



Egypt Valley of the Kings

Young Alumni Journey 2024

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DAY 1 - FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Board your overnight flight to Cairo.

Meals:

- In-flight

DAY 2 – CAIRO: LAND TOUR START DAY

Upon arrival in Cairo transfer to your hotel. If you are arriving on the group flight, a local representative will meet you and assist with baggage and customs, then transfer to your hotel by private, air-conditioned motor coach. Get acquainted with fellow alumni travelers during tonight's welcome orientation and dinner at the hotel.

Inclusions:

- Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare
- Welcome orientation with tour director

Meals:

- In-Flight
- Dinner

DAY 3 - CAIRO

Today encounter the world's most ancient civilization and the only remaining monuments of the world's Seven Wonders, dating back to 1350 BC. Drive to Saqqara, an ancient burial ground that is filled with tombs lying beneath the heaped mounds. Our local historian explains the significance of the beautiful hieroglyphics lining the walls and helps decipher their stories. Then visit Step Pyramid, the first freestanding stone building in history and the first pyramid ever

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built. Afterwards, drive to the Giza Plateau and visit the Pyramids of Giza and their guardian, the Sphinx. Explore the interior of various tombs and Kephren's Pyramid.

Inclusions:

- Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian
- Monuments of the World's Seven Wonders
- Giza Plateau with the pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx
- Kephren's Pyramid
- Camel or horse-back ride
- Saqqara tombs
- Step Pyramid
- Red Pyramids
- Bent Pyramid

Meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 4 - CAIRO - FLIGHT TO ASWAN - NILE RIVER CRUISE

We check out of our hotel after breakfast and transfer to Cairo airport for our Aswan flight. Today we tour Aswan, a strategic point at the first cataract rapids of the Nile. Here the river flows through granite rocks and the golden desert while palm trees and fertile farmlands cover its banks. Our first stop will be the amazing Phalie Temple. Later we visit the Unfinished Obelisk which lies in its original location in a granite quarry. It was abandoned when some cracks appeared in the rock during its construction. Had this obelisk been completed, it would have been the largest obelisk ever cut. The best way to explore this enchanting part of the Nile is by cruise ship. After boarding our luxury cruise ship and checking in, we'll enjoy a buffet lunch. Afterward, join an excursion on the graceful Egyptian sailboats known as 'Felucca.' Explore closer to shore while the gentle breeze and currents peacefully carry us along. During the evening, back on our cruise ship, watch the magnificent Egyptian sunset as we glide past ancient pyramids, colorful bazaars and temples that were already ancient by the time Cleopatra took charge.

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Inclusions:

- Airport transfers
- Flight from Cairo to Aswan
- Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian
- Aswan, site of the cataracts
- Phalie Temple, dedicated to Isis and Osiris
- Unfinished Obelisk
- Felucca sailing
- 5-star Nile cruise

Meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 5 - NILE RIVER CRUISE TO LUXOR

This morning we sail north to Kom Ombo, the only temple in Egypt dedicated to two gods, Horus and Sobek. This temple was built for worshiping Horus, but after the number of crocodiles on the island rapidly increased, the temple was demolished and reconstructed to worship Sobek (crocodile shaped god) for protection from the crocodiles. We continue sailing north to Edfu Temple, which is also dedicated to the falcon god Horus. It is one of the most completely preserved temples. The divine marriage of Hathor and Horus is depicted on the walls of this temple where it was celebrated once a year. The walls of the mamisi (house of the divine birth) are decorated with scenes depicting the divine birth of Horus the child. Enjoy a Galabiyah party during dinner, where we dress up in traditional Egyptian robes, as we continue sailing north to Luxor.

Inclusions:

- 5-star Nile cruise
- Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian
- Kom Ombo Temple dedicated to Horus and Sobek
- Edfu Temple, dedicated to the falcon god Horus
- Galabiyah party (Egyptian gown)

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Meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 6 - NILE RIVER CRUISE - VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Today we cross the Nile to the West Bank. Our first stop will be the Valley of the Kings, where we visit colorful tombs that were carved out of rocky cliffs to safeguard the mummies and their rich furnishings from grave-robbers. Our next stop will be Queen Hatshepsut's Temple. Wanting to honor her father (God Amun), she asked her architect not to spare any effort in making this the best of its kind. Visit Memnon Colossi on the way back to the East Bank. After lunch, we will visit Karnack Temple, a vast open-air museum. It is a group of temples surrounded by one enclosure wall that is dedicated to the god Amon-Raw. Approximately 30 pharaohs contributed to its building. In the evening we'll visit Luxor Temple. It was completely buried in sand for many centuries, allowing it to be one of the most well-preserved temples. The temple has many beautifully decorated columns, a huge open court, a massive façade, a huge pylon and two seated statues of Ramses II.

Inclusions:

- Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian
- Valley of the Kings
- Queen Hatshepsut's Temple
- Memnon Colossi
- Karnack Temple, open-air museum
- Luxor Temple
- Statues of Ramses II

Meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

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DAY 7 - NILE RIVER CRUISE - FLIGHT TO CAIRO

Today we disembark from our Nile Cruise but retain all the unforgettable memories of scenery and beautiful temples. Fly from Luxor to Cairo where we will spend our last day. Explore the Egyptian Museum, housing the world's largest collection of Pharaonic relics. Marvel at the enormous sarcophagi, statues, jewelry, and the magnificent golden masterpieces of King Tut. This evening enjoy an authentic Egyptian farewell dinner, one of the many highlights of our tour and a wonderful finale.

Inclusions:

- Airport transfers
- Flight from Luxor to Cairo
- Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian
- Visit Egyptian Museum
- Home hosted authentic Egyptian farewell dinner

Meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 8 - TRAVEL HOME

Today we say our good-byes to Egypt. After enjoying our last group breakfast, transfer to Cairo airport to board our flights home.

Inclusions:

- Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals:

- Breakfast
- In-flight