

MYSTICAL EGYPT

(Option to extend to Dubai)

TOUR DATE

19

Mar, 2019

TOUR DAYS: 09 DAYS

TOUR COST:

Per person on twin sharing basis:

USD **2899** (members)

USD **2999** (non-members)

Single Supplement:

USD **545**

DUBAI EXTENSION:

Per person based on twin share: **USD 800**

Single Supplement: **USD 295**

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on a twin sharing basis at listed hotels or similar
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- Full board during your four - night cruise
- Tours from the cruise ship
- Meet & Greet at Cairo International airport by our Representative
- Arrival & Departure transfers
- Transportation in a private AC chauffeur driven vehicle
- Sightseeing & Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Service of English-speaking local guide during sightseeing tours
- International airfare from Seattle
- All Domestic airfares
- All Air taxes and fuel surcharges
- All local applicable taxes



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MYSTICAL EGYPT

(Option to extend to Dubai)

TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 01: TUE SEATTLE - CAIRO

Make your own way to the International Airport to check in for your flight to Cairo, Egypt. Enjoy in-flight meals and services.

DAY 02: WED CAIRO ARRIVAL

Welcome to Cairo! Cairo, called Al-Qahirah in Arabic, with a population of 17 million, is not only Africa's largest city but the political and cultural center of the Arab World. Cairo's old quarters retain their ancient charm with many streets still known by descriptions given to them by medieval chroniclers. Modern Cairo's architecture is distinguished by Ottoman and later European influences, especially in commercial architecture, particularly as the city's population boomed during the 19th century. On arrival at Cairo International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check in. Overnight in Cairo

DAY 03: THU CAIRO - LUXOR (B/L/D)

This morning we are transferred back to Cairo International Airport for a flight to Luxor. Upon arrival in Luxor, we will be escorted to our cruise ship for our embarkation. This will be our home for the next four nights. Lunch on board and in the afternoon we will visit Luxor and Karnak Temples. **Luxor Temple** was the center of the most important festival, the festival of Opet. Built largely by Amenhotep III and Ramses II, the temple served as a setting for the rituals of the festival, which was held to reconcile the human aspect of the ruler with his divine office. The procession of images of the current royal family began at Karnak and ended at the **Luxor temple**. Karnak Temple was erected in 1928 BC as a small shrine dedicated to Amun, god of Thebes. The Temple of Karnak comprises three main temples, smaller enclosed temples, and several outer temples - all constructed over 1300 years. The three main temples of Mut, Monthu and Amun, are enclosed in enormous brick walls, with the temple of Amun at the center. Karnak is now the largest and oldest temple compound on earth. Dinner and overnight on board in Luxor.

DAY 04: FRI LUXOR - EDFU (B/L/D)

After breakfast, cross the newly constructed Luxor Bridge to visit the **Valley of the Kings**, which includes the tombs of the Theban rulers, Seti I and Tutankhamen. The Valley of the Kings in Upper Egypt is home to many pharaonic tombs of the New Kingdom, including those of King Tutankhamun and Ramses the Great. Each king's formal name and title is inscribed in his tomb, which are also adorned with his images and statues. Most of the tombs were cut into limestone following a similar pattern: three corridors, an antechamber, and a sunken sarcophagus

TOUR LODGING INFO:

Accommodation will be provided on twin sharing basis

CITIES	NIGHTS	HOTELS
Cairo	01 Night	Steigenberger Hotel
Luxor - Aswan Cruise	04 Nights	Amwaj Livingstone Nile Cruise
Cairo	02 Nights	Steigenberger Hotel

(If any of the above mentioned hotels are not available we will provide a similar alternative)

chamber. Explore several amazing Royal Tombs. Then visit the **Valley of the Queens** which includes between 75 and 80 tombs. These tombs belong to queens of the 18th, 19th and 20th Dynasties. Among these is the famous tomb of Nefertiti, one of the five wives of Ramses II. Afterwards tour the mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, the only woman Pharaoh to rule ancient Egypt. The mortuary temple of **Queen Hatshepsut** of the 18th dynasty was built just north of the Middle Kingdom temple of Mentuhotep Nebhepetre, amid the bay of cliffs known as Deir El-Bahri. In ancient times the temple was called Djoser-djeseru, meaning the sacred of sacreds. The female pharaoh chose to build her temple in a valley sacred to the Theban Goddess of the west, on a direct axis with Karnak Temple of Amun on the East Bank. After lunch on board we sail to Edfu via Esna. Ancient Nubia was known to the pharaohs as the "Land of Gold," and its wealth and lands were eventually incorporated into Egypt around 1500 BC. This afternoon, join your shipmates for afternoon tea. Dinner and overnight on board in Edfu

Optional: Hot air ballooning over the valley at sunrise - USD 150 per person on a minimum of 2pax

Enjoy the splendours of the ancient historical sights of Luxor from the air. See this spectacular landscape from the unique viewpoint that only hot air ballooning can provide. Glide majestically over the temples and burial grounds of the Pharaohs and allow history to come to life before your eyes.

DAY 05: SAT LUXOR - EDFU - KOM OMBO - ASWAN (B/L/D)

Enjoy breakfast on board before visiting the **Temple of Edfu**. This temple is not only the best-preserved ancient temple in Egypt, but also the second largest after Karnak. It was believed that the temple was built on the site of the great battle between Horus and Seth. Hence, the current temple was but the last in a long series of temples build on this location. We then sail to Kom Ombo and have lunch and afternoon tea on board the ship. This afternoon, disembark and enjoy a short walk to the **Temples of Kom Ombo**. This temple complex actually consists of two temples: the Temple of Sobek and the Temple of Haroeris. In ancient times, sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank near here. The Temple has scant remains, due first to the changing Nile, then the Copts who once used it as a church, and finally by builders who used the stones for new buildings. As we sail toward Ancient Nubia, participate in an Egyptian Galabeya Party. Overnight on board in Aswan

DAY 06: SUN ASWAN (B/L/D)

After breakfast, visit the High Dam and the **Temple of Philae**. South of here lies the flooded lands of Nubia, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Just north of

the border between Egypt and Sudan lies Aswan High Dam, a huge rock-filled dam which captures the world's longest river, the Nile, in the world's largest artificial reservoir, Lake Nasser. The dam, known as "Sadd El-Aali" in Arabic, was completed in 1970 after 10 years of work. Then, on to the granite quarries, which supplied the ancient Egyptians with most of the hard stone used in their pyramids and temples, and see the famed Unfinished Obelisk, located in the Northern Quarry, still lies where a crack was discovered as it was being hewn from the rock. This obelisk would have been the largest ever erected if it hadn't cracked before it was fully quarried. Tools left by its builders have given archaeologists much insight into how such work was performed. Invoke the healing powers of the goddess Isis with a visit to the Temple of Philae and the delightful Temple of Isis. Enjoy a short trip on a motorboat to Philae Temple, which will bring you to a magnificent vista of the island of Agilika before landing at what would have been the ancient quay on the south side. The temple was dedicated to the goddess Isis and has many legends connected to it. The most well-known legend tells the story of how Isis found the heart of Osiris here after his murder by his brother Seth. Return to the ship for lunch before boarding a traditional felucca to enjoy a sail around Kitchener's Island along with a visit to the botanical gardens, 6.8 hectares teeming with a variety of birds, flora and palm trees. Have dinner back on board the cruise ship and relax as you watch the evening's Nubian entertainment show. Overnight onboard in Aswan

DAY 07: MON ASWAN - CAIRO (B)

Disembark the cruise after breakfast before being transferred to Aswan Airport for our flight back to Cairo where we will be met and escorted back to the hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure or perhaps take an optional tour. Overnight in Cairo

Optional: Morning visit to Abu Simbel - USD 375 per person on a minimum of 2pax

This morning transfer to Aswan airport to board a flight to Abu Simbel. Upon arrival in Abu Simbel you will be transferred to the temple site. Visit the Temple of Ramses and Temple of Queen Nefertari; not only are the two temples located at Abu Simbel among the most magnificent monuments in the world but their removal and reconstruction was an historic event in itself. When the temples (280 km from Aswan) were threatened by submersion in Lake Nasser the two temples that of Rameses II primarily dedicated to Re-Harakhte, and that of his wife, Nefertari dedicated to Hathor were moved to their new location. After touring you will be transferred back to the airport for a short flight back to Aswan.

DAY 08: TUE CAIRO (B)

Today you will visit the **Pyramids & Sphinx** - reckoned by the Greeks to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World. A single pyramid is built of 2,300,000 blocks, each weighing an average of two and one-half tons. In the face of such immensity, one cannot help but feel the wonder and awe that so many writers & artists have sought to convey over the centuries. The Cheops Pyramid is especially interesting since its interior burial chambers are open for inspection by the public. Not far from the Pyramids is the Great Sphinx of Giza, which dates from the time of Chephren (2620 BC). Hewn from natural yellowish limestone & standing 65 feet high & 187 feet long, this unforgettable statue combines the head of a Pharaoh with a lion's body. Afterwards return to the hotel, with the rest of the day at leisure or perhaps book one of the following optional tours. Overnight in Cairo



Optional: Visit the incredible Egyptian Museum – USD 45 per person on a minimum of 2pax

In the afternoon, you have the opportunity to experience the most important depository of Egyptian antiquities anywhere in the world. The Egyptian Museum boasts 107 halls filled with approximately 160,000 objects covering 5,000 years of Egypt's past. It features artifacts from the Pharaonic and Graeco-Roman periods, including the celebrated mummies of ancient Egypt's king and Tut Ankh Amun treasures.

Optional: Half Day Tour to Khan el Khalili – USD 75 per person on a minimum of 2pax

An afternoon half day tour visit to the Khan El Khalili, known as the Turkish bazaar during the Ottoman period, built in 1382 by Emir Djaharks ElKhalili, in the heart of what was then Fatimid City. To this day, the bazaar is a center of trade and communion in the city, and offers a wide array of antiques, handicrafts of gold, silver and copper as well as numerous old coffee shops and local restaurants which attract both Egyptians and tourists alike.

Optional: Sound and Light show at the Pyramids - USD 60 per person on a minimum of 4pax

After dinner on your own, return to Giza for a spectacular Sound & Light show. Nothing compares to seeing the Pyramids and the Sphinx illuminated at night; the visual effects as well as dramatic commentary make for an unforgettable evening.

DAY 09: WED CAIRO - SEATTLE

After breakfast transfer to airport.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Best of Dubai

TOUR PRICE:

Per person based on twin share: **USD 800**

Single Supplement: **USD 295**

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Superior accommodation at listed hotels or similar
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Services of English speaking local guides during tours
- Half Day Dubai Tour
- Half day desert safari with BBQ dinner
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary by (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, (D) dinner
- Internal flight from Cairo to Dubai
- Air taxes and fuel surcharges

TOUR LODGING INFO:

Accommodation will be provided on a twin sharing basis

TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 01: CAIRO - DUBAI

On arrival at Dubai International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Dubai. Overnight in Dubai

DAY 03: DUBAI - CITY TOUR (B)

This morning meet your local tour guide for a short city tour. Meet your local tour guide/driver for a short orientation tour. Experience the historic sites and vibrant cosmopolitan life of Dubai on this comprehensive sightseeing tour of the city. See Dubai's famous landmarks like the sail-shaped Burj Al Arab hotel and the beautiful Jumeirah Mosque, and learn interesting details about them from your local guide/driver. Take in views of the city's most picturesque palaces and residential areas, and venture into Al Bastakiya, Dubai's inspiring old quarter. Then visit the spice souk. You will also have free time to shop in the glistening gold souk!

Optional: Evening Dhow Dinner Cruise Dinner - USD 70 per person

Enjoy a leisurely cruise along the Creek as the traditional Dhow glides silently through the water. This tour offers an intriguingly different view of this beautiful city. Admire the architecture of places such as the National Bank of Dubai and the spectacular Chamber of Commerce building. Feast on a sumptuous International buffet dinner before returning to the pier.

DAY 04: DUBAI (B)

Enjoy this day at leisure or consider the following optional tour. Overnight in Dubai

Optional: Modern Dubai with Burj Khalifa Experience - USD 135 per person

Dubai Today offers visitors a myriad Experience – from the unforgettable charms of the traditional souks to inspiring imposing Skyscrapers. Our journey starts at the world's tallest building, 'Burj Khalifa', situated above The Dubai Mall one of the world's largest shopping malls, where you will have the opportunity to visit the 50metre long aquarium and visualize the exotic wonders of aquatic life firsthand through breathtaking views. Our journey continues to Dubai Marina and Palm Jumeirah, a manmade island that has become a potent symbol of our Emirate. We will have a photo stop opposite the ultra-luxurious Atlantis the Palm hotel. Your unforgettable journey will end at Souk Madinat Jumeirah, a colorful and vibrant market in an Arabian city. Winding paths and passageways will lead you through a real Arabic bazaar like ambience mixing high end boutiques, local artisans and delicious cuisines in an explosion of sensations that finish in beautiful views towards the canals of the resort Madinat Jumeirah and the stunning vista of the Burj Al Arab.

DAY 05: DUBAI - DESERT SAFARI WITH BBQ (B, D)

Enjoy this morning at leisure. At around 3.30 PM you will meet your safari guide and proceed on a dune drive at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. The mysterious desert beckons you for a magical evening out – an adventure you'll never forget. Leaving behind the bustle of the city in the afternoon, our safari guides will transport you for a thrilling journey over rolling dunes deep into the heart of the desert. From the crest of a high dune, watch the sun cast its orange glow over the vast expanse of rippling sand all round you as it sets. Like a shimmering mirage in the distance you will see the flickering lights of your camp where a traditional Arabian welcome awaits you. The encampment conjures up images of the Arabian nights. Relax on comfortable low cushions in Bedu tents and quench your thirst, have your hands painted with intricate henna designs, experience a short camel ride, or just enjoy the aromatic shisha. A feast of grilled meats, fresh salads and delectable Arab sweets is served and under a galaxy of stars, you will be entertained by the bewitching belly dancer swaying to the haunting strains of Arabian music. You won't want this enchanting evening to end. Overnight in Dubai

DAY 06: DUBAI - SEATTLE (B)

Today you will be transferred back to Dubai International Airport for your flight back home.

END OF OUR SERVICES