



Egypt - Treasures of the Nile!

**5 Star Cruise/Tour From the Giza Pyramids to Stunning Abu Simbel
Including a 5 Day/4 Night Cruise on the Nile River**

JUNE 3 - 12, 2021 10 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

Join us and explore the Treasures of the Nile! A country nearly as old as civilization itself, Egypt brings out the explorer in all of us. With sand-covered tombs, austere pyramids and towering Pharaonic temples you'll be mesmerized by the history of Egypt. Visit the Valley of the Kings in Luxor where Tutankhamen's tomb was unearthed. See the glittering finds in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Hop off a Nile boat to visit Edfu or a colorful spice market in Aswan as you cruise the longest river in the world. A Nile cruise is one of those journeys you feel it imperative to take, at least once in a lifetime. See temples that have stood for thousands of years deeply etched with hieroglyphs that tell the story of an ancient civilization. Relax on the deck of your river boat and watch as donkey-carts lumber past ramshackle internet cafes. You'll find that the sunsets on the Nile are some of the most gorgeous you've seen! The Nile has been the lifeline of civilization in Egypt since the Stone Age and explorers have long been fascinated by the river, people and the ancient tombs and temples that dot the landscape. Travel with us on this very special tour to Egypt and join explorers throughout the ages in discovering the Treasures of the Nile!

Itinerary

June 3, 2021 - Your Journey Begins

Today, you board your international flight bound for **Cairo, Egypt**.

June 4, 2021 - Arrival in the Land of the Pharaohs!

On arrival in Cairo, you'll be met by your **TRIPS representative** who will assist with airport formalities and your hotel transfer. Check in to either the Marriott **Mena House** or Marriott **Omar Khayyam**, two of the most unique hotels in Cairo. Surrounded by 40 acres of gardens, **Mena House** was built as a royal lodge in the 1860s for the Monarch of Egypt, used to rest while visiting the Pyramids at Giza. In 1883, it became the private residence of a wealthy English couple who named it **Mena House** after the first king referenced in the Tablet of Abydos. **Opened as a hotel in 1883**, its played host to the Prince and Princess of Wales, the widow of Napoleon, and Winston Churchill. Similarly historic and luxurious, the lobby of the regal **Omar Khayyam** transports you to 1869 Egypt, when it was built to impress and lodge foreign dignitaries as the official Royal Visitors' Palace. Relax and enjoy dinner on your own this evening in one of your hotel's several fine restaurants.

Overnight: Cairo - Marriott Mena House or Marriott Omar Khayyam

June 5, 2021 - King Tut and the Cave of the Holy Family!

After a leisurely breakfast, begin your exploration of the ancient city of Cairo. First, stop at the fabulous **Egyptian Museum** housing the spectacular collection of **King Tutankhamen** and monuments from all periods of Egyptian history. A **special inclusion** is a visit to the two **Royal Mummies Room**. Not generally included on tours, you'll see mummies of many great Egyptian rulers including **Ramses II** who built the temples at **Abu Simbel**. Then, it's on to the **Citadel**, one of the major works of military architecture of the middle ages. Construction was begun by Salah ad-Din in **1176** and this is where rulers governed Egypt for 700 years. Explore the **Alabaster Mosque** built by Mohammed Ali in the early 1800s with its large dome and Ottoman influenced architecture. After a full day, return to the hotel with the remainder of the day, including dinner, at your leisure. You may choose to

enjoy a spa treatment or relax by the pool with its spectacular views of the Pyramids!

Overnight: Cairo - Marriott Mena House or Marriott Omar Khayyam (B/L)

June 6, 2021 - Great Pyramids of Giza!

Today, you see one of the wonders of the world - the **Great Pyramids of Giza**. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the oldest of the three Great Pyramids and is the only surviving wonder of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**. It was built circa 2560 B.C. and is 481 feet high and covers about 13 acres and was the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years! It is difficult not to be completely overwhelmed as you gaze at **pyramids that have survived for 4,500 years** as dynasties have come and gone, as have Egypt's many foreign invaders and conquerors. Lunch is included today at a local restaurant serving authentic Egyptian food. Continue your tour of Cairo visiting the ancient **Step Pyramid of King Zoser** (27th century BCE) and a tomb at **Sakkara**, the necropolis of pharaohs during the Old Kingdom. On returning to the hotel later today, you have the remainder of the day to relax and enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight: Cairo - Marriott Mena House or Marriott Omar Khayyam (B/L)

June 7, 2021 - Karnak, Luxor and Sailing the Nile!

After breakfast, check out of our hotel and fly to **Luxor**. As the site of the **Ancient Egyptian city of Thebes**, Luxor has been characterized as the "**world's greatest open-air museum**"! Visit the **Temple of Karnak** the second largest ancient religious site in the world after Angkor Wat. **The Great Hypostyle Hall** is comprised of columns in 16 rows that soar 80 feet into the air. As you wander amongst the 134 columns you'll be astounded at the details of carved hieroglyphs that are visible after thousands of years! Continue on to the **Temple of Luxor** where it is said that many of the **Kings of Egypt were crowned**. Parts of the temple were built by the boy **King, Tutankhamen** and Ramses II. Later this afternoon, board **your riverboat** for a **4 night cruise on the Nile**. You are docked in Luxor overnight, so you might choose to explore the city of Luxor and the markets lining the Nile.

Overnight: Luxor - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily (B/L/D)

June 8, 2021 - Valley of the Kings!

Today, visit the **Valley of the Kings**, the burial ground for the great pharaohs who ruled Egypt from the 16th to 11th century BC. It became the **burial ground for Tutankhamun and Ramses II** as well as queens and high priests. These underground, hidden mausoleums were never meant to be seen and contained elaborate preparations for the next world in which humans were promised continuing life. Treasures like the golden masks found with King Tut were found along with more items mundane such as furniture, clothing and food and wine for feasting in the afterworld. Then, visit the **temple of Queen Hatshepsut**, unique because of its architecture. The 12 year old Hatshepsut became Queen when her father died. She often ordered that she be portrayed as a male pharaoh with a beard and muscles. Your final visit today is to the **Colossi of Memnon**, two massive stone statues of **Pharaoh Amenhotep III**. They have **stood for nearly 3,400 years**, originally standing guard at the mortuary temple. Return to your riverboat for lunch, then continue your cruise on the mighty Nile sailing to Edfu.

Overnight: Edfu - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily (B/L/D)

June 9, 2021 - Edfu and Aswan!

This morning, visit the **Temple Edfu**, one of the best preserved in Egypt. Dedicated to the falcon god **Horus**, it was buried under nearly 40 feet of drifting sand over the centuries. In 1860, a French Egyptologist began the work of freeing Edfu resulting in it being nearly intact! Return to the boat and sail to the temple of **Kom-Ombo**, a unique double temple. Half is dedicated to the crocodile god **Sobek**, the other to the falcon god **Horus**. Continue your Nile cruise sailing to Aswan.

Overnight: Aswan - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily (B/L/D)

June 10, 2021 - Spice Market, Aswan Dam and Felucca!

From Aswan, drive to the high **Dam of Aswan**, built during the 1960s. Before being built, the Nile River overflowed its banks yearly and the

dam protects the area from the flood/drought cycle as well as generating hydroelectric power. Then, visit **Philae** an island downstream from the Aswan Dam. Relocated before the dam was completed, the **Temple of Isis** was flooded for six months every year and was disassembled stone by stone and reconstructed. Your next visit is to the Ancient Quarries and the **Unfinished Obelisk** ordered by Hatshepsut around **1400 BC**. If finished, it would have measured nearly 140 feet, however cracks began to appear in the granite and the project was abandoned. Return to your boat for lunch. Later this afternoon, **sail the Nile on a traditional felucca** used for centuries by the Nubian people of Egypt. This evening, enjoy a visit to the **Aswan Spice market** after dinner onboard.

Overnight: Aswan - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily (B/L/D)

June 11, 2021 - Abu Simbel to Cairo!

After breakfast, fly to the **Abu Simbel** temples. Originally carved out of the mountainside during the reign of **Pharaoh Ramses II** as a lasting monument to himself and his queen **Nefertari**, these huge rock relief figures are iconic! The complex was completely relocated in 1968 as part of the Aswan Dam project. Construction began around 1264 BC lasting nearly 20 years and were meant to impress Egypt's southern neighbors. Return to Aswan by air and connect onward to **Cairo** where you'll check in to your hotel for the evening with dinner on your own. Located in the heart of Cairo's diplomatic and presidential neighborhood, you're just a few minutes from the airport. (Your hotel stay may be for a full or a partial overnight due to your return airline departure time.)

Overnight: Cairo - InterContinental Heliopolis (B)

June 12, 2021 - Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!!

After breakfast if time permits, transfer to the airport for your flight home. **Memories of Egypt and your cruise on the legendary Nile will surely last a lifetime!**

**Please note all itineraries are subject to change.

Treasures of the Nile

\$6,298.00

per person/double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional \$1,098.00

Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.
Check with your TRIPS representative for details.

Inclusions

- Round trip airfare from Houston to Cairo, Egypt (please inquire for other gateway cities; checked baggage fees are not included)
- 4 nights deluxe hotel accommodations in Cairo
- Breakfast daily in Cairo
- 2 lunches at local restaurants in Cairo
- All meals while cruising onboard the riverboat
- 5 days/4 nights on the Mövenpick MS Royal Lily riverboat
- All Intra-Egypt flights (Cairo-Luxor; Aswan-Abu Simbel; Abu Simbel-Aswan; Aswan-Cairo)
- All sightseeing and admissions in Cairo including the Egyptian Museum and the specially included Mummies Room, Pyramids in Giza, the Citadel and more
- A traditional felucca ride in Aswan
- All sightseeing, as listed, while onboard the riverboat
- Services of a certified English speaking Egyptologist throughout your tour
- Egypt entry Visa
- All transfers in Egypt
- All hotel and airline taxes

Call today to reserve your space!!!

CST # 2057913-10

Reservations for **"Egypt: Treasures of the Nile"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$500.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour. This deposit is fully refundable up to March 5, 2021.

Final payment must be received on or before March 5, 2021.

100% non-refundable as of March 5, 2021.

Payments may be made by checks made payable to **TRIPS**

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or by credit card by visiting Lamar.edu/cardinaladventures and following the link for this trip.

Please contact Mikki Walker at (818) 253-5472 or mikki@gotripsinc.com with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Your Lamar University contact is Laurie Ritchel, University Travel Programs Coordinator,

who may be reached at (409) 790-4307 or laurie.ritchel@lamar.edu. You may also contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@lamar.edu.

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