



## SPLENDOURS OF EGYPT & THE NILE

November 3 – 17, 2022

### INCLUDED:

- ❖ Egypt Visa
- ❖ Hotels

CITY	HOTEL	INCLUSIONS
Cairo 3 nights	Ritz Carlton Nile Hotel	- Nile View Room - WiFi - Porterage - Breakfast Daily
Luxor 1 night	Hilton Luxor Hotel	- Partial Nile View Room - WiFi - Porterage - Breakfast Daily
Giza 3 nights	Marriott Mena House	- Garden View Room - WiFi - Porterage - Breakfast Daily

- ❖ 7 night River Cruise on the Farah Nile River Ship
  - Includes:
    - WIFI
    - water, juice, soft drinks, coffee, tea throughout the day
    - water, juice, soft drinks, local beer, local wine, coffee, tea with lunch and dinner
- ❖ Meals
  - 14 breakfasts
  - 13 lunches
  - 13 dinners
- ❖ Beverages
  - Land Program
    - LUNCH: soft drinks, juice, water, coffee, tea
    - DINNER: soft drinks, juice, water, coffee, tea
  - Cruise Program
    - ANYTIME: coffee/tea, soft drinks, juice, water
    - LUNCH: soft drinks, juice, local wine, local beer, coffee, tea

- DINNER: soft drinks, juice, local wine, local beer, coffee, tea
- ❖ Tours
  - All tours stated including:
    - entrance fees
    - bottled water
    - whisper headsets
- ❖ Basic Gratuities
- ❖ Travel Insurance (trip cancellation/interruption). Out of country medical insurance additional.

## **Cairo**

Cairo was founded in 969 AD as the Royal enclosure for the Fatimid Caliphs, while the actual economic and administrative capital was in nearby Fustat. Fustat was established by the Arab military commander 'Amr Ibn Al-'As following his conquest of Egypt in 641, where he established it as the capital, which had previously been in Alexandria. For a brief period, Al-Qatta'i stood as the new capital of Egypt, until 905, when Fustat was restored as Egypt's capital.

At the time, Fustat was considered a new city, built as a military garrison to house Arab troops. It was the closest central location to Arabia that was accessible to the Nile and thus considered of great importance. Later, during the Umayyad period, Fustat became known as a regional center for Islam, and it was here that the Umayyad ruler, Marwan II, made his last stand against the Abbasids.

It was in 969, during the Fatimid era, that Al-Qahira (Cairo) was officially founded as an imperial capital, and over the centuries, Cairo grew to absorb other local cities such as Fustat. However, it was not until Fustat was destroyed in 1168/1169 to prevent it from capture by the Crusaders that the administrative capital of Egypt moved to Cairo, where it has remained ever since.

In 1250, the Mamluks seized Egypt and ruled from Cairo until 1517, when they were defeated by the Ottomans. Napoleon's French army also briefly occupied Egypt from 1798 to 1801, after which an Ottoman officer named Muhammed Aly regained Egypt, making Cairo the capital of an independent empire that lasted from 1805 to 1882. The city then came under British control, which lasted till 1922 when Egypt gained lasting independence.



Photo

by [Omar Elsharawy](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**EGYPT AT A GLANCE**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES ARE PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

DATE	CITY	ACTIVITY	NOTES
November 3, 2022 Thursday D*	Cairo	Transfers	Welcome to Cairo  Transfer from the Cairo Airport to the Ritz Carlton  *For those guests arriving into Cairo prior to 6pm, a dinner credit will be provided
November 4, 2022 Friday B, L, D	Cairo	Morning	Breakfast at Culina 630am-1100am  At leisure  Lunch
		Afternoon	Afternoon Tour:  The Citadel & Mohamed Aly Mosque 100pm – 330pm  Private Visit to the Museum of Civilization 430pm – 630pm
		Evening	Dinner at a local restaurant 700pm-900pm
November 5, 2022 Saturday B, L, D	Cairo	Morning	Breakfast at Culina 630am-1100am  Tour: Coptic Cairo including Old Cairo and the Hanging Church  830am – 1130am
		Afternoon	Lunch at a Local Restaurant 1200pm – 130pm
		Evening	Private after hours tour of the Original Egyptian Museum 445pm – 700pm  Cocktail Reception at the Ritz Carlton 730pm – 900pm

November 6, 2022 Sunday B, L, D	Cairo – Luxor	Morning	Breakfast in the Ritz Carlton Lounge / Breakfast Box  Charter Flight to Luxor (early morning) 700am – 800am
		Afternoon	Check into Hilton Nile & Lunch 1200pm
		Evening	Dinner by the Nile at the Hilton Luxor 630pm
November 7, 2022 Monday B, L, D	Luxor	Morning	Breakfast boxes & coffee/tea in the Lobby  Hot Air Balloon Ride over Luxor Valley 400am-700am  Tour: Valley of the Queens & Medinet Habu Temple 730am – 1100am
	Luxor - Qena	Afternoon	Lunch onboard the MS Farah 1230pm – 200pm  Sailaway party on the Sun Deck 430pm
	Qena	Evening	What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 600pm  Dinner 700pm – 830pm  Entertainment in the Lounge
November 8, 2022 Tuesday B, L, D	Qena	Morning	Continental Breakfast Sun Deck 600am  Breakfast 600am-700am  Tour: Temple of Dendera 730am-1030am
	Qena - Esna	Afternoon	Lunch 1200pm – 130pm  Cruising the Nile  Afternoon Tea on the Sun Deck 330pm-430pm
	Esna	Evening	What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 600pm  Dinner 700pm – 830pm  Entertainment in the Lounge
November 9, 2022 Wednesday B, L, D	Esna	Morning	Continental Breakfast Sun Deck 600am  Breakfast 630am-800am  Tour: Temple of Khnum at Esna 800am-930am

		Afternoon	Lunch 1200pm – 130pm Cruising the Nile Afternoon Tea on the Sun Deck 330pm-430pm
	Esna - Aswan	Evening	What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 600pm Dinner 700pm – 830pm Entertainment in the Lounge
November 10, 2022  Thursday  B, L, D	Aswan	Morning	Breakfast 500am – 600am <i>Breakfast boxes will be available</i>  Tour: Philae Temple, Aswan High Dam & Friendship Monument 600am – 1200pm
		Afternoon	Lunch at the Old Cataract Hotel 1230pm  Tour: Boat ride on the Nile River in a Felucca
		Evening	What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 600pm Dinner 630pm – 800pm Entertainment in the Lounge
November 11, 2022  Friday  B, L, D	Aswan	Morning	Breakfast boxes & coffee/tea in the Lobby  Tour: Abu Simbel (charter flights)
		Afternoon	Lunch 1200pm – 130pm Afternoon free <i>Optional Tour: Shopping for spices, cotton &amp; linen</i>
	Aswan - Kom Ombo	Evening	What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 630pm Dinner 700pm – 830pm Entertainment in the Lounge
November 12, 2022  Saturday  B, L, D	Kom Ombo	Morning	Continental Breakfast Sun Deck 600am Breakfast 700am-830am Tour: Kom Ombo Temple 930am-1100am
	Kom Ombo - Luxor	Afternoon	Lunch 1200pm – 130pm Cruising the Nile Afternoon Tea on the Sun Deck 330pm-430pm

	Luxor	Evening	What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 600pm Dinner 700pm – 830pm Entertainment in the Lounge
November 13, 2022  Sunday  B, L, D	Luxor	Morning	Breakfast 500am – 600am <i>Breakfast boxes will be available</i>  Tour: Valley of the Kings 600am – 1100am
		Afternoon	Lunch at a local restaurant  Tour: Temple of Luxor 230pm – 330pm
		Evening	Farewell Cocktail Reception & What to Expect Lecture in the Lounge 600pm  Farewell to the Nile Dinner 700pm – 830pm Entertainment in the Lounge
November 14, 2022  Monday  B, L, D (dinner credit)	Luxor	Morning	Breakfast <i>Breakfast boxes will be available</i>  Charter Flight to Cairo 800am – 900am
		Cairo	Afternoon
			Evening
November 15, 2022  Tuesday  B, L, D	Cairo	Morning	Breakfast at 139 Pavilion <i>Breakfast boxes will be available</i>  Tour: Privilege Access for the Pyramids of Giza & the Sphinx (Early Morning) 500am-900am  <i>Entrance to the Pyramids &amp; the short Camel Ride will be available by sign-up in advance.</i>  Brunch at the Marriott Mena House 1130am – 100pm
		Afternoon	Free Time

		Evening	Gala Farewell Dinner at the Pyramids 700pm
November 16, 2022  Wednesday  B, L, D	Cairo	Morning	Breakfast at 139 Pavilion 630am – 1030am  Morning Free
		Afternoon	Lunch at the Mena House 1200pm – 130pm
		Evening	Farewell to Egypt Dinner at the Mena House 630pm
November 17, 2022  Thursday  B	Cairo	Morning	Breakfast at 139 Pavilion 630am – 1030am  <i>Breakfast boxes will be available for those guests on early flights</i>  Transfer to Airport for Flight home



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### November 3, 2022

#### Cairo

Welcome to Cairo! Upon arrival at the Cairo airport, you will be met at the bottom of the escalator in the arrival hall prior to the passport control desks and assisted through immigration clearance, luggage collection and customs control and then escorted to your transfer vehicle.

You will then be transferred to the spectacular Ritz Carlton Nile Hotel.

*For those guests arriving prior to 6pm, dinner credits will be provided to use at the Nile Ritz Carlton.*

### November 4, 2022

#### Cairo

B, L, D

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast at Culina Restaurant from 630am – 1100am.

Join Sanjay and the Cruise Connections team for lunch by the pool at the Ritz Carlton before leaving for our first tour of Egypt visiting the Citadel and the Mohamed Ali Mosque.

*Citadel Salah El Din, the Ayyubid ruler of Egypt during the 12<sup>th</sup> century, built a fortress overlooking Cairo in 1176 AD. The original fortifications were later torn down by Sultan El Nasir and Mohammed Ali to make room for their own mosques and palaces. For almost 700 years, to the death of Mohammed Ali in 1849, nearly all of Egypt's rulers lived in the Citadel, held court, dispensed justice and received ambassadors.*

*Within the citadel's towering walls are the Mohammed Ali's Alabaster Mosque (built in the image of the Blue Mosque of Turkey). The decorations and the design of the mosque are very intricate and typically Turkish. The mosque is believed to be the most magnificent Islamic monument in Egypt.*



Following the Coptic Tour, you will transfer to the new Museum of Civilization for our private visit.

*NMEC is the first museum in the Arab world focusing on the earliest civilization in history – the ancient Egyptian Civilization. It is the only museum in Egypt that offers the visitor a general overview of all the different historical periods that encompass Egypt. This has been approached as a layered cumulative product regarding the interaction of the Egyptian people with their land throughout history.*



### **Mummies Hall**

*Considered the crown jewel of the museum, the Royal Mummies' Hall is specially designed to display the ancient Kings and Queens of Egypt. The design aims to give the visitor the feeling of strolling down the Valley of the Kings, where most of these mummies were originally resting. The hall includes 20 Royal mummies, 18 Kings and 2 Queens from the 17<sup>th</sup> until the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. The most famous mummies are Hatshepsut (Maatkare), Thutmose III (Menkheperre), Seqenenre Taa II.*

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*** Photography in the Mummies Hall is not allowed (phone, DSLR, digital, video)

After the tour, you will transfer to a local restaurant for our 'Welcome to Egypt' dinner.



**November 5, 2022**

**Cairo**

B, L, D

This morning after breakfast, you will depart for the Coptic Tour including the famous Hanging Church.

**Old Cairo** – *The famous Coptic Museum is built on the site of the Roman Fortress of Babylon, constructed about 30 BC, under Augustus and rebuilt in the time of Trajan. Inside the fortress are several Coptic Churches and the richest collection of Coptic Art in the World.*

**Al Mo'alaga Church** – *built in the fifth century over the southern gate of the Fort Babylon. The Basilica style Church is rich in antiquities from the early Christian era.*

**Church of Abu Serga** – *The Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus (Abu Serga) is a 4<sup>th</sup> century church and today is considered to be the oldest of Cairo's Christian Churches. It is dedicated to two early martyrs and traditionally believed to have been built on the spot where the Holy Family, Joseph, Mary and the infant Christ, rested at the end of their journey into Egypt. They may have lived here while Joseph worked at the Fortress.*

**Hanging Church** – *also known as Saint Virgin Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church, is one of the oldest churches in Egypt and the history of the church on this site dates to the third century. It is named for its location above a gatehouse of Babylon Fortress, the Roman Fortress in Coptic Cairo and its nave is suspended over a passage.*

Lunch will be at a local restaurant.

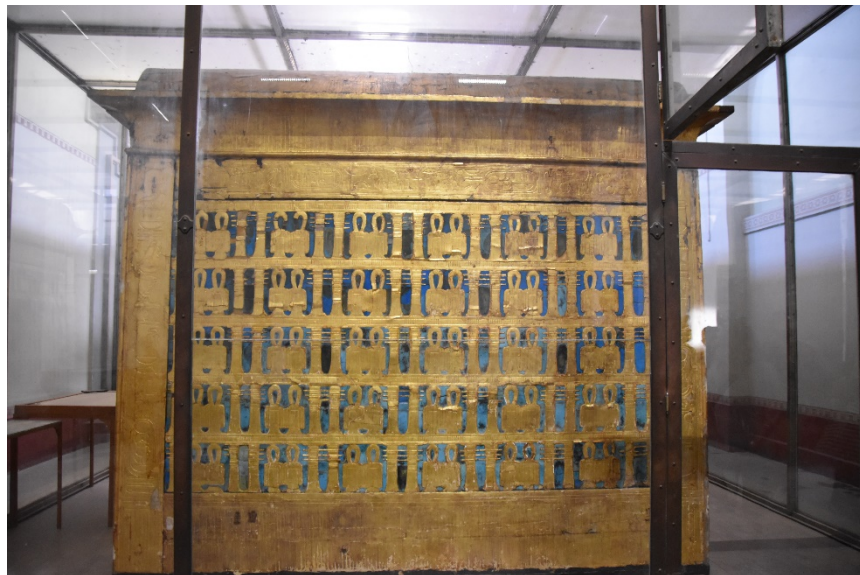


This afternoon prior to our After Hours Visit to the Old Egyptian Museum, your large luggage will be collected to go via luggage truck to Luxor. You will need a small rolling travel case for your stay in Luxor (please keep all of your toiletries, medications and valuables with you). Your main luggage will be delivered directly to the MS Farah.

Late afternoon, meet Sanjay and our team for our exclusive 'Private Visit' to the original Egyptian Museum (after working hours).



*Located in the heart of Cairo, the Egyptian Museum was established in 1900 and it is by far the most valuable museum of Egyptian antiquities in the world. The museum is divided into galleries exhibiting items from various periods in more or less chronological order, moving clockwise along the ground floor. The upper floor currently contains an area where the treasures of Tutankhamen are exhibited. All the items exhibited here came from his tomb found in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes in what is now Luxor. Tutankhamen's gold coffin is made of 450 pounds of solid gold and is considered one of the most beautiful possessions of humanity.*



Our Cocktail

Dinner

Reception will be at the Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel.

**November 6, 2022**  
**Cairo - Luxor**

B, L, D

This morning we will have a continental breakfast set-up in the Lounge at the Ritz Carlton prior to our early morning transfer to the Cairo airport for your charter flight to Luxor.

Upon arrival into Luxor, you will transfer to the magnificent Temple of Karnak where you will stroll through the grand avenues of sphinxes and halls of gigantic columns. This vast complex, situated about 2 miles (3.5 kilometers) from the Temple of Luxor, was originally established during the Middle Kingdom (1991-1633 BC), and various dynasties over the next 1,300 years continued to expand it. Karnak is a massive and simply astounding site, reflecting the combined achievements of many generations of ancient builders—as many as 80,000 laborers took part in its creation during the 19th Dynasty alone.



Buried under sand for a thousand years, the UNESCO-designated Karnak complex is composed of three main temples, smaller enclosed temples and several outer temples. The largest of these temples is dedicated to Amun, a great pharaonic god. You will enter the main compound, the Precinct of Amun, through the Great Court, and continue on to the dazzling Great Hypostyle Hall—sometimes called the Hall of Columns—an imposing forest of 134 enormous sandstone columns in the form of papyrus stalks.



Lunch will be at the Hilton Luxor prior to check-in to the hotel.

This afternoon enjoy time by the pool and relax by the Nile.



This evening we will have our magical Dinner by the Nile as you gaze across at the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens.



November 7, 2022

Luxor – Qena

B, L, D

This morning, witness the history of Luxor from above in a hot air balloon to enjoy sunrise and the views of ancient Thebes, the temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens. This will definitely be a magical once in a lifetime experience.



After the hot air balloon ride, you head to the Valley of the Queens. This is where the wives of pharaohs were buried in ancient times. It was known then as Ta-Set-Neferu, meaning "the place of beauty" and was most famous for being the burial site of many wives of Pharaohs. You will enjoy privilege access to Queen Nefertari's tomb.

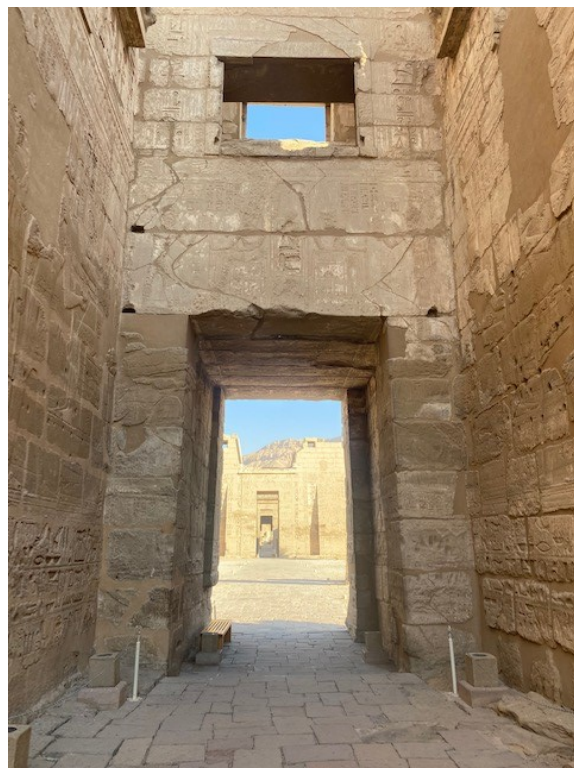
*\*\*Please note that cameras (including cell phone) are not allowed in Queen Nefertari's Tomb.*

Following our visit to the Valley of the Queens, you will have the opportunity to visit Medinet Habu Temple.

Rameses III built his magnificent mortuary temple on Luxor's West Bank with intricate relief carvings and shrines. Medinet Habu has wonderfully preserved art, and is among Luxor's most important ancient sites. Images of hunting trips, prisoner executions, and battles with the Sea People are a larger-than-life window into his royal legacy.

Medinet Habu is the second largest ancient temple ever discovered in Egypt, covering a total area of more than 66,000 square meters. The temple was built specifically as a mortuary temple by Ramesses III who was the second pharaoh of the 20<sup>th</sup> dynasty, and also the last great pharaoh of the New Kingdom. While the temple was built for Ramesses III to practice mortuary rituals, it was also used as a place for worshipping the god Amun.

Given its vast size and grandeur, some historians and Egyptologists have speculated that Ramesses III had actually attempted to rival the temple built by the great Ramesses II which coincidentally is also located nearby on the West Bank.





After your morning adventure on the West Bank, you will be transferred to the MS Farah to embark for your week sailing the Nile. Lunch will be served onboard.

In the late afternoon, join Sanjay and our team up on the top deck for our sail away from Luxor party!



Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections Team team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow in Qena!

This evening enjoy the Welcome Aboard dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

**November 8, 2022**

**Qena - Esna**

B, L, D

Known in ancient Egypt as Caene, Qena's situation on the banks of the Nile River has bolstered its prosperity over the millennia.

This morning you will have the opportunity to visit the impressive Temple of Hathor at Dendera which was dedicated to the goddess of love and beauty. This sprawling complex was built not by the ancient Egyptians, but by Ptolemies and Romans in classic Egyptian style. The temple dates to Egypt's Ptolemaic era, when the heirs of Alexander the Great ruled over Egypt and adopted Egyptian culture and religion as their own. Built between 125 BC and AD 65, it is one of the best-preserved temples in all of Egypt and features a rare bas-relief of Cleopatra with Caesarion, the son she bore to Julius Caesar.



This afternoon enjoy some relaxation as you sail to Esna.

Ancient Egyptians knew Esna as Latopolis, named for the largest of the perch species that swam in the Nile's sacred waters.

Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow in Esna!

This evening enjoy dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

**November 9, 2022**

**Esna - Aswan**

B, L, D

This morning you will learn how the Temple of Esna was buried under debris for many centuries and is one of the last great Egyptian Temples ever built. Your Egyptologist guide will share all sorts of fascinating insights about this significant cultural site and show you the façade bearing the last known hieroglyphic inscriptions ever recorded in Egypt.



The Temple of Esna was dedicated to the God Khnum (God of Creation), his consorts Menhit and Nebtu, their son Heka and the goddess Neith. The temple lies on the west bank of the Nile about 34 miles (55 kilometers) south of Luxor and was buried under debris for many centuries. It dates from the Ptolemaic and Roman period (180 BC to AD 251) and is one of the last Egyptian temples ever built. Visitors can see two large inscriptions praising Khnum, the ram-headed god of creation, who fashioned mankind on a potter's wheel from the clay mud of the Nile. There is also a hypostyle hall with 24 pillars and a ceiling depicting Egyptian astronomical figures and Roman zodiac signs. On the temple's western wall, look for images of Horus, the god of victory, and Khnum, dragging a net full of fish.

The temple is 200 meters from the River and 9 meters below street level. To reach the temple, you will have to descend a long flight of steps.

This afternoon you will sail for Aswan.

Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow in Aswan!

This evening enjoy dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

## **November 10, 2022**

### **Aswan**

B, L, D

Today is an epic day, filled with wonders from start to finish. You will visit the beautiful Philae Temple complex, which was moved from one island to another back in the 1970s followed by a visit to a Nubian Village for our Positive Footprint program. But wait, there's more! You will enjoy lunch at a famous hotel depicted in Agatha Christie's novel *Death on the Nile* followed by a ride on a Felucca—a traditional Egyptian sailboat—back to the Farah River Ship.

This morning will be an early start for our tour of the beautiful Philae Temple complex, originally situated on the island of Agilkia.

The Philae Temple was painstakingly transferred to Agilkia Island after the construction of the Aswan High Dam to save it from the rising waters of Lake Nasser, a daunting UNESCO-funded endeavor that took 10 years to complete. The three principal monuments on the island all date from the Ptolemaic and Roman periods—the Kiosk of Trajan, the Temple of Hathor and the Temple of Isis.





Following the morning tour of the Philae Temple, you will be transferred to the Aswan High Dam. Completed in the 1970s, it is a marvel of modern engineering that boasts some truly epic dimensions —it is 11,800 feet (3,597 meters) long; 3,215 feet (980 meters) wide at its base; and 304 feet (93 meters) high—with a reservoir capacity nearly five times of the Hoover Dam.

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will have a short visit to see the Soviet-Egypt Friendship Monument which is located not far from the Aswan Dam. It was built in the early 1970s in order to commemorate the former Soviet Union's assistance to Egypt in construction of the Aswan Dam. The tower is 70 meters high and is shaped five standing lotus petals

After our visit to the Aswan High Dam, you will be transferred to the Old Cataract Hotel for lunch. The Old Cataract Hotel is a colonial-era gem that counts Winston Churchill and Princess Diana among its former guests. This famous hotel was depicted in Agatha Christie's acclaimed mystery novel *Death on the Nile*.

*The Old Cataract Hotel is a historic British Colonial hotel in Aswan.*

*The hotel was built in 1899 by Thomas Cook to house European travelers. Its guests have included Tsar Nicholas II, Winston Churchill, Howard Carter, Margaret Thatcher, Jimmy Carter, François Mitterrand, Princess Diana, Queen Noor and Agatha Christie, who set portions of her novel *Death on the Nile* at the hotel. The 1978 film of the novel was shot at the hotel.*

*The Old Cataract Dining Room was added in 1902. The architect was H. Favarger.*

*A new modern tower wing was built in 1961. It operated as a budget wing of the hotel for many years, and was known as the **New Cataract Hotel**.*

*In 1973 United States Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger and his aides stayed in the New Cataract Hotel during the negotiations to end the Yom Kippur War*

*The hotel was closed from 2008 to 2011 for a complete restoration, during which the tower was combined with the historic Old Cataract wing into one hotel. The Old Cataract wing, which had 131 rooms and eight suites, was renamed the Palace Wing, with 76 rooms and 45 suites. The New Cataract Wing, which had 144 rooms, was turned into the Nile Wing, with 62 rooms including 37 suites, all with a balcony with a river view.*

*Egypt's CBC used the Old Cataract as the primary filming location for its musical adaptation of the popular Spanish series *Gran Hotel* in 2016.*



After

lunch, you will sail serenely down the Nile back to the MS Farah in a *felucca*— a small traditional boat with large triangular sails—a wonderful way to experience the river as Egyptians have for a thousand years.

*Please Note: Feluccas are wind-powered and thus will operate only if weather conditions permit.*

Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow in Abu Simbel and Aswan!

This evening enjoy dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

**November 11, 2022**

**Aswan – Kom Ombo**

B, L, D

This morning, a light continental breakfast will be available in the dining room (breakfast boxes will be available for those who prefer), we will leave for one of the highlights of the trip – Abu Simbel.

After a short charter flight from Aswan to Abu Simbel, you will have a tour followed by free time before the charter flight back to Aswan.



The most magnificent of the monuments Ramses II built, Abu Simbel is both the perfect example of the ambition of this pharaoh's reign and also a model illustration for modern engineering. The entire temple was transplanted from its original location and lifted piece by piece to its current site by an International UNESCO team working against the clock to preserve it from being flooded by the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s.

The colossal stone statues that grace the facade are Pharaoh Ramses II's attempt to achieve immortality. It has worked. Today, visitors here still crane their necks in disbelief at the behemoth temples just as the pharaoh's subjects would have done when the temples were first raised.

After our charter flight lands back in Aswan, you will be transferred to the MS Farah for lunch.

This afternoon, you will have a free afternoon to relax. For those who wish to shop for spices, cotton and linens, we will have sign-ups for shopping trips!

Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow in Kom Ombo!

This evening enjoy dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

Late in the evening we will set sail for Kom Ombo.

**November 12, 2022**

**Kom Ombo - Luxor**

B, L, D

This morning you will have the opportunity to visit the Kom Ombo Temple. Unlike most ancient Egyptian temples, it is dedicated to two gods—the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Horus the Elder. Construction began under the reign of Ptolemy VI Philometor (180-145 BC) and continued under later rulers, most notably Ptolemy XIII (47-44 BC), who built the inner and outer hypostyle halls. Several of the 300 crocodile mummies discovered in the vicinity are displayed inside the temple.





This afternoon enjoy some relaxation as we sail back to Luxor.

Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow in Luxor!

This evening enjoy dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

**November 13, 2022**

**Luxor**

B, L, D

During your last full day of tours in Luxor, you will visit one of the most famous archeological sites in the world—the remote and barren Valley of the Kings, used for royal burials for nearly 500 years along with Medinet Habu Temple. Much of our understanding of Egyptian mythology has been garnered from these ancient chambers, located about four miles (seven kilometers) inland on the west bank of the Nile. It was here that the bodies of great pharaohs such as Ramses II and Thutmose III were once laid to rest and where the mummified remains of the boy king Tutankhamen are still on display. The idea for establishing this royal burial ground is thought to have originated with Thutmose I, who opted to conceal his tomb far from his mortuary temple in an effort to deter tomb robbers. Subsequent pharaohs did the same, changing a tradition that had endured for close to 2,000 years.

Within the tombs and along the walls of the Valley of the Kings, inscriptions from the Book of the Dead provided instructions on how the pharaohs could safely journey to the next world and avoid the dangers that lay on the way. For the sake of preservation, only a handful of the most interesting tombs are open to visitors at any given time.

Everyone will have the opportunity to visit a few of the tombs including the tomb of King Tutankhamen.



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lunch, you will visit one of the most breathtaking temples in Luxor, spiritual capital of Egypt for 15 centuries. Begin with your guide at Temple of Luxor. This magnificent Ancient Egyptian Temple complex built in approximately 1400 BC by Amenhotep III and Ramses II. As enter through its massive pylons and explore, your guide will interpret the ancient hieroglyphs, some of which illustrate the

extravagant Opet festival held to ensure a harvest. One of the obelisks and several of temple's statues now reside in Paris. You will remains of the Avenue of the Sphinxes, links Luxor to Karnak. Beyond lies the Great Ramses II, whose walls are adorned with the and titles of his 17 sons. In 1989, during a restoration, a cache of 26 statues was found buried by priests in Roman times.



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Prior to dinner, join the Cruise Connections team along with your guides and Tour Managers for an overview of what to expect tomorrow on our journey back to Cairo and the sites at Saqqara!

Tonight is our Farewell to the Nile River Dinner followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

*Please Note: Basic Gratuities have been included for the onboard team but we know that any additional gratuities would be appreciated.*

**November 14, 2022**

**Luxor - Giza**

B, L, D

This morning after breakfast onboard, you will be transferred to the airport for your charter flight back to Cairo. (Breakfast boxes will be available)

Upon arrival into Cairo, the tour will continue to Saqqara (Sakkara) which served as the necropolis for the ancient Egyptian capital, Memphis.



Saqqara is a vast, ancient burial ground and best known for the Step Pyramid, the oldest known of Egypt's 97 pyramids. It was built for King Djoser of the 3rd Dynasty by the architect and genius Imhotep, who was also a High Priest and famous doctor. He designed it and its surrounding complex to be as grand as it was unique and revolutionary. Imhotep was the first to build stone tombs in honor of the king's majesty. His many titles included 'Treasurer of the King of Lower Egypt', 'Administrator of the Great Palace', and 'Imhotep the Builder, the Sculptor, the Maker of Stone Vessels'. Although his tomb has not yet been located, it is thought to be near Zoser's funerary chamber.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant before going to the Marriott Mena House Hotel to check in for your stay in Giza.



Enjoy a relaxing evening at the Marriott Mena House. Everyone will receive a credit for dinner on your own.

evening

**November 15, 2022**

**Giza**

B, L, D

Today is the absolute highlight of the trip – the Great Pyramids of Egypt! We have received 'Privilege Access' to visit the Pyramids of Giza prior to any other guests. After our early morning visit (between 5am and 7am before it opens to the general public), we will visit the Sphinx along with a short camel ride!

The **Great Pyramid of Giza** (also known as the **Pyramid of Khufu** or the **Pyramid of Cheops**) is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the Giza pyramid complex bordering present-day Giza in Greater Cairo, Egypt. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact.



Egyptologists believe that the pyramid was built as a tomb for the Fourth Dynasty Egyptian pharaoh Khufu over a 20-year period concluding around 2560 BC. Initially standing at 146.5 metres (481 feet), the Great Pyramid was the tallest man-made structure in the world for more than 3,800 years. It is estimated to weigh approximately 6 million tonnes, and consists of 2.3 million blocks of limestone and granite, some weighing as much as 80 tonnes. It was originally covered by limestone casing stones that formed a smooth outer surface; what is seen today is the underlying core structure, although a few casing stones can still be seen at the base. It was built by extracting huge stones from a quarry and lifting them into place, but there are varying scientific and alternative theories about the exact construction technique.

There are three known chambers inside the Great Pyramid. The lowest chamber is cut into the bedrock upon which the pyramid was built and was unfinished. The Queen's Chamber and King's Chamber are higher up within the pyramid structure. The main part of the Giza complex is a set of buildings that included two mortuary temples in honour of Khufu (one close to the pyramid and one near the Nile), three smaller pyramids for Khufu's wives, an even smaller "satellite" pyramid, a raised causeway connecting the two temples, and small mastaba tombs for nobles surrounding the pyramid.

Normally, all visitors are only allowed to visit the Sphinx from the ramp facing it, but for our exclusive visit, you will be able to visit from the feet of the Sphinx where the Dream Stele of Thutmoses IV lies.



The Great Sphinx is to the northeast of Chephren's Valley Temple. Where it sits was once a quarry where Chephren's workers shaped the stone into the lion and gave it their king's face over 4,500 years ago. The Sphinx faces the rising sun with a temple to the front of which resembles the sun temples which were built later by the kings of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.

*For those who wish to explore the inside of the Pyramids and/or take a short Came Ride, we will have a registration form.*

After our magical morning head back to the Marriott Mena house for brunch and relaxation by the pool!

In the early evening, meet the Cruise Connections Team for our Exclusive Gala Farewell event **at** the Pyramids.



**November 16, 2022**

**Giza**

B, L, D

This morning will be at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel before joining the group for lunch.

This evening we will have our Farewell to Egypt dinner at the Mena House Hotel.

**November 17, 2022**

**Giza**

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Breakfast is at the hotel and transfers will be arranged for your flights back to North America.