

SIU EGYPT PROGRAM



JANUARY 2020

- Day 1 THR 2 JAN** Departure from USA
- Day 2 FRI 3 JAN** Arrive to Cairo. Meet & assist at the airport and transfer to your 5* 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 SAT 4 JAN** 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 few thousands years ago, are definitely on our list
* Overnight Cairo
- Day 4 SUN 5 JAN** 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*). 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”.
We set off for Cairo airport for our one-hour flight to **Luxor** in southern Egypt. Transfer to our 5-stars resort: the Jolie Ville, set out on 24-acres of landscaped foliage, directly on the Nile. We marvel at the overwhelming collection of antiquities and Mummies at **LUXOR MUSEUM**.
* Overnight Luxor
- Day 5 MON 6 JAN** 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 to accomplish, through the iconography 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. 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.
* Overnight Luxor
- Day 6 TUS 7 JAN** Optional excursion: **Hot-air-Balloon ride on the Nile at sunrise!**
Visit to the funerary temple of **QUEEN HATSCHEPSUT** 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. 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***** 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 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.

* Overnight Edfu

Day 7 WED 8 JAN 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 Galabeiah party on board!

* Overnight Aswan

Day 8 THR 9 JAN 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.

In the evening, we explore the Spices Market with its vivid colors and lights.

* Overnight Aswan

Day 9 FRI 10 JAN 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.

* Overnight Cairo

Day 10 SAT 11 JAN 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** The **PHARAONIC VILLAGE** where the everyday life of the ancient Egyptians is brought back to life for you to watch!

* Overnight Cairo

Day 11 SUN 12 JAN Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to USA.

EXTENSION 1: ALEXANDRIA

ALEXANDRIA

Day 11 **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 Quaitbay** has been built later on the ruins of the Light house. Return to Cairo, dinner and overnight

Day 12 Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to St Louis

EXTENSION 2: JORDAN

Day 12 MT. NEBO / MADABA / DEAS 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.
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*. Dinner and Night at your Hotel. Overnight Petra

DAY 13 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 14 JERASH Drive 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. Proceed to Amman. Overnight Amman

Day 15 Transfer to Amman Airport for flight back home.

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 colours 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 Ste 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.
