

“Discovering the Pharaohs and the Pyramids”

Tuesday, 23 February 2010

DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON

21:55 AF 027 Depart Washington IAD Airport

Enjoy full meal service on your scheduled wide-bodied flight to Cairo.

Wednesday, 24 February 2010

DAY 2 ARRIVE CAIRO (1 NIGHT)

11:15 Arrive Charles de Gaulle CDG Airport

13:35 AF 508 Depart Charles de Gaulle CDG Airport

19:00 Arrive Cairo CAI Airport

We will arrive this evening at Cairo International Airport, where we will be met at the airport by our tour manager/guide. We will then transfer by private coach to our Cairo hotel.

[Le Meridien Heliopolis](#)

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Thursday, 25 February 2010

DAY 3 CAIRO - FLY TO LUXOR - EXCURSIONS TO VALLEY OF THE KINGS & QUEENS - NILE RIVER CRUISE (4 NIGHTS)

09:30 MS 377 Depart Cairo

10:40 Arrive Luxor

This morning we will transfer to the Cairo airport for our flight to Luxor; where a tour representative will greet us and transfer us to our **Five-Star Nile Cruise Boat** for check in and lunch. This afternoon we will enjoy an excursion to the **Valley of the Kings**, a vast city of the dead, where elaborate tombs of the pharaohs were carved into the mountain. It was here that Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's Tomb in 1922. The tombs were intended to be secure places where the mummies could rest, ensuring the deceased pharaohs a happy afterlife. Our visit will include the tombs that are open on the day we visit (schedule rotates). After lunch (included), we will enjoy an afternoon visit to the **Valley of the Queens**, featuring 80 tombs of queens, princes and princesses. After our tour, we will return to the ship for the night, including dinner.

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Friday, 26 February 2010

DAY 4 NILE CRUISE

Today we will explore Luxor, known as Thebes in ancient times; which is home to one third of the world's antiquities. We will begin with a visit to the **Temple of Luxor**, which was dedicated to the Theban triad of Amun, Mut and Khonsu. Built by Amenophis III, the walls are decorated with some of the finest carvings in Egypt. Our visit will also include a walk along the **Avenue of the Sphinxes** to the **First Pylon**, built by Ramses II; the **Mosque of Abu al Haggag**; the **Processional Colonnade** and the impressive **Great Sun Court**, with fine decorations developed between the reigns of Amenophis and Alexander the Great. Our afternoon concludes with a visit to the **Karnak Temple**, which for 1,500 years was the most important place of worship in the country, dedicated to the god Amun. More than just a temple, it was an intellectual center, and every pharaoh of note contributed to the massive complex. Highlights of our visit will include the **Precinct of Amun**, **Seti II's Shrine**, the **Temple of Ramses II**, the **Great Hypostyle Hall** and the **Sanctuary of Amun**. Late this afternoon we return to the ship for dinner and our overnight sail.

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Saturday, 27 February 2010

DAY 5 NILE CRUISE - EXCURSIONS TO EDFU & KOM OMBO

Today's first excursion will be a visit to the **Temple of Horus**, a Ptolemaic temple at **Edfu** built from 257 – 237 BC. This is one of the finest and best-preserved temples in Egypt and is built in classic pharonic style. This temple offers a clear idea of the purpose of an Egyptian temple through the inscriptions on the walls and columns. We will enjoy lunch on board the ship, before taking an afternoon excursion to **Kom Ombo**; where

we will visit the **Temple of Sobek and Haroeris**. The remains of this Graeco-Roman temple, unusually dedicated to two deities, feature a truly imposing look. The temple has two identical halves; the eastern part dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile god, and the western part to Haroeris or Horus the Elder, who attracted thousands of sick pilgrims hoping to find a cure for their illness. We later return to our ship for dinner.

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Sunday, 28 February 2010

DAY 6 NILE CRUISE - EXCURSIONS IN ASWAN

Today we will enjoy a day of sightseeing around Aswan. Our tour will include the **Old Dam**, the **Aswan High Dam** and the **Unfinished Obelisk**, before visiting the **Temple of Isis at Philae**. Set on an island, surrounded by the blue waters of Lake Nasser, this is one of Egypt's most romantic sights. For more than 8,000 years, until 550 AD, this temple to Isis and Osiris was one of the most important Egyptian cult centers. After lunch, our sightseeing continues with a visit to **Elephantine Island**, the main town and temple area of Aswan in ancient times; which got its name from its elephantine shaped boulders and rocks. Our afternoon will also include a ride around the islands in a picturesque **Felucca Sailboat**. During our ride we will view the **Mausoleum of Aga Khan** and visit the sweet-smelling **Botanical Garden** on Kitchener Island. We will later enjoy dinner in on the cruise for the final night.

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Monday, 01 March 2010

DAY 7 ASWAN - FLIGHT TO CAIRO (3 NIGHTS)

09:00 MS 95 Depart Aswan

10:30 Arrive Cairo

After breakfast, our Nile Cruise comes to an end. We will disembark and then take a flight back to Cairo. Upon our arrival in the afternoon, we have a scheduled visit to the State Department where we will attend an Embassy talk. We will then take a brief **Guided Tour of Coptic Cairo**; one of the oldest-inhabited parts of the city. The Coptic neighborhood provides a fascinating link between Egypt's pharaonic and Islamic civilizations. After our tour, we will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

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Tuesday, 02 March 2010

DAY 8 SAQQARA, MEMPHIS & GIZA

Today we will begin our exploration of the treasures left by the Ancient Egyptian civilizations. Our day begins in the necropolis of **Saqqara**. We will enjoy a guided tour of the site including the impressive **Step Pyramid of Zoser**, which dates to the 27th century BC and was the world's first free-standing stone structure. We will also see some tombs belonging to nobles of the past. Our day continues to the remains of **Memphis**, the world's first imperial city; founded in about 3100 BC by King Menes. As the first capital of a united Egypt, Memphis was symbolically built at the place where the delta met the southern valley. After lunch, we will spend the afternoon viewing the **Pyramids of Giza**; sole survivors of the seven wonders of the ancient world. During our tour we will view the **Great Pyramid of Cheops**, the oldest and largest of the three pyramids; **Chephren's Pyramid**; **Mycerinus' Pyramid** and the legendary and mysterious **Sphinx**, an ancient figure with the head of a human and the body of a lion. During our tour at Giza we will enjoy a **Camel Ride**, a wonderful way to view this spectacular sight. After dinner in a local restaurant, we will enjoy a **Sound and Light Show at the Great Pyramid** (*subject to season and schedule*). The show will lead us on a fascinating tour through the history of the Pyramids, complete with lasers; which outline the cartouches of the pharaohs and show the secret hidden chambers within. It is an unforgettable experience.

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Wednesday, 03 March 2010

DAY 9 EGYPTIAN MUSEUM, ISLAMIC CAIRO & EMBASSY TALK

Our morning commences with a guided tour of the **Egyptian Museum of Antiquities**, featuring the world's most exquisite and extensive collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts. Highlights of our visit include **Tutankhamun's Treasure**, discovered in the Valley of the Kings in 1922 by Howard Carter and the **Mummy**

Room, featuring 11 of Egypt's most illustrious pharaohs. Next we will visit Islamic Cairo. We start at the **Citadel of Salah al-Din**, the largest fortification in the Middle East, which dominates Cairo's skyline. The Citadel was built in 1176 by Salah al-Din and was the royal residence for over 700 years. Today many of the buildings have been torn down, but the impressive walls still remain. We continue our sightseeing with a visit to the **Sultan Hasan Mosque**, one of the finest Islamic monuments in Egypt. Built between 1356 and 1363, it was the first mosque to have a cruciform plan, and today houses religious schools for each of the four main Sunni Moslem sects. Our tour concludes as we wander through and shop in a traditional **Egyptian Bazaar**. Tonight we will enjoy a farewell dinner in a 'floating' restaurant on the Nile.

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Thursday, 04 March 2010

DAY 10 DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO

07:30 AF 503 Depart Cairo CAI Airport

11:25 Arrive Charles de Gaulle CDG Airport

16:40 AF 026 Depart Charles de Gaulle CDG Airport

19:15 Arrive Washington IAD Airport

Our enjoyable and rewarding tour will come to an end, as a local representative will accompany us to the airport for the return flight home.