

FINAL ITINERARY

Passage Through Egypt Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

Saturday, October 18, 2025 – Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Saturday, October 18

Arrive Cairo, Egypt - Overnight The St. Regis Cairo

Note: Your passport must be valid for six months after your departure date from Cairo. U.S. citizens, as well as citizens of other eligible countries, such as some EU countries, Australia, and New Zealand, will be issued a visa upon arrival in Cairo. If you are a citizen of a country not listed above, please check with the Egyptian Consulate to confirm if you qualify for a visa upon arrival. If not, please arrange to get a visa prior to departing from your country.

All guests will be met upon arrival at Cairo International airport Cairo by a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions representative just before entering the Immigration Hall. **Please look for the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions sign and ensure that you meet the representative before lining up for Immigration clearance.** The representative will provide the required stamp for your single-entry visa (applicable to US and other eligible citizens), which is to be affixed to your passport visa page. You must have an empty visa page to stamp the visa. Please note amendment pages in the passport cannot be used to stamp the visa. After you clear Immigration, the representative will assist you with your luggage, clearing Customs, and transferring to the St. Regis Cairo.

Transfers are included for all arriving guests, whether you arrive on the group arrival day or earlier, **provided you have given us your flight details in advance** and are staying at the St. Regis Cairo, whether under your own arrangements or under a Lindblad-arranged pre-hotel stay.

Please note, check in time at the St. Regis Cairo is 3:00pm.

If you've requested additional hotel nights through us, the voucher will be attached to your ship ticket.

Sunday, October 19

Cairo, Pyramids & Sphinx - Overnight The St. Regis Cairo (B, L)

****Please note that telephoto lenses more than 200mm are not permitted at the archeological sites throughout Egypt.**

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 Chefren's head on the body of a lion.

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 Certified Photography Instructor will be on hand to ensure that perfect photos happen.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before either returning to the St. Regis to relax and enjoy your accommodations or visiting the National Museum of Egyptian Culture where the Royal Mummies are now on display.

Monday, October 20

Saqqara - Overnight The St. Regis Cairo (B, L, D)

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.

Due to the delayed reopening of the Grand Egyptian Museum and closure of the King Tutankhamun exhibit at the Antiquities Museum, you'll now enjoy a private visit to an active archaeological dig site, hosted by none other than Dr. Zahi Hawass—the world-renowned Egyptologist and former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. This is a rare and intimate opportunity to engage with Egypt's ancient history in a way that few travelers ever do. We're thrilled to offer this unique experience. Please note that your after-hours visit to the Cairo Antiquities Museum remains on the schedule, ensuring a rich and immersive experience of Egypt's cultural treasures. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Tuesday, October 21

Islamic Cairo - Overnight The St. Regis Cairo (B, L, D)

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.

Wednesday, October 22

Cairo/Luxor – Embark *Oberoi Philae* (B, L, D)

Note: The luggage capacity on our charter flights within Egypt is limited to 44 lbs. of checked bag and a carry on which can fit under the seat of a Dash 8 aircraft. Please note rollers will not fit under the seat. Bear in mind that laundry is done free of charge aboard *Oberoi Philae* during the first four days of the voyage. If you would like to leave luggage in Cairo, we will be pleased to store it and deliver it to the InterContinental Citystars Cairo on your return. Please lock the bags you are leaving in Cairo and please do not pack anything valuable.

Please be sure to keep medications and other essential items in your carry-on and not your checked luggage.

Fly by private charter to Luxor in Upper Egypt, where a visit to the awe-inspiring Karnak Temple is sure to be life changing. 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 Karnak, embark the elegant and privately chartered 42-passenger *Oberoi Philae*, home for the next six nights, in time for lunch. Aboard this recently remodeled steam wheel-style riverboat, you will find your spacious cabin with a French balcony, delightful dining venues, entertainment, a spa, a pool, public areas offering endless places to watch the Nile, and a friendly and welcoming Egyptian crew offering impeccable service.

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.

Thursday, October 23

Dendera/ Luxor Temple – Aboard *Oberoi Philae* (B, L, D)

**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.

Next, is the exquisite Luxor Temple guarded by its massive statues of Ramses II. This temple has been a place of worship for millennia. Its magnificent pylons, columns and statues are also an excellent site to visit after sunset, illuminated with magical lighting.

After dinner onboard, venture into Luxor for an opportunity to leisurely enjoy the evening in this ancient city on the east bank of the Nile.

Friday, October 24

West Bank– Aboard *Oberoi Philae* (B, L, D)

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.

Have lunch on board and spend the afternoon traversing the magnificent Nile and marveling at the rich and verdant riverbanks that have sustained life here for thousands of years. The Oberoi Philae offers luxurious space and ample viewpoints to watch life and history as it goes by. Whether ensuite, with friends in the lounge, or on the top deck, today will offer connection to people and place.

In the evening, presentations and recaps from the Egyptologists and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor are scheduled as the ship passes through the lock before an elegant dinner is served. Overnight in Esna.

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

Saturday, October 25

Esna – Aboard *Oberoi Philae* (B, L, D)

From the ship, walk 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 and learn about Egyptian small-town life. Relax on board, dive into the ship's library of Egyptian history, or take a cool swim in the ship's pool. Overnight in Kom Ombo, just under the riverside temple.

Sunday, October 26

Kom Ombo/Aswan - Aboard *Oberoi Philae* (B, L, D)

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.

After a visit to Kom Ombo, board the ship and stay on deck as it approaches Aswan, a gloriously impactful spot on the Nile, backed by hills and granite rocks protruding from the riverbed and framed with sailboats (called feluccas) plying the water. Aswan is just downstream of the northernmost Nile cataract, historically making it a frontier town and trading center with Nubia.

In the afternoon, visit the fine Nubian Museum. End the day with High Tea at the legendary Old Cataract Hotel, from where commanding views of the Nile and Elephantine Island are sure to excite. A Nubian cultural show onboard *Oberoi Philae* rounds out the day.

Monday, October 27

Aswan– Aboard *Oberoi Philae* (B, L, D)

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 if it was not 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 transported down the Nile.

The 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 afternoon light.

Tuesday, October 28

Disembark / Abu Simbel / Cairo – Overnight InterContinental Citystars Cairo (B, L, D)

Please be sure to keep medications and other essential items in your carry-on and not your checked luggage.

After breakfast we disembark *Oberoi Philae*. Please note that your tips to the crew and Egyptologists are included, so there is no need to make any further provision for tipping.

A private plane awaits you after disembarking *Oberoi Philae* to fly you to southern Nubia and the remarkable site of Abu Simbel. Sitting on a sunbaked island in the azure waters of Lake Nassar, you'll find two temples 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 1817. The temples were moved painstakingly piece-by-piece to where it sits today to avoid being lost again to the creation of modern Lake Nassar.

After lunch, reboard the chartered plane for the flight back to Cairo and check in at the 5-Star InterContinental Citystars Hotel. In the evening enjoy a final dinner with the group.

Wednesday, October 29

Depart Cairo (B)

After an early breakfast, all guests will be transferred to the airport based on your individual departure times. If you have not already done so, you must provide us with your flight information for us to arrange your transfer.

Please note that the check-out time at the InterContinental Citystars Cairo is 12 noon.

For guests extending their stay at the InterContinental Citystars Cairo:

A voucher for additional night(s) accommodation at the InterContinental Citystars Cairo, if arranged through us, is included with this document.

Please be sure to keep medications and other essential items in your carry-on and not your checked luggage. Please contact your carrier(s) before departure for updated information about carry-on baggage guidelines and restrictions.

We hope you have a wonderful voyage!

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Passage through Egypt Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

For questions during business hours:
(Monday - Friday, 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. ET)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS
96 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014
Telephone: 1-800-397-3348 or 212-765-7740

If you are traveling today and require
immediate assistance, or for
emergencies outside business hours:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC- LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS
Emergency Telephone:
888-773-9066 (USA or Canada) or 212-258-0787

If you are delayed en route, you may contact our
agent in Cairo to advise them of your delay:

Cosmos Tours - Egypt
Telephone: +2 02 33031 443
After Office Hours: +2 010 902 06468

While in Cairo before embarkation, you may be
reached at:

St. Regis Hotel
1189 Nile Corniche, Downtown
Cairo, Egypt
Telephone: +20 -2-2597-9000
<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/caixr-the-st-regis-cairo/overview/>

While on board you may be reached via satellite at
the number to the right. Please note that long-
distance calling charges will apply. Otherwise, you
may be contacted aboard directly by your e-mail,
text and the highly recommended WhatsApp
program. Please be aware that internet service
comes at an additional cost, which you can arrange
on board the ship, and that service is guaranteed.

Oberoi Philae
Telephone: +20 111 974 0600
Mobile: +20 10 1761 3319

While in Cairo after disembarkation, you may be
reached at:

InterContinental Citystars Cairo
Omar Ibn El Khattab Street
Cairo Governorate 11737
Telephone: +20 2 24800100
<https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/us/en/cairo/crohc/hoteldetail>

This contact list is for information purposes only. You may wish to leave this information with family in case they need to contact you during the trip. You may also wish to bring a copy with you.

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Passage Through Egypt Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

Passport

You must have a passport that is **valid for at least six months after the end of your expedition**. It is always a good idea to make a photocopy of your airline tickets and of the pages of your passport that have your passport number, photograph and other pertinent information. Keep the copies separate from the originals.

Visa/Entry Requirements

If you are a U.S. citizen, you will be issued a visa upon your arrival in Cairo. Please ensure that you have a blank visa page in your passport (amendment pages are not used for stamping the visa) and our representative in Cairo will help expedite the visa on your arrival. Your visa fee of \$25.00 has been added to your booking.

Please note that as of September 3, 2023, Canadian Citizens are no longer able to obtain Egypt entry visa upon arrival to Egypt airports and will need to obtain visas prior their arrival in Egypt. An Egyptian visa can be obtained prior to departure from an Egyptian Consulate near you, or you can apply for an E-Visa online by logging on to Egypt e-Visa Information | Egypt e-Visa Requirements (egypt-touring.com).

For most EU countries, as well as Australia and New Zealand, citizens are also issued visas upon arrival in Cairo. If you are not from one of the countries listed above, please contact the Egyptian Consulate to confirm if your country falls within the same category. If not, please contact the Egyptian Consulate nearest you to check your visa requirements to enter the country.

The Jordanian visa is issued free of charge for guests participating in the Jordan extension. Applicable countries are similar as detailed above for Egypt. However, please contact the Jordanian Consulate to confirm if your country falls within the same category. If not, please contact the Jordanian Consulate nearest you to check your visa requirements to enter the country.

You are responsible for obtaining the necessary visas for your expedition. For US Citizens, if you wish to use the services of a company, you may contact Travel Document Systems online at www.traveldocs.com/lindblad.

Luggage:

The luggage capacity on our charter flights within Egypt is limited. Bear in mind that laundry is done free of charge aboard Oberoi Philae during the first four days of your voyage. If you would like to leave luggage in Cairo, we will be pleased to store it and deliver it to the InterContinental Citystars Cairo on your return. Please lock the bags you are leaving in Cairo and please do not pack anything valuable.

International Travel with Minors

The U.S. government requires that minors under 18 years of age traveling alone, with grandparents, or with one parent/legal guardian only, carry a notarized document signed by both parents or by the parent/legal guardian not traveling with the child. We require you to obtain such a document, noting the age of the child, relationship to traveling adult(s), dates of travel, and destination. For example, in the case of divorce, the parent with legal custody must sign the permit, and the accompanying parent must carry proof of this fact. In addition, if the child's surname differs from that of either parent, you may want to carry the child's birth certificate.

Photography and Binoculars:

Please note that telephoto lenses more than 200mm are not permitted at the archeological sites throughout Egypt.

Jordan imposes strict restriction on bringing binoculars to the country. Therefore, we do not recommend you bring them with you. There are some binoculars available for you to borrow should you require them during your stay on board the Oberoi Philae. It is also illegal to bring walkie-talkies into Jordan.

Drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's)

Drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), are not permitted on any of our expeditions on board the National Geographic fleet, including land extensions. In addition to safety concerns and potential disturbance of guests and wildlife, there are special permits needed for flying UAVs in many of the areas we visit. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

Security

To comply with maritime security requirements that apply to all ships and ports worldwide, passengers, crew, and visitors to the ship may be subject to security screening. We would like to advise you that such measures might include the inspection of the individual, as well as luggage and personal belongings. We appreciate your patience and understanding whenever such screenings are required.

Please be sure to refer to your Communications Portal for your Expedition Guide, your packing list, and other helpful and vital information for your expedition.

If you have any questions, or have not already obtained the necessary documentation, please contact us.