

# Elixir of Egypt

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11 nights / 12 days



Egypt, the Gift of the Nile



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## About Hela

Born in Massachusetts to Egyptian parents, I was 10 1/2 years old when we returned to live in Egypt. I arrived with a very sober outlook on life there until I got my first taste of freedom: taking a taxi alone in Cairo and beginning to discover the city. I learned over the years that there was so much more to Cairo than the pyramids. I explored many of the different neighborhoods and fell in love with the architecture, the dynamic of the bustling streets, and the ever-present history. After university, I moved to El Gouna, along the Red Sea, to work as a development manager. But Cairo kept calling me back, and every time I returned, I ventured into and discovered a new neighborhood, learning more about the city's history each time. Deeply exploring Cairo lit a fire in my belly to become a guide. 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.

Today, I split my time between my homes in France and Egypt. Come winter, I trade my trench coat and rain boots, for a cotton gallabeyah. Destination: sunny colorful Egypt. Invigorated by the kindness of the Nile, I open the doors to this ancient country's hidden treasures. I invite you to live a unique experience in Egypt, far from the bustling masses of tourists, filled with unforgettable encounters in breathtaking places.

As a native Egyptian-Arabic speaker with a deep knowledge of my country's history, I love showing people Egypt's diversity. The country is Pharaonic, Coptic, and Islamic, but not only. With me, you will visit the tribes of Nubia where people speak unwritten languages passed down from generation to generation. I love taking travelers deep into the local culture to demystify the long-standing generalizations stigmatizing my country. Learning about the connection with ancient Egyptian mythology through my tours transforms each day into something new and magical. We're visiting people and places welcomed as friends thanks to my established reputation granting me exclusive access. My goal is for people to gain a genuine understanding of Egypt and to have a positive experience.





## Day 1 | Welcome to Cairo

Touching down at Cairo International, you'll be greeted by Hela and her team before a private transfer whisks you to your elegant hotel. After settling into your room, join us this evening for a sumptuous welcome dinner at a top-tier Egyptian restaurant, an invitation to savor regional flavors and toast the adventure ahead.



## Day 2 | Museum Marvels

This morning, delve into millennia of history at the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, where cutting-edge displays bring ancient artifacts into vivid relief. Afterwards, enjoy a leisurely lunch perched on the Giza Plateau, with sweeping views of the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx, the world's oldest monumental sculpture.





## Day 3 | Old Cairo's Treasures & Zamalek Chic

Get ready for a whirlwind tour of Old Cairo, with time to explore the souks, where Hela will take you to meet her favorite artisans. A visit to the Fustat neighbourhood, crossroads of the monotheistic religions, the Holy Family's Trail, Ben Ezra synagogue and the first mosque.

♀ This is evening Hela can touch on the chic Zamalek Quarter and continue to shop.

Hela on the Nile - [info@helaonthenile.com](mailto:info@helaonthenile.com)





## Day 4 | Fly to Luxor

Karnak is a true masterpiece of ancient Egyptian architecture. As we wander through its massive columns and sacred halls, you'll feel the grandeur of this extraordinary site come to life. Marvel at the the Valley of the Kings Temple Walk through the Hatshepsut. Enjoy dinner at Hela's home where an upper Egyptian party awaits you.

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## Day 5 | Hues of Habu Temple

A late start to enjoy your hotel. A visit to one of the most underrated temples, Habu. The colors are outstanding and there is a hunting scene that is beautiful behind the first pylon from the exterior so before entering the temple. The god Amun-Min of fertility is recurrently depicted. Sunset at Luxor Temple awaits you!





## Day 6 | Esna, A Reawakening

At Esna, your private **Dahabeya**\* awaits. Step aboard and let the gentle current carry you downstream: four nights of gourmet onboard dining, hands-on hieroglyph lessons, and surprise cultural treats. Between deckside tea breaks and deck chairs, you'll feel as though you've been transported to a more graceful era of Nile travel.





## Day 7 | Edfu

Awake at Edfu, where the Temple of Horus stands in near-pristine condition. Walk its shaded colonnades and learn the myths of the falcon god, then return to the Dahabeya for lunch as the river sails you southward.





## Day 8 | Bessaw et Gebel El Silsila

Venture off the beaten track at Bessaw: discover homes carved with pilgrimage scenes, try your hand at traditional fishing with local guides, and perhaps haul in your own fresh catch for lunch on board.

Then, explore Gebel Silsila, a mountain range that is home to ancient sandstone quarries. You'll see steep cliffs and spectacular rock formations that make up this landscape. During this stop, you can enjoy the wild landscapes of the Nile River, observing rare birds and wildlife.





## Day 9 | Kom Ombo, the gateway to Nubia

This unique double temple, dedicated to Sobek, the Crocodile God, and Haroeris, the Falcon God, dates to the Ptolemaic period. Explore its intricate carvings and marvel at the crocodile mummies, astonishingly well-preserved and housed in a special gallery at the temple's entrance. Discover the surgical instruments of Kom Ombo, an ancient depiction of medical tools that connect us to the ingenuity of Egypt's earliest physicians.





## Day 10 | Abu Simbel

Rise before dawn for a charter flight to Abu Simbel. Stand beneath Ramses II's colossal statues as the desert sun illuminates these awe-inspiring monuments. Return to the Nile for a romantic felucca ride and riverside picnic.

♀ Check in to your Nubian Guest House





## Day 11 | Romance on Philae Island

Visit the breathtaking Philae Temple and enjoy a Nubian feast prepared by local women. Hela will take you to her newly inaugurated Peanut house roasted by the beautiful Nubian community.

♀ The Nubians speak a language only known to them which has been passed on over generations.

Hela on the Nile - [info@helaonthenile.com](mailto:info@helaonthenile.com)





## Day 12 | Farewell to Egypt

Your journey is now coming to an end. These extraordinary places will be waiting for you on your next visit because, as the saying goes:

“Once you drink from the water of the Nile, you are destined to return”



# The Dahabeya Experience

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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

### Accommodation

#### Hotels & Cruise

- 3 nights , Cairo
- 2 nights Luxor
- 4 nights aboard a luxury Nile dahabiya
- 2 nights in Aswan Guest House

#### Meals

Half board:

- o Cairo: 3 hotel breakfasts & lunches at local restaurants
- o Luxor: 2 hotel breakfasts & lunches at local restaurants
- o Aswan: 2 hotel breakfasts & lunches at local restaurants

Full board on the Dahabeya (breakfast, lunch & dinner)

- Welcome dinner in Cairo
- Dinner party at Hela's in Luxor
- Gala dinner in Aswan

### Transfers & Flights

- Transfers between airports, hotels & monuments
- Domestic flights:
  - o Cairo → Luxor
  - o Aswan → Cairo
  - o Aswan → Abu Simbel → Aswan

### Beverages

- Non-alcoholic drinks & local beer/wine only aboard the dahabiya
- Non-alcoholic beverages at included restaurant meals

### Fees & Assistance

- Visa assistance and processing
- Entrance fees for all temples and monuments in the itinerary
- All local taxes

### Guiding & Leadership

- Guided visits with accredited Egyptologists and local experts



## Not Included

- Any services not mentioned above
- International flights
- Tips for drivers, dahabiya crew, hotel staff, and guides
- Optional excursions (e.g., hot-air balloon, pre/post-stay add-ons)
- Personal expenses (laundry, phone/internet, valet services, etc.)
- Beverages outside those served on the dahabiya and during included meals
- Travel insurance and repatriation assistance

**Tip:** Don't forget to ask Hela about optional pre or post-tour excursions!

