



Blue Dot Travel





**\$13,990 pp**

Twin-share, excluding  
international flights

Single supp \$4,490



## **ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE NILE**

### **12 NIGHT 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.



### Sunday 5th April DEPART AUSTRALIA

Arrive Aswan, Egypt and overnight.



### Day 1, Monday 6th April BOARD VESSEL AND DEPART

Today, we will be transferred from the hotel to the Aswan Cruise Port.

Embarkation for the cruise and overnight. Dinner is on board, accompanied by welcome drinks and music 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, including Tutankhamun, Ramses II, and Seti I (please enquire about special tickets for the most notable 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, take a boat ride to the Prince Tawdrous Monastery and enjoy a professional explanation of the monastery's significance. There's a cooking class on board for those interested, followed by 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, where you can witness 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 the Pyramids and the King's Chamber at an 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 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.