

OPTIONAL EGYPT EXTENSION

4 days | Explore the Pyramids and Cruise the Nile

Enjoy a 3-day excursion to Egypt to explore the Sinai Peninsula and ancient sites of Cairo. Cross a few bucket list items off with a tour of the amazing Giza Pyramid Complex and old Egyptian Museum. Plus, you will get to explore St. Catherine's Monastery and watch the sun rise at Mount Sinai.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: MAY 14, 2023

Head to the Egypt

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Eilat. Upon arrival you will be transferred to the Taba border to cross into Egypt, where a local representative will collect you to connect you with your guide & driver.

Head to St. Catherine and check into your hotel. Dinner will be provided at the Monastery guest house.

DAY 2: MAY 15, 2023

Mount Sinai

This morning you have an opportunity to ascent **Mount Sinai** to watch the sun rise, a truly unique and spectacular moment to see. This is optional for those interested in getting up early for this activity. We highly recommend that you do!

After breakfast back at the hotel, check out and head to the Monastery of St. Catherine. This Greek Orthodox monastery in Mount Sinai is located at the very place where God was said to have appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush, beneath the Mount of the Decalogue. It is at this site that the holy relics of Saint Catherine are enshrined. This is reportedly the **oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery in the world**, tracing back over seventeen centuries.

After a chance to stop for lunch on your own arrangement, depart for the road trip to Cairo. Although a long drive your guide will make sure to make rest stops for your comfort. It is a stunning way to see this part of the country outside the touristy center, see the countryside and observe the local way of living.

Dinner will be provided at the Movenpick Media City.

DAY 3: MAY 16, 2023

Cairo

After breakfast at the hotel head out for a full day of explorations. Start first with a visit to the **Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx**, an archaeological site on the Giza Plateau, on the outskirts of the city. This complex of ancient monuments includes the three pyramid complexes known as the Great Pyramids, the massive sculpture known as the Great Sphinx, several cemeteries, a workers' village, and an industrial complex.

Next visit the **old Egyptian Museum** in Cairo which is the first and most important in the world. It contains the world's most extensive collection of Pharaonic antiquities.

You will have time to stop for lunch this afternoon (own expense).

Continue to **Coptic Cairo**, where we will visit the famous Suspended Church (Hanging Church), dating to the late 4th and early 5th century. This basilica was named "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built atop the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon. Continue to the Church of St. Sergius, a 5th century Coptic Church. This basilica is built on the cave in which the Holy Family stayed and is regarded by visitors as a source of blessing.

Wrap up your tour with a **dinner cruise on the Nile River**.





Mövenpick Hotel Cairo-Media City is in the cosmopolitan 6th of October City, on the outskirts of Cairo.

A stay here gives guests the chance to relive the history of the Egyptian cinema, with the hotel's captivating architecture, wide pools and lush landscaped gardens. Laying on the opposite side to Mall of Egypt and being adjacent to Mall of Arabia, two of the largest shopping arcades in Egypt, adds to the vitality of its location. With the first Aqua Park in a 5-star hotel in the region, we have created an unforgettable experience alongside our personal service and irresistible cuisine.

<https://www.movenpick.com/en/africa/egypt/cairo/hotel-cairo-media-city.html>

DAY 4: May 17, 2023

Fly home

Say farewell to Egypt today. Check out of the hotel and transfer to the Cairo airport for your flight back to the U.S.

ACCOMMODATIONS

You will have the unique opportunity to stay at the Monastery Guest House which is just below the monastery and offers single or double occupancy rooms with private facilities. They have a spacious courtyard with an adjoining snack bar where one can order coffee, tea, soft drinks, and other refreshments. <http://www.sinaimonastery.com/index.php/en/the-pilgrimage/guest-house>



PROGRAM INFO

Date & Length: 4 days, May 14-17, 2023

Extension cost: \$1,099 per person. *Single supplement:* \$299

Inclusions: Hotel, tours and meals as mentioned; portorage at hotel, visa and border crossing fees, drinks at meals, flight to Eilat, local guide in Egypt and airport transfer for departure flight.

Not Included: Tips to your guide, driver or maids at your hotel, meals not mentioned and hotel incidentals like laundry or room service.