



Mystery School Journey 2010 Initiation Along the Nile

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1, Saturday, April 24: Depart for CAIRO:

Depart New York JFK approximately 6:30PM for Cairo, Egypt. It is STRONGLY recommended that those flying from the West Coast plan to arrive in New York on April 23, 2010, as same day connections on April 24 can not be guaranteed. Overnight lodging on April 23 is not included in the trip cost.

Day 2, Sunday, April 25: Arrive CAIRO / ASWAN:

Arrive Cairo International Airport at approximately noon local time where we will be met by our Tour Manager who will assist us through customs and immigration, then transfer us to the domestic terminal for our flight to Aswan.

(Welcome Dinner at Hotel included)

Day 3, Monday, April 26: Aswan

This morning, and after breakfast, we have a meeting for orientation, to introduce our guides and staff that will be serving you for the whole trip, and answering any questions you may have so far.

In the afternoon, after lunch, we take our felucca ride to visit the Elephantine Island. Aswan's name in the past was "Suene", meaning "market-place", given the island because it was a main center for ivory trade. We will see what Aswan market has to offer this day when we visit its Nubian Market.

(Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 4, Tuesday, April 27: Aswan / Abu Simbel:

Breakfast, followed by time with Jean. After lunch on our own, we leave by bus to Abu Simbel. In the evening, we explore this incredible site, considered the Southern Gate of Egypt from ancient times through the present.

Hewn of a mountain for Ramesses II, these magnificent temples are both an ancient and modern engineering marvel. They were rescued between 1964 and 1968 by the Egyptian government in association with UNESCO, who undertook a truly "Pharaonic" task. The two speos of Ramses II and Nefertari were cut into sections, strengthened, dismantled and re-constructed on the summit of a rocky outcrop of the Libyan mountains which overlook the Nile. The original site, at the foot of the cliff, was completely submerged following the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

(Breakfast, Dinner included)

Day 5, Wednesday, April 28: Aswan / Nile cruise:

Following breakfast, we travel by bus through the Sahara desert to Aswan to check into our deluxe Nile cruise "Moon Goddess" our home for the next six nights.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included)

Day 6, Thursday, April 29: Aswan / Philae / Kom Ombo / Edfu :

Before dawn we will travel in small boats to Philae Island, where Jean will lead us through a private sunrise meditation and initiation at the temple of Isis. This isle represents a fusion three great civilizations -- Egyptian, Greek and Roman -- and the presence of Isis is palpable as we visit her Birth room inside her temple.

About noon, we enjoy our lunch before we sail to Kom Ombo to visit the Temple dedicated to the hawk-headed god, Haroeris, and the crocodile god, Sobek. We then continue cruising to Edfu. This evening we'll view, privately and exclusively, the Temple of falcon-headed Horus at Edfu – one of the finest examples of Ptolemaic art in Egypt.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 7, Friday, April 30: Edfu / Luxor:

A full day to enjoy sailing on the magical Nile as we sail to Luxor through Esna lock. Luxor lies on the site of Thebes, the capital of Egypt at its height. Then, in the evening, we enjoy our Galabiyya party and games.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 8, Saturday, May 1: Dendarah and Abydos Temples:

Morning bus departure to Dendarah, the Temple dedicated to Hathor, Goddess of Joy, Music and Love. The temple was begun during the reign of Ptolemy XII Auletes (80-51 BC). It is a truly magnificent temple to behold with its chapels, chambers, chapel of the New Year, staircases and columns.

"Ra opened his eyes inside the lotus as it emerged from the primordial chaos and his eyes began to weep and droplets fell to the ground: they were transformed into a beautiful woman who was named Gold of the Gods, Hat-hor the Great, Mistress of Dendera."

(Based on a translation by Sylvie Cauville)

We then drive to Abydos, Temple of Seti I. This temple marks the birth of what was to become the Ramesside style. Among the temple's special features are the Seven Axial Chapels, whose reliefs number among the most beautiful in Egyptian art.

"Osiris is worshipped at Abydos. In his temple, it is forbidden to sing or play the trumpet or the lyre in honor of the God, as is the custom for the other divinities." ~ Strabo

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 9, Sunday, May 2: West Bank / Valley of Kings:

Today we visit The Necropolis of Thebes along the West Bank of the Nile. We tour the Valley of the Kings; then visit Madinet Habu, Dier El Maidnet and Colossi of Memnon. Lunch is served at "Africa" restaurant.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 10, Monday, May 3: Karnak / Luxor temples:

We begin with a sunrise visit to Karnak temple and meditation at Sekhmet chapel. We are back to the Moon Goddess for breakfast. Free afternoon at leisure to explore more of Luxor. In the evening, under the Stars, we'll visit the Luxor temple, called by R. A. Schwaller de Lubicz, the "Temple of Man".

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 11, Tuesday, May 4: LUXOR / CAIRO / Rafaai mosque:

This morning we fly from Luxor to Cairo. Upon arrival, we visit the oldest part of Cairo city: Islamic Cairo. This includes Rafaai mosque, where the Shah of Iran is buried with the Royal family members of late King Farouk. After lunch, we check into Mena House Hotel, with the Great Pyramid at Giza on our doorstep.

(Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 12, Wednesday, May 5: Alexandria

Following breakfast, we drive north of Cairo to visit Alexandria, the second capital of Egypt. Located on the Mediterranean Sea and called "The Doll of the Mediterranean" the city was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C. We visit the National museum, which has unique pieces from Alexander the Great's time. Known as the Center of Learning in the ancient world, we also visit newly opened Alexandria Library, the second largest in the world. Lunch will be

served in Alexandria at a local seafood restaurant before we drive back to Cairo.

(Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 13, Thursday, May 6: Dr. Zahi Hawass / Egyptian museum:

After enjoying breakfast in our hotel, we'll have a meeting with the world famous Egyptologist, Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egyptian Antiquities, who will give a special lecture about the latest discoveries in Egypt.

Late afternoon we travel by coach to the Egyptian Museum to see it as few do, privately and exclusively. After a guided tour -- learning about some of the most ancient Egyptian artifacts: the Narmer Palette, Ra-hotep and Nofert's legendary statues, Khafra's immaculate diorite statue, Hatshepsut's statues and sphinxes, the artifacts and gold of Tut-ankh-Amon -- we will have time to wander the museum in quiet solitude, to ponder the artifacts left to us by the pharaohs and to contemplate the mysteries surrounding the great dynasties.

(Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 14, Friday, May 7: Dahshour / Sakara:

Today we drive to Sakkara to view dozens of Old Kingdom pyramids on the West Bank near ancient Memphis. About 2,630 B.C., Imhotep, architect to King Djoser (Dynasty III), masterminded the step pyramid at Sakkara. The world's oldest freestanding stone structure, this pyramid consists of six tiers atop a mastaba or low, oblong tomb faced with cut stone. We continue then to Dahshour, which was closed for many, many years and just opened recently for visitors. Dahshour holds the Black, White & Red Pyramids on its territory.

With governmental permission, we will visit Pyramid of Unas which is closed for public visit. It contains the Book of the Dead and our visit is a very unique opportunity: few travelers to Egypt have visited this pyramid. Lunch will be served during sightseeing at Sakkra restaurant.

(Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 15, Saturday, May 8: Sphinx / Giza / Pyramids:

Very early this morning we visit the Giza Plateau. We are off to discover some of the most impactful Wonders of the World, to literally touch them and feel them. At the Great Sphinx we meditate between the Paws, and then touch the Pyramids of the Giza plateau. Our guide, who is an encyclopedia of Egyptology, will give us detailed examinations of various controversial theories surrounding these amazing structures. Next is our private and exclusive visit inside the King's and Queen's Chambers in the Great Pyramid for ceremony with Jean and final initiation in the King's sarcophagus.

We return to the hotel for breakfast, and lunch is on our own. This evening we will enjoy a very special dinner, where we all share our blessings and say farewell to those not continuing with us.

(Breakfast, Dinner included)

Day 16, Sunday, May 9: Departure or on to Jordan:

For those departing today, there is breakfast followed by final transfer to Cairo International Airport for final departure.

(Breakfast included)

(Itinerary is subject to change due to reasons beyond our control)