

EGYPT

LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

Optional Jordan & Petra Extension



EGYPT—LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

February 8-17, 2019 ☀ 10 Days ☀ \$3870

DAY 1-February 8: Arrive Cairo (D)

Travelers arrive into Cairo today and enjoy their first exposure to this, the second largest city in Africa, during a fascinating drive from the airport to our hotel in the heart of the city on the east bank of the Nile. Travelers arrive throughout the day and our first group activity is this evening's Welcome Orientation followed by dinner at the hotel.

Or consider joining us for an **optional half-day excursion on February 8** if you'd like to maximize your time in Cairo and see a place that you might not otherwise experience on the main tour. You should be back to our hotel in plenty of time for the Welcome Orientation and Dinner in the evening:

Half-Day in Dahshour ☸

This excursion includes an Egyptologist guide, transfers in a private air-conditioned vehicle, and entrance ticket to Dahshour, site of the Bent Pyramid and Red Pyramid, two structures that pre-date the Great Pyramids of Giza.

~Estimated price per person: \$99 USD





DAY 2-February 9: Activities from Cairo (BLD)

Pyramids of Giza Walk ~ 6 km, rated 2B

We start today's walk at the Great Pyramid of Cheops, where we struggle to take in the enormity of this engineering feat. Our walk route provides multiple vantage points of these monuments to human achievement. After going nose to missing nose with the legendary Sphinx, we enjoy lunch and continue by bus to Saqqara to examine the earliest pyramids. Strolling through Memphis, we finish the day exploring the ancient capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt.

DAY 3-February 10: Cairo – Luxor (BLD)

The star attraction of our spellbinding visit to the Egyptian Museum is the exhibit of Tutankhamun's tomb. The splendors of his tomb, especially multiple layers of golden, jewel-encrusted sarcophagi, give testimony to the splendors of the age of the pharaohs. Following lunch, an afternoon flight takes us south to Luxor to start our Nile River experience.

DAY 4-February 11: Activities from Luxor (BLD)

Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut to Deir el-Medina ~ 2 km, rated 1B

Temples of Luxor Walk ~ 4 km, rated 1B

An early morning wake-up call gives us a chance to beat the crowds at the Valley of the Kings. Our visit evokes a twinge of sympathy for New Kingdom pharaohs, who could neither take their treasures with them nor keep them a secret. On the other side of the hill, the dramatic and conspicuous Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut makes no such attempt at illusive discretion. After exploring the temple, our Egyptologist guide leads us across the sands passing the tomb of Montuemhat, El-Assasif tombs, and several others en route to Deir el-Medina, the Village of the Workers. Here we explore excavations of a town built over 3000 years ago for workers responsible for sculpting the tombs of the pharaohs. We pass the Colossi of Memnon by bus en route to our ship, where we'll check in and enjoy lunch and a rest. Our afternoon stroll takes us along the Nile promenade between the spectacular Karnak and Luxor Temples.



DAY 5-February 12: Cruising the Nile: Luxor to Esna (BLD)

A late morning departure provides opportunity for an optional hot air balloon ride, offering a surreal experience floating over timeless landscapes of the Nile Valley (*Estimated price: \$195 per person*). We lunch aboard the ship as we cruise upstream along the legendary Nile River on the *MS Farah Nile*, a wonderful 5-star luxury vessel. A relaxing afternoon passes as we enjoy timeless scenes of traditional white-sailed feluccas, observe agricultural pursuits along the Nile's banks, and share the company of fellow passengers lounging on the Sundeck.

DAY 6-February 13: Cruising the Nile: Edfu and Kom Ombo (BLD)

Today's first port of call in Edfu offers the superbly preserved Temple of Horus. Further upstream, the Temples of Kom Ombo were dedicated to two deities: the crocodile-headed "Sobek" and "Haroeris," a double-headed sparrow/hawk. Gaining understanding of the myriad manifestations of the Egyptian pantheon and the cryptic symbols of hieroglyphics requires a good teacher—an Egyptologist who will be with us throughout our Egyptian Adventure.

DAY 7-February 14: Cruising the Nile: Aswan (BLD)

Aswan Nubian Village Walk ~ 7 km, rated 2B

Today's multi-part walk is punctuated with several colorful and diverse stops. We start at the Unfinished Obelisk, a granite quarry with a partially carved obelisk still struggling to be finished after several thousand years. We walk from here to the Nile where we board a boat to sail across to Elephantine Island. Our exploration of Elephantine Island takes us to an ancient Nilometer, an ingenious device used to measure annual flooding and predict harvest yields, and resulting tax revenues. Our small boat cruise continues upstream through stunningly pristine stretches of the Nile to a Nubian village. Here, we learn about this African race who have settled in this southern region of Egypt. If school is in session when we arrive, we ask to visit a classroom, then enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Returning to Aswan this afternoon, you are invited to finish the walk with a stroll along the Nile promenade Corniche and into the large and colorful souq (market) near our ship.





WALKING ADVENTURE GUIDES ~

Roger & Jana Dorway are quickly becoming traveler favorites! Roger's business background connecting buyers and sellers, and Jana's career as a teacher provide this couple with a gift for connecting with people. They have always appreciated the experiential, paradigm-expanding value of travel, and have been privileged to explore destinations on 5 continents. Since retirement, they've increased their commitment to discovering the world, fostering a growing desire to share cultural and historical insights as part of the WAI guide team. They look forward to sharing the wonders of Egypt & Jordan with you!

DAY 8-February 15: Aswan – Cairo (BD)

This is a free morning in Aswan to relax and explore the Nubian Museum or peruse the souq at leisure. Consider joining us, however, for an optional excursion to the temples of Abu Simbel. More than 32 centuries ago, Ramses II built two temples into the rock face of a promontory in Nubia, the larger dedicated to the sun god Harkhiti, and the lesser dedicated to the goddess Hathor. A visit to these temples, considered by many to be the apex of Egyptian temple architecture, involves a roundtrip flight to Abu Simbel, departing early in the morning, and includes admission to the temples, lunch, guide service by our Egyptologist, and all transportation.

(Estimated price: \$299 per person)

Back in Aswan, we return by plane to Cairo, anticipating our last day in Egypt tomorrow, and check into our hotel in time for dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 9-February 16: Activities in Cairo (BLD)


The Saladin Citadel of Cairo Walk ~ 3 km, rated 1B

Al-Azhar Park Walk ~ 2 km, rated 1B

Islamic Cairo & Khalili Bazaar ~ 3 km, rated 1B

Today's multi-part walk fills in pieces of the cultural puzzle helpful in understanding modern Egypt, a predominantly Muslim nation since the 10th century. The first segment of our walk surveys the Saladin Citadel of Cairo, where we explore the Mosque of Muhammad Ali Pasha. We then observe Cairo citizens at leisure as we wander through the lovely gardens that overlook Cairo in Al-Azhar Park, also the venue for today's lunch. In the afternoon, we thread our way through the Islamic Quarter to reach the Khan el-Khalili bazaar, with time to browse and enjoy the maze of colorful shops. After a day exploring Egypt's more recent past, we gather this evening for our Farewell Dinner and reminisce about our Adventure together in this ancient land of pyramids and pharaohs!

DAY 10-February 17: Depart Cairo for Home or Optional Jordan Extension (B)

Travelers returning home today will be transferred to the airport for their flight from ancient Africa to 21st century North America. Those continuing for the *Optional Jordan & Petra Extension* will fly to Amman (flight included) to continue our Adventures in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. 

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What's Included ~

- ☀ Airport to hotel group transfers on first and last day
- ☀ 2 flights within tour ~
 - ✈ Cairo – Luxor ✈ Aswan – Cairo
- ☀ 4-night cruise on the 5-star *MS Farah Nile*
- ☀ All land travel by motorcoach as outlined
- ☀ Superior tourist class or better hotel accommodations
- ☀ 25 meals: 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 9 dinners as denoted (BLD)
- ☀ All listed walks
- ☀ Fees for walking credit (if IVV approved)
- ☀ Cultural and historical expertise of Egyptologist guide throughout
- ☀ WAI guide service throughout (2 guides)
- ☀ All tipping for local guides and coach drivers
- ☀ Pricing based on double occupancy.
A limited number of single rooms are available for a supplement of \$600.

Visits to (including admission fees, if any) ~

- ☀ Pyramids of Giza – Cairo
- ☀ Pyramid of Saqqara – Memphis area
- ☀ Memphis (ancient capital of Egypt)
- ☀ Egyptian Museum – Cairo
- ☀ Valley of the Kings – Luxor
- ☀ Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut – Luxor
- ☀ Deir el-Medina (Village of the Workers) – Luxor
- ☀ Karnak Temple – Luxor
- ☀ Luxor Temple – Luxor
- ☀ Temple of Horus – Edfu
- ☀ Temples of Kom Ombo – Kom Ombo
- ☀ Boat cruise – Aswan to Nubian Village
- ☀ Saladin Citadel of Cairo – Cairo
- ☀ Khan el-Khalili Bazaar – Cairo
- ☀ More fun and educational stops than we can list!

Optional Excursions ~

- ☀ Dahshour Bent and Red Pyramids – Cairo (Day 1)
- ☀ Hot air balloon over the Nile – Luxor (Day 5)
- ☀ Temples of Abu Simbel – Abu Simbel (Day 8)

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