

Pyramids to Petra

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN EGYPT AND JORDAN



Wilderness Travel



TRIP DATES

2023

November 26-December 10, 2023

2024

January 5-19, 2024

January 29-February 12, 2024

March 1-15, 2024

March 17-31, 2024

September 23-October 7, 2024

October 25-November 8, 2024

November 10-24, 2024

November 18-December 2, 2024

2025

January 5-19, 2025

January 29-February 12, 2025

March 2-16, 2025

March 10-24, 2025

September 15-29, 2025

October 9-23, 2025

October 25-November 8, 2025

November 10-24, 2025

December 4-18, 2025

Pyramids to Petra

From the monuments of the pharaohs to Jordan's fabled "lost city" of Petra, our journey celebrates the wonders of the ancient world. On a five-day Nile cruise aboard a luxury vessel, we explore Egypt's spectacular temples and see the captivating beauty of the Nile as we pass villages inhabited since the time of the pharaohs. At Abu Simbel, we visit the colossal Nile-side statues of Ramses II, and at dazzling Petra, we explore a metropolis carved from red sandstone in the 3rd century BC. Our grand finale finds us in the desert canyon of Wadi Rum, famed haunt of Lawrence of Arabia.

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. Our rooms are in the Garden Section, with views of the Pyramids...meals on your own. (Many trip members take our Alexandria Extension as a pre-trip option. For more information, see page 12.)

DAY 2

GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM / EGYPTIAN MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES

This morning, we have a special visit to see sections of the Grand Egyptian Museum. Although the museum is not officially open to the public, our group has secured a short tour where we'll visit the Grand Hall, atrium entrance, and exterior gardens. The Grand Egyptian Museum, which began construction in 2005 and is scheduled to fully open in 2024, will be the largest archaeological museum in the world, housing more than 100,000 artifacts including King Tut's entire treasure collection. Next, we explore Islamic Cairo, visiting 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.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we head to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in the heart of the city. The museum was designed by a French architect in a Neoclassical style, and walking through it is a passage through time, taking us from the Archaic Pre-Dynastic Period to the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms. Housing an astounding collection of Egyptian antiquities from 2700 BC to the 6th century AD, there are thousands of statues, jewels, and artifacts from nearly every period of ancient Egypt. Perhaps most striking are the amazing treasures of the young king, Tutankhamen, including his famous mask of solid gold in a perfect state of preservation. Twelve rooms are filled with treasures from King Tut's tomb, which was discovered virtually intact in 1922. In the evening we gather for our Welcome Dinner. Overnight at the Mena House...BLD

DAY 3

SAQQARA / THE GREAT PYRAMIDS AND THE SPHINX

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.

Nothing quite prepares one for the first sight of the Great Pyramids, and



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	15 days
Arrive:	Cairo, Egypt
Depart:	Amman, Jordan
Lodging:	4 nights aboard deluxe vessel with Nile-view cabins, 9 nights first-class hotels, 1 night tented camp
Meals:	All meals included except 1 lunch and 4 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Archaeology, Cultural Adventures
Trip Level:	① 2 3 4 5 6 Cultural exploration and walking tours

HIGHLIGHTS

- 5-day Nile journey aboard a luxury vessel
- Explore the Great Pyramids and Abu Simbel, see Petra by candlelight
- Enjoy the desert silence of Wadi Rum with an overnight at a delightful tented camp
- Special visits to the tombs of Tutankhamun and Queen Nefertari, considered the most exquisitely decorated tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Queens

Itinerary (cont'd)



this afternoon 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. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight at Mena House...BL

DAY 4

ASWAN / ABU SIMBEL / FELUCCA RIDE

A morning flight via Aswan brings us 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), 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 our visit, we board an elegant ship designed for the Nile River. Weather permitting, we enjoy a ride by felucca (traditional Nile sailboat) before reboarding our yacht-like boat. Dinner and overnight on board...BLD



DAY 5

PHILAE TEMPLE / KOM OMBO TEMPLE

After breakfast, we 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 we proceed to 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. Later, explore the magnificent temple of Kom Ombo, 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. Dinner and overnight on board...BLD

DAY 6

EDFU / TEMPLE OF HORUS / LUXOR / TEMPLE OF LUXOR

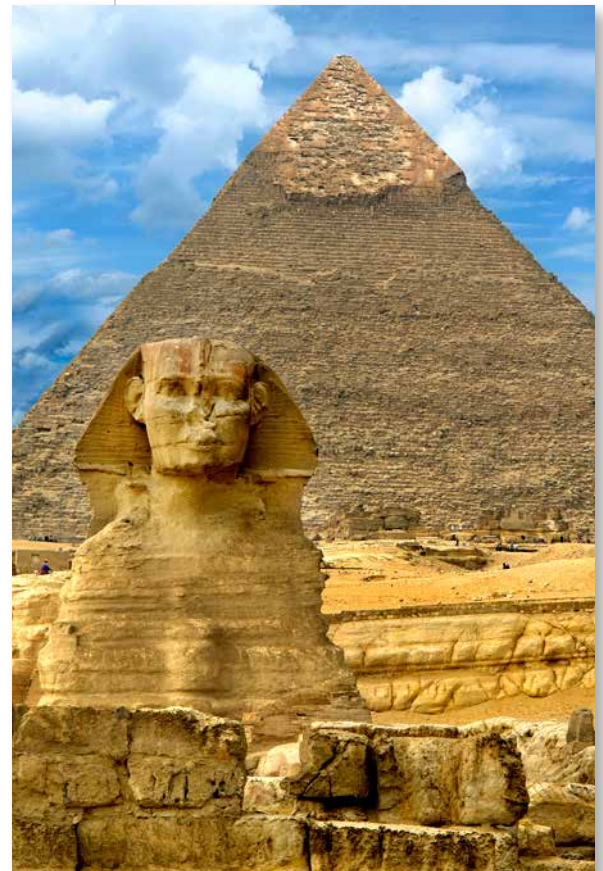
After breakfast, we visit the remarkable Temple of Horus, the most completely preserved Pharaonic temple in Egypt. Its towering Pylon was erected by Ptolemy IX and on the exterior are a pair of beautiful Horus statues. Inside its Court of Offerings, we can study the beautiful reliefs on the wall depicting a feast. Cruising the Nile, we head to Luxor. At sunset, we 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. Dinner and overnight aboard boat...BLD

DAY 7

VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS / KARNAK TEMPLE / TOMBS OF TUTANKHAMUN AND QUEEN NEFETARI

We 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. 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 and Queen Nefetari, considered the most exquisitely decorated tomb in the Valley of the Queens. We 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. We return to the boat for lunch.

In the afternoon, we return to Luxor to explore the 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



Itinerary (cont'd)



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. Dinner and overnight aboard boat...BLD

DAY 8 LUXOR / CAIRO

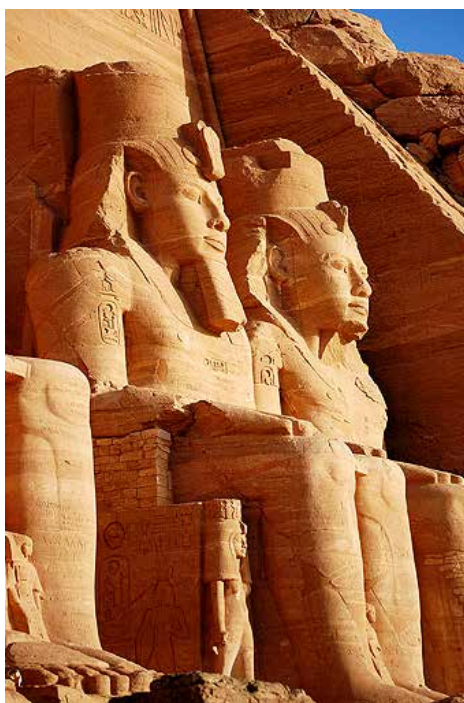
We bid farewell to our home on the Nile and take an early-morning flight to Cairo. Time permitting, we visit the nearby royal necropolis of Dahshur, set in the desert on the west bank of the Nile. Two of its pyramids are the largest, oldest, and best preserved in Egypt. Or, enjoy the afternoon to explore Cairo on your own. Dinner is on your own tonight. Overnight at the InterContinental Citystars Cairo...BL

DAY 9 CAIRO / AMMAN, JORDAN

After a morning at leisure, we transfer to the airport for an early afternoon flight to Amman, Jordan (we will have a light lunch at the airport en route). 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. Upon arrival, we transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel for our overnight...BLD

DAY 10 AMMAN / JERASH

In the morning, we set out for a city tour including the Citadel, archaeological museum, Roman theater, and a walk through the bazaar and the gold market. After lunch with a local family (often a trip highlight for many travelers!), we visit the ancient Roman city of Jerash, an archaeological masterpiece framed by the hills of Gilead outside of Amman. 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, stadium, 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. We enjoy a late lunch prepared for us by a local family in their home, a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Jordanian hospitality and get a glimpse into village life. We return to Amman for overnight at the Intercontinental Hotel...BL

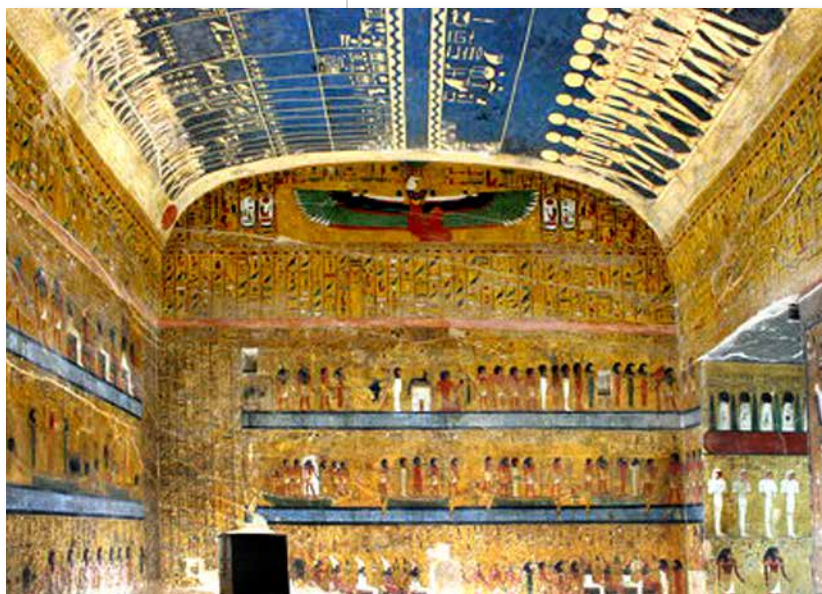


DAY 11 MT. NEBO / MADABA / SHOUBAK / PETRA

On our way to Petra, we visit Mt. Nebo, long a destination for Christian pilgrimage. This is 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, we may even see Jerusalem, about 30 miles away. We continue to Madaba, with a stop en route at the Mosaic Handicrafts Center. At Madaba, known as the City of Mosaics, 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. We then head to Shoubak to visit its 12th century Crusader castle, Montréal. Perched on a hilltop, it dominated the main route from Egypt to Syria, and was able to tax both traders and those on pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. The castle eventually fell to the troops of the sultan Saladin in 1189.

We arrive at the hotel in time for dinner, then take a nighttime visit to this famed site. To visit Petra during daylight is awe-inspiring, but to experience it at night by the light of 1,800 candles is out of this world! We walk a candle-lit path through the Siq to the Khazneh and enjoy the haunting music of the Bedouins performed in front of the famous building called the Treasury, Petra's most elaborate ruin. The tours start at 8:30 pm and finishes at 10:00 pm. Overnight at Petra Movenpick Resort or Petra Marriott Hotel...BLD
Walking Details: 2.5 miles on uneven ground

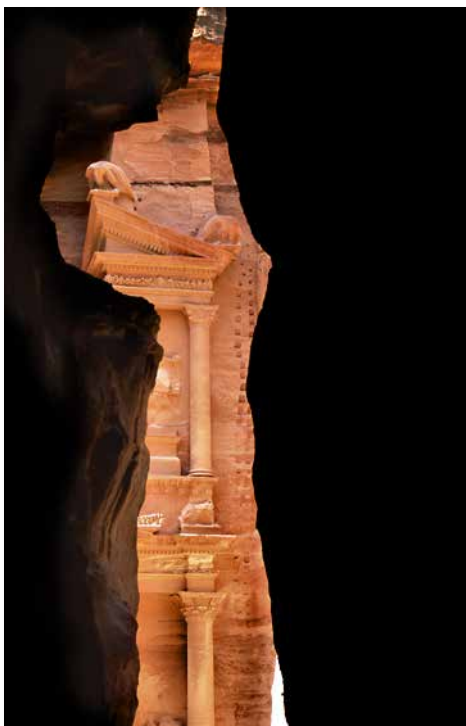


DAY 12

PETRA

Today's full-day visit to spectacular Petra begins around 9:00 am with a 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, with its sheet walls of rust-colored sandstone. Set in a spectacular location on the edge of the Wadi Araba, 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 hotel in Petra..BLD
Walking Details: 5 miles on uneven ground, with optional additional hikes

Petra: The fabled ruin called Petra was carved from solid red sandstone in the 3rd century BC to be the capital of the Nabateans, a nomadic Arabian tribe who ruled the Trans-Jordan area in pre-Roman times. The Nabateans derived their great wealth and power from the passing trade caravans, but with the rise of the nearby coastal trading center at Palmyra and the opening of sea trade routes, Petra declined in importance. Its existence was forgotten by the outside world for 1,000 years until its rediscovery in the early 19th century. 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. He 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 spectacularly set on the edge of



“Everyone was so thorough and helpful. It was like being whisked around on a magic carpet. Doors opened, every wish fulfilled, amazing service!”

Marney G., Montgomery, AL

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 traditional spot where Moses is thought to have struck the rock, bringing water flowing forth as it does today.

Rose-Red Petra: John William Burgon took his degree from Oxford in 1845 and the same year wrote his famous sonnet for Petra, a site that he had never visited. The last two lines are an oft' quoted description of this epic lost city.

It seems no work of Man's creative hand,
by labor wrought as wavering fancy planned;
But from the rock as if by magic grown,
eternal, silent, beautiful, alone!
Not virgin-white like that old Doric shrine,
where erst Athena held her rites divine;
Not saintly-grey, like many a minster fane,
that crowns the hill and consecrates the plain;
But rose-red as if the blush of dawn,
that first beheld them were not yet withdrawn;
The hues of youth upon a brow of woe,
which Man deemed old two thousand years ago,
match me such marvel save in Eastern clime,
a rose-red city half as old as time.

DAY 13 WADI RUM

We have the morning free to explore Petra on our own before our drive to Wadi Rum. After lunch, we enjoy an optional ride by camel (or on foot) to T. E. Lawrence's spring, then explore by 4WD vehicle to take in the grandeur of the famed desert canyon of Wadi Rum, where massive rock peaks rise out of pink sands. Our remote accommodation in Wadi Rum offers a fantastic desert getaway in a superb wilderness setting...BLD

Wadi Rum: The landscape of Wadi Rum, with its immensity, ever-changing palette of colors, and awe-inspiring rock spires, creates an other-worldly atmosphere. This extraordinary canyon (wadi means canyon) was the headquarters of Prince Feisal bin Hussein and T. E. Lawrence during World War I as they fought the Arab Revolt against the Turkish Ottoman empire. Parts of the film *Lawrence of Arabia* were staged here, and Lawrence's famous book, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, was named after Wadi Rum's natural landmark of seven jagged rock columns. Wadi Rum is known for its good springs, and the Bedouin frequently pitched their tents here. Today it is still home to a number of Bedouin families, who welcome visitors with hospitality and generosity.

DAY 14

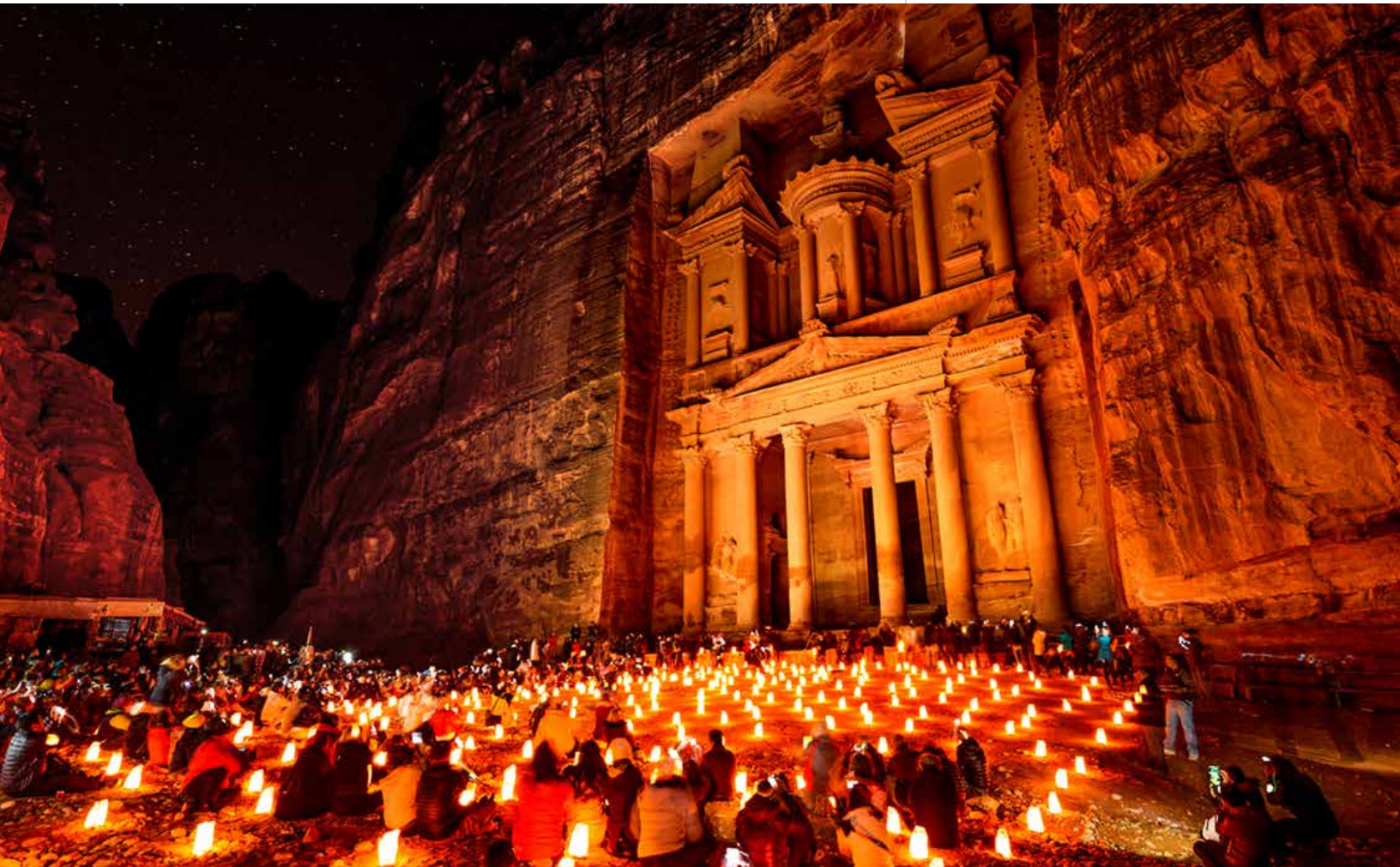
WADI RUM / DEAD SEA

In the morning, we drive to our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea, with the afternoon at leisure. We gather for our Farewell Dinner this evening. Overnight at the stylish Movenpick Dead Sea Resort...BD

DAY 15

DEPART

Transfer to the Amman airport for departure on homeward-bound flights...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$11395 (11-15 members)

\$11695 (8-10 members)

\$11995 (5-7 members)

Single supplement: \$2495

Internal airfare within Egypt and Cairo to Amman: \$995
(subject to change)

2025 Trip Costs: Call for details

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
- 4 nights aboard deluxe vessel with Nile-view cabins, 9 nights first-class hotels, 1 night tented camp
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 4 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of beer or wine with dinner
- Sightseeing as noted in the itinerary and transportation, airport transfers for passengers as noted, and baggage handling

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, meals not specified at the end of each itinerary day, travel insurance, airfare or airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic and other beverages, laundry, etc.), modest camera fees at certain sites.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$600 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 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

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

Amman, Jordan

Suggested Airport: Queen Alia International Airport (AMM)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 15, anytime

A complimentary transfer from the Dead Sea Movenpick Resort to the Queen Alia International Airport is provided on Day 15 (a 45-minute drive).

Please note that check-out from the hotel is at 12:00 pm, but you can use the hotel and spa facilities until you depart for the airport (if you are leaving on a later flight).

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 and Jordan. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

Egypt Air

www.egyptair.com

Royal Jordanian

www.rja.com.jo

Lufthansa

www.lufthansa.com

British Airways

www.britishairways.com

Emirates Air

www.emirates.com

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in 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 routing, it may be necessary to depart from the US one or 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. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Alexandria Extension



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. Our accommodation is the historic Steigenberger Cecil Hotel...BL

DAY 3

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL MUSEUM / CAIRO

After breakfast we visit the newly opened Alexandria National Museum, with its thousands of artifacts spanning the ages from the Pharaonic Era through the Greco-Roman period in Egypt. Papyrus scrolls, perfume bottles, and painted mummy cases are well displayed, as well as classic Greek statues showing the physical beauty that represents the ideals of that culture. The museum also illustrates Alexandria's role in the history of modern Egypt. 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 funeral 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, with lunch en route. This evening, we join the group on the regular trip (Day 1) at the Mena House...BL

2024 ALEXANDRIA EXTENSION TRIP COST

\$2045 (4-6 members)

\$2245 (2-3 members)

Solo Traveler: \$3245

Single supplement: \$385

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 portage 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 of Old & Coptic Cairo

Add on the following optional tour of Old & Coptic Cairo to your journey. The tour includes an Egyptologist guide, transfers in private air-conditioned vehicle, and entrance tickets to mentioned sites. Not included are meals and hotels. Please call us for details.

OLD & COPTIC CAIRO (9:00AM-12:00PM OR 1:00PM-4:00PM, 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 per person (2 or more trip members); \$240 (solo traveler)

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-jordan-cairo-petra-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.

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, 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.



NILE ADVENTURER

Nile River, Egypt

Days 4 to 7 (4 nights)

The elegant 5-star Nile Adventurer offers a luxurious yet relaxed cruise on the Nile and a yacht-like atmosphere. Renovated in 2019, the cabins and suites have Nile views and are fully air-conditioned with individual controls. All have a private bathroom with bathtub, shower, hairdryer, and mini bar. The ship is air-conditioned throughout its five passenger decks. The Sun Deck, with its teak floors, is the place to sip a cocktail and watch sunset on the Nile. The ship also features a gift shop, library, game room, two bars, and a lounge, as well as laundry facilities. The food is excellent, with dining on an open single-seating basis as well as cabin service. On warmer days, the upper sundeck has a swimming pool for a cooling dip.

Accommodations



INTERCONTINENTAL CITYSTARS CAIRO

Cairo, Egypt

Day 8 (1 night)

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.



INTERCONTINENTAL AMMAN

Amman, Jordan

Days 9 to 10 (2 nights)

The Intercontinental offers comfortable rooms and a central location within walking distance of town. The hotel has a spa and a choice of cuisine in its three different restaurants as well as a casual deli café.

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 *Pyramids to Petra* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

HOTELS IN PETRA

Petra, Jordan

Days 11 to 12 (2 nights)

In Petra, we stay at one of the following properties:

PETRA MOVENPICK RESORT

The best thing about the Petra Movenpick Resort is its prime location: just steps from the entrance to one of the most magical sites in the world. This is greatly appreciated after a long day of exploring on foot—and it's also nice to be able to get there first thing in the morning before most other groups arrive! The hotel features a pleasant rooftop restaurant/bar and an outdoor pool, and offers magnificent views across the desert. Be sure to sample the hotel's selection of ice creams (the mango is especially good!).



PETRA MARRIOTT HOTEL

The Petra Marriott Hotel offers traditional hospitality combined with wonderful creature comforts. Spacious guestrooms feature amenities including a safe and mini-bar, and most offer spectacular views of the Petra Valley. At day's end, take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool (great sunset views from the pool!) or treat yourself to a Turkish bath, sauna, or massage.



Accommodations

WADI RUM CAMP

Wadi Rum, Jordan

Day 13 (1 night)

In Wadi Rum, we stay at one of the following camps:

SUN CITY CAMP

With its simple aesthetic that blends into the surroundings, Sun City Camp is a comfortable base while exploring Wadi Rum. Bedouin-style tents are linked by wooden walkways and each are simple, yet comfortable, with en-suite bathrooms as well as air conditioning. Meals are served in a large geodesic dome tent with views of the desert. At night, be sure to relax outside with the twinkling sky overhead.



WADI RUM NIGHT CAMP

The tents of Wadi Rum Night Camp are everything you would expect for a fantastic night in the desert. Twenty-five Bedouin-style tents are linked by stone walkways and each has plush bedding, a Bedouin sofa, and a small sitting area facing the Wadi Rum Mountains. The lounge has cozy seating amid romantic lantern light. Watch the sunset from camp—or sunrise, they are equally enchanting over the mountains—and be sure to relax near the bonfire at night with a cup of tea in hand and the twinkling sky overhead.



DEAD SEA MOVENPICK RESORT

Dead Sea, Jordan

Day 14 (1 night)

Set among lush gardens on the northern shores of the Dead Sea, this resort is built of traditional local stone and handcrafted woods, and features tastefully decorated rooms with many amenities. Recreational facilities include the beach (a float in the salty sea is a must, but wear water shoes as the bottom is stony), an infinity swimming pool (among others), and a luxurious spa that's all about pampering the senses. Tip: book your spa treatments prior to arrival—it would be a shame to get there and find they were all booked up!



Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 1+, Easiest. It is an overland touring trip with day walks exploring the fascinating ruins and wonderful towns in this ancient and modern civilization. Please note that we have several early morning starts, especially on days with air travel.

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.

Jordan's climate is also very dry, and a bit cooler due to the altitude. In winter, temperatures range in the 50s°F and 60s°F during the day, dropping to the 30s°F and 40s°F at night. The fall is warmer, with daytime temperatures in the 80s°F and 90s°F, and nighttime temperatures in the high 50s°F to low 60s°F.

CHILDREN

This is an excellent trip for children and families. The recommended minimum age is 10.

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.

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.

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
Amman	52/37	55/37	61/41	70/48	79/54	86/59	86/63	86/63	84/59	77/54	66/46	55/39
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
Amman	3	3	2	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	3



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

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.

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