

Fall 2024 Insight Trip to Egypt with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



October 4-14, 2024 Schedule

Day 1: Friday, October 4 (Cairo)

Upon arrival, our travel agency will meet, assist, and transfer us to the hotel. As people arrive, we will meet for dinner and spend the night at the hotel. If your arrival is in the morning, we will arrange for some daytime activities.

Day 2: Saturday, October 5 (Cairo)

After breakfast, we will start a full day tour with our Egyptologist tour guide. We will visit the 4500-year-old **Giza Pyramids**, the only remaining wonders of the ancient world, and also see the **Sphinx**, carved from a single stone, representing a creature with a Pharaoh's head and a lion's body. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Then we'll head to the **Grand Egyptian Museum**, famous for its antiquities from Egypt's Pharaonic period, which dates back some 50 centuries. Dinner will be at a local restaurant and then we'll return to the hotel for the night.

Day 3: Sunday, October 6 (Cairo)

After breakfast, we will visit the ancient **Coptic churches** and **Islamic mosques** of old Cairo, as well as the **Citadel**. We will have some time for shopping in the **Khan el Khalili bazaar** in the evening, will enjoy dinner together, and then will head back to the hotel for the night.

Day 4: Monday, October 7 (Nile Cruise/Aswan)

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport to take our flight to **Aswan**. Upon arrival, our travel agency staff will meet us and take us to visit the **High Dam**, which was built in 1960s to save Egypt from the floods and droughts, as well as the beautiful Temple of Goddess "Isis," known as **Philae temple**. We will have dinner on the cruise and spend the night on the boat.

Optional Tour (paid extra): Visit **Kitchener Island** and a **Nubian village**

Day 5: Tuesday, October 8 (Nile Cruise)

After breakfast, we will sail to **Kom Ombo** and visit the double temple shared by Horus and Sobek, the crocodile god. From there, we will sail to **Edfu** and visit the most complete and entirely Greek temple of Horus. We will then sail to **Esna**, pass through the lock, and sail to Luxor.

Optional tour (paid extra): An early morning (3 a.m.) excursion by bus to the famous temple of **Abu Simbel**. Upon return, we will join the group and continue to Kom Ombo.

Fall 2024 Insight Trip to Egypt with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



Day 6: Wednesday, October 9 (Nile Cruise)

After breakfast, we will cross over to the west bank, visit the necropolis of Thebes, where we'll see the tombs of the ancient pharaohs in the **Valley of the Kings**. Then, we'll continue to the **temple of Hatshepsut** and the **Colossi of Memnon**. We'll spend the night on the boat.

Day 7: Thursday, October 10 (Hurghada)

We will disembark after breakfast and visit the **East bank** to see the 3200-year-old **Luxor and Karnack temples**. After that, we will drive to Hurghada on an airconditioned bus, check in to the hotel, and spend the night there.

Optional Activity (paid extra): Enjoy a **Hot Air Balloon ride!**

Day 8: Friday, October 11 (Hurghada)

After breakfast, you'll be free to enjoy the beauty of the **Red Sea**. You'll have the opportunity to swim, snorkel, scuba dive and/or fish. We'll also enjoy dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 9: Saturday, October 12 (Hurghada)

Enjoy the beauty of the **Red Sea**. More opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, diving and/or fishing. Optional excursions and activities will be announced.

Day 10: Sunday, October 13 (Hurghada/Cairo)

Enjoy the beauty of the **Red Sea**. You'll have more time to swim, snorkel, scuba dive and/or fish. In the afternoon, we will check out and transfer to Hurghada airport to take our evening flight to Cairo. We'll check into the hotel and overnight there.

Day 11: Monday, October 14 (Cairo)

After breakfast, we will visit the Mukkattam mountain area to see the Association for the Protection of the Environment, a HANDS-sponsored **job-skills training program for women in Cairo's garbage recycling community**. This is also a fun shopping opportunity! Afterwards we will visit the **Cave church** in Mukkatam and have lunch at local restaurant. We'll return to the hotel and, depending on the time of your flight, check out that night or the next morning and head to the airport to catch our international flights back to the U.S.

Day 12: Tuesday October 15 (Departure)

Fall 2024 Insight Trip to Egypt with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



Pricing

This once-in-a-lifetime adventure costs only \$3,400 per person for a shared room or \$4,000 per person for a single room.

This price includes:

- five nights in Cairo at the Intercontinental hotel or a similar five-star hotel
- three nights in Hurghada at the Hilton Hurgada Plaza or Sheraton Soma Bay or a similar five-star hotel on an all-inclusive basis
- three nights Nile Cruise on a 5* boat Steigenberger M/S Minerva
- three meals per day
- an English-speaking guide
- accompaniment by a tour leader and HANDS staff member
- accompaniment by Joe Awadalla, an Egyptian-American tennis coach
- entrance fees to sites on itinerary
- ground and air transport within Egypt

This price excludes:

- international airfare (to/from the US)
- alcoholic drinks
- personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, etc.)
- visa fee and personal travel insurance
- tips: Egypt has a culture of tipping. Please plan to bring \$165 per person in cash to tip the tour company staff (tour guides, tour leader, and bus drivers) at the end of the trip as well as smaller tips you'll want to hand to porters, bathroom attendants, and similar service workers. Small service tips are usually between \$1 and \$5.
- optional excursions

Note that the prices may increase slightly once the fall 2024 prices are released.

Bonus! \$500 of your payment is a tax-deductible donation to support HANDS' work in underserved communities in Egypt!

To register: <https://handsclasses.wufoo.com/forms/zpstmt510thga3/>

To make your **\$500 deposit (due July 15)** or your **final payment (due September 1)**:
<https://hands.networkforgood.com/events/71628-october-2024-insight-trip-to-egypt>

For additional information or questions, please contact us at trips@handsalongthenile.org or by phone at (703) 875-9370 (ext. 101).