

SIU EGYPT PROGRAM

May 15 - 26, 2018

15 MAY: Departure from St Louis (Day)

16 MAY: Arrive in Cairo. Meet and be assisted at the airport and transfer to your 5-star hotel: **Le Meridien Pyramids**... From its swimming pool area you can marvel at the Pyramids while having dinner.

17 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 almost five thousand years ago are definitely on our list.

18 MAY: 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 details on the walls of their *Mastabas*. 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”.

19 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](#). 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.

20 MAY: Visit to the **VALLEY OF THE KINGS**, including 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 of accomplishments through the iconography on the tombs in both Valleys. Being a Pharaoh coincides with a particular journey in the Under-World! Afternoon at leisure, enjoying relaxing and reflecting time by the hotel swimming pools. Enjoy the abounding buffet dinner in Jolie Ville restaurant overlooking the Nile day.

21 MAY: Visit to the funerary temple of **QUEEN HATSHEPSUT** at El-Deir el Bahary. A distinguished female

Pharaoh with 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.

22 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. We then marvel at the overwhelming collection of antiquities and Mummies at **LUXOR MUSEUM**. Transfer to board our luxurious **5-star Nile Cruise**. Your floating hotel has lots of facilities onboard including a sundeck, swimming pool, lounge bar, restaurant, Jacuzzi, health club and massage parlour. This will be home for four days! Lunch on board while **beginning our** 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.

23 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 Galabeiah party on board.

24 MAY: Visit to the pearl of Egypt temples: **PHILAE**, dedicated to the 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. Felucca ride (sail boat) on the Nile enjoying the picturesque scenery of Aswan. Explore the Spices Market with its vivid colours and lights.

25 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 for dinner and overnight.

26 MAY: Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to St. Louis.

EXTENSIONS

Extensions are arranged directly with the travel agent at an additional cost and are not part of the Ancient Legacies educational program.

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 Quaitabay** has been built later on what was left from 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 2000 years ago. The Nabateans carved monumental tombs, palaces, temples and 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 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 with 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 EL-SHEIKH: Flight to Sharm el-Sheikh. Relax on the beach and marvel at the fascinating colours 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 EL-SHEIKH: 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.