

Get the chance to visit the temples and sites of Luxor and Aswan.

Price Starting From: \$650

4 Days / 3 Nights Aswan / Luxor Egypt One Country Two Cities

Experience the allure of ancient civilizations on our MS Nile Dolphin Nile Cruise, an extraordinary expedition from Aswan to Luxor. This remarkable journey invites you to delve into the depths of Egypt's rich heritage, offering insights into the remarkable history that shaped this timeless land.

Starting in <u>Aswan</u>, a city renowned for its stunning Nile vistas and vibrant culture, you will explore the magnificent Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis. The cruise also provides a glimpse into the engineering marvel of the Aswan High Dam, which transformed the region's agriculture and economy.

As we sail northward, the majestic landscapes unfold, leading you to **Luxor**, often hailed as the heart of ancient Egypt. Here, you will encounter the legendary Valley of the Kings, the final resting place of numerous pharaohs, including the famed Tutankhamun. The grandeur of the Temple of Karnak awaits you, showcasing colossal columns and intricate hieroglyphics that narrate tales of Egypt's glorious past.

Our <u>Nile Cruise Tours</u> are designed for both relaxation and discovery, ensuring you enjoy the luxurious comforts aboard the MS Nile Dolphin while soaking in the historical significance of each destination. Delight in gourmet meals prepared by our talented chefs and unwind on the sun deck as you watch the stunning Nile sunsets.

Join us on this captivating journey through **Egypt's history**, where every stop reveals a new layer of the ancient world, and creates unforgettable memories along the banks of the timeless Nile.

Overview Inclusion

- Assistance was provided by the Cairo Top Tours tour manager upon arrival at Aswan Airport and departure from Luxor.
- Expert customer care throughout the 4-day Nile cruise.
- Modern air-conditioned vehicle transportation during the MS Nile Dolphin Nile Cruise.
- Full board accommodation on the Egypt Nile River Cruise.
- Private Egypt tours as specified in the itinerary.
- All admission fees and tickets to sites are included.

- Snack stops are available upon request.
- A soft drink at a local café during Egypt Day Tours (if time allows).
- Accredited Egyptologist guide is provided for all Egypt Travel Packages.
- Taxes and service charges are included in the Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor.
- Shopping tours are available during excursions in Luxor and Aswan Sightseeing Tours (upon request).

Exclusion

- International airfare is not included.
- Personal spending is not covered.
- Optional tours are not included.
- Tipping is not included in the Egypt Tours Packages price.
- Beverages during meals are not included

Itinerary

Day 1: The beginning of the trip - Aswan

The <u>Egypt Nile Cruise Tour</u> begins in Aswan, a city known for its rich cultural heritage and stunning Nile scenery. The journey takes you through ancient Egyptian mythology, including the <u>story of Horus and Osiris</u>, and explores temples and monuments that illustrate this theme. The Aswan <u>High Dam</u>, completed in the 1970s, provides essential hydroelectric power and plays a crucial role in flood control. From the top, you can enjoy views of Lake Nasser, one of the world's largest artificial lakes.

The <u>Unfinished Obelisk</u>, found in Aswan's granite quarries, offers insight into ancient Egyptian craftsmen's advanced techniques. The <u>Temple of Philae</u>, dedicated to the goddess <u>Isis</u>, tells the story of Isis's quest to resurrect her husband, Osiris, and their son, Horus.

As you approach Luxor, the serene Nile River and lush landscapes set the stage for the spectacular monuments. The journey also introduces you to Egypt's most influential rulers, including **Queen Hatshepsut**, whose mortuary temple in Luxor symbolizes her extraordinary reign and ambitious trade expeditions. Join the unforgettable **Nile Cruise**, where each moment reveals the timeless beauty and profound history of Egypt, leaving you with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation for this extraordinary land.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2: Aswan Temples

On the second day of your **Egypt Day Tour**, you will journey north along the majestic Nile to the remarkable **Kom Ombo Temple**, an extraordinary site dedicated to two deities: Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, a manifestation of Horus. Constructed during the Ptolemaic period, this temple exemplifies the fascinating blend of Egyptian and Hellenistic influences, showcasing a harmonious fusion of cultures.

The temple's unique design features a symmetrical layout with two identical halls and sanctuaries, symbolizing the duality of chaos and order in ancient Egyptian belief. This architectural marvel allows visitors to appreciate the intricate relationship between the two gods and their respective domains.

The sanctuary dedicated to **Sobek**, revered as the god of fertility, strength, and the Nile itself, is located adjacent to the Crocodile Museum. This museum houses an impressive collection of mummified crocodiles and various artifacts, shedding light on the significance of Sobek in ancient Egyptian society and the reverence for these creatures, which were seen as both protectors and symbols of the Nile's life-giving power.

On the opposite side of the temple lies the section dedicated to <u>Haroeris</u>, also known as "Horus the Elder." This lesser-known form of Horus embodies kingship, divine protection, and healing, highlighting the balance between the nurturing and fierce aspects of divinity. Haroeris's presence in the temple reinforces the idea of royal authority and the protection of the pharaohs.

As you explore the temple, take note of the intricate reliefs, carvings, and hieroglyphic inscriptions that adorn its walls. These artistic elements provide valuable insights into the **Ptolemaic** rulers' efforts to integrate Egyptian religious practices into their governance, reinforcing their legitimacy and connection to the ancient gods. Each scene tells a story of devotion, power, and the enduring legacy of the gods in the daily lives of the ancient Egyptians.

This visit to Kom Ombo Temple not only enriches your understanding of ancient Egyptian spirituality but also highlights the cultural exchange that characterized the Ptolemaic era, making it a captivating stop on your Nile adventure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Egypt's History - Edfu to Luxor

The third day of your journey unfolds with a visit to **Edfu**, home to the **Temple of Horus**, celebrated as the best-preserved temple in all of Egypt. This architectural gem is renowned for its remarkably intact inscriptions and intricate carvings, having been buried beneath desert sand and silt for centuries, which helped protect it from the elements. The temple also features a Nilometer, an ancient device used to gauge the water levels of the Nile, crucial for agriculture and flood management. Additionally, you'll learn about the Feast of the Beautiful Reunion, a significant festival symbolizing the sacred union between the statues of Hathor and Horus, which reflects the deep intertwining of mythology and daily life in ancient Egypt.

Next, your tour continues to the iconic **Colossi of Memnon**, two massive stone statues that originally stood at the entrance of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple. Constructed from durable quartzite, these colossal figures exemplify the Egyptians' advanced logistical and engineering skills. Interestingly, during the Greco-Roman period, it was believed that the northern colossus emitted musical sounds at dawn, a phenomenon that captivated many travelers and added to the statues' mystique.

The day culminates at the expansive <u>Karnak Temple</u> in Luxor, a sprawling site that includes the Temple of Ptah, a lesser-known sanctuary dedicated to the god of craftsmen and creation. Here, you will encounter beautifully preserved statues of Sekhmet, the lioness-headed goddess associated with both war and healing, symbolizing the duality of destruction and protection.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 4: Departing from Luxor

The MS Nile Dolphin Nile Cruise offers an unforgettable day of excursions in Luxor, including the iconic **Valley of the Kings**, which houses over 60 royal tombs, including the famous tomb of Tutankhamun. The valley's layout protects the tombs from robbers and preserves intricate wall paintings depicting the soul's journey to the afterlife.

The lesser-known tomb of Seti I is renowned for its vivid colors and elaborate decorations. The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, also known as Djeser-Djeseru, is a place of worship and political statement, featuring statues and reliefs depicting her divine birth and journey to the mythical land of Punt. The unique terraced design of the temple sets it apart from other mortuary temples.

The Colossi of Memnon, towering statues of Amenhotep III, are the only remaining remains of his once-great mortuary temple. The Colossi continue to stand as silent sentinels, guarding the largest temple in Egypt. The journey concludes at **Luxor Airport** or the railway station.

Meals: Breakfast