

- Egypt explored, Laterally -





- ★ Attraction
- ✈ Airport
- Capital city

In a Nutshell...

Day 1	Fly with bmi from London Heathrow to Cairo, Egypt.	Mena House Oberoi ***** 3 nights (3 Garden View Rooms, Garden Wing)
Day 2	Pyramids of Dashur, Saqqara, Giza and Sphinx.	
Day 3	Egyptian Museum and Medieval Cairo.	
Day 4	Fly to Luxor. Evening Karnak Sound & Light show.	Hilton Resort Luxor ***** 4 nights (3 Standard Nile rooms)
Day 5	Morning visit Karnak Temple, Luxor Museum, Luxor Temple. Afternoon free.	
Day 6	Hot-Air Balloon flight. Visit Valley of Kings, Tombs of the Nobles, Hatshepsut's Temple, Madinet Habu.	
Day 7	At leisure.	
Day 8	Transfer to Aswan via Edfu and Kom Ombo Temples & the Crocodile museum.	Sofitel Old Cataract Hotel ***** 3 nights (2 Premium Nile View rooms, Nile Wing)
Day 9	Morning visit to Aswan High Dam, Philae Temple, Pharaonic Quarries. Afternoon felucca ride on Nile.	
Day 10	Morning visit to temples of Abu Simbel by air.	
Day 11	Fly to London (via Cairo).	

Flights..

Date	Airline	From	To	Depart	Arrive
Day 1	bmi BD 771	London Heathrow (T1)	Cairo Egypt	10:10	16:10
Day 4	Egypt Air MS 355	Cairo Egypt	Luxor Egypt	11:30	12:40
Day 10	Egypt Air MS 417	Aswan Egypt	Abu Simbel Egypt	09:55	10:40
Day 10	Egypt Air MS 420	Abu Simbel Egypt	Aswan Egypt	13:00	13:45
Day 10	Egypt Air MS 394	Aswan Egypt	Cairo Egypt	11:25	12:50
Day 11	bmi BD 772	Cairo Egypt	London Heathrow (T1)	16:50	21:00

Your Final Itinerary...

Day 1: UK to Cairo

Today you will Check in at London Heathrow Airport (Terminal 1) for your flight BD 771 departing London Heathrow (T1) at 10:10 hours, Arriving Cairo at 16:10 hours. On arrival at Cairo international airport follow the signs for passport control and luggage Collection. A representative from Laterallife's agents in Egypt, EMECO TRAVEL, will meet you prior to the immigration counters., they will be holding a sign-board with your names on it for identification and will assist you in obtaining your Egyptian visa, and collecting your luggage. Once you have retrieved your luggage you will be escorted through the Customs Hall to your waiting vehicle. The private transfer to your hotel will take approximately 45 minutes. On arrival check-in. Note on Egypt Entry Requirements. British passport holders require a visa to enter Egypt. Passports must have a minimum of **six months** validity from the date of entry into Egypt and at least one free page for the visa stamp.

Tourist visas can be obtained in advance from the nearest Egyptian Consulate or are available on arrival at the airport (recommended) for US\$15 per person (payable in cash - £s are accepted and change given).

Overnight: Mena House Oberoi, Cairo in 3 Garden View rooms - Garden Wing

Meals: In-flight

Day 2: pyramids at Dashur, Saqqara, Giza & Sphinx

This morning you will be met by your private guide for a tour of three of the great pyramid complexes built outside the ancient city of Memphis, the capital of Egypt during the old kingdom period (c2685 - 2160 BC). A journey time of approximately 1 hour to the south of Cairo will bring you to Saqqara, site of the great stepped pyramid of the 3rd dynasty pharaoh Djoser (c2667 - 2648 BC). The stepped pyramid was comprised of six massive steps and once rose to a height of 62 metres. Designed by the architect Imhotep, this is Egypt's first pyramid complex and was hugely influential in influencing future temple design and appearance. Nearby, at Dashur, are two pyramids of the pharaoh Sneferu (c2613 - 2589 BC): the distinctive 'bent' pyramid, and the 'red' pyramid. The latter structure is believed to have been the first successful attempt at constructing a 'true' smooth-sided pyramid. Both pyramids are wonderfully free from visitors. This afternoon visit Giza, the location of the enormous pyramids of the 4th dynasty pharaohs Kufu (c2589 - 2566 BC), Kafre (c 2558 - 2532 BC), and Menkaura (c2532 - 2503 BC), and one of the most instantly recognizable monuments in the world.

The great pyramid of Kufu is the last surviving monument of the wonders of the ancient world and is composed of some 2.3 million blocks of stone - apparently more stone than was used in all English churches since the time of St Augustine!

Here you will also visit the museum of the solar boat, and see the enigmatic sphinx - said to portray the image of the pharaoh Kafre. Following your visit return to your hotel.

Note on great pyramid: *if you wish to enter the great pyramid it can be arranged at an additional cost (approximately £15 per person). Please note that entrance to the great pyramid is strictly limited to 300 people per day divided between the morning and afternoon. Tickets cannot be reserved in advance. If you wish to in-*





clude a visit to the interior of the great pyramid we request that you advise us in advance so that we can plan accordingly, and maximise your chances of securing a ticket. It should be noted that the red pyramid also has a fine series of internal chambers which can be visited without hoards of other visitors. Please inform your guide if you wish to go inside the red pyramid. Both interiors are claustrophobic.

Overnight: Mena House Oberoi. **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3: Egyptian museum and medieval Cairo

Start today's sightseeing at the museum of Egyptian antiquities, which is located just off Cairo's famous Tahrir square roundabout, site of the pro-democracy protests that ushered in the Egyptian revolution of February 2011. The greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities in the world, is without doubt, that held by the Egyptian museum. Amongst the 120,000 artefacts on display are countless treasures and works of art including: the golden funerary goods from the tomb of Tutankhamen; the partially unwrapped mummified bodies of several of Egypt's great pharaohs; and the Narmer palette which is thought by some to represent the unification of upper and lower Egypt. Also present are great quantity of superb statuary; countless coffins; fine jewellery; household goods; and the body of a mummified crocodile!

A visit to the royal mummy room is also included in your tour. This afternoon explore medieval Cairo, known in Arabic as Al-Gahira (the conqueror), and one of the most vibrant cities in the middle east. Here you will walk along historic al Muezz street from Bab Futuh to Bab Zuwayla with its many magnificent examples of Islamic architecture. En route pass through the labyrinthine cobbled lanes of the khan el Khalili bazaar. Next, visit some of quarter's grand Islamic monuments including the mosque of sultan Hassan (r1347 - 1361 AD), and the gayer Anderson museum - a beautiful example of a private house. In the bazaar the profusion of goods on display is staggering. Built at the end of the 14th century its maze of alleyways, brightly coloured stalls, the din of its hagglers and heady scent of spices all leave an indelible impression and a full immersion into the middle eastern experience.

Overnight: Mena House Oberoi. **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Fly to Luxor

This morning you will be transferred to Cairo's domestic airport, a journey time of approximately 45 minutes. On arrival check-in for an Egypt air flight to Luxor. Flight duration 1 hour, 10 minutes. Class of travel: economy. Egypt air flight MS 355 departs Cairo at 11:30, arrives Luxor at 12:40

On arrival at Luxor airport you will be met in the arrivals hall by a laterallife representative. Our representative will assist you in collecting your luggage then escort you to a waiting vehicle for your private transfer into Luxor, a journey time of approximately 10 minutes. Check-in on arrival at your hotel located directly on the river Nile. The early afternoon will be at leisure. Luxor was one of the greatest cities of the ancient world and was known as 'Waset' by the ancient Egyptians and 'Thebes' by the ancient Greeks. It was the political capital of the country during the middle kingdom period (c2055 -

1650 BC) and for much of the glorious new kingdom period (c1550 - 1069 BC).

Today Luxor is home to the largest and greatest concentration of temples in Egypt. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure to enjoy the facilities and views of your hotel. This evening you will be met and transferred to nearby Karnak temple to see the sound & light show. The experience begins at the avenue of sphinxes and continues on foot through the temple before ending with an impressive laser display by the sacred lake.

Overnight: Hilton Resort, Luxor (3 standard Nile view rooms). **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 5: Temples of Karnak and Luxor & Luxor museum

This morning, there will be a privately guided visit to the temples of Karnak and Luxor on the east bank of the Nile, and to the Luxor museum. Karnak is one of the most impressive sites in Egypt and is the largest religious complex built by man. The ancient Egyptians considered the temple to be the site of creation where Amun-ra brought the world into being from the primordial ocean.

Next, drive the short distance to the small, but spectacular Luxor museum.

The museum prides itself on the quality of pieces in its collection and in the uncluttered way they are displayed. Amongst the most striking items in the collection are grave goods from the tomb of Tutankhamen, the royal mummies of the pharaoh's Ahmose I and Ramses I, and a collection of 26 exceptionally well preserved new kingdom statues that were found buried in a cache near Luxor temple in 1989.

On completion of your visit continue to Luxor temple. The sacred complex was once joined to Karnak temple by a 3km avenue of sphinxes and dedicated to a special manifestation of Amun-ra. The Amun of Luxor was visited once a year by the Amun of Karnak during the important Opet festival. Luxor temple provides a fine case study for the expansion of the Egyptian temple and embraces over 3,000 years of growth. Following your visit return to your hotel. The remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Overnight: Hilton Resort. **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 6: Hot air balloon flight, Luxor west bank

Rise before dawn and travel to across the Nile to Luxor's west bank where you will climb into (weather permitting) a hot-air balloon. The full 35 – 45 minutes that the balloon is in the air is a truly magical experience. Following a packed breakfast, enjoy a donkey ride through the almost timeless rural scenery of the west bank, then visit the famed Valley of the Kings. This sacred valley was the cemetery of the pharaohs in the new kingdom period (1550 – 1069 BC) and contains 64 rock-cut tombs. Despite its name the Valley of the Kings also contains the tombs of favourite nobles as well as the wives and children of both nobles and pharaohs. Many of the royal tombs were decorated with extravagant, brightly coloured, religious texts and images that have lost none of their vibrancy over the ages.





Next, continue to the cliffs of Deir el Bahri to visit the mortuary temple of the female pharaoh Hatshepsut (c1473 - 1458 BC). Called by the ancient Egyptians 'Djeser-Djeru' (sacred of sacreds), the rock-cut temple is one of the most impressive on the west bank and took 15 years to build. Hatshepsut recorded that she built her temple as 'a garden for my father Amun', and the first court here once held exotic trees and shrubs brought from the land of Punt. The nearby, and often overlooked, tombs of the nobles will be your next stop. Unlike the decoration employed on the royal tombs which is strictly formal and religious; nobles of the New Kingdom period chose to have scenes from daily life such as fishing, feasting or harvesting painted on the walls of their small rock-cut tombs. As a result, these tombs afford a fascinating insight into every day life in ancient Egypt and bridge the great gap in time between their world and ours. The last visit of the morning will be the mortuary temple of pharaoh Ramses III at Medinet Habu—the best preserved of all the mortuary temples in Luxor. Entry to the complex through an impressive fortified gateway in which it is thought Ramses III survived an assassination attempt by one of his minor queens. Although the plot was discovered and the perpetrators brought to justice, the king died during the course of the trial. It is not known whether his demise was due to natural causes, or the effects of the attempt on his life. Following lunch at the atmospheric Al Moudira hotel, return to Luxor where the remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Note on tomb of Tutankhamen / Ramses VI: *the ticket for the Valley of the Kings is valid for three tombs, but does not include the tomb of Tutankhamen which was famously discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. A supplement of LE100 per person (Egyptian pounds—subject to change GBP10.50) will apply to visit this small tomb. The beautiful tomb of Ramses VI also carries a surcharge (LE50 per person subject to change). If you wish to visit either of these tombs, advise your guide at the start of the day.*

Overnight: Hilton Resort **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 7: Luxor

Today will be at leisure in Luxor.

Overnight: Hilton Resort. **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 8: Edfu, Kom Ombo onto Aswan

Today, a drive of approximately 7 hours (including visits and stops) will bring you to where the ancient border between Egypt and the neighbouring state of Nubia once lay at Aswan. Edfu, the traditional location for the mythological battle between the gods Horus and Seth, will be your first stop. On arrival, visit the temple of the falcon-headed god Horus, one of the most complete buildings surviving from ancient times, and the second largest temple in Egypt after Karnak. The structure was built in Ptolemaic times between 237 and 57 BC. Horus was originally a sky god whose eyes were the sun and the moon, although he was later assimilated into the myth of Isis and Osiris as the divine couple's child. Following your visit, continue the journey south to Kom Ombo where you will visit the newly opened crocodile museum and explore the temples dedicated equally to Horus the Elder, and the crocodile god Sobek. The temple was built in the Ptolemaic period and reflects its dual ownership throughout—even the Roman forecourt.

was divided into equal shares between Sobek (east) and Horus (west). In times gone by drugged sacred crocodiles used to lie on river banks here! A drive time of about an hour will bring you to Aswan, one of the most scenically attractive locations in Egypt. Aswan is located just above the first cataract of the Nile and has always been Egypt's border with the lands to the south. Here the sand of the Sahara tumbles directly into the Nile from high dunes, and the sleek hulls of sailing boats ply the tranquil waters between emerald islands and pink granite boulders. On arrival check-in at the historic and completely renovated old cataract hotel. The old cataract hotel was built in 1899 and is majestically positioned on a shelf of pink granite overlooking the Nile. Behind its Victorian façade, the hotel retains its original beauty, receiving guests in an historic lobby with polished marble floors and high, classic Islamic arches.

The hotel's grand shaded terrace is the place to enjoy high tea in Egypt and has what are arguably the most sought after views in the country.

Overnight: Sofitel legend old cataract hotel, Aswan (2 premium Nile facing rooms)
Meals: Breakfast

Day 9: Aswan

Following Breakfast visit the well preserved temple of Isis at Philae, known as the 'pearl of Egypt', which emerges from the waters of its encasing lake. Philae island itself now lies beneath the waters of lake Nasser, however the beautiful Ptolemaic and roman temples were saved in the 1960s by an international effort and moved to the nearby, and especially remodelled, island of Agilkia. Philae is also famously the site of the last known hieroglyph which was carved here on 24 august 394 AD. Next, continue to the enormous Aswan high dam, built in the 1960s to harness the waters of the Nile, and complete this afternoon's sightseeing at the quarries of the pharaohs from where much of the statuary of ancient Egypt was hewn. Late this afternoon you will board a traditional wooden felucca for a sunset sailing cruise on the Nile. Sailing on the Nile in a privately chartered felucca is a magical experience. As your boat unfurls its huge white sail and quietly tacks its way through the river, and the setting sun nears the horizon, you will be able to sit back and admire the world's longest river as the whole sky turns a brilliant orange. A perfect way to end the day!

Overnight: Sofitel legend old cataract hotel. **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 10: Abu Simbel

Early this morning you will be transferred to Aswan domestic airport where you will check-in for an Egypt air flight to Abu Simbel. Flight duration 45 minutes. Class of travel: economy.

Egypt air flight MS 417 departs Aswan at 09:55 and arrives Abu Simbel at 10:40.

On arrival at Abu Simbel walk through to the arrivals hall where a guide from Corinthian's agents in Egypt will be waiting for you. He will be holding a board with your names on it for identification. From the airport drive to see the great rock-cut temples built by





Ramses ii (c1279 - 1217 BC), a journey time of approximately 10 minutes. The main temple at Abu Simbel, which is often considered to be the most impressive monument in Egypt after the great pyramid, was saved from the rising waters of Lake Nasser in the 1960s.

Its façade is dominated by four colossal statues of the pharaoh, each 21 metres high with Nubians, his mother and several of his children at his feet. The location of the temple in Egypt's southern borderland may well have carried a message of might to her neighbours to the south. To the north of the main temple a smaller, yet still very impressive, temple was built to honour Ramses' wife Nefertiti and the goddess Hathor. It is fronted by six enormous figures of Ramses ii and his queen, each 10 metres high and flanked by smaller figures of the royal children.

Following your visit return to Abu Simbel airport and check-in for your Egypt air flight to Aswan. Flight duration 45 minutes. Class of travel: economy.

Egypt air flight MS 420 departs Abu Simbel at 13:00 and arrives Aswan at 13:45.

On arrival at Aswan's airport you will be met by our representative and transferred back to your hotel. The remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Overnight: Sofitel legend old cataract hotel. **Meals:** Breakfast

Day 11: Fly to London (via Cairo)

Today, you will be met and transferred to Aswan domestic airport and check-in for an Egypt air flight to Cairo. Flight duration: 1 hour, 30 minutes. Class of travel: economy. Egypt air flight MS 394 departs Aswan at 11:25, arrives Cairo at 12:50.

On arrival in Cairo international airport, collect your checked luggage and walk through to international departures and check-in for your connecting bmi flight to London Heathrow (terminal 1). Flight duration: 5 hours, 10 minutes. Class of travel: economy. bmi flight BD 772 departs Cairo at 16:50, arrives London Heathrow (T1) at 21:00

Overnight: NA **Meals:** Breakfast



Laterally sleeping...

Mena house Oberoi, Cairo (3 garden facing rooms in garden wing)

6 April to 9 April, 2012

This palatial hotel in the shadow of the great pyramids has enchanted guests since 1869. Located in forty acres of jasmine scented gardens, Mena house Oberoi has played host to kings and emperors, heads of state and celebrities. Its royal history is reflected in period interiors that are embellished with exquisite antiques, handcrafted furniture and rich textiles. Mena house Oberoi has rooms and suites in both the palace wing and the more recently constructed garden wing. All guest accommodation is air-conditioned with en suite bathrooms. A select number of rooms offer breathtaking views of the great pyramid. Hotel leisure facilities include an out-door swimming pool, a fitness centre, and a choice of bars, and a variety of international as well as Egyptian cuisine. Riding stables are nearby, and there is an adjacent 9-hole golf course with distracting views of the pyramids. NB: guests should be aware that the hotel does not fulfil all of the expectations of a 5 star property. The garden wing has been recently and attractively renovated.



Hilton Resort, Luxor (3 standard Nile view rooms)

9 April to 13 April, 2012

Beautifully located beside the river Nile close to Luxor's famous Karnak temple, the Hilton Luxor has recently undergone a multi-million pound renovation. The property now boasts chic modern architecture combined with authentic local style, and offers 236 well appointed air-conditioned rooms, including 24 deluxe rooms, 5 suites and 5 spa suites - the majority of which have private balconies with breathtaking views of the Nile and its western bank. Facilities include the Nayara spa - the city's only world class spa centre - a choice of seven bars and restaurants, and two infinity pools, each at the edge of the Nile.



...sleeping Laterally

Sofitel Legend Hotel, Aswan (2 premium Nile facing rooms, Nile wing)

13 April to 16 April, 2012

Majestically positioned on a shelf of pink granite overlooking the Nile, the luxurious old cataract hotel was built by the British in 1899 and is one of the gems of Egypt in terms of its charm and character. Behind its Victorian façade, the hotel retains its original beauty, receiving guests in an historic lobby complete with polished marble floors, and high classic Islamic arches that are reminiscent of Granada's Alhambra. The hotel offers two different luxury experiences within its premises; in which heritage is preserved in the old palace wing's 76 rooms and suites, while contemporary elegance has been lavishly designed in the Nile wing's 62 rooms and suites. The old cataract's grand shaded terrace is the place to enjoy high tea in Egypt and has what is arguably the most sought after views in the country. A choice of dining options is offered ranging from Mediterranean fare at oriental Kebabgy with its spectacular terrace overlooking the Nile, to the famous 1902 restaurant where fine dining is offered in an ambiance that invokes the atmosphere of the thousand and one nights. Leisure facilities include an outdoor heated swimming pool, and a spa where rejuvenating treatments from around the world are on offer in addition to an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, hammam and gymnasium.

