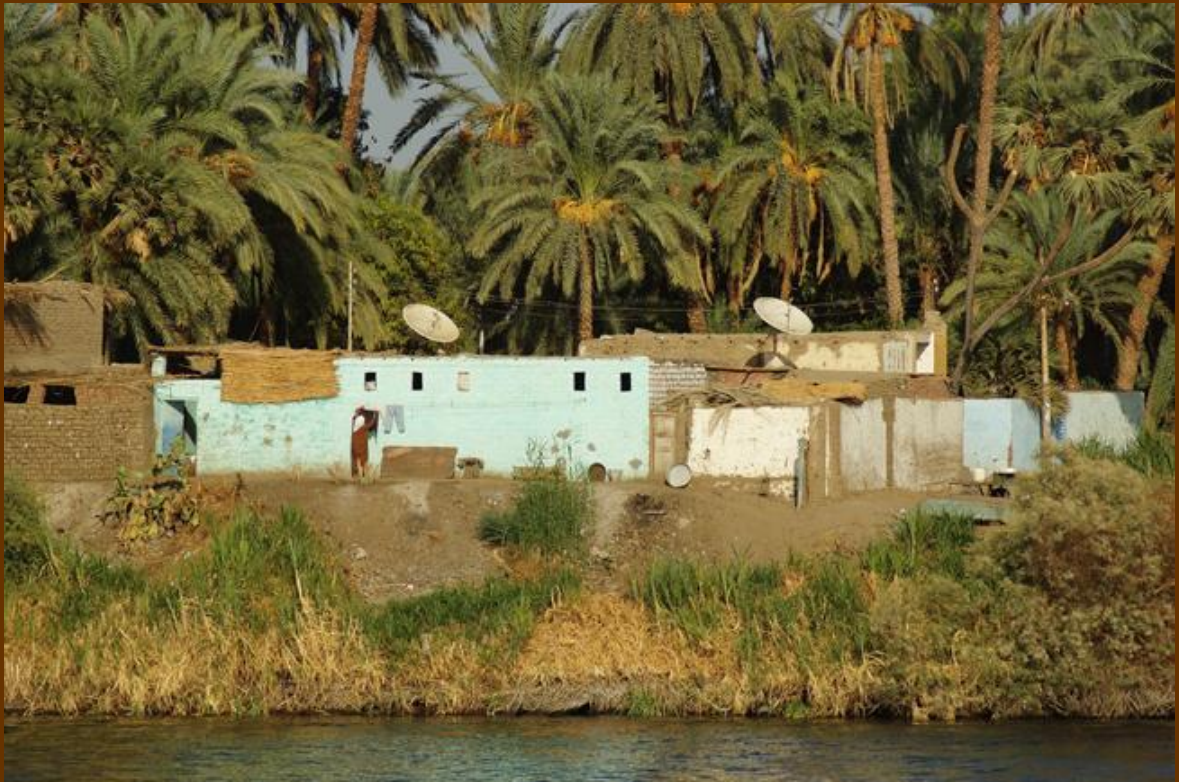


Classic Egypt



Prepared for
Steppes Travel clients
Departures throughout the year - 10 days

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly London Heathrow / Cairo
Day 2	Cairo
Day 3	Cairo
Day 4	Fly Cairo / Luxor Board Nile Cruise
Day 5	Nile Cruise
Day 6	Nile Cruise
Day 7	Nile Cruise
Day 8	Disembark Nile Cruise in Aswan
Day 9	Aswan
Day 10	Fly Aswan / Cairo / London Heathrow

YOUR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Date	Route	Flight No.	Check in	Depart	Arrive
Day 1	London Heathrow/Cairo	MS9231	07:15	09:15	16:20
Day 4	Cairo/Luxor	MS351	07:45	08:45	09:55
Day 10	Aswan/Cairo	MS384	12:30	14:30	15:55
Day 10	Cairo/London Heathrow	MS9230		17:25	20:50

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1



London Heathrow/Cairo

Depart London Heathrow on the Egypt Air flight (operated by British Midlands) to Cairo. On arrival, after obtaining your visas you will be met and transferred to your hotel to check in.

The Mena House was originally a royal hunting lodge used by the King of Egypt being later expanded to receive royal guests after the opening of Suez. In 1869 it was sold and converted into a hotel.

Today there are 523 rooms surrounded by 40 acres of grounds. The décor within the Palace Wing is elegant with many antiques remaining as well as evidence of the rich history and famous guests it has hosted such as Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

There is a newer and more modern Garden Wing with a more contemporary style.

There is an outdoor swimming pool with views of the pyramids, tennis courts and an 18 hole golf course.

Overnight at Mena House Oberoi in a garden wing room with garden view on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 2



Cairo

After breakfast at your hotel your guide will join you for a sightseeing tour.

The Great Pyramids at Giza are a highlight of any trip to Egypt. The only present-day survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, they are among the world's greatest tourist attractions and never lose their ability to inspire and overwhelm visitors. Nearby is the mysterious Sphinx, an ancient figure shrouded in legend and mystery.

At vast Saqqara, you will see the famous Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the first freestanding stone structure in the world. Here you will also see tombs belonging to the nobles of the past. They show the beauty and excellence of Ancient Egyptian art on their walls and give an insight in the daily life of Ancient Egypt.

You will also visit some of the lesser known and hence, less visited pyramids.

There were originally 11 pyramids at Dahshour although only 2 now remain intact - the Red & the Bent pyramid. Both of these pyramids were built by Pharaoh Sneferu in 2600BC and it was his son who went on to build the Great Pyramids at Giza.

The red pyramid is only the second true pyramid ever built and is the 3rd tallest behind the 2 great pyramids at Giza.

The Bent pyramid is older than the Black, Red & Giza pyramids yet much of its outer limestone is still intact.

Overnight at Mena House Oberoi in a garden wing room with garden view on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3



Cairo

Today you will visit Islamic Cairo where there is the beautiful and graceful Mohamed Ali Mosque and the ancient Citadel, a spectacular medieval fortress perched on a hill above the city. Originally built by Salah El-Din in 1176 to fortify the city against the Crusaders, the Citadel was modified and enlarged over the centuries by subsequent rulers and today is a complex of three mosques and four museums.

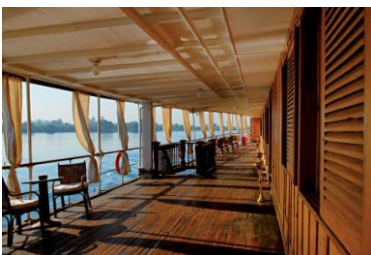
Also visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities. Your guide will spend the first 2 hours of your visit with you. You can then spend some time exploring at your leisure.

The museum was designed by a French architect in neo-classical style, and is surrounded by gardens. Inside is the world's greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities from 2700 BC to the 6th century AD, including thousands of statues, jewels and artefacts from nearly every period of ancient Egypt. Admire the amazing treasures of the young king, Tutenkhamun, including his famous mask made out of solid gold and in a perfect state of preservation. There are 12 rooms filled with treasures from King Tutenkhamun's tomb, which was discovered in 1922 virtually untouched.

You will also visit the highlights of Coptic Cairo. You will find the remains of the old Fortress of Babylon, built at the time of the Romans in Egypt to protect the country from invading enemies. The walls of the fortress enclose the Church of St. Sergius, which is built on a crypt considered to be one of the resting places of the Holy Family during their flight to Egypt. The Coptic Museum displays a wonderful collection of medieval statues, bells, bone carvings, frescoes, icons and colorful textiles.

Overnight at Mena House Oberoi in a garden wing room with garden view on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4



Cairo/Luxor

An early start this morning for your transfer to the airport and flights to Luxor with Egypt Air. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the jetty to board your Nile cruise.

The Steam Ship Sudan is an authentic steamship, built as a gift for King Fouad at the dawn of the 20th century and the setting for Agatha Christies novel "Death on the Nile".

With just 23 cabins the Steam Ship Sudan has the allure and intimacy of a private yacht differentiating it from other cruisers on the Nile. It is also propelled by a hybrid diesel/steam system resulting in a quieter and more energy efficient journey.

All of the cabins are individually decorated but have kept their period character with warm woodwork, 19th century furniture and decorative carpets and fabrics. Each cabin has an ensuite bathroom with bathtub or shower, 2 windows and the 5 suites have large bay windows opening onto the Nile.

OR

The newly renovated M.S. Nile Adventurer has just 32 cabins, offering an intimate and relaxed cruising experience. Decorated in



a modern, comfortable lounge style and providing gourmet cuisine and superb sightseeing experiences with some of the country's most experienced Egyptologists, the Adventurer is a taste of genuine 5-star luxury on this timeless and beautiful river.

All 32 beautifully designed cabins enjoy stunning river views and are luxuriously appointed with Egyptian cotton sheets and LCD screens. The extensive sun deck areas, with their elegant teak floors, include private cabanas around the pool area.

*****The itinerary & activities for the above ships will differ slightly but the main sightseeing is generally the same.***



After a buffet lunch you will visit some sites on the East bank of Luxor.



First you will visit the Temple of Karnak. The great "Hypostyle Hall" is an incredible forest of giant pillars, covering an area larger than the whole of Notre Dame Cathedral. Amun Temple Enclosure, the central enclosure of the numerous temples that make up the enormous Karnak complex, was the main place of worship for the Theban triad of deities. Its ancient name was Ipet-Isut, or 'the most perfect of places'. Although the original sanctuary of the Temple of Amun was built during the Middle Kingdom period, when the Theban Pharaohs first came to prominence, the rest of the temples, pylons, courts, columns and reliefs were the work of New Kingdom rulers.

Also visit the Temple of Luxor which is dedicated to the god Amun. One of the gods of creation, Amun was the most important god of Thebes and head of the local triad of deities. As Amun-Ra, the fusion of Amun and the Sun-god Ra, he was also a state deity worshipped in many parts of the country. Built by the New Kingdom Pharaoh Amenophis III on the site of an older sanctuary, Luxor Temple is a strikingly graceful piece of architecture on the banks of the Nile.



The first night and dinner is aboard the ship at the port of Luxor.

Overnight onboard your chosen cruise ship in Luxor on a full board basis.

Day 5

Nile Cruise (Luxor / Esna or Edfu)

This morning you will visit the West Bank of Luxor.



Here you will explore some of the tombs in the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, vast Cities of the Dead where magnificent temples were raised to honour the cults of the Pharaohs entombed in the nearby cliffs, and where queens, royal children, nobles, priests, artisans and even workers built tombs which ranged in the quality of their design and decor from ordinary to spectacular. During the New Kingdom, the necropolis also supported a large living population. In an attempt to protect the valuable tombs from robbers, the artisans, labourers, temple priests and guards lived permanently in the City of the Dead, their lives devoted to its construction and maintenance.

****Entrance to 3 of the tombs is generally included & which tombs you visit will depend on what is open during your visit (see notes re Tutankhamun's tomb below)****



Hatshepsut Temple: Rising out of the desert plain in a series of terraces, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut (Ancient Egypt's only female Pharaoh) merges with the sheer limestone cliffs that surround it, as if nature herself had built this extraordinary monument.

Photostop Colossi of Memnon: On the way back to the river Nile, your road passes by the famed Colossi of Memnon, known in Ancient Greek times for their haunting voices at dawn.

After lunch onboard the ship we will set sail for Esna, which is about 60km south of Luxor. We will pass through Esna lock and continue onto Edfu.

Enjoy dinner onboard the ship.

Overnight onboard your chosen cruise ship in Esna or Edfu on a full board basis.

Day 6



Nile Cruise (Edfu / Kom Ombo)

Today you will start with a visit to the largest and most completely preserved Pharaonic, albeit Greek-built, temple in Egypt, the extraordinary Temple of Horus at Edfu. Construction of this huge complex began under Ptolemy III Euergetes I in 237 BC and was completed nearly 200 years later during the reign of Ptolemy XIII in the 1st century BC. Dedicated to Horus the falcon-headed son of Osiris who avenged his father's murder by slaying his uncle Seth, the temple was built on the site where, according to legend, the two gods met in deadly combat.

Enjoy lunch on board ship, after which the ship will sail towards Kom Ombo, about 145km south of Edfu.

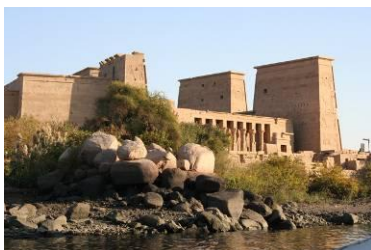


Here you will discover its temple, the Temple of Sobek which was dedicated to the crocodile-god Sobek. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile where in ancient times sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank. Although substantially ruined by the changing tides of the river and by later builders who used many of its stones for new buildings, Kom Ombo is nevertheless a stunning site.

Dinner and the evening are spent aboard the ship at Kom Ombo.

Overnight onboard your chosen cruise ship in Kom Ombo on a full board basis.

Day 7



Nile Cruise (Kom Ombo / Aswan)

Today you will set sail towards Aswan, about 48km south of Kom Ombo.

After breakfast you will visit the Aswan High Dam, Egypt's contemporary example of building on a monumental scale, which contains 18 times the amount of material used in the Great Pyramids of Cheops and measures 3600 meters across and 111 meters high at its highest point. The water contained by the dam has backed up nearly 500 km, taking it well into the Sudan and creating Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake.

Later this afternoon you will be taken on a short motorboat ride to visit the Philae Temple on the Island of Agilka. The romantic and



majestic aura surrounding the temple complex of Isis on the island of Philae has been luring pilgrims for thousands of years; during the 19th century the ruins were one of Egypt's most legendary tourist attractions.

After this visit you will have some free time to wander in Aswan's souqs before dinner or take a traditional felucca ride around this most picturesque part of the Nile.

Your last evening is spent onboard the ship in Aswan.

Overnight onboard your chosen cruise ship in Aswan on a full board basis.

Day 8



Disembark Nile Cruise in Aswan

After breakfast you will disembark your cruise in Aswan. You will be met from the ship and transferred to your hotel to check in.

A perfect place to relax in some of the most beautiful natural surroundings in Egypt. The Movenpick Aswan is set on an island in the middle of the River Nile in one of the most enchanting natural locations.

Spend the rest of the day at your leisure.



Small enough to walk around and graced with the most beautiful setting on the Nile, the pace of life in Aswan is slow and relaxing. Days can be spent strolling up and down the broad Corniche watching the sailboats etch the sky with their tall masts or sitting in floating restaurants listening to Nubian music and eating freshly caught fish.

In Aswan the Nile is at its most beautiful, flowing through amber desert and granite rocks, round emerald islands covered in palm groves and tropical plants. Explore the souk, full of the scent and colour of spices, perfumes, scarves and baskets. View the spectacular sunsets & enjoy a leisurely felucca ride on the Nile.

Overnight at the Movenpick Aswan in a standard room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 9



Aswan

Today you could spend the day at your leisure.

OR

You could visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Abu Simbel by air.



Not only are the two temples at Abu Simbel among the most magnificent monuments in the world but their removal and reconstruction was an historic event in itself. When the temples (280 km from Aswan) were threatened by submersion in Lake Nasser, due to the construction of the High Dam, the Egyptian Government secured the support of UNESCO and launched a world wide appeal. During the salvage operation which began in 1964 and continued until 1968, the two temples were dismantled and raised over 60 metres up the sandstone cliff where they had been built more than 3,000 years before. Here they were reassembled, in the exact same relationship to each other and the sun, and covered with an artificial mountain. Most of the joins in the stone have now been



filled by antiquity experts, but inside the temples it is still possible to see where the blocks were cut. You can also go inside the man made dome and see an exhibition of photographs showing the different stages of the massive removal project.

Abu Simbel was first reported by J. L. Burckhardt in 1813, when he came over the mountain and only saw the facade of the great temple as he was preparing to leave that area via the Nile. The two temples, that of Ramesses II primarily dedicated to Re-Harakhte, and that of his wife, Nefertari dedicated to Hathor, became a must see for Victorians visiting Egypt, even though it required a trip up the Nile, and often they were covered deeply in sand, as they were when Burckhardt found them.

Overnight at the Movenpick Aswan in a standard room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 10

Fly Aswan/Cairo/London Heathrow

Today you will transfer to the airport for your flights back to Cairo and onwards to London Heathrow.

Steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary

TRIP PRICE

Estimated costs: From £2,195.00 per person

Please note these prices are based on travel in low season and are subject to currency fluctuations.

Includes:

- International & domestic flights in economy class
- Accommodation in a double/twin room or cabin as detailed
- Meals as indicated
- Sightseeing in Cairo with private English speaking guide
- Private transfers and transportation throughout (except on days at leisure)
- Entrance fees to sites included
- Sightseeing onboard the cruise as part of a small group

Excludes:

- Meals unless indicated
- Travel insurance
- Additional optional excursion to Abu Simbel (approx £250 per person)
- Visas (payable on arrival @ a cost of USD\$15 per person)
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

Notes: Please bear in mind that this itinerary is purely a suggestion and can be altered to suit your requirements.

ENTRANCE FEES

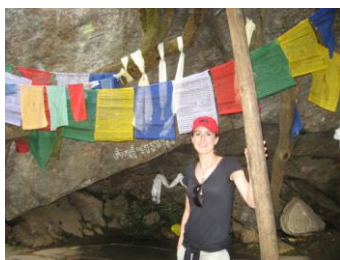
- Please note that the entrance fee into the Pyramids is not included. Should you wish to purchase tickets these have to be bought on the day (by the person entering the pyramid) and cannot be pre-booked by any means. Only 150 tickets are released for the morning and an additional 150 for the afternoon. The additional cost is approx LE100 per person
- Entrance to Tutankhamuns tombs at the Valley of the Kings is not included. Should you wish to purchase tickets these have to be bought on the day (by the person entering the tomb) and cannot be pre-booked by any means. The additional cost is approx LE80 per person

YOUR CONSULTANTS

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Following a childhood in Nepal and extensive travel throughout India, Bhutan and other Himalayan regions, Charlotte specialises in creating tailor made itineraries to the Indian subcontinent. Being so passionate about these regions, she travels 2 or 3 times a year to keep her knowledge fresh and current and has recently returned from an extensive trip to Bhutan.

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