

Code JGEKR **King Ramses**

Duration: 14 Days **Route:** Cairo to Cairo **Style:** Adventure Tours



Egypt

The ancient Land of the Pharaohs is a constant source of fascination and this tour gives you the chance to explore the scope of Egypt's extraordinary history. Take in the monumental temples at Aswan; wander among the Pyramids of Giza and marvel at the mysterious Sphinx; relax on a felucca down the River Nile; explore the royal burial tombs at Luxor and kick back in sunny Dahab on the Red Sea coast.

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Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 10-04-2013

Tour Code: JGEKR

Duration: 13 nights / 14 days

Joining City: Cairo

Departure City: Cairo

Nearest Joining International Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)

Nearest Departing International Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)

This dossier is designed for this particular tour and should be read in conjunction with the country dossier(s), regional pre-departure booklet and optional excursions guides relevant to your itinerary. You will also receive a joining letter in advance of your journey with further information, while last minute updates may be posted in the Latest News section of our website.

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](#)

Inclusions

Accommodation: 9 night(s) in hotel(s), hostel(s) & guesthouse(s), 2 night(s) on overnight train(s), 2 night(s) on a felucca sailing boat

Meals: 13 breakfast(s), 2 lunch(es), 2 dinner(s)

Excursions: Pyramids & Sphinx, Saqqara, Aswan High Dam, Philae Temple, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut Temple, Egyptian Museum, Red Sea

Transport: Overnight Train, Private Vehicle, Felucca, Car, Foot, Arrival Transfer

Age: 18-60, max. 70 (recommended)

Group: Average 8-12

Staff: local guides

Exclusions

- Tipping kitty of USD\$35-85 payable at the start of your tour and administered by your tour leader.
- Departure transfer and pre and post tour accommodation
- 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.

Highlights

- Felucca sailing
- The Pyramids
- Karnak Temple

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 cafe 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 - Aswan

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 Zoser's step pyramid, which was constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC.

In the morning your entrance fees and tipping kitty for the whole tour will be collected by the tour leader from everyone. The tip kitty will cover all tipping throughout the tour, except tips for the felucca captain and your tour guide. In the evening we will head to the station to take the overnight train to Aswan.

We arrive in Aswan early in the morning and check in to the hotel. Aswan is a busy Nubian town with a massive bazaar and our first visit is out to the mighty Aswan Dam, one of the 20th century's great feats of engineering. Behind the dam is Lake Nasser, named after one of Egypt's most prominent leaders. We then take a short boat trip out to Agilika Island to visit the marvellous Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis and dating back to the 4th century BC. The afternoon is yours to explore the bazaar that runs the whole length of town and is crammed with shops and stalls selling everything imaginable. To relax you can sit at one of the many river side cafes and enjoy a cup of sweet tea and a game of backgammon.

Day 4 to 6 - (Optional Abu Simbel excursion) Felucca Sailing - Luxor

This morning there is an early optional excursion to fly out to the spectacular temple complex of Abu Simbel. This massive temple to King Ramses II is cut into the rock face, with no less than four giant statues of Ramses grandly guarding the entrance. One of the most impressive temples in Egypt, the site was relocated here in 1972 from what is now the shore of Lake Nasser.

If you chose not to visit Abu Simbel you have the morning in Aswan. In the afternoon it is all aboard our felucca for the two-night cruise - a highlight of any Egypt adventure – upstream to Luxor.

Feluccas are rustic sailboats based on a simple yet effective design and have plied the Nile for centuries. This is home for the next two nights and each boat comfortably carries five to 10 people. The deck is strewn with colourful rugs and cushions and there is a canopy to provide shade from the strong sun. At sundown the anchor is dropped near the river bank and we stay in one place until sunrise the next day. On board all meals are catered for and soft drinks and beer can be bought. As our speed is determined by the elements we cannot maintain a rigid itinerary, however, during the cruise there will be plenty of stops to visit places of interest, take regular swims and make the all important calls of nature ? please note there are no toilets or showers on board.

During the felucca cruise we visit the waterside temple at Kom Ombo and the large complex that is the Temple of Horus at Edfu. Edfu is a magnificent temple dedicated to Horus, the falcon headed god, and home of many ancient Egyptian legends. For centuries Edfu was almost completely covered with sand, which has protected the building from the elements and this means that Edfu is one of the best preserved temples in Egypt. There are reliefs carved into the temple walls depicting Horus and other gods on a grand scale, black granite falcon statues standing over two meters tall and a myriad of secret passage ways and hidden rooms.

We disembark our riverboat at Luxor and are transferred to our hotel. There can be nowhere else in the world that has the same number of awe-inspiring attractions as the 4,000-year-old, small town of Luxor. This was the capital of Egypt in ancient times (then known as Thebes) and there are an endless number of temples, tombs and museums that could keep you busy for a week. In the evening there is an optional excursion to the Temple of Luxor to see it lit up with coloured floodlights.

Day 7 to 8 - 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.

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. In the evening we will return to the hotel and you can relax by the pool for a few hours before we catch the overnight train back to Cairo.

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 9 to 13 - 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 Dahab on the Red Sea. Arriving there in the morning, Dahab 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, Dahab 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 Dahab 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 14 to 14 - Depart Cairo

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today, please confirm with the reception the check out time. 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.

The itinerary listed above is to be used as a guide only. Occasionally we may need to update this document and it may be different to the information printed in our current brochure. Tour leaders may need to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances during the tour. It is very important that you visit our website and review a copy of this dossier as close as possible to your departure date in case of changes that may affect your plans. Any last minute changes may also be posted in the latest news section of our website.

Group Size

This tour has a maximum of 28 passengers per Tour Leader.

Extra Excursions

Our Egypt and Jordan tours have optional extra excursions that must be booked before departure to guarantee availability. To find out more about these optional excursions [click here](#).

Other Services – pre & post tour accommodation and airport transfers

Very little time is spent in each of the starting and finishing cities and you will need to allow a few days at the beginning or end of your tour if you want to explore them further. Airport transfers in joining and departing cities are not included in the tour price but can be booked through Tucan Travel at an additional cost. For details about how to book pre & post accommodation please refer to the Extra Services information page in our website. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. If you would prefer to make your own way to and from your hotel, you can find further details on the joining letter for this tour.

Single Supplements

This package may offer single supplements that enable clients to stay in a single room. This single supplement must be paid prior to departure and applies to the whole tour for nights where single rooms can be made available. If there is no offer for a single room this is usually because you will be on an overnight train or bus, or camping.

In the day-by-day grid below a? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available to those who have purchased a single supplement.

High Season and Holiday Supplement

For departure dates on this tour that fall during the high season, over Christmas and New Year, and Easter, you will be required to pay an additional supplement to cover the higher operational costs for these times of year. For the most up-to-date costs for these supplements, please see the Prices page of this tour.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Cairo	Egypt	
Day 2	Overnight train to Aswan		B
Day 3	Aswan		B

Day 4	Felucca Sailing	BLD
Day 5	Felucca Sailing	BLD
Day 6	Luxor	B
Day 7	Overnight train to Cairo	B
Day 8	Cairo	B
Day 9	Dahab	B
Day 10	Dahab	B
Day 11	Dahab	B
Day 12	Dahab	B
Day 13	Cairo	B
Day 14	Cairo	B

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

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

- Responsible Travel
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- Share your adventure

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