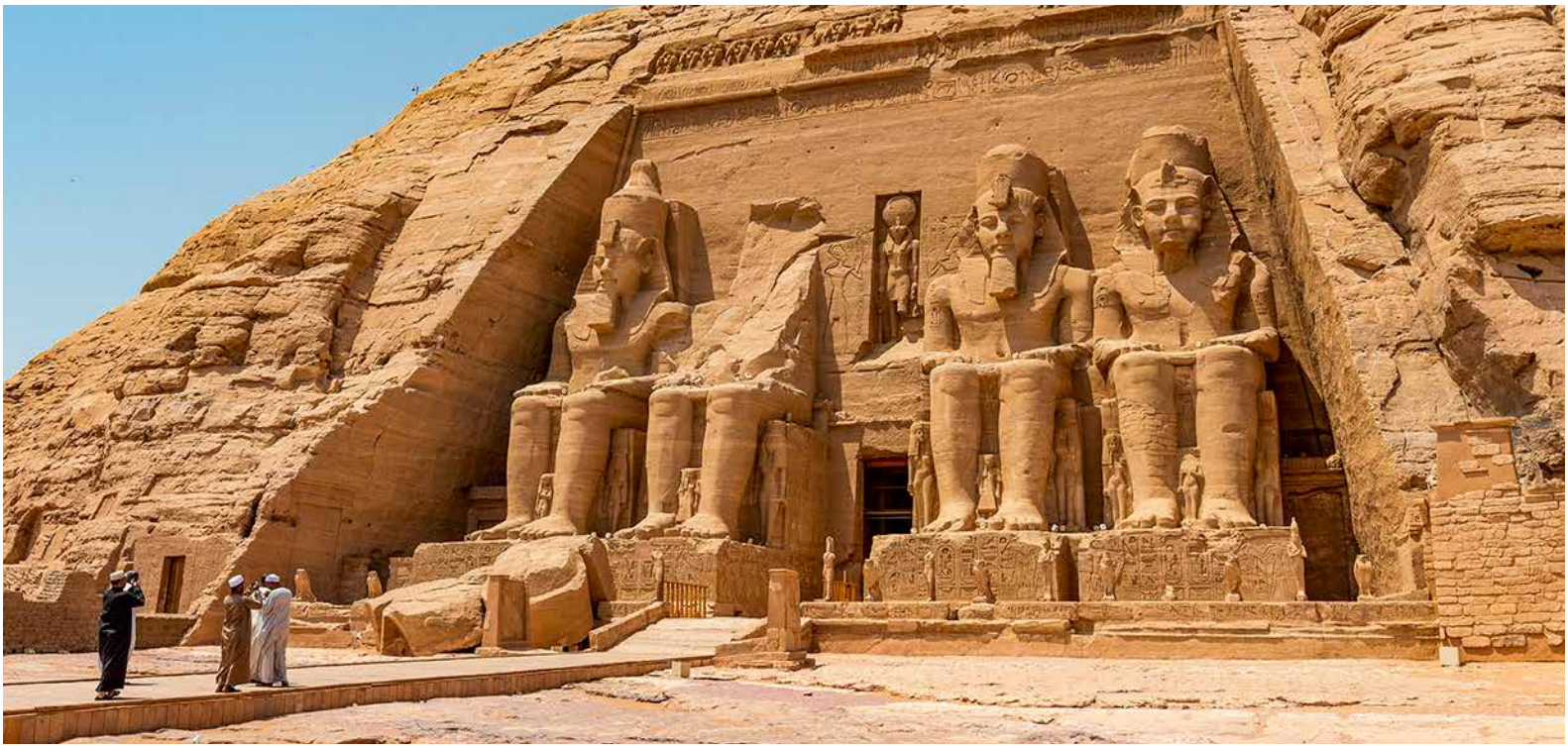
WILDERNESS TRAVEL SPECIAL EVENTS PRESENTS

Total Solar Eclipse of 2027

LUXOR, EGYPT

July 25-August 4, 2027



DEAR FRIENDS OF WILDERNESS TRAVEL,

We invite you to join us for the 2027 total solar eclipse in one of the world's most storied settings—Luxor, the pharaohs' capital at the height of their power and an open-air museum of many of Egypt's major archaeological treasures. The ancient Egyptian astronomers catalogued stars, mapped constellations, tracked the movements of the sun and moon, and wove the workings of the night sky into their culture and mythology. For our once-in-a-lifetime journey, we bring together the legacy of those early astronomers, the sheer wonder of a solar eclipse, and the timeless allure of Egypt's iconic temples and tombs.

We begin in Cairo with visits to the new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), the tombs of Saqqara, and the Great Pyramids of Giza. From there, we'll embark on a fantastic Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor, with stops at the enchanting temples of Philae, Edfu, and Esna. We've made special arrangements for access to the Tomb of Senenmut, home to the earliest known Egyptian star map and the original 12-month calendar. Our grand finale is, of course, the total solar eclipse itself, which we will view from the top deck of our luxurious private boat.

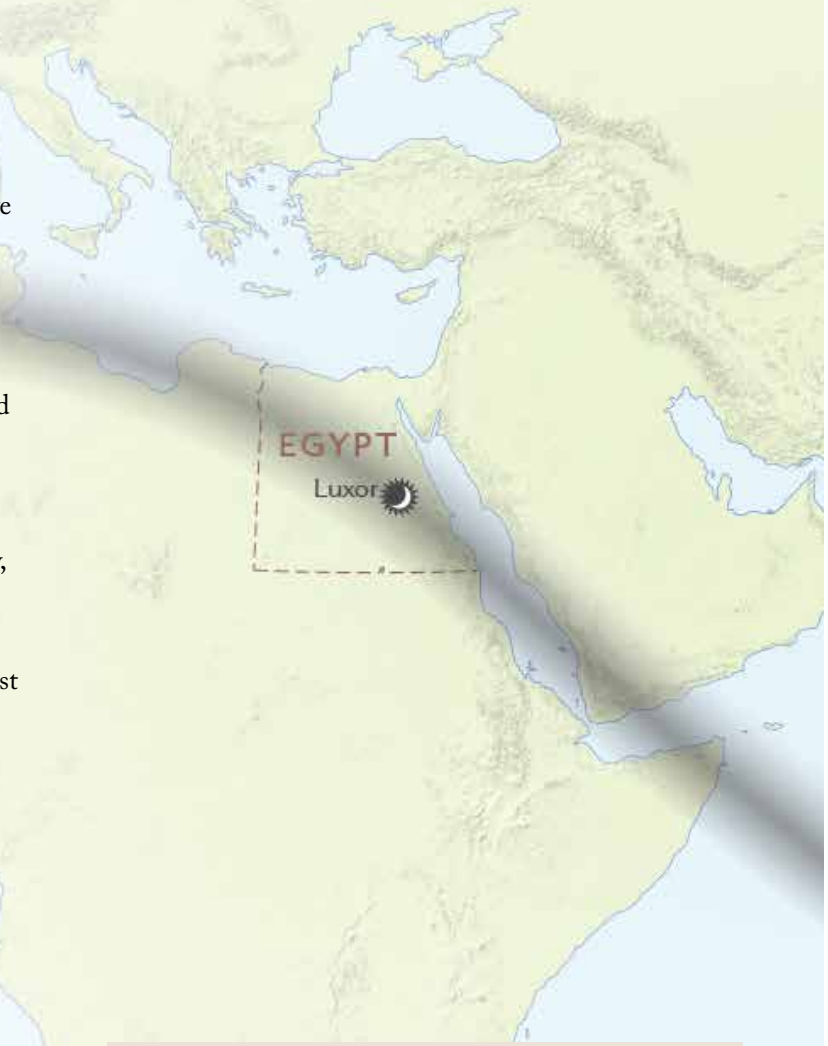
Throughout our journey, we'll engage in captivating discussions with our esteemed guide to the cosmos, Dr. Alex Filippenko (this will be Alex's 15th eclipse with WT), whose expertise and enthusiasm always bring invaluable insights. We'll discover the impressive celestial acumen of the Egyptians with Dr. Bernadette Brady of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, who will reveal how the night sky was perceived, explained, and depicted in ancient Egypt. We'll also learn more about the region's rich history from renowned Egyptologist Dr. Salima Ikram, a leading scholar in funerary archaeology.

We hope you'll join us, but don't wait—space is limited and this phenomenal journey will fill fast!

Eclipse Conditions & Weather

WEATHER

Let's be honest—August in Egypt comes with a unique challenge—it's hot, really hot. Daytime highs around Luxor are likely to be near 107° Fahrenheit, and while there's very little humidity and it's often quite breezy, it's safe to assume that shade and air-conditioning will be our good friends. We've carefully planned our excursions for the cooler parts of early mornings and late afternoons and will use the midday hours as much as possible in air-conditioned comfort for our various lectures, visits to museums, lunch, and of course, some time to relax. However, there is only so much that can be done to avoid Egypt's summer heat and guests must be prepared for this.



ECLIPSE VIEWING CONDITIONS

With August skies boasting an astonishing 97% clear visibility, Luxor should provide absolutely ideal viewing conditions for what will be "the" spot on the eclipse path offering not only maximum time of totality for this eclipse, but one of the longest imaginable—6 minutes and 22 seconds! The next eclipse to have such an impressive length will not occur until 2132.

Our viewing spot on eclipse day will be the upper deck of the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*. In addition to guaranteeing a private area, it offers shaded areas to get out of the sun while we wait through the partial phase of the eclipse. Cool drinks will be available and you will have the ability to escape the midday sun by simply stepping inside to the air-conditioned comfort of the boat's salon or even take a short break in your cabin. Shore viewing locations may be available for those wanting to do serious telephoto photography, since we will be tied up to a dock at the time of the eclipse. The details of how this would work, however, are not 100% clear as several other boats will undoubtedly also be tied up to the dock, and what rules or restrictions will be imposed by local authorities are impossible to predict at this juncture.

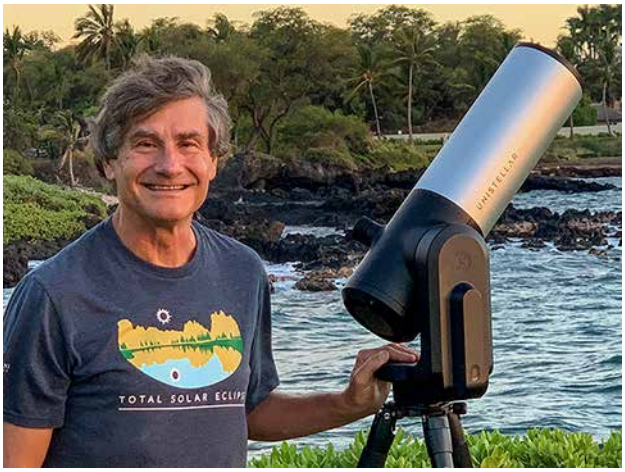
LOCAL CONTACT TIMES FOR PLANNED VIEWING POSITION AT 25°42'12.2"N, 32°38'16.7"E:

1st contact (eclipse begins)	11:40:13, altitude: 70.9°
2nd contact (totality begins)	13:02:04, altitude: 81.9°
3rd contact (totality ends)	13:08:26, altitude: 81.5°
4th contact (eclipse ends)	14:26:33, altitude: 67.5°
Duration of totality	6 minutes, 22 seconds

ECLIPSE VIEWING LOCATION

Our viewing location is the top deck of our Nile cruise vessel, the 72-guest *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*, right on the banks of the Nile. It will have 360-degree vistas along with shaded areas to rest in, a bar to keep you refreshed, and cool, air-conditioned lounges where you can take a break during the partial phases of the eclipse.

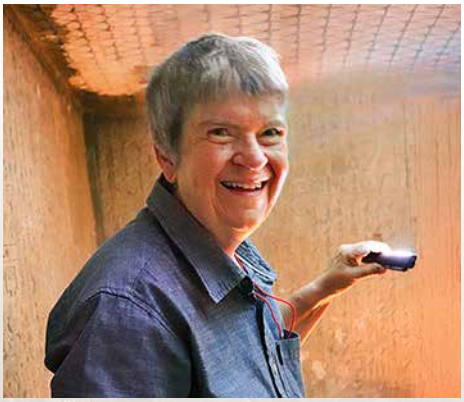
Guest Astronomer



DR. ALEX FILIPPENKO

A distinguished astrophysicist and professor at UC Berkeley, Dr. Alex Filippenko has made significant contributions to our understanding of the cosmos. Dr. Filippenko's exceptional research has earned him the highly coveted Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, showcasing his pioneering work on the accelerating expansion of the universe. His dedication to education is equally impressive, having received the Carl Sagan Prize for Science Popularization, demonstrating his commitment to sharing the wonders of the universe with the public. He's been voted the "Best Professor"at UC Berkeley a record nine times, has over 700 scientific publications, produced courses with "The Great Courses," co-authored an award-winning textbook, and has appeared in many episodes of "The Universe" TV series. He continues to inspire and shape the next generation of astronomers while unraveling the mysteries of the cosmos. He has experienced 20 total solar eclipses, joining Wilderness Travel for 14 of them—the eclipse in Luxor will be his 22nd!

Guest Speakers



DR. SALIMA IKRAM, Professor of Egyptology at The American University in Cairo, received her PhD in Egyptian archaeology from Cambridge University and has worked as an archaeologist in Egypt since 1986. She has also worked in Turkey, Sudan, Greece, and the US, and her research interests include archaeozoology and ethnoarchaeology. One of the world's leading authorities on animal mummies, Dr. Ikram directed the Animal Mummy Project at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and has also emerged as one of the leading scholars in Egyptian funerary archaeology. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

DR. BERNADETTE BRADY is a lecturer in cosmology and culture at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. She holds a PhD in Anthropology, an MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology, and an MA in Egyptology. Her research explores naked eye astronomy and sky mythology, emphasizing ethno-astronomy within Egyptian stellar theology. Dr. Brady investigates the phases of stars and their cultural significance, contributing to a deeper understanding of how ancient societies interpreted celestial phenomena. Her interdisciplinary approach bridges anthropology, astronomy, and history, making her a leading voice in the study of the connections between culture and the cosmos.

Eclipse Program Itinerary

JULY 25, 2027 CAIRO, EGYPT

Arrive in Cairo and transfer to our hotel in the heart of Giza. This evening is on your own to enjoy the many restaurants in the area. Overnight at the Four Seasons First Residence.

JULY 26, 2027 CAIRO

We are welcomed for breakfast and a morning presentation by Dr. Ikram, who will add her insights to our upcoming explorations, especially her analysis of the animal mummies found in Wahti's Tomb at Saqqara. After lunch, we'll tour the new Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), one of the largest museums in the world, reflecting Egypt's past from prehistory until the Greek and Roman Periods. It houses over 100,000 artifacts, including the most extensive display of the golden treasures of King Tut ever shown to the public. Overnight at the Four Seasons First Residence...BLD

JULY 27, 2027 SAQQARA

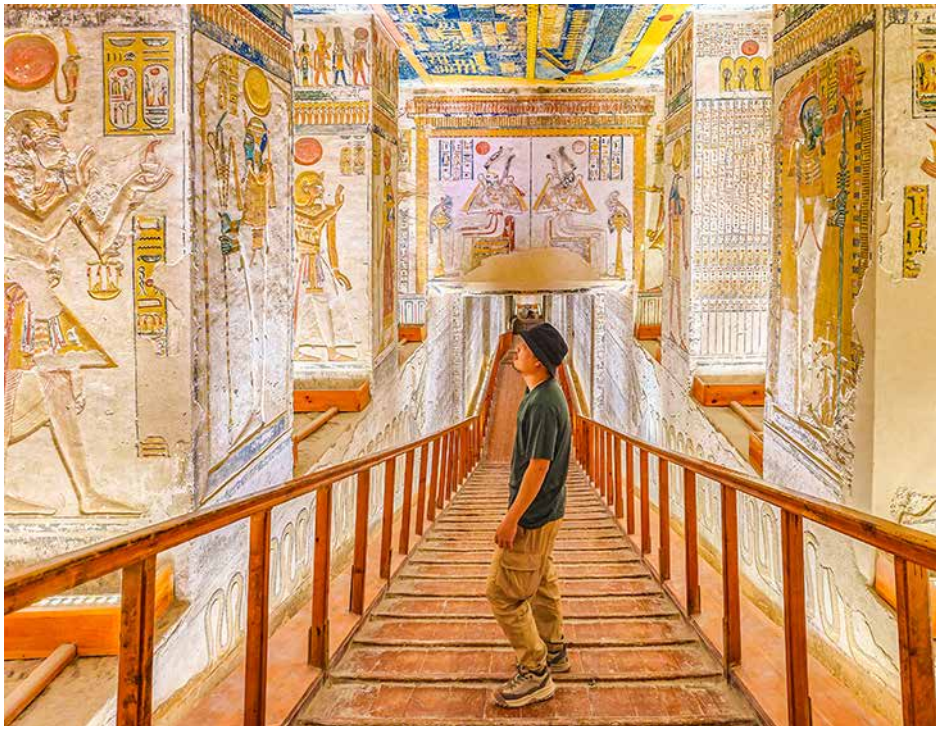
Early this morning, we head to the necropolis of Saqqara, burial grounds for kings and nobility during the age of the Great Pyramids. Here, the very first pyramids were built, not with smooth sides, but with six steps on the outside representing the pharaoh's stepladder to heaven. We'll see the famous Step Pyramid of King Zoser, which is the first freestanding stone structure in the world. After lunch, Dr. Filippenko will begin his series of presentations on eclipses and the cosmos in an afternoon presentation back at the hotel. Overnight at the Four Seasons First Residence...BLD

JULY 28, 2027 THE GREAT PYRAMIDS AT GIZA / SPHINX

We'll head out early this morning for our special opening of the Giza Pyramid Complex. Nothing quite prepares one for the first sight of the Great Pyramids. The ancient Greeks considered these to be one of the "Seven Wonders of the World," and their sheer size and the magnitude of labor that went into their construction in 2600 BC is astounding. Nearby, on another private tour, we visit the inscrutable Sphinx, with the body of a lion and the face of a man. Erected by Cheops' son Khafre, it sits in a quarry by the Pyramids. After lunch, you may choose an optional visit to one of the other museums in the area, or relax at the hotel. Overnight at the Four Seasons First Residence...BLD

JULY 29, 2027 ABU SIMBEL / BOARD THE *SANCTUARY SUN BOAT IV*

We fly early this morning to fantastic Nile-side Abu Simbel, built by the great Egyptian king Ramses II and a magnificent example of both ancient grandeur and modern ingenuity. Here, between 1290 and 1194 BC, stonemasons hewed giant figures of Ramses II on the face of cliffs above the Nile. The figures radiated power, dominating the landscape. In modern



times, the temples were threatened by the rising waters of the new Aswan Dam and were relocated piece by piece above the water line. A charter flight brings us to Aswan, where we board the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*, our home for the next five nights...BLD

JULY 30, 2027 PHILAE/ KOM OMBO

A short motorboat ride brings us to the romantic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilka, and later in the day, we'll visit the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to the Egyptian crocodile-god. Overnight aboard the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*...BLD

JULY 31, 2027 EDFU / ESNA

We explore the extraordinary Temple of Horus at Edfu, the largest and most completely preserved pharaonic (albeit Greek-built) temple in Egypt, and the Temple of Khnum, the ram-headed creator-god, at Esna. The ceiling of Hypostyle Hall in the Temple of Esna depicts Egypt's first complete Zodiac. This evening, Dr. Brady will give us a lecture to illuminate the ancient Egyptian's interpretations of the cosmos. Overnight aboard the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*...BLD

AUGUST 1, 2027 LUXOR / VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS

This morning, we head to the West Bank of the Nile to the Valleys of the Kings and Queens to visit the Temples of Hatshepsut and Rameseum and the Tomb of Senenmut, a UNESCO Astronomical World Heritage Site with the earliest known Egyptian star map and the earliest known inscription of the 12-month Egyptian calendar painted on its ceiling. Overnight aboard the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*...BLD

AUGUST 2, 2027 LUXOR / ECLIPSE DAY!

This morning is free to prepare for the eclipse. The top deck will be available to you for setting up your viewing stations and tripods, and there will be shade structures and refreshments available throughout the morning and afternoon. Tonight we gather for a festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight aboard the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*...BLD

AUGUST 3, 2027 CAIRO

After a visit to the splendid Temple of Karnak, constructed over more than a thousand years by generations of pharaohs, we enjoy lunch and then board our charter flight to Cairo. Overnight in Cairo at the Intercontinental City Stars. Dinner is on your own this evening...BL

AUGUST 4, 2027 DEPART

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or onward to more adventures...B

EXTENSIONS

We will not be offering multi-day extensions, given the heat this time of year. However, we will be offering options for single-day extensions in Cairo on July 24 and 25 for those who wish to arrive early.

Accommodations

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO FIRST RESIDENCE

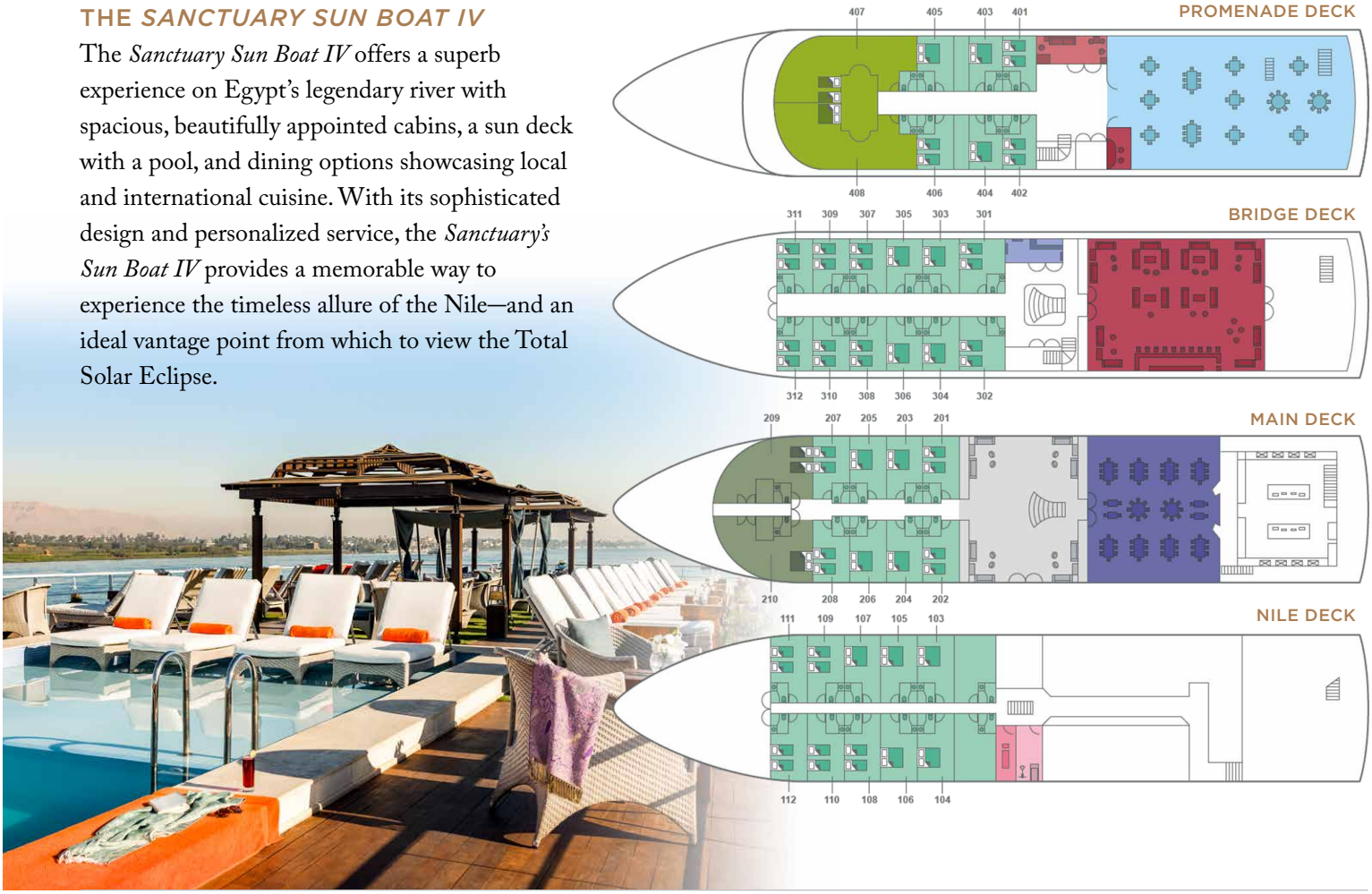
Flanked by Cairo's zoological gardens and the western bank of the Nile, the Four Seasons First Residence has an ideal location on Giza's prestigious First Mall, Egypt's premium shopping and dining destination. Guest rooms offer city or Nile views, and the hotel's facilities include a pool, top-floor spa, stunning breakfast room, and several restaurants including a French brasserie and Syrian/Lebanese cuisine served poolside.

ROYAL SUITE

STANDARD CABIN

THE *SANCTUARY SUN BOAT IV*

The *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV* offers a superb experience on Egypt's legendary river with spacious, beautifully appointed cabins, a sun deck with a pool, and dining options showcasing local and international cuisine. With its sophisticated design and personalized service, the *Sanctuary's Sun Boat IV* provides a memorable way to experience the timeless allure of the Nile—and an ideal vantage point from which to view the Total Solar Eclipse.



Terms & Conditions

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
$16,795 (60-70 members)
Single supplement: $1,795 (all members **must** share a cabin for the five nights on the *Sanctuary Sun Boat IV*)
Internal Air: $1,125
Sanctuary Sun Boat IV Cabin Upgrades (limited space)
Presidential Suite: $1,500
Royal Suite: $2,500

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: $1,000 per person
Due 12 months prior to departure: 30% of trip cost
Due 5 months prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION POLICY

Minimum cancellation fee: $500 per person
15 months prior to departure: $1,000 per person
12 months prior to departure: all deposits to date
5 months prior to departure: 100% of land costs

While we are hopeful no pricing changes will be needed, given this trip cost was estimated 3 years in advance, we reserve the right to change the trip cost by July 1, 2026, if extraordinary circumstances require. In this event, we would give guests the option to confirm or cancel for a full refund.

INCLUDED

- Presentations by Guest Speakers
- Expert Trip Leaders and local guides
- All accommodations based on double occupancy
- All meals as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Entrance fees to museums and archaeological sites

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Airport transfers if not arriving or departing on scheduled dates
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Gratuities for Trip Leaders
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (laundry, alcoholic beverages, airport departure taxes, etc.)
- Visa fee

We reserve the right to treat the reservation as canceled if payments are not received when due.