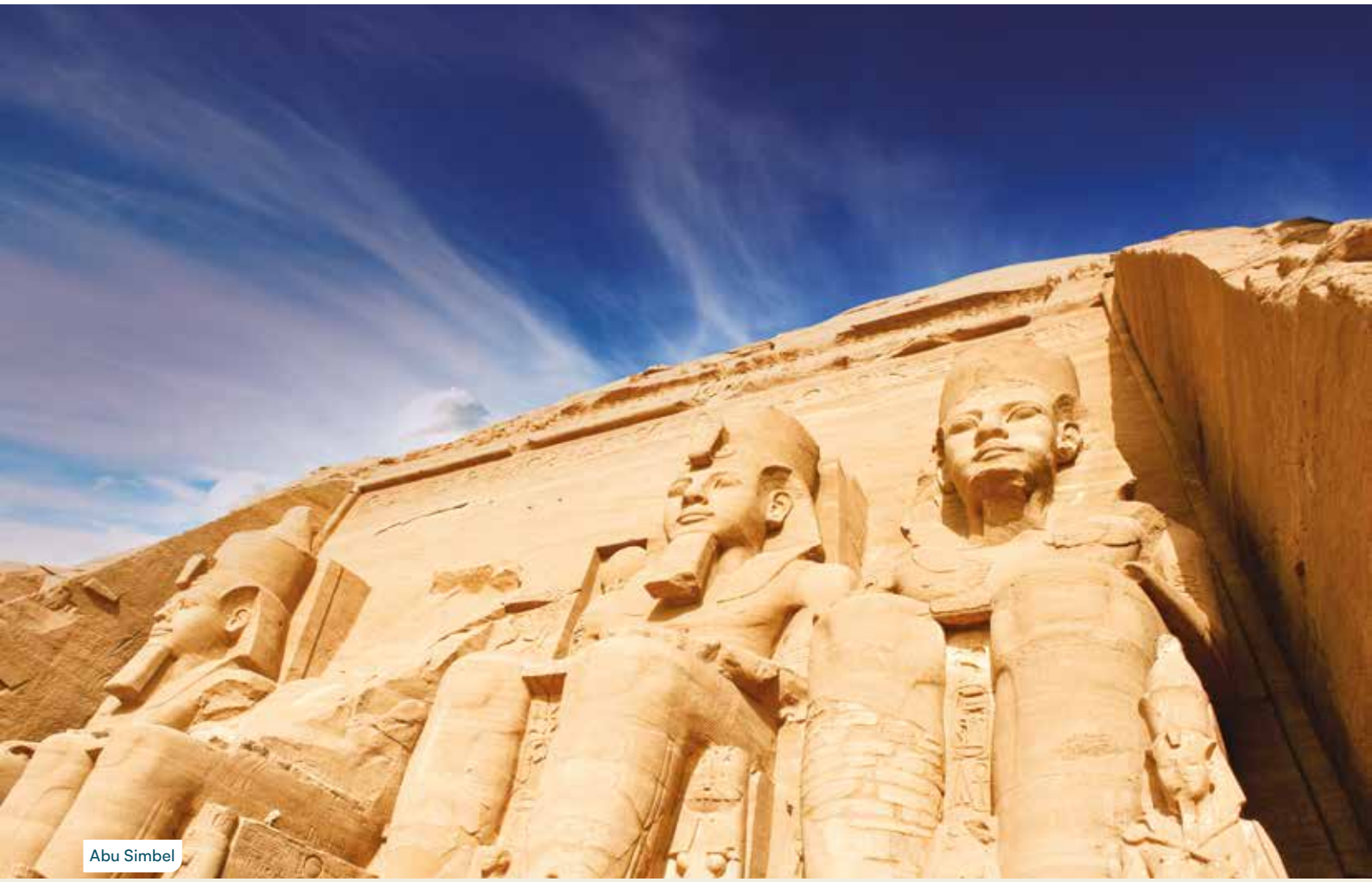
SPECIALIST
JOURNEYS



Abu Simbel

Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries
Cairo, Luxor, a Nile cruise to Aswan, Abu Simbel and more

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. While certain images of Egypt have become familiar, there is no substitute for witnessing at first hand the treasures of Tutankhamun, the timeless pyramids, the quiet intrigue of the hypostyle hall at the Temple of Karnak, the beautiful setting of the Temple of Isis at Philae or the mighty colossi at Abu Simbel. And the monuments of Egypt are much more than dry and dusty stones — through the expertise of our Guide Lecturers, we 'meet' the real ancient Egyptians, from legendary pharaohs to the humble workers who built their tombs and palaces.

The Nile is the dominant feature of Egypt, both ancient and modern, for without it there would be only desert. It has supported human habitation for over 200,000 years and our short river cruise is a wonderful opportunity to witness a way of life in Egypt that has little changed for centuries.

Key highlights

- Enjoy access to both the grand gallery and royal burial chamber of the Great Pyramid of Khufu
- Discover the impressive temple site of Abu Simbel, a real highlight of our tour
- Experience the delights of cruising the Nile while pausing to visit the beautifully preserved temples of Upper Egypt
- Explore the enigmatic Valleys of the Kings and Queens and pay a visit to the exceptionally preserved tomb of Seti I

SPECIALIST JOURNEYS

Day 1: London - Cairo
Arrive into Cairo and meet your expert Guide Lecturer and fellow travellers at your hotel.

Day 2: Cairo
The majority of our day is devoted to the necropolis of **Saqqara**. We discover the 3rd Dynasty Pharoah Djoser's distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex, the **Pyramid of Unas**, the **Mastaba of Mereruka** and also explore the **Imhotep Museum**.

Day 3: Cairo - Luxor
We visit the pyramid complexes on the **Giza Plateau**, including the Great Pyramid, explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra** and the enigmatic **Great Sphinx**, then the rest of our day is devoted to the long-awaited **Grand Egyptian Museum**. Afterwards, we head to Luxor.

Day 4: West Bank
Today we visit the **Colossi of Memnon**, the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahri and the **Valley of the Kings**, including the elaborately decorated tomb of **Seti I**.

Day 5: Karnak
Today's sites include the captivating complex of **Karnak**, the **Valley of the Queens** plus the **'Tombs of the Nobles**, the vibrantly painted burial chamber of **Sennefer** and the intricately decorated funerary chapel of **Rekhmire**.

Day 6: West Bank
Today we discover the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II. Next is **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, **Deir El Medina** and the fantastic **Luxor Museum**.

Day 7: Luxor
We explore **Luxor Temple**, with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns, and later start our journey up the Nile to Aswan.

Day 8: Edfu - Kom Ombo
Today we see the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**, then explore the **Temple of Sobek** and **Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's **Crocodile Museum**.

Day 9: Aswan
Arriving in Aswan, we make our way to the impressive **Temple of Isis**, make a stop at **Aswan (High) Dam**, visit the ancient Quarries and see the spectacular **Unfinished Obelisk**.

Day 10 - Abu Simbel - Cairo
We disembark MS Amwaj, transfer to Aswan Airport and fly to remarkable **Abu Simbel**. Later, we visit **Elephantine Island** before our return flight to Cairo.

Day 11: Cairo
We spend our day at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation** and the **Egyptian Museum** before flying to Luxor.

Day 12: Cairo - London
Depart for the airport or continue your trip at leisure.

Activity level - **Moderate** ●●○

Your Expert Guide Lecturer

Lucia Gahlin



Lucia Gahlin is 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 continues to work closely with one of the world's most important collections of Egyptian antiquities, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology. She has worked extensively on the material dating to Akhenaten's reign in the Petrie Museum and at the archaeological site of Tell el-Amarna, the remains of the pharaoh Akhenaten's capital city in Middle Egypt, where she has been the Small Finds Registrar. She has been Chair of the Friends of the Petrie Museum, a Trustee of the Egypt Exploration Society, and Director of Bloomsbury Summer School. She has taught Egyptology for the Universities of London (Birkbeck College and UCL), Reading, Surrey, Sussex, Exeter, Warwick and Bristol. Her areas of special interest are Ancient Egypt's social history, the Amarna Period, settlement archaeology, and the rituals and beliefs of daily life. Her publications include Egypt: Gods, Myths and Religion.

Your tour includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field Notes
- All taxes & gratuities to local staff *(drivers, waiters, site custodians)*
- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach
- 2 nights at the Sofitel El Gezirah Hotel, Cairo, 3 nights at the Steigenberger Achti Resort Hotel, Luxor, 4 nights on MS Amwaj & 2 nights at the Hotel Meridien, Cairo
- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner