

DREAMS OF EGYPT

Classic | 13 Days | Physical Level 1

Cairo – Alexandria – El Alamein – Luxor – Edfu – Kom Ombo – Aswan – Abu Simbel – Cairo

Steeped in history, romance and legend, a tour of Egypt is one of the grandest adventures a traveller can enjoy. Discover the country from top to toe, from the shores of Alexandria to the immense temples at Abu Simbel, at Egypt's southernmost edge. En route, be entranced by ancient pyramids, medieval catacombs, Coptic monasteries and colossal statues, and enjoy a 5* Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan.

- Travel the full length of Egypt
- Delve into the Catacombs of Alexandria
- Visit the WWII war grave at El Alamein
- Explore the Temples of Karnak and Luxor
- Marvel at the tombs in the Valley of the Kings
- Enjoy a 5* cruise from Luxor to Aswan
- See the incomparable Abu Simbel temples

TOUR MAP



DREAMS OF EGYPT TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Egypt visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites, history and culture of the destination on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis, so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Dreams of Egypt' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces.
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance.
- Visiting inside the Step Pyramid of Djoser at Sakkara requires some crouching to walk down a short sloping tunnel. The tunnel is both the entrance and exit, and you will be able to turn around if uncomfortable. You can opt to wait for the group outside the pyramid if you prefer – there are many alternative things of interest at the Sakkara site.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 13 days in duration including international flights or 11 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on a 'Land Only' package, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to our reservations team.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Cairo and end the tour on Day 12 in Cairo. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Cairo Meals: D

Fly to Cairo, the 'city of a thousand minarets.' You will be met in the arrivals hall by your Wendy Wu Tours representative and transferred to your city centre hotel.

This evening meet your group for dinner and welcome briefing with your Local Guide or National Escort.



Destination Information

Cairo – Egypt's capital, located on the banks of the Nile River, is one of the largest cities in Africa and the Middle East. Chaotically beautiful and brimming with history, it is a true blend of old and new, with modern towers slotting snugly between Fatimid monuments. Though 'Cairo proper' was founded in 969AD, its history runs much deeper. Its roots are in nearby ancient Memphis, founded by Narmer, the southern king who triumphed over the north and to establish a unified Egypt. Cairo's modern status is largely the result of the medieval Islamic Fatimid Caliphate, who founded Fustat (now absorbed into Old Cairo) on the site of the earlier settlements.

Day 3: Pyramids of Giza Meals: B, L, D

Visit Egypt's most iconic sites: the Pyramids of Giza and the unblinking Sphinx, guardian of the mortuary complex. The Sphinx was poetically described by the writer John Lawson Stoddard as "grand in its loneliness; veiled in the mystery of unnamed ages."

After lunch, explore the atmospheric Grand Egyptian Museum with its collections of statues, mummies and pharaonic treasures. Later, explore the Khan el Khalili Bazaar, a souk famed for its precious and semiprecious jewellery.



Destination Information

Pyramids of Giza – The last surviving Wonder of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid of Giza comprises over two million blocks of stone and stands at a height of 479 feet. It is believed to have been intended as the tomb of Egyptian king Khufu (Cheops), who reigned from 2589-2566 BCE. The neighbouring pyramids are those of his son and grandson – Khafre and Menkaure.

The Sphinx – It is unknown what the original Old Kingdom builders of the Sphinx called the monument. In the New Kingdom, it was described as Hor-em-akhet; the 'Horus of the Horizon'. It was not until at least 2,000 years later that it became known as the Sphinx, after a similar Greek creature. The modern Egyptian Arabic name is Abū al Hūl, which translates to 'The Terrifying One', or literally 'Father of Dread'.

Day 4: Old Cairo Meals: B, L, D



Spend the morning exploring Cairo's oldest district, the Coptic Quarter. Discover its Coptic churches and the impressive Christian artefact collection at the Coptic Museum.

Later, continue to Sakkara, an ancient necropolis famed for its painted catacombs and the famous Step Pyramid of Djoser. Built for the Pharaoh by his architect, the high priest Imhotep, this 27th BC structure was Egypt's first ever pyramid. Inside, you'll see wonderful carvings on the alabaster stone walls.

Enjoy time to relax before this evening's dinner.

Destination Information

Coptic Museum – A museum in Coptic Egypt with the largest collection of Christian artefacts in the world. The museum follows the history of Egypt from the beginning to the present day. It is located within the Roman fortress town called Babylon in Old Cairo.

Day 5: Alexandria Meals: B, L, D



Drive approximately 3 hours along the desert road to Alexandria, on Egypt's northern coast. This afternoon, discover Alexandria's breathtaking highlights, from the Roman Ampitheatre to the beautifully carved Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, a 2nd century construction and one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages.

Pause to admire the renovated 15th-century Qaitbay Citadel, once one of the most important defensive strongholds of Africa's Mediterranean coastline.

Destination Information

Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa – An underground archaeological site, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages and are the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt. They consist of three tiers of tombs and chambers cut 35 metres into the bedrock.

Qaitbay Citadel – A 15th Century defensive fortress located at the entrance of the eastern harbor and built upon the ruins of the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It was built for the purpose of defending Alexandria from the advances of the Ottoman Empire.

Day 6: El Alamein & The Monastery of St Macarius the Great Meals: B, L, D



Depart Alexandria and visit nearby El Alamein, the site of two key battles during World War II. The Allied Victory in the second battle was instrumental in ending the Axis threat to Egypt. Visit the military museum and Commonwealth war cemeteries.

Head southeast back to Cairo, stopping en route to visit the historic Monastery of St Macarius the Great, continuously inhabited by Coptic Orthodox monks from the 4th century up to the present day.

Destination Information

First Battle of El Alamein – Fought from 1st – 27th July 1942, the first battle here ended in a stalemate with heavy losses on both sides, but prevented the Axis powers from advancing further into North Africa. The Axis forces (Panzer Army) were commanded by Erwin Rommel, 'the Desert Fox', while the Allied forces were led by Auchinleck.

Second Battle of El Alamein – (23rd October – 11th November 1942) By the time of the second battle, British general Auchinleck had been relieved of command. Harold Alexander and Bernard Montgomery together led the Allied forces to a decisive success against Erwin Rommel, forcing the Axis line back into Tunisia. Montgomery would later go on to command all Allied ground forces in the Battle of Normandy.

Day 7: Fly to Luxor and Cruise Embarkation Meals: B, L, D



Fly 1 hour from Cairo to the city of Luxor, where you will board your 5-star Nile cruise ship before lunch, to begin your journey down the Nile to Aswan.

This afternoon, we visit sites around Luxor's East Bank, exploring the Avenue of the Sphinxes and the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. Both temples are dedicated to the Theban Triad: the sun god Amun the Creator, his consort Mut (mother of the world) and their son Khonsu, god of the moon. Return to the ship for dinner.

Destination Information

Temple of Karnak – Known as Thebes in antiquity, Luxor was the political capital of Egypt in the Middle and New Kingdoms (2160-1065 BC). You will be able to marvel in awe at the majestic Hypostyle Hall which covers an area of 50,000 sq ft and is filled with over 100 gigantic stone columns. The hall was built by Seti I, who inscribed the northern wing, and was added to by later pharaohs such as Ramesses II and Ramesses IV.

Temple of Luxor – Begun by Pharaoh Amenhotep III (1390-1352 BC) and developed by others like Tutankhamun and Ramesses II, the Temple of Luxor is a smaller site but well-preserved. It has a smaller Hypostyle Hall than Karnak.

Avenue of the Sphinxes – A two-mile road lined with sphinx-like statues runs between the temples of Karnak and Luxor. In ancient years, the road was a key part of the Festival of Opet, when the ancient Egyptians would ceremoniously parade the statue of the god Amun-Re from Karnak to Luxor, where it was reunited with its Luxor equivalent. The festival was believed to renew the pharaoh's power.

Day 8: Explore Luxor's West Bank

Meals: B, L, D



Start the day with a visit to Luxor's West Bank, one of the most stunning landscapes in Egypt. Our day begins with a stop at the eerie Colossi of Memnon statues before continuing to the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir-el-Bahari, the mortuary complex of one of Egypt's earliest female pharaohs.

Continue to the Valley of the Kings, burial site of almost all New Kingdom pharaohs of the 18th, 19th and 20th dynasties. Visit the tomb of Tutankhamun, along with some other tombs of your choice. The Valley's many-chambered tombs are richly decorated with vibrant wall paintings depicting the stories of their rule, their gods and legends of the afterlife. This evening, the ship sails to the farming town of Esna.

Destination Information

Colossi of Memnon – 64-foot twin stone statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III, who reigned during the 18th dynasty and founded the Temple of Luxor. The Colossi have survived for 3,400 years; they once flanked the entrance to his lost mortuary temple, which has vanished into the sands.

Temple of Hatshepsut – The mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, located beneath the cliffs of Deir-el-Bahari. It mirrored her predecessor Mentuhotep II's temple, but on a much grander scale as Hatshepsut needed to establish her authority and legitimacy of her reign in a more obvious way than male predecessors.

Day 9: Kom Ombo Meals: B, L, D



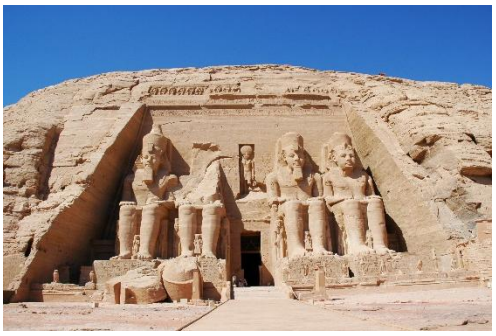
Continue to Edfu, south of Esna, to visit the Temple of Horus and its wealth of inscriptions. Although it was built under the Ptolemaic dynasty, its style appears much older, and it remains impressively intact. During lunch, sail to the agricultural town of Kom Ombo, famous for its Ptolemaic-era twin temples to falcon-headed Horus and crocodile-headed Sobek. This evening, sail towards Aswan, where you will dock for the night.

Destination Information

Temple of Edfu – Built from 237 – 257BC and buried under centuries of sand and silt until the nineteenth century, when French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette rediscovered the site. The complex is one of the most well-preserved sites in Egypt today. Its architecture is very much intact, and the building contains a wealth of legible inscriptions on its walls. It is dedicated to the falcon god, Horus.

Kom Ombo Temple – A symmetrical double temple dedicated to two gods: Horus and the local crocodile god, Sobek. Its twin dedication is clearly reflected in its twin entrances, two linked hypostyle halls with carvings of two gods on either side, and twin sanctuaries. Built under the Ptolemaic dynasty in 180-47BC, it shows many Greek and Roman influences, and even representations of Roman emperors making offerings to Egyptian gods. It was also a site of healing; note the fascinating relief on the rear wall, which depicts ancient medical instruments such as scalpels and forceps.

Day 10: Abu Simbel Meals: B, L, D



Rise early and journey southwest to the iconic temples of Abu Simbel, at Egypt's furthest edge. The Great Temple here is dedicated to Ramesses II, sometimes said to be the greatest pharaoh of the New Kingdom; four 66-foot-high statues of him flank its entrance, and many more enormous statues and halls filled with wall paintings are to be seen inside. To the right of the Ramesses temple entrance is the Small Temple, dedicated to Nefertari (Ramesses' chief queen) and the sky deity Hathor, the symbolic mother of all pharaohs. Drive back to the ship in Aswan, for a relaxed evening and dinner on board.

The drive from Aswan to Abu Simbel takes around three hours, but is almost universally considered worth the journey by all who have visited in the two centuries since its discovery. Many consider it the highlight of Egypt.

Destination Information

Abu Simbel – The temples at Abu Simbel sit on the western bank of Lake Nasser, the largest man-made reservoir in the world. Originally carved out of the mountain in the 13th century BC, they were later buried by sand, until their rediscovery by Swiss researcher Johann Ludwig Burckhardt in 1813. In the 1960s, the temples were threatened by the rising water levels caused by the Aswan Dam; UNESCO saved them by moving them 200 metres from their original location – a phenomenal feat of archaeological engineering.

Day 11: Aswan Highlights

Meals: B, L, D

After checking out your cabin, spend the morning exploring the great monuments around Aswan. You'll visit the 3600-metre long High Dam and the Unfinished Obelisk. After lunch, board a traditional felucca boat and enjoy a relaxing cruise around the area before visiting the majestic Temple of Philae.



Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before flying back to Cairo, where you'll stay in a hotel near the airport ahead of tomorrow's departure.

Destination Information

Unfinished Obelisk – The largest known ancient obelisk, created on the orders of Hatshepsut. It would have been 42 metres if completed; one-third larger than any Egyptian obelisk ever erected. It is carved directly out of bedrock, but cracks appeared in the granite and the project was abandoned. Thirty-six centuries later, it remains visible in the quarry, now an open-air museum.

Aswan High Dam – The world's largest embankment dam, built across the Nile in Aswan in the 1960s. It serves the irrigation needs of both Egypt and Sudan and generates hydroelectric power.

Days 12-13: Depart Cairo

Meals: B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home, arriving the following day.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Egypt, which is issued upon arrival. For Wendy Wu Tours group tours, the cost of the visa is included and it will be arranged for you upon arrival.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN EGYPT:

Egyptian food combines many different elements of Lebanese, Turkish, Syrian, Greek and French dishes. You will find Mediterranean influences in Alexandria, versus spicier Nubian flavours in the south. It is not advisable to drink tap water throughout Egypt. Please ensure you have bottled water with you at all times and remember to use the bottled water supplied or your own bottle. Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for – just make sure to inform us of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Our Egyptian hotels are generally rated as local four to five-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Egypt. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Electricity supplies can be erratic and occasionally the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in Egypt have a reputation for being very congested. Roads in Egypt have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their economic and cultural importance. You may meet 'hawkers' at sites such as the Great Pyramid – if you are not interested, a firm 'no thank you' is usually enough to dissuade them.

DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT:

Although Egypt is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting religious sites, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at religious sites.

GROUP SIZE:

Our groups will be accompanied by a National Escort. There will usually be no more than 24 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides, instead of a National Escort.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Egypt is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. If a visa is required, our Visa Department will be in touch with the paperwork and next steps. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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