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## GEEO ITINERARY

Egypt 12/23/2026

### **Day 1: Cairo Arrive in Cairo at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.**

**Arrive at any time.** There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The tour begins and ends in Cairo, and the main airport is **Cairo Airport (CAI)**. Giza is also served by Sphinx International Airport (SPX).

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

#### **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting**

Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

#### **Joining Instructions**

**Arrival Transfer:** Your trip includes a complimentary arrival transfer from Cairo airport on Day 1, or up to three days prior if you arrive early and have booked pre-accommodation through GEEO/G Adventures at our starting hotel. Transfers are not available if you've booked pre-tour accommodations independently.

**Meeting Your Representative:** A G Adventures representative will meet you inside the airport before immigration with a sign displaying your name. They will assist with visa-on-arrival if needed. Check carefully for your name, as there may be multiple signs.

**If You're Not Met:** Call the emergency number located on your trip voucher or take a taxi to the hotel.

**Late Night Arrival:** Most U.S. flights arrive late at night or early morning. Your transfer is honored regardless of arrival time. Consider booking an extra night so your room is ready upon arrival rather than waiting until regular check-in.

**Approximate travel time:** 1-1.5 hours included arrival transfer from airport to your hotel

### **Day 2: Cairo/Aswān Catch an early morning flight to Aswan. Opt to explore the busy Aswan market. Later, enjoy dinner with the group in a local home.**

This morning, grab breakfast at the hotel to go and catch an early flight to Aswān, which has a distinctively African feel. Small enough to walk around and graced with the most beautiful setting on the Nile, the pace of life in Aswan is slow and relaxing.

After arriving in Philae Temple, opt to explore the busy Aswān market. Spend time strolling up and down the broad Corniche watching the sailboats etch the sky with their tall masts, or sitting in floating restaurants listening to Nubian music and eating fresh fish.

In the evening, board a local boat and take a trip along the magnificent Nile, with views of the Aga Khan Mausoleum and Kitchener Island. Stop on one of the inhabited Nile islands in this area to tour a local Nubian village. Walk through the village and fields and learn more about the life of the Nubian people before enjoying a delicious traditional dinner at a local home.

**Approximate travel time:** 1.5 hrs by plane

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**Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

**Day 3: Aswān Early in the morning, drive to the famed temples of Abu Simbel for a guided tour. Later, board our river cruise ship for the night.**

Early in the morning, grab another boxed breakfast from your hotel before boarding a private bus to the famed temples of Abu Simbel. Your guided visit allows around 2 hours at the site to wander through the different temples and learn more about the construction, history, and relocation of these magnificently preserved structures. The temples, built by Ramses II between 1274-1244 BC, would now be under Lake Nasser if not for the wonders of modern engineering. The towering figures of Ramses himself, Ra-Horakhty, Amun, and Ptah will all be waiting to welcome you.

Later, drive back to Aswan and then board a river boat for the night. The following morning, you will start a comfortable ride down the Nile. Enjoy the pool on the sundeck and dinner on the boat.

**Approximate travel time:** 6.5 hours by private vehicle.

**Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Day 4: Aswān/Kom Ombo Spend the day floating down the Nile on a spacious riverboat with a guided tour of Kom Ombo Temple en route. In between excursions, relax on the boat decks.**

After breakfast on the riverboat, head into Aswan for some more sightseeing. Visit the market for some shopping and sample some of the fragrant spices.

After lunch on the boat, set sail on a 2-day, 3-night luxury riverboat cruise. Before too long, you will make a shore excursion to Kom Ombo, a temple dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile god. The adjacent Crocodile Museum (included in your ticket) contains some remarkable ancient mummified crocodiles.

In the evening, enjoy a welcome cocktail and Galabia evening in the bar.

Throughout the boat trip and in between excursions, you can relax on the sundeck with a drink, soak in the pool, and enjoy the pleasant scenery of life along the Nile.

**Approximate travel time:** All day by boat, except 1-2 hrs at Kom Ombo. Overnight aboard Nile river boat.

**Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Day 5: Kom Ombo/Luxor Continuing cruising the Nile, relaxing and taking in the desert scenery while observing daily life along the river. Arrive in Luxor in the evening.**

Early this morning before breakfast, opt to rise early for an excursion to Edfu Temple. This visit is not part of our regular itinerary, because transportation to the temple is by horse-drawn carriage and conflicts with our animal welfare policy.

After breakfast on the boat, continue cruising the Nile and relaxing on board, watching the lovely scenery drift by. Arrive at Luxor in the evening, with a belly dancer and whirling dervish performance in the bar.

Tonight, the boat will moor overnight just outside of Luxor. However, sometimes the ship is directed to arrive in Luxor earlier in the day. In this case, the free time on board the boat today will be swapped with the activities on day 7, and day 7 will become a free day to explore Luxor on your own.

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**Approximate travel time:** All day by boat. Overnight aboard Nile river boat.

**Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Day 6: Luxor Bike through the village with a student guide from the Funtasia Project Center. Enjoy a guided visit to the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Hatshepsut, and the Colossi of Memnon. Enjoy lunch with a local family.**

After breakfast, the group will leave for the West Bank to meet a student guide at the Funtasia Project Center. This local educational nonprofit works with young people in the West Bank of Luxor to develop life skills and social consciousness. The center's after-school program uses project-based learning to teach art, communication, and social skills. Learn about the project over a cup of tea after biking through the village. The bike ride is very brief and simple, only lasting about 10–15 minutes. There is only one very brief uphill part, and you can hop off the bike to walk it up the incline if you need. If you decide to skip the bike ride, you can ride along in the van—this decision can be made on location.

Next, enjoy a guided excursion to the famous Valley of the Kings. Travel by motorboat across the Nile to the West Bank and enjoy a traditional lunch in a local family home, and then ride through farmer's fields to reach the Valley of the Kings. Descend the narrow, rock-hewn corridors and take in the magnificent decoration and designs of the tombs of the pharaohs at the Valley of the Kings. While the treasure is now all gone, the tombs contain the most incredible paintings of the life of their occupant and stories from the Book of the Dead. Visit three public tombs, and opt to visit the famous tomb of King Tutankhamun (an extra fee). The tombs of Ramses VI and Seti I are also worth the admission fee. Please be aware that climbing down some of the tombs' staircases can be steep, but the stairs have handrails and are usually wide enough for foot traffic in both directions.

Today, you will also visit the impressive Funerary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, which seems to rise out of the surrounding limestone outcrops. It is a reminder of the power women held in Ancient Egypt. Also visit the two mammoth statues of Amenophis II at the Colossi of Memnon, which used to stand at the front of a temple. Check out the ancient graffiti discussing the statues.

On the way back to the hotel, stop at an alabaster factory and watch as the manufacturer's hands mold, shape, and reshape the rocks until they end up with stunning sculptures, statues, candle holders, and other crafted items. With what remains of the afternoon, you can explore Luxor at your own pace or relax by the hotel pool.

**Approximate travel time:** 6-7 hrs by private vehicle, including stops in the Valley of the Kings

**Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

**Day 7: Luxor Enjoy an excursion to the magnificent temples of Karnak and Luxor. In the afternoon, use free time to explore the Bazaar or museums.**

Early this morning, you can opt to sign out of the tour and enjoy a hot air balloon ride at sunrise.

Later in the morning, enjoy a visit to the Karnak Temple, once the center of all religious life in ancient Egypt. The temple was built and extended by successive generations of rulers. Take time to admire the amazing architecture, massive columns, and painted hieroglyphs.

Then, at the other end of Sphinx Avenue, take in the beauty of the Luxor Temple, an architectural splendor located near the Nile and right in the center of downtown Luxor. One of Egypt's most impressive temples, Luxor has been used as a place of worship since its conception in 1390 BC to the present day. Evidence of ancient worship, Coptic Christianity, and Islamic architecture are found throughout the temple, illustrating how the regional culture has evolved over several thousand years.

In the afternoon, you will have free time to explore on your own. You might choose to wander the bazaar

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to shop for souvenirs, visit the Mummification Museum to learn about the ancient art of embalming, or take a guided tour of the temples of Habu, Ramsseum, and Deir El Medina.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 8: Luxor/Alexandria Catch a flight back to Cairo in the morning. En route to Alexandria, stop for a tour inside the monasteries of Wadi Natrun.**

Catch a flight back to Cairo in the morning, and then begin the drive to the historic Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Stop along the way to take a tour with a local monk at the monasteries of Wadi Natrun. The history of the Wadi and its importance to Coptic Christians dates back to the 4th century AD, and they constitute some of the earliest Christian monasteries in the world.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Alexandria to explore at your leisure. Stroll along the corniche or enjoy a group dinner on the roof of your hotel at sunset, taking in the views of the coast and the Citadel of Qaitbey, where the Lighthouse of Alexandria once stood.

**Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by plane, 2.5-3 hrs by private vehicle

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 9: Alexandria Spend the day exploring this ancient seaside city, including Pompey's Pillar, the catacombs at Kom El Shoqafa, and the new Alexandria Library.**

Spend today exploring the ancient seaside city of Alexandria. Founded by Alexander the Great around 331 BC, Egypt's second-largest city is characterized by a distinctly European atmosphere and a refreshing sea breeze.

Start with a visit to Pompey's Pillar. The name "Pompey's Pillar" is a misnomer, as it has nothing to do with Pompey. The monument was erected in 293 for Emperor Diocletian, possibly in memory of the rebellion of Domitius Domitianus.

Next, visit the Catacomb of Kom El Shoqafa. These tombs were tunneled into the bedrock in the age of the Antonine Emperors (2nd century AD) for a single wealthy family still practicing the ancient religion of Egypt. They represent the last existing major construction of the old Egyptian religion.

The Ancient Library of Alexandria was probably the largest and certainly the most famous of the libraries of the ancient world. It flourished during Greek rule and functioned as a major center of scholarship until at least the time of the Roman conquest of Egypt, and likely for many centuries thereafter. The old library was destroyed in a fire around the 1st century BC. Visit the magnificent new library, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which was opened in 2002.

In the evening, opt to enjoy an optional seafood dinner at one of the city's many outdoor restaurants.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 10: Alexandria/Cairo Head back to Cairo. Explore the treasures of the Grand Egyptian Museum, and then visit Khan el-Khalili, a famous bazaar and souk in the historic center of Cairo.**

Start off the day by driving back to Cairo. Upon arrival, visit the Grand Egyptian Museum (the largest

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archaeological museum in the world!)—if it has finally opened. Located in the shadow of the Great Pyramids, this cutting-edge complex is home to over 100,000 artifacts spanning Egypt’s incredible history. You’ll come face-to-face with the entire treasure collection of King Tutankhamun, displayed together for the first time, alongside towering statues, intricately preserved mummies, and mind-blowing ancient wonders. Your tour leader will guide you to the highlights and help you navigate this extraordinary space, but you’ll also have plenty of time to wander and marvel at your own pace.

After visiting the museum, pay a visit to Khan el-Khalili, a famous bazaar and souk in the historic center of Cairo, to check out the fine brassware, copper, perfumes, leather, silver, gold, and antiques for which the bazaar is famous.

The remainder of the evening will be at your leisure.

**Approximate travel time:** 4 hrs by private vehicle

**Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 11: Cairo Embark on a guided tour of the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, and then visit the Papyrus Institute.**

Begin the day early with one of the highlights of any trip to Egypt, a visit to the Giza Necropolis. While once located in the remote desert, the Giza pyramid complex now abuts the suburbs of modern Cairo. No matter how many photos or documentaries you have seen, your first glimpse of these marvels of the ancient world will take your breath away. As a qualified Egyptologist, your tour leader will be able to expertly explain the facts and stories behind these three incredible monuments. Opt to purchase a ticket to enter the Pyramid of Khufu. You will also visit the mysterious Great Sphinx with its lion’s body and man’s face.

In the afternoon, take advantage of free time to explore more of Cairo on your own, or opt to visit Memphis (the ancient capital of Aneb-Hetch) and Sakkara (the site of Egypt’s first pyramids, including the Step Pyramid of Djoser).

**Meals included:** Breakfast

### **Day 12: Cairo Depart Cairo at any time.**

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Cairo at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Cairo, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

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**Interested in extending your time abroad?** We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures’ larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

### **Accommodations List**

The hotels listed below reflect the properties *expected to be used* for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. **The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:**

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Day 1 Cairo (Dec 23): Flamenco Hotel Cairo

Day 2 Aswān (Dec 24): Basma Hotel

Day 3 Aswān (Dec 25): Iberotel crown empress Nile Cruise

Day 4 Aswān (Dec 26): Iberotel crown empress Nile Cruise

Day 5 Aswān (Dec 27): Iberotel crown empress Nile Cruise

Day 6 Luxor (Dec 28): The Temple Hotel & SPA

Day 7 Luxor (Dec 29): The Temple Hotel & SPA

Day 8 Alexandria (Dec 30): Metropole Hotel Alexandria

Day 9 Alexandria (Dec 31): Metropole Hotel Alexandria

Day 10 Cairo (Jan 1): Flamenco Hotel Cairo

Day 11 Cairo (Jan 2): Flamenco Hotel Cairo

***\*Itinerary Disclaimer:*** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.