



1-888-966-8687 FOR RESERVATIONS

Exploring Egypt Aboard Sun Goddess

9 DAYS FROM \$9,237 WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

Trip Type	Activity Level	Service Level	Group Size
 Expedition Cruise	 Light-Moderate	Premium	Max 60

EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

- Venture inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu to the pharaoh's burial chamber, where an Egyptologist will share fascinating details of the site's construction.
- Journey to the legendary Valley of the Kings and explore the famed tombs of Tutankhamun and Seti I, before marveling at the temple of Hatshepsut.
- Visit the temples of Ramses II and his beloved Queen Nefertari at the remarkable site of Abu Simbel, originally constructed in the mid-13th century BC.
- Extend your expedition with a more in-depth, up-close look at Egypt's sprawling capital or the cultural-rich country of Jordan when you book a pre-trip Cairo Extension or a post-trip Jordan Extension.

ITINERARY

Discover the wonders of ancient Egypt on this journey along the verdant Nile. Gaze at the Great Sphinx of Giza before following an Egyptologist through the narrow passages of the Great Pyramid of Khufu. Visit museums, housing priceless artifacts and the mummies of ancient kings, and explore the Great Hypostyle Hall of Karnak Temple with its 70-foot-tall (21 m) columns. Cruise the Nile aboard the stunning *Sun Goddess*

on your way to sites steeped in history, including the mysterious Valley of the Kings, the riverside ruins at Kom Ombo and the temples at Abu Simbel.

DAY 1: CAIRO, EGYPT

Arrive in Egypt's vibrant capital, known for its bustling souks and proximity to many ancient marvels, before checking in to the St. Regis Cairo, your home for the next 3 days.

Accommodations The St. Regis Cairo

DAY 2: CAIRO, EGYPT

Start your day at the Pyramids of Giza, the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Venture inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu, following the Grand Gallery's narrow passageways to the innermost burial chamber. There, your expedition team will share fascinating details of the site's construction and photography tips on how to best capture this dramatic setting.

Outside, gaze at the Great Sphinx of Giza, carved from a single massive piece of stone, and take in views of the surrounding monuments. In the afternoon, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and time to explore the city on your own or to visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization to view the royal mummies. Later that evening, gather for a welcome reception with your fellow Guests, followed by dinner at your leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations The St. Regis Cairo

DAY 3: CAIRO / SAQQARA

Spend the morning touring the Grand Egyptian Museum or the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, which feature collections of priceless artifacts, including the treasures of Tutankhamun. After lunch, travel to Saqqara to see the Mastaba of Mereruka and the Step Pyramid of Djoser, whose revolutionary design initiated the art of pyramid-building. You'll also view some of Egypt's most charming wall paintings, which showcase scenes of harvesting, fishing, music-making and dancing.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations The St. Regis Cairo

DAY 4: LUXOR / EMBARK

Fly by private charter to Luxor in Upper Egypt and explore the Karnak Temple Complex, where for 2,000 years some 30 pharaohs added their own monuments to this vast site. Marvel at dramatic reliefs and carvings, created by some of Egypt's finest ancient artisans, and gaze upon the 70-foot-tall (21 m) columns in the Great Hypostyle Hall. Then board the elegant *Sun Goddess*, your home for the next 4 days, and enjoy a late lunch. In the evening, you'll visit the exquisite Luxor Temple, filled with magnificent pylons and columns and guarded by massive statues of Ramesses II.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations *Sun Goddess* through Day 7

DAY 5: WEST BANK / SAILING THE NILE

Sail to the Nile's fabled West Bank and the Valley of the Kings, the burial ground to Egypt's greatest pharaohs, including Seti I and Tutankhamun. Continue to the Valley of the Queens, where you'll gaze at the exquisitely preserved wall paintings of Queen Nefertari and marvel at the temple of Hatshepsut, set beneath dramatic sandstone cliffs. In the afternoon, return to the ship for an onboard lunch and a cruise down the Nile, taking in scenic views of the verdant riverbanks. Relax in the ship's spa or lounge, hear presentations from your expedition team and enjoy dinner as *Sun Goddess* anchors in Esna this evening.

Please note: The tomb of Nefertari is currently closed due to ongoing renovations. During this closure, Guests will instead visit the Ramesseum.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: ESNA / SAILING THE NILE

Early this morning, walk to the nearby Temple of Khnum in the contemporary town of Esna. An Egyptologist will explain how silt from centuries of the Nile's annual floods buried the temple, which is not yet fully excavated. Wander through the town's narrow streets on your way back to the ship, immersing yourself in the local life and culture. Enjoy more onboard presentations before visiting the hilltop temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to the hawk-headed Haroeris and crocodile-headed Sobek.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: ASWAN / PHILAE

As the ship approaches Aswan, stand on deck to capture panoramic views of the sailboat-filled harbor. Then journey ashore to the island of Philae, where you'll explore its stunning monuments, including the remarkably preserved Temple of Isis. Visit a granite quarry to learn about how massive obelisks and other structures were carefully cut from solid rock and transported to the river prior to being sent down the Nile to Lower Egypt. You'll also have the opportunity to view an unfinished obelisk as you finish your tour of this site. Then, return to the ship for a presentation on Nubian culture later in the evening.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: DISEMBARK / ABU SIMBEL / CAIRO

This morning, disembark *Sun Goddess* and fly by private charter to the remarkable site of Abu Simbel, which sits on an island in Lake Nasser. Two temples are found here: one honoring Ramses II's victory at Kadesh and the other dedicated to his beloved Queen Nefertari. After lunch, fly by private charter to Cairo and check in to the 5-star InterContinental Citystars Hotel, where you'll gather for a dinner with your fellow Guests.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations InterContinental Citystars Hotel

DAY 9: CAIRO

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast

WHAT TO EXPECT

Guests on this expedition should be in good health and comfortable walking or standing for extended periods—sometimes on uneven terrain, in heat and humidity.

Daily activities may include walking tours, visits to historic or cultural sites, and excursions in large crowds. All departures are family friendly.

Expedition Team

A National Geographic Expert or Photographer joins the expedition team on select departures.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers upon arrival/departure
- Accommodation aboard the world-class expedition ships of the National Geographic-Lindblad fleet or a luxury chartered ship
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Daily activities and excursions as indicated in the itinerary
- Beer and wine with meals aboard the ship
- Laundry services aboard the ship
- Gratuities

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to and from destination, as well as internal airfare where applicable
 - Trip cancellation insurance or any other travel insurance
 - Visas
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