

2023

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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A FAMILY ADVENTURE

Egypt & the Nile Aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*

December 27, 2023 – January 5, 2024

with John “Jay” Ellison, M.T.S. ‘89, M.A. ‘00, Ph.D. ‘02,
Former Associate Dean of Harvard College



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



Light show at the Great Pyramids (top) and Relief, Temple of Ramesses II (below)

A Family Adventure: Egypt & the Nile

On an eight-night journey with timeless wonders for all ages, celebrate the New Year with special access to the ancient treasures of Egypt. Travel by privately chartered plane, motor coach, and deluxe riverboat. Begin in Cairo, where you will first discover the treasures of the Egyptian Museum, the oldest archaeological museum in the Middle East, and enjoy a spectacular evening sound-and-light show at the Great Pyramids. In the morning, view the Sphinx up close, beyond the crowd barriers. In Sakkara, experience special inside looks at the recently discovered tomb of Wahtye as well as the Step Pyramid of King Djoser, Egypt's oldest pyramid.

Fly to Abu Simbel to stand in awe before the enormous rock-cut temples of Ramesses II and his favorite wife, Nefertari. Continue by air to Aswan to board the intimate *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*. On a four-night Nile cruise to Luxor, step off to roam impressive tombs and temples. Enjoy a range of onboard activities tailored for families, such as an exciting New Year's reception; a cooking class; a festive celebration with music, traditional costumes, and dancing; and educational programs and games for younger travelers. In Luxor, walk among the larger-than-life statues and tombs of Tutankhamun and other pharaohs, and learn to interpret the hieroglyphics and colorful images still visible on the walls of the temples. Return by air to Cairo to conclude this enriching program in one of the world's most unforgettable destinations.

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



John "Jay" Ellison is the Dean of Students in the College at the University of Chicago. Ellison earned his B.A. summa cum laude from Southeastern College in Lakeland, Florida. After graduating in 1989, Ellison continued his study of ancient languages at Harvard Divinity School, earning a Master of Theological Studies in 1991. In that same year, Ellison entered the Ph.D. program

in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard. Ellison conducted doctoral dissertation research in the Arab Republic of Syria in 1997-1998 on a Fulbright fellowship. He then earned both his M.A. (2000) and Ph.D. (2002) in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. In 2002, Ellison became the Allston Burr Senior Tutor (now Allston Burr Dean) for Lowell House and a Lecturer in NELC at Harvard. Ellison moved into the position of Secretary of the Administrative Board of Harvard College in 2005 and was promoted to Associate Dean in 2008.



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Map of the region (left); Camel at the Great Pyramids (right) and The Great Sphinx (below left) and the Egyptian Museum (below right)

Schedule by Day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Cairo.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

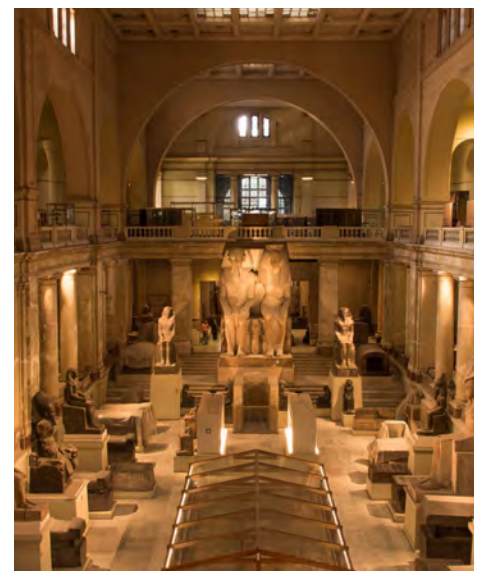
Cairo, Egypt

Arrive in Cairo this afternoon and transfer to the Marriott Mena House, your five-star hotel near the Great Pyramids. Gather this evening for a welcome reception with introductory remarks by your study leader. R

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Cairo / Giza

Attend a morning lecture, then visit the Egyptian Museum, whose collections span more than 5,000 years of Egyptian culture, arts, beliefs, traditions, and daily life. For younger participants, a special tour will focus on items related to animals, games, and sports in the museum's collection. This evening, enjoy light refreshments (snack) by the pool before attending a sound-and-light show to see the Great Pyramids illuminated. Dinner is at leisure. B,L,S



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Cairo / Giza / Sakkara

This morning, return to the legendary Great Pyramids, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, for an in-depth tour. Enjoy up-close access to the Great Sphinx beyond the crowd barriers. This afternoon, view the site of the remarkable Step Pyramid of King Djoser—Egypt's oldest pyramid, built in the 27th century B.C.—at nearby Sakkara. We plan to have special access to the lavish, recently discovered tomb of Wahtye. B,L,D

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View from a felucca, Aswan (left); Luxor (right) and henna hand painting (below right)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
**Cairo / Abu Simbel / Aswan
 / Embark Sanctuary Nile
 Adventurer**

Board a privately chartered flight to Abu Simbel this morning. Upon arrival, transfer to see the monumental temples of Ramesses II and his favorite wife, Queen Nefertari, constructed in the 13th century B.C. to intimidate enemies from the south. Incredibly, the temples were relocated to this location in the 1960s to save them from submersion after the building of the High Dam. Continue by private plane to Aswan and embark *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*. Gather for a festive New Year's Eve dinner this evening. B,L,D

MONDAY, JANUARY 1
Aswan

While in Aswan and take local boats to visit the exquisite Philae Temple, relocated due to the rising flood waters of the Nile. Afterwards, choose between a sail on a Nile *felucca* (traditional sailboat) or a visit to the unfinished obelisk at the ancient stone quarries. Afterwards, attend a hieroglyphics lesson followed by a Nubian henna hand-painting session. Younger participants will prepare and rehearse for a retelling of an ancient Egyptian myth. limestone walls. B,L,D

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2
Edfu / Kom Ombo

Step ashore this morning in Edfu to visit the well-preserved Temple of Horus, whose reliefs still retain some of their original colors. Lunch is on board while you cruise along the Nile. Guests of all ages can learn how to bake Egyptian-style bread during a cooking class. In the late afternoon, visit Kom Ombo's picturesque Ptolemaic temple, dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and decorated with a series of beautiful reliefs. Tonight, savor a buffet of Egyptian specialties and dress up in traditional clothing for a festive night of music and dancing. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
Luxor

Arrive in Luxor, known as the "World's Largest Outdoor Museum." Stop to see the famed Colossi of Memnon, which consists of two awe-inspiring statues of King Amenhotep III seated on a throne, both dating 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. This afternoon, discover the outstanding collection of antiquities at the Luxor Museum. Continue to the Luxor Temple, remarkable for its size and exceptional state of preservation. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner. B,L,D



THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
Luxor / Disembark / Cairo

Early this morning, return to the West Bank to see 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. Then walk along the Avenue of Sphinxes, which connects the elegant Luxor Temple to the great Karnak Temple, and see the massive columns of the Hypostyle Hall. After lunch, board a privately chartered flight to Cairo and continue to your hotel. B,L,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
Cairo / Return

Depart the hotel early this morning 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, the heated swimming pool, a 24-hour gym, and a health club. Double rooms with an extra bed (*triple occupancy*) are available only for those sharing with children 12 years old and under.

Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

With a sleek contemporary design and only 32 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.

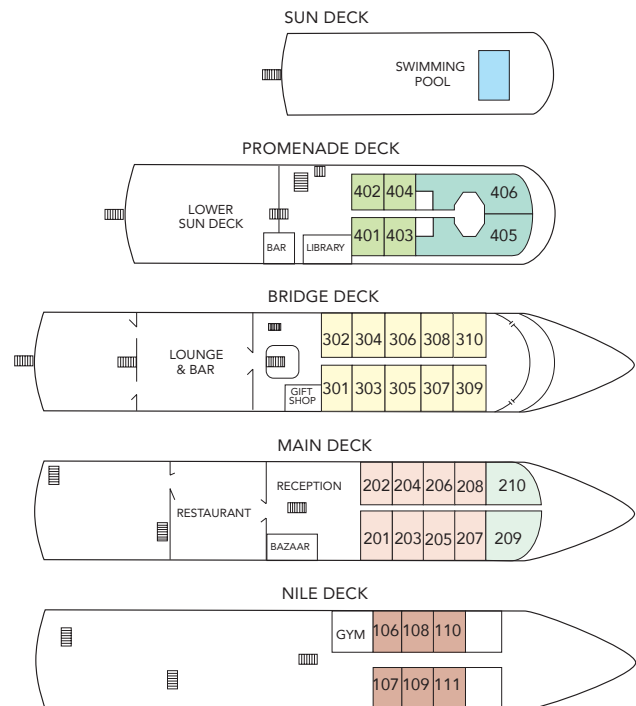


Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE	SINGLE
106-111	\$11,999	\$15,999
Nile Deck / Standard Cabin		
201-208	\$12,499	\$16,499
Main Deck / Standard Cabin		
301-310	\$13,499	Inquire
Bridge Deck / Standard Cabin		
401-404	\$14,499	Inquire
Promenade Deck / Standard Cabin		
209 & 210	\$16,999	Inquire
Main Deck / Deluxe Cabin		
405 & 406	\$17,999	Inquire
Promenade Deck / Presidential Suite		

* A \$1,000 discount applies for children ages 15 and under (at time of travel) in for double occupancy; a \$2,000 discount applies for children ages 15 and under (at time of travel) in triple occupancy in select cabins: Staterooms on Nile Deck, Deluxe Cabins on Main Deck, and Presidential Suites on Promenade Deck.



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, S=Snack, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, water, and coffee/tea with meals; thoughtfully selected wine/beers at dinners
- Internal flights by privately chartered aircraft (Cairo-Abu Simbel / Abu Simbel-Aswan / Luxor-Cairo)
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested (and included) flights
- Enrichment program for young explores and lectures and talks for adults
- 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 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: Abu Simbel. Trip Registration page: Hippostyle Hall, Luxor, photo by Brynn Hyland (top); and Sun Deck on the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer (bottom)

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