# Have an opportunity to explore Aswan and Luxor temples and sights.

**Price Starting From: \$650** 

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

**Egypt's history** is a tapestry woven over millennia, showcasing the evolution of one of the world's earliest civilizations. From its prehistoric beginnings to the modern era, Egypt has been shaped by a succession of powerful dynasties, each leaving an indelible mark on its cultural landscape. The ancient Egyptians made groundbreaking advancements in various fields, including mathematics, medicine, and astronomy, which laid the groundwork for future cultures.

The Old Kingdom, often called the "Age of the Pyramids," saw the construction of the iconic pyramids at Giza, including the Great Pyramid, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. This period was characterized by a strong belief in the afterlife, which influenced elaborate burial practices and monumental architecture. The Middle Kingdom followed, a time of cultural renaissance and increased trade, where literature and arts flourished, exemplified by works such as the "Tale of Sinuhe."

Luxor, often described as the "world's greatest open-air museum," is a city that embodies the grandeur of ancient Egypt. Home to the Valley of the Kings, where many pharaohs were buried, <u>Luxor</u> also features the Temple of Hatshepsut, dedicated to one of Egypt's few female pharaohs. The city serves as a focal point for archaeological research and tourism, drawing visitors eager to witness its historical treasures.

Aswan, located in the southern part of Egypt, is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage. It is the site of the ancient Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis, which reflects the importance of religion in ancient Egyptian society. The Aswan High Dam, completed in the 1960s, transformed the region, creating Lake Nasser and providing significant benefits for agriculture and hydroelectric power.

Nile Cruise Tours offers a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and history of Egypt from the water. Travelers can enjoy luxurious accommodations and gourmet dining while visiting historical sites along the Nile, such as the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo. These cruises provide an immersive journey through time, allowing guests to explore the rich narratives of Egypt's past while surrounded by stunning scenery.

# 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: Arrival in Aswan and Exploration of Ancient Wonders

Begin your **Egypt Nile Cruise Tour** by arriving in Aswan, a city renowned for its historical significance and the captivating beauty of the Nile. As your journey from Aswan to Luxor unfolds, you'll be introduced to a unique blend of ancient wonders and modern marvels.

The <u>story of Horus and Osiris</u> is a central myth in Egyptian history, a tale of divine kingship and resurrection that shaped much of ancient Egyptian belief. During your journey, you'll encounter temples and monuments that depict this powerful narrative, particularly at the temples dedicated to Horus and other deities, giving you a deeper understanding of Egypt's spiritual legacy.

Next, visit the <u>High Dam</u>, an engineering marvel completed in the 1960s. This monumental project not only provided Egypt with a reliable source of hydroelectric power but also safeguarded the country from the destructive flooding of the Nile. As you stand atop the dam, marvel at the sight of Lake Nasser, one of the largest artificial lakes in the world, stretching out before you.

Your journey continues with a visit to the <u>Unfinished Obelisk</u>, located in the ancient granite quarries of Aswan. This massive monument, left incomplete due to a crack in the stone, offers a fascinating glimpse into the techniques used by ancient Egyptian stone workers. Had it been completed, the obelisk would have stood as the largest of its kind, highlighting the skill and ambition of Egypt's ancient builders.

Next, board a boat to visit the captivating **Temple of Philae**, committed to the goddess **Isis**, one of the most venerated deities in Egyptian mythology. The temple, which was relocated to Agilkia Island to save it from the rising waters of the Nile, showcases exquisite carvings that tell the story of Isis's search for the dismembered body of her husband, Osiris, and her pivotal role in the resurrection of their son, Horus.

As your <u>Aswan to Luxor Nile Cruise</u> sets sail, take in the serene views of the Nile as the day draws to a close. The smooth passage of the riverbanks offers a tranquil prelude to the incredible monuments you'll discover in the coming days.

Finally, throughout your journey, you'll learn about Egypt's most iconic rulers, including **Queen Hatshepsut**, the powerful female pharaoh who defied tradition and led Egypt into a period of prosperity. Though her temple lies ahead in Luxor, her influence is felt throughout Egypt, from the statues in temples to her expedition to Punt, a legendary trading voyage.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

## Day 2: Discovering Kom Ombo and Ancient Egyptian Deities

On the second day of the **Egypt Day Tour**, you'll sail north along the Nile and arrive at the **Kom Ombo Temple**, a unique temple dedicated to two gods: Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, a form of Horus. Built during the **Ptolemaic Kingdom**, **the temple** reflects the merging of Egyptian and Greek influences. Its symmetrical design, with two identical halls, sanctuaries, and entrances, represents chaos and order.

The sacred space dedicated to **Sobek**, the crocodile-headed god associated with the Nile's fertility and strength, is located near the Crocodile Museum. The Crocodile Museum features mummified crocodiles and ancient relics. On the other side of the temple, the section devoted to **Haroeris**, a lesser-known form of Horus, symbolizes kingship and divine protection. Haroeris, also known as "Horus the Elder," symbolizes healing and the sky, emphasizing the balance between benevolent and fierce aspects of divine power.

The temple's reliefs, carvings, and inscriptions provide insight into how the Ptolemaic rulers adopted Egyptian religious practices to reinforce their own power.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 3: Edfu to Luxor – Histories of Egypt

The third day of your trip begins with a visit to <u>Edfu</u>, home to the Temple of Horus, the best-preserved temple in Egypt. The temple's architecture is renowned for its intact inscriptions and carvings, and it was buried under desert sand and silt for centuries. The temple also houses the Nilometer, an ancient tool used to measure Nile water levels, and the Feast of the Beautiful Reunion, a symbolic marriage between the statue of Hathor and <u>Horus</u>.

Next, you'll visit the legendary <u>Colossi of Memnon</u>, which were not originally built as standalone monuments but were part of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple. The Colossi, made of quartzite stone, showcased the Egyptians' logistical abilities. The Greco-Roman period belief that the northern colossus "sang" at dawn is also intriguing.

The day concludes at the **Karnak Temple Complex in Luxor**, which contains the Temple of Ptah, a lesservisited sanctuary dedicated to the god of craftsmen and creation. The area features beautifully preserved statues of Sekhmet, the lioness-headed goddess of war and healing. The Sacred Lake, where priests purify themselves before rituals, is surrounded by large stone scarabs and inscriptions indicating the temple's role in royal coronation ceremonies. These sites not only showcase Egypt's architectural prowess but also tell stories of daily life, sacred rituals, and the complex mythology that shaped the ancient culture.

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