



ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY



VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY







# SET SAIL IN 2024

I am delighted to introduce our cruise programme for 2024. These tours offer a very civilised exploration of the ancient world combining our informative and enriching itineraries with the excellent comfort and attentive service of a small ship cruise. This formula has proved to be a great success and now in our fourth year of operation, our portfolio of programmes is growing. We now have 3 sailings this year which visit the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea and 9 river cruises along the Nile, Rhone, Seine, Elbe and Guadalquivir & Guadiana in Spain.

The lynchpin and the heart and soul of these cruises are our wonderful tour staff, totally devoted to you, not only on site, but on board on all cruises alongside the attentive ship's crew, to answer questions and offer company when needed. Whether this is your first tour with us or your 30th, we are sure you will enjoy these established and new cruise programmes.



### OUR AWARDS & ACCOLADES

The past year has been a tremendous one for us here at Andante. Not only did we win a Feefo 2023 Gold Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service, but we also won a silver for the Best Travel Company to Italy/Western Mediterranean Islands. Plus of course, our very own John Shepherd won the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023. Historically, we have also seen our tours included in National Geographic's 'Trips of a Lifetime' feature. Here's to continued success throughout the year!

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Images top to bottom: MY Galileo, Corsica, Lounge Bar aboard Omar El Khayam & Abydos

# Offers

**10% DISCOUNT – SAVE UP TO \$1,892\***  
Enjoy a 10% discount per person on all tours departing from 1st April until 30th December 2024. See our tour pages for the savings on each departure date.  
**Offer ends 9th February 2024.**

**AN ADDITIONAL 5% PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT**  
If you pay in full at the time you book, you can take advantage of a further 5% discount, making it a 15% saving which is potentially hundreds of pounds!  
**Offer ends 9th February 2024.**

**ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT & 50% DISCOUNT PLACES**  
Here at Andante Travels, we do not believe that solo travellers should be disadvantaged for travelling alone and we try to minimise single supplements wherever possible. We also have two cruises in 2024 with no single supplement to pay; Cruising the Seine p16 and The Wealth & Wonders of Hanseatic Cities p20, so look out for these on the tour pages!

ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:**  
We reserve the right to withdraw special offers at any time and they are not valid for any bookings on private group tours or travel agent bookings.  
**10% DISCOUNT:** The 10% discount offer is for new bookings on tours departing between 1st April and 31st December 2024 and cannot be combined with any other discounts except for the 5% Pay in Full offer and any applicable zero single supplement places. \*The discount of \$1,892 per person applies to our Egypt Encompassed tour departing on 29th November 2024.  
**5% PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT:** The Pay in Full discount is 5% off the full price you are due to pay for your tour, valid for new bookings and on a limited number of places on tours departing between 1st May and 31st December 2024.  
**ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** There are a limited numbers of zero single supplement places on each of the selected departures. These places are also subject to hotel availability.

## How to book

If you are already interested in joining one of our tours and want to know more, please do give our Specialist Travel Executives a call today. They are ready to help with all of your questions.

**Call today:**  
**800 759 7715**

**Or visit our website:**  
**andantetravels.com**

# Discover new depths to your favourite destinations

You gain a unique perspective when you explore a region from its waterways. Free from the obstacles imposed when travelling by land, you can sail in the wake of legendary heroes, glide along rivers once exploited by Viking raiders and traders, and admire the ingenuity of the engineers of the industrial age, making your way along canals which helped link river to ocean and continent to continent.

We can take you to places that bigger vessels simply cannot venture to as our small ships can sail right into port and stepping from river boat to shore is simplicity itself. This means more time not only to explore lovely port cities but to reach further inland and uncover hidden gems, as well as to soak up the sites and digest their stories.

Our excursions are always accompanied by an Andante expert Guide Lecturer exclusive to your party, and private on-shore transport is supplied whenever we require it. There are excursions included in virtually every port of call; the few exceptions are where we feel you would appreciate time to explore on your own or to enjoy the excellent amenities and relax on board.

## UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

What do you get when you cross small-ship cruising with the expertise of an award-winning special interest tour operator? A superlative holiday!

Decades of knowledge go into crafting your holiday experience. We know what it takes to provide you with glorious memories, spiced with a little adventure to accompany them. You will be treated as a guest travelling among a party of friends and we will take care of you from first point of contact to your final goodbyes as a member of our ever-growing family.

We could publish a book with all the beautiful, heartwarming and often moving letters of thanks we have received over the years, not only from those who have fulfilled a long-desired ambition, but from those who have simply just had a really great time, and we can't wait to welcome you.



Images top to bottom: MS Elbe Princesse ©CroisiEurope







# Benefits of small-ship cruising



On a small-ship cruise, you can stop at smaller ports and there will never be too many people getting off ahead of you. Fewer lines and less crowds are always a benefit. This is especially relevant to our archaeological and historical cruises because the locations of the sites themselves often tend to be in remote places that are more challenging to reach, and when you add major ports with large ships stopping at them to the equation, you have the problem of thousands of other passengers disembarking at the same time.

Another highlight of taking a cruise on board a small vessel is the individualised attention and excellent service, something you can look forward to on our trips. With a smaller number of passengers to get to know, it's easier to build rapport with members of staff, which inevitably enhances the overall experience of your cruise. From special requests to how you like your morning coffee, a more personalised service is at the heart of this type of cruise.

Enjoying this type of holiday also comes with the added bonus of beautiful scenery. Depending on the cabin you choose, the view can be admired from your window or while you relax on the top deck as you sail between stops, and there will be minimal unpacking – another relaxing element that makes cruising such a popular way to travel.

Imagine cruising along the Nile, stepping ashore to explore the legendary Valley of the Kings and the staggering Abu Simbel temple complex in Egypt, or discovering iconic sites associated with mythology in Greece. With Andante Travels, you can.



Images top to bottom: MS La Belle des Océans & MS Renoir ©CroisiEurope



# Onboard experience

**Every day is different on a small-ship cruise and you can be as busy or as relaxed as you choose to be. We have some full days of site visits, making the most of what there is to see, some more relaxed days with half-day excursions and some days spent sailing.**

As we've mentioned, there are many benefits to taking a cruise as opposed to a land-based tour. One of these has to be the pleasure of not having to pay every time you want a glass of wine (and not having to remember whose round it is). The vast majority of our cruises are fully-inclusive, with a wonderful variety of food on board, and some itineraries include welcome drinks receptions on the first day. More information about this can be found on each tour's specific page within our brochure.

Life on board will be very comfortable, with fantastic standards of cleanliness upheld and great attention to detail shown at every turn. Smaller ships also mean smaller passenger numbers, which in turn means there will always be somewhere to relax throughout your cruise - relaxation is at the heart of the experience! Cabins all have ensuite bathroom facilities in addition to TVs and other modern amenities, and our cruises typically have a selection of decks to choose from, meaning there is something on offer to suit every budget.

Our cruises are mostly led by renowned Andante Guide Lecturers, who are part of the group rather than simply a leader - someone with whom to converse and laugh with at meal times, as well as someone who is there to share their academic expertise.

The cruises on offer have a slower pace, allowing you to sit back and really take in your surroundings with everything taken care of, but they are still filled with fascinating visits, memorable experiences and all the elements that create lasting holiday memories.







# Our superb expert guides

**We see things differently! All of our guides have an incredible breadth of knowledge, a passion for their specialism and an admirable ability to convey information in an entertaining and engaging way. These are not just guest speakers who lecture on board, but experts who will accompany you offshore and shine a spotlight into the hidden corners and farthest reaches of the places you visit. With our guides you will always enjoy an intimate and privileged introduction to the destination you have chosen.**

## JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE LOVELY FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED ABOUT OUR GUIDES IN 2023:

*"The tour delivered on all levels for me. Time onboard was relaxing and time spent visiting the ancient sites was long enough to gain better insight into their construction and histories. We were looked after really well and enjoyed every minute."*

Egypt - Cruising the Nile - Cairo to Aswan - Guest, April 2023

*"Fantabulous! Luxurious riverboat with great staff and lovely food. Our engaging and informative guide Nick Jackson brought history alive building up the story of the Hanseatic League over the week until the story was made whole in Lübeck at the Europäisches Hansemuseum on the final day. I would have been happy to spend another week on the boat!"*

The Wealth & Wonders of the Hanseatic Cruise - Guest, July 2023

*"The ship was excellent; everything was well-organised; the Tour Manager was outstanding, and the Guide Lecturer Eireann was well-informed, entertaining and engaging. The sites we visited were extremely interesting and sometimes eye-opening."*

Cruising the extraordinary Island of Corsica - Guest, September 2023

*"Miranda was a superb tour manager and looked after us so very well. I couldn't have asked for anything more from her."*

Classical Highlights of Greece - Guest, November 2023



**DR DORU BOGDAN**

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Dr Doru Bogdan is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations. He also directed numerous archaeological excavations and research projects in Transylvania and the Lower Danube/Black Sea area of Dobrudja.

*Join Doru on the Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana p22*



**DR ELIZABETH BLOXAM**

Dr Elizabeth Bloxam has held university lecturing posts in Egyptology in the UK, Australia and China, and is an internationally recognised scholar in the research of ancient society and technology in Egypt. She has led multi-disciplinary excavations in some of the most important quarry and mining sites connected with monuments such as the Pyramids at Giza.

*Join Elizabeth on Egypt - Cruising the Nile - Cairo to Aswan p24*



**MIRANDA SPITHA**

Miranda studied archaeology in Italy and is from Crete, so is very knowledgeable about history and contemporary life in Greece. She is an official registered Greek Guide and has accompanied many of our Greek tours in the past as Local Guide as well as Tour Manager. Miranda speaks excellent English, German and Italian.

*Join Miranda on Classical Highlights of Greece p12*



**LUCIA GAHLIN**

A specialist in the archaeology of Ancient Egypt and has been leading archaeological tours to Egypt for over 25 years. Her most recent academic position was Honorary Research Fellow at University College London's Institute of Archaeology, where she works closely with the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

*Join Eireann on Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries p30*



**DR EIREANN MARSHALL**

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has published a number of articles on Ancient North Africa. Eireann has led many tours for Andante, including several to Ravenna, Venice, Pompeii, Sicily and Tunisia, and is bilingual in English and Italian.

*Join Eireann on Cruising the Extraordinary Island of Corsica p14*



**JOHN SHEPHERD**

A specialist in the study of ancient glass, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Much of John's career has been focused upon Roman provincial archaeology, working at the museum of London for over 20 years. John leads tours exclusively for Andante Travels.

*Join John on Cruising the Seine p16 and Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhône p18*



**NICK JACKSON**

Graduating in archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London, Nick later took up a research post at the University of Cambridge. He is an archaeologist and historian with over 20 years of excavation and guiding experience for Andante in the eastern Mediterranean.

*Join Nick on The Wealth and Wonders of the Hanseatic Cities p20*



**ROBERT MERKOT FSA**

Robert has worked for several UK Universities. A specialist in ancient North-East Africa, he has published academic papers, books, and more popular works on Libya, Egypt, and Sudan. He has considerable experience as a lecturer and guide on tours to those countries for forty years.

*Join Robert on Cruising Upper Egypt p26*



# From river to sea

## THE RHÔNE

Flowing from the heights of the Swiss Alps, the scenic and often wild course of the Rhône is shaped by the influences of the mountains, right down to the river mouth, where sediments marking the Rhône's birth in an Alpine glacier are carried into the warmer waters of the Mediterranean.

This beautiful region of France has long been a draw for artists and art lovers and its exceptional vineyards are a mecca for wine enthusiasts the world over. The river's delta which begins near Arles, encloses the Camargue, a habitat rich in wildlife from flamingos to wild ponies and as the Rhone linked the great Roman settlements – Arles, Orange, Nîmes and Lugdunum (modern day Lyon) - here is plenty of wonderful Roman sites to discover.

## THE GUADALQUIVIR

Rising in the mountains of Jaén province, the Guadalquivir follows a western course through Andalucía, before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean on the Gulf of Cadiz. Acting as a conduit of trade and culture for millennia, it is from here that ships first set sail to the New World eventually spreading untold wealth to Seville, Cadiz and the rest of the world.

For Arab poets, Andalucía was “the land on the brink of paradise”. It is famous for its beautiful Moorish inspired architecture, but it was also enriched by the gold that came from the Americas evident in the UNESCO listed sites clustered in the cities of Seville and Granada.

## THE GUADIANA

Running the length of Portugal's south-eastern border with neighbouring Spain, the Guadiana flows west, meandering through some of the most picturesque landscapes in the Iberian Peninsula before spilling into the Gulf of Cadiz. Its fertile banks are dotted with sleepy villages and river beaches with the backdrop of green hills and cork oak forests, like the charming hillside town of Alcoutim, a hidden gem of inland Algarve.

## THE ELBE

Rising in Czech Republic's Krkonose mountains, flowing through eastern Germany and emptying into the North Sea, the Elbe is one of Europe's most important waterways. It was fundamental to the development of the Hanseatic trade in the 14th century, linking a number of important cities.

Travelling from Berlin, the river will take you from the city where the past and present intermingle in striking contrast, to the maritime capital of the north, Hamburg, full of cosmopolitan charm and cultural riches. Along the way, the Elbe runs through tranquil floodplains, pastoral landscapes and historic half-timbered medieval towns.

## THE SEINE

The Seine emerges in the hills of the Cote d'Or at a remote spot in Burgundy, about 20 miles north of Dijon. Remains of a Gallo-Roman sanctuary have been found at its source, dedicated to the Celtic goddess Sequana, after whom the river is likely to have been named. Curving through Paris, the river flows lazily northwest in sweeping loops across Normandy to the coast where it empties into the English Channel. This route, navigable by sea vessels, then barges, into the heart of the country has played an important role in the history of France from Viking invasion to the battles of the Middle Ages and World War II.

## THE NILE

Also known as the Father of African rivers, the Nile rises in the waters that flow into Lake Victoria and empties into the Mediterranean Sea more than 4,000 miles to the north. It reaches its widest point in Egypt, and it is here that the stage was set for the evolution and decay of advanced civilizations in the ancient world. Here the great cities of the pharaohs were built, the gigantic stones used to build them transported by river barge. For thousands of years the river has served as a means of transportation and continues to do so to the present day.

## THE AEGEAN SEA

The Aegean Sea is an arm of the Mediterranean between Greece and Turkey and the birthplace of two fascinating ancient civilisations: the Minoans of Crete and the Mycenaeans of the Peloponnese. It features prominently in many of the most famous Greek Myths (Icarus and Daedalus, Theseus, Jason and the Argonauts) and cruising here is to follow literally in the wake of many legendary heroes.

## THE TYRRHENIAN SEA

Located off Italy's western coast, the Tyrrhenian sits between the Italian Peninsula and the islands of Sardinia and Corsica. Throughout history, many battles have been fought for controlling this strategic body of water and it was the backbone of international trade in the medieval period, fraught with dangers as pirates continuously tried to gain complete control of its waters. It contains the beautiful Tuscan Archipelago, a chain of islands formed from the necklace of Venus according to Greek mythology, wraps around the craggy island of Corsica, laps the shore of the stunning Amalfi coastline and circles Sicily at the gateway to Africa.

## ADRIATIC SEA

Celebrated for its warm temperatures and calm waters, the Adriatic Sea is the Mediterranean's northernmost arm separating Italy and the Balkan Peninsula. In antiquity, Adriatic shores were settled by Greek colonists and, as Rome expanded, it became a Roman 'lake' within a wider Mediterranean lake.







# New cruises for 2024

## CRUISING THE SEINE

This new seven-day cruise travels from Paris to Rouen aboard the MS Renoir, offering many highlights that range from visits to an array of hidden gems in the magnificent capital city, to a chance to wander the halls of the mighty Palace of Versailles. We will spend time in the pretty Normandy port of Honfleur, we will explore the remains of Lillebonne's 3,000-seat amphitheatre and we will delve into the collections housed with the Musée des Antiquités in historic Rouen.

## CRUISING UPPER EGYPT

A fascinating journey through Upper Egypt and the land of Nubia, this new 14-day tour includes 3 nights to explore iconic sites and monuments in Cairo, a visit to the world-renowned Nubian site at Abu Simbel in addition to nights onboard two cruise ships to travel from Lake Nassar to Luxor. Sailing across the serene waters of Egypt's vast reservoir gives a very different perspective to our cruise further along the Nile.







# Classical Highlights of Greece

*A two-night Athens stay and a seven-night cruise*

10 DAYS

From \$6,557pp

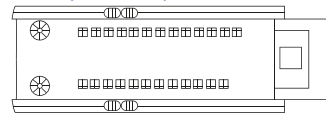
Departing March

A wonderfully laid-back introduction to the ancient highlights of Greece's mainland, this tour combines a two-night stay in the shadow of the Acropolis with an enchanting cruise, circumnavigating the Peloponnese and closing the loop with a transit of the Corinth Canal. Included excursions range from tours of Epidaurus and Delphi to visits to fascinating museums filled with incredible artefacts.

## Tour Highlights

- Visit the ancient site of Epidaurus, renowned throughout the Greek world as a healing sanctuary
- Explore the Palace of Nestor, the best-preserved complex of its kind from the late Bronze Age
- Discover Olympia and visit the ancient stadium as well as the temples of Zeus and Hera, and the excellent museum dedicated to the Olympic Games
- Enjoy a walking tour of Nafplion, wander around the remains of the Bronze Age city of Mycenae and take in the natural splendour of the Dirou Caves

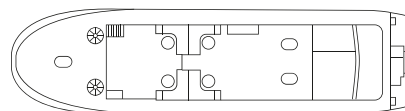
### 360° (Sun Deck)



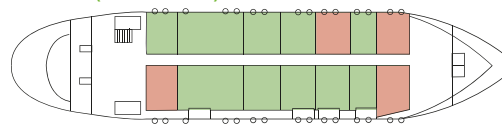
### Infinity (Upper Deck)



### Riviera (Main Deck)



### Oceans (Lower Deck)

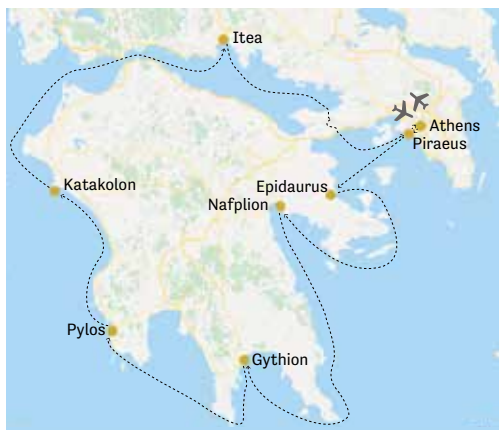


## MY Galileo

This mega yacht is of a classic wooden design, 157ft in length, and with the right winds her sails can be spread - an authentic way to cruise the Greek coastline. Facilities include a spacious indoor lounge/bar, a small library and dining area, and the Upper Deck has shaded areas as well as an outdoor bar. Wi-Fi is available in cabins and public areas (payable locally). The 24 ocean view cabins on board are split between the Upper Deck (with large porthole windows) and Lower Deck (with small portholes) and amenities include an ensuite bathroom with shower, air-conditioning, flat-screen TV, mini fridge, internal telephone, safe and hairdryer.







## Day Two | Athens

A walking tour takes in the ancient wonders on our doorstep as a local expert introduces both the collection of temples, most famously the **Parthenon**, that comprise the **Acropolis** and the antiquities on display in the **Acropolis Museum**.

## Day Three | Athens - Piraeus

This morning we head out on foot to the **Agora**, once the city's market centre, seat of government, mint, trial courts and the site of the best preserved temple of Hephaistos, as well as the beautifully reconstructed Stoa Attalos, which is now the **Agora Museum**. After a light lunch, we proceed to the port of Piraeus to join our boat. There is time to settle in before dinner and we sail onwards for Epidauros.

## Day Four | Epidauros

Today is our included **Epidauros** excursion. Early this morning, we drive to this ancient site, renowned throughout the Greek world as a healing sanctuary. Its

4th century BCE theatre is breathtaking and acoustically so perfect that even today, 13,000 spectators can view performances without amplification. After lunch on board, we sail onwards to Nafplion.

## Day Five | Nafplion (Mycenae) - Monemvasia

An optional Mycenae excursion awaits today. After a walking tour of **Nafplion**, we visit the remains of the Bronze Age city of Mycenae, by legend the city of Agamemnon. Lunch on board follows and then we sail to Gythion via Monemvasia, with the chance to admire this Byzantine fortress town.

## Day Six | Gythion (Mani)

There is an included Mani excursion today. **Mani** is Greece at its wildest and most beguiling. Few land tours can access this peninsula, immortalised by Patrick Leigh Fermor (and where the writer set up home), but small ships can. Our excursion takes in the natural splendour of **Cape Tenaro** and the **Dirou Caves**, along with the charming town of **Areopolis**. After lunch on board, we sail onwards to Pylos this evening.

## Day Seven | Pylos

Today there is an optional Pylos excursion. **Pylos** is home to some fascinating ruins, including the **Palace of Nestor**. The archaeological museum in Chora is particularly strong on Mycenaean history. After lunch on board, we sail overnight to Katakolon.

## Day Eight | Katakolon

An optional excursion awaits today and we drive to **Olympia**, the legendary site of the original pan-Hellenic Olympic Games. Visit the ancient stadium, the temples of Zeus and Hera, and the museum dedicated to the Olympic Games of antiquity. Guests on this excursion will rejoin the boat at Patras and then we sail on to Itea.

## Day Nine | Itea (Delphi)

Today's included excursion takes us to **Delphi**, one of the most sacred sites of the ancient world. There is time to explore the complex of ruins and the museum. After lunch, our boat negotiates the **Corinth Canal** as it sails back to Piraeus.

## Day Ten | Piraeus - Athens

After breakfast, we disembark and transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Guided by Expert Local Guide Miranda Spitha in Athens

Having studied archaeology in Italy, Miranda is an officially registered Greek guide from Crete and one of our long-standing Tour Managers.

## Guided by Onboard Guest Lecturer Eugenia Alexiou

Born in Athens, Eugenia has a Masters in Byzantine art and an interest in ancient Aegean civilisations.

## Price includes

- Expert Local Guide in Athens who also accompanies you onboard the cruise as your Tour Manager
- On board Guest Lecturer and the services of a Cruise Director shared with other passengers, both provided by Variety Cruises
- 3 excursions: Epidauros, Gythion (Mani & Dirou Caves) & Delphi
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

## Included travel

- All local transport

## Accommodation

- 2 nights at a hotel in Athens & 7 nights aboard the MY Galileo

## Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine, tea or coffee with dinner
- MY Galileo: house wine, local beer and soft drinks are included when lunch and dinner are being served on board. Water, filter coffee and tea are available throughout the day.
- Wine & Fruit in your cabin on arrival

## Dates & prices per person

27th Mar - 5th Apr Twin/Dbl Share SS

Lower Deck - C Cabin size 9.5-10m <sup>2</sup>	<del>\$7,285</del>	\$6,557	<del>\$1,205</del>	\$1,085
Lower Deck - B Cabin size 11-14 m <sup>2</sup>	<del>\$7,620</del>	\$6,858	<del>\$1,535</del>	\$1,382
Upper Deck - A Cabin size 12-13 m <sup>2</sup>	<del>\$8,040</del>	\$7,236	<del>\$1,925</del>	\$1,733

## Optional Excursions

- Nafplion/Mycenae \$126pp
- Pylos \$140pp
- Olympia (with lunch) \$210pp

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.co.uk/aogc](http://andantetravels.co.uk/aogc)



The Acropolis ©Anna Szabó





# Cruising the Extraordinary Island of Corsica

*From the Neolithic Period to the Romans*

9 DAYS

From \$7,475pp

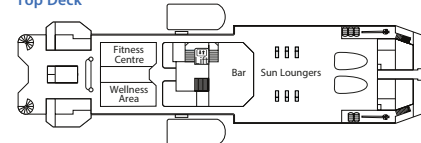
Departing June & September

Although it is principally famed for being the birthplace of Napoleon, Corsica has a rich and ancient history which testifies to the important commercial role the island played in antiquity. As is evident from its plentiful archaeological sites, Corsica has been continuously occupied since 6500 BC and has been an important trading site since the Bronze Age.

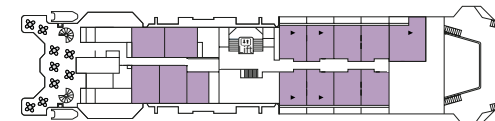
## Tour Highlights

- Visit Nice and its important archaeological remains dating from the Palaeolithic to the Roman
- Visit Filitosa with its spectacular Bronze Age torri and wonderful anthropomorphic menhirs, all set in an ancient olive grove
- Explore the off-the-beaten track Bronze Age site of Cucuruzzu, a fortress enclosed by cyclopean walls affording stunning views
- Examine Aleria, the capital of the province in the Roman period, colonised by Greeks and Etruscans

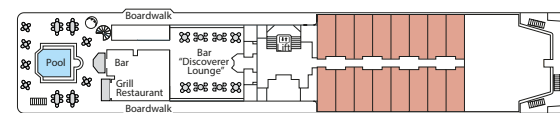
Top Deck



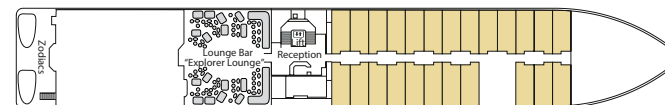
Panorama Suites



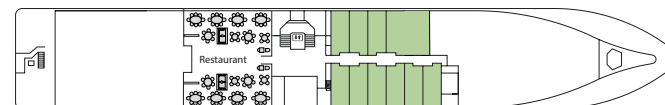
Horizon Deck 5



Horizon Deck 4



Horizon Deck 3



## MV La Belle des Océans

This prestigious premium ship has seven decks and is comparable to a very good 4\* hotel. There are two restaurants, one of which serves contemporary, international cuisine and the other a grill restaurant. During cocktail hours and after dinner, musicians will perform for your entertainment in the Explorer Lounge & Bar, and the Discoverer Lounge offers unlimited tea and coffee aboard your ship in a comfortable seating area with plenty of natural light. The top deck of the ship has chairs, sun loungers, a bar, small fitness centre and beauty salon. Horizon cabins are 17m<sup>2</sup> in size and Panorama suites 25m<sup>2</sup> and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 110V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, a hairdryer, a selection of bath products and towels.





### Day One | Nice

Travel to the famously stunning city of **Nice**. Founded in 350 BC by Greek Phocaeans from Massilia, Nice quickly became one of the most important ports on the Ligurian sea. In the late afternoon, time permitting, we have an orientation walk around the city which has been a favourite destination for travellers including Queen Victoria, as well as artists such as Matisse.

### Day Two | Nice

We spend the day in the resplendent city of Nice, exploring its ancient roots. We start with a visit to the ancient Roman site of **Cemenelum** founded by Augustus in order to protect the Via Julia. Here, in modern Cimiez, we visit the **archaeological museum** before examining the remains of the **Roman baths and amphitheatre**. We end the morning with a visit to the cathedral in Cimiez and the neighbouring cemetery where the artists Matisse and Dufy are buried. After lunch, we go to the **Terra Amata Archaeological Site**, one of the most important Lower Palaeolithic sites in Europe, dating perhaps to 380,000 BC. In the late afternoon, we drive to the port of Nice where we board our ship, the MS Belle des Océans.

### Day Three | Ajaccio

We spend the morning cruising across the Ligurian sea to Corsica, taking in the crystal-clear waters, while having an informal lecture on the long and varied history of the island. In the afternoon, we dock in Ajaccio, the Phocaean Greek city named after Ajax the Lesser and later renamed *Adiacium* in the Roman era, but which is today most famous for being the birthplace of

Napoleon Bonaparte, whose family arrived in the city from Genoa in the 16th century.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** In the afternoon, we make our way to the **Fesch Museum**, begun in 1827 by Cardinal Joseph Fesch, Napoleon's maternal uncle, who had ambitions of establishing an Institute of Arts and Sciences in his home city. He donated a stunning collection of paintings to the museum, including works from the Italian Renaissance, notably paintings by Botticelli, Perugino, Bellini, and Titian. The palace also incorporates the tomb of Napoleon's mother Letizia Ramolino.

### Day Four | Ajaccio

We awake in Ajaccio where the ship is docked. In the afternoon, we have some free time in Ajaccio before we make our way to Bonifacio overnight.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** This morning we drive to the most extraordinary of Corsica's archaeological sites, **Filitosa**, which is dramatically set in an ancient olive grove. Filitosa was settled in the Neolithic period, though is famed for its spectacular Bronze Age menhirs which have human features and weapons carved on them. These apotropaic menhirs were reused by later Bronze Age peoples today referred to as Torreans who built well preserved torri, or fortresses, reminiscent of Sardinian nuraghi underlining how affluent the island was in the period.

### Day Five | Bonifacio

Today we find ourselves in the lovely city of Bonifacio, located on the southern tip of Corsica, separated just a strait away from Sardinia. The city is dominated by its citadel whose 9th century foundations have been covered over by years of history. In the afternoon we will have a chance to enjoy its charms, visiting the citadel before we set sail in the evening for Porto Vecchio.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** We travel this morning to the stunning archaeological site of **Cucuruzzo**, an off-the-beaten track site which encompasses a Bronze Age fortified village dating to the 12th century BC, whose principal monument is its *casteddu*, or fortification, for which southern Corsica is famed. A short distance away, we visit **Capula**, which was inhabited until the medieval period, and which wonderfully preserves a Bronze Age fortress, giving us a precious glimpse of Corsica before the period of Genoese domination.

### Day Six | Porto Vecchio

Having sailed through the night, today the ship is docked in Porto Vecchio, founded in the 16th century by the Genoese as a defensive port. Today it is a fashionable destination for its charming, historical old city centre. In the afternoon, we sail to Bastia.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** After breakfast, we drive to the little-known archaeological site of **Ceccia**, located a short distance from Porto Vecchio. Placed on a rocky spur, the site was inhabited in the Neolithic period before reaching its apogee in the Bronze Age when a *torre* was built, along with a circular hall. We then travel to the nearby archaeological site of **Tappa**, inhabited from the 4th millennium BC and abandoned in the mid-2nd millennium, in the middle Bronze Age. This site is again dominated by a circular torre, with an adjacent rectangular corridor.

### Day Seven | Bastia

This morning we find ourselves docked in Bastia, a city which contained the Roman city of *Cardo*, and which was developed in the Genoese period. Today it is Corsica's principal port, known for its wine. In the afternoon we travel to the Terra Nova citadel, with an optional visit to the **Museum of Bastia**, set in the old palace of the Genoese governor and which includes artefacts from antiquity. Tonight, we sail to L'Île Rousse.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** After breakfast on board our ship, we drive along the Eastern Coast of Corsica, which was colonised, in turn, by Phocaean Greeks, Etruscans and Romans, and visit the Roman site of **Aleria**, called *Alalia* by the Phocaeans. Near the site, we visit the **Jérôme Carcopino Museum** which testifies to the site's rich history, with artefacts from the Iron Age, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman periods.

### Day Eight | L'Île Rousse

On our last morning in Corsica, we land at **L'Île Rousse**, dubbed *Rubico Rocega* in the Roman period and which later developed as a fortress in the 18th century by the Corsican patriot Pasquale Paoli who fought against Genoese domination. We drive a short distance to **Calvi**, a city established in the Genoese period and famous for being the site of notable sieges, including Nelson's capture of the city in which he lost his eye. Our visit centres around the evocative 13th century fortress with its historic, cobbled streets, dominated by the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. In the afternoon, we sail to Nice.

### Day Nine | Nice

Time permitting, we will continue our exploration of Nice before making our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*

### Activity Level ●●●○○



### Guided by Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours.

### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to Calvi and its citadel with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

### Included travel

- All local transport

### Accommodation

- 1 night at the Splendid Hotel & Spa, Nice or similar & 7 nights aboard the MV Belle des Océans

### Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MV Belle des Océans: welcome cocktail and all onboard drinks\*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

*\*Premium branded drinks at own cost*

### Dates & prices per person

#### 6th - 14th Jun & 5th - 13th Sep

	Twin/Dbl Share		SS	
Horizon Deck 3	<del>\$8,305</del>	\$7,475	<del>\$1,965</del>	\$1,769
Horizon Deck 4	<del>\$8,810</del>	\$7,929	<del>\$2,170</del>	\$1,953
Horizon Deck 5	<del>\$9,465</del>	\$8,519	<del>\$2,445</del>	\$2,201
Panorama Suites	<del>\$10,295</del>	\$9,266	<del>\$5,355</del>	\$4,820

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.co.uk/aicc](https://andantetravels.co.uk/aicc)



NEW FOR 2024



# Cruising the Seine

## Paris, Honfleur & the Seine Valley

ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

7 DAYS

From \$5,166pp

Departing May

The silvery Seine has been the subject of many famous painters who sought to replicate its constantly changing and flickering light and what better way to get acquainted with its sinuous beauty than with a cruise from Paris to Rouen. This stretch of the Seine meanders through gentle green countryside and chalk valleys passing a delightful mix of market towns, working farms, ancient orchards, pretty villages and sites rich in cultural heritage. Our programme includes visits to hidden gems in France's alluring capital, an excursion to the magnificent Palace of Versailles; an induction to the historical heart of Honfleur and Roman discoveries in Rouen and Lillebonne.

### Tour Highlights

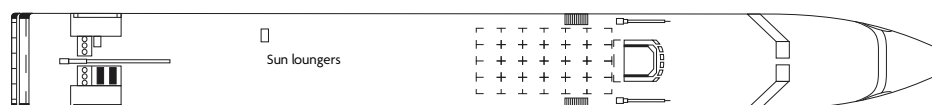
- Discover the magnificence of Versailles, embellished over centuries by generations of renowned architects, sculptors and landscape designers
- Explore the Roman theatre at Lillebonne and the part ancient Juliabona played in the Gallic Wars
- Admire the architectural masterpiece of Sainte Chapelle one of the greatest examples of Gothic art
- Enjoy the ultimate hidden attraction – the subterranean Catacombes de Paris



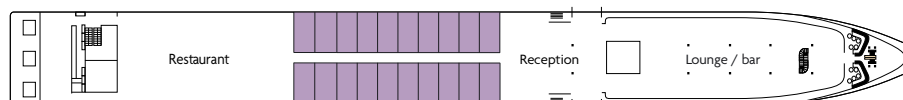
### MS Renoir

The MS Renoir is a premium rated ship, comparable to a 4\* hotel. Its design adopts the "French chic" spirit, inspired by the friendship between Coco Chanel and Auguste Renoir. The Upper Deck has two main areas; the lounge and bar towards the bow of the ship, and the restaurant towards the stern. Cabins are 16.5 m<sup>2</sup> in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.

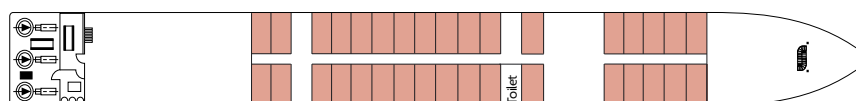
### Sun Deck



### Upper Deck



### Main Deck



Images top to bottom: MS Renoir in Paris ©CroisiEurope





### Day One | Paris - Poissy

Meet the group onboard our boat moored on the Seine in Paris. This evening we will enjoy a cocktail before dinner on board; the ship will set sail through Paris tonight en route to Poissy.

### Day Two | Poissy - Versailles - Honfleur

Arriving in the morning at Poissy, we disembark and join other Croisi passengers as we make our way to **Versailles**. Originally a hunting lodge and rural retreat, Versailles was transformed into the magnificent Baroque Palace we see today by Louis XIV when he made it his seat of power, moving his court and government there in 1682. One of the most celebrated architectural achievements in the world, its creation stimulated a mini renaissance of interior design during the 17th and 18th centuries and was accredited with UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. After a morning of artistic opulence, we return to our boat and settle in to relax on board as we sail onward to Honfleur.

### Day Three | Honfleur - Rouen

Our first visit today is **Honfleur**, the prettiest of the Normandy ports, with its tall, slate fronted houses shouldering each other on the yacht filled harbour. For centuries Honfleur was a prosperous trade and fishing port, a strategic asset in the Hundred Years War and in the 17th century, the port from which French navigators set out to explore the New World and ultimately establish Quebec. Much of its historic heritage is intact and we will take a guided walking tour through the town to explore its medieval and industrial past.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** In the afternoon we take a trip out to **Lillebonne**. Occupied by the Romans during the Gallic Wars, the town was called Juliobona in Caesar's honour and evidence suggests it was a large and prosperous town. The large number of potsherds

and amphorae excavated here suggests the city conducted vigorous trading with imported wines, oil, and olives coming from the Mediterranean regions. The city boasted a large theatre designed to seat at least 3000 people and we shall explore its remains as well as the small **archaeological museum**.

### Day Four | Rouen - Paris

Having sailed overnight we arrive in the city of **Rouen**, capital of the northern French region of Normandy.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** This morning we explore Rouen, once an important river port and centre for textiles. The city is steeped in history and today we see a vibrant and compelling mix of modern architecture, crooked medieval half-timbered houses, Gothic churches, celebrated restaurants, antique shops, food markets and patisserie selling multicoloured macarons. Our main focus of the morning is the **Musée des Antiquités**. Installed around the cloister of the former monastery of the Visitation Sainte-Marie, the museum's collections include exceptional pieces, from antiquity to the Renaissance including the Roman mosaic of the hunt from Lillebonne. This afternoon we set sail once again and settle in to enjoy the scenes unfolding and relax on our return journey to Paris.



### Day Five | Sainte Chapelle & Musée de Louvre

This morning our cruise ends, and we disembark for further adventures in Paris. First, we visit the Ile de la Cite. This area of Paris is home to more than its fair share of famous sights, but our goal is the infamous Palais de Justice and hidden within it, **Sainte Chapelle**. This architectural masterpiece was built to accommodate holy relics acquired by Louis IX in 1239 and it ranks as one of the greatest examples of Gothic art in France alongside the cathedrals of Notre Dame Cathedral and Chartres. We continue to the **Conciergerie**, formerly part of the palace complex but repurposed during the Revolution as tribunal and prison. We end the day at the **Musée de Louvre** where we will view the Etruscan, Greek and Roman galleries, one of one of the richest collections in the world.

### Day Six | Arènes de Lutèce & Catacombes de Paris

This morning we explore the city's Romano Gallic origins with a visit to the **Arènes de Lutèce**, site of the Roman amphitheatre. Built in the 2nd century AD it was designed to seat up to 15,000 people. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée de Cluny** where we visit the Roman baths that lurk beneath the museum. We end the day with a visit to the **Catacombes de Paris**. After several years of modernization and accessibility work, the museum reopened in May 2022 with a brand new museography.

### Day Seven | Paris

We leave Paris behind, and make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.*

#### Activity Level ●●●○○



#### Guided by John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.

#### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to Versailles and a guided walking tour of Honfleur with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

#### Included travel

- All local transport

#### Accommodation

- 4 nights aboard the MS Renoir & 2 nights at a hotel in Paris

#### Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Renoir: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks\*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

*\*Premium branded drinks at own cost*

#### Dates & prices per person

1st - 7th May Twin/DbI Share \$5

Upper Deck Outside Cabin

with French Balcony, sliding panoramic windows

\$5,740 \$5,166 \$1,010 \$0

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.co.uk/apac](https://andantetravels.co.uk/apac)





# Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhône

*Greeks, Romans and Celts*

9 DAYS

From \$6,768pp

Departing October

The Rhône was the major conduit of culture in France in Antiquity, transmitting Hellenic culture from Marseille, founded by Greeks in 600 BC, to the cities along the historic river. This cruise examines the role the river played in the ancient world as a channel of trade and culture, and showcases France's most important archaeological and historical sites.

## Tour Highlights

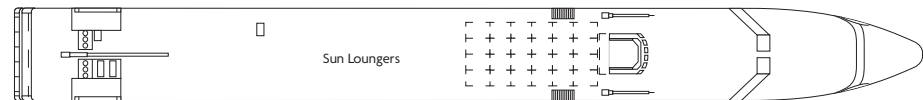
- Explore the exceptional amphitheatre and archaeological museum at Arles
- Visit the Palais des Papes in Avignon, home to the Popes in the 14th century
- View the iconic Pont du Gard, one of the world's most famous aqueducts
- Examine the important site of Glanum with its famous Triumphal Arch and mausoleum
- Enjoy exclusive Andante excursions during the cruise

## MS Van Gogh

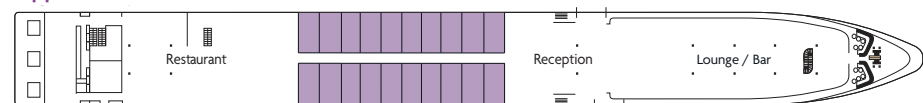
Having been renovated in 2018, the MS Van Gogh has been redesigned to offer bright and beautiful spaces. The two main common areas are located on the upper deck, with the lounge/bar at the front and the restaurant at the back. The ship has 20 cabins on the upper deck which offer French balconies and 34 cabins on the main deck with windows. You can also rest and admire the landscapes on the sun deck. Cabins are 16.5 m<sup>2</sup> in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



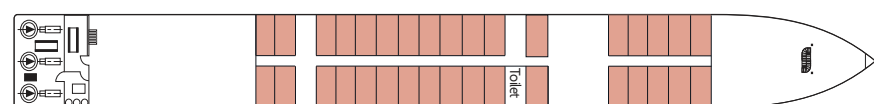
### Sun Deck



### Upper Deck

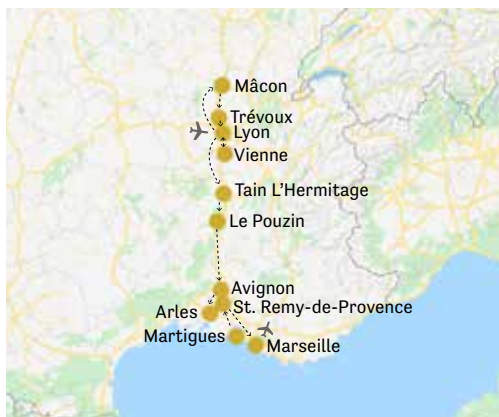


### Main Deck



Images top to bottom: Martigues





### Day One | Lyon

Meet the group at our hotel in Lyon. Time permitting, we'll visit the wonderful Gallo-Roman Museum of **Lyon-Fourviere**, as well as the adjacent Roman theatre built in the 1st century BC.

### Day Two | Vienne

This morning we travel to Vienne, the erstwhile capital of the Allobroges made into a colonia by Julius Caesar. We explore its Roman remains, including the well-preserved **Temple of Augustus and Livia**, built in the 1st century AD, and the nearby **Jardin Archaeologique de Cybele**, which bears precious remnants of the ancient city and the **Roman Museum**. Later, we venture to the site of **Saint Romain en Gal** with its excellent museum. Here you will find artefacts and mosaics from one of the largest Gallo - Roman settlements in the Rhone Valley. We return to Lyon to join our ship and sail to Macon in the evening.

### Day Three | Mâcon - Trévoux

This morning, we wake in Mâcon, a city famous for its beautiful positioning on the Saône and which produces some of the world's finest wines. From here, we set off for our archaeological explorations. We return to the ship in Trévoux and enjoy another evening of dining and cruising.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** Today we visit the **Roche de Solutré**, a prehistoric site that was the centre of Solutrean palaeolithic culture. Here, we will also visit the **Prehistoric Museum** world before continuing to the world-famous abbey at Cluny, a Benedictine monastery that was destroyed during the French Revolution, but whose remains testify to its power and wealth.

Images top to bottom: Lyon

### Day Four | Lyon - Tain L'Hermitage

We wake up in Lyon and spend the morning there before our afternoon sailing to Tain L'Hermitage, famous for its wines as well as for Valrhona, one of the world's most important chocolatiers.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** This morning we embark on a walking tour of Lyon. Here we explore the Jardin Archaeologique, which preserves remains of the ancient Church of Sainte Croix, built on top of ancient remains, as well as the Church Saint Etienne, dating to the 4th century AD.

### Day Five | Tain L'Hermitage - Le Pouzin - Avignon

We awake at the stunning little town of **Tain L'Hermitage**, famed for its wines, whose vineyards can be seen on the hills facing the river. After a little time at leisure here, we return to the ship and then sail south to the medieval city of Avignon. During this day of sailing, we can relax on board, and our Guide Lecturer will arrange a lecture for us as to what we can expect over the remaining days of the cruise.

### Day Six | Avignon - Arles

This morning we wake up in Avignon, the historic city which became home to the Popes in the 14th century and which continued to be held by them until the French revolution, ensuring that it was adorned by a series of artists working to make the city fit for the papacy. In the afternoon, we sail to Arles, ancient Arelate, which became a very important city in Gallia Narbonensis. In the evening we sail to Martigues.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** We spend the morning exploring the **Palais des Papes**, the largest Gothic



palace in Europe and decorated by important artists such as Simone Martini and Matteo Giovanetti. From there we drive to Arles to see the incredible **amphitheatre** and we also explore the important collection of artefacts at the **Museum of Ancient Arles**.

### Day Seven | Arles - Martigues

We wake in Arles and disembark. We spend the morning exploring the stunning natural habitat of the **Camargue**, the largest wetland in Western Europe and famed for its wide variety of wetland birds and white horses. We rejoin the MS Camargue in Port St. Louis and enjoy a gala dinner this evening as the ship sails on to Martigues.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** After lunch on board, we head out to explore the ancient remains of Marseille, the city which has remained important since its Greek foundation in the 7th century BC. Here we explore the **Marseille History Museum** as well as the remains of the Greek walls and Roman docks in the **Jardin des Vestiges**.

### Day Eight | Martigues - Glanum

This morning we disembark and set off for the stunning **Pont du Gard**, perhaps one of the most striking and well-preserved Roman ruins in France. Built in the 1st century AD, it carried water from Uzès to ancient Nemausus, a masterwork of Roman engineering, which remained largely intact because of its use as a customs bridge. In the afternoon, we visit the well-preserved site of **Glanum**, which was never as wealthy as Arelate or Nemausus but which, nonetheless, was able to produce showy remains as the Mausoleum of the Julii and the Triumphal Arch built during the reign of Augustus.

### Day Nine | St. Remy-de-Provence - Marseille

Time permitting, we have a walk around the charming town of St. Remy-de-Provence before travelling to Marseille to make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*

### Activity Level ●●●○○



### Guided by John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.

### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to the Camargue wetland with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

### Included travel

- All local transport

### Accommodation

- 1 night at the Fourviere Hotel or similar, 6 nights aboard the MS Camargue & 1 night at a hotel in St. Remy

### Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Camargue: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks\*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

*\*Premium branded drinks at own cost*

### Dates & prices per person

	9th - 17th Oct	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a high window	<del>\$7,520</del>	\$6,768	<del>\$1,155</del> \$1,040
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with French balcony and sliding windows	<del>\$7,690</del>	\$6,921	<del>\$1,155</del> \$1,040

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.co.uk/arnc](http://andantetravels.co.uk/arnc)





# The Wealth & Wonders of the Hanseatic Cities

*Explore this fascinating period in history*

ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

8 DAYS

From \$5,432pp

Departing July

This cruise down the Elbe takes you to the heart of the Hanseatic League, that confederation of Northern cities which dominated maritime trade in the North and Baltic seas in the medieval period. From the 12th to the 15th centuries, the League became very powerful and prosperous. Invigorated by this wealth, the Hanseatic cities aggrandised their urban centres in order to display their status, and this tour explores this fascinating period.

## Tour Highlights

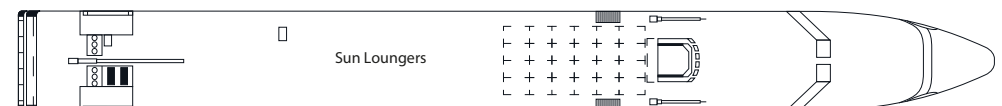
- Enjoy three days exploring the delights of Berlin, from its medieval roots to its modern brilliance
- Explore the charms of Lüneburg with its preserved medieval industrial centre and cobblestone squares
- Visit Luebeck, the Queen of the Hanseatic city, with its well-preserved medieval city centre, including priceless brick Gothic buildings, such as St. Mary's Church

## MS Elbe Princesse

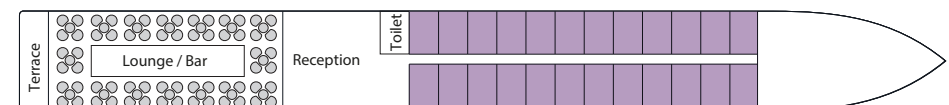
This premium rated ship, with a Nordic and contemporary style interior, is comparable to a 4\* hotel and has two decks. The restaurant, surrounded by large panoramic windows, is located on the Main Deck where all meals will be served throughout the cruise. Entertainment takes place at the lounge bar, located on the stern of the Upper Deck. The Sun Deck with chairs and sun loungers provides great views of the coastline. Cabins are 14.5m<sup>2</sup> in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



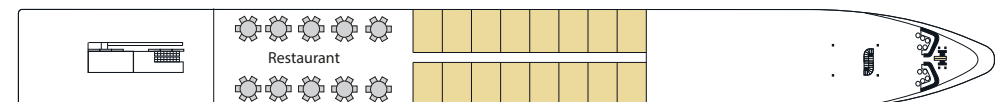
## Sun Deck



## Upper Deck



## Main Deck



Images: Berlin, Restaurant, Upper Deck Outside Cabin ©O. Asmussen & MS Elbe Princesse ©Helwin Goetzinger





### Day One | Berlin

Meet the group at our hotel in Berlin. Time permitting we enjoy an orientation walk in the city.

### Day Two | Berlin

This morning we wake in Berlin, ready to examine its Hanseatic history. Founded in 1170, it has been ambitious from the start, quickly becoming one of the most industrious Hanseatic traders that helped the city to become what it is today. We start at the **Church of St. Nikolai**, the first church built in Berlin, located in the evocative **Nicholas Quarter**, which houses a series of restored medieval buildings. We continue to the 13th century **Franciscan Monastery**, whose ruins make its brick gothic architecture even more evocative. This evening we join our ship and prepare to embark on our cruise.



Image: Magdeburg, Germany

### Day Three | Berlin - Nedlitz

Having established itself as a vibrant 'new town', Berlin continued to grow in influence from the 15th century onwards. Under the rule of the Hohenzollern, it grew to European and then world city.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** We set the scene by exploring Berlin's highlight sites from the outside, starting at the site of the newly rebuilt town palace, once the royal palace of the Hohenzollern from the 15th to 20th centuries, to the Brandenburg Gate, taking in the Opera House and Humboldt University on the way. In so doing, we will explore Berlin's rise to power, from being first the Prussian and then German capital, a biography of the city that would dominate the 20th century. In the afternoon, Nick Jackson, who lives in Berlin will take you to Potsdam to visit the inimitable **Sanssouci Palace**, the rococo summer dwelling built in order to provide Frederick the Great with an escape from the demands of court life, hence its French soubriquet meaning without worry.

### Day Four | Brandenburg - Magdeburg

We spend the morning cruising down the Elbe, which has always been navigable by commercial vessels and which, therefore allowed Hanseatic cities to be linked. After lunch on board we land in Hohenwarthe from where we depart on our afternoon excursion. In the evening we cruise towards Wolfsburg.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** Magdeburg, badly damaged during the Second World War, has a core of medieval buildings which bring its Hanseatic history to life. Founded by Charlemagne, the city rose to become one of the most powerful Hansa cities, evident in its cathedral dedicated to saints Catherine and Maurice, one of the oldest Gothic churches in Germany and the largest in Eastern Germany. We continue to the **Buttergasse**, a vaulted cellar that lies in the heart of the Alter Markt, which we view from the outside. We visit the **Monastery of Our Lady**, founded in the 11th century, which remains one of the city's best preserved Romanesque buildings.

### Day Five | Wolfsburg - Lueneburg

We arrive at Wolfsburg this morning and depart soon thereafter to make the most of our visit. In the afternoon we cruise towards Lüneburg, where we dock for the night. **Exclusive Andante excursion:** We drive a short distance to Braunschweig, today an important centre for research and development and

once an important member of the Hanseatic league. We start with a view of the Burgplatz, where we see the Veltheimsches Haus, a 16th century half-timbered seigniorial house with remarkable decoration. We also see the Dankwarderode Castle, once the home of the Dukes of Braunschweig, as well as the Cathedral of St. Blaise and John the Baptist, built in the 12th century by Henry the Lion and the burial place of Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV. We end our tour in Braunschweig with a visit of the Altstadtmarkt, which houses the Gewandhaus, guild house of the tailors.

### Day Six | Lueneburg - Hamburg

We awake in Lüneburg and later cruise towards Hamburg, where we dock for the night.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** This morning we explore Lüneburg, one of the oldest cities in the region, which developed a monopoly on salt in the early medieval period, something that ensured its wealth due to the importance of the trade in pickled herrings. One of the few cities in the area not damaged in the Second World War, Lüneburg preserves much of its medieval charm. We start the tour with the Alter Kran, the 14th century crane over the river harbour, which helped to transport salt to Luebeck. From there we walk to the Stintmarkt, the medieval fish market and then to the Am Sande Markt, a medieval market home to St. John's Church, the city's oldest. In the afternoon we visit Hamburg Museum, housed in the **Hamburg Castle**, which recounts the city's rise to power in the time of the Hanseatic League.

### Day Seven | Hamburg

Today we wake up in Hamburg, one of the largest and most important cities in Germany despite a series of historic manmade and natural disasters, including fires, floods and the Second World War. Its importance in the Hanseatic League is fossilised in the city's name, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. The ship is docked the whole day here.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** We spend the whole day in Lüneburg, starting with the **Museum of the Hanse**, the most significant of its kind and housed in a Dominican friary. After lunch, we explore the World Heritage city on foot, visiting the twin-towered 15th century Burgtor and continuing to the Heiligen-Geist-Hospital, one of the world's oldest social institutions, before exploring the 13th century Marienkirche. We end the day at the Holstentor, whose characteristic architecture is famed throughout Germany.

### Day Eight | Hamburg

This morning we disembark our ship and make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*

Activity Level ●●●○○

#### Guided by Nick Jackson

A graduate of the Institute of Archaeology at UCL, Nick is an archaeologist and historian with over 20 years of experience.



#### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

#### Included travel

- All local transport

#### Accommodation

- 1 night at a hotel in Berlin & 6 nights aboard the MS Elbe Princesse

#### Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Elbe Princesse: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks\*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

\*Premium branded drinks at own cost

#### Dates & prices per person

24th - 31st July Twin/DBL Share \$5

Main Deck Outside Cabin with a high opening window			
	\$6,035	\$5,432	<del>\$1,100</del> \$0
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a French balcony and sliding windows			
	\$6,385	\$5,747	<del>\$1,100</del> \$990

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON MAIN DECK CABINS**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.co.uk/ahac](http://andantetravels.co.uk/ahac)





# Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana

*Exploring Andalucia and the Algarve on a cruise*

**8 DAYS**

**From \$4,806pp**

**Departing September**

Called the Baetis in the Roman period, the Guadalquivir is the most important river in Spain, not just because it is the country's only navigable river but because it flows through Andalucia, the heartbeat of Iberian history. The Guadiana, in turn, meets the Guadalquivir at the Gulf of Cadiz, thereby linking the historically rich Andalucia with the Algarve.

## Tour Highlights

- Admire the Alhambra dubbed by Arabic poets 'the pearl set in emeralds' and unique example of Moorish architecture transformed into a Renaissance palace in the 16th century
- Explore Italica, the oldest Roman city outside of Italy, and home to stunningly preserved remains unencumbered by later periods
- Examine the historic remains of Cádiz, including its extraordinary Phoenician and Roman remains
- Visit unique Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, a colourful blend of Islamic and Renaissance architecture

## MS La Belle de Cadix

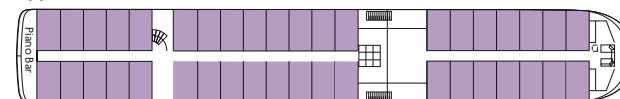
The light and bright MS La Belle de Cadix, comparable to a 4\* hotel, has four decks. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the lounge and bar on the Middle Deck, the 'Pianorama' Bar is on the Upper Deck and there is a Sun Deck with chairs and deckchairs. Cabins are 13.5m<sup>2</sup> in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, en-suite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



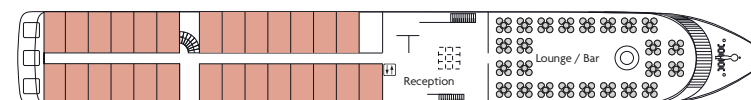
### Sun Deck



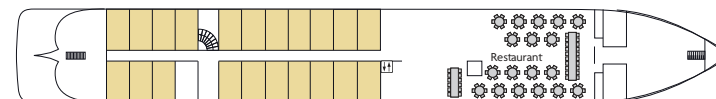
### Upper Deck



### Middle Deck



### Main Deck



Images top to bottom: Medina Azahara





### Day Three | Seville - Isla Minima

Today our ship is moored in the vibrant city of Seville before it departs in the afternoon for the Isla Minima set in the Marshlands of the Guadalquivir. Here we have a tour of an Andalusian hacienda before we sail to Cádiz.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** Today we visit two of Seville's UNESCO listed sites, starting with the **Real Alcázar**, built in the 14th century, an important example of mudéjar architecture, which is blending of Moorish and Europe styles. We continue a short distance to the **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See**, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world built in order to signal the city's increased importance after the reconquista.

### Day Four | Cádiz

This morning we are in Cádiz, the important port which lays claim to being one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Located on a spit of land surrounded by sea, Cádiz retains an old quarter which bears the remains of its ancient past.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** Today we explore the important city of Cadiz founded by Phoenicians in the 9th century BC. We start with the **archaeological museum**, which contains an important collection of artefacts from the city's vast history, before proceeding to the **Roman theatre**, built in the 1st century BC and once one of the largest theatres in the empire. We end the morning with a visit to the **cathedral** built in the city's heyday when the city was enriched by the Transatlantic trade. After lunch, we visit the archaeological site which contains the remains of the Phoenician settlement of **Gadir**.

### Day Five | Alcoutim - Huelva

Today we join the Guadiana which meets the Guadalquivir in Cadiz, and sail to Alcoutim, located in the Algarve, near the border, mid-morning. After a brief stay here, we sail the rest of the afternoon towards Huelva where we arrive in the evening.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** This morning we visit the 13th century **Moorish castle at Alcoutim**, whose imposing position on the right bank of the tributary river of San Marcos made it an important site from the Neolithic period onwards. The current castle belongs to the period of the reconquista when the Portuguese crown undertook defensive measures to stamp their authority over lands they gained.

### Day Six | Huelva - El Puerto de Santa Maria - Seville

We awake in the Huelva, where we spend the morning before sailing in the afternoon towards El Puerto de Santa Maria in the province of Cadiz. In the evening we re-join the Guadalquivir and sail back to Seville.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** Called on 'u ba by the Phoenicians who settled here and later renamed Onoba by Greeks, Huelva was an important Phoenician trading post, exchanging precious metals and fish with cities throughout the Mediterranean. This morning we explore this city's important past at the important **Huelva Archaeological Museum**.

After our exclusive Andante excursion in the morning, we enjoy an evening wine tasting in the area of El Puerto de Santa Maria with other cruise passengers.

### Day Seven | Granada

Having sailed through the night, we return to Seville and end our tour with one of the most impressive cities in Spain, Granada. In the morning we visit the incomparable **Alhambra**, first built as a fortress in the 9th century and turned into a palace fortress in the 14th century by the Emir of Granada. The Alhambra remains the most important witness to the great flourishing of the Muslim period of Andalusia, testament to the vibrant and cosmopolitan culture which made this part of the world unique.

**Exclusive Andante excursion:** After lunch, we explore the **Archaeological Museum of Granada**, which sheds light on the city itself as well as on Andalusian history.

### Day Eight | Seville

After disembarking the ship, we end our tour by visiting one of the most important Roman sites in Spain,

**Italica.** The ancient city, founded in the 3rd century BC, is one of the best preserved in Spain and includes an amphitheatre, a number of elite houses, as well as a Traianeum, a shrine to the important emperor who was born there. In the afternoon, we make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*

### Activity Level ●●●○○



### Guided by Dr Doru Bogdan

Doru is a researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, and has supervised an array of excavations.

### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- A wine-tasting experience and an excursion to the Alhambra with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

### Included travel

- All local transport

### Accommodation

- 7 nights aboard the MS La Belle de Cadix

### Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- MS La Belle de Cadix: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks\*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks.

*\*Premium branded drinks at own cost*

### Dates & prices per person

5th - 12th Sep	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a porthole window	\$5,340	\$4,806 \$965 \$869
Middle Deck Outside Cabin with a window	\$5,680	\$5,112 \$965 \$869
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window	\$5,960	\$5,364 \$965 \$869

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.co.uk/aggc](http://andantetravels.co.uk/aggc)



Images top to bottom: Cordoba





# Egypt – Cruising the Nile - Cairo to Aswan

*In the wake of the pharaohs*

17 DAYS

From \$9,072pp

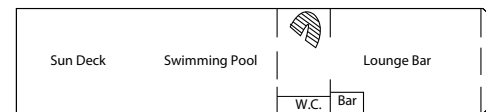
Departing April

This leisurely cruise is perfect for those looking for an in-depth exploration of the Nile's sights. Sail 600 miles between Cairo and Aswan, on a journey that includes a stretch of the river that was only recently reopened. We will take you to little-known sites that most tourists to this part of the world miss and, along with a ride aboard a traditional felucca, there are tours of Egypt's most iconic sites as well as surprises that are bound to inspire awe.

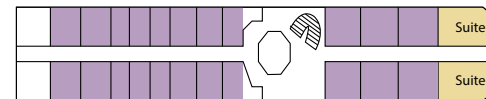
## Tour Highlights

- Explore Seti I's temple at Abydos, considered somewhat off the beaten track yet home to the most beautiful raised reliefs in the entire country
- In Tell el-Armana we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten and the Temple of Aten
- Visit the Nubian site of the temples at Abu Simbel, rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam
- Visits in Cairo include the necropolis of Saqqara and the new Grand Egyptian Museum\*

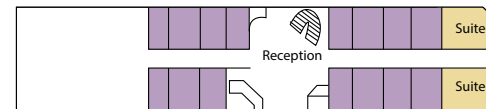
## Sun Deck



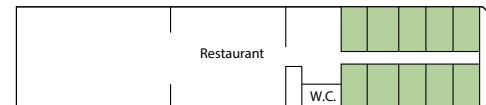
## Upper Deck



## Middle Deck



## Lower Deck



## MS Nile Monarch

With only 45 cabins, the MS Nile Monarch offers an ideal small ship experience and it's equivalent to a very good 3\* hotel. During your 14-night cruise, you can enjoy meals and drinks in both a restaurant and two bars, there is a 24-hour reception and a large sun deck complete with a small plunge pool. For those looking to keep active, the fitness equipment will help pass the time as you sail between site visits. The ship comprises of four decks; on the Lower/Nile Deck there are cabins and the restaurant, on the Middle Deck is reception and cabins and on the Upper Deck are cabins. Most cabins on board the MS Nile Monarch also have large panoramic windows, enabling you to make the most of your time on the ship.



Images top to bottom: Temple of Philae





### Day One | Cairo

Meet the group in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admiringly refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

### Day Two | Cairo

Our day starts with a visit to the new **Grand Egyptian Museum\***, where the world's most extensive exhibitions in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. After our visit we transfer to the port to board the MS Nile Monarch, our cruise ship for the next fourteen nights.

### Day Three | Giza

A full day of site visits starting at Giza to admire the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: the **Great Pyramid**. We see the Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure as well as the Sphinx. Next, we visit **Memphis**, founded over 5,000 years ago and the first capital of a united Egypt. The Memphis Museum Garden houses some of the pieces of sculpture of most interest to visitors, which include the fallen colossus of Ramesses II. We have lunch at a local restaurant and in afternoon we visit the necropolis of **Sakkara**. Time permitting, we visit the Imhotep Museum and tour the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser's **Step Pyramid** complex.

### Day Four | Cairo

We begin at Cairo's more recent history and start at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. After lunch, we visit the **Khan el-Khalili Bazaar**, whose warren of cobblestone lanes and alleys are lined with colourful shops.

### Day Five | Cairo - Beni Suef

Today is spent sailing the long distance from Cairo to Beni Suef. Enjoy the chance to relax and reflect on our days spent in Cairo. The ship overnights in Beni Suef.

### Day Six | Beni Suef - Minya

Another day sailing along the Nile. Spend the day at leisure, enjoy unforgettable sights as we cruise along this mighty waterway. Our ship overnights in Minya ready for an early site visit the following day.

### Day Seven | Minya

We disembark and drive to **Beni Hasan**, the cemetery site of tombs cut high in the desert cliff overlooking the Nile. The climb up to the tombs requires some effort but the view from the top is breathtaking and the tombs are fabulous. Returning to the boat mid-morning we sail on to Tell el-Amarna where the ships is moored overnight.

### Day Eight | Tell el-Amarna - Assiut

This morning we visit **Tel el-Amarna**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt. Here, we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten and the Temple of Aten. Afterwards we visit **Tuna el Gebel** the necropolis for the ancient town of Hermopolis and at the edge of the western desert. We return to the ship mid-morning and sail on to Assiut cruising through Assiut's Lock en route.

### Day Nine | Assiut - Sohag

Today is spent sailing from Assiut to Sohag where we will moor for the night.

### Day Ten | Sohag - El Bayana - Nag Hammadi

We sail this morning to El Bayana for our site visit to **Abydos**. The main focus of our visit is the important



cult temple of Seti I with its fabulous wall decorations, some of the finest of the New Kingdom. Afterwards we visit Dendera and the Temple of Hathor. We rejoin our ship in Nag Hammadi.

### Day Eleven | Nag Hammadi - Luxor

We set sail early morning to Luxor. After lunch on board our afternoon is spent at **Karnak** exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and some have argued, the largest religious complex in the world. We also explore **Luxor Temple**, with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns. We overnight in Luxor.

### Day Twelve | Luxor - Edfu

Luxor's many sites await and we begin at the **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Amenhotep III which captivated the imaginations of curious travellers for millennia. Next, in **Deir el-Bahari**, we visit the colonnaded **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut**, mortuary temple of the only female Pharaoh. We also visit the **Valley of the Kings**, the decorated tomb of Seti I and **Deir El Medina**, the village of the workers who constructed the tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Overnight we sail to Edfu via Esna.

### Day Thirteen | Edfu - Kom Ombo

We go ashore to the **Temple of Edfu**, a beautiful Ptolemaic temple dedicated to Horus, the avenging falcon god. Returning to the boat we set sail before lunch to continue our journey, and overnight at Kom Ombo.

### Day Fourteen | Kom Ombo - Aswan

After an early breakfast we disembark for a short visit to the partially restored remains of **Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple** standing dramatically above the Nile. We continue sailing to Aswan and enjoy lunch on board before we explore the **Quarries** at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the 'Unfinished Obelisk', some 42m long and weighing approximately 1,197 tonnes. From here we continue to the ruins of **Philae**, a complex of chapels and shrines originally dedicated to the goddess Isis.

### Day Fifteen | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Aswan

An early start awaits as we fly from Aswan to the Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles southwest of

Aswan. This afternoon, sail around Elephantine Island aboard a felucca, with views of the Botanical Garden and Agha Khan's Mausoleum. We return to Aswan for our last night on board the MS Nile Monarch.

### Day Sixteen | Aswan - Cairo

Today we visit **Elephantine Island** and explore the remains of the temples of Khnum and Satet, and their Nileometers. This afternoon we fly to Cairo.

### Day Seventeen | Cairo

Today we make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*

#### Activity Level ●●●●○



#### Guided by Dr Elizabeth Bloxam

Elizabeth is currently Visiting Professor of Egyptology at North East Normal University, Changchun in China.

#### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field Notes
- All taxes & gratuities

#### Included travel

- All local transport

#### Accommodation

- 2 nights in a hotel in Cairo & 14 nights aboard the MS Nile Monarch

#### Culinary inclusions

- 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches & 15 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ship are payable locally)

#### Dates & prices per person

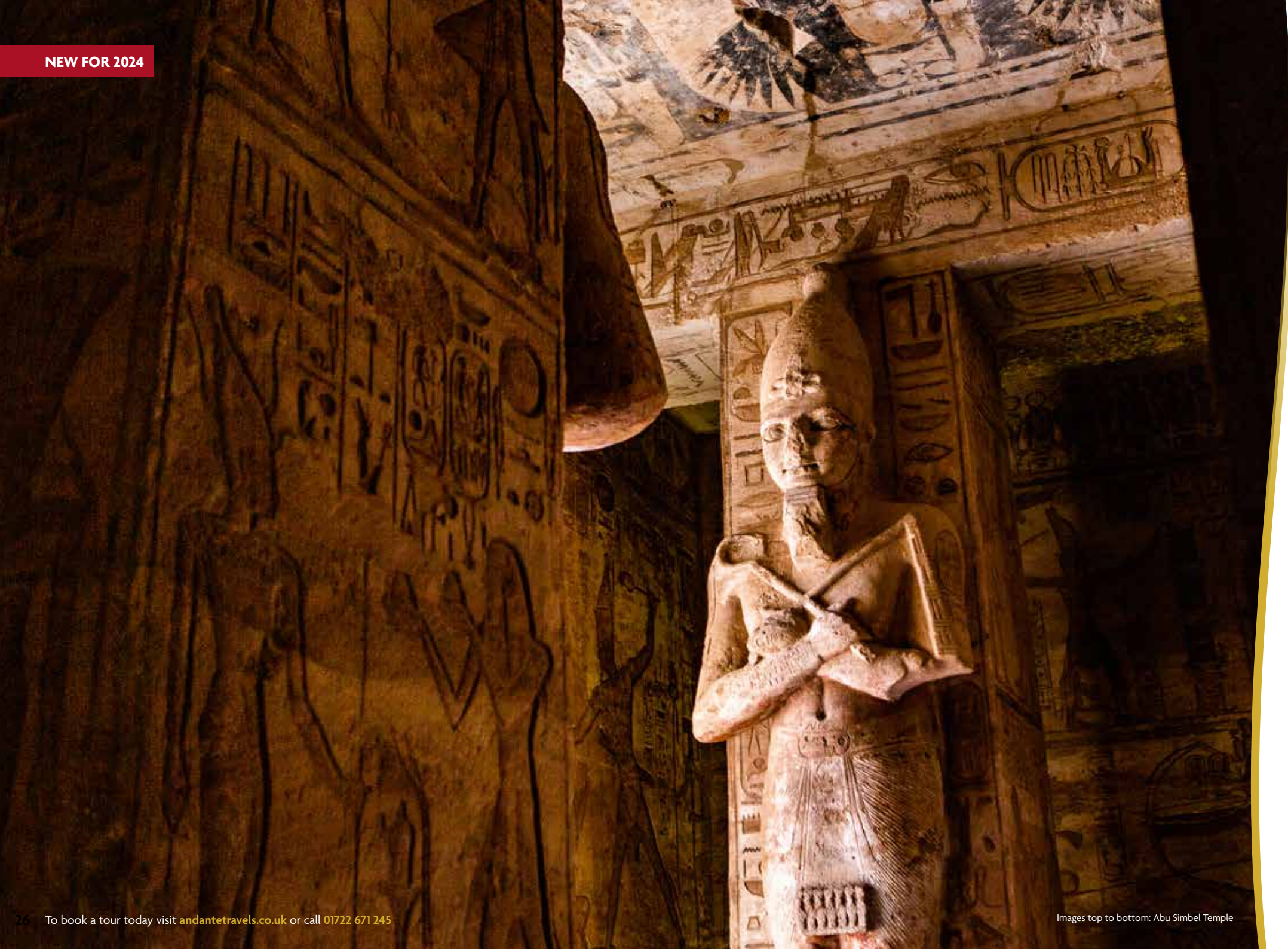
**28th Apr - 14th May Twin/Dbl Share SS**

Middle/Upper Deck - run of house (Double/Twin/Single in website booking process)	<del>\$10,080</del>	\$9,072	<del>\$2,085</del>	\$1,877
Upper Deck - guaranteed (Cruise Upgrade in website booking process)	<del>\$10,355</del>	\$9,320	<del>\$2,085</del>	\$1,877

*\*subject to the new museum being open*

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.co.uk/aeca](http://andantetravels.co.uk/aeca)







# Cruising Upper Egypt

*Beyond the High Dam; from Lake Nasser to Luxor*

14 DAYS

From \$9,464pp

Departing September

Embark on a fascinating journey through Upper Egypt and the land of Nubia, from Lake Nasser to Luxor, once ancient city of Thebes. Sailing across the serene waters of Egypt's vast reservoir gives a very different perspective to our cruise further along the Nile. The West Bank's shallow shore line attracts wild birds and their predators, and the East Bank is rugged and mountainous with an 'other worldly' desert landscape. The sites beyond the High Dam include the breath-taking, cliff face temple complex at Abu Simbel and the unfrequented sites of Amada and Wadi El Sebouath. We continue after the High Dam from Aswan along the felucca dotted river, through desert villages and dotted with feluccas to Luxor with its wealth of fabulous ancient sites.

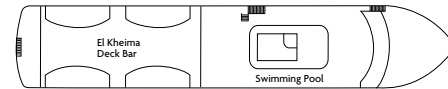


## Steigenberger Omar El Khayam

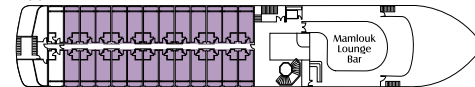
This Nile cruiser is comparable to a 5\* hotel and has six decks. The Abu Nawas Restaurant on the Mian Deck is where all meals throughout the cruise are served, and there are three lounge bars located across different decks, perfect for a refreshment and review of your days adventures. The large Sun Deck has a swimming pool, jacuzzi, pool bar and lounge/seating areas. Other facilities include a small library, billiard room, internet room and a gift shop. Cabins are 24m² in size and include a TV, telephone, safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, complimentary Wi-Fi (only in Aswan & Abu Simbel), mini bar (payable locally), hairdryer, and an ensuite bathroom.



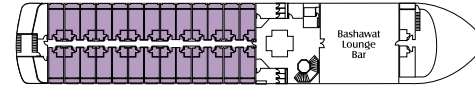
### Pool Deck



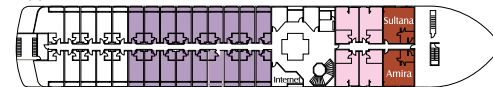
### Upper Deck 3



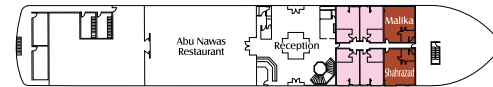
### Upper Deck 2



### Upper Deck 1



### Middle Deck



### Main Deck



## Tour Highlights

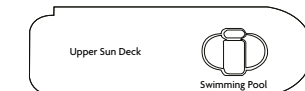
- Approach the monumental temples of Rameses II at Abu Simbel from the water – an unforgettable experience
- Enjoy the hauntingly beautiful desert scenery which surrounds Lake Nasser
- Discover some unusual sites seldom often included in mainstream itineraries



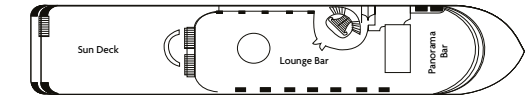
## Steigenberger Regency

This Nile cruiser is comparable to a 4-5\* hotel and has five decks. The restaurant on the Main Deck is where all meals throughout the cruise are served. The spacious Lounge Bar and the Panorama Bar both on the Sun Deck are ideal locations to relax and unwind after returning from a day's excursions or after dinner. The two-level Sun Deck has a swimming pool, pool bar and lounge/seating areas. Other facilities include a small library, games tables, and a gift shop. Cabins are 19.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone, safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, complimentary Wi-Fi, mini bar (payable locally), hairdryer, and an ensuite bathroom with bath products and towels.

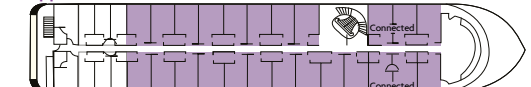
### Pool Deck



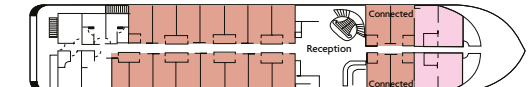
### Sun Deck



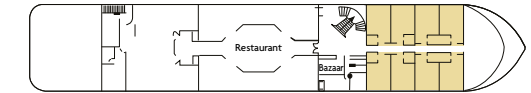
### Upper Deck



### Middle Deck



### Main Deck







#### Day One | Cairo

Meet the group in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admiringly refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

#### Day Two | Saqqara & Memphis

Most of our first day is devoted to **Saqqara**, the vast necropolis to the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis and one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt. We will discover the incredible **Step Pyramid of Djoser** and the smooth-sided **Pyramid of Unas**, the **Mastaba of Mereruka** and some of the lesser-visited parts of this sprawling necropolis. We will see the recently opened tomb of the nobleman Mehu and visit the **Serapeum**, catacombs for the sacred Apis bulls. Later in the afternoon we visit **Memphis**, founded over 5,000 years ago and which served as the country's capital during the Old Kingdom. Today this bustling ancient city is reduced to an open-air museum, its highlight the extraordinary fallen colossus of Ramesses II.

#### Day Three | Giza

This morning we visit the pyramid complexes on the Giza Plateau starting with the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: the **Great Pyramid** towering some 487 metres above the plateau. We also explore the Valley Temple of Khafra and the enigmatic **Sphinx**, whose limestone form has occupied this spot for more than 4,000 years. In the afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the **Great Egyptian Museum\***, the new crown jewel of Egypt and one of the largest in the world.

#### Day Four | Cairo - Abu Simbel

We take a morning flight from Cairo to **Abu Simbel** in Upper Egypt where we transfer to our Nile cruiser, the Steigenberger Omar El Khayam.. After some time for lunch, rest and relaxation, we will visit the world-renowned Nubian site at Abu Simbel. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal pair and to awe the Nubians. Today, the site still inspires awe and is quite simply spectacular. After our site visit, we transfer to join our Nile cruise ship for lunch and an afternoon of relaxation.



### Day Five | Lake Nasser

This morning we sail across Nail Nasser to the once powerful city of **Kasr Ibrim**. The remains of its enormous citadel which once overlooked a stretch of the flood plain in the Nile river valley below, now break the surface of the waters of Lake Nasser. The site is no longer safe to visit but can be viewed from the safety of our cruise ship. We continue to the **Temple of Amada**, built during the co-regency of Thutmose III and Amenhotep II in the 15th century BCE. Its exterior looks unimposing, but the innermost section of the temple has very fine reliefs and several important historical inscriptions. We end the day at Wadi El Seboua where we will overnight.

### Day Six | Lake Nasser

After breakfast we disembark to explore the site of **Wadi El Sebouath** 'Valley of the Lions' so called because of the sphynxes which guard the route to the pylon. Built in honour of Rameses II in the later part of his reign and dedicated to Amun and Ra, the site consists of the surviving set of pylons and the rock cut part of the temple. The interior has many fine reliefs and there are two colossi of Ramses, one upright, one fallen. After lunch on board, we continue to Aswan where we will overnight.

### Day Seven | Aswan & Philae

After breakfast we check out from our Nile cruiser and embark on the first of our site visits in Aswan. First, we explore the **Quarries**, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular 'Unfinished Obelisk, some 42m long and weighing approximately 1,197 tons. Had it been successfully removed from its site it would have been the largest such obelisk ever quarried. From here we continue to the atmospheric ruins of Philae, the Ptolemaic island temple, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines which were originally dedicated to the goddess Isis. To nineteenth century travellers, **Philae** was 'the pearl of the Nile' set on its own island, with just enough vegetation to make this the archetypal romantic ruin.

### Day Eight | Qubbet el-Hawa

We spend the morning exploring the lives of the ancient inhabitants of this frontier town, their houses, temples and tombs. We visit the richly inscribed rock-cut tombs at **Qubbet el-Hawa** where important local

inhabitants were buried including Harkhuf, who was so proud of a letter sent to him by the boy-king Pepi II, that he had it inscribed on the façade of his tomb. After a local lunch, the afternoon is free to enjoy at leisure.

### Day Nine | Elephantine Island

This morning we check out of hotel and visit the settlement and temple site of **Elephantine Island**. This was the cult place of the ram-headed god Khnum, a creator god associated with the Nile and the first cataract and potters. We will explore the remains of the temples of Khnum and Satet, and their associated Nileometers (for measuring the Nile flood levels). After our visit we join the Nile cruiser, the Steigenberger Regency for the second part of our cruise. We will have lunch on board before making an excursion to the **Nubian Museum** in the afternoon. This evening we enjoy a sunset felucca trip before dinner and overnight on board.

### Day Ten | Kom Ombo - Edfu

Setting sail early this morning, we travel to Kom Ombo. Here we will explore the **Temple of Sobek** and **Horus the Elder** and the site's **Crocodile Museum**. The partially restored remains of Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple stands dramatically above the Nile and its situation overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque. It is peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout. Continuing our journey to Luxor, we stop en route to explore the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. One of the country's most magnificently preserved shrines, the construction of which is thought to have spanned an incredible 180 years, from the 3rd to the 2nd century BC. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, its pylon - or gateway - is the highest among all of Egypt's surviving temples and is decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses a Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile waters. This evening we arrive at Luxor.

### Day Eleven | Valley of the Kings

A full day of site visits today as we make the most of our time in Luxor. We go first to the **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Amenhotep III which captivated the imaginations of curious travellers for millennia. We continue to nearby **Deir el-Bahari** where we visit the impressive colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, mortuary temple of the only female Pharaoh. Next,

we visit the Valley of the Kings. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the **Valley of the Kings**, only a small number are open to the public and we enter a selection of these, including the tomb of Tutankhamun.

### Day Twelve | Karnak

After disembarking from our Nile cruiser, we lose ourselves in the captivating complex of **Karnak**. This is a spectacular multi-period location with a wealth of religious and historical inscriptions at every turn. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Rameses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. This afternoon we will visit **Luxor Museum**. This is an absolute gem; artefacts are perfectly displayed and among its many highlights you will find an alabaster figure of Amenhotep III protected by the great crocodile god Sobek; a strikingly beautiful statue of King Tutmosis III and one of the few examples of Old Kingdom art found at Thebes, a relief of Unas-ankh.

### Day Thirteen | Luxor - Cairo

We check out of our hotel this morning and finish our site visits in Luxor starting at the village of **Deir el-Medina**. This is a special place because here, perhaps more than anywhere else in Egypt, we come closest to the daily lives of a group of individuals living in a community. This was the settlement of the craftsmen responsible for constructing the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and as such employees of the state. This afternoon we transfer to the airport and return to Cairo, where a farewell dinner awaits this evening.

### Day Fourteen | Cairo

Today we make our independent onward journeys.

*Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.*



Activity Level ●●●○○



#### Guided by Robert Merkot FSA

A specialist in ancient North-East Africa, he has published academic papers, books, and more popular works on Libya, Egypt, and Sudan.

#### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field Notes
- All taxes & gratuities

#### Included travel

- All local transport

#### Accommodation

- Hyatt Regency Cairo West, MS Steigenberger Omar El Khayam (3 nights), Mövenpick Resort Aswan, MS Steigenberger Regency (3 nights), Steigenberger Resort Aichti, Le Méridien Cairo Airport

#### Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 12 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ship are payable locally)

#### Dates & prices per person

17th - 30th Sep Twin/Dbl Share SS

Middle/Upper Deck - run of house  
(Double/Twin/Single in website booking process)  
~~\$10,515~~ \$9,464 ~~\$1,980~~ \$1,782

Upper Deck - guaranteed  
(Cruise Upgrade in website booking process)  
~~\$10,600~~ \$9,540 ~~\$1,980~~ \$1,782

*\*subject to the new museum being open*

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.co.uk/auec](http://andantetravels.co.uk/auec)





# Egypt

## Highlights and discoveries

12 DAYS

From \$9,351pp

Departing February & September

The archaeology of ancient Egypt is one of the most instantly recognisable of all the great civilisations. This is a narrative of power, vision and ambition. The monuments of Egypt are much more than dry and dusty stones – through the expertise of our Guide Lecturer, we get to meet the real ancient Egyptians, from legendary pharaohs to the humble workers who built their tombs and palaces.

### Tour Highlights

- Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile
- Discover the impressive temple site of Abu Simbel
- See the grand gallery as well as the royal burial chamber of the Great Pyramid of Khufu
- Explore the enigmatic Valleys of the Kings and Queens, and pay a visit to the exceptionally well-preserved tomb of Nefertari

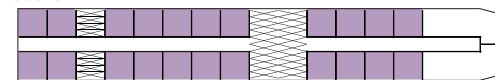
### MS Tulip

MS Tulip offers spacious and luxuriously furnished accommodation. The public areas provide the ultimate in comfort, elegance and design, which enable its guests to experience a fascinating way to travel and relax. It has a restaurant, which serves daily breakfast, lunch and dinner. Enjoy afternoon tea in the lounge bar, or watch the sunset by the outdoor swimming pool with a cocktail. All cabins have been elegantly decorated and include panoramic Nile views, air conditioning, a mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities, and a Smart TV with satellite. Each room also has its own bathroom with a bathtub and hairdryer.

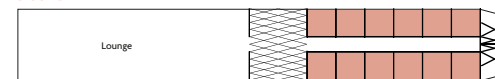
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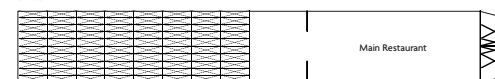
#### Deck C



#### Deck B



#### Deck A



Images top to bottom: Luxor Temple & MS Tulip



### Day One | London - Cairo

We depart from London and arrive in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital – a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

### Day Two | Cairo

We devote our day to **Saqqara**, the vast necropolis to the ancient Egyptian capital of **Memphis**. We discover the extraordinary **Step Pyramid of Djoser**, the smooth-sided **Pyramid of Unas** and the **Mastaba of Mereruka**. Later we explore the fabulous Serepeum, catacombs for the sacred Apis bulls and the Imhotep Museum, due to re-open after recent refurbishment.

### Day Three | Cairo

This morning, we pay a visit to the pyramid complex on the **Giza Plateau**, including the **Great Pyramid** – a true wonder of ancient world, where atmospheric passageways lead to the breathtaking grand gallery and royal burial chamber. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra** and the enigmatic **Great Sphinx**. In the afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the new **Grand Egyptian Museum\***, where the world's most extensive exhibition in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. Among the treasures on display are the solid gold mask of Tutankhamun and the Narmer Palette. The new museum is also now home to **King Khufu's Solar Boat**.

### Day Four | Cairo – Luxor

We start with a visit to the pyramid complex at Dahshur where we discover the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid, two well preserved early constructions built during the reign of King Sneferu. Afternoon site visits include **Memphis**, founded over 5000 years ago and **The National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation** whose exceptional collection includes the royal mummies. This evening we fly from Cairo to Luxor.

### Day Five | Luxor

Our first visit of the day is to the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahri, a stunning collection of shrines that have been heavily restored to reflect their former glory. In the afternoon, we visit the famous Colossi of Memnon, two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III standing at a towering 18-metres high, erected to guard the entrance of the pharaoh's memorial temple. Afterwards, we visit the Qurna tombs of **Ramose**, **Userhet** and **Khaemhet** and **Deir El Medina**, the village of the workers who constructed the tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

### Day Six | Luxor

The **Valley of the Kings** awaits us today. This was the final resting place of royals and nobility for almost 500 years, with excavations dating the site back as far as the 16th century BC. Its most notable occupant is, of course, King Tutankhamun, so famously discovered by Howard Carter in 1922, and since returned to his original burial place where he now lies undisturbed. After lunch, we visit the **Valley of the Queens**, which includes the exceptionally preserved Tomb of Nefertari, who was the wife of Pharaoh Ramesses II.

### Day Seven | Luxor

This morning we lose ourselves in the captivating complex of **Karnak**. Here, we encounter the cult temple of Amun-Ra, chief of the deities of the New Kingdom. This is a spectacular multi-period location with a wealth of religious and historical inscriptions at every turn. This afternoon we visit the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaoh's reign. Afterwards, we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best preserved temple of the New Kingdom. On the East Bank we check in to our Nile cruise boat. After lunch on board, we explore **Luxor Temple**, with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns.

### Day Eight | Luxor - Edfu

Before we set sail this afternoon we visit the fantastic **Luxor Museum** – a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and home to celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tuthmosis III, and Luxor Temple with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns.

### Day Nine | Edfu - Kom Ombo

We make our way to the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, it's decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses an Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile water. This afternoon, we explore the **Temple of Sobek** and **Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's Crocodile Museum.

### Day Ten | Philae - Aswan

Today we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border and visit the impressive **Temple of Isis** in Philae. The flooding of Lake Nasser caused the whole complex to be moved from its original location. After a stop at **Aswan (High) Dam**, we visit the ancient Quarries at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was

### Alexandria 2-night Extension



Discover the capital of the Ptolemies, one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic and Roman world. To find out how to add this extension to your tour and what is included, please contact our Specialist Sales Executives.  
From \$1,395pp

widely used in many pharaonic monuments and site of the spectacular '**Unfinished Obelisk**'.

### Day Eleven | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

It's an early morning start as we disembark the MS Tulip and transfer to Aswan Airport and fly to **Abu Simbel**. Here, we make the most of our last day exploring what is considered to be Egypt's most impressive temple site, home to temples of **Ramesses II** and **Nefertari**. After lunch, we fly to Cairo, where a farewell dinner awaits this evening.

### Day Twelve | Cairo - London

Today we catch our return flight back to London.

Activity Level ●●●○○



### Guided by Lucia Gahlin

A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years.

### Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

### Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

### Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Sofitel El-Gezira, Pavillon Winter Luxor Hotel, 4 nights aboard MS Tulip in a Superior Cabin & Le Meridien Cairo Airport or similar

### Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ship are payable locally)

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Db Share	SS
13th - 24th Feb	\$10,560	\$1,675
24th Sep - 5th Oct	<del>\$10,390</del> \$9,351	<del>\$1,195</del> \$1,508

*\*subject to the new museum being open*

For full details of this tour visit  
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NEW FOR 2024





# Egypt Encompassed

## From Pharaohs to Caesars

19 DAYS

From \$17,024pp

Departs November

Howard Carter's description of his first sight into Tutankhamen's tomb is also a fitting description of Andante's exploration of the archaeology of this amazing country. Egypt is indeed a land of 'wonderful things', a country where adjectives are insufficient to describe the monuments and experiences which are not to be found anywhere else in the world. While certain images of Egypt have become familiar, there is no substitute for witnessing at first hand the glittering treasures of Tutankhamen's tomb, the quiet intrigue of the hypostyle hall at Karnack, the beautiful setting of the Temple of Isis at Philae or standing over-awed at the feet of the colossal statues of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel. This epic tour encompasses all of these iconic sites and so much more. Starting with the Old Kingdom and the 'Age of the Pyramids' and ending with the Ptolemaic Dynasty and the Romans, we take a journey of a lifetime as we explore Upper and Lower Egypt travelling through the millennia.

### Tour Highlights

- Journey to the Middle Nile and discover the city of the heretic pharaoh Akhenaten at Tell el-Amarna
- Admire the exquisite artistry of the special tombs of Nefetari, Seti I, Sennefer and Rekhmire
- Enjoy privileged access at Tapaposiris, conjectured to be the site of Cleopatra's burial
- Spend a whole day at Saqqara where we discover sites seldom viewed by the casual visitor

### MS Tamr Henna

This recently refurbished Nile cruiser is comparable to a good 4\* hotel and has four decks. There are two restaurants, a main restaurant on Deck A and an outdoor restaurant on Deck D. Entertainment takes place in the lounge bar located in the middle of B deck next to the reception. There is a swimming pool, pool bar, loungers and seating area on the Sun Deck at the bow of the ship. Other facilities include a small gym and beauty salon. The deluxe cabins located on decks B, C and D, are 20m<sup>2</sup> in size and include a TV, telephone, safe, independent air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, mini bar (payable locally), hairdryer, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet with bath products and towels.



Image: Tomb at Tell-el-Amarna



### Day 1 | Cairo

Meet the group in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

### Day 2 | Saqqara

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. We will discover the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser's distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex and the smooth-sided **Pyramid of Unas** as well as the Imhotep Museum (due to reopen late 2023 after extensive renovation). After lunch we return to focus on the lesser-visited parts of this huge site and visit two important tombs, the **mastaba of Mereruka**, a large and complex tomb of the Vizier to King Teti, and the superb **mastaba tomb of Ti** as well as the **Serapeum**, burial place of the sacred Apis bulls in the northern part of the Saqqara complex.

### Day 3 | Giza

This morning we visit the best preserved of the Seven Wonders of the World, the **Great Pyramid of Khufu** (Cheops) which towers some 481 feet (147 meters) above the plateau, its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks

each weighing an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. But there is a great deal more to the site. We will also discover the **Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx** carved from a knoll of rock left in one of the stone quarries used to provide stone for the pyramids and tombs at Giza. Its face probably represents Khafra, but arguments have been made for Djedefra and recently for the Sphinx being much older than the pyramids themselves. In the afternoon, we visit the **Great Egyptian Museum\*** where the world's most extensive exhibitions in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. Among the many treasures on display are the solid gold mask of Tutankhamun, and the Narmer Palette, thought to depict the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt. The new museum is also home to King Khufu's Solar Boat.

### Day 4 | Cairo - Beni Hassan - Minya

We set off early for Beni Hassan this morning, winding our way out of the traffic heavy roads of Cairo and onto the fast highway to Minya. The journey will take us around 4 hours as we travel through the desert tracking the Nile. Our goal is the site of **Beni Hassan**, just south of Minya. These rock cut tombs high in the desert cliff overlooking the Nile take a little effort to reach but the view from the top is breath-taking and the tombs are fabulous. These Middle Kingdom tombs are painted, rather than decorated in carved reliefs and covered in scenes of daily life in extraordinary detail. These include scenes of agriculture, crafts, fishing, fowling and hunting. We overnight in Minya, now a small city mostly overlooked by tourists but once a powerful regional capital within Egypt.

### Day 5 | Tell el-Amarna

Today we visit **Tell el-Amarna**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt. It is also one of those which is usually ignored or given scant attention by tour operators because there are no monumental structures here. Amarna is, however, the most significant surviving city site from ancient Egypt; the majority having been built over by later settlements. It was also a new Capital city, constructed by Amenhotep IV beginning in the 5th year of his reign. The original name of the city was Akhenaten, the 'Horizon of the Aten', a title corresponding to the actions of the so-called 'heretic Pharaoh' Akhenaten as he later became to be known. The city itself was abandoned after the Pharaoh's death, only 20 years or so after its creation.





Here, we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, Nefertiti's Palace, and the Temple of Aten.

#### Day 6 Minya - Tuna el-Gebel - Abydos

Our day starts at the rich and varied archaeological site of **Tuna el-Gebel** which functioned as the necropolis for the ancient town of Khemnu/Hermopolis at the edge of the western desert. It marks the boundary of Akhenaten's city some 11kms from the centre of Tell el-Amarna and is home to one of Akhenaten and Nefertiti's 'boundary stelae' carved into the limestone cliff. We also visit vast catacombs for ibis and baboons, associated with the god Thoth, and impressive tombs, including that of a High Priest of Thoth c300 BC – Petosiris, whose reliefs combine Greek and Egyptian artistic styles. In the afternoon, we continue our drive south to Abydos.

#### Day 7 | Abydos – Dendera - Luxor

This morning we visit **Abydos**, one of the most sacred sites in Egypt, identified as the burial place of Osiris. The main focus of our visit is the important cult **temple of Seti I** with its fabulous wall decorations, some of the finest of the New Kingdom. The temple is also the home of the only King List still to remain in situ. After a picnic lunch we continue to **Dendera** once the capital

of the Sixth Upper Egyptian nome. Like Saqqara it was the site of burials of sacred animals, particularly cows associated with the cult of the local goddess Hathor. The roof of the temple includes a number of chapels, symbolic mortuary chapels for Osiris. One of these contained the famous Dendera Zodiac, which is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, but it is replicated here in situ by a circular plaster cast depicting the hours of the day and night as well as the journey of the sun, moon, and stars across the sky.

#### Day 8 West Bank

This morning we cross the river by motorboat and then travel by coach, to visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon** on the West Bank at Thebes. These two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III stand at a towering 18-metres high and were erected to guard the entrance to the pharaoh's vast and opulent memorial temple. Alas, only traces of that once-great temple remain. Next, we visit the **Valley of the Kings**. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the Valley of the Kings, only a small number are open to

the public and we enter a selection of these, including the elaborately decorated **tomb of Seti I**, which details the opening of the mouth ceremony. In the afternoon we visit **Deir el-Medina**. This is a special place because here, perhaps more than anywhere else in Egypt, we come closest to the daily lives of a group of individuals living in a community. This was no ordinary community however, but the settlement of the craftsmen responsible for constructing the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and as such employees of the state.

#### Day 9 West Bank

This morning we return to the west bank and the **Valley of the Queens** where we visit its most famous tomb, that belonging to the Chief Royal Wife of Ramesses II, Queen Nefertari. The tomb has vividly painted reliefs with inscriptions describing the queen's beauty, sweetness and charm and the decoration is exquisite. We continue to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias'. Later we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

#### Day 10 West Bank & Luxor

We start today at the Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut at **Deir el-Bahri**, a stunning shrine cradled by the dramatic natural sculptures of neighbouring cliffs. The site is often regarded as one of the most spectacular and beautiful in Egypt although the temple to which visitors now come, is not the first on the site, nor is it entirely original in its architecture! It is famous for its scenes showing a trading expedition to the land of Punt where the Egyptians traded with the local people for exotic products, including incense trees. Next we visit **Howard Carter's House** – the property used by the archaeologist during his search for the tomb of Tutankhamun and eventual discovery and to round off the day we will visit to the excellent **Luxor Museum**, where we see a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tutankhamun III, an extraordinary figure carved out of greywacke and an alabaster figure of Amenhotep III protected by the great crocodile god Sobek.

#### Day 11 Karnak & Luxor

We spend the morning at **Karnak**, exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and some have argued, the largest religious complex in the world. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Ramesses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. In the afternoon, we visit **Luxor Temple**, linked to the Karnak complex by an avenue of sphinxes, processions would travel along this 1.5k mile route on a regular basis. There were barque shrines where the boats, which carried the image of the god, could be placed and where ceremonies could be conducted. At the end of the day, we embark on our Nile cruise and the first of our 4 nights on board.

#### Day 12 West Bank - Edfu

Before we set sail today, we make one last visit to the west bank and the **Tombs of the Nobles**. Here we see two of the most splendid non-royal tombs dating to the New Kingdom period, the vibrantly painted burial chamber of **Sennefer** and the intricately decorated funerary chapel of **Rekhmire**. After lunch on board, we start our journey to Aswan, slipping anchor and sailing up the Nile towards Edfu.

#### Day 13 Edfu - Kom Ombo - Aswan

Today we discover the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. One of the country's most magnificently preserved shrines, the construction of which is thought to have spanned an incredible 180 years, from the 3rd to the 2nd century BC. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, its pylon - or gateway - is the highest among all of Egypt's surviving temples and is decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses a Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile waters. This afternoon we explore the **Temple of Sobek and Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's **Crocodile Museum**. The partially restored remains of Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple stand dramatically above the Nile and its situation overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque. It is peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout; the eastern



half dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, his wife Hathor, and their son Khonsu and the western to the falcon god Horus, his wife Tasetnofret, and their son Panebtawy.

Day 14 Aswan

Arriving in Aswan, we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border to visit the atmospheric ruins of the Ptolemaic **Temple of Isis** in Philae, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines – which were originally dedicated to the goddess Isis. To nineteenth century travellers Philae was 'the pearl of the Nile' set on its own island, with just enough vegetation to make this the archetypal romantic ruin. It was pictured by David Roberts, Frances Frith and a generation of other artists and photographers. These individuals would recognise most of the site we see today but might be surprised

to learn that it is no longer on its original island. After a stop at the High Dam, we continue to the **Quarries** at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular 'Unfinished Obelisk, some 42 metres long and weighing approximately 1,197 tons. After lunch on board our ship, we will visit **Elephantine Island**, the location of the ancient town and temple in Aswan.

Day 15 Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

Today we fly from Aswan to the world-renowned Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles south-west of Aswan at the edge of the desert. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal



Image: Abu Simbel

pair. In an effort to prevent the temples' destruction, UNESCO embarked on its first-ever collaborative international rescue effort. This later became the catalyst for a World Heritage list that would help protect and promote over a thousand significant cultural and natural sites around the globe. After our site visit, we fly to Cairo.

Day 16 Cairo - Alexandria

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilization throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum's exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. After lunch we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Day 17 Alexandria

We spend the day in Alexandria exploring the major monuments of the ancient city. We visit the **Catacombs of Kom el-Shoqafa** an underground labyrinth of decorated tombs from the Roman period, we also visit **Pompeys Pillar**, the site of the **Serapeum**, the temple dedicated to the god Serapis and his consort Isis and one of the most important temples of the Hellenistic world. We explore part of the civic centre of Roman Alexandria at **Kom al Dikka**, with its major monuments including an Odeon type building and a fine house, the **Villa of the Birds**. In the afternoon we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, the modern Library, here we will see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies and, hopefully, the Greco Romano Museum due to reopen after 20 years 'under wraps'.

Day 18 Alexandria - Cairo

This morning we explore the **National Museum of Alexandria**, located in a beautifully restored Italianate palace and contains galleries containing artefacts from the Pharaonic, Greco Roman, Coptic and Islamic periods. The Greco-Roman galleries on the ground floor contain some of the material previously on display in the Greco-Roman Museum as well as finds from the programme of underwater excavations being conducted off the coast at Alexandria. Afterwards

we travel on to Abu Sir, ancient Tapaposiris where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra's tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered.

Day 19 Cairo

At the end of our epic journey, we return to Cairo airport for our independent onward journeys.  
*Please note that on the March departure the tour Days 14 & 15 are swapped around.*

Activity Level ●●●○○

**Guided by Lucia Gahlin**  
A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years.

**Price includes**

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

**Included travel**

- All local transport

**Accommodation**

- Accommodation in Cairo, Minya, Abydos, Luxor, Alexandria & 4 nights aboard a Nile cruiser in a Deluxe Cabin

**Culinary inclusions**

- 18 breakfasts, 18 lunches & 17 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ships are payable locally)

**Dates & prices per person**

Date	Twin/Db'l Share		SS
29th Nov – 17th Dec	<del>\$18,915</del>	\$17,024	<del>\$4,160</del> \$3,690

*\*subject to the new museum being open*

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.co.uk/aegy](http://andantetravels.co.uk/aegy)





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