



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Nile Valley Explorer



Karnak Temple (Sound and Light Show)

DAY 1 – Arrival in Cairo.

On arrival in Cairo you will be met by our representative 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.

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 one of 3 optional excursions in the Old City of Cairo: **The Citadel of Saladin, Mosque of Mohamed Ali and the Khan al-Khalili bazaar; Islamic Cairo, or The Coptic Museum and the Gayer-Anderson House.** In the evening board the overnight sleeper train to Aswan.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 4 – Arrive Aswan. Day at leisure.

Arrive Aswan after breakfast. You will be met and transferred direct to your hotel. Aswan, gateway to Nubia, is situated downriver from the First Cataract on the Nile. It was here that the British built a dam between 1898 and 1902, but this was superseded by the **Aswan High Dam**, constructed by President Nasser in the 1960s, resulting in the creation of Lake Nasser, the largest artificial lake in the world. This afternoon's sightseeing excursion includes a visit to the High Dam and also to 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.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAYS 5 AND 6 - Aswan.

Two days at leisure in Aswan. A half day optional excursion by air may be taken to visit the incredible temples at **Abu Simbel** on the shores of Lake Nasser.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 7 - Drive to Luxor via Kom Ombo and Edfu.

In the morning depart by road along the east bank of the Nile to Luxor. First stop is at the Ptolemaic temple of **Kom Ombo**, located on the banks of the Nile in a beautiful setting about 30 kilometres north of Aswan. This unusual, totally symmetrical, temple is dedicated to two gods – the falcon-god Haroeris (Horus the Elder) and Sobek, the crocodile god. There are some fine reliefs in the Outer Corridor between the temple and its Roman enclosure wall, one of which shows the sophisticated surgery of nearly 2,000 years ago, depicting instruments such as scalpels, dental tools and bone saws. Just before the entrance to the temple is the Chapel of Hathor containing 3 mummified crocodiles. Continue to the Temple of Horus at **Edfu**, 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. You will walk through the immense Court of Offerings and the Hypostyle Hall en route to the hallowed Sanctuary of Horus, which contains a shrine of polished black granite and an offerings table. After the visit continue your journey to Luxor. The remainder of the day is free.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 8 – Valley of the Kings and Western Thebes.

After breakfast cross the Nile to visit the magnificent archaeological remains of 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 monumental **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahari and the two **Colossi of Memnon**, the latter badly ravaged by time but still impressive in their size and majesty. Afternoon free.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 9 – Karnak and Luxor Temples.

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's excursion includes visits to the two great Pharaonic temples of Luxor's 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. Return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 10 – At leisure. Board the train back to Cairo.

The day is free until the evening transfer to Luxor Railway Station for the overnight sleeper train back to Cairo.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 11 – Arrive Cairo.

Morning arrival in Cairo, where you will be met and taken to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 12 - Fly back home.

Transfer to Cairo Airport for your homeward flight.

Meals included: Full breakfast.