

**Egypt and the Red Sea
Whiscaye Divers
May 22 – 31, 2026**



May 22 Day 1: Depart United States

May 23 - Day 2: Arrive Cairo, transfer to hotel

Our guides will meet us at the airport to assist with obtaining the visa and luggage, and then transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free. If you arrive early you may like to take an evening dinner cruise on the Nile, or enjoy a spectacular sound and light show at the pyramids (both available to book locally on arrival). OVERNIGHT: Cairo 5-star hotel in Pyramids area. MEALS: None

May 24 - Day 3: Cairo, Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum tour

Our guided tour begins with a trip to the famous Egyptian Museum with its huge number of ancient Pharaonic exhibits. Home to the fantastic Tutankhamun exhibit the museum hosts a huge number of other ancient Egyptian artefacts. Following on from the museum we then head to visit the Sphinx and the three great pyramids of Egypt. This evening we transfer to the station for the overnight sleeper train to Luxor (approx. 9 hours). You'll enjoy dinner on board in your private twin-berth compartments before the steward sets your beds up for the night. (Flight & hotel upgrades are available on request) OVERNIGHT: On board sleeper train. MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner (on train)

May 25 - Day 4: Luxor, West Bank tour, free time

We arrive into Luxor early this morning and cross the Nile to begin our tour of Luxor's West Bank. Home to the Valley of the Kings, the dusty tombs in this ancient burial site are still revealing their secrets today and so it remains one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Our tour includes several of these Pharaonic tombs, as well as the temple of Queen Hatchepsut, Deir el-Medina (the Valley of the Craftsmen), and the huge Colossi of Memnon. Your afternoon is then free to relax and enjoy the facilities of your 5-star hotel on the banks of the Nile. This evening, we visit Luxor temple, which is located right in the middle of town and beautifully lit up at night. OVERNIGHT: Luxor 5-star hotel, MEALS: Breakfast (on train)

May 26 - Day 5: Luxor, Karnak temple

The morning is free today and you can sleep late or, or you may wish to relax in the hotel, explore Luxor's markets, or add an additional optional sightseeing tour. Another option available is a spectacular hot air balloon flight over the west bank of the Nile (expect a very early start to catch the sunrise as the balloon rises). After lunch, we'll tour the huge temple complex at Karnak, once the religious center of Thebes and Upper Egypt. OVERNIGHT: Luxor 5-star hotel. MEALS: Breakfast

May 27 - Day 6: Luxor to the Red Sea at Hurghada

We leave Luxor this morning and drive through the hills and desert to the Red Sea beach resort of Hurghada (approx. 5 hours). Hurghada is world famous for its scuba diving and snorkeling and the rich Red Sea marine life here attracts divers from all over the world. Other adventurous activities available include wind surfing and kite surfing, glass bottomed submarines, quad biking, camel rides, and sea fishing trips. Alternatively, you can spend the next few days here relaxing on the beach and enjoying the year-round sunshine. Your stay here is on a 'soft all inclusive' basis, with all meals, soft drinks and snacks included but not alcoholic beverages. OVERNIGHT: Hurghada 5-star resort. MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

May 28 - Day 7: Red Sea. Free day

Your day is free today to relax and enjoy your time by the Red Sea, you can go scuba diving, snorkeling, lounge by the sea, or take an optional excursion. OVERNIGHT: Hurghada 5-star resort. MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 29 - Day 8: Red Sea. Free day

Your day is free today to relax and enjoy your time by the Red Sea, you can go scuba diving, snorkeling, lounge by the sea, or take an optional excursion. OVERNIGHT: Hurghada 5-star resort. MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 30 - Day 9: From Hurghada to Cairo. Old Cairo & Khan-el-Khalili bazaar walk

We leave Hurghada early this morning for the transfer back to Cairo by private minibus (approx. 6 hours). Upon arrival we check into our hotel in central Cairo. Then, in the late afternoon we take a guided walk through the back streets and bazaars in Old Cairo. We'll walk through the huge Bab al-Futuh gateway and explore streets dedicated to metalwork, spices, pottery, fabric, jewelry and anything else you can imagine as we gradually enter the more touristy Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. We'll have time for a break to try some mint tea and a shisha pipe and this is a great final opportunity to pick up some souvenirs of your time in Egypt.

You can also upgrade this drive to an internal flight if you wish (prices on request) or fly home directly from Hurghada instead of returning to Cairo. OVERNIGHT: Cairo 5-star hotel. MEALS: Breakfast

May 31 - Day 10: Cairo, Return to US

Our Egypt guided tour comes to an end today however, the day is yours to do some last-minute sightseeing or shopping until we transfer to the airport for our departure flight. MEALS: Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**Included:**

- 7 nights accommodation in 5-star hotels
- 1 night on board overnight sleeper train in private twin-berth cabins (flight/hotel upgrade available)
- All transport and transfers in private AC vehicles
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Services of a local Egyptologist guide for all sightseeing tours
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded (per person):

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional Excursions and associated entrance fees (approx. US\$100 pp)
- Drinks, snacks, guide tips, and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Scuba diving, scuba gear rental, guide tipping
- Any other items not mentioned above

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is required cover medical costs (including Covid-19), and strongly recommended to cover cancellation & curtailment, lost baggage, and personal liability. Encounters Travel and our local partners hold no liability for medical costs or repatriation or lost baggage or personal possessions should you not have adequate travel insurance in place.

PASSPORT & VISAS US PASSPORTS

Egypt Visa – US\$25 per person on arrival or E-visa arranged independently. This applies to US passport holders.

Scuba arrangements will be made by Whiscaye Divers well in advance of the trip.

Whiscaye Divers will work with a travel agent to help arrange international flights.

This will be a private tour. As such, some details are subject to change. We will share final information as soon as our partners confirm arrangements.