





Egypt & River Cruises
30° 3' N 31° 14' E

Passage Through Egypt Aboard Oberoi Philae

Travel to storied Egypt, delve into its legendary past, and connect with the spirit still illuminating today. With expert Egyptologists and a certified photo instructor by your side, spend six nights aboard the Nile's finest vessel beholding landscapes that have sustained life for millennia. From the Pyramids to Valley of the Kings, Sphinx, and Tomb of Nefertari to mesmerizing Luxor guarded by massive Ramses II, nothing compares to this scale of grandness.

From
\$ 9,580 / per person
Includes required flights

 DATES Jan, Feb, Mar, Sep, Oct and Nov	 DURATION 12 Days
 SHIPS <i>Oberoi Philae</i>	
 STARTS AT Aswan, Egypt	ENDS AT Luxor, Egypt

Highlights

- ★ Sail the Nile, seamlessly connected to the landscape by floor-length windows and gracious open spaces, making the *Oberoï Philae* the elegant centerpiece of your trip
- ★ Travel effortlessly and in style with first-class hotels and private internal flights
- ★ Look to seasoned Egyptologists to balance the deluge of discovery with stories, daily recaps, and modern updates
- ★ Capture each moment in perpetuity with your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor's guidance and encouragement





Day by day

■ DAY 1

Cairo, Egypt

Arrive in Cairo and check in to the five-star St. Regis, your home for the next four nights.

Arrival Time: Arrive after 3:00 p.m. local time.

Arrival City: Cairo, Egypt

◇ DAY 2

Cairo / Pyramids / Sphinx / Grand Egyptian Museum

Today, after a morning welcome briefing, start by exploring the premier treasure of Egypt—the Pyramids and Sphinx complex in Giza. Learn how the magnificent Pyramid of Cheops was built from over two million blocks of stone and took tens of thousands of workers over twenty years to build. The infamous Sphinx was carved out of a single massive piece of stone and displays the Pharaoh Chefred's head on the body of a lion. Privileged access takes you inside the barrier for an up-close experience with the Sphinx.

Go inside the Great Pyramid, following the Grand Gallery's narrow passageway to the burial chamber of Cheops. Your Egyptologist will narrate with stories and details, bringing the experience to life, while your Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Certified Photography Instructor will be on hand to ensure that perfect photos happen.

After lunch, explore the galleries of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) with expert Egyptologists. Witness the 3,200-year-old statue of Ramses II in the Grand Hall, the Solar Boat and select treasures from the prehistoric to the Greco-Roman period. Enjoy a festive welcome reception at the hotel tonight. Dinner is at your leisure.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch

◇ DAY 3

Cairo / Antiquities Museum and Saqqara

Egyptian treasures are legendary, and expertly guided visits to the finest collections are essential for a complete experience. This morning, travel to Saqqara to see the Step Pyramid of the pharaoh Zoser, a revolutionary design that initiated the art of pyramid-building. We will also see some of Egypt's most charming wall paintings and reliefs, showing scenes of harvesting, fishing, music-making, and dancing, as well as the elaborate and exquisite mastaba of Mereruka, the largest in Saqqara. While not a royal, Mereruka (or Meri) was, among other things, "Chief Justice and Vizier" to Pharaoh Teti of the Sixth Dynasty, wealthy enough to build such a large and colorful tomb for his afterlife.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then return to the hotel where you can enjoy the hotel amenities, chat with the Egyptologist, visit the National Museum of Egyptian Culture or explore on your own. Before dinner, you will have special after-hours access to the legendary Antiquities Museum with ample time to marvel at the King Tut collection without the crowds. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Islamic Cairo

With the guidance of your Egyptologist, who will share narratives and personal experiences, today welcomes exploration of some of Cairo's most outstanding architecture and monuments to Islam. Atop the Citadel overlooking Cairo sits the

commanding Ottoman-era Muhammad Ali Mosque completed in 1848. Its five domes can be seen throughout the city.

After lunch at a local restaurant, explore the Khan el Khalili bazaar, Egypt's most famous and largest market dating back to the 14th century, for the best taste of Cairo's vibrant and sometimes frantic pace. You can find anything from filigreed silverwork to semiprecious stones, and other souvenirs.

Next, stroll the exquisite El Moez Street, which dates back to the 10th century, making it one of the oldest in Cairo. Marvel at the Islamic architecture as you arrive to the Qalawun Complex, comprised of a mausoleum, a madrasa and a hospital—and considered to be among the finest examples of Islamic architecture in Egypt.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Abu Simbel / Aswan / Embark Ship

Fly via private charter flight to southern Nubia, traversing almost the entire length of Egypt, and the remarkable site of Abu Simbel, on a sun-baked island in the azure waters of Lake Nasser. Two temples are found here; one large, dedicated to Ramses II's victory at Kadesh, and one small, dedicated to his beloved Queen Nefertari. Constructed in the mid 13th century BC, Abu Simbel was excavated from the sand in 1917. The temples were moved piece-by-piece to where it sits today to avoid being lost again, this time not to sand and neglect but to the creation of modern Lake Nasser.

After lunch, reboard our privately-chartered aircraft to Aswan to embark the elegant, privately-chartered *Oberoi Philae*, our home for the next six nights, in time for dinner. Onboard you will find spacious cabins, warm public areas and a welcoming Egyptian crew offering impeccable service.

Meals included: lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Aswan

This morning, visit the fine Nubian Museum before lunch onboard. Next is High Tea at the legendary Old Cataract Hotel, from where commanding views of the Nile and Elephantine Island are sure to excite.

The late afternoon takes a different direction as you relax and enjoy a sail on a traditional *felucca* (or wooden sailboat) as the Nubian crew sing local songs and highlight the beauty of the shallow and jutting rocky cataracts of the Nile in the late afternoon light. A Nubian cultural show onboard *Oberoi Philae* rounds out the day.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Aswan / Kom Ombo

This morning, visit the lovely Temple of Isis on the island of Philae, from which the *Oberoi Philae* gets its name. Like Abu Simbel, the Temple of Isis would have been lost to the floods caused by the building of the High Dam had it not been painstakingly dismantled, moved, and reconstructed at its present location.

Visit a granite quarry to learn how massive obelisks—tall, four-sided narrow pillars that end in a pyramidal top used as monuments—were carefully cut from solid rock and transported down the Nile.

Enjoy lunch onboard as you sail to Kom Ombo. Set strikingly on a hill overlooking the Nile and dedicated to two gods, hawk-headed Haroeris and crocodile-headed Sobek, the Kom Ombo Temple, built during the Ptolemaic era, is richly decorated and has a hieroglyphic calendar.

Spend the late afternoon and rest of the day enjoying sailing to Edfu.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Esna / Luxor Temple

After an early morning sail to Esna, walk from the ship to the nearby Temple of Khnum in the town of Esna. This temple has not been fully excavated, and your Egyptologist explains how silt from centuries of the Nile's annual floods buried the temple, which sits about nine meters below river level.

As you walk back to the ship through Esna, take a moment to talk to locals, share stories and learn about Egyptian small-town life. Next we arrive to Luxor and explore the exquisite Luxor Temple, guarded by massive statues of Ramses II, with magnificent pylons, columns and statues. It has been a place of worship for millennia, as attested to by the mosque that was built atop the site. Luxor Temple is well-lit in the evenings and a wonderful site to visit after sunset. After dinner onboard have an opportunity to enjoy the evening in Luxor.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Dendera / Luxor Museum

Please note that we will drive via motorcoaches between Luxor and Dendera Temple if our arrival coincides with low water, and cruise this section of the Nile during high water times.

Start the day enjoying the remote temple of Dendera. Constructed during the time of Roman emperors, hundreds of years of black soot were delicately removed to reveal stunning artwork beneath and reliefs on the temple walls depicting Empress Cleopatra.

Evening is the ideal time to visit Luxor Museum, which is beautifully lit and home to some of Egypt's finest statuary, including the mummies of Ahmos I and Ramesses I.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

West Bank

Journey to the West Bank of the Nile and the famed Valley of the Kings, the burial ground for hundreds of years of Egypt's greatest pharaohs. Explore and photograph the tombs of Set I and Tutankhamun. Then visit the Valley of the Queens and the most legendary tomb of them all, that of Nefertari.* Vivid paintings depict the queen's renowned beauty and her journey to the afterlife in exquisite color and quality found nowhere else in Egypt. See the temple of Hatshepsut, dramatically set beneath sandstone cliffs.

*Note: The tomb of Nefertari is temporarily closed for renovations. In the meantime, we will instead visit the spectacular Ramesseum, the funerary temple of Ramses II.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 11

Disembark Ship / Karnak Temple / Cairo

Disembark *Oberoi Philae* and visit Karnak Temple. For some 2,000 years, 30 pharaohs added their monuments and shrines to this vast temple, making it the largest religious building ever constructed. The 134 columns of the great hall create a vast forest of stone towering 70 feet high, and the massive obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut shadows the rear of this masterpiece of human ingenuity. The reliefs and carvings created by some of Ancient Egypt's finest artisans are dramatic.

After lunch, board our privately-chartered aircraft to Cairo and check into the 5-star InterContinental. Gather for your final dinner with the group this evening.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 12

Cairo

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Departure Time: Anytime.

Departure City: Cairo, Egypt

Meals included: breakfast

Northbound

Aswan, Egypt → Luxor, Egypt

2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

04 Oct		
01 Nov		

2026 Departure Dates

Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

24 Jan		
21 Feb		
21 Mar		
05 Sep		
03 Oct 31 Oct		
28 Nov		

Alternative Routes

Visit Expeditions.com for more information.

2025 Departure Dates

18 Oct, 15 Nov

2026 Departure Dates

10 Jan, 07 Feb, 07 Mar, 19 Sep, 17 Oct,
14 Nov



Oberoi Philae

Guests

42

Cabins

22

***Oberoi Philae* is a luxurious riverboat that was extensively reconfigured in 2015, with floor-to-ceiling windows that provide unforgettable views of the Nile.**

A voyage along the Nile is the centerpiece of your journey through Egypt. There are few, if any, ships that can match the elegance, ideal size, and graciousness of the *Oberoi Philae*. Originally built for 100 guests, it was remodeled and reconfigured to accommodate 42 in her peerless style.

Built in 1996, she was extensively reconfigured in 2015 with just 22 cabins and luxurious amenities, including an Oberoi spa. Windows are nearly floor to ceiling and slide open, offering a connection with the river. The topmost deck has a swimming pool that is the largest of any Nile ship and an alfresco restaurant. Downstairs, there's a stylish enclosed restaurant serving local specialties as well as more continental options.

The heart of the ship is the lounge, where everyone aboard gathers each night for Recap. It's here that Egyptologists, who have worked with Lindblad for decades, share stories of the sites, who built them and why, and fascinating modern details like how they've changed over the years. And it's these sites and stories, and this time to relax between exploring places of antiquity, that make this expedition, and this ship, so special.



Category 1

Deck B: #B01-B06:

These spacious cabins have a mix of queen beds or two single beds, sitting area, and a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms with a glass shower.



Category 2

Deck C: #C01-C10

These spacious cabins have a mix of queen beds or two single beds, sitting area, and a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms with a glass shower.



Category 3

Deck D: #D03-D04:

These spacious cabins have two single beds (which can be pushed together), sitting area, and a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms with a glass shower.



Category 4

Deck D: #D01-D02:

These very large suites have an adjoining seating area, a queen-size bed, sliding glass doors that open to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms a shower, standalone bathtub, and private changing room.



Category 5

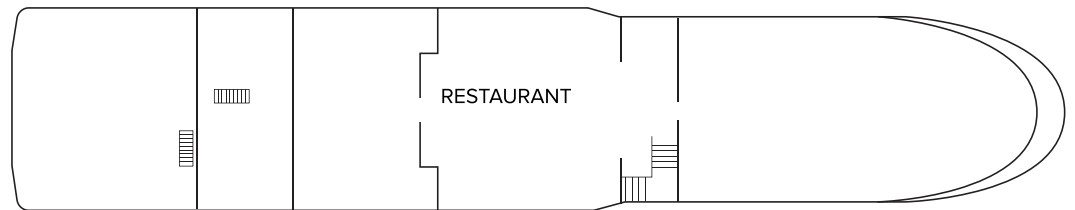
Deck D: #D05-D06:

These very large suites have a queen-size bed, side and stern-facing windows that open, a shower, private changing room, and a standalone bathtub. Suites also feature a living room. Each has a large private outdoor terrace with private spa tub and sun lounger.



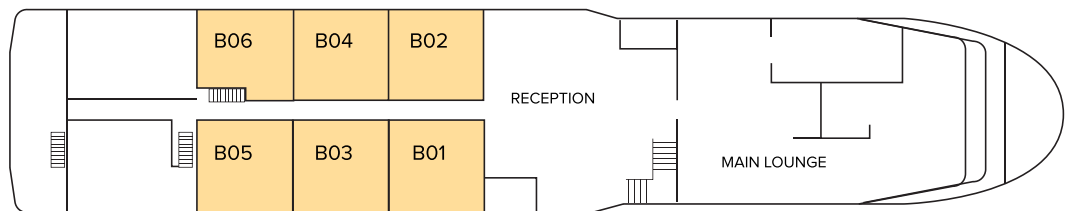
Deck Plans

Deck A



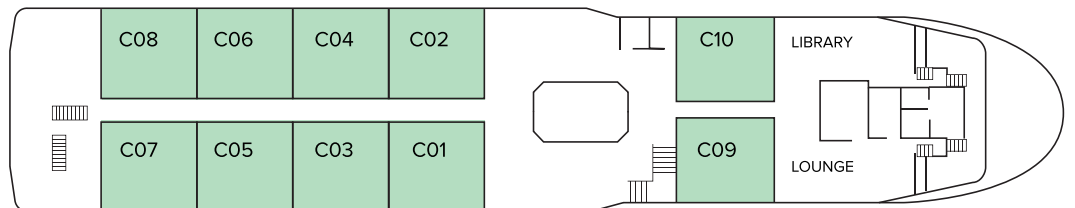
Deck B

Category 1



Deck C

Category 2

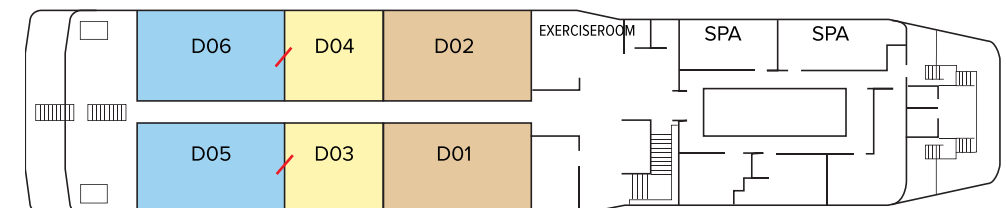


Deck D

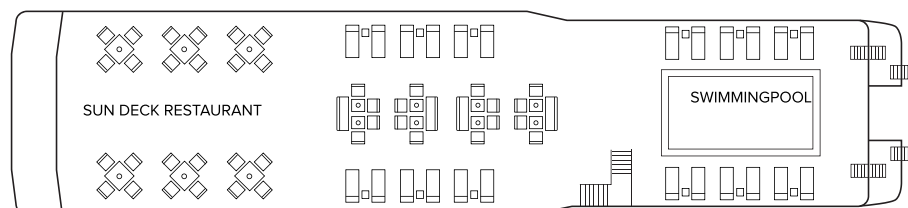
Category 3

Category 4

Category 5



Deck E



Ship amenities

Public Areas

Relax on a deck chair next to the 36-foot pool or take a meal in the alfresco dining room to watch life along the riverbanks from the top deck. Spend a few hours in the library reading about Egyptian history or join your photo instructor for a session in the lounge.

Meals

Discover the tastes of Egypt and beyond in a dining room that accommodates the entire expedition community in a single seating. Sample Middle Eastern cuisine or choose from continental options as well.

Cabins

22 outside cabins. All of the cabins include individual climate controls, hair dryer, 40" LCD television, complimentary WiFi access, a DVD player, an electronic safe, mini-fridge, blackout blinds, and openable French windows.

Special Features

Her scale, décor, and renowned service defines *Oberoi Philae* as the finest ship on the Nile. She has the intimate scale of a luxury yacht and the space and hospitality of a luxury hotel.

Wellness

Enjoy the spa, offering a choice of massage treatments, and a fitness room with space to stretch out and recharge.

Special Offers

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US\$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more people. Valid on voyage fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

Included in price

All accommodations aboard ship and in hotels per itinerary; all meals aboard ship and on land as indicated on the itinerary, with soft drinks/non-alcoholic beverages and select alcoholic beverages, drinking water throughout; excursions per itinerary, including entrance fees, special access permits, and photography fees; arrival and departure airport transfers for any flights into and out of Cairo, including airport assistance; gratuities to all service staff, including Egyptologists and ship's crew; guidance and company of a leading certified photographer and private Egyptologists throughout, presentations by expedition staff and expert Egyptologists, including Recaps with snacks and hors d'oeuvres; Wi-Fi aboard ship; laundry aboard ship; access to exercise equipment; and 24-hour access to lounge and shared spaces aboard ship. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Not included in price

Airfare* (except flights when indicated as included); Egypt visa on arrival (priced separately); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); spa treatments, Wi-Fi in hotels (if not included by hotels), and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; passport, and immigration fees; and items of a personal nature, such as souvenirs, and laundry in hotels.

*Recommended flight costs include flight(s) that take place during the date range of your trip to transport travelers from one itinerary destination to another. This cost also includes ground transportation, luggage transfer, and airport assistance. If you prefer to arrange your own flights privately, have alternate means of transport, or wish to modify at a later time, please contact an Expedition Specialist at 1.833.400.0831

Travel protection plan

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S.

residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/>

Cancellation policy

Review our cancellation policy: <https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/>