



MAGNIFICENT EGYPT AND THE RED SEA

16 Days/14 Nights Weekly Friday Departures

Day 1 – Friday - Departure

Depart New York for Egypt.

Day 2 – Saturday -Cairo

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Welcome to Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs! Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, and clearing Immigration your tour representative will greet you and assist with Custom formalities. After check-in at the hotel and time to freshen up, meet with the Learning Through Travel representative to discuss the exciting days ahead. A welcome dinner this evening will introduce you to Egyptian cuisine.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE MERIDIAN HOTEL OR SIMILAR (D)

Day 3 – Sunday - Cairo

After a buffet breakfast your exploration of Egypt begins. Visit Old Cairo including the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities. You will have the opportunity to see the many treasures of ancient Egypt as well as visit the Mummy Room. After lunch visit the Khan El Khalili Bazaar, known for its narrow alleys. Hundreds of shops are selling all types of Egyptian handicrafts, silver and gold jewelry, cottons, copperware, and perfumes.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE MERIDIAN HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L)

2470 North Jerusalem Road Suite # 15, North Bellmore, NY 11710,

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Day 4 – Monday - Cairo

Visit the Great Pyramids of Giza. Entrance into one of the pyramids is included. Before leaving Giza visit the mysterious Sphinx. After lunch visit the first Pyramid ever built, the Step Pyramid of Zoser, in the Sakkara Complex. Your final sightseeing visit will be to Memphis, the first capital of United Upper and Lower Egypt. Before returning to the hotel you will visit a carpet and papyrus factory.

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Day 5 – Tuesday – Cairo/Aswan/Nile Cruise

This morning a short flight will bring you to Aswan to board your Nile Cruise or you may select the optional pre cruise three-hour Abu Simbel excursion to visit the great Temples of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. After your excursion and upon your return to Aswan you will embark your Nile cruise. After lunch, visit Aswan's High Dam, Granite Quarries, and Unfinished Obelisk. Then continue by felucca to enjoy Kitchener's Island with its beautiful gardens and to view the mausoleum of the Agha Khan.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP (B, L, D)

Day 6 - Wednesday – Nile Cruise Aswan/Kom Ombo/Edfu

After breakfast visit the Philae Temple. The main sanctuary on the island is dedicated to the Goddess Isis and her son Horus. As you enjoy lunch the ship will sail to Kom Ombo. Visit the twin Temple of the falcon-headed god, "Horoeris," and the crocodile god, "Sobek". Sail onto Edfu, midway between Aswan and Luxor.

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Day 7 – Thursday - Nile Cruise Edfu/Luxor

Begin the day by taking a calache (horse and carriage) ride to visit the Temple of Edfu. Later today, sail to Esna, pass the lock, and arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes. If time permits you will explore the East Bank of the Nile including the Temple of Luxor. Here, the Avenue of Sphinxes, famous for its artistic degree of uniformity, leads to the entrance of the temple where a seated colossus of Ramses II and a towering Obelisk sit. Continue to the Karnak Temple, one of the most impressive monuments of ancient art and architecture in the world. The carvings, which adorn all of the walls, depict the history and conquests of many of Egypt's Pharaohs. (If you arrive into Luxor too late to visit the East Bank you will do so on Friday before leaving for your live - aboard dive excursion) This evening you may join an optional excursion to the Karnak Temple for a spectacular Sound and Light Show.

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Day 8 – 14 - Friday – Thursday – Luxor/Hurghada

Disembark the ship in the morning and cross the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings, housing 63 tombs belonging to the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom, including the famous tomb of King Tutankhamen. Many of the tombs, carved out of the bedrock, retain their original bright colors and fine relief's and scenes, thought to guarantee the safe passage of the Ka to the after life. Afterwards, continue on to Deir El Bahri to visit the mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, considered one of the finest buildings in Egypt. Hatshepsut ruled Egypt as King for 20 years. Cross back to Luxor and travel to Hurghada where you will board the live- aboard boat. Starting from Hurghada and sailing north offers a perfect combination of reef and wreck diving. The famous horseshoe shaped reef of Shaab El Erg is a perfect example of the reefs on this cruise with its beautiful hard coral garden and the chance to see dolphins. Abu Nuhas has four well-known wrecks: Giannis D, Carnatic, the Lentil Wreck and the Tile Wreck, all offering spectacular dives and plenty of fish life. Night dives can be superb in this area as Gubal Island offers protected anchoring for the night. A small wreck at 27-33 feet makes for a spectacular night dive with lionfish, scorpion fish and its resident giant moray eel. A short ride across the straits of Gubal and you visit the most famous wreck of the Red Sea, the Thistlegorm! An awe-inspiring World War II British vessel with a cargo full of armament. Depending on divers' experience, weather and current conditions, we also try to offer a night dive on the Thistlegorm. Close by is the Ras Mohamed National Park, offering a morning dive at the 'Shark Reef', a sheer wall falling into the blue. The Ras Mohamed Park is usually the 'border', from here the boat heads back towards Hurghada.

ACCOMMODATIONS: EMPEROR SUPERIOR LUXURY LIVEBOARD OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

CLASSIC CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS: NORTHERN RED SEA FROM HURGHADA TO THE SINAI PENINSULA INCLUDING ABU NUHAS - GIFTUN ISLAND - STRAITS OF GUBAL – SS THISTLEGORM - RAS MOHAMED

Wreck of the Thistlegorm

To most, I am sure this wreck needs no introduction. In October 1941 it was at anchor behind Shab Ali and awaiting orders to move through the Suez Canal to deliver a cargo of munitions to British troops in North Africa when German aircraft bombed the 426 foot freighter. The cargo is still intact and includes railway locomotives, bren gun carriers, trucks and motorcycles. You need to do two dives on this wreck to get a feel for the site. Dive the deeper stern section first and the bow for the second dive of the day. The wreck is home to bat fish, jacks, barracudas, surgeon fish, nudibranchs and rabbit fish graze the hull. The current here can be strong and the visibility reduced so ensure a full briefing from your dive guide and enjoy your visit to this part of history.

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Abu Nuhas

Also known as the 'Ships Graveyard', this reef is dangerously positioned close to the busy shipping lanes of the Gulf of Suez. This reef has claimed more ships than any other in the area. On the northern side are four wrecks laying on a sandy seafloor at the bottom of a steep sloping reef layered with table corals. The wrecks are sometimes inaccessible in anything other than a RIB or inflatable due to the heavy swell driving down the length of the gulf. On the south side you find safe anchorage for live - aboards and two beautiful ergs, known as Yellow fish reef that make an excellent third dive, night dive or an alternative if the weather is extremely bad.

Giannis D

This Greek freighter hit the reef in April 1983 and over the course of two weeks slowly broke in two and sank. It is the most dived wreck here, resting in 28m and leaning to port with a fully intact stern section and an impressive engine room packed with glass fish. Locally known as the 'wood' wreck for the cargo it was carrying when it sank. The bow is also very interesting but is a long swim out. It is a great wreck for penetrations however, beware of disorientation due to the angle at which she lays. Be wary of the many lion fish and scorpion fish that call this wreck home and watch out for the strong surges in and around the wreck in rough weather.

Carnatic

A British P & O steamer which struck the reef in 1869 and sank the next day as the weather got worse. It was a passenger and mail ship and is sometimes known as the 'wine' wreck for the numerous bottles once found in the holds. Sadly not many now remain to be seen. Rumor has it that it sank with forty thousand pounds sterling of gold bullion, much of which was never recovered. It rests in 96 feet and now the hull is draped in multicolored soft corals and the inner areas are full of glass fish complete with red mouthed grouper sentinel. One davit supports a beautiful table coral. The wreck is home to grouper, octopus, morays and jacks and tuna cruise overhead.

The Wreck of the Dunraven

At the southern extreme of 'Shab Mahmoud' there are a series of shallow reefs and lagoons among which lies the wreck of the 238 foot English steamer sunk in 1876 on its way from Bombay to England loaded with timber and spices. The hull lies upside down and is totally covered in corals (max. depth 96 feet); the prop and rudder lie at 63 feet. The wreck is home to a wide variety of marine life, morays, napoleon, groupers and schools of glass fish and goat fish inside the wreck

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Ras Mohammed

It has earned itself a reputation as one of the top diving areas in the world. Here at the tip of the Sinai where the vast bodies of water, the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba meet, created an ecosystem like no other and wall diving is at its very best.

Shark Observatory

This site is not aptly named as it is not noted for its shark sightings, however, it is a fantastic dive. Beneath the towering cliffs that continue below the surface to disappear into the deep abyss the wall is covered with soft coral and honeycombed with numerous gullies and canyons that are home to hordes of glass fish and hatchet fish herded by red mouth grouper. An overhang, fringed with sea fans at 33 feet, is a great place to watch the Trevallies, Jacks and Turtles passing in the blue. At the southern end, Anemone city is worth a visit.

Shark & Yolanda Reefs

Situated right at the tip of the Sinai this site is world renowned. The two small ergs are joined by a vertical wall dropping into the abyss. Start your dive at Shark reef and use the prevailing current to explore the wall abounding in multihued soft corals. At 100 feet large schools of barracuda and snappers gather in often-strong currents just off the wall. Swim through the schools to the outside as silky sharks usually gather there, but be careful not to lose your orientation to the wall. As you proceed toward Yolanda you will reach a plateau at 50-80 feet scattered with small ergs and coral outcrops where stone fish and scorpion fish wait for a meal. Continuing round the reef you will come upon the scattered remains of the wreck of the 'Yolanda' complete with its cargo of toilets and baths. This area is big fish territory so keep an eye on the blue for the action with tuna, bluefish, and the occasional hammerhead. Ensure your dive guide gives you a thorough briefing as the currents here can be strong and complicated.

Day 15 – Friday - Hurghada/Cairo

Return to Cairo today, where the remainder of the day is at leisure or may choose to re-visit some of the city's exiting sites or shop at the famous El Khalili Bazaar. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: FAIRMONT HELIOPOLIS HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, D)

Day 16 – Saturday - Departure

Farewell to Egypt as you transfer to the airport for your return flight to New York. Arrive home your hearts and minds filled with happy memories of ancient and modern day Egypt. **(B)**

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- International air New York/Cairo/New York
- Domestic Air Cairo/Aswan-Hurghada/Cairo
- 3 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Le Meridian Hotel or similar
- 4 Days/3 Nights 5-star deluxe Nile Cruise
- 7 Days Live Aboard on board Emperor Divers boat following the Classic Cruise program
- 1 night accommodation in Cairo at the Heliopolis Fairmont Hotel or similar
- All transfers: Cairo/Aswan/Luxor/Hurghada
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe motor coach
- English speaking guide throughout Egypt
- Full day sightseeing Pyramids (entrance into 1 pyramid)/Sphinx –Memphis/Sakkara
- Full day sightseeing Egyptian Museum of Antiquities including entrance into the Mummy Room-Citadel, Mosque & Bazaar
- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 13 dinners
- Hotel taxes and service charges and portorage
- Luggage Tags, Travel Bag, Passport Wallet and First Aid Kit

NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. Departure Taxes, Airport Security, Fuel surcharges (\$300.00 subject to change), oversized/overweight and extra luggage.
- Egypt Visa
- Domestic air within the U.S.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, inter-net services, dive equipment, National Park fees, soft drinks, coffee, tea (except at breakfast), mineral water, alcoholic beverages, passport fees, gratuities for drivers, guides, transfer personnel, travel insurance, etc.....

PLEASE NOTE: Itinerary sequence subject to change based upon government regulations, live aboard boat program, weather conditions, Nile Cruise schedule, etc.....

EMAIL OR CALL FOR PRICING.....

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