



Archaeological cruise on Lake Nasser

EGYPT



8 days

April 2025

English/French speaking guide



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- **Cruising Lake Nasser** on board a *dahabeya*
- The superb **Nubian archaeological sites**, where you will feel like the first explorers
- The majestic **temple of Ramses II** in **Abu Simbel**
- The **decorated doors of Nubian houses**, masterpieces of geometry and colour
- The **Philae Temple**, a majestic work from the Ptolemaic period
- The slow flow of **felucas** on the River Nile
- The lively **markets of Aswan**, where you can buy spices and karkadè

DEPARTURES APRIL 2025

APRIL: 06 - 13 April, 13 - 20 April, 20 - 27 April



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Sunday

Outward flight/Aswan (ASW)

Flight to Aswan. Meeting with Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to the Hotel Basma or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Monday

Aswan/Navigation: Kalabsha/Khour el Ghazal

After breakfast at the hotel, we board a 6-cabin *dahabeya* for a 4-day cruise on Lake Nasser. We will begin our discovery of the numerous archaeological sites rescued from the waters of the Nile by the most colossal preservation campaign under the aegis of UNESCO, following the construction of the Great Aswan Dam, which threatened to submerge them forever. In 1961, work began, in a race against time, to dismantle and reassemble the monuments, in raised or set back areas, progressively wrested away from the advancing water level. We head to KALABSHA, known for its imposing temple, the largest non-rock temple in Nubia, dedicated to the god Mandouli and dating back to the 1st century AD under the Roman Emperor Augustus, and then on to BEIT EL WALI, or the 'house of the saint', a partially rocky site dedicated to Amon-Ra, commissioned by Ramses II, including a sanctuary with beautiful bas-reliefs and a vestibule. Back on board for lunch. In the afternoon we sail on the calm waters of the lake to KHOUR EL GHAZAL, where we spend the night on board moored in a quiet cove. Dinner on board and overnight stay in a double cabin.



Welcome to Nubia!



Navigation on Lake Nasser



Kalabsha Temple

Day 3: Tuesday

Navigation: Wadi el Seboua/Dakka/Meharraqa

Breakfast on board. Navigation to WADI EL SEBOUA, where we admire the temples saved by UNESCO. The temple of DAKKA, dedicated to the god Thot, was erected at the end of the 3rd century BC by the Meroitic king Arkhamani, a contemporary of the pharaoh Ptolemy IV, and later enriched with new decorations under other Ptolemaic rulers and extended by the Roman emperors Augustus and Tiberius. The temple of WADI EL SEBOUA, a semi-rural site commissioned by Ramses II, was dedicated to the god Amon-Ra and Ra-Harakhti. It is entered through an impressive avenue adorned with sphinxes with the likeness of the deified ruler and the lion's body. Finally, we visit the adjacent site of MEHARRAQA, built at the behest of Augustus and dedicated to the syncretic deity Serapis (a fusion of Osiri, Arpis and Zeus) and the goddess Isis, consisting of a hypostyle hall and a colonnaded portico. Back on board for lunch. Short boat trip to WADI EL ARAB, an area of fine sand dunes where we will take a pleasant walk. Navigation in the direction of Amada, during which we will be able to admire the fishermen's dwellings and the verdant shores of the lake where, with a little luck, we may spot Nile crocodiles. Dinner and overnight on board.



Mandouli deities



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Day 4: Wednesday

Navigation: Amada/Pennout/El Derr

Breakfast on board, admiring the migratory birds that flock to the shores of the lake during the winter period, such as tufted ducks or black-necked grebes. Visit to the temple of AMADA, dedicated to Amon-Ra and Ra-Harakhti one of the best preserved and most interesting temples in the whole of Nubia, founded by Tutmose III, and extended under Amenophis II and Tutmose IV. The relocation of this site from its original location to its present one was a technical feat as it was moved in one block on a three-lane railway, specially built by a French company. We then visit EL DERR, a temple dedicated to the god Amun-Ra, similar in design to Abu Simbel, which was built during the reign of Ramses II and transformed into a church in Coptic times. At PENNOUT we visit a well-preserved tomb, which was originally located near the village of Aniba some 40 kilometres from the present site. Back on board for lunch. Afternoon dedicated to sailing to Kasr Ibrim. Dinner and overnight on board.



Dakka Temple



Sphinx at Wadi el Seboua

Day 5: Thursday

Navigation: Kasr Ibrim/Abu Simbel

Breakfast on board followed by a visit to KASR IBRIM, the 'Fortress of Ibrim', which holds the architectural remains of a 7th century Christian-Coptic cathedral, albeit layered over earlier remains from the time of Amenhotep I, and which during the Ottoman rule was transformed into a fortress by Sultan Selim I in 1528. This site, much deteriorated due to the looting it has suffered, is the only one in the region that is on its original site and that the waters have not submerged, but rather turned into an island. Back on board for lunch. The afternoon is dedicated to sailing in the Masmara region, where several Nubian villages, now entirely submerged, once stood. As we approach ABU SIMBEL we slowly discover its two temples appearing from the waters of the lake, like an extremely moving mystical vision. Dinner and a chance to watch a sound and light show in front of the temple. Overnight stay on board.



Tomb of Pennout



On board the dahabeya



The temple of Abu Simbel seen from the lake



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Day 6: Friday

Abu Simbel/Aswan

After breakfast disembark and visit the two famous sites of ABU SIMBEL, the Great Temple of Ramses II and the Small Temple of his wife Néfertari, saved from the waters with the help of UNESCO. Carved into the heart of the mountain, the temple of Ramses II dates back to the 13th century BC, and was built to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Qadesh, celebrating the glory of the deities Ptah, Ra-Harakhti and Amon-Ra. Its façade, made of pink sandstone, measures 30 metres in height and 40 metres in width, and features four colossal statues of Ramses II with the two crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt, as well as bas-reliefs and friezes. Not far away stands the smaller temple dedicated to the cult of the goddess Hathor, to whom the royal bride Néfertari was dedicated, depicted here with the attributes of the deity. Then transfer by car to Aswan, lunch box on the way. On arrival accommodation at Hotel Kato Dool or similar, a Nubian guesthouse placidly nestled on the banks of the Nile. Afternoon at leisure to relax or explore on foot the picturesque village of Gharb Sohail, with its ornate houses. Overnight stay in a double room with services.



Temple of Ramses II



Temple of Nefertari



Inside the Temple of Ramses II



Village of Gharb Sohail

Day 7: Saturday

Aswan

After breakfast, a day dedicated to visiting ASWAN. We will start with the PHILAE ISLAND, located near the dam, centred on the cult of Isis: the main temple from Ptolemaic times, the temple of Hathor erected under Ptolemy VI and enlarged in Roman times by Augustus, the elegant Trajan's Kiosk, called 'the pharaoh's bed' by the locals, the temple of Augustus and the monumental gate of Diocletian. This is followed by an excursion on the NILE in a FELUCA, the traditional sailing boat of Nubia, and a visit to the botanical garden on KIRCHNER ISLAND, a beautiful tropical paradise transformed into a garden in 1928. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, time at leisure to visit the Gharb Sohail market, where you can buy spices, karkadè and characteristic Nubian souvenirs. Overnight stay in a double room with private facilities.



The Trajan's Kiosk and the Philae Temple

Day 8: Saturday

Aswan

After breakfast transfer to the airport in time for your return flight or onwards to other destinations. End of services.



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**Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 2/max. 12 pax)**

2,090 €/pax



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Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Visa service: **60 €**
- Single room/cabin: **390 €**
- Upper deck: **150 €/pax**
- Holidays (Miracle/Christmas/New Year/Easter): **100 €/pax**
- Extensions **on request:** extra day Aswan, Cairo, Giza and Saqqara, Wadi Natrun and Alexandria, Sinai trekking, Red Sea, Siwa/Fayoum/White Desert, dahabeya cruise on the Nile from Luxor to Aswan

The fee includes:

- English-speaking Egyptologist guide (or French on request) on board;
- English-speaking guide (or French on request) for the tour of Aswan;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- 4-night cruise on board a *dahabeya* in a standard cabin with private bathroom;
- All transfers by private transport (depending on the size of the group);
- Full board except dinners in Aswan;
- Mineral water, tea, coffee and infusions on board;
- 7 overnight stays as mentioned in the itinerary (1 in hotels, 4 in cabins, 2 in Nubian guest houses).

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Egypt;
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- Air flights ;
- Mineral water (except on board);
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages;
- Dinners in Aswan/Gharb Sohail;
- The sound and light show at Abu Simbel;
- Tips for photos and videos;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.