

Imperial Egypt

Nile cruise on a Dahabya and Palace Hotels

12 Days / 11 Nights



Enjoy the fascinating views of The River Nile and the marvelous monuments & temples in Luxor, Kom Ombo, Edfu and Aswan while sailing on a Dahabya. The experience is both romantic and intimate. Get spoiled by staying in beautiful hotels with an historical past. Egypt will remain in your memories forever!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 CAIRO (Tuesday)

Arrive at Cairo Intl. Airport. After customs and visa clearance, you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel. Evening at leisure

Accommodation: THE MENA HOUSE

*The origin of the **Mena House** was that of a royal lodge for the Khedive Ismail, used as a rest house for himself and his guests when hunting in the desert or visiting the Pyramids at Giza.*

Due to political matters in 1883, Isma'il sold the lodge to couple Frederick and Jessie Head as a private residence. The couple came across the building while on their honeymoon and once it was purchased they expanded it. In 1885, it was then sold to an English couple, Ethel and Hugh F. Locke King. They immediately began construction on the hotel and opened it to the public in 1886 as The Mena House.



Among the Famous visitors:

In 1889, Prince Albert Victor of Wales stayed at the hotel. In 1894, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife stayed there. In 1909, the future King George V and Queen Mary attended a banquet there. Circa 1914, Winston Churchill stayed at the hotel. In 1939, King Farouk of Egypt frequently visited. In 1974, President Richard Nixon visited. Other notable people such as Agatha Christie, Roger Moore,

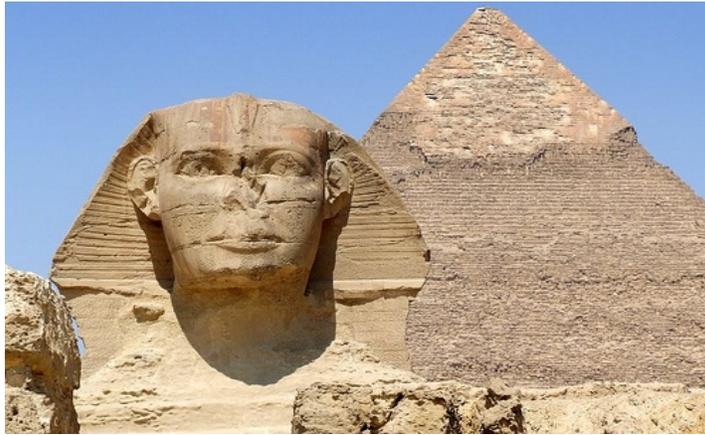
Cecil B. DeMille, Charlton Heston, Frank Sinatra and Charlie Chaplin have all stayed at Mena House

DAY 2 CAIRO (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

Full day tour to visit the Pyramids, Sphinx, and Memphis & Sakkara.

The Pyramids & Sphinx were reckoned by the Greeks to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World. A single pyramid is built of 2,300,000 blocks, each weighing an average of two and one-half tons. In the face of such immensity, one cannot help but feel the wonder and awe that so



many writers & artists have sought to convey over the centuries. The Cheops Pyramid is especially interesting since its interior burial chambers are open for inspection by the public. Not far from the Pyramids is the Great Sphinx of Giza, which dates from the time of Chephren (2620BC). Hewn from natural yellowish limestone & standing 65 feet high & 187 feet long, this unforgettable statue combines the head of a Pharaoh with a lion's body.

Memphis served as the capital of Upper & Lower Egypt some 5,000 years ago during the 1st Dynasty. Menes, the first pharaoh of this dynasty, built a great white-walled palace & the Temple of Ptah here

Sakkara one of the most exciting historical & archaeological area in all of Egypt is Sakkara, situated about 12 miles South West of Cairo. The site is dominated by the famous step pyramid of King Zoser. It was the first pyramid to be built in ancient Egypt, preceding those at Giza by many centuries, & is the work of the famous pharaonic architect, Imhotep. Back to hotel and overnight.



DAY 3 CAIRO (B)

Breakfast at hotel

Full day tour to visit the Egyptian Museum, Citadel, Mosques & Khan Khalili Bazaars

The Egyptian Museum is the most important depository of Egyptian antiquities anywhere in the world. It features artifacts from the Pharaonic and Greco-Roman periods, including the celebrated mummies of ancient Egypt's king and Tut Ankh Amun treasures.

The Citadel situated on a highly visible spur of the Mokattam Hills of Old Cairo, was the nerve center of Egypt for almost 700 years. Construction of the grand structure began in 1176 and was completed by Muhammad Ali Pasha, ruler of Egypt in the late 19th century. Mamluk sultans and Turkish governors resided in the Citadel, which is among the world's most splendid monuments of medieval warfare.

Facing the Citadel is the **Mosque of Sultan Hassan**, built between 1356 and 1363 and perhaps the most majestic monument of Arab architecture in Egypt and the **Mosque of Al-Rifai** was constructed in two phases over the period between 1869 and 1912, when it was finally completed.

The tour also includes a visit to **Khan ElKhalili**, known as the Turkish bazaar during the Ottoman period, was built in 1382 by Emir Djaharks ElKhalili, in the heart of what was then Fatimid City. Until this day, the bazaar is a center of trade and communion in the city, and offers a wide array of antiques, handcrafts of gold, silver and copper as well as numerous old coffee shops and local restaurants which attract both Egyptians and tourists alike.

Back to hotel and overnight.

DAY 4 CAIRO – LUXOR (B)

Breakfast at hotel

Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to Luxor

Arrival Luxor

Transfer to the **Sofitel Old Winter Palace hotel** for check in. Day at leisure

*Discover **Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor** a 5-star luxury hotel built in 1886 by British explorers perched on the Nile River amid luxuriant tropical gardens and ancient temples. This opulent Luxor hotel blends rich colonial design with the glory of Pharaonic times. In this 19th-century palace, once a winter retreat for the Egyptian royal family, Agatha Christie wrote her famed 1937 novel *Death on the Nile*. Illustrious dignitaries - from presidents and politicians to artists and celebrities - have stayed in this Luxor hotel's sumptuous suites overlooking the Valley of the Kings. Archaeologist Howard Carter, discoverer of Tutankhamen's tomb, wandered the gardens of this sumptuous hotel in Luxor almost a century ago.*

Accommodation: SOFITEL OLD WINTER PALACE HOTEL



DAY 5 LUXOR – NILE CRUISE on DAHABYA (B/L/D)
(Saturday departure)

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to Dahabya to cruise the Nile for 5 nights from Luxor to Aswan

A DAHABYA is an upscale, luxurious boutique sailing boat where you enjoy a unique and stylish sailing experience up and down the great spectacular River Nile between Aswan & Luxor. A journey on this legendary river aboard a Dahabya offers the romance of the past with every modern comfort and convenience. A wonderful mix of superb sightseeing, traditional cuisine and attentive personal service

It is a traditional sail boat that is powered by wind. In case the wind current is low, the Dahabya has its own tow boat that can pull the boat with a 15 meters wire, ensuring that visitors are neither disturbed by vibration caused by possible onboard engines nor the loud noise that an engine would create.



The relatively small, maneuverable Dahabya is able to sail to less accessible monuments & moor besides isolated Nile islands, whose virgin landscapes have hardly changed throughout millennia. Wandering the gardens and Nile islands is an idyllic pastime, and the perfect compliment to your visits to Egypt's matchless monuments.





You will be welcomed by the Dahabya manager and will be offered a cold wet towel, a welcome drink and fresh seasonal fruits. Check-in on board the Dahabya and enjoy your seated lunch on board. After lunch, Visit the **East Bank (temples' complex of Karnak, followed by the awesome Luxor Temple).**

***Karnak Temple** was erected in 1928 BC as a small shrine dedicated to Amun, god of Thebes then. The Temple of Karnak comprises three main temples, smaller enclosed temples, and several outer temples - all constructed over 1300 years. The three main temples of Mut, Monthu, and Amun, are enclosed in enormous brick walls, with the temple of Amun at the center. Karnak is now the largest and oldest temple compound on earth.*

Luxor Temple is situated on the east bank of the River Nile. The temple itself was known as "ipet resyt" ("the southern harem") and it was founded during the New Kingdom around 1400 BC. The temple is dedicated to Amun, Mut, and Khonsu and was the focus of one of the most important religious festivals in ancient Egypt - the annual Opet Festival. During this festival the cult statues of Amun, Mut and Khonsu would travel from Karnak to Luxor. As a result, the temple is not aligned to the river (as is more usual) but to the temple complex at Karnak.

After the visit you will be welcomed again with cold wet towels and a chilled glass of Hibiscus drink. Sunset tea and refreshments on the Sundeck. In the evening you will be greeted by the Dahabya staff and gourmet dinner will be served on the sundeck or in the restaurant depending on the weather.

The Dahabya will dock at the west bank of the Nile to spend the night so you can enjoy the panoramic view of Luxor Temple as well as a peaceful sleep away from the city noise
Overnight on board in Luxor

DAY 6 LUXOR – ESNA (NILE CRUISE) (B/L/D)

Breakfast on board at the sun deck

Visit the **West Bank** Necropolis, the burial ground of the Pharaohs - the **Valley of the Kings** - where Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen in 1922. Proceed to the mortuary **temple of Hatshepsut**, the only woman Pharaoh to rule ancient Egypt. End the tour by a **panoramic stop at the**

Colossi of Amenhotep III named the **Colossi of Memnon** by the Greeks.

Valley of the Kings: The Valley of the Kings in Upper Egypt is home to many pharaonic tombs of the New Kingdom, including those of King Tutankhamun and Ramses the Great. Each king's formal name and title is inscribed in his tomb, adorned with his images and statues.

Valley of the Queens: The Valley of the Queens (Biban Al-Harem), which includes between 75 and 80 tombs, is located on the West Bank at Luxor. These tombs belong to queens of the 18th, 19th and 20th Dynasties. Among these is the famous tomb of Nefertiti, one of the five wives of Ramses II. Nefertari was said to be Ramses' favorite wife, and her tomb is regarded by many as the most beautiful in Egypt.



Hatshepsut Temple: The mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut of 18th Dynasty was built just north of the Middle Kingdom temple of Mentuhotep Nebhepetre. In ancient times the temple was called Djeser-djeseru, meaning the sacred of sacreds..

The Colossi of Memnon are two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III. For 3,400 years they have sat in the Theban necropolis, across the River Nile from the city of Luxor. These two colossal statues (about 20 meters high) of the deified Amenophis III once flanked the entrance of the first pylon at the pharaoh's mortuary temple. The temple is now destroyed, ruined by flood waters and cannibalized for its stone. Both statues are damaged as well, lacking their faces and tall royal crowns.



After the visit you will be offered a cold wet towel and a chilled drink
Seated menu Lunch on board.

Sail to Esna and tea time on the sundeck with variety of seasonal fruits and ice cream

Dinner during sailing on the Sundeck

Tonight the Dahabya will dock at a small island close to Esna city

Overnight on the way to Esna near El Hegz Island

DAY 7 ESNA – EDFU (NILE CRUISE) (B/L/D)

Start your Sailing experience with the sunrise and enjoying the beautiful sights and scenes of the Nile. Breakfast on board while crossing Esna lock.

Sail to Edfu & Lunch during sailing on the Sundeck with the view of the Egyptian countryside and villages on the way to Edfu.

After noon visit to one of the best preserved **temples of the Greco – Roman era, that of Horus at Edfu**. Experience the horse drawn carriage ride back and forth to the temple. **The Temple of Horus in Edfu (also known as the Temple of Edfu)** is considered the best-preserved cult temple

in Egypt. This partly because it was built later than most: in the Ptolemaic era from 237 to 57 BC. Yet despite its later date, it exactly reflects traditional pharaonic architecture and so provides an excellent idea of how all the temples once looked. Edfu is also very large: the second largest in Egypt after Karnak Temple.

After the visit you will be offered a cold wet towel and a chilled drink then afternoon tea and refreshments will be served on the Sundeck while sailing to Al Ramady Island. Dinner on board followed by traditional Rababa musicians show. Overnight besides Al Ramady island near Edfu.

DAY 8 EDFU – ASWAN (NILE CRUISE) (B/L/D)

Today will be dedicated to a long relaxing sailing starting from sunrise heading to Aswan. Breakfast will be served on the Sundeck. Sail to Sheikh Fadl Island and lunch on board during sailing.

The temple at Kom Ombo is about 30 miles (48 km) north of Aswan and was built during the Graeco-Roman period (332 BC AD 395). There was an earlier structure from the 18th dynasty but little remains.

The temple is unique because it is in fact a double temple, dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. The layout combines two temples in one with each side having its own gateways and chapels.

Tea time and dinner will be served while docking on El Sheikh Fadl Island

Tonight the staff will be your entertainers as they dress in their traditional costume (Galabeya) and teach you how to *dance like an Egyptian!*

Sail to Aswan after dinner & overnight on board.

DAY 9 ASWAN (NILE CRUISE) (B/L/D)

Arrive to Aswan in the early morning

Breakfast on board

Visit the **High Dam** and then proceed with a short motorboat ride to visit the majestic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilika. Located near Aswan, the world famous **High Dam** was an engineering miracle when it was built in the 1960s. It contains 18 times the material used in the Great Pyramid of Cheops. The Dam is 11,811 feet long, 3215 feet thick at the base and 364 feet tall. Today it provides irrigation and electricity for the whole of Egypt and, together with the old Aswan Dam built by the British between 1898 and 1902, 6km down river, wonderful views for visitors.

Philae Temple:

A short trip on a motorboat will bring the visitor to a magnificent vista of the island, before landing at what would have been the ancient quay on the south side. The temple was dedicated to the goddess Isis and has many legends connected to it. The most well-known legend tells the story of how Isis found the heart of Osiris here after his murder by his brother Seth.



After the visit you will be offered a cold wet towel and a chilled drink

Lunch on board

Dinner & overnight on board in Aswan

DAY 10 ASWAN (end of cruise) (B)

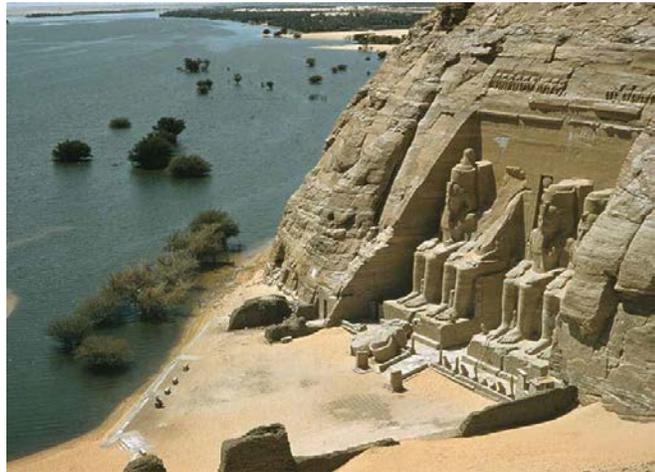
Breakfast onboard

Disembark in Aswan

Transfer to the Sofitel Legend Old Cataract.

Optional visit \$ to Abu Simbel Temple

in the early morning. Prepare to be blown away by the magnificence of these temples. They are undisputedly one of the world's most breathtaking monuments, and Egypt's second most visited touristic site. The relocation of the temples was a historic event in the 1960's. At that time, the temples were threatened by submersion in Lake Nasser when the High Dam was constructed. The Egyptian government with the support of UNESCO launched a world wide appeal to save these colossal landmarks. They were successfully dismantled and relocated to a spot 60 meters above the cliff where they had been initially built. The more famous of the two temples is dedicated to Ramses II and the smaller one to his favorite wife Nefertari. They were both built by Ramses II in the 13th century BCs.



*Live the Legend at **Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan**, a 5-star luxury hotel in a 19th-century Victorian palace on the banks of the river Nile.*

Rising grandly from a pink granite shelf at the edge of the Nubian Desert with views of Elephantine Island, this stylish property blends Pharaonic treasures with French art de recevoir. Follow in the footsteps of the prestigious hotel guests hosted since 1899, from Sir Winston Churchill to Aga Khan, from Dame Agatha Christies to King Farouk...



Free day at leisure

Accommodation: SOFITEL LEGEND OLD CATARACT HOTEL

DAY 11 ASWAN – CAIRO (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to Aswan airport for flight to Cairo
Arrival Cairo and transfer to the **Cairo Marriott hotel**

Built by Khedive Ismail as a guest palace for the Suez Canal inauguration celebrations in 1869, the historic Palace Al Gezirah in Cairo, Egypt, has housed European monarchs, including Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III. It was to be the venue of the first performance of Verdi's Opera Aida.



The palace has hosted several historic ceremonies throughout the years, including the wedding of Khedive Ismail's son, the wedding of the daughter of Prime Minister Nahhas Pasha in the 1930s, and a boat party in front of the palace as part of H.M King Farouk and H.M Queen Nariman's wedding celebrations.

Transfer for a half day tour to **Medieval Cairo**

Leave your vehicle at Bab El Futouh and stroll through **Al Moez Street** visiting and viewing the magnificent **Islamic architectural heritage including mausoleums, mosques, Sabils, and medieval houses** that date from the Fatimid and Mamluke Eras. Rest and reenergize with a refreshing drink at Fishawy Café (Optional) amidst Khan El khalili bazaars.

Accommodation: CAIRO MARRIOTT HOTEL.

DAY 12 CAIRO – DEPART (B)

Your journey comes to an end!

Breakfast at the hotel

Check-out

Transfer from hotel to Cairo International airport for final departure

Based on Mena House Hotel Garden VIEW Room + Sofitel Old Winter Palace Classic Garden View Room + Dahabya luxury sailing cruise + Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan Nile Wing Room + Cairo Marriott Deluxe Room or similar

Rates include:

- 3 nights at Mena house Hotel, bed and buffet breakfast basis at Cairo.
- All the excursions shown within the detailed program using English speaking guides.
- All airport transfers at Cairo, Aswan and Luxor with assistance.
- 1 night accommodation at Luxor on bed and buffet breakfast basis.
- 5 nights on board the Dahabya sailing cruise on full board including excursions along with English speaking guide.
- 1 night accommodation at Aswan on bed and buffet breakfast basis.
- 1 night accommodation at Cairo Marriott bed and buffet breakfast basis.
- 2 full day tours in Cairo with English speaking guide excluding lunches.
- Half day tour at medieval Fatimid Cairo excluding lunch

Not included · International airfare and airport taxes · Gratuities · Beverages · Optional excursions · Visa for Egypt, USD28.

Minimum 2 passengers required

Land package per person, starting from	Price per person Double Occupancy
Tuesday departures	
October 23 – November 27, 2018	3699
January 8 – March 26, 2019	3749
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019	4099