

Egypt Private Journey

SECRETS OF THE PHARAOHS



WHEN TO GO

January to December

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. While many guests choose to book this tour exactly as is, our Area Specialists can work with you to customize it to your wishes. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!



Egypt Private Journey

The 5,000-year-long story of Egypt is an epic and extraordinary one, from the colossal Great Pyramids on the Giza Plateau to the monumental temples along the legendary Nile, lifeblood of Egypt, where temples, tombs, and hieroglyphs continue to entrance visitors, as they have for thousands of years. On this Private Journey with your Egyptologist guide, explore the Pyramids and feast your eyes on the glorious artifacts from King Tutankhamen's tomb, then set off on a deluxe Nile cruise, gliding in the wake of Cleopatra and the pharaohs as you discover their mysterious world from Aswan to Luxor. For a pre- or post-trip extension, visit ancient Alexandria on the Mediterranean or explore Jordan's lost city of Petra and T. E. Lawrence's Wadi Rum, a legendary mountain-and-desert landscape.

Itinerary

DAY 1

CAIRO, EGYPT

Arrival at Cairo airport, where you are met and transferred to the 5-star Mena House the famous colonial-era hotel set next to the Pyramids...meals on your own

DAY 2

EGYPTIAN MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES / ISLAMIC CAIRO

Often referred to as “the Mother of Cities,” Cairo is the greatest city in the Islamic world and has been the largest city in Africa since medieval times. Today it is a huge megalopolis with a modern mix of Arab, African, and European influences. Across the Nile on its West Bank is the Giza Plateau, home to the Great Pyramids, the supreme monuments of an ancient world.

This morning meet your private Egyptologist guide and enjoy a visit to Cairo's renowned Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, a virtual treasury of Egyptian relics, or the Grand Egyptian Museum when open (opening date has not yet been scheduled). The former is located in the heart of Cairo in a neo-classical style building surrounded by gardens. Inside is the world's greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities from 2700 BC to the 6th century AD, including thousands of statues, jewels, and artifacts from nearly every period of ancient Egypt. You can admire the amazing treasures of the young king Tutankhamen, including his famous mask of solid gold in a perfect state of preservation. There are 12 rooms filled with treasures from King Tut's tomb, which was discovered virtually untouched in 1922.

You will then explore Islamic Cairo, including the graceful Mohammed Ali Mosque within the ancient Citadel, a spectacular medieval fortress perched on a hill above the city. Originally built by Salah El-Din in 1176 to fortify the city against the Crusaders, the Citadel was modified and enlarged over the centuries by subsequent rulers and today is a complex of three mosques and four museums. Mohammed Ali, one of the last rulers to reside in the Citadel, leveled most of the buildings of the Mamluk period to build what is now called the Alabaster Mosque. This elegant mosque and mausoleum was built between 1830 and 1848, and Mohammed Ali's gilded tomb still lies inside.

Head into the world-famous Khan El Khalili bazaar to enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the heart of the bazaar, then explore labyrinth of narrow streets, discovering artisans building, dyeing, carving, and sewing, as well as shop after shop selling wares from woodwork and glassware to leather goods, perfumes, and fabrics. The Khan El Khalili is one of the largest bazaars in the Middle East, if not in the world. Begun as a caravansary, it was built in 1382 by Garkas as-Khalili, Sultan Barquq's master of horses. When the Ottomans gained control in Egypt, the caravansary changed from a fairly simple inn where caravans rested and a little trade was carried out to a full-fledged Turkish bazaar, which attracted traders and customers from throughout the world. Overnight at the Mena House...BL



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 9 days
Arrive: Cairo, Egypt
Depart: Cairo, Egypt
Lodging: 4 nights in 5-star hotels, 4 nights luxury vessel
Meals: All meals included except 3 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity: Archaeology, Cultural Adventures, Small Boat and Yacht Cruising
Trip Level: ① 2 3 4 5 6
Nile River cruise, overland touring, and city exploration with easy walking

HIGHLIGHTS

- Luxurious Nile cruise boat with Nile-view cabins
- Great Pyramids at Giza, Treasures of King Tut
- Temples of Karnak and Luxor, Valley of the Kings, and visit to Abu Simbel
- Beautiful tomb of Queen Nefertari and King Tut's Tomb
- Private guide in Cairo and during the Nile cruise

Itinerary



DAY 3

SAQQARA / STEP PYRAMID / THE GREAT PYRAMIDS AND THE SPHINX

Meet your private Egyptologist guide for an exploration of the necropolis of Saqqara, burial grounds for kings and nobility during the age of the Great Pyramids. Here, the very first pyramids were built, not with smooth sides, but with six steps on the outside representing the pharaoh's stepladder to heaven. You will also go inside the famous Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the first free-standing stone structure in the world, built during the 27th century BC for the burial of Pharaoh Zoser. It was just recently reopened to visitors after a 14-year restoration. You will also see some of the tombs of the nobles, adorned with exquisite ancient Egyptian art.

After lunch explore the Great Pyramids of Giza. The only present-day survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, they never fail to inspire visitors and their sheer antiquity is overwhelming. In 450 BC, when the Greek historian Herodotus visited them, they were already considered ancient. Afterwards, proceed to the mysterious Sphinx, a figure with the body of a lion and the face of a man. Carved from a natural rock, the Sphinx is 190 feet long and 66 feet tall at its highest point. It was erected by Cheops' son Khafre and sits in a quarry near the Pyramids. Its 16-foot-high face is directed toward the rising sun in the east, symbolizing the return of life each day. You will

also visit the Solar Boat Museum on the south side of Khufu's pyramid, which houses an impressive 120-foot-long wooden boat discovered in 1954. The boat is thought to have been for the transport of the pharaoh's soul in the afterlife. Overnight at Mena House...BL

DAY 4

ASWAN / ABU SIMBEL / FELUCCA RIDE

A morning flight via Aswan brings you to fantastic Abu Simbel, a magnificent example of both ancient grandeur and modern ingenuity and preservation. The rulers of the New Kingdom extended Egypt's borders to the Fourth Cataract on the Nile, and Ramses II, in a gesture of piety and self-aggrandizement, ordered two sun temples carved from the limestone mountains at Abu Simbel. Here, between 1290 and 1194 BC, stonemasons hewed giant figures of the king on the face of cliffs above the Nile. The figures radiated power, dominated the landscape, and with their ceaseless stares, subjugated all who dared to enter Egypt. In modern times, the temples of Abu Simbel were threatened by the waters that would rise with the completion of the High Dam at Aswan. A campaign to save them was organized by UNESCO. The plan was to cut the temples into blocks, raise them piece by piece, and reassemble them in their new position. The job was massive and took two years to complete (1966-1968),

“All five of us greatly enjoyed the trip and learned a lot. We saw a great deal with knowledgeable guides who were a pleasure to be with, who anticipated problems, and who helped us avoid crowds and maximize our visits to sites.”

Constance C., New Haven, CT

Itinerary

but was a great success. At the Great Temple of Ra-Harakhte, the four famous colossal statues of Ramses II sit majestically over 60 feet in height, gazing across the desert. Inside the entrance to the temple is an impressive hall flanked with statues of Ramses II. It leads to the vestibule, and finally to the innermost Sacred Sanctuary. The Temple of Hathor, dedicated to the cow-headed goddess of love and built in honor of Ramses' favorite wife, Queen Nefertari, is fronted by six massive standing statues, each 30 feet high. After your visit, fly to Aswan and board an elegant ship designed for the Nile River. Weather permitting, enjoy a ride by felucca (traditional Nile sailboat) around Elephantine Island, Lord Kitchener's Botanical Gardens, and the Agha Khan Mausoleum before reboarding your boat. Dinner and overnight on board...BLD

Note: You will have a private Egyptologist guide during your entire Nile cruise.

DAY 5

PHILAE TEMPLE / KOM OMBO TEMPLE

After breakfast, take a short motorboat ride to Philae Island, with its temple of Isis. There is a romantic and majestic aura surrounding this temple and it has lured pilgrims for thousands of years. During the 19th century, these ruins were one of Egypt's most legendary tourist attractions. Next, proceed to the Granite Quarries that supplied the ancient Egyptians with most of the hard stone used in pyramids and temples. Here you will see the famous and huge "unfinished obelisk." On this 100-foot-long block of stone, three sides were completed except for the inscriptions. Today it lies where the stonemasons abandoned it, still partly attached to the parent rock and with no indication of what it was intended for. Later, an Egyptian cooking lesson will be presented on board. Enjoy lunch while you cruise to Kom Ombo, and explore the magnificent temple dedicated to the crocodile-god Sobek. It stands on a promontory at a bend in the Nile where in ancient times, sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the river bank. Tonight, enjoy an "Egyptian Night" costume party, with a chance to dress up in traditional Egyptian "galabeyyas." Dinner and overnight on board...BLD

DAY 6

EDFU / TEMPLE OF HORUS / ESNA / TEMPLE OF KHNUM

After breakfast, visit the remarkable Temple of Horus, the most completely preserved Pharaonic temple in Egypt. Its towering Pylon was erected by Ptolemy IX and on the exterior are a pair of beautiful Horus statues. Inside its Court of Offerings, you can study the beautiful reliefs on the wall depicting a feast. Cruising the Nile, head to the town of Esna to explore the Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum, the main attraction of Esna. What actually remains of the temple is the well-preserved Great Hypostyle Hall built during the reign of the Roman emperor



"This is one of the very best trips we have ever been on. No question we were spoiled by having private guide, private bus 90% of the time, and doing things at our own speed and addressed to our particular interests. Our guide was one of the best we have ever encountered."

Kathy B., Lafayette, CA



Itinerary

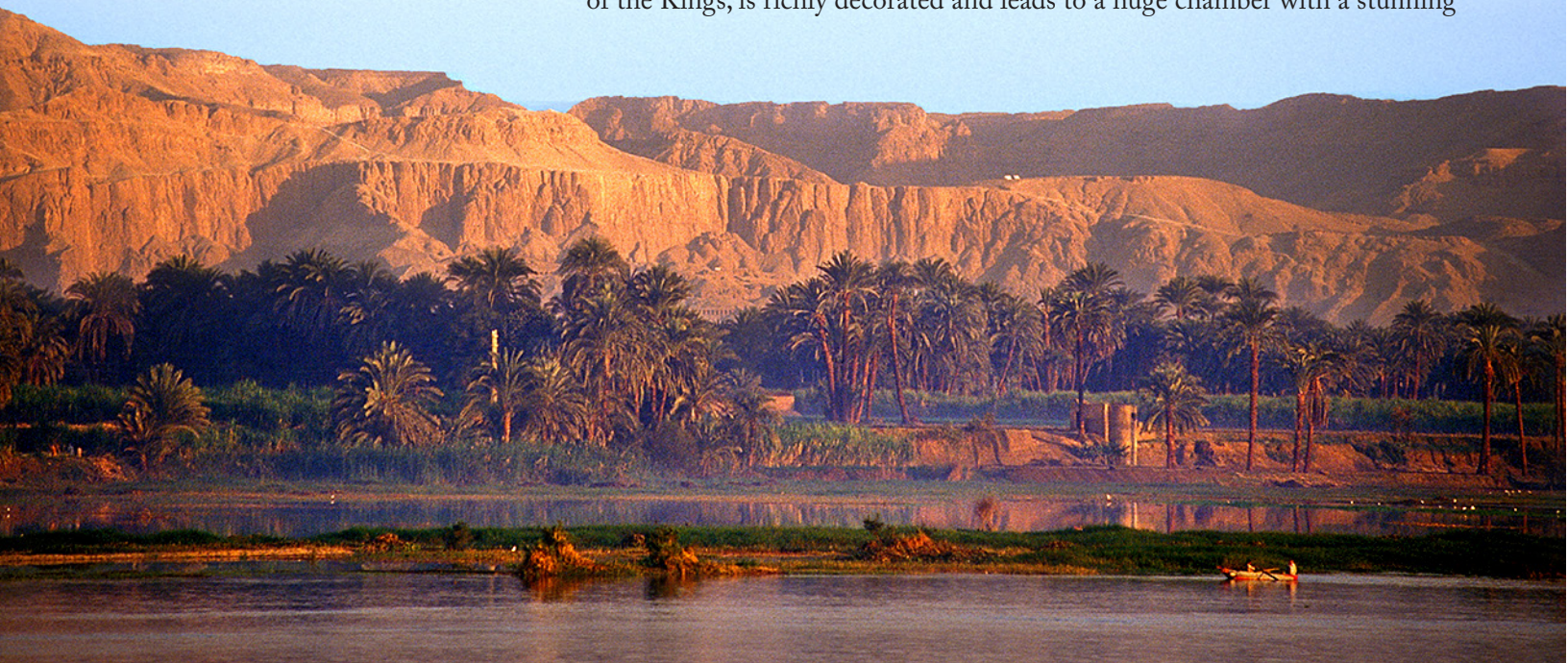
Claudius. Dedicated to Khnum, the ram-headed creator-god who fashioned humankind on his potter's wheel, the temple was begun by Ptolemy VI and built over the ruins of earlier temples. The hall was built later; it was excavated from the silt that had accumulated through centuries of annual Nile floods and is about 30 feet below the modern street level. Dinner and overnight aboard boat...BLD

DAY 7

VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS / LUXOR / KARNAK TEMPLE

This morning head to the Valley of the Kings and Queens, also known as the necropolis of Thebes, a vast City of the Dead where magnificent temples are raised to honor the pharaohs entombed in the nearby cliffs. Here the tombs of queens, royal children, nobles, priests, artisans, and even workers were built, ranging in quality of design and decor according to social status. During the New Kingdom, the necropolis also supported a large living population. In an attempt to protect the valuable tombs from robbers, the artisans, laborers, temple priests, and guards lived permanently in the City of the Dead, their lives devoted to its construction and maintenance. Your explorations include the impressive Temple of Queen Hatshepsut who, along with Cleopatra, was one of ancient Egypt's two female pharaohs. Her temple merges with the sheer limestone cliffs that surround it as if nature herself had built this extraordinary monument.

You will also explore two impressive tombs (entry fees have been prepaid). The first is for Queen Nefetari, the favorite queen of Rameses II, who was buried 3200 years ago. Her tomb is considered the most exquisitely decorated tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Queens. The second visit is a the Tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings. An optional add-on (at additional cost) offers a visit of the tomb of Seti I, father of Rameses II. The tomb, the largest in the Valley of the Kings, is richly decorated and leads to a huge chamber with a stunning



Itinerary

arched ceiling. You'll also make a photo stop at the Colossi of Memnon, a pair of gigantic statues that once graced the entrance to Amenhotep III's temple.

In the afternoon, visit the Luxor Temple, a strikingly graceful piece of architecture on the banks of the Nile built by the New Kingdom Pharaoh Amenophis III on the site of an older sanctuary. Explore Luxor's sprawling, 100-acre Karnak temple complex, with its great Hypostyle Hall, an incredible forest of tall columns seemingly receding into infinity. Built on a massive scale to house the gods, the complex was begun during the 12th Dynasty and it owes its magnificence and complexity to additions made by succeeding rulers over a period of 1,300 years. There are three separate temple enclosures, the largest being the Precinct of Amun, dedicated to the supreme god of the New Kingdom. For your last night on board, enjoy a gala farewell dinner (jacket "required" for men, but not enforced)...BLD

DAY 8

CAIRO / DASHUR / COPTIC CAIRO

In the morning fly to Cairo. Time permitting, choose from one of the following options. Meet your private Egyptologist guide and visit the nearby royal necropolis of Dahshur, set in the desert on the west bank of the Nile. Two of its pyramids are the largest, oldest, and best preserved in Egypt. Or, explore Coptic Cairo, with a visit to the Fortress of Babylon, Church of St. Sergius, Hanging Church and Coptic Museum. Overnight at the InterContinental Citystars Cairo...BL

DAY 9

DEPART CAIRO

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Cairo airport for homeward-bound flights...B

REVERSE ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Please note: some departures have cruises that run in the reverse direction (Luxor/Aswan). Those itineraries are as follows:

Days 1-3: Arrive in Cairo, visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, Islamic Cairo, Great Pyramids, Sphinx, Saqqara, Step Pyramid

Day 4: Fly to Luxor, tour Luxor Temple, Valley of the Queen and Kings, Nefertari and King Tut's Tomb

Day 5: Temple of Karnak, Temple of Khnum

Day 6: Temple of Edfu, Egyptian cooking lesson, Kom Ombo, evening "Egyptian Night" costume party on board the ship

Day 7: Philae Temple, Aswan, felucca ride, Lord Kitchener's Botanical Gardens, Agha Khan Mausoleum, and traditional folkloric and dervish show on board the ship

Day 8: Fly to Abu Simel, tour Abu Simel, fly to Cairo for overnight

Day 9: Depart



Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2025

\$8,595 (4-10 members)

\$8,995 (3 members)

\$9,495 (2 members)

Single supplement: \$2,995

Internal airfare: \$675 (subject to change)

Holiday season surcharge (April, December): \$1,490

Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Mena House Hotel (garden section with pyramid view), one night at the InterContinental Citystars Cairo
- Entry fees for the Mummies Room at the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo, the solar boat museum, and the Great Pyramids
- Four nights aboard 5-star Nile cruise ship
- All meals included except 3 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Mineral water, tea, and coffee with every meal aboard the ship
- Tours and sightseeing as described
- Airport transfers as noted, ground transportation as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal flights, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, beverages at restaurants and hotels (excluding those mentioned above during cruise), any activities described as optional, portage at airports and hotels, airport departure taxes, optional tipping

or gratuities to private guides, representatives (in Cairo, Luxor, Aswan), drivers, cruise staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Africa Manager or email africa@wildernesstravel.com with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	25% of trip cost
90 days prior to departure	Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: 25% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

Cairo is the meeting point for the trip. Our Cairo Representative will meet you at the airport on Day 1 for transfer to the hotel. At the end of the trip, you will be transferred to the airport in Cairo for homebound flights. Our Arrival & Departure Logistics memo, included in your confirmation packet, has details.

NOTE: If you book your flight on Royal Jordanian, you must present the credit card used for ticket purchase. The airline may deny boarding without verification of the original card used for purchase.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Trip members are responsible for making their own arrangements for air transportation. Please do not purchase your airline tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so that we can send it on to the local guide (make sure to include your Trip Name and Trip Dates on it). Note: The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly; otherwise you may be denied boarding. Please remember this when reserving your flights. In addition, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US (in most cases).

Jordan Extension: Petra & Wadi Rum



DAY 8 (POST-TRIP OPTION)

CAIRO / AMMAN, JORDAN

Depart Cairo in the morning and arrive at the Amman Airport. The modern metropolis of Amman is one of the most ancient cities in the world, with archaeological finds dating back 3,000 years. Inhabited since the Bronze Age, the city is mentioned in the Old Testament as Rabath Ammon, capital of the Ammonites, and it was here that David met Bathsheba. On arrival at the airport, you are met by your guide for a city tour including the Citadel, archeological museum, Roman theater, and a walk through the bazaar and the gold market. Afterwards, transfer to the Fairmont Amman for overnight...L

DAY 9

AMMAN / JERASH / AJLUN CASTLE

After breakfast, meet your guide and head out to the ancient Roman city of Jerash, a 45-minute drive north of Amman. Jerash is an archaeological masterpiece framed by the hills of Gilead. It was founded by the soldiers of Alexander the Great during the 4th century BC and later joined the Roman Decapolis. This prosperous city was organized along a grid of wide, colonnaded streets and its gems include a triumphal arch, a stadium, a monumental fountain, and temples. Jerash's main ruins were first identified in 1806 by German traveler Ulrich Seetzen, and restoration began in 1925 under the British Mandate. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a tour of the labyrinthine 11th century Ajlun Castle. This remarkably preserved mountaintop citadel was built by a nephew of the great warrior Saladin as a defensive fortress against the Crusaders. Return to Amman for overnight...BL



DAY 10

MT. NEBO / MADABA / SHOBAK / PETRA

On our way to Petra, we visit Mt. Nebo, the mountain where Moses was allowed to view the Holy Land, yet not allowed to enter it. Today it is the site of the Church of Moses, built by the first Christians. The views over Jordan, the Dead Sea, and Israel are tremendous. When the weather is clear, you may even see Jerusalem, about 30 miles away. Continue to Madaba, whose St. George's Church houses a world-famous mosaic floor that is a large map of Palestine, including a detailed mosaic of Jerusalem as it was during the 6th century AD. Later, explore Shobak Castle, with its imposing brick walls. It was built by the Crusader king Baldwin I in 1115 AD. After its fall to the armies of Saladin in 1189 AD, it was occupied by the Mamluks, who expanded its complex. The castle itself has many secret passageways, and we'll pass under arches, walk through tunnels, and see the ruins of a lesser-visited crusade fortress. Continue to the Petra Movenpick Resort for overnight...BL

Jordan Extension: Petra & Wadi Rum

DAY 11

PETRA

The fabled ruin called Petra was a fortress carved from solid red sandstone in the 3rd century BC. This was the capital of the Nabataens, a nomadic Arabian tribe who ruled the Trans-Jordan area in pre-Roman times and derived their great wealth and power from the passing trade caravans. Petra reached the peak of its fame after the Romans took over in the first and second century AD. With the rise of the coastal trading center at Palmyra and the opening of sea trade routes, Petra declined in importance and was forgotten by the outside world for a thousand years. In 1812, Swiss explorer John Lewis Burckhardt, a young convert to Islam traveling the Middle East's deserts in Bedouin disguise, heard local Bedouins tell of fantastic ruins hidden in the mountains of Wadi Musa and persuaded one to lead him there. His journal and sketches of Petra eventually made their way to London, where they inspired many to seek this lost city.

Petra is set in a spectacular location on the edge of the Wadi Araba, where sheer sandstone hills form a deep canyon that protects the city in all directions. The sandstone is a deep rust color banded with gray and yellow and shades in between. The modern town outside of Petra is called Wadi Musa (Valley of Moses). This is the spot where Moses is thought to have struck the rock with his staff, bringing water flowing forth as it does today. Today's full-day visit begins around 9:00 am with a short horseback ride (or walk) from the main gate of Petra to the entrance of the old city. From here, we walk through the narrow canyon called the Siq to visit the rose-red city of Petra. The archaeological site covers an area of about 50 square miles, with over 800 monuments excavated. Petra's famous Al-Khazneh ("Treasury") was featured in the film Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. We have a buffet lunch inside Petra at the Basin Restaurant and continue our visit in the afternoon. Overnight at the Petra Movenpick Resort...BL



DAY 12

WADI RUM

Transfer from Petra to the famed desert canyon of Wadi Rum, arriving mid-morning. Massive rock peaks rise out of pink sands at Wadi Rum, where British officer T. E. Lawrence was based during the Great Arab Revolt of 1917-18. Enjoy an optional ride by camel to Lawrence's spring, and explore by 4WD to enjoy a magnificent desert world. Our remote ecolodge, Wadi Rum Night Camp, offers a comfortable desert getaway in a superb wilderness setting. Before dinner this evening, head out to a scenic spot to enjoy sunset over Wadi Rum. Overnight at Wadi Rum Night...BLD

DAY 13

WADI RUM / DEAD SEA

After a short walk this morning to a small natural arch with inscriptions dating from the time of the Nabateans, the builders of Petra 2,000 years ago, continue to your hotel at the legendary Dead Sea, with the afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the Dead Sea Movenpick Resort.

DAY 14

DEPART

Transfer to the airport for flights to Amman...B

Jordan Extension: Petra & Wadi Rum

2025 JORDAN EXTENSION TRIP COST

\$4,095 (4-6 members)

\$4,495 (2-3 members)

\$5,695 (1 member)

Single supplement: \$1,215

Costs are per person, based on double occupancy.

Please note: A 50% non-refundable deposit is required for this extension.

Extension Cost Includes: 2 nights at Intercontinental in Amman, 2 nights at Petra Movenpick Resort, 1 night Wadi Rum Night Camp in Wadi Rum, 1 night Dead Sea Movenpick Resort & Zara Spa; English-speaking certified guide; transfers and excursions in private air-conditioned car with English-speaking driver; mineral water on board the vehicle; meals as noted in the itinerary; entrance fees (1-time entrance fee to Petra); short horseback ride at Petra; baggage portorage at hotels.

Not Included: Jordanian visa fee; one-way airfare Cairo/Amman; airport departure tax, gratuities for guide and driver, small tips for horse boy at Petra, waiters, etc.; meals not specified (BLD); drinks during meals; items of a personal nature (telephone calls, laundry, room service, etc.).



Alexandria Extension

If you are doing both the Alexandria and Jordan extensions, we suggest taking the Alexandria extension as a pre-trip option. However, it can also be done as a post-trip extension.

DAY 1 (PRE-TRIP OPTION)

CAIRO

Arrive in Cairo and transfer to the Fairmont Towers Heliopolis Hotel for overnight...Meals on your own

DAY 2 (DAY 1 IF POST-TRIP)

ALEXANDRIA / ROMAN AMPHITHEATER / ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

After breakfast, a journey of about three hours on the Cairo–Alexandria Desert Road brings us to the Mediterranean and Alexandria, crossroads of the ancient world, founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. Alexandria prospered as the Mediterranean’s most glorious city under the Ptolemies, the dynastic Greek family that reigned as pharaohs over Egypt.

The history of the Alexandria region stretches back thousands of years, well before the time of Alexander. Greek literature from Homer’s time recognized the island of Pharos as a busy harbor for ships laden with goods from Crete, Phoenicia, and the Aegean. A causeway known as the Heptastadion was constructed to link the mainland of Alexandria to the island of Pharos, thus creating two remarkable harbors. The famous Lighthouse at Pharos, one of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was built in the 3rd century BC under Ptolemy I and Ptolemy II. It rose to over 300 feet, casting a bright light that could be seen for many miles. The lighthouse was toppled by an earthquake in 1323 and now lies in pieces in the harbor, visible to divers underwater.

Upon our arrival in Alexandria, we explore the Roman Amphitheater, the only one in Egypt, discovered quite recently during excavations for a new apartment building. This well-preserved theater once stood with 13 semi-circular tiers of white marble imported from Europe, and contains galleries, sections of mosaic flooring, and marble seats for up to 800 spectators. At one point, it may have even been roofed over to serve as an Odeon for musical performances. Some inscriptions suggest that it was sometimes used for wrestling contests. We then enjoy a visit to the Qait Bey Fort, a 15th century Mamluk fort built on the foundations of the Pharos lighthouse that includes both a mosque and a castle inside its walls. After lunch at a traditional restaurant overlooking the beach, we visit the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, not only a library but also an integrated cultural complex (please note that the library complex is closed on Friday and Saturday). It stands on what is thought to be the site of the ancient Library of Alexandria, which was built by Ptolemy I. The largest library of antiquity, the Library of Alexandria was frequented by scholars from all over the Mediterranean from the 4th century BC to its eventual destruction by fire 700 years later. Our accommodation, the 5-star Helnan Palestine Hotel, is set along the Mediterranean...BL



Alexandria Extension

DAY 3 (DAY 2 IF POST-TRIP)

ALEXANDRIA GRECO-ROMAN MUSEUM / CAIRO

Visit the Alexandria Greco-Roman Museum, which showcases the rich history and cultural heritage of Alexandria during the Greco-Roman period. The museum features over 40,000 artifacts from the Hellenistic and Roman periods, many of which were discovered in Alexandria and its surrounding areas. The collection includes statues, jewelry, pottery, coins, and everyday objects that illustrate the blending of Greek, Egyptian, and Roman cultures, showing the city's importance as a major cultural and intellectual hub in the ancient world. Later, we visit the Catacombs of Kom El Shugafa, the largest Roman burial site discovered in Egypt. The three tiers of tombs and chambers are cut into the bedrock to a depth of over 100 feet. Constructed in the 2nd century AD as a single-family crypt, these tombs were later expanded to hold more than 300 individual tombs. There is even a banquet hall where grieving relatives paid their last respects with a funereal feast. Though the motifs are pure ancient Egyptian, the architects and artists were schooled in the Greco-Roman style, resulting in an amazingly integrated artwork quite unlike anything else in the world. We return to Cairo in the afternoon. Overnight at Cairo group hotel (this is Day 1 of the regular trip)...BL

DAY 3 (POST-TRIP ONLY)

Transfer to the airport and depart on homeward-bound flight...B

2025 ALEXANDRIA EXTENSION TRIP COST:

From \$2,395 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: from \$3,645

Single supplement: \$495

Costs are per person, based on double occupancy.

Extension Cost Includes: 1 night at Mena House in Cairo, 1 night Steigenberger Cecil in Alexandria; English-speaking guide; transfers and excursions in private air-conditioned car with English-speaking driver; mineral water on board the vehicle; meals as noted in the itinerary; entrance fees; baggage portorage at hotels.

Not Included: gratuities for guide and driver, waiters, etc.; meals not specified (BLD); drinks during meals; items of a personal nature (telephone calls, laundry, room service, etc.).



Lodging

DAYS 1 TO 3 (3 NIGHTS): GIZA, EGYPT



MENA HOUSE

Originally built as a royal hunting lodge for Khedive Ismail, ruler of Egypt from 1863 to 1879, the Mena House was converted into a hotel in the 1880s. It has hosted sultans, pashas, royals, and statesmen during more than a century as one of the world's grand hotels. People love this place for a compelling reason—it's literally right across from the pyramids, and we always reserve pyramid-view rooms for you. The Mena House has a historic wing with an opulent Arabesque interior, several modern wings, three restaurants, a lushly landscaped garden, and a huge swimming pool with views of the Great Pyramids. Note: The hotel is a popular venue for large weddings and other events. If weddings are in progress during our stay here, there may be noise from music and social gatherings. If you are sensitive to noise while trying to sleep, it might be wise to bring ear plugs or a white-noise machine.

DAYS 4 TO 7 (4 NIGHTS): NILE RIVER, EGYPT



SUN BOAT IV

The Sanctuary Sun Boat IV is a chic contemporary boat with Art Deco design influences. There are 36 standard cabins, two presidential suites, and two royal suites. Spaciousness and state-of-the-art private bathrooms are the hallmarks of the cabins, each with air conditioning, mini bar, and LCD television with satellite. All cabins have Nile views and are fully air-conditioned with individual control. On the sun deck, teak is combined with Egyptian marble around the heated swimming pool, and it's the perfect place to relax. The dining room walls are decorated with hand-painted images depicting everyday life in Nubia, and the deep leather chairs compliment the overall Art Deco feel of the boat.



DAY 8 (1 NIGHT): CAIRO, EGYPT



INTERCONTINENTAL CITYSTARS CAIRO

This hotel has a great location—near the airport and the downtown business district, so it's close to everything, including good shopping. Guest rooms are clean and spacious, and there are 11 restaurants and bars, so you're sure to find one to suit your taste. Enjoy a cocktail on the poolside terrace or spend a little time at the spa. The staff is gracious and professional.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Egypt Private Journey* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 1, Easiest. It is an overland touring trip with day walks to explore the fascinating temples and wonderful towns of this ancient and modern civilization. It can be enjoyed by anyone in good health who has no mobility restrictions.

WEATHER

Egypt's climate is hot and dry most of the year. During the winter months (Dec-Feb), average daily temperatures are in the upper 60s°F on the Mediterranean coast and in the 80s°F in Aswan. In spring and fall, daytime temperatures can get up to the 90s°F. It can be quite cool in the evening, especially when on the Nile River. From January through March, the temperature is cooler, down to the 50s°F and 60s°F during the day, and dropping much lower at night, sometimes into the low 40s°F. Egypt has a very dry climate, which makes a temperature of 80°F feel much cooler than it would in a humid, tropical climate.

CHILDREN

This is an excellent trip for children and families. The recommended minimum age is 10. Triple rooms (subject to availability) can be requested.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at africa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.

TOUCAN CLUB

Please note that Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular expeditions. For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN°F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cairo	66/45	70/46	75/50	84/57	90/63	95/66	95/70	95/70	91/66	86/63	77/55	68/48
Luxor	72/43	75/45	84/52	93/61	100/68	104/72	104/73	102/73	100/70	93/63	82/54	75/45
Aswan	73/48	79/50	86/57	95/66	100/72	106/77	106/79	104/77	102/75	97/68	84/59	75/52
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Cairo	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Luxor	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Aswan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Travel Notes

Travel Notes

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

Revised: June 25, 2025 2:15 PM