

Day 1 We board our flight for the 6800+ mile trip to Cairo. We will change planes and there will be multiple meals on board. Try to sleep.

Day 2 We will be met at the Cairo airport by our air conditioned bus. Depending on the time of day we arrive we will be either taken directly to the hotel or will have a short orientation tour on the way to the hotel. In the evening we will gather for an informative trip briefing and a Welcome dinner. Try to get to bed at a local time that corresponds to your time at home. It will help you to adjust to the 8 hour time difference.

Day 3 After breakfast we will visit the Great Pyramids and look into the eyes of the curious Sphinx. Following a break for lunch we will visit the world's oldest stone structure, The Step Pyramid at Sakkara and the surrounding mortuary buildings. This will be followed by a visit to Memphis, one of the ancient cities of Egypt now in ruins. Then back to our hotel to clean up and go for a festive dinner cruise on the Nile River. Don't forget your cameras.

Day 4 After breakfast today we will explore the city of Cairo. Our visits will include the Cairo Museum with all the King Tut treasures and the Citadel fortifications built to protect Cairo from the Crusaders. The Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali, built between 1830 and 1848 is one of the outstanding landmarks of Cairo located in the Citadel. After our lunch break we will have time to explore the Khan el Khalili Bazaar. This is the place to hone your bargaining skills for the balance of the trip. This is one of the most famous markets in the world, founded in 1382. Because it had such a monopoly on the spice traffic Europe needed to find an alternative source of supply. Thus it was a direct cause of the explorers heading west and discovering the American continents. After returning to our hotel with our treasures we will have dinner. You may want to attend the world famous Sound and Light Show at the Pyramids.

Day 5 Today is our day trip to Alexandria. We leave the hotel after breakfast and take the 140 mile trip on our air conditioned bus. Alexandria is directly on the Mediterranean and is filled with ancient history as well as lots of local color. We will visit the National Museum which is located in a restored palace. It contains artifacts of the time of the Pharaohs, Romans, Copts and Moslem eras as well as items rescued from the underwater research in the harbor area. One other site we will visit is the royal necropolis of Kom El Shoqafa. It is considered to be one of the 7 wonders of the Middle Ages. On our way to the Montazeh Palace and Gardens we will view the famous misnamed 'Pompey's Pillar'. The pillar was actually meant to honor the Roman Emperor Diocletian and was erected in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The Montazeh Palace is situated on a rocky cliff overlooking the sea and was formerly one of the residences of King Farouk and his wives. Return to Cairo for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 We depart Cairo early for our flight to Luxor. If we leave before the restaurant is open we will have a breakfast box. After arrival in Luxor we will stop at the Luxor Museum on the west bank of the Nile where we will have a short visit. This smaller museum prides itself on the high quality of its artifacts, including the head of a golden calf. After arrival and checking into our cruise ship we will have lunch. The afternoon will include visits to the Karnak and Luxor Temples. Dinner and overnight on board our river boat. Unlike large cruise ships the boats are tied up at night so that the journey can be enjoyed in daylight hours.