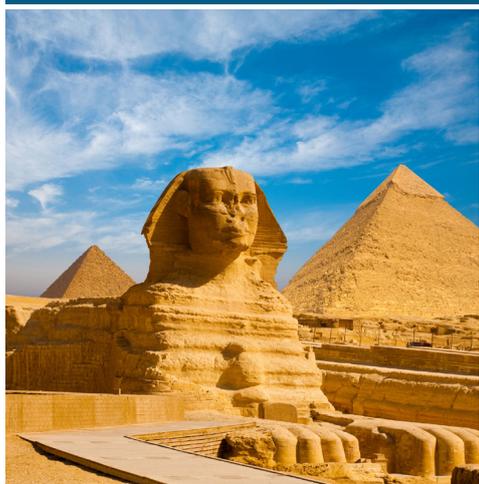


# Cairo, Pyramids and the Nile



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Blanketed in an extraordinary golden hue, sail the world's longest river and delve into a captivating kingdom brimming with ancient monuments and old world charm.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Egypt. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 1: UK to Cairo D

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Cairo. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you can enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

### DAY 2: Cairo B/L

Cairo is a melting pot of culture, where ancient landmarks and modern districts harmoniously convene. On the banks of the world's longest river, enjoy delicious cuisine and immerse yourself in ancient history on today's tour of this lively city's most world-renowned sites, led by a professional Egyptology guide. Journey to the complex which houses one of the Seven Wonders of the World – the mighty Giza Pyramids, comprising of six impeccable geometric structures, erected to house the immortal remains of deceased Egyptian Pharaohs. Majestically overlooking the temples and tombs of Ancient Egypt, head towards the nearby 73-metre statue of the Sphinx which depicts a mythical half-lion, half-human creature, and was astonishingly carved from one single piece of limestone. Following lunch, transfer back to your hotel where you can enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

### DAY 3: Cairo B

This morning explore a treasure trove of fascinating history, at the Egyptian Museum or Grand Egyptian Museum, where unbelievable exhibits showcase over 120,000 artefacts, including Egypt's earliest hieroglyphic engravings and its most iconic relic - Tutankhamun's gleaming golden mask. This afternoon is yours to spend at leisure. Alternatively, you could experience one of Cairo's most remarkable sights with a visit to the Citadel of Saladin, strategically built upon the highest point in Cairo as a colossal defence against crusader invasions. Concealed behind the excellently preserved fortification stone walls, explore a collection of museums and palaces, as well as the spellbinding Muhammad Ali's 19th century Alabaster Mosque, whose towering minarets regally overlook Old Islamic Cairo.

### DAY 4: Cairo to Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Depart Cairo after an early breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight to the city of Aswan, where you will embark on your Nile River Cruise. After lunch onboard, enjoy your first excursion, and witness a pioneering example of hydro engineering on the banks of the River Nile at the High Dam. Later, gain a fascinating insight into ancient Egyptian stone-work techniques with a visit to the Unfinished Obelisk in the Northern Quarries, where the marks of workers' tools and faint carving outlines eerily remain visible. Remaining attached to the bedrock below, this monumental tower would have weighed a mind-blowing

1,168 tonnes if the development had succeeded, however, plans were abandoned when cracks began to appear in the granite. Finally, take in the splendid Temple of Philae, built in 690 B.C in honour of the goddess of health and marriage; known as the last temple of classical Egyptian design, marvel at the domineering Pylons embellished with traditional hieroglyphs from its new position upon Agilkia Island, having been rescued from a watery grave on Philae Island during the dramatic flooding of Lake Nasser. Return back to your vessel, for dinner onboard and your first night on the Nile.

### DAY 5: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Early this morning, you have an optional excursion to visit the iconic temples of Abu Simbel (at a fee). Intricately carved into a golden sandstone cliff overlooking the Nile, wonder at the mesmerising 66-foot seated figures of King Ramses, before returning back to the boat for breakfast. After a leisurely morning, enjoy a unique sailing experience as you breathe in fresh river breezes upon a delightful felucca, a traditional wooden sailing boat which carries you to the botanical gardens of Kitchener's Island. Brimming with subtropical plants and brightly coloured blooms, bask in tranquillity as you wander through this beautiful setting, where the gentle flutter of palm fronds serves as a serene soundtrack. This afternoon, glide along the Nile and sail into Kom Ombo for an unforgettable visit to the impressive Temple of Kom Ombo. Unique in its design, the symmetrical rooms, courts and halls were identically duplicated and dedicated to two sets of gods: Sobek, the god of fertility, and Haroeris, the god of the sky. Meander amongst the elaborately decorated interior, whose columns and walls showcase detailed etchings and carvings, before returning to your ship for a tasty dinner on board.

### DAY 6: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

Pass through the Esna Lock and soak in incredible views as you sail towards the ancient settlement city of Edfu, disembarking for the chance to visit the Temple of Horus. Guarded by gargantuan granite statues of Horus, enter through the towering gateway and discover the halls and chambers of this spellbinding ode to the gods which was once concealed under a blanket of sand. Returning to your ship for breakfast, enjoy a morning at leisure on board as the cruise sails towards Luxor. After lunch, continue to the expansive Karnak Temple Complex to wander a section of this 200-acre site. Nearby, admire the strikingly graceful Luxor Temple, before returning to your ship for a night moored in Luxor.

### DAY 7: Nile River Cruise B/L/D

After breakfast, cross over to the west bank of Luxor, where you will visit the Valley of the Kings, Ancient Egypt's royalty. From here continue to the Temple of Hatshepsut, a magnificent memorial temple built into the cliffs of this sacred valley. En route back to your vessel, stop at the Colossi of Memnon, massive twin statues, the gatekeepers of the valley.

### DAY 8: Luxor to the UK or Extension B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK via Cairo, or continue on to your chosen extension.

## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

### Nile River Cruise information

#### MS Royal Viking (4 nights)

This deluxe cruise boat is tastefully decorated throughout in a contemporary style and equipped to cater to your every need. With high standards of service, accommodation and Egyptian hospitality, you can relax in comfort and watch the ever-changing scenery unfold before your eyes. Each deluxe cabin has air conditioning, complimentary toiletries, full-length opening panoramic windows and a balcony rail. Further amenities include a restaurant, a lounge bar situated on the main deck, a large sun deck and a swimming pool.

Please note: your cruise is shared with international clients from other companies.



### Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from hotels to boats. Your accommodation is generally rated as local four to five-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Egypt. All group tour hotels and cruises have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share, please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

**Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

### Meals

During your stay in Cairo your breakfast will be at the hotel, with lunch in a local restaurant. During your cruise all meals will be served on board the boat. As there is a specialist chef on board, all dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.

## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Cairo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Viking Travel**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Viking Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Viking Travel during your stay the details are:

### Viking Travel

Contact number: 0020100665591

E-mail: [info@viking-egypt.net](mailto:info@viking-egypt.net)

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Viking Travel in Egypt**

24 hour telephone

00201092958196/ 0001206439084

24 hour E-mail

[vikingluxor@hotmail.com](mailto:vikingluxor@hotmail.com)

[sohila@viking-egypt.net](mailto:sohila@viking-egypt.net)

## WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the electricity supply on board the boat is 220 V. You will need a 2 round pin plug adapter
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars

- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

A visa is required for entry into Egypt. British passport holders need a visa for visits of up to 30 days. You can get a visa on arrival by payment in Sterling, US Dollars or Euros; the visa fee is US\$25 at approved bank kiosks within airport arrival halls, before reaching immigration counters. Alternatively, we work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into Egypt. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destination's tourist board or embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation

in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

**Physical Accessibility**

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Cairo, Pyramids & The Nile is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

**Tour Guides**

Your transfers will be with an English-Speaking Driver. During your excursion in Cairo, this will be with an English-Speaking Guide. On board your cruise you will have an English-Speaking guide who will accompany you during your included excursions. Your return airport transfers will be with an English-speaking driver.

**Tipping**

It is at your discretion to tip your crew members, guides and drivers. We would recommend to tip approximately £6 per person per day. This is a total of £48 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected on board during your first briefing meeting with the tour guide on Nile Cruise. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged.

**Group Size**

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 1-2. If in the unlikely event there are less than 1-2 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

**Currency Exchange**

The currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. However, cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency.

**Personal Expenses**

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £250 - £350 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

**Credit Card Information**

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

**Itinerary Changes**

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

**Ramadan**

Ramadan is estimated to begin on the 22nd March to 20th April 2023 and 10th March to 9th April 2024. Ramadan is the most important month in the Muslim Calendar, and it is a time for people to be with their loved ones, self-reflect and renew their faith. During this time Muslims fast from dawn until dusk and abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and chewing gum. If you are a tourist visiting Jordan, you will not be expected to fast. While eating, drinking and smoking is strictly prohibited in public places, hotels will offer meals and non-alcoholic drinks at many of their restaurants and bars. If you wish to consume alcohol during your trip, you may do so in your hotel room during the day, and some bars will be open as normal after sunset. Your guide during your tour will be on hand to give you any additional information that you require. When packing for your trip, it's important you include a couple of different outfit options, so you're prepared for all the activities you wish to take part in. When you're relaxing by the hotel pool or sunbathing on the resort beach it's fine to wear swim wear and beach clothes. However, when out in public during the day, it is advisable to be more covered up to show respect to the local customs. We would recommend that women cover their shoulders and knees and men should wear knee length shorts or trousers when out in public areas.

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

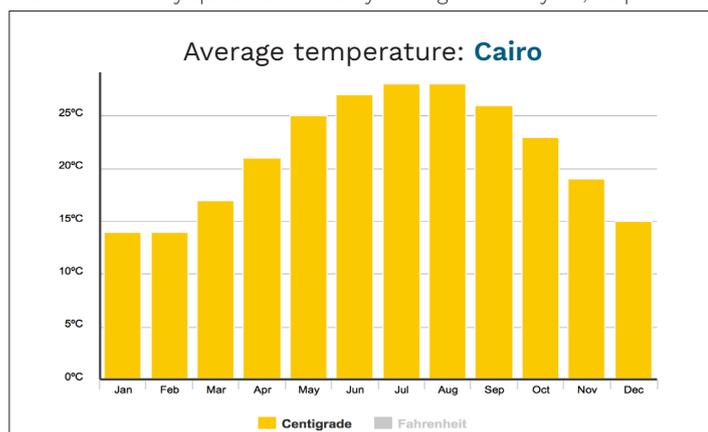
**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.**

**Airport Extras**

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

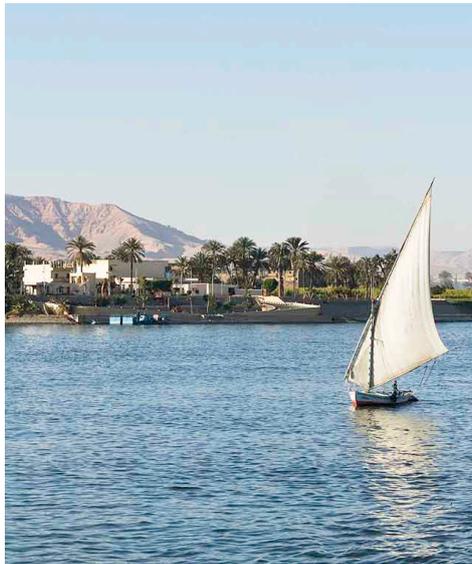
**WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



# Luxor City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Located on the banks of the Nile, Luxor is often called the world's largest open-air museum and offers a wealth of temples, ruins and tombs. Explore the legacy of the Pharaohs with a 2-night add-on in this fascinating riverside city.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

*This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Luxor.*

### Hotel Information

Luxor (2 nights on Bed & Breakfast)

Your stay in Luxor will take place at the 5★ Mercure Luxor Karnak Hotel on Bed & Breakfast

Experience the timeless beauty of the Nile amid the contemporary design of the Mercure Luxor Karnak hotel. Nestled in a shady garden on the river's East bank, the hotel offers private terraces or balconies. Unwind with a plunge into the swimming pool overlooking the Nile. Savor barbecue dishes at the open-air Karnak grill or dine in the atmosphere of a pharaonic temple at Opet restaurant. All rooms boast garden views and are fitted with air-conditioning, satellite TV, direct dial phone, minibar, safe and free WIFI.

**Hotel address:** El Zinia Gebly Street, Luxor, Egypt

**Contact number:** 0020 95 2378025

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

**Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.**

### Tour guides

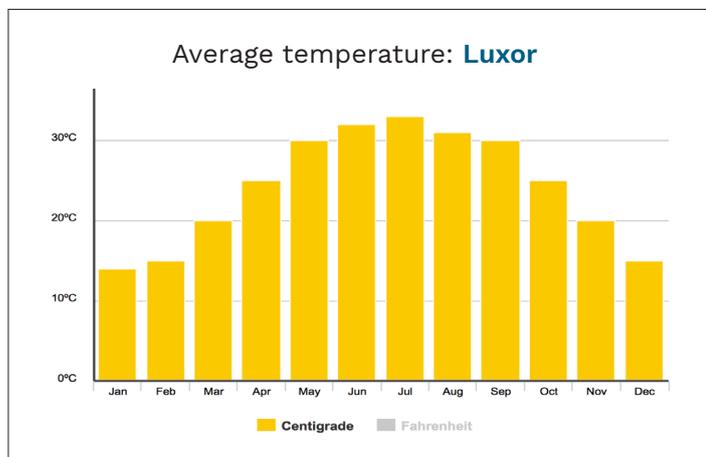
Your stay in Luxor is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, meals and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

### Please note

This extension stay in Luxor will take place at the end of your main tour.



5★ Mercure Luxor Karnak Hotel

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

# Hurghada Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



## TRIP OVERVIEW

The former fishing village of Hurghada has become a popular tourist resort, attracting sun-seekers who head to the shores of the Red Sea for excellent beaches, water sports and easy access to the nearby mountains and deserts. Enjoy a relaxing 4-night stay on the coast with this All-Inclusive add-on.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

*This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Hurghada.*

### Hotel Information

**Hurghada (4 nights on All-Inclusive)**

Your stay in Hurghada will take place at the **5★ Jasmine Palace Hotel and Spa** on All-Inclusive.

This hotel occupies a prime location in Hurghada, right on edge of the Red Sea. It offers a range of facilities including an outdoor pool, a private beach and 5 restaurants. Guestrooms are comfortable and well-equipped to ensure a comfortable stay.

**Hotel address:** Km 18 Sahl Hasheesh Road, Hurghada, Red Sea Governorate 1961306, Egypt

**Contact number:** 0020 65 3461060

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

**Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.**

### Tour guides

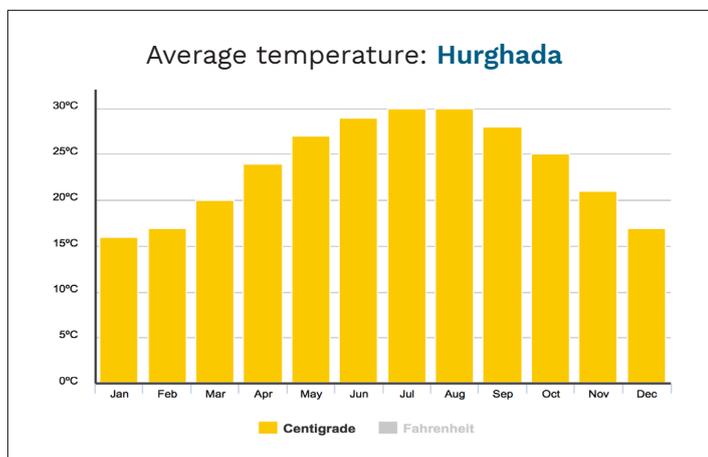
Your stay in Hurghada is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included. Your transfer from Luxor to Hurghada will be by car and take approximately 4 hours. You will then fly back from Hurghada to the UK, via Cairo.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

### Please note

This extension stay in Hurghada will take place at the end of your main tour.



5★ Jasmine Palace Hotel and Spa

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**