



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary **Highlights of Egypt** **& Three-night Nile Cruise**

Wednesday, October 7 - Sunday, October 18, 2009

From biblical epics like *The Ten Commandments* to swashbuckling fantasies like *The Mummy*, Egypt remains eternally exotic and mysterious. Travel with us and explore Egypt's most breathtaking landmarks and experience a three-night Nile cruise. While in **Cairo** you'll visit one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—**The Pyramids of Giza** as well as the mysterious **Sphinx** and the Step Pyramid of Sakkara. You'll also spend time at the famous Egyptian Museum and the Khan el Khalili bazaar. The National Museum, the mysterious Library and the Catacombs of Kom await you in **Alexandria**, founded by Alexander the Great in 331 b.c. Relax with three days sailing down the **Nile** the longest river in the world, visiting the Temples of Karnak and **Luxor**, the Valleys of the King and Queens, temples in Kom Ombo and Edfu and the **High Dam in Aswan**. With camcorder in hand, you'll star in your own epic adventure!

Includes...

- Round-trip regularly scheduled **Alitalia** flights from Boston to Cairo via Rome
- Inter-country flights: Cairo to Aswan and Luxor to Cairo
- Seven nights' four-star accommodations
- Three night five- star Nile River cruise in Outside cabins
- 25 meals: ten breakfast, five lunches, ten dinners
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel /dock transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local Tour Manager

Rates...

\$2,399 per person double occupancy
\$2,815 for single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$410 for current taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport and visa required.

Features

Cairo: full-day excursion to the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and Step Pyramid of Sakkara, full-day excursion including visit to Egyptian Museum, the Citadel of Saladin, Mohamed Ali Alabaster Mosque and Khan el Khalili bazaars; Wadi El Natroun and the Christian Monasteries; Alexandria: visit to National Museum and Catacombs of Kom, visit the Library and Fort Qaitbey; visit the High Dam, the Unfinished Obelisk and the Philae Temple in Aswan; Cruise: Kom Ombo and the Sobek Temple, Edfu and the Temple of Horus, Karnak and Luxor Temples, the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens; **OPTIONALS:** Abu Simbel, Sound and Light Show at Karnak

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on your Alitalia flight to Rome. Dinner will be served on board. Relax and enjoy the in-flight entertainment.

Day 2: Arrive Rome-transfer to Cairo

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Change planes for your connecting flight to Cairo. Once in Cairo retrieve your luggage and clear customs. Meet your tour manager who will assist you with the motor coach transfer to the hotel in Cairo. Check in and receive room assignments. The rest of the day is at leisure before joining your fellow travelers this evening for a welcome dinner. **(D)**

Day 3: Cairo

After breakfast depart by motor coach with your tour director who will lead you on a fascinating tour of ancient Egypt. On this full-day excursion you will view the pyramids of Giza, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the only one to have survived to the modern era, the Sphinx which is made up of a lion's body, human face and royal beard and the step Pyramid of Sakkarat. Lunch will be provided at local restaurant and dinner this evening at the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

Day 4: Cairo

A full day excursion is in store for you today. With your tour director you will visit the Egyptian Museum which houses over 120,00 objects ranging from prehistoric era to Greco Roman period. Next on to the Citadel of Saladin located on a high hill that overlooks the old city of Cairo this fortress was built to protect the old city in 1170 AD. At the Citadel you may view the grand Mohamed Ali Alabaster Mosque. Next proceed unto the Khan El-Khalili bazaar one of the most interesting bazaars, not only in Egypt, but also in the whole Middle East. It was named after Prince Jaharkas Al-Khalili, who was one of the powerful Mamluke Princes in the 14th century. It is famous for its unusual, typically oriental souvenirs, and handmade crafts. The Medieval atmospheres of this traditional market, together with the labyrinth layout of the streets, gives visitors a lot of pleasure and a glimpse into what medieval markets once were like. Lunch is included at a local restaurant and dinner at the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

Day 5: Wadi El Natroun-Alexandria

Check out and depart the hotel this morning for Alexandria. En route you will stop at one of the most significant places in the Western Desert Wadi El Natroun, It is a geological salt lakes vale indented in the desert, that owes it's name to the Natroun salt, very relevant to Ancient Egyptians as it was employed in the mummification procedure. Wadi El Natroun is a birdwatchers paradise and became the site of many monasteries in spiritual commemoration of the Holy Family's passage through the valley. The monasteries benefit from the atmosphere of seclusion and tranquility that engulfs the whole dale and deserve a visit for their fine examples of Coptic art where you will visit the Monastery of the Romans, the Anba Beshoy Monastery, the Monastery of the Syrian and Monastery of St Marcarius. Arrive in Alexandria check into the Paradise Inn Hotel. Dinner this evening at the hotel restaurant. **(B, D)**

Day 6: Alexandria

Depart this morning for a full day excursion. Visit the National Museum and the Catacombs of Kim-El Shokkafa Alexandria's most memorable monuments. The catacombs date back to the late first century AD and are unique both for their plan and decoration which represents a melding and mixing of the cultures and traditions of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 7: Alexandria

A visit today is made to The Royal Library of Alexandria, once the largest library in the ancient world. Then its on to Fort Qaitbey situated on the most visible location of Alexandria city. Located on the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the legendary Lighthouse of Alexandria, Fort Qaitbey is one of the gems of the Alexandria. Lunch will be provided for you at a local restaurant. Return in the late afternoon to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 8: Cairo-Aswan-embark on Nile Cruise

This morning depart Alexandria for the Cairo Airport for your flight to Aswan. Once in Aswan you will see the High Dam, the Unfinished Obelisque and the Philae Temple before embarking on 5-star ship for a 3-night Nile cruise on a full board basis. **(B, D)**

Day 9: Nile Cruise

Today you will sail to Kom Ombo to visit the Sobek Temple later depart to Edfu to visit the Temple of Horus, the second largest temple in Egypt and one of the best-preserved. **(B, L, D)**

Day 10: Nile Cruise

Sail to Luxor and visit the Karnak and Luxor temples and the valley of the Kings, a series of tombs hidden in the Theban Hills and to the Valley of the Queens. **(B, L, D)**

Day 11: Cairo

Today fly back to Cairo. Enjoy with your fellow travelers a farewell dinner at the Nile Maxim restaurant. Overnight in Cairo. **(B, D)**

Day 12: Flight to Boston

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Boston via Rome. **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*