



ENCOUNTERING ANCIENT AND CONTEMPORARY EGYPTIAN WONDERS AND THE RELIGIONS THAT INSPIRED THEM

JANUARY 16-27, 2024



Tour Host

Dr. Ronald Shive



TUTKU

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —

ENCOUNTERING ANCIENT AND CONTEMPORARY EGYPTIAN WONDERS AND THE RELIGIONS THAT INSPIRED THEM

JANUARY 16-27, 2024

Tour Host: Dr. Ronald Shive

Egypt is a historically stunning country and this trip will bring you to an encounter with 5,000 years of history and some of the world's most amazing wonders. Our Egyptian journey will not stop though with the rise and the fall of the three ancient Egyptian kingdoms. We will visit sites from the time of Cleopatra, the period of early Christianity in Alexandria, the time of the rise of Islam and the growth of the Ottoman Empire. To more fully understand though these ancient and contemporary sites, one must understand the religions that inspired them. Egyptian religious beliefs and practices were and are closely integrated into Egyptian society of the historical and contemporary period. This trip is somewhat unique in that it will seek to help one understand the religions of each period and the resulting wonders of that period. Our journey begins with three full days in and around Cairo, where we will visit the pyramids and two incredible museums and both Christian and Muslim sites, and one day in Alexandria, the city founded by Alexander the Great. We then fly to Luxor, site of what was once the ancient dynastic capital of Upper Egypt, Thebes. There we will board our small luxurious ship, which will be our home on the Nile River for the next four nights. We will then encounter the incredible Luxor and Karnak temples and the Valley of the Kings, before we cruise up the Nile to Aswan. We will have two days to enjoy the beautiful Nile scenery and visit such places as the Temple of Horus and the Temple of Isis at Philae. We then fly back to Cairo for one last day to shop and relax before returning to the U.S. with new insights in the ways that religion shaped and shapes cultures and civilizations.



Ramesseum

Jan 19 Fri Civilization Museum \$ Grand Egyptian Museum
The day begins with a visit to the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, which provides a comprehensive history of Egypt and houses 20 royal mummies of the New Kingdom. After lunch, we will visit the Grand Egyptian Museum. This vast state-of-the-art repository, the largest archaeological museum in the world, is the new home of the country's most valuable antiquities, including the iconic, gold funerary mask and 5,000 other items uncovered in the tomb of the boy-king Tutankhamun (2 hours). We will then return to the hotel in early afternoon to relax before dinner. (B,D)

Jan 20 Sat Day trip to Alexandria
After breakfast, we will have an early transfer to Alexandria to visit Bibliotheca of Alexandria, the New Library of Alexandria, The New Bibliotheca Alexandrina is dedicated to recapture the spirit of openness and scholarship of the original Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It is much more than a library. After optional lunch, we transfer to visit The Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa These tombs were tunneled into the bedrock in the age of the Antoine emperors (2nd century A.D.) for a single wealthy family still practicing the ancient religion. These tombs represent the last existing major construction for the sake of the old Egyptian religion. Then the Roman Theater (KOM AL-DIKKA), where over 30 years of excavation have uncovered many Roman remains including this well preserved theatre with galleries, sections of mosaic-flooring and marble seats for up to 800 spectators. The theatre at one point may have been roofed over to serve as an Odeon for musical performances. Inscriptions suggest that it was sometimes also used for wrestling contests. Back to Cairo. (B,D)

Jan 21 Sun Coptic Cairo & Citadel
Our tour continues with a trip to Coptic Museum, which houses a vast history of the early Coptic Church. We will visit the Cave Church, Abu Serga, where tradition says Mary, Joseph, and Jesus rested during their travels in Egypt. Also visit the Hanging Church, one of the oldest churches in Egypt, followed hopefully by a visit to the Ben Ezra Synagogue — known as the site where some 400,000 medieval secular and sacred manuscripts where found in the 19th century. After lunch, we will visit the Citadel (Mohamed Ali Mosque, aka the Alabaster Mosque). The mosque, the largest such structure built during the first half of the 19th century, is more impressive at a distance than close up. It is an unparalleled contribution to the skyline of Cairo, visible high atop the Citadel grounds. Its great dome and towering minarets give the Citadel a romantic, oriental quality that makes up for any shortcomings in its detail. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B,D)

Jan 22 Mon Fly to Luxor visit Karnak & Luxor temples - NILE CRUISE
After transfer we will transfer to the airport for a short flight south to Luxor, site of what was once the ancient dynastic capital of Upper Egypt, Thebes, during the New Kingdom. Here, we will embark our small, luxurious ship, our home for four nights and the Nile River cruise portion of our journey. After settling in and enjoying lunch on board, we will stay on the Nile's East Bank to see two of Egypt's most illustrious shrines. First is the Karnak Temple Complex, built and used over a period of 2,000 years — encompassing the ruins of numerous temples, chapels, and other structures, as well as a lovely sacred lake. Its Great Hypostyle Hall alone measures some 54,000 square feet, and is adorned with 134 79-foot-high columns arrayed in 16 rows. The Karnak Temple is the cult center of Amun, No-Amon (Thebes) of the Bible. Here Thutmose III's Annals record his famous battle at Megiddo and Shishak's relief records the campaign of 925 BC against Israel and Judah. Later that day, we will have an evening visit of the Luxor Temple Complex. Karnak was once connected by a ceremonial, sphinx-lined 1 3/4 mile avenue to the Luxor Temple, which we will also explore. This latter site once also served as a Roman legionnaire outpost and it boasts chapels built by Alexander the Great and Tutankhamun. Dinner and overnight on board. (B,L,D)

Jan 23 Tue Valley of the kings, Tomb of the Nobles & Sail to Edfu - NILE CRUISE
The day will begin with an optional hot air balloon flight, where you will see the sunrise over the Valley of the Kings. The morning will continue (or begin for those who choose not to go on the hot air balloon ride) as we will journey to the west side of the Nile, where we will explore the vast Necropolis of Thebes. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes the Valley of the Kings, where more than 60 pharaohs' tombs and burial chambers were cut deep into rock cliffs over a 500-year span. We will explore five of these sacred chambers — including tombs of the powerful kings of the New Kingdom and the famous boy-king Tutankhamun. Here we will admire the elaborate hieroglyphs and paintings that adorn their walls with illustrative stories of lives and dynasties past. Later, we will take a short drive to the Tomb of the Nobles including remarkable painted and carved scenes in the tombs of the Egyptian administrators. In the Tomb of Rekhmire, we will see the famous scene in which foreigners are forced to make bricks (Exodus 1:8-14). We will then enjoy the shipboard amenities as we sail south or upriver toward Aswan. Mostly, it is a great opportunity to watch the passing scene as we float up the Nile towards Esna, where the ship will pass through some locks. As we cruise you will see riverside farms lined by lush grasses and date palms, an indication of how the river has sustained almost all Egyptian agriculture for millennia. The small villages with flat-roofed, clay houses look much as they did hundreds of years ago, and occasionally, we will see children playing on banks who will invariably wave and shout as we pass by. We continue making our way south until we reach Edfu around dinner. Dinner on board and overnight. (B,L,D)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE *can be changed

UA 717	16JAN	RDUIAD	1450	1559
LH 419	16JAN	IADFRA	1805	0740
LH 582	17JAN	FRACAI	1025	1535
LH 587	27JAN	CAIMUC	0750	1100
LH 414	27JAN	MUCIAD	1640	1955
UA 487	27JAN	IADRDU	2225	2334



Giza Pyramids

Tour Itinerary:

Jan 16 Tue Depart RDU

Jan 17 Wed

Arrive Cairo at 15:35

Meet tour representative before immigration, customs and baggage claim. He will assist with visas and customs check. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight at **Fairmont Nile City Hotel** in Cairo. Five nights. (D)

Jan 18 Thu Pyramids & Sakkara

Our tour of Egypt begins with an exciting excursion to the Giza Plateau in the southwest outskirts of Cairo, to see Egypt's iconic Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx. Constructed as tombs for the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure, each of the three stone structures was built by hand using finely tuned ancient techniques that remain a mystery today. The Great Pyramid of Giza — or Pyramid of Khufu — is the oldest and largest of the three, dating back to 2545-2525 BCE and reaching 455 feet high. Located nearby on this otherworldly archaeological site, you will also see the mystical Sphinx, a huge limestone statue of a reclining lion with the head of the pharaoh Khafre. Following lunch at a local establishment, we will visit another ancient site, Saqqara, and explore the Step Pyramid. Built during Egypt's third dynasty to honor King Zoser, this ancient, ziggurat-shaped limestone "skyscraper" is believed to be the world's earliest pyramid. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B,D)



Jan 24 Wed Visit Edfu & Komombo temples then Sail to Aswan - NILE CRUISE

After breakfast, we will begin the day on the morning excursion to Edfu's famously well-preserved temple. Dedicated to Egypt's falcon-headed god, Horus. The massive Temple of Horus at Edfu, which is one of the best preserved temples in Egypt, was constructed between 237 and 57 BCE, partially during the reign of Cleopatra VII. It tells a central story in Egyptian mythology about Horus avenging the death of his father, Osiris, at the hands of his uncle. Following our visit, we will reboard our ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon cruise toward Kom Ombo. Here we will visit the town's small and elegant namesake temple. Kom Ombo is unusual in that it is a "double" temple whose symmetrical halves honor Haroeris (Horus) the falcon god and Sobek the crocodile god. Built during the Ptolemaic era, both temples are decorated with distinctive, sturdy columns and intricate, well-preserved reliefs. Some 300 crocodile mummies were discovered here, and you can see some of them displayed at the on-site Crocodile Museum. Return to the ship for dinner as we set sail towards Aswan, one of Upper Egypt's most beautiful locations. (B,L,D)

Jan 25 Thu Visit High Dam, Temple of Philae & Elephantine Island - Aswan - NILE CRUISE

Today we will explore the area around Aswan, beginning with the massive Aswan High Dam. This 13,000-foot-long and 3,200-foot-wide wall was built across the Nile between 1960 and 1970 with Soviet support. It supplanted the British-built Low Dam of the 1900s and created the vast reservoir known today as Lake Nasser. We will also visit the renowned Temple of Philae. A striking monument dedicated to the goddess Isis. This cultural treasure was painstakingly moved to its current location on Angelika Island by UNESCO engineers after the High Dam's completion. To reach the island we will travel aboard small local boats, then explore the various halls and temples. Philae was one of the last pagan temples to operate after the advent of Christianity in Egypt, and in some places you can see where crosses were etched into walls and where the gods' images were defaced. We will not want to miss Elephantine Island, which is opposite Aswan in the middle of the Nile. The Elephantine papyri are caches of legal documents and letters written in Aramaic dating to sometime in the fifth century BCE. These papyri document the presence of a community of Judean mercenaries and their families on Elephantine, starting in the seventh century BCE. The mercenaries guarded the frontier between Egypt and Nubia to the south. Following the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in the sixth century BCE, some Judean refugees, including Jeremiah, traveled south and, in what may be called an "exodus in reverse," settled on Elephantine. They maintained their own temple, in which sacrifices were offered, evincing polytheistic beliefs, which functioned alongside that of Khnum. The Jewish Temple at the military garrison on Elephantine island was built sometime in the sixth century. It was destroyed in 410 BCE at the hands of the priests of the Egyptian god, Khnum. Although rebuilt, the temple was eventually abandoned sometime after 400 BCE. We will take some time this afternoon to shop the Aswan souk. (B,L,D)

Jan 26 Fri Fly from Aswan to Cairo - Papyrus shop and Egyptian essential oils shop

Disembarkation after breakfast, we will take a flight back to Cairo and enjoy the afternoon to shop at a papyrus shop and Egyptian essential oils shop. We will check into our Cairo hotel for dinner and a relaxing evening. Dinner and overnight in Cairo in an airport hotel. (B,D)

Jan 27 Sat Depart Cairo fly RDU

St. Catherine extension

Jan 27 Sat After breakfast, transfer to St. Catherine.

St. Catherine's has a rich history indeed. So rich that it is a sparkling example of an undiscovered jewel of travel. It has been called the oldest working Christian monastery and the smallest diocese in the world. The Chapel of the Burning Bush was originally ordered built by Empress Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, but the monastery itself was actually built by Emperor Justinian to protect the monks in the region and to honor the site of the Burning Bush. St. Catherine, whose body was reportedly carried away by angels, was discovered five hundred years later at the top of the peak that now bears her name. Her relics are stored in a marble reliquary in the Basilica. We have additional pictures of this church, and of its interior. Dinner and sleep for a few hours.

Jan 28 Sun 01:30 am Start to climb Sinai Mountain

- 01.30 Start to climb Sinai Mountain.
- 08.00 Breakfast at the hotel (or breakfast box at the Monastery)
- After visiting the monastery, transfer back to Cairo.
- Dinner and overnight in Cairo.

Jan 29 Mon Transfer to Cairo airport for final departure.

LAND & AIR

\$6,890 Per person in a double room/cabin
\$2,850 Single Room Supplement

INCLUDING

- Roundtrip International Air Fare between RDU or NEW YORK - CAIRO
- Cairo-Luxor domestic flights
- Aswan-Cairo domestic flights
- Meet and assist at Cairo international airport upon arrival and departure.
- Sightseeing as per the detailed itinerary
- 5 Nights at **Fairmont Nile city Hotel** in Cairo
- 4 Nights on **M/S Sonesta Sun goddess Nile cruise**
- 1 Night at **Le Meridien Airport Hotel** in Cairo (or similar)
- Daily breakfasts
- 10 dinners
- Entrance fees to all archaeological sites included in the program.
- English Speaking licensed tour guide throughout the itinerary.
- Transfers & transportation by private A/C bus.
- Portage for one piece of luggage at the hotels.
- Service charges and local taxes

EXCLUDING

- Egypt Visa (\$25 per person)
- Lunches and drinks (except for the Nile cruise).
- Personal expenses, any other item which is not included above.
- Charges for camera permit at museums and some sites.
- Tips to tour guide and driver and hotel staff.

In the following, I list to you some of the tombs/sites that require extra entrance fees if you wish to offer to the guests:

- Giza:
Entrance inside Great Cheops pyramid: \$30

EXTENSION TOUR COST

\$599 Per Person in Double Room
\$190 Single Room Supplement

INCLUDING

- 1 night in St Catherine at 4* Morgan Land Hotel (or similar) on HB basis.
- 1 night in Cairo at 4* Radisson Blu Hotel (or similar) on HB basis.
- Daily breakfasts and dinners
- St. Catherine Entrance fees
- English speaking private guide
- All transportation by private a/c Minibus with driver

EXCLUDING

- Tips to driver, guide and hotel.
- Lunches & Drinks.
- Any personal expenses.

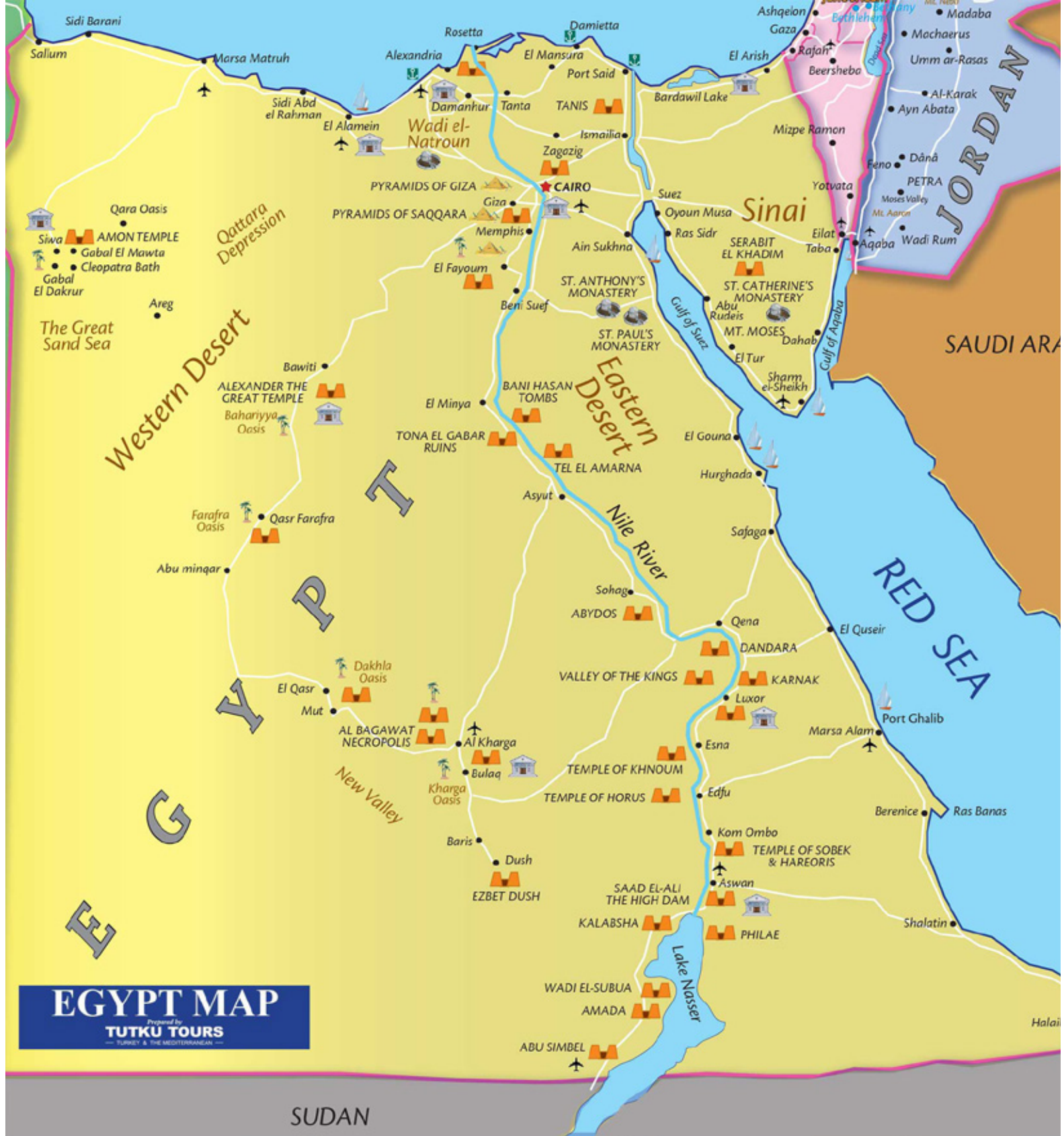
PAYMENT PROCEDURE

DEPOSIT: \$1000 per person - May 15, 2023

FULL BALANCE PAYMENT: October 2, 2023

Cancellation Penalty:

- 120-90 days prior to departure : No Penalty
- 89-60 days prior to departure : 10%
- 59-45 days prior to departure : 20%
- 44-30 days prior to departure : 50%
- 29-15 days prior to departure : 75%
- 14 days & After : No refund



EGYPT MAP
 Prepared by
TUTKU TOURS
 — TURKEY & THE MEDITERRANEAN —

TUTKU

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —

Gaziosmanpaşa Bulvarı 3/303 İzmir 35210 TURKEY

Phone: +90-232 441-8635 / 441-8676 / 441-8677

Visit for other tours: www.tutkutours.com

Email for customized group & individual tour requests: info@tutkutours.com

