



Dreams of Egypt

Classic Tour | 13 Days | Physical Level 1

Cairo – Alexandria – Luxor – Aswan - Cairo

Host to two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Egypt is a country steeped in history and legend, all waiting to be explored. This tour offers famous monuments and temples, a cruise along the world's longest river and many bazaars to perfect your bargaining skills.

- Explore Egypt's ancient artefacts
- Bargain at Khan El Khalili bazaar
- Sail the world's longest river
- Visit the Temple of Karnak
- Discover the Valley of the Kings
- Stroll through Aswan's market



Dreams of Egypt tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Classic Tours:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of the Middle East on an excellent value group tour travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Physical Level 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Dreams of Egypt' is rated 1 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Country Profile: Egypt

Egypt is located to the north of Africa and joins the continent to the Middle East. Dating to the time of the pharaohs, Millennia-old monuments sit along the fertile Nile River Valley, including Giza's colossal Pyramids and Great Sphinx as well as Luxor's hieroglyph-lined Karnak Temple and Valley of the Kings tombs. The capital, Cairo, is home to Ottoman landmarks like Muhammad Ali Mosque and the Egyptian Museum, a trove of antiquities.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 13 days in duration including international flights. Please note due to flight schedules passengers may arrive/depart on Day 2. Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes your arrival/ departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 2 in Cairo and end the tour on Day 12 in Cairo. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – Dreams of Egypt

Days 1-2: Fly to Cairo

Fly overnight to Cairo, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for your overnight stay.



Destination Information

Cairo – Egypt's capital located on the banks of the Nile River is one of Africa and Middle East largest cities. The noise can be contributed to its approximate 21 million population. Cairo is the only city that still has a remaining ancient wonder of the world, and its university is one of the oldest in the world.

Day 3: Cairo

After breakfast your day starts with a tour to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, followed by the Egyptian Museum which houses an extensive collection of statues, mummies and treasures including Tutankhamun's tomb. This afternoon you will visit the famous Khan El Khalili bazaar where your bargaining skills will be put to the test.

Please note: Should the new Grand Egyptian Museum be open when you travel then the old Egyptian Museum visit will be replaced by a visit to the new museum where all artefacts will be moved.



Destination Information

Pyramids of Giza – The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the complex. It is the oldest Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the only one remaining intact. The pyramids were built by Pharaohs Khufu (tallest), Khafre (background) and Menkaure (front).

Day 4: Old Cairo

This morning you will visit the Old Cairo churches, the Coptic Museum to view the world's largest collection of Egyptian Christian artefacts as well as Sakara, an ancient burial ground with numerous pyramids, the most famous of which is the Step Pyramid – tomb of the third dynasty ruler. You have the afternoon to explore before dinner at the revolving restaurant at the top of the Cairo Tower.



Destination Information

Coptic Museum – A museum in Coptic Egypt with the largest collection of Christian artefacts in the world. The museum follows the history of Egypt from the beginning to the present day. It is located within the Roman fortress town called Babylon in Old Cairo.

Day 5: Alexandria

Depart after breakfast for Alexandria via the desert road. On arrival you will be taken on a city tour that includes the Roman theatre, the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa and you will visit the Qaitbay Citadel, a defensive fortress located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.



Destination Information

Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa – A historical archaeological site, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages and are the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt. They consist of three tiers of tombs and chambers cut 35m into the bedrock.

Qaitbay Citadel – A 15th Century defensive fortress located at the entrance of the eastern harbor and built upon the ruins of the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It was built for the purpose of defending Alexandria from the advances of the Ottoman Empire.

Day 6: Train to Luxor

Once you have checked out of your hotel you will continue your journey back to Cairo. En route you will stop at El Alamein for a guided tour visiting the military museum and WWII cemeteries. Continue to Cairo where you will board your first-class sleeper train to Luxor.



Destination Information

El Alamein – A town on the Mediterranean coast known for a decisive WWII battle, commemorated in the War Museum with uniforms and tanks. The 2nd battle of El Alamein was a turning point in the North African campaign, as it ended the long fight for the Western Desert and was the only great land battle won by the British and Commonwealth forces without direct America participation.

Day 7: Cruise the Nile River

On arrival in Luxor you will transfer to the port and board your 5-star Nile cruise ship. This afternoon visit Luxor's East Bank, which will include the Temple of Luxor and the Temple of Karnak, an impressive complex of buildings dedicated to the Egyptian pharaohs.



Destination Information

Temple of Luxor – Constructed over hundreds of years this temple was the largest and most significant religious Centre in ancient Egypt. Located in the middle of downtown Luxor it was the focus of one of the most important religious festivals in ancient Egypt.

Karnak Temple – A city of temples built over 2000 years. It still overshadows many of today's wonders and is the largest religious building ever made. The great temple at the heart of Karnak is so big that St Peter's, Milan and Notre Dame Cathedrals would fit within its walls.

Day 8: Explore West Bank

Start the day with a visit to Luxor's West Bank, one of the most stunning landscapes in Egypt. Touring today will include Colossi Memnon statues, the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir-el-Bahari and the Valley of the Kings, home to the tombs of ancient Egyptian kings. After touring sail to the farming town of Esna.



Destination Information

Colossi Memnon – Two massive stone (twin) statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III, who reigned during the 18th dynasty. They are located in the Theban Necropolis and have survived for 3400 years. They once flanked the entrance to his lost mortuary temple that has been eroded over time.

Temple of Hatshepsut - The mortuary temple of Hatshepsut located beneath the cliffs of Deir-el-Bahari is dedicated to Amun and Hatshepsut. It mirrored Mentuhotep II's temple but on a much grander scale as Hatshepsut needed to establish her authority and legitimacy of her reign in a more obvious way than her predecessors.

Valley of the Kings – Formed through excavation of rock cut tombs for the pharaohs and powerful nobles of the New Kingdom and burial site of nearly all the kings of the 18th, 19th and 20 dynasties, including Ramses X and Tutankhamun's tomb.

Day 9: Kom Ombo

Continue this morning to Edfu, south of Esna, visiting the Temple of Edfu. Sail to the agricultural town of Kom Ombo visiting the Temple of Kom Ombo, famous for its twin temples and then continue to Aswan.



Destination Information

Temple of Edfu – The best waterfalls in India, located on the Chalakudy River at the entrance to Sholayar hill range. These waterfalls drop from a height of 80 feet offering a scenic beauty. It offers spectacular views from the hill.

Kom Ombo Temple – An unusual double temple dedicated to two gods: the local crocodile god Sobek and Haroeris, meaning Horus the Elder. Its twin dedication is clearly reflected in its twin entrances, two linked hypostyle halls with carvings of two gods on either side, and twin sanctuaries.

Day 10: Discover Aswan

This morning you will tour the town of Aswan. You'll visit the 3600-metre-long High Dam, the Unfinished Obelisk and the majestic Temple of Philae. This afternoon, enjoy a felucca tour around the area, viewing Elephantine Island, Kitchener's Island and the botanical gardens.



Destination Information

Unfinished Obelisk – The largest known ancient obelisk created by order of Hatshepsut and is one-third larger than any ancient Egyptian obelisk ever erected. It is carved directly out of bedrock, but cracks appeared in the granite, so the project was abandoned. The bottom is still attached to the bedrock.

High Dam – The world's largest embankment dam built across the Nile in Aswan. It serves the irrigation needs of both Egypt and Sudan and helps in improving navigation across the Nile.

Day 11: Giza Sound & light show

After disembarking from the ship you have the morning free to explore as you wish. Why not take a stroll through Aswan market before transferring to the airport for your flight to Cairo? On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. In the evening attend the Sound and Light show at Giza.



Destination Information

Giza Sound and light show – A staged show taking you through the history of Egypt using sound and light effects, reflecting on the pyramids combining ancient wonders with modern technology.

Day 12-13: Depart Cairo

After lunch you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Please note: Late check-out is not included in our Dreams of Egypt tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Cairo, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers).

Please inform our reservations team of any allergies and/or special dietary requirements at time of booking.

Dreams of Egypt Travel Information

Visas

Entry visas are required by all visitors to Egypt and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

Eating in Egypt

Egyptian food combines many different elements of Lebanese, Turkish, Syrian, Greek and French dishes changed to suit different tastes – Mediterranean influences in Alexandria but spicy Nubian flavors for the south. Some local dishes to try are Fuul – beans mashed with tomatoes, onions and spices. Taamiya is deep- fried patties of spiced green beans served in pitta bread with salad. Makarona is macaroni baked into a cake with minced lamb and tomato sauce.

It is not advisable to drink tap water throughout Egypt. Please ensure you have bottles water with you at all times and when freshening remember to use the bottled water supplied or your own bottle.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Egypt. We recommend that when it comes to Egyptian food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

Accommodation

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Egypt. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

While all group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities air conditioning, TV and a telephone, on the sleeper train there are shared ablutions at the end of each carriage, but your compartment will have a basin. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Egypt. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in Egypt have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in Egypt have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometers as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Pre-flight seat allocation is not available on international and internal flight sectors.

Cruise ships: On this tour you will take a 4-night cruise down the Nile River. Your cabin on your Nile River cruise ship will have a private bathroom and French balcony. Please note that the cruise ship and all shore excursions arranged by the cruise are on a shared basis.

Trains: On this tour you will take an overnight sleeper train from Cairo to Luxor (approx 10 hrs duration). Following checkin you will be served a light dinner to your cabin. Cabins consist of 2 seats that are then converted to two beds (bunk beds) at night time, there is also a small wash basin and vanity in each cabin. Bathroom facilities are on a shared basis.

Development in Egypt

Although Egypt is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

Public Holidays in Egypt

If you are travelling within the below Egypt Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. Labour Day May 1, End of Ramadan 13 – 15 May 2021, birth of Prophet Muhammad 19 Oct 2021, Aid Al Adha 20-22 July 2021.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

Group Size

The group size on our Middle East Classic Tours is on average 10-18 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Egypt is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Packing List & Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com

Luggage

All travelers are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Exchanging cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Cairo. US Dollars and Australian Dollars can be exchanged at Cairo Airport and in some hotels, provided the Australian currency is new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal expenses and optional tours

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$250AUD per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Climbing Steps

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing a number of steps.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

Cultural Difference

Egyptian society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Egypt more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs.

Appropriate Dress

Some examples of scenarios you may encounter are when visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Some religious sites and homes throughout Egypt – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smarttraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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