



# Alexandria and the Treasures of the Delta

## EGYPT



**9 days**

24 April – 02 May 2027

English speaking tour leader



### The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

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



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## EGYPT

### Day 1: Saturday 24 April

#### Outward flight/Cairo

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

### Day 2: Sunday 25 April

#### Cairo/Birqash/Alexandria

After breakfast, we'll meet up with the Kanaga Africa Tours team. From Cairo, we'll head to Birqash, where we'll visit the camel market; here, we'll be able to watch the traders sipping tea whilst haggling over the price of the animals crowded behind them. Lunch box. We'll continue to Wadi Natrun, an area known in ancient times for its reserves of natron – a salt used for embalming bodies – which, following the rise of Coptic Christianity, became the cradle of Egyptian monasticism, as it is said that there were as many as 50 or 60 monasteries in the area around the 5th century AD. Four of these have survived and are now home to around 200 monks; we will be able to visit two of them. Among the ancient churches within these fortified buildings, which house the relics of the saints after whom they are named – such as the Monastery of St Bishoi and that of St Macarius – we shall admire the frescoes dating from the 11th–12th centuries and listen to the monks' tales of the hermits' lives. Transfer to Alexandria. Accommodation at the Steigenberger Cecil Hotel or similar and overnight stay in double rooms with services.

### Day 3: Monday 26 April

#### Alexandria/Abu Mina/Alexandria

After breakfast, we will head 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 for his faith. Here stand the ruins of the Basilica of Saint Arcadius, dating from the early 5th century, and the Basilica of the Baths, which was built to protect the healing 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. Return to Alexandria, where, passing through the stalls of the fish market, we will reach Qaitbay Fort, at the far end of the Eastern Harbour, situated on the site where the famous Lighthouse once stood and on whose foundations it was built at the end of the 15th century by the Mamluk sultan to defend against the threat of the Turks. Afterwards, we will view from the outside the city's largest mosque, the Mosque of Abu el-Abbas el-Mursi, 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 27 April**

### Alexandria

The whole day is devoted to a tour of the city of Alexandria. We'll start at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the largest library in the Arab world, which pays homage to the famous Library of the Ptolemaic period – said to have contained up to 500,000 texts – which was tragically destroyed. Today, this enormous and extraordinary building, shaped like a tilted disc and opened in 2002, is organised internally across seven levels and houses three museums, a planetarium and several halls for temporary exhibitions and conferences. We will continue with a visit to the Greco-Roman Museum, which, through an extraordinary chronological display, allows visitors to trace the history of the city – from the Ptolemaic period and the reign of Queen Cleopatra to the Roman invasion – through its sculptures and various artefacts. Near the museum lies a vast excavation site, known as Kom el Dikka or 'rubble hill', where you can admire a small but well-preserved Roman amphitheatre that came to light following the demolition of a Napoleonic fort, the imperial baths and the remains of other buildings from the ancient city. Lunch at a restaurant. In the afternoon, we will descend into the underground tunnels – of which the city's subsoil is rich – and visit the Kom el-Shoqafa Catacombs, arranged over three levels containing burial chambers dating from the 1st–2nd centuries AD. On their walls, Greco-Roman motifs intertwine in an exceptional syncretism with ancient Egyptian ones, such as the figure of Anubis, the god of mummification, with his traditional jackal's head but clad in the armour typical of Roman legionaries. Not far from the catacombs stands the Column of Pompey, 30 metres high and erected around 300 AD in honour of Emperor Diocletian (and not Pompey), situated at the centre of a site where the ruins of a large building remain: the Serapeum, a temple dedicated to the deity created by the Ptolemies, Serapis, and where archaeologists discovered the statue of the bull Apis in black basalt, now preserved in the Greco-Roman Museum. Overnight stay at the hotel.



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# Alexandria and the Treasures of the Delta

## EGYPT

**Day 5: Wednesday 28 April**

**Alexandria/Rosetta/Port Said**

After breakfast, before leaving the city, we will see Stanley Bridge and take a stroll through the gardens of Montazah Palace, built in the late 19th century by Khedive Abbas Hilmy and now the summer residence of the Egyptian President. We will set off from Alexandria and, heading east, stop off at Rosetta. The town lies on the western branch of the Nile and is famous because it was here, in 1799, that Napoleon's soldiers discovered the famous stele (now housed in the British Museum in London) which enabled Champollion to decipher hieroglyphics. Here we will visit Fort Julien, built by the Ottomans and later occupied by the French, who turned it into an important defensive line on the route to Cairo, though it subsequently fell into British hands, and the Ottoman houses dating from the 17th-18th centuries, with three or four storeys, narrow façades with elegant decorations, and in which one can sometimes spot reused elements – blocks and columns – from ancient Egyptian sites in the Delta. We will enter the Arab Killi House, once the governor's residence, which today houses the Rosetta National Museum, where the artefacts illustrate the city's history. Lunch box. We'll continue to Port Said, the town where the Suez Canal was inaugurated in 1869. Here, we'll wander through the narrow streets of the old town, which still preserves some elegant late 19th-century palaces, and see Casa Italia (exterior), a modernist building dating from the Fascist period – as stated in the huge inscription on the façade – which was later used as a British hospital during the Second World War. Finally, we'll reach the quay and board a ferry to cross the canal to Port Fuad. Return to Port Said, check-in at the Baron Palace Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



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# Alexandria and the Treasures of the Delta

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**Day 6: Thursday 29 April**

**Port Said/Tanis/Bubastis/Ismailia**

We set off from Port Said to visit the archaeological site of Tanis, the capital of Lower Egypt during the 21st and 22nd Dynasties. Within the mud-brick enclosure, we shall see the ruins of a great sanctuary dedicated to the god Amun and other smaller temples, statues of Ramesses II and three obelisks. We will also visit the royal necropolis, which was the focus of one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century when, in 1939, Auguste Mariette uncovered several intact royal tombs containing extraordinary grave goods made of gold and precious materials, now on display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Lunch box. We will 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 housing artefacts found in the area. The ancient 'Per Bastet' was a renowned centre of worship from the Fourth Dynasty through to the Roman period, famed for its temple dedicated to the cat goddess Bastet; enormous granite blocks and some columns of the temple remain. However, it remained a much-visited site even afterwards, as it is said that here, near a well, the Holy Family stopped during their flight into Egypt, and it is therefore believed that its waters possess miraculous properties. Transfer to Ismailia, check-in at the Maison Maxim Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



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### Day 7: Friday 30 April

#### Ismailia/Ain-Sokhna

After breakfast, a stroll through the streets of Ismailia, the former seat of the Suez Canal Company's administrative offices, where we can admire the old colonial-style houses (from the outside) with their spacious wooden verandas, surrounded by lush gardens. Visit to the Archaeological Museum, which houses artefacts from the Pharaonic and Greco-Roman periods, unearthed during the excavation campaign that preceded the construction of the Suez Canal. Among the finest pieces on display are a splendid 4th-century mosaic depicting figures from Greek mythology and a granite stele bearing inscriptions in cuneiform and hieroglyphics commemorating the completion of the Pharaonic canal that linked the Nile to the Red Sea. Lunch at a restaurant. Transfer to Ain Sokhna, a coastal town where we can spend a free afternoon on the beach, relax on its golden sands and take the opportunity to take a dip in the beautiful waters of the Red Sea. Accommodation at the Movempick Resort or similar, dinner and overnight stay in double rooms with services.

### Day 8: Saturday 1 May

#### Ain-Sokhna/Zaafarana/Ain-Sokhna

Breakfast and departure for Zaafarana, where we will visit two Coptic monasteries, clinging to the cliff face, which are among the oldest in the world. The Monastery of St Anthony resembles a fortified village with high walls and towers and is the largest in Egypt; built shortly after the saint's death, it is now home to around a hundred monks. Inside St Anthony's Church – the oldest building in the entire monastic complex – we shall 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 over 1,000 steps leads up to the cave of St Anthony, where the saint lived and inside which there is a chapel with a small altar. Lunch box. The Monastery of St Paul was built around the cave where the hermit lived at the end of the 3rd century; today, this cave is situated within the Church of St Paul, where the saint's remains are preserved in a sarcophagus. Within the complex, in the Church of St Michael, there is an icon depicting the Virgin Mary, believed to have been painted by St Luke in AD 40. Return to Ain-Sokhna, dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

### Day 9: Sunday 2 May

#### Ain-Sokhna/Cairo (CAI)/Return Flight

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



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**9 days**

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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 24/10/2026**

### Supplements:

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

### The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader;
- Local English-speaking guides;
- Visits and excursions as per the itinerary;
- Transfers by minibus or microbus, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Full board, except for dinners in Cairo and Alexandria;
- 8 nights' accommodation in hotels, in twin rooms as specified in the itinerary.

### The fee does not include:

- Visa for Egypt;
- Cancellation, health and baggage insurance;
- Flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Dinners in Cairo and Alexandria;
- Any day use in Cairo;
- Any extra nights in Cairo;
- Tips for photos and videos;
- Tips and personal expenses;
- Everything listed under 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned under 'the price includes'.