Exploring Egypt Aboard *Sun Goddess*

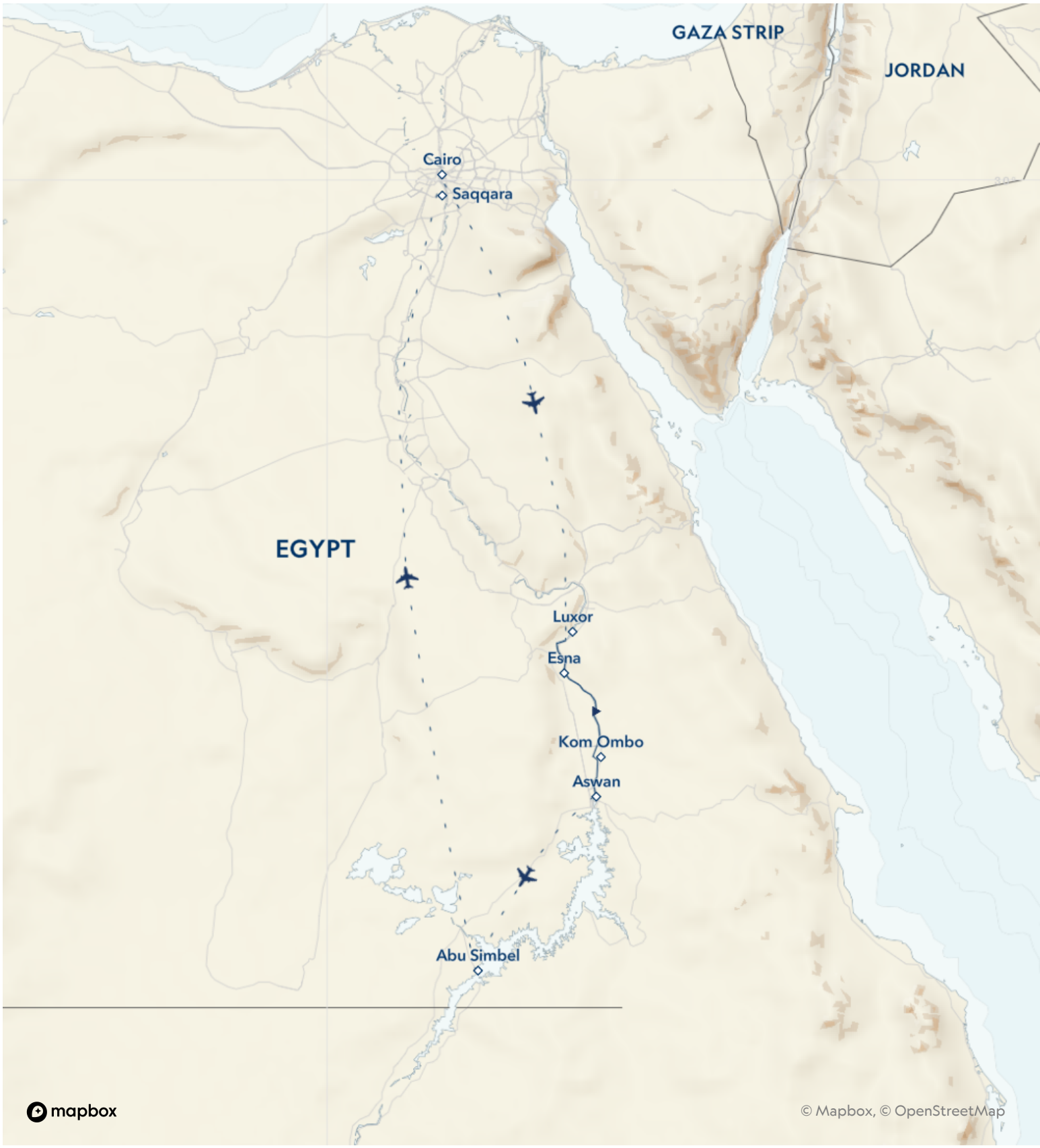
From
$ 10,452 / per person
Includes required flights

DATES Oct	**DURATION** 9 Days
SHIPS *Sun Goddess*	
STARTS AT Cairo, Egypt →	**ENDS AT** Cairo, Egypt

Explore Egypt's spectacular highlights on this 9-day exploration in the Land of Pharaohs and Gods. Enter iconic pyramids to discover impossibly vibrant depictions of life in ancient Egypt. Be dwarfed by Karnak Temple's 70-foot columns and discover the long-held secrets of the Valley of the Kings. A Nile cruise has been a rite of passage for generations, and you will follow in the paths of Mark Twain and Agatha Christie as you explore the banks of this fabled river aboard the graceful *Sun Goddess*. See legendary sites like the Sphinx, Luxor Temple and Abu Simbel while traveling by private flights and elegant small ship. As with the 12-day Passage Through Egypt aboard *Oberoi Philae* , the many exceptional pleasures of this shorter expedition also include first-class hotels and the company of renowned Egyptologists.

Highlights

- Experience the thrill of exploring celebrated sites of antiquity like the Great Pyramids, Abu Simbel, and the Valley of the Kings
- Sail the legendary Nile in a luxurious all-suite vessel, stepping off to explore riverside temples and villages
- Premier hotel accommodations and private internal flights ensure a seamless, sumptuous experience
- Exceptional Egyptologists, a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor, and other specialists greatly enrich the expedition experience


GAZA STRIP
JORDAN
Cairo
Saqqara
EGYPT
Luxor
Esna
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 three nights.

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

◇ DAY 2

Cairo / Pyramids / Sphinx / Grand Egyptian Museum

After a morning welcome briefing, start the day exploring the most iconic and mysterious of all things in Egypt: the Pyramids and Sphinx complex in Giza.

Among the seven wonders of the ancient world, only the Pyramids of Giza have survived. The magnificent Pyramid of Cheops was built from over two million blocks of stone and took tens of thousands of workers twenty years to build. Nearby is the great Sphinx, carved out of a single massive piece of stone, showing 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. You'll have the chance to go inside the Great Pyramid, following the narrow passageway of the Grand Gallery to the burial chamber of Cheops. Your Egyptologist will regale you with stories and details of the site's construction while your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor will be on hand to ensure you get the perfect photos.

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

Luxor / Embark Ship

Fly early via private charter flight to Luxor, in Upper Egypt, where you'll visit Karnak Temple. For 2,000 years some 30 pharaohs added their own monuments and shrines to this vast temple. The 134 columns of the great hall create a forest of stone 70 feet high, while the towering obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut shadows the rear of the temple. The reliefs and carvings, created by some of Ancient Egypt's finest artisans, are dramatic.

Embark the elegant all-suite *Sun Goddess* in time for a late lunch. Onboard you will find spacious cabins, warm public areas and a welcoming Egyptian crew offering impeccable service. This evening, explore the exquisite Luxor Temple, guarded by massive statues of Ramses II, with magnificent pylons, columns and statues. It has been a place of worship for millennia, as attested to by the mosque that was built atop the site. Luxor Temple is well-lit in the evenings and a wonderful site to visit after sunset.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

West Bank / Sailing the Nile

This morning, cross the Nile to the fabled West Bank and Valley of the Kings, burial ground for hundreds of years to Egypt's greatest pharaohs. Explore and photograph the tombs of Seti I and Tutankhamun. Visit the Valley of the Queens and the most remarkable tomb of them all: that of Nefertari.* Vivid paintings show the queen's beauty and depict 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.

Return to the ship for lunch and time to relax as the ship casts off from Luxor to spend the afternoon marveling at the rich and verdant riverbanks and farmland that has sustained life along the Nile for thousands of years. Enjoy the views from your suite or join your friends in the lounge or on the top deck to watch life and history go by. The program continues with presentations from your Egyptologists and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Certified Photo Instructor later this evening. Pass through Esna lock before enjoying an elegant dinner and overnighting in Esna.

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

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Esna / Sailing the Nile

Early this morning, walk to the nearby Temple of Khnum, which lies beneath the contemporary town of Esna and has not yet been fully excavated. Your Egyptologist will explain how silt from centuries of the Nile's annual floods buried the temple, which sits below street level. Walk back to the ship through the narrow streets of Esna, talking with locals, sharing stories and learning about everyday Egyptian small-town life.

Enjoy more time onboard where you can relax, dip into the ship's library of Egyptian history or take a cool swim in the pool. Presentations onboard will cover ancient and modern Egypt.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Kom Ombo / Aswan

Visit Kom Ombo, set strikingly atop a hill overlooking the Nile. Built during the Ptolemaic era, Kom Ombo is dedicated to two gods—hawk-headed Haroeris and crocodile headed Sobek. It is richly decorated, and even has a hieroglyphic calendar.

Stand on deck as you approach Aswan, a glorious location on the Nile, backed by hills, with granite rocks protruding from the riverbed and sailboats (called *feluccas*) plying the water. Aswan is just downstream of the northernmost Nile cataract, which historically made it a frontier town and trading center with Nubia.

This afternoon, visit the lovely Temple of Isis on the island of Philae. In Greek, Philae means "the end", an apt name since the island lies on the border with ancient Nubia. Like Abu Simbel, the Temple of Isis would have been lost to the floods caused by the building of the High Dam had it not been painstakingly dismantled, moved and reconstructed at its present location. Visit a granite quarry to learn about how massive obelisks and other structures were carefully cut from solid rock and transported to the river for sailing the Nile to Lower Egypt. Get a good look at an unfinished obelisk before a Nubian cultural show on board this evening.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Disembark Ship / Abu Simbel / Cairo

Disembark *Sun Goddess* and fly by private charter to southern Nubia and the remarkable site of Abu Simbel, on a sunbaked island in the azure waters of Lake Nasser. Two temples are found here; one large, dedicated to Ramses II's victory at Kadesh, and one small, dedicated to his beloved Queen Nefertari. Constructed in a different location in the mid-13th century BC, Abu Simbel was excavated from the sand in 1817. In 1968 the temples were cut and moved piece by piece to avoid being lost again, this time not to sand and neglect but to the creation of modern Lake Nasser.

After lunch, reboard a privately-chartered aircraft to Cairo and check into the 5-star InterContinental Citystars Hotel. Gather for your final dinner with the group this evening.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 9

Cairo

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Departure Time: Anytime.

Departure City: Cairo, Egypt

Meals included: breakfast

Expedition

Cairo, Egypt → Cairo, Egypt

2026 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Sun Goddess*

16 Oct	23 Oct	30 Oct		

Sun Goddess

GUESTS	CABINS
60	30

A new addition to our Egypt offerings, the elegant *Sun Goddess* carries a maximum of only 60 guests in 30 spacious suites, providing an intimate and exceptionally comfortable experience on the world's longest river. Featuring a separate sitting area and a balcony, each suite is a relaxing and sophisticated environment to observe 5,000 years of history unfolding along the Nile's banks.

Recently renovated in 2019, *Sun Goddess* is awash in soothing natural wood tones and an inviting ambience that imbues all five decks. Of the ship's many common spaces, the highlight is her expansive Sun Deck offering open-air amenities and panoramic views of the Nile. With lounge chairs shaded by umbrellas, alfresco dining, and a refreshing swimming pool and Jacuzzi, it's an enticing place to rest and recharge between visits to the region's extraordinary temples and tombs.

Inside the ship, there are equally inviting public spaces to enjoy, from the airy dining room lined with large portholes to the well-appointed lounge with its eye-catching golden bar. Order your favorite beverage and pull up a seat as our Egyptologists and certified photo instructors discuss the day's adventures during Lindblad's signature daily Recap.

Cabin Categories

Category 1

DECK 3 **#300-316,** *430 sq ft.*

These spacious suites feature queen beds, separate seating area, sliding glass door opening to a private balcony with seating, and private bathroom with full-sized bathtub.

Category 2

DECK 4 **#402-416,** *430 sq ft*

These spacious suites feature queen beds, separate seating area, sliding glass door opening to a private balcony with seating, and private bathroom with full-sized bathtub.

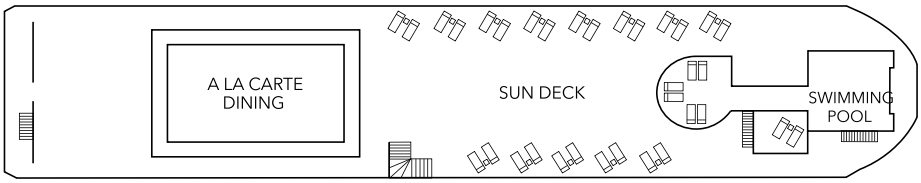
Category 3

DECK 4 **#400 & 401,** *646 sq ft.*

These very large forward-facing suites feature a king bed, separate seating area, door opening to a balcony with seating, and private bathroom with full-sized bathtub.

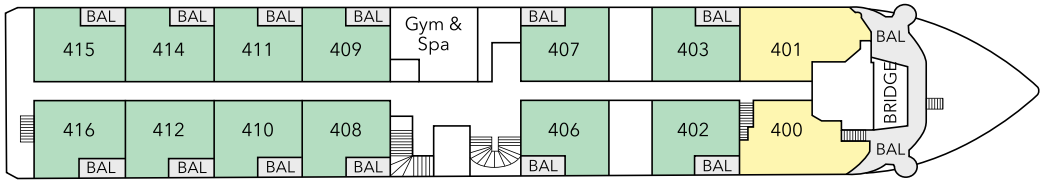
Deck Plans

Deck 5



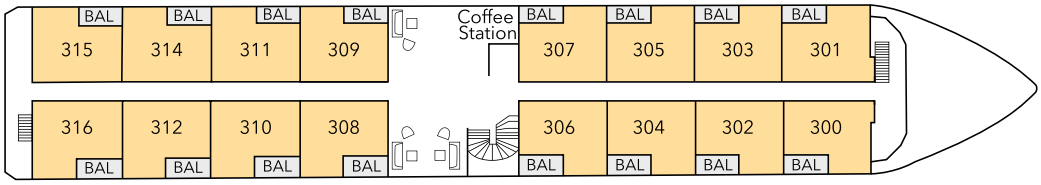
Deck 4

- Category 2
- Category 3



Deck 3

- Category 1



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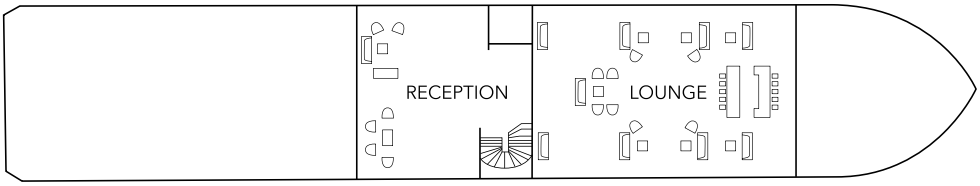
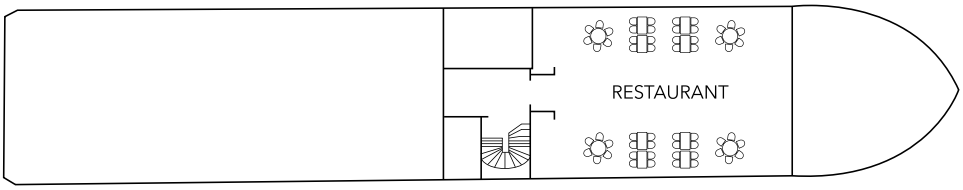


Deck 1



Ship Amenities

30 Outside Suites

All of the ships 30 spacious suites have a separate sitting area, both inside and out. Bathrooms are all fitted with a full-sized bathtub and shower. There are 26 Presidential Suites measuring a spacious 430 square feet, two Executive Suites which provides an impressive 646 square feet. All cabins also feature a mini-bar, safe, music system, TV, individual climate control and hairdryer. Laundry service is included, and there's ample storage.

Public Spaces

Natural wood tones with pops of vibrant color, gold-toned décor accents, Egyptian-themed artwork, and potted palms set the stage for the graceful public spaces. Sip on a cocktail during the evening Recap in the lounge. Relax on the Sun Deck, enjoying alfresco dining and a dip in the swimming pool or Jacuzzi. Or recline in a lounge chair and simply observe life on the Nile as boats float by and oxen drink along the banks as they have for millennia.

Wellness Features

Take a break from exploring to enjoy a massage treatment or a sauna in the Spa or get in a workout in the Fitness Room, which includes a treadmill and exercise bike.

Dining

The ship's airy and elegant dining room accommodates the entire expedition community in one seating. Enjoy high-quality cuisine that's focused on both local and Continental dishes, with options for vegetarians as well as other dietary needs. An expansive breakfast buffet is included daily while lunches and dinners are a mix of plated, family-style or buffet depending on the day's schedule.

Special Offers

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.

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.

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/