

Abercrombie & Kent



## PHARAOHS & PYRAMIDS – A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Cruise for seven nights along the Nile on an A&K-exclusive charter of ‘Sanctuary Sun Boat III,’ delving deeply into the majesty of ancient Egypt at a leisurely pace.

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Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



North Africa & Middle East,  
Egypt



13 days from AU\$30,370 pp



34 Guests

## Journey Overview

Cruise for seven nights along the Nile on an A&K-exclusive charter of 'Sanctuary Sun Boat III,' delving deeply into the majesty of ancient Egypt at a leisurely pace, following a comprehensive itinerary that features sites found off the beaten path as well as special private openings, the convenience of privately chartered air and a stay at a top luxury hotel.

### Journey Highlights

- Embark on a leisurely seven-night river cruise aboard the exclusively chartered 'Sanctuary Sun Boat III,' visiting less-frequented sites, tombs and temples
- Fly between destinations aboard aircraft chartered exclusively for A&K guests
- Venture inside one of the pyramids on the Giza Plateau
- Get up close to the massive paws of the enigmatic Great Sphinx on a special private visit
- Visit the Grand Egyptian Museum as one of the first visitors on a soft opening featuring 12 spectacular galleries, and also visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities to view the treasures from King Tut's tomb
- Rise early for a stunning balloon trip over the Nile, viewing the marvellous monuments of ancient Thebes as the sun rises
- Descend into the tomb of Tutankhamun (King Tut) and visit famed archaeologist Howard Carter's home
- Be among the privileged visitors to explore Wahtye's Tomb at Sakkara — discovered only recently after 4,400 years — during a private opening specially arranged by A&K



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Cairo, Egypt**

Arrive in Cairo, Egypt’s “Mother of All Cities,” an age-old crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, where you are met and privately transferred to your riverside hotel.

***Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza***

### **Day 2: Cairo | Immersed in Antiquities**

Explore the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, home to over 120,000 relics, some dating back to 4000 BC including the treasures from King Tut's tomb. After lunch, accompany your A&K Egyptologist for the unveiling of 12 never-before-seen main galleries at the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum, part of a soft opening that showcases 15,000 artifacts spanning Egypt's history. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity puts you up close with items, from the stone tools and pottery of the earliest human settlements along the Nile to the artifacts of the Graeco-Roman era, that reflect the evolution of one of the world's most remarkable civilizations. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner.

***Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 3: Cairo | The Great Pyramid and Paws of the Sphinx**

Set out for the Giza Plateau on a full-day excursion. Observe the great pyramids of Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure as well as other historical sites. Enter the interior of one of these legendary structures, and marvel at the massive stones used to construct them. Enjoy special private access to the nearby Great Sphinx, seizing the rare opportunity to lay your hands on its massive paws.

***Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: BL***

#### **Day 4: Luxor | Two of Egypt's Finest Temples**

Fly south to Luxor, formerly known as Thebes. Upon arrival visit the Temple of Karnak, featuring 134 great columns that once supported an enormous roof. Board 'Sanctuary Sun Boat III,' your luxurious home on the Nile for the next seven nights, in time for lunch. This afternoon, explore the Temple of Luxor, built by Amenhotep III (1405-1367 BC). This evening, gather for a complimentary cocktail and canapés, followed by dinner.

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 5: Cruising the Nile | Discovery of Tutankhamun**

Visit the Nile's West Bank, starting at the fabled Colossi of Memnon, two enormous, seated statues of Amenhotep III. Proceed to the terraced funerary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's first female pharaoh, and continue to the Valley of the Kings, burial ground of the pharaohs. See the iconic tomb of Tutankhamun (King Tut), before visiting the former home of the legendary archaeologist who found it, Howard Carter, to see the original tools he used for the excavation. Gain entry to the lesser-visited, well-preserved tomb of Seti I, father of Ramses II. Then, in the Valley of the Queens, explore the tomb of Queen Nefertari, said to be the finest tomb in Egypt. After lunch back aboard the ship, relax on board or explore the Luxor Museum, browsing its fascinating collections.

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 6: Cruising the Nile | Grandeur by Hot Air Balloon**

Rise early this morning for an exhilarating hot air balloon ride over the Nile and the temples that line its shores. Afterwards, go off the beaten path to one of Luxor's less-visited sites, Medinet Habu, built by Ramses III. Return to 'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' and partake in a Scenic Sundowner as you cruise toward Esna.

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 7: Cruising the Nile | Remnants of Greece & Rome**

This morning at Esna, explore the Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum with your Egyptologist guide. Its Great Hypostyle Hall was built during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Then, board your river ship and cruise to Edfu, where you visit the well-preserved Temple of Horus (the falcon god).

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 8: Cruising the Nile | Temple of the Sun**

Relax on board as the morning unfolds. This afternoon, learn to prepare local dishes during a Chef's Table experience with an onboard chef as you cruise to Kom Ombo. Disembark for a walking visit to this lovely Greco-Roman temple dedicated to Haroeris (the sun god) and Sobek (the crocodile god), whom some ancient Egyptians considered the creator of the world. View the mummified remains of several crocodile that once basked along the ancient Nile shore, just as their descendants do today. Join the party tonight, dressing up in traditional Egyptian galabeyyas and savouring a lavish buffet of Egyptian specialties, followed by Arabic music and dancing.

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 9: Cruising the Nile | Island Temple of Isis**

Disembark in Aswan to visit the granite quarries that supplied stone for many of Egypt's pyramids and temples. View the 1,200-ton 'Unfinished Obelisk,' which exemplifies the technique used to create such enormous monoliths. Then, boat to the island of Agilika to view the exquisite Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Ride Like a Local as you sail by felucca (traditional sailing vessel), weather permitting, around Elephantine Island and view the splendid Aga Khan Mausoleum, which overlooks the river. After lunch, relax on board or explore a local Aswan spice market.

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 10: Abu Simbel | Massive Tribute to Ramses II**

Fly to Abu Simbel, site of the magnificent temple of Ramses II, and marvel at the four enormous statues of the pharaoh that grace its façade, each over 19 metres high. Amazingly, the site was raised up the hillside to avoid floodwaters caused by the Aswan High Dam project. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before boarding your privately chartered aircraft back to Aswan, to return to your ship.

***'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 11: Aswan/Cairo | Design Your Day**

Disembark 'Sanctuary Sun Boat III' and return to Cairo in time for lunch. This afternoon, enjoy one of these Design Your Day activities:

- **Discover Coptic Cairo**, visiting a church built where the Holy Family stayed and other Christian sites.
- **Tour Islamic Cairo**, including the lively Khan el-Khalili Bazaar.
- **View the Royal Mummies**, and countless other artifacts as you tour the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation.

The remainder of your day is at leisure.

***Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: BL***

### **Day 12: Cairo | Private Opening of Wahtye's Tomb**

Today, venture just outside the city to Sakkara, the vast necropolis of ancient Memphis, site of the famous Step Pyramid. Built by Zoser I in 2700 BC, it is the world's oldest stone structure. Enjoy a special private opening of the 4,400-year-old tomb of Wahtye. Unearthed in 2018, it is considered one of the biggest discoveries of the decade, completely untouched and filled with painted hieroglyphics, sculptures, and inscriptions. Also visit the Mereruka Tomb, one of the most exquisitely decorated tombs of the Old Kingdom. Tonight, enjoy a memorable farewell dinner.

***Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 13: Depart Cairo**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and depart.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

Internal air included: Cairo/Luxor; Aswan/Abu Simbel/Aswan/Cairo  
Routes may run in reverse on select departures (cruise beginning and ending in Aswan instead of Luxor).

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 12.

Departures are not guaranteed to operate.

## Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

## Map





## Extensions



Jordan Pre-Tour Extension -  
A Luxury Small Group  
Journey (2024)

**See Details**

## Accommodation

### Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza



The majestic Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza is a beacon of sophisticated hospitality on the legendary Corniche along the bank of the river. The hotel provides stunning views of the Nile and is within easy reach of the other-worldly sights and sounds of Cairo.

Reflecting the vibrancy of modern Cairo, the airy guest room interiors feature natural wood finishes and comfortable, stylish furnishings. Most have private outdoor terraces for relaxing or dining, and all have triple-glazed windows to ensure that interiors remain cool and quiet

#### Why we like it

- This hotel is located in the exclusive Garden City in the heart of Cairo and near the Cairo Museum on the banks of the Nile
- The rooms and suites offer views of the Nile or the Citadel and Garden City
- Three heated pools are located on the secluded rooftop terrace and surrounded by lush landscaping, shaded alcoves, cabanas and umbrellas
- Dining options amongst the hotel's seven restaurants include cucina rustica in Bella, authentic Cantonese cuisine in Spice, the genuine flavours of Egypt in Zitouni and tasty barbecues in the sunlit Shisha Lounge
- The Spa offers a comprehensive range of massages and all-natural treatments

## Sanctuary Sun Boat III



Perfect for a relaxing journey along the River Nile, this stylish cruiser combines timeless beauty, grace and cutting-edge efficiency with the discreet ambience of an exclusive club. Smaller than the average Nile cruiser, her design ensures a more personalised service coupled with the leisurely pace of a longer cruise.

The luxury cabins (17m<sup>2</sup>) are located on two decks plus two Royal (36m<sup>2</sup>) and two Presidential (29m<sup>2</sup>) suites also available. All are fully air-conditioned, with panoramic windows and private bathrooms. Satellite television with inhouse movies, CD player, direct-dial international phone, safe and mini bar are among the features of these luxury cabins and suites.

The public areas are attractive and tastefully decorated. There is plenty of sunbathing space plus a heated plunge-pool, outdoor bar, lounge and patio bar. In-room dining, internet access and services of the fleet physician and masseuse are also available.

Sanctuary Sun Boat III is available for private charter.

## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Dec 1, 2024 - Dec 13, 2024

Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Sanctuary Sun Boat III: Nile Deck	<b>AU\$30,370 pp</b>	AU\$4,915	Included	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Sanctuary Sun Boat III: Promenade Deck	<b>AU\$31,940 pp</b>	AU\$6,455	Included	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Sanctuary Sun Boat III: Presidential Suite	<b>AU\$38,215 pp</b>	AU\$12,610	Included	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Sanctuary Sun Boat III: Royal Suite	<b>AU\$39,785 pp</b>	AU\$14,145	Included	Call for Availability

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