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Born to Egyptian parents in Boston and now living in Bordeaux, I have always been fascinated by the architecture and history of ancient and contemporary worlds.

I grew up in Cairo, surrounded by the surreal landscape of ancient Egypt, in love with my city and its lively streets.

After receiving my degree from the American University in Cairo, another adventure awaited me when I moved to El Gouna, along the picturesque Red Sea, to work as a development manager.

But Cairo kept calling me back, and every time I returned, I ventured out and discovered new neighborhoods, learning more about the city's history each time. I was curious to discover more about this city and to share my knowledge with those around me.

When friends and family came to visit, I showed them the city below the surface. I wanted everyone to see the side of Cairo that so few know about, and that I had uncovered over the years.

My future as a guide in Egypt was put on hold when I moved to France. I started a guiding business in Bordeaux, and built my life around it, thus sharing the history of my adopted city with travelers from around the world. In my heart, however, I knew I would one day come back to Egypt to guide.

Becoming the first accredited female Egyptian guide in the Bordeaux region laid the groundwork to establish me as an independent businesswoman in France. Once this happened, I felt the time had come to rekindle my dream of guiding in my home country.

Today, I split my time between my homes in France and Egypt. Come winter, I discard my trench coat and rain boots and head to sunny and colorful Egypt. Refreshed by the Nile, I explore the hidden side of this ancient country.

You are invited to live a unique experience in Egypt, filled with unforgettable encounters and breathtaking sites, far from buzzing mass tourism. Anything is possible! Draw inspiration from my website's photos, picture yourself there and I will guide you across my ancestors' land.



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DAY 1

Upon arrival, our team will pick you up from the Luxor airport and take you to your Dahabiya, a traditional two-masted sailboat. There, the crew will show you to your cabin and lunch or dinner will be served.





DAY 2

Enjoy breakfast before heading to the Valley of the Kings in the early morning. The tour starts with one of Egypt's greatest monuments: the Temple of Hatshepsut, followed by the Coliseum of Memnon. After lunch, the boat begins its voyage towards Esna, during which you can enjoy an open air dinner.





DAY 3

At dawn, the Dahabiya continues its course, towards Edfu, passing by Esna's lock. The magnificent Temple of Edfu will emerge before you, its entrance guarded by two granite statues of Horus, the falcon-headed god. All meals are offered on board.





@ Samarah

DAY 4

After breakfast, we visit the rock-cut Temple of Hormoheb, carved in Ancient Egypt's famed quarry on Gebel Selsila. Lunch is served on deck as we sail towards Kom Ombo. Its temple is divided into two perfectly symmetrical halves: two entrances, two corridors and two sanctuaries. One is dedicated to Haroeris, or Horus the great, and the other to Sobek, the crocodile god. Dinner on board.





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DAY 5

Admire Aswan's surroundings whilst having breakfast. The city's tour begins with the High Dam and includes the visit of the famous Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. After lunch on board, we sail towards Nubian villages where you will be welcomed by locals. Dinner on board.





@ Lil' Renée

DAY 6

You are free to choose between two options:

- An excursion by road to the extraordinary Temple of Abu Simbel, dedicated to Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. A meal will be provided during the visit.
- Free time that you can dedicate to exploring Aswan and its markets on foot. Meals will be served on board.





DAY 7

Sailing day, back to Luxor. We arrive mid afternoon and start visiting the east side of the Nile: take in the splendid hypostyle of the temple of Karnak, dedicated to Amun-Ra and his wife, the goddess Mut. To end the day on a high note, we move on to the Temple of Luxor right before sunset. Meals served on board.





DAY 8

Breakfast before flight to Cairo. Visit to Al-Foustat and the Coptic quarter on the Holy Family's Trail. Lunch en route to the Egyptian museum to visit the funerary mask of Tutankhamun. Overnight in the stunning Marriott Mena House hotel at the foot of the Pyramids built in 1869 for the Egyptian Khedive Isma'il Pasha.





DAY 9

Your accredited guide and driver will pick you up to visit the first Egyptian pyramid to ever be constructed, the step pyramid of Sakkara designed by the Pharaoh Djoser's architect Imhotep. Lunch in a lovely restaurant under the shade of palm trees. Finally ending your trip spectacularly on the Giza plateau with a visit of the Great Pyramids and Sphinx.





DAY 10

We part after breakfast at the hotel, where the concierge will have prepared your luggage. We'll be expecting you again soon, as the saying goes: "Once you drink from the Nile, you are destined to return."

Bon voyage!





Dahabeya

The Dahabeya is a luxury pleasure boat with 6 to 9 bedrooms that navigates on the Nile. Its name means the golden one. This work of art of a sailboat was built to transport royal families and celebrities along the enchanting Egyptian river, offering the experience of a lifetime. Relax on its sundeck, and immerse yourself in the beautiful views this magical journey has to offer. Learn about ancient Egyptian history and culture and enjoy exquisite Egyptian culinary delights. The Dahabeya's size allows her to access locations that other boats can't and to reach destinations outside of peak times, making for the best experience.





Services

Included

- Transport from and to Luxor Airport
- Transport from and to Cairo Airport
- Full board during the cruise
3 meals/day (depending on times of arrival and departure)
- 2 nights Marriott Mena House - 5 star hotel
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches in Cairo
- Visa
- Entrance fees for temples and monuments
- Guided tours mentioned in the program
- Local accredited guide
- Hela, accredited guide and founder of Hela on the Nile, accompanying you throughout your stay

Not included

- International and local flights
- Tips for guides and Dahabeya personnel
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses (calls, laundry service)
- All beverages, alcoholic or non-alcoholic, with the exception of what is served on the Dahabeya
- Travel insurance and repatriation assistance



The excursions' order may vary according to sailing conditions.

Nota Bene

Alcohol

Although the consumption of alcohol is legal in Egypt, your Dahabeya, like most of these sailboats, may not have the required license to serve alcohol on board. The airport duty free is, however, at your disposal. You can purchase up to 4 bottles upon arrival at the airport. Alcoholic beverages are available at all the hotels.

Water

We recommend you bring your own reusable water bottle and fill it with mineral water. It is a more environmentally friendly option than buying plastic bottles.

Recommended attire

The hijab is not mandatory. It is, however, recommended that you respect Egyptian dress code when visiting the various cities and archeological sites (long trousers or skirts, tops covering your shoulders).

Although the days may be warm, nights are quite chilly. Here is what we suggest: clothes made of breathable fabric (cotton or linen), hats, sunglasses and scarves during the day and warmer options for nighttime.

Currency

The Egyptian pound (L.E. or EGP) is the local currency. Payment may be made to some vendors by US dollars or euro.

Tips & Bargaining

Egypt is a tipping culture. “Baksheesh” is the Egyptian term for tips. Feel free to bargain in the souk/market. Do not hesitate to consult your guide for help.

For more information, check our FAQ on our website.

