



## EGYPT – JORDAN 17 days

### Day 1 : ARRIVE – CAIRO

Meet at London Heathrow airport and fly to Cairo. On arrival in Cairo we will be met and driven to our hotel for overnight stay.

### Day 2 : THE PYRAMIDS - OLD CAIRO

After breakfast we leave our hotel and drive up to the great plateau of Giza to witness the vast scale of the Pyramids and the Sphinx. If permitted, there may be an opportunity of climbing up inside one of the pyramids. We return to Cairo's Old City to visit the Church of the Holy Family. It was near this church that the Holy Family found haven for nearly four years after their flight for fear of persecution by King Herod. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cairo.

### Day 3 : CAIRO MUSEUM – ASWAN

After breakfast we drive to the famous Egyptian Museum, a treasure-store of gold jewellery and exquisite statues from upper and lower Egypt at the time of the Pharaohs. Among the highlights will be the glittering funerary equipment crammed into the Boy King Tutankhamun's tomb, and sculptures of kings and courtiers ranging from the pyramid age to the Greco-Roman era. After a break for lunch by the Nile we visit the famous Khan El Khalili bazaar. Early evening we drive down to Cairo's Railway station to board overnight sleeper train to Upper Egypt. Dinner and overnight onboard train.

### Day 4 : NILE CRUISE – ASWAN

On arrival in Aswan we will be met and driven to the banks of the Nile and our cruise ship. After check-in we can enjoy a sailing trip on a typical Egyptian "felucca" (sailboat) which glides along the Nile, passing Elephantine Island, Lord Kitcheners Botanical Garden and the dramatic Aga Khan Mausoleum. The ship docks in Aswan tonight. Dinner and overnight in Aswan.

### Day 5 : ASWAN - PHILAE - KOM OMBO

Visit the Aswan High Dam and the granite quarries where the stone for the ancient monuments and modern dam of Aswan were cut. View the gigantic unfinished Obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut. Continue by launch to the beautiful island of Philae to see the exquisite sandstone Temple of Isis. Our Nile cruise leaves for Kom Ombo, a hill town overlooking the banks of the Nile. Visit the unique Greco-Roman Temple of Kom Ombo. Arrive in Edfu for the night. Dinner and overnight on board ship in Edfu.

### Day 6 : EDFU – LUXOR

In Edfu, travel by horse-drawn carriage to the Temple of Horus, best preserved of all the large Egyptian temples. Enjoy a relaxing sail along the Nile, passing quaint villages before arriving in Luxor. Dinner and overnight on board ship in Luxor.



## **Day 7 : KARNAK & VALLEY OF KINGS**

Visit the West Bank and the Colossi of Memnon and the Valley of the Queens to see the terraced Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Continue to the Valley of the Kings which contains the secretive tombs of the New Kingdom Pharaohs. Return to the East Bank to tour the outstanding Karnak Temple complex built by generations of Pharaohs over a 2,000 year period. Continue to the Avenue of the Sphinxes and the Temple of Luxor with its grand colonnades. Dinner and overnight on board ship in Luxor.

## **Day 8 : LUXOR – HURGHADA**

After breakfast we disembark and then drive east to the Red Sea and the beach resort of Hurghada. Rest of day at leisure to relax by the Red Sea. Dinner and overnight stay in Hurghada

## **Day 9 : RELAXATION BY THE RED SEA**

A full day at your leisure awaits you to enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Red Sea (a good chance for scuba diving or simply snorkelling - Hurghada offers some impressive under water swimming). Overnight stay in Hurghada.

## **Day 10 : THE RED SEA MONASTERIES**

This morning after an early breakfast we leave for Za'faranah, a small city north of Hurghada on the Red Sea, from there you will visit a highlight of the tour - two of the oldest monasteries in the world, St. Paul's and St. Anthony's. On our return dinner will be awaiting. Overnight stay in Za'faranah.

## **Day 11 : INTO THE SINAI DESERT**

An early start after breakfast as we drive north to cross the Suez Canal and then turn south into the Sinai Desert. We plan to arrive by Mount Sinai and our desert hotel mid-afternoon in time to enjoy the spectacular sunset over Sinai. Dinner and overnight stay by Mount Sinai.

## **Day 12 : ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY - MT SINAI - THE RED SEA**

For the very fit there will be an opportunity to climb to the summit of Mount Sinai and witness a breathtaking sunrise over Sinai and to visit the Chapel of Moses. After breakfast we shall visit the St. Catherine's Monastery, which is situated at the foot of Mount Sinai. This beautiful monastery was built on the site where Moses witnessed the burning bush before receiving the Ten Commandments. If permitted we will have an opportunity of viewing its priceless collection of icons. Late morning we leave Mount Sinai and the group returning to London drive west back across the Sinai Desert towards Cairo to spend their final night in Cairo.

We say goodbye to our friends and continue to the Red Sea resort of Nuweiba to spend the evening by the Red Sea. Dinner and overnight in Nuweiba



## **Day 13 :THE RED SEA – PETRA**

Morning free to relax by the Red Sea. In the afternoon drive to the nearby ferry terminal to board a fast-ferry to cross the Red Sea to Aqaba in Jordan. On completion of border formalities we will be met and driven north to the rose-red city of Petra in the mountains of Edom and our hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in Petra.

## **Day 14 : THE ROSE-RED CITY OF PETRA**

We wake to the sunrise in the mountains of Edom and after breakfast we leave our hotel and follow a narrow path through towering rock walls into ancient Petra. Here we are confronted by the stunning spectacle of temples, tombs and monuments carved by the Nabateans from the red sandstone of Petra. We plan to spend the entire day exploring this magnificent city that lay hidden from the world for centuries. Two sites worth exploring, are the Roman High Place of Sacrifice and the Monastery, the largest of these monuments, reached after a climb of over eight hundred steps - but well worth the effort. Return to hotel for overnight stay

## **Day 15 : KINGS' HIGHWAY - DEAD SEA**

After breakfast, we leave Petra and drive north along the scenic Kings' Highway. The route runs through the ancient lands of Edom and Moab to Ammon. Our first stop is the Dead Sea, where we will have an opportunity of bathing in it's unique mineral-laden waters. In the afternoon we drive to Mount Nebo, to stand where Moses stood and looked across the River Jordan to "The Promised Land. We then continue to Madaba to view the famous mosaic map of the Bible Lands at the time of the Emperor Justinian. Finally we proceed to Amman and our hotel.

## **Day 16 : IN SIGHT OF THE HOLY LAND**

This morning we drive down to Wadi Kharrar (Bethany beyond the Jordan) on the River Jordan, Where Jesus was baptised. We visit the archaeological ruins of several churches at this important location close to the Hill of Elijah, where Elijah is said to have ascended into heaven. After the visit we return to our hotel for farewell dinner & overnight in Amman.

## **Day 17 : OUR JOURNEY HOME**

In the morning drive Amman Airport for our return flight to home.