

Ancient Wonders of the Nile

12-Day Luxury River Cruise

Departs 4th April 2026

Blue Dot Travel



\$13,990 pp

Twin-share, excluding
international flights
Single supp \$4,490



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 3 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, air conditioning, bathtub, minibars, hairdryers, 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 transferred from the hotel to the domestic

airport for the flight to Aswan. A representative will meet the group before immigration and accompany us to the domestic terminal to check in for our flight. Upon arrival in Aswan, the group will be transferred to Aswan Cruise Port. Embarkation on your cruise and overnight. Dinner is on board, and welcome drinks and music are provided in the bar. **B/D**

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

Breakfast onboard, followed by a walking tour of 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 artifacts 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'll sail from Aswan to Kom Ombo. Enjoy the countryside view and watching the locals go about their day. Late in the



afternoon, we'll 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

Early breakfast before visiting 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. Its grand entrance, towering columns, and intricate hieroglyphs depicting Horus's victory over Seth


are extraordinary. 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, we'll visit the West Bank Valley of Kings and 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 enquire 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 and Luxor Temples). We'll next visit the Temple of Karnak, built over a thousand years ago by generations of Pharaohs before continuing 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 a morning at leisure before visiting Dendera Temple in the




early afternoon, an exquisitely preserved complex dedicated to the goddess Hathor. This Ptolemaic temple near Luxor 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**



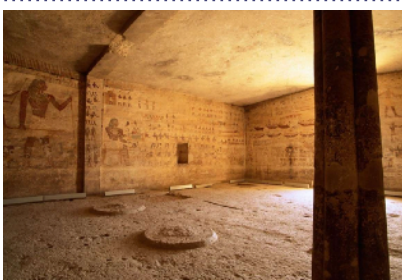
 **Day 8, Monday**
13th April
SOHAG – TEL EL AMARNA

Today, the 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, we'll 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 and Ashmunein, where ancient Egyptian nobility lies. We'll conclude our journey with visits to the remarkable archaeological sites of Tuna El Gebel and Ashmunein. Tonight is an Italian feast followed by a folk 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. Later we'll return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. 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, 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 6,000 years of Egyptian civilisation. Marvel at treasures like Tutankhamun's golden. **B/L/D**

 **Day 13, Saturday 18th April**
SAKKARA

This morning, we'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 before disembarking for your final night stay in a hotel. Consider joining Blue Dot Travel's Turkey tour which is linked to this river cruise. This would mean flying to Istanbul on the 18th April. **B/L**

Day 14, Sunday 19th April
DEPARTURE

Today, depart for your next destination. An airport transfer will be provided (flight schedule to be confirmed). **B**



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.



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.