

Luxury Egypt



Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients
Departures throughout the year - 15 days

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly London Heathrow / Cairo
Day 2	Cairo
Day 3	Cairo
Day 4	Fly Cairo / Aswan Nile Cruise
Day 5	Nile Cruise
Day 6	Nile Cruise
Day 7	Nile Cruise
Day 8	Nile Cruise
Day 9	Nile Cruise
Day 10	Nile Cruise
Day 11	Drive Luxor/Hurghada
Day 12	Hurghada
Day 13	Hurghada
Day 14	Hurghada
Day 15	Fly Hurghada / Cairo Fly Cairo / London Heathrow

YOUR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Date	Route	Flt No.	Check in	Depart	Arrive
Day 1	London Heathrow/Cairo	BD771	07:15	09:15	15:10
Day 4	Cairo/Aswan	MS401	06:00	08:00	09:25
Day 15	Hurghada /Cairo	MS334	10:05	12:05	13:10
Day 15	Cairo/London Heathrow	BD772	14:00	16:00	20:25

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1



London Heathrow/Cairo

Depart London Heathrow on the British Midland BMI flight to Cairo.

You will be met on arrival & after obtaining your visas, 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 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 an outdoor swimming pool with views of the pyramids, tennis courts and an 18 hole golf course.

Overnight at Oberoi Mena House 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 to include the city of Memphis and the necropolis of Saqqara. At the site of Memphis, you will see the ancient capital that once stood as a flourishing metropolis during the time of the Pharaohs. The place is thickly surrounded by lush palm groves and bushes isolating the site of the old city from modern civilization. There you will see the statue of Ptah, the patron god of Memphis, the massive colossal statue of Ramses II, and an exquisitely carved Alabaster Sphinx.



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.

The Great Pyramids at Giza - 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. Your tour will also include the solar boat museum. Nearby is the mysterious Sphinx, an ancient figure shrouded in legend and mystery.

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

Day 3

Cairo

This morning you will 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.



This afternoon 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 of interest is the fascinating Khan El-Khalili Bazaar - reputed to be the largest bazaar in the Middle East. Originally founded as a watering stop for caravanserai in the 14th century, the bazaar has now grown to vast proportions. As you wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets you will find workshops and stalls selling all manner of things from woodwork, glassware and leather goods to perfumes, fabrics and Pharaonic curiosities. Remember to bargain hard!

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

Day 4 (Tuesday)



Cairo/Aswan

An early start this morning for your transfer to the airport & flights to Aswan. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the jetty where you will board your cruise ship.

The Oberoi Zahra, Luxury Nile Cruiser continues the Oberoi Hotels & Resorts' tradition of offering the highest standards of hospitality and is amongst the most spacious accommodation on the Nile. The mutedly elegant interior of the Luxury Cabins and Luxury Suites is complemented by expansive views of the river framed by large windows within the cabins and the en suite bathrooms. The Oberoi Zahra is the only boat on the Nile with a full-service spa.



English speaking Egyptologists are available on board and an audio-visual presentation on the next day's programme is held every evening. Telescopes available on board highlight the spectacular views of the Egyptian night sky.

The facility of private docking arrangements is also unique to The Oberoi, Zahra and this ensures a relaxed experience while getting on and off the boat.



Small luxury coaches are available at each stop to take guests sightseeing with an Egyptologist accompanying each luxury coach.

After lunch you will visit some of the sites in Aswan.

The Aswan High Dam is 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.



You will then take 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.

Overnight in Aswan onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 5 (Wednesday)



Nile Cruise

After breakfast today you have the opportunity to enjoy an optional excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Abu Simbel.

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.



10:00 to 13:00 - Spa time

After sunset this evening you will re-visit the Philae Temple to see the Sound & Light show. The temple is transformed in this magical sound and light show that takes you on a narrated journey to discover the legends of Osiris and Isis. Dramatic lighting, music and narration transform the Temple of Philae and bring its history to life.

Overnight in Aswan onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 6 (Thursday)



Nile Cruise

Early this morning you will set sail for Komombo where you will visit the twin temple of Komombo. One side of the temple is dedicated to the Crocodile God Sobek, God of Fertility and Creator of the World. The other side is dedicated to the Falcon God Haroeis, also known as Horus, the Elder.

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.

Sail back to Aswan and after lunch you will visit the Botanical Gardens by Felucca.

At 18:00 you will enjoy a cocktail reception on the Mango Island.

17:00 to 19:00 - Spa time

Overnight in Aswan onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 7 (Friday)



Nile Cruise

This morning you will set sail for Edfu.

Most of today will be at your leisure to relax and enjoy some spa treatments should you wish.

Early this evening you will visit the Temple of Edfu, the largest and most completely preserved Pharaonic, albeit Greek-built, temple in Egypt. Construction of this huge complex began under Ptolmey III Euergetes I in 237 BC and was completed nearly 200 years later during the reign of Ptolmey 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.

Overnight in Edfu onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 8 (Saturday)



Nile Cruise

Early this morning you will set sail for Luxor.

This morning will be spent at your leisure onboard the ship.

This afternoon you will visit some sites on the East bank of Luxor.

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 relief's

were the work of New Kingdom rulers.

Also visit Luxor museum.

17:00 to 19:00 - Spa time

Overnight in Luxor onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 9 (Sunday)



Nile Cruise

After an early breakfast you will visit the West Bank of Luxor. Here you will explore the Valley of the Kings, a vast City 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 selected tombs is included & which tombs you visit will depend on what is open during your visit (see notes re Tutankhamun's tomb below)****

Also visit the Temple of Medinat Habu and the two famous 20m statues, the Colossi of Memnon which are all that remain of Amenophis' mortuary temple.

After lunch and some time at leisure you will sail to Quina where you will visit the Temple of Dendara, dedicated to Hathor, Goddess of Music, Love and Joy.

Overnight in Quina onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 10 (Monday)



Nile Cruise

Early this morning you will set sail for Luxor.

After breakfast you will visit some more sites on the West Bank including Valley of the Noble's tomes, Dier El Madina, the site of a very special workman's village, whose craftsmen built and decorated the tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings.

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

14:00 to 18:00 - Spa time

Later this afternoon you will visit the Temple of Luxor, 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.

Overnight in Luxor onboard Oberoi Zahra in a luxury cabin on a full board basis.

Day 11



Luxor/Hurghada

After breakfast you will disembark the ship and meet you're your driver to travel by road across the Red Sea mountains to Hurghada. On arrival you will check into your hotel.

A secluded haven on the Red Sea Coast, this exclusive luxury resort on the Red Sea Coast is situated on 48 acres with a private beach. The architecture of the resort reflects the style of the region, resplendent with domes, arches and columns. Peace and privacy pervade this all-suite resort, with private courtyards complemented by soothing interiors and luxurious bathrooms.



Overnight at Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh in a Deluxe Suite on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12 - 14

Hurghada

Spend the next 3 days at your leisure.

Overnight at Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh in a Deluxe Suite on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 15

Fly Hurghada/Cairo

Fly Cairo/London Heathrow

After a leisurely morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flights to Cairo with Egypt Air and onwards to London Heathrow, with British Midlands.

TRIP PRICE

Estimated cost: £3,575.00 per person

Please note these prices are subject to currency fluctuations and date of travel.

Includes:

- International & domestic flights in economy class
- Accommodation in a double/twin room/cabin
- Meals as indicated
- Private transfers and transportation throughout
- Private English speaking guide for all sightseeing (as part of a small group onboard Oberoi Zahra)
- Entrance fees to all sites

Excludes:

- Meals unless indicated
- Abu Simbel excursion (can be pre-booked)
- Any spa treatments (can be pre-booked)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (payable on arrival at a cost of approx USD\$17 per person)
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities

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 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 LE80 per person

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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.