

OPTIONAL CAIRO EXTENSION

4 days | Explore Cairo



Egyptian civilization spans 5,000+ years of recorded history. For millennia, Egypt maintained a strikingly complex and stable culture that influenced later cultures of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Cairo has long been the hub not only for Egypt but also for the whole world. It seems never to lose its sense of history—only to add to it—and still boasts 12th-century fortifications alongside modern shopping malls. Camels and street bazaars add texture to this center for government and education.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: OCTOBER 29, 2020

Travel to Cairo

📍 Cairo, Egypt

After breakfast at the group hotel at the Dead Sea, you will check out and head to the local airport for your flight to Cairo.

Upon arrival at the local airport, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel for the remainder of the day free to get settled.

You will have to obtain your Egypt tourist visa upon arrival in Cairo. There is a \$25 fee due upon arrival (not included).

Lunch is on your own today with dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Steigenburger El Tahrir

Included meals: Dinner



DAY 2: OCTOBER 30, 2020

Cultural Exploration

📍 Cairo, Egypt

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by a local guide and transferred for a full-day discovery of some of the priceless monuments around the old city, many under

UNESCO protection as a World Heritage Site. Begin with the legendary city of Memphis, which was founded in 3100 BC by Menes, the Pharaoh who united Upper and Lower Egypt. **Memphis** became the capital of the Old Kingdom and the heart of Egypt's busy import-export activity, with traders from around the world giving it a cosmopolitan atmosphere.



Next, move on to **Sakkara**, the former necropolis (cemetery) for the ancient Egyptian city of Memphis and the place where the very first pyramids were built as tombs for kings. Instead of the smooth sides featured on other pyramids, the pyramids here feature six steps on the outside, representing the pharaohs stepladder to heaven. Discover the famous **Step Pyramid of King Zoser**, the first pyramid ever built and the world's oldest freestanding stone structure.

After lunch at a local restaurant, head to the Giza Plateau.

The **Great Pyramids of Giza** are the only present-day survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, built over 4,500 years ago as giant tombs for the mummies of the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, who were a father, son and grandson. The pyramids are truly monumental in scale, with the largest, Khufu's, constructed from over two million blocks.



Nearby sits the enigmatic **Sphinx** with the body of a lion and the face of a man wearing a royal head cloth, which workers may have based on King Khafre to guard his enormous funerary monument.

Your explorations this afternoon include a visit to the Solar Boat Museum, admission to the workers tomb, and entry to Cheops Pyramid (the largest and most impressive pyramid build for Khufu).

The incredible Solar Boat Museum, located to the south side of the Great Pyramid of Cheops, housing the same Pharaoh's magnificent 141-foot-long funerary boat of cedar wood. Discovered in a pit by the Great Pyramid in 1954, the entire boat was carefully assembled and placed in the museum.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: Steigenburger El Tahrir
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 3: OCTOBER 31, 2020

📍 Cairo, Egypt

After breakfast at the hotel, head out with a local expert guide for a visit to the incredible **Egyptian Museum**. Tour 7,000 years of history at the museum, which houses the largest collection of ancient Egyptian art in the world. Key features of the museum include the treasures of the boy-king Tutankhamun, including his gold mask, the solid gold sarcophagus that held his mummy and his beautiful throne.



Your visit today includes a visit the **mummies room**. This specially-built area is dedicated to the well-preserved mummies of 11 Royal Kings and Queens of Ancient Egypt, including the Great Ramses II, Egypt's longest ruling pharaoh.

Enjoy lunch at the Nobel-prize-winning Egyptian author, Naguib Mahfouz restaurant which lies in the very heart of the Khan El-Khalili Bazaar.

After lunch visit the **Citadel**, a medieval fortress perched high on limestone hills above Cairo, which was built in 1176 to protect the city from Crusaders.

While exploring you will see the grand, soaring architecture and rich decoration, the **Mosque of Sultan Hassan**, completed in 1363, is one of the finest in Egypt and also houses the mausoleum where Sultan Hassan's sons are buried. Next door, discover the much newer **Refaie Mosque**, completed in 1912 with well-preserved, colorful decoration. Buried in tombs here are a Muslim saint, a companion of the Prophet Mohamed, Egypt's last royal family and the last Shah of Iran.



Finally, visit 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. Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets to find workshops and stalls selling all manner of things from woodwork and glassware to leather goods and perfumes.

Return to the hotel for some free time before your **dinner cruise**.

Tonight you enjoy a leisurely dinner cruise on the Nile aboard a 'Felucca'.

Overnight: Steigenburger El Tahrir
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4: NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Depart today for the U.S.

📍 Washington Dulles/surrounding area

Steigenberger El Tahrir

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The new Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir is ideally located at the heart of Cairo down town. Within walking minutes to the Egyptian Museum, Khan El Khalili and the Arab League building. The hotel offers 295 modernly furnished rooms and suites. Designed to meet business guests' needs with free Wi-Fi, 24 hour in-room dining, all-day dining and a lobby bar. To unwind, the swimming pool is on second floor next to the fitness center.



PROGRAM INFO

Date & Length: 3 nights October 29–November 1, 2020

Extension cost: \$1,999 per person (includes all gratuities)

Single supplement: \$499

Inclusions: Group airport transfer and baggage handling, flight from Amman to Cairo, meals and activities as mentioned, tips and accommodations based on double occupancy.

Not Included: Hotel incidentals, spa services, and meals not mentioned.

To participate in the optional extension, complete and return the extension registration form. Return no later than 90 days prior to departure or within five days of receiving the information.