

# SIU EGYPT PROGRAM



**MARCH 2020**

**Day 1 WED 4 MAR** Departure from USA

**Day 2 THR 5 MAR** Arrive to Cairo. Meet & assist by our agent at Cairo airport and transfer to your luxurious **5\*\*\*\*\*** Nile cruise. This floating hotel has lots of facilities onboard including sundeck, swimming pool, lounge bar, restaurant, Jacuzzi, health club and massage parlor. This will be home during your entire stay!

Enjoy a moment of relaxation while marveling at the mythic Nile River.

\* Overnight Cairo

**Day 3 FRI 6 MAR** 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 SAT 7 MAR** We explore **SAKKARA PLATEAU**, site of the Stepped Pyramid of King Djoser, "1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. Both plateaus will help to complete our understanding of the earliest stages of Old Kingdom "pyramid construction projects".

\* Overnight Cairo

**Day 5 SUN 8 MAR** 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!

Back on your Nile cruise and set sailing towards Beni Sweif.

\* Overnight Beni Sweif

**Day 6 MON 9 MAR** Breakfast at leisure while sailing towards Minyeh

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.

\* Overnight Minyeh

**DAY 7 TUS 10 MAR** Visit the Tombs of Beni Hassan, this **Ancient Egyptian cemetery** was used and built for provincial governors during the Middle Kingdom over an older burial site used during the Old Kingdom period. The tombs reflect shifts in political power between the pharaoh and governors

\* Overnight Minyeh

**DAY 8 WED 11 MAR** Early sail to **Tell El-Amarna** was formally known as Akhetaten. The area is located on the east bank of the Nile River in the province of Minya, The site has the

ruins of Aton Great Temple, sanctuary, palace and residence of the royal family made of mud bricks painted in a lively naturalistic style.

We also visit **Tuna El Gabal**, which was, along with Hermopolis, the center of worship of Thoth, god of wisdom in ancient Egypt, who was idolized as early as the predynastic period in Egypt. Tomb of Petosiris the 4th century high priest. This sepulcher is constructed to look like a temple, the outside is decorated in typical late Period style, whereas the outer court is ornamented in a Greek style. The tomb was constructed around the time of the conquest of Egypt by Alexander The Great.

Tomb and Chapel of Isadora a wealthy and beautiful young woman who fell in love with a young soldier and they wanted to get married. Her father refused, so the young couple decided to elope. Unfortunately, Isadora drowned while crossing the Nile. Her father built an elaborate tomb for her, featuring a poem of 10 lines inscribed in Greek. At some time after her death, a cult developed around her tomb. Isadora's mummified remains are still present, encased in glass, in her mausoleum—a prominent building at Tuna el-Gebel.

Al-Ashmunein, or Hermopolis, stood on the borders of Upper and Lower Egypt. As the border town, Hermopolis was a place of great resort and opulence, ranking second to Thebes alone.

Sail to Assiout

\* Overnight Assiout

**DAY 9 THR 12 MAR** Full day sailing, listening to the sounds of water buffalos as they wade in the shallow water besides the banks of the Nile, the Donkeys as they go about their day-to-day business and the various bird life of the river

Overnight in Sohag, one of Egypt's earliest inhabited settlements, a centre of ancient economic and religious activity. Today it is home to many historical sites; Abydos is especially significant.

\* Overnight Sohag

**DAY 10 FRI 13 MAR** Built of limestone and laid out on three levels, Abydos' **Temple of Seti I** is unusual in many respects from other Egyptian temples. There are no fewer than seven sanctuaries in the inner temple here honoring Osiris, Isis, Horus, Ptah, Re-Harakhte, Amun, and the deified Pharaoh Seti I.

We resume sailing to **Denderah** and visit **the temple of Hathor** where we climb the actual stairs used by the priest of the Goddess some twenty centuries ago. Back on board and sailing

\* Overnight Nagaa Hamady

**DAY 11 SAT 14 MAR** 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 Cruise swimming pool.

At twilight we visit **LUXOR TEMPLE** and walk through the famous Sacred Way lined by ram-headed sphinxes.

\* Overnight Luxor

**DAY 12 SUN 15 MAR** 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.

We discover the largest temple in the world: **KARNAK**, unique with its gigantic "Hypostyle Hall," witnessing the greatness of architecture in ancient Egypt.

**PM**, we marvel at the overwhelming collection of antiquities and Mummies at **LUXOR MUSEUM**.

\* Overnight Luxor

**DAY 13 MON 16 MAR** Transfer to Luxor airport for flight to USA

### **EXTENSION 1: ASWAN**

**DAY 13 MON 16 MAR** Continue on board your luxurious **5\*\*\*\*\* Nile Cruise**.

Lunch on board while **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 14 TUS 17 MAR** 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”.

At twilight we visit the double temple of **KOM OMBO** where Sobek, the crocodile, and Hareoris, the falcon, were worshiped. \* Overnight Aswan

**DAY 15 WED 18 MAR** 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.

PM, Explore the Spices Market with its vivid colors and lights. \* Overnight Aswan

**DAY 16 THR 19 MAR** 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 17 FRI 20 MAR** Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to USA.

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### **EXTENSION 2: 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 the ruins of the Light house. Return to Cairo, dinner and overnight in Cairo

**Day 2** Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to USA

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### **EXTENSION 3: JORDAN**

**Day 1 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, Zeboim, 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

**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 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 and overnight

**Day 4** Transfer to Amman Airport for flight to USA.

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#### **EXTENSION 4: 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 4<sup>th</sup> century monastery of Ste Catherine and its 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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