



DESTINATION GUIDE EGYPT

Uncover timeless treasures along the Nile River



Welcome to **EGYPT**

*Journey into the past as
you sail along the Nile.*

Uncover the ancient secrets of Egypt while immersing yourself in the rich heritage and vibrant culture of this majestic location.

With 5,000 years of history, Egypt is one of the world's oldest civilisations and is a treasure trove of captivating attractions, from the iconic pyramids and grand temples to vibrant bazaars and ornate mosques. Beyond its renowned landmarks, it offers countless experiences for the discerning traveller, making it an extraordinary destination to discover.

See the pyramids from astride a camel, explore the Temple of Karnak's 136 soaring pillars, skim the waters of the Nile by traditional felucca, and visit Queen Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens, for a journey that will leave you with breathtaking experiences and treasured memories.

Egyptian hospitality, combined with immense pride in its millennia of history and culture, makes Egypt uniquely enjoyable for first-time visitors. The people are warm and welcoming, and Egyptian cuisine is diverse and delicious.

Sailing the Nile River with Viking is the best way to experience the heart of the country. Viking's Egypt ships are the newest fleet on the Nile. These ships are meticulously crafted to provide unparalleled comfort and exploration opportunities, ensuring that guests can fully experience the rich history and stunning landscapes of Egypt.

With the best trained and most knowledgeable guides in the region, an award-winning fleet, and the prime docking locations in the main ports—Viking's Nile River voyages are some of the very best that Egypt has to offer.

We hope you enjoy this guide.



VIKING OSIRIS



Unforgettable Moments **SHARED BY YOU**

From expertly guided tours to unforgettable sights along the Nile, these testimonials highlight what makes Viking voyages worth remembering.

A perfect itinerary, and our Egyptologist guides' knowledge was astonishing, bringing us insights into these incredible sights we would never have got to otherwise.
Dave A, Viking Guest

After years of visiting museums, we finally saw the real things. The excursions were led by competent and knowledgeable guides.
Elenor L, Viking Guest

We were whisked away before sunrise for the most amazing hot air balloon flight over the Valley of the Kings. Truly an unmissable once-in-a-lifetime experience.
Ann W, Viking Guest



Being an avid Egyptian history buff, I was completely amazed at my guide's in-depth knowledge on most aspects of Egyptian history. She went out of her way to explain the hieroglyphics and the story told on various temple walls. What also impressed me was that this didn't stop once the excursions finished. Once back on board, we partook in lessons on how to write our names in hieroglyphics and she took her time to explain the differences in style and drawing to help us learn ancient Egyptian writing.

Arist C, Viking Guest

From the timeless wonders of ancient history to the vibrant energy of Cairo, this trip has been nothing short of extraordinary. New friendships, shared stories and memories that will last a lifetime.

Michael I, Viking Guest

Abu Simbel was amazing and the fact that they rebuilt it piece by piece made it our favourite excursion.

Malcolm S, Viking Guest



EGYPT EXPERIENCES

From majestic pyramids to monolithic temples, here are some of the unforgettable experiences you can look forward to on your Egyptian voyage.

1

THE PYRAMIDS

Led by an expert Egyptologist, visit the Sakkara Step Pyramid, the oldest stone structure in Egypt, representing a significant milestone in the evolution of pyramid construction. This ancient monument, designed by the architect Imhotep for Pharaoh Djoser, stands as a testament to early Egyptian ingenuity and architectural prowess. Nearby, on the Giza Plateau, the Great Pyramid of Khufu—the last of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—dominates the landscape. Alongside it are the Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure, each with their own unique features and historical significance. The Great Sphinx, known as Abu al-Hol, serves as a symbolic guardian of these monumental tombs that have endured for over 4,500 years. **INCLUDED**





LUXOR & KARNAK TEMPLES

Egypt's spiritual capital, Luxor, is an enthralling blend of historic significance, architectural feats and vibrant market culture, characterised by its temples and richly decorated tombs. Often referred to as one of the world's greatest open air museums, historic Luxor, built upon the once-powerful city of UNESCO-listed Thebes, is home to the imposing Temple of Karnak—among the world's largest temple complexes—and the well preserved Temple of Luxor, a spectacular example of Egyptian architecture. **INCLUDED**

3

ABU SIMBEL

Step into Egypt's storied past at the impressive Abu Simbel, where the monolithic temples of Ramses II were constructed in the 13th century BC.

Rediscovered in the early 19th century, this UNESCO World Heritage Site was relocated in stages between 1964 and 1968 during the Aswan Dam's construction.

OPTIONAL

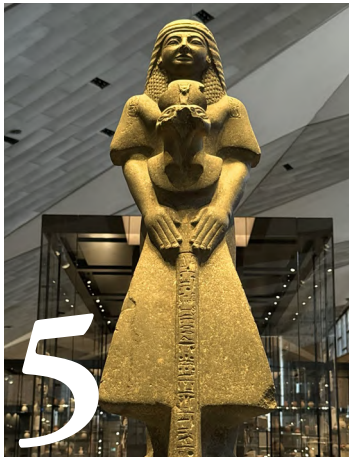


HOT AIR BALLOON

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Egypt from above as you rise high over the Valley of the Kings in a hot air balloon. Offered as an optional excursion, this early-morning adventure provides stunning views of the sunrise illuminating the ancient landscape.

OPTIONAL

4



5

THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Located near the iconic pyramids on the Giza Plateau, the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum spans 120 acres and houses approximately 100,000 ancient Egyptian artefacts, including the 3,200-year-old statue of Ramses II. The complex—two decades in the making and billed as the world's largest archaeological museum—is a sight to behold. **INCLUDED**

VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Situated near Luxor along the Nile, the Valley of the Kings is a renowned ancient burial site for Egypt's pharaohs including Tutankhamen, Ramses IV and Seti I, among others. Dating from the 16th to the 11th centuries BC during the New Kingdom, the royal necropolis features dozens of tombs, intricately adorned with hieroglyphics, carved columns and vibrant wall paintings. **INCLUDED**



8



NUBIAN VILLAGE & SCHOOL

Explore a local village with your guide and meet a traditional Nubian family. Discover their way of life and gain insight into the customs that have been preserved for thousands of years. You will also have the opportunity to visit a village school and engage with the lively children in their classroom. **INCLUDED**

ASWAN DAM

The Aswan Dam, built in the 1960s, stands as a remarkable feat of engineering that protects the Nile's fertile lands. The dam also established Lake Nasser, a vast reservoir stretching more than 300 miles, which provides essential water, electricity and irrigation throughout Egypt. **INCLUDED**




COPTIC CAIRO

Discover the rich heritage of Coptic Cairo. This historic area is home to some of the oldest churches in Egypt, including the Hanging Church, the Church of St. George and the Church of St. Sergius and Bacchus.

OPTIONAL

EXPLORING THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Located near the iconic Giza pyramids, the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum spans 120 acres and houses approximately 100,000 ancient Egyptian artefacts.



Two decades in the making, the GEM is the largest archaeological museum complex worldwide dedicated to a single civilisation. Inside, you'll find King Tutankhamen's gold mask and sarcophagus—the crown jewels of the permanent exhibit of treasures from the boy-king's tomb—alongside the 3,200-year-old statue of Ramses II. With so much to see, a visit to the GEM promises an unparalleled journey through Egypt's rich history.



DISCOVER THE LEGACY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Opening its doors in November 2025, the Grand Egyptian Museum is the largest global museum dedicated to ancient Egyptian civilisation. Learn about the rise of society and royals, construction of the pyramids, and military conquests as you're guided through the museum's vast collection of artefacts.

PEER INTO ANTIQUITY

Your journey will begin outside the museum's main entrance, where you will be welcomed by a 16-metre hanging obelisk of King Ramses II, housed in a breathtaking 30,000-square metre piazza. As you wander inside and through the Grand Hall, you will be greeted by the colossal statues of kings and queens past. Bask in their glory as you venture further into this majestic museum. With collections dating from Prehistoric times through to the Roman Period, each artefact offers a window into the grand civilisations who lived before us.

STEP INTO THE PAST

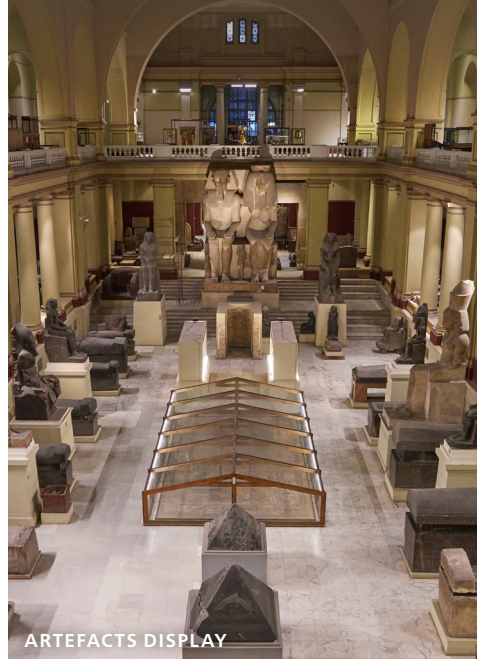
Immerse yourself in ancient Egypt's rich history while climbing the museum's impressive Grand Stairs. Monumental statues of ancient Egyptian kings and queens grace the steps, each stair revealing a new historic treasure. Peruse the architectural elements of Egyptian temples, learn about ancient Egypt's funerary customs, and delve into the divine with impressive monuments that have found their home on these magnificent stairs.

JOURNEY WITH THE GOLDEN PHARAOH

Explore the life and death of King Tutankhamen as you venture through a collection of artefacts showcasing his identity, reign and passage into the afterlife. On display, you will find King Tutankhamen's Royal Diadem, Golden Throne, and Golden Burial Mask, amongst other treasures from his tomb.

UNCOVER ANCIENT CUSTOMS

Discover the funerary customs of the ancient Egyptians with relics from the past. As you tour the museum, you will encounter King Khufu's Boats. These 4,600-year-old-vessels hold within them rich stories from antiquity. Widely thought to be either used as transportation vessels during King Khufu's funeral or intended for the King's otherworldly journey through the afterlife, these historic boats are a sight to behold.



Fully Escorted Tours

EXPERT EGYPTOLOGISTS

Our small group tours, led by expert Egyptologists, offer an immersive and comprehensive journey through Egypt's ancient sites. With meticulously crafted itineraries, our English-speaking guides ensure meaningful interactions and discoveries while providing peace of mind so you can fully enjoy the exploration.



Ahmed Hamdy Borham

EDUCATION:

PhD in Egyptology, Ain Shams University, Cairo

YEARS GUIDING: 29 years

YEARS WITH VIKING: 16 years

"What I enjoy most is the opportunity to connect with people and share different and mutual cultures. At the same time, it is great to share the glory and magic of ancient Egypt with our guests."



Ghada Nabil Fouad Doss

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in Guidance Section, Helwan University;

Diploma Certificate in Ancient Archaeology Studies, Cairo University

YEARS GUIDING: 35 years

YEARS WITH VIKING: 15 years

"I still keep in contact with Viking guests from 15 years ago, and we see each other whenever I come to the United States to visit my daughter who lives in Jacksonville, Florida."



Hanan ElDib

EDUCATION:

Post Graduate Degree in Egyptology Diploma,
Cairo University;
Faculty of Archaeology Department of
Egyptian Antiquities

YEARS GUIDING: 32 years

YEARS WITH VIKING: 15 years

"I enjoy sharing the history and culture of Egypt with our guests who are inspired by the rich history and the beauty of the region."



Sherine Alaa Barakat

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in Guidance Section,
Helwan University

YEARS GUIDING: 40 years

YEARS WITH VIKING: 16 years

"My favorite thing about guiding is sharing my passion for Egypt with the rest of the world. I also like meeting new and interesting people who are eager to learn about this fascinating country."



Tarek Fawzy Fakhr

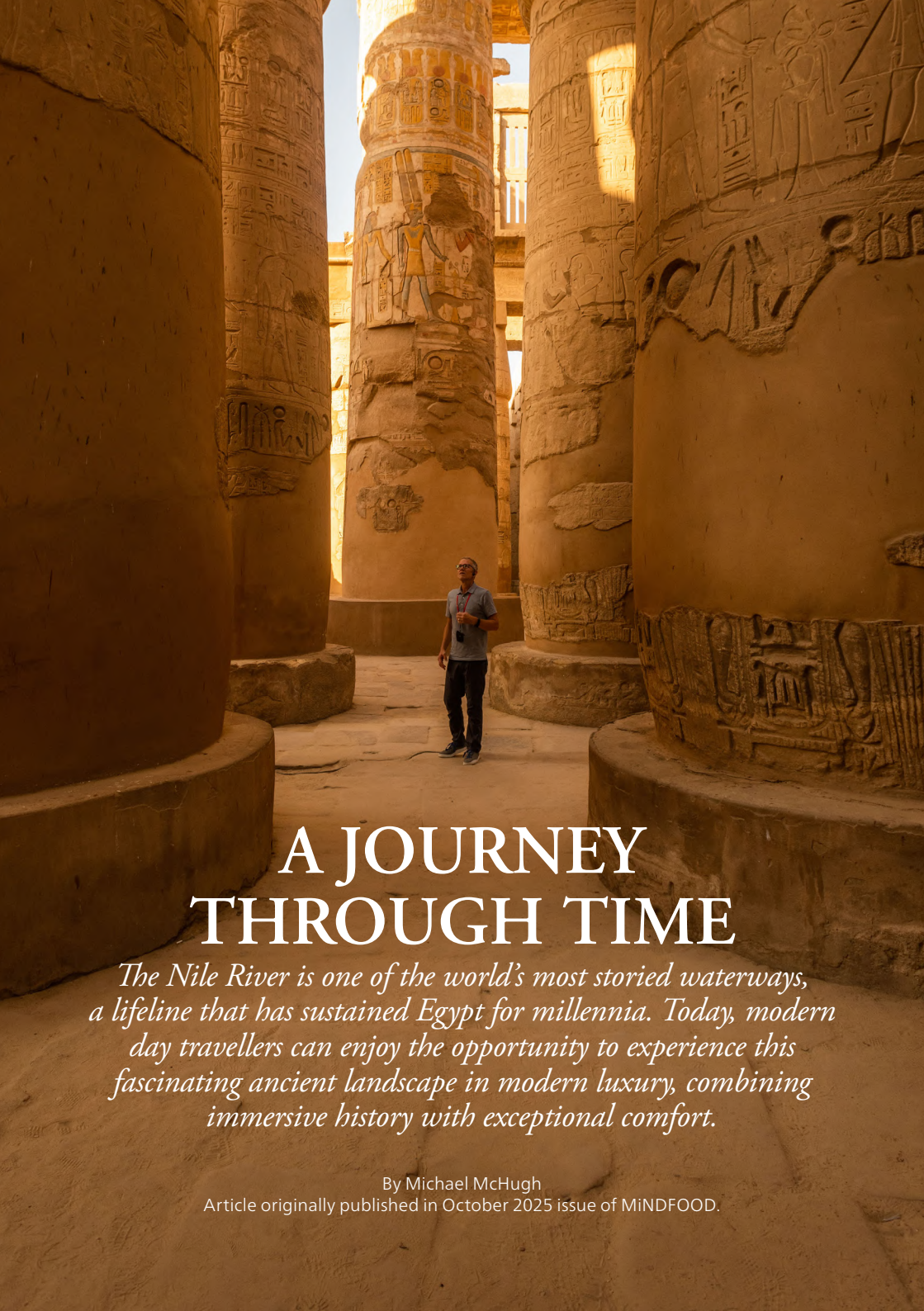
EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in Egyptology,
Helwan University

YEARS GUIDING: 32 years

YEARS WITH VIKING: 16 years

"I love my job because I get to share my knowledge, stories and passion for Egypt with our guests. It is exciting to see repeat guests who have returned with family so they can all share the Viking experience together."



A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

The Nile River is one of the world's most storied waterways, a lifeline that has sustained Egypt for millennia. Today, modern day travellers can enjoy the opportunity to experience this fascinating ancient landscape in modern luxury, combining immersive history with exceptional comfort.

By Michael McHugh
Article originally published in October 2025 issue of MiNDFOOD.

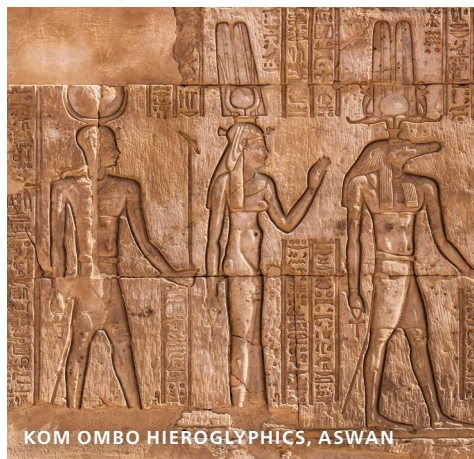
Viking's Nile itinerary, often called '*Pharaohs & Pyramids*', weaves together 12 nights onboard one of Viking's many state-of-the-art ships. I board the *Viking Sobek*, which was only launched last year. The journey begins in Cairo, where we visit the Khan El Khalili markets and are introduced to the Pyramids of Giza plus the Sphinx. These icons of the ancient world are inspiring in a 'pinch-me' way and will leave you standing in awe. Unlike a typical city tour, Viking's approach ensures expert Egyptologists guide every visit, turning stone monuments into vivid stories of dynasties, deities, and daily life thousands of years ago.

Just a stone's throw from the pyramids is the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), designed by Heneghan Peng Architects and featuring a striking trapezoidal form aligned with the Pyramids of Giza, clad in translucent alabaster that bathes the interiors in soft natural light. The largest archaeological museum in the world dedicated to a single civilisation, visitors are greeted by a colossal 11m statue of Ramses II in the grand atrium. Exhibits are arranged both chronologically and thematically across 12 galleries, guiding guests through ancient Egypt's society, kingship, and beliefs.



Among standout artefacts are the complete Tutankhamen collection (over 5,000 pieces), Queen Hetepheres' golden armchair, and restored solar boats, uniting Egypt's masterful past with contemporary museum innovation.

From Cairo we fly to Luxor, the city that was once the capital of ancient Egypt. Here, the Viking cruise begins, and the Nile unfurls like a ribbon of green through an otherwise arid desert, its fertile banks sustaining villages and farmers as it did in antiquity. As the ship glides silently downstream there is a sense of the timeless rhythm of life along the river.



A FLOATING BOUTIQUE HOTEL

The *Viking Sobek* is more than just a vessel – it feels like a floating boutique hotel which has been designed specifically for the Nile. Scandinavian elegance blends seamlessly with local touches, creating an atmosphere that is both refined and welcoming. The ship accommodates just over 80 guests, ensuring intimacy and personalised service. Staterooms are airy and spacious, many with floor-to-ceiling windows that open to sweeping Nile views. Public spaces include a panoramic lounge, a sun deck with a pool, and elegant dining rooms where Egyptian-inspired cuisine sits alongside international favourites.

Viking's hallmark of 'understated luxury' is evident: muted tones, clean lines, thoughtful details, and impeccable service that feels attentive yet never intrusive.

What sets Viking apart, however, is the integration of enrichment into the onboard experience. We enjoy daily lectures, film screenings and conversations with resident Egyptologists, deepening our understanding of what we will see ashore. This transforms the cruise from more than just sightseeing into a true journey of discovery.

ANCIENT HISTORY ON DISPLAY

Each day brings excursions that reveal Egypt's grandeur. In Luxor we wander through the vast Karnak Temple, a forest of colossal columns, before crossing the Nile to the Valley of the Kings. Here, tombs carved into desert cliffs still display vividly coloured hieroglyphs, including the famed resting place of Tutankhamen. Viking's small groups ensure ample time to absorb these wonders without the rush often associated with large tours. The experience of hot air ballooning over the Valley of the Kings is just extraordinary and that memory has stayed with me over time. The early morning experience of floating above the historical landscape is simply magical, taking in the 360-degree views as the sun rose in the distance.

Further south, in Edfu, the Temple of Horus rises in remarkable preservation, its reliefs recounting epic battles of gods and kings. In Kom Ombo, a temple uniquely dedicated to two deities, Sobek (the name of our ship) the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon god, offers a glimpse into Egypt's multifaceted spirituality. The highlight for many travellers is Aswan, where the Nile flows wide – it is here you can visit the beautiful Philae Temple, rescued from flooding and relocated stone by stone to its now island home.



LUXOR TEMPLE, LUXOR



TEMPLE OF ABU SIMBEL



HORUS TEMPLE, EDFU

Optional excursions may include a trip to the monumental temples of Abu Simbel, commissioned by Ramses II and carved directly into rock cliffs. Standing before these towering statues, travellers experience the scale of ancient ambition first-hand.

Beyond monuments, Viking ensures travellers connect with Egypt's living culture. Guests may visit a Nubian village, sail on a traditional felucca boat, or explore bustling local markets. Culinary experiences bring flavours to life: spiced lentil soups, freshly baked flatbreads, and fragrant tagines. Onboard cooking demonstrations and storytelling add further depth. The cruise emphasises Egypt's modern identity, with visits to contemporary museums, art galleries, and cultural centres. This balance of past and present ensures travellers leave with a nuanced view of Egypt not just as an ancient wonderland but as a vibrant nation.



TEMPLE OF KHNUM, ESNA

In the evenings, as the ship anchors, stars emerge in brilliant clarity and the hum of distant villages drifts across the water as we gather for cocktails on the top deck. The pace is unhurried, the atmosphere one of quiet wonder. A Nile river cruise invites reflection. It is a time to imagine and to feel connected to something far larger than oneself.



LIFE ALONG THE RIVER

A cruise on the Nile is more than ancient temples and pyramids – it's a chance to see how everyday Egyptians live on this timeless river.

Article written by Kendall Hill,
Freelance Travel Writer.

One of the unexpected pleasures of cruising the Nile is witnessing the intimate daily rituals of the Egyptians. You imagine the river is vast and mighty, which of course it is in parts, but on a weeklong cruise between Luxor and Aswan aboard the 26-suite the *Viking Ra* there are also moments when we drift into the lives of locals.

As the Nile narrows in the south, children spot me on my verandah and cry "Hello!" as they leap into the water to swim. Picnicking families wave and laugh as we pass. I watch boys herding goats and men farming crops, and great flocks of waterbirds taking flight at our approach.



Another unexpected pleasure is the light, always soft-focus and often sepia-toned by desert sands, which somehow makes it easier to imagine how ancient Nile civilisation is. These fertile river plains, inhabited since 6000BC, gave rise to the world's first nation state, ruled by the fabled pharaohs, whose legacy remains everywhere today. Ancient Egypt gave us writing, makeup, music, mathematics, astronomy... even underwear. "Central government, in a sense, started here," says Fouad Berto, our program director and resident Egyptologist.

These are the brush-stroke moments on an 11-night *Pharaohs & Pyramids* adventure that takes in Egypt's headline acts, from its very

first pyramid erected in 3000BC at Saqqara to its final place of worship, the Philae Temple on Aswan Lake. In between is a procession of astonishing monuments including the numbing wonder of Karnak, once the world's largest religious complex, the touristy but still phenomenal pyramids of Giza and lesser-known treasures like the exquisitely preserved temple at Qena, which we have to ourselves. As our other resident Egyptologist Salah Tawfeek says, "Every day you think you will never see another site as impressive, but every day has a site which is just magnificent."

The tour starts in Cairo where Viking staff spirit us through the airport in record time and instal us at the riverside Sofitel for three



nights with dress-circle balconies above the Nile. Tawfeek and Berto's contacts and experience ensure that touring the megacity's main sights is as hassle-free as possible in a notoriously pesky place.

On day three we fly to Luxor to board *Viking Ra*. The ship is not simply transport; it's a sanctuary from the noise and boisterousness of Egypt, somewhere we're guaranteed great food, the good company of fellow passengers and staff, downtime in the lounge bar or on the pool deck, and a sound night's sleep in spacious riverfront staterooms.

Executive chef Leonidas Kritharas and his team are a highlight of our days. Breakfasts

and lunches are buffets of fresh, delicious offerings (fresh mangoes and figs, terrific pasta made to order, salads with oregano from his home in Kalamata), while dinners are multi-course affairs. A standout is his family-style Middle Eastern banquet with a stop en route by Kom Ombo temple to admire its classical form illuminated beside the river.

Between shore stops we're kept constantly entertained with cooking demonstrations, lessons on hieroglyphics and Arabic and a wheelhouse visit with Captain Nafady Mohamed. Does he have a favourite stretch of this shape-shifting river? "The whole Nile is beautiful," he says.

Discovering THE ENDURING NILE

A voyage along the fabled Nile River uncovers Egypt's ancient history.

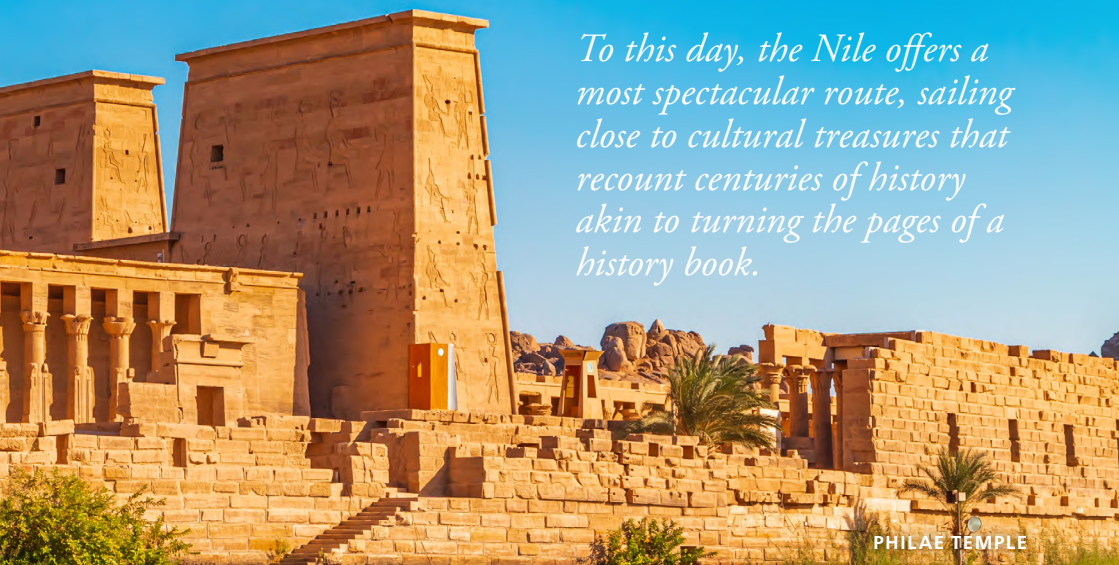


The world's longest and greatest river, the Nile radiates a mythic quality, packing centuries of history into each of its meandering bends. This mighty, deep blue waterway is often referred to as the lifeblood of Egypt—ancient civilisations used it as a natural barrier against foreign invaders, a vital trade route between north and south, a powerful economic source of sustenance and a place of hushed worship.

Sailing along this legendary river provides ample opportunity to take in the country's major cities and ancient tombs and temples—relics of a bygone past that once unfolded along its palm-fringed banks thousands of years ago. Although the Nile is most famously associated

with Egypt, it flows northerly through or along the border of ten other countries in northwest Africa and empties into the Mediterranean Sea, 4,132 miles (6,650 km) to the north of its origin point. The Nile is a result of the merging of two tributaries: the White Nile originates at Lake Victoria in Tanzania and flows through the narrow gorge of Murchison Falls before reaching Khartoum, Sudan, where it joins with the Blue Nile that rises from a spring far above sea level in Ethiopia.

The first cruise to set sail here occurred in the early 1870s when Thomas Cook & Son built a fleet of steamships that transported wealthy travellers between Cairo and Aswan. To this



To this day, the Nile offers a most spectacular route, sailing close to cultural treasures that recount centuries of history akin to turning the pages of a history book.

PHILAE TEMPLE

day, the Nile offers a most spectacular route, sailing close to cultural treasures that recount centuries of history akin to turning the pages of a history book. While tourism plays a significant role in the Nile's modern identity, its banks are more than ornamental. Thanks to the nutrient-rich soil deposited by annual floods, they remain crucial to Egypt's vibrant agricultural and fishing industries. As a result, almost all Egyptians reside close to the river, and part of the pleasure of sailing the Nile is immersing oneself in the rhythm of everyday life along its shores.

Exploring Egypt is a journey of contrasts. Cairo, Egypt's vibrant capital city, is a bustling metropolis compared to the country's quaint

Nubian villages. The ancient pyramids at Giza stand side-by-side with the newly built, state-of-the-art Grand Egyptian Museum, housing approximately 100,000 ancient artefacts. And the Nile's lush and verdant riverbanks are juxtaposed with its sand-covered landscapes leading to golden-hued mountains.

Discover Luxor, previously known as Thebes, which many historians consider to be one of the world's greatest open air museums due to the scale and magnificence of the mudbrick relics that have remained intact since the 18th to 20th pharaonic dynasties. The Temples of Luxor and Karnak on the city's east bank are among the world's largest and most impressive



KING TUTANKHAMEN HIEROGLYPHIC

ancient temple complexes, with their 21-foot-tall columns and majestic, sphinx-lined avenue. In the hills across the river, Ancient Egyptians constructed royal tombs dedicated to Egypt's great pharaohs, with the most famous being that of the boy-king Tutankhamen. Known today as the Valley of the Kings, this necropolis combined with Ancient Thebes, is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue sailing as Egypt's dramatic historic sites give way to scenes of everyday life along the Nile. Watch as fishermen in white cotton robes hum excitedly over a bounty of silverfish and water buffalo cool themselves in the arid heat. See farmers and their oxdrawn



KING TUTANKHAMEN SARCOPHAGUS



KING TUTANKHAMEN TOMB CORRIDOR



plows working in crop fields while traditional feluccas with their cream-coloured sails billow in the warm breeze. In the distance, the hazy backdrop of honey-coloured limestone cliffs contrasts with the verdant fertility of the Nile's plant-rich shores.

Gena is the gateway to the magnificent ruins of the Dendera Temple, located on the Nile's west bank. Admire its hieroglyphic-adorned crypts and columns, which are some of Egypt's best-preserved structures, as well as its many examples of Ptolemaic Egyptian art. Enjoy an exhilarating morning of spectacular sunrise views as you float high above the Valley of the Kings in a hot air balloon.

Travelling further along the riverbank lies the town of Esna. Its glorious Temple of Khnum is celebrated for its 1st-century Roman Hypostyle Hall, with 24 columns awash with mysteriously chiseled floral capitals in the form of palm leaves, lotus buds and papyrus fans.

An important port on the northern end of the First Cataract, Aswan is a gateway to experiencing the real Egypt. In ancient times it was a garrison town for military campaigns against Nubia. Today, the riverbank still buzzes with city life, and further along the water's edge, the landscape gives way to sleepy, sorbet-coloured Nubian villages dotted with street murals and fragrant markets that are piled high with colourful spices, dried fruits and wooden crafts. It is an ideal place to learn about local culture by spending time with Nubian families and visiting local schools.

The Nile and its many archaeological wonders are a year-round destination for history lovers. Discovering the secrets of this ancient world is an unforgettable deep dive into how one of history's greatest civilisations came to life, with the Nile at the beating heart of its golden past.



City Guide CAIRO

Egypt's bustling capital is a treasure trove of ancient history, and those who linger are rewarded with a sensory journey through time like no other.

Known as the "City of a Thousand Minarets," Cairo is bursting at the seams with Islamic architecture. Nowhere is this more in evidence than the medieval Islamic quarter, where mosques and madrassas represent Islamic culture from around 900 AD to the present day.



COPTIC CAIRO

Home to some of the country's oldest churches, including the Hanging Church. The Citadel of Salah el-Din is the best place to get a view of the whole city, sprawling out as far as Giza's pyramids on a clear day. The Mosque-Madrassa of Sultan Hassan is one of the city's most spectacular mosques; take time to admire the marble panels and muqarnas (stalactite vaulting).



BAB ZUWEILA

An 11th-century gate with breathtaking views of the city below. After admiring Mamluk-era splendour, let the sounds and smells of Khan el-Khalili transport you back to the golden era of the Silk Road.

TOWNHOUSE GALLERY

The city's first independent art space. Housed in a converted paper factory in downtown Cairo, it was instrumental in the redevelopment of the area, including the opening of the 150-seat Rawabet theater.





MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

Home to the treasures of Tutankhamen's tomb and the statue of Khufu, the builder of one of the Great Pyramids of Giza. Manial Palace's Islamic glasswork, Turkish carpets and colonial interiors are a feast for the eyes, and offer insight into Cairo's wealthy elite during the early 20th century.



WHERE TO SHOP

Egyptians have been bargaining, buying, wheeling and dealing at the Khan el-Khalili souk since the 14th century. While here, keep an eye out for some of the marketplace's beautiful cotton clothes and brassware, and be sure to go upstairs to the souk's quieter levels. For fixed prices and superior quality, Souk al-Fustat near Coptic Cairo features artisan and co-op pottery, recycled products, and Nefertari, a manufacturer of beautifully scented natural body care products.



WHERE TO DINE

Founded in 1908, Café Riche, just moments from Tahrir Square, is legendary. Through revolutions and upheaval, it has hosted academics, politicians, spies and journalists; soak up the history over a Turkish coffee. Worth a visit, Felfela prides itself on authentic cuisine and Egyptian decor. Upmarket Zamalek is the place to go for brunch, while Abou Tarek is a modest local haunt and one of the best places to sample kushari— a flavourful mix of rice, lentils, chickpeas and macaroni topped with cumin and onions.

12 DAYS | 11 GUIDED TOURS | 1 COUNTRY

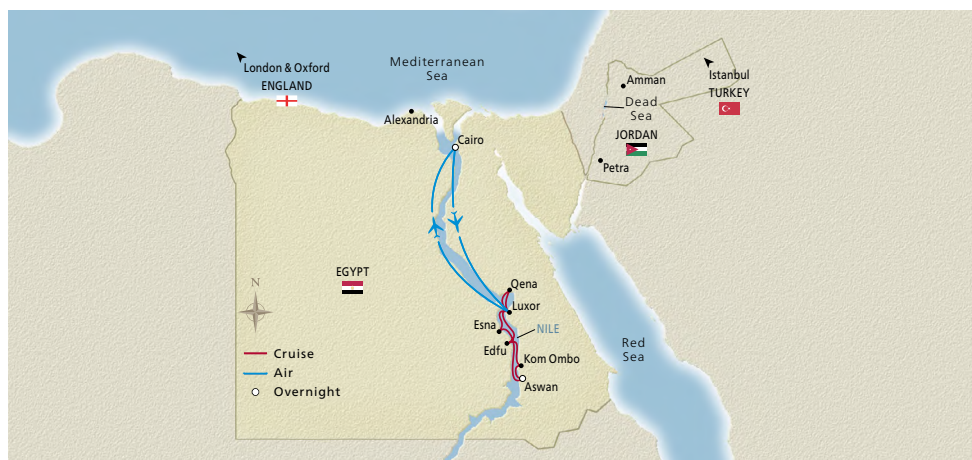
PHARAOHS & PYRAMIDS

Roundtrip Cairo

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON

JANUARY–JUNE & AUGUST–DECEMBER





DAY DESTINATION

- 1 **CAIRO** Arrive and check in to your hotel; explore Egypt's exhilarating capital on your own
- 2 **CAIRO** Tour the Sakkara Step Pyramid; the Cairo Citadel & Mosque of Muhammad Ali
- 3 **CAIRO** Browse the Grand Egyptian Museum; witness the Great Pyramid and Great Sphinx
- 4 **LUXOR** Hotel transfer to your ship; walk through the ancient Temples of Luxor and Karnak
- 5 **QENA** View columns and hieroglyphics at the Dendera Temple complex
- 6 **LUXOR** Explore the Valley of the Kings, Queen Nefertari's tomb and Queen Hatshepsut's mortuary temple
- 7 **ESNA** Stroll the Temple of Khnum's Hypostyle Hall with its intricately carved columns
- 8 **ASWAN** Learn about the Aswan Dam, browse a souk and sail the Nile in a felucca
- 9 **ASWAN** Explore a Nubian village, Philae Temple and discover how papyrus paper is made
NILE RIVER Sail along the scenic Nile; attend a lecture or admire scenery from the Sun Deck
KOM OMBO Visit Kom Ombo Temple, dedicated to two gods, with both sides being identical
- 10 **EDFU** Discover the ancient Temple of Horus and see the multiple statues of the falcon god
NILE RIVER Sail the Nile, taking in its green riverbanks backed by hills of desert sands
LUXOR Return to Luxor after dinner; evening at leisure to prepare for your morning flight
- 11 **CAIRO** Ship transfer to your hotel; mingle with locals at an Egyptian souk or visit a museum
- 12 **CAIRO** Check out of your hotel. Bid farewell to your fellow guests and journey home. Or spend more time exploring, perhaps joining one of our extensions

DAY
1-2

CAIRO

DAY 1 - CAIRO

Arrive in Cairo, Egypt's exhilarating capital. This historic, bustling city was made prosperous over millennia as a stopover for Sahara caravans on trade routes to Byzantium. Transfer to your centrally located hotel for a 3-night stay.

DAY 2 - CAIRO

Today, the fascinating sights of Cairo unfold before you. Travel to see Sakkara, the world's oldest step pyramid. Then, tour the Citadel of Saladin, perched on a rocky hill, followed by time to discover the Mosque of Muhammad Ali. This evening, consider an optional guided visit to experience a kaleidoscope of sights, sounds and scents at Khan el-Khalili, Cairo's centuries-old souk, followed by a traditional dinner.



SHORE EXCURSIONS IN CAIRO

Khan el-Khalili Market

Experience the energy and centuries-old tradition of shopping in Cairo, followed by a traditional dinner. Drive to Khan el-Khalili where Old Cairo comes to life. Its narrow warrens are teeming with all manner of goods. After an orientation, you will have time to browse its stalls selling brassware, lanterns and jewellery.

OPTIONAL

Giza Pyramid & Grand Egyptian Museum

Discover over 100,000 artefacts and King Tut's treasures. Learn about ancient Egypt's dynasties and achievements before travelling to the Giza Plateau to admire the Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure, the imposing Great Pyramid of Khufu and the Great Sphinx of Giza.

INCLUDED

DAY
3-4

CAIRO & LUXOR

DAY 3 - CAIRO

Today, you travel to the Giza Plateau. Begin with a visit to the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum to admire its impressive collection of artefacts, including items from the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Then, witness the grandeur of the pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure plus the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the only Wonder of the Ancient World still standing. Capture the moment from atop a camel for that quintessential photo opportunity. As the sun sets, return to your hotel.

DAY 4 - LUXOR

Take a morning flight to Luxor and embark your ship. Explore the magnificent Karnak Temple, one of the world's largest ancient temple complexes, and marvel at its great Hypostyle Hall. Later, experience the enchanting glow of Luxor Temple under the dusk sky. Enter through the massive pylons and your Egyptologist will interpret the hieroglyphics. Enjoy a relaxing evening on board.



SHORE EXCURSIONS IN LUXOR

Luxor Temple

Visit one of the most breathtaking temples in Luxor, spiritual capital of Egypt. Built in approximately 1400 BC by Amenhotep III and Ramses II, the Temple of Luxor features a cache of statues surrounded by massive pylons and ancient hieroglyphs. **INCLUDED**



DAY
5-6

QENA & LUXOR



KING TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB

DAY 5 - QENA

Wake before dawn to enjoy an optional excursion soaring over the Valley of the Kings in a hot air balloon. Today's included tour visits Dendera Temple, dedicated to the goddess Hathor. Marvel at the impressive architecture and intricate carvings, reflecting ancient devotion and ingenuity. Relax on the Aquavit Terrace as the sun sets, knowing tomorrow brings more discoveries.

DAY 6 - LUXOR

Journey to the Nile's west bank to explore the Valley of the Kings, where ancient pharaohs were entombed deep in the hillsides. Today, you can visit several sites, such as the tomb of Tutankhamen (discovered in 1922), Ramses IV and Seti I, among the dozens found within the royal necropolis. Then, venture to the Valley of the Queens to discover the grandeur of the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, one of the world's most remarkable architectural feats. After a day of exploration, return to your ship, which is docked in the center of town.



SHORE EXCURSIONS IN LUXOR

Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut & Seti I Tomb

Discover the complex structures and intricate carvings that decorate some of Egypt's most renowned tombs. Travel to the stark hills of the Nile's west bank in Luxor. Here, pharaohs' bodies were draped in gold and jewels and buried in elaborate tunnels decorated with intricate paintings. Visit Seti I's tomb to see its well-preserved reliefs and vaulted ceilings that are inscribed with the story of the Sun God, Ra. Explore the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, a female pharaoh, whose tomb is carved into the Theban Hills. Walk atop its terrace to take in its impressive statues before returning to your ship.

INCLUDED

DAY
7-8

ESNA & ASWAN

DAY 7 - ESNA

Explore Esna and its temple, dedicated to the god Khnum. Admire its intricate carvings, towering columns, ancient hieroglyphics and its well-preserved Hypostyle Hall. Later, take a guided walking tour through the town. See its 19th-century houses with elaborate mashrabiya and stroll the lively covered market. Rest well tonight, as Aswan awaits.



DAY 8 - ASWAN

Today's excursion offers a variety of experiences including a tour to the Aswan Dam, a market visit and a ride in a traditional felucca along the Nile. Or you can choose an optional tour of the Abu Simbel temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is dominated by four colossal statues of Ramses II. Constructed in the 13th century BC and rediscovered in the 19th century, it was relocated from its original location in 1968 during the construction of the Aswan Dam. Enjoy a relaxing evening on board.

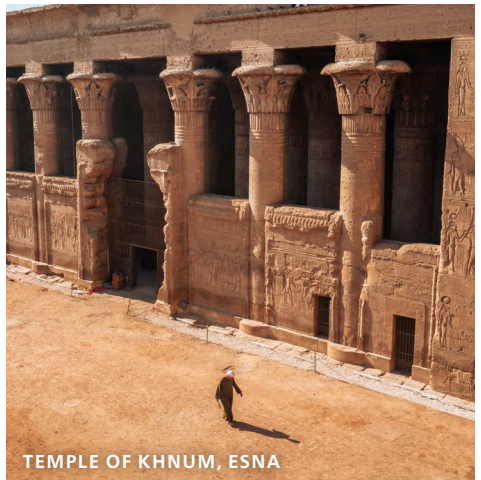


SHORE EXCURSIONS IN ASWAN

The Temples at Abu Simbel

The temples were constructed in the 13th century BC during the reign of Ramses II. Marvel at the imposing statues of Ramses II that adorn the facade of the Great Temple and visit the Small Temple, dedicated to Queen Nefertari. Inside, find sculptures honouring the pharaoh, many of them including Nefertari.

OPTIONAL



DAY
9-10

ASWAN TO LUXOR



DAY 9 - ASWAN & KOM OMBO

Traverse the Nile by boat to visit a traditional Nubian village. Learn about their culture and lifestyle, and spend time engaging with children at a local school. Then, journey to Agilkia Island to visit the enchanting Philae Temple built to honour Isis. This afternoon, walk right off your ship to explore Kom Ombo, a dual temple dedicated to the gods Sobek and Horus. Return to your ship for an evening at leisure.



DAY 10 - EDFU & LUXOR

Your day is highlighted by a visit to the well-preserved Edfu Temple, dedicated to the falcon god Horus. Inside, stroll the colonnaded courtyard, view the hieroglyphics and admire the rows of lotus columns. Later, unwind with a cocktail on the Sun Deck, then make sure your bags are packed as you prepare for your return to Cairo. After dinner, enjoy your last night on board.



DAY
11-12

CAIRO

DAY 11 - CAIRO

Disembark your ship, fly back to Cairo and check in to your hotel. You have the day at leisure to explore more of Cairo on your own. Or consider an optional tour to discover the winding alleys of Old Cairo and the Coptic Quarter, a UNESCO Site, or a tour to browse exhibits at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation.

DAY 12 - CAIRO

Bid farewell to your fellow guests and journey home. Or spend more time exploring, perhaps joining one of our extensions.



SHORE EXCURSIONS IN CAIRO

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation

Visit the first museum of its kind in the Arab world. Admire the collection of 50,000 artefacts that take you on an exciting journey through the rich heritage of Egypt, including the gold and lapis lazuli bracelets of King Ramses II. **OPTIONAL**



COPTIC QUARTER, CAIRO

EXPLORE MORE

See more of the world with our pre and post extensions.

Our pre and post voyage extensions are designed for the curious traveller, those who seek to understand a place, not just see it. Whether you choose to deepen your experience in your embarkation or disembarkation city, or venture further afield to an entirely new destination, our extensions are designed to enrich your journey in every way.



2 NIGHTS IN CAIRO

Discover the heart of Cairo, a historic city where past and present mingle to create an enchanting tapestry of vibrant culture, timeless traditions and bustling modernity. Explore streets lined with mosques, madrasas and bazaars while immersing yourself in more than a thousand of years of history.

- 2 nights accommodation
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- 1 guided tour
- Services of a Viking Host
- All transfers



3 NIGHTS IN ISTANBUL

Discover where East meets West in timeless Istanbul and learn about its intriguing history during the Byzantine period. Visit important religious sites, such as the spectacular "Blue Mosque" and legendary Hagia Sophia, and delve into the rich history and culture of the Ottomans at Topkapi Palace.

- 3 nights accommodation
 - 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
 - 2 guided tours
 - Services of a Viking Host
 - All transfers
-

FULLY GUIDED



FULLY GUIDED



2 NIGHTS IN ALEXANDRIA

Explore Alexandria, once regarded as the capital of knowledge and learning in the ancient world. Discover its Greco-Roman sites, including the catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa and the Roman Theater, admire the architecture of its important religious treasures, and visit the imposing Citadel of Qaitbay.

- 2 nights accommodation
- 3 meals: 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- 1 guided tour
- Fully escorted by your Viking Tour Director
- All transfers

4 NIGHTS IN JERUSALEM

Visit Israel's fascinating capital, where ancient history and a vibrant culture await you. Discover Jerusalem's historic, archaeological and holy sites.

- 4 nights accommodation
 - 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 1 dinner
 - 3 guided tours
 - Fully escorted by your Viking Host
 - Flight from Tel Aviv to Cairo
 - All transfers
-

4 NIGHTS IN JORDAN

Discover more of the Middle East with one of our most popular cruise extensions—4 nights in scenic, historic Jordan. See Roman antiquities at Jerash, the Crusader-era castle at Shobak and explore the lost city of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**POST EXTENSION | 4 GUIDED TOURS | FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS
FULLY ESCORTED**

THE TREASURY, PETRA

DAY 1 CAIRO & DEAD SEA

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Amman. Upon arrival, drive through rolling hills and spectacular scenery before a guided tour of the Dead Sea Museum to learn about the area's geological and cultural history. Transfer to your hotel along the shores of the Dead Sea and spend the remainder of the day relaxing; perhaps take a dip in the Dead Sea and experience the floating sensation for which it is renowned. Its mineral-rich waters have been enjoyed for centuries.

DAY 2 PETRA

After breakfast, check out of your hotel, then head to Mt. Nebo—where tradition tells us Moses was buried—before continuing to the ancient town of Madaba, known as the “City of Mosaics,” for a guided tour. See the Madaba Map in the Byzantine church of St. George, the oldest cartographic depiction of the Holy Land. After a tasty local lunch, journey to Petra, pausing to see Shobak Castle, built by the Crusader King Baldwin I in 1115. Arrive in Petra and check into your hotel.

DAY 3 PETRA

This morning, enjoy a half-day tour of Petra, carved by the Nabataeans into the rose-red Sharah Mountains. Walk through the Siq, a narrow fissure between cliffs, to visit Al Khazneh (the Treasury), the Roman amphitheatre cut into the hillside, the monastery and other monuments. Before dinner, enjoy free time to explore more of Petra on your own. This evening, you may join an optional tour to experience the hospitality of a local family and a traditional Jordanian meal at their residence.



DAY 4 JERASH & AMMAN

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and travel to Jerash, an ethnically diverse city and one of the best-preserved Greco-Roman cities in the world. Enjoy a guided visit of the “Pompeii of the Middle East,” then continue to Amman and check into your hotel. After a brief orientation tour, spend the remainder of the afternoon at your leisure to explore Jordan’s capital city on your own. Enjoy the city’s liberal culture, thriving art scene, and beautiful churches and mosques.

- 4 nights accommodation
 - 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
 - 4 guided tours
 - Fully escorted by your Viking Tour Director
 - Flight from Cairo to Amman
 - All transfers
-

VIKING EGYPT FLEET: DECK PLANS

*Viking Osiris / Viking Aton / Viking Hathor / Viking Sobek
Viking Amun / Viking Thoth.*

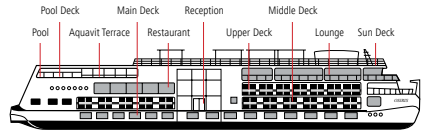


The new state-of-the-art the *Viking Osiris*, the *Viking Aton*, the *Viking Hathor*, the *Viking Sobek*, the *Viking Amun* and the *Viking Thoth* are inspired by our award-winning river and ocean ships with the elegant Scandinavian design for which we are known. Designed specifically to navigate Egypt's Nile, hosting 82 guests in 41 staterooms, they feature several aspects familiar to Viking guests, such as a distinctive square bow and an indoor/outdoor Aquavit Terrace. These ships offer the ultimate in comfort and are the most modern ships to sail the region.

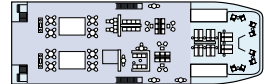
The most upscale ships in Egypt, these ships are specifically built to navigate the historic Nile.

GUESTS: 82 LENGTH: 236 FT. DECKS: 5 STATEROOMS: 41

- Explorer suites feature two full-size rooms with a veranda off the bedroom and a spacious bathroom with separate bathtub and glass-enclosed shower
- Veranda suites feature two full-size rooms with a veranda off the living room and a French balcony in the bedroom
- Pool and Sun Deck with 360-degree views and a shaded sitting area
- Aquavit Terrace and Lounge, an indoor/outdoor viewing area for al fresco dining
- Viking Lounge and Bar with floor-to-ceiling glass doors
- Restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows for panoramic views
- Library and onboard shop
- Elevator from Main Deck to Pool Deck only; no elevator access for Sun Deck
- Free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary)
- Laundry service



SUN DECK



POOL DECK



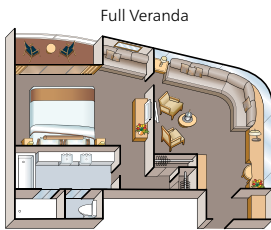
UPPER DECK



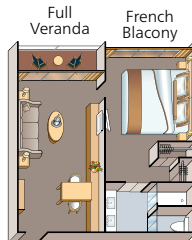
MIDDLE DECK



MAIN DECK



5 × Explorer Suite (ES)
525 sq. ft.



5 × Veranda (AA)
409 sq. ft.



5 × Veranda (AB)
239 sq. ft.



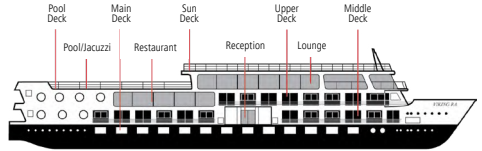
5 × Standard (B)
232 sq. ft.

VIKING RA

The all-suite *Viking Ra*, specifically built to navigate the Nile.

GUESTS: 52 **LENGTH: 245 FT.** **DECKS: 4** **STATEROOMS: 26**

- All-suite, state-of-the-art ship for just 52 guests
- Veranda Suites are 291 sq. ft. and feature two rooms with a veranda off the living room and a French balcony in the bedroom, and two flat-panel TVs
- Suites are 291 sq. ft., feature two rooms – each with a large picture window, and have two flat-panel TVs
- All suites have hotel-style beds with optional twin-bed configuration
- Sun Deck with 360-degree views and shaded sitting areas
- Pool and jacuzzi
- Lounge and bar with floor-to-ceiling windows
- Restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows for panoramic views
- Free Wi-Fi
- Laundry service



SUN DECK



POOL DECK



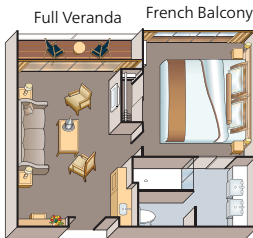
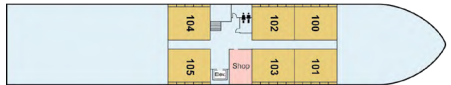
UPPER DECK



MIDDLE DECK



MAIN DECK



8 × Veranda Suite (AA)
291 sq. ft.

12 × Veranda Suite (AB)
291 sq. ft.



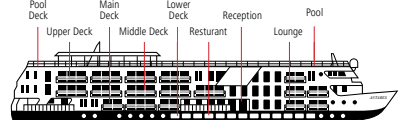
6 × Veranda Suite (AC)
291 sq. ft.

MS ANTARES

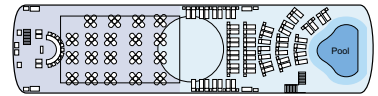
A classic ship, it is your floating oasis as you sail the Nile River.

GUESTS: 62 **LENGTH: 236 FT.** **DECKS: 5** **STATEROOMS: 31**

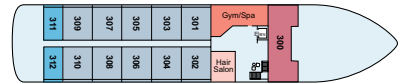
- Classic ship with elegant décor for just 62 guests
- Extensive stateroom choices varying from 290 to 829 sq. ft.
- All staterooms feature a French balcony, flat-panel TV and private bathrooms with bathtub and jet shower
- All staterooms have hotel-style beds with optional twin-bed configuration
- Selected staterooms are able to be connected to each other
- Sun Deck with 360-degree views, swimming pool and shaded sitting areas
- Lounge with floor-to-ceiling windows, a library and a bar
- Restaurant with open seating
- Health club with exercise equipment
- Fully staffed luxurious spa with massage services, steam room and sauna
- Free Wi-Fi
- Laundry service



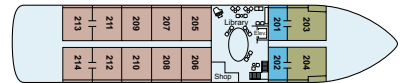
SUN DECK



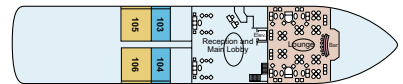
UPPER DECK



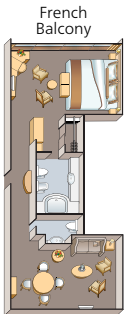
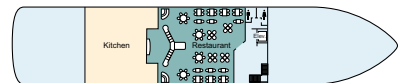
MIDDLE DECK



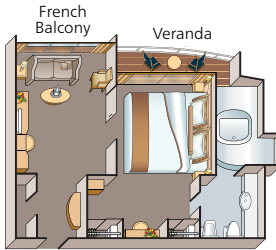
MAIN DECK



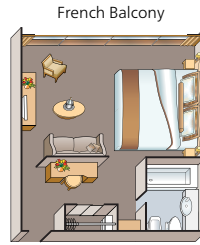
LOWER DECK



5 × Explorer Suite (ES)
829 sq. ft.



5 × Veranda Suite (AA)
529 sq. ft.



5 × Veranda Suite (AB)
302 sq. ft.



5 × French Balcony (D)
290 sq. ft.