

The Textiles of Egypt

with Nancy Hoskins & Christine Pearson



13 Days

November 6 to 18, 2010

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Textile Tours



The Textiles of Egypt

The Programme

Egypt has been a producer and exporter of cotton, linen, wool and silk for thousands of years. Linen was made from flax during the Pharaonic period and fine textiles were produced during the Ptolemaic, Coptic and Islamic periods. Up until the early 1800's Egyptian textile production was characterized by small workshops, guild organizations of craft workers, and a highly specialized division of labour. Cottons and linens were exported primarily to other provinces of the Ottoman Empire and neighbouring Muslim regions. Today, Egypt is still one of the major exporters of cotton in the Middle East and it also boasts a thriving cottage industry.

In Cairo we see all the major sights and have ample time to explore the heart of the medieval city. We see the old city gates, visit two old Ottoman homes and there's time to browse the celebrated Khan-el-Khalili bazaar. Of course we have a particular focus on the fine textile collections in the Coptic, Egyptian and Textile museums. At Haraniya (not far from Memphis) we make a special visit to a weaving centre established by Ramses Wissa Wassef, in the 1950's, where local villagers still learn how to create magnificent tapestries. Wissa Wassef was an architect and Professor of Fine Art at Cairo University and he is considered by many to be the 'father' of Cairo's modern tapestry industry.

We then travel by overnight sleeper train to Luxor and board our five star Nile River cruiser to sail over the next four nights to Aswan. In Luxor we see all the sights including the superb Luxor Museum and the Valley of the Kings. On the cruise we visit the temples at Edfu and Komombo and in Aswan we make a special visit to the Nubian Museum. There is also time for an optional side trip to see the great temples at Abu Simbel. A highlight is a our late afternoon camel ride to St Simeon's Monastery.

We also have the opportunity to meet some local Nubian women in their home, where they make traditional caps and baskets.

Our final visit is to Alexandria, an important metropolis since antiquity. Founded by Alexander the Great, it is a very pleasant coastal city with an excellent museum and an outstanding new library that has already achieved worldwide acclaim.

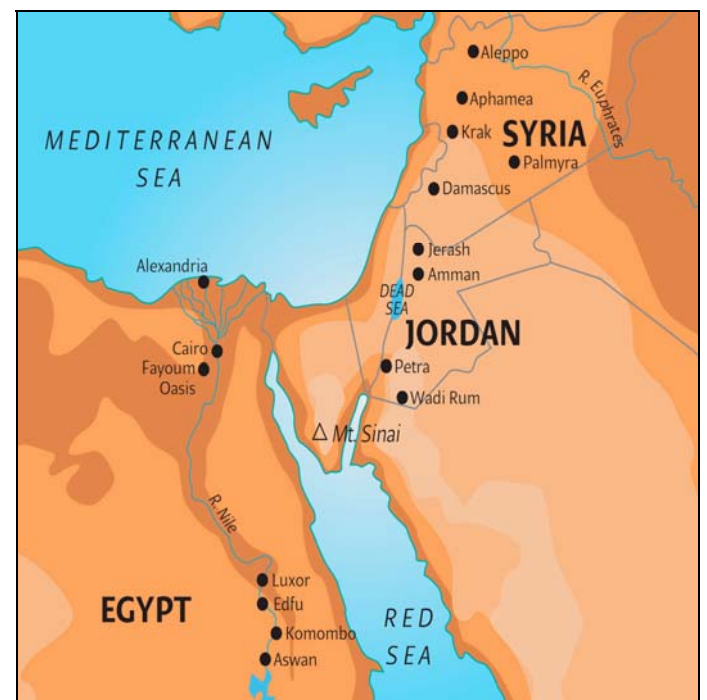
Your Tour Host



Nancy Hoskins is an author, artist and teacher who has lectured, taught, studied and researched nationally and internationally with a major focus on Egyptian and in particular the Coptic contribution. Three decades of research led to her monumental publication *"The Coptic Tapestry Albums and the Archaeologist of Antinoé, Albert Gayet"*.

Based in the USA, Nancy has published other titles including *"Weft Faced Pattern Weaves: Tabby to Taqueté"* and *"Universal Stiches for Weaving, Embroidery, and Other Fiber Arts"*. Nancy was a college weaving instructor from 1981 to 1996. She has participated in solo and group exhibits in several US states as well as Australia and also weaves for commissions. She is currently teaching weaving workshops, writing, exhibiting, researching and presenting lectures.

Christine Pearson, a Director of Active Travel, will be assisting Nancy on this tour.



Itinerary - The Textiles of Egypt

Saturday, 06 Nov- Day 1: Cairo

On arrival in Cairo you are met and transferred to your hotel. Later, in the afternoon we tour the Pyramids and Sphinx.

Sunday, 07 Nov- Day 2: Cairo - Luxor

We visit the ruins of Memphis and at nearby Sakkara we see the Step Pyramid, Heb Sed court and some of the magnificent Old Kingdom tombs. A special visit is made to the Wissa Wassef weaving centre. Evening sleeper train to Luxor. (BD)

Monday, 08 Nov- Day 3: Luxor

Arrive Luxor and visit Karnak Temple and the superb Luxor Museum. Later board MS Amarante for our four night cruise to Aswan. (BLD)

Tue, 09 Nov- Day 4: Luxor/Nile Cruise

This morning we spend time at the celebrated Valley of the Kings, the splendid Hatshepsut Temple and the Colossi of Memnon. Later we commence cruising towards Edfu. (BLD)

Wed, 10 Nov- Day 5: Nile Cruise

We visit the temples at Edfu and Komombo. All meals are served on board and there is plenty of time to relax. Arrive Aswan in the evening. (BLD)

Thu, 11 Nov- Day 6: Aswan

This morning we visit the Nubian Museum before visiting a Nubian village for lunch where we meet the womenfolk who make traditional Nubian caps, baskets and beadwork. Later we travel by boat and camel to the spectacular St Simeon's Monastery for sunset. (BLD)

Fri, 12 Nov - Day 7: Aswan - Cairo.

This morning we have time for an optional tour to Abu Simbel (must be pre booked. After lunch we fly to Cairo and visit the new Islamic Museum* with wonderful textiles and art. (B) (*Note: the Islamic Museum is still under renovation and if not open at the time of our tour, we will visit the Citadel instead).

Sat, 13 Nov- Day 8: Cairo

This morning we inspect the Byzantine churches of 'old Cairo' and the Coptic Museum, with its fine collection of textiles. Then we visit the spectacular Mosque of Ibn Tulun, two historic Ottoman houses (now the Gayer - Anderson Museum) before dinner at Al Azhar Park. (BD)

Sun, 14 Nov- Day 9: Cairo

Today is another full day with much to see and do. We focus on old Cairo with visits to the complex of Sultan Hassan, Sharia Khayamiya (tentmakers bazaar) where local artisans produce quilts and other items. Other visits include Bab Zuweila, Wikalat al Ghuri and Al Azhar Mosque. Our evening sees us browsing the Khan el Khalili bazaar where we can have dinner. (B).

Mon, 15 Nov- Day 10: Cairo

We return to the medieval city to visit Bab al Futah and walk to the Siheimi House, a historic 16th century Ottoman home and onto the fabulous Textile Museum where we receive a personal visit. (B)

Tue, 16 Nov- Day 11: Cairo - Alexandria

After breakfast we drive to Alexandria. On the way we visit an amazing small business that makes an outstanding range of soft furnishing treatments. After lunch visit the excellent Alexandria Museum and the stunning new library. Our hotel, located on the Corniche is perfect for visiting local coffee shops and generally getting a 'feel' for this once popular seaside resort city. (B)

Wed, 17 Nov - Day 12: Alexandria

We enjoy a morning tour to the Greco-Roman Museum with the afternoon free for further exploration. (B)

Thu, 18 Nov- Day 13: Alexandria - Cairo

We make an early start and drive back to Cairo Airport for our departure where our tour comes to an end. (B)



Date and Price – 13 Days/12 Nights

Departs Cairo: 06 November, 2010

Price: \$4980 (per person twin-share)
Single Supplement: \$890

Price includes: Services of Nancy Hoskins and Christine Pearson as Tour Escorts. Arrival and departure transfers, all transportation, 4-star hotels, 5-star Nile Cruise, sightseeing, entrance fees, local English-speaking guides, flight Aswan-Cairo, sleeper train Cairo-Luxor. Meals as indicated in the itinerary. **Gratuities are included.**

Not Included: International airfares to Cairo. Visa fees (USD\$15 – available on arrival at Cairo Airport). Insurance - compulsory on all Active Travel escorted tours. Additional meals. Drinks. Optional tour to Abu Simbel. Spending of a personal nature, e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls etc.

Accommodation: In Cairo our superior 4-star hotel is located in downtown Giza providing good connections to the many attractions we visit. Between Aswan and Luxor we travel aboard a 5-star riverboat with comfortable cabins, private facilities, a bar, restaurant, spacious sundeck and splash pool. In Alexandria we stay at a lovely colonial hotel, built in 1904, in the heart of the city, overlooking the harbour.

Food and drink: Breakfast is included every day and all meals are provided while cruising. Dinner is also provided on the sleeper train. Meals offer a choice of Egyptian and international cuisine with soups, salads, meat dishes, pasta and variety of desserts. In Cairo there will be an opportunity to eat at a number of local restaurants with recommendations provided by Nancy and Christine. Bottled water is widely available throughout Egypt and soft drinks are also easy to find. Alcoholic drinks (local beer and wines) are available in tourist hotels.

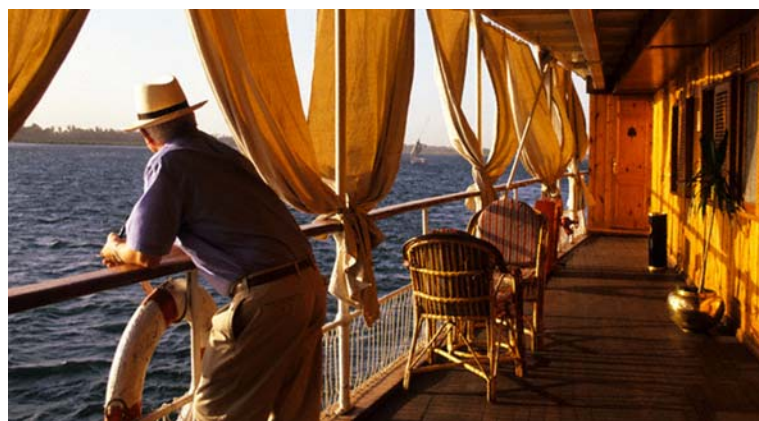


Additional Expenses: For meals not included you should allow around US\$10 - 15 for lunch and around USD\$25 for dinner. In addition you should allow for drinks and any personal shopping you may wish to do. There is plenty to purchase in the bazaars including textiles of all sorts, gold and silver jewellery, papyrus paintings and brass and copper items – so be prepared!

The cost of the Abu Simbel excursion is \$USD185 per person including transport, flights, the entrance fee and a local guide. This must be pre-booked and is paid locally in US Dollars cash.

Flights: This tour has been designed to fit perfectly with the Singapore Airlines flight schedules into and out of Cairo. It is possible, however, to travel with Emirates, Etihad – or any other carrier that services Cairo. Please discuss your requirements with our staff.

Joining Instructions: Contact us for details.



Warp & Weft :: Textile Tours with Active Travel

Rely on our decade of experience providing quality textile focussed programmes. Enjoy a special insight and variety of experiences with excellent value for money. Guests praise our selection of accommodation, the informative discussions, the vast range of textiles, the unhurried pace, the friendliness of our staff, together with the textile practitioners you meet along the way. Destinations include: Vietnam and Laos, Bhutan, India, – and this wonderful programme to Egypt.

For bookings contact: Active Travel

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