



ITINERARY

# MEMBER TOUR OF EGYPT

March 4th-21st, 2021

Led by Drs. Louise Bertini & Yasmin El Shazly



IN COLLABORATION WITH EGITALLOYD TRAVEL

## **ARCE Member Tour of Egypt**

March 04 – March 21, 2021

### **Thursday, March 04 | Arrive in Cairo.**

**Meals Included:** Dinner.

Meet and Greet at Cairo Airport.

To ensure your journey is seamless from the start, our representative will meet you before passport control to assist with acquiring your visa stamps, moving through passport control, and collecting your luggage.

Later you will be transferred to the **Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel** for check-in.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Cairo.

### **Friday, March 05 | Sakkara / Coptic Cairo / Coptic Museum**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**07:00** Buffet breakfast at hotel.

**08:00** Meet your guide in the lobby and head to **Sakkara**. Sakkara is the ancient burial site of numerous kings of the Old Kingdom, including the first stone construction ever built: the Step Pyramid of King Djoser, which was constructed by Imhotep in the 27th century BC. Visit to the *Serapeum* is included.

**Noon** Lunch at Sakkara Palm Club.

After lunch, head to Coptic Cairo, where you will visit the **Hanging Church**, dating to the late 4<sup>th</sup> and early 5<sup>th</sup> century. The name of the basilica is "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built on top of the south gate of the Roman Fortress of Babylon. Then to the **Church of St. Sergius**, dating to the 5<sup>th</sup> century, which is built over the cave in which the Holy Family stayed and is regarded by visitors as a source of blessing.

Then to the **Coptic Museum**. The Coptic Museum was founded in 1908 and houses Coptic art from the earliest days of Christianity in Egypt through to early Islamic times. Artifacts include sculptures that show continuity from the Ptolemaic period, rich textiles, monastery frescoes, and the famous Nag Hammadi Codices. Allow at least a couple of hours to explore the 1,200 or so pieces on display.

#### **Lecture by Father Maximos at the Coptic Museum**

**07:30 PM** Return to hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.  
Dinner in Felfela Restaurant. Overnight in Cairo.

### **Saturday, March 06 | Pyramids of Giza**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**07:00** Meet your guide and head to the Giza Plateau.

**08:00** Private visit to **the Paws of the Sphinx**. The Sphinx is the largest monolithic statue in the world and the oldest known monumental sculpture.

Proceed to the famous Giza Pyramid Complex, which is the site of the three pyramids of the pharaohs **Khufu**, **Khafre**, and **Menkaure**.

**Entry to the Great Pyramid of Khufu and the Solar Boat Museum are included.**  
**Lecture by Dr. Zahi Hawass at the Paws of the Sphinx.**

**Noon** Lunch at Andrea Restaurant.

Grand Egyptian Museum (In case it is not open the entry ticket of USD 35.00 per person will be refunded in CASH).



Free time for lunch (Lunch box included).

Drive to **Lahun pyramid (pyramid of Senusret II of the Middle Kingdom)**. The builders of this 48-meter-high pyramid reduced the amount of work necessary to construct it by ingeniously using an already existing 12-meter-high limestone hill as its foundation and core.

Later you will be transferred to **Grand Aton Hotel** for check-in.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Minya.

### **Tuesday, March 09 | Beni Hassan Tombs / Tel Amarna**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**08:00** Meet your guide in the lobby and head to **Beni Hassan**. The necropolis of Beni Hasan occupies a range of east-bank limestone cliffs, some 20 km south of Minya. Most tombs date to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties (2125–1795 BC), with the 39 upper tombs belonging to nomarchs (local governors). Many remain unfinished and only four are currently open to visitors, but they are well worth the trouble of visiting for the fascinating glimpse they provide into the daily life and political tensions of the period.

Free time for lunch (Lunch box included).

Head to **Tell el-Amarna**, where you can see the northern nobles tombs including those of Ahmose and Huya. Tell el-Amarna is the site of the remains of the capital city established in 1346 BC and built by the Pharaoh Akhenaten of the late Eighteenth Dynasty. It was abandoned shortly after his death (1332 BC). The name for the city employed by the ancient Egyptians was *Akhetaten*, meaning "Horizon of the Aten."

Return to hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Minya.

### **Wednesday, March 10 | Tuna El Gebel/Hermopolis**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**Checkout after breakfast.**

Meet your guide at the lobby. En-route to Sohag, visit **Tuna El Gebel**.

At **Tuna El Gebel** you will see the tombs of Petosiris (4<sup>th</sup> century BC) and Isadora (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD), along with the Ibis Catacombs that contain millions of ibis mummies given as votive offerings to the god Thoth.

Before arriving at Tuna el-Gebel, you will visit the western-most of Akhenaten's boundary stelae. A steep flight of stone steps leads to a tiny shrine cut into the escarpment and the large boundary stela which is cut into the face of the cliff, and dates to year 6 of Akhenaten's reign. At the top of the stela, the king and queen offer to the Aten in a typical Amarna pose, while the text below records Akhenaten's oath not to extend the limits of his city. The royal statues on the left are now headless and support tall offering tables depicting the couple's three eldest daughters.

Proceed to the city of **Hermopolis**

Free time for lunch (Lunch box included).

Later you will be transferred to **Sohag Hotel** for check-in.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Sohag.

**Thursday, March 11 | Athribis / White Monastery / Red Monastery / Sohag Museum**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**08:00** Meet your guide in the lobby and head to **Athribis**. Athribis (ancient *Hut-Repty*) is the site of a temple dedicated to the goddess Reptyt (Triphis) constructed under the reign of Ptolemy XV Caesarian and subsequent Roman Emperors. South of this temple was an earlier temple of Ptolemy IX Soter II. **Lecture with Dr. Marcus Müller.**

The next visit will be to the **Red Monastery** (Deir al-Ahmar). Built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD by Shenouda's disciple Bishoy. Since 2003, ARCE has undertaken a massive conservation project of the sanctuary and the nave of the church. **Lecture with Dr. Nicholas Warner.**

Lunch will be served at the Red Monastery.

Short drive west of Sohag, the **White Monastery** (Deir al-Abyad) dates from the early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Named for the color of its masonry, the monastery was built by the Coptic saint Shenouda using chunks of white limestone taken from local Pharaonic temples.

If time permits visit **Sohag Museum**

Return to hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Sohag.

**Friday, March 12 | Abydos/ Dendera**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**Checkout after breakfast.**

**08:00** Meet your guide in the lobby and drive to **Abydos**.

**Tour will be by Dr. Matt Adams/Dr. Deborah Vischak (If available).**

Considered one of the most important archaeological sites of ancient Egypt, the site of Abydos dates back to the Early Dynastic period (and earlier) where the Kings of the first and second dynasties are buried. The site later became associated with the burial site of the god Osiris, leading to the growth of the town's importance as a cult center.

Today, Abydos is notable for the cult temple of Seti I dedicated to the god Osiris. The temple contains an inscription from the Nineteenth Dynasty known as the Abydos King List. It is a chronological list showing cartouches of most kings of Egypt from Menes until Ramses I, Seti's father.

Free time for lunch (Lunch box included).

Head to **Dendera**. The town of Dendera is located on the west bank of the Nile, about 60 km to the north of Luxor, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Nome of Upper Egypt. The Dendera Temple Complex is situated around 2.5 km to the southeast of this city. The earliest evidence of the site dates to the Old Kingdom and it has also the remains of a temple built during the New Kingdom. Most of what can be seen at the site today is the Ptolemaic temple dedicated to the goddess Hathor.

Later you will be transferred to **Steigenberger Hotel** for check-in.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Luxor.

**Saturday, March 13 | Habu Temple / Valley of the Queens / Valley of the Kings**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**08:00**

Meet your guide in the lobby for your private tour to the West Bank including the Medinet Habu Temple, Valleys of the Kings and Queens. This is the vast Necropolis of Thebes, the city of the dead.

Begin with **Medinet Habu Temple**, the site that is dominated by the Mortuary Temple of Ramses III (1194 – 1163 B.C.), the largest on the west bank and one of the best preserved. **Lecture with Dr. Raymond Johnson.**

Continue to the **Valley of the Queens**, a gorge in the hills along the western bank of the Nile River in Upper Egypt. It served as the burial site of the queens and some royal children of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasties (1292–1075 BC). The queens' necropolis is located about 2.5 km west of the mortuary temple of Ramses III.

Entry to the tomb of Queen **Nefertari**.

Lunch at Al Marsam Restaurant.

Head to **Valley of the Kings**. Here you will visit the tombs of Egypt's New Kingdom Pharaohs. Cut deep into the rocky mountainside are the magnificent tombs of spellbinding construction and decoration.

Entry to the tombs of Kings **Tutankhamun** and **Ramses VI**.

Return to hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Dinner on your own.

Overnight in Luxor.

**Sunday, March 14 | Qurna, Dra Abu El Naga and Menna (Ramose)**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**08:00** Meet your guide in the lobby and head to **Qurna, Dra Abu El Naga and Menna (Ramose)**.

ARCE's **Qurna** Site Improvement project (QSI) ran between 2011 and 2014 and was funded by USAID. The project was developed in response to both the demolition of the hamlets in Sheikh Abd el Qurna and el Khokha, and the economic crisis that followed the 2011 Egyptian Revolution.

The destruction of the hamlets left large portions of the UNESCO World Heritage site in visual disarray, with debris piles and the remains of partially demolished buildings in and around tombs open to visitors. At the same time, employment estimates suggested that 70% of Luxor locals were either directly or indirectly economically tied to aspects of the tourism industry. With the collapse of this industry after the revolution, local populations, particularly those on the West Bank, faced hardship. Funding provided through USAID enabled the creation of a large program of work that, in part, addressed both of these concerns.

From 1921-1923, Clarence Fisher excavated at the site of **Dra Abu El Naga**, an important non-royal cemetery near Deir el Bahri in western Thebes. Fisher's excavations included work in the tombs of New Kingdom officials and the mortuary complex of the Eighteenth Dynasty king Amenhotep I and his wife Nefertari (1525-1504 B.C.) Beginning in 1967, Lanny Bell continued work at this site concentrating on the epigraphic recording and conservation of the decorated rock-cut tombs of Dynasty 19 (1292-1190 B.C.). The work at the site provided significant artifacts for the Museum including statuary, pottery funerary furnishings and painted reliefs.

Finishing the tour with **Menna (Ramose) Tomb** at the Valley of Nobles.

Lunch at hotel.

Return to hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.  
Dinner at hotel. Overnight in Luxor.

**Monday, March 15 | Karnak Temple / Luxor Temple / Luxor Museum**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

**Checkout after breakfast.**

**Khonsu Temple and ARCE lab at Karnak Temple.**

Meet your guide in the lobby and head to **Karnak Temple**. Walk along the 2 km long Avenue of Sphinxes to enter the complex as your guide explains how the massive facade was constructed. On entering Karnak, you will see each legacy left by the various pharaohs as the complex grew even larger. The deeper you go into the complex, the further back in time you will travel, with the oldest ruins dating back over 3,000 years.

**12:00 noon** Embarkation.  
**Noon** Lunch on board.

**Afternoon** Meet your guide in the lobby to then visit **Luxor Temple**, which was once joined to the Temples of Karnak by the Avenue of Sphinxes, a portion of which marks the entrance to the temple. Dominated by statues of pharaoh Ramses II, Luxor Temple has survived Nile floods, foreign invasion, and thousands of years of exposure to the elements.

Head to **Luxor Museum**. This wonderful museum has a well-chosen, brilliantly displayed and explained collection of antiquities dating from the end of the Old Kingdom right through to the Mamluk period, mostly gathered from the Theban temples and necropolis.

**Early Evening** Tea at club lounge.  
**Late Evening** Cocktail reception.  
Dinner. Overnight in Luxor.

**Tuesday, March 16 | Deir El Medina / Hatshepsut Temple / Ramesseum Temple**

**Meals Included:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

**06:00** Buffet breakfast on board.

**08:00** Meet your guide at the lobby for your tour of the West Bank of Luxor.

Drive to **Deir El Medina**, where the workers and craftsmen who built the tombs in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens lived. Most of the information we have on daily life in ancient Egypt comes from this incredible site. You will also be able to visit some of their beautifully decorated tombs.

Continue to visit the **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut**, the most significant of Egypt's female rulers. She came to power early in Dynasty 18, at the beginning of the New Kingdom. The Temple is not only a memorial temple that honors Queen Hatshepsut, it is also one of the greatest Egyptian architectural achievements. Designed by Senenmut, Hatshepsut's steward and architect, this mortuary temple closely resembles the classical Greek architecture that became popular 1,000 years later.

Head to the **Ramesseum**, the Mortuary Temple of Ramses II. Although half in ruin, it still has a romantic appeal due to the remains of a colossal statue of the king lying shattered in the first court. Reputed as the inspiration for Shelley's well-known poem "Ozymandias," it is as much a tribute to the superb work of the sculptors as to the king himself.

**Noon** Sail to Edfu via Esna.  
Lunch on board.  
**Early Evening** Captain's Welcome Cocktail Party.  
Dinner on board. Overnight in Edfu.

**Wednesday, March 17 | Temple of Edfu / Temples of Kom Ombo**

**Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.**

**06:00** Buffet breakfast on board.

**08:00** Meet your guide in the lobby and transfer to the **Temple of Edfu**, dedicated to the falcon-headed god, Horus. It is one of the finest examples of Ptolemaic art in Egypt. You will then be transferred to the temple by caleche.  
The city of Edfu lies half way between Luxor and Aswan on the site of the ancient city of Djeba. It is located 100 km south of Luxor, and 53 km south of Esna.

**11:00** Sail to Kom Ombo.

**Noon** Lunch on board.

**Afternoon** Visit the **Twin Temple of Kom Ombo**. It is dedicated to the hawk-headed god, Harwar, and the crocodile god, Sobek. The Ptolemaic temple lies 40 km north of Aswan and 70 km south of Edfu.

Sail to Aswan.

Dinner on board

**Late Evening** Galabeya Party.

Overnight in Aswan.

**Thursday, March 18 | Philae Temple / High Dam / Unfinished Obelisk**

**Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.**

**06:00** Buffet breakfast on board.

**08:00** Visit **Philae Temple** and **High Dam**. Leave the cruise with your guide and drive over the Old Aswan Barrage, constructed in the 1920s over the Nile's first cataract. You will arrive at the site of the Aswan **High Dam**, one of the largest rock-filled dams in the world and considered as a great achievement of modern construction. From the top of the dam you will look out at Lake Nasser, the largest artificial lake in the world.

Proceed to the docks on Lake Nasser for a short boat ride to the island of **Philae** where you will visit the beautiful **Temple of Isis**.

Continue to the **Unfinished Obelisk**, which is the largest known ancient obelisk and is located in the northern region of the stone quarries of ancient Egypt in Aswan.

**Noon** Lunch on board.

**PM** Sail on the Nile by Felucca around Kitchener's Island and the Agha Khan Mausoleum.

Proceed to **Qubbet Al Hawa**, the Tombs of the Nobles dating to the late Old Kingdom and Middle Kingdom. Reaching the site involves a steep climb up, but is rewarded with stunning views of the Nile and the surrounding area.

**PM** Dinner on board.

**PM** Nubian Folkloric show.

Overnight in Aswan.

**Friday, March 19 | Disembarkation / Kalabsha Temple / Nubian Museum**

**Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.**

**06:00** Buffet breakfast on board.

**Disembarkation after breakfast.**

**08:00** Meet your guide and head to **Kalabsha Temple**, an impressive Roman temple built around 30 BC under the reign of Emperor Augustus. The temple was dedicated to the Nubian sun god Mandulis. You will also visit a number of smaller monuments moved to the site of New Kalabsha after the Nubian salvage campaign, including the small rock-cut temple of Beit el-Wali dating to the reign of Ramses II (dedicated to the gods Amun and Anukis), the Kiosk of Qertassi, and Gerf Hussein.

Lunch at hotel.

**PM**

Head to the **Nubian Museum**, which is the first museum to showcase the rich Nubian culture. The museum features Nubian artifacts, weapons, pottery, utensils, paintings, and sculptures.

Dinner at 1902 Restaurant – Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel.  
Return to hotel. Overnight in Aswan.

**Saturday, March 20 | Abu Simbel Excursion / Fly to Cairo**

**Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.**

**00:00** Buffet breakfast at hotel.

**00:00** Meet our representative for your private transfer to Aswan airport for your short flight to Abu Simbel. Our representative will help you with all the departure procedures in Aswan and arrival procedures in Abu Simbel.

Upon arrival at Abu Simbel airport, you will be met by your guide and transferred to visit the great rock-cut temple with the four colossal seated status of Ramses II on the facade. It was dedicated to Amun-Ra, Ra-Horakhty, Ptah, and Ramses II. Then you will visit the smaller temple of the king's wife, Nefertari. These temples were threatened by flooding upon the completion of the Aswan High Dam and were preserved by international action organized by UNESCO. All parts of these temples were rebuilt on a plateau above the former site.

Return to Abu Simbel Airport for your domestic flight to Cairo via Aswan. Our representative will help you with all the departure procedures in Abu Simbel and arrival procedures in Cairo.

Upon arrival at Cairo airport, you will meet our representative for your private transfer to your hotel for check-in.

Light lunch at Abu Simbel airport.

Enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.  
Dinner at hotel. Overnight in Cairo.

**Sunday, March 21 | Final Departure**

**Meals Included: Breakfast.**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel or breakfast box (depends on your flight time)

**Checkout after breakfast.**

Meet our representative at the lobby for your private transfer to Cairo Airport  
Our representative will help you with all the departure procedures and formalities.

---

End of our services, wish you a nice trip

**Payment Information**

City	Hotel/Cruise	Dates	Nights	Category
Cairo	Nile Ritz Carlton Intercontinental Semiramis	March 04 – March 08	4	Deluxe City view rooms Nile view rooms
Minya	Grand Aton	March 08 – March 10	2	Nile view rooms
Sohag	Coral Cruise	March 10 – March 12	2	Standard rooms

Luxor	Steigenberger	March 12 – March 15	3	Nile view rooms
Cruise	Mayfair/Esplanade	March 15 – March 19	4	Deluxe Cabins
Aswan	Movenpick	March 19 – March 20	1	Nile view rooms
Cairo	Intercontinental City Stars	March 20 – March 21	1	Deluxe rooms

**Rates:**

	<b>20 paying passengers</b>
Per person in twin	<b>USD 7,935.00</b>
Single Supplement	<b>USD 950.00</b>

**Supplement for Upgrade at Nile Ritz Carlton for 4 nights**

<u>Nile view room</u>	\$ 200.00	Per person in twin
	\$ 400.00	Per person in single

**Incase you booked an early flight on March 04, arriving Cairo before the check in time, you are requested to book an extra night at the Ritz Carlton so you can check in upon arrival (check in time at hotel 02:00PM):**

**Extra night at the Nile Ritz/Intercontinental Semiramis from March 03 - 04**

<u>City view room</u>	\$ 120.00	Per person per night in twin
	\$ 240.00	Per person per night in single
<u>Nile view room</u>	\$ 170.00	Per person per night in twin
	\$ 340.00	Per person per night in single

**Rate includes:**

- All accommodation based on double occupancy per itinerary with breakfast daily
- All meals as shown in itinerary (B, L, D)
- Vehicle for group arrival and departure transfers on the first and last days of the program
- Land transportation per program by private coach
- All sightseeing and excursions, including entrance fees per program
- Private English-speaking guide throughout program
- Services of a professional Egitalloyd Tour Manager throughout the land tour program
- Flights within Egypt (Aswan/Abu Simbel/Aswan-Aswan/Cairo) on Economy class
- Water provided in bus during all visits transfers and all included meals
- Baggage handling at all hotels and airports, where available
- **Contribution to ARCE**
- **Tiping for Guide, Egitalloyd Tour Manager, hotels, Nile cruise, restaurants, drivers**

**Rate excludes:**

- International airfare between the U.S and the start and the end point of the trip
- Pre- or post-tour services
- Egypt entry visa fees
- Medical and trip interruption insurance; evacuation costs.
- Food or beverages not included in group meals.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expenses, excess package fees, photo/video expenses inside sightseeing or museums (where allowed)
- Other items not expressly listed as included
- **Visit permissions for ARCE expeditions or any expenses related the visit**
- **Travel insurance for medical AND political reasons**

**Important Notes:**



