

SIU ANCIENT LEGACIES
EGYPT
Giza, Sakkara, Luxor, Aswan,
3-night Luxury Nile Cruise
May 10-22, 2021

Day 1 MON 10 MAY Departure from USA

Day 2 TUES 11 MAY Arrive at Cairo. Meet & be assisted at the airport and transfer to your 5-star hotel. Enjoy a moment of relaxation in one of the swimming pools of your hotel while marveling at the Pyramids of Giza in sight. * Overnight Cairo

Day 3 WED 12 MAY Visit to THE GIZA PLATEAU, including **the interior of the Great Pyramid of Khufu** where only few people are allowed to enter. The striking SOLAR BOAT and the famous SPHINX, dating back to a few thousand years ago, are definitely on our list.
* Overnight Cairo

Day 4 THU 13 MAY We explore SAKKARA PLATEAU, site of the Stepped Pyramid of King Djoser, “1st pyramid in history”. We marvel at the daily life of ancient Egyptians depicted on the walls of their Mastabas (name given to their burials later in time). Mastaba of Meryruka. Lunch by the pool at Palm Club followed by a trip to DAHSHUR to visit the Red and the Bent/Rhomboidal pyramids of King Snefru from the 4th Dynasty. Both plateaus will help to complete our understanding of the earliest stages of Old Kingdom “pyramid construction projects”.
* Overnight Cairo

Day 5 FRI 14 MAY A trip through the ancient history of Egypt: an overview of the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms -- in a visit to the perfectly extraordinary collection in THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM IN CAIRO, including **the fascinating treasure of King Tutankhamon** and the Mummies room. * Overnight Cairo

Day 6 SAT 15 MAY The PHARAONIC VILLAGE where the everyday life of the ancient Egyptians is brought back to life for you to watch! We set off for Cairo airport for our one-hour flight to Luxor in southern Egypt. Transfer to our 5-star resort: the Jolie Ville, set out on 24-acres of landscaped foliage, directly on the Nile.
* Overnight Luxor

Day 7 SUN 16 MAY Visit to the VALLEY OF THE KINGS including the tomb of **KING TUTANKHAMON**, Tombs of Seti 1st and Ramses VI; followed by a visit to the VALLEY OF THE QUEENS. A reflection on the change of themes according to the mission to accomplish, through

the iconography in both Valleys. Being a Pharaoh coincides with a particular journey in the under-world! Nefertari, THE most beautiful tomb in Egypt. Afternoon at leisure, enjoying relaxing and reflecting time by the hotel swimming pools. At twilight, visit LUXOR TEMPLE and walk through the famous Sacred Way lined by ram-headed sphinxes. Buffet dinner in Jolie Ville restaurant overlooking the Nile. * Overnight Luxor

Day 8 MON 17 MAY Visit to the funerary temple of QUEEN HATSCHEPSUT at El-Deir el-Bahary. A distinguished female Pharaoh... with a unique architectural design. Temple of Medinet Habou, funerary temple of the Last Great Egyptian Pharaohs: Ramses III. We then visit the VALLEY OF NOBLES and the WORKMEN’S VILLAGE. The iconography in these various tombs helps us understand the roles played by Pharaoh, Prince, Noble, and Workman; and how in turn this helps us understand what the after-life meant to the Ancient Egyptians. We marvel at the overwhelming collection of antiquities and Mummies at LUXOR MUSEUM. * Overnight Luxor

Day 9 TUES 18 MAY Optional excursion: Hot-air-Balloon ride on the Nile at sunrise! Discover the largest temple in the world: KARNAK, unique with its gigantic “Hypostyle Hall,” witnessing the greatness of architecture in ancient Egypt. Transfer to board our luxurious 5-star Nile Cruise. Your floating hotel has lots of facilities onboard including sundeck, swimming pool, lounge bar, restaurant, Jacuzzi, health club and massage parlor. This will be home for four days! Lunch on board while beginning sailing on the Nile. We go through the lock of Esna and rise up 18 feet before continue sailing on to Edfu. Tea Time on the sun deck. * Overnight Cruise

Day 10 WED 19 MAY Visit the most complete temple of Egypt, the house of Horus the Falcon-headed god, at EDFU. After our visit, we return to the cruise to savour the moments while cruising up the Nile, watching the peaceful scenery of daily countryside life from “another time”. Back on board, we participate in two hands-on activities of reconstructing the structure of the Great Pyramid to test theories of its construction, and we join together to raise a breakable obelisk to test other theories about ancient Egyptian technology. We do these activities on the deck of our cruise ship, as we gently sail the Nile. At twilight we visit the double temple of KOM OMBO where Sobek, the crocodile, and Hareoris, the falcon, were worshiped. Egyptian buffet dinner and Local Galabieh party on board. * Overnight Cruise

Day 11 THU 20 MAY Visit to the pearl of Egypt temples: PHILAE, dedicated to goddess Isis. The location: an island on the Nile, at the gate to Nubia, is a brilliant cultural and political choice. We also visit the UNFINISHED OBELISK at

THE QUARRIES OF RED GRANITE as we explore how the huge blocks of granite were cut from the rock beds and transported north to Luxor and Giza. Explore the Spices Market with its vivid colors and lights. * Overnight Cruise

Day 12 FRI 21 MAY Optional excursion to **ABU SIMBEL**, one of the wonders of Ancient Egypt. The gigantic two temples were cut in the rocks and are the accomplishment of one of Egypt's greatest Pharaohs: Ramses II, and great wife: queen Nefertari. Board a Jet flight to Cairo and transfer to our hotel. * Overnight Cairo

Day 13 SAT 22 MAY Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to USA.

* Some proposed visits are subject to obtaining special permits from Egyptian Antiquities Service

EXTENSION 1: ALEXANDRIA ALEXANDRIA

Day 13 Day trip to Alexandria. Visit the Famous Library of Alexandria with its intriguing architectural features inspired from Ancient Egypt heritage. We follow with lunch at a restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean. We then explore the Catacomb tombs and the National Museum of Alexandria where are placed Greco-Roman objects and coins "freshly" fished out of the Mediterranean. Nice walk by the sea as we picture one of the Seven Wonders of Ancient World: the Light House of Alexandria. The Fort of Quaitabay has been built later on the ruins of the Light house. Return to Cairo, dinner and overnight.

Day 14 Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to USA

EXTENSION 2: JORDAN

Day 14 MT. NEBO / MADABA / DEAD SEA Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to Amman. Drive to Mount Nebo, believed to be where Moses was buried. The mountain, which rises to 840 m of altitude, offers a spectacular view of the Holy Land. Continue to Madaba, "the City of Mosaics". Visit the Greek Orthodox church of St. George where the famous 6th Century Byzantine mosaic map of the holy sites in the biblical world is found. Drive to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, 400 meters below sea level. The Dead Sea has a historical and spiritual legacy of its own. It is believed to be the site of five biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar. Swim and relax in the gently lapping waters of the Dead Sea and be amazed that you can never sink! Treat yourself to a soothing massage, or try the well-known healing powers of minerals from the sea's muddy floor. Drive to Petra. Dinner and night at your hotel.

DAY 15 PETRA The ancient Nabatean city of Petra was recently voted as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is without a doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and greatest tourist attraction. In 1985, Petra was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin your visit by enjoying a walk or a short horse ride from Petra's main entrance to the entrance of the old city "Al Siq", which is a 350 meter narrow canyon. As you reach the end of the Siq, the first and greatest monument of Petra slowly comes into view. This is the famous Treasury monument, "Al Khazneh". Petra, "The Rose City", is an extraordinary and unique place, which was built by the Arab Nabateans more than 2,000 years ago. The Nabateans carved monumental tombs, palaces, temples and a treasury from the desert's natural rose-colored rocks and sandstones. Petra was an important junction for the silk, spice and other trade routes that linked the Eastern world with that of the West. Indulge yourself, and allow our professional guide to walk you through the architectural and spiritual wonders of this majestic place, explaining every detail in sight. Overnight Petra.

Day 16 JERASH Drive north to Jerash, where there remains one of the most beautiful and best-preserved Greco-roman cities in the world. Excavations made it possible to update two theatres, several temples, churches, a market, thermal baths, and the famous Cardo Maximus alley of 600 meters of bordered columns. Proceed to Amman.

Day 17 Transfer to Amman Airport for flight to USA.

EXTENSION 3: SHARM EL-SHEIKH

The perfect way to end your trip in a relaxing mode. Gorgeous underwater scenery, beaches, coffee shops, restaurants, shopping and nightlife...

Day 1 SHARM Flight to Sharm el-Sheikh. Relax on the beach and marvel at the fascinating colors of fish and corals while swimming in the Red Sea.

Day 2 ST. CATHERINE Optional Excursion to ST. CATHERINE. Ascend to the summit of Moses Mountain to marvel at a spectacular sunrise. Visit the 4th century monastery of St. Catherine and its 6th century Greek Orthodox Church. Drive back to Sharm el-Sheikh.

Day 3 SHARM Have fun on a boat trip, snorkel or scuba dive in the best diving area in the world; or take a quad safari in the desert.

Day 4: Departure for return to the USA.

Included:

- 5 Nights at a 5* hotel in Cairo
- 3 Nights at a 5* Resort in Luxor
- 3 Nights at a 5* Nile cruise
- All rooms are air conditioned and have private bathrooms
- 2 meals per day except on the cruise, 3 meals per day
- Coffee, tea, mineral water at breakfast
- 2 domestic flights from Cairo to Luxor and from Aswan to Cairo
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned on the program
- The special entrance tickets to King Tut tomb and the Great Pyramid
- English speaking Egyptologist/guide during the entire trip
- Air-conditioned private transportation during transfers and excursions

Not included:

- Transatlantic flight tickets
- Entry Visa
- Gratuities for various services and guide
- Beverages and personal expenses

Program Costs:

- For enrolling students: \$ 3394.
- For adults and all not enrolling for at least 3 course credits: \$ 3694.