



OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

***Program:** a selection of optional excursions available to choose from at the client's preference*



"At Travel Center, we don't create just destinations, we create memories and moments that remain in your heart... exactly the way Egypt is meant to be remembered."



OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM TRAVEL CENTER TEAM

At TRAVEL CENTER, we believe that travel is not simply about moving from one place to another, but about **living experiences that leave a lasting impression.**

We founded this company in 2023 after years of experience in the international tourism sector, working across **Egypt, Brazil, Spain, and Latin America.** This background allowed us to understand not only the destination itself, but also the expectations of travelers and the real needs of our partners.

TRAVEL CENTER was created with a clear vision: to offer a **DMC service in Egypt based on excellence, trust, and true personalization.** We do not design standard trips; we create carefully tailored experiences for each client and each travel agency we work with.

Our philosophy is built on three fundamental pillars: quality in every detail, operational reliability, and the creation of authentic experiences that connect with the essence of the destination. To achieve this, we work exclusively with a carefully selected network of local partners who share our same high standards.

At the same time, we are committed **to innovation and transparency,** incorporating tools that facilitate communication and daily management with our commercial partners. We understand that in the B2B segment, agility and trust are essential.

Our **guides and representatives are carefully selected** from a wide pool of professionals based on excellence, experience, and deep knowledge of the destination. Beyond their qualifications, they stand out for their ability to anticipate travelers' needs and provide a warm, discreet, and highly professional service, ensuring a smooth, enriching, and fully personalized

experience at every moment of the journey. Our multilingual team is available 24/7 to support every operation, providing continuous assistance and ensuring that each trip runs with fluidity, safety, and precision.

Transfers are carried out in **modern vehicles,** either brand new or with a maximum age of one year, designed to ensure the highest level of comfort during all journeys. Equipped with full amenities and meeting the highest safety standards, these vehicles allow guests to enjoy every transfer in complete peace of mind, turning each journey into an integral part of a carefully curated travel experience.

Above all, **our greatest commitment is human:** to ensure that every traveler discovers Egypt in a truly memorable way, with every detail treated as a unique experience. At Travel Center, we understand each journey as something **personal and close;** we are like a family, and we want our clients to feel as comfortable as they would at home while discovering the country. For this reason, our entire team (**management, Egyptologist guides, representatives, and administrative staff**) remains fully at your disposal, ensuring excellence and satisfaction throughout the entire experience.

For us, every partnership is a long-term relationship built on **trust, professionalism, and a passion for creating exceptional experiences.**

Para nosotros, cada colaboración es una relación a largo plazo basada en la **confianza, la profesionalidad y la pasión por crear experiencias excepcionales.**

At Travel Center, nothing makes us happier than seeing our clients truly delighted, enjoying experiences they will carry with them for a lifetime

El equipo de TRAVEL CENTER



OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

TRAVEL ITINERARY OVERVIEW

At Travel Center, we present a **carefully curated selection of optional excursions designed to further enrich your experience in Egypt** and offer a deeper, more exclusive and personalised insight into this unique destination. Each proposal has been selected with special attention to detail, **combining history, culture, and authenticity**, always with the highest level of comfort and service. These experiences allow you to go beyond the main itinerary, accessing **exceptional sites, local traditions, and landscapes that reveal new dimensions of both the Pharaonic legacy and contemporary Egyptian life**. From visits to **iconic monuments to unique cultural encounters and immersive experiences**, these optional excursions are designed for those who wish to experience the journey in a more complete, flexible, and enriching way.

Every stage of the journey has been thoughtfully crafted to ensure seamless comfort, effortless flow, and highly personalized service, delivering an unforgettable experience at the heart of both ancient and contemporary Egypt.

FROM CAIRO

- GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM)
- PYRAMIDS OF MEMPHIS AND SAQQARA (STEP PYRAMID)
- DAHSHUR (RED PYRAMID AND BENT PYRAMID)
- SALADIN CITADEL AND MOSQUE, COPTIC CAIRO, KHAN EL KHALILI BAZAAR
- MOSQUE OF AL-RIFA'I AND MOSQUE-MADRASAH OF SULTAN HASSAN
- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION
- EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (TAHRIR SQUARE)
- SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT THE PYRAMIDS
- ALEXANDRIA
- SIWA OASIS
- BAHARIYA OASIS AND THE WHITE & BLACK DESERTS



OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

FROM THE CRUISE

- HOT AIR BALLOON OVER LUXOR
- SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT KARNAK TEMPLE
- ABU SIMBEL
- SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT ABU SIMBEL
- NUBIAN VILLAGE
- SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT PHILAE TEMPLE
- MEDINET HABU TEMPLE
- DENDERA TEMPLE AND ABYDOS TEMPLE

TRAVEL
CENTER

THE NEW GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

- Visit to the **impressive Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)**, the new jewel of Egypt's cultural heritage and one of the most important and state-of-the-art archaeological museums in the world.

*The **Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo (GEM)**, widely regarded as the most anticipated museum opening globally, has recently inaugurated its first phase after decades of planning and development, opening its initial **12 chronological galleries**. These spaces showcase key pieces that narrate the history of one of the most fascinating civilizations of antiquity, spanning the **Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, New Kingdom, and even the Greco-Roman period**.*

*This initial opening, after **more than 20 years of development** and a major investment, represents a historic milestone, establishing the GEM as the new home of Tutankhamun's treasures and positioning it among the most important museums in the world.*

*Often referred to as "**the fourth pyramid**" due to its scale and significance, the museum goes far beyond a traditional exhibition space, housing more than 100,000 artifacts and offering an immersive cultural experience. Its galleries feature cutting-edge multimedia presentations and virtual reality experiences that create a unique connection between past and present, showcasing Egypt's archaeological and cultural richness in an innovative way.*

*Access to the museum is through a vast plaza designed to evoke the feeling of standing before the Pyramids of Giza. Inside, visitors are greeted by the imposing **statue of Ramses II, over 10 metres high**, located in the main atrium. From the grand staircase, guests ascend to a viewing platform with a glass façade offering spectacular views of the exterior and surrounding historical wonders, reinforcing the museum's deep connection with its iconic landscape.*



PYRAMIDS OF MEMPHIS AND SAQQARA (STEP PYRAMID OF DJOSER)

- The day begins with departure accompanied by your private Egyptologist guide, a specialist in Pharaonic history, to discover **Saqqara**, one of the oldest necropolises in Egypt. Here, you will explore its extraordinary complex of mastabas and funerary monuments that mark the origins of pyramid architecture. Within these ancient tombs, finely carved high and low reliefs can still be seen, depicting beautifully detailed scenes of daily life in Ancient Egypt, with colours that in some cases remain remarkably preserved. These artworks offer a unique insight into their way of life, customs, and beliefs. **The Step Pyramid of Saqqara** is considered the world's first monumental limestone structure.

Optional access to the interior of the Pyramid of Unas, where you may visit its burial chamber lined with alabaster, offering a rare and immersive experience into the funerary rituals of Ancient Egypt. Visit to the tombs of nobles and high officials of the period, where astonishing reliefs and paintings are still preserved in their original colours after more than 4,500 years, providing an exceptional window into everyday life during Pharaonic times.



- Continuation to **Memphis**, the ancient capital of Pharaonic Egypt and one of the most important political and cultural centres of its time. In the open-air museum stands the colossal statue of Ramses II, one of the most impressive sculptures of Ancient Egypt, weighing nearly 100 tons and measuring approximately 13 metres in height (10 metres in its current position).



DAHSHUR (RED PYRAMID AND BENT PYRAMID)

- **Excursion to Dahshur, one of the most fascinating and least crowded archaeological sites of Ancient Egypt**, located south of Cairo. This site is home to some of the earliest large pyramids in history, built during the **reign of Pharaoh Sneferu, father of Khufu**, and represents a key moment in the evolution of Egyptian funerary architecture towards the perfect pyramid form.

*The visit includes the **Bent Pyramid**, one of the most unique constructions of the ancient world, easily recognisable by its **unusual change in slope halfway up its structure**. This architectural adjustment was made due to structural issues during construction, forcing a modification of the original angle and turning it into an exceptional testimony of the experimentation and learning process of ancient Egyptian engineers.*

*Next, visit the **Red Pyramid**, considered **the first true pyramid of Ancient Egypt in terms of fully developed and stable design**. Its name comes from the reddish tone that its limestone blocks acquire over time due to natural oxidation of the iron content in the stone, especially visible in the warm light of sunset, when the structure seems to glow over the desert landscape.*

Access to its interior offers one of the most authentic and least crowded experiences of Pharaonic Egypt. Its corridors and chambers, simple in design yet of immense historical value, preserve a unique atmosphere where silence and depth create a powerful impression. Inside, the enclosed environment and the mineral composition of the stone may produce a characteristic scent associated with the antiquity of the materials and the natural oxidation processes of the surroundings.



SALADIN CITADEL AND MOSQUE, COPTIC CAIRO, KHAN EL KHALILI BAZAAR

- Visit to the imposing **Citadel of Saladin**, a historic fortress strategically located on an ancient limestone quarry, whose own rock served as the foundation for its construction.

*Built in 1176 by Saladin as a **defense against the Crusaders**, it became one of the most important military strongholds in Cairo.*

*In 1805, Muhammad Ali took control of Egypt with the support of the Mamluks, former soldiers and mercenary officers who had held significant influence over the country's power structure. During his rule, Muhammad Ali transformed the Citadel, building within its walls his royal residence known as the **Palace of the Jewels, as well as the Mint**, a prison, and his architectural masterpiece: the **Mosque of Muhammad Ali**, considered the crown jewel of more than 500 mosques in Islamic Cairo, distinguished by its Ottoman style and commanding presence over the city.*



- **Visit to Coptic Cairo**, one of the oldest spiritual enclaves in the city, where the Church of St. Sergius is located, built over the crypt that, according to tradition, served as a refuge for the Holy Family during their stay in Egypt. The visit also includes the Hanging Church, constructed above one of the towers of the ancient Roman fortress of Babylon, one of the most emblematic Christian sites in the country.



- Stroll through the famous **Khan El Khalili market**, one of the oldest and most iconic bazaars in the Middle East, offering a unique experience among narrow alleys filled with craftsmanship, aromas, and vibrant local life. During the visit, stop to enjoy a traditional tea at the historic **El Fishawi Café**, one of the city's most traditional cafés. The tour then continues through the bazaar, further exploring its vibrant and authentic atmosphere, in a complete immersion into local culture.



MOSQUE OF AL-RIFA'I & SULTAN HASSAN MOSQUE– MADRASA

- Visit to the **Mosque of Al-Rifa'i and the Sultan Hassan Mosque–Madrasa**, located **face to face in the heart of Islamic Cairo**, forming one of the most impressive and representative architectural ensembles of Egypt's medieval history.

*The **Mosque of Al-Rifa'i** is a majestic 19th-century Neo-Mamluk style monument, renowned for its elegance, soaring domes, and richly decorated interiors. Beyond its architectural and artistic value, it also houses the tombs of members of the Egyptian royal family, giving it significant historical and symbolic importance in the country's modern history.*

*Directly opposite stands the **Sultan Hassan Mosque–Madrasa**, considered one of the masterpieces of Islamic medieval architecture. Built in the 14th century during the Mamluk period, it is striking for its monumental scale, massive stone walls, and vast central courtyard surrounded by four imposing iwans. Its design combines both a mosque and an Islamic school (madrasa), reflecting its dual spiritual and educational function.*

*Together, these two monuments offer a **unique insight into the architectural splendour of Islamic Cairo**, where art, history, and spirituality merge in an environment of exceptional beauty and heritage value.*



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

- Visit to **the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, one of the country's most modern and important cultural institutions, designed as a reference space to understand the complete history of Egypt from its origins to the present day. Its contemporary and immersive museography allows visitors to follow a chronological and thematic journey spanning more than 5,000 years of uninterrupted civilization, offering a comprehensive, profound, and exceptional insight into the legacy of the Nile.

*The museum houses the renowned **Royal Mummies Gallery**, one of its main highlights, where the remains of some of the most emblematic pharaohs of Ancient Egypt are displayed in a respectful and carefully preserved setting. This experience is designed to create a unique emotional and cultural connection with historical figures who shaped one of the most influential civilizations in human history.*

*Throughout the visit, **guests discover artifacts from all historical periods: the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, as well as the Greco-Roman, Coptic, Islamic, and modern eras.** The collection includes sculptures, sarcophagi, jewellery, papyri, ritual objects, everyday tools, and artistic pieces that reflect the social, political, religious, and cultural evolution of the country over time.*

One of the museum's greatest strengths is its ability to contextualize Egyptian history in a clear and immersive way, combining modern exhibition technology with a carefully structured narrative. This allows visitors not only to understand the key milestones of Pharaonic civilization but also to appreciate the cultural continuity that connects the ancient past with contemporary Egypt.



TAHRIR EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

- Visit to the **Egyptian Museum of Tahrir**, one of the **most emblematic and historic museums in Egypt and in the world, located in the heart of Cairo**. Inaugurated at the beginning of the 20th century, it houses one **of the most important collections of Ancient Egypt**, offering a fascinating journey through the grandeur of Pharaonic civilization via thousands of original artefacts ranging from prehistory to the Greco-Roman period.

Among its most outstanding treasures are some of the most iconic works of ancient Egyptian art. The renowned **ivory statuette of Khufu (Cheops), measuring just 7 cm in height**, is an exceptional and unique piece, as it is the only known representation of the pharaoh bearing his royal cartouche. Despite its small size, it is considered one of the most significant archaeological discoveries due to its rarity and historical importance.

Another key highlight of the collection is the **famous Seated Scribe**, a masterpiece that reflects with remarkable realism the importance of scribes in Ancient Egyptian administration. Its detailed modelling conveys an extraordinary sense of life, intelligence, and concentration, making it one of the most admired sculptures in the museum.

Also of great significance is the **imposing statue of Khafre**, one of the most powerful representations of Pharaonic art. In this work, the pharaoh is depicted seated in a solemn posture, protected by the falcon god Horus, symbol of divine kingship. The piece stands out for its perfect balance, artistic refinement, and deep symbolic meaning, reflecting the union between earthly and divine power in Ancient Egypt.



SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

- **At nightfall, the Giza Pyramids complex is transformed into a stage of evocation and mystery.** The Sound and Light Show invites visitors to contemplate **these ancient monuments from a different sensory perspective, where the darkness of the desert becomes a canvas for a narrative of light, voice, and memory.**

The **projections gradually illuminate the pyramids and the Great Sphinx of Giza**, revealing their forms through a **choreography of lights that interacts** with the silence of the night. The deep and immersive narrative voice retraces the great moments of Egyptian civilisation, bringing to life pharaohs, gods, and symbols that have transcended time.

Beyond its theatrical character, the experience is perceived as an immersive journey into the memory of the site. The combination of light, sound, and setting creates an almost hypnotic atmosphere, where the monumentality of the pyramids acquires a new interpretation: not only as architectural structures, but as living presences filled with history and meaning.

This moment, experienced under the starry desert sky, offers an evocative conclusion to the day, connecting past and present in an experience that awakens imagination, emotion, and contemplation.



ALEJANDRIA

- **Visit to the historic city of Alexandria**, the ancient jewel of the Mediterranean and one of the greatest cultural centers of the Greco-Roman world.

Strategically located between the Mediterranean Sea and Lake Mareotis, and facing the legendary island of Pharos, Alexandria has been, since antiquity, a key hub for trade, culture, and knowledge.

In its origins, the city was known as Rakotis, an Egyptian settlement that was later transformed and expanded into one of the most important cities of the ancient world. Its urban layout was designed by the Greek architect Dinocrates of Rhodes, under the vision of Alexander the Great, who ordered its foundation in 331 BC.

Alexandria was organized into five major districts, reflecting its cosmopolitan nature and the coexistence of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures, all of which left a profound legacy shaping its unique historical identity.



- The visit begins with the **iconic Pompey's Pillar**, one of the best-preserved ancient monuments in the city and one of the most representative archaeological landmarks of Roman Egypt.

This impressive column, approximately 27 meters high and 2.5 meters in diameter, is carved from a single block of red granite, reflecting the extraordinary technical and symbolic achievement of its construction. Its name is traditionally linked to the Roman general Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, rival of Julius Caesar during Rome's civil wars. According to legend, after his defeat, Pompey was killed in Egypt, and his head was presented to Caesar as an offering—an event mythically associated with this column, which today carries his name and a strong historical aura.

- Continue to the ruins **of the Serapeum of Alexandria**, an ancient temple dedicated to the god Serapis and one of the most significant remnants of the Greco-Roman period in Egypt.
- Visit the fascinating **Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa**, an extraordinary underground complex considered one of the most unique archaeological sites in Egypt, where Egyptian, Greek, and Roman artistic traditions blend in a mysterious and historical setting.
- Continue to the **impressive Citadel of Qaitbay**, a 15th-century fortress strategically built on the remains of the **legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**, offering spectacular views over the Mediterranean Sea and the historic island of Pharos.
- Proceed to the modern **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, a contemporary architectural masterpiece that pays tribute to the ancient Library of Alexandria, symbolizing its historical and cultural legacy dating back to the time of Julius Caesar.
- **Lunch** at a specialized seafood restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the area where the ancient submerged city and the legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria once stood, as well as the Citadel of Qaitbay.
- **Return to Cairo** at the end of the day and accommodation at the hotel.

SIWA OASIS

- **Excursion to the Siwa Oasis**, a journey of approximately nine hours by bus, with a two-night stay, to one of the most fascinating and unique destinations in Egypt's Western Desert. Siwa is a true **natural sanctuary where time seems to stand still**. Located near the Libyan border, this oasis combines **golden sand dunes, salt lakes, and lush palm groves with a deep Berber cultural identity** that makes it truly unique within Egypt.



*The Siwa Oasis is known for its **peaceful atmosphere and isolation**, making it an ideal destination for those seeking authenticity and direct contact with nature. Among its main highlights is the **legendary Shali Fortress**, built from salt-based mudbrick, which dominates the oasis landscape and reflects traditional Siwan architecture.*



The destination also features sites of great historical and spiritual value, such as the **Temple of the Oracle of Amun**, where, according to tradition, Alexander the Great was proclaimed the son of the god Amun.



Visitors can also enjoy the **famous natural saltwater pools, such as Cleopatra's Pool**, where it is possible to relax while floating in crystal-clear waters surrounded by an incomparable desert landscape.





OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

*The Siwa experience is completed with **4x4 excursions across the Great Sand Sea, visits to massive dunes, and spectacular sunsets over the desert**, as well as encounters with the local culture, its traditions, and unique hospitality, including a Bedouin dinner.*

An authentic, remote, and magical destination where nature, history, and culture come together to offer an unforgettable experience in the heart of the Egyptian desert.



BAHARIYA OASIS & THE BLACK AND WHITE DESERTS

- **The Bahariya Oasis and the Black and White Deserts** offer one of the most astonishing experiences in Egypt's Western Desert, where nature creates unique landscapes that seem to belong to another planet.

*The **Bahariya Oasis**, located around 370 km from Cairo (approximately a 4-hour drive), serves as the gateway to this fascinating region. Surrounded by palm groves, natural springs, and small villages, the oasis combines a peaceful atmosphere with historical remains and authentic local life. It is the ideal starting point for exploring some of the most spectacular desert formations in the country.*

*From here begins the **journey into the Black Desert**, named for its hills and mountains covered with dark volcanic rocks, creating a striking and dramatic landscape. Along the route, vast arid expanses are dotted with unique geological formations that reflect millions of years of natural evolution.*

*The experience continues towards the breathtaking **White Desert**, one of the most iconic landscapes in Egypt. This area is characterised by its surreal white limestone formations sculpted by the wind into extraordinary shapes, resembling an open-air natural museum. At sunset, the light transforms the scenery, painting the rocks in golden and pink tones, creating an unforgettable visual spectacle.*

*During the excursion, stops are often made at **natural springs, outdoor meals are enjoyed, and in many cases the experience includes an overnight stay in the desert** under an exceptionally clear starry sky.*

This combination of oasis life, volcanic deserts, and surreal white landscapes makes the visit a complete adventure, ideal for those seeking nature, authenticity, and scenery unlike anywhere else in Egypt.



HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE OVER LUXOR

- **Hot air balloon experience in Luxor:** an early morning departure for one of the most exclusive and unforgettable moments of the journey. In the first light of day, as the horizon begins to glow and the desert remains in complete stillness, the gentle and silent ascent reveals one of the most spectacular views in all of Egypt.

From the sky, Luxor unfolds like an open-air museum. The flight offers breathtaking views of the **Valley of the Kings**, where the great pharaohs of the New Kingdom rest, as well as the monumental funerary temples along the western bank of the Nile. On the eastern bank, the modern city stands in harmony with the eternal legacy of **ancient Thebes**, reflecting the living continuity of a millennia-old civilisation.

As the balloon rises, the landscape becomes almost surreal: **the contrast between the fertile green of the Nile Valley, the deep golden tones of the desert, and the silhouette of ancient temples** creates a unique visual composition found nowhere else in the world. The temples of **Karnak and Luxor, the avenues of sphinxes, and scattered archaeological remains emerge** with remarkable clarity from above, allowing their scale and sacred alignment with the river and surrounding landscape to be fully appreciated.

The silence of the flight, broken only by the soft sound of the burner, brings a profound **sense of peace and disconnection**, turning the experience into a deeply emotional moment. The changing light of sunrise transforms the scenery gradually, shifting from soft blues to intense golds, highlighting every detail of the Egyptian horizon.

This is a **privileged experience that blends emotion, contemplation, and spirituality**, offering a unique perspective of Luxor and the grandeur of Ancient Egypt from the sky. An unforgettable memory that remains one of the most powerful highlights of the entire journey.



SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT KARNAK TEMPLE

- At nightfall, the **majestic Karnak Temple complex is transformed into a stage of historical resonance and symbolic depth.** The Sound and Light Show invites visitors to experience this vast sacred site from a more sensory and introspective perspective, where architecture comes to life through light, narration, and silence. **The night route passes through avenues of sphinxes, open courtyards, and the imposing hypostyle hall, as lighting gradually reveals the grandeur of the temple.** The monumental columns emerge from the darkness like a forest of stone, evoking a space designed to connect the earthly realm with the divine. **The immersive and measured narration guides visitors through the centuries, evoking rituals, pharaohs, and the spiritual energy** that once permeated this site dedicated primarily to the god Amun. Beyond its historical narrative, the experience is perceived as an inner journey, where each space invites contemplation and reflection.

The combination of light, sound, and architectural scale creates an almost ritual atmosphere, in which the **visitor does not merely observe, but becomes part of a continuous flow of time.** Under the starry sky of Luxor, Karnak reveals itself not only as a temple, but as a field of energy, memory, and presence. A deeply evocative end to the day, where history is transformed into sensory experience and stone into emotion.



ABU SIMBEL

- **Excursion to Abu Simbel**, with departure either in the morning by flight with return, or overnight by coach, crossing the desert in the early hours of the day while the sunrise gradually illuminates the Nubian landscape until reaching the Lake Nasser region in the far south of Egypt. The journey, silent and contemplative, is an essential part of the experience, allowing travellers to appreciate the vastness of the desert and the transition towards one of the most remote and spectacular archaeological sites in the country.

Visit to the **magnificent rock-cut temples built by order of Pharaoh Ramses II**, one of the greatest builders of Ancient Egypt, and dedicated both to **his own legacy and to Queen Nefertari**, one of his most beloved wives. **The Great Temple, dominated by the colossal seated statues of Ramses II** on its façade, conveys a powerful sense of grandeur and authority, designed as a symbol of his victory at the Battle of Kadesh and the consolidation of Egyptian power over Nubia.

Next to it stands the **Temple of Nefertari**, dedicated to the Great Royal Wife and the goddess Hathor, distinguished by its refined sculpture and exceptional symbolic value, as it is one of the very few examples in which a queen is granted a temple of equivalent importance to that of a pharaoh, reflecting her significance within the royal court and dynastic history.

One of the most extraordinary aspects of the complex is its **complete relocation in the 1960s**, when both temples were carefully dismantled into blocks and reassembled on an artificial hill to prevent their submersion following the construction of the Aswan High Dam. This operation, considered one of the greatest feats of archaeological engineering of the 20th century, saved this unique world heritage site, preserving its original solar alignment and symbolic value.



SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT ABU SIMBEL

- At dusk, the **temples of Abu Simbel emerge from the darkness of the desert like an timeless vision. The Sound and Light Show transforms this monumental site into a deeply evocative experience, where ancient stone becomes a canvas for memory, narrative, and emotion.** The **imposing figures of Ramses II, carved into the façade of the Great Temple,** are gradually illuminated as the narration guides visitors through key episodes of his reign and the symbolic meaning of this sacred place. **The lighting reveals details that go unnoticed during the day,** creating a more intimate and almost revelatory perception of the architecture.

Sound, carefully integrated with the surroundings, creates an immersive atmosphere where history, myth, and landscape merge. **The echo of the desert, the proximity of Lake Nasser, and the vastness of the night sky enhance the feeling of being in a space suspended between eras.** A moment of deep contemplation that concludes the day with emotion and awe, leaving a lasting sensory impression that is difficult to forget.



NUBIAN VILLAGE

- **Excursion to the Nubian Village**, one of the **most authentic, colourful, and immersive cultural experiences in Aswan**, located in the southernmost stretch of the Nile, where the landscape begins to merge with the Nubian desert and the natural gateway to deep Africa. Access is by **motorboat**, gently sailing southwards against the current of the Nile in a scenic journey of exceptional beauty, where water, desert, and wildlife coexist in perfect harmony.

*During the navigation, you pass through an **extraordinary natural environment** that resembles a **National Geographic documentary**: small Nile islands, rocky formations, native bird species such as the Nile chicken, and local wildlife including water buffalo along the riverbanks. Along the route, you also admire iconic landmarks of Aswan such as the remains of the **First Cataract of the Nile, the Aga Khan Mausoleum, Elephantine Island, and the legendary Old Cataract Hotel**, famously featured in Agatha Christie's "Death on the Nile".*

*Arrival at the Nubian village is made via **a small riverside beach**, where you can enjoy your first contact with the surroundings, relax, swim in the Nile, refresh, or even ride a camel along the riverbank in a truly unique natural setting.*

*You then visit the **traditional Nubian village from the inside**, discovering one of Egypt's oldest and most distinctive cultures. The Nubian community, with its own identity, language, and traditions, is known for its brightly coloured houses decorated with symbolic motifs, creating an atmosphere full of art, hospitality, and life.*

*During the visit, you explore its peaceful streets, traditional architecture, and Nile-connected way of life. The experience includes a warm welcome from local families, who share their culture and gastronomy, offering **traditional bread, honey, molasses, Egyptian nougat, goat cheese, mint tea, and shisha**. You may also enjoy **henna tattoos** and see **small crocodiles locally raised** within the village.*

*The visit also includes a **stop at a small local school** where the Arabic and Nubian alphabets and numbers are taught, allowing visitors to write their names as a souvenir.*

*The excursion ends with a **boat return at sunset**, sailing back along the Nile as the golden light transforms the landscape into a scene of exceptional beauty and serenity.*



SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW AT PHILAE TEMPLE

- At nightfall, the **Temple of Philae emerges from the waters of the Nile like a vision suspended between reality and symbolism**. Located on an island and dedicated to the goddess Isis, this sacred site acquires a particularly evocative dimension as daylight fades. **The nighttime boat crossing the river in silence** already forms part of the experience: a gentle transition into a space of reflection where time seems to dissolve.

As the show begins, projections illuminate columns, reliefs, and gateways, revealing the delicate beauty of an architecture that appears to float on water.

The immersive and measured narration recounts the myths of Isis and Osiris, evoking stories of love, loss, and rebirth that shaped the spiritual imagination of Ancient Egypt. The carefully **choreographed light not only reveals the stone but transforms it into symbolic language**, enhancing the sensation of standing in a living place. A moment of exceptional magnetism that concludes the day with emotion, calm, and the feeling of having entered a space where the visible and the invisible intertwine.



MEDINET HABU TEMPLE

- Excursion to **Medinet Habu Temple**, an **impressive funerary complex of Pharaoh Ramses III, located in Western Thebes on the west bank of the Nile, near Luxor**. It forms part of the great funerary necropolis of ancient Thebes, in a privileged area close to the Valley of the Kings, the Ramesseum, and Hatshepsut's Temple, reinforcing its importance within the archaeological legacy of Ancient Egypt.

*Built during the 20th Dynasty (1183–1153 BC), the temple not only served a **religious function dedicated to the god Amun and the pharaoh's funerary cult, but also played a political, administrative, and defensive role**. Its fortified complex included a royal palace, storage facilities, and chapels, reflecting its strategic importance during a transitional period of the New Kingdom.*

*Architecturally, Medinet Habu follows the classic layout of great Egyptian temples, with monumental pylons, vast open courtyards, hypostyle halls, and a central sanctuary. Its **first great pylon** leads to a courtyard featuring colossal statues of Ramses III and the god Osiris, followed by successive chambers richly decorated with remarkable artistic detail.*

*One of the most outstanding features of the temple is its **extraordinary reliefs**, covering more than 7,000 m² of decorated walls. These scenes depict historical battles against the Sea Peoples, religious rituals, processions, and episodes from the pharaoh's life, with traces of their original polychrome still visible, allowing visitors to appreciate the vibrant colours of ancient times.*

*Beyond its funerary purpose, the temple was also an **important religious and cultural centre**, hosting festivals such as the **Beautiful Feast of the Valley**. Over time, it was partially used as a Coptic settlement during the Christian period.*

*Today, Medinet Habu is one of the **best-preserved temples in Egypt**, with much of its structure still standing and accessible to visitors. Its combination of monumentality, artistic richness, and historical significance makes it an essential visit to understand the grandeur of Pharaonic civilisation in Luxor.*



DENDERA TEMPLE & ABYDOS TEMPLE

- **Excursion to the Temple of Dendera and the Temple of Abydos**, two of the most important and best-preserved religious complexes of Ancient Egypt, both located in Upper Egypt and dedicated to two of the most revered deities of the Pharaonic civilisation.

*The **Temple of Dendera**, located on the banks of the Nile north of Luxor, is **dedicated to the goddess Hathor, deity of love, music, joy, and motherhood**. The current complex was mainly built during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, although it stands on earlier structures. It is renowned for its excellent state of preservation and its impressive hypostyle hall, whose columns are crowned with Hathoric capitals in the form of the goddess's face. Inside, visitors can admire unique astronomical reliefs, such as the famous Dendera Zodiac, as well as ritual scenes depicting religious ceremonies, offerings, and sacred processions. The temple also includes underground crypts, terraces, and chapels, reflecting the complexity of its religious and symbolic function.*

*On the other hand, **the Temple of Abydos**, located further north in Upper Egypt, is one of the oldest and most sacred religious centres in the country. Mainly **dedicated to the god Osiris, lord of the underworld and resurrection**, Abydos was for centuries an important pilgrimage site. The most significant temple within the complex was built by Pharaoh Seti I and completed by Ramses II, and is considered a masterpiece of Egyptian architecture due to the quality and precision of its reliefs. Its walls contain the famous Abydos King List, a fundamental record listing many of Egypt's pharaohs. Its hypostyle halls, sanctuaries, and finely detailed polychrome reliefs depict religious scenes of extraordinary artistry and refinement.*

Together, both temples offer an exceptional insight into the spirituality of Ancient Egypt: Dendera reflects the cult of life, beauty, and divine harmony, while Abydos represents the connection with the afterlife and resurrection. Combined, they form an essential visit to fully understand the religious, artistic, and symbolic depth of the Pharaonic civilisation.





OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

Arrival & Assistance at Destination

Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, travellers will be **welcomed by our team, who will provide personalised assistance with entry procedures**, including visa processing when required. Afterwards, a **private transfer to the hotel** or cruise will be arranged, ensuring a smooth, comfortable and hassle-free arrival experience. Throughout the entire stay, **our clients will have 24-hour assistance** and support for any needs or unforeseen situations.

Visa

For entry into Egypt, a **visa is required**. It can be easily obtained upon arrival at Cairo International Airport or, depending on nationality, **arranged in advance before travelling**. Our team provides full assistance and guidance throughout the process to ensure a seamless arrival.

Holders of an ordinary passport must travel with a **passport valid for at least six months** beyond the planned departure date from Egypt. Other nationalities should consult their embassy or consulate prior to travel.

A visa is not required for passengers travelling exclusively to Sharm El Sheikh.

Currency

The official currency is the **Egyptian Pound (EGP)**. The exchange rate is approximately 60 EGP per euro. We recommend paying by **credit card** wherever possible and withdrawing cash in Egyptian pounds directly from ATMs in cities. Please check with your bank regarding **foreign**

transaction fees. If you carry **euros** and prefer to exchange currency, this can be done at the airport, exchange offices, banks, or hotels. Most souvenir shops accept euros without issue. Optional excursions, visas, and tips (if not included) should be paid in cash in euros, so we recommend bringing small denominations.

Connectivity & Wi-Fi

We recommend purchasing a **local SIM card or an international eSIM** to ensure reliable connectivity during your trip, as Wi-Fi may be limited or subject to charges in some hotels, cruise ships, or remote areas. Our team can advise you on the best purchase options upon arrival.

Health

No specific vaccinations are required. Egypt is considered a safe destination from a health perspective. It is recommended to drink only bottled water and avoid ice in beverages. We suggest bringing a **small personal medical kit** with painkillers, anti-inflammatory medication, digestive aids, and any regular prescriptions. Sun protection and proper hydration are essential throughout the journey.

Time Zone

GMT+2 in summer and GMT+3 in winter. Egypt is one hour ahead of Brussels throughout the year.

Shopping

Traditional products and local handicrafts can be found throughout the journey. If you have specific interests, our guides will be delighted to assist you and recommend the best places for safe and authentic shopping experiences.

Climate

Egypt enjoys a **mostly dry and sunny climate** year-round. Temperatures can be high during the day, especially in summer, while evenings are generally cooler, particularly in desert areas and during Nile cruises. **Light clothing, sun protection, and proper hydration** are strongly recommended.

Tipping Culture

Tipping, known locally as “baksheesh”, is **part of everyday culture in Egypt** and widely practiced in the tourism sector. Although not strictly mandatory, it is a common way to show appreciation for services received.

It is recommended to consider it as part of the journey, as it directly supports guides, drivers, and support staff accompanying travellers throughout the experience.

Dress Code

Comfortable, light, and breathable clothing is recommended for daytime visits, preferably cotton or linen. For religious sites such as mosques, respectful **clothing covering shoulders and knees is required. Comfortable walking shoes,** sunglasses, and a hat are also strongly recommended, especially for outdoor visits.

On-Trip Assistance & Daily Support

Throughout the journey, **you will be accompanied by our English-speaking guides or representatives,** available to assist with any needs and ensure a smooth experience. During daily activities, **non-alcoholic beverages will be available** to ensure proper hydration, and comfort stops will be arranged during transfers whenever needed, always prioritising the traveller’s comfort and wellbeing.


TRAVEL ESSENTIALS FOR YOUR JOURNEY

1. Documentation & Money

- Passport (valid for at least 6 months)
- Visa (printed or digital if arranged in advance)
- Flight tickets / bookings (hotel, excursions)
- Travel insurance
- Bank cards (inform your bank about your trip)
- Some cash in euros or Egyptian pounds (EGP)
- Digital and physical copies of important documents

2. Clothing (adapted to climate & culture)

- Lightweight, breathable t-shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts (sun protection + cultural respect)
- Light long trousers / linen style
- A few shorts (for hotel or resort areas only)
- Underwear for each day
- Light pyjamas
- Light jacket or sweatshirt (for evenings or air conditioning)
- Swimwear (for pool or Nile cruise)

 Important: light clothing that still covers shoulders and knees for temple or religious visits.

3. Footwear

- Comfortable walking shoes (essential)
- Sandals
- (Optional) flip-flops for pool/shower

4. Personal Hygiene

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Travel-size shower gel/shampoo
- Wet wipes / tissues
- Moisturiser (dry climate)
- High SPF sunscreen (very important)
- After sun / aloe vera
- Personal medication (with prescription if needed)

5. Health & Basic First Aid Kit

- Painkillers (paracetamol / ibuprofen)
- Stomach medication (highly recommended in Egypt)
- Anti-diarrhoea medication
- Plasters / band-aids
- Oral rehydration salts
- Mosquito repellent

6. Technology

- Mobile phone + charger
- Power bank
- Plug adapter (Type C / F in Egypt, similar to Europe but universal recommended)
- Headphones
- Camera (if not using phone)
- Extra memory card (for photos)

7. Sun Protection & Climate

- Sunglasses (essential)
- Hat or cap
- Light scarf or shawl (sun protection + cultural visits)
- Extra sunscreen if travelling actively

8. Day Backpack

- Small backpack for excursions
- Reusable water bottle
- Snacks (nuts, energy bars)
- Daily documents (copies, tickets)
- Tissues / hand sanitiser

9. Useful Extras (highly recommended)

- Laundry bag for dirty clothes
- Small luggage padlock
- Book or Kindle
- Pen (for forms or customs)
- Waterproof bag for boat or desert excursions



OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS



TRAVEL
CENTER

TRAVEL CENTER

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