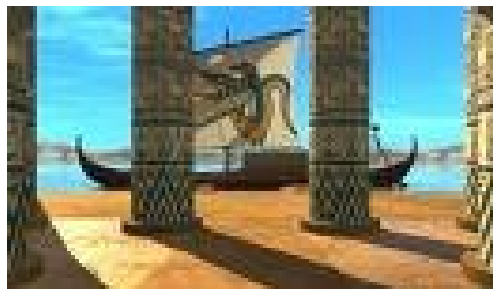


EGYPT



EGYPT OFFERS:

- Thousands of years of history
- Scuba diving & snorkeling
- Sailing on your very own felucca
- Golf
- Fish - some of the biggest freshwater fish in the world
- Luxury cruising down the Nile, the Red Sea or the Mediterranean
- Relax at luxurious resorts on the Mediterranean & Red Sea
- Exciting shopping at Egypt's enticing bazaars
- Nightlife from glittering casinos & nightclubs to sound & light shows in historic settings



6 sites of an almost endless list



The Pyramids of Giza

Among the major tourist sites, there is only one considered to be “The major” and on top of any list - The Pyramids of Giza.

There are three main Pyramids here, which were built in the 4th Dynasty (circa 4550 B.C). The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt were built as tombs for Kings (and Queens), and it was the exclusive privilege to have a Pyramid tomb. However, this tradition only applied in the Old and Middle

Kingdoms. Today there are more than 93 Pyramids in Egypt; the most famous ones are those at Giza.

The Great Sphinx:

The Great Sphinx, or as the ancients knew it, “Shesib Ankh” or “the living image”, has to be one of the most recognizable constructions in history. Think of the Sphinx and you automatically think of Egypt and the Giza Plateau.

Sculpted from soft sandstone, many believe that it would have disappeared long ago had it not been buried in the sand for so many long periods in its lifetime. The body is 60m (200ft) long and 20m (65ft) tall. Its face is 4m (13ft) wide with eyes measuring 2m (6 ft) high. It faces the rising sun, and was revered so much by the ancients, that they built a temple in front of it.

The 18th Dynasty King, Thutmose IV installed a stele between its front paws, describing how, when Thutmose was a young Prince, he had gone hunting and fell asleep in the shade of the Sphinx ‘s head. Thutmose had a dream where Ra Hor-Akhty the sun God, talking through the Sphinx, spoke to him, telling the young Prince to clear away the sand because the Sphinx was choking on it. The Sphinx said to him that if he did this, he would become King of Egypt . Thutmose cleared away all the sand and s after 2 years, the god fulfilled his promise to the price and he was made king of Egypt

Today, part of the “uraeus” (the sacred cobra at the forehead), and the nose are missing (not shot off by Napoleon’s men as many believe, but were destroyed by **Muhammad Sa'im Al-Dahr, a Sufi fanatic from the Khanqah of Sa'id Al-Su'ada**. In 1378, upon finding the Egyptian peasants making offerings to the Sphinx in the hope of increasing their harvest, **Sa'im Al-Dahr was so outraged that he destroyed the nose!**). There are parts of a beard in the Cairo and British Museum in London which reputedly belong to the Sphinx, but many Egyptologists deny this, as the style of beard found, does not relate to the “nemes” that The Sphinx wears – different Dynasties!



Because of the soft sandstone, the Sphinx has been repaired many times; sometimes the repairs causing even more damage! Also, due to the wind, humidity, and pollution from modern Cairo, its condition is still deteriorating, and the present renovations are a never-ending task.

The open air-museum of Memphis

The Open Air Museum at Memphis is one of the “must see” sites in Egypt! The trip from Cairo only takes 45 minutes, it is only 20Km to the south, and the entrance fee is 21LE.

Founded in the 1st Dynasty (3100 B.C) by King Narmar, Memphis was the capital of Ancient Egypt, and the first capital city founded after the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt. It remained as the capital of Ancient Egypt throughout the Old Kingdom. Because of the many necropolises associated with Memphis, many Egyptologists believe that it was once an extremely large city, though no archaeological evidence proves this, at present!



The Hanging Church

The Hanging Church is considered the oldest church in the area of Al-Fustat (Old Cairo)

It is known as Al-Muallaka (the hanging) because it was built on the ruins of two old towers that remained from an old fortress called the Fortress of Babylon. It was dedicated to The Virgin Mary and St. Dimiana.



The Colossi of Memnon



On your way to visit the west bank of Luxor, the first monument that you will encounter, before you get to valley, is the two gigantic statues known as the [Colossi of Memnon](#). The Greeks gave them their name, after the Trojan hero Memnon, who was killed by Achilles.



The Memorial Of Diocletian (Pompey's Pillar)

The so-called "Pompey Pillar" is the biggest memorial column in Egypt. It is a huge column of red granite, its total height is about 28 m with a diameter at the base of 2.7 m, and towards the capital at the top it tapers to 2.3 m.

On the upper part at the western side is an inscription in Greek, *which reads:*

"To the most just Emperor, tutelary of Alexandria Diocletian, the invincible, Postumus, the Prefect of Egypt (has erected this monument)".