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Cairo to Cairo 1 days, departing 22 May 2013

Trip Style:

Route: Cairo to Cairo

Length: 1 days

Transport: Overnight seater train, 4WD jeep, bus, felucca

Accommodation: Hotels (10nts), desert camp (1nt), felucca (1nt), overnight seater train (2nts)

Ratings for this trip



Countries Visited

Egypt

Egypt is a country full of international celebrated sites including the Pyramids and the River Nile. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Pyramids are one of the most visited sites in the world. If you travel to Egypt, a trip to these is a must. The River Nile is another must see spot, as it travels through 5 countries including Egypt. Weaving through the Sahara Desert, it covers an incredible distance of over 4000 miles.

The capital is Cairo, and it is the largest city in Africa. It has many interesting places to visit, such as the Cairo Tower and Egyptian museums. The city might be large, but so is the opportunity to get involved to experience the Egyptian culture.



Ancient Egypt spans back an incredible 6000 years and throughout the history music has been central to it's culture. The God Thoth was credited with the invention of music by the Ancient Egyptians. Today typical folk music is alive in the rural parts of the country and is a classic tradition. As the piano and violin were introduced into Egypt, the music became more classical at the beginning of the 20th century. Like the music, the cuisine too is beautiful. "Ful Medames" is flowing with vegetables and is one of the national dishes of Egypt.

Egypt has an amazing history, and with so much to be discovered, there is an adventure waiting to be found.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 to 2: The never-ending stream of life and noise makes Cairo fascinating to explore. In free time, head out to discover the Sphinx and the Pyramids of Giza before catching an overnight train to Aswan.

Wed 22 May to Thu 23 May 2013

Cairo

Situated on the banks of the River Nile, Cairo is the largest city in Africa. There are plenty of things to see and do with free time in Cairo. Take a walk along the Corniche or travel along the river by felucca. If the

crowds and the noise of the city are too much, catch the metro into the oldest part of the city, the Coptic Christian sector - with its narrow cobbled streets and ancient churches, it's a haven of peace and quiet.

The Egyptian Museum, which holds the fabulous Tutankhamun collection, mosques dating back to the time of Mohammed and the famous Khan-el-Khalili bazaar are just a few of the sites that Cairo has to offer. You can spend time visiting the Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, and at night you can witness the famous sound and light show. Nearby is the Necropolis of Saqqara, which you can visit by horse or camel through the desert.

Day 3 to 4: Nestled on the banks of the Nile, Aswan is a great base for exploration. Consider visiting a nearby Nubian village for a dinner of traditional delicacies and to enjoy the local swimming holes. A day trip to the fascinating temples of Abu Simbel is also highly recommended.

Fri 24 May to Sat 25 May 2013

Aswan

Aswan is a beautiful town, situated on one of the most picturesque parts of the Nile with stunning vistas, a great and vibrant souq, and the whole town is characterised by the Nubian people. It is an ideal place to relax, perhaps by taking an afternoon boat trip, finishing with drinks on the terrace of the Old Cataract Hotel. Later in the evening take a wander into the souq. The atmosphere of the Aswan souq is second to none and some excellent bargains can be had.

At Aswan you can visit the Philae temples, a quarry with an unfinished obelisk, and the high dam, built to control the flow of the Nile thus creating Lake Nasser, the largest artificial lake in the world. There is also an opportunity to trek into the desert by camel to a deserted 6th century monastery. You may take an option to fly or drive down to Abu Simbel to visit the two magnificent temples. They were moved uphill from the rising floodwaters of Lake Nasser by a Unesco project in the 1960s. Perhaps finish off your days with a visit to the stunning new Aswan Museum, before dinner on one of the many floating river front restaurants.

There are so many other activities around Aswan, but you should not miss the opportunity to take at least a short ride in a felucca, the local sailing boat - a great way to experience the ultimate Nile sunset.

Day 5: A Nubian crew provides food and song on this traditional felucca journey down the Nile. Watch river life in action and fall asleep on deck beneath the starry night sky.

Sun 26 May 2013

Day 6 to 7: Wander through the temple complex of Karnak or travel by donkey to the open-air museum that is the spectacular Valley of the Kings.

Mon 27 May to Tue 28 May 2013

Visa Information:

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey, once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, information and kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these Trip Notes

These trip notes were printed on 22/05/2013

Luxor

Situated on the banks of the Nile, Luxor was once the ancient Egyptian capital of Thebes. From the spectacular temple complex of Karnak to the unbelievable paintings and hieroglyphs in the tombs of the Valley of the Kings, this open-air museum is full of wonderfully preserved reminders of the Pharaohs.

Day 8 to 9: There is a plenty to do in this Mediterranean city. Visit the eerie catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa or admire the modern architecture of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Wed 29 May to Thu 30 May 2013

Alexandria

Egypt's second largest city and main port, Alexandria was built by the Greek architect Dinocrates in 331 BC under the orders of Alexander the Great. The city, immortalising Alexander's name, quickly flourished into a prominent cultural, intellectual, political and economic metropolis.

Day 10 to 11: This remote, exotic oasis is a lush paradise among the desert dunes. Explore the maze-like ruins of the mud brick fort or perhaps take a dip in Cleopatra's Bath.

Fri 31 May to Sat 01 Jun 2013

Day 12: Uncover the legend of the golden mummies or indulge in a relaxing soak in mineral-rich springs.

Sun 02 Jun 2013

Day 13: Travel through the windswept, arid dunes of the Western Desert. Spend a memorable evening camping among the strange moonscape of the White Desert.

Mon 03 Jun 2013

Day 14 to 15: Return to the busy streets of Cairo for some final sightseeing or shopping.

Tue 04 Jun to Wed 05 Jun 2013