


 Egypt & River Cruises  
30° 3' N 31° 14' E

# Passage Through Egypt

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  
**\$ 14,162** / per person  
Does not include flights

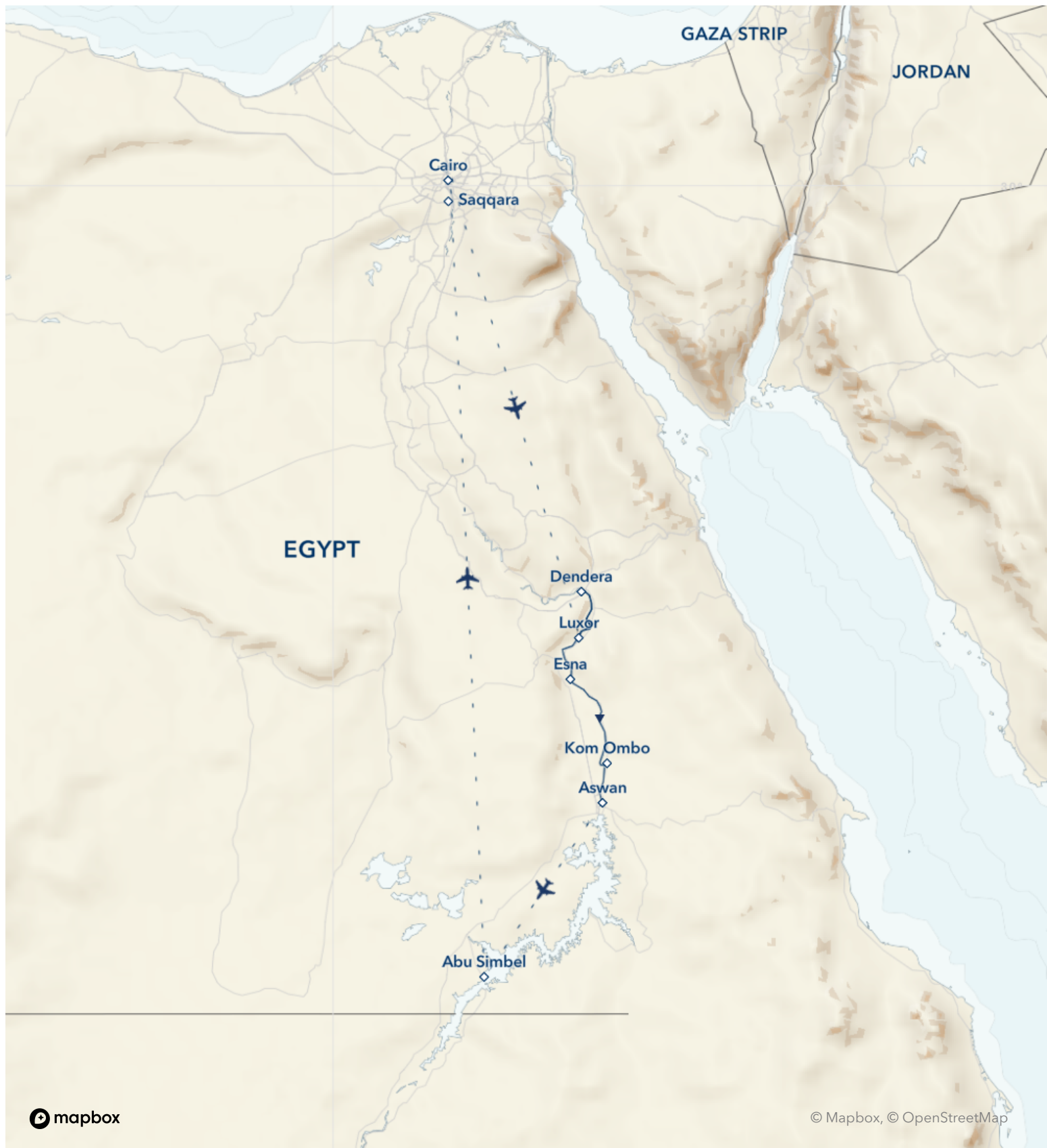
 <b>DATES</b> Jan, Feb, Mar, Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec	 <b>DURATION</b> 12 Days
 <b>SHIPS</b> <i>Oberoi Philae</i>	
 <b>STARTS AT</b> Luxor, Egypt	→  <b>ENDS AT</b> Aswan, Egypt



# 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 Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Certified Photo Instructor's guidance and encouragement







## Day by day

### ■ DAY 1

#### Cairo, Egypt

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

**Arrival Time:** Arrive before 3:00 p.m. local time.

**Arrival City:** Cairo, Egypt

### ◇ DAY 2

#### Cairo / Pyramids / Sphinx

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 Chefred's head on the body of a lion.

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 Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Certified Photography Instructor will be on hand to ensure that perfect photos happen.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before either returning to the St. Regis to relax and enjoy your accommodations or visiting the National Museum of Egyptian Culture where the Royal Mummies are now on display.

**Meals included:** breakfast, lunch

### ◇ DAY 3

#### Cairo / Grand Egyptian Museum and

#### Saqqara

Egyptian treasures are the stuff of legend, and expertly guided visits to the finest collections are essential for a complete experience. The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)\*, scheduled to open in late 2024, is the new crown jewel of Egypt and one of the world's largest, most modern museums. Great masterpieces, including the treasures of Tutankhamun, the brightly painted sculptures of Prince Rahotep and Princess Nofret, and the bizarre relief of Akhenaten will be on display.

After lunch, travel to Saqqara to see the Step Pyramid of the Pharaoh Zoser, a revolutionary design that initiated the art of pyramid-building. Here, you'll see some of Egypt's most captivating wall paintings and reliefs, showing harvesting, fishing, music-making, and dancing scenes. Discover the elaborate *mastaba*, a type of ancient flat-roofed rectangular Egyptian tomb of Mereruka (or Meri). He was not a royal but "Chief Justice and Vizier" to Pharaoh Teti of the Sixth Dynasty. This large and colorful tomb built for Meri's afterlife is considered the largest in Saqqara.

\*Note: Before the opening of the GEM, guests will visit the Antiquities Museum, home to an expansive collection of ancient marvels, which will close when the GEM opens.

**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. Continue to the mosque of Sultan Hassan, built between 1356 and 1363 during the Bahri Mamluk period. Recognized for its size and use of unorthodox architectural elements, the mosque and its madrassa (school attached to a mosque) display some of the best examples of Islamic art in Cairo.

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.

**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 we will drive via motorcoaches between Luxor and Dendera Temple if our 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 Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic 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, we 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 5-Star InterContinental Citystars Hotel. In the evening enjoy a final dinner with the group.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 12

## Cairo

Following your last night in Egypt, have breakfast at the InterContinental and take a transfer to the airport for your flight home.

**Departure Time:** Anytime.

**Departure City:** Cairo, Egypt

Meals included: breakfast

**2024-25 (Southbound)**

Luxor, Egypt → Aswan, Egypt

**2024 Departure Dates**

Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

14 Sep		
12 Oct		
09 Nov		
07 Dec		

**2025 Departure Dates**

Aboard *Oberoi Philae*

01 Feb		
01 Mar	29 Mar	
20 Sep		
18 Oct		
15 Nov		

**Alternative Routes**

Visit [Expeditions.com](http://Expeditions.com) for more information.

**2024 Departure Dates**

28 Sep, 26 Oct, 23 Nov

**2025 Departure Dates**

18 Jan, 15 Feb, 15 Mar, 06 Sep, 04 Oct,  
01 Nov, 29 Nov





## ***Oberoi Philae***

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**Guests**

42

**Cabins**

22

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***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.





## 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

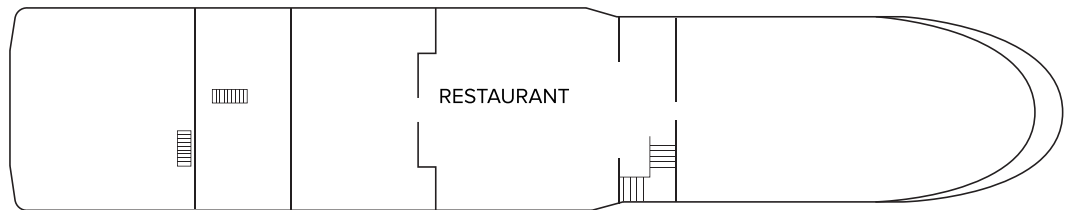
### Deck D: #D05-D06:

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.



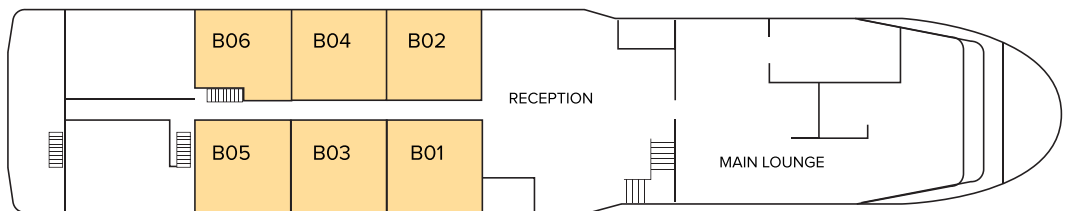
# Deck Plans

## Deck A



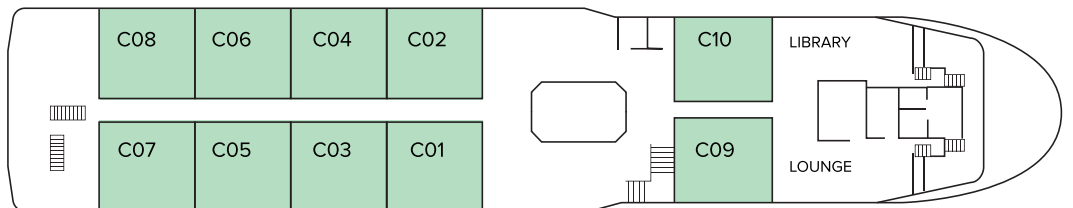
## Deck B

Category 1



## Deck C

Category 2

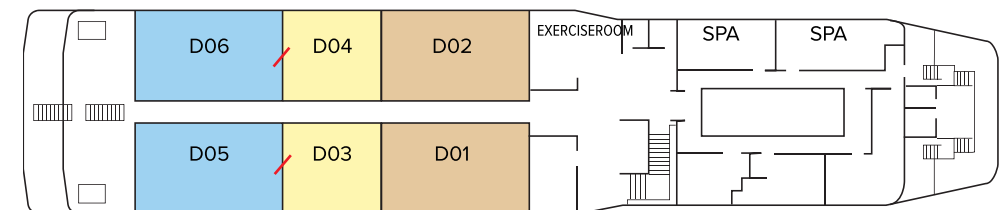


## Deck D

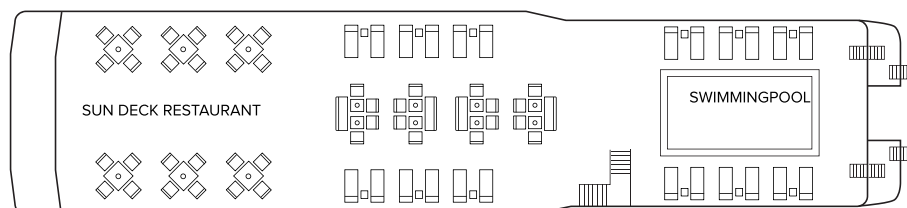
Category 3

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. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Call for details.

### 10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

### BRINGING THE KIDS

We believe sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18 on any departure. Not applicable on extensions or airfare. Call for details.

### SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more people. Valid on voyage fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

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### 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.

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## Not included in price

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); internal charter flights (priced separately); 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 from hotels), and phone services (except when indicated as included); hot air balloon ride in Luxor; travel protection plans; passport, and immigration fees; and items of a personal nature, such as souvenirs, and laundry in hotels.

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## 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/>

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## Cancellation policy

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