



**THE DIVE SHOP TUSCON
EXPLORE
ANCIENT EGYPT AND JORDAN**



**INCLUDING A SHARM EL SHEIKH MINI-SAFARI
JUNE 2012
19 DAYS/17 NIGHTS**

2470 North Jerusalem Road Suite # 15, North Bellmore, NY 11710,

Tel 516-781-5556, Fax 516-781-5557

Toll Free 1-866-853-2711, info@learningthroughtravel.com

WWW.LEARNINGTHROUGHTRAVEL.COM

1/27/10



Day 1 – Friday – Departure

Depart New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport this evening for Cairo, Egypt. Dinner served on board.

Day 2 – Saturday – 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 your Egyptologist-guide to discuss the exciting days ahead. A welcome dinner this evening will introduce you to Egyptian cuisine.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE MERIDIAN PYRAMIDS HOTEL OR SIMILAR (D)



Day 3 – Sunday - 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, you will visit the remains in Memphis, the first capital of united Upper and Lower Egypt.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE MERIDIAN PYRAMIDS HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L)



Day 4 – Monday – 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.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE MERIDIAN PYRAMIDS HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L)

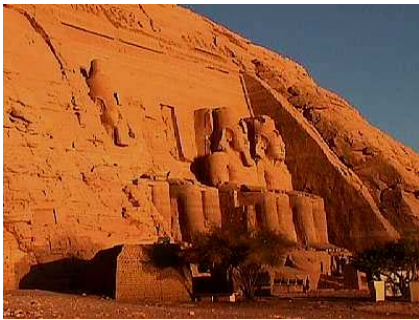
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Day 5 – Tuesday – Cairo/Aswan - Nile Cruise Begins

This morning a short flight will bring you to Aswan to board your Nile Cruise or you may select the optional pre cruise three-hour Abu Simbel excursion 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 Kitchener's Island with its beautiful gardens and to view the mausoleum of the Agha Khan.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP (B, L, D)

Day 6 – Wednesday – 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, "Haroeris," 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: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP (B, L, D)



Day 7 – Thursday – 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, you sail to Esna, pass

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the lock, and arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes. This afternoon 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: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP (B, L, D)

Day 8 – Friday – Luxor

Cross over to 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. This afternoon enjoy some time at your leisure exploring Luxor on your own, shopping at the bazaar visiting the Luxor Museum or enjoying a drink at the Old Winter Palace.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 5-STAR DELUXE NILE CRUISE SHIP (B, L, D)

Day 9 – Saturday – Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh

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. Transfer to the harbor. Meet with your dive guide who will take you on an orientation dive at the Far, near and Middle Garden site. Your equipment will be waiting for you when you arrive. After your check-out dive, embark your safari boat the M/Y Snefro Crown.

ACCOMMODATIONS: M/Y SNEFRO CROWN LIVE ABOARD BOAT OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 10 – Sunday – Ras Mohammed National Park

Dive 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

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BOAT OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

the wall like butterflies. Giant gorgonian fans, up to 15 feet across, spread horizontally on some of the 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!

ACCOMMODATIONS: M/Y SNEFRO CROWN LIVE ABOARD



Day 11 – Monday – 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

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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!

ACCOMMODATIONS: M/Y SNEFRO CROWN LIVE ABOARD BOAT OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 12 – Tuesday – Sharm El Sheikh/Taba

Your first dive today will be to the historical wreck of the Dunraven, which sank in April 1876. The Dunraven is an old wooden wreck with plenty of room for passing through thousand of glassfish that live in the shade of the wreck. Afterwards return to Ras Mohammed National Park to dive some of the most popular sites including Shark and Yolanda Reef, the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula with an endless wall unique to the Red Sea. Sailing back toward Sharm El Sheikh you will have your third dive at Ras Zatar, Ras Ghazlani or possibly Ras Um Sid. Upon arrival at the port you will be met and transferred to Taba for overnight.

ACCOMMODATIONS: HILTON TABA RESORT HOTEL (B, L, D)



Day 13 – Wednesday - Taba/Aqaba, Jordan

After breakfast you will take a fast ferry to Aqaba. You will have an opportunity to dive some of Jordan's wonderful dive sites including the famous wall dive the Power Station. Named after the small oil fired power station on the coast road to the North of the dive site this is the site where, on the chart, the one hundred and two hundred meter contour lines hit the coast. It is a

spectacular wall dive, either to the North or South of the mooring. Sharks and other large pelagics are often spotted here. Sea turtles are often spotted here along with several hump head wrasse and some large moray eels. The wall and drop off are spectacular and there is an abundance of life to entertain you on the reef slope and in the shallows.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MOVENPICK AQABA HOTEL (B, L, D)

Day 14 – Thursday - Aqaba/Petra

This morning you will have an opportunity for a final dive. Depart Aqaba for the magnificent city of Petra. Enjoy sometime at your leisure this afternoon.

ACCOMMODATIONS: MOVENPICK PETRA HOTEL (B, L, D)

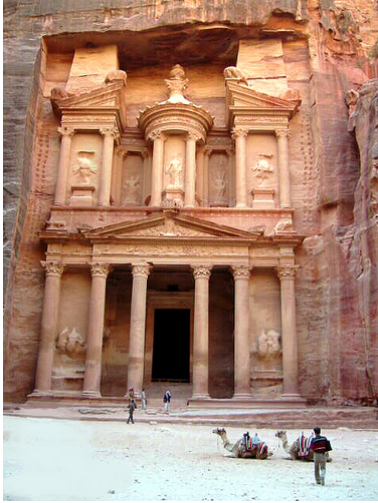
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Day 15 – Friday - Petra

Your exploration of Petra begins early this morning. Climb atop your horse for a ride to the main entrance to the “lost city of Petra”. Much of Petra’s appeal comes from its spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge. From the main entrance you walk into the siq, which ripped through the rock in a prehistoric quake. As you make your way through the cliff walls you will pass inscriptions in ancient languages. Petra’s most famous monument is the Treasury (the final scene of Indian Jones and the Last Crusade was filmed here). You will also see a 3,000 seat theater from the early 1st Century, tombs baths, funerary halls temples and rock drawings. (Box lunch included today)

ACCOMMODATIONS: MOVENPICK PETRA HOTEL (B, L, D)

Day 16 – Saturday - Petra/Amman/ Madaba /Mt. Nebo/Amman

This morning you will leave Petra for Amman. While driving, you will make some interesting stops. Visit the Crusader Fortress of Kerak, Mt. Nebo, believed to be the site where Moses was buried. A small square church, built on the spot by Byzantine Christians, that later expanded into a vast complex. One can see a breathtaking view of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea from here. Visit Madaba, the “City of Mosaics”. Visit the Greek Orthodox church of St. George where you will see the magnificent sixth century Byzantine mosaic map consisting of two million colored pieces of stone depicting Jerusalem and other holy sites. There are also some other beautiful mosaics from the 5th to the 7th century in the church. Arrive in Amman for overnight.

ACCOMMODATIONS: LANDMARK HOTEL AMMAN HOTEL (B)



Day 17 – Sunday - Amman/Jerash /Amman/Cairo

Today you will have an orientation tour of the city and then off to Jerash. Here you will find remains from Neolithic times, as well as Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Omayyad and others. Jerash was a member of the Decapolis, a dynamic commercial league of ten Greco-Roman cities. When Emperor Hadrian visited Jerash in AD 129, it was already a thriving city. To honor its guest, the city built a Triumphal Arch. Imagine yourself back in AD 129 as you

take a walk down the “Street of Columns”.

Return to Cairo this evening.

ACCOMMODATIONS: FAIRMONT HELIOPOLIS HOTEL (B)

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Day 18 – Monday – Cairo

The day is at your leisure in Cairo. This evening enjoy a dinner and show.

ACCOMMODATIONS: FAIRMONT HELIOPOLIS HOTEL (B, D)

Day 19 - Tuesday - Departure

Your exploration of the Egypt and Jordan ends today as you transfer to the airport for your flight back home. **(B)**

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- International air New York/Cairo/New York
- One way international air Amman/Cairo
- Domestic Air Cairo/Aswan-Aswan/Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh
- 3 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Le Meridian Pyramids Hotel or similar
- 5 days/4 nights 5-star deluxe Nile Cruise
- 4 day/3 night mini safari Sharm El Sheikh including all dive excursions
- 1 night accommodation in Taba at the Hilton Taba Hotel or similar
- 1 night accommodation in Aqaba at the Jolie Ville Movenpick Aqaba Hotel or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Petra at the Jolie Ville Movenpick Petra Hotel or similar
- 1 night accommodation in Amman at the Landmark Hotel or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Heliopolis Fairmont Hotel or similar
- All transfers: Cairo/Aswan/Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh/Taba/Aqaba/Petra/Amman
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe motor coach
- English speaking Egyptologist-guide throughout Egypt and Jordan
- 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
- Full day sightseeing: Petra
- Visits to Mt. Nebo and Madaba
- Full day sightseeing: Amman and Jerash
- All entrance fees and shore excursions on Nile Cruise
- Aqaba 1 ½ day dive excursions
- 17 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 13 dinners
- Hotel taxes, service charges and portorage
- Luggage Tags, Travel Bag, Passport Wallet and First Aid Kit

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NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. Departure Taxes & Airport Security (\$285.00 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.....

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

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