

SIL EGYPT PROGRAM



MAY 2020

- Day 1 MON 11 MAY** Departure from USA
- Day 2 TUS 12 MAY** 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 WED 13 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 few thousands years ago, are definitely on our list * Overnight Cairo
- Day 4 THU 14 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 15 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 16 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-stars resort: the Jolie Ville, set out on 24-acres of landscaped foliage, directly on the Nile. * Overnight Luxor
- Day 7 SUN 17 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 coincide 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 18 MAY** Visit to the funerary temple of **QUEEN HATSHEPSUT** 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 TUS 19 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***** 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 20 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.

* Overnight Cruise

Day 11 THR 21 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 colours and lights.

* Overnight Cruise

Day 12 FRI 22 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 23 MAY Transfer to Cairo airport for flight to USA.

* Highlighted in yellow is subject to obtain 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 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

Day 14 Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to USA

EXTENSION 2: JORDAN

Day 14 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

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 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 16 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

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 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.
