



HARVARD

Alumni Association

EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE

JANUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Accompanied by an expert Egyptian guide, this singular small group journey through antiquity travels from vibrant Cairo and the Great Pyramids to Abu Simbel and the Upper Nile for a fascinating cruise on Lake Nasser. Then: a classic voyage along the Lower Nile from Aswan to Luxor before returning to Cairo.

GROUP SIZE: 12 to 24 guests

PRICING: Per person double occupancy

- **\$6,097** - Air inclusive from Boston, New York (including airline taxes and fees)
- **\$5,095** - Land only
- **\$1,195** - Single supplement

Optional Jordan: Petra & Amman Post Extension
February 4 – 8, 2020:

- **\$1,695** – Per person, double occupancy
- **\$395** – Single supplement

STUDY LEADER: Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor, Emeritus University Librarian, Emeritus. Robert was educated at Harvard University (A.B., 1960) and Oxford University (B.Phil., 1962; D. Phil., 1964), where he was a Rhodes Scholar. After a brief stint as a reporter for The New York Times, he became a junior fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard. He taught at Princeton from 1968 until 2007, when he became Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library at Harvard. He has been a visiting professor or fellow at many universities and institutes for advanced study, and his outside activities include service as a trustee of the New York Public Library and the Oxford University Press (USA) and terms as president of the American Historical Association and the International Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

DEPART U.S. FOR CAIRO, EGYPT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

ARRIVE CAIRO

Today arrive in the Egyptian capital and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight: *Kempinski Nile Hotel Garden City Cairo*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

CAIRO

After a morning briefing, begin today's tour at the open-air museum at Memphis, Egypt's first capital (3100 BCE). Next, stop at nearby Sakkara, a necropolis used for more than 3,000 years to bury Old Kingdom royalty – and still largely unexcavated today. Much of Sakkara's splendor remains, and can be seen in the Step Pyramid, which was once the largest stone structure ever built.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the Giza Plateau and its three famed pyramids, including the Great Pyramid (or Pyramid of Cheops), which ranks among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Spend time visiting the pyramids, seeing them up close and marveling at their 4,600-year longevity.

After a long day of outdoor exploration, return to the hotel late afternoon. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

Overnight: *Kempinski Nile Hotel Garden City Cairo (B, L, D)*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

CAIRO / ASWAN / EMBARK LAKE
NASSER CRUISE

Early this morning, fly to Aswan where you board a motor coach for the 3½-hour ride to Abu Simbel. Enjoy lunch together on board the *Steigenberger Omar el Khayam*.

Explore Abu Simbel, a massive complex of temples guarded by four colossal statues of Ramses II, each more than 60 feet high. Inside, the walls are covered with incredibly well-preserved murals depicting scenes of Queen Nefertari and her court, and of King Ramses in battle. After your visit, spend an afternoon at leisure aboard the ship.

Tonight, return to Abu Simbel and experience a sound-and-light show amid the massive statuary. Then, return to the *Omar el Khayam* in time for dinner on board.

Overnight: *Steigenberger Omar el Khayam (B, L, D)*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

LAKE NASSER CRUISING

Spend today in the heart of ancient Nubia, the country that bordered southern Egypt during antiquity and was Egypt's gateway to Africa.

During breakfast, sail to the settlement of Kasr Ibrim, the last vestige of Nubian culture still in its original location. After a brief visit learning about this ancient settlement from onboard the ship (it's prohibited to go ashore here), continue on to Amada for a tour of the 18th-dynasty Temple of Amada.

During lunch, cruise to Wadi el-Seboua to explore the reconstructed Dakka temple, dedicated to Thoth, the god of wisdom and justice.

Tonight enjoy dinner aboard our ship.

Overnight: *Steigenberger Omar el Khayam (B, L, D)*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 LAKE NASSER CRUISING

Spend this morning in Wadi el-Seboua touring the Valley of the Lions with its striking avenue of sphinxes. This afternoon, cruise to Aswan, the city where Agatha Christie wrote the famous *Death on the Nile*.

Enjoy lunch and dinner together on board.

Late this evening, arrive in Aswan and spend the evening on board.

Overnight: *Steigenberger Omar el Khayam (B, L, D)*

MONDAY, JANUARY 27 DISEMBARK / ABU SIMBEL / ASWAN / EMBARK NILE CRUISE SHIP

Disembark early this morning in the desert lands of Aswan and set out to visit New Kalabsha, the site of Kalabsha Temple. The largest freestanding Nubian temple, it was moved and reconstructed here from Old Kalabsha when Lake Nasser's rising waters threatened the site.

Return to the ship for breakfast before bidding farewell to the crew as you embark on a tour of the Aswan High Dam. Considered a miracle of engineering when completed in 1965, the dam required some 18 years of work.

Next, visit the Temples of Philae on the island of Agilkia. Visit the Hall of Nectanebo, the oldest part of the complex, along with the Outer Temple Court, the Temple of Isis, and the beautiful Osiris Chambers, decorated with *bas reliefs* of Isis, her sons, and other deities.

Later, board the second ship of the tour, your floating hotel for the next four nights on the Nile. After lunch on board, embark small *feluccas*, replicas of ancient Nile sailboats, for a relaxing afternoon sail. Admire the river scenery as you make your way slowly down the Nile.

Tonight, attend the Captain's welcome cocktail party wearing traditional Egyptian *galabeya*.

Overnight: *M/S Amwaj (B, L, D)*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 NILE CRUISING

This morning, sail to the ancient trading town of Kom Ombo, which sat on the great caravan route from Nubia. Here, see outstanding Nile views from an unusual double temple dedicated both to the crocodile god Sobek and to the falcon god Haroeris (Horus the Elder).

After returning to the ship, sail on to Edfu to explore the Temple of Horus, considered Egypt's best-preserved ancient temple. View the 12 enormous columns that stand in front of the Great Halls, and stop to admire the wall inscriptions in the Hall of Consecrations.

Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon's cruise to Luxor. Along the way, enjoy afternoon tea

A traditional Middle Eastern belly dancing performance accompanies dinner on board tonight. Late this evening the ship docks in Luxor.

Overnight: *M/S Amwaj (B, L, D)*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 NILE CRUISING

This morning embark on an exploration of Luxor, the ancient city that surpasses even Cairo in the number and importance of its ancient sites, which date from 2755 BCE. Begin on the West Bank at the haunting Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens, which holds the tombs of more than 50 kings, queens, and nobles.

Next, visit the dramatic Temple of Hatshepsut, dedicated to one of the few female pharaohs, and the enormous Colossi of Memnon, two 64-foot-high statues that once guarded the gates of a mortuary temple.

Tonight enjoy dinner aboard our ship.

Overnight: *M/S Amwaj (B, L, D)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

LUXOR

Today, disembark the ship and explore the East Bank, beginning at Karnak. Tour Luxor Temple, where the statue of Amun-Ra, the Sun God and God of Creation, would travel in a procession from Karnak Temple for festivals held during annual flood season. Over the years, more rulers built onto the temple, including Tutankhamun, Ramses II, and even Alexander the Great.

Visit the Great Court of Ramses II, the Temple of the Theban Triad, and the obelisk, whose twin stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris. Next, move on to the even more splendid Karnak Temple, which was under construction for some 1,500 years. It comprises the three main temples of Amun, Mut, and Montu, as well as smaller enclosed temples and several outer temples located a short distance north of Luxor.

Later, check into your hotel, where you dine tonight.

Overnight: *Steigenberger Nile Palace (B, L, D)*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

LUXOR

You may wish to rise early this morning and view the West Bank of “the world’s greatest open air museum,” as Luxor has been called, from above in an optional hot air balloon ride. *(At the time of printing, the cost of the 45-minute balloon ride is approximately \$150US per person).*

Later this morning visit Luxor Museum, which houses relics discovered at the site. Among the museum’s notable artifacts are the mummies of pharaohs Ahmose I (reigned ca. 1539–1514 BCE) and Ramses I (reigned 1292–1290 BCE); items from the pharaoh Tutankhamun’s renowned tomb; and statuary from the New Kingdom era (ca. 16th–11th century BCE).

Enjoy lunch together and spend the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Steigenberger Nile Palace (B, L)*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

LUXOR / CAIRO

This morning, transfer to the airport for a flight to Cairo. After checking in at your hotel, navigate the exotic Khan el-Khalili bazaar, which is Cairo’s most popular and believed to be the largest in the Middle East, if not the world. Here you can visit artisans who have passed down their skill from generation to generation, perfecting all types of crafts including wood, perfume, leather goods, and glassware.

Lunch and dinner are on our own today.

Overnight: *Kempinski Nile Hotel Garden City Cairo (B)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

CAIRO

Begin the day with a visit to the world-renowned Egyptian Museum, which holds more than 120,000 relics and antiquities from almost every period in Egyptian history.

Continue on to the Citadel of Saladin, a spectacular medieval fortress set high on a hill with extraordinary views of the city below. Built in 1176 to guard against the Crusaders, the Citadel was the home of Egyptian rulers for nearly 700 years, including famed leader Mohammed Ali, whose gilt tomb is inside.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and spend the afternoon at leisure. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Overnight: *Kempinski Nile Hotel Garden City Cairo (B, L)*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

CAIRO

This morning you encounter Old Cairo, the city’s oldest section and a maze of medieval streets, Islamic mosques, minarets, and domes. Begin at 5th-century St. Sergius, the oldest church in the area before visiting el-Muallaqa, the “hanging church” built over the bastions of a Roman gate. Another stop today is the restored Ben Ezra Synagogue, Egypt’s oldest, which resembles the 4th-century Coptic

Church it once was. Sadly, Egypt's Jewish community is fast disappearing and there are seldom enough worshippers here to hold a service.

Return to the hotel mid-day and the afternoon is at leisure for further independent exploration or relaxing and enjoying the hotel's amenities. Lunch is on your own today.

Tonight, celebrate your adventure along the Nile at a farewell dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Kempinski Nile Hotel Garden City Cairo (B, D)*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

DEPART FOR U.S.

Very early this morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (B)