



# **ANCIENT EGYPT And THE SINAI**



**JUNE 5 – 20, 2009  
16 DAYS/14 NIGHTS**

The Dive Shop  
1702 E. Prince Rd. Tucson AZ 85719  
520.326.DIVE  
[www.AZDiveShop.com](http://www.AZDiveShop.com)



### **Day 1 – Friday – June 5 - Departure**

Depart New York this evening for Cairo, Egypt.

### **Day 2 – Saturday – June 6 - Cairo**

Welcome to Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs! On arrival at Cairo International, you will be met and assisted with visa formalities and escorted to your hotel. As you drive through Cairo, you will see some interesting ancient monuments. After check-in at the hotel and time to freshen up, meet with the Learning Through Travel representative to discuss the exciting days ahead. A welcome dinner this evening will introduce you to Egyptian cuisine.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: MARRIOT PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (D)**



### **Day 3 – Sunday – June 7 - Cairo**

Today you will visit the Giza Plateau where there are three Pyramids, the greatest being that of Cheops. It took 100,000 workers more than 20 years to construct. Entrance into one of the pyramids is included. Southeast of the Great Pyramids is the Sphinx, carved out of solid natural rock in about 2650 BC, a magnificent monument with the head of the Pharaoh and the body of a lion. Continue to visit the first Pyramid ever built, the Step Pyramid of Zoser, in the Sakkara

Complex. When Memphis was the capital of Egypt, during the Old Kingdom period, Sakkara was its necropolis. Spread over seven kilometers of desert, Sakkara is one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Before returning to the hotel, we will visit the remains in Memphis, the first capital of united Upper and Lower Egypt.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: MARRIOTT PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L)**



### **Day 4 – Monday – June 8 - Cairo**

This morning you will be introduced to the masterpieces of ancient art in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, including the Mummy Room. The museum is home to the vast findings of King Tutankhamen's tomb and other important pieces of Egypt's history. There will be time to shop at the Khan El Khalili Bazaar, known for its narrow alleys. Hundreds of shops are selling all types of Egyptian handicrafts, silver and gold jewelry, cottons, copperware and perfumes.

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### **Day 5 – Tuesday - June 9 - Cairo/Aswan -Nile Cruise Begins**

This morning you will fly to Aswan where you will connect with a flight to Abu Simbel to visit the great Temples of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. The colossal statues were originally carved into the side of a natural cliff that had to be rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. After your excursion and upon your return to Aswan you will embark your Nile cruise. After lunch, visit Aswan's High Dam, Granite Quarries, and Unfinished Obelisk. Then continue by felucca to enjoy Kitcheners Island with its beautiful gardens and to view the mausoleum of the Agha Khan.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: MS SARA CRUISE SHIP OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)**

### **Day 6 – Wednesday – June 10 - Nile Cruise Aswan/Kom Ombo/Edfu**

After breakfast sail in a small boat to the Philae Temple, situated on the island of Agilika. Like Abu Simbel, the temple was relocated in order to protect it from the rising water of the High Dam, built in 1960. The main sanctuary on the island is dedicated to the Goddess Isis and her son Horus. Ancient Egyptians believed that Isis was the Goddess of Magic, and when she wept, the Nile flooded. This afternoon set sail for the city of Kom Ombo, known as "Ombos" in ancient times. Its location on the Nile, from which the routes from Nubia to the Nile Valley could be controlled, gave it strategic importance. The city became prosperous when the temple was built in the Ptolemaic era. The temple is divided into two symmetrical halves. The left side is dedicated to the falcon-headed god, "Heroeris," and the right side to the crocodile god, "Sobek". Reliefs of Ptolemaic Pharaohs are found in the porch area. The remainder of the temple consists of a crypt, chapels, Roman wells where sacred crocodiles may have been kept, and the remains of a birth house. On the walls of the temple, you will see the first recorded representation of medical instruments. Sail onto Edfu, midway between Aswan and Luxor.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: MS NILE CRUISE SHIP OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)**

### **Day 7 – Thursday – June 11 - Nile Cruise Edfu/Luxor**

Begin the day by visiting the magnificently preserved temple of Edfu. The sandstone temple of Horus, the Sun God, was built under the Ptolemies and completed by the mid first century, BC. In the colonnaded court, we will see the surviving statue of a pair of falcons representing Horus. A series of smaller chambers leads to the Sanctuary of the God, which is lit by three openings in the ceiling. Ceremonies, celebrations, and war scenes are shown on the walls of the temple. Later today, we sail to



Esna, pass the lock, and arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes. This afternoon we will explore the East Bank of the Nile including the Temple of Luxor. Here, the Avenue of Sphinxes, famous for its artistic degree of uniformity, leads to the entrance of the temple where a seated colossus of Ramses II and a towering Obelisk sit. Continue to the Karnak Temple, one of the most impressive monuments of ancient art and architecture in the world. The carvings, which adorn all of the walls, depict the history and conquests of many of Egypt's Pharaohs.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: MS SARA NILE CRUISE SHIP OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)**



**Day 8 – Friday – June 12 - Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh**

Disembark the ship in the morning and cross the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings. The Valley of the Kings houses 63 tombs belonging to the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom, including the famous tomb of King Tutankhamen. Many of the tombs, carved out of the bedrock, retain their original bright colors and fine relief's and scenes, thought to guarantee the safe passage of the Ka to the after life.

Afterwards continue to Deir El Bahri to visit the mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, considered being one of the finest buildings in Egypt. A short flight will take you to Sharm El Sheikh, the "Land of Turquoise" where rock meets coral reefs and the desert stops at the sea. Sharm El Sheikh offers rich and elegant seaside resorts and is often called the "Egyptian Riviera." Your resort has all the amenities of a luxury seaside hotel and offers spectacular shore diving and snorkeling.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: SHERATON HOTEL AND RESORT (B, D)**



**Day 9 – Saturday – June 13 - Sharm El Sheikh – Ras Mohammed Diving**

Today you will have an opportunity to have three dives beginning at the most spectacular sites in all of the undersea, and the "masterpiece" of wall dives Ras Mohammed. It has been said that if there were just one dive place in the world to dive that would be Ras Mohammed. The Ras Mohammed Wall extends from the eel garden in the north to a large rock formation in the south called the Shark Observatory. Above the surface is a sheer limestone cliff with a fringing reef below. Drifting southward with the gentle current, every ledge and crevice has something different to offer. Colorful soft corals grow from overhangs, surrounded by Anthias, which flutter around the wall like butterflies. Giant gorgonian fans, up to 15 feet across, spread horizontally on some of the

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ledges. A few areas, especially in deep crevices, are dark and devoid of life, while others are brilliantly colorful and alive with activity. Caves provide refuge for soldier fish, hatchet fish, and silver sweepers. If you look upward, you will notice schools of jacks or tunas, a shark or eagle ray. This sight will keep you in awe!

**ACCOMODATIONS: SHERATON HOTEL AND RESORT (B, L, D)**

### **Day 10 – Sunday – June 14 - Sharm El Sheikh - Straits of Tiran Diving**



Today you will dive one of the Sinai's most spectacular areas the Straits of Tiran. Starting from the north the first reef is Jackson Reef and on its edge rests the wreck of a freighter. The southeastern end, where the currents are weaker, is the perfect mooring place for all kinds of diving vessels. Starting you dive towards the north, you will come across a forest of awesome Gorgonian fan corals dancing in the current at about 20 to 30 meters as well as a wide variety of reef fish. The long, narrow Woodhouse Reef, which you dive as a drift dive from north to

south, is home to reef sharks and eagle rays. At 40 meters you can find a small "Satellite Reef" 18 meters in length; with its numerous caves and outstanding underwater landscape this is the most interesting section of the dive. Thomas Reef is the smallest of the 4 reefs but be aware! This location is for experienced divers only and it is always recommended to make a "test dive" to verify the direction of the extremely strong currents! Drift dive with the current and you will find some of the most colorful soft coral gardens anywhere in the gulf. Gordon Reef with its Lighthouse is the most eastern point of the Straits; another freighter wreck rests here on the reef table, almost parallel to the one on Jackson Reef. Discover huge varieties of reef fish and large schools of groupers can be seen here. On the sandy bottom at 4 to 5 meters, many Garden Eels are peeking out from the seabed moving gently in the currents. It is a popular habitat for eagle rays and reef sharks who mainly cruise at greater depths but are often spotted popping up for lunch and to take a look at the divers. On the way to and from Tiran always look out for dolphins - they love to swim along with the boats. Three-day dives are included today.

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### Day 11 – Monday – June 15 - Sharm El Sheikh - Thistlegorm

There is no area in the world comparable to the site that you will dive today. Imagine diving in a watery World War II museum to view a unique piece of military history and dive into the past. The SS Thistlegorm was sunk by German bomber planes in World War II. It rests at the bottom of the sea for over sixty years. Located in the Straits of Gubal, Northern Red Sea this famous vessel has been the subject of much activity and drama during its life as merchant ship and now as an excellent dive site. In 1941 it was destined for British troops in North Africa to deliver supplies. Though described on the manifest

as "MT" (Motor Transport), this - probably deliberate, non-description hid a wide array of Land Mines, Shells, Ammunition, Weapons, Bedford Trucks, Armored Cars, Bren-Carriers, BSA Motorcycles, Trailers, Vehicle spares, Aircraft and parts, Radios, Rubber thigh-boots - and a great deal more besides. To save cargo space, the Motorcycles were placed onto the back of the Bedford trucks - three at a time before loading. Also on board were two sets of rolling stock to Egyptian Railways - each comprising a 0-6-0 Railway Engine, one Tender, and one Water Carrier - all six items being carried as deck cargo. After two months of sailing, the Thistlegorm landed in Egypt and was assigned "Safe Anchorage "F", and wait for orders to proceed to Alexandria. The Germans based in Crete, Greece were alerted of the anchorage and released two bombs right over her bridge. Both penetrated No 5 hold - aft of the bridge, detonating a great deal of ammunition. The explosion sent the two locomotives spiraling into the air, as the ship was ripped open like a huge tin can. Even to this day, the rear decks are peeled back towards the Bridge leaving many a Diver wondering what exactly is he looking at. Some accounts have even described this as "Armour Plating!" Unaware, the Thistlegorm had no time to defend herself and it quickly sunk while the crew abandoned ship. In 1956, Jacques Cousteau found the Thistlegorm and kept it a secret until the early 1990's when a group of divers happened to discover her. Despite extensive damage aft of the Bridge, the main section is upright and on an even keel. In the past years, many of the smaller treasures have been taken but you will be able to see many other sunken wonders. You will never forget this site! Three dives today. There is a possibility to have a night dive at the Thistlegorm for an additional cost.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: SHERATON HOTEL AND RESORT (B, L, D)**



### **Day 12 – Tuesday – June 16 – Sharm El Sheikh**

Your final day in Sharm El Sheikh is at your leisure. You may choose to take the optional tour to St. Catherine's Monastery. Leave your hotel before sunrise for St. Catherine's. For those interested in climbing Mount Moses you will have the opportunity to do so. For those choosing not to climb, enjoy breakfast and a rest at the St. Catherine Hotel. Then visit St. Catherine's Monastery. Constructed by order of the Emperor Justinian between 527 and 565 the monastery was built around what is thought to be Moses' Burning Bush, which has a chapel built atop. It is a spectacular natural setting for priceless works of art. Arab mosaics, Greek and Russian icons, Western oil paintings, paintings on wax, fine sacerdotal ornaments, marbles, enamels, chalices, reliquaries, including one donated by Czar Alexander II in the 19th century, and another by Empress Catherine of Russia in the 17th century. Perhaps even greater significance, this is the second largest collection of illuminated manuscripts (The Vatican has the largest). Return to Sharm El Sheikh for the afternoon. This evening as the sun sets, take a camel ride out into the desert for tea and pastry at a Bedouin camp. Afterwards return to the hotel for dinner.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: SHERATON HOTEL AND RESORT (B, L, D)**

### **Day 13/14 – Wednesday/Thursday – June 17/18 - Sharm El Sheikh/Cairo/Alexandria**

Return to Cairo today then drive along the Pyramids Road to Alexandria. The next two days will be spent exploring the many sites of ancient and modern day Alexandria. Visit the newly opened Alexandria Library, Pompeii Pillar, the Underground Catacombs, Roman Greco Theater, Montazah Garden, Museum and Pharos where the Lighthouse stood. You will have an opportunity to dive into history as you explore the ancient underwater city of Cleopatra and her Palace. The site is located inside the Eastern Harbor of Alexandria. The city lies both inside and outside the harbor (Pharos Island - part of the royal quarter). The city collapsed and fell into the sea after several earthquakes.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: SOFITEL HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, D)**

### **Day 15 – Friday – June 19 - Alexandria/Cairo**

Return to Cairo today after your second dive in the Eastern Harbor of Alexandria. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner.

**ACCOMMODATIONS: HELIOPOLIS FAIRMONT HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, D)**

### **Day 16 – Saturday – June 20 - Departure**

Your Ancient Egypt and the Sinai tour ends today as you are escorted to the airport. Arrive home your hearts and minds filled with happy memories of ancient and modern day Egypt. **(B)**



**MAGNIFICENT EGYPT AND THE SINAI**  
**JUNE 5 – 20, 2009**

**I. NET RATES PER PERSON**

**Double                      \$5375.00**

**II. OPTIONAL TOURS**

- Sound & Light Show at Karnak Temple \$40.00
- St. Catherine's Monastery \$85.00

**III. TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- International air New York/Cairo/New York
- Domestic Air Cairo/Aswan-Aswan/Abu Simbel/Aswan-Luxor/Sharm El Shiekh-Cairo
- 3 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Marriott Palace Hotel or similar
- 4 days/3 nights 5-star deluxe Nile Cruise
- 5 nights accommodation in Sharm El Shiekh at the Sheraton Hotel and Resort or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Alexandria at the Sofitel Hotel or similar
- 1 night accommodation in Cairo at the Heliopolis Fairmont Hotel or similar
- All transfers: Cairo/Aswan/Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh/Alexandria
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe motor coach
- English speaking Egyptologist-guide throughout Egypt
- Full day sightseeing Pyramids (entrance into 1 pyramid)/sphinx –Memphis/Sakkara
- Full day sightseeing Egyptian Museum of Antiquities including entrance into the Mummies Room-Citadel, Mosque & Bazaar
- Abu Simbel excursion
- All entrance fees and shore excursions on Nile Cruise
- Sharm El Sheikh 3 days of dive excursions (excluding dive equipment & park fees)
- 2 dive excursions in Alexandria
- 14 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 dinners

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- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage
- Luggage Tags, Travel Bag, Passport Wallet and First Aid Kit

#### IV. NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. Departure Taxes & Airport Security (\$300.00 subject to change)
- Domestic air within the U.S.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, inter-net services, dive services i.e. equipment, etc is not included, soft drinks, coffee, tea (except at breakfast), mineral water, alcoholic beverages, passport fees, tips to drivers, guides, transfer people, travel insurance, etc.....11/22/07

*Please Note: This itinerary sequence is subject to change due to hotel availability, weather conditions, and government restrictions.*

#### V. DEPOSITS

- An initial deposit of \$500.00 is due upon acceptance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit of \$250.00 is due February 1, 2009.
- Monthly payments of \$200
- Final balance due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009
- If cancellation occurs 60 days prior to departure, there will be a \$500.00 per person cancellation plus any non-refundable pre-paid expenses and administrative fees.
- If cancellation occurs 59 days or less prior to departure, registrant will be considered a "no show" resulting in forfeiture of all monies paid.
- No refunds will be issued for unused portions of the trip



## VI. RESPONSIBILITY

The Dive Shop (TDS) and Learning Through Travel, Inc. (LTT) acts as agents in making and securing all arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and accommodations for the tour concerned. TDS & LTT do not own, manage, and control or operate any transportation vehicle, hotel or restaurant or any other supplier of services. All coupons, receipts, and tickets are issued subject to terms and conditions specified by suppliers. By accepting the tickets and vouchers, you agree (and your parents or guardians if you are a minor) that neither TDS or LTT or any of its representative shall be liable for any injury or damage to you or to your belongings in or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences beyond its control including acts of God, weather delays, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in schedule of services. All accommodations, services, and facilities are subject to the laws and customs of the countries in which these accommodations, services, and facilities are rendered. LTT reserve the right to make necessary changes in the itinerary or services, to substitute the airlines or accommodations or to cancel any tour at its own discretion in which case the sole liability of LTT towards the client shall be refund of money paid.

No employee of LTT can change the terms under which you agree to participate in tour. Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time you are on board their aircraft. The passage contract in use by thee airlines involved when issued constitutes the sole agreement between you and the airline, and in purchasing a passage contract as part of this tour the participant (and your parents or guardian if you are a minor) acknowledge and accepts the foregoing condition. The undersigned has reviewed the enclosed material regarding EGYPT and accepts the Terms and Conditions set forth by Learning Through Travel, Inc...

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Customer Signature

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Date Accepted

*Mark Rogers*

Mark Rogers  
The Dive Shop, LLC.

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