



# WORLD DISCOVERY

HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE

## Images of Egypt



The Temple of Luxor

### DAY 1 – Arrival in Cairo.

On arrival in Cairo you will be met by a representative of World Discovery who will organise your Egyptian visa and assist you through immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel in Giza.

### DAY 2 – Pyramids, Sphinx and Solar Boat Museum.

Your hotel is located close to the Pyramids of Giza. After a leisurely breakfast, you will meet your World Discovery guide and spend the morning visiting this last surviving wonder of the ancient world. View the three monumental pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, and also the nearby Sphinx, dating from 2,500 BC, whose familiar outline is known to everyone yet whose purpose and meaning still remain a mystery. An added bonus this morning is the included entrance to the Solar Boat Museum. Located at the foot of the Great Pyramid of Cheops, this purpose-built building houses the unique 140-foot ancient Egyptian boat which was discovered in pieces on this spot as recently as 1954 and carefully reconstructed over a period of 14 years. The afternoon is free, with the option of visiting the site of ancient Memphis, first capital of the unified Upper and Lower Egypt (3,200 BC), and the funerary complex of Zoser at Saqqara, including the superb Step Pyramid, described by one historian as the "beginning of architecture". This evening there is the option of attending the spectacular Sound and Light performance at the Pyramids.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

### DAY 3 – The Egyptian Museum.

Drive into Central Cairo for your visit to the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities. Whilst perhaps lacking the clarity of presentation of more modern establishments, this grand old building is unmissable, and contains the finest collection in the world of ancient Egyptian artefacts, including the astonishing array of treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun. For an additional fee you may choose to visit the Royal Mummy Room containing the bodies of such legendary pharaohs as Tuthmosis II, Seti I and Ramses II. Return to your hotel in Giza for lunch, or you may choose to stay on in the city and enjoy an optional excursion to Old Cairo; we have a choice of 3 itineraries: (a) The Citadel of Saladin, Mosque of Mohamed Ali and the famous Khan al-Khalili bazaar, (b) Islamic Cairo, including the glorious Ibn Tulun Mosque and (c) The Coptic Museum and Gayer-Anderson House.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

### DAY 4 – Fly to Luxor to join your Nile Cruise. Karnak and Luxor Temples.

An early wake-up call and breakfast, followed by your private transfer to Cairo Airport for the flight to Luxor. On arrival you will be met and transferred direct to the M.S. Sun Ray in time for the morning excursion. As ancient Thebes, Luxor was the capital of Egypt's New Kingdom (1550-1069 BC) and has attracted tourists and travellers since Greek and Roman times with its incomparable wealth of monuments. This morning there are included visits to the two great Pharaonic temples of the East Bank. The vast temple complex of Karnak is quite simply overwhelming, covering more than 100 acres. At its heart lies the enormous Temple of Amun with its colossal Hypostyle Hall of 137 columns and its sacred lake. The XVIIIth Dynasty Temple of Luxor, located close to the Nile in the centre of town, is built on a smaller scale, but many consider it more beautiful than Karnak. Approached through an avenue of sphinxes, the temple contains some excellent reliefs and its Colonnade of Amenophis III is renowned for the elegance of its giant papyrus columns. The afternoon is at leisure. Overnight in Luxor.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.**

### DAY 5 – Western Thebes. Sail to Edfu.

Early morning excursion to Western Thebes. You will visit three tombs of the pharaohs in the famous Valley of the Kings (the selection of tombs open for visiting varies from time to time). For an additional fee, payable on the spot, you may visit the most famous tomb of all – that of the boy-king Tutankhamun, sensationally discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter. During your morning on the Western bank of the Nile you will also visit the Valley of the Queens and the monumental Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari. Return to the M.S. Sun Ray and sail south on the Nile to Edfu.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.**

### DAY 6 - Edfu and Kom Ombo temples. Sail to Aswan.

After breakfast step ashore at Edfu to visit the Temple of Horus, the largest and best-preserved Ptolemaic temple in Egypt. The entrance to this awesome complex is guarded by two elegant black granite statues of the falcon-god Horus, son of Osiris. Return to the M.S. Sun Ray and continue sailing to Kom Ombo to visit the unusual, totally symmetrical, temple dedicated to two gods – the falcon-god Haroeris (Horus the Elder) and Sobek, the crocodile god. The temple is in a beautiful setting overlooking the Nile. In the evening reach Aswan.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.**

## DAY 7 – Aswan High Dam and Philae. Felucca Ride.

In the morning you will visit the High Dam, and also the superb Temple of Philae, rescued from the rising waters of the lake by UNESCO and painstakingly reconstructed on its own new island. Philae was the centre of the cult of Isis, and the magnificent Temple of Isis dominates the site. Pay a brief visit to the Northern Quarries to view the Unfinished Obelisk before returning to your cruise ship. In the afternoon enjoy a felucca sail on the Nile.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.**

## DAY 8 – Fly back to Cairo to connect with your homeward flight.

Morning free, with the option of taking the optional excursion by air to the **Temples of Abu Simbel**. In the afternoon fly back to Cairo to connect with your homeward flight.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**