



Magic Along the Nile:

Aswan, Luxor and Cairo | Includes a 3-night Nile Cruise
January 4-15, 2026



Tour arrangements by Classical Excursions



The Great Temple of Abu Simbel – Photograph by Lani Summerville, January 2024. The single entrance is flanked by four colossal, (66 ft) statues, each representing Ramesses II seated on a throne and wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt. We will have our optional visit on Monday, 5 January with an early morning flight to Abu Simbel to view these magnificent temples, with return just past noon on the same day.

Overview of our Days

Day for departures from USA · Saturday, 3 January: We recommend you consider Egyptair departing New York's JFK at 11am for non-stop flight to Cairo with a connection onto Aswan – this is the most direct and easiest way to reach Aswan to start our tour. Other options include connecting flights through Europe or the Middle East. Qatar and Turkish Airlines for example.

Sunday, 4 January · The tour starts this evening in Aswan: Arrive Egypt, fly to Aswan. Check-in to the historic **Aswan Old Cataract Hotel**. Meet our tour co-hosts Lani Summerville and Cosmo Brockway, who will be with us for the entire journey. Day to rest and recoup, with a late afternoon optional sunset boat ride sailing on a traditional Dahabiya. **Welcome dinner** that night. For those participating in the Abu Simbel excursion, we will depart in the morning and return by mid afternoon.

Monday, 5 January · Special Morning Visit & Transfer to Ship: We have an *optional* early morning flight to **Abu Simbel** to view the magnificent temples, with return around noon on the same day. At Noon we board the **Senator Cruise Ship**, which is a small luxury ship with only 16 all-suites cabins. The ship has been leased for our exclusive use. Lunch on board, then touring in the afternoon to the **Temple of Philae**, and the **Unfinished Obelisk**. Welcome cocktail reception on board that evening, followed by dinner.

Tuesday, 6 January · Ship: Visit to the **Temple of Kom Ombo**, lunch aboard while sailing to Edfu. Then visit to the **Temple at Edfu**. Afternoon Tea aboard while sailing to Esna for the night. Dinner aboard.

Wednesday, 7 January · Ship: Morning visit to the Esna Temple, then sailing to Luxor. After lunch, visits to **Karnak and the Luxor Temples**. Dinner aboard.

Thursday, 8 January · Luxor: Disembark the Senator. Today we visit the West Bank and **Valley of the Kings and Queens, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut** and more. Afternoon textile shopping and browsing in the markets. Check-in to the **Al Moudira Hotel** for 3-nights. Dinner in Luxor.

Friday, 9 January · Luxor: Special visit to see **Howard Carter's villa** and the **Tombs of Nobles**, with a private evening viewing of Nefertari's Tomb. Dinner in Luxor.

Saturday, 10 January · Luxor: An optional early morning **Hot Air Balloon ride** over the Valley of the Kings, followed by an afternoon visit to the **Medinet Habu Temple**, which is the Mortuary Temple of Ramesses III and is considered to be one of the largest and best-preserved examples of this type of building.

Sunday, 11 January · Cairo: Depart this morning for flight to Cairo. Afternoon visit to the Egyptian Museum. Check-in to the **Four Seasons Cairo at the First Residence** for 4-nights.

Monday 12 January · Cairo: Full day of touring, including the **Islamic Cairo** and the **Mosque of Ibn Tulum**, and **Gayer Anderson House**. Curated shopping with Cosmo Brockway. Dinner in a private home.

Tuesday, 13 January · Cairo: A full day visit to the ancient necropolis of Saqqara to see the world's oldest pyramid, the **Step Pyramid of Djoser, burial tombs** and the extraordinary **Serapeum**.

Wednesday, 14, January Cairo: Morning visit to the **Great Pyramids at Giza, the Sphinx** and the **Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)**. Farewell dinner in a special location.

Thursday 15, January · Independent departures.

For Those Wishing To Arrive A Day Early, Your Schedule Would Be:

Day for departures from USA – January 3, 2026: We recommend you consider Egyptair departing New York's JFK at 11am for non-stop flight to Cairo with a connection onto Aswan – this is the most direct and easiest way to reach Aswan to start our tour. Other options include connecting flights through Europe or the Middle East.

January 4, 2026 · Arrive Egypt, fly to Aswan. Check-in to the Old Cataract Hotel. Day to rest and recoup. **Welcome dinner** that night.

January 5, 2026 · Depart hotel at approximately 5:30 am for our flight to Abu Simbel for this special visit to the Great and Small Temples. We'll spend several hours here before our return flight to Aswan when we will board the ship.



Senator Nile Cruise

As you step aboard Steigenberger's Senator, prepare to be transported into a world of unparalleled luxury and opulence. The Senator's architecture seamlessly fuses modern sophistication with oriental allure. Every aspect, from the sleek lines of the furnishings to the intricate patterns gracing the walls, is meticulously crafted to captivate and inspire. The interiors exude an ambience of timeless elegance, paying homage to the region's rich cultural heritage.

The Senator boasts 16 opulent suites, each a sanctuary of indulgence. Their spacious layouts, each features a lounge area and a private terrace, plush bedding, and lavish amenities promise unparalleled comfort and style. With arabesque motifs adorning every corner, each suite is a masterpiece of refined luxury.

The Senator offers a culinary journey curated by our talented chefs, where each dish is a work of art and every bite evokes a symphony of flavors. The Lounge Bar is an elegant space offering a refined ambience for relaxation and socializing. Indulge in the splendor of the sun deck aboard the Senator, an elevated oasis on the majestic Nile.

GUEST SUITES & FEATURES:

16 opulent guest suites, each featuring a lounge area and a private terrace. • Suites size: 32 m2 • Fully air conditioned suites (individually controlled) • Satellite TV • Suites are equipped with private bathrooms, shower cabin, and hairdryer • In cabin safe box • Full stocked minibar refilled once upon arrival • A complimentary bottle of local wine and a fruit basket upon arrival • Bathrobe & Slippers • Deluxe suite amenities • Tea and coffee tray facilities • Espresso machine • An array of diverse pastries is provided in suites during cruise sailing.



SHIP FEATURES: 24-hour reception • Room Service • Luxurious sun deck with swimming pool & pool bar • Luxurious lounge bar • 2 Game tables • Library • Complimentary Wifi • Gym • Sauna • Major credit cards accepted • Beauty salon available upon request*, Massage*, Gift shop*, Doctor on call*, Local & International dial-up access*, Laundry service* • Electric current 220 volts 50 cycles.

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PROGRAM INCLUDES:

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Hotels and Ship for 11-nights with the Aswan Old Cataract Hotel (1-night), Senator (3-nights), Hotel Al Moudira in Luxor (3-nights) and the Four Seasons Cairo Hotel at First Residence (4-nights).

MEALS:

Breakfast daily, all lunches and dinners. A number of lunches and dinners will be in private homes.

TOURING:

All tours and admissions are included. We will be joined by Cosmo Brockway, an expert with great connections for some private and very special visits and meals.

MOTOR COACHES:

All buses are air conditioned.

FLIGHTS:

We include the flight from Luxor to Cairo.

TAXES:

Included are service charges on hotels/restaurants as well as taxes levied by local governments and authorities.

TIPS & GRATUITIES:

Not Included: Tips to drivers, guides and extra security are not included.

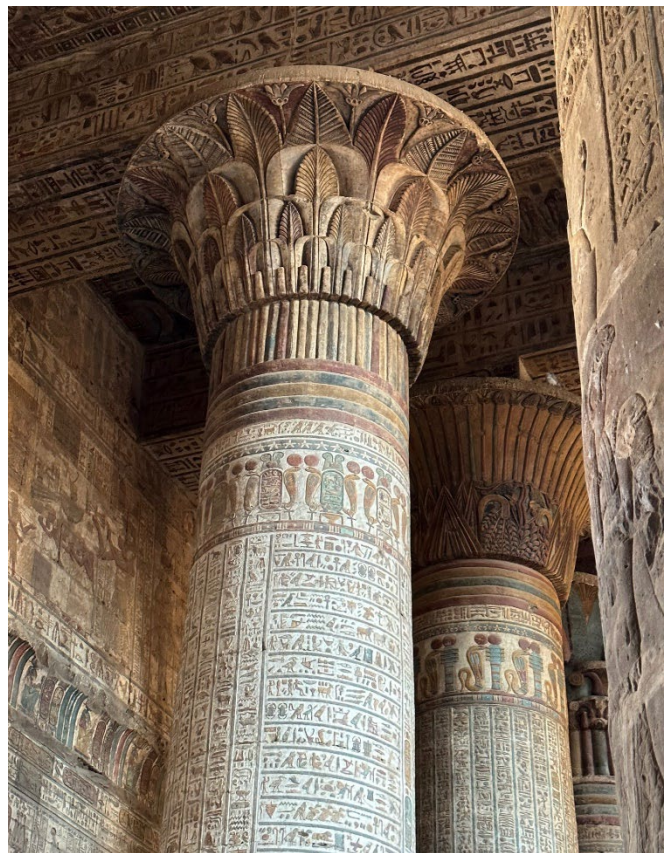
Please contact the Office of Classical Excursions to register or ask any questions: Office@ClassicalExcursions.com

CLASSICAL EXCURSIONS

Office@ClassicalExcursions.com | T. 413-446-8728 or 401-924-2219

Information updated as of April 2025 | Itinerary subject to change without notice.

A few photos from January 2025 by Lani Summerville



Top: The pyramids at Giza, Cairo
Left: The tower at the Ibn Tulun Mosque, Cairo | Right: Column at the Temple of Esna on the Nile

Saqqara with the Step Pyramid of Djoser and surrounding temples

