



ARCE
AMERICAN RESEARCH
CENTER IN EGYPT



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE
HOLY FAMILY

NOVEMBER 05-21, 2021
Member Tour of Egypt & Itinerary

ARCE Member Tour of Egypt November 05 – 21, 2021

Friday, November 05 | 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 **Hotel** for check-in

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Cairo.

Saturday, November 06 | Sakha / Samannoud / Tel Basta

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner .

06:30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

07:30 Meet your guide and head to **Sakha**, also known as *Bikha Issous*. From the early Middle Ages, Sakha was an important site of Christian pilgrimage, where an icon of the holy family was kept and can still be seen today. However, since its discovery in 1984, the main object of veneration is the stone with Jesus' footprint.

The next site to visit is Samannoud. Samannoud or ancient *Tjebnutjer* is one of the oldest continuously inhabited towns in Lower Egypt, going back to pharaonic times. It was the capital of the 12th nome of Lower Egypt. According to the historian Manetho, the kings of the 30th dynasty came from here. During the Ptolemaic period, it became an important cult center of the god Osiris. Local tradition claims that the Holy Family stayed in Samannoud for a couple of weeks during which Jesus blessed the well and Mary prepared bread in a special granite trough that is still visible and venerated in the church courtyard. During the Roman period, Christian persecutions were particularly severe in Samannoud, and among the long list of martyrs is the famous child, Saint Abanub, who is still venerated all over Egypt.

At Samannoud, you will also visit the **Saint Abanoub Church**. The present church is built on top of earlier sanctuaries built on top of the house where the Holy Family dwelt.

Free time for lunch. Lunch box is included.

Tel Basta — or Bubastis is a short distance from Zagazig, the main town in Sharqiah Governorate, about 100 kms north-east of Cairo. In the 10th century BC, the goddess Bastet, represented in the form of a cat (a late form of the lion goddess Sekhmet) was worshipped at the site. Politically, the prominence of the site peaked in the 22nd dynasty, the kings of which came from Bubastis. During the Late Period (c. 1089-332 BC) while the city was the capital of the 18th nome of Lower Egypt, the cult of Bastet grew exponentially.

According to various Coptic sources, several events involving the Holy Family are said to have taken place at Bubastis including the crumbling of the idols, the creation of a well, and the sojourn at Qolum's home.

Return to the hotel to enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Cairo.

Sunday, November 07 | Mostorud / Matariyah / Maadi

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner .

06:30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

07:30 Meet your guide and head to **Mostorud**. Mostorud, also called al-Mahamma, means 'the bath', and is now part of the greater Cairo metropolis. However, in the first century AD, it was probably a tiny village in the eastern Delta. According to various Coptic sources, the Holy Family went through Mostorud on their way south. While at the site, Jesus is said to have created a spring in which Mary bathed him and washed his clothes. Since then, the water is considered to be miraculous.

Next we will head to **Matariyah (Heliopolis)** where the Holy Family is said to have rested beneath a sycamore tree (known as the "Tree of the Virgin"), refreshed themselves, and washed the clothes of Jesus in the spring. According to a medieval Arab writer, the original tree was balsam. The site of Matariyah was called *Iunu* by the ancient Egyptians and is one of the oldest cities going back to the Predynastic period. The site was the cult center of the sun god Re, and the temple dedicated to the god at the site would have been the largest ever constructed in ancient Egypt. Very little survives of the ancient settlement and temple today, except for the obelisk erected by Senusret I dating to Dynasty 12 of the Middle Kingdom (c. 1950 BC) which is in a new open-air museum at the site.

Lunch at local restaurant

We will then head to Maadi which is where the Holy Family is said to have next ventured to. There you will visit the Church of the Holy Virgin which sits on the bank of the Nile and is believed to be the site where the Holy Family embarked by boat for Upper Egypt.

Return to the hotel to enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Cairo.

Monday, November 08 | Wadi El Natrun.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner .

06:30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

07:30 Meet your guide and head to **Wadi Natrun**. The trail of the Holy Family from Sakha to Wadi Natrun, is recorded in the *Vision of Theophilus*. In Wadi Natrun you will visit several monasteries all which lie in a desert depression twenty-five meters below sea level in between Cairo and Alexandria. The name Wadi Natrun refers to the vast quantities of sodium bicarbonate obtained from the lake. In antiquity, natron was used for mummification and in Roman times for glass manufacture. After the Arab conquest, Wadi Natrun became the official residence of the Coptic patriarch.

Begin your trip with **Deir Baramus** (*Monastery of the Romans*), which is the oldest of the surviving 4 monasteries in Wadi Natrun. It is named after Saint Maximum and Saint Domitius, Roman brothers who sought the spiritual guidance of Saint Makar after having served in the Roman army in Syria. The two brothers died a few days apart, and Saint Makar dedicated the cave in which they lived in their memory and built a church near the site. The monastery today contains five churches: that of the Holy Virgin, Saint Theodore, Saint George, Saint John the Baptist, and Saint Michael.

We will then proceed to **Deir Anba Bishay** (*Monastery of Saint Bishoy*). The monastery is named after its patron saint who went to Wadi Natrun after a divine revelation. Saint Bishai died in the Fayum and the monastery that bears his name was only constructed in the seventh century. It contains four churches in addition to the main one built in honor of the patron saint. Saint Bishai's remains were taken to the monastery in the ninth century and remain there today.

Then onto **Deir Abu Makar Monastery** (*Monastery of Saint Macarius*). Saint Makar, who was a disciple of Saint Anthony, lived for many years near the Red Sea. Around year 330 he moved to Wadi Natrun, where many ascetics *already* inhabited a large number of caves in the area. As a result of a divine revelation, Makar built a church that became the focus of the community. The Monastery of Saint Makar acquired great distinction in the sixth century when it became the official residence of the Coptic patriarchs.

You will end the Wadi Natrun visit with **Deir Al-Suriani** (*Monastery of the Syrians*). The monastery was purchased by Syrian merchants at the beginning of the eighth century for the use of Syrian monks. By the fifteenth century, Coptic monks made up the predominant population of the monastery. The library of the monastery contains over three thousand valuable books and hundreds of manuscripts that are housed in a special building within the complex. There is also a museum that contains icons dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. The main church at the monastery is dedicated to the Holy Virgin and dates to the 10th century.

Drive to **Ein El Hamra**, fresh-water spring in the middle of Natrun lake that is said to have sprung up for the Holy Family.

Free time for lunch in the Eco-Lodge overlooking Ein El Hamra.

Return to the hotel to enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure
Dinner at hotel. Overnight in Cairo.

Tuesday, November 09 | Coptic Cairo

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

08:00 Meet your guide and proceed to **Old Cairo**.

The area of Old Cairo is one of the most important locations visited by the Holy Family, though their stay was brief. According to Coptic sources, the Governor of what was then Fustat became enraged by the tumbling of idols at Bubastis and sought to kill the child. They took shelter from his wrath in a cave above which the later Church of Saint Sergius (*Abu Serga*) was built. This, and the whole area of the Fort of Babylon is a destination of pilgrimage not only for Egyptians but for Christians from around the world. From 2000-2006, ARCE conducted archaeological monitoring, documentation, and recording alongside groundwater lowering engineers. This project both prevented damage to buried archaeological remains as well as recorded many new finds including early Roman harbor installations, previously unknown fortification walls, and barracks.

Lecture by Dr. Nicholas Warner

In Old Cairo, you will visit **the Hanging Church** (*Church of Al Moallaka*). It is called the 'hanging' church because it rests on the two south-western bastions of the old Roman fortress of Babylon. Its nave extends over the rampart that leads to the ancient fortress. Though it is suggested that the earliest parts of the church date to as early as the 4th century, in the 9th century, the church was destroyed and then restored in the 11th century.

Proceed to **Coptic Museum**. The Coptic Museum possesses the richest collection of Coptic art in the world. It was founded in 1910 by Morcos Simaika, a wealthy Copt, and in 1931 was given official status by the Egyptian government. The monuments in the Coptic museum are a bridge between the Pharaonic and Islamic periods.

Then to **the St. Sergius Church** (*Abu Sarga*). The church of Saint Sergius is one of the oldest surviving churches in Old Cairo. The church is dedicated to two Roman Officers, Sergius and Bacchus, who were martyred in Syria in the reign of Maximian. The earliest part of the building, dated to the 5th century, was built over the cave where, according to tradition, the Holy Family hid during their flight to Egypt. The structure was burnt down then restored in the 8th century, and again in the 11th century.

Next, we will visit the recently restored **Synagogue of Ben Ezra**. This is the oldest Jewish synagogue in Egypt. According to tradition, a synagogue existed in the location since the time of Moses. It was reputedly destroyed by the Romans and given to the Copts by the Arabs. In the 8th century it became the Church of Saint Michael. The church was once again destroyed in the 12th century and subsequently restored by the Jews. At this time, the Rabbi of Jerusalem, Abraham Ben Ezra constructed the synagogue which still bears his name. At the end of the 19th century when excavations were being conducted at the site, numerous manuscripts were found including many Genizah documents which are regarded as one of the most remarkable literary discoveries in modern times as well as one of the most valuable archives of the Middle Ages.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Proceed to **the Church of Saint Mercurius** (*Deir Abu al-Saifain*), St. Mercurius is known in Coptic tradition as the "saint of the two swords." The tradition states that he was given a sword by an angel in order to fight against the barbarians. Later he suffered martyrdom and appeared to Julian the Apostate during a battle against the Persians and pierced him with a sword. He is always represented in Coptic art as a horseman holding two swords. The church dedicated to him was built in the 6th century and underwent intensive restoration during the 12th century.

Return to the hotel

Opening Reception of Exalted Spirits Exhibition at the Tahrir Museum followed by dinner at ARCE.

Wednesday, November 10 | Pyramids of Giza / Sphinx / Solar Boat / Grand Egyptian Museum.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

06:30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

07:30 Meet your guide and head to the **Giza Plateau**.

08:30 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**. Dominating the plateau and running in a southwest diagonal through the site are the three pyramids of the pharaohs Khufu, Khafra, and Menkaura. The northernmost and the largest belongs to Khufu. **Khafra's pyramid** is built precisely on a southwest diagonal to his father's pyramid on higher ground to create the illusion of being bigger. The pyramid of **Menkaura** is much smaller and is not aligned on the same diagonal axis as the other two pyramids. **Entry to the Great Pyramid of Khufu** included.

Lecture by Dr. Zahi Hawass & Dr. Mark Lehner at the Paws of the Sphinx.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Head to The **Grand Egyptian Museum**, which is located at the edge of the first desert plateau between the pyramids and Cairo. It is defined by a 50m level difference, created as the Nile carves its way through the desert to the Mediterranean, a geological condition that has shaped Egypt for over 3,000 years.

The museum is envisaged as a cultural complex of activities devoted to Egyptology and will contain 24,000m² of permanent exhibition space, almost 4 football fields in size, a children's museum, conference and education facilities, a large conservation centre and extensive gardens on the 50hA site. The collections of the museum include the Tutankhamen collection, that is currently housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, and the Solar Boat that is now housed beside the pyramids.

Return to the hotel to enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure

Dinner at local restaurant.

Overnight in Cairo.

Thursday, November 11 | St. Paul Monastery / St. Anthony Monastery

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

06:30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Checkout after breakfast.

07:00 Meet your guide at the lobby and drive to **Zaafra**.

The **Monastery of Saint Paul** was founded in the 4th century, abandoned in the 15th century and re-colonized in the 17th century. It is celebrated as the oldest Christian monastery in Egypt. The monastic buildings are concentrated around a cave where the hermit Paul is believed to have lived in seclusion for eighty years. The cave also marks the spot where Saint Anthony and Saint Paul are believed to have met. The Church of Saint Paul was built over the cave where the remains of Saint Paul were buried. The wall paintings are among the earliest in Egypt, believed to date to the 4th century. The other churches in the monastery are dedicated to Saint Mercurius, the Holy Virgin, and Saint Michael. The latter is the largest and dates to the 17th century.

From 1997 through 2005 ARCE oversaw extensive conservation work at the Monastery of Saint Paul. In 1997, work started with conservation of the mill building, refectory, and 18th century enclosure wall. In 2001, a larger project to conserve the entire church, its walls, and unique paintings began. The conservation work finished in 2005.

Free time for lunch. Lunch box is included.

Next you will visit the **Monastery of Saint Anthony** which was founded in the 4th century, a few years after the death of the saint. This is one of the most beautiful monasteries in Egypt, largely because of its setting. It is nestled beneath the rugged mountains along the Red Sea coast and is surrounded by high walls of modern construction, over ten meters high. The oldest part of the monastery is the Church of Saint Anthony which is built over his tomb. The wall paintings in the nave are of 12th and 13th century date.

From 1996-1999, ARCE began conservation of the wall paintings in the church which revealed extremely high-quality paintings which are among the best-preserved and most complete Christian paintings from medieval Egypt. Later phases of conservation and documentation work at the monastery began in 2004 following renovations at the church which revealed the remains of an earlier church and monastic cells under the 14th century church floor. Archaeological recording and conservation were carried out and in 2008 a glass floor was installed over the conserved remains to display the space below the present-day church.

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

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Zaafra.

Friday, November 12 | Bahasa.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Checkout after breakfast.

08:00 Meet your guide and drive to **Minya**; visit **Bahasa** enroute.

Coptic and Koranic sources differ on both the route that the Holy Family took as well as the length of time that they spent in Egypt — particularly with regards to the time they spent in Middle Egypt. **Bahasa** was the first stop of the Holy Family in Middle Egypt, close to the ancient city of **Oxyrhynchus**, capital of the 19th nome of Upper Egypt dating to the Dynastic Period. Local tradition claims that the family took refuge at the site. At the site you will visit the Church of the Virgin Mary where there is a well that, according to tradition, Jesus played near it and planted a piece of wood that grew into a fruitful tree. Archaeologists have excavated in recent years the remains of an ancient church nearby. They went on from there to a spot later named Abai Issous, "**the Home of Jesus**", the site of present-day Sandafa village, east of Bahasa.

Free time for lunch "Lunch box is included".

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

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Minya.

Saturday, November 13 | Gebel El Teir / Ashmounen / Tuna El Gebel.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

06:30 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

08:00 Meet your guide and start your day with **Gebel El Teir**, then to **Ashmounen**, and end the day by **Tuna El Gebel**.

The first stop of the day will be to **Gebel al Teir** (*Mountain of the Birds*). After leaving Bahnasa, the Holy Family crossed the Nile at Samalut and went to Gebel al Teir. This is the site where Mary, according to tradition, feared for the safety of Jesus because a large rock threatened to fall on their boat from the mountain overlooking the river. Jesus is said to have extended his hand and prevented its falling. His imprint remained on the rock and the Church of the Lady of the Palm was built in commemoration of the visit. This church is one of the most important stops of the Holy Family in Egypt and it hosts an annual pilgrimage to the site that is shared by both Copts and Muslims.

From Gebel al Teir, the Holy Family crossed the Nile again to the western side and visited the town of **Ashmounein** (*Hermopolis Magna* in Greek or *Khmun* in ancient Egyptian). Ashmounein was capital of the 15th nome of Upper Egypt, and the main cult center of the ancient Egyptian god of wisdom, Thoth. The central sacred area of the town was surrounded by a massive mudbrick enclosure wall dating to the Ramesside period as well as the 30th dynasty. The temple of Thoth was rebuilt on many occasions, with very little remaining. Several colossal statues of baboons were erected by Amenhotep III and two have been restored at the site.

Aside from what remains of the temple dedicated to Thoth, very little of the site is preserved from later periods except for the Roman period agora and the nearby restored basilica dating to the 5th century, which included the sanctuary and baptismal font. Ashmounein is a place of importance with regards to the Holy Family tradition as it was the first Egyptian city to be associated with this tradition going back to more than 2000 years ago where the town claims to have sheltered them. Jesus is also said to have carried out many miracles in this town.

Free time for lunch. Lunch box is included.

Proceed to **Tuna El Gebel**. The monuments of the site are scattered for about 3km along the desert, 7km west of Ashmounein. A boundary stela of Akhenaten is the earliest monument at the site. One of the most famous are the Greco-Roman animal mummy catacombs of votive ibis and baboon offerings to the god Thoth. The site also contains the unique tomb of Petosiris, dating to the Ptolemaic period. The tomb is in the form of a temple, with an entrance portico and cult chapel behind.

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

Sunday, November 14 | Tell el-Amarna/Beni Hassan

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

08:00 Meet your guide and head to **Tell el-Amarna**. Tell el-Amarna or Akhetaten (*The Horizon of the Aten*) was the short-lived capital of Egypt during the reign of King Akhenaten and the center of a new state religion that he introduced at the time (c. 1350 BC). At the site, you will visit the northern tombs including those of Ahmose & Huya and the central city including the Great and Small Aten Temples.

Free time for lunch. Lunch box is included.

Continue to **Beni Hassan**. The necropolis of Beni Hasan is the most important Middle Kingdom provincial necropolis between Asyut and Memphis. It contains 39 large rock-cut tombs, with at least eight of them belonging to the "Great Overlords of the Oryx nome" (the 16th nome of Upper Egypt, dating to the 11th and 12th dynasties (c. 2055-1650 BC). Many tombs 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 of the daily life and political tensions of the period.

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

Monday, November 15 | Drive to Sohag.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Checkout after breakfast.

08:00 Meet your guide and drive to **Asyut**; visit **Deir Al Muharraq** enroute.

Deir Al Muharraq has been a place of pilgrimage since early in the Christian era. Medieval and modern historians have described the monastery as a place of healing. The monks at the site relate a long-standing tradition that the Church of the Blessed Virgin within the monastery was the first church to be built in Egypt and that it was constructed after St. Mark's arrival in the middle of the first century of the common era. Upon the Holy Family's arrival at the site, they are said to have hid in a cave and Joseph built a small house of bricks and covered it with palm leaves. They lived there for a little more than three years. Biblical historians state that it was at Muharraq where an angel of the Lord appeared and said to Joseph in a dream: "Arise and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead," (Matthew 2:20)

There has been monastic life here since the 4th century, although the current building dates from the 12th to 13th centuries. Above the church of the Blessed Virgin there was another church dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Paul, but only part of the original woodwork remains. It was demolished in the 19th century and a new church dedicated to Saint George remains.

Free time for lunch. Lunch box is included.

Later, you will be transferred to the **Hotel** for check-in

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Sohag.

Tuesday, November 16 | Athribis / Red Monastery / White Monastery.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

06:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Checkout after breakfast.

08:00 Meet your guide at the hotel and head to **Athribis**; The city is the site of a temple built for the goddess Repyt (Triphis) by Ptolemy XV Caesarian and subsequent Roman Emperors. South of this temple was an earlier temple of Ptolemy IX Soter II.

Four kilometers (2.5 miles) north of the **White Monastery** lies the **Red Monastery** (Deir al-Ahmar). Built in the 5th century, the Red Monastery, or the Church of Saints Bishai and Bigol, were the heart of a large monastic community. It is an astonishingly rare example of extremely vibrant paintings in a monument from late antique Egypt.

From 2002-2019, ARCE undertook its longest conservation project at the Red Monastery. Beginning in 2002, work began to reveal the magnificent painted surfaces of the church's triconch sanctuary that were covered by layers of black soot. From 2015-2019, work then moved to the nave of the church where conservation of the nave walls commenced along with architectural conservation and site presentation.

Lecture by Dr. Nicholas Warner

Lunch will be served at the Red Monastery.

Short drive west of Sohag, the **White Monastery** (Deir al-Abyad) dates to the early 5th century and is so called because it is built of white limestone- much of which was taken from nearby Pharaonic temples.

Drive to Abydos, check in at your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Abydos.

Wednesday, November 17 | Dendera / Abydos.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Checkout after breakfast.

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

Ancient *Abedju* (Greek **Abydos**) was the most important burial ground in Egypt dating back to the beginning of the dynastic period. Its cemetery contains graves going back to the Predynastic Nagada I times, including Umm el-Qa'ab, or the royal cemetery where the kings of the first and second dynasties were buried. These tombs began to be seen as extremely significant burials and in later times, lead to the growth of the town's importance as a cult site.

Abydos is notable for the **Temple of Seti I**, which contains an inscription from the nineteenth dynasty known as the Abydos King List. It is a chronological list showing cartouches of most dynastic pharaohs of Egypt from Menes until Ramesses I, Seti's father. The Great Temple and most of the ancient town are buried under the modern buildings to the north of the Seti temple.

Free time for lunch. Lunch box included.

Then to **Dendera**. The city of Dendera is located on the west bank of the Nile, about 60 km (miles) to the north of Luxor, in the 6th Nome of Upper Egypt. The Dendera Temple Complex is situated around 2.5 km (miles) to the southeast of this city.

The early history of Dendara includes tombs of the Early Dynastic period along with early cultic structures dating to the Old Kingdom. There are also remnants of a temple that was built during the New Kingdom. The main temple at the site is that of Hathor, and dates to the Late Ptolemaic and Roman period. The temple is one of the grandest and most elaborately decorated of its period

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

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Luxor.

Thursday, November 18 | Qurna / Draa El Naga / Menna / Karnak Temple.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

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

ARCE's Qurna Site Improvement project (QSI) ran from 2011 and 2014. It was funded by USAID and is described here in terms of its archaeological facets.

This 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 18th Dynasty king Amenhotep I and his mother Ahmose-Nefertari (c.1525-1504 BC). 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 (c.1292-1190 BC). The work at the site provided significant artifacts for the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, including statuary, pottery funerary furnishings and painted reliefs.

Finishing the tour with the tombs of Menna and Ramose at the Valley of Nobles.

Free time for lunch. Lunch at hotel.

Khonsu & ARCE lab at Karnak Temple.

Meet your guide at the lobby and head to **Karnak Temple**. Walk along the Avenue of Sphinxes to enter the complex as your guide explains how the massive facade was constructed. On entering the Temples of 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.

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

Dinner on your own.

Overnight in Luxor.

Friday, November 19 | Medinet Habu Temple / Valley of the Kings & Queens / Luxor Temple / Luxor Museum.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner.

07:00 Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

08:00 Meet your guide at the lobby for your private tour to the West Bank: Habu Temple, Valley of the Kings & Queens, this is the vast Necropolis of Thebes, the city of dead.

Begin with the **Medinet Habu Temple**, The site contains the Mortuary Temple of Ramses III (c.1194-1163 BC), the largest on the west bank and one of the best preserved. The temple is decorated with many fine paintings and reliefs bearing the usual scenes of the King's military exploits, including a unique portrayal of a sea battle.

Continue to the **Valley of Queens**, the Necropolis of Ancient Thebes, the city of the dead. The **Valley of the Queens**, gorge in the hills along the western bank of the Nile River in Upper Egypt. It was part of ancient Thebes and served as the burial site of the queens and some royal children of the 19th and 20th dynasties (c.1292–1075 BC). The queens' necropolis is located about 1.5 miles west of the mortuary temple of Ramses III.

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

Then to **Valley of the Kings**, lying protected by the high Gurna Hills surrounding it. Here you will visit the tombs of Egypt's splendid Pharaohs. Deep-cut into the rocky mountain sides are the magnificent tombs of spell binding construction and decoration.

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

Lunch at Al Marsam Restaurant.

Meet your guide at the lobby, go ahead to the East bank, visit **Luxor Temple**, which was once joined to the Temples of Karnak by a two-kilometer long Avenue of Sphinxes, a portion of which marks the entrance to the temple. Dominated by statues of the great warrior pharaoh Ramses II, Luxor Temple has survived Nile floods, foreign invasion and thousands of years exposed to the elements.

Then to **Luxor Museum**; this wonderful museum has a well-chosen and 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. The ticket price puts off many, but do not let that stop you: this is one of the most rewarding sights in Luxor and one of the best museums in Egypt.

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

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Luxor.

Saturday, November 20 | Fly to Cairo.

Meals Included: Breakfast / Dinner.

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Meet our representative for your private transfer to Luxor airport for your flight to Cairo; our representative will help you with all the departure procedures in Luxor & arrival procedures in Cairo.

Upon arrive Cairo airport; you will meet our representative for your private transfer to **Hotel** for check-in.

Free time for lunch "Lunch on your own".

Enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

Farewell Dinner at hotel.

Overnight in Cairo.

Sunday, November 21 | Final Departure.

Meals Included: Breakfast.

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

Check out 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	Marriott Omar Khayyam	November 05 – November 11	6	Nile view rooms
Sokhna	Coral Sea	November 11 – November 12	1	Standard rooms
Minya	Grand Aton	November 12 – November 15	3	Nile view rooms
Sohag	Coral Cruise	November 15 – November 16	1	Standard rooms
Abydos	House of Life	November 16 – November 17	1	Standard rooms
Luxor	Steignberger	November 17 – November 20	3	Nile view rooms
Cairo	Intercontinental City Stars	November 20 – November 21	1	Deluxe rooms

Rates:

	20 paying passengers + 2 ARCE Staff in Single
Per person in twin	USD 6,900.00
Single Supplement	USD 710.00

Incase you booked an early flight on November 05, arriving Cairo before the check in time, you are requested to book an extra night at Marriott Omar Khayyam so you can check in upon arrival (check in time at hotel 02:00PM):

Extra night at Marriott Omar Khayyam from November 04 – 05:

<u>Nile view room</u>	\$ 120.00	Per person per night in twin
	\$ 175.00	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 arrival and departure airport transfers
- 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 (Luxor/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**
- **Tipping for Guide, Egitalloyd Tour Manager, hotels, 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
- **Travel insurance for medical AND political reasons**

Important Notes:

- Prices are based on a minimum group size of **twenty paying passengers** and are subject to increases if the number of paying passengers is fewer than twenty

Payment Schedule & Cancellation Policy

Payment Schedule

- \$750 Deposit Per person Due on Confirmation
- Final Payment Per person Due 16 weeks before arrival date (July 05, 2021)

Cancellation Policy

- 0% Cancellation fees From 16 weeks to 12 weeks before arrival date (July 06 – August 06, 2021)
 - **(Less \$300.00 Per person handling fee)**
- 35% Cancellation fees From 12 weeks to 8 weeks before arrival date
(August 7 – September 07, 2021)
- 55% Cancellation fees From 8 weeks to 6 weeks before arrival date
(September 08 – September 21, 2021)
- 75% Cancellation fees From 6 weeks to 3 weeks before arrival date
(September 22 – October 15, 2021)
- 100% Cancellation fees Any cancellation from 21 days before arrival date
(October 16, 2021)

A full refund will apply in case of “Force Major”

Force Major is identified as acts of God, war and revolution, acts of terrorism preventing travel to Egypt, natural disasters happening within Egypt and not outside the country.

Payment through bank wire transfer for DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS

Please find below Egitalloyd bank details and contact information:

Account name: Egitalloyd Travel
Bank name: Export Development Bank of Egypt
Address: 10 Tallat Harb Street-Evergreen Building – Cairo - Egypt
POB 2096- Ataba- Post Code 11511
Account Number: 16258
Phone: 202-22-777-003 Fax: 202-22-774-553
Swift: EXDEEGCX

Payment by Credit card for DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS

- 3% to be added to the per person rate (Credit card fees)
- Needed:
 - Credit Card holder name
 - Cell phone number
 - Email address

For inquiries and to reserve your place on this tour, please call **(703) 721-3470** or email Rebekah Atol at ratol@arce.org, **Hisham El-sebai** at hisham@egitalloyd.com
To participate, individuals must be members of ARCE in good standing.