

# 26 DAY EGYPT, JORDAN & ISRAEL

## DESTINATIONS

—  
TEL AVIV  
CAIRO  
ALEXANDRIA  
ASWAN  
NILE CRUISE  
LUXOR  
HURGHADA  
AMMAN  
PETRA  
WADI RUM  
JERUSALEM  
NAZARETH



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# TOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Cairo                                    |
| Meals included |  |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Hyatt Regency Cairo West, or similar |

Salaam Alaikum! Welcome to Egypt. On arrival at the airport, make your way to your hotel located near the Pyramids of Giza.

A buzzing metropolis, home to at least 19 million people, Cairo gives you a great feel for Egyptian streetlife. It's busy – almost frantic – and among the hustle and bustle, it's an exciting blend of old world and new. Arabs call this city Umm al-Dunya (the mother of the world). There are many beautiful mosques to visit, like the Mohammed Ali Mosque in the Citadel. Or head to the oldest part of Cairo, the Babylon Fortress, to see ancient ruins. For stunning panoramic views of the capital, go up the 187-metre-high Cairo Tower.

Try some street food – lamb shawarma, anyone? – or get a taste of Egyptian street life by visiting a cafe. Sit in an ahwa and sip traditional mint tea. The shisha pipe can be found in many ahwas and restaurants across Cairo.

## DAY 2

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Cairo                                    |
| Meals included | Breakfast                                |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Hyatt Regency Cairo West, or similar |

This morning, join your group for an introductory briefing where you'll get the chance to meet your fellow travellers.

Later, head out to see some of the world's most iconic sights – the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx. Explore these structures that have stood tall for some 4500 years and learn about the ancient history of the monuments. The oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact, the pyramids are a sight to behold.

Afterwards, make your way to the Egyptian Museum, home to one of the world's great collections of antiquities. Wander the treasure-filled halls of the museum, and make sure to check out the Royal Mummies Hall for a close encounter with some of the country's most important queens and pharaohs. The masses of gleaming artefacts recovered from the tomb of Tutankhamun are quite something.

## DAY 3

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Cairo 🚗 El Alamein 🚗 Alexandria         |
| Meals included | Breakfast                               |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Sheraton Montazah Hotel, or similar |

Today we'll drive to the port city of Alexandria, along what is known as the 'desert road'.

Enroute, we'll visit the Commonwealth War Graves of El Alamein. It is here that two extended battles were fought during World War II. The first began on July 1, 1942, and lasted for 27 days, ending as a stalemate. After three months of holding back the enemy, the allies launched a second attack which lasted for 13 days. The importance of El Alamein was highlighted by Winston Churchill, who said: "Before Alamein we never had a victory."

Afterwards, we'll continue on to Alexandria to check-in to our hotel and enjoy some free time in this seaside city.

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### DAY 4

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Alexandria 🚗 Cairo 🚗 Aswan                  |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner                           |
| Hotel          | Watania Overnight Sleeper train, or similar |

Today your guide will take you on a tour of the city, known for its broad beaches and *corniche* (seafront promenade) dotted with sun loungers and cafes.

Afterwards, prepare to delve into the catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa. Heading underground, you'll get to view the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt, complete with burial chambers, labyrinth alleyways and entertaining rooms for families coming to visit the dead.

The crypts are 20 metres below street level and date back to the Greco Roman period. What likely started as a small family tomb grew into a large number of graves that could accommodate more than 300 bodies. The tombs are organised around a central spiral staircase that leads down through several levels.

We then drive back to Cairo. On arrival, take some time to relax or purchase some supplies before boarding your overnight sleeper train to Aswan.

*Please note: Accommodation onboard the overnight train is in two-berth cabins, which convert into bunk beds. All bedding is provided onboard and Western-style toilets are in each carriage. Your bags will be stored in your cabin, where an airline-style dinner and breakfast will be served, however, it may be worth bringing additional snacks, especially if you are vegetarian or have any dietary requirements; your tour leader can help you to arrange this. Despite being a 'tourist class' train the facilities onboard are basic but comfortable.*

### DAY 5

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Destination    | Aswan                             |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner                 |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Hotel Tolip Aswan, or similar |

Welcome to Aswan! Egypt's sunniest southern city and ancient frontier town, Aswan is Egypt's gateway to Africa.

Visit the beautiful Temple of Isis (the goddess of health, marriage and wisdom), which was rescued from the rising waters of the Nile and relocated on Philae Island in the 1960s. It's a marvel of decorative pylons featuring some of Egypt's finest carvings – definitely one of the real gems of Upper Egypt.

This evening, enjoy your **Inspiring Taste** as we experience modern Nubian culture first-hand with a visit to Elephantine Island. On your visit you'll join a Nubian family for dinner and experience true traditional Nubian hospitality. Here, you will encounter Nubian homes, traditional food and an unforgettable insight into the daily life of a Nubian. This is a rare and memorable experience, giving you the chance to become fully immersed in the local culture.

### DAY 6

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Destination    | Aswan                             |
| Meals included | Breakfast                         |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Hotel Tolip Aswan, or similar |

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Today we set out to explore some of Aswan's other landmarks. We begin with the unfinished obelisk, the largest known ancient obelisk – more than 3,500 years old – located in an ancient quarry in Aswan.

It was left incomplete and now provides a fascinating look at how these great monuments were constructed.

We'll then continue to the Nubian Museum, which showcases the history, art and culture of the Nubians. This museum enables visitors to understand the complex history of the local area and its people.

Afterwards, we'll visit the Aswan High Dam, which sits behind the mighty Lake Nasser. At the time it was made (the 1960s), it was the largest dam project in the world. The creation of the reservoir necessitated the costly relocation of the ancient Egyptian temple complex of Abu Simbel, which would otherwise have been submerged.

### OPTIONAL INSPIRING SIGHT - SUNSET NILE CRUISE WITH DRINKS

You may choose to include 1 optional Inspiring Sight throughout your tour, free as part of your package.

Head out on the Nile and enjoy a 3 hour cruise as the sun begins to set over the Nubian landscape while enjoying alcoholic refreshments. Let your imagination take you back in time as you sail the same river that the Pharaohs once sailed; an absolute highlight of the trip for many.

Starts: approx: 3:30pm

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Please note the start and duration times outlined are subject to change based on factors beyond our control such as traffic and weather conditions. Your Tour Guide will confirm operation times with you whilst on-tour and can answer any further questions you may have.

## DAY 7

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Aswan 🚗 Abu Simbel 🚗 Aswan 🚗 Embark on Nile cruise |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner                           |
| Hotel          | M/S Nile Dolphin cruise, or similar                |

Today you will awake before sunrise for an early morning start.

Sit back and relax as you drive to the ancient Abu Simbel temples, near the southern Egyptian border. You will have an early arrival into Abu Simbel to view this incredible sight. The complex is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Nubian Monuments.

The two enormous sandstone structures were built in the 1200s BCE by Ramses II to commemorate himself and his favourite wife Nefertari. The larger temple, dedicated to three major Egyptian deities, features four large statues of Ramses II on its façade, while the smaller temple is dedicated to the goddess of love, Hathor, with statues designed to embody Nefertari.

Set on the banks of the artificial Lake Nasser, the structures were once in danger of being flooded with the construction of the Aswan High Dam but were saved via an extensive project to cut the temples into pieces and move them to higher ground, where they are seen today.

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On our return to Aswan the rest of the day is free for you to make your own discoveries.

Later we'll check in to our Nile cruise – our floating home for the next three nights.

Driving Duration: Approximately 8 hour round trip ( with stops along the way)

*Please note that as the sailing distance between Aswan and Luxor is approximately 200km, that it is typical for all cruises operated along the Nile to be docked for majority of the time to conduct sightseeing, with the sailing to occur of an evening. The vessel will be docked either in Aswan or Luxor. Depending on the time of year and number of vessels operating at the same time, you will also find that all vessels are docked beside one another, which is beyond our control.*


*To ensure that our customers have appropriate expectations prior to their journey, it is important not to compare this experience to that of a European River Cruise, which tend to cover a greater distance and on larger vessels. Instead, you will experience a deluxe stay onboard your vessel, offering a great chance to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the banks of the Nile while you sit back and relax. Your cruise schedule will be provided once onboard.*

### OPTIONAL INSPIRING SIGHT - MONASTERY OF ST. SIMEON INCLUDING CAMEL RIDE

You may choose to include 1 optional Inspiring Sight throughout your tour, free as part of your package.

The fortress-like 7th-century Monastery of St Simeon was first dedicated to the local saint Anba Hedra, who renounced the world on his wedding day. It was rebuilt in the 10th century and dedicated to St Simeon. From here the monks travelled into Nubia, in the hope of converting the Nubians to Christianity. Surrounded by desert sands, the monastery was built on two levels – the lower level of stone and the upper level of mud brick – surrounded by 10m-high walls.

## DAY 8

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    |  Kom Ombo Temple |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  |
| Hotel          | M/S Nile Dolphin cruise, or similar   |

Today we'll journey ashore to visit Kom Ombo Temple. Dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris, this unusual double temple was constructed during the Ptolemaic period, which lasted from 108 to 47 BC.

Set dramatically on the banks of the Nile, 47km north of Aswan and 168km south of Luxor, the soaring, chunky columns of the Great Temple of Kom Ombo are a magnificent sight as you arrive from the river.

The temple is well preserved, especially detail on the murals and columns. One unique engraving is thought to be among the first representations of medical and surgical instruments.

Today, Kom Ombo may be a sleepy agricultural backwater surrounded by sugar cane fields, but its prime position along the Nile once made it one of Upper Egypt's most important centres. Wander through the temple's colonnades, gazing up at scenes of kingly propaganda, and you'll catch a feel of this glorious history for yourself.

Returning to the cruise boat, we'll continue travelling upriver, with free time relaxing on the sundeck and taking in the surrounding sights – from fishermen casting nets and farmers working their land to the desert hills that frame the lush riverbanks.

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### DAY 9

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Destination    | Edfu 🏛️ Luxor                       |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner            |
| Hotel          | M/S Nile Dolphin cruise, or similar |

Today we will moor near Edfu – home to ancient settlements and temples, as well as a bustling town centre and a bazaar.

Return to the boat for your final evening on one of the world's greatest rivers. Tonight we overnight in Luxor port.

*Please note: The only mode of transport available to visit the Temple of Edfu is by locally managed horse and carriages. As a responsible travel-focused business, animal welfare is extremely important to us and we want to ensure that we are not promoting any activities where the working animals are not properly cared for. Unfortunately, some operators of the Horse and Carriages have been found to be in breach of our animal welfare guidelines and it is, for this reason, we will no longer include the visit to the Temple of Edfu.*

*In addition to the animal welfare concerns, we have had a substantial amount of feedback suggesting that the experience itself is quite uncomfortable due to the pushy nature of the vendors and local suppliers outside the site. While we recommend that you do not use the horse and carriage to visit the Temple, the decision is ultimately up to you. Edfu is an included port stop on the Nile River cruise schedule.*

### DAY 10

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Luxor                                     |
| Meals included | Breakfast                                 |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Steigenberger Resort Achi, or similar |

Your Nile cruise comes to an end in the open-air museum of Luxor – from the spectacular temple complex of Karnak to the Valley of the Kings, Luxor is full of wonderfully-preserved reminders of the pharaohs.

Today we'll explore the magnificent Karnak Temple, which is perhaps the most impressive of all the ancient pharaohs' monumental works. One of the world's most celebrated temple complexes, Karnak was built over some 2000 years and was once known as the 'Chosen of Places'. Your guided tour of this vast temple of impressive pylons, obelisks and chapels will reveal its finest sections, such as the Avenue of Sphinxes and the Great Temple of Amun.

The rest of the day is yours: relax, shop in the excellent bazaar, or perhaps experience the atmosphere of a local teahouse.

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### OPTIONAL INSPIRING SIGHT - LUXOR TEMPLE

You may choose to include 1 optional Inspiring Sight throughout your tour, free as part of your package.

Visit Luxor Temple, which has been in almost continuous use as a place of worship right up to the present day. Today, remains of this vast complex include the colossal Great Colonnade Hall, almost 61 metres long, with 28 columns that are 21 feet high. Many of the temple's sidewalls were torn down after the time of the pharaohs and recycled for building materials.

Starts: approx: 5:00pm

Duration: approx. 1 ½ hours

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### DAY 11

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Luxor                                     |
| Meals included | Breakfast                                 |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Steigenberger Resort Achi, or similar |

Today we'll discover some of the many wonders of ancient Thebes. Our first stop is the Colossi of Memnon, two 17-metre-high statues on Luxor's west bank. Carved from granite blocks, they represent the Pharaoh Amenhotep III and were once part of an impressive colonnade.

We'll continue onto the spectacular royal burial site of the Valley of the Kings. Buried under the arid hills here are the tombs of more than 60 pharaohs, many richly decorated with reliefs and paintings. Explore this sprawling and spectacular place with your guide, where the pharaohs of the New Kingdom (16th to 11th century BCE) were secretly interred for all eternity, and where archaeological discoveries are still being made. Your guide will explain the history of and legends surrounding these remarkable people, their funerary rites, and the significance of the many paintings and hieroglyphics, still well-preserved in the deepest tombs.

You will visit three of the most interesting royal tombs and then continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, a stunning colonnaded building set against high cliffs that create a spectacular natural amphitheatre. One of Egypt's greatest queens, she built this temple to prove her importance – the scale and elegance of her temple certainly proves a point!

The afternoon is yours to explore – perhaps you'd like to shop in the market or visit the world's first Mummification Museum to discover the secrets of pharaonic preservation.

### DAY 12

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Luxor 🚗 Hurghada                               |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner                              |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Marriott Hurghada Beach Resort, or similar |

Today we'll bid farewell to the Nile and drive east to the beachside town of Hurghada. The Nile valley's verdant

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landscape is soon replaced with the barren Eastern Desert. Passing through rocky hills, we'll begin to catch glimpses of the glittering waters of the Red Sea and the rugged bulk of the Sinai Peninsula looms through the haze on the opposite shore.

A vibrant beach resort, Hurghada is by no means a typical adventure destination. Known for its underwater reefs and marine life, it's a popular diving destination. After checking into your hotel, take a walking tour with your guide to get your bearings, and check out some of the local restaurants and eateries.

You will have the remainder of the evening at leisure, plus enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner tonight in your 5-star hotel.

### DAY 13

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Hurghada                                       |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner                              |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Marriott Hurghada Beach Resort, or similar |

Today is yours to relax in this Red Sea beachside town.

#### OPTIONAL TOUR - RED SEA SNORKELLING WITH LUNCH - HURGHADA

You may choose to include 1 optional Inspiring Sight throughout your tour, free as part of your package.

Experience Egypt's underwater splendours on this full-day Red Sea snorkelling trip by boat from Hurghada. Cruise out onto the sparkling Red Sea and drop anchor at three prime snorkelling locations. Don your own snorkelling gear or the provided equipment and enjoy ample time to float through the crystal waters past dazzling corals, exotic fish and perhaps even turtles and rays. Lunch is served onboard your boat.

Starts: approx: 8:30am

Duration: approx. 6-7 hours

Please note the start and duration times outlined are subject to change based on factors beyond our control such as traffic and weather conditions. Your Tour Guide will confirm operation times with you whilst on-tour and can answer any further questions you may have.

### DAY 14

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Hurghada → Cairo                                    |
| Meals included | Breakfast   |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Sonesta Hotel, Tower & Casino Cairo, or similar |

Today we'll leave Hurghada and take the short flight back to Cairo.

Upon our return to the capital we'll enjoy an essential Egyptian experience – a visit to Khan El-Khalili bazaar, a memorable shopping experience in the historic centre of Islamic Cairo. Even if you are not looking to buy, take a walk through the colourful winding alleys of this labyrinth district – you'll feel like you stepped back in time to an old Arab souk. Selling handicrafts, delicious spices, fabrics and clothes, it's been a shopping district for thousands of years.

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We'll then continue to our hotel for free time.

### OPTIONAL TOUR - HOME COOKED DINNER WITH AN EGYPTIAN FAMILY IN CAIRO

Sit down for a home-cooked meal with a local family. During this experience, you'll get to visit a local family and learn about Egyptian culture and traditions but most importantly, enjoy a delicious and authentic home-cooked meal.

Starts: approx: To be confirmed on tour by your Tour Guide.

Duration: approx. 3 hours

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### DAY 15

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Destination    | Cairo → Amman                        |
| Meals included | Breakfast                            |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Amman Marriott Hotel, or similar |

Today, get ready for the next leg of your journey as you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Amman, Jordan. Welcome to Jordan, cosmopolitan and contemporary, yet steeped in biblical history. On arrival at Amman's Queen Alia International Airport, you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel.

### DAY 16

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Destination    | Amman 🚗 Jerash 🚗 Amman               |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Lunch                     |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Amman Marriott Hotel, or similar |

After breakfast enjoy a tour of this capital city. Cosmopolitan and contemporary, yet steeped in ancient biblical history, Amman is a bit of a chameleon. Most of the city's historical sites are located downtown. Here we'll visit the Citadel, with remains from the Roman to the early Islamic period; the Jordan Archaeological Museum, which houses the oldest Neolithic statues dating from 8000 to 5000 NC, as well as other valuable artifacts; the souq, where we'll get an idea of everyday life; as well as the beautifully restored 2nd-century Roman Theatre.

Next we'll take a short drive (approximately one-hour) north to Jerash. Once one of the grandest ancient Roman cities in the world, Jerash now boasts some of the best Greco-Roman ruins around. Admire this site's striking collection of crumbling archways, theatres, baths, public buildings and colonnaded streets. Grand columns encircle the city's centrepiece, the Oval Plaza, a wonderfully atmospheric place to linger after exploring this ruined city's lasting riches.

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### DAY 17

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Amman 🗨️ Petra                                 |
| Meals included | Breakfast                                      |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ The Old Village Hotel & Resort, or similar |

Today marks the beginning of our journey towards the fabled site of Petra. En route we'll visit Madaba, an ancient market town that's home to a number of fine Byzantine mosaics, the most outstanding of which lies within Saint George's Greek Orthodox Church. Here, a map of the Holy Land once carpeted the whole floor, said to contain more than two million pieces. Crafted around 560 CE, a large swathe of this mosaic map can still be viewed, providing the oldest map of Palestine in existence.

Next we'll continue to the ancient village at Dana, on the edge of the Dana Biosphere Reserve, where local artisans sell silver jewellery.

Later, we'll drive along the King's Highway, up to Shobak Castle, sometimes known as Montreal. Perched at the top of a hill in the desert, this ancient Crusader castle was originally built to protect the eastern flank of the Latin Kingdom and its trade routes to the sea before it fell to Muslim sultan Saladin in 1189. Stroll the site and discover a small chapel, original gatehouse, and find out where a long, dark secret passage leads.

### DAY 18

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Petra  |
| Meals included | Breakfast                                      |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ The Old Village Hotel & Resort, or similar |

Great ready for Petra! A firm fixture on most bucket lists for good reason – the jewel of Jordan is an arresting sight. The so-called Rose City boasts an impressive series of tombs, caves and temples hidden behind ornate façades carved directly into the rock. No one knows the exact date of this desert kingdom's creation, but the lost city of the Nabateans is believed to date as far back as the 2nd century CE. The city has lain empty and unknown for centuries, only rediscovered in 1812 by a Swiss explorer.

You'll feel just like Indiana Jones, as you meander through the narrow canyon known as the Siq; at times the path measures only a few metres wide, with walls soaring up to 180 metres on either side of you. It's easy to imagine the armies and merchants who made their way here many years ago, and the sense of awe they too must have felt upon reaching this ancient rock-hewn kingdom, surrounded by such a stark landscape. The Siq is the main entranceway to The Treasury – perhaps Petra's most iconic sight, and one of its most elaborate temples.

Petra's greatest surprise, however, is its size. With our guide we'll explore the old Roman road, the amphitheatre and several tombs. We'll also climb up to the beautiful façade of the Monastery, from where you will have a magnificent view of the entire site.

Exploring this truly extraordinary destination is sure to be a highlight of your trip.

### DAY 19

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Destination    | Petra 🗨️ Wadi Rum                      |
| Meals included | Breakfast                              |
| Hotel          | Memories Aicha Luxury Camp, or similar |

We continue to Wadi Rum and browse around the excellent and informative visitor's centre. We'll visit several of Wadi

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Rum's distinctive rock formations and soak in the vast silence, towering sandstone mountains and spectacular desert landscapes of this surreal 'Valley of the Moon', where, the wind-sculpted rock formations change in hue throughout the day.

We'll also meet with local Bedouins, who live in scattered camps throughout the area, and ride camels to our traditional Bedouin tent, situated deep within the valley. We'll enjoy an evening with them at one of their camps, savouring the hospitality of these nomadic peoples and the uninterrupted desert panoramas.

Wadi Rum is probably best known for its connection with the enigmatic British army officer TE Lawrence, who was based here during the Great Arab Revolt of 1917-18. Much of David Lean's movie on his exploits, *Lawrence of Arabia*, was actually filmed in this very region.

*Please note - While we are sure that this experience will inspire you, please be aware that your stay will differ from that of a traditional hotel. There are no hotels in or near Wadi Rum: the only places to sleep are the numerous bedouin-run camps dotted around the desert. The camps that we use are quoted as being 'luxury' because their locations differ from other styles of camps and your tent will have its own ensuite. Even at the best and more 'luxurious' camps, bathroom facilities within the tents are somewhat rudimentary and the bedding can also be quite basic, however still offering you a comfortable nights' accommodation. All of your meals are included and will be served in a common social area. While we may not make it sound glamorous, it will be a unique and memorable experience.*

### DAY 20

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Destination    | Wadi Rum 🚗 Dead Sea 🚗 Amman          |
| Meals included | Breakfast                            |
| Hotel          | 5 ★ Amman Marriott Hotel, or similar |

After waking up in the unique environment of the luxury camp this morning, we'll enjoy a walk around the area before scaling one of the large dunes to enjoy sensational views of the surrounding area; keen photographers will be delighted. We'll then ride camels back across the Wadi Rum desert.

Later, we'll drive for approximately an hour and a half to reach a radically different landscape – the Dead Sea. We'll spend the afternoon on the shores of this famous body of water, named for the dearth of life in its waters. The saline water has a high density that keeps bathers buoyant and makes getting underneath the surface very difficult. Floating on the surface without any sort of lilo makes for a once in a lifetime experience. Afterwards we'll return to Amman for the evening.

### DAY 21

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Destination    | Amman 🚗 Masada 🚗 Jerusalem    |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner             |
| Hotel          | 4 ★ Harmony Hotel, or similar |

Leaving the hotel early this morning, we make our way to the Allenby bridge, at the Israeli border. The bridge crosses the Jordan River near the city of Jericho and connects the West Bank with Jordan. En route to Jerusalem we visit the ancient fortress of Masada. Situated at the very top of an isolated rock plateau in southeastern Israel, Masada is the site of the Jews' last stand against the Romans after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE, and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards, we continue our drive to Jerusalem, where we'll enjoy a welcome dinner to celebrate our first night in Israel.

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### DAY 22

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Destination    | Jerusalem 🚗 Bethlehem 🚗 Jerusalem |
| Meals included | Breakfast                         |
| Hotel          | 4 ★ Harmony Hotel, or similar     |

After breakfast we head out to explore two of the most iconic and important cities on the globe – Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Our first stop is the Mount of Olives. One of three hills on a long ridge to the east of Jerusalem, this very spot is the location of many biblical events. Rising more than 800 metres, the mount also offers an unrivalled view of the Old City of Jerusalem and its surrounds.

On our way down from the Mount of Olives we'll stop at the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is said to have prayed and his disciples slept on the night before crucifixion. We continue to Bethlehem, the biblical birthplace of Jesus before returning to Jerusalem to explore the Old City and to walk the Via Dolorosa, or the 'Way of Sorrow'. The route is believed by many to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion and it remains a place of Christian pilgrimage.

### DAY 23

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Destination    | Jerusalem 🚗 Nablus 🚗 Nazareth |
| Meals included | Breakfast                     |
| Hotel          | Legacy Nazareth, or similar   |

Today, enjoy an early morning visit to the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall. The most famous Islamic site in Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock is also the oldest surviving Islamic monument on the globe, dating back to the late 7th century CE. The slab of stone concealed within this Islamic shrine, is, however, sacred to both the Muslim and Jewish faiths. With its shimmering gold-plated dome dominating the skyline of the Old City, the Dome of the Rock is perhaps the most iconic of all Jerusalem's sights.

Close by, we also visit the Western Wall, or 'Wailing Wall', which is one of the holiest sites in the world for the Jewish people. Each year, thousands of people journey here to recite prayers and to wedge small slips of paper – upon which prayers and petitions are written – into the cracks between the stones.

Later, we leave Jerusalem for Nazareth, visiting Nablus en route. Nablus has been settled since before the Roman era, and the land beneath this modern city is layered with millennia of history.

### DAY 24

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Destination    | Nazareth 🚗 Tiberias 🚗 Nazareth |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Lunch               |
| Hotel          | Legacy Nazareth, or similar    |

After breakfast we explore the sights of Nazareth, including the fabled Church of the Annunciation. Later, we travel to Tiberias to visit the churches that line the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus is said to have spent much of his life. This freshwater lake is home to numerous Christian holy sights, from Capernaum (sometimes referred to as the 'Town of Jesus') to Tabgha and the Mount of Beatitudes. Afterwards, enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee before an **Inspiring Taste** at the famous Saint Peter's Fish restaurant – try the signature dish of grilled or fried whole tilapia, eaten in this location since the time of Jesus.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 25

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Nazareth 🚗 Haifa 🚗 Jaffa 🚗 Tel Aviv     |
| Meals included | Breakfast                               |
| Hotel          | 4 ★ Shalom Hotel and Relax , or similar |

We'll leave Nazareth this morning and drive to Akka to visit the Templars' Tunnel. Following the conquest of Jerusalem by Muslim sultan Saladin in 1187, the Knights Templar made their home in Akka and built a fortress to which this tunnel once led.

Continue to Caesarea, stopping briefly in Haifa to admire the Bahai Gardens. Caesarea is known for its national park, which harbours Roman ruins, from aqueducts and an amphitheatre to the remains of a hippodrome. The restored Caesarea amphitheatre hosts concerts during the summer months.

Continuing on we visit the ancient port city of Jaffa, out of which Tel Aviv has grown. We'll finish our day in this cosmopolitan city, full of bars, restaurants and shops.

### DAY 26

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Destination    | Tel Aviv  |
| Meals included | Breakfast |
| Accommodation  | N/A       |

Unfortunately, today marks the end of your incredible tour through Egypt, Jordan & Israel.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Intimate group experience, with no more than 16 people
  - Includes all internal flights
  - 20 nights in four and five-star accommodation
  - Cruise the Nile on your floating home for 3 nights
  - Experience an overnight stay in a private tent in the Wadi Rum desert, gazing at the stars
  - Most meals included, with daily breakfasts, 6 lunches and 8 dinners, including lunch at the famous St Peters on the Sea of Galilee
  - Fully escorted with an English-speaking guide throughout
  - Incredible sightseeing with entry fees included – Get up close to the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx, see ancient temples, burial sites and the holy cities of Jerusalem and Nazareth, float in the Dead Sea
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation throughout

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx
- Cairo - The Egyptian Museum
- Cairo - Islamic Cairo
- Alexandria- Catacomb of Kom El Shuqqafa
- Alexandria- Citadel of Qaitbay (panoramic)
- El Alamin- El Alamin war museum
- El Alamin - Commonwealth cemetery
- Aswan Elephantine Island
- Abusimbel Excursion
- Kom Ombo - Kom Ombo Temple
- Luxor - Karnak Temple
- Luxor - Colossi of Memnon
- Luxor - Valley of the Kings (3 tombs)
- Luxor – Tut Ankh Amon Tomb
- Luxor - Hatshepsut Temple
- Amman - City tour
- Jerash - Spectacular Roman ruins
- Petra - Ruins of Petra
- Wadi Rum - Desert wilderness
- Dead Sea - Swimming in the Dead Sea
- Masada - Ancient Fortress
- Jerusalem - Mount of Olives
- Jerusalem - Gethsemane
- Jerusalem - Way of the cross
- Jerusalem - Dome of the Rock
- Jerusalem - Western Wall
- Bethlehem - City tour
- Tiberias - Sea of Galilee
- Nazareth - Tunnels and Halls of the Knights Templar
- Haifa - Roman Aqueducts and Amphitheater

## TOUR ITINERARY

### INSPIRING FEATURES

#### Inspiring Stays

- Cruise the Nile in your floating hotel for 3 nights
- Experience an overnight stay in a private tent in the Wadi Rum desert, gazing at the stars

#### Inspiring Sights

- You'll have the choice between 1 of 5 bonus sightseeing experiences to enhance your journey. You may choose to include 1 optional Inspiring Sights throughout your tour, free as part of your package (options listed under 'Optional Tours').

#### Inspiring Tastes

- Enjoy lunch at the famous St Peters Fish restaurant and try the signature fish dish of Tilapia eaten in this location since the time of Jesus
- Experience modern Nubian culture first-hand with a visit to Elephantine Island. On your visit you'll join a Nubian family for dinner and experience traditional Nubian hospitality

### CRUISE DETAILS

For more information on your Nile cruise, click [HERE](#).

### Fine Print

FLIGHT INFORMATION -  
OPTIONAL \$999 PER  
PERSON, LIMITED TIME  
OFFER

#### Limited Time Offer - Return Economy International Flights for \$999 per person

- **Flight offer is only valid from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane**
- For flights departing outside of these cities, additional charges may apply at the time of ticketing
- Full-service airline used which will include meals, luggage and entertainment. Flights will be based on the best available. Airlines used include JAL, China Southern, China Airlines, Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines or similar. We are not limited to the airlines listed and will book the best available option.
- Flights may not be direct and may include a maximum of two connections.
- All tickets will include 20 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Internal airfares (where applicable and included in the itinerary) will be using a local carrier and may include low-cost carriers

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## TOUR ITINERARY

without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage will still be included for each passenger. Any additional baggage required is payable at time of check-in.

- Despite any airline's baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation.
- You will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included. If travelling over the recommended amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable directly.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable; any changes will be subject to the airline rules and change fees.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required at the time of submitting your traveller booking form. Any error in the names submitted will be subject to fees to amend with the airline or the ticket may be non-refundable with the purchase of a new ticket required.
- Depending on departure date and time of booking, the required booking class for airfare offer may be too far in advance to book with the appropriate airline. You will be contacted once your airfares are available to book.
- If the required booking class is unavailable at time of booking, surcharges may apply. Total cost is final only at time of ticketing. Once issued, air tickets are subject to amendment and cancellation fees or may be non-refundable
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control and it is the responsibility of the customer to ensure they are familiar with the most up to date airline schedule prior to departure

### **Premium Economy or Business Class Upgrades;**

Please specify this in the "Special Request" field when completing your booking and you will be quoted for the additional fare at the time of booking your flights.

### **Extending Your Stay;**

Some customers like to enhance their holiday by extending their stay pre- and/or post-tour or including a stopover in another destination. Please include this information in the "Special Request" field when booking. Surcharges may apply at time of booking. When extending your stay, any additional room nights' required must be booked independently.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

#### **Deposit & Installment Payment Option:**

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$199 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$3,999 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 120 days prior to departure.

#### **Full Payment Option:**

- Pay in full to receive a 5% discount off your selected holiday.
- Please select this option at the payment page prior to finalising your booking.
- The 5% discount will then be deducted from your total balance.
- The 5% discount does not apply to extras including optional tours, pre/post accommodation, airfare (unless included as part of the package) or any special requests.
- Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or offer.
- Not available when using account credit to make payment.

#### **Booking Process**

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!

### BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

Inspiring Vacations has been globally recognised and awarded for its handling of COVID-19 during the pandemic. The safety and wellbeing of our guests is our highest concern during this time of uncertainty, and we are continuously monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

We have adopted the advice of the WHO to ensure all customers can travel with the knowledge of how to travel safely and with confidence.

### **Australian owned and operated with 100% Australian Customer Service support**

We are proudly 100% Australian owned and operated, with our head office located in Melbourne, Victoria. When you make your booking, you will receive dedicated and ongoing support from our team of travel professionals throughout your booking, up until you are due to depart.

### **Flexible Date Change Option**

Book now, change later with our Flexible Date Change option. You may select this \$99pp option at time of purchase, giving travellers the flexibility to change your date without penalty (subject to availability, less third party costs incurred, plus any applicable surcharges for the new date selected).

Date change must be requested prior to 90 days before your original selected departure date\*. Once inside 90 days of departure, date changes are not permitted. \*some packages may have a varied period in which you can request a date change due to limitations with the third-party provider.

Please refer to our 'Book with Confidence' section for terms and conditions.

The Flexible Date Change option does not cover cost incurred for components not fulfilled by Inspiring Vacations or in the event extra services have been booked with Inspiring Vacations outside of the standard package, including but not limited to airfares, pre/post accommodation or insurance.

### **Cooling off period**

If you change your mind within 7 days of making your booking online, you can request a refund of your initial deposit payment as part of our cooling off period. Once your purchase date falls outside of the 7 day period, our standard terms and conditions will apply.

Please ensure that any request to cancel your booking is received via email to [support@inspiringvacations.com](mailto:support@inspiringvacations.com), including the reason for cancellation.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### **Fitness Requirements**

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a "3":

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the coach and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

#### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. You will be asked to provide tipping to your guide towards a 'kitty', which is then used towards the guide tipping for the services of helpers, hotel staff, restaurants and airport portage. We suggest USD\$5 per person per day (AUD\$7 approx) towards the kitty. Please note that this tipping is not for the guide, merely for the guide to tip the services of the driver and local workers during your tour. While not made compulsory, if you choose not to contribute to the kitty it means that the guide is tipping for these services out of their own pocket. Your cooperation in this instance is most appreciated.

Tipping for your guide will be collected at the commencement or conclusion of their services in each country. To remove the uncertainty and stress of not knowing how much is appropriate to tip we recommend USD\$6-8 (AUD\$8-12 approx) per person per day. The amount you wish to contribute is dependent on the services received and at the complete discretion of the guest. Thank you for your understanding.

#### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin)

## TOUR ITINERARY

are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is \$2,944 per person in addition to the twin share price.

### **Triple Share**

Not available.

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the travellers responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months from your intended date of return to Australia.

Australian passport holders will require a visa to enter Egypt.

You will be able to obtain your E-visa when you have all of your travel documents approximately 30-40 days prior to departure.

Visit <https://visa2egypt.gov.eg/> and create an account for yourself to then start the application process.

### **Information required:**

- Visa type (tourist)
- Entry type (single)
- Arrival date and departure date (no specific flight details are required)
- Passport information
- You have to upload a JPEG (only supported file type) of your passport
- The name of the host/tour operator, phone number, email address and street address

Pay USD \$25pp by credit card

Wait for it to be approved and you will be notified via email within approximately 48 hours.

Once approved, please ensure that you travel with the following documentation as they are required to present to customs upon arrival into the country:

## TOUR ITINERARY

- Passport with 6 months validity
- E-visa printout
- Travel itinerary (provided 30 days before departure)
- Hotel list (provided 30 days before departure)

Please note visas for Jordan and Israel can be obtained upon entry into each country.

Please note that the information provided is subject to change at any time.

Please speak to your Dedicated Support Agent for more information.

### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

### **Group Size**

4-16 people.

### **Trip Style - Small Group Tour**

These tours are our proudest creations. They have been crafted for Inspiring Vacations travellers exclusively, with personal and unique experiences in mind. You will travel with only a maximum of 20 other guests. Enjoy choice features such as hand-picked accommodation, a sampling of the region's best culinary delights and a range of optional activities to choose from to best suit your travel style.

### **Children**

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### OPTIONAL TOURS

You have the choice of 1 of 5 Inspiring Experiences to enhance your journey. If you wish to purchase the remaining 4 you may purchase the additional optional tours as follows:

- Sunset cruise on the Nile with drinks (Day 6) - \$56pp
- Aswan Monastery of St Simeon incl. camel ride (Day 7) - \$48pp
- Luxor Temple (Day 10) - \$32pp
- Hurghada, Private snorkelling trip (Day 13) - \$113
- Home Cooked dinner in Cairo (Day 14) - \$64

Optional tours can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add Optional Tours, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance. If you choose not to select them at this time, you can choose to add them later by logging in to your Account online or speaking with your Dedicated Support Agent for assistance.

Please note that you must select your Optional Tours no later than 65 days before departure, after which you will be required to purchase them on tour. Please keep in mind that anything purchased on-tour is subject to availability and prices may vary as you will be required to pay in USD. We appreciate your understanding.

### EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- International Airfares (optional)
- Airport Transfers
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses