

GTC

GREENHILLS TRAVEL CENTRE



EGYPT SMALL GROUP TOUR

21-day private small group tour

Fully escorted from Maitland by Warwick (Curly) Gladman

Includes All airfares, taxes & fuel surcharges* • Fully inclusive tour of Egypt, including Abu Simbel • 7-night Nile Cruise • Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, El Alamein • Entrance fees to all attractions as per itinerary • Meals as stated • 5 nights in Cairo • 2 nights in Alexandria • 1 night in Luxor • 3-night Dubai stopover • Air conditioned coach • Tour director • Personal Egyptologist • Gratuities

Departs 04 February 2019

\$8,999* per person twin share
No single supplement
No triple rooms available

ATAS
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Australia - Cairo

Transfer from Greenhills Travel Centre to Sydney airport for your flight to Cairo.

Day 2 Cairo

On arrival in Cairo we will be met and transferred to our hotel. The remainder of today is at leisure. Relax by the delightful swimming pool or take in the view of the Pyramids from your hotel. Two-night stay: Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel (Felfela Restaurant nearby).

Day 3 Cairo

We begin with a visit to the Pyramids of Giza for our guided tour then on to the Sphinx, the mystic creature with the head of a king and the body of a lion. Later we visit Saqqara and here you will see the famous step pyramid of King Zoser, which dates from 2686BC and is the world's oldest major stone structure. Continue to Memphis, the ancient capital of the Old Kingdom to see the gigantic statue of Ramses II and the great Alabaster Sphinx. (Breakfast & Lunch included)

Day 4 Cairo - Alexandria

Today we visit the WWII battlefields of El Alamein, located in the Western Desert. It is the site of one of the largest battles of WWII. We visit the battlefields and the Commonwealth War Cemeteries, which contain over 7000 Tombstones overlooking the desert battlefield. We then visit El-Alamein Museum. This museum includes four main halls representing the countries that participated in the El-Alamein Battle: Germany, England, Italy, and Egypt and a joint hall exhibiting weapons and tanks which were used in the battle, and paintings representing war scenes representing the manoeuvres of the battle and Egypt's role during the war. Continue to Alexandria. Two Night Stay: Sofitel Cecil Hotel. (Breakfast included)

Day 5 Alexandria

Situated on the Mediterranean coast, Alexandria exudes a European air and sophistication with Greek and Italian influences. We visit the National Museum which exhibits more than 1800 archaeological pieces. This is then followed by the Catacomb of Kom El Shoqafa-burial places of early Alexandrian Christians which merge old and new Egyptian culture and art. Pompey's Pillar standing on the site of an ancient temple, and Montazah Gardens which surround the Montazah Palace, once the home of Egyptian royalty. The new library of Alexandria, an architectural masterpiece, has a massive repository of international manuscripts. (Breakfast & Dinner included)

Day 6 Alexandria - Cairo

We depart Alexandria 10.00 am and drive to Cairo via Wadi el Natroun, home to some of the world's earliest Christian monasteries, such as Deir Anba Bishoi Monastery. Originally there were 50 monasteries but only four have survived to modern times. Overnight Novotel Cairo Airport Hotel. (Breakfast included)

Day 7 Cairo - Luxor Nile Cruise

Today after breakfast, check out of your hotel, where you will be transferred to Cairo domestic airport for your short flight to Luxor (ancient Thebes), we join our cruise boat for check in and welcoming refreshment before a relaxing lunch. Afternoon visit Luxor Temple. This temple is dedicated to the great God Amun-Re, his wife Mut and their son Khons, the moon God, all of whom together represent the Theban triad. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 8 Luxor - Nile Cruise - Luxor to Esna

This morning we visit Karnak Temple built over 2000 years ago and a place of worship for 4000 years. Hear tales of ancient Thebes and the lives of the pharaohs who built the necropolis, seeking to make their mark on the country's most important temple. With its endless courts, halls and huge sacred lake, the scale and complexity of this sprawling temple is overwhelming. On your return the cruise boat sets sail for the incredible Esna lock. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 9 Nile Cruise - Esna to Kom Ombo

This morning you disembark for a short walk through the colourful side alleys to Esna Temple, dedicated to Khnum, the ram-headed creator God. You then sail to Edfu for a visit to the magnificently preserved Temple of Horus, the falcon God, which dates from the Ptolemaic period. Unique amongst the temples of Upper Egypt, Edfu is located on the west bank of the Nile, normally dedicated to the afterlife. Continue on to Kom Ombo where your boat moors this evening. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 10 Nile Cruise - Kom Ombo to Aswan

After a relaxing cruise upstream to picturesque Aswan, you will disembark from your cruise boat and take a motorboat to the Temple of Isis at Philae. Built in the third century BC and known as 'Jewel of the Nile', this lovely temple complex is located on an island in the Nile and was dedicated to the goddess Isis. It features well preserved temple buildings, courtyards, reliefs and murals. Continue on to the High Dam, the ancient granite quarries and the unfinished obelisk. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)



Cairo



The Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx



Alexandria



Kom Ombo Temple



Aswan

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Day 11 Nile Cruise - Aswan

This morning take an early morning flight to the incredible Temples of Ramses II and Queen Nefertari at Abu Simbel in ancient Nubia, arguably the greatest indulgence of any Pharaoh. After lunch onboard, you will enjoy a traditional felucca ride to Aswan's botanical gardens located on Elephantine Island. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 12 Nile Cruise - Aswan to Kom Ombo

Set sail early this morning to Kom Ombo, where you will disembark to visit Kom Ombo temple with its unique floor plan, the result of the unification of two temples, each dedicated to a distinct divinity; the crocodile-headed Sobek, god of fertility and Horus, the solar war god. This explains why Kom Ombo is known both as 'House of the Crocodile' and 'Castle of the Falcon'. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 13 Nile Cruise - Luxor

After breakfast, you will cross to the west bank of the Nile for the first stop at the Colossi of Memnon. These massive quartzite statues once flanked the entrance to Amenhotep III's Mortuary Temple and now stand alone in a field on the way to the Valley of the Kings. You'll then visit Deir El Bahari, the incredible Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the longest ruling female pharaoh whose temple is perhaps the most imposing feature on the West Bank. Finally, uncover the Valley of the Kings, where your entry includes visits to three tombs. (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner included)

Day 14 Luxor

After disembarking from your cruise boat, transfer to check-in to your hotel for overnight, enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Perhaps relax at your beautiful historical hotel, or wander through the many nearby street stalls and test your bargaining skills with the locals. Optional - to visit ACE (Animal Care in Egypt). One night Sofitel Pavillon Winter Palace. (Breakfast included)

Day 15 Luxor - Cairo Sightseeing

Checkout from your hotel, then transfer to Luxor airport, your flight takes you back to Cairo to visit Salah el Din's Citadel and enjoy the breathtaking views of the entire city and across to the pyramids. Explore Muhammad Ali's great Mosque built in a wholly Turkish style between 1830 and 1857. This evening, we head back to the Pyramids for a spectacular 'Sound and Light' show. Here you will hear tales of the early Pharaohs, who built the sole survivor of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World. Two night stay Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel. (Breakfast included)

Day 16 Cairo

As we continue to discover Cairo, you'll visit the world-famous Khan el Khalili bazaar, with its labyrinth of bustling alleys - a great opportunity to pick up some last-minute bargains. Follow up with a visit to the incredible Egyptian Museum, home of the greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities in the world, where all that you've seen in Upper Egypt will be brought into perspective. Visit the hanging church and St Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church. Optional - Dinner cruise and show on the Nile. (Breakfast included)

Day 17 Cairo - Dubai

After breakfast transfer to Cairo Airport for our flight to Dubai. Three nights in Dubai. (Breakfast included)

Day 18 Dubai

Today, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Dubai. See the Jumeirah Mosque and the old wind-tower houses built by wealthy merchants. Continue by 'Abra' (water taxi) along the creek and see the gleaming towers of the modern metropolis. Then visit the gold and spice souks (markets). Dubai is world-renowned for its marvellous gold jewellery and virtually tax-free shopping. Spend the rest of your day browsing for bargains or perhaps relax by the pool at your hotel. This evening, we enjoy a Dhow Cruise with dinner on Dubai Creek. (Breakfast & Dinner included)

Day 19 Dubai

Free Day to explore Dubai. (Breakfast included)

Day 20 Dubai

After breakfast transfer to the airport for our flight home. (Breakfast included)

Day 21 Australia

Arrive back in Australia. (Inflight meals)

The most important thing to bring on holidays is your... sense of humour.



Deir El Bahari



Muhammad Ali Mosque



Pyramids, Cairo



Dubai



Dubai spice souk

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