings and upscale amenities. Noted as one of the most elegant ships on the Nile, the *St. George I* offers a full-service spa and fitness center, restaurant, bars, and nightly entertainment.
www.sonesta.com/NileCruises/index.cfm?fa=stgeorge.home



MOVENPICK ELEPHANTINE ISLAND RESORT, Aswan Superior rooms

A perfect place to relax in some of the most beautiful natural surroundings in Egypt. The Resort is situated on Elephantine Island in the middle of the River Nile, just a few minutes from the city's main attractions by private motor launch.
www.moevenpick-hotels.com/en/pub/your_hotels/worldmap/aswan/overview.cfm



FOUR SEASONS FIRST RESIDENCE, Cairo Premier Pyramid view rooms

A gracious sanctuary of Four Seasons hospitality and service, with impressive views of the Nile and of the Great Pyramids over the old-growth canopy of Cairo's ancient Zoological and Botanical Gardens. The Hotel is at the center of the First Residence apartments and shops on the west bank of the Nile.
www.fourseasons.com/cairofr/