

Insight Trip to Egypt

with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



January 16 - 25, 2026 Schedule

Day 1: Friday, January 16 (Cairo)

Upon arrival at the Cairo airport, our travel agency will meet you and bring you to the hotel. After people arrive, we will meet for dinner and possibly have some time to explore the island of Zamalek, where we'll be staying, together.

Day 2: Saturday, January 17 (Cairo)

After breakfast, we'll start a full-day tour with our Egyptologist tour guide. We will visit the newly-opened **Grand Egyptian Museum**, famous for its antiquities from Egypt's Pharaonic period, which dates back some 50 centuries. After lunch at a local restaurant, we will visit the **ancient Coptic churches of Old Cairo** and spend some time at **Suq Fustat**, where local artisans have booths, showcasing their wares.

Day 3: Sunday, January 18 (Cairo)

We will enjoy another full day tour with our Egyptologist tour guide. We will start with a visit to the **Step Pyramid of Sakkara**, the oldest ever man-made construction in hard rock. Then we will head to the 4500-year-old **Giza Pyramids**, the only remaining wonders of the ancient world. Those who are interested can enjoy a short camel ride in the desert. Afterwards, we will see the **Sphinx**, a creature carved from a single stone with a Pharaoh's head and a lion's body. We will enjoy a meal at the historic **Mena House Hotel**, with a view overlooking the pyramids.

Day 4: Monday, January 19 (Cairo)

Today, we will visit the **Mukkattam** mountain area to see the Association for the Protection of the Environment, a HANDS-sponsored **job-skills training program for women in Cairo's garbage recycling community**. This is also a fun shopping opportunity! We'll tour the project, where women are recycling scraps of glass, paper, fabric, and soda can tabs into beautiful handicrafts and hear from some of the artisans about how the program has impacted their lives.

Afterwards we will tour the **Citadel of Salah el Din**, which overlooks Cairo.

In the evening, we will enjoy a **felucca (traditional Egyptian sailboat) ride**.

Day 5: Tuesday, January 20 (Cairo)

After breakfast, we visit the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, which presents an overview of Egyptian history from prehistory to the present day. Then, we will head to **Islamic Cairo** to visit the **Sultan Hassan and Ibn Touloun mosques**, and the **Gayer Anderson House**. We will have some time for exploring in the **Khan el Khalili bazaar** in the evening, will enjoy dinner together, and then will head back to the hotel for the night.

Insight Trip to Egypt

with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



Day 6: Wednesday, January 21 (Nile Cruise)

In the morning, we will travel to the airport to take our flight to Aswan. Upon arrival, we will visit the **High Dam**, built in the 1960's to save Egypt from floods and droughts, and the beautiful temple of the goddess Isis, known as **Philae Temple**. Afterwards, we will board the cruise ship where we will have dinner and spend the night.

Day 7: Thursday, January 22 (Nile Cruise)

After breakfast, we will sail to **Kom Ombo** and visit the double temple shared by Horus and Sobek, the crocodile god. From there, we will sail to **Edfu** and visit the most complete and entirely Greek temple of Horus. We will then sail to **Esna**, pass through the lock, and sail to Luxor.

Note that there are often shopping opportunities when we disembark from the cruise, including possibly visiting shops where alabaster is carved, perfume and essential oils are made, and papyrus paintings are created.

Day 8: Friday, January 23 (Luxor)

After breakfast, we will cross over to the west bank, visit the necropolis of Thebes, where we see the tombs of the ancient pharaohs in the **Valley of the Kings**. Then, we'll continue to the **temple of Hatshepsut** and the **Colossi of Memnon**. We'll spend the night on the boat.

Day 9: Saturday, January 24 (Cairo)

We will disembark after breakfast and visit the **East bank** to see the 3200-year-old **Luxor and Karnack temples**. Afterwards, we will drive to the airport, fly back to Cairo, and check into a hotel for the night.

In the evening, we will see **whirling dervishes** perform Egyptian **tanoura**, a traditional Sufi dance, in a historic home, **Beit el Suhami**, located in the **Khan el Khalili bazaar**.

Day 10: Sunday, January 25 (departure)

Today, we will visit some **HANDS microloan recipients** to explore how small investments in a local business can impact an aspiring entrepreneur, their family, and their community.

After lunch, we will **meet with the founders of a local fair trade shop** to learn about how they are empowering artisans across the country.

We will have time for packing and a farewell dinner before our group members catch their (usually late night or early morning) flights to the airport. Our travel agent will take everyone to the airport and assist with check-in.

Note: There is the possibility that some elements of the itinerary might be changed or the timing shuffled due to circumstances beyond our control.

Insight Trip to Egypt

with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



Pricing

This once-in-a-lifetime adventure costs only \$4,400 per person for a shared room or \$5,600 per person for a single room.

This price includes:

- seven nights at the five-star Cairo Marriott Hotel, on the grounds of a historic Egyptian palace, located on the island of Zamalek, a walkable community where there are cafes, shops, an English bookstore, and more to explore
- three nights on a Nile cruise
- three meals per day
- bottled water and non-alcoholic drinks throughout the trip
- an English-speaking guide
- accompaniment by a tour leader from our travel agency
- hosting by a HANDS staff member and by our tour co-host, Karen Getman, a former fair trade shop owner from Washington, DC, who has spent years providing support to artisan cooperatives and community projects in the Middle East
- entrance fees to sites on the itinerary
- ground and air transport within Egypt
- the cost of your visa to Egypt, which we will obtain at the airport
- daily tips for the driver, tour guide, and tour leader (\$15/day)
- pre-travel Zoom orientation sessions

This price excludes:

- international airfare (to/from the US)
- alcoholic drinks
- personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, etc.)
- personal travel insurance
- tips in restrooms or other settings where a trip leader isn't with you
- optional excursions

Bonus! \$500 of your payment is a tax-deductible donation to support HANDS' work in underserved communities in Egypt!

Rates for children:

- infants up to age six: free, share parents' room
- age six up to age 12: half the adult rate, share parents' room
- age 12 and over: full price

Insight Trip to Egypt

with Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS)



Next steps

To join this action-packed adventure, you can register here:

<https://handsclasses.wufoo.com/forms/january-2026-insight-trip-registration/>

Payment schedule:

- \$500 down-payment due November 14, 2025
- remainder of payment due December 12, 2025

Payments can be made online at: <https://hands.networkforgood.com/events/92291-january-2026-insight-trip-to-egypt> or by check, made out to "Hands Along the Nile" and mailed to us at:

Hands Along the Nile
700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20003