

SIU EGYPT PROGRAM

December 25, 2018 - January 5, 2019

Day 1: Tues, December 25. Departure from St Louis

Day 2: Wed, December 26. Arrive in Cairo. Meet and be assisted by our correspondent and transfer to your 5-star hotel: **Le Meridien Pyramids**... Enjoy a moment of relaxation and recovery from your plane trip in the giant Jacuzzi and swimming pool of your hotel. Awesome sight of the Pyramids while having dinner!

Day 3: Thur, December 27. 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 almost five thousand years ago are definitely on our list. Free time for leisure at the hotel giant Pool and Jacuzzi.

Day 4: Fri, December 28. Visit to **SAKKARA PLATEAU**, site of the Stepped Pyramid of King Djoser, "1st pyramid in history". We marvel at the daily life of ancient Egyptians depicted in detail on the walls of their *Mastabas*. Lunch by the pool at Palm Club Restaurant 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".

Day 5: Sat, December 29. 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 treasures of King Tutankhamon**.

Lunch at a restaurant overlooking old Cairo followed by a visit to **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.

Day 6: Sun, December 30. Visit to **THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS** including the special ticket to **the tomb of King Tutankhamon**, 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 on the tombs in both Valleys. Being a Pharaoh coincide with a particular journey in the Under-World! Afternoon at leisure, enjoying relaxing and reflecting time by the hotel swimming pools followed by buffet dinner.

PM Visit to the funerary temple of **QUEEN HATSCHEPSUT** at El-Deir el-Bahary, a distinguished female Pharaoh accomplishing a unique architectural design.

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

At twilight we visit **LUXOR TEMPLE** and walk through the famous Sacred Way lined by ram-headed sphinxes. Buffet dinner in Jolie Ville restaurant overlooking the Nile.

Day 7: Mon, December 31. Discover the largest temple in the world: **KARNAK**, unique with its gigantic "Hypostyle Hall," witnessing the greatness of architecture in ancient Egypt. We then marvel at the overwhelming collection of antiquities and mummies at **LUXOR MUSEUM**.

Drive to Aswan and board your luxurious **5-star Cruise** on Lake Naser. Your cruise has lots of facilities onboard including a sundeck with pool, pool bar, Jacuzzi & health club and a fully equipped spa and massage parlour, this will be your home for five days! 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.

Day 8: Tues, January 1. Enjoy your breakfast while sailing to Kalabsha. Visit the **TEMPLE OF KALABSHA, THE KIOSK OF KERTASSI** and the small pearl of Ramses II: the semi Speos (part rock cut temple) of **BEIT EL-WALY**. Back to the ship, sail & relax.

Day 9: Wed, January 2. Visit the temples of **WADI EL-SEBOUAA (valley of the lions), DAKKA AND MEHARAKA**. Back to the ship and sailing up the Nile. Visit the temples of **AMADA, DERR** and the **TOMB OF PENNUT**. Enjoy lunch while sailing towards Abu Simbel.

Day 10: Thur, January 3. View of the fortress of **KASR IBRIM** from the sun deck and continue sailing. Enjoy watching the temples of Abu Simbel getting bigger and bigger as we sail towards them. Upon arrival we visit two of the most fascinating temples of Egypt: **ABU SIMBEL**. Marvel at the accomplishment of one Egypt's greatest Pharaohs: Ramses II, and his beautiful wife queen Nefertari. **Sound & light show in front of the façade of the temples of Abu Simbel**

Day 11: Fri, January 4. Board a Jet flight to Cairo and installation at our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 12: Sat, January 5. Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to Saint Louis.

EXTENSIONS

ALEXANDRIA

Day 1: Day trip to Alexandria. Visit the Famous **Library of Alexandria** with its intriguing architectural features inspired from Ancient Egypt heritage. We followed by 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 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 Quaitebay** has been built later on what was left of the Light house. Return to Cairo for dinner and overnight

Day 2: Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to St Louis

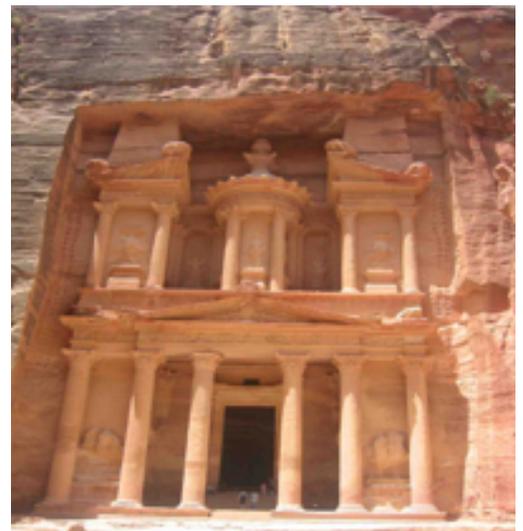
JORDAN

Day 1: Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to Amman. 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. Swimming, and relaxing 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*. Night at your Hotel.

DAY 2: 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 meters 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, temple, and treasury from the deserts natural "The 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 3: MT. NEBO / MADABA / JERASH

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. Proceed north to Jerash, where 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, market, thermal baths, and the famous Cardo Maximus alley of 600 meters bordered columns. Drive to Amman

Day 4: Transfer to Amman Airport for flight back home.

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 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 / DEAD SEA 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.