



The Land of the Pharaohs

An exclusive tour for Clare alumni
with Egyptologist Dr Toby Wilkinson



Day 1 – London/Luxor – Monday 20th September 2010

Fly London to Luxor with EgyptAir and on arrival we take our private transfer and check-in to the first-class Old Winter Palace, Garden Pavilion, for one night on room and breakfast basis. This hotel is *the* address in Luxor and is a mixture of Edwardian charm and up to date facilities. Although we are only here for one night, we will be returning here to enjoy this most famous hotel.

Day 2 – The Journey to Nubia

This morning we head south towards the beautiful southern town of Aswan. Built on the hard granite rocks of the 1st cataract, this lovely



town is filled with charm. We board our luxury Dahabiya, the Afandina, our home for the next six nights. After lunch and time to unpack, Toby will give an informal lecture entitled *New Kingdom History and*

Culture. This evening, those who wish can visit the beautiful island of Philae for the Sound and Light show at the temple of Isis. (BLD)

Day 3 – Mighty Abu Simbel

An early start as we take our private transfer to Aswan airport for the short flight to Abu Simbel where we will discover the great Temple

of Ramesses II on the shores of Lake Nasser. Constructed as an impressive warning of the magnificence of Egypt to travellers arriving from the south, the great temple is one of the most monumental buildings in Egypt. We will also look at the smaller rock-hewn



Temple of Queen Nefertari. After our guided tour we return to Aswan. This afternoon we explore the extensive ruins of Yebu on Elephantine Island which date back to the Old Kingdom. We see Nilometers, Temples and Sanctuaries and the latest finds of the ongoing excavations. We follow this with a visit to Kubbet el Hawa and the tombs of the Nomarchs. After freshening up and an early dinner we explore the lovely Nubian Museum. (BLD)

Days 4 – 7 – The Land of Blue and Gold

A Dahabiya is the most beautiful way to recreate the peace and atmosphere of 19th Century cruising. Our Dahabiya, the Afandina, gently sails the Nile carrying us North to Luxor. Exact sites and days depend on sailing conditions (there is a small tug to assist) but we will be disembarking at Kom Ombo Temple dedicated to the Gods Haroesis



and Sobek; Gebel el Silsila to see the ancient quarries, shrines and the rock-cut chapel of Horemheb; The Temple of Edfu, the most complete in Egypt and the small Temple of Esna. The Dahabiya is well appointed with superb silver service throughout; attentive staff and comfortable cabins. A maximum of sixteen passengers ensures a feeling of space and comfort throughout – this is the epitome of elegant travel in Egypt, far away from the crowded super-cruisers of modern times. During the cruise Toby will give two talks, *The Geography and Culture of Upper Egypt* and *Thebes*, preparing us for arrival in Luxor. There will be plenty of time aboard to elaborate on the wonders of Egypt with a great many dining table discussions. (BLD)

Day 8 – The Land of the Dead

Today we disembark our Dahabiya and return to the first-class Old Win-

ter Palace, Garden Pavilion Wing, for three nights on room and breakfast basis. Our first visit on the West Bank will be to The Valley of the Kings where we will enter some specially chosen tombs. Then we will enter the Tombs of The Nobles, much



smaller than those of the pharaohs but with some exquisite decoration. Then we will take a look at two of the grandest mortuary temples, namely the Ramesseum and Medinet Habu. We end our West Bank tour with an exploration of Deir el-Medina, the Workers' Village. Here we will see the ruins of the homes of the ancient sculptors, masons and painters who built and decorated the tombs in the Kings Valley. We also take time to enter the artisans unique and colourful tombs. On our way back to the East Bank we will take a stop to look at the famous Colossi of Memnon that once stood guard to the temple of Amenhotep III. (BLD)





Day 9 – East Bank

Our visits today will begin with a tour of the colossal Karnak Temple, the Precinct of Amun where we will take time to wander along the Avenue of Sphinxes, through the Pylons, the colossal pillars of the Hypostyle Hall, the shrines, colonnades and much more. Take refreshment sitting by the Sacred Lake and soak up the atmosphere of this wondrous site. This afternoon to Luxor Temple and a guided tour of the stunning Luxor Museum with its many superb finds from the area. A talk from Toby tonight on the subject of *Ancient Egyptian Religion*. (B)

Day 10 – Pilgrimage to Abydos

Today we have an exciting private excursion heading north to Abydos. Here we will see some of the most stunning relief work in the whole of Egypt within the well preserved Temple of Seti I. This is the site of the famous King List, which we examine before heading outside to the underground complex known as the Osireion, the symbolic tomb of Osiris. A short walk across the sands will take us to the smaller temple constructed by Ramesses II. Although there has been much damage there are some colourful reliefs remaining on the internal wall blocks and the outer walls have some very fine reliefs of the Battle of Kadesh. (B)

Day 11 – Wonder of the World

We leave the splendours of Luxor and take our private transfer to Luxor Airport and then onto Cairo where we check-in to the Movepick hotel at Giza. This afternoon, we make the short journey to explore the Great Pyramids on the Giza Plateau. We will have the chance to enter the smaller Queens Pyramids and some of the many mastaba tombs at the site. We have included a special ticket to see the magnificent Solar Boat museum. Our final visit is to the Valley Temple and the Sphinx enclosure. Later, Toby will give a further talk, *Old Kingdom History and Culture*. (B)



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Day 12 - The Ancient Necropolis

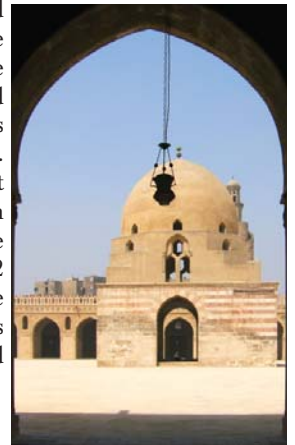
Our tour begins with a full day trip to Sakkara. We start at the recently opened Imhotep Museum to view the collection of items found in the area and get an overview of the whole site. Then to Djoser's Step Pyramid complex, the oldest stone building yet standing, where we will explore the Great South Court, the Heb-Sed Court and of course the Step Pyramid itself. We will take a relaxing lunch at the Sakkara Palm Club before continuing our exploration of the necropolis. We will enter the beautifully decorated Mastaba Tombs of the sixth dynasty, namely Meruruka, Kagemni and Ptah-Hotep. A chance for the adventurous to enter the Pyramid of Teti. (BL)



Day 13 – ‘Wonderful Things’

We start with a guided tour of the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities. In chronological order we will walk through the major galleries taking time to see all the principle exhibits including Tutankhamun's treasures, the Tanis treasures, the Amarna collection and more. This is truly a warehouse of treasures housing some of the most important pieces in the world. There will be free time to explore further or enter the Mummy Room (extra ticket) before we leave. This

afternoon Old Cairo features as we head into the city to view the famous mosques of Mohammed Ali and Sultan Hassan. A complete contrast is the simplicity of the Ibn Tulun Mosque, a rare survivor of the classical Islamic period and considered by modern architects as one of the finest buildings of the world. On to the Gayer-Anderson museum set in a beautifully preserved Old Cairo town house. Our tour will end with a visit to the Khan el Khalili Bazaar founded in 1382 and still a thriving vibrant marketplace where bargains are still to be found. This evening Toby will give a final illustrated lecture, *Ancient Egypt in Perspective*. (B)



Day 14 - Houses of Eternity

A most unusual day as we travel to sites rarely visited – even by archaeologists. Today we start with the Greco-Roman city of Karanis before heading further south to Hawara, site of Herodotus' famous 'Labyrinth'. From here we take a trip across the desert to spectacular Meidum. Here, the adventurous can enter 'Mastaba 17' with its fascinating evidence of ancient tomb robbery. We take the agricultural road north now to the mud-brick pyramid of Lahun before our final destination for this tour, the Red and Bent Pyramids at Dashur.

Day 15 – Homeward Bound

We board our flight for Heathrow arriving early afternoon. (B)

Departure – Monday 20th September 2010

Price Per Person (based on Twin Room) - £3,932.00

Single Supplement - £1,553.00

To book, visit www.ancient.co.uk and follow 'Independent & Group Travel' or contact us on 020 7917 9494.

The price is based on two passengers sharing a twin room with bath or shower and w.c. Meal plan is B = breakfast L=lunch D=dinner as shown. The tour includes private transport throughout and all entrance fees.

