



2020 Egypt & Jordan Private Small Group Tour

22 Days departing 11 Feb 2020

Day 1 Australia – Cairo. 11 February 20 Transfer from Greenhills Travel Centre to Sydney airport for your flight to Cairo

Day 2 Cairo 12 Feb On arrival in Cairo we will be met and transferred to our hotel

Relax by the delightful swimming pool or take in the view of the Pyramids from your hotel. Two night stay: Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel (Felfela Restaurant nearby)

Day 3 Cairo 13 Feb (B,L) Today we meet our tour Guide. We begin with a visit to the Great Pyramids of Giza for our guided tour then on to the Sphinx, the mystic creature with the head of a king and the body of a lion. Later we visit Saqqara and here you will see the famous step pyramid of King Zoser, which dates from 2686BC and is the world's oldest major stone structure. Continue on to Memphis, the ancient capital of the Old Kingdom to see the gigantic statue of Ramses II and the great Alabaster Sphinx.

Day 4 Cairo – Alexandria 14 Feb (B)

8.00 am Today we visit El Alamein, located in the Western Desert. It is the site of one of the largest battles of WWII. We visit the Commonwealth War Cemeteries, which contain over 7000 Tombstones overlooking the desert battlefield. We then visit El-Alamein Museum. This museum includes four main halls representing the countries that participated in the El-Alamein Battle: Germany, England, Italy, and Egypt. An outside exhibit weapons and tanks which were used in the battle. Continue on to Alexandria and visit the National History Museum. Two Night Stay: Sofitel Cecil Hotel or similar

Day 5 Alexandria 15 Feb(B,D)

Situated on the Mediterranean coast, Alexandria exudes a European air and sophistication with Greek and Italian influences. We visit the Catacomb of Kom El Shoqafa-burial places of early Alexandrian Christians which merge old and new Egyptian culture and art. Roman Amphitheatre, and Montazah Gardens which surround the Montazah Palace, once the home of Egyptian royalty. The new library of Alexandria, an architectural masterpiece, has a massive repository of international manuscripts.

Day 6 Alexandria – Luxor 16 Feb (B)

We depart Alexandria 8.00 am and drive to Cairo via Wadi el Natrun to visit the Monastery of St. Macarius. Originally there were 50 monasteries but only four have survived to modern times. This afternoon fly to Luxor from Cairo. Overnight Winter Palace Hotel Luxor.

Day 7 Luxor - Luxor Nile Cruise 17 Feb (BLD)

After breakfast we check out of our hotel and visit Karnak Temple built over 2000 years ago and a place of worship for 4000 years. Hear tales of ancient Thebes and the lives of the pharaohs who built the necropolis, seeking to make their mark on the country's most important temple. With its endless courts, halls and huge sacred lake, the scale and complexity of this sprawling temple is overwhelming. We then join our cruise boat for check in and welcoming refreshment before a relaxing lunch. After lunch we visit Luxor Temple. This temple is dedicated to the great God Amun-Re, his wife Mut and their son Khons, the moon God, all of whom together represent the Theban triad.

Day 8 Luxor - Nile Cruise - Luxor to Edfu 18 Feb (BLD)

Free morning. You have the option to:

Visit the local markets in Luxor or ACE (Animal Care in Egypt) <http://www.ace-egypt.org.uk> Return for lunch and the cruise sets sail for the incredible Esna lock and Edfu.

Day 9 Nile Cruise - Edfu to Kom Ombo 19 Feb (BLD)

This morning you disembark for a visit to the magnificently preserved Temple of Horus, the falcon God, which dates from the Ptolemaic period. Unique amongst the temples of Upper Egypt, Edfu is located on the west bank of the Nile, normally dedicated to the afterlife. Continue on to Kom Ombo where your boat moors this evening. Please note: Due to local laws and regulations, the only mode of transport available to visit the Temple of Horus in Edfu is by horse and carriage. Unfortunately, some neglectful owners cruelly mistreat their animals. While our guides always endeavour to arrange healthy, well-treated horses with responsible owners for our transport in Edfu, ultimately it is your decision if you wish to partake in the included sightseeing. If you do not wish to participate, you are welcome to explore Edfu independently, or stay on board the cruise to enjoy the ship's facilities.

Day 10 Nile Cruise - Kom Ombo to Aswan 20 Feb (BLD)

After a relaxing cruise upstream to picturesque Aswan, you will disembark from your cruise boat and take a motorboat to the Temple of Isis at Philae. Built in the third century BC and known as 'Jewel of the Nile', this lovely temple complex is located on an island in the Nile and was dedicated to the goddess Isis. It features well preserved temple buildings, courtyards, reliefs and murals. Continue on to the High Dam, the ancient granite quarries and the unfinished obelisk. We will also visit a Papyrus shop to see the art of papyrus making. The process is simple and remains virtually unchanged since ancient times. There are many original paintings for sale which are a great souvenir.

Day 11 Nile Cruise - Aswan 21 Feb (BLD)

This morning take an early morning 45 minute flight to the incredible Temples of Ramses II and Queen Nefertari at Abu Simbel in ancient Nubia, arguably the greatest indulgence of any Pharaoh. After lunch on board, you will enjoy a traditional felucca ride to Aswan's botanical gardens located on Elephantine Island.

Day 12 Nile Cruise - Aswan to Kom Ombo 22 Feb (BLD)

Set sail early this morning to Kom Ombo, where you will disembark to visit Kom Ombo temple with its unique floor plan, the result of the unification of two temples, each dedicated to a distinct divinity: the crocodile-headed Sobek, god of fertility and Horus, the solar war god. This explains why Kom Ombo is known both as 'House of the Crocodile' and 'Castle of the Falcon'.

Day 13 Nile Cruise - Luxor 23 Feb (BLD)

After breakfast you will cross to the west bank of the Nile for the first stop at the Colossi of Memnon. These massive quartzite statues once flanked the entrance to Amenhotep III's Mortuary Temple and now stand alone in a field on the way to the Valley of the Kings. You'll then visit Deir El Bahari, the incredible Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the longest ruling female pharaoh whose temple is perhaps the most imposing feature on the West Bank. Finally, the Valley of the Kings, where your entry includes visits to three tombs.

Day 14 Luxor - Cairo 24 Feb (B)

After disembarking from your cruise ship, transfer to Luxor airport, your flight takes you back to Cairo. Visit to the incredible Egyptian Museum, home of the greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities in the world, where all that you've seen in Upper Egypt will be brought into perspective. This evening, back to the Pyramids for a spectacular Sound and Light show. Here you will share in tales of the early Pharaohs, who built the sole survivor of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World. Ramses Hilton Two night stay.

Day 15 Cairo Sightseeing 25 Feb (B)

Today as you visit Salah el Din's Citadel. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the entire city and across to the pyramids. Visit Mohammed Ali's great Mosque built in a wholly Turkish style between 1830 and 1857.

Visit the hanging church, St Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church.

Today we continue to discover Cairo and visit the world-famous Khan el Khalili bazaar. With its labyrinth of bustling alleys, it is an opportunity to pick up some last minute bargains.

Day 16 Cairo 26 Feb (B)

After breakfast transfer to Cairo Airport for our 11.00 am flight to Amman. After clearing immigration and customs we will be drive to Petra for an overnight stay.

Day 17 Amman 27 Feb (B)

8.00am Today we visit the magnificent city of Petra and enjoy its charm. The visit will take you to the magnificent and mysterious rock-carved red rose city of Petra. At the beginning you will wander from Petra gate to the beginning of the Siq. The city and its various walks and climbs reveal literally hundreds of buildings, tombs, baths, funerary halls, temples, arched gateways, colonnaded streets and haunting rock drawings. You will be able to see the 3000-seat open-air amphitheatre. You will also have the opportunity to admire a gigantic first century Monastery (800 steps on top of the mountain) and a modern archaeological museum. Late afternoon we will drive back to Amman.

Day 18 Amman (B) 28 Feb Jerash 9.00am

Departing from your hotel in Amman your visit will be the impressive Greco-Roman city of Jerash, considered as one of the best preserved provincial Roman cities in the entire world. Here you will be able to visit its fortified walls, temples, baths, colonnaded streets, theatres, shops and sophisticated water works. The city remains as evidence of urban habitation for over 900 years. (Depending on the time you may be able to see a Roman Centurions re-enactment and chariot race. Extra Cost)

Return to the Airport for our late afternoon flight to Dubai. Arrive in Dubai this evening and transfer to our hotel for our 3 night stay at the Arabian Courtyard Hotel & Spa

Day 19 Dubai 29 Feb (B)

Today enjoy a private sightseeing tour of Dubai. See the Jumeirah Mosque and the old wind-tower houses built by wealthy merchants. Continue by 'Abra' (water taxi) along the Creek and see the gleaming towers of the modern metropolis. Then visit the gold and spice souks (markets). Dubai is world-renowned for its marvellous gold jewellery and virtually tax-free shopping. Dubai Museum. Spend the rest of your day browsing for bargains or perhaps relax by the pool at your hotel.

Day 20 Dubai 1 Mar (B) Free Day to Explore Dubai.

Day 21 Dubai – Home 2 Mar (B) Morning free. Afternoon departure to the airport for our flight home

Day 22 Arrive back in Australia 3 March 2020. Inflight meal. Arrive back in Maitland around 12.00 noon.

NB. The above may change due to cruise schedules.

\$12,000 per person Twin Share. Single Room Supplement \$1500

Inclusions:

Fully Escorted from Maitland

Return private transfers to Sydney from Maitland

All airfares, taxes & fuel surcharges

Fully inclusive tour of Egypt, including Abu Simbel

7-night Nile Cruise. Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, El Alamein.

Entrance fees to all attractions as per itinerary

Meals as stated in itinerary

4 nights in Cairo

2 nights in Alexandria

1 night in Luxor

7 night Nile Cruise

3 days Jordan(Petra & Amman)

3 night Dubai stopover

Air conditioned coach

Personal Egyptologist/Tour Guide

Gratuities for tour guides and drivers.

ACE (Animal Care in Egypt) <http://www.ace-egypt.org.uk>

We take anything we can to help out this non profit organisation who are helping the locals learn about animal care.

Duct (aka duck) tape urgently required

Old towels or sheets - any size is useful

Vet wrap 10 cm - this is a stretchy bandage that sticks to itself

Dog collars – all sizes (Used is fine)

Flea or worm treatments – for cats and dogs

Natural Cotton triangular bandage

Crepe Bandage - any size but the larger 15 cm size is more useful

Elastoplast - as above

Animalintex Poultice

Sudocrem

Anything that a hospital may throw out after one use or is outdated.

Contact on 02 4931 0300 to confirm your place on this amazing tour.