



SMALL SHIP
TRAVEL.COM™
EXCLUSIVE VOYAGES



Unforgettable Egypt and Nile River Cruise

13 days/11 nights

Jordan post-tour extension

6 days/5 nights

Itinerary Overview:

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Day 2 – Arrive Cairo | Overnight

Day 3 – Museum of Egyptian Antiquities | Citadel | Khan el Khalili Bazaar (B, L)

Day 4 – Grand Egyptian Museum | Pyramids & Sphinx (B, L)

Day 5 – Fly to Aswan | Abu Simbel Optional | Embark the *Azhar* | Felucca Ride | Kitchener's Island (B, L, D)

Day 6 – Philae Temple | High Dam | Unfinished Obelisk | Nubian Village (B, L, D)

Day 7 – Kom Ombo (B, L, D)

Day 8 – Gebel El Silsila (B, L, D)

Day 9 – Edfu | El Kab | Luxor (B, L, D)

Day 10 – Luxor – Luxor and Karnak Temples (B, L, D)

Day 11 – Luxor – AM Hot Air Balloon Optional | West Bank (B, L, D)

Day 12 – Fly to Cairo (B)

Day 13 – Depart Cairo for U.S. or Jordan post-tour extension (B)

Jordan post-tour extension

Day 13 – Depart Cairo for Amman | Amman City Tour (B, L)

Day 14 – Jerash (B, L)

Day 15 – Mt. Nebo | Madaba | Petra (B, L)

Day 16 – Full-day Petra (B, L)

Day 17 – Dead Sea (B)

Day 18 – Depart Amman (B)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS – EGYPT

- Guided exploration of **Cairo** including:
 - Museum of Egyptian Antiquities (Tahrir Square)
 - Citadel of Saladin & Mohamed Ali Mosque
 - Khan El Khalili Bazaar
- Visit to the **Giza Plateau**: Great Pyramid, Sphinx, and royal pyramids
- Immersive visit to the **Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)** featuring the Tutankhamun collection
- Domestic flight to **Aswan or Luxor** and v.v.
- Optional excursion to **Abu Simbel**
- Seven-nights aboard the boutique **Dahabiya Azhar**
- Traditional **felucca sail** and visit to **Kitchener's Island Botanical Gardens**
- Philae Temple, Aswan High Dam & Unfinished Obelisk
- Cultural visit to a **Nubian Village**
- Kom Ombo Temple & Crocodile Museum
- Gebel El Silsila ancient sandstone quarries
- Temple of Horus at Edfu and El Kab
- Karnak & Luxor Temples
- Optional sunrise **Hot Air Balloon over Luxor**

- West Bank sites: Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut's Temple & Colossi of Memnon
- Expert Egyptologist guides throughout
- Intimate small-ship Nile cruising experience

INCLUSIONS – EGYPT

- **Hotels & Cruise**
 - 3 nights Cairo (Sofitel Downtown Cairo or Fairmont Nile City or similar)
 - 7 nights aboard Dahabiya Azhar
 - 1 night Cairo (Sonesta Hotel Tower or similar)
- **Transportation**
 - Airport transfers in Egypt associated with domestic flights
 - Domestic flights: Cairo–Aswan and Luxor–Cairo or v.v.
 - All touring in air-conditioned vehicles
- **Sightseeing & Guides**
 - All entrance fees per itinerary
 - Professional Egyptologist guides
 - Small group touring
- **Meals**
 - Daily breakfast
 - Lunches and dinners as listed (B, L, D)
 - Full board while on the dahabiya
- **Activities**
 - Felucca sail in Aswan
 - Botanical Gardens (Kitchener's Island)
 - Nubian Village visit
 - All scheduled temple and archaeological visits

EXCLUSIONS – EGYPT

- International airfare to/from Cairo
- Airport transfers associated with your international flights
- Egypt visa fees
- Optional Abu Simbel excursion
- Optional hot air balloon ride in Luxor
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Gratuities for Egyptologist Guides and dahabiya crew
- Personal expenses (beverages, laundry, spa services, souvenirs)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not specifically listed
- Any services not explicitly stated as included

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS – Jordan

- Guided city tour of **Amman**, including the Citadel, Roman Theater, and traditional souks
- Full-day visit to the remarkably preserved Roman city of **Jerash**
- Biblical and cultural sites of **Mount Nebo** and **Madaba** (Mosaic Map of Jerusalem)
- Scenic drive through Jordan's dramatic desert and mountain landscapes

- Full-day exploration of **Petra**, UNESCO World Heritage Site:
 - Siq
 - Treasury (Al-Khazneh)
 - Royal Tombs
 - Street of Facades
 - Optional hike to the Monastery
- Leisure time at the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on Earth, with floating and spa relaxation
- Expert local guides throughout
- Blend of Roman, biblical, Nabataean, and natural wonders

INCLUSIONS – JORDAN

- Flight from Cairo to Amman (economy class)
- 5 nights hotel accommodations:
 - Amman – Signia by Hilton or similar
 - Petra – Mövenpick Petra Resort or similar
 - Dead Sea – Jordan Valley Marriott Resort & Spa or similar
- All airport transfers and touring by private air-conditioned vehicle
- Professional English-speaking licensed guide
- All sightseeing and entrance fees per itinerary:
 - Amman Citadel & Roman Theater
 - Jerash
 - Mount Nebo & Madaba
 - Petra (full day)
 - Dead Sea access
- Meals as listed (B, L, D)
- Amman city tour, Jerash visit, Petra guided tour, Dead Sea leisure time

EXCLUSIONS – JORDAN

- International airfare from Amman to the U.S.
- Jordan visa fees (if applicable)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Optional spa treatments at Dead Sea resorts
- Personal expenses (beverages, laundry, souvenirs)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not specifically listed
- Any services not explicitly stated as included

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1 – Depart the United States

Your extraordinary journey begins today as you depart the United States on an overnight international flight bound for Cairo, Egypt.

DAY 2 – Arrive Cairo | Overnight

Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, you are met by your professional tour representative who will assist with arrival formalities and escort you to your hotel overlooking the Nile. After check-in, the remainder of the day is at leisure to recover from your journey. You may choose to relax at the hotel, enjoy views of the river, or take a short stroll through nearby neighborhoods to absorb your first impressions of Egypt's vibrant capital.

Overnight: Sofitel Downtown Cairo or Fairmont Nile City

Day 3 – Museum of Egyptian Antiquities | Citadel of Saladin | Khan El Khalili Bazaar

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before meeting your guide in the lobby for a full-day exploration of Cairo.

Your introduction to more than 5,000 years of Egyptian history begins this morning at the **Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Tahrir Square**, which remains a foundational institution for understanding ancient Egypt, even as many headline artifacts have been relocated to newer museums. Opened in 1902, the historic pink-hued building was among the world's first purpose-built archaeological museums and continues to hold deep scholarly and cultural significance.

Its traditional gallery layout—dense display cases organized by period and object type—offers an authentic, old-world museum experience reflecting more than a century of Egyptological study. Located in the heart of downtown Cairo, the museum also provides an important geographic and historical anchor within the modern city.

With the opening of the **Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)** near Giza and the earlier transfer of the royal mummies to the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, the Tahrir Museum has evolved into a complementary collection rather than a comprehensive showcase of Egypt's most famous treasures. While much of the Tutankhamun collection has moved to GEM, the museum still houses an extensive array of statues, reliefs, smaller artifacts, and objects of daily life spanning thousands of years.

Today, a visit here is best appreciated as a contextual and scholarly experience—quieter, more intimate, and richly informative—providing depth and continuity to any exploration of Egypt's extraordinary archaeological heritage.

Explore the Citadel of Saladin & Mohamed Ali Mosque

Next, ascend to the **Citadel of Saladin**, one of Cairo's most significant historic landmarks and a commanding presence above the city for nearly eight centuries. Constructed in the late 12th

century by Sultan Saladin as a defensive stronghold against Crusader forces, the Citadel served as the seat of Egyptian power from the medieval Islamic period through the Ottoman era.

Its massive stone walls, towers, and gates enclose a vast complex that once housed royal residences, military barracks, administrative buildings, and mosques, offering a compelling window into Cairo's political and architectural evolution.

Within the Citadel stands the iconic **Mohamed Ali Mosque**, built in the 19th century by Muhammad Ali Pasha and inspired by the great Ottoman mosques of Istanbul. Clad in pale alabaster and crowned with a central dome flanked by soaring minarets, the mosque dominates Cairo's skyline and remains one of the city's most recognizable monuments.

From the Citadel's elevated terraces, enjoy sweeping panoramic views across Cairo's layered cityscape—historic minarets and medieval quarters unfolding alongside modern boulevards and distant suburbs.

Visit Khan El Khalili Bazaar

In the afternoon, delve into the heart of historic Cairo with a visit to **Khan El Khalili Bazaar**, one of the Middle East's oldest and most evocative marketplaces. Established in the 14th century, this labyrinth of narrow lanes has long been a center of commerce, craftsmanship, and social life.

As you explore, pass stalls brimming with fragrant spices, polished brass and copperware, handwoven textiles, silver jewelry, and intricately patterned lanterns, while the sounds of merchants calling out and artisans at work animate the scene. The bazaar's setting—surrounded by historic mosques, madrasas, and caravanserais—offers a vivid sense of Cairo as it has been experienced for generations.

Pause for lunch at a traditional restaurant within the bazaar, where classic Egyptian dishes are served amid atmospheric surroundings. Enjoy local specialties such as grilled meats, mezze, freshly baked bread, and seasonal vegetables, providing a flavorful introduction to Egypt's culinary traditions.

After lunch, continue strolling through the souk at a relaxed pace, perhaps stopping for mint tea or Turkish coffee at a historic café, before returning to your hotel with a deeper appreciation for Cairo's living heritage and enduring energy.

Overnight: Cairo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L)

Day 4 - Wonders of the Ancient World: Giza Plateau & Grand Egyptian Museum

This morning, journey to the **Giza Plateau**, one of the most extraordinary archaeological landscapes on earth, where the defining symbols of ancient Egypt rise dramatically from the desert edge.

As you approach, the scale and precision of the pyramids become immediately apparent—an awe-inspiring testament to the ambition, organization, and engineering mastery of the Old Kingdom. Stand before the **Great Pyramid of Khufu**, built more than 4,500 years ago and still the largest stone structure ever constructed. Once standing nearly 500 feet high and composed of millions of limestone blocks, it remains the last surviving **Wonder of the Ancient World**.

Nearby, explore the pyramids of **Khafre and Menkaure**, each contributing to the carefully planned royal necropolis that reflected ancient Egyptian beliefs about kingship, the afterlife, and cosmic order. Just beyond, encounter the **Great Sphinx**, its colossal leonine body and enigmatic human face carved directly from the bedrock. Guarding the plateau for millennia, the Sphinx continues to inspire fascination, symbolizing power, mystery, and the enduring legacy of Pharaonic Egypt.

Lunch at a Local Restaurant

Enjoy lunch at a carefully selected local restaurant, offering traditional Egyptian cuisine and a moment to relax before continuing your afternoon explorations.

Explore the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)

After your visit to Giza, continue to the **Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)**, a transformative cultural institution representing a new era in the presentation of Egypt's ancient heritage. Strategically located near the pyramids, the museum's bold contemporary architecture frames Egypt's past within a modern, purpose-built space.

Inside, expansive galleries house tens of thousands of artifacts spanning Egypt's dynastic history, displayed chronologically and thematically to provide clarity, context, and narrative depth. The museum's centerpiece is the **complete Tutankhamun collection**, shown together for the first time, offering unprecedented insight into the life, death, and burial of the boy king.

Enhanced by cutting-edge conservation techniques, digital interpretation, and dramatic exhibition design, the Grand Egyptian Museum delivers an immersive and comprehensive journey through one of the world's greatest civilizations—perfectly complementing the monumental experience of the pyramids earlier in the day.

Overnight: Cairo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L)

DAY 5 – Fly to Aswan | Optional Abu Simbel | Embark Dahabiya Azhar | Felucca Ride | Kitchener's Island

Very early this morning, fly south this morning to **Aswan**, the historic gateway to Nubia and one of Egypt's most picturesque cities, renowned for its striking granite landscapes, palm-lined riverbanks, and relaxed, distinctly African character.

Clients participating in the **optional excursion to Abu Simbel** will continue onward on a connecting flight to southern Nubia to visit the colossal rock-cut temples of **Ramses II and Queen Nefertari**. These extraordinary monuments, carved directly into a sandstone cliff,

represent both political propaganda and divine worship on a monumental scale. In the 1960s, the temples were dismantled and meticulously relocated stone by stone in one of UNESCO's most remarkable archaeological rescue operations, undertaken to save them from submersion after the construction of the Aswan High Dam. The temples are also famous for their precise solar alignment, illuminating the inner sanctuary statues on only two days each year—an enduring testament to ancient Egyptian engineering and spiritual design.

All other clients will arrive directly in **Aswan** and proceed to board the elegant **Dahabiya Azhar**, your intimate Nile sailing vessel, home for the next 7 nights. Unlike large cruise ships, the dahabiya offers a refined and tranquil experience, featuring a only 8 veranda suites, attentive personalized service, and panoramic open decks ideal for enjoying uninterrupted views of the Nile and its riverbank life.

In the afternoon, join your fellow travelers for a traditional **felucca sail** along the Nile, drifting past palm-fringed islands, golden dunes, and sculpted granite outcrops that define Aswan's timeless landscape. This serene voyage evokes the same rhythms of travel known to ancient traders and pilgrims who once journeyed these waters.

Your day concludes with a visit to the **Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island**, a lush oasis set in the heart of the Nile. Established during the colonial era, the gardens feature exotic plant species collected from Africa, Asia, and the Americas, creating a living museum of global flora. Shaded pathways, towering palms, and flowering trees provide a peaceful contrast to the surrounding desert scenery and offer a refreshing introduction to Aswan's natural beauty.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 6 – Philae Temple | High Dam | Unfinished Obelisk | Nubian Village

Begin your day with a scenic **boat ride to the enchanting Temple of Philae**, one of Egypt's most beautifully preserved and romantically situated temples. Dedicated to the goddess **Isis**, the divine mother and protector figure of ancient Egyptian religion, Philae was considered one of the last active centers of traditional worship well into the Roman period. Following the construction of the Aswan High Dam, the entire temple complex was painstakingly dismantled and relocated to nearby **Agilkia Island** in an extraordinary international preservation effort led by UNESCO.

As you explore the temple, admire the exquisitely carved reliefs and hieroglyphic inscriptions that recount the myths of **Isis, Osiris, and Horus**, revealing stories of resurrection, kingship, and divine order. Surrounded by shimmering Nile waters, Philae's elegant colonnades, pylons, and sanctuaries create a setting of rare beauty that blends sacred architecture with natural landscape.

Continue to the monumental **Aswan High Dam**, a triumph of modern engineering that forever reshaped Egypt's economy and geography. Completed in the 20th century, the dam controls the annual flooding of the Nile, provides hydroelectric power to much of the country, and created **Lake Nasser**, one of the largest artificial lakes in the world. From the dam's vantage point, take in sweeping views of the vast reservoir and the desert horizon while learning about its profound impact on agriculture, industry, and regional development.

Nearby, visit the remarkable **Unfinished Obelisk**, still lying within the ancient granite quarry from which it was carved. Had it been completed, it would have been the largest obelisk ever erected in Egypt. The site offers rare insight into ancient stone-working techniques, with visible tool marks and cracks that reveal why the monument was abandoned. This open-air workshop vividly illustrates the scale of Egypt's ambitions and the extraordinary craftsmanship required to shape and transport such colossal monuments.

In the afternoon, experience a cultural contrast with a visit to a colorful **Nubian Village** along the Nile's west bank. Here, brightly painted homes, decorated with geometric patterns and symbolic motifs, reflect a living artistic tradition passed down through generations. Stroll through the village's narrow lanes and meet welcoming residents who proudly share their heritage, music, and customs, offering a glimpse into a culture shaped by the Nile and distinct from that of northern Egypt.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 7 – Kom Ombo Temple

Sail north along the Nile to the striking riverside **Temple of Kom Ombo**, one of Egypt's most unusual and architecturally distinctive sanctuaries. Uniquely dedicated to two deities—**Sobek**, the crocodile god associated with fertility, protection, and the life-giving power of the Nile, and **Horus the Elder**, the falcon-headed god of the sky and kingship—the temple was designed as a perfectly symmetrical structure, with twin entrances, parallel halls, and duplicate sanctuaries honoring each god equally. This rare dual dedication reflects the balance between opposing yet complementary divine forces in ancient Egyptian belief.

As you explore the temple complex, admire finely carved reliefs illustrating ritual scenes, offerings to the gods, and remarkable depictions of ancient medical instruments and surgical tools—among the earliest known representations of such practices in the ancient world. These carvings provide fascinating insight into the advanced knowledge of medicine, healing, and anatomy achieved by Egyptian priests and scholars.

Adjacent to the temple, visit the **Crocodile Museum**, which houses a compelling collection of mummified crocodiles once worshipped as sacred manifestations of Sobek. Preserved in varying sizes and displayed alongside statues and inscriptions, these relics reveal the deep spiritual connection between the local population and the Nile's most formidable creature.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 8 – Gebel El Silsila

Today's excursion brings you to **Gebel El Silsila**, the vast and atmospheric sandstone quarries that once supplied much of the stone used to construct Egypt's greatest temples and monuments, including those at Karnak, Luxor, and Kom Ombo. Strategically located at a narrow point along the Nile, this site served as a critical industrial and religious center during the New Kingdom and later periods, linking raw material production with sacred architecture on a monumental scale.

Walk among rock-cut chapels, shrines, and carved stelae dedicated to deities and royal officials, as well as inscriptions left behind by quarry workers, overseers, and priests. These texts and reliefs document not only royal projects but also the lives, prayers, and ambitions of the laborers who extracted and transported the massive sandstone blocks downstream. Unlike Egypt's grand ceremonial temples, Gebel El Silsila offers a rare and intimate glimpse into the workforce that made monumental construction possible, creating a powerful human connection to the foundations of Egypt's architectural legacy.

After exploring the site, return to your dahabiya for **lunch onboard**, followed by a leisurely afternoon of sailing northward along the Nile. Relax on deck as the river unfolds in quiet beauty—passing golden cliffs, green riverbanks, and small villages that seem unchanged by time.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 9 – Edfu | El Kab | Luxor

This morning, we visit the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**, a monumental site that stands as one of Egypt's best-preserved temples. Built during the Ptolemaic period, this imposing structure boasts soaring pylons, grand courtyards, and intricately carved reliefs illustrating the mythic struggle between Horus and Seth. Your expert guide will bring the stories to life, explaining the temple's religious significance and the fascinating symbolism behind its elaborate hieroglyphics.

Next, journey to **El Kab**, an ancient settlement that offers a rare glimpse into provincial life along the Nile. Here, you'll explore fortress walls, rock-cut tombs, and remnants dating back to Egypt's early dynastic period. Unlike the more famous temples and tombs, El Kab allows for a more intimate experience of daily life in ancient times, highlighting the contrast between royal power and the local communities that supported it.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 10 – Luxor | Karnak & Luxor Temples

An amazing day as you journey through the monumental **Karnak Temple Complex**, the largest religious site ever constructed in the ancient world. Spanning more than two thousand years of continuous construction by successive pharaohs, Karnak was the spiritual heart of ancient Thebes and the center of state religion during Egypt's most powerful eras. Dedicated primarily to **Amun-Ra**, king of the gods, the complex showcases vast courtyards, towering obelisks, processional avenues, and sanctuaries, each echoing the grandeur and authority of Egypt's rulers.

The centerpiece of Karnak is the legendary **Great Hypostyle Hall**, an architectural masterpiece containing 137 colossal columns, some rising over 70 feet. These stone pillars, intricately adorned with hieroglyphs, reliefs, and royal cartouches, recount military victories, religious ceremonies, and the divine legitimacy of the pharaohs. Walking among them, you experience a dramatic interplay of light and shadow—a truly unforgettable spectacle that conveys both the scale and spiritual significance of this ancient site.

From Karnak, continue to the nearby **Luxor Temple**, a more intimate yet equally compelling sanctuary. Constructed primarily during the reigns of **Amenhotep III** and **Ramses II**, Luxor Temple was dedicated not just to the gods, but to the concept of royal renewal and divine kingship. It played a central role in the annual **Opet Festival**, when statues of the gods were carried in ceremonial procession from Karnak along the avenue of sphinxes, reaffirming the pharaoh's sacred right to rule. As you explore its graceful colonnades, statues, and detailed reliefs, note how the ancient stones coexist with the rhythms of modern Luxor, creating a vivid connection between past and present.

After your explorations, return to your **dahabiya moored along the Nile**, where you can enjoy a relaxed evening and overnight stay amid the timeless atmosphere of Egypt's former imperial capital.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 11 – Optional Hot Air Balloon | West Bank | Valley of Kings

An optional **hot air balloon flight at dawn**, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to drift silently above the Nile, the West Bank desert, and the legendary tombs of pharaohs as the sun casts a golden glow over the landscape. From above, the scale and beauty of Luxor's ancient sites become breathtakingly clear, offering a unique perspective on Egypt's timeless grandeur.

Afterwards, explore the **West Bank of the Nile**, home to some of ancient Egypt's most iconic monuments. Your first stop is the **Valley of the Kings**, the renowned necropolis where New Kingdom pharaohs—including Tutankhamun and Ramses the Great—were laid to rest in elaborately decorated tombs. With your expert guide, discover the intricate hieroglyphics, vibrant wall paintings, and funerary symbolism that tell the stories of Egypt's most powerful rulers.

Next, visit the **terraced Temple of Queen Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahari, an architectural masterpiece built in harmony with the cliffs behind it. Dedicated to one of Egypt's few female pharaohs, the temple celebrates her reign and divine legitimacy, with colonnades, reliefs, and statues that highlight both artistic sophistication and political power.

Finally, marvel at the **Colossi of Memnon**, two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III that have stood guard over the Theban plains for more than 3,400 years. These towering figures, once part of a grand mortuary temple, offer a striking reminder of Egypt's enduring legacy and the scale of its ancient monumental art.

Overnight: Dahabiya Azhar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 12 – Fly to Cairo | Overnight

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and the serene views along the Nile. Take a final stroll along the riverbank, soak in the peaceful atmosphere of Luxor, or simply unwind on your dahabiya before your journey continues.

Later, transfer to **Luxor Airport** for your flight back to Cairo, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is at your leisure.

If you have an early morning flight, a shuttle provided by the Sonesta will take you to the airport in time for check in.

Overnight: Sonesta Hotel Tower

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (B)

DAY 13 – Depart Cairo or Begin Jordan Extension

Guests returning home transfer to Cairo International Airport. If you are joining us for the Jordan post-tour extension, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight to Amman.

Meals: Breakfast (B)

Jordan Post-Tour Extension

6 days/5 nights

DAY 13 – Fly from Cairo to Amman | Amman City Tour

Upon arrival in **Amman**, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check-in and time to relax after your journey. Nestled among the rolling hills of northern Jordan, Amman is a vibrant city that seamlessly blends modern life with a history spanning millennia. After settling in, prepare for an immersive afternoon tour that introduces you to the city's most significant historical and cultural landmarks.

Your first stop is the **Amman Citadel**, an archaeological treasure perched atop one of the city's seven hills. This elevated site has been continuously inhabited for thousands of years, and its ruins reflect the influence of successive civilizations, including Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad empires. Explore the **Temple of Hercules**, with its colossal remnants, the Umayyad Palace complex, and ancient artifacts that shed light on the city's religious, political, and social evolution. From the citadel's heights, enjoy panoramic views across Amman, observing how modern neighborhoods sit alongside centuries of history.

Next, descend to the **Roman Theater**, a striking 2nd-century amphitheater carved into the hillside, capable of seating over 6,000 spectators. Once a hub for performances, ceremonies, and civic gatherings, the theater remains a remarkable testament to Roman architectural ingenuity and the cultural life of ancient Philadelphia, the Roman name for Amman. Your guide will illuminate the stories of emperors, performers, and ordinary citizens who once filled these seats, bringing history vividly to life.

Conclude your tour at Amman's **bustling downtown souks**, where the energy of a modern Middle Eastern city merges with centuries of trade tradition. Wander narrow streets brimming with spices, textiles, handcrafted goods, and local delicacies. Engage your senses in the sights,

sounds, and aromas of daily life, gaining a deeper appreciation for the city's enduring role as a cultural and commercial crossroads.

Overnight: Signia by Hilton

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (B)

DAY 14 – Jerash

Travel north from Amman to the **magnificent Roman city of Jerash**, often called the “Pompeii of the East” for its extraordinary state of preservation. Jerash is considered one of the finest examples of a Roman provincial city in the world, showcasing the grandeur and urban planning of the Roman Empire beyond its Italian heartland. As you walk its **broad colonnaded avenues**, lined with elegant Corinthian columns, you can almost hear the footsteps of merchants, soldiers, and citizens who once thronged this thriving city more than two millennia ago.

Explore the city's **temples, forums, and theaters**, each reflecting the sophistication of Roman architecture and the cultural life of the Decapolis. Stand in the **Oval Plaza**, a perfect circle of columns that served as a vibrant civic center, and visit the **Temple of Artemis**, with its dramatic ruins that testify to the city's religious devotion. Wander through the **South Theater**, still remarkably intact, and imagine the performances, orations, and ceremonies that once captivated audiences. Along the way, admire intricate stone carvings, inscriptions, and the remnants of ancient fountains and public buildings, which bring the city's history vividly to life.

After a morning immersed in antiquity, enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**, sampling traditional Jordanian dishes

Overnight: Amman

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L)

DAY 15 – Mount Nebo | Madaba | Petra

Depart Amman and travel to **Mount Nebo**, a sacred site overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. According to tradition, this is the place where Moses first glimpsed the **Promised Land** before his passing. From the mountaintop, enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes, including the winding Jordan River and, on clear days, the distant hills of Jerusalem. The serene setting and spiritual significance make Mount Nebo a contemplative and memorable stop.

Continue to the nearby town of **Madaba**, renowned as the “City of Mosaics.” Visit **St. George's Church** to marvel at its extraordinary **Byzantine mosaic map of the Holy Land**, an intricate 6th-century depiction of Jerusalem and surrounding regions. Your guide will explain the historical and religious significance of this remarkable artwork, providing insight into the region's early Christian heritage.

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant in Madaba**.

After lunch, embark on a scenic drive south toward **Petra**, passing through dramatic desert landscapes of rugged mountains, red sandstone cliffs, and rolling valleys. Along the way, your

guide will highlight natural and cultural landmarks, preparing you for your arrival at Jordan's crown jewel. As the sun casts warm hues over the desert, approach Petra—the "Rose City"—and anticipate the awe-inspiring discoveries that await.

Overnight: Mövenpick Petra Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L, D)

DAY 16 – Full Day in Petra

Spend a full day discovering **Petra**, Jordan's iconic "Rose-Red City," renowned for its elaborate structures carved directly into towering sandstone cliffs by the Nabataeans over 2,000 years ago. Begin your journey through the dramatic **Siq**, a narrow, winding gorge that serves as the spectacular entrance to the city, with its sheer rock walls and natural geological formations setting the stage for what lies ahead.

Emerging from the Siq, marvel at the **Treasury (Al-Khazneh)**, Petra's most famous façade, renowned for its intricate Hellenistic-inspired carvings and monumental scale. Continue to explore the **Street of Facades**, lined with elaborate tombs and monumental buildings, each reflecting the city's artistic sophistication and wealth. Visit the **Royal Tombs**, impressive rock-cut mausoleums that provide insight into Nabataean burial practices and their reverence for the dead.

Enjoy lunch at the local Basin Restaurant within the site.

For those seeking panoramic views, ascend to the **Monastery (Ad-Deir)**, a vast, cliff-carved monument perched high above the city. The climb rewards visitors with stunning vistas of Petra's surrounding mountains and desert landscapes, illustrating why the Nabataeans chose this dramatic location for their capital.

Throughout the day, your guide will illuminate Petra's historical importance as a major hub of **ancient caravan trade**, linking Arabia, Egypt, and the Mediterranean world. Learn how the Nabataeans engineered sophisticated water channels, cisterns, and terraces to sustain this thriving desert city.

Overnight: Petra

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B, L)

DAY 17 – Petra to Dead Sea

Travel to the **Dead Sea**, the Earth's lowest point, nestled between Jordan and Israel, renowned for its mineral-rich waters and therapeutic properties. Upon arrival, enjoy **leisure time at your resort**, floating effortlessly in the buoyant waters while taking in the serene desert and mountain vistas.

Experience the rejuvenating benefits of the Dead Sea's **natural mud and minerals**, which have been valued for centuries for their healing and cosmetic qualities. Guests may indulge in spa treatments, apply the famous mineral-rich mud to their skin, or simply relax by the pool and soak in the extraordinary setting.

Overnight: Jordan Valley Marriott Resort & Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (B)

DAY 18 – Depart Amman

Transfer to Amman International Airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast (B)

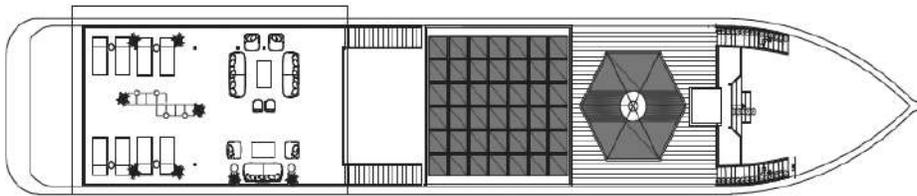
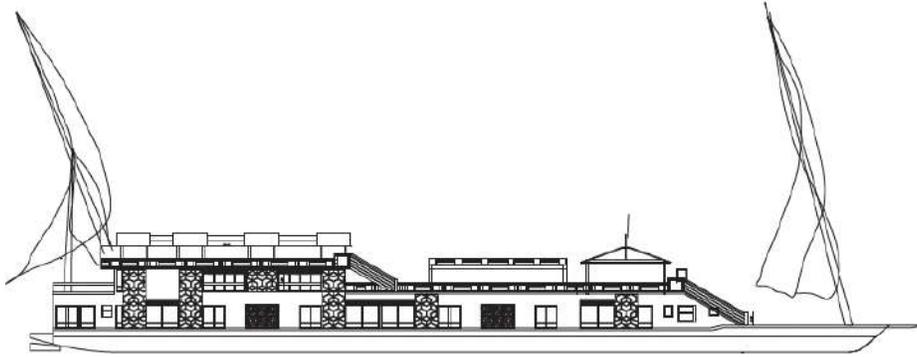
Small Ship Travel reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary due to logistical considerations. You will see everything mentioned as included, though not necessarily in the order shown.

Dahabiya Azhar

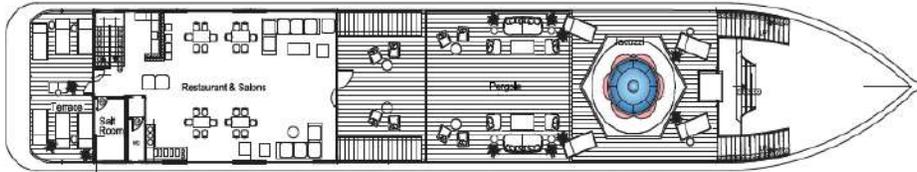
The Dahabiya Azhar is a beautifully crafted, boutique sailing vessel that brings the romance of 19th-century Nile travel into the modern era. Elegantly designed with a timeless aesthetic, the Dahabiya combines classic charm with contemporary comfort, offering a more intimate and personalized way to explore Egypt's iconic river. With a maximum of only 8 suites, each thoughtfully appointed with plush bedding, en-suite bathrooms, and tasteful decor, the vessel ensures privacy and space for relaxation. The shaded deck invites leisurely afternoons with panoramic views of the Nile, while cozy indoor lounges provide comfortable spaces for socializing, reading, or enjoying briefings from your expert Egyptologist. Onboard dining showcases freshly prepared Egyptian cuisine, highlighting local ingredients and regional flavors in an intimate, elegant setting. Unlike larger cruise ships, the Dahabiya glides quietly along the Nile, allowing guests to experience the river's serene beauty, observe daily life along its banks, and moor at quieter, less-visited sites. Every detail—from attentive service by the dedicated crew to the soft lapping of the river under the stars—contributes to a truly unforgettable and immersive Nile adventure. **Like with all dahabiya's on the Nile, the Azhar is supported by a tug boat that provides power as well as navigation.**



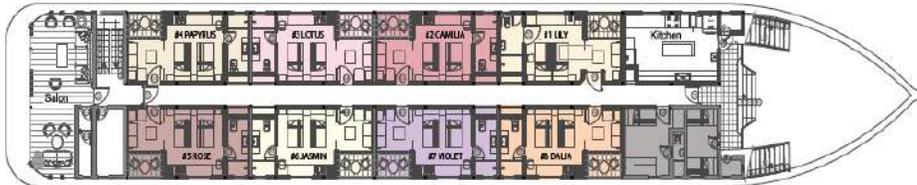
Azhar



DAHABIYA DECK



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|------------|
| #1 Lily | #2 Camilia | #3 Lotus | #4 Papyrus |
| #5 Rose | #6 Jasmin | #7 Violet | #8 Dalia |

Built: 2025 Capacity: 16