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PASSAGE THROUGH EGYPT - NILE RIVER CRUISE

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.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Cairo

Arrive in Cairo, the ancient capital of Egypt, and check in to the five-star St. Regis hotel, your home for the next three nights.

Arrival Time: Arrive after 3:00 p.m. local time.

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Arrival City: Cairo, Egypt

DAY 2: Cairo / Pyramids / Sphinx / Grand Egyptian Museum

Your journey begins with an exploration of Egypt's most iconic landmarks: the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Discover the incredible story behind the Pyramid of Cheops, constructed from more than two million stone blocks by tens of thousands of workers over the course of 20 years. Nearby, marvel at the legendary Sphinx, carved from a single massive block of stone and featuring the head of Pharaoh Chephren on the body of a lion. Enjoy privileged access beyond the barrier for a rare, up-close encounter with this iconic monument.

Step inside the Great Pyramid and follow the narrow passageway of the Grand Gallery to the burial chamber of Cheops. As your Egyptologist shares fascinating stories and insights that bring ancient history to life, your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor will be by your side to help you capture the moment.

After lunch, explore the galleries of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) with expert Egyptologists. Witness the 3,200-year-old statue of Ramses II in the Grand Hall, the Solar Boat, the riches of King Tut and select treasures from the prehistoric to the Greco-Roman period. Enjoy a festive welcome reception before dinner at the hotel this evening.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3: Cairo / Saqqara / Islamic Cairo

This morning, journey to Saqqara, home to the remarkable Step Pyramid of Pharaoh Zoser--a revolutionary design that marked

the beginning of pyramid building. Here, you'll also discover some of Egypt's most enchanting wall paintings and reliefs, depicting scenes of harvests, fishing, music and dance. Explore the mastaba of Mereruka, the largest and most elaborate tomb in Saqqara. Though not of royal blood, Mereruka--known also as Meri--served as Chief Justice and Vizier to Pharaoh Teti of the Sixth Dynasty, and his wealth and status are reflected in the tomb's exquisite artistry.

After lunch at a local restaurant, explore the Khan el Khalili bazaar, the city's largest and most famous market, dating back to the 14th century. Wander its lively alleys filled with filigreed silverwork, semiprecious stones and colorful keepsakes. Continue your stroll along El Moez Street, one of Cairo's oldest thoroughfares, dating to the 10th century. Admire the stunning Islamic architecture as you arrive at the Qalawun Complex--a magnificent ensemble of a mausoleum, madrasa and hospital, celebrated as one of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in Egypt.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4: Luxor / Karnak

Fly by private charter to Luxor in Upper Egypt, and step into the heart of ancient Thebes. Your visit begins at the awe-inspiring Karnak Temple--a monumental complex that evolved over some 2,000 years as 30 pharaohs contributed their shrines and monuments, creating the largest religious structure ever built. The Great Hypostyle Hall, with its 134 colossal columns rising nearly 70 feet high, feels like a stone forest--a breathtaking testament to human devotion and artistry. At its rear stands the towering obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut, casting its shadow over

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intricate reliefs and carvings crafted by Egypt's finest artisans.

After lunch, check in at the elegant Sofitel Winter Palace (or similar). In the evening, visit the exquisite Luxor Temple, majestically guarded by colossal statues of Ramses II. A place of worship for more than three millennia, its grand pylons, graceful columns and imposing statues are especially mesmerizing after sunset, when the temple glows with ethereal light.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: Dendera / Luxor

Begin the day with a visit to the Temple of Dendera in Qena, a short drive from Luxor. Built during the reign of the Roman emperors, this remarkably well-preserved sanctuary was once shrouded in centuries of soot. Careful restoration has revealed its brilliant colors and exquisite reliefs, including depictions of Empress Cleopatra that stand among the finest examples of late Egyptian art.

Return to Luxor for lunch, followed by an afternoon at leisure. Enjoy the tranquil comforts of your hotel or wander through the timeless streets of the city, where echoes of ancient Thebes linger in every corner. Before dinner, gather for an engaging presentation by your Egyptologists, delving deeper into the wonders and mysteries you've encountered along the Nile.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: West Bank / Embark Ship

Set out early this morning for the West Bank of the Nile and the fabled Valley of the Kings, the final resting place of Egypt's

greatest pharaohs. Step into history as you explore and photograph the tombs of Seti I and Tutankhamun, masterpieces of ancient craftsmanship. Continue to the Valley of the Queens to visit the most celebrated tomb of all--Nefertari's. The queen's tomb is adorned with radiant paintings depicting her beauty and her journey to the afterlife, their colors and artistry unmatched anywhere in Egypt. Nearby, admire the magnificent Temple of Hatshepsut, dramatically nestled beneath towering sandstone cliffs.

Later, embark the elegant Oberoi Philae, your luxurious home for the next four nights. Enjoy lunch on board as the ship begins its journey along the storied Nile. From the deck, take in the timeless scenery--glimpses of daily life that have unfolded here for millennia. In the afternoon, enjoy insightful presentations from your Egyptologists and certified photo instructor as the ship passes through the Esna Lock.

*Note: The tomb of Nefertari is temporarily closed for renovation. In the meantime, you will instead visit the spectacular Ramesseum, the funerary temple of Ramses II.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: Esna / Edfu

This morning, step ashore for a short walk to the nearby Temple of Khnum in the town of Esna. Still only partially excavated, the temple lies about nine meters below the current level of the Nile--buried for centuries beneath layers of silt deposited by the river's annual floods. On your walk back to the ship, glimpse everyday life in a traditional Egyptian town.

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Once back aboard, relax as Oberoi Philae sails toward Edfu. You might enjoy a refreshing swim in the pool or explore the ship's library of Egyptian history. In the afternoon, visit the majestic Temple of Edfu--the second largest in Egypt--dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god of kingship and the sky. Built on the legendary site of the battle between Horus and Seth, the temple's carvings and inscriptions recount their eternal struggle between order and chaos. Here, ancient rituals were performed to uphold cosmic balance and renew the divine authority of Egypt's kings.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: Sailing / Kom Ombo

Spend the morning sailing the Nile toward Kom Ombo. Perched dramatically on a hill overlooking the river, the Temple of Kom Ombo is unique in its dedication to two deities--the hawk-headed Haroeris and the crocodile-headed Sobek. Built during the Ptolemaic era, the temple's richly adorned walls feature intricate reliefs, including a fascinating hieroglyphic calendar that records ancient festivals and rituals.

Following your visit, continue your journey south to Aswan, where golden hills frame the horizon and feluccas bob in the shimmering waters. Once a bustling frontier town and vital trading post with Nubia, Aswan remains a place of striking beauty and timeless charm.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9: Aswan

This morning, visit the enchanting Temple of Isis on the island of Philae--the namesake of the Oberoi Philae. Like Abu Simbel, this sacred temple was saved from the rising waters caused by the construction of the Aswan High Dam, meticulously dismantled and reconstructed on higher ground to preserve its splendor. Next, explore a nearby granite quarry, where ancient engineers once carved massive obelisks directly from the rock before transporting them down the Nile to honor their gods and pharaohs.

In the afternoon, visit the Nubian Museum, where beautifully curated exhibits celebrate the rich history, art and culture of Nubia. Later, relax aboard a traditional felucca as it glides across the Nile. Conclude the day with a festive reception, dinner and a vibrant Nubian cultural performance.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10: Disembark Ship / Abu Simbel / Cairo

Disembark Oberoi Philae and board a private plane bound for southern Nubia and the awe-inspiring temples of Abu Simbel. Set on a sun-drenched rise above Lake Nasser, this remarkable site is home to two temples: the grand sanctuary of Ramses II, commemorating his triumph at Kadesh, and a smaller, more intimate temple honoring his beloved Queen Nefertari. Carved in the mid-13th century B.C., the temples lay buried in sand until their rediscovery in 1817. In one of the greatest feats of modern archaeology, both were later moved--stone by stone--to their current location to save them from the rising waters of the newly formed lake.

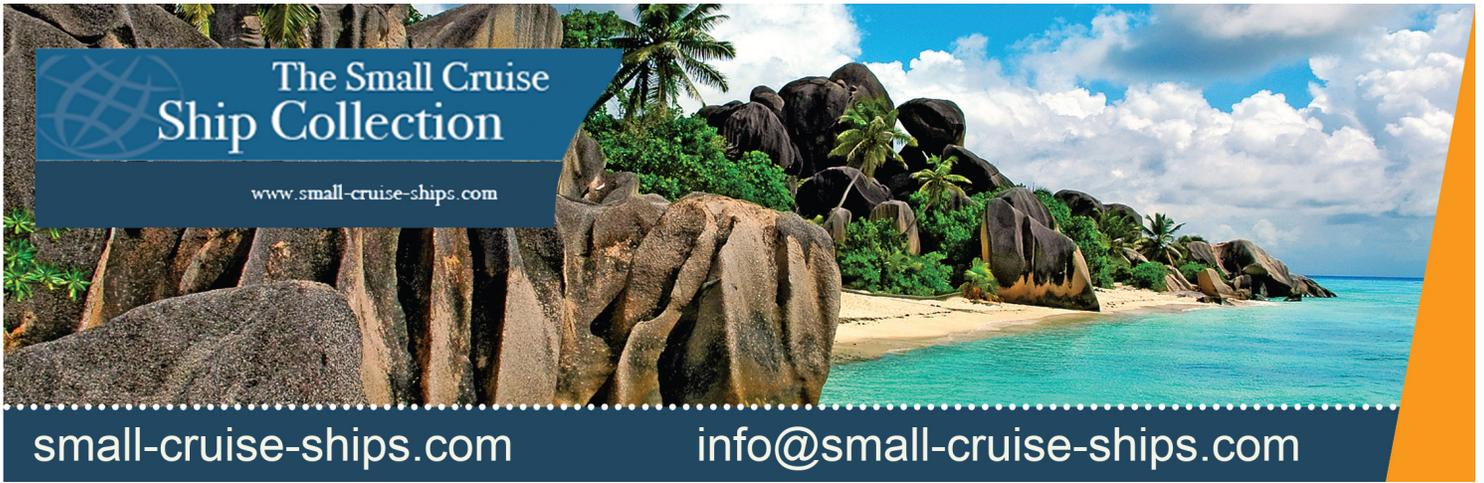
After lunch, reboard your chartered plane for the flight back to

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Cairo and check in at the InterContinental Citystars Hotel in the stylish Heliopolis district. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a final dinner, reflecting on the unforgettable journey through Egypt's timeless wonders.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11: Cairo

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Departure Time: Anytime

Departure City: Cairo, Egypt

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please Note:

All day-by-day breakdowns are a sampling of the places we intend to visit, conditions permitting.

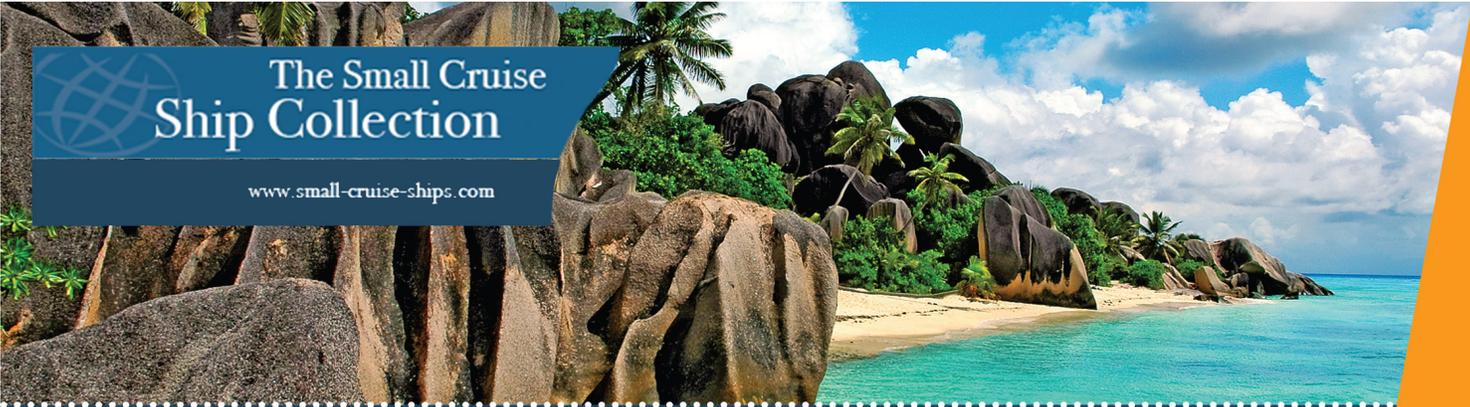


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YOUR SHIP: OBEROI PHILAE

YOUR SHIP:	Oberoi Philae
VESSEL TYPE:	Small Ship
LENGTH:	
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	42
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1996 / 2015

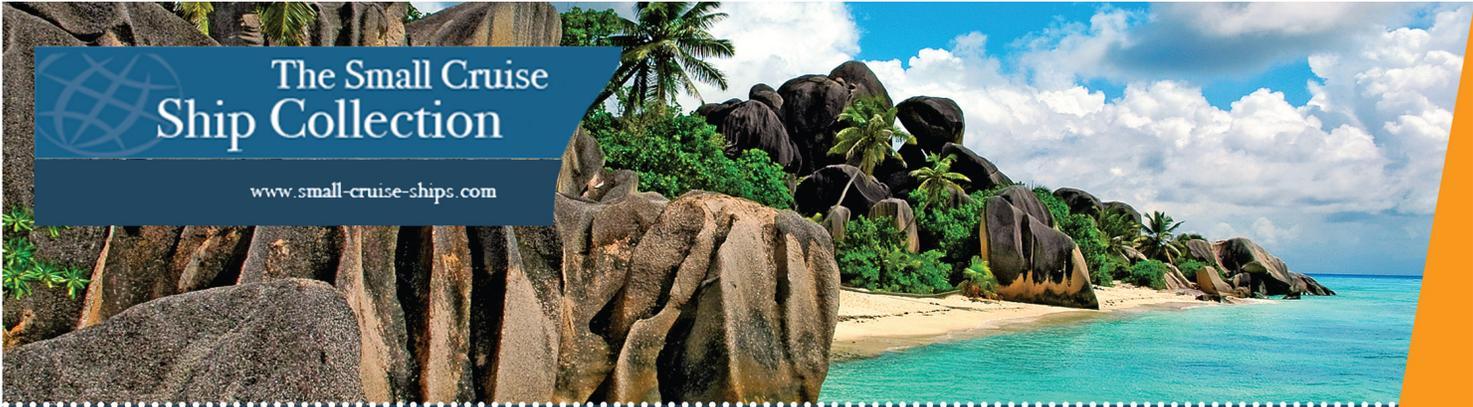
The Oberoi Philae originally began service in 1996, configured at the time with 50 cabins and maximum capacity of 100 guests. A multiyear renovation completed in 2015 converted her into an extraordinarily beautiful and private ship, with just 22 cabins and accommodations for 42 guests, modern amenities, and a relaxed, elegant ambiance. Cabins & Suites: Our cabins and suites are elegantly adorned with Egyptian modern art, paneled with rich wooden flooring and decorated in a subtle natural color palette. Soft lighting lends the suite a delicate charm, with large French windows can be opened. Cabins include a spacious bedroom-cum-living area and a separate bathroom. They are furnished with a queen or twin-size beds. Suites include a spacious queen size bedroom and a separate, luxuriously comfortable living room. Guests can lie back upon their beds or nestle into a deep armchair or sofa, to enjoy magnificent Nile views. Category 5 suites feature a private terrace with heated whirlpool. The luxurious, spacious bathrooms are fitted with a large, overhead shower and a separate hand shower, and with walls lined with sparkling mirrors and fine Egyptian style mosaic tiles. Suites also feature a standalone bathtub. Guests can relax at the end of a fulfilling

day of sightseeing with a cup of tea, fresh coffee or drink from their personal bar. High speed internet or a movie from our in-house collection can be enjoyed on the television, before guests move to the bar or restaurant for refreshments. Public Areas: There is a great deal of attractive and comfortable public space. Deck E is a perfect place to relax and watch life along the Nile. The 36-foot-long swimming pool, surrounded by lounge chairs, is among the largest of any Nile ship. Some meals are served al fresco in the covered restaurant. D Deck has a fully equipped spa with treatment rooms, and there is a selection of spa treatments and massages available (a professional masseuse is on board). There is a fitness room with cardio and weight machines. C Deck has lounge and library, ideal for reading about Egyptian history. On B Deck you'll find the main lounge, which is the venue for talks and presentations. And A Deck has the elegant restaurant. Meals: Served in single seatings, meals focus on fine Egyptian, Middle Eastern, and Continental cuisine. Refreshments are always available. Lunch is often served on the E Deck, weather permitting. Special Features: Her spaciousness and ideal size set Oberoi Philae apart from virtually all other ships on the Nile. She has the feel of a luxurious private yacht. There is complimentary wireless internet access throughout the ship. Wellness aboard: Making daily discoveries and exploring the wild world is naturally uplifting. Add to that a variety of wellness treatments available aboard, as well as outings led by your wellness specialist, and you'll find your expedition relaxing as well as revitalizing. Massages, body treatments, natural facial treatments, and hand and foot treatments are all available in the LEXspa. You will have

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the opportunity to sign up for a treatment



once on board.

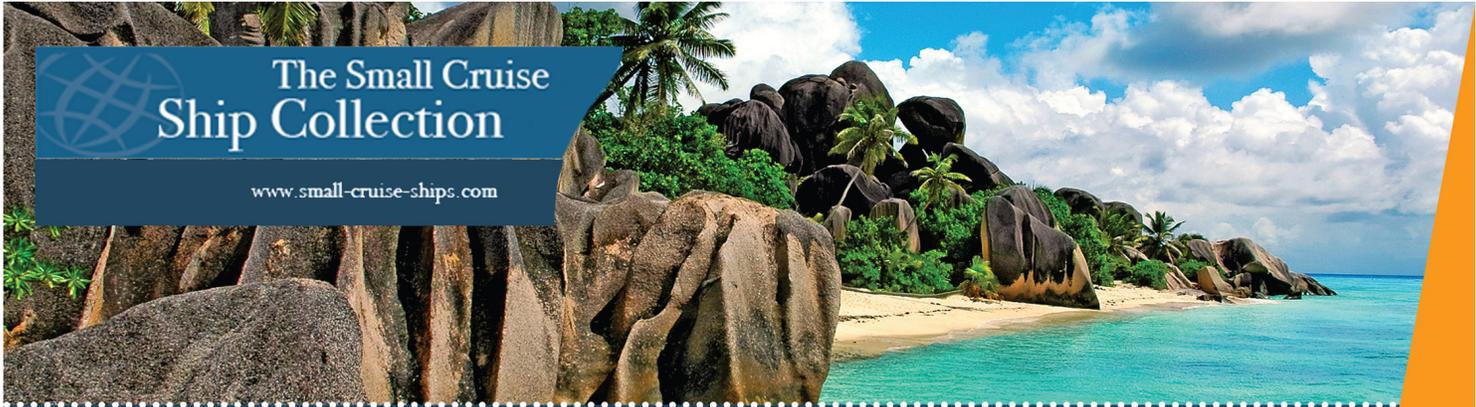


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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

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