



## **EGYPT REDISCOVERED**

*including Lake Nasser Cruise*

### **Day 1 *DEPART for CAIRO, EGYPT***

Depart from your hometown today to begin your Egyptian adventure.

### **Day 2 *ARRIVE CAIRO***

Today you will arrive at Cairo International Airport. Cairo is the largest city in the Middle East and Africa, and lies at the center of all routes that lead to and from Asia, Africa and Europe. Not only is it Africa's most populous city, it is also the cultural center of the Arab world.

After clearing Immigration and Customs, our local representative will be on hand to welcome you and transfer you to tonight's accommodations.

***FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO at the FIRST RESIDENCE***

### **Day 3 *CAIRO***

This morning's tour brings you to the world-renowned Egyptian Museum. In its present-day location, this formidable museum first opened in 1902. Glimpse at Egypt's mysterious past as you view the many artifacts on display. The second floor is filled with treasures from the tomb of King Tutankhamen, and the Museum is replete with the statuary of ancient Egypt, the Royal Mummies and solid silver sarcophagi of the 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Kings.

Savor a felucca lunch while taking in the scenery along the Nile.

In the afternoon, the sights and sounds of the city will surround you on a drive to the Citadel for a panoramic view of the minarets and domes of Islamic Cairo. See the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali, an all-important landmark. Below lies the 14<sup>th</sup> century Sultan Hassan Mosque, and next door in the Mosque of El Refai are the burial places of Farouk, the last King of Egypt and the Shah of Iran.



Explore the largest and oldest bazaar in Cairo, the Khan El Khalili Bazaar built in 1382 by Sultan Barquq's Master Garkas El Khalili. This is one of Cairo's most important shopping areas today, but more importantly it represents the market tradition which originally established Cairo as a major center of trade. Delight in the brasswork and coppersmith markets or street of the goldsellers. Fill your senses as you visit the spice market, browse thru the multitude of carpets, and perhaps get fitted in local dress, ranging from Bedouin to belly dancing.

Return to the hotel and freshen up in time for tonight's welcome dinner.

***FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO at the FIRST RESIDENCE***

**Day 4** CAIRO

Begin your day in the presence of the sole survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - the Pyramids! According to Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, the Great Pyramid of Cheops took the work of 1,000,000 men each year, twenty years to complete. Envision yourself in that time period while riding on a camel. Venture inside an ancient funeral chamber, visit the solar boat of the Pharaohs and gaze at the Great Sphinx of Giza. This legendary creature comprised of the body of a lion and a Pharaoh's head faces the direction of the sunrise, and is

glorified as "the greatness of ancient Egypt." Standing 65 feet high, it is carved from a single block of limestone.

This afternoon's excursion takes you to Memphis, Egypt's first capital, where Upper and Lower Egypt were united under the First Dynasty. Visit the magnificent recumbent statue of Ramses II and the 80-ton alabaster Sphinx. Nearby is the Necropolis of Sakkara, where the world's first great stone structure, the Step Pyramid of Zoser is located. Also see the Tomb of Ti, containing fascinating wall decorations, which depict the life and customs of the ancient Egyptians.

***FOUR SEASONS HOTEL CAIRO at the FIRST RESIDENCE***

**Day 5** CAIRO – LUXOR

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight to Luxor, considered to be the most important destination for any visit to Egypt. Located approximately 420 miles upstream from Cairo, Luxor is "the city of palaces" and the Imperial Capital of Pharaonic Egypt.

Today's emphasis will be on Luxor's East Bank for a fascinating visit of the Temples of Karnak and Luxor. The Temple of Karnak, dedicated mainly to the God Amun-Ra, is built on one side of the Nile while on the other side stands the Temple of Luxor. Between these Temples – built during the New Kingdom era – were beautiful gardens bordered by the extraordinary Avenue of the Sphinxes. This boulevard once fostered hundreds of human-headed lions, which lined both sides of the paved drive.

***SONESTA ST GEORGE HOTEL***

**Day 6** LUXOR

The focus of today's sightseeing is Luxor's West Bank where Thebes, the capital of Egypt during the New Kingdom, is located. Thebes was also known as the "City of the Dead," and stands at the head of the famous Valley of the Kings, the burial site for generations of Pharaohs where there are over 65 known beautifully painted tombs. These tombs have been designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO, however, only about ten are actually open at this time.



You'll also visit the Valley of Queens, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir El Bahari and the Colossi of Memnon: a pair of looming towers which sit isolated over the entrance road to the Necropolis and the Temple of Medinet.

**Day 6 – cont. LUXOR**

In the afternoon, slow down your pace as you travel via calache, a horse-driven carriage, to visit the Luxor Museum. **SONESTA ST GEORGE HOTEL**

**Day 7 LUXOR – ASWAN – KALABSHA ISLAND**

This morning fly to Aswan and board the cruise ship, your home on Lake Nasser for the next three nights. **M/S PRINCE ABBAS**

In the afternoon take in Kalabsha, another Nubian temple which was rescued from the threat of rising waters on Lake Nasser. Sponsored by UNESCO in the 1960s, the temple was transported to its present location on what is now known as New Kalabsha Island, just south of the Aswan High Dam. Originally it was located 56 kilometers south of Aswan.

Continue on your journey, relaxed, as you sail to Wadi El Sebou.

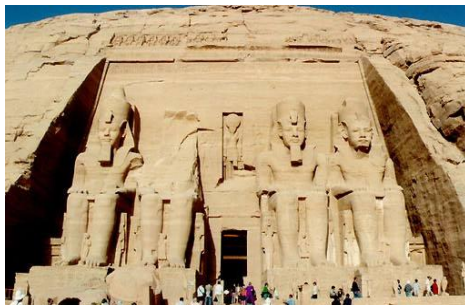
**Day 8 WADI EL SEBOU – AMADA**

In ancient Nubia on the west bank of the Nile, two temples were built during the New Kingdom's 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasties. Originally known as the House of Amun, the Temple of Wadi el Sebu was moved to an elevated site and will be visited today. Unfortunately, the earlier temple of Amenhotep III was not salvaged and is buried underneath the waters of Lake Nasser.

Continue sailing to Amada to visit the Amada Temple, significant as being the oldest of the Lake Nasser temples. Dedicated to the New Kingdom gods, Amun-Re and Re-Horakhty, it contains important historical inscriptions. **M/S PRINCE ABBAS**

**Day 9 AMADA – KASR IBRIM – ABU SIMBEL**

Sail this morning to Kasr Ibrim. Full of monuments and tombs dating back to the Nubian rulers during the New Kingdom, including Thutmose III, this area yielded many artifacts now displayed in museums.



Continue cruising to Abu Simbel where one of the most prodigious feats of engineering in the world will be viewed. The entire complex of temples which represented the Great Temple of Ramses II was dismantled prior to the completion of the new Aswan Dam and reassembled at its present location – 90 feet above the old site which is now flooded. Built by Ramses II, this temple complex is 3,300 years old and features two temples near the border of Egypt and Sudan.

The Great Temple is dedicated to Ramses II, seated along with three other gods; the Small Temple is dedicated to Nefertari, the favorite wife of Ramses II. **M/S PRINCE ABBAS**

**Day 10 ABU SIMBEL – ASWAN – CAIRO**

Disembark your cruise ship early this morning and proceed to Abu Simbel Temple for sunrise. From here, take a short flight to Aswan. Here you will witness the new High Dam, built to control the flooding of the Nile that for millennia has plagued Egyptian life. Visit the granite quarries where an immense unfinished 1170-ton obelisk illustrates the magnitude of ancient Egyptian skill.

Continue to the Temple of Philae, a sacred temple complex dedicated to the Goddess Isis. During the 1960's and before the completion of the new Aswan Dam, this temple was partially inundated with water six months of the year. With the assistance of UNESCO over a period of eight years, the Temple of Philae, originally constructed on an island of the same name, was relocated stone by stone to Agilika Island – 65 feet away.

Return by flight to Cairo and your luxurious accommodations for the next two nights.

**FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA**

In the evening attend the Sound & Light Show at the Pyramids where preferred seating has been arranged for you.

**Day 11 CAIRO**

Today discover Coptic Cairo, a part of old Cairo. Here you find the remnants of Babylon Fortress, many churches, and even a synagogue, Egypt's oldest, dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Three of the world's four major religions are all present in this one area. It is believed that the Holy Family visited here and stayed at the site of the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus. You will visit the Jewish Synagogue and the Hanging Church, also known as El Muallaqa.

**Note: Appropriate dress covering the body, including shoulders and legs, is required for entering both Coptic and Islamic monuments.**



In the evening, return to the hotel and celebrate the journey at a farewell dinner party.

**FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA****Day 12 FLIGHT HOME**

Following breakfast this morning, check-out of the hotel and transfer to Cairo International Airport in time for your departure flight.

The journey draws to a close as you board your flight – greatly enriched and enlightened by the sights and experiences you have had in Egypt.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**



### ***FOUR SEASONS FIRST RESIDENCE, Cairo Premier Pyramid view rooms***

A gracious sanctuary of Four Seasons hospitality and service, with impressive views of the Nile and of the Great Pyramids over the old-growth canopy of Cairo's ancient Zoological and Botanical Gardens. The Hotel is at the center of the First Residence apartments and shops on the west bank of the Nile.

<http://www.fourseasons.com/cairofr/>



### ***SONESTA ST. GEORGE, Luxor***

#### ***Executive Rooms***

Five-star grandeur on the banks of the Nile awaits at the Sonesta St. George Hotel Luxor. Located only minutes from world-renowned historic sites including the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, Luxor Temple, Luxor Museum, and the Karnak Temple with Sound and Light Show, the hotel is an ideal setting from which to explore the area.

[www.sonesta.com/Luxor/](http://www.sonesta.com/Luxor/)



### ***M/S PRINCE ABBAS, 3-nights Lake Nasser Cruise Jr. Suites***

The Mövenpick MS Prince Abbas offers a great chance to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Lake Nasser and see the magnificent temples and tombs of the ancient world.

[www.moevenpickhotels.com/en/pub/your\\_hotels/worldmap/prince\\_abbas/overview.cfm](http://www.moevenpickhotels.com/en/pub/your_hotels/worldmap/prince_abbas/overview.cfm)



### ***FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA, Cairo Nile view rooms***

This beacon of sophisticated hospitality rises on the legendary Corniche along the bank of the river. With commanding views of both the Nile and the Citadel, Four Seasons unites its timeless, caring, personalized attention with the dynamism of fast-forward Cairo. *"This four-year-old hotel, only a 15-minute walk from the Egyptian Museum 'emanates a gracious calm throughout.' "* Condé Nast Traveler - Gold List, January 2009

<http://www.fourseasons.com/caironp/>