

Code JGEEU **Egypt Unplugged**

25% Late-Space Special available on 07 Jan 14, 14 Jan 14, 21 Jan 14, 28 Jan 14, 04 Feb 14, 11 Feb 14, 18 Feb 14, 25 Feb 14 departure(s)

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 11-11-2013

Tour Code: JGEEU

Duration: 10 nights / 11 days

Joining City: Cairo

Departure City: Cairo

Nearest Joining International Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)

Nearest Departing International Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

-  [Packing List for Adventure Tours](#)
-  [Middle East Pre Departure Booklet](#)
-  [Joining Letter for Tours Cairo](#)
-  [Optional Excursions Guide for Tours to the Middle East](#)
-  [Extra Excursions](#)
-  [Egypt Dossier](#)

What's Included

- > Pyramids & Sphinx
- > Saqqara
- > Valley of the Kings
- > Hatshepsut Temple
- > Egyptian Museum
- > Red Sea
- > Arrival & Departure Transfer

- > 8 nights in hotels, hostels & guesthouses, 2 nights on overnight trains
- > 10 breakfasts
- > Travel by Overnight Train, Private Vehicle, Taxi, Arrival Transfer
- > Tucan Travel Representative, English-speaking local guide(s) on excursions

What's not Included

- > Tipping kitty of USD\$35-90 payable at the start of your tour and administered by your tour leader.
- > Entrance fees to some national parks and sites.
- > International flights and departure taxes

- > Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- > Visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- > Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- > Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 to 1 - Arrive Cairo

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

On arrival in Cairo you will be thrown headfirst into the hustle and bustle of this wonderful city and your Egyptian adventure will start from the moment you leave the airport. After you've been driven to the hotel you will be itching to get out and into the thick of the charming chaos that is Cairo. As you wander the streets your senses will be assaulted on all levels with cars tooting donkeys braying and the call to prayer, the mix of smells like the aroma from cooking pots and the scent of apple tobacco, the delicious taste of mint tea as you sit in a shaded caf' to relax, and the endless river of life that you can watch roll past you, women haggling in the bazaars, men talking whilst enjoying a traditional shisha pipe, cars vying for space on the crowded roads, camels ambling serenely along and children playing in the back streets.

If arriving in Cairo a day or two before the tour begins, there is so much to do in Cairo, from visiting the fantastic Egyptian Museum with the Royal Mummy Room, to the bazaars of Khan el Khalili where you can shop up a storm and hone your bargaining skills.

Day 2 to 3 - Cairo - Luxor

Today we visit one of the most symbolic sites of Cairo, if not all of Egypt, is the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx. The pyramids are a spectacular sight and really do have to be seen to be believed! Weaving our way through the manic Cairo traffic, out into the suburbs the pyramids leap out and are suddenly there: huge majestic tombs rising out the desert, towering above the modern city of Cairo and an incredible testament to the immense achievements of the Ancient Egyptians.

Built over five thousand years ago the Pyramids are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that is still standing. We explore the Pyramids and the Sphinx with our local leader & Egyptologist who can explain all the mysteries surrounding their creation, were they built by aliens and are they aligned to the stars? We will then head on to the necropolis of Saqqara, where we can explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zhoser's step pyramid, which was constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC. In the evening we will catch the overnight train to Luxor.

This morning we get off the train and head out early to the famous Valley of the Kings. The first thing we'll see as we make our way out to the valley is the imposing 18-metre-tall Colossi of Memnon, the only remnants of the temple to Amenophis III. We then begin our discovery of the valley with Hatshepsut Temple, built in honour of the first and longest reigning Egyptian queen, Hatshepsut. This exquisite structure is found in a steep half-circle of cliffs on the west bank of the Nile River and guarding the entrance to the great Valley of the Kings. Hatshepsut's beautiful temple was damaged after her reign ended when her nephew and stepson, Thutmose III, had her name and images chiselled off throughout the temple. Hatshepsut spent her reign building up the wealth of Egypt to the greater glory of the god Amun and this temple is one of her greatest commissions.

Arriving at the Valley of the Kings, there is not much to see above the ground, but corridors carved deep into the valley lead to the burial chambers far underground. The walls of the tombs are covered in incredibly well preserved paintings depicting the gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt and complex hieroglyphics which our guide will help us decipher. You will have the opportunity to visit some of the different tombs including that of Tutankhamen, the famous boy king. After relaxing back in Luxor we head out to visit the Temple of Karnak, with its spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks all dedicated to the Theban gods.

Day 4 to 5 - Luxor – Cairo

We have an early start today. There is an option to float over Luxor by hot air balloon as the town wakes up. Afterwards, we cross to Luxor's West Bank and head to the famed Valley of the Kings. The first thing we'll see as we make our way out to the valley is the imposing 18-metre-tall Colossi of Memnon, the only remnants of the temple to Amenophis III. We then begin our discovery of the valley with Hatshepsut Temple, built in honour of the first and longest reigning Egyptian queen, Hatshepsut. This exquisite structure is found in a steep half-circle of cliffs on the west bank of the Nile River and guarding the entrance to the great Valley of the Kings. Hatshepsut's beautiful temple was damaged after her reign ended when her nephew and stepson, Thutmose III, had her name and images chiselled off throughout the temple. Hatshepsut spent her reign building up the wealth of Egypt to the greater glory of the god Amun and this temple is one of her greatest commissions.

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Back in the bustle of Cairo the next morning, we will begin the day enjoy a guided tour of the wonderful Museum of Egyptian Antiquities. The museum has an amazing collection of some 120,000 artefacts from centuries of civilisation. Worth a visit is the Royal Mummy Room, where nine mummies are on display. The treasures found in King Tutankhamen's tomb in the Valley of the Kings in 1922 remain one of the great archaeological finds, and many of the artefacts found in the Boy King's tomb are on display. Perhaps none is more impressive than his solid-gold death mask. The rest of the day is yours to explore all the charms of Cairo's bazaars and restaurants at your leisure.

Day 6 to 10 - Cairo – Dahab – Cairo

The following day we catch a bus and cross the iconic Suez Canal as we head to the beautiful resort town of Hurghada on the Red Sea. Arriving there in the morning Hurghada is a beautiful town famous for its diving and snorkelling and you'll have time here to relax or enjoy the many optional adventures on offer. Meaning 'gold' in Arabic, Hurghada has amazing beaches and an almost unrivalled variety of coral and coloured reefs. You may find yourself hanging out in a beach caf' with a shisha pipe and eating seafood while watching the moonlight reflect on the crystal water riding a camel in the desert having tea with a Bedouin family or simply watching the local children wander beneath the palm trees selling handmade Bedouin crafts.

There is a fabulous optional excursion to Mount Sinai and St Catherine's Monastery for those keen to take on the challenging, yet rewarding, trek to see the sun rise over the mount. This means a very early start and involves a fairly strenuous three-hour uphill walk along a camel path and finally up 750 stone steps by torchlight. However, the view from the top as day breaks is worth every step. Mt Sinai is believed to be where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God and for some people it is a very special place to be and a lot of the trekkers come for this specific reason. After sunrise there are two routes down the mountain. From the top you must follow the 750 stone steps back down and then can either return along the camel path or follow a winding route down the 'steps of repentance'. Neither route is difficult (particularly as you will no longer need your torch), however the 3,000 or so Steps of Repentance do have some steep sections and can take around two hours to descend. Once at the bottom you have the chance to visit St Catherine's Monastery, which encloses the Chapel of the burning bush, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is said to be the oldest working Christian monastery in the world.

Please note: in the winter months (October through March) you will climb Mount Sinai to see the sun set, with time to visit St. Catherine's before your climb.

After breakfast on your last day in Hurghada we make our way back to Cairo, where we will have the rest of the day free to see or buy anything that you may have missed when you were last here, or just enjoy your final taste of Egypt in its charming capital.

Day 11 to 11 - Depart Cairo

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

This itinerary is a guide. Changes may be made before or during your tour to improve the running or due to unforeseen circumstances.

Tipping Kitty

On this tour we operate a compulsory tipping kitty system to save you money and embarrassment in countries where tipping is a way of life and where requests for tips can be infuriatingly persistent. Each member of the group contributes approximately US\$35-45 per person to the kitty. The tour leader uses this kitty to pay tips to any people who provide services to the group as a whole e.g. guides, porters, drivers, housekeeping staff in hotels etc. Your tour leader does not benefit from this kitty.

Group Size

This tour has an average group size of 15-20 passengers per Tour Leader

Add-ons & Extras

We stay one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

Rooming

All our **Adventure Tours** are priced per person on a shared room basis meaning there is no compulsory extra payment for those travelling on their own.

I'd like my own room

If you are a solo traveller, a single room is available on most occasions at an extra cost. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Cairo	Egypt	
Day 2	Overnight train to Luxor		B
Day 3	Luxor		B
Day 4	Overnight Train to Cairo		B
Day 5	Cairo		B
Day 6	Dahab		B
Day 7	Dahab		B
Day 8	Dahab		B
Day 9	Dahab		B
Day 10	Cairo		B
Day 11	Cairo		B

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available.