



# NILE, FELUCCA & RED SEA - TOUR DOSSIER

**Tour Code NFR14** 

CAIRO - CAIRO

14 DAYS

Tour Starts - Met at Cairo Airport on arrival on day one

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Cairo
Giza Pyramids, Sphinx & Saqqara
Aswan
Philae Temple
Kitchener & Elephantine Islands
Felucca Cruise
Luxor
Kom Ombo & Edfu Temples
Valley of the Kings & Queens
Hatshepsut's Temple



Marvel at ancient pyramids and deep cut tombs, lose yourself in the bustling markets of Cairo and kick back on a sailboat in Aswan. Enjoy Egyptian welcomes and the relaxing Red Sea on this comprehensive tour of North Africa's favourite destination.

## **INTENDED ITINERARY**

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore, treat the following as a guide only. **This tour is operated in association with a local operator.**Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.

**Duration**: 14 Days **Countries visited**: Egypt

## DAY 1 - 2

Cairo, Giza & Saqqara Pyramids, Overnight Train

Bx1 Dx1 City Hotel

On arrival in Cairo you will be met at the airport and transferred to your accommodation. The city pulses throughout the day and there is time this afternoon to absorb some sights and sounds of your new surrounds. Next day we visit one of the world's most famous icons and only remaining wonder of the ancient world – the Giza Pyramids. These burial shrines of three ancient pharaohs are believed to have been built 4600 years ago. Towering above the modern city of Cairo, they are an incredible testament to the achievements of the ancient Egyptians. You may have the option to climb inside one or go for a short camel ride. After visiting the Sphinx we head to The Egyptian Museum for a close up look at some of the important artefacts from Egypt's golden period and in the evening we take an overnight sleeper train to Aswan.

DAY 3 - 5 Aswan, Felucca Cruise Bx3 Lx1 Dx2

Hotel, Felucca

In contrast to the chaos of the capital, Aswan has a wonderful laid back atmosphere with picturesque views across the Nile. It is Egypt's gateway to the rest of Africa and a mixing pot of Arabs, Copts and Nubians from the desert in the south. We arrive in the morning and transfer to our hotel for some leisure time. This afternoon we pass the Nile's first cataract to the scenic Philae Temple on its island above the first cataract. We tour the temple as herons and kingfishers feed on the waters in the late afternoon light.

The following day the optional activity is a visit to Abu Simbel, the funerary temples of Ramses II and his great wife Nefertari. The sight of four enormous statues of Ramses at his temple is spectacular, as is the fact that both temples were rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser and rebuilt brick by brick when the Aswan Dam was erected. Back in Aswan, an afternoon boat ride takes us to Kitchener and Elephantine Islands where we enjoy peaceful botanical gardens and a Nubian village. Later in the afternoon we board our traditional felucca and begin our 2 night cruise on the Nile. As the evening draws on we moor on the banks and our wonderful Nubian crew cook dinner. Tonight we eat and sleep under the stars – a highlight of the tour! Our beds are thick mattresses that we use on deck. Bring a sleeping bag or sleep sheet (June – September) for this.

Aboard our traditional felucca sailboats we rise for our final day and night cruise down the Nile, watching beautiful scenes of rural Egypt pass by. Tonight, just outside Kom Ombo, we enjoy some typical Nubian entertainment by the boat crew including drumming and singing.

# DAY 6 - 7 Kom Ombo & Edfu Temples, Luxor Bx2 Dx1 Hotel

We leave our feluccas and tour the magnificent Kom Ombo Temple in its crumbling grandeur on the banks of the Nile. The amazingly preserved Edfu Temple is our next stop further north, before our arrival in Luxor. Luxor is a town steeped in history and ancient temple ruins rise out of the middle of the town, dating from 1500BC. Although well adapted for visitors, the town with its buzzing markets, dusty streets of horse drawn carts and gallibaya wearing inhabitants has little changed in hundreds of years. This afternoon we visit Luxor Temple and famous Karnak, a spectacular temple complex built over centuries by successive pharaohs, displaying enormous obelisks and relief covered walls.

The following day we visit the west bank and visit the Valleys of The Kings and Queens. Deep in the walls of these two dramatic rocky valleys many of the great pharaohs and their wives were buried in richly decorated tombs. We also visit the funerary temple of Hatshepsut and marvel at the Colossi of Memnon - gateposts of possibly the largest temple complex Egypt has ever known. The final day here is for your own leisure. Maybe take a hot air balloon ride over the antiquities, dive into the markets, visit the local museums or take to the water in a traditional felucca sailboat. This evening we transfer to the overnight sleepertrain that returns us to Cairo.

DAY 8
Cairo
Bx1
Hotel

Today you have a free day in Cairo. You may like to visit the world famous Egyptian Museum, or dive into Khan al Khalili, the cities oldest market area. Alternatively you could take an optional day trip to Alexandria or the nearby oasis of Fayoum.

DAY 9 - 12
Dahab
Bx4
Hotel
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We leave Cairo and drive east under the Suez Canal and through the Sinai peninsular to arrive in the relaxing costal town of Dahab on its eastern coast. We spend the next four nights here in bedside the Red Sea. Dahab is a welcoming and relaxed coastal town with much to do. Options include a snorkelling trip to the famed Blue Hole and a sunset camel ride, take a desert jeep safari, scuba dive the local reef or climb Mount Sinai in the peninsula's dramatic interior. Alternatively kick back and enjoy the beach and warm Egyptian hospitality. Those wishing to learn to scuba dive should have time to take a PADI Open Water Course whilst here.

DAY 13-14
Cairo
Bx2
Hotel

We leave Dahab in the morning and drive back to Cairo where we have free time in the afternoon to enjoy the sites of the city. The following day you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flights and where your tour ends.

## **TOUR INFORMATION**

A great tour of Egypt taking in well loved pharaonic ruins and a relaxing stay beside the Red Sea.

### **TOUR STYLE**

Short Safari's and Treks

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

All highlights, transport, accommodation, airport transfers, tipping kitty, mattress on felucca, meals as indicated and services of drivers/ guide.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport taxes, sleeping bag for felucca, entrance fees, drinks, laundry, optional activities & items of a personal nature.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

2 – 4 star hotels with en suite facilities, night train with reclining seats, felucca with mattresses and blankets provided on deck - canvas canopy is provided if weather conditions require it.

### **TRANSPORT**

Minibus, overnight train, felucca, camel

#### **RAMADAN**

Every year some of our tours in Egypt will fall over the Muslim festival of Ramadan. In 2012, Ramadan starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August. Some businesses may close during daylight hours, but this does not generally affect businesses catering to tourists or to tourist sites. However, please be aware that we may have to amend our itineraries slightly to accommodate different opening hours during this time.

#### **OPERATOR**

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

## **TOUR PREPARATION**

## **BOOKING INFORMATION**

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Cairo is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

## JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point in **Cairo**: Meet representative on arrival at Cairo airport

Tour start time: On arrival at airport on day one

Tour end point in **Cairo**: Transfer back to airport on day 14

## **EXTENDING YOUR STAY**

If you wish to extend your stay in Egypt, any additional accommodation in Cairo can be booked in advance. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices may be subject to change so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (GBP)	Description	Price (GBP)	
Cairo				
Extra night - single room p/person	£30	Extra night – twin room p/person	£20	

#### WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. Please bear in mind that desert temperatures can be extreme. Between May & Sept it can be hot so bring lightweight, clothing and a hat for shade. Oct - Apr it will be warm during the day but can be very cold at night. Pack warm items including a fleece and long trousers for evenings. We suggest women bring a scarf or sarong that could be used to cover the head, if required, at religious sites. On the felucca, mattresses and some blankets are provided but bring a sleeping sheet (or sleeping bag during winter months Oct - Mar). A torch is also advisable. A blow up pillow may be useful on night trains. For footwear, walking sandals are ideal. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables. We suggest you make use of hotel safes along the journey to store extra cash, passports and flight tickets.

#### **DRESS IN NORTH AFRICA**

Egypt is an Islamic nation and is very conservative so you should dress accordingly. As a general guideline, shoulders and knees should be covered at all times. The wearing of shorts is not allowed away from the beach and it will restrict your entry into buildings of a religious nature and family homes.

#### **VACCINATIONS/HEALTH**

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only.** You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diptheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitus B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Egypt	R	-	R	R	-	R	-	-	R	R

**C** = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, \* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

## **VISA REQUIRMENTS**

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only.** At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free upto-date travel info: <a href="www.fco.gov.uk">www.fco.gov.uk</a> For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Egypt	Yes																

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into the local currency where necessary. Egyptian Pounds can be bought in Cairo Airport on arrival.
- Currency Egyptian Pound (LE)
- **ATM machines** are found in Cairo, Aswan, Luxor & Dahab
- Credit cards can be used for the optional balloon rides, scuba diving or in some tourist shops but should not be relied upon.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

## **TIPPING**

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it is customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your guide and drivers, at the end of a tour or day trip, for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITES & ENTRANCE FEES**

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities. You will also need to pay for entrance fees on this tour – put aside approx £45 for all fees. To help you budget, the main entrance fees and optional activities **approximate prices** are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price
Cairo			
Egyptian Museum	50LE	Karnak Sound & Light Show	50LE
Egyptian Museum's Mummies Room	100LE	Luxor Temple	40LE
Giza Pyramids Complex Entrance	30LE	Valley of The Kings	30LE
Horse riding at the Pyramids	60LE	Tomb of Tutankhamun	80LE
Pyramid entrance fee	100LE	Hatshepsut's Temple	25LE
Citadel	40LE	Rammesseum	25LE
Saqqara Entrance fee	40LE	Medinet Habu	25LE

Aswan		Mummification Museum	40LE
Abu Simbel Plane & Tour	£95	Hot Air Balloon Ride	GBP80
Botanical Gardens	15LE	Bicycle Hire	10LE
Entrance to Philae Temple	30LE	Caleche ride	30LE
Nubian Museum	40LE	Cairo	
Aswan High Dam	10LE	Cairo City Tour	GBP50
Tombs of The Nobles	20LE	Alexandria Tour	GBP50
Kom Ombo Temple	30LE	Al Fayoum & Valley of the Whales	GBP85
Edfu Temple	30LE	Dahab	
Luxor		Scuba Diving Courses	On request
Karnak Temple	50LE	Jeep Safari	£25

#### **INSURANCE**

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

## **ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS**



#### **RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL**

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

## **GET CONNECTED**

Join our facebook group <a href="www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica">www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica</a> and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @ AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road <a href="http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/">http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/</a> and <a href="http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/">http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/</a> get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit www.acacia-africa.com







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