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Presents

Royal EGYPT Revealed

ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

April 20 - May 5, 2024

<http://www.directtravelci.com/egypt>





ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)
- The Great Pyramids of Giza & Necropolis of Sakkara
- Old Cairo and Islamic Cairo Including Khan El Khalili Bazaar
- Cruising the Nile for 4 nights on board Sanctuary Nile Adventurer.
- The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization
- Guest Lectures From Egyptologists
- Special Permission For Exclusive and or Private Access To Certain Sites

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Date	Destination	Accommodation	Meals
April 20, 2024	Bloomington to Chicago	Overnight Air	
April 21, 2024	Arrive Cairo	Marriott Mena House Cairo	
April 22, 2024	Giza	Marriott Mena House Cairo	B-L
April 23, 2024	Giza	Marriott Mena House Cairo	B-L
April 24, 2024	Cairo	Marriott Mena House Cairo	B-L
April 25, 2024	Cairo to Luxor	Hilton Luxor Resort & SPA	B
April 26, 2024	Luxor	Sanctuary Nile Adventurer	B-L-D
April 27, 2024	Luxor to Esna	Sanctuary Nile Adventurer	B-L-D
April 28, 2024	Edfu to Kom Ombo	Sanctuary Nile Adventurer	B-L-D
April 29, 2024	Aswan	Sanctuary Nile Adventurer	B-L-D
April 30, 2024	Aswan - Abu Simbel - Aswan	Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan	B-L
May 1, 2024	Aswan to Cairo	Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza	B
May 2, 2024	Cairo	Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza	B-L
May 3, 2024	Cairo to Alexandria	Four Seasons Hotel Alexandria at San Stefano	B-L
May 4, 2024	Alexandria to Cairo	Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza	B-L
May 5, 2024	Depart Cairo		B

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

PRICING INFORMATION

Double Occupancy Sharing Per Person	\$11,999.00
Single Occupancy	\$15,999.00

Sanctuary Nile Adventurer Suite/Cabin Upgrade Supplements

Double Occupancy Sharing Per Person in Promenade Deck	\$100
Single in Promenade Deck	\$150
Double Occupancy Sharing Per Person in Junior Suite	\$600
Single in Junior Suite	\$900
Double Occupancy Sharing Per Person in Presidential Suite	\$2,000
Single Per Person in Presidential Suite	\$3,000

International Air Estimated At:

Economy from ORD to CAI	\$1,800.00
Economy Plus/ Premium from ORD to CAI	\$3,500.00
Business/First from ORD to CAI	\$5,000.00

A \$2,000.00 per person non-refundable deposit is due upon reservation. Therefore, we highly recommend purchasing Travel Protection Insurance which is usually 8% of the total cost of the trip. Insurance when purchased before final payment covers pre-existing conditions and pandemic coverage is also included.

We can provide you with both an air and insurance quote after you place your deposit of \$2,000.00. We do require that you provide us with a photo of your passport and vaccine card at the time of your reservation.

Final payment is due on or before January 13, 2024.



Inclusions:

- Airport Transfer From Central Illinois to Chicago O'Hare Airport
- Entry visas to Egypt (currently US\$ 25.00 per person).
- Egypt Domestic flights in Economy Class.
- Accommodation as listed previously.
- Airport transfers in modern air-conditioned vehicle.
- All tours as described in the program with private English-speaking Egyptologists.
- All the admissions for the sightseeing stated in the program.
- Insider Access to Paws of Sphinx with lecture by Dr. Zahi Hawas (Subject to availability).
- Insider access to Abdeen Palace.
- Special access to the restoration labs at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.
- All meals as mentioned in the program including tea, coffee and mineral water.
- Portage at airports and hotels.
- Mineral water on vehicle.

Exclusions:

- International Flights.
- Travel Protection.
- Any meal that is not mentioned within the program.
- Beverages other than what mentioned under inclusions.
- Gratuities for the guides and drivers or any other kind of tips.

Please Note:

- The flight times are subject to change
- Cruise sightseeing is subject to change for reasons beyond our control like weather conditions, water level, Locks' regulations, instructions by authorities or any other unforeseen reasons



DETAILED ITINERARY

Sunday, April 21, 2024 - Arrive Cairo

Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, you are met by a representative, who will be holding a sign with the name Direct Travel. You are then privately transferred to the Marriott Mena House Hotel.

Marriott Mena House Hotel is one of the most unique hotels in Cairo, located just moments away from the wonders of the ancient world offering unmatched views of the Pyramids with its own rich and colorful history. Surrounded by 40 acres of verdant green gardens, the royal history of the hotel is reflected in the lavish interiors that are embellished with exquisite antiques, handcrafted furniture, original works of art and magnificent antiques. Recreation options at the hotel include a heated swimming pool and a fully equipped Spa & Fitness center as well as seven restaurants & lounges.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Lunch and dinner are under your own arrangements.

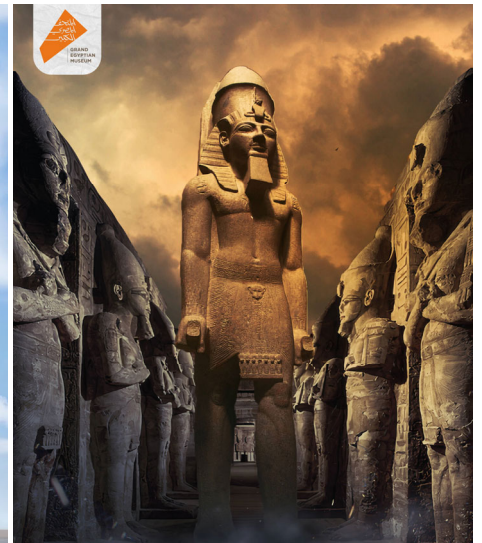


Monday, April 22, 2024: Giza B - L

08:30 Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel to start your tour.

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) complex is a cultural hub that includes one of the largest museums in the world displaying the diverse heritage of a single civilization. The Museum contains over 100,000 artefacts, reflecting Egypt's past from prehistory up until the Greek and Roman periods. One of the most impressive exhibits is that of the boy-King Tutankhamun which displays over 5,000 artefacts that were recovered from his tomb, including his gold mask.

As you enter the museum, you can't miss the colossal statue of King Ramses II, nor the 87 huge royal artefacts exhibited at the grand stairs that lead up to an impressive 28-meter-high glass façade overlooking the pyramids of Giza.



Lunch today is served at 'Andrea' restaurant.

A favored dining spot with its renown heritage of atmosphere and succulent Middle Eastern cuisine. Andrea lies on a hilltop spot in New Giza, offering open-air and indoor seating while overlooking the city-sprawl. It's justly famous for its spit-roasted chicken & tasty mezze dishes.

16:00 At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel. To refresh for the day and make your plans to explore the city in the evening.

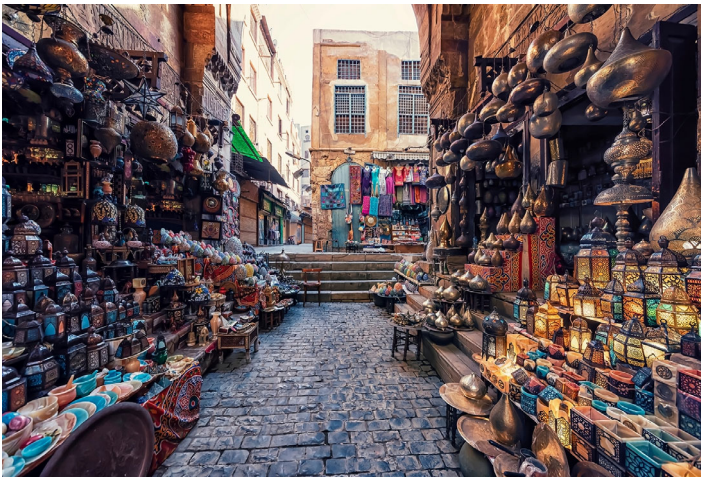
Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.



Enjoy lunch at Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant

Named after the Nobel-prize-winning Egyptian author, Naguib Mahfouz restaurant lies in the very heart of the Khan El-Khalili Bazaar making it a convenient, air-conditioned place to take a break from shopping. The coffee shop at the entrance offers drinks, snacks and shisha (water pipes), while the restaurant section offers a selection of chicken, meats and mouth-watering Middle Eastern mezzas (small appetizers). Please note that alcohol is not served here.

Visit the fascinating Khan El-Khalili Bazaar, reputed to be the largest bazaar in the Middle East. Originally founded as a watering stop for caravanserai in the 14th century, the bazaar has now grown to vast proportions.



Wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets to find workshops and stalls selling all manner of things, from woodwork and glassware to leather goods and perfumes.

With its grand, soaring architecture and rich decoration, the Mosque of Sultan Hassan, completed in 1363, is one of the finest in Egypt and also houses the mausoleum where Sultan Hassan's sons are buried.

A short walk across to the Mosque of Sultan Hassan, discover the much newer Refaie Mosque, completed in 1912 with well-preserved, colorful decoration. Buried in tombs there is a Muslim saint, a companion of the Prophet Mohamed, Egypt's last royal family and the last Shah of Iran.

16:00 At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel.

Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.



Thursday, April 25, 2024: Cairo - Luxor B

Your Tour Coordinator will escort you to Cairo Domestic Airport by air-conditioned vehicle. Board your Egypt -Air flight to Luxor. Upon arrival to Luxor Airport, you are met and transferred by air-conditioned vehicle to the Hilton Luxor Resort.

Hilton Luxor Resort is a wonderful escape to the banks of the Nile and is just 20 minutes from Luxor International Airport and 10 minutes from Luxor town center. This stylish Luxor spa resort is the ideal base from which to explore the region's historic attractions such as the Temple of Karnak, which is just moments away from the hotel. Expect outstanding service from the attentive, multilingual staff and feel at home in the spacious and bright guest rooms - many feature balconies with river, city or garden views. Or opt for a suite for extra space. Enjoy a choice of 4 restaurants and bars or indulge in fragrant Arabian-style teas and Turkish coffees with waterfront views in the Diwan Shisha Café. Other facilities include two infinity pools, a fitness center and a spa.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure. Lunch and dinner are under your own arrangements.

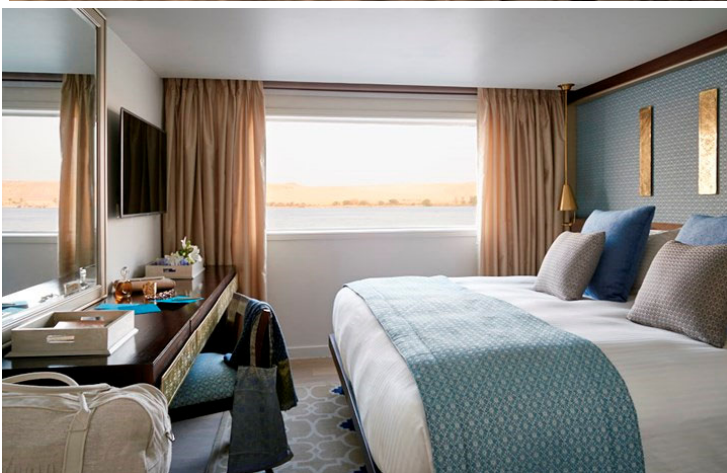


Friday, April 26, 2024: Luxor B - L - D

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle to Sanctuary Nile Adventurer. Visit the website for more details on the ship. <https://www.sanctuaryretreats.com/egypt-cruises-nile-adventurer>. You will board your 5-star deluxe Nile cruise boat, moored in a private dock in Aswan, where you will enjoy a welcome Zaffa, with drums and flutes. The elegant Sanctuary Nile Adventurer has just 32 cabins, offering a luxurious yet relaxed cruise on the Nile. Decorated in a contemporary style, the ship's design combines modern Egyptian culture with seven thousand years of heritage. Add gourmet cuisine and sightseeing experiences with the country's most experienced Egyptologists, this is a taste of genuine 5-star luxury on a timeless river.

The Sanctuary Nile Adventurer seamlessly blends contemporary Egyptian culture with authentic character, a blend of East and West. The extensive sun deck areas, with their elegant teak floors, include private cabanas around the pool area, the perfect spot for relaxing while taking in the scenery.

- Chic and contemporary decor with a Pharaonic and modern Egyptian influence
- Award-winning chefs
- All cabins have a Nile view and are air-conditioned



Entertainment on board the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Exact entertainment schedules during your cruise are adjusted according to the needs of each group and the sailing schedules of the boat are subject to change. However, every cruise will include:

- ◆ A welcome 'Zaffa' which is traditional music with Egyptian drums and flutes.
- ◆ A movie night.
- ◆ An Egyptian cooking lesson with our on-board chefs.
- ◆ A colorful 'Galabeyya' party which gives each guest the opportunity to dress up in traditional Egyptian dress and dance to Arabic music.
- ◆ Folkloric shows, including a 'Oud' trio during teatime as well as a belly-dancing and dervish show after dinner.
- ◆ A gala dinner with white-gloved waiters serving gourmet cuisine.

Food & Beverage

Menus are changed on a seasonal basis to enable the Chef to use the freshest ingredients at all times. However, the following is applicable to every cruise:

Most meals are served in the restaurant. However, at least one barbecue lunch (while sailing) will be served on deck (weather permitting).

Mineral water, tea and American coffee are included with every meal.

WiFi Connection

Please note: that the strength of the WI-FI signals unavoidably varies depending on geographical location, especially whilst sailing in the more remote areas of Upper Egypt.



On arrival, you will have the opportunity to visit Luxor Temple. Proceed to the Temple of Luxor, once connected to Karnak via the Avenue of Human-headed Sphinxes. This temple has been the site of many celebrations, the most important being the Festival of Opet, which grew over the years to last 27 days.

Lunch will be served on board in the main restaurant. After lunch, visit the West Bank of Luxor to explore Luxor West Bank.

The ancient Egyptians stopped building pyramids as royal tombs after thieves stole all the treasures inside, and instead they started burying their royalty in secret tombs at Thebes, today's West Bank of Luxor. Here, explore the Valley of the Kings, where New Kingdom pharaohs were buried in the hidden tombs, which have maintained their richly painted hues and were filled with treasures for use in the afterlife.

At the Valley of the Kings, retrace the steps of Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon and enter the small tomb of the famed boy-king Tutankhamun. Here, scenes from the Egyptian Book of the Dead are depicted on the walls of his burial chamber. For centuries the entrance was hidden by debris, safeguarding its discovery until 1922.

At 137m long and decorated all over with some of Ancient Egypt's finest art, the Tomb of the Pharaoh Seti I is the one of the more impressive. It was discovered in 1817 and is undoubtedly the best-preserved tombs in the Valley of the Kings. The art that you see here, set the precedent for all the tombs that followed.

Then, visit the Valley of the Queens, where the pharaohs' wives and children were buried. At the Valley of the Queens, the highlight is visiting the beautiful tomb of Queen Nefertari, Ramses II's beloved wife. It is said to be the finest tomb in Egypt, with vividly colored work and a ceiling painted with stars, giving an idea of how other, now faded, tombs would have looked in their day.

Rising out of the desert plain in a series of brilliant white terraces, the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut merges with the sheer limestone cliffs that surround it. Forming a natural rock amphitheater, the temple was an important religious and funerary site.

Next, enjoy a brief stop at the famed Colossi of Memnon and the two immense statues of Amenhotep III which, in Pharaonic times, guarded the entrance to his once great temple. Afternoon tea will be served in the lounge.

Tonight, you will be greeted by your Boat Manager while you enjoy freshly prepared canapés with some complimentary Egyptian wine and local beer, followed by a gourmet dinner menu.





Sunday, April 28, 2024: Edfu - Kom Ombo B - L - D

Enjoy breakfast on board, followed by a visit to the Temple of Edfu.

Lunch will be served on board while cruising to Kom Ombo. You will also have the chance to take part in an Egyptian cooking lesson.

Following afternoon tea in the lounge, visit the temple of Kom Ombo - dedicated to the crocodile-God Sobek. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile where, in ancient times, sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank.

Return to your Nile Cruise boat ready for the sailing to Aswan.

Tonight's entertainment will be an "Egyptian Night" costume party for all guests, with a chance to dress up in traditional Egyptian "galabeyyas". Dinner will be a lavish buffet of Egyptian specialties.

Monday, April 29, 2024: Aswan B - L - D

Enjoy breakfast on board, followed by a short motorboat ride to visit the majestic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilika. Next, we proceed to the Granite Quarries, which supplied the ancient Egyptians with most of the hard stone used in pyramids and temples, and still hold a huge unfinished obelisk.

Following lunch on board, you will have a chance take a ride on a felucca (a typical Egyptian sailboat) around Elephantine Island, Lord Kitchener's Botanical Gardens, and the Agha Khan Mausoleum (weather permitting, life jackets will be provided).

Afternoon tea will be served in the lounge while you enjoy the sounds of an Oud trio. Tonight's farewell dinner will be a gala dinner, with white-gloved waiters serving gourmet cuisine.

Enjoy a Dervish show and belly dancer performance after dinner.



Tuesday, April 30, 2024: Aswan - Abu Simbel - Aswan B - L

A buffet breakfast will be served on board, before check-out at 8am.

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle to Aswan Airport.

Board your 40-minute flight to Abu Simbel.

The two temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel are each fronted by colossal statues up to 20 meters (66 feet) high and are famed as the most impressive monuments remaining of Ancient Egypt. Recently, the temples were threatened by the waters of Lake Nasser, and with the help of a UNESCO campaign they were cut into blocks, raised piece by piece and reassembled in a new position higher up the hillside.

Snack bags will be provided.

After your visit, board your return flight to Aswan.

Upon arrival to Aswan Airport, you are met and transferred by air-conditioned vehicle to the Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan.

After an extensive renovation, redesigned by French interior designer Sybille de Margerie, Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan exudes its iconic heritage enriched with a contemporary design. Dive into the magnificent pool overlooking the Nile which links the two wings of the hotel. Indulge at the luxurious spa with a wide range of rejuvenating treatments. Embark on a voyage back to another century at the 1902 restaurant or relax at the terrace bar perched above the peaceful waters of the Nile.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.





Wednesday, May 1, 2024: Aswan - Cairo B

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle to Aswan Airport.

Board your Egypt-Air flight to Cairo.

Upon arrival to Cairo Domestic Airport, you are met and transferred by air-conditioned vehicle to the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza.

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza is a glamorous and stylish hotel located in the leafy quarter of Garden City, a modern retreat in an historic part of Cairo. With the Egyptian Museum close by, this is an excellent base to explore this ancient city. Many rooms offer views over the Nile or Citadel and are dressed in French Empire-style fabrics. The sumptuous bathrooms feature large bathtubs and a glass-walled separate shower complete with plump toweling bathrobes. Intimate shisha lounges decked out in low seating and soft lighting provide tranquil spaces to unwind and watch the sun set over the Nile. On the fifth floor there are three pools with sheltered poolside cabanas to allow you to escape the Cairo heat. There are also seven restaurants and bars to choose from, each serving its own unique menu. The hotel is also home to one of Cairo's largest spas offering a wide range of holistic therapies including its signature treatment 'The Nile Journey'. Other facilities include a whirlpool, sauna, steam room and gym.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure. Lunch and dinner are under your own arrangements.





Photo Courtesy of ArabNews.com

Thursday, May 2, 2024: Cairo B - L

09:00 Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel to start your tour. Insider Access to Abdeen Palace. A very special permission can be obtained to visit Abdeen Palace, constructed in 1863 on order of Khedive Ismail as part of the plan for a modern Cairo. Inspired by the architecture coming out of Paris at the time, the plan was to have the Palace finished by the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, but the 500 rooms weren't completed until 1874. The Palace acted as the royal residence until the monarchy was abolished in 1952.

Explore the numerous reception rooms which were used to receive delegates, Kings and senior visitors. The Palace has 500 rooms and royal suites, including the Belgian Suite, as well as five different halls for ceremonies. Admire the oriental design and frescoed ceiling in the Hall of Throne. Whilst walking your way around the Palace, you'll also see a large collection of items that used to belong to the Royal Family, such as plates, glassware, gold and silver.

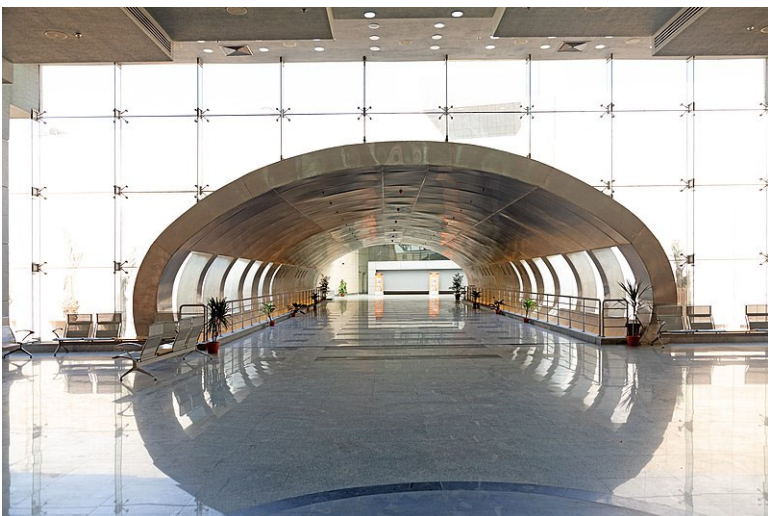
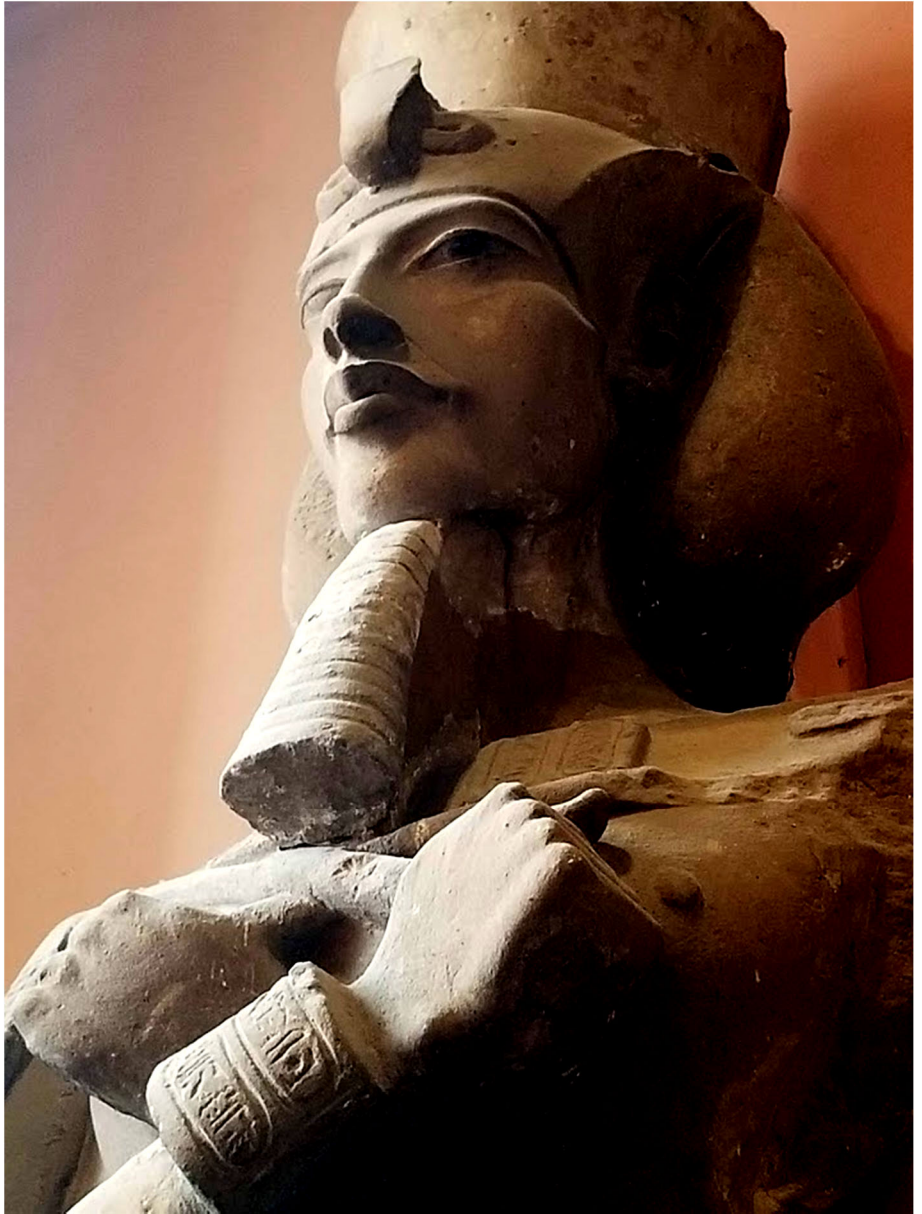


Lunch is served at Le Pacha. Le Pacha 1901 is one of Cairo's landmark dining and entertainment venues. Originally a paddle boat from the turn of the century, Le Pacha was transformed into a nostalgic and magical location to reflect on Cairo's glorious history.

Next, visit the first veritable museum of civilization in Egypt, the newly inaugurated National Museum of Egyptian Civilization or NMEC. For more information visit <https://nmec.gov.eg/>

The NMEC is located on the archaeological site of El-Fustat in Old Cairo, overlooking the Ain El-Seera Lake. The museum showcases Egyptian civilization from prehistoric times to the present day, using a multidisciplinary approach that highlights the country's comprehensive heritage. The collections are displayed in a core permanent exhibition of the principal achievements of Egyptian civilization, with six thematic galleries covering the Dawn of Civilization, The Nile, Writing, State and Society, Material Culture, Beliefs and Thinking and the Gallery of Royal Mummies.

Special access to the restoration labs is included. 16:00 At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.



Friday, May 3, 2024: Cairo - Alexandria B - L

06:30 Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle from Cairo to Alexandria. (Approximately 03 hours)

The city of Alexandria is known as "The Pearl of the Mediterranean" and has been a destination for travelers since its foundation by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. After declining into a sleepy fishing village, Alexandria was revived in the 19th century by Muhammad Ali as an important port, and immigrants from Europe and the Levant came to settle here, bringing a cosmopolitan flair and a heyday captured in Lawrence Durrell's Alexandria Quartet.

Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel to start your tour. The Catacombs of Kom El Shugafa is the largest Roman burial site in Egypt and the final resting place for 300 individuals, whose tombs are cut into the bedrock in massive tiers, descending 35 meters (115 feet) into the ground. There is even a banquet hall where grieving relatives paid their last respects at a funeral feast. The artisans who built the tombs in the second century AD combined ancient Egyptian and Greco-Roman motifs in a fascinating style.

Continue on to the Roman Amphitheater and imagine the crowds cheering at a musical performance or a wrestling match. The amphitheater is the only one of its kind in Egypt and has room for 800 spectators on white marble seats. The acoustics are such that if you stand on the stage and whisper, a person in the back row should be able to hear you.

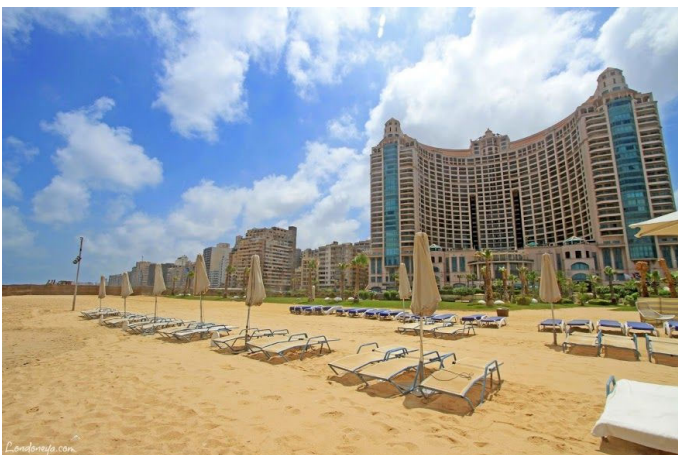
Lunch is served at White & Blue restaurant at the famous Greek Club.

View pieces from all the eras of Egypt's history at The Alexandria National Museum, which comprises more than 1,800 archaeological pieces that narrate the Pharaonic, Greek, Roman, Coptic, Islamic and modern history of Egypt.

16:00 At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Four Seasons at San Stefano is located in the Grand Plaza tower overlooking the Mediterranean, providing a great base to explore ancient Alexandria. Styled in neoclassical French decor throughout, each bedroom features elegant interiors with a bath and separate walk-in shower. With its rugged coastal landscape and endless ocean views, the infinity pool with neighboring bar is a great place to enjoy a leisurely lunch. Just minutes from the coast a prime stretch of sandy beach is accessed via an underground walkway, exclusively for hotel clients. Share a traditional shisha or grab a cocktail in the alfresco lounge, whilst watching the sun go down over the sea.

The hotel has six restaurants serving everything from Lebanese to Oriental. Kick back and unwind in the award-winning spa, offering a wide-range of treatments including their signature Egyptian 80-minute body treatment, '1001 nights'. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.





Saturday, May 4, 2024: Alexandria - Cairo B - L

08:00 Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel to start your tour.

The Alexandria Library and Museum is a modern, disk-shaped building inclining towards the sea and built on the believed site of the Great Library of Alexandria, a seat of ancient learning which unfortunately burned to the ground in the fourth century AD. The new research library carries on that legacy of learning by including exhibition spaces, a planetarium and a conference center.

At the end of your tour, you are transferred to your hotel.

Continue on to Qait Bay Fort. Set on the site of the famous Pharos Lighthouse of Alexandria and using some of its stone ruins, the fort was built by Sultan Al Ashraf Qaitbay in 1480 to guard Alexandria's Eastern harbor. One of the most important defensive strongholds on the Mediterranean coast in its day, this majestic sand-colored complex includes a castle and a mosque.

12:30 Lunch today is served at Byblos. Byblos: Offering Lebanese fine dining, Byblos is the Hotel's premier restaurant. Experience a warmly elegant environment featuring a corner fireplace and an impressive chandelier. The highlight: an expansive view of the Mediterranean.

14:00 At the end of your tour, you are transferred by air-conditioned vehicle from Alexandria to Cairo. (Approximately 03 hours)

17:00 Arrive Cairo and overnight at the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.

Sunday, May 5, 2024: Depart Cairo B

After breakfast your Tour Coordinator will escort you to Cairo International Airport by air-conditioned vehicle. You will fly home with many memories of an amazing tour of Egypt.



Direct Travel[®] *personalized experiences*



For more information, please contact Sandy Polley at Direct Travel she will be your host on this amazing journey of Royal Egypt Revealed.

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