

EXPERIENCE

EGYPT

NOTHING COMPARES

One of the oldest tourist destinations on Earth, Egypt has been enticing visitors to explore its wonders for thousands of years. Travelers come here to marvel at such triumphs as the Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza, the Valley of the Kings, and the rock-cut sun temple, Abu Simbel. But monuments are not all Egypt has to offer. In the 21st century, Egypt tempts visitors with the legacies of ancient history and so much more: In Cairo, medieval mosques and ancient Coptic churches are interwoven with the skyscrapers of modern life; on the Nile River, luxury cruise vessels pamper guests while winding their way through the timeless Nile Valley; and along the seacoasts, sumptuous beach resorts and exquisite coral reefs draw divers and snorkelers from around the world.

EXPLORE CAIRO

The city of 1,000 minarets, Cairo unfolds along both banks of the Nile River with a staggering mix of history and cultures. The immensity and diversity of the city is astonishing, making it easy to understand why Egyptians think of their capital as the “Mother of the World.”

Cairo’s Europeanized city center is

filled with broad streets and rococo apartment buildings that reflect the style of late-19th-century Paris. The Islamic Quarters is a fascinating jumble of medieval lanes, bustling bazaars, and wondrous monuments; and the Coptic quarter is Cairo’s oldest inhabited section on the east side of the river.

No visitor to Cairo can miss a day trip to the three Great Pyramids and lion-bodied Sphinx, just beyond the outskirts of Giza City. You can explore inside the Great Pyramid of Cheops, the largest and oldest of the three, in the morning or afternoon and witness the magical Sphinx Sound and Light Show in the evening.

CRUISE THE NILE RIVER

The world’s longest river, the Nile is the timeless lifeblood of Egypt. Nearly all of Ancient Egypt’s cultural and historical sites lie along the banks of this almost mythical river. A cruise down the Nile—whether for a few hours or a few days—is a magical journey through 5,000 years of history and the highlight of any Egyptian itinerary.

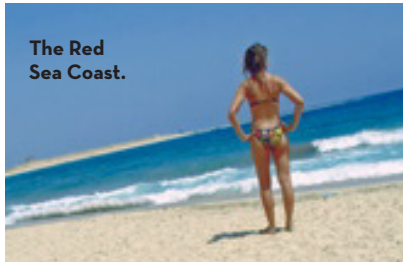
If you have time, a 7-day cruise is the best way to soak up your surroundings and fully explore the magnificent monuments and temples en route. Set

Above:
Head of
Ramses II.



To start planning your Egypt Experience, contact the Egyptian Tourist Authority at 1-877-77-EGYPT, or on the web at www.egypt.travel.

EGYPT—NOTHING COMPARES



The Red Sea Coast.

Shopping at the Khan el-Khalili Market; spices for sale in Cairo; sunrise at the Pyramids of Giza;



sail from Luxor or Aswan and retrace the routes once taken by Egypt's great kings and queens. You'll pass the great Pharaonic temples of Esna, Edfu, and Kom Ombo; Luxor's Karnak and Luxor temples; and the legendary Valley of the Kings.

If your schedule is tight, half- or one-day cruises are available from spots all along the Nile. You'll enjoy spectacular views that are only visible from the water and the onboard guide will point out the highlights.

Cruises are also available on Lake Nasser, south of Aswan. These three- or four-day excursions offer one of the best ways to visit the breathtaking Sun Temple of Ramses II, Abu Simbel, as well as some otherwise inaccessible sites.

DIVE OR SNORKEL THE RED SEA

While many travelers may associate Egypt with its vast tracts of arid land, divers from around the world look at the country's

palm-fringed coasts as the star attraction.

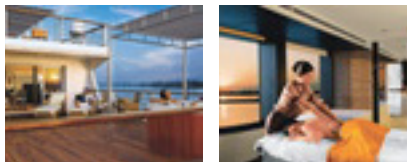
On the Sinai Peninsula, with its sun-kissed beaches and luxury hotels, resort areas cater to both experienced and novice divers. Nuweiba is a good spot for beginners and snorkelers. Dahab is known for the difficult Blue Hole and Canyon. And Sharm el-Sheikh, at the tip of the peninsula, offers some options for beginners, though the best known sites (such as Ras Mohammed Reserve) are for experienced divers only.

The Red Sea Coast, especially the town of Hurghada, is also renowned for its dive sites. The Red Sea boasts a truly unique ecosystem with more than 250 species of coral and 1,248 species of fish, many of which exist nowhere else in the world. There are some shore dives here but most sites are accessible via daylong boat trips or extended dive safaris.



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CRUISE THE NILE IN LUXURY ABOARD THE OBEROI ZAHRA



The recently launched **Oberoi Zahra** continues The Oberoi Group's tradition of offering the highest standards of hospitality. Luxury as a unique, memorable, and personal experience, core to the Oberoi philosophy, encompasses every element of the guest's stay onboard this sumptuous cruiser. Offering some of the most spacious accommodations on the Nile, the boat's 25 Luxury Cabins are spread over 30 square meters (323 square feet) and the two Luxury Suites over 50 square meters (538 square feet). The elegant interiors of the guest accommodations are complemented by expansive views of the river, framed by large windows within the cabins and the en suite bathrooms. The Luxury Suites also feature a separate living room and an attached terrace with a Jacuzzi. The Oberoi Zahra is the only

boat on the Nile with a full-service spa that includes four massage suites, each with an en suite steam room and shower.

Additional facilities include a theater, Library and Cigar Lounge, outdoor swimming pool, and well-appointed gym. The restaurant onboard serves a selection of international and Egyptian cuisine, offering a new menu every day and an elaborate à la carte service. The Oberoi Zahra sails on a leisurely 7-day itinerary from Luxor to Aswan (and vice versa). The cruiser enjoys private docking facilities in most ports, allowing guests an almost private viewing of the sites.

For more information, visit www.oberoihotels.com