



Women's Tours by EMBARK

19 DAY HOSTED TOUR
COMMENCE 16 APRIL 2026
CONCLUDE 6 MAY 2026

EGYPT





Let's explore Egypt together in 2026

Embark on a journey, blending ancient history and modern luxury. From the towering Pyramids of Giza, one of the last remaining Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, to the tranquil beauty of a Nile River cruise, this tour offers an unparalleled exploration of Egypt's most iconic sites. Feel the empowerment of walking in the footsteps of queens and pharaohs as you uncover the secrets of a civilization that shaped the world.

In Cairo, marvel at the grandeur of the Giza Plateau. Explore the pyramids up close, visit the enigmatic Sphinx, and immerse yourself in the stories of ancient Egypt. A visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum will offer an intimate look at the treasures of Tutankhamun, providing a deeper connection to Egypt's rich heritage. Set sail on a luxurious Nile River cruise, gliding through the heart of Egypt. Visit breathtaking temples such as Karnak, Luxor, and Philae, each revealing the grandeur of a bygone era. Relax on deck, soak in the ever-changing scenery of lush riverbanks, and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded travelers sharing this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Take to the air in a hot air balloon at dawn, peacefully floating over the city of Luxor and taking in the breathtaking landscapes. Stay at the legendary Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan. Overlooking the Nile, this iconic property offers a perfect blend of timeless elegance and modern comfort. Enjoy a sunset cocktail on the terrace where Agatha Christie penned *Death on the Nile*, and savor the luxurious surroundings that have hosted royalty and luminaries for over a century. This is more than a tour; it's an empowering escape to a land of wonder, beauty, and shared adventure.

These are just a few of the highlights from our 19 day journey through Egypt. Keep reading to explore all the amazing experiences that will be sure to create memories that last a lifetime.

Itinerary Overview

- Overnight flight from Sydney to Cairo
- 3 nights' accommodation in Cairo (hotel in the Nile area)
- 2 nights' accommodation Alexandria
- 2 nights' accommodation Tunis
- 1 nights' accommodation Cairo (hotel in the Giza area)
- 2 nights' accommodation Luxor
- 4 nights' accommodation onboard Nile Cruise
- 2 nights' accommodation Aswan
- 2 nights' accommodation Cairo (hotel in Old Cairo)
- Overnight flight from Cairo to Sydney

Due to planning your holiday this early, please allow for an extra day either side of the below itinerary. This is in case flight times change and we need to leave Newcastle earlier, or return later. There will no extra cost to you if this happens.





16th April 2026 (Meals in Flight)

Today you will be transferred from your front door (Newcastle/Hunter/Lake Macquarie) to Sydney airport with your fellow travellers. Our flight will be a late departure out of Sydney (after 8pm).

17th April 2026 (meals in flight, D)

On arrival in Egypt, we will be met and assisted through customs. We'll have already obtained your tourist visa - which is included in your tour cost - and we will be transferred to our Cairo accommodation. We will stay in a few different locations in Cairo throughout our adventure. Our first stay is the beautiful Sofitel el Gezir, which sits at an island on the Nile! is an oasis of luxury and tranquility in the heart of Egypt's vibrant capital. Dinner will be included at the hotel this evening.



18th April 2026 (B, D)

Our first full day in Cairo is focused on exploring Coptic Cairo and visiting the NMEC Museum (National Museum of Egyptian Civilization). Both of these sights focus on Egypt's multifaceted history, from its ancient origins to its Christian and Islamic heritage.



Coptic Cairo is a historically significant area of Old Cairo that is central to Egypt's Christian heritage. It is a very old section of Cairo with an interesting maze of ancient and modern churches and monasteries, set within the walls of a centuries-old fortress. In Coptic Cairo, the Hanging Church which dates back to the 3rd Century AD is the most crucial site. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and contains 110 Holy icons depicting beautiful religious scenes.

The NMEC is a modern, state-of-the-art museum. The major attraction are the 22 mummies of ancient Egyptian kings and queens, including Ramses II and Queen Hatshepsut. The mummies are displayed with detailed descriptions of their lives and accomplishments.



19th April 2026 (B, L, D)

Embark on a captivating journey just 25 kilometers south of Cairo to the Saqqara necropolis, an extraordinary site that served as the burial ground for ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom. This day tour promises a deep dive into the rich history and artistry of pharaonic Egypt, beginning with one of the most significant landmarks in human architectural history.



We will start our pharaonic exploration with the iconic Step Pyramid Complex of Pharaoh Djoser. Built around 2650 BCE by the visionary architect Imhotep, this remarkable structure is the world's first large-scale stone building and a precursor to the great pyramids of Giza. As we stroll through the complex, we'll uncover the innovative spirit of the Old Kingdom and gain insight into its enduring legacy.

Next, we delve into the beautifully decorated Tombs of the Nobles, where vivid depictions of daily life in ancient Egypt come alive. These intricate scenes portray agricultural activities, religious rituals, and moments of leisure, offering a glimpse into the vibrant world of pharaonic culture. The vibrant colors and detail of the paintings in these tombs are remarkably well-preserved, as though they were painted in this century.

Our journey continues to the enigmatic Serapeum, a vast underground burial site dedicated to the sacred Apis bulls. These massive granite sarcophagi reveal the reverence the ancient Egyptians held for these animals, believed to be incarnations of the god Ptah. Walking through this awe-inspiring complex is a testament to the grandeur of Egyptian religious practices. We'll finish our Saqqara visit at the Tomb of Mereruka, a masterpiece of Old Kingdom architecture and decoration.

During our visit, we'll enjoy a picnic style lunch.

On our return to Cairo, we'll visit the Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Center. Since 1952, Egyptian artists have been weaving unique tapestries at the Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Center in Harrania. Meet the artist weavers and see their beautiful pieces of work.

20th April 2026 (B, D)

Today we will get to visit the NEW Grand Egyptian Museum. It's been over 10 years since the new museum started being built, and it's finally open for us to visit. With over 100,000 artifacts, including the complete collection of treasures from King Tutankhamun's tomb.

Afterwards, we'll travel to Alexandria. For nearly 1,000 years, Alexandria stood as the capital of Egypt—a city steeped in history and innovation. Alexandria isn't just a city; it's a treasure chest of tales and triumphs! Did you know that the Lighthouse of Alexandria, also known as the Pharos, wasn't just a beacon for sailors but an architectural and technological masterpiece? Built around 280 BCE, it stood over 100 meters tall, making it one of the tallest man-made structures of the ancient world. The Library of Alexandria was said to hold over 400,000 scrolls at its peak, preserving the knowledge of civilizations across the globe? Scholars and thinkers from all over the ancient world traveled here to study and exchange ideas.

21st April 2026 (B, L)

This morning we will visit the Library of Alexandria. Next, we descend into the Catacombs of Kom El-Shoqafa, one of the largest Roman tombs in Egypt. These ancient burial chambers, carved deep into the rock, offer a fascinating glimpse into a unique blend of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman traditions. Originally intended for a single wealthy family, this extraordinary necropolis eventually became the resting place for over 300 mummies—a silent testimony to the cultural fusion of Alexandria's storied past. Here's a fun twist: the catacombs were discovered entirely by accident in 1900, when a donkey-drawn cart fell into a hidden pit! That chance event unearthed a wonder of ancient architecture and artistry that continues to amaze visitors to this day.





After exploring this subterranean marvel, we'll emerge back into the sunlight and head to the harbor for lunch. Picture yourself dining at a charming seaside spot, with the breathtaking panorama of Alexandria's bay stretching out before you. Fresh sea breezes, delicious local flavors, and the gentle sound of waves make for the perfect way to savor the city's coastal charm.



In the afternoon, we will visit the Citadel of Qaitbay, a fortress of strategic significance that stands proudly at the western tip of Alexandria's harbor. Built in 1477 CE by Sultan Al-Ashraf Qaitbay, this iconic structure occupies the site of the legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria. Climb to the top of the central tower for breathtaking panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea and Alexandria's coastline. Walk along the thick, imposing walls and explore the citadel's inner courtyard, where cannons and other relics of its defensive past are displayed.

22nd April 2026 (B, D)



As we leave Alexandria, we will travel 90 minutes to the town of Al Alamein. This is where an important battle took place during the Second World War. Through detailed exhibits, artifacts, and immersive displays, we'll delve into the battles that changed the course of World War II, highlighting the strategies, struggles, and heroics of those who fought on this desert front.

Next, we'll pay our respects at the military cemeteries and memorials. These solemn grounds honor the countless young soldiers from the Commonwealth, as well as, upon request, the German and Italian forces who found themselves far from home in a distant war.

Walking through these beautifully maintained cemeteries is a deeply moving experience. The rows of headstones tell stories of bravery, sacrifice, and lives cut tragically short. It's a poignant reminder of the human cost of war and the enduring quest for peace.

This visit is not just about history; it's about connecting with the past and reflecting on the resilience and courage of those who shaped it.



We will finish our day by checking into our hotel, in the town of Tunis. You won't see this on many itineraries, and this is what we love doing on our tours. We want to show you more local experiences, that you won't find on any other tour.

The small village of Tunis ('izbat Tunis) is located in the oasis of Fayoum, on the way to Wadi Rayan. Located on a hill facing a large salt water lake, the village overlooks a stunning view of the edge of the desert on the other side of the lake. It is one of the most beautiful places in Egypt.

23rd April 2026 (B, L)



This morning, we will travel in 4x4 vehicles to explore nature's extremes. We'll drive through lush fields of fragrant flowers, used for making perfumes and medicines, as well as bountiful orchards and vegetable farms that sustain local communities.



The scenery transforms dramatically as we venture into the desert toward the mesmerizing Valley of Whales (Wadi Al-Hitan), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This area, once submerged under a vast prehistoric sea, is now home to one of the world's most fascinating fossil sites.

The Valley of Whales holds 40-million-year-old fossils of ancient whales with legs. These fossils are a testament to the evolutionary transition from land-dwelling to marine life. The site has yielded over 400 fossilized skeletons, including a massive species measuring up to 18 meters long!

Returning to Tunis, we'll have a late lunch at the Fayoumi cooking school before exploring the town. Wander through the village streets, famous for its beautiful ceramic pottery.

24th April 2026 (B, L)

Since Tunis is a famous ceramic village, this morning we'll take a pottery class! It was late 1960s when a Swiss female potter – called Evelyn Porret – visited Fayoum with her Egyptian friends. No sooner had she come across Tunis than she decided to build her own country house and pottery workshop there. Gradually, the ordinary village turned into a reputable center of a modern pottery. Perhaps when Evelyn decided to settle in Tunis more than 30 years ago, she didn't know then that she would change the future and destiny of a small and unknown village called Tunis.

After lunch, we will return to Cairo and check into our hotel - which is in the Giza area.

25th April 2026 (B, L)

Today is the day you've been waiting for - it's time to visit the famous pyramids of Giza!

Step into a world where history meets wonder as we explore the Giza Plateau, home to the awe-inspiring Pyramids of Giza, dating back to 2500 B.C. As one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, these pyramids are the oldest and the only one still standing, a testament to human ingenuity and resilience.

Begin your visit at the highest point of the plateau, where you'll enjoy breathtaking views of the entire pyramid complex—a picture-perfect moment to capture the majesty of this iconic site. For those who are game, you can venture inside one of the pyramids! But beware, it's many steps and a confined space - but also, worth it! Not many can say they've experienced this ancient architecture from the inside.

Marvel at the enigmatic Great Sphinx, a symbol of strength and mystery, as it stands guard over the pyramids; before enjoying lunch overlooking the 9 pyramids. This fantastic dining experience combines modern comfort with a backdrop of ancient grandeur, creating a moment of pure serenity and reflection.





We'll take an early afternoon/early evening flight to Luxor. On arrival, we'll transfer to the Winter Palace Pavillon situated in the garden of Old Winter Palace in Luxor.

Luxor, often referred to as the "City of a Hundred Gates", is one of Egypt's most fascinating and historically rich destinations. Located on the east bank of the Nile River in southern Egypt, Luxor stands on the ancient city of Thebes, which was the capital of Egypt during its New Kingdom period (1550–1070 BCE). Luxor's combination of magnificent temples, sprawling tombs, and timeless traditions makes it a must-visit for travelers.

26th April 2026 (B, D)



Step back in time as we begin our day in the Valley of the Kings, the final resting place of Egypt's mighty pharaohs. Among the treasures of this ancient necropolis lies the legendary tomb of Tutankhamun, discovered almost intact in the 1920s—a discovery that captivated the world. The richly decorated walls of these tombs depict mesmerizing scenes of the pharaohs' journey from life to the afterlife. Once crystal clear to the ancient Egyptians, these intricate texts and images remain a source of wonder and mystery for us today. Out of the 60 tombs discovered, approximately 10 are open to the public, and we'll explore three together.



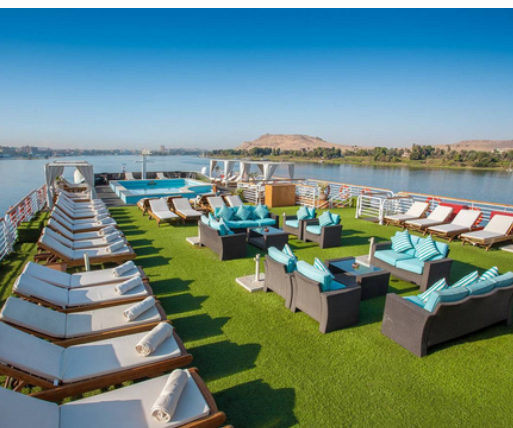
Our journey continues to Deir el-Medina, the village where the skilled workers who built these monumental tombs once lived. Wander through the remarkably well-preserved streets of this New Kingdom settlement and visit the vividly painted tombs of these artisans, whose craftsmanship rivaled that of the pharaohs they served. Their depictions of daily life and religious beliefs offer a rare glimpse into the lives of ancient Egypt's laborers. We'll also visit one of the Tombs of the Nobles, where breathtakingly colorful murals tell stories of devotion, family, and the journey to eternity.



As the day draws to a close, we'll visit the Luxor Temple, illuminated under the night sky. The play of light and shadow on its colossal statues, towering columns, and intricate carvings creates a truly magical atmosphere. This temple, dedicated to the rejuvenation of kingship, offers a fitting end to our day of discovery, leaving you in awe of Luxor's eternal splendor.

27th April 2026 (B, L, D)

Today we will board our Nile Cruise - where we will stay for the next 4 nights. We will be sailing with ACAMAR Cruises.



Settle in and take some time up on the sundeck - a place where you can put your troubles away. With a gorgeous view of the Nile, you will surely get your moment of peace. ACAMAR's sundeck has a large swimming pool, tanning beds and canopies, as well as a bar loaded with refreshing drinks.

Our first afternoon onboard will include a visit to the Karnak Temple complex, one of the largest and most impressive religious sites in the world. Spanning over 200 acres, it features awe-inspiring attractions like the Great Hypostyle Hall, with its 134 towering columns, and the magnificent Sacred Lake. Once the spiritual heart of Thebes, this ancient temple dedicated to Amun-Ra is a testament to the architectural and artistic brilliance of pharaonic Egypt.

Return to the ship for dinner and entertainment of local belly dancers!

28th April 2026 (B, L, D)

Your stay in Egypt would not quite be the same without a bird's eye view of the city of Luxor from a hot air balloon! Departing just before dawn, cross the River Nile to the West Bank – where your hot air balloon awaits. After a safety briefing and introduction to your ground crew and pilot, you will climb into the balloon's basket and get ready for lift off. It is then time for the gentle rise into the dawn sky. Away from the daytime crowds, you will drift peacefully over the west Bank of Luxor and sights such as the monuments of Thebes. The early morning sun rising over the East Bank will illuminate the city and the surrounding mountains. A very special experience and included in your tour!

Around lunchtime we'll start cruising southbound towards Edfu. Enjoy views from the sundeck as we travel past the lush greenery along the river banks. Suddenly, an ancient Pharaonic temple comes into view and takes you back in time... it's a relaxing afternoon onboard as you sit back and take in the experience.

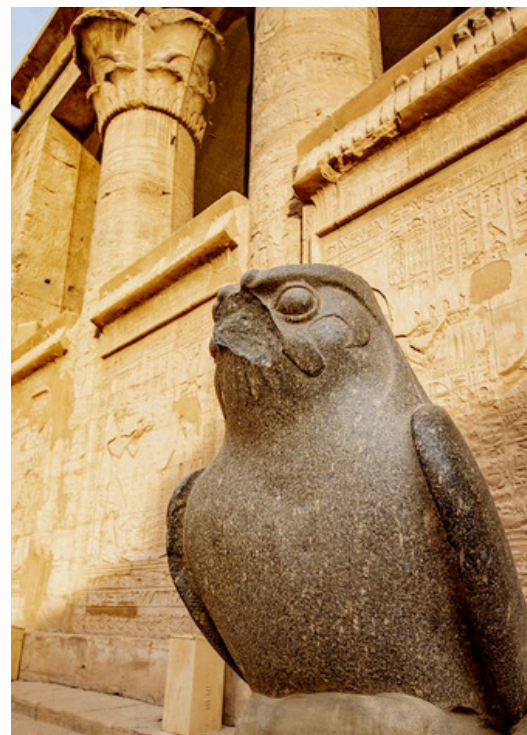
29th April 2026 (B, L, D)

Our morning will be visiting the Temple of Edfu, one of the best-preserved temples of ancient Egypt. This temple is dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god of protection and power.

With our guide, we'll wander through beautifully preserved halls and corridors, leading to the sanctuary of Horus, where rituals and offerings once took place. The temple's walls are a living storybook, detailing mythical battles, religious rituals, and the triumph of Horus over his rival Seth.

Back on the cruise ship it will continue to sail southwards toward Kom Ombo where there is only a short walk from the harbor to the beautifully situated double temple dedicated to the gods of Haroreris and Sobek. Highlights include its stunning symmetrical design, captivating reliefs, and the Crocodile Museum, which houses mummified crocodiles and artifacts honoring Sobek.

Back onboard, it is Egyptian night with a Nubian show.



30th April 2026 (B, L, D)

Waking up in Aswan, we will enjoy some of the sights of Aswan. The Philae temple is situated on a small island between the old Aswan Dam and the High Dam. Here the goddess Isis ruled, after she was left alone when her husband the god Osiris was murdered by her brother according to the ancient mythology.

The unfinished obelisk in the granite quarry will be our last stop and one cannot help but to be fascinated by the enormity of projects done during a time when no real tools existed.

In the afternoon, enjoy a peaceful sailing trip on a traditional felucca boat, exploring the scenic archipelago of Aswan. From the Nile, take in the stunning views of green islands, golden desert sands, and ancient tombs lining the riverbanks. We'll make a stop at the Botanical Garden on Kitchener Island, where you can walk among century-old trees and a variety of plants from around the world in a serene and shaded setting.

1st May 2026 (B, D)

It's time to disembark the Acarmar Nile Cruise here in Aswan. Before checking into our Aswan hotel, we will first take a short flight to Abu Simbel.

Experience the awe-inspiring Temples of Abu Simbel, carved directly into the mountainside by Pharaoh Ramses II over 3,000 years ago. These colossal statues, standing guard at the entrance, are a testament to the pharaoh's power and devotion to the gods. Inside, intricately carved halls and sanctuaries tell stories of triumph and divine connection. Marvel at the engineering feat that relocated the temples in the 1960s to save them from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. A visit to Abu Simbel is not just a step back in time—it's an encounter with one of ancient Egypt's greatest architectural achievements.

Returning to Aswan, we'll check in for our two-night stay at the iconic Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel. Nestling on a pink granite cliff overlooking Elephantine Island on the banks of the Nile, the majestic hotel has a rich history. Opened in 1899, the hotel has hosted numerous notable figures, including Winston Churchill, Agatha Christie, and Princess Diana. Agatha Christie even wrote parts of her famous novel *Death on the Nile* while staying at the hotel.

2nd May 2026 (B, L)

Morning at leisure at the hotel. Enjoy the beautiful pool overlooking the Nile, or maybe treat yourself at the spa (not included). As we come towards the end of our itinerary, a slow morning is always a nice change of pace!

At lunchtime, we'll take a short boat ride to the local Nubian Village. Take a walk through the village and visit a local Nubian family for a home-cooked meal. Share stories about life in the small villages as we share in a beautiful home cooked meal.

3rd May 2026 (B, L)

This morning we will fly back to Cairo, for the final stay on our adventure. For this stay, we will be staying in a unique property in the heart of bustling Old Cairo, right next to the famous Khan el-Khalili Bazaar. Le Riad luxury boutique hotel is inspired by the surrounding environment and architecture of Beit El Sehemy and its exceptional Ottoman houses. Each of its 16 suites features its own design and its own intimate ambiance. suites are inspired by Fatimid Cairo, famous artists, writers, and kings, whichever suite you stay in you'll be treated with plenty of space, high-quality furnishings, decorations and a night to remember. From the rooftop, hear the sounds of the city and see the locals wandering the cobblestone streets. It is always a hive of activity here in Old Cairo.

Our day in Cairo begins with a visit to the fascinating Gayer-Anderson Museum, a beautifully restored 15th-century house filled with the eclectic art, furnishings, and carpets collected by Major R.G. Gayer-Anderson during his time in Egypt. After his departure in 1942, he gifted the house and its treasures to the Egyptian government, earning the honorary title of Pasha from King Farouk. Film enthusiasts will recognize this stunning location from the James Bond movie *The Spy Who Loved Me*, where scenes were filmed in the ceremonial reception hall and on the rooftop terrace.

Next, we visit the El Rifai Mosque, one of Cairo's most magnificent landmarks, where we'll delve into the history and traditions of Islam. This mosque also serves as the resting place for prominent figures, including King Farouk of Egypt and the last Shah of Iran, adding layers of historical significance to its grandeur.

We round off the morning with lunch at Al Azhar Park, enjoying panoramic views of Cairo's skyline, famously known as the city of a thousand minarets. This is a perfect moment to relax and take in the vibrant energy of the city from one of its most serene vantage points.

4th May 2026 (B, L, D)

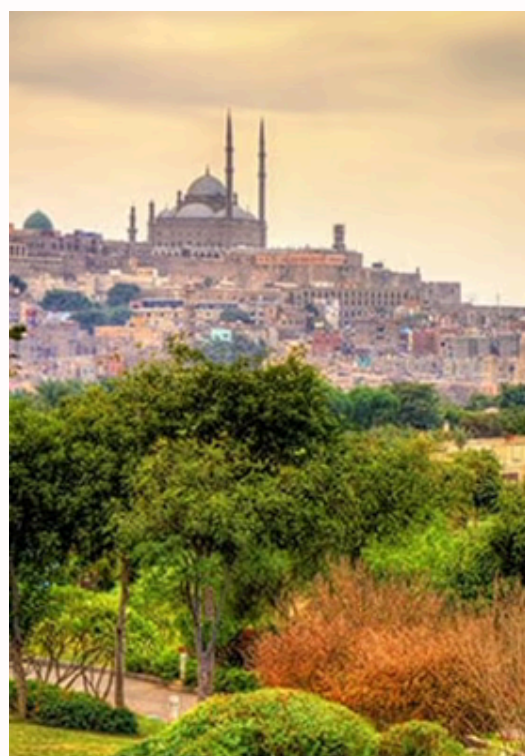
Embark on a captivating walking tour through the historic streets of Islamic Cairo, where every corner tells a story of tradition and craftsmanship. Explore the imposing Bab al-Zuweila, one of the city's ancient gates, and wander down the vibrant Tent Makers' Street, where colorful fabrics come to life. Immerse yourself in the aromas of the spice market, watch skilled artisans craft traditional fezzes, and uncover more hidden gems along the way.

For lunch, enjoy a delicious and authentic *fittiir*, a flaky Egyptian pastry that's both simple and satisfying.

In the evening, prepare to be mesmerized by a Whirling Dervishes performance at the historic Wekalat al-Ghouri Art Center, located near the iconic Al Azhar Mosque. This enchanting show, set in a beautifully preserved 16th-century trade building, is a breathtaking blend of spirituality and artistry—a truly magical grand finale to your day in Cairo.

5th May 2026 (B, meals in flight)

Today we will start our journey back to Sydney. It will be an overnight flight, landing in Sydney on the **6th May 2026**. On arrival in Sydney, you will be transferred to your home address in the Newcastle area.





Your 2026 Jayes Travel Women Tour includes

INCLUDES

- Return Transfers from your home address* to Sydney airport
- Economy Class Flights with a full-service airline (upgrade to business class available)
- All accommodation (4-5 star where possible)
- Sightseeing and transport as per the itinerary - all entrance fees included
- Meals: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D) where indicated - minimum of 2 meals per day
- Small Group of only 12 women (plus guides and Jayes Travel representatives)
- Jayes Travel tour manager, travelling with you
- Local sightseeing experts throughout
- Pre-tour get together meal
- All tipping throughout
- Departure Pack (luggage tags, luggage straps, ticket wallet etc)
- Welcome Home Pack
- Visa for Egypt
- Hot Air Ballooning over Luxor

PACKAGE COST

\$14,300.00 per person twin share

First deposit is \$2,000 per person (due within 7 days of booking)

Second deposit of \$2,000 due 31st July 2025

Balance due 4 months prior to departure.

All payments are non-refundable unless otherwise specified.

UPGRADES

- Upgrade on flights - not available until late 2025
- Upgrade to a solo room for ALL hotel stays throughout - \$4500



**ARE YOU READY TO
JOIN US?**

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE, CALL
0402335919

OR EMAIL
MICHELLE@JAYESTRAVEL.COM.AU

