

Travel & more

DESTINATION DETAILS

CAIRO:

Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, exotic, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sights in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. Enjoy the Nile view from your hotel room balcony, visit the capital's medieval markets by Khan El-Khalili, or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern malls. Go for an opera or enjoy oriental music dance shows. Good for short breaks and long stays; you'll get to see the Giza Pyramids, thousands of ancient artifacts in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and much more.

Moreover, Cairo is for everyone, there are plenty of mid range and budget accommodations to choose from. Pick a charming boutique hotel in the heart of downtown or indulge in utter luxury in one of the city's most luxurious establishments. These usually house professional Spas and wellness centres where you'll be treated like royalty. There are more than 75 four and five-star hotels in Cairo, which all offer stunning views over amazing landmarks such as the majestic Nile, the Pyramids, beautiful parks and gardens, and upscale clubs and compounds.

The weather in Cairo is moderate and low in humidity at almost any time of the year, except for some specific times in summer. Highs of 36°C are common in July and lows of 21°C have been witnessed; the winter months in Cairo, especially January, are much more pleasant with temperatures ranging between 21°C and 15°C. Accommodation by the Nile offers some relief from the summer heat due to the lovely breeze that comes from the river. In March, April, and June the Khamaseen winds blow from the desert bringing with them higher temperatures and sand.

Places to See

Visit the world-renowned Egyptian **Pyramids**, such as the Great Pyramids of **Giza** on the very edge of the city, Sphinx and other hundreds spread across River Nile. There are also ancient temples, tombs, gorgeous Christian churches, magnificent Muslim monuments, and of course, the **Egyptian Antiquities Museum**: all either within or near the city.

Another must-see is the **Cairo Tower**, a 187m-high slender tower on an island in the Nile that offers spectacular views of Cairo. If you are tired of visiting historic buildings, just book yourself a '**felucca**', an ancient sailboat that has been use on the Nile for centuries. The best time to enjoy a romantic felucca is at night when the city is as bright as the star-lit sky. You must also go on a jeep safari into the desert and enjoy the silence and mystical beauty of the desert. You will never be bored or tired in Cairo. You can safely sum the journey in Cairo as a virtual time travel: from the Pyramids, **Saladin's Citadel**, the **Virgin Mary's Tree**, the **Sphinx**, and **Heliopolis**, to **Al-Azhar Mosque**, the Mosque of **Amr ibn al-A'as**, Saqqara and the **Hanging Church**.

Other famous sights include: Citadel, Al-Azhar Park, The Coptic Museum, Khan El Khalili Market, Abdeen Palace, and the Pharaonic Village.

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ASWAN:

Located about 899 km south from Cairo, Aswan is a serene Nile Valley destination where the Nile is more majestic than anywhere else, flowing through granite rocks, and round emerald islands covered in palm groves and tropical plants. It is considered as an all-time favourite winter destination.

Moreover, you'll be surprised to see how many monuments and sites this small city has to offer. Consider sailing to the temple of Philae, seeing the Agha Khan Mausoleum and taking an excursion to St. Simeon's Monastery.

Egypt's sunniest southern city is the perfect destination to stroll and relax in a magical cultural setting: wander down the broad walkway, locally known as the corniche, to watch feluccas slowly sailing the Nile then stop at one of the floating restaurants to enjoy Nubian music and freshly caught fish. Aswan offers a splendid view of the Nile and is a great starting point for a Nile cruise.

Aswan also offers a rich cultural experience; you'll get to know Nubian culture and shop for spices, henna tattoos, souvenirs and African handmade goods at the Aswan souk. The word Aswan derives in fact from the Ancient Egyptian word "Soun" meaning souk or trade. It has earned its name thanks to the city's strategic position, on the trade route linking the North of Egypt to its South.

Since Ancient times, Aswan has also been known for its environmental therapy: burying the aching parts of your body in Aswan's sand gives valuable results and can help relieving you from stubborn ailments such as rheumatism, arthritis, joint edema and skin inflammation. The town's climate is also known to have great relaxing and rejuvenating properties.

The best times to visit Aswan are May and September, summers are scorching, and winter temperatures have been known to reach 27 during the day, with cold nights.

Nile Cruise:

Cruise from Aswan to Luxor and go for brief felucca sailing excursions to visit world renowned monuments and secluded islands.

During the first two days, you'll get to explore the High Dam, the Granite Quarries and sail to the Temple of Philae and Kom Ombo. You also have the option to sail the Nile by felucca around Kitchener's Island to visit the famous botanical garden.

During day three, you'll love the Horus Temple of Edfu and the Galabiya party.

During day four, you'll see the best of Luxor, visiting the Temple of Karnak, Hatshepsut's Temple, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, and Luxor Temple.