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## GEEO ITINERARY

Egypt 12/23/2024

### **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. The tour begins and ends in Cairo, and the main airport is **Cairo Airport (CAI)**. Giza is also served by Sphinx International Airport (SPX). Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we highly recommend that you plan to arrive at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jet lag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Cairo before and/or after the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. 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** The program fee for this trip **includes an arrival transfer** from Cairo airport on Day 1, or up to three days prior if you arrive early and have booked your pre-accommodation through GEEO/G Adventures in our starting hotel. Arrival transfers will not be available to passengers who have booked pre-tour accommodations independently of GEEO/G Adventures. A G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you with your name on a sign. They will meet you inside the airport before immigration, as they are all licensed airport representatives. There could be many signs at this rendezvous point, so please check carefully for your name. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the hotel via taxi. G Adventures regional office emergency contact number: [+44 1858378000](tel:+441858378000) G Adventures local contact emergency phone number: [+20 100 000 3945](tel:+20100003945)  
**CAUTION:** *Unfortunately, there have been cases of people misrepresenting themselves as G Adventures representatives; please check that your driver knows your name and the hotel to which you are going. If in doubt, ask them to call their manager to confirm your transfer.* **Approximate travel time:** 1-1.5 hours included arrival transfer from airport to your hotel **Accommodation:** Safir Hotel Cairo (or similar) \*  
*For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

### **Day 2: Cairo/Aswān Catch an early morning flight to Aswan. Opt to visit the beautiful Philae Temple with your tour leader or 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 join your tour leader on a visit to Philae Temple (pre-booked with GEEO). The large temple complex on the island was built around 2,000 years ago and dedicated primarily to the Egyptian goddess Isis. In the 1960s, due to frequent flooding in the area caused by the Aswan Low Dam, the entire complex was meticulously relocated to nearby Agilkia Island to preserve it. This effort was part of a larger UNESCO project to save Egypt's historical monuments from the rising waters. During your visit, learn about the history of the site and the culture of the people who live in this part of Egypt. Alternatively, you might 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 **Accommodation:** Basma Hotel (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

### **Day 3: Aswān Early in the morning, drive to the famed temples of Abu Simbel**

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**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. **Accommodation:** Iberotel crown empress Nile Cruise (or similar) **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. **Accommodation:** Iberotel Crown Empress Nile Cruise (or similar) **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. **Approximate travel time:** All day by boat. Overnight aboard Nile river boat. **Accommodation:** Iberotel Crown Empress Nile Cruise (or similar) **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. Bike through the village and learn about the project over a cup of tea. The center's after-school program uses project-based learning to teach art, communication, and social skills. 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

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Tutankhamun (an extra fee). The tombs of Ramses VI and Seti I are also worth the admission fee. 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 **Accommodation:** Steigenberger Resort Achi Luxor (or similar) **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 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, Ramses, and Deir El Medina. **Accommodation:** Steigenberger Resort Achi Luxor (or similar) **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 **Accommodation:** Metropole Hotel Alexandria (or similar) **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 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. **Accommodation:**

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Metropole Hotel Alexandria (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Day 10: Alexandria/Cairo Head back to Cairo. Explore the treasures of the 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 Egyptian Museum. With over 10,000 pieces from every period of Egyptian history, including the treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun, the display can be a bit daunting. Your tour leader will direct you to the most important and magnificent items. There is also plenty of free time for you to explore on your own. (Please note: A new, state-of-the-art museum will be opening in Egypt called the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). The opening day has yet to be determined. Until the GEM is open, the group will visit the Egyptian Museum, which still contains Egypt's most important artifacts, including the contents of King Tutankhamun's tomb.) 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 **Accommodation:** Safir Hotel Cairo (or similar) **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). **Accommodation:** Safir Hotel Cairo (or similar) **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. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

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*\*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.*