



Treasures of the Delta

EGYPT



9 days

17 - 25 October 2026

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The crowded **dromedary market in Birqash**
- The architecture and frescoes of the **Coptic monasteries of Wadi Natrun, Abu Mina and Zaafarana**
- **Alexandria**, stratification of civilisations close to the Mediterranean
- The **Ottoman houses of Rosetta** and the **colonial architecture of Port Said and Ismailia**
- The **Pharaonic sites of Tanis and Bubastis**, splendour of ancient Egypt
- The azure waters of the **Red Sea** at Ain Sokhna



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Saturday 17 October

Outward flight/Cairo

Flight to Cairo. Transfer to the Hotel Novotel Cairo Airport or similar by hotel shuttle. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Sunday 18 October

Cairo/Birqash/Alexandria

After breakfast, meet with Kanaga Africa Tours staff. From Cairo we will proceed to Birqash where we will visit the camel market, here we will observe the traders sipping tea negotiating the price of the animals herded behind them. Lunch box. Continuation to Wadi Natrun, an area known in antiquity for its reserves of natron, a salt used for embalming bodies and which became, after the rise of Coptic Christianity, the cradle of Egyptian monasticism, as it is said that there were up to 50 or 60 monasteries in the area around the 5th century AD. Of these, four have survived, housing around 200 monks today, two of which we will be able to visit. Among the ancient churches of these fortified buildings, which preserve the relics of the saints after whom they are named, such as the Monastery of St Bishoi and the Monastery of St Macarius, we will admire the frescoes dating back to the 11th-12th centuries and listen to the monks' stories about the lives of hermits. Transfer to Alexandria. Accommodation at the Hotel Steigenberger Cecil or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 3: Monday 19 October

Alexandria/Abu Mina/Alessandria

After breakfast we will travel to the site of Abu Mina, a Unesco World Heritage Site, once a pilgrimage destination linked to miraculous events and the figure of Saint Mina, a Roman soldier martyred because of his faith, and where stand the ruins of the basilica of Saint Arcadius, dating back to the early 5th century, and the Basilica of the Baths, which was erected to protect the curative spring that gushed forth after the saint's burial. Today a monastery, built in the 1970s, stands near the ancient city. Lunch with the monks. We return to Alexandria where, passing through the stalls of the fish market, we will reach the Fort of Qaitbay, at the end of the Eastern Port, which stands on the site where the famous lighthouse was to have stood and on whose foundations it was built at the end of the 15th century by the Mamluk sultan to defend himself from the threat of the Turks. Next we will see from the outside the city's largest mosque, the Abu el-Abbas el-Mursi Mosque, built between 1930 and 1940 on the ruins of an earlier 18th-century building that housed the remains of an Andalusian saint who lived in the 13th century. Overnight stay at the hotel.



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Day 4: Tuesday 20 October

Alexandria

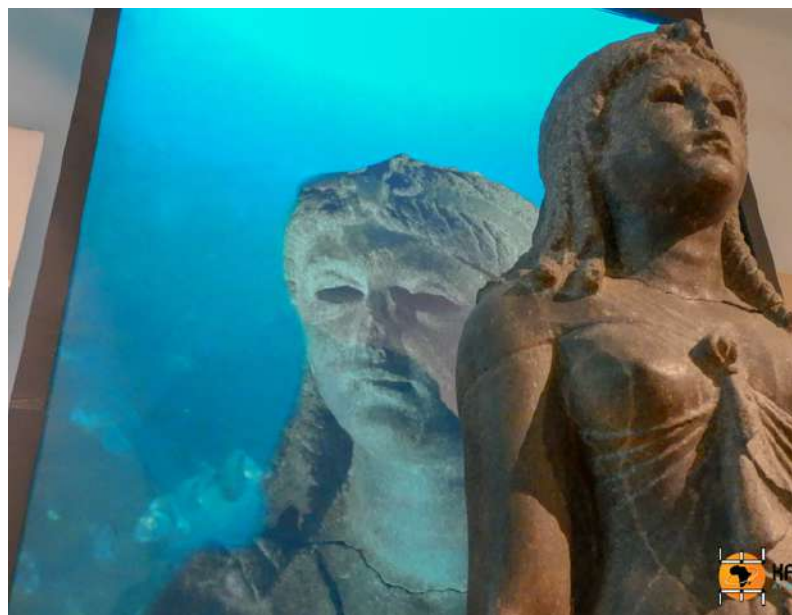
The whole day is dedicated to visiting the city of Alexandria. We will start at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the largest library in the Arab world and reminiscent of the famous Library of the Ptolemaic period, which was supposed to contain up to 500,000 texts, later tragically destroyed. Today, the huge and extraordinary building in the shape of an inclined disc and inaugurated in 2002 is structured inside in seven levels and contains three museums, a planetarium and several rooms for temporary exhibitions and conferences. We will continue with a visit to the Greco-Roman Museum, which, with an extraordinary layout organised in a chronological itinerary, allows us to trace the history of the city through statuary and various artefacts, from the period of the Ptolemies and Queen Cleopatra to that of the Roman invasion. Near the museum is a vast excavation area, known as Kom el Dikka or 'hill of rubble', where you can admire a small but well-preserved Roman amphitheatre, which came to light after the demolition of a Napoleonic fort, the imperial baths and the remains of other buildings of the ancient urbe. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon we descend into the underground galleries, of which the city's subsoil is rich, and visit the catacombs of Kom el-Shoqafa, arranged on three floors with burial chambers dating back to the 1st-2nd century AD, on whose walls Greco-Roman motifs are interwoven with ancient Egyptian ones in an exceptional syncretism, such as the figure of the mummification god Anubis with the traditional jackal head but dressed in the typical armour of Roman legionaries. Not far from the catacombs stands Pompey's Column, 30 m high and erected around 300 A.D. in honour of the emperor Diocletian (and not Pompey), and located in the centre of a site where some ruins of a large building remain, the Serapeum, a temple dedicated to the deity created by the Ptolemies, Serapis, and where archaeologists found the statue of the bull Apis in black basalt, preserved today in the Greco-Roman Museum. Overnight stay at the hotel.



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Day 5: Wednesday 21 October

Alexandria/Rosetta/Port Said

After breakfast, before leaving the city, we will see the Stanley Bridge and walk through the gardens of the Montazah Palace, built in the late 19th century by Khedivé Abbas Hilmy and now the summer residence of the Egyptian President. We will leave Alexandria and proceed eastwards, stopping for a break in Rosetta. The town is located on the western branch of the Nile and is famous because it was here that in 1799 Napoleon's soldiers found the famous stele (now in the British Museum in London) that enabled Champollion to decipher the hieroglyphic. Here we will visit Fort Julien, built by the Ottomans then occupied by the French, who made it an important defensive line on the route to Cairo but later fell into the hands of the British, and the Ottoman houses dating back to the 17th-18th centuries, with three or four floors, narrow façades with elegant decorations and in which we can sometimes see reused elements, blocks and columns, from the ancient Egyptian sites of the Delta. We will enter the Arab Killi House, once the governor's residence, which now houses the Rosetta National Museum, where exhibits illustrate the history of the city. Lunch box. We will continue to Port Said, the town where the Suez Canal was inaugurated in 1869, where we will walk through the narrow streets of the old town, which still retains some elegant palaces from the late 19th century, and see Casa Italia (exterior), a modernist building dating from the Fascist period as stated in the huge inscription on the façade and later used as a British hospital during World War II. Finally, we will arrive at the pier and board a ferry that will take us across the canal to Port Fuad. Return to Port Said, accommodation at the Baron Palace Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.



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Day 6: Thursday 22 October

Port Said/Tanis/Bubastis/Ismailia

Departure from Port Said to reach the archaeological site of Tanis, the capital of Lower Egypt during the 21st and 22nd dynasties, and within the mud-brick enclosure we will see the ruins of a large sanctuary consecrated to the god Amun and other smaller temples, the statues of Ramesses II and three obelisks and we will visit the royal necropolis, which was the site of one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century when Pierre Montet in 1939 uncovered some intact tombs of the sovereigns that contained extraordinary funerary objects in gold and precious materials, now on display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Lunch box. We continue to the site of Bubastis, where we are greeted at the entrance by a colossal statue of Queen Meritamon, daughter of Ramesses II, and a small archaeological museum with artefacts found in the area. The ancient "Per Bastet" was a renowned cultic centre from the 4th dynasty until the Roman period for its temple dedicated to the cat goddess Bastet, of which enormous granite blocks and a few columns are preserved, but it was also a much frequented place later on, since it is said that the Holy Family stopped here near a well during its flight to Egypt, and therefore its waters are believed to have miraculous virtues. Transfer to Ismailia, accommodation at the Maison Maxim Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.



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Day 7: Friday 23 October

Ismailia/Ain-Sokhna

After breakfast, stroll through the streets of Ismailia, the former headquarters of the Canal Company's administrative offices, where we will see old colonial-style houses (exterior) with large wooden verandas, surrounded by verdant gardens. Visit to the Archaeological Museum, which houses objects from the Pharaonic and Greco-Roman periods, discovered during the excavation campaign that preceded the construction of the Suez Canal. Among the most beautiful exhibits are a splendid 4th-century mosaic with figures from Greek mythology and a granite stele with cuneiform and hieroglyphic inscriptions commemorating the end of work on the pharaonic canal that connected the Nile to the Red Sea. Lunch in a restaurant. Transfer to Ain- Sokhna, a coastal town where we can spend a free afternoon at the beach and enjoy some relaxation on its golden sands and take a dip in the beautiful waters of the Red Sea. Accommodation at the Movempick Resort or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 8: Saturday 24 October

Ain-Sokhna/Zaafarana/Ain-Sokhna

Breakfast and departure for Zaafarana, where we will visit two Coptic monasteries, leaning against the cliff, which are among the oldest in the world. St. Anthony's Monastery looks like a fortified village with high walls and towers and is the largest in Egypt. Built immediately after the saint's death, it is today inhabited by around one hundred monks and inside St. Anthony's Church, the oldest building of the entire monastic complex, we will see a beautiful cycle of frescoes painted between the 12th and 14th centuries and recently restored, depicting ascetics, hermits and holy knights. On one side of the monastery, a staircase of more than 1,000 steps leads up to the Grotto of St. Anthony, where the saint lived and inside which is a chapel with a small altar. Lunch box. The Monastery of St Paul was built around the cave in which the hermit lived at the end of the 3rd century and is therefore today located inside the Church of St Paul, where the saint's remains are preserved in a sarcophagus. Inside the complex in the Church of Saint Michael is an icon depicting the Virgin Mary believed to have been made by Saint Luke in 40 AD. Return to Ain-Sokhna, dinner and overnight stay in a hotel.

Day 9: Sunday 25 October

Ain-Sokhna/Cairo (CAI)/Return flight

Transfer to Cairo airport and return flight. End of services.



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Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 5/max. 12 pax)

2,690 €/pax

in promotion at € 2,490
for booking before 17/07/2026

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Visa service: **60 €**
- Single room: **330 €**
- Day use in Cairo: on request
- Extensions: Siwa, oasis and white desert, Cairo/Giza/Saqqara, Sinai trekking, Red Sea, *dahabeya* cruise on Lake Nasser from Aswan to Abu Simbel, *dahabeya* cruise on the Nile from Luxor as Aswan: **on request**

The fee includes:

- English-speaking tour leader;
- English-speaking local guides;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Transfers by minibus or microbus, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Full board meals except dinners in Cairo and Alexandria;
- 8 nights in hotels, in double rooms as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Egypt;
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- The dinners in Cairo and Alexandria;
- Possible day use in Cairo;
- Possible extra nights in Cairo;
- Tips for photos and videos;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.