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TOURING
CAIRO



CLASSIC CAIRO TOURS



ABOUT CAIRO

One of Africa's largest cities, Cairo has captured the imagination of travelers and explorers for centuries.

It has been said of many places that it is like stepping back in time, but never was this more true than for Cairo. Home of the only remaining wonder of the ancient world – the Great Pyramid of Giza – and with a UNESCO World Heritage site at its heart, Cairo is not just hundreds, but *thousands* of years old.

The Great Pyramid itself, the final resting place of pharaoh Khufu, is over 4,500 years old, as too is the sphinx. Even its al-Azhar University, which is still a fully-operational centre of education to this day, is over 1,200 years old.

But there is more to Cairo than antiquity and archeology. Fascinating bazaars filled with arts and crafts bustle with life, the River Nile presents spectacular scenery and equally spectacular voyages, and the culinary scene is thriving. Award-winning contemporary restaurants trade alongside the world's largest food court in this city of records.

Whether its history, its gastronomy or its culture, Cairo is quite possibly the most captivating city in Africa, possibly even the world.

QUICK FACTS:

- The Great Pyramid of Giza is still revealing secrets, a new & hidden chamber discovered by archeologists in early 2023
- The Nile, which flows through 10 countries, is the world's longest river & the confluence of three tributaries: Burundi's White Nile, Ethiopia's Blue Nile & Sudan's Atbara
- Cairo's varied climate ranges from 45°F (7°C) in the winter to highs of 100°F (38°C) at the height of summer
- Locals refer to Cairo as Umm al-Dunya, which translates to 'mother of the world', & said to be the cradle of civilization
- Primarily a Muslim country, Cairo is said to be the city of a thousand minarets
- The sphinx is the world's oldest monument, but much of its story remains a mystery

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

A city steeped in so much history, Cairo’s archeological artefacts are almost innumerable. The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) is a gateway into the ancient world, featuring a plethora of sculptures, artworks, sarcophagi and even the mummified remains of millennia-old pharaohs. Numerous exhibitions encapsulate the extensive history of the region, while photography captures the early days of archaeological discovery. The one thing noticeably absent from the NMEC’s extensive displays is the inimitable golden burial mask of King Tutankhamun, which is currently housed in the Egyptian Museum. However, this is soon to close, its replacement, the Grand Egyptian Museum scheduled to open in mid-2023.

PHAROANIC VILLAGE

Particularly suited to families, though fascinating for all ages, the Pharaonic Village offers a real-life glimpse into the daily life of Ancient Egypt. Located on an island in the Nile to Cairo’s south, the attraction includes replicas of hieroglyphic frescos, numerous fascinating museums and even a complete replica of King Tutankhamun’s burial chamber. Over one hundred actors bring ancient practices to life, using replica tools to farm, build and create papyrus. An Egypt-themed amusement park will further entertain younger visitors, while the village’s yacht, Nefertari, offers tranquil trips along the Nile.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- See the millennia-old artefacts of ancient kings & queens
 - Learn the history & leading proponents of Egyptology
 - See the actual mummies of numerous pharaohs perfectly preserved after thousands of years
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- Witness Ancient Egypt in real life
 - Learn how this remarkable civilization created paper, pottery & buildings
 - Entertain younger visitors with historically-inspired displays & rides
 - Relax on a serene sail down the Nile



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ABDEEN PALACE MUSEUM

Completed in 1874, Abdeen Palace was over a decade in the making. Comprising 500 rooms, it was the country's seat of rule from 1874 until the Egyptian revolution in July, 1952. Today, it is a fascinating documentation of Egypt's modern history, with British, French and Turkish influences featuring prominently. Somewhat akin to London's Buckingham Palace, it is no longer a king or queen's home but an intriguing and opulent museum. Featuring thousands of historical books, several armories of weapons and the documentation of Egypt's rule over a century, it is a side of Egyptian history that is often overlooked, though worthy of attention.

DINING ON THE NILE

Few things can compare to enjoying an exquisite meal and a glass of crisp champagne as you drift along the tranquil Nile. The modern city is spectacular, giving way to numerous historical sites and iconic landmarks. Several dining experiences exist, and clients are able to choose from an extended lunch with a focus upon sightseeing or a wonderfully romantic dinner. Modern boats take inspiration from the opulent era of Agatha Christie and the decadence of early 20th-Century travel. Meals are frequently accompanied by live performances of music and belly dancing.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discover another side to Egypt's collage of history
 - View artworks, antique arms & impeccable interior design
 - Explore the palace's many rooms & marvel at its remarkable architecture
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- Evoke your inner Hercule Poirot on an elegant dining cruise
 - View the city & outskirts from a unique perspective
 - Imagine pharaohs plying the water from Giza south, past Luxor & Karnak to the temple of Abu Simbel

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ST. SAMAAAN THE TANNER MONASTERY

Though only built in the late 1970s, the St. Samaan, or St. Simon the Tanner Monastery has a very evident air of antiquity. Established by some of Egypt's lowest classes, the city's trash collectors, the church was created within a vast cave after their first church was razed by fire. Regardless of its modern creation and religious purpose, it is a spectacular sight. Able to seat a congregation of up to 20,000, the church has crucifixes carved from the stone of the cave and depictions of Bible verses created in colorful frescos. Though some 4,000 years younger than many of its architectural neighbors, St. Samaan the Tanner Monastery is an incredible feat of more modern craftsmanship.

THE OASIS OF FAYOUM

Less than two hours from Cairo, the oasis of Fayoum is as breathtaking as it is utterly perplexing. In the heart of the desert, an expansive oasis emerges, incorporating a large lake and several waterfalls. With a museum to tell of its fascinating history, more bewildering than the oasis itself is the scattering of shark and whale fossils strewn haphazardly across the desert floor. These near-complete skeletons reflect a time even before the Great Pyramids when the Red Sea covered the dunes. Over 40 million years old, the most remarkable fossil is contained within the museum. At an impressive 60 feet (18 meters), the skeleton is of a basilosaurus - a prehistoric ancestor of today's whales.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore the sculptures, frescos & monuments of Christian faith
- Wander between the pews and venture deep within the mountain
- For those inclined, it may even be possible to take in a service
- Learn of Egypt's history dating back tens of millions of years
- See the extraordinary fossilized skeletons of whales & sharks
- Take a dip in the refreshing water or beneath a cascading waterfall