

For tours departing beyond 2010, itineraries may be subject to change. This will be confirmed by the publication of the 2011 brochure (issued in Oct 10).

**2010**  
Tour Dossier

# EXPLORE!

## Dossier Ref. EG

**EGYPT** 3 night cruise itinerary, as published in 2010/11 Worldwide brochure

# Nile Cruise

*Amended 05 Feb 2010. Valid from 01 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2010*  
*Since first issue this dossier has been updated with amendments to the following sections: single room option, other sightseeing.*

As our itineraries may be amended from time to time, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers, please ensure you have the most up-to-date copy of this dossier immediately before you travel. You can download the dossier from our website, [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk). Of course we will notify you of any significant changes, but sometimes minor changes may simply be added to the tour dossier.

## JOINING TOUR ABROAD

**Nile Cruise Ref. EG**  
**10 days/9 nights Land Only**  
**Cairo to Luxor**

**Join Cairo** (day 1)

**End Luxor** (day 10)

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Cairo. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

## GROUP TRAVEL FROM LONDON

**Nile Cruise Ref. EG**  
**10 days/9 nights Tour including Connecting Group Flights**  
**London-Cairo & Luxor-London**

**Depart from London Heathrow** Airport to join tour in Cairo (day 1 of itinerary).

**Return from Luxor** (day 10 of itinerary) and arrive Heathrow the same day.

Passengers with **non-group flights** booked through Explore should refer to their individual confirmation invoice for flight details. Transfers to and from the airport are not included unless purchased in addition to the tour package.

## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- \* **CAIRO** Half-day guided tour to the Pyramids and Sphinx and Egyptian Museum.
- \* **LUXOR** Guided tour of Karnak with 'calesh' between hotel and temple; Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple by donkey.
- \* **NILE RIVERBOAT** Cruise from Luxor to Aswan via the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo.

## Carbon Offsets Included

As part of our responsible tourism policy we offset carbon emissions from all customer and staff flights booked by Explore. Our carbon offset partner is Climate Care. If you are making independent flight arrangements to join one of our tours, may we urge you to offset your carbon emissions through Climate Care, or a similar offsetting scheme.

Our trip starts at Cairo, with a visit to the 4,500-year-old Giza Pyramids and Sphinx, before taking the train down to Luxor where we board our riverboat. Here we'll view the wonders of the Valley of the Kings and the magnificent Temple of Karnak before cruising up the Nile itself. Arriving in Aswan we have time to explore many of the ancient sites including the rock cut statues, representing Ramses II, at Abu Simbel. All cabins aboard the Nile riverboat have private en-suite facilities and are air conditioned. The facilities on board include a restaurant, bar, large sun deck and lounge area. The boat is chartered for the exclusive use of Explore groups.

**Note: Some departures may operate on an alternative itinerary with 6 nights on the riverboat, rather than 3 nights. Our decision whether to operate an alternative itinerary is generally made prior to sending final invoices. We will send you an amended dossier.**

## LAND ONLY ITINERARY

**Be Prepared:** While our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day route published below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

We will be taking full advantage of the cooler early mornings, taking care to avoid the heat of the day, so please be prepared for some early starts. Summers in Egypt can be extremely hot and dry, especially between May and August, when daytime temperatures regularly exceed 35 degrees, however, evenings and mornings are cooler and even cold in winter.

The itinerary may be adjusted slightly during departures at the end of May and early in December, due to maintenance work at Esna Lock.

**Accommodation and Included Meals:** please find the key to our accommodation ratings overleaf, and note that included meals are indicated in the itinerary below and are shown on the day they are provided (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

**Please note:** Twice yearly Esna Lock closes for essential maintenance work. The dates of these closures are rarely confirmed far in advance but do generally take place in June and December. Should the closure take place during your cruise the itinerary may need to be amended slightly to take this closure into account. This amendment will not affect the balance of time you spend in each place and the sights visited will also remain unchanged.

## Earth Matters

- As recycling does not exist in Egypt, we recommend that you bring your own water filter to reduce plastic bottle waste. Using biodegradable soap will also reduce pollution as waste water on the boat is untreated.
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>



### Day 1. Join tour Cairo

Arrive Cairo and check-in at hotel. **2 nights hotel H+.**

### Day 2. In Cairo

Africa's largest capital, Cairo, is situated mainly on the east bank of the Nile. Driving to Giza we see the Pyramids and Sphinx, among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the largest of the group (originally 145m high with a square base 232m). Second is the Pyramid of Chephren (136m high, width 210m). The complex includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock, and the splendid Granite Temple. We also visit the Egyptian Museum which contains the treasure of Tutankhamun. **(Included meals: B).**

### Day 3. Free day in Cairo

Today is a free day for optional trips to Saqqara the impressive step pyramid/necropolis of Zoser (Djoser) – the earliest of the pyramids of Egypt and the recently opened Red and Bent Pyramids at Dashur. Or an optional trip to Islamic Cairo to visit the illustrious Citadel, one of Saladin's many strongholds during the Crusades period. There will also be the opportunity to enter one or more of the medieval mosques of Cairo. Alternatively you could use this free time to revisit the vast Egyptian museum.

**Overnight sleeper train twin berth accommodation with shared facilities (included meals: B, D).**

### Day 4. In Luxor

Arriving early in Luxor today will include a visit by 'calesh' (horse drawn carriage) to the stupendous Temple of Amun at Karnak, the labour of numerous pharaohs. Begun about 2000 BC, this vast temple was still being added to in Cleopatra's time (1st century BC). This morning you have the chance to enjoy a spectacular balloon flight over the West Bank, for an experience of a lifetime! There is also the opportunity to visit Deir-el-Medina and Medinet Habu - relatively little-visited sites and for many a real highlight of the tour. **3 nights twin berth accommodation aboard riverboat (Included meals: B, L, D).**

To book please call 0844 499 0901 • [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)

For bookings outside the UK please contact your local travel agent representing Explore.

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### Day 5. In Luxor; sail to Edfu

Rising very early this morning, we cross the Nile to enjoy an adventurous donkey trek passing through an enchanting landscape of irrigated farmland and mud brick villages en route, pausing to view the famous Colossi of Memnon, the last remains of the once mighty temple of Amenhotep III then on to the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh, who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tutmoses III. The scale of the temple and its magnificent setting are breathtaking, but perhaps even more remarkable are the details - look out for the fine carving of the 'Expedition to the Land of Punt'. We then take a short taxi ride to the Valley of the Kings' to explore some of the more important sites made famous in 1922 by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. We visit three tombs with a local guide. On our return to the Nile riverboat we set sail upstream towards Edfu, passing en route the dam at Esna, built in 1906 to regulate the Nile floodwaters. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

#### Donkeys to Hatshepsut Temple

The comfort and safety of both donkeys and their riders is of great importance to us. Given this, donkeys are available to travellers of 85kg/13st, or under. We shall provide taxi transfers to the site for non-riders, or indeed anyone preferring to make the journey by road.

### Day 6. Sail to Kom Ombo and Aswan

In the morning we visit Edfu, the largest Egyptian temple after Karnak. A falcon-headed god guards the Temple of Horus which is in almost perfect condition, in fact the temple is unusual in that its roof has survived intact. We then continue upstream, seeing the intensive cultivation of the Nile Valley and small villages which depend upon the river for their livelihood. In the afternoon we aim to reach Kom Ombo. The temple of Kom Ombo is unique in that it is dedicated to two gods, Horus and Sobek. Sobek the crocodile god was much needed at this spot as the river here was noted for crocodiles until early this century. After our visit we continue to Aswan, arriving late tonight. **(Included meals: B, L, D).**

### Day 7. In Aswan; optional visit to Abu Simbel

Today we disembark. Aswan is Egypt's most southerly city, traditionally regarded as the frontier post of Upper Egypt. Sited on the east bank, it stands just below the First Cataract and is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and black Africa. Today we have the chance to travel by bus or air to the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel, a major highlight of the tour. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61m to save it from inundation by the artificial lake created by the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the great builder. Alternatively wander the streets of this fascinating city, where stalls laden with colourful spices line the streets. **2 nights hotel H+ (included meals: B, L).**

**EXPLORE ACCOMMODATION RATINGS :** An important feature of many Explore tours is the wide range of accommodation used, and since the beginning our philosophy has been to select accommodation to suit the itinerary - not the other way round.

To help gauge the comfort level on your chosen tour, we have graded the accommodation standards at all night-stops using the rating guide below. Please keep in mind however that standards can vary from one trip to the next, and occasionally we may need to change a night-stop without advance warning.

#### Hotels / lodges / guesthouses - or similar

**H+ :** Standard hotels, lodges or guesthouses, usually with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. These are generally standard, no-frills hotels with adequate amenities and service standards. Whilst comfort levels are perfectly acceptable to most, please don't expect too much! These are often small, family run establishments.

**Note:** other accommodation, for example, aboard boats or on overnight sleeper trains is described individually at the appropriate point in the tour itinerary above.

### Day 8. In Aswan

A popular optional excursion is the camel trek to the deserted coptic monastery of St. Simeon. You may wish to take an excursion to Philae Temple, situated on a picturesque island in the Nile. **(Included meals: B).**

### Day 9. Bus to Luxor

Arriving in Luxor at around lunchtime, the remainder of the day is left free for personal exploration in Luxor, during which you may like to take a calesh tour of local villages, or visit the Explore sponsored Sunshine Orphanage. **Overnight hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

### Day 10. Tour ends Luxor (Included meals: B).

#### Extend Your Tour

**Why not extend your tour with one of our exciting extensions? Add on the remote oases of the Western Desert (ask for dossier ref. EGD) or a trip to snorkel amongst the coral gardens of the Red Sea (ask for dossier ref. EGR).**

## PERSONAL EXPENSES

You'll also need some extra money to cover meals not included in tour price. Also allow for other sightseeing, souvenirs etc, and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local Currency:** Egyptian Pounds can be easily obtained before arrival.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** We recommend that you bring your money in cash, £GBP, US\$ or Euros which are readily changeable.

**Where to Exchange:** Most major towns - your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

**ATM Availability:** You may also bring an ATM card, as these are available in main towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Credit cards are rarely accepted.

**Travellers Cheques:** You may find it useful to bring some Travellers Cheques as a back up.

**Australian Information:** Scottish notes and Australian Travellers Cheques are not accepted in Egypt.

**Camera/Video Fees:** At some sites an additional camera charge of up to £2 per site may be payable. Video filming fees can be as much as £20 at some sites, so budget accordingly.

Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currency-express.com/explore/>

#### Meal Plan

**Local Food and Drink:** 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners are included on this trip; please be prepared to pay for all other meals. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location and the prices below are given as an average guide only.

	UK	Egypt
Coffee/Tea	£1.20	£0.70
Soft drink	0.80	1.00
Bottle of water	0.80	1.00
Bottle of Beer	2.50	2.00
2 Course Meal*	10.00	6.00
3 Course Meal**	18.00	8.00
Bottle of wine	10.00	12.00

Note: £ = UK Sterling, not Egyptian pounds.

\*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant.

\*\*Typical food in a simple reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

#### Tipping

**Local Staff:** In this area, tipping is a recognised part of life. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. You should allow £15 for tipping. Your tour leader will account for any organised tipping.

**Tour Leader:** At your discretion you might also consider tipping your tour leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

#### Other Sightseeing

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below in £GBP (ie. UK sterling, not Egyptian pounds) for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

**LUXOR** Balloon flight £90, Valley of the Queens £23, Villages calesh ride £6, Tutankhamun's Tomb £9, Karnak sound & light £13.

**ASWAN** Camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery £10, Philae Temple, obelisque & Aswan high dam £25, Felucca cruise £5; Dinner in Nubian Village £8.

**CAIRO** Saqqara and Dashur pyramids £22; Half day Islamic Cairo £15.

**ABU SIMBEL** Excursion from Aswan by bus £40 or by air £125.

## The Nile by Riverboat

#### The Nile by Riverboat

Our Nile riverboat, M/S Doma. Chartered for the exclusive use of Explore and with only 14 passenger cabins, life on board M/S Doma is easy-going and informal: a perfect base from which to explore the sites of the Nile.

#### About M/S Doma

All cabins are air-conditioned and have private en-suite showers, washbasins and WCs, plus large picture windows. On the Middle Deck are a spacious dining area, bar and lounge - also fully air-conditioned - and on the Upper Deck there are fine, uninterrupted views across the Nile. There is no better way to enjoy the Nile sunset than sitting in the open air, perhaps with a drink from the small 'Deck Bar'. All meals are included whilst aboard the riverboat. The cuisine is Egyptian-style and consists of 'continental' breakfasts, lunch and three-course dinners.

## Booking a Single Room

All of our tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. On this particular tour we are pleased to be able to offer customers the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room for each night of the tour except day 3 on the train.

**To book please call 0844 499 0901 • [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk)**

For bookings outside the UK please contact your local travel agent representing Explore.

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Seasonal Climate

Winter in Egypt is cool (particularly on the Nile) and dry, Nov-Mar average day temperature 18°C. Summer temperatures Apr-Oct average 32°C, but can frequently rise to 40°C. Winter nights are cold in the desert.

Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

### Visa Requirements

A single entry tourist visa for Egypt is required by all nationalities. For British passport holders with British citizenship, Egyptian visas can be obtained conveniently and inexpensively on arrival at the airport. Alternatively, visas can be obtained through your travel agent or through Explore's visa service. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

### Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. Though malaria does exist in Egypt it is not normally found in the areas in which we travel. For the most up to date advice please consult your travel clinic.

**Special Note:** Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

### Electric Supply and Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in the countries visited, follow the relevant link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

#### RAMADAN 2010

**11th August – 9th September**

**Please note** that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day in most countries.

### Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. You must take your policy document with you on tour, as your tour leader will ask to see this at the start of the trip. Your documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for your period of travel.

Your policy document must also indicate that you have medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover and a 24-hour contact telephone number for your Insurance Company must be shown on your documentation in case of emergency.

**If you are unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip you will not be allowed to join the trip.** If you have purchased Explore Insurance you should carry the Master Certificate leaflet with you, which outlines the conditions of the policy together with a copy of your Confirmation Invoice, which is your proof of purchase of insurance. Explore Worldwide are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority.

### Know Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs, including advice re: the legality of and local attitudes towards same-sex relationships. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

### PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's '**General Information Booklet**', available after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

**Luggage:** One main piece of luggage and a daysac. Total allowance: **20kgs/44lbs.**

#### Luxor - Hot Air Balloon

Man originally conquered the air with the hot air balloon and it is still possible to recreate that sense of wonder that those first aviators enjoyed - and what a location! There can be few places around the world that can rival the incredible flight over the Theban remains of West Bank near Luxor as you float almost silently above, a lighter than air experience! Explore has teamed up with the region's most experienced balloon pilots to offer this once in a lifetime opportunity. The flight is on offer and can be booked through your Tour Leader and lasts on average 45 minutes and costing approximately **£90pp.** (subject to increase). Clients may pay in any major currency, subject to the prevailing bank rate and credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and Diners are accepted. Please note that in the interest of safety and your enjoyment, all balloon flights are subject to suitable flying conditions.



**Clothing:** Pack essentially for '**Hot Conditions**' but as for '**All Tours**' from November to March. Loose fitting trousers are recommended for the donkey trek and for ladies a sports bra may be useful. From Nov-Mar night temperatures drop dramatically and warm clothing will be needed.

**Please note:** Egypt is a Muslim country and it is important to dress with respect for local customs. Brief shorts/skirts should be avoided in towns and you should cover your head when entering a mosque. In more traditional towns and market areas we advise women to wear long loose fitting trousers or skirts and shoulder covering to avoid unwanted attention. Men should also be aware that shorts are not generally worn by Egyptians.

**Footwear:** Comfortable shoes and sandals.

**Equipment:** Bring a water bottle, insect repellent and a small torch for examining wall carvings. Please note that on the donkey trek we cannot supply hard hats - if head protection is felt to be necessary please bring your own with you to Egypt, as hard hats are not available to buy locally. You may want to bring wet-wipes, and water-free hand sanitiser will be an invaluable addition to your day-sac.

**Personal First Aid Kit:** For an exclusively designed Explore Medical Kit, visit [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore)

#### Need help on clothing or equipment?

Then we suggest you contact Nomad Travel, our equipment partner, who specialise in kitting people out for adventurous travel. You receive a special 10% discount in-store or online. Visit one of their stores, phone 0845 260 0044, or visit their website [www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore) for further information.

### THE SUNSHINE PROJECT – LUXOR

Explore supports the Sunshine Project in Luxor which cares for abandoned children. In a country where the family is so important, unwanted children carry a great stigma that can affect them for the rest of their lives. State resources are stretched so Sunshine is working to give these children a decent start in life by providing a caring home and schooling. This is a small but very dedicated organisation currently caring for over 70 children aged from birth to 16 years. Most of the children come as babies, commonly wrapped in pieces of rag and in desperate need of love and care. Sunshine offers these children a home for life. We were delighted to see the completion of the new building in 2008.

#### What you can do

If you are travelling to Luxor, Sunshine always extends a warm welcome to visitors. Your tour leader will be able to pass on any gifts – see the wish list on the Sunshine website to see what kind of gifts are most appropriate. Whether you visit or not, you can sponsor a child or donate (online please to receive Gift Aid!)

[www.sunshine-international.org.uk](http://www.sunshine-international.org.uk)

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