

EGYPT

SPRING BREAK , March 5-14, 2010

- DAY 000: FLY TO CAIRO FROM ST. LOUIS VIA NEW YORK. (Friday)
- DAY ONE: ARRIVE IN CAIRO. We begin with a tour of the Old Cairo area, with a visit to ancient Coptic churches, the Church of the Virgin Mary, St. Sergius, St. Barbara, and the Coptic Museum, with the Ben Ezra Synagogue added as well. Lunch at local restaurant. Check into Hotel Shepheard . Afternoon free. Dinner at local restaurant.
- DAY TWO: Hot buffet breakfast at hotel. We will visit 3 mosques: the Hakim, Tulun and Sultan Hassan, as well as the the Gayer-Anderson Museum, which contains art of the Ottoman period. We will also visit the Islamic Art Museum with all its treasures. Dinner at hotel.
- DAY THREE: Hot buffet breakfast at hotel. Trip to the fabulous EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (including the ROYAL MUMMIES ROOM and the treasures from King Tut's tomb) and later a visit to THE KHAN EL KHALILI BAZAARS, the largest in the region. Lunch and dinner at local restaurant .
- DAY FOUR: Early breakfast at hotel. Local transport and assistant for hotel—airport transfer. Flight from CAIRO TO LUXOR. We will arrive in Luxor, where our hotel will be the Sheraton. Visit to the TEMPLES AT LUXOR AND KARNAK. Then travel to the VALLEY OF THE QUEENS and the COLOSSI OF MEMNON.
- DAY FIVE: Early buffet breakfast at hotel. Visit the VALLEY OF THE KINGS, stopping briefly along the way to visit the ancient town of OLD GURNA (with its brightly colored houses, painted with pharaonic motifs and symbols that indicate the occupant has been to Mecca. One may see women making bread, children tending goats and farmers with water buffalo, a slice of life in a village). Then, in THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS, we will visit the Tombs of Seti I, Horemheb, Merenptah, Ramses III, and Tutankhamun.
- DAY SIX: Hot buffet breakfast at hotel. FREE DAY. TIME ON YOUR OWN. SOME OPTIONS: Explore LUXOR (e.g., its SOUK or MARKET), Perhaps take a FALUCCA (boat) ride, or a more extended CRUISE on the NILE, perhaps as far as ASWAN; closer is ABYDOS, the cult center of OSIRIS, GOD OF THE DEAD, and the site where one finds THE TEMPLE OF SETI I, one of the most intact temples in EGYPT. Also recommended is the THE TEMPLE

OF HATHOR at DENDARA, even closer, at 37 MILES north of LUXOR.

DAY SEVEN: Hot buffet breakfast at hotel. Local transport and assistant for hotel – airport transport. Return to Cairo . Check in again at the Hotel Shepheard. Rest of day free.

DAY EIGHT: HOT BUFFET BREAKFAST AT HOTEL. Local transport and guide for our excursion to the GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX, INCLUDING ENTRANCE TO the PYRAMID OF CHEOPS. Leave time for a camel ride/photo op for those who choose to buy one. LUNCH AT LOCAL RESTAURANT. Return to Cairo for remainder of afternoon (time to pack up). Return to Giza for a final dinner at the historic Mena House Hotel, following that with a return to the PYRAMIDS for a sound a light show. Our return to Cairo will take us to the airport for a late overnight flight back to New York and then on to St. Louis and then home (Day Nine).

The cost of the trip will depend on the number of travelers: if we have 15 people, it will be \$2,560; if 20, \$2,520; if 25, \$2,480. A deposit of \$500 is due by November 20th.

There is one other option I would like to explore as an option for the group, and that is a show of the whirling dervishes one night. A group performs twice-weekly at the Al-Ghuri Complex in Cairo. Quoting one guide book, “Questions of authenticity aside, the show is a marvelous spectacle.” I saw one of these show when in Cairo and everyone enjoyed it. They are offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays, some say, also Monday. Some say the performances are at 8, some say 9. The shows are free so all say get there early to avoid having to stand because of the limited seating.

All for now, Margaret