



THE BEST OF EGYPT AND THE SINAI

**17 DAYS/15 NIGHTS
WITH AN EXTENSION TO JORDAN AND ISRAEL**

Day 1 – Tuesday - Departure

Depart New York today for Egypt.

Day 2 – Wednesday –Cairo

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Welcome to Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs! On arrival at Cairo International Airport, your tour representative will greet you, collect your passport so he can obtain your Egypt Visa, and assists you with Custom formalities. After check-in at the hotel and time to freshen up, you will meet with the Learning Through Travel representative to discuss the exciting days ahead. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner on board a Nile Dinner Cruise Ship.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MARRIOTT PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (D)

Day 3 – Thursday –Cairo

Today you will visit the Giza Plateau where there are three Pyramids, the greatest being that of Cheops. It took 100,000 workers more than 20 years to construct. Entrance to one of the pyramids is

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included. Southeast of the Great Pyramids is the Sphinx, carved out of solid natural rock in about 2650 BC, a magnificent monument with the head of the Pharaoh and the body of a lion. Continue to visit the first Pyramid ever built, the Step Pyramid of Zoser, in the Sakkara Complex. When Memphis was the capital of Egypt, during the Old Kingdom period, Sakkara was its necropolis. Spread over seven kilometers of desert, Sakkara is one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Before returning to the hotel, we will stop to visit the remains in Memphis, the first capital of United Upper and Lower Egypt.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MARRIOTT PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 4 – Friday –Cairo/Luxor

This morning you will take a short flight to Luxor, ancient Thebes. 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. This evening you may join an optional excursion to the Karnak Temple for a spectacular Sound and Light Show.

ACCOMMODATIONS: SONESTA ST. GEORGE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 5 – Saturday –Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh

This morning you will take a short flight to Sharm El Sheikh. Arrive in the "Land of Turquoise" where rock meets coral reefs and the desert stops at the sea. Transfer to the harbor where you will meet with an Emperor Diver guide who will take you on an orientation dive at the Far, Near and Middle Garden site. Your equipment will be waiting for you when you arrive. After your check-out dive embark your safari boat the M/Y Snefro Crown.

ACCOMMODATIONS: M/Y SNEFRO CROWN LIVE ABOARD BOAT (B, L, D)

Day 6- Sunday –Ras Mohammed National Park

Today you will dive the outer areas of Ras Mohammed National Park including Jackson Alley and Alternatives.

ACCOMMODATIONS: EMPEROR DIVERS –SNEFRO CROWN BOAT (B, L, D)

Day 7 – Monday –Thistlegorm

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Early this morning you will arrive at the famous wreck of the Thistlegorm. There is so much to explore so you will have a minimum of 2 dives. The first will be a complete overview and the second a penetrating one. For the third dive your boat will sail to Small passage where two channels cut the reef system of Shaab Mahmoud and connect the sheltered lagoon to the open sea. A night dive inside the lagoon is optional.

ACCOMMODATIONS: EMPEROR DIVERS –SNEFRO CROWN BOAT (B, L, D)

Day 8 – Tuesday –Ras Mohammed National Park

Your first dive today will be to the historical wreck of the Dunraven which sank in April 1876. The Dunraven is an old wooden wreck with plenty of room for passing through thousand of glassfish that live in the shade of the wreck. Next you return to Ras Mohammed National Park to dive some of the most popular sites including Shark and Yolanda Reef, the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula with an endless wall unique to the Red Sea. Sailing back to ward Sharm El Sheikh you will have your third dive at Ras Zatar, Ras Ghazlani or possibly Ras Um Sid. Upon arrival at the port you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel and then take a camel ride into the desert to have tea and pastry with the Bedouins.

ACCOMMODATIONS: SHERATON SHARM RESORT OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 9 – Wednesday - Sharm El Sheikh/Nuweiba

This morning you will leave Sharm El Shiekh for Nuweiba. Nuweiba is about 185 km north of Sharm El Sheikh and is nestled between the deep blue of the Gulf of Aqaba and the high desert mountains of the Sinai. Nuweiba is a quiet getaway famous for its magnificent beaches and offers easy access to the cultural sites of St Catherine's Monastery and Petra in Jordan, also just 80 km away to the north is the busy seaside resort of Eilat, Israel. The diving in the area runs from Devils Head and in the north to Abu Gallum in the south and is mainly accessed from the shore by jeep or even camel due to the lack of jetty facilities or safe anchorages for boats. This afternoon enjoy a dive seeing the vibrant coral gardens and marine life.

ACCOMMODATIONS: NUWEBIA HILTON HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 10/11 – Thursday/Friday - Nuweiba

The next two days will be spent diving some of Nuweiba dive sites. These are just a sample of what you will see. Your dives could include Ras Mamlach which is situated in the Abu Galum National Park; this will be one of the highlights of your dive experience in Egypt. It's a 1 ½ hour drive along the desert road by Jeep to get there but it's a worthwhile trip. The reef starts at about 12 m, with a beautiful coral

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garden and on to a steep wall that bottoms out at 70 m plus. Beautiful fan and table corals covered with soft corals and the intensive blue of the Gulf of Aqaba create a fantastic picture. The variety of the underwater life opens a new world; Barracudas, Jackfish, Groupers and much, much more. Two dives are not enough to see everything! Dive Abou Lou Lou House Reef. The main reef lies between 5 and 20 meters of depth. You will see Puffers, Morays, Groupers, Surgeonfish, Shrimps, Lion Fish and crabs. El Magana -

the reef starts just 20 meters from the beach at a depth of 5 meters. Your first dive takes you to the left side along a wall where the reef drops to 35 meters. A break in the coral plate forms a canyon which we fin through at a depth of around 20-25m from where we head back through a coral garden to the exit. After a surface interval you continue on your second dive heading right this time along the coral reef plate. This is a very similar site to the first with some large fish and plenty of healthy corals. Both reefs are mainly hard corals and with a little bit of luck you can spot Napoleons, Barracudas and Seahorses.

ACCOMMODATIONS: NUWEBIA HILTON HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 12/13 – Saturday/Sunday –Aqaba, Jordan

After breakfast you will take a fast ferry to Aqaba. During the next two days you will have an opportunity to dive some of Jordan's wonderful dive sites including the famous wall dive the Power Station. Named after the small oil fired power station on the coast road to the North of the dive site this is the site where, on the chart, the one hundred and two hundred meter contour lines hit the coast. It is a spectacular wall dive, either to the North or South of the mooring. Sharks and other large pelagics are often spotted here. Sea turtles are often spotted here along with several hump head wrasse and some large moray eels. The wall and drop off are spectacular and there is an abundance of life to entertain you on the reef slope and in the shallows.

ACCOMMODATIONS: GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 14 – Monday –Aqaba/Taba

Cross back over to Egypt and the resort city of Taba.

ACCOMMODATIONS: TABA HILTON (B, L, D)

Day 15 – Tuesday –Taba/Cairo

This morning you will leave Taba for Cairo driving via the Suez Canal.

ACCOMMODATIONS: CONRAD HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)



Day 16 – Wednesday –Cairo

This morning you are being introduced to the masterpieces of ancient art in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, including the Mummy Room. The museum is home to the vast findings of King Tutankahmun's tomb and other important pieces of Egypt's history. There will be time to 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.

This evening enjoy a farewell dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: CONRAD HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 17 – Thursday –Departure

Farewell to Egypt! Arrive home your hearts and minds filled with many happy memories of ancient and modern Egypt. **(B)**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- International air New York/Cairo/New York
- Domestic Air Cairo/Aswan-Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh (may be substituted with a fast ferry)
- 2 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Marriott Hotel or similar
- 1 night accommodation in Luxor at the Sonesta St. George Hotel or similar
- 3 nights Live Aboard Private Charter – Mini Safari
- 1 night accommodation in Sharm El Shiekh at the Sheraton Resort Hotel or similar
- 3 nights accommodation in Nuweiba at the Hilton Hotel or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Aqaba at the Golden Tulip Hotel or similar
- 1 night accommodation in Taba at the Hilton Hotel or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Conrad Hotel or similar
- All transfers: Cairo/Aswan/Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh/Nuweiba/Aqaba
- Transfer of dive equipment from Cairo to Sharm El Sheikh
- All dive excursion as per boat schedules
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe motor coach
- English speaking guide throughout Egypt and Jordan
- 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
- 15 breakfasts, 15 lunches and 15 dinners
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage
- Luggage Tags/Travel Bag/Passport Wallet/First Aid Kit

NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. Departure Taxes & Airport Security (\$425.00 subject to change)
- Domestic air within the U.S.
- Egypt Visa/Jordan Visa
- 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..

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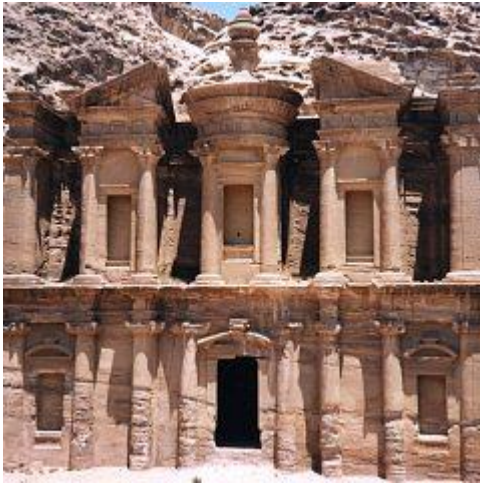


JORDAN AND ISRAEL EXTENSION

Day 14– Monday - Aqaba/Petra

Today you will leave Aqaba for the magnificent city of Petra. Enjoy sometime at your leisure this afternoon.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MOVENPICK JOLIE VILLE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)



Day 15 – Tuesday –Petra

Your exploration of Petra begins early this morning. Climb atop your horse for a ride to the main entrance to the “lost city of Petra”. Much of Petra’s appeal comes from its spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge. From the main entrance you walk into the siq, which ripped through the rock in a prehistoric quake. As you make your way through the cliff walls you will pass inscriptions in ancient languages. Petra’s most famous monument is the Treasury (the final scene of Indian Jones and the Last Crusade was filmed here). You will also see a 3,000 seat theater from the early 1st Century, tombs baths, funerary halls temples and rock drawings. (Box lunch included today)

ACCOMMODATIONS: MOVENPICK JOLIE VILLE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 16 – Wednesday –Petra/Jerusalem

Today you will cross the border to Israel.

ACCOMMODATIONS: GRAND COURT HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 17/18 – Thursday/Friday –Jerusalem

The next two days will be spent exploring Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Visits include; The Mount of Olives, first touring its famous cemetery, Garden of Gethsemane and the Church Of All Nations, Old City of Jerusalem; Jewish quarter at the Western wall, Temple Mount and Jerusalem’s famous golden Dome of the Rock, 'Way of the Cross' (Via Dolorosa), this route through the Arab and Christian Quarter and follows all the Stations of the 'Way of the Cross'. This leads to Christianities most revered site in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Enter this massive Basilica to see the Hill of Calvary and the Tomb of Jesus, Mt. Zion to see the Tomb of David, the Room of the Last Supper and Dormition Abbey. St. Anne’s Church and Pool of Bethesda and Rachel’s Tomb. Visit the Garden Tomb believed

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by many to be the garden and Sepulcher of Joseph of Arimathea, and therefore a possible site of the resurrection of Jesus. In Bethlehem you will visit the Church of the Nativity and the Shepherd's field. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT THE ORDER OF THE VISITS, THIS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE GUIDE AND WILL BE ADVISED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENTS.**

ACCOMMODATIONS: GRAND COURT HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 19 – Saturday –Jerusalem - Dead Sea

Today you leave Jerusalem to visit Masada Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealot's last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Ascend and descend by cable car. See the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found and view the new interactive audiovisual program. The afternoon is spent at the Ein Gedi Spa where you will enjoy the mud baths, sulfur bath, soaking in the Dead Sea and enjoying lunch.

ACCOMMODATION: GRAND COURT HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 20 – Sunday –Jerusalem/Tel Aviv/Cairo

This morning you will take a short flight to Cairo. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After some time to freshen up meet with your guide for a tour of Old Cairo including the Citadel and the Mohammed Ali Mosque.

ACCOMMODATION: CONRAD HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 21 – Monday –Cairo

This morning you are going to be introduced to the masterpieces of ancient art in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, including the Mummy Room. The museum is home to the vast findings of King Tutankhamun's tomb and other important pieces of Egypt's history. After lunch continue to 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. Farewell dinner this evening will be in the bazaar at Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant, named after the famous Egyptian author who has won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988. The restaurant has a live musical band that plays classical Egyptian and Arab music.

ACCOMMODATION: CONRAD HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 22 – Tuesday –Departure

Your exploration of the Egypt, Jordan and the Holyland ends today as you transfer to the airport for your flight back home. **(B)**

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JORDAN AND ISRAEL TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- One way air Tel Aviv/Cairo
- 2 nights accommodation in Petra at the Movenpick Jolie Ville Hotel or similar
- 4 nights accommodation in Jerusalem at the Grand Court Hotel or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Conrad Hotel or similar
- Transfers: Aqaba/Petra/Jerusalem/Tel Aviv/Cairo
- Full day tour of Petra
- 2 Full day tours of Jerusalem and Bethlehem
- Full day tour of Masada and the Dead Sea
- 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 9 dinners
- Hotel taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- Jordan Visa
- Re-entry visa to Egypt
- 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..

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