

16-day tour of Egypt

Cairo • Luxor • Nile Dahabiya between Esna & Aswan • Abu Simbel • Aswan • Cairo

Dr Julia Harvey has been giving courses in Egyptology for the Groningen Senior Academy for many years. She studied Egyptology at the universities of Durham (UK) and Heidelberg (Germany) and was awarded her PhD by University College London (UK) with a thesis on wooden statues from the Old Kingdom. She has accompanied groups to Egypt since the early 1990s, first for a British travel agency, and since 2000 Dutch groups in cooperation with Djed Reizen.

The day-to-day programme

Day 1 • Wednesday 7 December • Arrival in Cairo

On arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by the local Djed Reizen representative, who will arrange the visas. Transfer to the hotel.

Day 2 • Thursday 8 December • Cairo

A visit to the three pyramids in the desert near Giza, which with the Sphinx are among the best known monuments in Egypt. We then move on to Saqqara, the necropolis of the ancient capital city Memphis. In addition to many tombs, known as mastabas, this is where the Step Pyramid of King Djoser is situated. We will also visit the new Imhotep Museum at Saqqara.

Day 3 • Friday 9 December • Cairo

We leave early in the morning for Dahshur by bus for a visit to the Red Pyramid, the Bent Pyramid, and the pyramids of Amenemhet III and Senwosret III. We then continue on to Meidum to visit the pyramid of Snofru and the private mastabas of Prince Rahotep and Nefermaat. These pyramids and mastabas are much less well known than the pyramids of Giza and Saqqara and it is thus a lot less 'touristy'.

Day 4 • Saturday 10 December • Cairo, then Luxor

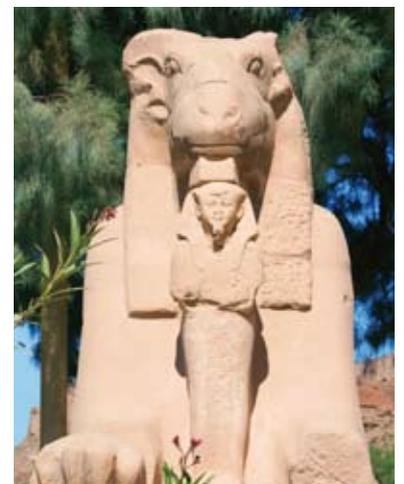
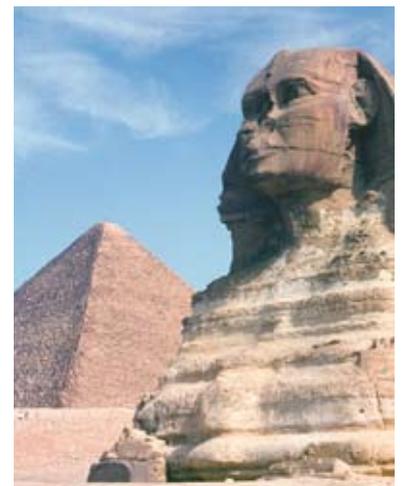
In the morning we pay an extensive visit to the Egyptian Museum where over 120,000 objects are displayed. In the afternoon we go to old Islamic Cairo to see the famous Citadel, the Sultan Hassan Mosque and the Khan el-Khalili bazaar, one of the largest in the Middle East. Wandering through the narrow alleys of this bazaar is one of the best ways of interacting with the intriguing street life of Cairo. Thirsty? Off we go to El Fishawy, the oldest teahouse in the city. We then transfer to the airport for a flight to Luxor, and transfer to the hotel after arrival.

Day 5 • Sunday 11 December • Luxor

Today our excursion takes us to the temples of Karnak. This gigantic temple complex was constructed over a period of 2000 years. It is a true temple city, containing many other temples alongside the main one dedicated to the god Amun-Re. The vast hypostyle hall of the temple is particularly impressive. The temple complex of Karnak used to be linked to the Luxor temple by an avenue of sphinxes. This avenue is currently being restored. In the evening we walk to the temple of Luxor to visit one of the best preserved complexes from Egyptian antiquity. In the evenings the temple is bathed in wonderful light, which makes this time of day particularly suitable for a visit.

Day 6 • Monday 12 December • Thebes, near Luxor

Today we pay our first visit to the West Bank with its numerous mortuary temples and tombs. Thus far 63 tombs have been discovered in the Valley of the Kings, most of which are beautifully decorated with paintings and reliefs. The decorations are among the most beautiful ever produced by Egyptian artists. The Colossi of Memnon, the Valley of the Nobles and Medinet Habu, the mortuary temple of Ramesses III are also on the programme.



Day 7 • Tuesday 13 December • Thebes, near Luxor

Today we pay our second visit to the West Bank. We will visit the terraced temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari and then move on to the Ramesseum, the mortuary temple of Ramesses II, once one of the most beautiful temples of ancient Egypt. In the temple are the remains of a seated statue of Ramesses II. This was once the largest statue ever constructed in Egypt; it weighted about 1000 tons and was 17 metres high. We will also visit Deir el-Medina, the remains of the village where the workers and artists lived who were involved in the construction of the tombs in the Valley of the Kings and on the West Bank. In addition to the workers' houses, there are also several decorated tombs.

Day 8 • Wednesday 14 December • Nile Dahabiya between Esna & Aswan

Transfer by air-conditioned bus to Esna (about a 45-minute drive) for embarkation on board the Dahabiya for a 4-day sail on the Nile between Esna and Aswan. In Esna we will visit the Graeco-Roman temple dedicated to the creator god Khnum. We then sail to El Kab to visit the remains of ancient temples and rock-cut tombs from the New Kingdom. The ancient city is surrounded by massive mudbrick walls. After our visit to El Kab we sail on to El Qusseia, a small Nile island. First night on board.

Day 9 • Thursday 15 December • Nile Dahabiya between Esna & Aswan

Sailing to Edfu to visit the temple of Horus. For centuries this temple was hidden under the desert sands, which means it has been preserved almost intact. We then sail on to a small Nile island near Wadi el Shat, a village where the houses are built against the cliffs, for a walk along the banks of the Nile and the green, irrigated fields. Second night on board.

Day 10 • Friday 16 December • Nile Dahabiya between Esna & Aswan

We sail towards Gebel El Silsila (the mountain of the chain) to visit the rock-cut temple of Horemheb and the remains of the monuments in the old stone quarries there. We have lunch on board while sailing towards Kom Ombo to visit the double temple of Sobek and Haroeris. Then we sail on towards an island where dinner will be served around a campfire. Third night on board.

Day 11 • Saturday 17 December • Nile Dahabiya between Esna & Aswan

We continue on to the village of Daraw. Camel dealers from the Sudan make a 40-day journey through the Libyan desert to come to the camel market at Daraw. After a walk through the village of Daraw we sail on towards Koubania, a Nubian village near Aswan. Fourth and last night on board.

Day 12 • Sunday 18 December • Aswan to Abu Simbel

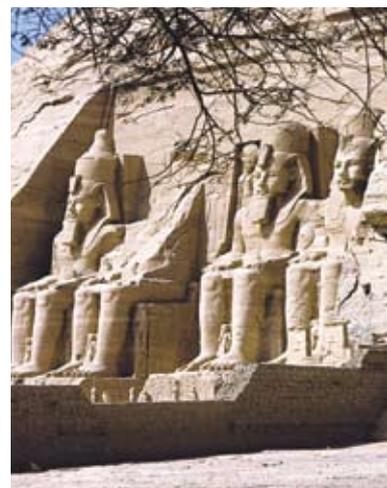
In the morning we travel in an air-conditioned bus to Abu Simbel to pay an extensive visit to the world-famous temples of Ramesses II and his wife Nefertari. Later we will also attend the sound and light show.

Day 13 • Monday 19 December • Abu Simbel to Aswan

The day starts with a spectacular sunrise over Abu Simbel. There will be plenty of time to pay a second visit (optional, not included in the price) to the temples of Abu Simbel. We then transfer by air-conditioned bus to the hotel in Aswan. In the afternoon we take a short felucca trip, which is a real pleasure in Aswan as the Nile here flows over and around many rocks and islands. We will moor at Elephantine island to visit the German excavations, the Nilometer and the old Aswan Museum. The botanical gardens on Kitchener Island will also be visited.

Day 14 • Tuesday 20 December • Aswan

Our excursion today takes us to Kalabsha temple, the first to be relocated due to the rising waters of Lake Nasser. We then move on to the beautiful temple of Philae, which suffered the same fate. Both temples can only be reached by motor boat. We will of course also visit the unfinished obelisk, which with a length of over 41 metres and weighing over a thousand tons would have been one of the largest obelisks from pharaonic times. The High Dam, constructed between 1960 and 1970, is also on the programme. The rest of the day is free. We recommend paying a visit to the wonderful Nubian Museum in the late afternoon or evening.



Day 15 • Wednesday 21 December • Cairo

In the morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Cairo. On arrival we transfer to the hotel. We then pay a second visit to the Egyptian Museum. Afterwards we visit the Coptic district of Old Cairo with its churches, the Ben Ezra synagogue and the Coptic Museum. In the evening there is a farewell dinner in the Oriental El Haty restaurant.

Day 16 • Thursday 22 December • Return flight from Cairo

Transfer to Cairo airport for your return flight.

Flight plan • EgyptAir (MS) • www.egyptair.com

Day	Flight	Departure	Arrival
Saturday 10 December 2011	MS 367	Cairo 16.35	Luxor 17.45
Wednesday 21 December 2011	MS 411	Aswan 08.00	Cairo 09.25

Accommodation during the tour • 15 nights

Cairo • 3 nights • Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 December

OASIS A luxury hotel in a quiet part of the city, only 5 km from the pyramids. The hotel is surrounded by beautifully designed gardens. All rooms are spacious and comfortable, with a bathroom, air-conditioning, TV, mini-bar and a balcony with a view of the gardens and/or the outside swimming pool. For more information: www.oasis.com.eg

Luxor • 4 nights • Saturday 10 to Tuesday 13 December

IBEROTEL A four-star hotel on the banks of the Nile and within walking distance of Luxor temple and the souks. The hotel has many facilities, including excellent restaurants and an outside swimming pool. The rooms are spacious and comfortable, with a bathroom, air-conditioning, TV and mini-bar. For more information: www.iberotel.com

Nile Dahabiya • 4 nights • Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 December

Dahabiyas are traditional sailing houseboats, built in the old style and equipped with two large cutter-rigged lateen sails. Dahabiyas sail the Nile between Luxor and Aswan and moor at well-known and less well-known monuments along the banks of the Nile. Dahabiya The Orient and Dahabiya Zekrayaat are tastefully furnished with old, colonial furniture. The Orient has 4 cabins and 1 suite, Zekrayaat 4 cabins and 2 suites.

A party of up to 22 guests can be accommodated on board. The comfortable cabins have large beds, air-conditioning, a private bathroom with bath, shower and toilet. The slightly more spacious suites also have a small private balcony. The supplement for a suite is € 80,- per suite per night. The charming saloon also has a small library with books about the Nile and Egypt. There is a large sundeck with lounge beds and chairs. The chef prepares excellent meals using local ingredients, served on board or in other original locations, for example on the banks of the Nile, sometimes with a view of a temple or with the desert as background. The small-scale character of the boats, the comfort they can offer and the welcoming crew ensure a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

For more information: www.nile-dahabiya.com

Abu Simbel • 1 night • Sunday 18 December

NEFERTARI. A middle-class hotel, right next to the temples. All rooms have their own bathroom and air-conditioning. There is also an outside swimming pool and a terrace on the banks of Lake Nasser.

For more information: www.nefertarihotelabusimble.net

Aswan • 2 nights • Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December

IBEROTEL. This five-star hotel is beautifully situated on the Nile and very close to the old centre. The hotel has many facilities, including excellent restaurants and an outside swimming pool. All rooms are spacious and comfortable, with a bathroom, air-conditioning, TV and mini-bar. For more information: www.iberotel.com

Cairo • 1 night • Wednesday 21 December

SHEPHEARD. A four-star hotel in the heart of Cairo, on the banks of the Nile and within walking distance of the Egyptian Museum. The hotel has many facilities and all rooms have air-conditioning and a bathroom.

For more information: www.shepherd-hotel.com



Travel information

Price

- In a double room/cabin € 1,850 per person
- In a single room in the hotels and a double cabin on board the Dahabiya € 2,250 per person
- In a single room/cabin € 2,550 per person

Included in the price

- **All transport and excursions;**
All entry fees and guide services;
All transfers and local transport by air-conditioned bus.
- **All accommodation and meals**
3 nights in Cairo in Oasis Hotel, bed and breakfast;
4 nights in Luxor in Iberotel Hotel, bed and breakfast;
4 nights between Esna & Aswan on board the traditional luxury sailing houseboats The Orient and Zekrayaat, full board;
1 night in Abu Simbel in Nefertari Hotel, half board (breakfast and dinner);
2 nights in Aswan in Iberotel Hotel, bed and breakfast;
1 night in Cairo in Shepherd Hotel, bed and breakfast;
9 dinners in local restaurants;
Lunch kitty: € 75,- per person. This money will be used to pay for the remaining lunches, usually en route, and in consultation with the tour leader.

Not included in the price

- All flights • International and Domestic Airfares
- Visa costs (about € 20,- per person)
- Tips (€ 85,- per person)
- Optional excursions
- Any necessary insurance
- Booking fee (€ 15,- per booking)
- Contribution to the Calamiteitenfonds (a Dutch foundation to compensate travellers if their trip is terminated due to a calamity) € 2.50 per booking.

Notes on Flights

International flights: The tour price does not include the international flights in order to give our travellers as much flexibility as possible with regard to their departure point, choice of airline, flight times and overall travel dates. Egypt Air and many major European and Middle Eastern airlines have regular flights into Cairo Airport. You can choose whether to book your flights through us, or make your own arrangements. If you book your own flights, we will still organize the airport transfers on arrival and departure. We will be pleased to book your international flights for you for a small additional charge so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Domestic flights: EgyptAir has a virtual monopoly on domestic flights. The flights included in the tour programme, Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo, cost about € 200 per person in total.

Websites

Julia Harvey – www.juliaharvey.nl

Djed Reizen – www.djedreizen.nl

