

THE WONDERS OF EGYPT AND THE RED SEA

September 16-October 1, 2011

Day 1 – Friday – September 16 – Departure

Depart New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport this evening for Egypt.

Day 2 – Saturday – September 17 - Cairo

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Welcome to Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs! Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, your tour representative will greet you and assist you with visa and custom formalities. After check-in at the hotel and time to freshen up, you will meet with the Learning Through Travel representative to discuss the exciting days ahead. A welcome dinner this evening will introduce you to Egyptian cuisine.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL OR SIMILAR

Day 3 – Sunday – September 18 - Cairo



Today you will visit the Giza Plateau where there are three Pyramids, the greatest being that of Cheops. It took 100,000 workers more than 20 years to construct. Entrance to one of the pyramids is included. Southeast of the Great Pyramids is the Sphinx, carved out of solid natural rock in about 2650 BC, a magnificent monument with the head of the Pharaoh and the body of a lion. Continue to visit the first Pyramid ever built, the Step Pyramid of Zoser, in the Sakkara Complex. When Memphis was the capital of Egypt, during the Old

Kingdom period, Sakkara was its necropolis. Spread over seven kilometers of desert, Sakkara is one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Before returning to the hotel, we will stop to visit the remains in Memphis, the first capital of United Upper and Lower Egypt.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL OR SIMILAR



Day 4– Monday – September 19 - Cairo

This morning you are being introduced to the masterpieces of ancient art in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, including the Mummy Room. The museum is home to the vast findings of King Tutankhamun's tomb and other important pieces of Egypt's history. There will be time to visit the Khan El Khalili Bazaar, known for its narrow alleys. Hundreds of shops are selling all types of Egyptian handicrafts, silver and gold jewelry, cottons, copperware and perfumes.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL OR SIMILAR

Day 5 – Tuesday – September 20 – Cairo/Aswan – Optional Abu Simbel-Nile Cruise

This morning a short flight will bring you to Aswan to board your Nile Cruise or you may select the optional pre cruise three-hour Abu Simbel excursion to visit the great Temples of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. The colossal statues were originally carved into the side of a natural cliff that had to be rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. After your excursion and upon your return to Aswan you will embark your Nile cruise. After lunch, visit Aswan's High Dam, Granite Quarries, and Unfinished Obelisk. Then continue by felucca to enjoy Kitchener's Island with its beautiful gardens and to view the mausoleum of the Agha Khan.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP

Day 6 – Wednesday – September 21 - Nile Cruise Aswan/Kom Ombo/Edfu



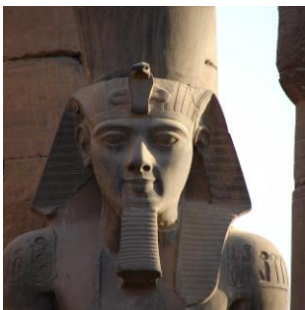
After breakfast sail in a small boat to the Philae Temple, situated on the island of Agilika. Like Abu Simbel, the temple was relocated in order to protect it from the rising water of the High Dam, built in 1960. The main sanctuary on the island is dedicated to the Goddess Isis and her son Horus. Ancient Egyptians believed that Isis was the Goddess of Magic, and when she wept, the Nile flooded. This afternoon set sail for the city of Kom Ombo, known as “Ombos” in ancient times. Its location on the Nile, gave it strategic importance to control the routes from Nubia to the Nile Valley. The city became prosperous when the temple in the Ptolemaic era was built, divided into two symmetrical halves. The left side is dedicated to the falcon-headed god,

“Heroeris,” and the right side to the crocodile god, “Sobek”. Reliefs of Ptolemaic Pharaohs are found in the porch area. The remainder of the temple consists of a crypt, chapels, Roman wells where sacred crocodiles may have been kept, and the remains of a birth house. On the walls of the temple, you will see the first recorded representation of medical instruments. Sail onto Edfu, midway between Aswan and Luxor.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP

Day 7 – Thursday – September 22 - Nile Cruise Edfu/Luxor

Begin the day by visiting the magnificently preserved temple of Edfu. The sandstone temple of Horus the Sun God



was built under the Ptolemies and completed by the mid first century, BC. In the colonnaded court, we will see the surviving statue of a pair of falcons representing Horus. A series of smaller chambers leads to the Sanctuary of the God, which is lit by three openings in the ceiling. Ceremonies, celebrations, and war scenes are shown on the walls of the temple. Later today, we sail to Esna, pass the lock, and arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes. This afternoon we will explore the East Bank of the Nile including the Temple of Luxor. Here, the Avenue of Sphinxes, famous for its artistic degree of uniformity, leads to the entrance of the temple where a seated colossus of Ramses II and a towering Obelisk sit. Continue to the Karnak Temple, one of the

most impressive monuments of ancient art and architecture in the world. The carvings, which adorn all of the walls, depict the history and conquests of many of Egypt’s Pharaohs. This evening you may join an optional excursion to the Karnak Temple for a spectacular Sound and Light Show.

ACCOMMODATIONS; 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP

Day 8 – 14 - Friday – Thursday – September 23 – 29 - Luxor/Hurghada

Cross the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings, housing 63 tombs belonging to the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom, including the famous tomb of King Tutankhamen and tomb. Many of the tombs, carved out of the bedrock, retain their original bright colors and fine reliefs and scenes, thought to guarantee the safe passage of the Ka to the after life. Afterwards, continue on to Deir El Bahri to visit the mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, considered one of the finest buildings in Egypt. Hatshepsut ruled Egypt as King for 20 years.

Cross back to Luxor and drive to Hurghada.



Later today you will embark your one week live aboard dive boat following the Classic Cruise. Starting from Hurghada and sailing north offers a perfect combination of reef and wreck diving. The famous horseshoe shaped reef of Shaab El Erg is a perfect example of the reefs on offer on this cruise with its beautiful hard coral garden and the chance to see dolphins. Abu Nuhas has four well known wrecks:Giannis D, Carnatic, The Lentil Wreck and The Tile Wreck, all are offering spectacular dives and

plenty of fish life. Night dives can be superb in this area as Gubal Island offers protected anchoring for the night. A small wreck at 27-33 feet makes for a spectacular night dive with lionfish, scorpion fish and its resident giant moray eel. A short ride across the straits of Gubal and you visit the most famous wreck of the Red Sea, the Thistlegorm! An awe-inspiring World War II British vessel with a cargo full of armaments (Bedford trucks and BSA motorbikes), all destined for the British troops in North Africa. It was sunk by the German Luftwaffe and now rests in 90-100 feet of water. Depending on divers' experience, weather and current conditions, we also try to offer a night dive on the Thistlegorm. Close by is the Ras Mohamed National Park, offering a morning dive at the 'Shark Reef', a sheer wall falling into the blue. The Ras Mohamed Park is usually the 'border', from here the boat heads back towards Hurghada.

ACCOMMODATIONS: BLUE 0 2 LIVE ABOARD BOAT OR SIMILAR

Classic Cruise Highlights: Northern Red Sea from Hurghada to the Sinai Peninsula combining the best dive sites in the area for both reefs and historic wrecks.

Famous Reefs:

Ras Mohamed National Park
Shark Reef
Shark Observatory Wall
Anemone City
Shaab El Erg
Gubal Island

Famous Wrecks:

Thistlegorm
Dunraven
Jolanda
Carnatic
Ghannis D
Ulysses

Day 15 – Friday – September 30 - Hurghada/Cairo

Today you will leave Hurghada for Cairo where you have the day at leisure to shop at the City Stars mall. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner and show.

ACCOMMODATIONS: FAIRMONT HELIOPOLIS HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, D)

Day 16 – Saturday – October 1 - Departure

Farewell to Egypt as you transfer to the airport for your return flight to New York.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- International air New York/Cairo/New York on board EgyptAir
- Domestic air: Cairo/Aswan-Hurghada/Cairo
- 3 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Mena House Oberoi Hotel or similar
- 4 Day/3 Night 5-star deluxe Nile Cruise
- 1 night accommodation in Cairo at the Fairmont Heliopolis Hotel or similar
- 7 day live aboard private charter Blue 0 2 Live Aboard Boat "Classic Cruise" route
- Full day sightseeing: Pyramids (including entrance into 1 pyramid)/Sphinx-Memphis/Sakkara
- Full day sightseeing: Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and Old Cairo
- 14 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 12 dinners
- All entrance fees and shore excursions on Nile Cruise
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe car or motor coach
- Transfers Cairo, Aswan, Luxor, Hurghada
- Transfer of dive equipment Cairo/Hurghada/Cairo
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage
- Luggage Tags, Travel Bag, Passport Wallet and First Aid Kit

NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. Departure Taxes & Airport Security (\$285.00 subject to change)
- Domestic air within the U.S.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, inter-net services, dive equipment, National Park fees, soft drinks, coffee, tea (except at breakfast), mineral water, alcoholic beverages, passport fees, gratuities for drivers, guides, transfer personnel, travel insurance, etc.....