

“Land of the Pharaohs: Jewish Egypt”
February 21 – March 4, 2010



Egypt - a country ancient, yet contemporary, mixing aspects of the past and the present - a wonderful combination of myth and realism!

Among highlights, this special trip will encompass Cairo (including its renowned Museum, and the Pyramids of Giza); Alexandria (second city of the Roman Empire - whose incredibly rich Jewish history dates back to the time of Alexander the Great) and a fabled cruise along the Nile from Aswan to Luxor.

During the course of our travels in Egypt, we will hear from knowledgeable experts, learn a great deal about Egypt's monumental art and archaeology, and follow the mythical Nile as it weaves its way from Aswan to Edfu, Kom Ombo and Luxor (Egypt's ancient capital).

Join us on this deluxe Jewish heritage tour of Egypt!

Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs

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*Tentative Itinerary

Sunday, February 21

Arrive Cairo International Airport where you will be met and transferred to our hotel, the luxurious Four Seasons. Rest and relax before we begin our program with an orientation meeting followed by opening dinner (included).

Monday, February 22

Following the first of daily, full buffet breakfasts, we will begin our exploration of Egypt with a visit to The Egyptian Museum - world famous for its artifacts of the Pharaonic era and treasures of King Tutankhamen's tomb. Afternoon and evening free for shopping and/or relaxing. Dinner on our own.

Tuesday, February 23

Cairo/Aswan

This morning, we will board a flight to Aswan and begin our cruise aboard the Sonesta Moon Goddess - a deluxe cruise ship. Following lunch (included) we sail on the Nile by Felucca around Kitchener Island and Agha Khan Mausoleum. Lunch, dinner and Nubian folklore show aboard ship (included).

Wednesday, February 24 –

Aswan/ Kom Ombo/Edfu

Breakfast on board followed by a visit to the Aswan High Dam (one of the great engineering feats of the 20th century), the Granite Quarries, and the Temple of Philae. Built to honor Isis – the Temple is one of the last ancient temples built in the classical Egyptian architectural style. Dating back to 690 BCE, it was moved (after the flooding of Lake Nasser from its original site on Philae Island to Agilkia Island - where it is presently located. Following lunch (included) visit Kom Ombo, home to an unusual double temple built during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. The temple is dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Haroeris (Horus the Elder). Despite being badly damaged, the temple is a beautiful sight as one approaches from either direction on the river, particularly as sunset nears and the colors change. Dinner aboard ship (included).

Thursday, February 25

Edfu/Luxor

Today, we will visit the Temple of Horus in Edfu - considered the best preserved cult temple in Egypt. This is partly due to its being built later than most in the Ptolemaic era from 237 to 57 BCE. Yet, despite its later date, the Temple clearly reflects traditional pharaonic architecture and provides an excellent image of how all the temples once looked. In the afternoon, we sail to Luxor. Enjoy lunch and dinner followed by a "Galabiya party" aboard ship (included).

Friday, February 26

Luxor/Karnak

Morning visit to the West Bank of the Nile (one of the most important archaeological sites in the world) where we will see the Valley of Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Dier El-Bahari, and the colossi of Memnon facing the Nile. Following lunch on board (included), tour Karnak and Luxor temples. In ancient times, Karnak was known as Ipet-isut, "the most select of places." The temple complex of Karnak was built over a time period of 1500 years

and was the most important place of worship in ancient Egypt. The building of Luxor Temple was begun by the New Kingdom Pharaoh, Amenophis III, and continued by the Famous Ramses II. Afternoon tea. Lunch and dinner (followed by entertainment) aboard ship (included).

Saturday, February 27

Luxor

Following breakfast aboard ship, disembark for overnight stay at the five star Sonesta hotel in Luxor - within walking distance from where our boat will dock. Rest of day at leisure in Luxor. Evening dinner at our hotel (included).

Sunday, February 28

Luxor/Cairo

Mid morning flight to Cairo; upon arrival, we will be taken on an overview tour of the city. Founded by the Fatimid caliphs as a royal enclosure, Cairo, the largest city in Egypt with a population of almost seven million people, is one of the most populous metropolitan areas in the world. A journey through Cairo is a virtual time travel experience. Afternoon free for shopping, relaxing, and/or visiting sites of personal interest.

Monday, March 1

**Sephardic and Ben Ezra Synagogues
& Khan El Khalili Bazaar**

This morning, we will visit the Sephardic Jewish Synagogue on Adly Street in downtown Cairo before proceeding to Old Cairo - where early Judaism flourished in Egypt and where we will see another important Jewish landmark - the Ben Ezra Synagogue. During the course of the day we will have time for lunch on our own and enjoy a walking tour of the largest 13th century covered oriental market, the Khan El Khalili Bazaar. Evening free for dinner on our own.

Tuesday, March 2

Cairo/Alexandria/Cairo

Full day tour to Alexandria, including the ancient Catacombs and Alexandria Bibliotheca - major library and cultural center located on the shore of the Mediterranean (both a commemoration of the Library of Alexandria that was lost in antiquity and an attempt to rekindle something of the brilliance that this earlier center of study and erudition represented). Additional sites today will include the 150-year-old Jewish Synagogue and Montazah Palace, built on a low plateau east of Alexandria and overlooking a beautiful beach amid about 370 acres of gardens and woods. Lunch in Alexandria (included). Return to Cairo by evening; dinner on our own.

Wednesday, March 3

Memphis/Sakkara/Great Sphinx

Full day tour of Memphis - capital city of ancient Egypt during the Old Kingdom. Closely associated with the ancient city's site are the cemeteries or necropolises of Memphis, where the famous Sakkara pyramids and the Great Sphinx are located. Sakkara, one of the most extensive archaeological sites in the country, was the cemetery for Memphis and capital of ancient Egypt! The site, dominated by the Step Pyramid of King Zoser, and dating back to 2700 BCE, is one of the oldest stone structures in the world. Evening: festive closing dinner (included) in Cairo.

Thursday, March 4 – Cairo/USA

Depart Cairo International Airport for our flight home.

*Please note: itinerary subject to change

Trip Leader: Miriam Levinson, born in Cuba, relocated with her family to the United States in the late 1950's and has lived in Chicago since that time. She has been a travel professional for the past thirty years, develops and leads travel programs for the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago and Detroit, and has led several Jewish Museum trips to Brazil and Argentina. Miriam has organized previous trips to Egypt to much acclaim and her expertise and experience make her a perfect choice to lead our group.

Participation: Limited to 25 participants:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program is open to all members of The Jewish Museum; non-members are welcome to join the Museum to participate. Designed for people of all ages, the Museum travel programs entail walking moderate distances which may include uneven or slightly hilly terrain. Please feel free to call the Museum Travel Program office if you have any questions and we will be happy to speak with you personally.

Program Details:

Land Program Cost: \$4950

(plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

***Program Fee Includes:**

- six nights at the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel in Cairo
- one night in Luxor at the deluxe, 5-star Sonesta Hotel (upgraded rooms)
- four nights aboard deluxe Sonesta cruise ship, including all meals
- Breakfast daily; six lunches & eight dinners (includes all meals aboard ship)
- All lectures, presentations, Museum and site entrance fees
- Internal air flights: Cairo-Aswan / Luxor-Cairo

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1800. For those preferring to share a room and need a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply. Round trip air from JFK available at \$900. Entry visa to Cairo (\$25) and gratuities (\$110) additional.

To Register:

Include non-refundable deposit of \$750, payable to The Jewish Museum. Please complete the attached registration form and return to:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

(OR) Registration accepted by telephone or fax with credit card

Tel. (845) 256-0194 Fax (845) 256-0196

Changes:

All rights are reserved by the Program Directors to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

Insurance:

We strongly recommend travel insurance in the event you may have to cancel your participation. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration ... or consult your own agent.

Cancellations and Refunds:

All cancellations must be received by the Jewish Museum Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received 90 days prior to departure: full refund less \$750 deposit per person; 89-75 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after nonrefundable deposit. No refunds after this date.

For More Information: contact The Jewish Museum Travel Program at:

Tel. 845-256-0194 Fax: 845-256-0196 or e-mail < TheJMtravelinfo@aol.com >

Registration: "Land of the Pharaohs: Jewish Egypt"

Please complete, include deposit of \$750 per person and mail or fax to:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

[Fax (845) 256-0196]

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (eve) _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

YES! I am registering now and my non-refundable deposit of \$750 is enclosed.

I prefer a double room. I need a roommate.

I'll be traveling with _____

I would prefer a single room (single room supplement \$1800)

I am a member of The Jewish Museum.

I am not yet a member of The Jewish Museum.

(Basic Jewish Museum membership fee of \$75 will be added to final invoice. Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership, will be forwarded with registration acknowledgment.)

Credit Card Registration Accepted by Telephone or Fax:

Telephone: (845) 256-0194, Fax (845) 256-0196

Visa Master Card American Express

Card holder's name: _____

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature: _____

Disclaimer of Responsibility:

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against The Jewish Museum and its staff for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Jewish Museum and its respective employees assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will The Jewish Museum be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty.