CARAVAN's Egypt Journey

"The Cradle of Civilization"

April 18 – April 28, 2027
(9 days, 10 nights)

Join us on a caravan to explore the wonder of Egypt, through the lens of its artistic culture and spirituality.

9 days and 10 nights in Egypt

All expenses covered except international travel and personal expenses.

Double occupancy *(one or two beds):* $5,250
Single occupancy: $5,650

www.oncaravan.org/tours/egypt

"In the desert of life, the wise person travels by caravan…"
(Arab proverb)

An Introduction

Our journey to Egypt, often referred to as the "Mother of the World," will introduce you to the culture, art and spirituality of this ancient and living civilization. Our caravan will explore the Nile River cities of Cairo and Luxor, as well as down the Red Sea coast to the Arab desert to stand in the sand of ageless time. Our travels will take us from the Great Giza Pyramids, to magnificent mosques, Pharaonic temples and to the oldest monastery in the world.

We will sail on the life-giving waters of the great Nile River, smell the aromas of exotic spices piled high in a bustling *souk*, savor flatbread freshly baked in a clay oven, visit a Bedouin tent-shaped cathedral, hear the Muslim call to prayer from over a thousand minarets, swim in the Red Sea, experience the Sufi dancing of a whirling dervish, explore whale bones in the Western desert and so much more. All along, we will experience ancient and living spiritual traditions – Pharaonic, Islamic, Sufi, Coptic, Jewish, and desert spirituality.

To enhance our journey, art will be woven throughout our caravan - Coptic, Islamic, Ancient Pharaonic and contemporary Egyptian art. We will visit the new Grand Egyptian Museum on the Giza Plateau, marvel at the architecture of Pharaonic temples, see rock carvings in a sandstone amphitheater, contemplate ancient monastic frescoes and Coptic iconography, admire Islamic calligraphy, visit the studios of today's premier Egyptian artists, and so much more.

Join us on a caravan to explore the creative wonder of another world!

The CARAVAN Team

DAILY ITINERARY

April 17 – begin international travel to Egypt depending on departure country

April 18 Sunday	"Meet and Greet" before passport control at Cairo International Airport, transfer to hotel, dinner on own at hotel due to international travelers arriving at different times. Cairo hotel: InterContinental Cairo Semiramis Hotel – downtown Cairo overlooking the Nile (the hotel the actor Omar Sharif lived in!)
April 19 Monday	**ISLAMIC CAIRO** <u>Breakfast:</u> at hotel followed by a welcome/orientation meeting Morning: • Museum of Civilization • Sultan Hassan Mosque (experience the Muezzin call to prayer). • The Citadel (Mohamed Ali Mosque) <u>Lunch</u>: • Granita as Azhar Park with Whirling Dervish Dancing Afternoon: • Khan El Khalili bazaar – shopping in souk • Tea at El Fishawy Café - one of oldest continually functioning cafes in the world • (if time - Visit Bab Zuweila City Gate, Al-Salih Tala'i Mosque and Tentmakers' Street) <u>Dinner:</u> Hotel

April 20 Tuesday

COPTIC CAIRO (Souq al Fustat)

Breakfast: at hotel

Morning:

- Coptic Christian Old Cairo including the Coptic Museum, Hanging Church, Ben Ezra Synagogue, Abu Serga Church, St. Barbara Church, St. Mercurius Church

Lunch: On a Nile sailboat (felucca)
(catered lunch from Abou Tarek Koshari)

Afternoon:

- Visit to St. Simon “The Tanner” Monastery and Cave Church and Recycle Craft Center in the Mokattam area of Cairo (where many garbage collectors live, and where up to 13,000 people meet in a cave church each Thursday evening). Known as well for its rock sculptures.

Dinner: Hotel

April 21 Wednesday	**RED SEA & ARAB DESERT MONASTERY** Check out of hotel <u>Breakfast</u>: at hotel Morning: • Travel to western shore of the Red Sea / Suez Canal • Visiting oldest monastery in the world - St. Anthony's Afternoon: • Check in at Stella Di Mare Grand Hotel on Red Sea for one night. • Afternoon to swim in or relax by the Red Sea. <u>Lunch</u>: at hotel <u>Dinner:</u> Stella Di Mare Grand Hotel

April 22 Thursday	**SAKKARA NECROPOLIS** <u>Breakfast:</u> at hotel Check out of hotel and drive to Sakkara Morning: • Sakkara Necropolis and Step Pyramid • Visit an Artisan Tapestry Workshop <u>Lunch</u>: at Blue Lotus organic farm Afternoon: • Merit Papyrus Shop (on return to Giza area) • Check in at Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel <u>Dinner:</u> Hotel *Steigenberger Pyramid Hotel*
April 23	**TUNIS/FAYOUM OASIS IN THE WESTERN DESERT** *(whale bones, contemporary Egypt artist)*

Friday	Breakfast: at hotel Morning: • Visit Whale Bones Valley (UNESCO World Heritage Site) via 4 x 4 SUVs Lunch: picnic in Bedouin camp in desert by Wadi Al Rayan Afternoon: • Visit with celebrated Egyptian contemporary artist Mohammed Abla at his Fayoum Art Center and see his Middle Eastern Caricature Museum and contemporary art museum Dinner: Ibis Restaurant in Tunis Oasis Village
April 24 Saturday	**PHARAONIC CAIRO (THEN FLY TO LUXOR)** Breakfast: at hotel Check out of hotel Morning: • Giza Pyramids and The Sphinx (option of camel rides near the Pyramids) Lunch: 9 Pyramids Lounge overlooking the Giza pyramid plateau Afternoon: • Drop-off at Cairo Domestic Airport and fly to Luxor: • Transfer to Hilton Hotel Luxor on the Nile Dinner: at Hilton Hotel Luxor

Hilton Hotel Luxor – on the Nile

April 25 Sunday

LUXOR

Breakfast: at hotel

Morning:

- Valley of Kings (i.e. tomb of King Tut) and Hatshepsut Temple
- Visit an Alabaster workshop

Lunch: Marsam Hotel

Afternoon and Evening:

- Rest/Relax at hotel
- Sunset Tour of Luxor Temple & the Sphinx Avenue

We will explore how the ancient Egyptians left behind an immense collection of spiritual knowledge through their architecture, hieroglyph, art and symbols.

Dinner: at Hilton Hotel Luxor

King Tut's tomb

April 26 Monday

LUXOR during the morning - then fly to CAIRO

<u>Breakfast</u>: at hotel (then check out)

Morning:

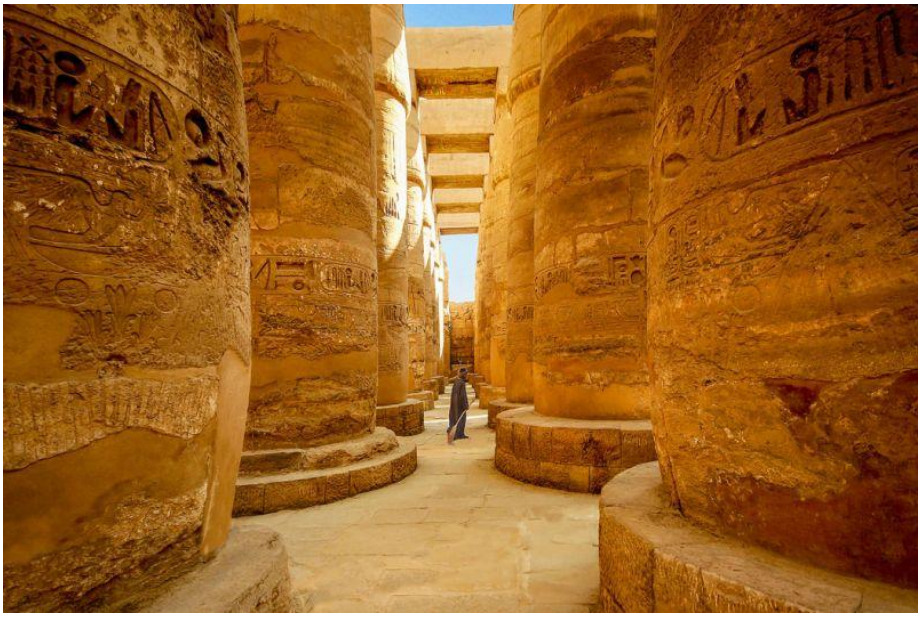
- Visit Karnak Temple complex in ancient Thebes (in Luxor)
  The Karnak Temple took over 2,000 years to build and is the largest building ever constructed for religious purposes, which includes the Temple of Amun-Re, Hypostyle Hall, and the Sacred Lake.

<u>Lunch</u>: Sofra restaurant in downtown Luxor

Afternoon:

- Mid-afternoon flight to Cairo:
  -Transfer back to hotel in Cairo
  Steigenberger Pyramid Hotel

<u>Dinner</u>: at hotel

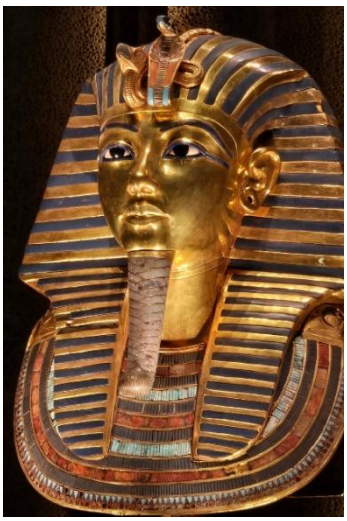


Karnak Temple

April 27
Tuesday

GRAND EGYPT MUSEUM

Breakfast: at hotel



Morning:

- Visit the new Grand Egyptian Museum, the largest museum in the world, including the spectacular display of King Tut and King Khufu's solar ship.

Lunch: at Zooba restaurant in museum

Afternoon:

- Last minute shopping or a time of rest and packing at hotel

Dinner: Hotel

April 28 Wednesday	**DEPARTURE - morning departure** (morning hotel check out required on April 28). *Note: international flights often depart late night of April 27 / early morning hours April 28.*

COSTS

Double occupancy (one or two beds): $5,250
Single occupancy: $5,650
If you are traveling alone but wish to share a room, please let us know when you register and we will attempt to find a suitable traveling companion. If we are unable to find someone, we will notify you of the supplemental cost needed for a single room.

INCLUDED IN JOURNEY COSTS:

- "Meet and Greet" before passport control at airport, transfer from/to airport
- Egyptian visa – provided upon arrival by "Meet and Greet" agent before passport control
- All ground transportation
- In country flight: Cairo to/from Luxor - Star Alliance Partner EgyptAir
- Hotel lodging at 4 and 5 star hotels
- All meals of breakfast, lunch and dinner (drinks: bottled water at meals and on bus)
- Private tour bus throughout the trip
- All entrance fees to sites
- Our own dedicated tour guides throughout the trip
- Journey hosted by President of CARAVAN Arts

NOT INCLUDED IN JOURNEY COSTS:

- International travel to and from Egypt
- Suggested travel health insurance and recommended comprehensive travel insurance (protection for cancellations, trip interruptions, lost baggage)
- Personal expenses
- Beverages: (coffee/tea/juice included at breakfast & water at meals and bus)

PAYMENTS:
After reviewing your inquiry form, we will email you further instructions on the registration process, including needed forms and payment options to submit a deposit of $500 per person, along with a schedule of payments due. You will be able to pay via credit card (via PayPal), US check, Zelle or bank wire transfer.

1. $500 deposit per person due with journey registration forms
2. 50% of costs due 6 months ahead of the journey
3. 100% of costs due 3 months ahead of the journey

CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY:
The $500 deposit is nonrefundable unless the journey is cancelled or rescheduled. Payments are 50% refundable up to 6 months before the journey begins; after that, any refund will depend on someone else taking your place on the journey, or you can request to join us on a future journey within twelve months, where your installments minus the deposit and any non-refundable deposits made by the supplier, will be credited to that journey. **We strongly recommend that all participants purchase comprehensive trip cancellation and interruption insurance in the event you need to cancel your travel plans.**

Egypt requires a passport that is valid for 6 months beyond your scheduled return date. A tourist visa is required and will be arranged ahead of time and given to you by our Meet and Greet agent upon your arrival at Cairo International Airport.

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