

ANCIENT WORLD TOURS



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ANCIENT WORLD TOURS



EXCLUSIVE ADVENTURES IN EGYPT: OPENING DOORS TO THE PAST

Presented by
ANCIENT WORLD TOURS
with
ARCE Orange County

Saturday 16th January 2010

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY



The Orange County Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt is organizing a very special opportunity to experience a multiplicity of Egyptological sites not normally open to the public. These range from the pre-dynastic period through the Old Kingdom and into the New Kingdom.

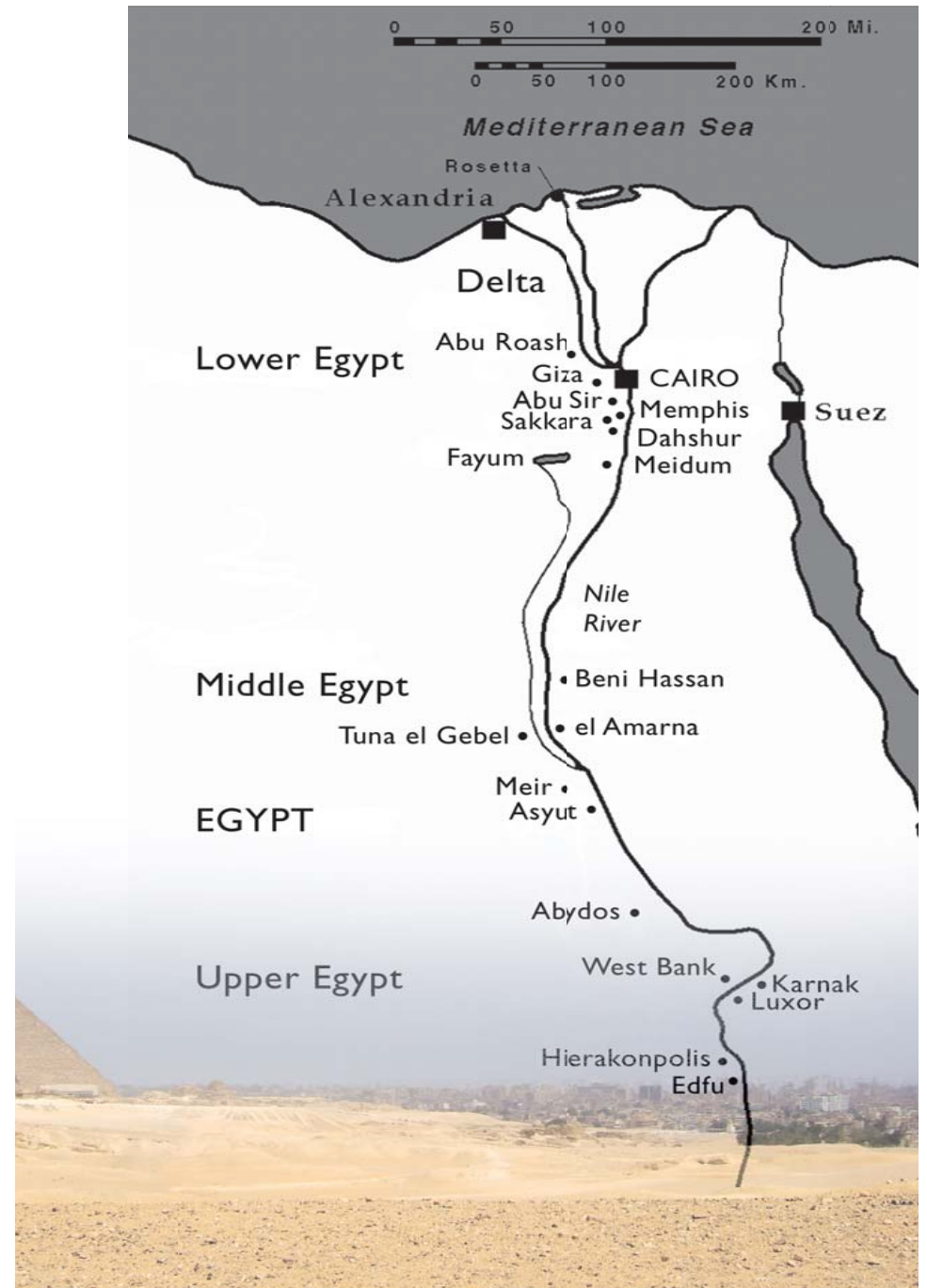
By combining our extensive range of contacts, the expertise of our tour operator and with the joint purchasing power of all tour members to obtain special permissions, we are able to offer what ordinary tours, with three or four special permissions, cannot. Additionally, we have lined up a number of Egyptologists who will accompany or host the group for portions of the tour. By adding such expertise, even sites which are open to the public will be personally interpreted for us by world renowned experts.

Tour members will have a chance to see firsthand the excellent work of the American Research Center in Egypt, and to contribute to the success of the expeditions who will be hosting us. Every participant will be required to make tax deductible donations to these expeditions, coordinated by ARCE OC, and will be provided with documentation for income tax purposes.

The tour visits Cairo, Giza, Sakkara, Dahshur, the pyramid fields, Meidum, Amarna, Luxor, the West Bank and Hierakonpolis. There is no cruise. The tour stays in four and five star hotels, with the exception of Middle Egypt, where we stay in the best available. Many meals are included, but you are also given the freedom to eat out on your own.

The level of physical activity for this tour is high. Participants will be walking over deep sand and broken pavement, up hills and down stairs. Even in the city centers, pavement is uneven and no access ramps exist. Some museums are full of stairs with no way around them. There are no handicapped accessible restrooms. We regret this tour is not suitable for those requiring walkers, wheelchairs or scooters. If you are otherwise ambulatory, you can always feel free to sit out a specific activity that might be too taxing.

This tour will be offered in 2010 only. It is not expected to repeat. Because it is such a wonderful itinerary, we expect it will sell out relatively quickly. Have fun reading this great brochure.



A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

To take part in this amazing tour you need to follow the instructions for registration at the AWT website at

www.ancient.co.uk

Follow the link to the special ARCE page by using the drop down menus and selecting ARCE Adventures in Egypt.

Here you will be able to register. Once that is done, AWT will send you details of how to pay your deposit and what to do next.

All prices are in UK Pounds and the deposit will need to be made by bankers draft or credit card in the sum of £400.00. We regret very much the need to charge a single supplement but unfortunately this is imposed on us by overseas hotels. This has been kept to the absolute minimum possible. Please also be aware that credit card payments also attract an extra fee – again, not our choice. Details are on the website.

Two People Sharing a Room – Main Tour Price: £3,967.00 per person
Single Supplement: £386.00

'Day 0' for early arrivals and any extra days preceding the tour are chargeable at:

Two Passengers Sharing a Twin Room: £79.00 per person
Single Supplement: £79.00

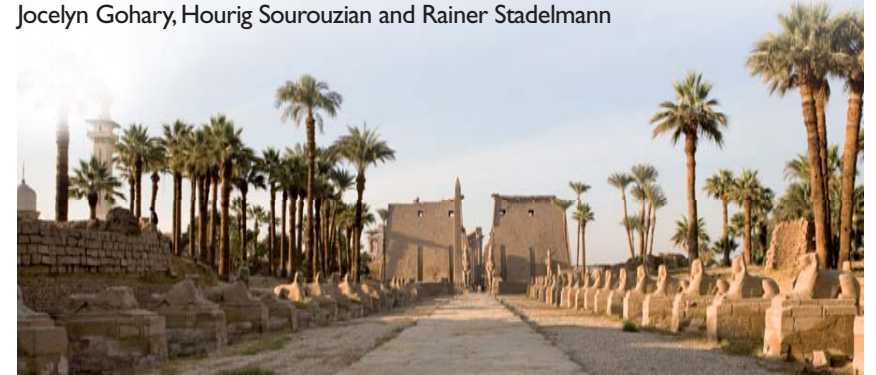


SCA Permits

We have applied for no fewer than 16 special permits for this tour from the Supreme Council of Antiquities. All are provisionally granted and we will make final applications nearer the date of departure. This is to take into account conservation work, damage to some sites through natural phenomena and unforeseen circumstances. We expect that all our permits will be confirmed. Should a site be closed at the time of final application then a similar permit will be sought for an alternative site. Either way, on this tour, you will see many things which are permanently closed to the public.

At Sakkara:	Interior of the Pyramid of Unas The Noble's Tomb of Nefer The Tomb of Horemheb (as a general) The Mastaba Tomb of Ankhmahor.
At Giza:	The Workers Village The Sphinx Enclosure and Dream Stela.
Other Cairo:	A Private Opening of the Cairo Museum South Sakkara Abu Roash Abu Ghurab (at Abu Sir)
Royal Tombs in Luxor:	Western Valley – Amenhotep III Kings Valley – KV5
Private Tombs in Luxor:	Senenmut
Also in Luxor:	Malkata Palace Amenhotep III Mortuary Temple (Colossi of Memnon)
Upper Egypt:	Hierakonpolis

We are delighted to be joined at various points on the tour by Drs. Zahi Hawass, Barry Kemp, Ed Johnson, Renee Friedman, Betsy Bryan, Ray Johnson, Brett McClain, Jocelyn Gohary, Hourig Sourouzian and Rainer Stadelmann





Day 0 – Saturday 16th January 2010 ~ Early Arrivals

Most participants depart the USA this day for overnight flight to Europe and on through to Cairo. Hotel accommodation on a Room and Breakfast basis can be arranged through AWT at the Ramses Hilton or similar for the Friday night if you are planning to arrive early. Transfers from the airport will be arranged for all passengers on this expedition regardless of arrival date or time.

- [B] Included if accommodation taken at the hotel.
- [L] Under Own Arrangements.
- [D] Under Own Arrangements.

Day 1 – Sunday 17th January ~ Cairo - Mother of the World

Tour participants arrive in Cairo International Airport for transfer to the Ramses Hilton Hotel or similar on a Room and Breakfast Basis. All arrivals will be met by our agent, who will have available for purchase the required Egyptian visa stamp. Everyone will be assisted through immigration and currency exchange and driven to the hotel, regardless of arrival time or terminal. The price of the visa will be explained in your pre-trip booklet.

Passengers arriving a day or two early can make arrangements to have a taxi or hotel car take them to one of the local museums, such as Mohammed Khalil, Agricultural, Coptic or Islamic Art. Anyone wishing to rent clubs and play a round of golf overlooking the pyramids must advise the tour company before arrival to secure a tee time.

Upon arrival at the hotel, everyone will be informed about the next day's departure time, the location of breakfast and a few other details. Daily itinerary sheets will always be posted in the hotel with timings. An orientation meeting will be held aboard the coach the next morning. Otherwise, everyone is encouraged to get a good night's rest to get over jet lag.

- [B] Included if already checked into the hotel.
- [L] Under Own Arrangements.
- [D] Under Own Arrangements.

Hotel – Ramses Hilton

Itinerary Notes

Over the years we have established that the best way to see many of the sites in the Middle East is to be there in the first part of the day. This can mean some rather early starts but the lack of heat makes this well worth-while. Do not be alarmed - you will appreciate the benefits!

Anyone who has been to Egypt before will know that the most carefully laid plans sometimes have to be changed owing to local circumstances. At the time of printing we believe that, for example, all the sites listed in this itinerary are open. However, this may change. At all times we will endeavour to keep you fully informed but we do need to stress that AWT can not be held responsible for restricted access imposed by the local authorities or changes that may need to be made on account of air or cruiser schedules.

Donations

This tour will have access to active archaeological expeditions because donations will be made to further their work and to thank them for taking time out of their busy field schedules to host our group. A volunteer from ARCE-OC will coordinate these mandatory donations before the trip. Upon registration, you will be contacted with a packet of instructions on making your donations and writing separate checks to each institution. That way YOU receive the tax write off. Additionally, all tour members must be members of ARCE at the Lotus level, which is \$155. You can join or upgrade on their website at www.arce.org. A \$100 donation payable to ARCE OC is also required.

Passenger List

Useful things to bring

1. Comfortable walking shoes (sandals not recommended!)
2. A camera with plenty of spare batteries and memory. Please note that currently no photography is allowed inside any tomb or museum. Your guide will keep you informed at each site as this is rather randomly enforced.
3. A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.
4. A good sweater – the evenings can be chilly.
5. Sun-cream, sun-block and lip salve.
6. A set of binoculars, if you have them, and a flashlight.
7. A small backpack or equivalent for carrying water.
8. Antiseptic Gel / Handwash. Use frequently.
9. A happy smile and an open mind!

Tipping

AWT carries out a certain amount of background tipping on behalf of its clients throughout all tours. This includes baggage handlers, restaurant staff, cleaning staff and site guardians, as well as the myriad others who work hard behind the scenes. However, it is customary in Egypt to give a personal gratuity whenever and wherever possible. All Egyptians who can afford to tip do so at all times.

For the coach drivers who take the party to the sites, a tip of up to LE20 (\$3.50) per person per day would be about right. You can give this to the driver when he finishes his allocated days – your Tour Manager will let you know when that is.

It is usual to give your Guide a tip personally. This might be around \$5-\$10 per person per day, given at the end of the holiday.

In the end, of course, all tipping is entirely at your discretion. These guidelines are an indication of what previous passengers have done.

Day 2 – Monday January 18th

~ Medieval Cairo: Minarets, Mashrabiya, Mish Mish & Mafhouz.

Today you will be in no doubt that you have indeed traveled halfway around the world to an exotic locale. Our touring has a kind of Arabian Nights quality that might seem like fantasy - but it is real!



We plan a leisurely start this morning to allow late arriving passengers a chance to get a full night's sleep. Departing in our tour coach about 9:30 AM, our first stop will be the Ibn Tulun Mosque, which started construction in 876 AD upon what local legend holds is the hill where Noah's Ark really came to rest. Arguably the oldest such structure in Cairo, it is perhaps the largest. After a brief tour of the mosque, we will visit an adjoining, recently restored Medieval era house museum, known by the name of its most recent occupant, British General R. G. Gayer-Anderson, who lived there during the war in North Africa. In 1977, scenes of the James Bond movie, the Spy Who Loved Me starring Roger Moore and Barbara Bach were filmed here. The complex sits on a pedestrian street, where a small handicrafts shop is situated. A short time will be allowed to visit this shop before we board the coach and travel on to a fascinating section of the city built a few hundred years later.

On our way, we shall stop for lunch at the aptly named Hill Top restaurant overlooking Al Azhar park and the hills and city of Cairo. A modern building, it offers a luxurious, very exotic old time atmosphere and great food.

The afternoon will be spent exploring some of the streets and public buildings of Medieval Cairo, escorted by an ARCE staff member who worked on the rescue and renovations of these marble and stone and wood buildings. We shall



see a caravansarai, where the trade caravans put up, a water fountain, the gates of the city at Bab Zuweiya, and the new textile museum, featuring fabrics made over a period of thousands of years. We shall have a chance to see how successful ARCE has been in renovating historic neighborhoods.

Our last stop will be at the Bazaar of the Tentmakers, where fabric is sold, and quilted wall hangings and pillow covers are made before our eyes.

We reboard the coach to go to the Khan el Khalili, the main shopping bazaar of Cairo. We will be accompanied by a shopping consultant who can advise on merchandise to buy, prices to offer and shops to visit.



- [B] Included
- [L] Included
- [D] Own Arrangements

Hotel – Ramses Hilton

for at least twenty minutes as this will give your body time to re-adjust to the air conditioned temperatures. Take a luke-warm drink or perhaps a soft drink with no ice or room temperature water. Your stomach may strenuously object to rapid changes of temperature.

3. Drink lots of bottled water. Be sure to take plenty on long excursions.

4. After being out and about, remember to wash your hands before eating. We strongly recommend the frequent use of antiseptic gels to keep hands clean.

5. If it does all go horribly wrong contact either your Guide or the hotel receptionist for medical attention. For minor 'discomfort' the local pharmacy will be able to help. The saying 'Local Drugs for Local Bugs' holds well in Egypt.

Visas

A visa is required for entry into Egypt. Our airport service includes obtaining a visa for you but not the payment thereof. Please ensure that you have US Dollars (the current price is USD 15 but this may change) to cover this expense. If you bring 1 x \$10 and 2 x \$5 that will cover it. A passport must be valid for at least six months after your return from Egypt to qualify for a visa.

If you have a problem...

AWT operates to the highest standards. However, if there is some aspect of your accommodation, food or transport which you are not entirely happy with then please let us know straight away. If we can identify a problem early enough then we can ensure that action is taken to rectify it immediately. Complaints on matters not raised during the holiday will not be entertained afterwards as the chance to correct the problem has, by that point, passed. This is a complex and demanding itinerary with some long days. Please be patient if we run into local obstacles such as over-zealous officials!



TOUR ORGANISATION

This tour is organised by the London based company Ancient World Tours Ltd and their travel partners Bales Worldwide. The ground arrangements in Egypt are by Traveline Ltd. Inspiration and itinerary have been written and specified by the Mudiras of ARCE Orange County. The tour described does not include international air travel to and from Cairo. However, once in Egypt, flights are all taken care of. You should book through your travel agent or via Susan Motawi at Griffin Travel in La Habra, 562694 6551 or 800 473 2130.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Flights

This tour is a Land Only tour in that passengers are making their own arrangements to get to Cairo. AWI is, however, including all internal flights so you only need to arrange to get in and out of Cairo. Remember that if you are flying EgyptAir, only soft drinks are served during the flight.

Currency

You are recommended to obtain Egyptian money on arrival as exchange rates in Egypt are generally much better than in the USA. Most hotels in Egypt have bank facilities and there are plenty of ATMs.

Bank Cards

Recently, passengers have experienced some difficulty when using their bank cards in Egypt and therefore it is imperative that you notify your bank before travel. A cash float in Egyptian Pounds equivalent to \$30-\$40 per person per day should be sufficient to cover you for soft drinks away from the hotel, light lunches where not included and personal shopping and, of course, any *ad hoc* tips.

Medical Matters

Most problems with health in Egypt are caused by simple things and are generally nothing to do with bad food or nasty local bugs. The following advice will stand you in good stead.

1. Always wear a hat when on excursions the sun is very strong and the breeze can lull you into a false sense of security.
2. When coming in from an excursion do not consume ice-cold drinks

Day 3 – Tuesday 19th January ~ Icons of Egypt - the Perfect Pyramids

We will leave downtown Cairo for the desert, stopping at the Giza Plateau, where we will have a chance to view the three great pyramids and the sphinx, up close, as we have a permit to enter the sphinx enclosure itself. No entry inside the pyramids is planned. We will visit the mortuary temple and causeway, and stop at a spot on the plateau for some great photos. An optional [extra cost] visit to the Solar Boat Museum may be made, instead of the photo op.

There will be a quick stop for lunch at an establishment which offers a special view of the pyramids from its second story windows: McDonalds. We will then go to the archaeological concession of Mark Lehner, the Worker's Village, to see the city where the people who built the pyramids lived. We will return downtown to make a short stop at a hotel to freshen up before we drive back downtown for some very special events.

Today we hope to meet with Dr. Zahi Hawass, Director of the Supreme Council of Antiquities; the exact schedule will depend on Dr. Hawass's always full calendar, and some flexibility may be required. We are also visiting the ARCE headquarters in the heart of modern downtown Cairo. We will meet ARCE staff, partake of refreshments and hear from the Director of Documentation of the brand new ARCE funded Egyptian Museum database project, cataloging every artifact in the collection.

We will then travel a few blocks to the Egyptian Museum. Hugely crowded during the day, we have arranged for a private visit for this group commencing about 6 PM. Everything will be open, except the bookstore, and you will have a chance to see famous and iconic statues and reliefs, royal mummies [\$20 extra], gold jewelry as well as encountering wonderful pieces of art new to you. We will return to the hotel for a late dinner.

[B] Included

[L] Under Own Arrangements at McDonalds

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Ramses Hilton



Day 4 – Wednesday 20th January

~ Royal and Noble Burials: Earlier Pyramids and Mastabas

Today, we shall be changing hotels to relocate outside of Cairo to a hotel more convenient to the Giza plateau. The Mena House Oberoi was upgraded by the King of Egypt from a hunting lodge to a palace to house royalty attending the opening of the Suez Canal. The Empress Eugenie, wife to Emperor Napoleon III, and Queen Victoria's son, Albert, Prince of Wales were among the first guests. Later notables included President Franklyn Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill. The stars of Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile* movie stayed here, and the 1973 peace treaty with Israel was negotiated on site.



The garden wing of the hotel has been rebuilt 2006-2009; we expect to take our meals in the old palace portion of the hotel, set in 40 acres of gardens. Upgrades to pyramid view rooms and suites are available on application.

Egyptologist Jocelyn Gohary joins us for the first of two days. This morning starts with an interesting drive through rural villages to visit Sakkara to see the Djoser Pyramid Complex, which is under renovation. After a short visit to the lovely Imhotep Museum, we will view the Step pyramid from the Heb Sed Court before moving on to the interior of the Pyramid of Unas with its inscribed pyramid texts to help the soul of the pharaoh successfully transit the underworld to resurrection.



We will also be visiting a group of tombs of nobles and court functionaries rarely entered by the public: Irukaptah, Nefer/Kahay, Niankhknem/Khnumhotep, the last the subject of heated scholastic debates as to whether the owners were conjoined twins, brothers or gay hairdressers.

Day 15 – January 31 Sunday

~ Repositioning to return home

Those who are leaving Egypt will today return to Cairo by air and check into the Intercontinental, CityStars, next to the largest mall in Africa. This is perfect for a little last minute shopping, or a tour of the Edwardian era buildings and pharaonic era discoveries of Heliopolis. This is a free day. Some folks will be remaining in Luxor to take optional tour extensions.

[B] Included

[L] Under Own Arrangements

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Cairo Hotel – Intercontinental Citystars.

Day 16 – Monday 1st February ~ Homeward Bound

Tour members will be transferred to the airport individually or in small groups for homeward bound flights. These leave anywhere from midnight to 3 or 4 AM or 8 AM this day. All flights return to US Monday February 1.

Extensions may be booked through Ancient World Tours. Each extension is tailored to your individual requirements and include variations on the following:

Extension in Cairo. We saw a great deal when in Cairo at the start of this tour but there is much more to see besides. We can organise visits to such far flung locations as Bubastis and Tanis from a Cairo – let us know what you'd like.

Extension at the Old Winter Palace. Take extra days before returning to Cairo for your international flight. During your stay you go completely independent or allow us to arrange excursions to places like Abydos and Dendera.

Extension to Aswan. Aswan is just three hours drive from Luxor, with the sites of Mo'alla, Kab, Edfu, Esna and Kom Ombo on the way. An extension in Aswan will allow you to see all the sites of this romantic Egyptian town including Kubbet el Hawa, the High Dam, Philae, Elephantine and the Superb Nubian Museum. Accommodation is provided at the first class Movenpick on Elephantine Island.

Extension to Alexandria. This can be done as a day trip from the Mena House in Cairo or with an overnight at the Cecil Hotel. Kom es-Shugafa, Pompey's Pillar, the New Library and the wonderful Alexandria Museum await.

Extension to Jordan. Leaving Cairo for Amman, the next day you drive south to Petra via the superb Wadi Mujib and the castles of Kerak and Shobak before arriving in Petra itself. The next day is devoted to this amazing site. You return to Amman and visit the Roman city of Jerash before returning to Cairo for your connection.

Day 14 – Saturday 30th January

~West Bank Day III: Ancient Politics

We cross the Nile to visit Deir el Bahri, the loveliest of the mortuary temples, built by Queen/Pharaoh Hatshepsut. The tomb of her stalwart supporter, some say her lover, Sennemut, is nearby which we have permission to enter. This tomb has an unusual astronomical ceiling and a small portrait of its owner on the corridor wall.



Then we will stop at the tomb of Kheruef, steward to another powerful Queen, Tiye, who is portrayed in his tomb. Our next stop will be at a cluster of tombs of nobles and government officials, Ramose, Userhat and Khaemhat, with beautiful carvings. In this vicinity there is a shop selling hand carved

replicas of the reliefs in these tombs, which you may wish to purchase. A quick stop along the road will allow us to see the fine examples of middle class tombs, Roy and Shuroy, two lesser bureaucrats. We will then drive into the impressive Valley of the Monkeys, the Western Valley of the Kings, to see the tomb of Ay, successor to Tutankhamen, and that of the boy king's grandfather, Amenhotep III which we have special permission to enter.

We will finish up the sights in the north east quadrant of the West Bank by visiting the Mortuary Temple of Sety I, and hope for a dismount to take photos in front of the home used by Howard Carter, Carter House. The interior is not accessible. We conclude by driving past the settlement of New Gurna, which houses the evicted residents of Old Gurna, and the SCA storage magazines, which we shall see from the comfort of our coach.

Late Lunch – el Nakhil Restaurant on Gezira Island, followed by a return to the hotel to clean up. Late afternoon the group will depart for the Mummification Museum located along the corniche. After touring the exhibits of this newer museum, we will stay on for the 7 PM lecture, given by a local Egyptologist. Following the lecture the group will return to the hotel to complete final packing of suitcases.

[B] Included

[L] Included

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Old Winter Palace Hotel (Garden Pavilion)

These tombs have some of the finest relief carving in Egyptian art. An especially interesting tomb is that of the 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Horemheb, who built a tomb for himself here before coming to the throne, which we are seeing under special permission.



We break for lunch at a mid point, driving over to the Sakkara Palm Club nearby for an outdoor buffet. After lunch, the group will split into prearranged groups, with some returning to see more mastaba art, and others going over to Dahshur.

Group A

In the Afternoon, the main coach accompanied by Jocelyn returns to Sakkara to enter the mastaba Tombs of Kagemni, Ankhmahor, Ti, Ptah-hotep & Mereruka and the interior of the Pyramid of Teti.



Group B

This group will take a smaller transport to Dahshur. This will include a walk around the Bent Pyramid, the Bent Pyramid Valley Temple (security permitting), the Interior of the Red Pyramid or the Bent Pyramid depending on which is open to visitors. Group B will have a comfortable micro-bus and a member of staff and will return directly to the hotel when the tour is completed.

[B] Included

[L] Included

[D] Under Own Arrangements.

Hotel – Mena House Oberoi

Day 5 – Thursday 21st January

~ Four Wheel Drive expedition to South Sakkara and the pyramid fields and sun temples of Abu Sir, Abu Ghurob and Abu Roash

The Old Kingdom Pyramids were all built within sight of each other, in an arc along the Nile, not far from the ancient capital of Mennefer (Memphis). This perspective is often lost due to modern construction interrupting the view. Today, again accompanied by Egyptologist Jocelyn Gohary, we set out in Land Rover style four wheel drive vehicles to drive the desert between these clusters of pyramids, stopping to visit each in turn. We also learn that the solar cult did not begin with Akhenaten, but had deep roots in early Egyptian history.

We shall start at Abu Sir with its 'pyramid' causeway with scenes of an early expedition to Punt and its mastabas. It may be possible to see the Czech expedition at work in their concession on the Third and Fourth Dynasty mastaba field near the Sun Temples, another at Abu Ghurab. Now, we explore South Sakkara with its Middle Kingdom pyramid of Khendjer and the fascinating 4th Dynasty structure, Mastabat Faraun. Lunch – Sakkara Restaurant along 'Restaurant Row'.



In the afternoon, we drive north to Abu Roash. Here, it is possible to climb down into the heart of a stripped down pyramid. This is the site of the pyramid of Djedefre, son of Khufu, which stones were carried away by daily caravans of 300 camels, to build nearby Cairo. His funerary complex has been excavated over the last decade by the French. The sunset view from this height – perhaps with a suitable libation – is lovely to watch before we return to Mena House. Tonight we must pack up for an early checkout next morning.

[B] Included

[L] Included

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Mena House

Group B will board the bus and drive around the mountain to the site of the workers village of Deir el Medina, where tickets may be purchased to view the tombs of the workers, and the temples of Hathor and Ptah. We are investigating the practicality and safety of offering the option of walking a half mile route to the Valley of Colors, to see the sources of red and yellow ochre used by the painters for the walls of the tombs in the Valleys of the Kings, Queens and Nobles.

Both groups will rendezvous at the workmen's village proper, which has building walls at knee to waist high, allowing quite a vivid appreciation of how the pharaoh's workforce laboring on the tombs and tomb treasures, lived their daily lives.

After, the group will depart for a well earned lunch in the cool garden of the Africa Restaurant near the river.

This afternoon, a dramatic change of pace is planned. We plan to relax sailing on the Nile for a few hours, at the minimum in feluccas, but if we are lucky enough to charter a dahabiya that can hold the entire group, we will. Around the turn of the 20th Century, chartering a dahabiya, or house boat, powered by sail, was THE way to travel the Nile. Readers of the Elizabeth Peters books will recall Amelia Peabody did this very stylishly, having Afternoon Tea and Cakes. [Alas, we shall not imitate the style of Amelia when she was really stressed, and knock down a scotch].

Following a return to the hotel, the balance of the day is at leisure.

[B] Included

[L] Included

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Old Winter Palace Hotel (Garden Pavilion)



Day 13 – Friday 29th January

~West Bank Day II - In the Footsteps of the Workers



We begin the day by seeing the fruit of the craftsmen's labour, the royal tombs. We shall depart early for the West Bank, where our first stop will be the Valley of the Kings. Special permission to visit KV 5, the tomb of the sons of Ramses II, not open to the general public, has been arranged. Then, everyone will receive the standard ticket for access to three tombs. Advice will be provided on the highlights of some to assist you in making a decision on which tombs to visit. People who wish to additionally visit Tutankhamen, to see his mummy on display, which requires a special ticket [extra cost], need to let the guide know in advance. Next, the group will split into two.

Group A will begin to climb a pathway up the Deir el-Bahri cliffs to walk the trail the workers used to commute to work in the Valley of the Kings. Known as the path over Meretseger, from the name of the goddess, She Who Loves Silence, this extremely strenuous, 2.5 to 3 hour walk offers fine views of the surrounding hills, valleys, tombs in the cliffs, and some nice fossilized clams underfoot from the days when this was part of a prehistoric ocean. Unlike the ancient workers, this group will remain in cell phone communication with the other.



Day 6 – Friday 22nd January

~ Journey to Middle Egypt

This morning we board our coach for a long day's drive to Middle Egypt; our ultimate destination is the city of El Minya, the staging area for Tell El Amarna. Passing by the Nile barrages below Cairo, our first stop will be at the famous Meidum Pyramid, which is a reasonably easy pyramid to enter. You may also wish to climb down the ladder into Mastaba 17 - if you are fit!



Lunch is a picnic aboard the bus as we travel deep into rural, agricultural Egypt. As our drive to Middle Egypt concludes, we will stop at the Tombs at Beni Hassan, noted for their documentation of life styles during the Second Intermediate Period, the time when the Hyksos ruled Egypt. Howard Carter's first job in Egypt was to assist in drawing these tombs, which are reached by a high, steep set of steps.

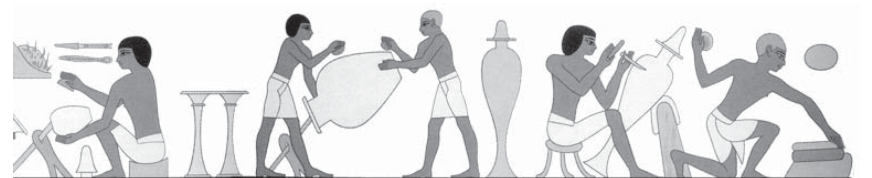
This evening, dinner is included at the hotel, which is the best this rural town has to offer. It is recommended that everyone gets to bed early in anticipation of a long and exciting day on the morrow.

[B] Included

[L] Included – Packed

[D] Included – ETAP Nefertiti

Hotel – Nefertiti alias the Mercure alias the ETAP



Day 7 – Saturday 23rd January
A Full Day to Explore Amarna

This day will be devoted to the ruined city of old Akhetaten, the Horizon of the Aten, now commonly known as Amarna, the royal capital city of Egypt for less than two decades under the rule of the 'heretic' pharaoh Akhenaten. We expect to rise early and travel to the ferry. We will leave our modern comfortable bus behind and use older, local transport to take us to the site, where we will see few standing buildings, but will have a chance to soak up the atmosphere and puzzle why this pharaoh broke with tradition to relocate here.

Should the new site museum be open, we will begin there. Then we have the rare privilege of moving to the Dig House of the Amarna Project, where

Dr. Barry Kemp, acknowledged by all as the leading expert on the Amarna period and the site of Akhetaten, will deliver an orienting lecture before escorting us around the site, visiting the central city, the south suburbs, cemetery and tombs, and the site of the famous workshop of Thutmose the sculptor, where a famous bust of Nefertiti was found among the ruins. We will also see the Central Palace Area and Northern Palace.

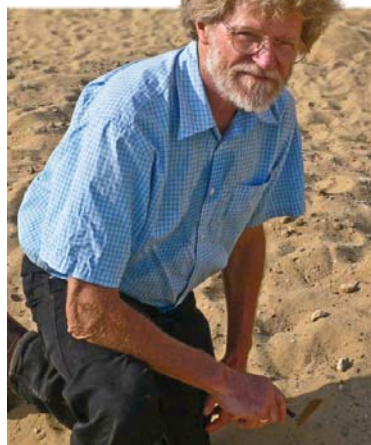
We will have an opportunity to return to the Dig House for refreshments, and to eat our picnic lunches that we brought with us. We will then visit the Royal Wadi, the Royal Tomb and the Northern tombs. We will retrace our steps back to our hotel in Minya for another quiet evening.

[B] Included

[L] Included – Packed lunch from Minya ETAP.

[D] Included

Hotel – Nefertiti alias the Mercure alias the ETAP



Day 12 – Thursday 28th January
~ (Comparatively) Free Day

This morning, there is the opportunity to be present at Karnak temple for sunrise to take some unforgettable photos. Afterwards, it is possible to visit some of the outlying precincts such as the Open Air Museum. [Entry to Karnak this day is an extra charge to be advised and paid locally depending on numbers]. Otherwise, this is designated as a mostly free day. Your many options include a felucca ride on the Nile, a day by the pool, shopping in the souk or crossing the Nile to visit sites not on the itinerary – there will be plenty of suggestions.

Around 3pm, Ray Johnson, the director of the Epigraphic Survey of Chicago House, will provide our group with one of his famous tours of Luxor Temple. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to visit the block yard, not open to the general public, where inscribed blocks awaiting restoration are stored on benches above ground level, so they will not soak up salt or pollutants.

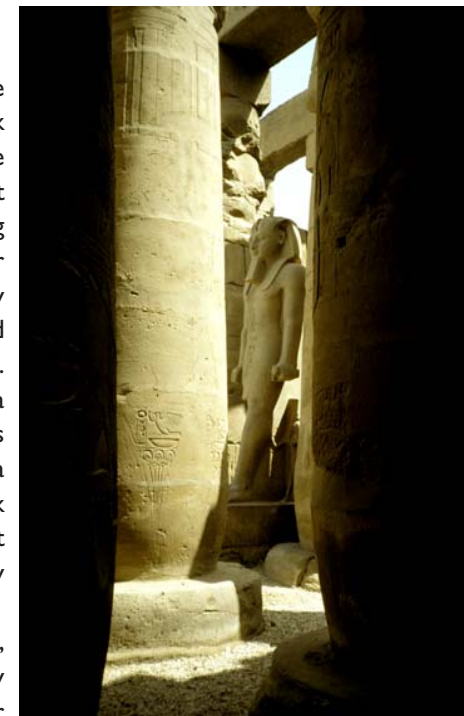
A bit later this evening, we propose a costume party, our variation on the traditional galabiya party. It will be held in a mystery location offering a great setting for taking photos. This is a costume optional event, but you might find it fun to come as your favorite character from Agatha Christie, Amelia Peabody or any Egyptian themed movie. You may come as Amelia, the Master Criminal, Hercule Poirot or a mummy. There are good buys [under \$25] on embroidered Egyptian cotton robes that you could reuse at home, and if you want to purchase something at some point, have fun.

[B] Included

[L] Under Own Arrangements

[D] Included

Hotel – Old Winter Palace (Garden Pavilion)



Day 11 – Wednesday 27th January

~ The Foundation of the Egyptian State - a Day in Predynastic Egypt at Hierakonpolis

Today we will board our bus early for the two hour drive south to the concession of Dr. Renee Friedman. We will learn about the foundations of early Egyptian civilization, and be amazed at how certain trends which started here persisted for the next three thousand years. We will share lunch with Dr. Friedman and her team.

As time permits, we will work in a quick visit to the nearby Ptolemaic temple of Edfu, an edifice with a magnificent boundary wall and impressive entry pylons and courts. Return to Luxor by coach for a free evening at the hotel.



[B] Included

[L] Included

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Old Winter Palace Hotel (Garden Pavilion)



Day 8 – Sunday 24th January

~ Traveling to Upper Egypt

Today we board our coach and drive south, continuing through Middle Egypt to the staging site of the Asyut airport. On the way we will see many different kinds of sites, including, in Tuna el Gebel, the Tomb of Petosiris, the Mummy of Isadora, the Roman Well, the Amarna



Boundary Stele (from a distance!) and the very interesting Baboon & Ibis Galleries. The latter are mummified offerings to the gods from devout ancients who were praying for - the same kinds of things we pray for today.

We will have a picnic lunch aboard the coach. In the afternoon, we will stop at the Meir Tombs, a lovely site visited very infrequently by tourists. These Middle Kingdom tombs yielded a wooden statue of a man with a prototype 'backpack'.

In the early evening, a private charter flight will take us to Luxor where we check into the Old Winter Palace, Garden Pavilion. Upgrades to the Old Building are available with a further upgrade to a Nile View also possible.

[B] Included

[L] Included – Packed lunch from Minya Etap.

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Old Winter Palace Hotel (Garden Pavilion)



Day 9 – Monday 25th January
~ East Bank Day I: Mighty Karnak

This morning, our coach delivers us to Karnak Temple for a rather long visit. We are fortunate to have the services of ARCE's Director of Operations in Luxor, Ed Johnson, to provide an orientation. This temple was built and remodeled over hundreds of years, and it will be our mission to find our way through it and enjoy its nooks and crannies as well as its massive halls. We shall stop by the Temple of the moon god Khonsu, where ARCE OC's vice president, Brett McClain, Chicago House, will be at work recording reliefs, and he will explain the importance of rescue archaeology. We may go on to the Open Air Museum today as well, and hope to visit the Mut precinct site.



A request is in process to the Director of Antiquities for Upper Egypt to provide a briefing and visit on the new finds adjacent to the temple, including the harbor, quay and Avenue of the Sphinxes.

We shall then return to our hotel for a late lunch and rest period. There will be an optional visit to the Brooke Animal Hospital this afternoon so we can see first hand the outstanding work this organisation carries out in Egypt.

In the early evening, the group will go to the Luxor Museum, which contains wonderful statues and artifacts found locally. Following our visits to these galleries, we shall depart in a grand procession of horse drawn caleches for a drive along the corniche back to our hotel, taking in the sites of Luxor as we go. Our caleches will be coordinated from the Brooke, which trains and certifies drivers to properly care for their horses and operate these carriages humanely.

[B] Included

[L] Under Own Arrangements

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Old Winter Palace Hotel (Garden Pavilion)

Day 10 – Tuesday January 26th
~ West Bank Day I: In the Royal Footsteps of New Kingdom Pharaohs

This morning, those desiring to experience the very lovely and safe hot air balloon ascent over the West Bank, and who have pre booked this experience (extra cost) will depart as a group from the hotel before dawn and travel to the West Bank. Following their flight, they will join the main group as we prepare to visit the concession of the Mortuary Temple of Amenhotep III, run by Drs. Hourig Sourouzian and Rainer Stadelmann. Here we will learn about important conservation measures being taken for the Colossi of Memnon, and visit the magazine where many of the statuary discovered on site have been stored. You will also see mounds of pottery shards being catalogued and matched. The next stop will be the Mortuary Temple of Merneptah around the corner, an interesting site infrequently visited, which has a small open air museum.



In order to have a leisurely afternoon we will lunch at the upstairs Tutankhamen Restaurant, which offers a lovely view of the East Bank temples and tasty food from the former cook to the French mission.

The group moves on to the Valley of the Queens, to visit the tomb of Amunhirkhepshef, where touching scenes of Ramses III guiding his young son through the afterlife can be admired.

The final stop of the day will be the palace ruins of Amenhotep III, one of the few palace sites extant in Egypt. Using maps downloaded from the internet, we will walk the corridors and enter the throne room. We shall also see the mounds of the Birket Habu, the scene of much scholarly debate as to whether it constitutes a pleasure lake for the royals, or a harbor for commerce. This requires a special permission for which we continue to apply.

[B] Included

[L] Included

[D] Under Own Arrangements

Hotel – Old Winter Palace Hotel (Garden Pavilion)