

Passage Through Egypt Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

Travel to storied Egypt, delve into its legendary past, and connect with the spirit still illuminating today. With expert Egyptologists and a certified photo instructor by your side, spend six nights aboard the Nile's finest vessel beholding landscapes that have sustained life for millennia. From the Pyramids to Valley of the Kings, Sphinx, and Tomb of Nefertari to mesmerizing Luxor guarded by massive Ramses II, nothing compares to this scale of grandness.

From
$ 13,512 / per person
Includes required flights

DATES
Jan, Feb, Mar, Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec

DURATION
11 or 12 Days

SHIPS
Oberoi Philae

STARTS AT
Luxor, Egypt

→

ENDS AT
Aswan, Egypt

Minimum Age Requirement: Any children booked on *Oberoi Philae* voyages must be at least 7 years old at time of embarkation.

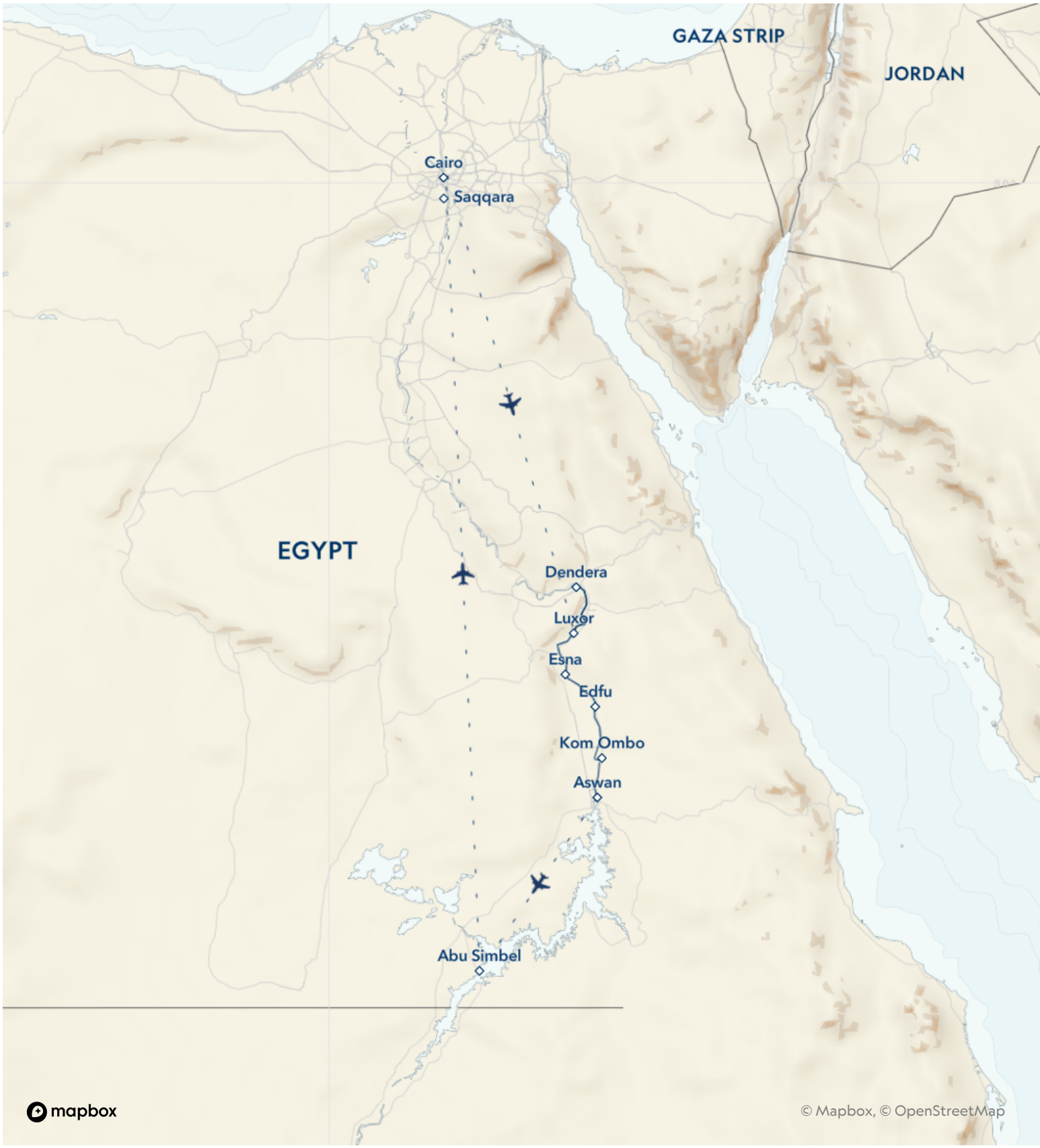
Highlights

- Sail the Nile, seamlessly connected to the landscape by floor-length windows and gracious open spaces, making the *Oberoi Philae* the elegant centerpiece of your trip
- Travel effortlessly and in style with first-class hotels and private internal flights
- Look to seasoned Egyptologists to balance the deluge of discovery with stories, daily recaps, and modern updates
- Capture each moment in perpetuity with your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor's guidance and encouragement








GAZA STRIP
JORDAN
Cairo
Saqqara
EGYPT
Dendera
Luxor
Esna
Edfu
Kom Ombo
Aswan
Abu Simbel
mapbox
© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

Day by day

■ DAY 1

Cairo, Egypt

Arrive in Cairo, the ancient capital of Egypt, and check in to the five-star St. Regis hotel, your home for the next four nights.

Arrival Time: Arrive after 3:00 p.m. local time.
Arrival City: Cairo, Egypt

◇ DAY 2

Cairo / Pyramids / Sphinx / Grand Egyptian Museum

Today, after a morning welcome briefing, start by exploring the premier treasure of Egypt—the Pyramids and Sphinx complex in Giza. Learn how the magnificent Pyramid of Cheops was built from over two million blocks of stone and took tens of thousands of workers over twenty years to build. The infamous Sphinx was carved out of a single massive piece of stone and displays the Pharaoh Chefren's head on the body of a lion. Privileged access takes you inside the barrier for an up-close experience with the Sphinx.

Go inside the Great Pyramid, following the Grand Gallery's narrow passageway to the burial chamber of Cheops. Your Egyptologist will narrate with stories and details, bringing the experience to life, while your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photography Instructor will be on hand to ensure that perfect photos happen.

After lunch, explore the galleries of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) with expert Egyptologists. Witness the 3,200-year-old statue of Ramses II in the Grand Hall, the Solar Boat and select treasures from the prehistoric to the Greco-Roman period. Enjoy a festive welcome reception at the hotel tonight. Dinner is at your leisure.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch

◇ DAY 3

Saqqara / National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

Egyptian treasures are legendary, and expertly guided visits to the finest collections are essential for a complete experience. This morning, travel to Saqqara to see the Step Pyramid of the pharaoh Zoser, a revolutionary design that initiated the art of pyramid-building. You'll also see some of Egypt's most charming wall paintings and reliefs, showing scenes of harvesting, fishing, music-making and dancing, as well as the elaborate and exquisite mastaba of Mereruka, the largest in Saqqara. While not a royal, Mereruka (or Meri) was, among other things, "Chief Justice and Vizier" to Pharaoh Teti of the Sixth Dynasty, wealthy enough to build such a large and colorful tomb for his afterlife.

After lunch, spend time at leisure enjoying the hotel amenities or visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), which spans Egypt's entire history—from prehistoric origins to the present day—covering Pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic, Islamic and modern periods. NMEC is also home to the mummies of 18 kings and 4 queens, including Ramses II, Seti I, and Hatshepsut.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Islamic Cairo

With the guidance of your Egyptologist, who will share narratives and personal experiences, today welcomes exploration of some of Cairo's

most outstanding architecture and monuments to Islam. Atop the Citadel overlooking Cairo sits the commanding Ottoman-era Muhammad Ali Mosque, completed in 1848. Its five domes can be seen throughout the city.

After lunch at a local restaurant, explore the Khan el Khalili bazaar, Egypt's most famous and largest market dating back to the 14th century, for the best taste of Cairo's vibrant and sometimes frantic pace. You can find anything from filigreed silverwork to semiprecious stones, and other souvenirs.

Next, stroll the exquisite El Moez Street, which dates back to the 10th century, making it one of the oldest in Cairo. Marvel at the Islamic architecture as you arrive to the Qalawun Complex, comprised of a mausoleum, a madrasa and a hospital—and considered to be among the finest examples of Islamic architecture in Egypt.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Luxor / Embark Ship

Fly by private charter to Luxor in Upper Egypt, where a visit to the awe-inspiring Karnak Temple is sure to be life changing. For some 2,000 years, 30 pharaohs added their monuments and shrines to this vast temple making it the largest religious building ever constructed. The 134 columns of the great hall create a vast forest of stone towering 70 feet high, and the massive obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut shadows the rear of this masterpiece of human ingenuity. The reliefs and carvings created by some of Ancient Egypt's finest artisans are dramatic.

After Karnak, embark the elegant and privately chartered 42-passenger *Oberoi Philae*, home for the next six nights, in time for lunch. Aboard this recently remodeled steam wheel-style riverboat, you will find your spacious cabin with a French balcony, delightful dining venues, entertainment, a spa, a pool, public areas offering endless places to watch the Nile and a friendly and welcoming Egyptian crew offering impeccable service.

Evening is the ideal time to visit Luxor Museum, which is beautifully lit and home to some of Egypt's finest statuary, including the mummies of Ahmos I and Ramesses I.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Dendera / Luxor Temple

Please note that you will drive via motorcoaches between Luxor and Dendera Temple if your arrival coincides with low water and cruise this section of the Nile during high water times.

Start the day enjoying the remote temple of Dendera. Constructed during the time of Roman emperors, hundreds of years of black soot were delicately removed to reveal stunning artwork beneath and reliefs on the temple walls depicting Empress Cleopatra.

Next, is the exquisite Luxor Temple guarded by its massive statues of Ramses II. This temple has been a place of worship for millennia. Its magnificent pylons, columns and statues are also an excellent site to visit after sunset, illuminated with magical lighting.

After dinner onboard, venture into Luxor for an opportunity to leisurely enjoy the evening in this ancient city on the east bank of the Nile.

Meals included: lunch, dinner, breakfast

◇ DAY 7

West Bank

Journey to the West Bank of the Nile and the famed Valley of the Kings, the burial ground for

hundreds of years of Egypt's greatest pharaohs. Explore and photograph the tombs of Set 1 and Tutankhamun. Then visit the Valley of the Queens and the most legendary tomb of them all, that of Nefertari*. Vivid paintings depict the queen's renowned beauty and her journey to the afterlife in exquisite color and quality found nowhere else in Egypt. See the temple of Hatshepsut, dramatically set beneath sandstone cliffs.

Have lunch on board and spend the afternoon traversing the magnificent Nile and marveling at the rich and verdant riverbanks that have sustained life here for thousands of years. The *Oberoi Philae* offers luxurious space and ample viewpoints to watch life and history as it goes by. Whether ensuite, with friends in the lounge, or on the top deck, today will offer connection to people and place.

In the evening, presentations and recaps from the Egyptologists and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor are scheduled as the ship passes through the lock before an elegant dinner is served. Overnight in Esna.

*Note: The tomb of Nefertari is temporarily closed for renovations. In the meantime, you will instead visit the spectacular Ramesseum, the funerary temple of Ramses II.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Esna

From the ship, walk to the nearby Temple of Khnum in the town of Esna. This temple has not been fully excavated, and your Egyptologist explains how silt from centuries of the Nile's annual floods buried the temple, which sits about nine meters below river level.

As you walk back to the ship through Esna, take a moment to talk to locals and learn about Egyptian small-town life. Relax on board, dive into the ship's library of Egyptian history, or take a cool swim in the ship's pool. Overnight in Kom Ombo, just under the riverside temple.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Kom Ombo / Aswan

Set strikingly on a hill overlooking the Nile and dedicated to two gods, hawk-headed Haroeris and crocodile-headed Sobek, the Kom Ombo Temple, built during the Ptolemaic era, is richly decorated and has a hieroglyphic calendar.

After a visit to Kom Ombo, board the ship and stay on deck as it approaches Aswan, a gloriously impactful spot on the Nile, backed by hills and granite rocks protruding from the riverbed and framed with sailboats (called *feluccas*) plying the water. Aswan is just downstream of the northernmost Nile cataract, historically making it a frontier town and trading center with Nubia.

In the afternoon, visit the fine Nubian Museum. End the day with High Tea at the legendary Old Cataract Hotel, from where commanding views of the Nile and Elephantine Island are sure to excite. A Nubian cultural show onboard *Oberoi Philae* rounds out the day.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Aswan

This morning, visit the lovely Temple of Isis on the island of Philae, from which the *Oberoi Philae* gets its name. Like Abu Simbel, the Temple of Isis would have been lost to the floods caused by the building of the High Dam if not painstakingly dismantled, moved and reconstructed at its present location.

Visit a granite quarry to learn how massive obelisks—tall, four-sided narrow pillars that end in a pyramidal top used as monuments—were carefully cut from solid rock transported down the Nile.

The afternoon takes a different direction as you relax and enjoy a sail on a traditional felucca or wooden sailboat as the Nubian crew sing local songs and highlight the beauty of the shallow and jutting rocky cataracts of the Nile in the afternoon light.

Meals included: lunch, dinner, breakfast

◇ DAY 11

Disembark Ship / Abu Simbel / Cairo

A private plane awaits you after disembarking *Oberoi Philae* to fly you to southern Nubia and the remarkable site of Abu Simbel. Sitting on a sunbaked island in the azure waters of Lake Nassar, you'll find two temples here. One large, dedicated to Ramses II's victory at Kadesh, and one small, dedicated to his beloved Queen Nefertari. Constructed in the mid-13th century BC, Abu Simbel was excavated from the sand in 1817. The temples were moved painstakingly piece-by-piece to where it sits today to avoid being lost again to the creation of modern Lake Nassar.

After lunch, reboard the chartered plane for the flight back to Cairo and check in at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. In the evening enjoy a final dinner with the group.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 12

Cairo

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Departure Time: Anytime.

Departure City: Cairo, Egypt

Meals included: breakfast

2026 (Southbound)

Luxor, Egypt → Aswan, Egypt

2026 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

14 Nov				

Alternative Routes

Visit Expeditions.com for more information.

2026 Departure Dates

28 Nov

2027 Departure Dates

24 Jan, 30 Jan, 09 Feb, 17 Feb, 05 Mar, 23 Oct, 14 Nov, 16 Nov, 24 Nov, 02 Dec, 10 Dec

2028 Departure Dates

03 Jan, 19 Jan, 27 Jan, 20 Feb, 28 Feb, 13 Mar, 15 Sep, 23 Sep, 29 Sep, 09 Oct, 25 Oct, 02 Nov, 16 Nov, 26 Nov, 04 Dec



Oberoi Philae

GUESTS	CABINS
42	22

Oberoi Philae is a luxurious riverboat that was extensively reconfigured in 2015, with floor-to-ceiling windows that provide unforgettable views of the Nile.

A voyage along the Nile is the centerpiece of your journey through Egypt. There are few, if any, ships that can match the elegance, ideal size, and graciousness of the *Oberoi Philae*. Originally built for 100 guests, it was remodeled and reconfigured to accommodate 42 in her peerless style.

Built in 1996, she was extensively reconfigured in 2015 with just 22 cabins and luxurious amenities, including an Oberoi spa. Windows are nearly floor to ceiling and slide open, offering a connection with the river. The topmost deck has a swimming pool that is the largest of any Nile ship and an alfresco restaurant. Downstairs, there's a stylish enclosed restaurant serving local specialties as well as more continental options.

The heart of the ship is the lounge, where everyone aboard gathers each night for Recap. It's here that Egyptologists, who have worked with Lindblad for decades, share stories of the sites, who built them and why, and fascinating modern details like how they've changed over the years. And it's these sites and stories, and this time to relax between exploring places of antiquity, that make this expedition, and this ship, so special.







Cabin Categories

Category 1

DECK B **#B01-B06**

These spacious cabins have a mix of queen beds or two single beds, sitting area, and a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms with a glass shower.



Category 2

DECK C **#C01-C10**

These spacious cabins have a mix of queen beds or two single beds, sitting area, and a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms with a glass shower.



Category 3

DECK D **#D03-D04**

These spacious cabins have two single beds (which can be pushed together), sitting area, and a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms with a glass shower.



Category 4

DECK D **#D01-D02**

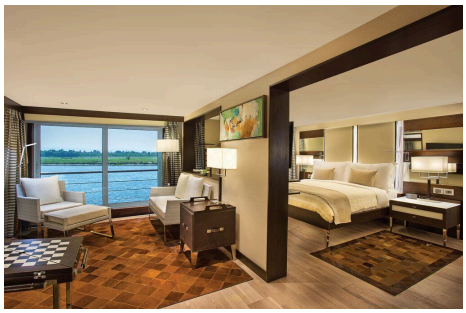
These very large suites have an adjoining seating area, a queen-size bed, sliding glass doors that open to a French balcony. Cabins have well-appointed bathrooms a shower, standalone bathtub, and private changing room.



Category 5

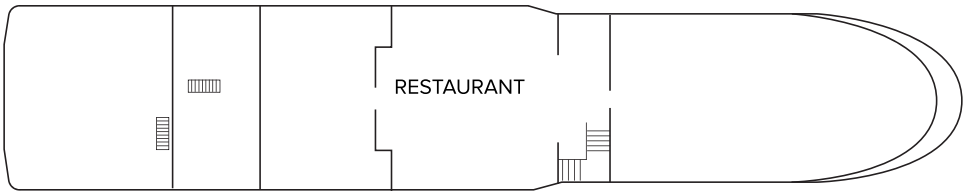
DECK D **#D05-D06**

These very large suites have a queen-size bed, side and stern-facing windows that open, a shower, private changing room, and a standalone bathtub. Suites also feature a living room. Each has a large private outdoor terrace with private spa tub and sun lounger.



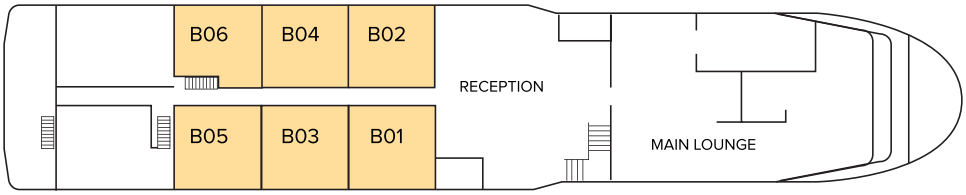
Deck Plans

Deck A



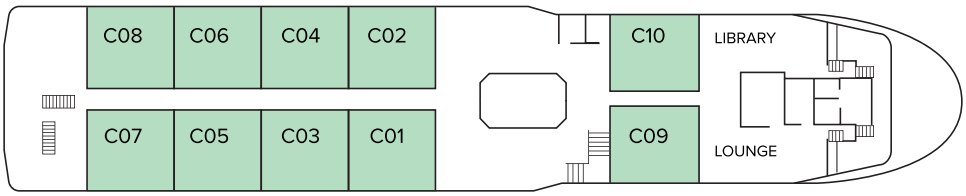
Deck B

- Category 1



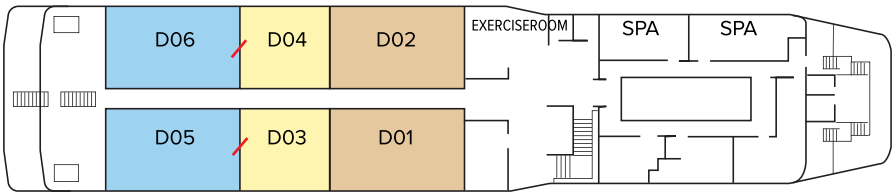
Deck C

- Category 2

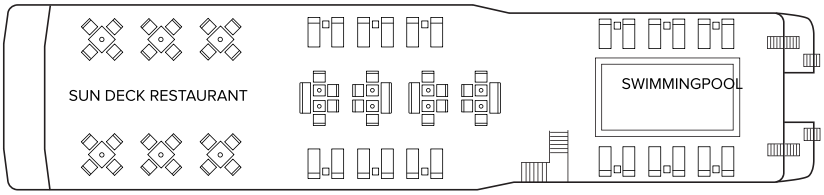


Deck D

- Category 3
- Category 4
- Category 5



Deck E



Ship Amenities

Public Areas

Relax on a deck chair next to the 36-foot pool or take a meal in the alfresco dining room to watch life along the riverbanks from the top deck. Spend a few hours in the library reading about Egyptian history or join your photo instructor for a session in the lounge.

Meals

Discover the tastes of Egypt and beyond in a dining room that accommodates the entire expedition community in a single seating. Sample Middle Eastern cuisine or choose from continental options as well.

Cabins

22 outside cabins. All of the cabins include individual climate controls, hair dryer, 40" LCD television, complimentary WiFi access, a DVD player, an electronic safe, mini-fridge, blackout blinds and openable French windows.

Special Features

Her scale, décor, and renowned service defines Oberoi Philae as the finest ship on the Nile. She has the intimate scale of a luxury yacht and the space and hospitality of a luxury hotel.

Wellness

Enjoy the spa, offering a choice of massage treatments, and a fitness room with space to stretch out and recharge.

Special Offers

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise.
For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

INCLUDED IN PRICE

All accommodations aboard ship and in hotels per itinerary; all meals aboard ship and on land as indicated on the itinerary, with soft drinks/non-alcoholic beverages and select alcoholic beverages, drinking water throughout; excursions per itinerary, including entrance fees, special access permits, and photography fees; arrival and departure airport transfers for any flights into and out of Cairo, including airport assistance; gratuities to all service staff, including Egyptologists and ship's crew; guidance and company of a leading certified photographer and private Egyptologists throughout, presentations by expedition staff and expert Egyptologists, including Recaps with snacks and hors d'oeuvres; Wi-Fi aboard ship; laundry aboard ship; access to exercise equipment; and 24-hour access to lounge and shared spaces aboard ship. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

Airfare* (except flights when indicated as included); Egypt visa on arrival (priced separately); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); spa treatments, Wi-Fi in hotels (if not included by hotels), and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; passport, and immigration fees; and items of a personal nature, such as souvenirs, and laundry in hotels.

*Recommended flight costs include flight(s) that take place during the date range of your trip to transport travelers from one itinerary destination to another. This cost also includes ground transportation, luggage transfer, and airport assistance. If you prefer to arrange your own flights privately, have alternate means of transport, or wish to modify at a later time, please contact an Expedition Specialist at 1.833.400.0831

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/