

Middle East & Nile Cruises

Oman

Oman is slowly emerging from its hermit shell, revealing a land of friendly people and dramatic landscapes peppered with forts.

Although it remains, in many ways, the most traditional country in the region, it's often more outward looking than it's given credit for.

Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the largest of the seven emirates that compose the United Arab Emirates and is located in the oil-rich and strategic Persian Gulf region. It adjoins the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman. Abu Dhabi city is on an island located less than a quarter-kilometer from the mainland and is joined to the mainland by the Maqta and Musaffah Bridges.

Bahrain

Bahrain, a group of 33 islands, with an area of 707 square kilometres, is situated in the Arabian Gulf, off the east coast of Saudi Arabia. The state takes its name from the largest island Bahrain, and its capital is Manama. It is linked by causeways to Muharraq (international airport) and Sitra (industrial area and tank-farm). There are numerous other tiny islands, but they are mainly uninhabited and are best known for the variety of migrating birds which pass through in spring and autumn.

Dubai

Dubai is one of the most modern cities in the world; this city was a fishing and pearling village less than 50 years ago.

The architecture of its modern buildings and sky scrapers is the finest in the Middle East. Sightseeing within the city centre is split mainly between Deira, on the right bank of the Dubai creek and historic Bur Dubai on the other bank. Deira, is home to the best shopping and is the business and commercial centre of the city. Bur Dubai has less of a bustling atmosphere and is home to a number of tourist attractions, including the Dubai Museum, Grand Mosque and Sheikh Saeed Al-Maktoum's House.

Emirate of Fujairah

Emirate of Fujairah lies on the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Fujairah is one of the most attractive tourist and travel destinations in the region, and has a lot of attractions and activities to offer.

Alexandria

Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city, is Egypt's chief seaport on the Mediterranean and is home to at least 3.5 million people.

This was formerly the site of the Caesareum, a magnificence begun by Cleopatra for her lover Antony and subsequently completed by their enemy Octavian and dedicated to himself.

Luxor

Luxor is the world's greatest open-air museum, filled with awe inspiring monuments of ancient civilization. Wherever you tread, you feel you are experiencing the past and the present at the same time. There is hardly a place in the city that does not have a relic that tells of the grandeur of the Ancient Egyptians several thousand years ago.

Edfu

Probably Egypt's best preserved temple, Edfu was built by the father of Cleopatra around the 1st century B.C. Probably due to it's late construction, the level of preservation is so good that some of the roofs still survive. The inner chapel is guarded by two black granite statues of Horus the falcon, wearing the double crown of Egypt, although one has been knocked off!

Aswan

Aswan is situated at the south end of the section of the Nile. Aswan used to be the border trading city for Egypt and adjoining Nubia, and the rest of southern Africa, and a high percentage of Aswan's population are of Nubian descent. Aswan still represents a major commerce centre and is well known for its spices.

Kom Ombo

Kom Ombo temple is situated on the banks of the Nile some 20 miles north of Aswan, and is unusual in that it is dedicated to two gods, Horus & Sobek. Sobek was the crocodile god of Nile fertility, and the bend of the river here was once home to a large number of Nile crocodiles, which were held to be sacred.

Esna

The town of Esna stands on the west bank of the Nile. Most of the temple has remained unexplored because the modern town has developed on the site of the ancient city. The temple was dedicated to the ram god Khnum who fashioned mankind from the mud of the Nile on his potter's wheel.

Sharm el-Sheik

Sun, sea and sand, luxurious five-star hotels, water sports, shopping and entertainment. This is Sharm el-Sheikh, one of the most accessible and developed tourist resort communities on the Sinai peninsula.

