

Jewels of the Nile (15 days)

Private Tour


Tour Facts

Tour Code – FIEGJN
Class of Tour – Standard
Minimum Number – 2
Maximum Number – 3 (fishing)
Activity – Fishing
Activity Level – Medium
Accommodation – 5 nights in 4-star hotels, 3 nights on luxury cruise boat, 6 nights camping
Transport – Internal flights, 5-star cruise boat, air-conditioned bus/minibus/car
Meals – 14 Breakfasts (B), 10 Lunch (L) and 9 Dinners (D)

NB: Availability is limited for this tour so please check before booking and book early to be safe. Prices and itineraries available for non-anglers on request

Basic Itinerary

Day	Activity
1 (Sun)	Arrive in Cairo.
2	Cairo – Pyramids, Sphinx and Museum tour
3	Fly to Aswan, fishing on Lake Nasser
4	Full day fishing
5	Full day fishing
6	Full day fishing
7	Full day fishing
8	Full day fishing
9	Fishing, transfer to Aswan
10	Aswan – Tour to Nubian Museum and Philae Temple
11	Board Nile cruise boat. Island felucca trip, cruise to Komombo
12	Visit Edfu then sail to Luxor
13	Luxor - West bank tour
14	Luxor - East bank tour, fly to Cairo
15	Cairo - Transfer to airport

Private and Tailor-made Tours

Private Departures:

Please contact us first to check availability and that your required departure date fits the fishing boat schedules.

Tailor-made Tours:

This tour can also be used as a base for a private tailor-made itinerary, to be run on any dates. You can make adjustments as per your own requirements (for example, adding extra days, slightly shortening the tour, adding extra sightseeing etc.).

Options:

On this tour, we offer various different options, which can be added to the tour. These options are listed within the itinerary below, and then in detail at the end of this factsheet and also on our website.

Some options (normally those including a flight) must be pre-booked, but paid for in Cairo.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Cairo

You arrive at Cairo airport where we greet and transfer you to your 4-star hotel. Our rep. welcomes you and outlines the itinerary for the next few days.

Overnight at 4-star hotel in Cairo

Day 2 Tour to Pyramids and Sphinx

After breakfast we take you on a full day tour of Giza and the Egyptian Museum. Giza was built around 4600 years ago as a necropolis (cemetery) for the pharaoh Khufu (Cheops). The successor of Sneferu, Khufu was known as a tyrant and in his arrogance decided to have built a tomb that was bigger and better than all others. Standing 500 feet high and 750 feet at its base the Pyramid of Khufu is an awesome man-made structure constructed of giant blocks of stone covered in a hard limestone casing. The casing has, over the years, been stripped away to leave exposed the inner block structure. Together with the smaller pyramids of Khafre (Chephern) and Menkaure (Mycerinus), the majestic sight of these enormous structures rising out of the desert is a breathtaking spectacle. Here of tickets available, so we can't guarantee this), and also to take a camel ride. Close by, the mysterious Sphinx stands guard, as it has done so for thousands of years. You have another guided tour around the

sphinx and some free time to wander around and take photos.

We next take you to the Egyptian Museum, which houses a vast collection of artefacts from Egypt's past, including the famous King Tutankhamun display.

For this, and all of your sightseeing tours, a local English-speaking Egyptologist guide will accompany you.

From here we head back to Cairo where you will have a free evening and a chance to try one of the city's many excellent restaurants.

Overnight at 4-star hotel in Cairo (B)

Pyramids Sound & Light Show

Day 3 Morning flight to Aswan, start fishing

Early this morning we transfer you to the airport for your flight to Aswan. Aswan is Egypt's most southerly city and throughout history has controlled the trade routes both to the north and the south, and has acted as a gateway to and from Africa. Situated on the banks of the Nile it now lies at the northern end of Lake Nasser. This 360 mile long and 6 mile wide lake was created after the building of the High Dam, and covers the area once occupied by the ancient kingdom of Nubia. The Nile here is at its most picturesque, with cascading rapids, lush green islands, and a myriad of feluccas sailing to and fro. The city is a melting pot of African and Middle Eastern cultures, which can most easily be experienced by wandering through the fascinating and exotic souqs, which assail the senses with a riot of colour, sound, and smell. Upon arrival at Aswan airport you will be met by our representative and transferred to Lake Nasser to begin fishing.

Overnight onboard safari boat, Lake Nasser (B L D)

Day 4 to 8 Fishing on Lake Nasser

The next few days will be devoted exclusively to catching fish. A typical day would involve getting up at first light or when ever you want to, for a couple of hours of shore fishing or trolling, you choose, returning to one of the many islands for breakfast. After breakfast you set off in your boat for a day of combined trolling and shore fishing. You can try all sorts of areas, as we, unlike others, do not have a set itinerary or have to follow a supply boat. The best plan is to fish different areas until you locate a good head of fish. Once found, do not move from this area unless the captures die off. At night you can also put out dead or live baits to catch Vundu that might be checking out the marginal areas. In effect you could be fishing for 24 hours, if you have the energy! Most of the time, camps

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will be located on clean sandy beaches and wherever possible close to a shore fishing area. At night, while laying under those desert stars, the place really starts to come to life, you will hear all sorts of sounds as the monitor lizards, golden jackals and desert fox start their night shift.

Overnight onboard safari boat, Lake Nasser (5xB 5xL 5xD)

Day 9 Fishing then transfer to Aswan

Today you head back to Aswan, fishing en route. By late afternoon you reach Aswan where we transfer you to your hotel. The evening is free for you to enjoy Aswan.

Overnight at 4-star hotel in Aswan (B)

Day 10 Tour of the Nubian Museum and Philae Temple

The morning includes a chance to visit the Nubian Museum, and the afternoon consists of a tour to the Temple of Philae, a complex dedicated to Isis and reclaimed from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. For this tour an English-speaking Egyptologist will accompany us.

Overnight at 4-star hotel in Aswan (B L)

Day 11 and 12 Nile cruise

The morning is free for you to explore the town at your leisure. You can stroll through the bazaars, and along the banks of the Nile.

Abu Simbel Option

After lunch we take you on a tour of the islands around Aswan on a traditional Egyptian felucca sailboat, stopping at Kitchener Island, with its beautiful and peaceful botanical gardens. Later in the day you will begin your journey downstream to Luxor. On the way downstream you will stop for a guided tour at Komombo, where there are the remains of a temple dedicated to the Gods Sobek and Haroeris. You spend the night here, with the boat overlooking the temples.

The next day takes you further down river for a stop at Edfu Temple, a well-preserved complex dedicated to the God Horus. From here you continue on northwards towards Luxor.

2 nights on luxury cruise boat (2xB 2xL 2xD)

Day 13 Luxor East Bank

After breakfast on the boat, we take you on a tour of the East Bank of Luxor. The town of Luxor is built on and around the

ancient site of Thebes, and boasts the largest concentration of ancient ruins in the Nile Valley. To the West of the Nile lies the City of the Dead, with its mortuary temples and rock-hewn tombs, whilst to the east lie the Temples of Luxor and Karnak. Your tour of the East Bank will include a visit to the Temple of Luxor, and the huge temple complex at Karnak. The great Temple of Amun at Karnak was once the religious centre of Thebes and Upper Egypt. It was linked to Luxor by an extensive avenue, which was lined with sphinxes, and the whole complex was in turn linked to the Nile via a canal through which moved the sacred boats of the god Amun. Entering through a smaller sphinx-lined avenue, built by Ramesses II, you come to the immense pylon entrance. Inside the huge Courtyard are three chapels dedicated to the gods Amun, Khous and Mut. The remarkable Hypostyle Hall has 134 towering columns, each carved with scenes of gods and pharaohs, and hieroglyphic inscriptions adorn the walls. Lying 3 km to the south of Karnak in the centre of town, the Temple of Luxor was built by Amenophis III and later enlarged by Ramses II. The partially damaged statues inside all represent Ramses II, and it was he who built the colonnaded forecourt. The Colonnade and Court of Amenophis III are perhaps the most striking parts of the temple. In the evening we include a visit to the spectacular Sound & Light Show at Karnak Temple, which makes an excellent end to the day.

Overnight on luxury cruise boat, Luxor (B L D)

Hot Air Balloon Option

Day 14 Luxor, west bank

After breakfast you check out from the cruise boat, then take a trip to the West Bank of the Nile, and the Valleys of the Kings and Queens. Here you will see several of the elaborately painted underground tombs in which the Pharaohs and their Queens were buried. Your guide will choose the best tombs open during your visit. Next we take you to visit the unique three-tiered Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatchepsut. Dedicated to the God Amun this temple complex framed by towering cliffs is a wondrous sight. Finally you will visit the Colossi of Memnon, two huge 50 feet high statues of King Amenhotep II.

Finally you take an evening flight back to Cairo and we transfer you to your hotel.

Overnight at 4-ster hotel in Cairo (B)

Day 15 Tour ends

Your tour ends after breakfast and your time is free until we transfer you to the airport for your flight home.

(B)

Options

- Booking and Paying for Options:

All options should be booked in advance, ideally when booking the tour. You can book them on our online reservation form, and you can also add extra options to your tour, after you have made your booking, subject to availability at the time.

To comply with ATOL regulations, any options including internal flights where we don't issue the tickets here in the UK, are to be booked in advance, but purchased from, and paid for to, our agent in Cairo. (IATA No. 090/2/02243)

Credit Cards (add 3%); traveller's cheques or cash are accepted in Cairo for these payments at the start of the tour. A receipt will be provided.

Abu Simbel Flight & Tour

Should you wish, in the morning on Day 11, there is the option of an early morning flight to Abu Simbel. Lying 280 km south of Aswan this remarkable temple, reclaimed stone by stone from the rising waters of Lake Nasser, stands as a testament to the greatness of the Pharaoh Ramses II, and to modern engineering. You will be provided with a transfer to and from the airport, a return flight and a guided tour of the temples. On our return we stop to visit the Aswan High Dam, the largest in the World measuring 360 feet high and over a mile and a half wide (we return to Aswan by around 11.00am, so you will not miss out on any other activities).

Book in advance. Pay in Cairo

Hot Air Balloon Flight

This runs early in the morning in Luxor, so that you catch the early morning sun over the Valleys of the Kings & Queens, temples and desert. The trip runs from between 5.00am and 10.00am (start times vary), with about 1 hour in the air (we book this for you on your second day in Luxor, before the West Bank tour).

There is a minimum number of people required for the trips to run, and they are also weather dependent. It is very rare however that they are cancelled, and if this happens, we will refund you in full.

Book in advance. Pay in advance

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Pyramids Light & Sound Show

Watch this spectacular laser light and sound show at the pyramids. Listen to the head of the Sphinx as it tells the story of the Pharaohs and how the great pyramids were built. The show is available in different languages and runs from early to late evening. All transport is provided along with entrance fees.

5-Star Hotel Upgrade

This option upgrades your hotel accommodation in Cairo and Aswan to 5-star, usually to the Le Meridien Pyramids in Cairo and the Pyramisa Isis Island in Aswan. It does not change your accommodation whilst fishing, which remains basic camping.

Book in advance. Pay in advance

Extra Days

These are available on request in Cairo before and after the main tour.

If you want to add extra days into your time in fishing in Aswan, then please request a tailor-made tour.

The price (please ask) includes a night in a 4-star hotel, breakfast, all taxes and transfers (single supplements apply)

Book in advance. Pay in advance

Included in the Price of the Tour

- Accommodation
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Tours & Guides as indicated on the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Fishing licence
- All Transport

Not Included in the Price of the Tour

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance – please see the policies available on our website
- Fishing tackle
- Any items not mentioned above

Single Room Supplement

If you are a single traveller, then we do need to add a single supplement charge. This guarantees you a single room in the Cairo hotel. You can also choose to book a single supplement if you require a room on your own.

If you are travelling in an odd numbered party (i.e. 3 people, 5 people etc.), then we may be able to offer triple rooms in Cairo if required. Please contact us for details.

Note: Couples will always be given a private double room, and triple/family rooms are available on request in Cairo.

Country Guide

For an in-depth overview of Egypt, please check out the country guide pages on our website.

Accommodation

Our Standard tours use good quality hotels (approx. 3-4 star) in which all rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. The safari boat is covered and mattresses are provided. Please note that for the safari boat you will need to bring a light sleeping bag or blanket with you.

Hotels used on this tour:

Cairo – Sheraton Royal Garden (****)

Aswan – Isis Corniche (****)

At certain times of the year or where circumstances dictate we may need to use different hotels from the ones listed above. In this event alternative hotels will always be of a similar standard.

Please see our website for more current details of the hotels that would be used on the tour.

Safari Boat

Whilst on the lake you will have full use of one of our custom made 30ft boats. These boats are specially designed for fishing safaris on Lake Nasser. Built for tough work in remote areas (Solid Metal hulls), each boat is fitted with long-range fuel tanks and plenty of storage area for your equipment. Each boat can sleep up to three people but for the best comfort two is ideal. Inside the boat there is one room with onboard sleeping facilities, two bunks, each with full-size single mattress (this area also provides spacious daytime seating). You will also need to provide

your own sleeping bags. Under your bed there is sufficient room for you to store spare items of tackle and clothes. At night the cabin can be enclosed by canvas, providing a cosy sheltered sleeping area. Each boat has a small kitchen area, where your onboard cook will prepare three cooked meals per day, plus unlimited supplies of tea or coffee. The back area of the boat is large and open, an ideal area for which to fish.

Luxury Nile Cruise Boat

A luxury Nile Cruise boat is a superbly appointed, floating, 5-star hotel. The cruise boat has most of the facilities of a normal 5-star hotel, including a relaxing sun deck and swimming pool, and all your meals are included. Beverages and bottled water are not included.

You will have your own en-suite, air-conditioned cabin (we book upper deck cabins wherever possible), and full use of all the boats facilities (restaurants, shops, sun deck, swimming pool, etc.).

We use several different cruise boats on the Nile, including the M/S Liberty and Al Kahila boats (at the Egyptian 5-star-deluxe level). Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee until shortly before your departure exactly which boat we will use, as the boats shuttle back and forth on the Nile between Aswan and Luxor, with regular breaks for cleaning and maintenance. However, we regularly inspect all the boats we use to ensure they are of the same standard.

Notes:

- For practical reasons on the Nile, the cruise itineraries are subject to slight alterations at short notice while in Egypt.

- Most sailing is done during the day, but during some periods some sailing may be required after dark.

- At busy periods the boat may be required to wait for a short time to get through the lock on the Nile at Esna.

- When moored, several cruise boats may be required to moor alongside each other. This can restrict views and require clients to cross several boats to reach the shore. Assistance will be provided if required.

- On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the 5 star hotels and cruise boats normally run a very special Gala Dinner. The cost of this is usually compulsory, whether you attend or not, and is not included in our tour price, but should be paid to our staff in Cairo at the start of the tour (approx. UK£ 30 p/p)

- During busy periods we sometimes need to use a 5 star hotel in Aswan for your first night, and then to arrange a 3 night cruise.

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We are members of the Association of Egyptian Tourist Businesses on the Internet

Transfers

The tour includes both your airport arrival and departure transfers (24 hour service), and all other transfers.

Our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport, before you go through passport control. He will help you obtain your visas if required, and then take you through passport control and directly to your hotel.

Tour Leaders/Guides

For this tour we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking Egyptologist to act as your tour guide whilst you are sight seeing in Cairo, Aswan and Luxor.

Whilst fishing you will be looked after by one of our local professional guides who will escort you throughout your fishing adventure, while trolling or shore fishing. These guides have all been guiding for many years and their experience of the lake is second to none. They will always provide you with help and advice on what lures or flies to use, along with the best areas to fish while shore fishing. Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service.

Our policy at Egypt Uncovered is to use only local guides and tour leaders wherever possible. For more details, please visit the 'Tour Type' page on our website.

Transport

The transport used on this tour includes private AC cars or minibuses, and internal flights

Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. Entrance to the inside of the Great Pyramid at Giza is not included, as we can't guarantee tickets. Camera Fees are applied at some of the sites, and these are not included in the price.

Fishing Licence

Your fishing licence is included in the cost of the tour, but you will need to provide a photocopy of your passport page (details and photo page) four weeks before departure).

Tackle Required

Do not underestimate the strength of Nile perch, and equally the terrain they inhabit. For both trolling and shore fishing we prefer braid as the advantages out way any disadvantages. Braid allows you to feel the lures working while trolling and to feel your lures bouncing the bottom. For trolling fireline is fantastic in the 50lb class this braid will give you enough abrasion resistance to cope with any fish. We have landed many fish over the 100lb mark up to 176LB and never been cut off. For shore fishing we use 50lb whiplash as this is a very low diameter braid which aids the casting, sinking and working of your lures, again we have never had a problem with this braid and have accounted for many 80LB plus fish.

For leaders take 100LB mono. You need a length of 8 feet to not only protect you from the rocks but also provide abrasion resistance against a 100LB fish, for as they twist, turn and jump their rough gill plates will cut you through. Join your leader and main line with a double main line leader secured with a Bimini twist or similar knot.

For hooks you need to replace all hooks and split rings that are supplied with all manufactures of lure, they are just not strong enough. Nile Perch are capable and will straighten hooks and split rings with an uncanny ease. Change to Mustard 5X or VMC. Swivels and snaps also need to be in the 150lb class but make sure you bring black ones as there is nothing more annoying than have a tiger fish go for your swivel, cut you off and lose you a lure and even worse a fish.

For lures, again Nile Perch take great pride in destroying expensive lures so you need to choose wisely. The type of lures you require also depends on the time of year you are fishing as in the winter months most time is spent predominately trolling and what shore fishing you do the Perch will be tight to the bottom. Please contact us and we will advise complete lure patterns for your trip dependant on the time of year.

Fly fishing is becoming more popular for Nile Perch and if you are a fly fisherman

then these fish have to be for you. For tackle you will need: Rods - For Perch 9ft 10 to 12 weight; for tigers 9ft 7 to 8 weight. Reels need to be able to hold a full spool of your chosen line weight and lots and lots of strong backing in the 20 to 30lb class. For line you will need fast and ultra fast weight forward line. For tigers bring a medium sinking line. Flies; any tarpon, sailfish and marlin flies will work well as long as they are tied to strong hooks. Remember these fish are renowned for straightening hooks. Best colours are reds, whites, silver and blue.

Dates & Prices

Our small group departure dates are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet (available on request).

We can also run the set tour privately for you on any other dates, or customise it to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements. Please contact us for help creating the right tour for you.

Health

For up to the minute health information & vaccination requirements for Egypt we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel clinic (Free advice from the 1st Contact Travel Clinic - 0800 0393073). General vaccination recommendations for Egypt include Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio and Hepatitis A.

Visas

British, European, and many other nationalities can obtain their Egyptian visa on arrival in Cairo airport (cost £10). All African nationals will need to arrange their visa in advance. For further information on your visa requirements, please contact us, or checkout the visa pages on our website.



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