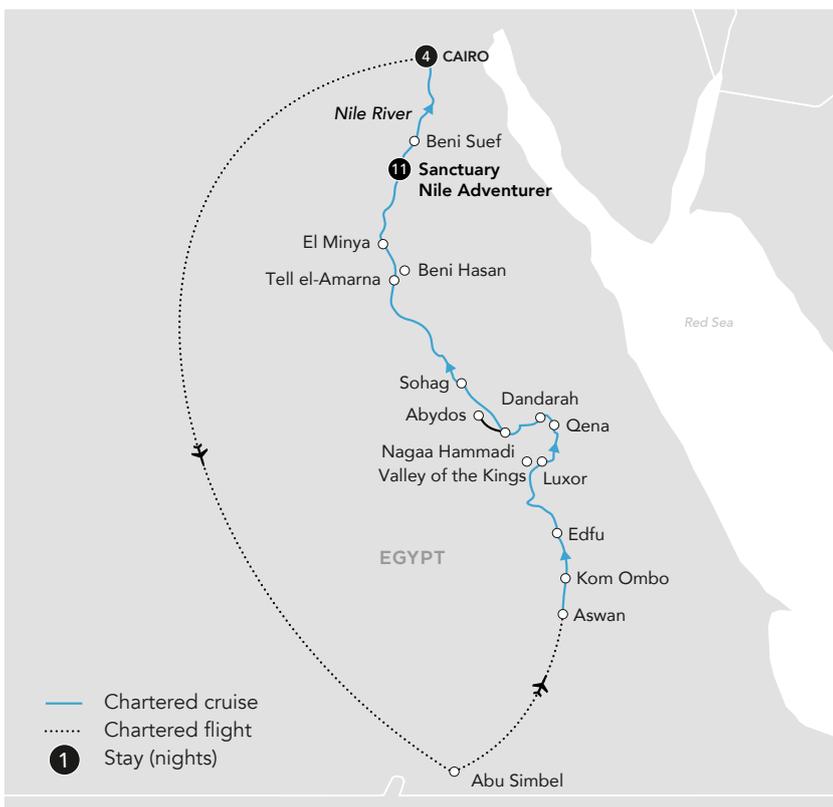


# A JOURNEY OF THE GODS

Granted passage along the storied River Nile, we make our home aboard the privately chartered Sanctuary Nile Adventurer. During our in-depth discovery, we come face to face with a curated collection of Egypt's most fascinating and ancient treasures. Our voyage begins in Aswan and charts a course navigated by only the most seasoned Egyptologists.

This discovery takes place for no more than 55 guests.



## A JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Cairo - Abu Simbel - Aswan - Edfu  
- Luxor - Sohag - Amarna - El Minya -  
Cairo

16 Day River Cruise & Private Plane  
Departing:  
17 September 2027 (reverse itinerary)

### **Day 1 Cairo**

In Cairo, we are led to the Waldorf Astoria Cairo Heliopolis, where we meet our fellow guests and Tour Host Team during a Welcome Dinner.

### **Day 2 Abu Simbel, Aswan, Embark Sanctuary Nile Adventurer**

We transfer to the airport this morning. From here, a charter flight whisks us away to the fascinating town of Abu Simbel. Here, an exploration of the Temple of Ramses II awaits. The walls of the temple depict the epic Battle of Kadesh, which pitted Ramses' army against the Hittites. Rejoining our chartered aircraft, a swift flight soon brings us to Aswan, where we board the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer.

### **Day 3 Agilika, Aswan, Kom Ombo**

This morning, we are taken across to the island of Agilika aboard a private motorboat. Here, the Philae Temple honours one of the most influential deities in ancient Egypt – Isis, the goddess of healing. At the nearby Granite Quarries, we see an unfinished obelisk lying curiously buried in the ground.

Sailing farther downstream brings us to Kom Ombo. Resting on a bend in the Nile, the Temple of Kom Ombo was built to worship the crocodile god, Sobek, as the cold-blooded creatures were seen to frequent the warm riverbank. As we continue to Edfu, enjoy afternoon tea in the lounge, followed this evening by a gourmet dinner.

### **Day 4 Edfu, Luxor**

Today, we discover Edfu Temple, the largest pharaonic temple in Egypt. It remains completely preserved and is dedicated to Horus, the hero of the popular Osiris myth. Enjoy lunch and afternoon tea as we sail toward Luxor. Our Egyptologists are eager to guide us along the east bank, where we find the striking Luxor Temple, built for the king of gods, Amun. Share your highlights of the day during this evening's dinner.

### **Day 5 Valley of the Kings, Karnak Temple**

Our morning is spent at the Valley of the Kings, richly decorated with carvings and bursting with treasures for generations of pharaohs to use in the afterlife. Under mindful construction, builders incorporated natural geological formations in the tombs. We continue to the Valley of the Queens, and a temple built for ancient Egypt's only female pharaoh, Hatshepsut.

On the way back to our ship, we also pass by the two seated figures of the Colossi of Memnon. These striking stone statues, built in honour of Pharaoh Amenhotep III, have survived the earthquakes and floods that destroyed the pharaoh's mortuary complex.

Walking between rows of sphinxes, we then make our way to Karnak Temple. The temple's Great Hypostyle Hall boasts a series of columns covering an area greater than Notre Dame Cathedral. Stroll through the Great Court, proceeding further into the temple complex to arrive at the Precinct of Amun-Ra, dedicated to the god of gods.

### **Day 6 Qena, Dandarah**

Docking in Qena, we visit the Temple of Hathor in nearby Dandarah. The Egyptian goddess of beauty and love, Hathor is often depicted in ancient sculptures and paintings as a woman with a cow's head, or as a cow in its entirety. We see some of these depictions here today. Enjoy lunch aboard our luxury vessel, as we sail onward to Nagaa Hammadi.

### **Day 7 Nagaa Hammadi, Abydos**

Docking in Nagaa Hammadi, we board a coach for the journey to the nearby holy city of Abydos. The site is dedicated to Osiris, god of the afterlife and underworld. It's said that while facing Osiris, one's heart was presented upon a set of scales, to be weighed against the feather of Maat, goddess of truth and justice. If the heart weighed the same as the feather, that person was deemed to have been virtuous and achieved their immortality. If not, the soul would not be permitted to proceed into the afterlife. While here, we also learn of the many pre-dynastic kings and pharaohs who were buried in this city, as far back as 4,000BC.

As we sail toward Sohag, relax up on deck and take in spectacular views of the Nile's lush riverbanks, which sprawl before a vast backdrop of desert.

### **Day 8 Sohag**

Reaching Sohag, we discover the Red and White monasteries, which date back to the earliest period of Christian monasticism. Named for their respective red brick and white limestone construction, these churches house significant sculptures and paintings created between the fifth and fourteenth centuries.

The Sanctuary Nile Adventurer welcomes us back on board. This afternoon, take the opportunity to advance your culinary repertoire with an Egyptian cooking lesson aboard our vessel. A gourmet dinner is served within the ship's stylish dining room this evening.

### **Day 9 El Minya**

We spend the day aboard on our own schedule while cruising further north. You may like to mingle with your fellow travellers in our vessel's stylish lounge. Venture up to the sun deck for a relaxing swim in the pool, perhaps followed by a drink while taking in the views along the lounge bar terrace.

This evening, a gourmet dinner is served and we overnight along the shores of El Minya, its nearby lights dazzling in reflection upon the water.

### **Day 10 Tell El-Amarna**

The buried city of Tell el-Amarna rests along a stretch of the east bank. A sense of the uncanny pervades this desolate landscape, strewn as it is with the ancient tombs of rulers and nobles. It was here that the one-time pharaoh, Akhenaten, denounced Egypt's polytheistic system of worship, declaring instead that Aten, the sun disc, be exalted as the one true god. Akhenaten was dubbed 'the heretic king' for this stance – as well as for his earlier decision to move the capital from Thebes – and his opponents did their best to erase him from history. Upon his death, the city was destroyed and abandoned.

Following our survey of Tell el-Amarna, the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer welcomes us back on board. We enjoy lunch on board our vessel as we sail to Beni Hassan. This evening, a gourmet dinner is served within the ship's stylish dining room.

#### **Day 11 Beni Hassan, Beni Suef**

This morning, we reach neighbouring Beni Hassan. It is here that the richest and best-preserved Middle Kingdom tombs can be found. Carved high into the limestone cliffs of the Nile's east bank, the tombs were built for the state's provincial rulers. Four of the 39 tombs are open to visitors. Inside, their walls portray scenes of the rulers and their families, involved in everyday activities from hunting and fishing, to weaving and crop gathering. Depictions of several historical battles are also seen here.

After a day of exploring, we return to our luxury vessel to nourish ourselves with the delicious creations of its award-winning chefs. Our ship cruises north to the city of Beni Suef, where we dock for the night. Gentle lapping sounds of the Nile offer us a unique lullaby.

#### **Day 12 Sail to Cairo**

Begin your day with breakfast in the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer's dining room. We continue our voyage, making a gradual approach to the capital. Perhaps catch your first glimpse of Cairo from your position poolside. An appetising lunch will also be prepared by the ship's onboard chefs today.

A gala dinner is served aboard our river ship by white-gloved waiters this evening.

#### **Day 13 Cairo, Disembark Sanctuary Nile Adventurer**

Following breakfast, we bid farewell to our ship's captain and crew and disembark the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer. Cairo is a curated collection of Egypt's most fascinating treasures. We head straight to the Sakkara Step Pyramid, not only the first pyramid built by Egyptians, but also the country's oldest stone structure. Not far from here, we arrive at Memphis, the first capital of ancient Egypt, to marvel at its impressive ruins.

Our rooms at The St Regis Cairo afford us glorious views of the River Nile. The hotel's refined elegance, vaulted ceilings and arched doorways pay homage to traditional Arabic architecture.

#### **Day 14 Cairo**

Today, we travel back in time to the Old Kingdom, paying homage to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx that guards the tomb complex. The oldest of the world's seven wonders, the three pyramids were built for the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure. Inside the Chephren Pyramid, built for Pharaoh Khafre, we are afforded unique insight into the construction of the pyramids. Among other sights in the two known chambers is a rare black granite sarcophagus. Away from the tourist crowds, and joined by our Egyptologists, an irreplaceable experience then awaits us. We are granted exclusive access to the feet of the Sphinx, where the Dream Stela of Thutmose IV lies.

Savour further close-up views of the pyramids during lunch at nearby Marriott Mena House. We then make our way to the new Grand Egyptian Museum. An undertaking of truly epic proportions, the museum features some of Egypt's most iconic artefacts, including the Mask of Tutankhamun and the statue of Ramses II.

Choose where to dine this evening, with many gastronomic delights on offer within our hotel's restaurants.

#### **Day 15 Cairo**

A collection nearing 120,000 artefacts is on display at the Egyptian Museum, and before the doors are open to the public, we take a private tour of its exhibits. Among towering statues and delicate jewels, we explore a room containing several royal mummies, the most famous being that of prolific builder Pharaoh Ramses II.

We are then escorted to the Cairo Citadel. Home to Egypt's rulers for some 700 years and a monument to medieval warfare, the fortress houses several unique mosques and palaces. Should it be a clear day, we may be able to see the Pyramids of Giza from certain vantage points. Our afternoon in Cairo is spent weaving between stalls at the Khan el-Khalili bazaar, where dried thyme and bowls of hazelnuts decorate brightly coloured shopfronts.

This evening, we gather for a special Farewell Dinner to celebrate our remarkable journey.

#### **Day 16 Cairo**

Today, we are transferred to Cairo airport, having been enlightened by the revelations of Egypt's history and culture.