

This tour is BIG - from Mount Sinai in the East to the Western Desert battleground that turned the fortunes of war, plus titanic temples such as Abu Simbel and the prodigious Pyramids.



Alexandria, the pearl of the Mediterranean

Grand Egyptian Explorer

TOUR PACE

The sensation of being on Mt. Sinai as the sun appears in the morning sky is impossible to forget. So even those who choose to rise early for this inspirational event agree the tour pace is mostly easy going. The majority of days are either spent in Cairo, (where there is a restful three night mid-tour stay), or quietly cruising the peaceful waters of Lake Nasser and the Nile.

HOTELS

It should be noted the selection of hotels in the pilgrimage town of St Catherine's is extremely limited. The Morgenland is the best available and well located, but the rooms and facilities are quite basic. This means it contrasts markedly with the cruise and other more luxurious hotels on tour - the deluxe Cairo Marriott, Helnan Palestine in Alexandria and the lavish Fairmont Heliopolis.

DAY 1 – CAIRO AT LEISURE. Welcome to Egypt, the timeless land of the Pharaohs and a treasure house of ancient history. On arrival in Cairo you are met and *transferred* to your sophisticated tour hotel, built around a stunning landscaped atrium. Hotel: Fairmont Heliopolis

DAY 2 – CAIRO – ST CATHERINE. After driving through the *tunnel under the Suez Canal*, look out for the huge cargo ships as they negotiate this famous waterway. Cross the Sinai Peninsula to *St. Catherine's village* in the shadow of Mt Sinai. *You are also invited for tea with the local Bedouins.* Later there is time to relax before dinner. Hotel: Morgenland St Catherine (BB,D)

DAY 3 – ST CATHERINE – GULF OF SUEZ. Passengers who choose to ascend Mt. Sinai will see the cave where Moses hid and the sunrise from the summit. Later, one of the priests *guides you through St. Catherine's Monastery* (if open). Drive on to your seaside resort. Hotel: Palmera Beach Resort Ain Sokhna (BB,D)

DAY 4 – GULF OF SUEZ – ALEXANDRIA. Drive through the desert to Alexandria, Egypt's major port, founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. Hotel: Helnan Palestine/Sheraton Montazah (BB,D)

DAY 5 – ALEXANDRIA SIGHTSEEING. Your full day city tour includes the *National Museum, Roman Amphitheatre and Roman Catacombs.* After a visit to the *15C Quayet-Bey Fortress*, your final stop is at the *Montazah Gardens.* *Tonight, your Highlight Dinner is at a local restaurant.* (BB,HD)

DAY 6 – ALEXANDRIA – CAIRO. Drive into the Western Desert to *El-Alamein.* Time here to pay your respects at the *War Cemeteries* and visit the *Military Museum.* En route to Cairo make a stop at the *Coptic Monasteries at Wadi El Natrun* (if open). Hotel: Marriott (BB)

DAY 7 – CAIRO AT LEISURE. Today you are at leisure in the Egyptian capital, situated at the head of the Nile Delta, where modern hotels share the stage with mosques, minarets and Islamic structures of all sizes. (BB)

DAY 8 – CAIRO SIGHTSEEING. Join your Tour Director for a detailed *pre-tour briefing.* Then commence your exploration of Cairo with *breathhtaking views over the city from the Citadel*, and visit the *alabaster mosque.* Then test your bargaining skills in the famous *Khan El Khalili bazaars.* Continue to *Tahrir Square, focal point of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution.* Next is the *Egyptian Museum, an unrivaled warehouse of Pharaonic treasure, housing the golden treasure recovered from the tomb of King Tutankhamun.* (BB)

DAY 9 – CAIRO – ASWAN – ABU SIMBEL – JOIN CRUISE. Transfer to the airport for your *flight* via Aswan to the ancient Nubian lands near Egypt's southern border. On arrival, board your comfortable *cruise boat on Lake Nasser.* Get your camera ready for your *visit to the Great Temple of Abu Simbel. You are confronted by four towering statues of Rameses himself, carved out of a single slab of rock.* The smaller *Temple of Hathor*, is also guarded by six 10 metre statues. Spend some time exploring inside the 3,200 year old walls, depicting scenes of Rameses and the Gods. *Tonight, experience the monuments lit in all their glory at the sound and light show.* Ship: MS Prince Abbas (BB,L,D)

DAY 10 – ON BOARD SHIP. Enjoy the ever changing scenery as you cruise to the ancient ruined citadel of *Kasr Ibrim*, still occupying its original strategic high ground. Cruise on to *Amada*, noted for having the oldest surviving structure on Lake Nasser. Also, it has some of the finest carvings of any Nubian temple. *Explore the temple* dedicated to Amun-Re and Re-Harrakte and also visit the *Tomb of Penniut*, deputy of Nubia. (BB,L,D)

DAY 11 – ON BOARD SHIP. This morning you *visit Wadi El Sebou*, – the 'Valley of the Lions', named after the great Avenue of Sphinxes which led to the Temple of Rameses II. Now time to relax and enjoy your superb cruise facilities as you continue on to exotic *Aswan* - where the Middle East overlaps with Africa! (BB,L,D)

DAY 12 – ASWAN – ON BOARD SHIP. *Visit the Temple of Kalabsha*, built by the Roman Emperor Octavius Augustus and dedicated to the local fertility god Mandulis. Disembark now and cross over the *Aswan High Dam.* Take a *motorboat to the Temples of Philae, rising from the waters of the Nile.* Aswan granite was used by many of the Pharaohs to build their temples and tombs and you visit one of the quarries on your way to your *second cruise ship* which will transport you up the Nile. This afternoon, *enjoy high tea in English colonial style before sunset.* Ship: MS Giselle or MS Sapphire or MS La Boheme (BB,L,D)

DAY 13 – ON BOARD SHIP. For a change of mood, *embark on a traditional Nile sailing boat (felucca)* around Aswan's Botanical Gardens. Cruise on to *Kom Ombo to visit the only temple in Egypt dedicated to two gods - Horus the Elder and the crocodile headed Sobek.* In fact, crocodiles were kept in the temple and some mummified remains are still on show. Set sail again for *Edfu. Tonight celebrate in Egyptian style at an Oriental Dinner and Galabea Party.* (BB,L,HD)

DAY 14 – ON BOARD SHIP. In Edfu this morning, two black granite falcons guard the entrance to the *Temple of Horus*, the Falcon God. After exploring the *beautifully preserved wall reliefs*, continue your Nile cruise to *Luxor.* On arrival, visit the fabulous *Luxor Temple.* The obelisk now occupying the centre of the Place de la Concorde in Paris originally came from this temple. (BB,L,D)

DAY 15 – DISEMBARK LUXOR – CAIRO. Drive over to the *west bank of the Nile* for a photo stop at the towering *Colossi of Memnon.* Next, *visit the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, blending into the cliff face above.* Continue to the *Valley of the Kings, the burial place of many of the New Kingdom Pharaohs.* Return to Luxor to the *Temple complex of Karnak.* Among its splendours is the *Hypostyle Hall*, the largest of any temple in the world. Later, transfer to the airport to board your *flight back to Cairo.* Hotel: Marriott (BB)

DAY 16 – CAIRO SIGHTSEEING. Drive out to *Memphis*, to view the colossal *statue of Rameses II and great alabaster sphinx.* Nearby at *Sakkara*, view the *Step Pyramid of Zoser*; dating from 2686BC, it's the oldest in the world. *Your tour reaches its zenith with a guided tour of Giza where you see the enigmatic Sphinx and venture inside one of the magnificent Pyramids!* (BB)

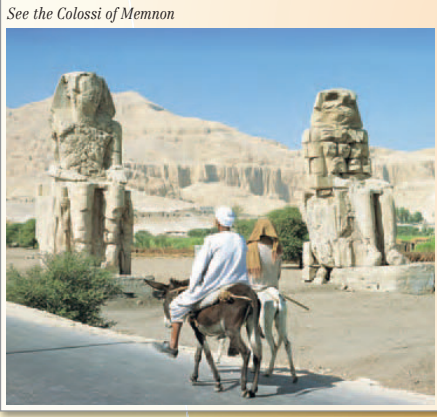
DAY 17 – DEPART CAIRO. Your tour comes to a close with a transfer to the airport. (BB)



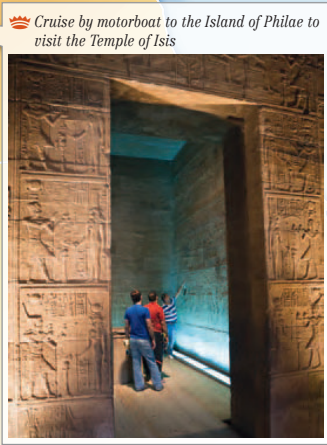
Ramses, Karnak

Key

- PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
- PERSONAL INSIGHTS
- HIGHLIGHT DINNERS
- GUIDED SIGHTSEEING OR ORIENTATION TOUR
- CENTRAL HOTELS + NIGHTS
- GATEWAY HOTEL + NIGHTS
- SCENIC HOTELS + NIGHTS
- CRUISE + NIGHTS



Tour the amazing temples of Rameses II
 Experience the temples of Abu Simbel by night at the Sound & Light Show



Included Premium Highlights

- Visit Tahrir Square, 'beating heart' of the recent 25 January 2011 Revolution
- Visit the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to see the treasure of Tutankhamun
- Visit the awe-inspiring Temples of Rameses II at Abu Simbel
- Experience the monuments of Abu Simbel lit in all their glory at the sound and light show
- Take a motorboat to the Temple of Isis on Philae Island
- Enjoy high tea in English colonial style before the sun sets in Aswan
- Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings
- Venture inside one of the Pyramids of Giza and see the enigmatic Sphinx

Included Personal Insights

- Sample the Bedouin lifestyle as you join the locals for tea in St Catherine.

Included Other Excursions & Sights

- Enjoy a guided visit to St Catherine's Monastery (when open)
- Visit the new Civilisation Museum, Roman Amphitheatre, Catacombs, Quayer-Bey fortress and Montazah Gardens in Alexandria ● Visit El-Alamein War Cemeteries & Military Museum
- Visit the great Coptic Monasteries of Wadi El Natrun (if open)
- Visit Mohammed Ali Mosque and enjoy views over Cairo from the Citadel
- Visit the famous Khan El Khalili bazaars
- Overview Kasr Ibrim and visit the Amada, Wadi El Sebou & Kalabsha temples
- Sail by traditional 'felucca' around the Botanical Gardens in Aswan
- Visit the Temple of Sobek at Kom Omba and the Temple of Horus at Edfu
- Enjoy a visit to Luxor Temple which lay hidden for thousands of years
- Photo opportunity at the towering Colossi of Memnon
- Tour the Temple complex of Karnak with its vast Hypostyle Hall
- See the statue of Rameses II and alabaster sphinx in Memphis ● See the Step Pyramid of Zoser

Insight's Cairo & Nile Cruise

- Insight's professional multi-lingual Egyptologist/Tour Director accompanies you
- Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- Sightseeing by air-conditioned coach
- Deluxe hotels in Cairo and Alexandria, best available in St Catherine's, with all service charges, taxes and portage
- 3 night Lake Nasser cruise on MS Prince Abbas (or similar) and 3 night Nile cruise on MS Giselle or MS Sapphire or MS La Boheme (or similar) including all cruise boat gratuities
- Scheduled air travel Cairo/Aswan/Abu Simbel and Luxor/Cairo
- Services of Insight's Representative in Egypt
- Insight Traveller document wallet, Welcome on Tour book and information pack
- Arrival & departure transfers between the airport and your Insight tour hotel.

Included Quality Dining

- Egyptian dinner and Galabea Party (HD)
- Highlight Dinner at a local restaurant in Alexandria (HD)
- 16 Buffet Breakfasts (BB), 6 Lunches (L) and 8 Dinners (D), plus bottled water, tea or coffee with included lunches and dinners while cruising
- Departures on tour for New Year's Eve, enjoy a festive celebration dinner

TOUR CODE: 0945W **Low prices and great quality**

Starts Cairo	Ends Cairo	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Triple Room Reduction	Starts Cairo	Ends Cairo	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Triple Room Reduction
Thu 03 Nov	- Sat 19 Nov	\$4325	\$1095	n/a	Thu 19 Jan	- Sat 04 Feb	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 10 Nov	- Sat 26 Nov	\$4325	\$1095	n/a	Thu 26 Jan	- Sat 11 Feb	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 17 Nov	- Sat 03 Dec	\$4325	\$1095	n/a	Thu 02 Feb	- Sat 18 Feb	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 24 Nov	- Sat 10 Dec	\$4325	\$1095	n/a	Thu 09 Feb	- Sat 25 Feb	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 01 Dec	- Sat 17 Dec	\$4325	\$1095	n/a	Thu 16 Feb	- Sat 03 Mar	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 08 Dec	- Sat 24 Dec	\$4325	\$1095	n/a	Thu 23 Feb	- Sat 10 Mar	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 15 Dec	- Sat 31 Dec	\$4375	\$1125	n/a	Thu 01 Mar	- Sat 17 Mar	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 22 Dec	- Sat 07 Jan	\$4750	\$1355	n/a	Thu 08 Mar	- Sat 24 Mar	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 29 Dec	- Sat 14 Jan	\$5165	\$1355	n/a	Thu 15 Mar	- Sat 31 Mar	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
2012:					Thu 22 Mar	- Sat 07 Apr	\$4325	\$1095	n/a
Thu 05 Jan	- Sat 21 Jan	\$4375	\$1125	n/a	Thu 29 Mar	- Sat 14 Apr	\$4650	\$1355	n/a
Thu 12 Jan	- Sat 28 Jan	\$4325	\$1095	n/a					

Extra Accommodation

Per person, per night	Twin	Single	Triple
Fairmont Heliopolis			
23 Dec '11 - 05 Jan '12,			
04 Apr - 13 Apr '12	\$146	\$240	n/a
All other times	\$114	\$177	n/a
Cairo Marriott			
23 Dec '11 - 03 Jan '12,			
04 Apr - 13 Apr '12	\$166	\$284	n/a
All other times	\$135	\$221	n/a

Festive Highlights

◆ New Year's Eve festive celebration dinner included

Notes

All prices are in US dollars.
Additional Visa Requirements: Check with your Travel Agent about visas for this tour.

DEF **Definite Departures (DEF)**

These are regularly updated and listed on our website www.insightvacations.com (see page 8 for details).

Highlight Dinners & Included Sightseeing are worth approximately US\$496

For news, views & info visit the 'Insight Travel Forum' at www.insightvacations.com