

## History! Culture! Folklore! Art! Music! Adventure!

# February 20-March 2, 2025

### Led by Lee Otterhold or Ventsi Milev

- ★ Egypt welcomes you with its mighty Nile, magnificent monuments, beguiling desert, lush delta, long past, and welcoming, story-loving people
- **★** Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, Nile River Cruise
- ★ For dancers, non-dancers, and anyone with a love of travel and culture
- ★ Price includes city tours, folk dance workshops, entrance fees, professional tour guide, breakfasts, and dinners

### **Itinerary**

Day 1: Thursday, February 20: Departure on airline of your choice.

#### Day 2: Friday. February 21: Cairo

Arrival at Cairo International Airport, where you will be met by one of our representatives to assist you with customs and visa. Transfer to your hotel for check in and overnight.

#### Day 3: Saturday, February 22

Breakfast at your hotel. Meeting at the hotel's lobby with your Egyptologist to start your day's tour Grand Egyptian Museum. Visit the Atrium/Grand Hall, Ramses II Statue, Merenptah Pillar and Greek-Roman Statues. Then continue towards the Pyramids of Giza, Khufu (Cheops), Khafra, Menkaura, and the Sphinx, standing guard over the pyramids for over 4,500 years. Carved from an outcrop of rock, it remains the ultimate symbol of Ancient Egypt with its lion's body and human head. Enjoy the history and the lifestyle of ancient Egyptian pharaohs narrated by our specialist guide.

Enjoy lunch at Khufu's Restaurant, located at the heart of the Pyramids, Back to your hotel and overnight.

#### Day 4: Sunday, February 23

After breakfast, meet your Egyptologist in the hotel lobby to start today's tour. Sakkara, where King Zoser's Step Pyramid was "built to last 'till the ends of time". This vast site in the heart of a desert plateau is the largest necropolis in Egypt. Extending for almost 5 miles, the complex forms a collection of pyramids, temples and tombs that is fundamental to understanding the history of Ancient Egypt Coptic Cairo. We will visit the famous Suspended Church "Hanging Church" dating to the late 4th and early 5th century. This basilica was named "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built atop the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon. Continue to the Church of St. Sergius, a 5th century Coptic Church. This basilica is built on the cave in which the Holy Family stayed and is regarded by visitors as a source of blessing. Enjoy your lunch at Le Pacha 1901 Restaurant. Back to your hotel and overnight.

#### Day 5: Monday, February 24: Luxor and Nile River Cruise

Breakfast boxes will be ready for your early departure and checkout. Transfer to Cairo Domestic Airport for your flight to Luxor. Flight to Luxor

Arrival at Luxor Airport, where you will start your day's tour to the East Bank. The Temple of Karnak is the largest Temple in the World! The complex contains a group of Temples such as the Great Temple of Amon Ra, Khonso, Ipt, Ptah, Montho. and the Temple of the God Osiris. A 20m high, mud brick enclosure wall, surrounds all of these buildings. This great Temple of Amon Ra was known during the Middle Kingdom period as Ipt-Swt, which means the Selected Spot. The Temple of Luxor is close to the Nile and parallel with the riverbank. King Amenhotep III who reigned 1390-53 BC built this beautiful temple and dedicated it to Amon-Re, king of the gods, his consort Mut, and their son Khons. This temple has been in almost continuous use as a place of worship up to the present day. It was completed by Tutankhamun and Horemheb.

12:00 Noon: Transfer to your cruise for embarkation

13:00: Lunch on board

17:30: Afternoon tea

19:30: Belly Dance Show

20:00: Dinner on board

21:30: Enjoy the music in the lounge and overnight.

#### Day 6: Tuesday, February 25: Valley of the Kings, Esna

After breakfast on board. meet your Egyptologist to start your day's tour to the West Bank.

In the Valley of the Kings. from the 16th to 11th century B.C. tombs were constructed for the Pharaohs and powerful nobles of the New Kingdom (the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Dynasties of Ancient Egypt). The valley stands on the west bank of the Nile, opposite Thebes (modern Luxor), within the heart of the Theban Necropolis. The wadi

consists of two valleys, East Valley, where the majority of the royal tombs are situated) and West Valley. Visit the opened tombs of Mernptah, tomb of Ramses 4th and tomb of Saptah. The Valley of the Queens is located nearby. This barren area in the western hills was chosen due to its relative isolation and proximity to the capital. The Kings of the 18th dynasty, instead of the traditional building of pyramids as burial chambers (perhaps because of their vulnerability to tomb robbers), now chose to be buried in rock-cut tombs.

The Colossi of Memnon are two huge statues, around 17m high, that once stood at the entrance gate of the mortuary temple of Amenhotep III. They were cut from two massive granite blocks, brought from quarries near Cairo, and carved to represent the pharaoh Amenhotep III of Dynasty XVIII

The Temple of Hatshepsut is a mortuary temple, located opposite the city of Luxor and is considered to be a masterpiece of ancient architecture. The temple was built to commemorate the achievements of the great Queen Hatshepsut and as a funerary temple for her, as well as a sanctuary of the God, Amon Ra

12:30 p.m.: Sail to Esna

13:00: Lunch on board

17:30: Enjoy your afternoon tea

19:30: Captain's Welcome Cocktail

20:00: Dinner on board

21:30: Enjoy the music in the lounge and overnight.

#### Day 7: Wednesday, February 26: Edfu, Kom Ombo

3:30 a.m. Early morning sail to Edfu

7:30 Breakfast on board

8:30 Meeting at the cruise's lobby with your Egyptologist to start today's tour.

The site of Edfu Tell was known as Wetjeset-hor (classical name Apollinopolis Magna), the place where the god Horus was worshipped and where the battle between Horus and his traditional enemy Seth in ancient mythology took place. The Temple of Horus is the most well-preserved and the only one we know to have been completed. Built from sandstone blocks the huge Ptolemaic temple was constructed over the site of a smaller earlier temple.

10:30 Sail to Kom Ombo

13:00: Lunch on board

17:30: Meeting at the cruise's lobby with your Egyptologist to continue your day's tour to the Templeshared by the two Gods, Sobek and Haeororis in Kom Ombo

The Temple of Kom Ombo stands on the east bank of the Nile, next to the river, about 4 Km from the town. It was dedicated to two Gods, Horus and Sobek but mainly dedicated to the God Sobek, the crocodile God, together with his wife, in another form of the Goddess Hathor.

20:00: Dinner on board

21:30: Enjoy the Galabeya Party and overnight.

03:30 Early morning sail to Aswan

07:30 Breakfast on board

08:30 Meeting at the cruise's lobby with your Egyptologist to start your day's tour The Temple of Isis in Philae, with its huge, complete, pylons and beautiful scenes. is one of the greatest Temples in Egypt, and occupies about a quarter of the island. The High Dam of Aswan is one of the most important achievements of the in the last century in Egypt and was, for many years. a symbol of the New Era of the 1952 Revolution. It provides Egypt with water and electricity and secures the country from the destructive inundation of the River Nile. The Granite Quarries - The quarries around Aswan reveal the techniques used by the ancient Egyptians to quarry and cut the stone that formed the Great Pyramid at Giza. These quarries are still in use.

13:00: Lunch on board

15:30: Sail on the Nile around Kitchener's Island and Agha Khan

17:30: Enjoy your afternoon tea

19:30: Nubian Folkloric Show

20:00: Dinner on board

21:30: Enjoy the music in the lounge and overnight.

#### Day 9: Friday, Februaery 28: Nubian Museum

07:00 Breakfast on board and checkout

08:00: Meeting at the cruise's lobby with one of our representatives for disembarkation and to start your day's tour. The Tombs of the Nobles and sandy West Bank hills cover the Aswan riverscape. The rock-cut tombs were dedicated to high-ranking public officials from the Middle Kingdom and the Old Kingdom. The hillcrest features a tomb with a dome dedicated to a Muslim prophet. It is known as the "Dome of the Winds," which was originally written as Qubbet el-Hawa.

The Nubian Museum was built following the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia. Dedicated to Nubian culture and civilization, it was inaugurated on November 23, 1997 and was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2001. The Nubian Museum covers an area of 50,000 square meters, 7,000 of which are devoted to the building, while the rest are devoted to gardens and other public spaces. The building has three floors for displaying and housing, in addition to a library and information center. The largest part of the museum is occupied by the monumental pieces.

Nubian village, strolling through its small alleys and interacting with the village inhabitants. While in the village you will be able to learn about the Nubian culture, traditions, food, clothes, and lifestyle. Nubians are still present in Sudan and certain areas in Egypt. They originated from the early inhabitants of the central Nile valley, believed to be one of the earliest cradles of civilization.

Transfer to your hotel for check in and overnight.

#### Day 10: Saturday, March 1: Abu Simbel and Cairo

Breakfast at your hotel and checkout.

Meeting at the hotel's lobby with one of our representatives to transfer you to Aswan

Airport for your optional flight to Abu Simbel for your over-day tour Flight to Abu Simbel

Arrival at Abu Simbel, where you will be met by our representative to start your day's tour by visiting the Temple of Ramses II & Queen Nefertari

The Temples of Abu Simbel are amongst the most interesting Pharaonic Temples. Located close to the southern border with the Sudan, it is 280 km south of Aswan and consists of two, rock-cut Temples, which both dates back to the reign of King Ramses II. Flight back to Aswan

Arrival at Aswan Airport, where you will connect to your flight to Cairo Flight to Cairo.

Arrival at Cairo Domestic Airport, where you will be met by one of our representatives to start your day's tour. We begin with the Citadel commanding a complete view of the city. Completed in 1183, the Citadel was surrounded by sturdy walls and towers to withstand attacks from Christian crusaders. Inside, we shall see the lavishly decorated alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. Then stroll with your guide through Khan El Khalili, a bustling warren of shops where you can bargain for rugs, copper and leather crafts, perfumes, and other goods both exotic and familiar. Enjoy your lunch at Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant. Transfer to your hotel for check in and overnight.

#### Day 11: Sunday. March 2: Cairo

Breakfast at your hotel and checkout. Meeting at the hotel's lobby with one of our representatives to transfer you to Cairo International Airport for your departure flight

### Land Only: \$4995

**REGISTRATION:** Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$????. Additional charges: \$185 hotel taxes and service. Gratuities and drinks during meals not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund. Less than 90 days: No refund. Travel insurance recommended. Total balance due November 15, 2025.

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Reservations: Deposits and Payments: Deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of reservation. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure date.

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