EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Family Land of the Pharaohs (FEG 2016)

BOAT JOURNEYS

TOURDURAT
11
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Comfortable
tour Code: FEG

Tour Highlights - Family Land of the Pharaohs

- ✓ Luxor - Visit the impressive Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple complex
- ✓ Camel trek - Camel trek to St Simeon's Monastery in Aswan
- ✓ Nile cruise boat - Cruise from Aswan to Luxor via the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo on board the 5 star MS Esadora
- ✓ Dinner with the locals - Enjoy dinner with a local Nubian family and learn about family life in Aswan

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	6 nights Comfortable Hotel 1 night Simple Overnight Train 3 nights Comfortable Boat
Included Meals:	10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Cairo
End Point:	Tour ends: Safaga
Transport:	Bus, Train, Boat
Countries:	Egypt
Minimum Age:	From 4 years

Family Land Of The Pharaohs

Travel back in time with us to experience Egypt's amazing past; from the colossal Pyramids of Giza to the mysterious Valley of the Kings. Camel trek through the desert to St. Simeon's Monastery and cruise the Nile between Luxor and Aswan. Explore the colourful, vibrant markets and take an adventurous donkey trek through farmland and mud brick villages before relaxing on the beaches by the Red Sea.

TRIPLE ROOMS
This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Why Book this tour

The adventure brings what the kids have learnt about Egypt to life with visits to the Valley of the Kings, Pyramids, Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum where the famous Tutankhamun mask is housed. A great trip of discovery with time on a cruise boat that travels along the Nile and dinner with a local family. Perfect for families who are interested in ancient times and impressive monuments and also want some time to relax on the beach by the Red Sea.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Comfortable

Hand-picked and chosen for their character, location or local importance, these properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

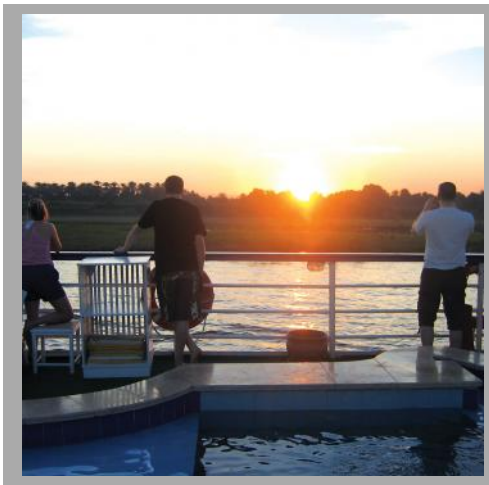
Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.



DAY 1 Join tour Cairo

Arrive in Cairo and check-in at the hotel. Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in Egypt, this city boasts a range of ancient monument that you can discover while wandering around. If you arrive early, you may wish to catch your first glimpse of the mighty Nile River, visit the capital's medieval markets at Khan El-Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern shopping malls.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Sightseeing in Cairo; overnight train to Aswan

Africa's largest capital, Cairo is situated mainly on the east bank of the Nile. This morning we drive to Giza to visit one of the seven ancient wonders of the world, the Pyramids, among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. Here, you can opt to venture inside a pyramid or admire the Solar Boat, designed to transport the Pharaoh's soul to the afterlife. The complex includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock, and the splendid Granite Temple. In the afternoon, we visit the Egyptian Museum, which amongst its 100,000 artefacts contains the extraordinary treasures of Tutankhamun, complete with his Golden Mask. We may also have the opportunity to visit the Children's Museum located in the Egyptian Museum, where you could have the chance to build your own pyramid! Tonight we board the overnight train to Aswan.

Overnight: **Simple Overnight Train**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3 Arrive in Aswan; free afternoon; included Nubian dinner

Today we hope to arrive in Aswan by noon time where we will transfer directly to our hotel. We have left the afternoon free for you to settle into this exciting, bustling town; you might choose to visit the Nubian Museum or town souks. In the evening we plan a visit a riverside village where we dine with a Nubian family who have worked with Explore for many years.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 Optional visit to Abu Simbel; free afternoon in Aswan

Today we have the chance to visit the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61 metres to save it from inundation by the artificial lake created by the Aswan High Dam. The 20 metre high statues represent Ramses II who was known as the Great Builder. Alternatively, you might wander the streets of Aswan which is situated on the east bank of the Nile, just below the first Cataract. The town is well known for a meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and Black Africa and consequently the excellent souks reflect this fusion between Arab and African cultures. The afternoon is left free for your own family exploration, which might involve visiting the souks of Aswan or simply relaxing by the pool.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Camel trek to St Simeon’s Monastery; board the Nile cruise boat

In the morning, we cross the river by motor launch and meet our camels for an exciting journey across the desert to the abandoned Coptic monastery of St Simeon, then return via a different route to the river. Around lunchtime we board our Nile cruise boat for a three day voyage down river to Luxor. During our cruise, we see the intensive cultivation of the Nile Valley (mainly sugarcane and maize) and at intermittent points are small villages which depend upon the river for their livelihood.

Overnight: **Comfortable Boat** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Sail via Edfu Temple to Esna

We sail to the major settlement of Kom Ombo situated on the east bank of the Nile. Dating from the Ptolemaic period, the temple of Kom Ombo is unique in that it is dedicated to two gods. Both Horus and Sobek were worshipped; Sobek is the crocodile god - much needed at this spot as this stretch of the river was noted for crocodiles until early this century! We then sail to Edfu Temple, the largest Egyptian temple after Karnak. Edfu supposedly marks the position where the god Horus met and vanquished his father Osiris's murderer, Seth. The site dates from the time of the Ptolemies (3rd-1st century BC). A sacred falcon-headed god guards the Temple of Horus, which is in almost perfect condition. The temple is unusual in that the roof is still intact. We moor overnight at Esna.

Overnight: **Comfortable Boat** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 Sail towards Luxor; Karnak Temple visit

Early in the morning we pass through the lock in the dam at Esna which was built in 1906 to regulate the Nile floodwaters. From here, we sail on to Luxor and upon arrival we have the afternoon in Luxor with a trip to Karnak Temple. There are also optionals to visit Habu Temple, Workers Tombs, or perhaps the souk for find bargains for some souvenirs. In Luxor we will normally be accommodated on the west bank of the Nile, opposite the main city with a motorboat being available to transfer you across the river.

Overnight: **Comfortable Boat** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Visit Queen Hatshepsut Temple and the Valley of the Kings; free afternoon in Luxor

Rising very early this morning, we cross the Nile to enjoy a visit to the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tuthmoses III. The scale of the temple and it's magnificent setting is 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 bus 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. In the afternoon you are free to enjoy the historical city as you wish. This may involve some pool time or even an optional donkey ride through the villages and fields of the West Bank with a great view of the sun set over the Nile.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Transfer to Safaga by road

Today we drive across the barren mountains of the Eastern Desert to Safaga on the Red Sea coast, our base for the next few days. During your stay in Safaga you will be looked after by an Explore local representative.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Boat trip to the coral reefs

The Red Sea is famous for its superb coral reefs and multi-coloured fish. Living in such favourable conditions are schools of beautifully marked and iridescent species, alongside barracudas and green turtles. We include a full day boat trip to the islands and coral reefs around Safaga where we can enjoy some leisurely hours either swimming, snorkelling or just relaxing.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11 Free day in Safaga

Your tour ends in Safaga after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Ability to swim required

Whether in swimming pools, rivers, lakes, the sea or the ocean, participation requires that you are able to swim unaided for your safe enjoyment

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches,5 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Local 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 please budget accordingly.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Egypt

Lunch £: 6.00

Dinner £: 8.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Egypt

Bottle of Beer £: 1.70

Water £: 0.75

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below 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 these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Aswan - Visit Nubian Museum £5.00; Philae Temple Sound and Light £15.00
Abu Simbel - Excursion from Aswan by bus £50.00 or by air £170.00
Luxor - Sound and Light at Karnak Temple £13.00; guided visit to Habu Temple and Deir al- Medina £23.00; entry to Tutankhamun's Tomb £9.00; Karnak Temple £10.00; donkey ride £7.00

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leader may organise a group’s tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Foreign Exchange

Egypt

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.

Local Currency: Egyptian Pound

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.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Visa Information

Egypt: An entry visa is required by all nationalities. UK citizens can obtain a visa on arrival at the airport for the current cost of 25USD. Please note, you must purchase a visa stamp at one of the nearby banks before proceeding to the immigration desk.

Visas can also be obtained prior to departure through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK; Visaswift, at http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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

Embassy prior to departure.

Lone Parents

Egypt

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the Egyptian embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Vaccinations & Protection

Egypt

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.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Egypt

Egypt's climate is hot and dry, typical of a desert environment. In summer it can be very hot and remains hot overnight whereas winter days are milder by comparison and temperatures can drop considerably at night. The mildest area is along the Mediterranean coast with temperatures ranging from 23-31°C in summer and 10-17°C in winter. In the desert region temperatures fluctuate in summer dropping as low as 7°C at night and up to 40°C during the day and in winter it can vary from 0°C at night to 18°C in the day. Aswan is one of the hottest cities with Cairo and Alexandria generally slightly cooler. Egypt receives very little rainfall annually and rainfall in summer is very rare.

Clothing

Women and older girls are advised not to wear shorts or dresses that are too revealing as this can attract unwelcome attention in the streets of Muslim towns – loose fitting trousers or slacks are ideal. Females should also cover their head and shoulders when entering a mosque and men should wear long trousers.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, insect repellent and a small torch for examining wall carvings. Sunhat, high factor suncream and sunglasses are essential. Please note that on the donkey trek and the camel 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.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes or trainers for sightseeing and donkey/camel rides; plus sandals.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Egypt

Population: 81,015,887

Size of Country: 1,002,450 sq km

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Islamic, Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Egypt

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

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. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is ‘Available’ or ‘Guaranteed’ we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2016 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2016. 2017/18 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2017.

These tour notes were printed on 25/11/2015 17:06:13