



## *Treasures of Travel*

### *Timeless Egypt, 2023 ~ 15 days/13 nights ~*

**Please note: This tour is not offered as a pre-planned group tour.**

**We would be delighted to meet the expectation of the interested individuals and/or groups with the below example outline of the trip, based on the highlights of the country, or custom design one working around the offered itinerary according to your special interest and desire to make it unforgettable experience.**

An extraordinary land, Egypt is rich in awe-inspiring temples and monuments, and possesses great natural beauty as well. You will gaze in wonder at the legendary Pyramids, marvel at the vast treasures and antiquities of Tutankhamun's Tomb, and glide past impressive feats of architecture as you cruise the famous Nile River.

#### *Day 1*

Depart the USA on overnight flight to Cairo.

#### *Day 2 ~ Cairo*

Upon arrival in Cairo, you will be met and **transferred** to your hotel. Overnight in Cairo.

#### *Day 3 ~ Cairo*

This morning we will start our day with a drive to the famous **Giza Plateau** and visit the **Great Pyramids**, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Sightseeing includes: the Great Pyramid of Cheops from inside, middle Pyramid of Chephren and the small one of Mykerinos, as well as the **Solar Boat Museum** and the Mysterious Sphinx. Next we will travel to **Saqqara**, which is the part of Memphis' massive necropolis to see the first pyramids built in Egypt 'the Step Pyramid', designed for Pharaoh Djoser by Imhotep.

We will end the day touring the museum of Memphis which houses a colossal statue of Ramses II and the alabaster sphinx. Overnight in Cairo.

#### *Day 4 ~ Cairo*

Today we'll begin our exploration with a visit to the **Egyptian Museum of Antiquities**. Some of the highlights in the museum are the **Amarna Room** with the unfinished head of Nefertiti, the **Jewelry Room**, the **Royal Mummy Room** and the **Tutankhamun Galleries**. Next we'll stroll in **Old Cairo**, where not much has changed over the past 1000 years. We'll tour the **Hanging Church**, or Suspended Church; the **Church of St. Sergius** in Coptic Cairo, built over a cave where the Holy Family is supposed to have stayed; and the **Ben Ezra Synagogue**, which dates from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In the afternoon, we'll proceed to the **Citadel**, built by Saladin in 1176; the **Mohamed Ali Pasha Mosque** and the **Khan el Khalili Bazaar**. Overnight in Cairo.

### *Day 5 ~ Aswan*

This morning you will be **transferred** to Cairo airport for the **domestic flight** to Abu Simbel. After arrival, and meeting the local guide, you will start the excursion with the **Temples of Ramses the Great and Nefertari** and be amazed not only by the greatness of the temples but also at the effort and feat that multinational team of archeologists, engineers and skilled heavy equipment operators went through with the help UNESCO to move these magnificent treasures to their current location to save from being flooded when the great Aswan Dam was constructed. After another short **flight** to **Aswan**, you will be met at the airport and **transferred** to the hotel. The afternoon will be at your leisure. Overnight in Aswan.

### *Day 6 ~ Nile Cruise*

Today we will visit the **Nubian museum** in Aswan and before lunch we will board **the Sonesta Moon Goddess** to begin our cruise on the longest river in the world, the life-force of Egypt. In the afternoon we will sail on the Nile by traditional felucca around **Kitchener's Island** and the **Agha Khan Mausoleum**. After dinner, we will be entertained by a Nubian Folklore Show. Overnight in Aswan.

### *Day 7 ~ Nile Cruise*

In the morning our first stop will be at the **Aswan High Dam**, the **Unfinished Obelisk** and the **Temple of Philae** before setting to sail for **Kom Ombo**. In the afternoon we'll explore the **Temple of Gods Sobek** and **Haroeies** in Kom Ombo. Later, we'll enjoy afternoon tea on board as we sail to **Edfu** and tonight there will be the Captain's Welcome Cocktail Party including dinner and dancing. Overnight in Edfu.

### *Day 8 ~ Nile Cruise*

Our sightseeing day will start with a visit to the **Temple of Horus** in Edfu, a very dramatic monument and most completely preserved Egyptian temple. In the afternoon, we will enjoy the views along the Nile as we sail to Esna and later onto Luxor, also see the activities around the locks before passing through them on the way. Overnight in Luxor.

### *Day 9 ~ Nile Cruise*

Today we'll make our way to the **West Bank** of the setting sun, which offers the sites: **The Valley of the Kings and Queens**, the **Temple of Hatshepsut** at **El Deir El Bahari**, and the **Colossi of Memnon**.

After lunch, we will have a visit to the **Karnak and Luxor Temples** - the magnificent wonders of Ramses II and Akhenaton on the East Bank of the Nile, in the City of the Living, where they greet the sunrise. It was known as the 'city of palaces' in Homer's time. Overnight in Luxor.

### *Day 10 ~ Luxor*

This morning, we'll disembark our cruise and be **transferred** to our hotel. After checking in, we will head to the **Valley of the Nobles and the Valley of the Workers**, probably the most interesting burial site in Egypt where we gain the idea of their daily life. Here we will see **Medinat Habu** - second in size only after the temple complex at Karnak; it is one of the most underrated sites on the West Bank. With the Theban Mountains as a backdrop and the sleepy village of Kom Lolah in the front, it is a wonderful place to spend a few hours. At the site, we will visit the **Temple of Amun** and the **Funerary Temple of Ramses III**, which was inspired by the style of his forefather, Ramses II. The **Tomb Chapels of the Divine Adorers** and the **Syrian Gate**, a large two-story building modeled after an Asiatic fortress will be the highlights, as well as the **Pharaoh's Palace**, as they are outstanding examples of New Dynastic architecture. In the afternoon we will tour the Luxor museum and still have some free time to relax and enjoy the gardens and the pool. Overnight at a hotel in Luxor.

### *Day 11 ~ Luxor*

Today we'll enjoy a full day excursion to **Dendera** and **Abydos**. Abydos is the home to Osiris, the ruler of the underworld. It is said that at night you can hear the spirits congregating to pay homage to Osiris. The **Temple of Seti I** is one of the few remaining royal monuments still intact at Abydos. It contains some of the most sublime decorations of any Egyptian monument.

Dendera was the main city of the sixth Egyptian Nome (a nome is similar to a state or province). It was also the site of an ancient cult center for Hathor. The **Temple of Dendera** was built in the late Ptolemaic period and later elements were added by the Romans. Overnight in Luxor.

### *Day 12 ~ Alexandria*

This morning you will be **transferred** to the airport for your **domestic flight** to Cairo. Arrival and meeting local guide, will be followed by a private car ride to Alexandria.

As we pass the interesting countryside where much of the country's produce is harvested, we will reach this illustrious city and drive along the promenade to our hotel, stopping to stretch our legs along the way at the promenade at **Fort Qait Bey**. The fort occupies the site of the famous Pharos Lighthouse. Overnight in Alexandria.

### *Day 13 ~ Alexandria*

Today we will tour the sights of Alexandria, such as: **Catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa**, the **Roman amphitheater**, **Pompey's Pillar** and the **Serapeum**, the magnificent new **Bibliotheca Alexandrina** and the **Graeco-Roman Museum**. In the afternoon, we will visit the **Jewelry Museum** and the **Midan Tahrir** - the marketplace. Dinner this evening will be in a local fish market restaurant along the **Corniche**. Overnight in Alexandria.

### *Day 14 ~ Cairo*

This morning will be at your leisure to wander in the attractive **Montazah Palace Gardens** which surround the President's residence, or stroll along the seafront **Corniche**, before we return to Cairo. Overnight in Cairo.

### *Day 15*

You will be **transferred** to the airport for your flight home.

### *Best time to travel:*

Late fall, winter and early spring.