Egypt - Treasures of the Nile!

5 Star Cruise/Tour From the Giza Pyramids to Stunning Abu Simbel
Including a 5 Day/4 Night Cruise on the Nile River

February 24 - March 5, 2022  10 Days / 8 Nights

Join us and explore the Treasures of the Nile! A country nearly as old as civilization itself, Egypt brings out the explorer in all of us. With sand-covered tombs, austere pyramids and towering Pharaonic temples you'll be mesmerized by the history of Egypt. Visit the Valley of the Kings in Luxor where Tutankhamen's tomb was unearthed. See the glittering finds in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Hop off a Nile boat to visit Edfu or a colorful spice market in Aswan as you cruise the longest river in the world. A Nile cruise is one of those journeys you feel it imperative to take, at least once in a lifetime. See temples that have stood for thousands of years deeply etched with hieroglyphs that tell the story of an ancient civilization. Relax on the deck of your river boat and watch as donkey-carts lumber past ramshackle internet cafes. You'll find that the sunsets on the Nile are some of the most gorgeous you've seen! The Nile has been the lifeline of civilization in Egypt since the Stone Age and explorers have long been fascinated by the river, people and the ancient tombs and temples that dot the landscape. Travel with us on this very special tour to Egypt and join explorers throughout the ages in discovering the Treasures of the Nile!

Itinerary

February 24, 2022 - Your Journey Begins
Today, you board your international flight bound for Cairo, Egypt.

February 25, 2022 - Arrival in the Land of the Pharaohs!
On arrival in Cairo, you’ll be met by your TRIPS representative who will assist with airport formalities and your hotel transfer. Check in to either the Marriott Mena House or Marriott Omar Khayyam, two of the most unique hotels in Cairo. Surrounded by 40 acres of gardens, Mena House was built as a royal lodge in the 1860s for the Monarch of Egypt, used to rest while visiting the Pyramids at Giza. In 1883, it became the private residence of a wealthy English couple who named it Mena House after the first king referenced in the Tablet of Abydos. Opened as a hotel in 1883, its played host to the Prince and Princess of Wales, the widow of Napoleon, and Winston Churchill. Similarly historic and luxurious, the lobby of the regal Omar Khayyam transports you to 1869 Egypt, when it was built to impress and lodge foreign dignitaries as the royal visitors’ palace. Relax and enjoy dinner on your own this evening in one of your hotel’s several fine restaurants.

Overnight: Cairo - Marriott Mena House or Marriott Omar Khayyam

February 26, 2022 - King Tut and the Cave of the Holy Family!
After a leisurely breakfast, begin your exploration of the ancient city of Cairo. First, stop at the fabulous Egyptian Museum housing the spectacular collection of King Tutankhamen and monuments from all periods of Egyptian history. A special inclusion is a visit to the two Royal Mummies Room. Not generally included on tours, you’ll see mummies of many great Egyptian rulers including Ramses II who built the temples at Abu Simbel. Then, it’s on to the Citadel, one of the major works of military architecture of the middle ages. Construction was begun by Salah ad-Din in 1176 and this is where rulers governed Egypt for 700 years. Explore the Alabaster Mosque built by Mohammed Ali in the early 1800s with its large dome and Ottoman influenced architecture. After a full day, return to the hotel with the remainder of the day, including dinner, at your leisure. You may choose to enjoy a spa treatment or relax by the pool with its spectacular views of the Pyramids!

February 27, 2022 - Great Pyramids of Giza!
Today, you see one of the wonders of the world - the Great Pyramids of Giza. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the oldest of the three Great Pyramids and is the only surviving wonder of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was built circa 2560 B.C. and is 481 feet high and covers about 13 acres and was the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years! It is difficult not to be completely overwhelmed as you gaze at pyramids that have survived for 4,500 years as dynasties have come and gone, as have Egypt’s many foreign invaders and conquerors. Lunch is included today at a local restaurant serving authentic Egyptian food. Continue your tour of Cairo visiting the ancient Step Pyramid of King Zoser (27th century BCE) and a tomb at Sakkara, the necropolis of pharaohs during the Old Kingdom. On returning to the hotel later today, you have the remainder of the day to relax and enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight: Cairo - Marriott Mena House or Marriott Omar Khayyam

February 28, 2022 - Karnak, Luxor and Sailing the Nile!
After breakfast, check out of our hotel and fly to Luxor. As the site of the Ancient Egyptian city of Thebes, Luxor has been characterized as the “world’s greatest open-air museum”. Visit the Temple of Karnak the second largest ancient religious site in the world after Angkor Wat. The Great Hypostyle Hall is comprised of columns in 16 rows that soar 80 feet into the air. As you wander amongst the 134 columns you’ll be astounded at the details of carved hieroglyphs that are visible after thousands of years! Continue on to the Temple of Luxor: where it is said that many of the Kings of Egypt were crowned. Parts of the temple were built by the boy King, Tutankhamen and Ramses II. Later this afternoon, board your riverboat for a 4 night cruise on the Nile. You are docked in Luxor overnight, so you might choose to explore the city of Luxor and the markets lining the Nile.

Overnight: Luxor - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily
March 1, 2022 - Valley of the Kings!

Today visit the Valley of the Kings, the burial ground for the great pharaohs who ruled Egypt from the 16th to 11th century BC. It became the burial ground for Tutankhamun and Ramses II as well as queens and high priests. These underground, hidden mauseleons were never meant to be seen and contained elaborate preparations for the next world in which humans were promised continuing life. Treasures like the golden masks found with King Tut were found along with more items mundane such as furniture, clothing and food for feasting in the afterworld. Then, visit the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, unique because of its architecture. The 12 year old Hatshepsut became Queen when her father died. She often ordered that she be portrayed as a male pharaoh with a beard and muscles. Your final visit today is to the Colossi of Memnon, two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III. They have stood for nearly 3,400 years, originally standing guard at the mortuary temple. Return to your riverboat for lunch, then continue your cruise on the mighty Nile sailing to Edfu.

Overnight: Edfu - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily (B/L/D)

March 2, 2022 - Edfu and Aswan!

This morning, visit the Temple of Edfu, one of the best preserved in Egypt. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, it was buried under nearly 40 feet of drifting sand over the centuries. In 1860, a French Egyptologist began the work of freeing Edfu resulting it being nearly intact! Return to the boat and sail to the temple of Kom-Ombo, a unique double temple. Half is dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, the other to the falcon god Horus. Continue your Nile cruise sailing to Aswan.

Overnight: Aswan - Onboard Movenpick MS Royal Lily (B/L/D)

March 3, 2022 - Spice Market, Aswan Dam and Felucca!

From Aswan, drive to the high Dam of Aswan, built during the 1960s. Before being built, the Nile River overflowed its banks yearly and the damn protects the area from the flood/drought cycle as well as generating hydroelectric power. Then, visit Philae and sail the Nile on a traditional felucca.

The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with an reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.

**Please note that itineraries are subject to change.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare from Houston to Cairo, Egypt (please inquire for other gateway cities; checked baggage fees are not included)
- 4 nights deluxe hotel accommodations in Cairo
- Breakfast daily in Cairo
- 2 lunches at local restaurants in Cairo
- All meals while cruising onboard the riverboat
- 5 days/4 nights on the Mövenpick MS Royal Lily riverboat
- All Intra-Egypt flights (Cairo-Luxor; Aswan-Abu Simbel; Abu Simbel-Aswan; Aswan-Cairo)
- All sightseeing and admissions in Cairo including the Egyptian Museum and the specially included Mummies Room, Pyramids in Giza, the Citadel and more
- A traditional felucca ride in Aswan
- All sightseeing, as listed, while onboard the riverboat
- Services of a certified English speaking Egyptologist throughout your tour
- Transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Special Inclusive Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are subject to the terms of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with an reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.

Please contact Mikki Walker at (818) 255-1347 or mikki@gotripsinc.com with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Your Lamar University contact is Laurie Ritchel, University Travel Programs Coordinator, who may be reached at (409) 790-4307 or laurie.ritchel@lamar.edu. You may also contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@lamar.edu.