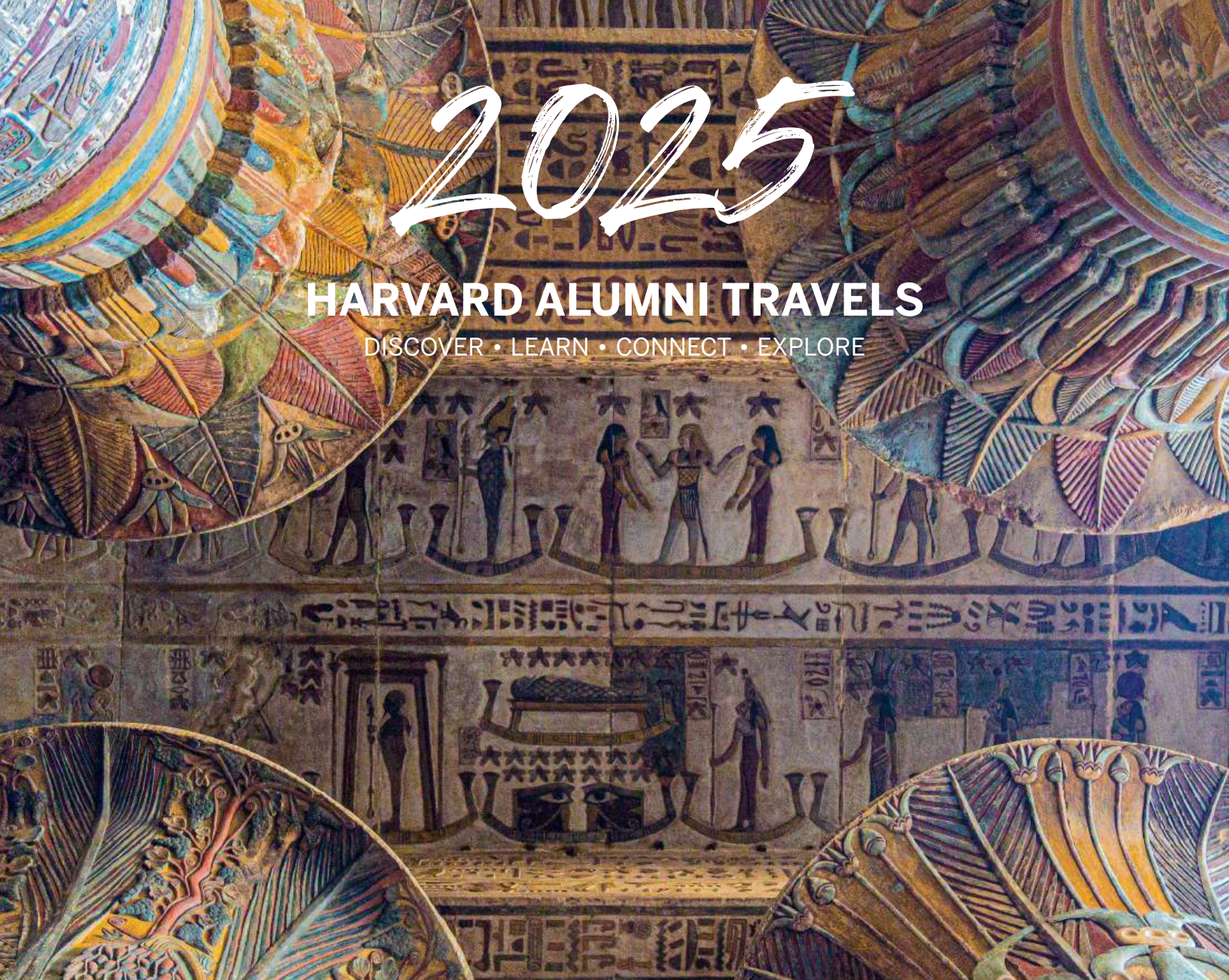


2025

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE



EGYPT & THE NILE

A Family Adventure Aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*

December 27, 2025 – January 5, 2026

with Khalil Abdur-Rashid

Muslim Chaplain, Instructor on Muslim Studies,
and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



Karnak Temple, Luxor (top) and Temple Philae column, Aswan (below)

New Year's on the Nile

Celebrate New Year's 2026 against the majestic backdrop of Egypt's Great Pyramids, Greco-Roman temples, and the storied Nile River. Antiquity's most legendary civilization will inspire you on this eight-night, behind-the-scenes journey.

Traveling by motor coach and privately chartered plane, enjoy the most convenient access to Egypt's remote temples and tombs. Sail the Nile in the wake of pharaohs on a four-night cruise aboard **Sanctuary Nile Adventurer**, a deluxe riverboat with an air of classic refinement.

Gain exclusive entry to wonders not typically accessible to visitors. Witness Cairo's new **Grand Egyptian Museum**, where experts will unveil the world's largest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts and the complete collection of **Tutankhamun's** treasures. You will also discover the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, the new permanent home of Egypt's **Royal Mummies**, with an exclusive look at the museum's restoration lab.

In Sakkara, enjoy special inside looks at the recently discovered tomb of **Wahtye** and the **Step Pyramid of King Djoser**, Egypt's oldest pyramid. Experience the sublime **Great Pyramids** with an expert and go beyond the crowd barriers to see the **Great Sphinx** up close. Fly to **Abu Simbel** to stand in awe before the enormous rock-cut temples of Ramesses II and Nefertari.

Continue by air to Aswan for your Nile cruise aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* and a festive **onboard New Year's celebration**. Discover Egypt at its zenith in UNESCO-listed **Thebes** and accompany expert guides to see magnificent temples at **Karnak** and **Luxor** and the necropolises in the **Valleys of the Kings and Queens**. Make the start of 2026 truly memorable on this exclusive journey through Egypt's most iconic sights.

Activity Level 3: 

A LITTLE MORE TO IT:

This moderately active program includes multiple hotel changes, plus internal flights and/or long drives. Some days are heavily scheduled so that you can see as many of Egypt's ancient wonders as possible. Travelers should be in good health and fit enough to navigate stairs and walk along uneven terrain. The temperatures during your stay in Egypt should range from the mid-40s to low 70s °F. Egypt is a conservative country, especially in terms of dress, focusing on modest Western-style clothing.

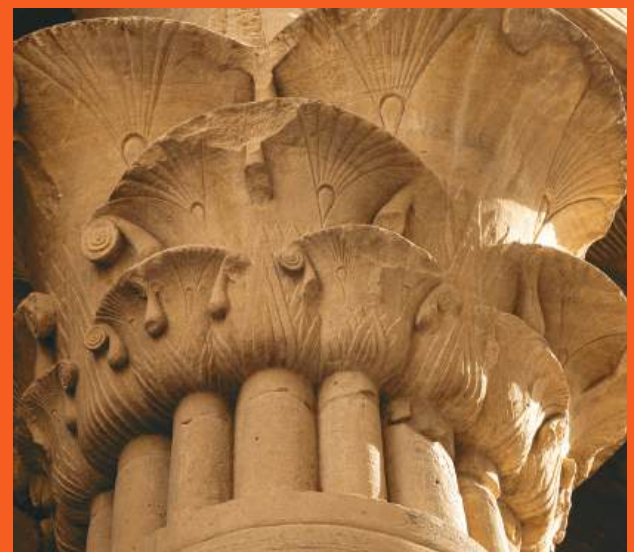
Study Leader



Imam Dr. Khalil Abdur-Rashid is Harvard University's first full-time Muslim Chaplain. At Harvard Divinity School and the Kennedy School of Government, he teaches courses that explore the intersections of Islamic thought, American culture, and public policy. As the head of Harvard's Office

of the Chaplain, he guides his staff in supporting students' religious development while serving on the Board of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Social Work from Georgia State University and worked for the state of Georgia as a social worker for several years. At Columbia University, he earned both a Master of Arts and a Master of Philosophy in Islamic Law and Middle East Studies. He completed his doctorate in Liberal Studies in American Islam at Southern Methodist University.



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Map of the region (left); Statue of Ramesses II, Grand Egyptian Museum, Cairo (right) and Great Sphinx of Giza (below)

Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Cairo.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Cairo, Egypt

Arrive in Cairo this afternoon and transfer to the **Marriott Mena House**, your five-star hotel near the Great Pyramids. This evening, join your study leader at a welcome reception and an introduction to the exciting days ahead.

R

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

Cairo / Giza

Attend a morning lecture, then visit the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, where an expert will guide you through its incredible collection of local treasures spanning millennia, including the famous Royal Mummies.

For younger participants, a special tour of the museum will focus on items related to animals, games, and sports in the museum's collection. By exclusive arrangement, visit **the museum's restoration lab** to observe how ancient remains are preserved.

After lunch, enjoy a guided look at the new, eagerly awaited **Grand Egyptian Museum**—the world's largest museum devoted to a single civilization, housing over 100,000 artifacts that span 7,000 years of Egyptian history.

Marvel at GEM's **complete collection of Tutankhamun's treasures**, including his famous golden mask and intricate chariots, shown together for the first time in one place. Gather for dinner this evening. B,L,D

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Cairo / Sakkara / Giza

Head to **Sakkara** for an exclusive look at the opulent, recently discovered **tomb of Wahtye**, a high-ranking priest from the Fifth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom around 2450 B.C. This complex features a beautifully decorated above-ground chapel with vivid reliefs, inscriptions, and statues

Then take an inside look at Egypt's oldest pyramid, the awe-inspiring **Step Pyramid of King Djoser**, built in the 27th century B.C. as the world's first monumental structure made entirely of stone. Rising to nearly 200 feet with six stacked *mastabas*, this groundbreaking design by the pioneering architect Imhotep revolutionized Egyptian architecture and paved the way for the pyramids of Giza.

After lunch, witness the legendary **Great Pyramids of Giza**, the oldest of the ancient Seven Wonders, showcasing precision and ambition that remained unmatched for nearly four millennia. With an expert, stand before the Great Pyramid, whose construction around 2580–2560 B.C. required more than two million stone blocks.

Nearby, gain rare up-close private access to the **Great Sphinx**, one of the world's largest monolithic statues, crafted around the 26th century B.C. and stretching 240 feet in length. Return to the hotel for an evening and dinner at leisure. B,L



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Felucca on the Nile (left) and Nefertari's tomb (right)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Cairo / Abu Simbel / Aswan / Embark Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Take a privately chartered morning flight to **Abu Simbel** for a guided look at the awe-inspiring temples of **Ramesses II** and his beloved wife, **Queen Nefertari**. These massive temples were built in the 13th century B.C. to deter enemies from the south. In an amazing feat of engineering, the temples were moved to their current location in the 1960s to prevent them from being submerged after the construction of the High Dam.

From there, fly by private plane to **Aswan** and board **Sanctuary Nile Adventurer**. Prepare to count down to 2026 during a special New Year's Eve dinner celebration. B,L,D

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Aswan

While in Aswan, take local boats to an island for a visit to the exquisite **Temple of Philae**, which was relocated due to the rising flood waters of the Nile. Then you may visit the **Nubian Museum**, which features landscaped gardens, artificial lakes, and more than 3,000 objects going as far back as 3500 B.C.

Alternatively, visit the **unfinished obelisk** in Aswan's ancient stone quarries. This massive granite monument was abandoned during construction more than 3,500 years ago and provides valuable insights into ancient Egyptian stone-working techniques.

Delve deeper into the history of Egypt's tombs and temples during an afternoon lecture as the ship sails to Edfu. Younger participants attend a hieroglyphics lesson followed by a rehearsal for a retelling of an ancient Egyptian myth. B,L,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Edfu / Kom Ombo

Step ashore this morning in Edfu to visit the well-preserved **Temple of Horus**. Admire its intact walls covered in hieroglyphs and scenes depicting Horus, the revered falcon god. Return to *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* for lunch with Nile River views and learn to make regional specialties during an afternoon cooking class.

In the late afternoon, arrive at the one-of-a-kind double **Temple of Kom Ombo**. Gaze upon its perfectly symmetrical Greco-Roman design and beautifully carved reliefs fusing Egyptian, Greek, and Roman styles. This evening, savor a buffet of Egyptian specialties and dress in traditional clothing for a **festive night of music and dancing**. B,L,D

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

Luxor

Arrive in **Luxor**, known as the "World's Largest Outdoor Museum." Originally known as Thebes, Luxor has been continuously inhabited since around 3200 B.C. and served as Egypt's capital during the New Kingdom.

Stop to see the famed twin **Colossi of Memnon**, 70-foot-tall statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III dating back to 1350 B.C. Head to the West Bank to visit the tomb of **Tutankhamun** in the Valley of the Kings and

the temple of **Queen Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahari.

An extraordinary highlight awaits: Take an exclusive guided look at **Nefertari's magnificent tomb** in the Valley of the Queens. Access is limited to protect its vividly colorful wall paintings depicting Queen Nefertari's journey into the afterlife.

This evening, discover the sprawling, exceptionally well-preserved **Luxor Temple**, built around 1400 B.C. and featuring enormous pylons, tall obelisks, intricate hieroglyphic carvings, and grand colonnades. Then gather for a festive farewell dinner aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*. B,L,D

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

Luxor / Disembark / Cairo

This morning, discover the **Luxor Museum's** outstanding collection of antiquities, including treasures from the Thebes necropolis. Then walk along the Avenue of Sphinxes to the great **Karnak Temple**, the largest religious building ever constructed, covering over 200 acres. See the massive columns of the temple's **Hypostyle Hall**.

After lunch, board a privately chartered flight to Cairo and transfer to the **Hilton Cairo Heliopolis** for an overnight stay. This evening, gather for dinner at the hotel. B,L,D

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

Cairo / Return

Depart the hotel early this morning and transfer to the airport for the flight home. B

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Accommodations

Marriott Mena House, Cairo

A frequent stop for visiting celebrities and dignitaries, this five-star hotel comprises 331 luxury rooms and suites, many boasting views of the Great Pyramids, the lavish gardens, or the swimming pool. Enjoy the hotel's four restaurants and lounges, heated swimming pool, 24-hour gym, and health club.

Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

With a sleek contemporary design and only 30 cabins, *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* offers a mix of intimacy and luxury. This elegant riverboat features a sun deck with swimming pool and private cabanas, and a shaded deck with an outdoor bar. All cabins offer Nile River views.

Hilton Cairo Heliopolis

This five-star hotel features three tennis courts, a hot tub, and three swimming pools surrounded by a landscaped garden. All rooms feature decorative touches highlighting Egypt's illustrious heritage. Double rooms with an extra bed (*triple occupancy*) are available.



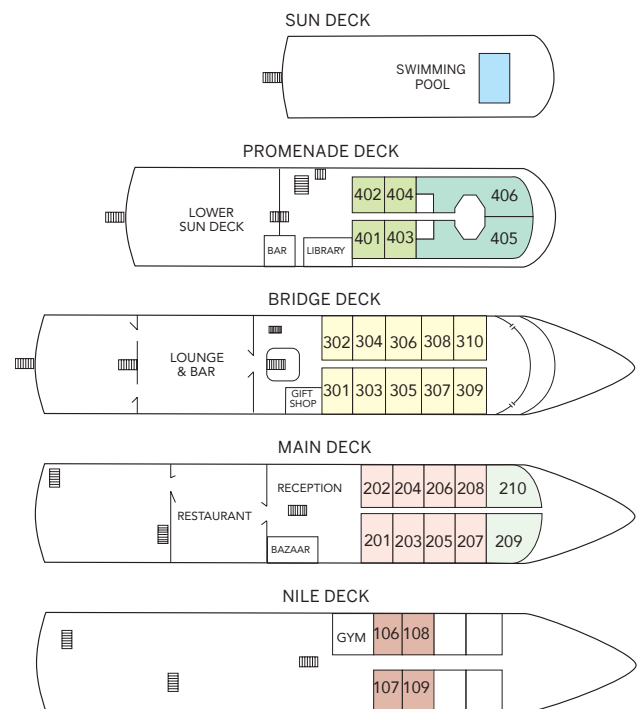
Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE	SINGLE
106-109 Nile Deck / Standard Cabin	\$12,499	\$16,499
201-208 Main Deck / Standard Cabin	\$12,999	\$16,999
301-310 Bridge Deck / Standard Cabin	\$13,999	Inquire
401-404 Promenade Deck / Standard Cabin	\$14,999	Inquire
209 & 210 Main Deck / Junior Suite	\$17,499	Inquire
405 & 406 Promenade Deck / Presidential Suite with private balcony	\$18,499	Inquire

A \$2,000 discount applies for children ages 15 and under (at time of travel) for triple occupancy in select cabins: Staterooms on Nile Deck, Deluxe Cabins on Main Deck, and Presidential Suites on Promenade Deck.

A \$1000 discount applies for children ages 15 and under (at time of travel) for a child sharing a double.



Rates Include

- Four nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary; four nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wine/beers at dinners
- Internal flights by privately chartered aircraft (Cairo-Abu Simbel/ Abu Simbel-Aswan/Luxor-Cairo)
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested (and included) flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

Not Included: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Cover: Kom Ombo. Trip Registration page: Ramesses II, Abu Simbel (top); and Sun Deck on Sanctuary Nile Adventurer (bottom)

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