

Ancient Wonders of the Nile

12 night luxury river cruise

Blue Dot Travel
Go somewhere different

April 2028 | 13 Days

Cost to be confirmed
Solo cabin additional

Tour Highlights

- 13 days on board a beautifully presented luxury vessel
- Philae Temple and museum
- Visiting Edfu Temple, one of Egypt's best-preserved ancient sanctuaries
- Luxor's Valley of Kings and Hatshepsut Temple
- The Abydos Temple, Egypt's most significant archaeological site
- Beni Hassan, a treasure trove of ancient Egyptian wonders
- The Giza Pyramids and Sphinx
- Sipping cocktails as you float along the world's longest river



Ancient Wonders of the Nile



Tour overview

Despite being adjacent to two large bodies of water – the Red Sea and the Mediterranean – Egypt is almost entirely desert, with the exception of areas along 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 by the Fatimids, an Islamic sect, in 973 CE. Its name means "the triumphant city". Of course, history predates this, with the famous pyramids built between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago.

Egypt has numerous archaeological sites of major significance, including the Valley of the Kings, the resting place of the kingdom's pharaohs. The Pyramids of Giza need little introduction, as they sit on the outskirts of Cairo. They are burial grounds for generations of pharaohs. 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 primary language; however, literacy is very low compared to the developed world.

Blue Dot is offering a tour of this fascinating region, comprising mainly a cruise on the Luxury MS Darakum, with some quality land components. Over 13 days, you'll experience the very best that the country has to offer.

We also offer an optional extension to Abu Simbel, a historic site comprising two massive rock-cut temples near the border with Sudan.

MS Darakum is the only five-star super deluxe Nile cruise operating the long cruise program – Aswan – Cairo. It offers an unforgettable journey as you cruise 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 fewer than 50 spacious, uniquely designed cabins and suites, each with a private bathroom, air conditioning, a bathtub, a minibar, a hair dryer, a Smart TV with Marine Satellite, free Wi-Fi, and a water purification system. All meals – breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided.



Activity rating: Moderate

You should be able to maintain a steady walking pace, manage flights of stairs, stand at attractions for periods of time, and board and disembark transport independently

April DEPART AUSTRALIA (dates to be confirmed)

ARRIVE CAIRO

Arrive in Cairo, Egypt and overnight.

Day 1 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 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 was flooded when the High Dam was built and was moved stone by stone to a new island, specially landscaped to resemble 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 undertaken during the construction of the Aswan High Dam, which helped preserve 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 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 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 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 temple 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 LUXOR – NAGA HAMMADI

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Day 7 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 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 guided tour with 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 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 MINYA – BENI SUIF

Today, we embark on 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 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 on board in Cairo. **B/L/D**

Day 12 GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX

After breakfast, we'll visit the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx, where we 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. Final night on board. **B/L/D**

Day 13 DEPARTURE

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





Accommodation

Our hotels are carefully chosen to capture the local atmosphere and set you up in an ideal location. You can expect accommodation that comprises a mix of standard hotels, boutique-style hotels, and smaller, independently owned establishments. Below are some of the hotels on this tour. Final hotels may change, and a complete list will be shared with you.

Movenpick MS Darakum
www.movenpick.accor.com/en

Hilton Heliopolis, Cairo
www.hilton.com/en/cairo-heliopolis

Seti House , Abu Simbel
<https://www.seti-abusimbel.com>



Why Blue Dot?

Travel is more than just moving from one place to another; it is an opportunity to explore this vast planet, connect with its people and marvel at its beauty. We have established a group of loyal, like-minded travellers who share this feeling and have taken multiple tours with us. With Blue Dot, you'll experience

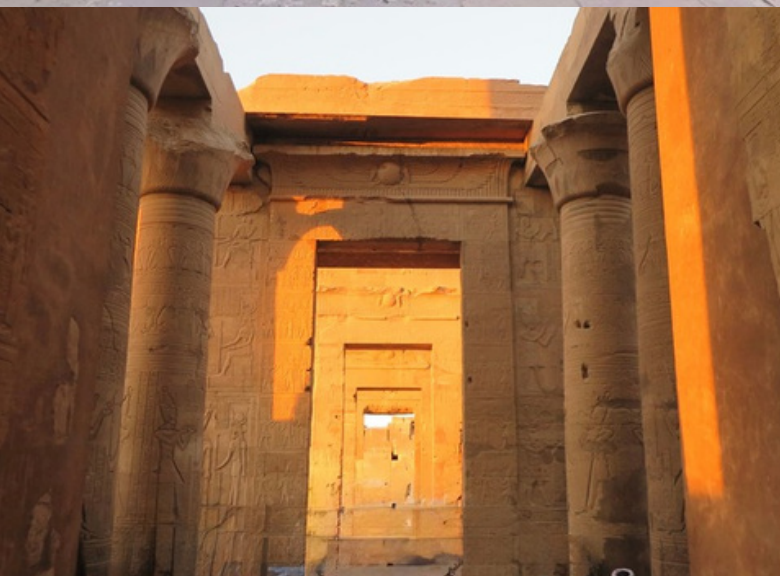
- Thoughtfully designed itineraries with unique experiences
- Small, inclusive groups with a maximum of 16 travellers
- The support of both an Australian tour leader* and experienced local guides
- Programs designed to meet the needs of mature-age travellers
- Hands on, personalised service including customised flight bookings
- Tipping included in your tour cost

*Australian leaders accompany groups with more than 10 travellers.



Blue Dot welcomes solo travellers

In fact, over half of our clients are solo travellers. We understand it can be daunting to travel on your own, and we'll ensure your travel is safe, inclusive and enjoyable. You can confidently join our groups, knowing that we bring solo travellers together to share the camaraderie of an unforgettable adventure.



Enquiries and bookings

A \$500 deposit is required to secure your booking.

For more information:

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