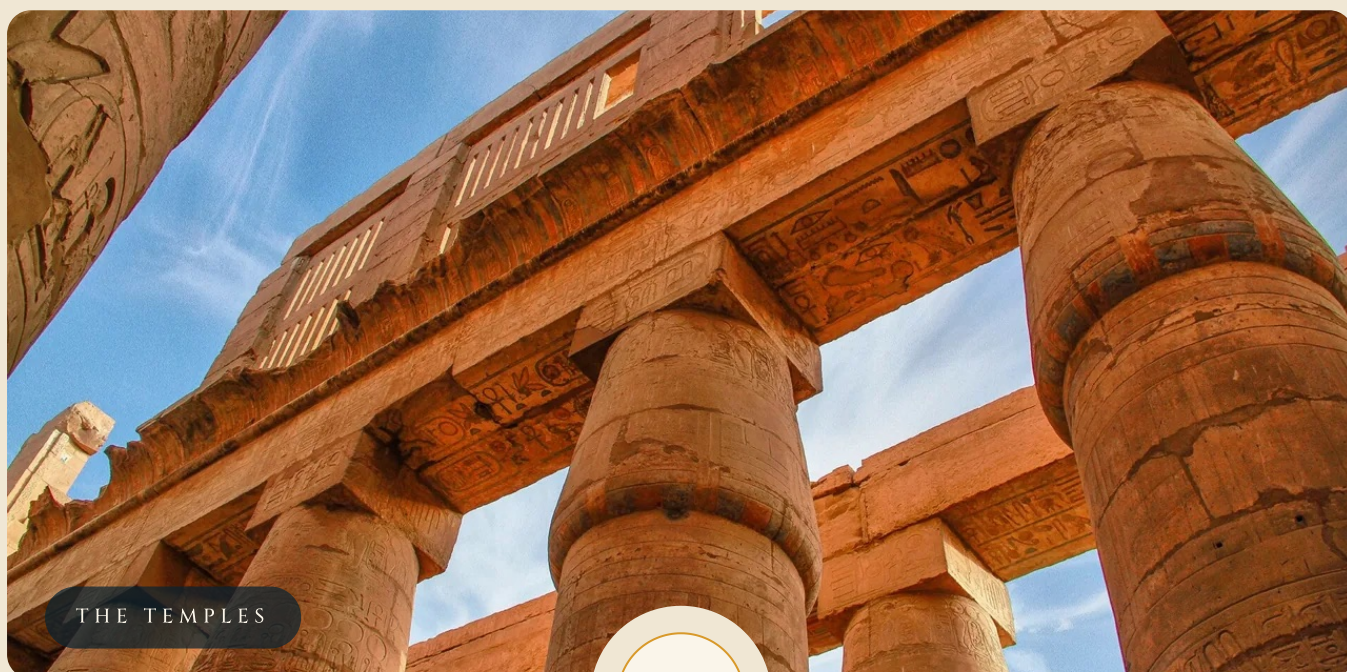


THIS IS EGYPT

A NILE CRUISE ITINERARY · 04 NIGHTS · 05 DAYS

# Luxor *to* Aswan

A slow journey through the living history of the Nile. From the monumental temples of Luxor to the tranquil islands of Aswan, five days that unfold between archaeological wonders, long stretches of river, traditional felucca sailing and unhurried moments on board.



THE TEMPLES



THE RIVER

# Five days, four nights, one unhurried river

No. 01

This is the classic Nile voyage, sailed south from Luxor to Aswan. Days unfold to a gentle pattern: a temple in the morning with your Egyptologist, the river in the afternoon, and evenings on board as the banks slide past. You unpack once, and Egypt comes to you.

## SOUTHBOUND · UP THE NILE

- Luxor**  
 Karnak & Luxor Temple · the West Bank  
 DAYS 1–2 · NIGHT ONE ON BOARD
- Esna**  
 The lock passage, on the second afternoon
- Edfu**  
 The great Temple of Horus, on the third morning  
 NIGHT TWO ON BOARD
- Kom Ombo**  
 The twin temple of Sobek and Horus, at the water's edge  
 DAY THREE, AFTERNOON
- Aswan**  
 Philae · the High Dam · felucca through the islands  
 DAYS 3–5 · NIGHTS THREE & FOUR

|    |              |                               |
|----|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 | LUXOR        | Arrival & the East Bank       |
| 02 | LUXOR → EDFU | The West Bank & sailing south |
| 03 | EDFU → ASWAN | Temples by the river          |
| 04 | ASWAN        | Philae & the islands          |
| 05 | ASWAN        | Departure                     |

## EVERY DAY ON BOARD

- ✦ Lunch and dinner on board, full board throughout
- ✦ Afternoon tea as the river slides past
- ✦ Evening entertainment after dinner
- ✦ A welcome drink on arrival, day one

## *Ancient Egypt · The Nile · Slow Travel*

THE EXPERIENCE, IN THREE IDEAS

## GOOD TO KNOW

- ✦ October to April is peak season, with the best weather on deck
- ✦ The same route also runs northbound, Aswan to Luxor, over three nights

# Arrival @ the East Bank

*Luxor*

KARNAK, THE LARGEST TEMPLE COMPLEX OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Your journey begins in Luxor, the ancient city of kings. Settle into your cabin, take a welcome drink on deck, and let the ship become home before the first of the temples.

The afternoon belongs to the East Bank. At **Karnak**, a site built and rebuilt over two thousand years, you walk the great hypostyle hall where 134 columns rise like a stone forest. **Luxor Temple** follows, at its most beautiful as the light softens. Return to the ship for afternoon tea, dinner and the first evening's entertainment, moored beneath the city lights.

## THE DAY

- ◆ Karnak Temple
- ◆ Luxor Temple
- ◆ Welcome drink on board

## OVERNIGHT · LUXOR



LIGHT AND SHADOW IN THE HYPOSTYLE HALL



LUXOR TEMPLE, FLOODLIT AS THE EVENING COMES

# The West Bank & sailing south

*Luxor → Edfu*



THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS, FOLDED INTO THE THEBAN HILLS

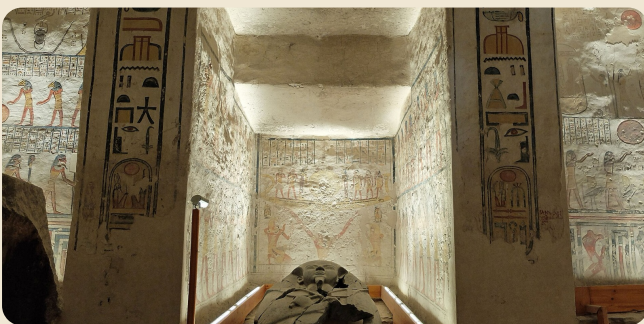
Cross to Luxor's legendary West Bank, where the royal tombs reveal another chapter of ancient Egypt. In the **Valley of the Kings and Queens** you descend into painted burial chambers whose colours have barely faded in three thousand years; the terraces of the **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut** rise from the desert floor; and the **Colossi of Memnon** keep their long watch by the road.

Then the trip changes key. The ship casts off after lunch and you settle into the rhythm of the river, passing through the lock at **Esna** as the fields and palm groves slide by. Tea on deck, dinner under way, and by night the ship is alongside in Edfu.

## THE DAY

- ✦ Valley of the Kings & Queens
- ✦ Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- ✦ Colossi of Memnon
- ✦ The Esna passage

## OVERNIGHT · EDFU



INSIDE KV9, THE TOMB OF RAMESSES V AND VI



THE TEMPLE OF QUEEN HATSHEPSUT, SET INTO THE CLIFFS

# Temples by the river

Edfu → Kom Ombo → Aswan



EDFU, THE BEST-PRESERVED TEMPLE IN EGYPT

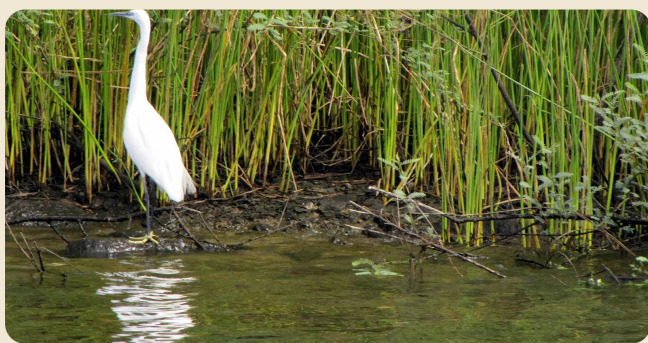
Morning belongs to the **Temple of Edfu**, the best-preserved in Egypt: a short ride from the dock, and suddenly you are standing under a pylon that has kept its full height for two thousand years, in halls still roofed against the sky.

Back on board, the ship continues south through a day of pure river. After lunch comes **Kom Ombo**, dramatically positioned on a bend of the Nile, its twin sanctuaries dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Horus. By evening the journey carries on toward Aswan, arriving as the town's lights come up across the water.

## THE DAY

- ✦ Temple of Edfu
- ✦ Kom Ombo Temple
- ✦ An afternoon of Nile sailing

## OVERNIGHT · ASWAN



RIVER LIFE AT THE WATER LINE



KOM OMBO, THE TWIN TEMPLE AT THE WATER'S EDGE

# Philae @ the islands

Aswan



PHILAE, THE ISLAND TEMPLE OF ISIS, REACHED BY BOAT

Aswan is where the Nile turns beautiful in a different way: granite islands, white sails and Nubian villages on the dunes. The morning covers the town's landmarks, from the **High Dam** that tamed the river to the **Unfinished Obelisk** still lying in its quarry. Then a small boat carries you to **Philae**, the island temple of Isis, rescued stone by stone from the rising water.

The afternoon is the river at its slowest: a **traditional felucca ride** threading through the islands under sail, ending at Aswan's **Botanical Garden**, an island of shade and birdsong. One last dinner on board, moored beneath the town.

## THE DAY

- ✦ The High Dam
- ✦ The Unfinished Obelisk
- ✦ Philae Temple
- ✦ Traditional felucca ride
- ✦ The Botanical Garden

## OVERNIGHT · ASWAN



AMONG THE GRANITE ISLANDS OF THE FIRST CATARACT



THE PALM AVENUES OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

## DAY FIVE

# Departure, gently

Aswan

Wake to your final morning on the Nile. Breakfast on board, check-out, and your onward journey from Aswan, whether that is the flight home, the train north, or the road south to **Abu Simbel**, the day trip many travellers add before leaving.

### THE DAY

- ✦ Breakfast on board
- ✦ Check-out after breakfast



FOUR NIGHTS ON THE WATER, AND THE RIVER STAYS WITH YOU

## THE EXPERIENCE

**4 + 5**

NIGHTS ON BOARD · DAYS  
ON THE RIVER

**East & West**

BOTH BANKS OF LUXOR

**5 temples**

KARNAK · LUXOR · EDFU ·  
KOM OMBO · PHILAE

**Make it yours.** This is the classic four-night pattern, sailed by most of the five-star fleet. The same route runs north over three nights from Aswan, and the dahabiyas sail it slower still. **Tell us your dates on WhatsApp** and we will match the itinerary to the right boat.

# The practical page

*Luxor → Aswan*

## DRESS FOR THE TEMPLES

Egypt is relaxed, but temples reward modesty: shoulders and knees covered, light fabrics, comfortable shoes and a hat. Evenings on the river can turn cool in winter.

## SUN & SEASON

October to April brings the best weather. May to August is very hot in Upper Egypt, so excursions start early. Whatever the month, carry water and use the shade on deck.

## MONEY & TIPS

Carry small Egyptian pound notes for kiosks and tips; the better boats take cards on board. Budget roughly US\$8 to 12 per person per day for the crew box.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The Valley of the Kings sells a photo pass for cameras, and flash is never allowed inside tombs. Rules shift from site to site; your guide will confirm on the day.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Fly into Luxor and out of Aswan, usually via Cairo, or take the sleeper train. The route also runs in reverse over three nights if your dates fit better that way.

## ENTRY PAPERWORK

Most nationalities can use Egypt's official e-visa or a visa on arrival. Check the current rules for your passport before you fly; we can point you to the official portal.

## EXTEND THE JOURNEY



### Abu Simbel

The rock temples of Ramesses II, by dawn road trip or a short flight from Aswan, before or after the cruise.



### Sunrise balloon

Lift off before dawn over the West Bank, then land as the tombs open. Slots neatly ahead of the day two visits.



### Karnak after dark

The sound and light show among the floodlit columns, an easy first-evening add-on from the ship.

All three are quoted live with your cruise. **Message us on WhatsApp** and we will price the combination.

THIS IS EGYPT

# Ready when you are

This itinerary sails aboard dozens of ships and dahabiyas in our directory, every one photographed, described honestly and quoted live. No recycled price grids, and no booking fee to ask.



1

## Choose your boat

Browse the full fleet at [thisis-egypt.com/nile-cruises](https://thisis-egypt.com/nile-cruises), with filters for operator, size and trip length.

2

## Shortlist & compare

The three-question finder narrows the fleet, and the compare tool puts up to four boats side by side.

3

## Get a live quote

Message us your dates on WhatsApp. We reply with current, accurate rates for the boats that fit.

**[thisis-egypt.com/nile-cruises](https://thisis-egypt.com/nile-cruises)**

WhatsApp **+20 100 221 2390** · Live quotes, honest advice, no pressure

Tap either line, or scan the code, and tell us your dates.



SCAN TO CHAT

Photography: the This is Egypt library, with Wikimedia Commons contributions by Diego Delso and R Prazeres (CC BY-SA 4.0), Vyacheslav Argenberg (CC BY 4.0) and Olaf Tausch (CC BY 3.0), plus public-domain images by Warren LeMay.