

The Complete Nile Voyage: 7 nights/ 8 Days Cruise from Aswan to Luxor & the Sacred Temples of Dendara

Embark on a profound exploration of ancient Egypt, sailing north from Aswan to Luxor before venturing further to the extraordinary cult temples of Dendara and Abydos. This 7-night "Long Cruise" offers an in-depth experience beyond the classic route.

- **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 & The Island Sanctuary of Isis

- **Afternoon:** Arrive in **Aswan** and board your cruise ship. Begin your journey with a visit to the enchanting **Philae Temple**. Travel by motorboat to Agilkia Island to explore this stunning Ptolemaic temple complex, dedicated to the goddess Isis, which was meticulously rescued from the rising waters of the Nile.
- **Evening:** Overnight docked in **Aswan**

Philae Temple



Day 2: Engineering Marvels & The Temple of Two Gods

- **Morning:** Discover Aswan's pivotal role from ancient to modern times. Visit the **Aswan High Dam**, a cornerstone of 20th-century Egypt; see the **Old Aswan Dam**; and examine the massive **Unfinished Obelisk**, which provides a remarkable open-air lesson in ancient stone-working techniques.
- **Afternoon:** Sail north to **Kom Ombo**.
- **Late Afternoon:** Visit the unique **Temple of Kom Ombo**, symmetrically dedicated to two gods: Sobek, the crocodile god, and Horus the Elder. Its riverside setting and depictions of ancient medical tools are highlights.
- **Evening:** Continue sailing a short distance to **El Silsila** for an overnight stay.

High Dam



Old Aswan Dam



Unfinished Obelisk



The Dual Temple of Sobek & Haroeris



Day 3: The Sacred Quarry & The Citadel of Horus

- **Morning:** Explore the ancient sandstone quarries of **El Silsila**. This site was the primary source of stone for the great temples you will visit. See the rock-cut shrines (speos) and royal stelae carved directly into the cliff faces.
- **Afternoon:** Sail to **Edfu**.
- **Late Afternoon:** Discover the magnificently preserved **Temple of Edfu**, the largest temple dedicated to the falcon god Horus. Its colossal pylon, intact inner chambers, and towering walls offer an unparalleled glimpse into Ptolemaic temple architecture.
- **Evening:** Overnight docked near **Edfu** (at El Fawaza Island).

El Silsila Quarry & Riverside Shrines



Temple of Horus



Gebel El-Silsila



Day 4: Sailing to Thebes via the Esna Lock

- **Day:** Enjoy a full day of relaxation as your ship sails towards Luxor. Witness the fascinating process of navigating the **Esna Lock**, where the ship is raised or lowered to match the river level—a modern contrast to the ancient world you are exploring.
- **Evening:** Arrive and overnight docked in **Luxor** (ancient Thebes).

Esna Lock



Day 5: Theban Necropolis & Journey to a Goddess

- **Morning:** Cross the Nile to explore the monumental **West Bank of Luxor**. Discover the famed **Valley of the Kings**, the terraced **Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahari, and the towering **Colossi of Memnon**.
- **Afternoon:** Set sail on a unique northward leg of your journey, traveling upstream to the city of **Qena**, the docking point for Dendara.
- **Evening:** Overnight docked near **Dendara**

West Bank: Valley of the Kings & Queens



West Bank: Temple of Hatshepsut



West Bank: Colossi of Memnon



Day 6: Pilgrimage to Abydos & The Temple of Hathor

- **Full Day Excursion (via road):** Embark on a special tour to two of Egypt's most significant and well-preserved cult temples.
 - First, travel to **Abydos**, one of the oldest and most sacred sites in Egypt, dedicated to Osiris. Explore the breathtaking **Temple of Seti I**, renowned for its exquisite raised reliefs and the mystical Abydos King List.
 - Return to **Qena** to visit the stunning **Temple of Dendara**, dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love and music. Admit its vividly detailed astronomical ceiling, explore the cryptic underground passages, and see the famous depiction of Cleopatra VII.
- **Evening:** Sail back south to **Luxor** for an overnight stay.

Temple of Seti I



Temple of Hathor



Day 7: The Grand Temples of Thebes

- **Morning:** Stand in awe at the largest religious complex ever built: **Karnak Temple**. Wander through the forest of pillars in the Great Hypostyle Hall and explore the vast precincts dedicated to the Theban triad.
- **Afternoon:** Conclude your temple explorations at the elegant **Luxor Temple**, beautifully situated on the Nile's east bank. Appreciate its graceful colonnades and the layers of history from the pharaohs to the Romans.
- **Evening:** Farewell overnight on board in **Luxor**.

East Bank: Karnak Temple



East Bank: Luxor Temple



Day 8: Disembarkation

- **Morning:** After breakfast, disembark from your cruise ship in **Luxor**, concluding your comprehensive voyage through ancient Egyptian history

- **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