

Sacred Journey South: A 6 nights 7 Days Nile Cruise from Luxor to Dendara & Aswan

This 6-night itinerary offers a strategic and enriching route. You will first explore the wonders of ancient Thebes (Luxor), then embark on a special excursion north to the cult temples of Abydos and Dendara, before enjoying a relaxing downriver sail to Aswan, concluding with the beautiful sites of the south

- **Tips for Your Trip:** This itinerary involves significant walking at archaeological sites, often on uneven ground. Comfortable shoes, sun protection, and water are essential. The sailing schedule and overnight mooring locations are subject to change based on river and lock conditions

Day 1: Embarkation in Thebes & The East Bank Temples

- **Afternoon/Evening:** Arrive and board your dahabeya in **Luxor**. Begin your journey by exploring the east bank of the Nile. Stand in awe at the colossal **Karnak Temple Complex**, a vast city of temples, obelisks, and the forest of 134 columns in the Great Hypostyle Hall. Later, visit the graceful **Luxor Temple**, beautifully illuminated at dusk, connecting the world of the gods to the city of the living.
- **Overnight:** Docked in **Luxor**.

East Bank: Karnak Temple



East Bank: Luxor Temple



Day 3: Pilgrimage to Abydos & The Temple of Hathor

- **Full-Day Excursion (via road):** Embark on a profound cultural excursion to two of Egypt's most significant and well-preserved temples.
 - Travel by road to **Abydos**, one of ancient Egypt's oldest and most sacred cities, dedicated to Osiris, god of the afterlife. Explore the magnificent **Temple of Seti I**, renowned for its exquisite raised reliefs and the mystical Abydos King List.
 - Return to the Qena area to visit the stunning **Temple of Dendara**, a masterpiece dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love and music. Admire its famous and vividly painted astronomical ceiling, explore the crypts, and see the iconic Hathor-headed columns.
- **Evening:** Sail back **south** from Qena to Luxor.
- **Overnight:** Docked in **Luxor**.

Temple of Seti I



Temple of Hathor



Day 4: Sailing South via Esna to Edfu

- **Day:** After your intensive temple visits, enjoy a full day of relaxed sailing **downriver** towards Edfu. You will pass through the **Esna Lock**, an interesting feat of modern engineering that regulates the river's flow. Watch rural Egyptian life unfold along the banks.
- **Overnight:** Docked near **Edfu**.

Esna Lock



Day 5: Temple of Edfu, The Quarries of El Silsila & Kom Ombo

- **Morning (7:00 AM):** Visit the monumental **Temple of Edfu**, dedicated to the falcon god Horus.
- **Late Morning (9:00 AM):** Sail south from Edfu to **El Silsila**.
- **Afternoon (Approx. 1:00 PM):** Explore the ancient sandstone quarries of **El Silsila**. This was the primary source of stone for many great temples you will have seen. Highlights include the dramatic cliff-side **Speos of Horemheb** (a rock-cut chapel) and numerous **royal stela** carved directly into the rock faces, marking pharaonic visits to this vital site.
- **Mid-Afternoon (2:00 PM):** Sail onwards to **Kom Ombo**.
- **Late Afternoon (Approx. 4:00 PM):** Visit the unique **Temple of Kom Ombo**, dedicated to both Sobek and Horus. Its riverside setting is particularly beautiful in the late afternoon light.
- Enjoy a final serene sail to **Aswan**
- **Overnight:** Docked in Aswan

The Dual Temple of Sobek & Haroeris



El Silsila Quarry & Riverside Shrines



Temple of Horus



Day 6: The Island of Isis

- **Morning:** Visit the beautiful **Philae Temple**. A short motorboat ride takes you to Agilkia Island to explore this Graeco-Roman complex dedicated to the goddess Isis, famed for its elegant pillars and picturesque setting. In the way back to the Dahabeya visit to Aswan's High Dam, Old Dam, and the Unfinished Obelisk
- **Overnight:** Docked in **Aswan**.

Philae Temple



Day 7: Disembarkation in Aswan

- **Morning:** After breakfast, disembark in **Aswan**.

Travel Insight & Advantages of This Direction

- **Strategic Route:** This direction allows you to experience the grandeur of Luxor at the beginning when energy is highest, followed by the special excursion. The sailing from Luxor to Aswan is upriver , which can sometimes allow for a more relaxed pace.
- **Dendara/Abydos Logistics:** The visit to Abydos and Dendara on **Day 3** remains a significant **full-day road trip** from Qena. This requires an early start but is a uniquely rewarding experience for those interested in deep historical and religious sites.
- **Aswan as a Finale:** Ending in Aswan provides a natural conclusion, with the option to extend your stay to visit the **Abu Simbel** temples, which are often a highlight of any southern Egypt itinerary.

- **Travel Notes:** This itinerary provides a general framework; the order of visits on specific days may be adjusted by your tour operator. Comfortable walking shoes, sun protection, and water are essential for daily excursions