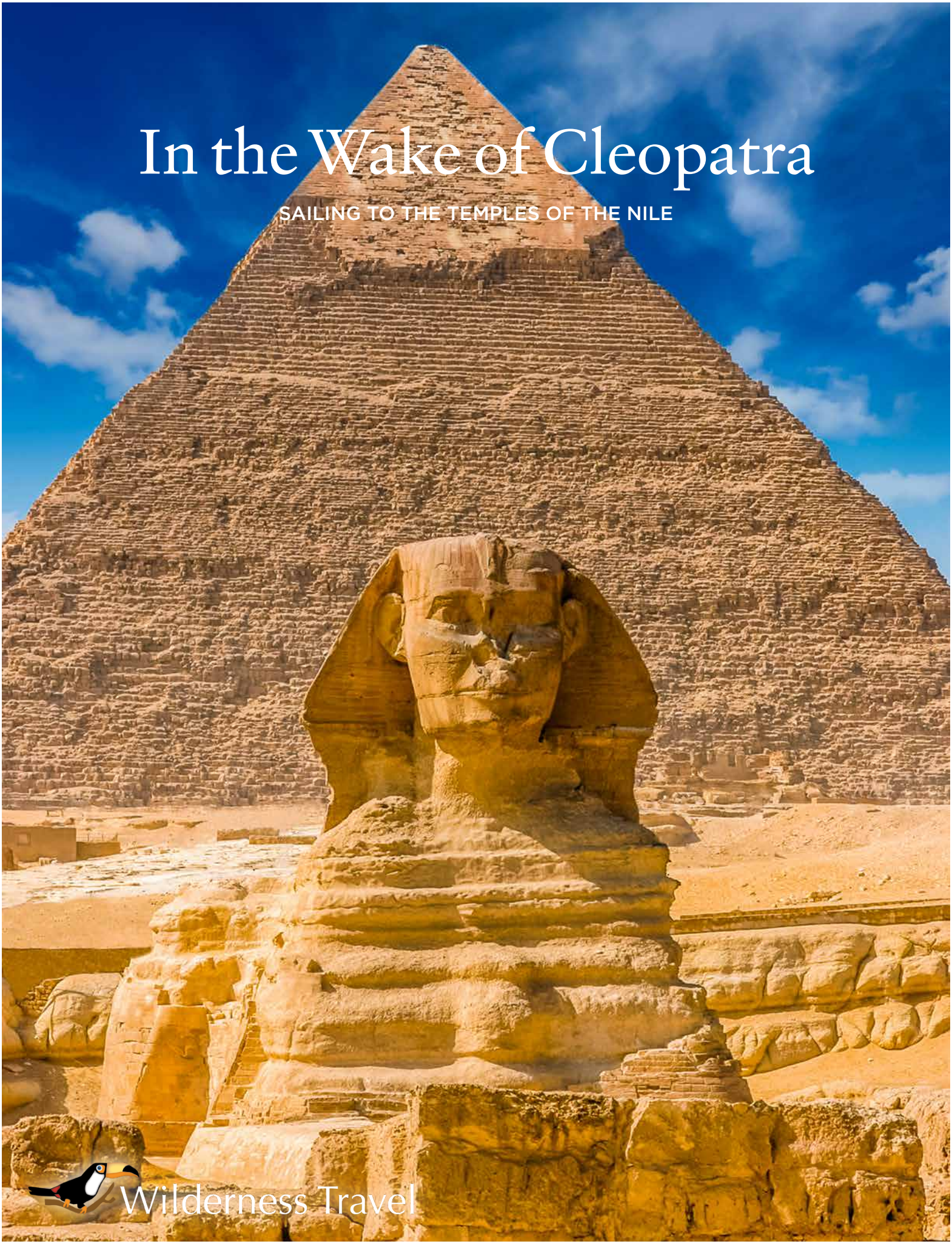

In the Wake of Cleopatra
SAILING TO THE TEMPLES OF THE NILE
Wilderness Travel

In the Wake of Cleopatra

TRIP DATES

September 30-October 9, 2026
October 14-24, 2026
November 11-21, 2026
December 9-19, 2026
January 20-30, 2027
March 10-20, 2027
April 7-17, 2027
October 6-16, 2027
October 13-23, 2027
November 3-13, 2027
November 24-December 4, 2027
December 1-11, 2027
January 5-15, 2028
March 1-11, 2028
March 8-18, 2028
March 22-April 1, 2028
October 4-14, 2028
October 18-28, 2028
November 8-18, 2028
November 22-December 2, 2028
December 6-16, 2028

Exploring the Nile by private *dahabiya*, a traditional two-masted sailing yacht, is truly a traveler's dream. These shallow-bottom vessels, once used only by the aristocracy, provide a nostalgic journey—but with all the modern amenities, including air conditioning. With our on-board Egyptologist, we sail from Luxor to Aswan, discovering stunning pharaonic monuments including Nile-side Kom Ombo, with its crocodile motif, and lesser-known sites like Nekbet, abode of the vulture goddess. We'll also moor at remote islands and farming villages where larger vessels can't go. At day's end, we'll appreciate the Nile sunsets and relaxed ambiance of our own private sailing vessel. It's a fantastic—and exclusive—way to experience ancient Egypt.

Itinerary

DAY 1
CAIRO, EGYPT
Arrive at Cairo International Airport, where you are met and transferred to the 5-star Mena House, the legendary colonial-era hotel set next to the Pyramids... meals on your own

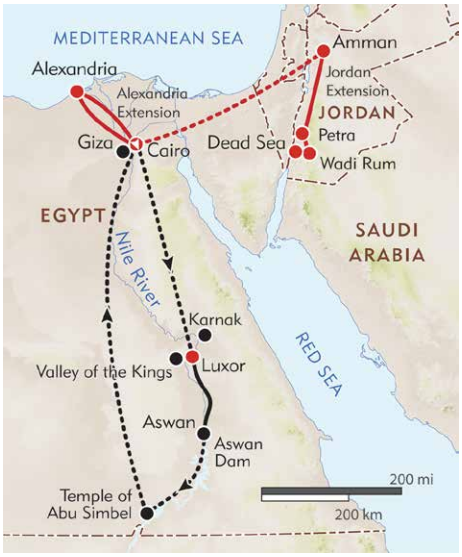
DAY 2
THE GREAT PYRAMIDS AND THE SPHINX / GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM
Nothing quite prepares one for the first sight of the Great Pyramids, and this morning we will explore what the ancient Greeks considered one of the "Seven Wonders of the World." The sheer size and the magnitude of labor that went into their construction in 2600 BC is astounding. The three pyramids of Cheops, Chephren, and Mycerinus continue to radiate the magnificence that has awed visitors for centuries. Time permitting, we climb inside the Great Pyramid, built by Cheops (also known as Khufu), the grand king of the 4th Dynasty.

Nearby, we visit the inscrutable Sphinx, 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. Erected by Cheops' son Khafre, it sits in a quarry by the Pyramids. With its 16-foot-high face directed toward the rising sun in the east, it symbolizes the return of life each day.

We then head to the recently opened Grand Egyptian Museum, the largest archaeological museum in the world, housing more than 100,000 artifacts including treasures from King Tut's tomb, which was discovered virtually intact in 1922. We'll spend most of the afternoon here visiting the halls and galleries, including the Tutankhamun Halls that include his famous mask of solid gold in a perfect state of preservation. In the evening we gather for our Welcome Dinner. Overnight at the Mena House...BLD

DAY 3
SAQQARA / NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION
This morning, we will explore 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. We'll see 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. We'll also see some of the tombs of the nobles, adorned with exquisite ancient Egyptian art.

After lunch in a local restaurant, we visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, home to the famous Royal Mummies Hall, where 22 royal mummies—including those of Ramses and Hatshepsut—are on display, along with a beautifully curated collection tracing Egypt's history from prehistoric times through the modern era. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight at Mena House...BL



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length: 11 days
Arrive: Cairo, Egypt
Depart: Cairo, Egypt
Lodging: 5 nights deluxe hotels, 5 nights aboard yacht with private cabins
Meals: All meals included except 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity: Archaeology, Cultural Adventures, River Cruising, Small Boat and Yacht Cruising
Trip Level: 1+ 2 3 4 5 6
Cultural exploration and walking tours

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the romantic ambiance of an intimate Nile sailing vessel with air-conditioned en-suite cabins
- Experience Egypt in depth through the cultural insights of our superb Egyptologist guide
- Visit the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum, new home to Egypt's ancient treasures
- Descend the stone staircase into the tombs of Tutankhamun
- Extend your trip to explore Jordan's "lost city" of Petra or to Alexandria, crossroads of the ancient world

Itinerary

"The trip was a glorious combo of mind-boggling temples, sailing on the Nile, and lovely hotels, all with an interesting fun group."
Mary D., Cloverdale, CA

DAY 4
LUXOR / KARNAK TEMPLE

A morning flight brings us to Luxor, site of the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes, in Upper (southern) Egypt. We head to the splendid Temple of Karnak, constructed over more than a thousand years by generations of pharaohs. Its ancient name was Ipet-Isut, or "the most perfect of places." The Karnak temple complex was built on a large scale for the giant gods, and so it sprawls across much of northern Luxor. It was begun during the 12th Dynasty, and each succeeding ruler added to the original plan and left his own mark. Amun, one of the gods of creation, was the most important god of Thebes and head of the local triad of deities. Although the original sanctuary of the Great Temple of Amun was built during the Middle Kingdom period, when the Theban Pharaohs first came to prominence, the rest of the temples, pylons, courts, columns, and reliefs were the work of New Kingdom rulers. The Great Hypostyle Hall is an incredible forest of giant pillars, covering an area larger than the whole of Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral.

We continue to our hotel, the Hilton Luxor. This evening, we enjoy a tour of the temple of Luxor, a strikingly graceful piece of architecture on the banks of the Nile. It was built by the New Kingdom Pharaoh Amenhotep III on the site of an older sanctuary. As Amun-Ra, the fusion of Amun and the sun-god Ra, this pharaoh was also a state deity worshiped in many parts of the country. Once a year from his great temple at Karnak, the images of Amun and the other two gods in the local triad—Amun's wife, the war-goddess Mut, and their son, the moon-god Khon—would journey down the Nile to Luxor Temple for the Opet Festival, a celebration held during the flood season. Overnight at the Hilton Luxor...BLD

DAY 5
VALLEY OF THE KINGS / ESNA / EMBARK ON OUR DAHABIYA

We'll enjoy a visit to the West Bank of Luxor, where we explore the Valley of the Kings, a vast City of the Dead where magnificent tombs were carved into the desert rocks, richly decorated and filled with treasures for the afterlife by generations of pharaohs. Our explorations include the impressive Temple of Queen Hatshepsut who, along with Cleopatra, was one of ancient Egypt's two female pharaohs, and special visits to the tombs of Tutankhamun, Seti I, and Ramses VI (the latter is especially stunning, with much of its surface covered with hieroglyphs and paintings). We also visit the impressive Workmen's Village of Deir el-Medina, home to the ancient artisans and craftsmen who constructed the tombs. On the way back to the river Nile, we stop at the famed Colossi of Memnon, known in ancient Greek times for their haunting voices at dawn.

A drive of about an hour brings us to the town of Esna, where we 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 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

Itinerary

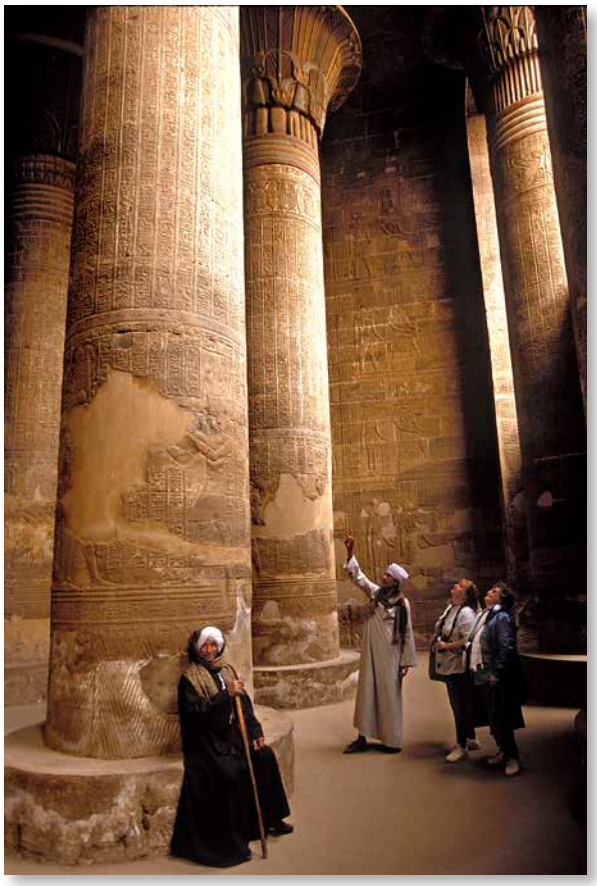
was built later; it was excavated from the silt that had accumulated through centuries of annual Nile floods and is about 30 feet below the modern street level.

Heading to the harbor, we check into our private dahabiya, the L'Orient, our home base for the next five nights. We enjoy lunch and dinner on board and dock overnight aboard the L'Orient...BLD

DAY 6
EL-KAAB / EDFU / TEMPLE OF HORUS

Today we cruise to El-Kaab, a unique site very few visitors see. It features many beautiful tombs and temples, most of which were originally dedicated to the vulture-goddess Nekhet. In Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic times, El-Kaab was the capital of Upper Egypt, and it continued to be one of the region's most important cities up until the Ptolemaic era. With marvelous river views en route, we make our way to Edfu, where we explore the extraordinary Temple of Horus, the largest and most completely preserved Pharaonic, albeit Greek-built, temple in Egypt. Horus served as the protector and patron of the pharaoh. The temple's towering pylon was erected by Ptolemy IX, and on the exterior are a pair of beautiful Horus statues. Inside its Court of Offerings, we can study the beautiful reliefs on the wall depicting a feast. Lunch is on board as we sail to El Selsela. Dinner and overnight aboard the L'Orient...BLD

DAY 7
SELSELA / BARBECUE DINNER



The little-visited shrine of Horemheb, cut into the riverside rocks at Selsela, offers a fascinating opportunity to see carved reliefs from various periods of ancient Egyptian history, and is rarely visited on other cruise itineraries. We enjoy the atmosphere of this elegant shrine, then cruise to Farès. Dinner tonight is a barbecue prepared by our staff and served by candlelight on an island in the Nile. Overnight aboard the L'Orient...BLD

DAY 8
KOM OMBO / COBANIA ISLAND

We explore the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to the crocodile-god Sobek. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile where in ancient times sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank. Magnificent Kom Ombo was once a strategic trading town on the caravan route from Nubia. Although substantially ruined by the changing tides of the river and later by builders who used many of its stones for new buildings, it is still a stunning site of Ptolemaic and Greco-Roman temples. This architectural masterpiece features perfectly symmetrical twin elements—twin entrances, courts, colonnades, and sanctuaries—probably indicating a twin priesthood. The left side of the temple is dedicated to Horus, the falcon-headed god, and the right to Sobek, the crocodile-headed god. This evening, we enjoy a visit with the villagers on Cobania Island. Dinner and overnight aboard the L'Orient...BLD

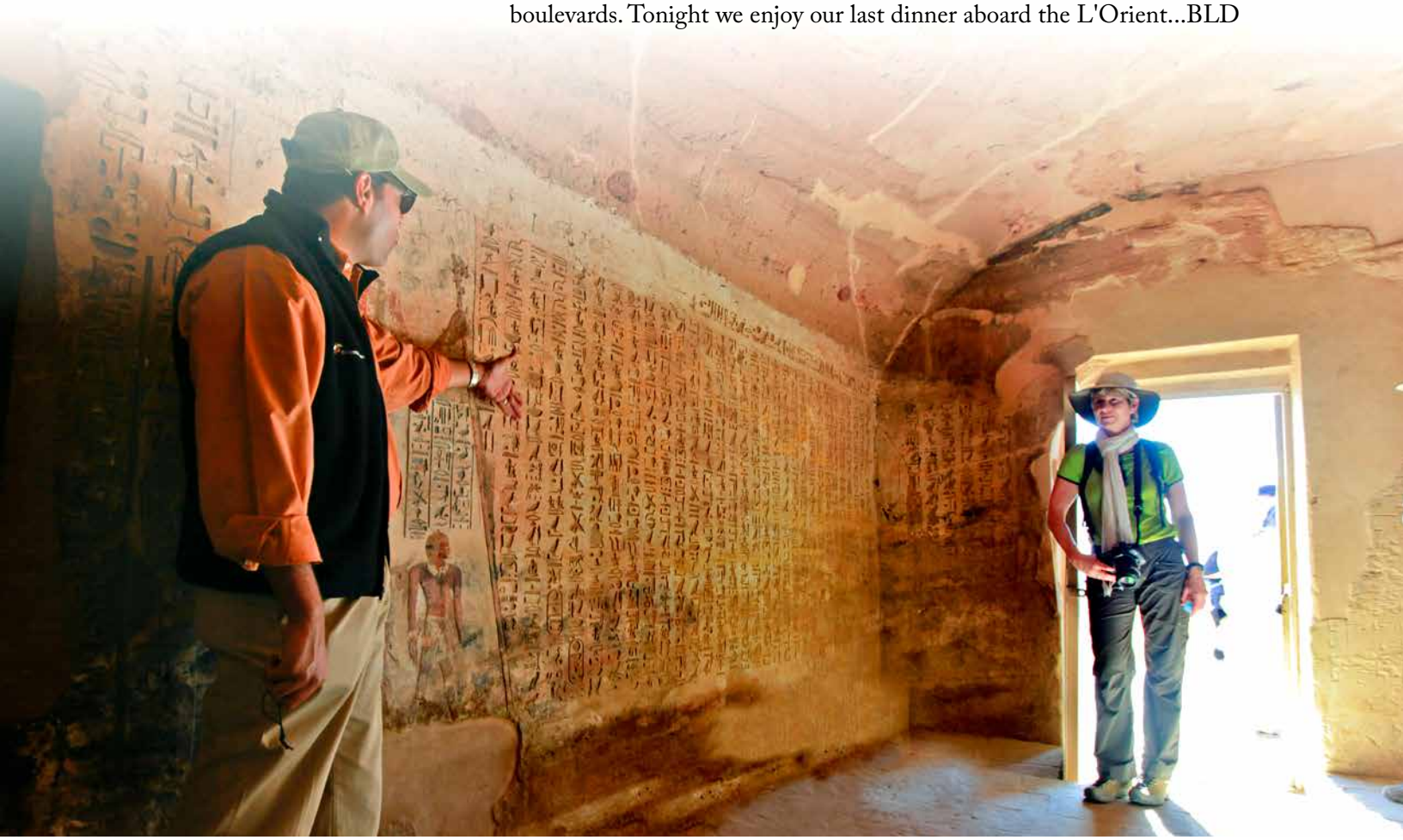
Itinerary

"Would take this trip all over again! Sailing the Nile was priceless."
Ruth M., Kernersville, NC

DAY 9
ASWAN HIGH DAM / PHILAE / ASWAN MARKET

After a visit to the Aswan High Dam, Egypt's contemporary example of building on a monumental scale, we enjoy a short motorboat ride to the romantic and majestic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilka. The Philae temple complex has lured pilgrims for thousands of years; during the 19th century these ruins were one of Egypt's most legendary tourist attractions. Next we visit the granite quarries that supplied the ancient Egyptians with most of the hard stone used in pyramids and temples. Here we 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.

Lunch is on board, after which we enjoy our choice of two options: a walking tour of Aswan's colorful outdoor market or a visit to the Nubian Museum, with its thousands of objects celebrating the culture and civilization of the Nubian region from prehistoric times to the present. Aswan lies at the southernmost border of Egypt's ancient empire and is considered "the jewel of the Nile." Cliffs and jagged outcroppings dominate the landscape, while islands, some inhabited since before the time of the pharaohs, dot the river. The riverbanks are laden with golden sand and the town is filled with sheltered gardens and tree-lined boulevards. Tonight we enjoy our last dinner aboard the L'Orient...BLD



Itinerary

DAY 10
DISEMBARK / ABU SIMBEL / CAIRO

Disembarking this morning and bidding farewell to the L'Orient staff, we fly 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, and a campaign to save them was organized by UNESCO. The temples were cut into blocks, raised piece by piece, and reassembled in a new position above the water. The massive job took two years to complete (1966-1968). 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. We fly to Cairo and check in at the Waldorf Astoria Cairo Heliopolis. In the evening we gather for a festive Farewell Dinner...BLD

DAY 11
DEPART

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

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2026
$9,595 (10-12 members)
$10,395 (8-9 members)
$11,295 (5-7 members)
Single supplement: $1,695 (hotels only)
Single supplement: $995 (boat only, limited availability)
Internal airfare: $695 (subject to change)
L'Orient Suite cabin upgrade: $550

Prices are per person, valid through 2027
$10,595 (10-12 members)
$11,495 (8-9 members)
$12,395 (5-7 members)
Single supplement: $1,895 (hotels only)
Single supplement: $1,095 (boat only, limited availability)
Internal airfare: $745 (subject to change)
L'Orient Suite cabin upgrade: $550

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in deluxe hotels and yacht with air-conditioned cabins
- All meals included except 2 dinners as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)
- Visa fees

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: $600
120 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: $600 per person
61-120 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost
60 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/insurance

Trip Leaders

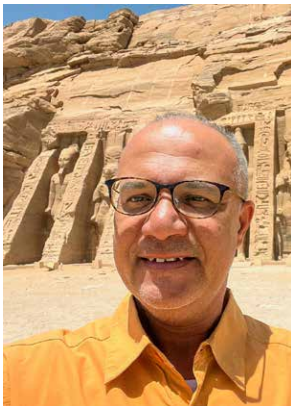
Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/egypt-luxor-aswan-nile-dahabiya-cruise-tour/

AHMED ABUL ELLA

From guiding groups to the intricate temples at Abydos and Dendara, to simply sailing down the Nile River, to sharing the connections between modern and ancient Egypt, Ahmed's expertise in history and culture adds invaluable insight as a Trip Leader. "We are all students in the temple of knowledge," he says. With multiple degrees in ancient history and biblical studies, and the author of Prophets and Pharaohs and By Way of Accident, Ahmed makes a fantastic companion in these ancient realms. When not leading trips, he spends time with his family in Cairo, where they live, enjoys traveling in off-the-beaten-path regions of the Western Desert of Egypt, and is a frequent contributor to British publications. In the spring of 2013, Ahmed scouted our Expedition to Sudan trip and has since led several trips to explore the pyramids of northern Sudan.

MOHAMED OSSAMA

As a specialist in Egyptology, and a guide since 1995, one would think of Mohamed Ossama as the perfect connection to the region's culture and tradition. He is—and more! From thought-provoking discussions to fascinating insights, Mohamed will bridge the ancient world with the modern, leaving you entranced by the deep history and current events. Mohamed lives in Cairo, and is closely associated with St. Olaf College in Minnesota and its intensive educational programs with American University in Cairo. When not leading trips, he enjoys reading, walking, and spending time with his wife and two children.



WAEL ELSWEIFY

Wael has always been fascinated by Egyptian history and archaeology. After attending school in Heliopolis, he continued his studies at the American University in Cairo, graduating with a degree in business. He continued his education as a post-graduate in history and archaeology, received a diploma, and became a licensed Egyptologist tour guide. Wael loves being an ambassador and enjoys making Egypt's great civilization come alive for his guests. He lives in Cairo with his wife and family and is a member of several community service organizations.

Alexandria Extension

If you are doing both the Alexandria and Jordan extensions, we suggest taking the Alexandria extension as a pre-trip option.

DAY 1 (PRE-TRIP OPTION)
CAIRO

Arrive in Cairo and transfer to the Mena House for overnight...Meals on your own

DAY 2
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. We overnight at the Steigenberger Cecil Hotel...BL

Alexandria Extension

DAY 3
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

ALEXANDRIA EXTENSION TRIP COST:

2026:
From $2,495 per person, double occupancy
Solo Traveler: from 3,995
Single supplement: $495

2027:
From $2,695 per person, double occupancy
Solo Traveler: from $4,195
Single supplement: $525

Costs are per person, based on double occupancy.

Extension Cost Includes: 1 night at Mena House in Cairo, 1 night Steigenberger Cecil Hotel 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 porterage at hotels.

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

Optional Half-Day Tour Old & Coptic Cairo

We recommend that you arrive a day early if you wish to do this extension. This tour includes an English-speaking guide, transfers in private air-conditioned vehicle, and entrance tickets to the mentioned sites, but no meals. The tour will take place from 9:00 am–12:00 pm or 1:00 pm–4:00 pm, depending on local scheduling.

We explore Coptic Cairo in the timeless Old Cairo district. Here we find the remains of the old Fortress of Babylon, built at the time of the Romans in Egypt to protect the country from invading enemies. The walls of the fortress enclose the church of St. Sergius, where the Holy Family is reported to have stayed, and the medieval Coptic Hanging Church, the seat of the Coptic patriarchs for centuries, has foundations that rest on the walls of the fortress. We also visit the Coptic Museum, with its wonderful collection of sculpture dating from Pre-Christian times up until the 5th century, as well as bone carvings, frescoes, icons, relics, and colorful textiles. We finish with a visit to the Church of St. Barbara, a charming monument commemorating a 4th century local saint, and see the oldest synagogue in Egypt, Ben Ezra. Inside this basilica-style temple, the so-called Geniza Documents were found, a treasure hailed as an unparalleled source of information about the life of the Jews in Egypt's past.

TOUR COST

$175 (4-6 members)
$195 (2-3 members)
Solo Traveler: $275

Jordan Extension: Petra & Wadi Rum

We suggest taking this extension as a post-trip option.

DAY 1
AMMAN, JORDAN

Arrive at Amman Airport, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight at the Fairmont Amman...meals on your own

Please Note: extension participants are responsible for getting from Cairo to Amman on their own. We recommend you book Royal Jordanian Airlines #504, which typically departs Cairo around 1:20 pm with arrival in Amman around 3:30 pm (flight time is subject to change). However, any afternoon arrival into Amman works well for this extension. If you book your Cairo/ Amman flight on Royal Jordanian Airlines, they may require that you present the credit card used for your ticket purchase at check-in. They may deny boarding without verification of this credit card.

DAY 2
AMMAN / JERASH

Morning tour of Amman, 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. Visit the Citadel, archaeological museum, Roman theater, and enjoy a walk through the bazaar. Afterwards, visit the ancient Roman city of Jerash, 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. Monuments of this prosperous Roman city—one of the best preserved in the Roman Empire—include a triumphal arch, a stadium, a monumental fountain, and temples. Return to Amman for overnight...BL

DAY 3
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. After lunch in Madaba, we continue to Shobak. Set on the edge of plateau with its imposing brick walls, the Shobak Castle 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 or Petra Marriott Hotel for overnight...BL

Jordan Extension: Petra & Wadi Rum

DAY 4
PETRA

We travel to Petra, the ancient 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. The city 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.

Sheer sandstone hills in beautiful shades of deep rust banded with gray and yellow form a deep canyon that protects Petra in all directions. Today's full-day visit begins 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, including the famous Al-Khazneh ("Treasury"), featured in the film Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. 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. Overnight at the Petra Movenpick Resort or Petra Marriott Hotel...BL

DAY 5
WADI RUM

Head to the famed desert canyon of Wadi Rum, where British officer T. E. Lawrence was based during the Great Arab Revolt of 1917-1918. Enjoy an optional ride by camel to Lawrence's spring, and explore by 4WD vehicle to enjoy a magnificent desert world where massive rock peaks rise out of pink sands. Our camp offers a comfortable desert getaway in a superb wilderness setting. Overnight at Wadi Rum...BLD

DAY 6
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...B

DAY 7
DEPART

After breakfast at hotel, transfer to airport for departure on homeward-bound flights via Amman...B

JORDAN EXTENSION TRIP COST

2026:
$4,195 (4-9 members)
$4,695 (2-3 members)
$6,195 (1 member)
Single supplement: $1,095

2027:
$4,195 (4-9 members)
$4,695 (2-3 members)
$6,995 (1 member)
Single supplement: $1,195

EXTENSION COST INCLUDES

Accommodations as noted; private 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 (1-time entrance fee to Petra); baggage porterage at hotels.

EXTENSION COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Jordanian visa fee; 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.).

Accommodations

MENA HOUSE

Cairo, Egypt
Days 1 to 3 (3 nights)

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. 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.

HILTON LUXOR RESORT AND SPA

Luxor, Egypt
Day 4 (1 night)

The Hilton Luxor has an ideal location set right on the water's edge of the Nile. With floating feluccas in the distance and the sound of rustling palms in the breeze, guests can enjoy relaxing guest rooms with comfortable beds and access to garden terraces or in some cases private balconies overlooking the Nile. The Sunset Bar has fantastic views of the West Bank of the Nile, and it's a treat to unwind at the Nile-side Oasis Pool, with its swim-up bar.

Accommodations

L'ORIENT

Nile River, Egypt
Days 5 to 9 (5 nights)

A traditional Nile sailboat of the style built at the end of the 19th century, the 120-foot L'Orient is the perfect vessel for observing life along the Nile. She features two decks, with six total cabins: two double and two twin cabins of the same size, each with a private bathroom, as well as heat and air-conditioning. There are also two Suite cabins, also with private bathrooms, as well heat and air-conditioning, but with a small shared balcony (please note that the Suite cabins come at additional cost and each have one double bed—twin (two) beds are not possible). Meals are served outside on the large shaded deck, a fine place to relax on the comfy lounge chairs. Because the L'Orient is sail-powered only, we cruise with the breeze and come to dock under oar, though when needed, a motorized boat with a tow line is on hand. The L'Orient is a fantastic and intimate way to watch the riverside scenes and enjoy a lovely pace on the river in between our daily tours.

WALDORF ASTORIA CAIRO HELIOPOLIS

Cairo, Egypt
Day 10 (1 night)

This large modern hotel is an ideal overnight stop in Cairo, as it's conveniently located close to the airport. Guestrooms are spacious, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering an abundance of natural light. The hotel features four restaurants and bars, a spa offering rejuvenating therapies, and a fitness center.

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 *In the Wake of Cleopatra* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

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.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Cairo, Egypt

Suggested Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: We will provide a complimentary airport transfer for all trip members, no matter when you arrive. Please note that check-in at the hotel begins at 3:00 pm.

On Day 2, your guide will meet you at the Mena House for a full day of touring, followed by a Welcome Dinner.

If you would like additional nights (an "on your own" expense), please reference your Extra Services Request Form and contact us to reserve them for you.

DEPARTURE

Cairo, Egypt

Suggested Airport: Cairo International Airport (CAI)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 11, anytime

A complimentary transfer will be provided for all trip members, no matter when you depart. Please note that check-out from the hotel is at 12:00 pm.

If you would like additional nights (an 'on your own' expense), please reference your Extra Services Request Form and contact us to reserve them for you.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Egypt. Airlines for this trip include:

Egypt Air
www.egyptair.com

Lufthansa
www.lufthansa.com

Emirates Air
www.emirates.com

British Airways
www.britishairways.com

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your 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 we can reserve your airport transfers.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated **Level 1+, Easiest**, according to our trip grading system. It is a cultural and archaeological adventure with day walks exploring the fascinating ruins and wonderful towns in this ancient and modern land. Please note that we have several early morning starts, especially on days with air travel. Some days we tour only a half day, while on other days, we tour for a full day. There is plenty of free time planned so that you can explore, shop on your own, or simply relax.

Our home base for five nights is the 100-foot dahabiya L'Orient, a traditional Nile sailboat built at the end of the 19th century and completely refitted in 2003. She is air conditioned and has two decks and four double or twin cabins and one suite with private baths. The L'Orient is sail-powered only, but will use motor-boat assistance in cases of low wind. Public spaces on L'Orient include an interior lounge and a large shaded deck where meals are served. There are electrical outlets in the cabins for charging batteries. (You will need a voltage converter and plug adaptor). Meals are served on board, and bottled water is available on board as well as tea and coffee. A selection of imported wine and beer is available for purchase. There is no corkage fee for trip members who bring their own.

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 (and please note: there is no heat aboard the L'Orient). 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.

INTERNAL FLIGHTS

Please note that internal flights in Egypt are known for delays and changes. Some of our internal flights may depart very early in the morning or arrive late at night, so please be prepared for the possibility of early wake-up times and later check-in times. Even though we strive to book the best-available flights for all our departures, changes in weather, overbooking, and other factors beyond our control can also result in delays or flight changes, even with confirmed reservations. We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and willingness to embrace change with a sense of adventure.

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

What to Expect

A NOTE ON RAMADAN

Some of our departures may coincide with Ramadan, the holiest month of the Islamic calendar. Ramadan is a deeply spiritual time for Muslims, during which they abstain from food, drink, and smoking from sunrise to sunset. Working hours are often shortened so folks can return home in time to break their fast with family and friends. Rest assured that you'll be able to eat and drink during the day at all hotels and restaurants we visit. Alcoholic beverages are generally available to foreigners and non-Muslims at most hotels. During Ramadan, some shops and sites may operate on reduced hours. If this occurs, we adjust our itinerary accordingly to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience.

Ramadan is a wonderful time to visit this region, offering engagement with a meaningful aspect of local culture. Throughout the month, hotels and restaurants host special "Iftar" meals (the fast-breaking dinner at sunset) and "Sahoor" (the pre-dawn meal), often accompanied by festive decor. Visitors to Egypt will see streets adorned with colorful lights and decorations, especially in traditional areas such as the Al-Hussein Mosque. Lanterns, known as "fawanees," hang from doorways and storefronts, a tradition dating back nearly 1,000 years when the lanterns were used to light processions celebrating the sighting of the crescent moon, marking the start of Ramadan. Today, they remain a beloved symbol of the season throughout the Arab world—much like a Christmas tree during the holiday season. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or 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.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP
As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP
A top quality Wilderness Travel 32oz stainless steel insulated water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia ($140 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP
A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia ($150 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP
Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS
You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of $500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

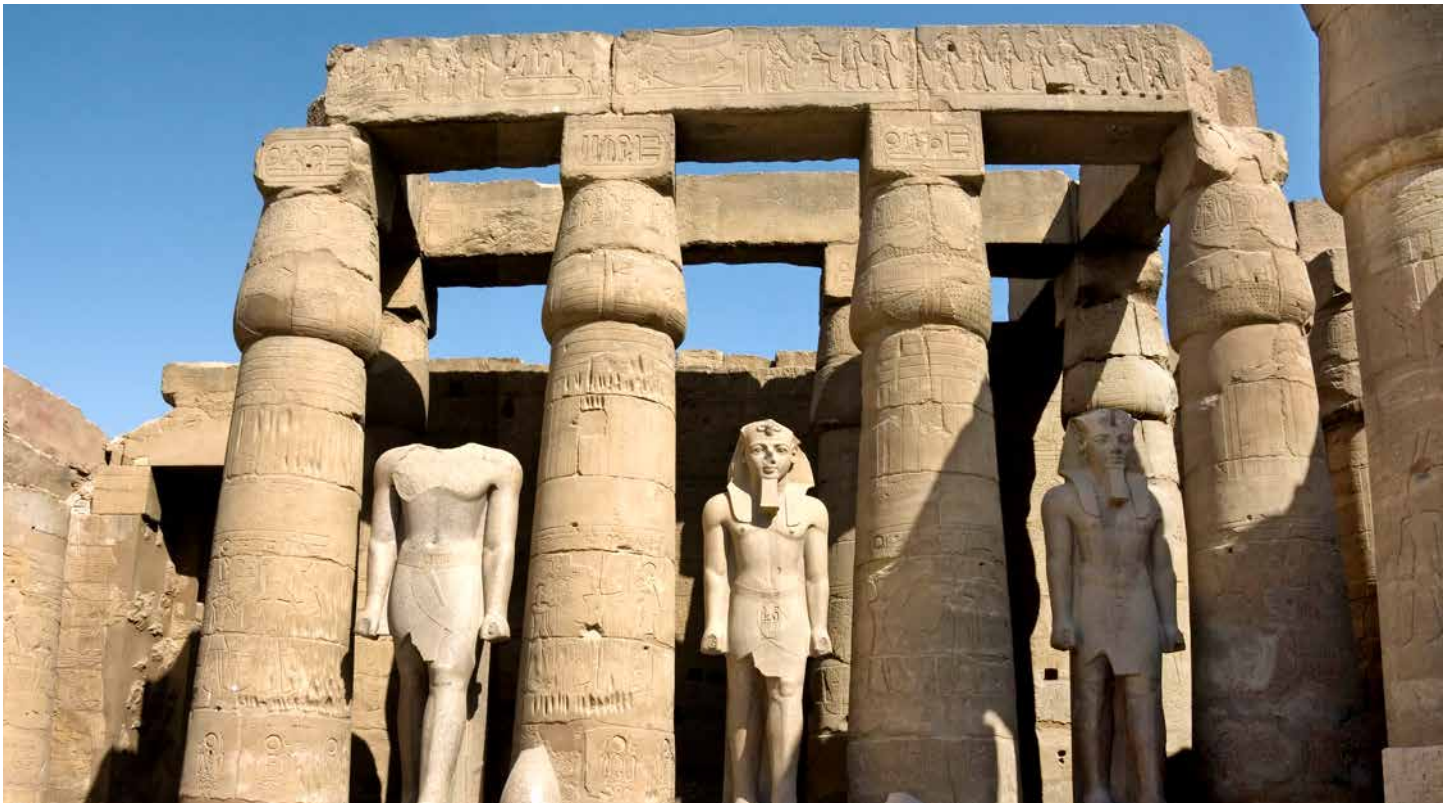
TERMS & CONDITIONS
Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

T-SHIRT FRONT

T-SHIRT BACK

PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST; INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE

PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2026, 13-time winner
Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2026, 6-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: September 17, 2026 2:43 PM

Wilderness Travel

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