

## ITINERARY

Day 1, Mon. BOARD YOUR OVERNIGHT TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT.

Day 2, Tue. ARRIVE CAIRO, EGYPT.

Upon arrival, you will be met at the Cairo airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3, Wed. PYRAMIDS EXCURSION.

Drive to **Memphis** to see the limestone Colossus of Ramses II and the giant Alabaster Sphinx. Then continue to **Sakkara**, where the Step Pyramid heralded the start of the Pyramid age. From here, travel to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Great Pyramids of **Giza**, and the Sphinx, which casts its enigmatic gaze across the desert sands. This evening, return to the Pyramids for a spellbinding **Sound and Light Show**. (B)

Day 4, Thu. CAIRO / LUXOR / NILE CRUISE: DENDERA.

Take an early morning flight to Luxor to visit the gigantic temple complex of **Karnak**. Explore the mighty temple of Amun, then marvel at the remains of the amazing Avenue of the Sphinx. This afternoon, cruise on the Nile, north to Dendera. (B,L,D)

Day 5, Fri. NILE CRUISE: LUXOR.

This morning visit **Dendera Temple**, dedicated to the Goddess Hathor, with its sunken relief of Cleopatra with Caesarion, her son by Julius Caesar. Reboarding the ship, sail back to Luxor. Ride horse-drawn carriages to the grand **Temple of Luxor**, dominating the town. After a guided visit, return to the cruise ship. (B,L,D)

Day 6, Sat. NILE CRUISE: LUXOR / EDFU.

First visit the West Bank and the **Valley of the Kings** where the New Kingdom Pharaohs were buried. Next visit breathtaking **Deir el-Bahri**, Queen Hatshepsut's impressive temple, and see the gigantic statues of Memnon Colossi. Relax for the rest of the day as the ship sails via the Esna Lock to Edfu. (B,L,D)

Day 7, Sun. NILE CRUISE: EDFU / ASWAN.

Travel by coach to visit Egypt's best-preserved cult **temple** which was dedicated to the falcon god Horus. Then continue the tranquil cruise along the Nile to Aswan. Tonight don traditional Egyptian galabias for a Egyptian Dinner and Galabia Party. (B,L,D)

Day 8, Mon. NILE CRUISE: ASWAN.

Explore the High Dam and Granite Quarries and see the massive unfinished obelisk. Then travel by motorboat to the island of Philae to visit the **Temple of Isis**. This afternoon, take a **felucca ride** across the Nile to visit the **Botanical Gardens** on Kitchener's Island. (B,L,D)

Day 9, Tue. NILE CRUISE: ASWAN / KOM OMBO / EDFU.

This morning, perhaps take an optional excursion by air to the Sun Temple of Abu Simbel, flanked by four giant stone statues of Ramses II. This afternoon, leave Aswan and sail to Kom Ombu. Visit the roofless **Temple of Kom Ombu**, which was built for the falcon and crocodile gods. (B,L,D)

Day 10, Wed. NILE CRUISE: EDFU / LUXOR.

A leisurely morning cruise to Luxor. There is time here to explore this attractive town. Alternatively you may wish to relax on the deck of the ship and watch the sunset. (B,L,D)

Day 11, Thu. LUXOR / CAIRO.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for a return flight to Cairo. Tonight, perhaps relish an optional dinner and entertainment. (B)

Day 12, Fri. CAIRO.

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Cairo, including the Citadel, the **Sultan Hassan Mosque** and **Mohammed Ali's Alabaster Mosque** with its ornate interior. In Old Cairo, visit the **Hanging Church of St. Mary** above the old Water Gate and, finally, the Egyptian Museum, home of King Tutankhamun's priceless and dazzling treasures, discovered by Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. (B)

Day 13, Sat. DEPART CAIRO.

Your homebound flight arrives the same day. (B)

#### YOUR FABULOUS NILE CRUISE

A highlight of this tour is a seven night cruise along the legendary Nile on board one of the latest and most luxurious of all ships, the superb MS *Giselle* or MS *Miriam*.†

5-star features of the MS *Giselle* include fully air-conditioned, luxury two-berth cabins with an en suite bathroom, full size bath, shower and toilet. There is a TV with satellite system, hairdryer, internal telephone and mini-bar. On-board facilities of this superb vessel include a swimming pool and sun deck which runs the length and width of the ship, a salon, two bars, dancing and folklore entertainment, a large restaurant serving Egyptian and international cuisine, and two gift shops.

† Note: At certain times a similar cruise ship of the same category may be used.