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TREASURES OF EGYPT

FEB 22-MAR 8, 2024 | 16 DAYS | 40 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: DONNA ROMBOUGH

Egypt is one of the most famous civilizations in history, where time has stood still, and secrets from an ancient world are still being discovered. Stand in awe and marvel at the power of the Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx standing guard, the Tombs of the Pharaohs, ancient Memphis, the remnants of Thebes, Ramses II's magnificent Abu Simbel and more. Sail on a felucca on the iconic Nile, be mesmerized by the sound and light show at Karnak Temple, join the fun in Cairo's Khan El Khalili Bazaar, visit a Nubian village, learn about Pharaoh's calligraphy, and discover for yourself Egypt then and now. Never has there been a better time to explore the ancient world as history continues to unfold! Reserve your places now on this extraordinary journey.

Tour Highlights

- Deluxe 7 night river cruise - Luxor / Aswan / Luxor
- Deluxe hotels in Cairo for 7 nights
- Explore the Valley of the Kings plus Karnak and Luxor Temples
- Guided visits in Edfu and Kom Ombo
- All sightseeing excursions in Aswan – felucca sail, Nubian Village, Botanic gardens
- Air excursion to fabulous Abu Simbel
- Enjoy all the sites of ancient and modern Cairo - the Pyramids, and Sphinx, Saqqara and Memphis, Alexandria, Egyptian Museum, Moslem Quarter, Coptic Christian Quarter and more



Journey Leader

Having spent her entire career in various management positions within the travel industry, **Donna Rombough** has an insatiable love for travel. Retired from Craig Travel several years ago, she continues to be involved as a consultant and group escort and is always thrilled at the prospect of discovering yet another new destination. She has led countless tours and cruises to many parts of the world and delights in sharing new experiences and cultures with her travellers. Join her on this thrilling adventure!



Inclusive Features

- Return direct airfare to Cairo on Egypt Air
- All internal flights within Egypt
- Accommodations in deluxe hotels as indicated, or similar
- Deluxe 7-night river cruise on the upper Nile
- All 40 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 13 breakfasts, L - 13 lunches, D - 14 dinners)
- Services of our Canadian journey leader, plus certified Egyptian guide
- Porterage at hotels and the river boat (where available)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

FEB 22, Thursday

Tour members from across Canada gather in Toronto for the overnight non-stop flight to Cairo.

Depart Canada

FEB 23, Friday

Arriving Cairo this morning, we are met and transfer to our deluxe hotel, located close to the airport and adjacent to a large mall. Our rooms are booked for immediate occupancy. Balance of day at leisure until we gather for a light dinner this evening. **Conrad Cairo Hotel** (1 night) D

Cairo

FEB 24, Saturday

A short flight takes us to Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes, the pharaohs' capital during the 16th–11th centuries B.C. Marvel at Karnak Temple, the most impressive of all ancient sites in Egypt. Explore Hypostyle Hall, the Sacred Lake, the Temple of Khonsu and Ramesses III Chapel. Embark on our deluxe Nile river cruise in time for lunch. Enjoy free time this afternoon to relax on board or to explore the Corniche and modern Luxor. After our welcome dinner, we will be awed by the beautiful Sound & Light show in Karnak Temple.

ms Concerto II or similar (7 nights)

BLD

Cairo / Luxor

FEB 25, Sunday West Bank / Nile Cruise / Edfu

At dawn, there is an option to experience the world's largest open-air museum by hot air balloon (\$110 USD pp - conditions permitting). Later, we explore the Valley of the Kings. Ever since Howard Carter opened King Tut's tomb, the burial rites of ancient Thebes' have dazzled the world. Visit a number of tombs including the recently opened and beautifully decorated Tomb of King Seti I. The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, built into the towering cliff face, consists of three terraces connected by long ramps. Finally, we shall see the massive twin statues of the Colossi of Memnon, representing King Amenhotep III. Relax over lunch as we sail via the lock at Esna, to Edfu. Enjoy dinner and a traditional Gallabiyah party. BLD

FEB 26, Monday Edfu / Kom Ombo / Aswan

Early this morning we take a horse-drawn carriage ride to the 2,000-year-old Ptolemaic Temple of Horus. Very well preserved, it is the second largest temple in Egypt (after Karnak). Built during the Greco-Roman Period, it is the best place to experience the grandeur of ancient Egypt. After enjoying a brief stop in Kom Ombo, we can relax on board as we sail to Aswan, the traditional homeland of the Nubians. BLD

FEB 27, Tuesday Aswan / Abu Simbel

This morning we will visit the High Dam and onwards we will continue to the airport and fly to Abu Simbel. Visit the massive reconstructed temple, built by the greatest of the pharaohs, Ramesses II. These rock-cut temples marked the southern boundary of the Egyptian Empire at the peak of the New Kingdom's power and displayed the strength of Egypt's rulers. Balance of day free to explore the modern centre of Aswan. BLD

FEB 28, Wednesday Aswan / Nubian Village

Cruise by felucca (traditional river sailing boat) to Kitchener Island and visit the Botanic Gardens. This afternoon, take a short boat ride to Agilika Island and the temple of Philae. Lastly, visit Aswan's Quarry, home to the famous Unfinished Obelisk - a 41-meter-long slab of granite. BLD

FEB 29, Thursday Aswan / Kom Ombo / Edfu

Cruise to Elephantine Island where we visit a Nubian Village. Get acquainted with the life, history and culture of the Nubians at the Animalia Centre. At a local school, we will meet with the children and their teachers. Join a fun class for a "lesson" on a variety of basic words and numbers. After walking through the village, we will have a traditional lunch in a Nubian home. Enjoy another leisurely cruise today to Kom Ombo, where we visit the Roman style Temple of Sobek, one of the best-preserved in all of Egypt. At the temple's entrance stand two large black granite statues of Horus who is depicted as a falcon. The archeological museum is dedicated to the crocodile-headed god Sobek. We overnight in Edfu, with free time to explore on our own. BLD

MAR 1, Friday Luxor

After passing through Esna lock, relax on board as we cruise back to Luxor. After settling in, a horse drawn carriage takes us along the Corniche to the central market. Next, we will be awed by the beautiful sound and light show in Karnak Temple. BLD

MAR 2, Saturday Luxor / Cairo

This morning we visit the stunning Luxor Temple (circa 1200 BCE). Passing through the Avenue of Sphinxes, view the phenomenal scale of the stonework. After a short flight to Cairo, we proceed to EL Moez Street and walk through old Cairo to experience the best Islamic medieval treasures, including traditional schools, mosques, and Sabil



Marvel at the columns at the Karnak Temple



Temple of Hatshepsut



Visit a Nubian Village



Kom Ombo

(ancient public drinking places for both people & horses). Cairo's largest market, the Khan El Khalili Bazaar, is popular with tourists and Egyptians alike, selling almost anything you could imagine. Wander through the narrow alleys and practice your bargaining skills. Our hotel for the balance of our time is ideally located on the shores of the Nile. **Conrad Cairo Hotel** (6 nights) BLD

MAR 3, Sunday **Cairo / Memphis / Sakkara**
Located 30 km south of Cairo lies the UNESCO World Heritage site of Saqqara (Sakkara). This was the Necropolis, the burial site for Memphis, the previous capital of the pharaohs, which is now in ruins. Scattered across the countryside, discover a small sphinx, as well as numerous other pyramids, the most famous of which is the stepped pyramid of Djoser, the oldest stone building known to man. While making our way back into Cairo, visit a Papyrus workshop, to learn about Pharaoh's calligraphy. Learn to write your name in Hieroglyphic drawings, and receive a certificate with your name written on Papyrus paper. Balance of the day at leisure. BLD

MAR 4, Monday **Cairo / Giza**
This morning, we visit the only remaining of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Pyramids of Giza. The complex has awed travellers through the ages and had archaeologists scratching their heads over how they were built. Enjoy the view of the Pyramids, and have an opportunity to ride a camel. Then explore around the enigmatic Sphinx, and learn about this massive Lion body-human headed sculpture. After lunch, return to our hotel with the balance of the day at leisure. BLD

MAR 5, Tuesday **Cairo / Museum**
This day is dedicated to the world famous Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, home to over 120,000 relics of ancient Egypt. Highlights include the contents of the Tomb of King Tutankhamen. Enjoy lunch in Al Azhar Park, located in the heart of old Cairo and view stunning panoramic views of the world's most intriguing city. Lush green landscaped gardens are an enjoyable sojourn away from the city's major tourist attractions. The park is home to a section of the Ayyubid City Walls, constructed by Salah El Din between 1176 and 1183 AD. BLD

MAR 6, Wednesday **Alexandria**
Travel north via the Nile delta to the Mediterranean coast and Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city, to savour the sea air. See Alexandria's historic highlights - the Citadel of Qaitbay, Pompey's Pillar and the well-preserved Roman amphitheater before visiting the impressive new city library, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which presides over the waterfront Corniche. Enjoy a mouthwatering seafood lunch with stunning views over the Mediterranean Sea. BLD

MAR 7, Thursday **Cairo / Islamic & Christian Quarters**
Our day begins in Islamic Cairo, seeing Saladin's 12th century Citadel, the City of the Dead and the striking Alabaster Mosque before we continue into the Coptic Quarter of Cairo. See the relics of early Christianity found at the Coptic Museum, visit Abu Serga Church where Jesus, Joseph and Mary stayed, and the El Mouallaga (Hanging) Church, built during the 1st century AD. Visit a Papyrus Museum for a chance to write your name in Hieroglyphic characters. This evening, following our special farewell dinner, we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to Canada. BLD

MAR 8, Friday **Return to Canada**
REV20SEP23

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: This tour includes some long days and travel through environments that will include high temperatures, dust, and sand. There are a number of short internal flights to reach more remote areas of the country.



**Book and deposit by October 31, 2023
and save \$200 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person

Land Only (Join / Leave at Hotel)	\$5,895
Toronto	\$8,095
Montreal / Ottawa	\$8,245
Halifax / Winnipeg	\$8,385
St. John's	\$8,495
Regina / Saskatoon	\$8,445
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$8,385
Victoria	\$8,445
Single Supplement	\$2,195

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Air inclusive prices are estimated (subject to confirmation). Final pricing will be advised once flights are confirmed. Refer to inclusive features for more details.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels. Prices are based on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective June 2023 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum 20 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment will be due November 22, 2023
Deposit is \$950 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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