

EGYPT: THE MAJESTIC NILE



TRIP OVERVIEW

Ancient shrines adorned with hieroglyphics and vast temple complexes built for the gods lie beside the iconic archaeological wonders of the Giza Pyramids in Egypt, a country rich in history, mysticism and centuries-old culture. Explore the famed sights of Cairo before sailing the world's longest river on a scenic 7-night Nile River cruise, visiting the incredible temples of Luxor, the sacred memorial of Hatshepsut and the atmospheric ruins of Aswan on this 10-day journey across land, desert and water.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Egypt. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Cairo

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Cairo. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the heart of Cairo, Egypt's lively capital. Enjoy the remainder of the day free to unwind or explore the neighbourhood around the hotel.

DAY 2: Cairo B/L

The past and present intertwine in Cairo, a sprawling city on the banks of the Nile that is home to both ancient sites and modern, high-rise districts. African in location but Middle Eastern in its cultural leanings, Egypt's traditions, food and history offer a unique experience as you embark on today's full-day city tour. Gain fascinating insight into the city's sights and past as a professional Egyptology guide leads the way, with your first stop at the mighty Giza Pyramids. Inspiring movies, books and conspiracy theories, these six iconic pyramids tower over the desert landscape, with the Great Pyramid standing taller than the Statue of Liberty. Explore these amazingly constructed structures, built using techniques beyond their time, then marvel at the massive half-lion, half-human form of the Sphinx, as it guards the temples and tombs of Ancient Egypt. Travel onward to the Egyptian Museum and wander the treasure trove of artefacts under its roof, including Tutankhamen's gleaming golden mask. Return to your hotel after a full day of sightseeing for an evening at leisure.

DAY 3: Cairo to Luxor B/D

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight from Cairo to Luxor, your departure point for your thrilling Nile cruise. Check into your sailing vessel before an afternoon of sightseeing in Luxor. Known as the 'world's greatest open-air museum' for the multitude of age-old sites and ruins that lie within the city limits, Luxor rivals Cairo in its archaeological splendour. Your afternoon tour starts with a visit to the vast Karnak Temple complex - over 200 acres housing temples and sanctuaries adorned with intricate hieroglyphics. Continue on to the beautifully preserved Luxor Temple and explore the interior, statues and carvings of this religious site. Return to your ship for a night moored in Luxor.

***Internal flight from Cairo to Luxor: Please note that should you arrive into Luxor too late for your sightseeing tour due to your internal flight time, you will have the option to do this on Day 9.**

DAY 4: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

This morning, drive to the west bank of Luxor, where the great valleys of Ancient Egypt's royalty are guarded by the massive twin statues of the Colossi of Memnon. Pass these gatekeepers of the valley then continue on to the Temple of Hatshepsut, a magnificent memorial temple built into the cliffs of this sacred valley. After time to explore this wonder, return to your vessel and sail onward to Edfu, a scenic cruise that allows you to take in life on the shores of the Nile. Pass through the Esna lock and sail through the night as you make your way to Edfu.

DAY 5: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Dock in Edfu in the early hours of the morning, in time for breakfast and a visit to the impressive Temple of Horus. Enter through the massive gateways of the temple, guarded by huge granite statues of Horus, and explore the halls and chambers of this colossal ode to the gods. Return to your ship for a day and night of cruising as you journey towards Aswan, passing the picturesque agricultural town of Kom Ombo along the way.

DAY 6: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Arrive in Aswan this morning and disembark for a chance to tour this colourful riverside city, nestled between water and desert. Start with a visit to the gigantic Aswan High Dam; the construction of this source of hydro-electricity required the movement of a number of nearby monuments to protect them from flooding. Continue on to the Unfinished Obelisk, a massive slab of granite that was carved but never erected, though it retains its status as the world's largest ancient obelisk. Travel to the river island of Agilkia and take in the splendid Temples of Philae, built by the cult of Isis in honour of the Egyptian goddess of health and marriage. Make your way back to your vessel, remaining for the night in the tranquil waters off Aswan.

DAY 7: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Enjoy a morning at leisure to relax or explore at your own pace, perhaps taking in the rock-cut Tombs of the Nobles, the views from the hilltop Aga Khan Mausoleum or the fragrant spices, woven baskets and colourful robes of the city's souk. Alternatively, opt to visit Abu Simbel (at a fee), a series of temples intricately cut into a rocky cliff overlooking the Nile. After lunch, enjoy a unique sailing experience as you breathe in fresh river breezes during a ride on a felucca, a traditional wooden sailing boat which carries you to the botanical gardens of Kitchener's Island. Wander among palm fronds and exotic, brightly coloured blooms in this tranquil setting, returning to your ship for an overnight stay in Aswan.

DAY 8: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

After breakfast, a free morning allows for your last shopping excursions or explorations in Aswan. After lunch, weigh anchor and sail north to Kom Ombo where you'll disembark for a trip to the impressive Temple of Kom Ombo. The temple is unique as it is dedicated to both Sorek, god of crocodiles, and Horus, god of the sky, with separate gateways and chapels for each god. The amazingly detailed etchings and carvings on the columns and walls of these temples are one of its most incredible features and a walk through the interior takes you into elaborately decorated chambers and passageways. In the early evening, depart for Edfu, arriving late tonight for your overnight stay.

DAY 9: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Today offers a leisurely day of cruising as you depart Edfu bound for Luxor. Enjoy a day on board to soak in the sights on the river shores, lounge on the sun deck, take a dip in the swimming pool or relax on the deck with a cocktail. Round off a relaxing day of river cruising with tonight's last dinner on board, marking the end of your awe-inspiring Egyptian journey.

DAY 10: Luxor to the UK or extension B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport in Luxor for your return flight via Cairo to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Nile River Cruise information

Nile River Cruise (7 nights) 5★ MS Crown Emperor

The ship used on your Nile River Cruise is the MS Crown Emperor, which is of 5★ standard. All cabins have large outward-facing windows, an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning and a safety deposit box. There are 3 decks - the Upper Deck, Main Deck and Lower Deck. Wi-Fi is available at a charge, although the connection may temporarily drop in more remote areas. On board facilities include a large sun deck with swimming pool, a restaurant, 2 bars, fitness equipment, massage service and a gift shop. Major credit cards are accepted for on board purchases. All meals provided during the cruise will be taken on board.

Your hotels

Cairo (2 nights) 5★ Ramses Hilton Hotel

Address: 1115 Nile Corniche, Sharkas, Cairo, Cairo Governorate 12344, Egypt.
Contact number: 0020 22 5777444



Accommodation

All accommodation is 5★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating and a TV. Mercury Holidays have visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. Should any of the hotels/boats listed become unavailable you will be placed in alternative accommodation of the exact same standard.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

During your stay in Cairo your breakfast will be at the hotel, with lunch in a local restaurant. During your cruise all meals will be served on board the boat. As there is a specialist chef on board, all dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Cairo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Touring International**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Touring International representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Touring International during your stay the details are:

Touring International

Travco Center, 26th July Corridor,
El Sheikh Zayed City, 6th October 12588, Giza. Egypt.
Contact number: 00201221107303
E-mail: alaa.berzi@travco.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Touring International**

24 hour telephone	00201227929846
24 hour E-mail	mohamed.saeed@travco.com

WHAT TO PACK

- Warm clothes in case of cold weather
- Insect repellent
- Suncream and a hat
- Comfortable shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses and plastic bags

- Towel and swimsuit
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- Travel plug adapter – the electricity supply on board the boat is 220 V. You will need a 2 round pin plug adapter.

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required for entry into Egypt. British passport holders need a visa for visits of up to 30 days. You can get a visa on arrival by payment in Sterling, US Dollars or Euros; the visa fee is US\$25 at approved bank kiosks within airport arrival halls, before reaching immigration counters. Alternatively, we work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into Egypt. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destination's tourist board or embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health & vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in sufficient time before your departure. Sources of information include: www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to **Cairo International Airport** with **EgyptAir**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 2**. Your return flight is from **Luxor International Airport**, via **Cairo**, with **EgyptAir**.

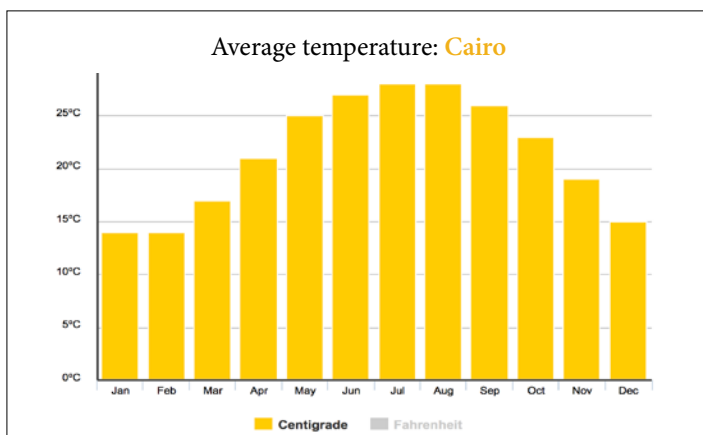
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 1 piece of hold luggage with each bag not exceeding 23kg. Hand luggage: One piece not exceeding 8kg and with maximum total dimensions not exceeding 118 cm (55 cm x 40 cm x 23 cm). Should you wish to take additional luggage, you will need to pay extra at check-in. Please refer to the airline's website for further details and the most up-to-date information.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Tour Guides

Your transfers will be with an English-Speaking Driver. During your excursion in Cairo, this will be with an English-Speaking Guide. On board your cruise you will have an English-Speaking guide who will accompany you during your included excursions. Your return airport transfers will be with an English-speaking driver.

Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion; however, we would recommend approximately £6 per day for the crew members, guides and drivers. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 1-2. If in the unlikely event there are less than 1-2 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. However, cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £300-£400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions. or for operational purposes. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving and sailing times.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.



LUXOR CITY STAY EXTENSION

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Located on the banks of the Nile, Luxor is often called the world's largest open-air museum and offers a wealth of temples, ruins and tombs. Explore the legacy of the Pharaohs with a 2-night add-on in this fascinating riverside city.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Luxor.

Hotel Information

Luxor (2 nights on Bed & Breakfast)

Your stay in Luxor will take place at the 5★ Mercure Luxor Karnak Hotel on Bed & Breakfast

Experience the timeless beauty of the Nile amid the contemporary design of the Mercure Luxor Karnak hotel. Nestled in a shady garden on the river's East bank, the hotel offers private terraces or balconies. Unwind with a plunge into the swimming pool overlooking the Nile. Savor barbecue dishes at the open-air Karnak grill or dine in the atmosphere of a pharaonic temple at Opet restaurant. All rooms boast garden views and are fitted with air-conditioning, satellite TV, direct dial phone, minibar, safe and free WIFI.

Hotel address: El Zinia Gebly Street, Luxor, Egypt
Contact number: 0020 95 2378025

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Tour guides

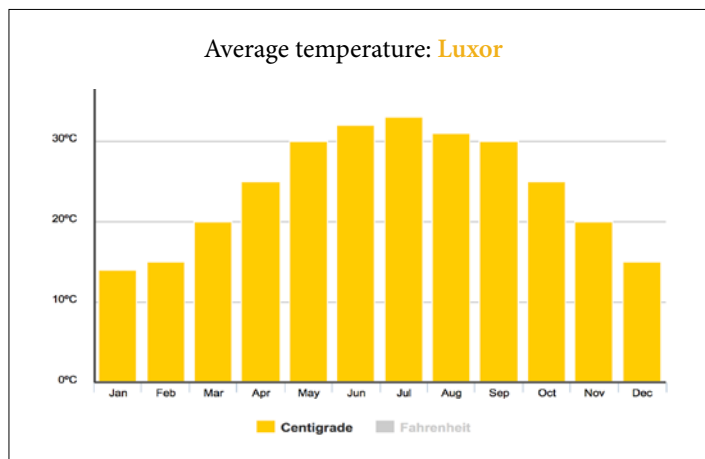
Your stay in Luxor is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, meals and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Please note

This extension stay in Luxor will take place at the end of your main tour.



5★ Mercure Luxor Karnak Hotel

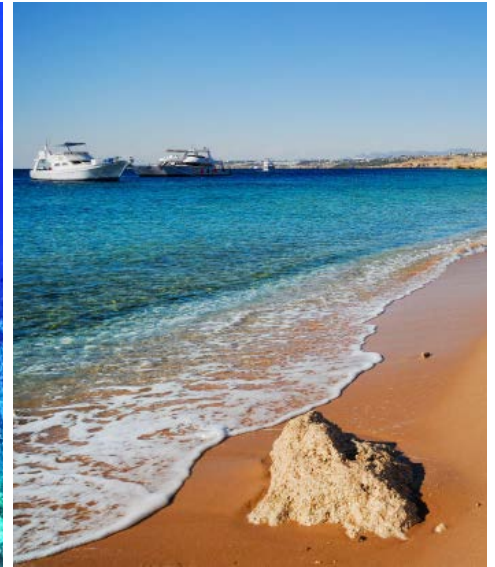
FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723

HURGHADA BEACH STAY EXTENSION

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

The former fishing village of Hurghada has become a popular tourist resort, attracting sun-seekers who head to the shores of the Red Sea for excellent beaches, water sports and easy access to the nearby mountains and deserts. Enjoy a relaxing 4-night stay on the coast with this All-Inclusive add-on.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Hurghada.

Hotel Information

Hurghada (4 nights on All-Inclusive)

Your stay in Hurghada will take place at the 4★ Mercure Hurghada Hotel on All-Inclusive

Stretching across the sands of the Red Sea, enjoy the pleasures of the 4-star Mercure Hurghada Hotel. The resort offers a private beach and provides the opportunity to explore some of the most spectacular coral reefs in the world.

This All-Inclusive resort provides excellent facilities including an outdoor swimming pool, seven bars and restaurants and a spa.

Well-appointed rooms offer excellent views in addition to air-conditioning, satellite TV and a safe.

Hotel address: Safaga road km 12, Hurghada, Egypt
Contact number: 0020 65 3464646

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Tour guides

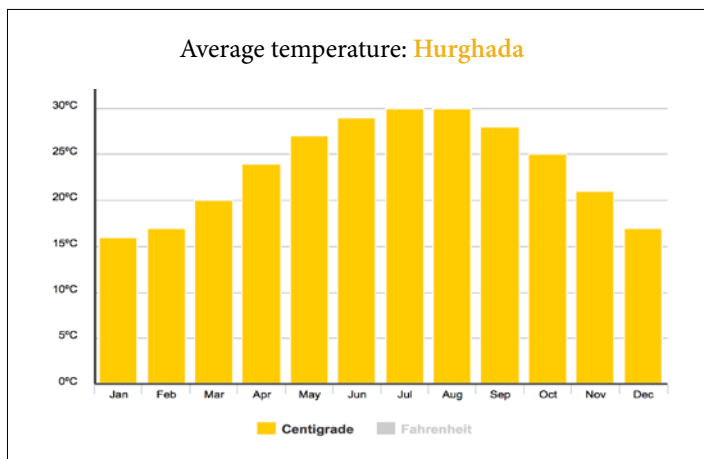
Your stay in Hurghada is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included. You transfer will be by car and will take approximately 4 hours.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Please note

This extension stay in Hurghada will take place at the end of your main tour.



4★ Mercure Hurghada Hotel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723