

Ancient Wonders of the Nile

12-Day Luxury River Cruise

Departs 4th April 2026

Blue Dot Travel





ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE NILE 14 DAY LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

Despite sitting adjacent to two large bodies of water – the Red Sea and the Mediterranean – Egypt is almost entirely a desert environment with the exception of areas on the Nile – the world’s longest river. Cairo, the country’s capital with a population of over 22 million, has a fascinating history and was originally settled in 973 CE by an Islamic sect called the Fatimids. It’s name means “the triumphant city”. Of course, history pre-dates this with the famous pyramids being built between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago.

Egypt has numerous archaeological sites of major significance, including the Valley of Kings, which is the resting place of the kingdom’s pharaohs. The Pyramids of Giza need little introduction sitting on the outskirts of Cairo. They are burial grounds for generations of pharaohs. Abu Simbel is a historic site comprising two massive rock-cut temples near the border with Sudan. Luxor Temple is a large complex located on the east bank of the Nile River in the city today known as Luxor and was constructed approximately 1400 BCE. The list goes on!

The country is highly indigenous in that 98% of all people - around 110 million - are original Egyptians with the vast majority being Sunni Muslims. Arabic forms the main language, however, literacy is very low compared to the developed world. Sadly, women lag way behind men, with about 40% of the country’s women considered to be illiterate.

In conjunction with our local operators, Blue Dot has developed a wonderful tour of this fascinating country comprising mainly of a cruise on the Luxury MS Darakum, with some quality land components. Over 12 days, you’ll experience the very best that the country has to offer.

MS Darakum is the only five star super deluxe Nile cruise operating the long cruise program - Aswan – Cairo. It offers an unforgettable journey while cruising through 7,000 years of history. Special Moroccan-inspired design with 03 Sundeck levels, cabins with two colour themes and large panoramic windows. The Mövenpick MS Darakum enjoys a private dock in Luxor. She has less than 50 spacious and uniquely designed cabins and suites, all with private bathrooms, a/c, bathtub, minibars, hair dryers, Smart TV with Marine Satellite, free internet WIFI and a water purification system. All meals – breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided.



Saturday 4th April
DEPART AUSTRALIA

Sunday 5th April
ARRIVE CAIRO



Day 1, Monday
6th April
BOARD
VESSEL AND
DEPART

Today we will be assisted to the domestic airport for your flight to Aswan. A

representative will meet you before immigration and then accompany you to the domestic flight terminal to check you in for your flight to Aswan. There's an arrival transfer to Aswan cruise port on private basis. Embarkation on your cruise and overnight. Dinner on board, music in the bar. **B/D**

Day 2, Tuesday 7th April
HIGH DAM AND NUBIAN MUSEUM


Breakfast on board before visiting the High Dam and Philae Temple. A monumental structure completed in 1970, the High Dam is one of the world's largest dams. This engineering marvel is crucial in controlling the Nile's annual flooding, providing hydroelectric power, and facilitating

agricultural development. Afterwards, you'll enjoy a short motorboat ride to visit the majestic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilka. The entire temple faced flooding when the High Dam was built, and was moved stone by stone to a new island, specially landscaped to be similar to the old. Lunch is onboard, and then your Egyptologist guide will take you to the Nubian



Museum. It offers a fascinating exploration of Nubian history and culture. It features artefacts from various periods, including statues, pottery, and jewellery, showcasing the region's ancient civilisations and their interactions with others. The museum also highlights the archaeological efforts during the construction of the Aswan High Dam, which preserved many Nubian monuments. Tonight, there is a manager's cocktail party before dinner and on board with the Nubian Show. Overnight in Aswan. **B/L/D**



 **Day 3, Wednesday**
8th April
ASWAN – KOM OMBO – EDFU

This morning, we sail from Aswan to Kom Ombo. Enjoy gazing at the countryside

and watching the locals go about their day. Late in the afternoon, visit Kom Ombo Temple, uniquely dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Haroeris (Horus the Elder). The name "Kom Ombo" combines the Arabic "kum" (mound) and "Ombo" from the ancient Egyptian "Nubt" (the golden city). Built during the Graeco-Roman Period (332 BC–395 AD) on an older New Kingdom site, the temple features two parallel passages leading to sanctuaries for each deity. Walking through the temple, you'll see beautiful column capitals and detailed wall scenes depicting festivals, rituals, and surgical instruments from the 2nd century AD. Overnight in Edfu. **B/L/D**



 **Day 4, Thursday**
9th April
EDFU – LUXOR

After an early breakfast, visit Edfu Temple, one of Egypt's best-preserved ancient

sanctuaries, dedicated to the falcon god Horus. Located on the west bank of the Nile, this magnificent Ptolemaic temple was constructed between 237 and 57 BC. You'll be awed by its grand entrance, towering columns, and intricate hieroglyphs that tell the story of Horus's victory over Seth. The temple also features a unique Nilometer, an ancient device used to measure the Nile's water level. Visiting the Edfu Temple offers a fascinating glimpse into ancient Egyptian religion, architecture, and daily life. Overnight in Luxor. **B/L/D**

 **Day 5, Friday 10th April**
LUXOR

This morning you'll visit the West Bank Valley of Kings + Hatshepsut Temple for an unforgettable journey into ancient history. The Hatshepsut Temple, also known as Djeser-Djeseru, is a stunning mortuary built for Queen Hatshepsut, one of Egypt's few female pharaohs. Nestled against the cliffs of Deir el-Bahari, the temple features grand terraces, impressive colonnades, and intricate reliefs depicting Hatshepsut's reign

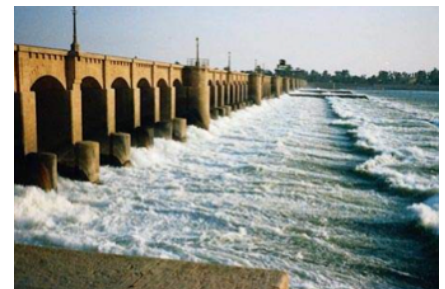
and divine birth. Afterwards, head to the nearby Valley of the Kings, the royal burial ground of the New Kingdom pharaohs. Here, you'll descend into the elaborately decorated tombs of famous pharaohs like Tutankhamun, Ramses II, and Seti I (please inquire about special tickets for the famous pharaohs). Each tomb offers a glimpse into the ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife, with vivid wall paintings and intricate carvings.



Visiting these iconic sites provides a captivating look into Egypt's rich history, architecture, and cultural heritage. Lunch is back on board before visiting the East Bank (Karnak & Luxor Temples). You'll then visit the Temple of Karnak, built over a thousand years ago by generations of Pharaohs. Next, continue to the Temple of Luxor which is dedicated to the God Amon. Overnight in Luxor. **B/L/D**

 **Day 6, Saturday 11th April**
LUXOR – NAGA HAMMADI

Enjoy your morning before visiting Dendera Temple in the early afternoon, an exquisitely preserved complex dedicated to the goddess Hathor. Located near Luxor, this Ptolemaic temple features impressive columns, detailed reliefs, and the famous Dendera Zodiac. Explore the grand Hypostyle Hall, the rooftop chapels, and the sacred lake. Overnight in Naga Hammadi. **B/L/D**



 **Day 7, Sunday 12th April**
NAGA HAMMADI – SOHAG

This morning, visit the Abydos Temple, one of Egypt's most significant archaeological sites. Dedicated to Osiris, the god of the afterlife, this ancient temple features stunning reliefs, detailed hieroglyphs, and the famed King List, which chronicles Egypt's pharaohs. Tonight, a wine tasting will be provided before dinner. After dinner, join the Galabeya Party. Overnight at Sohag. **B/L/D**



**Day 8, Monday 13th April
SOHAG — TEL EL AMARNA**

Today your ship will sail from Sohag to Tel El Amarna, the home of the Amarnian experience via Asyout's lock. After lunch, witness the Prince Tawdrous Monastery from the boat with a professional explanation of the monastery's importance. There's a cooking class on board for those interested before a BBQ dinner. Overnight Tel El Amarna. **B/L/D**



**Day 9,
Tuesday
14th April
TEL EL
AMARNA –
MINYA**

After breakfast, visit the Northern tombs of Tel El

Amarna, the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, The northern Palace, and The Small temples of Aten. Visit Tuna El Gebel & Ashmunein, where ancient Egyptian nobility lies and conclude your journey with visits to the remarkable archaeological sites of Tuna El Gebel and Ashmunein. Tonight is an Italian feast followed by a Folkloric show on board. Overnight in Minya. **B/L/D**



**Day 10, Wednesday 15th April
MINYA – BENI SUIF**

Today includes a captivating journey to Beni Hassan, a treasure trove of ancient Egyptian wonders.



Explore the awe-inspiring rock-cut tombs of noblemen adorned with vivid scenes of daily life and religious rituals. Marvel at the intricately

painted hieroglyphs and vibrant murals that glimpse the past. You'll head back to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon. Enjoy the Quiz tonight. Arrive and overnight Beni Suif. **B/L/D**



**Day 11, Thursday 16th April
SAIL TO CAIRO**

Enjoy the riverside views as we journey through Coptic Cairo, exploring its rich religious heritage. Visit the iconic Hanging Church, known for its suspended nave and exquisite Coptic art. Explore the Coptic Museum, home to many Christian artefacts and manuscripts. Finally,

delve into the history of the Jewish community at the Jewish Synagogue, witnessing its ornate architecture and cultural significance.



This tour offers a captivating glimpse into the diverse religious traditions of Cairo's ancient Coptic quarter. Tonight there is a Takht (Oriental Music) performance. Overnight in Cairo. **B/L/D**



**Day 12, Friday 17th April
GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX**

After breakfast, we'll visit Giza Pyramids and Sphinx where you will be exploring the iconic Giza Plateau. Enjoy viewing these magnificent structures as your guide provides insightful commentary on their history and significance. For those interested, there are options to enter to the Pyramids and King's Chamber at additional cost. Lunch is back on board before visiting the iconic Egyptian Museum, home to a breathtaking collection spanning 6000 years of Egyptian civilisation. Marvel at treasures like Tutankhamun's golden. **B/L/D**



**Day 13, Saturday 16th April
SAKKARA**

This morning, you'll visit the legendary necropolis of Sakkara, where you'll encounter the famous Step Pyramid, the oldest stone pyramid in the world. Delve into the mysteries of this ancient site with your guide. Lunch on board and then disembark for your final night stay in a hotel.

B/L/D

**Day 14, Sunday 16th April
DEPARTURE**

Today, you'll depart for your next destination. (Consider our tour to Turkey which links with this river cruise). An airport transfer will be provided (flight schedule to be confirmed). **B**



MODERATE

Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



ACTIVE

Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section. Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.