EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Family Egyptian Adventure (FNF 2015)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOURDURAT
10
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Busy

Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard

tour Code: FNF

Tour Highlights - Family Egyptian Adventure

- ✓ Cairo - A full day exploring the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum
- ✓ Aswan - Nubian Dinner; camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery; optional visit to the temples at Abu Simbel
- ✓ Aswan to Kom Ombo - 2 days felucca sail trek along the Nile River
- ✓ Luxor - Tour of Karnak with transfer by 'calesh'; Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple
- ✓ Safaga - Full day boat trip and snorkelling in the Red Sea

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	5 nights Comfortable Hotel 1 night Overnight Train 1 night Basic Felucca 2 nights Standard Hotel
Included Meals:	9 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Cairo
End Point:	Tour ends: Safaga
Transport:	Bus, Train, Boat
Countries:	Egypt
Minimum Age:	From 5 years

Family Egyptian Adventure

On this family holiday to Egypt we sail down the River Nile by felucca (a traditional sailing boat), ride camels through the desert and swim in the warm waters of the Red Sea. Join us as we explore one of the ancient wonders of the world, the Great Pyramids of Giza and discover the Valley of the Kings, home to the famous tomb of Tutankhamun.

Why Book this tour

The adventure brings what the kids have learnt about Egypt at school to life with visits to the Pyramids, Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum where the famous Tutankhamun mask is housed. A great trip of discovery, this holiday is perfect for families who want to spend time on a traditional felucca sailing boat, be given the opportunity to snorkel in the Red Sea and discover ancient times and impressive monuments.

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: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

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: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.

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 is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across 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 market at Khan el Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern malls.

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

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 In Cairo; visit the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum

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. You may also have an opportunity to visit the Children's Museum at the Egyptian Museum where you can try your hand at building your own Pyramid!

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3 Free Day in Cairo; overnight train to Aswan

Today is free for you to relax or perhaps to take part in optional sightseeing to Islamic Cairo, Khan el Khalili market or the Saqqara and Dahshur Pyramids. Later this evening we will transfer to the station to catch the overnight sleeper train to Aswan.

Overnight: **Overnight Train**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 Arrive Aswan; camel trek to St Simeon’s Monastery and Nubian dinner

We arrive in Aswan, Egypt's most southerly city, traditionally regarded as the frontier post of Upper Egypt. Sited on the east bank, just below the First Cataract, it is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and Black Africa. Later today we transfer by launch to the west bank of the Nile to be transported to St Simeon's by camels, our very own 'ships of the desert'. One of the largest Coptic monasteries in Egypt, St Simeon's was built in the 7th century and finally abandoned in the 13th century. It now sits in splendid isolation at the end of a desert valley, an impressive sight, looking more like a desert fortress than a place of worship. After the visit we transfer back to the east bank, where there will be time to wander through the streets of this fascinating town and explore the excellent souq, reflecting the fusion between Arab and African cultures, before a traditional Nubian dinner at a local village with friends we at Explore have known for years - a highlight for parents and children alike.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 Optional visit to Abu Simbel; embark on feluccas

There is the option this morning to take an early morning flight through the desert to the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel, a major highlight for many who visit Aswan. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61m to save it from being flooded by the artificial lake that was created by the building of the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the Great Builder and one of the most powerful Pharaohs of the New Kingdom. On returning to Aswan we board our feluccas and set sail downstream, travelling through the timeless landscape of the Nile Valley, in the time honoured fashion of the ancient Egyptians themselves. As we sail we see the intensive cultivation of the Nile Valley and at intermittent points there are small villages that depend upon the river for their livelihood. As the golden colours of the late afternoon cast their glow over the land of the Pharaohs we will dock and set up camp beside the river bank. Sleeping on the deck of the feluccas, beneath a blanket of stars, we are rocked to sleep by the gentle waters of the Nile lapping against our boats.

Overnight: **Basic Felucca**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Sail towards Kom Ombo; drive to Luxor; afternoon visit to Karnak

This morning we continue our journey down river, following the fertile green ribbon of the Nile Valley, as it winds through parched desert lands. Disembarking we transfer by road to the magnificent ruins of the Ptolemaic temple at Kom Ombo. The temple is unique in that it is dedicated to not one, but two gods: Horus, the falcon headed god and Sobek the crocodile god, a useful deity to have on your side given that this stretch of the river was inundated with crocodiles until the early years of the last century! We then transfer by bus to Luxor, site of the ancient city of Thebes, the city of a hundred gates and the sacred home of Amun-Re, the supreme god of the Pharaohs. In the afternoon we will enjoy our excursion to the stunning Temple of Karnak, by horse drawn calesh. Dating from

around 2000 BC, the scale and grandeur of Karnak is amazing. It covers an area the size of 10 European cathedrals and the 134 pillars of its Hypostyle Hall are a wonder to behold.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Visit to Hatshepsut Temple and the Valley of the Kings; afternoon free

This morning, we cross the Nile and travel by bus 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 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 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. The afternoon is then free for you to enjoy your time by the pool, enjoy an (optional) donkey trek or wander through Luxor's bazaar.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel** **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Drive to Safaga

Leaving the Nile Valley behind, we head east today, to the shores of the Red Sea. Crossing the barren mountains of the Eastern Desert we head for the small town of Safaga, where we will enjoy the delights of a marine wonderland in stark contrast to the desert scenery that surrounds it. There is time here to relax and enjoy the dazzling waters immediately outside our hotel.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Full day boat trip on the Red Sea

With over 400 varieties of corals and 1500 species of fish, the Red Sea is a hard act for anyone to follow. There are reef fish of every shade and hue, living amongst the corals, and turtles, rays and small sharks abound in these rich waters. We include a full day's boat trip to the coral reefs around Safaga - it's just like swimming in a tropical fish tank! With a light lunch taken on-board, we will enjoy some leisurely hours swimming, snorkelling or just relaxing, before returning to our hotel for the evening.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10 Tour ends Safaga

Tour ends in Safaga after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Ability to swim required

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 9 breakfasts, 2 lunches,4 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.

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

Luxor -Sound & Light at Karnak Temple £13.00; guided visit to Valley of the Queens and Deir al-Medina £23.00; entry to Tutankhamun's Tomb £9.00; country calesh ride £6.00; donkey trek on the west bank £7.00
Aswan - Excursion from Aswan to Abu Simbel by air with local guide £125.00 or by bus £45.00; half day trip to Philae Temple, unfinished obelisk and Aswan High Dam £25.00; visit Nubian Museum £5.00

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

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 Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly you should allow approx. £17 per person for gratuities for local staff.

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 joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

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

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 and older girls to wear long loose fitting trousers or skirts and have shoulders covered to avoid unwanted attention. Men should also be aware that shorts are not
generally worn by Egyptians.

Equipment

For use on the felucca sailtrek, a 2 season (temperature 0°C to 5°C) sleeping bag is necessary between April and October, 4 season for colder nights between December and February, and a 3 season (temperature –5°C to 0°C) for November and March. Please note that it is possible to hire a sleeping bag locally for the night on the felucca at a cost of £5.00. Also bring a water bottle, towel, insect repellent and a small torch. Mattresses are provided. You may want to bring wet wipes. 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 luggage and a daysac. During the felucca journey, the main baggage is stowed away beneath deck, but is accessible twice a day.

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 http://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 andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/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: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

These tour notes were printed on 05/05/2015 04:29:27