

## SMILE OF THE EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

**DAY01:** Arrival at Cairo airport, meet and assist through formalities transfer to the hotel for overnight

**DAY02:** Breakfast, drive to the Pyramids of Giza. Cheops Pyramid, the largest of the three, was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty about 2690 BC. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world .In front of the pyramid of Chephren, there stands the Sphinx a lion with a Pharaoh's head thought to be a portrait of the pharaoh Chephren; followed by visiting the Egyptian Museum, famous for its antiquities from Egypt's Pharaonic period, dates back some 50 centuries, and includes the fabulous treasures of King Tut Ankh-Amon. Afternoon excursion to Old Cairo, the old Coptic churches, and the oldest Jewish Synagogue of Ben Ezra., a transfer to Giza rail way station to get the sleeping train to Aswan, dinner on board.

### Pyramids of Giza



There are no more famous ancient sites within Egypt, or for that matter elsewhere in the world, than the Great Pyramids at Giza. They are, without question, the icon most associated with the Egypt. They have been both the main destination for tourists and a source of imaginative thought to the world for over three thousand years.

**DAY03:** After breakfast, enjoy an excursion to the **Old Dam** and the gigantic **Aswan High Dam** completed in 1970. Board a motor launch to the **island of Phiale** to visit the temple of **Isis**. Also stop at the ancient granite quarries to see the famous **Unfinished Obelisk**. Embarkation on your Nile cruise overnight on the ship. All meals included.

### Un-finished Obelisk



The Unfinished Obelisk lies, in its original location, in a granite quarry in Aswan. It is 42m in length and was most probably abandoned when some cracks appeared in the rock, during its construction. Had this obelisk been completed, it would have been the heaviest obelisk ever cut in Ancient Egypt, weighing nearly 1100 tons! It is believed that it was constructed and abandoned during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut (18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty).

During the earliest ages, the Ancient Egyptians knew the so-called "Pn-pn", which was a pyramidal stone with a pointed top and according to their beliefs the "Pn-pn" symbolized the primeval hill from which the world first appeared. Then, in the course of time, this Pn-pn evolved to be an obelisk usually made of granite with a pyramidal shape on top.

## Philae Temple



Philae Island was a rocky island in the middle of the River Nile, south of Aswan. It was called in Hieroglyphic "Apo" which means Ivory. It was also known by the Greek "Elephantine", most probably because it was an important centre of trade, especially for ivory

The Ancient Egyptians built a beautiful and magnificent Temple on this island for the Goddess Isis, but the Temple became submerged after the first Aswan dam was built in 1906, and it was not until the seventies that many nations attempted to save the Temple

## The High Dam



The High Dam of Aswan is a great project. In fact it was one of the most important achievements in the last century in Egypt, even for many years it was a symbol of the New Era of the Revolution of 1952. It provided Egypt with water and electricity and secured the country of the risk of the destructive inundation.

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**DAY04** : Sail to Kom Ombo to visit **Sobek** temple, then proceed sailing to **Edfu** Board horse-drawn carriages for a drive through to the temple of **Horus** with its menacing black stone statue of the **Falcon** god. Overnight on the ship. All meals included.



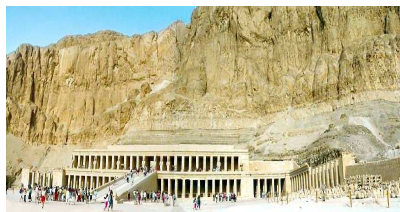
Kom Ombo



Horus Temple

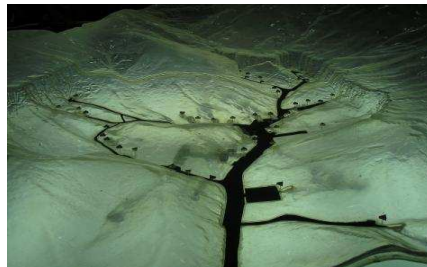
**DAY05** : Arrival at Luxor, Focus on west bank of the Nile to visit the **Valley of the Kings and Deir El Bahari, Queen Hatshepsut's** monumental rock-cut temple. Stop for pictures at the two **Colossi of Memnon** guarding the valley. Drive back to the ship. Overnight on the ship. All meals include.

Hatshepsut



Hatshepsut was one of the most interesting female figures and most capable Pharaohs of Egyptian history (1490-1468 BC), so our visit to her 3,500 year old mortual temple in the Valley of Kings (Thebes West) was in many respects a quite special experience

### Valley of the Kings



The Valley of the Kings was the royal cemetery for 62 Pharaohs, and is located on the west bank at Luxor. The only entrance to this place was a long narrow winding path. This was a secret place, where sentries were placed at the entrance of the Valley, as well as along the top of the hills, in the hopes of discouraging tomb robbers, who had in the past plundered all royal tombs, including the treasures of the Pyramids! Some thefts were probably carefully planned, but others were spur of the moment, as when an earlier tomb was accidentally discovered while cutting a new one and workmen took advantage of the opportunity.

**DAY06:** Visit the stunning monuments of **Luxor and Karnak**, the greatest cities of Ancient **Egypt**. Disembarkation, Then transfer to Luxor Railway station, to get the sleeping train to Cairo. Dinner on board

### Luxor Temple



Luxor Temple, or the Temple of Luxor, is among the most beautiful Temples in Egypt. It was known in the New Kingdom period as Ipt-Rsyet, which means the southern shrine. This was to differentiate between this Temple and Karnak Temple, which was the northern house of Amon Ra.

Amenhotep III built Luxor Temple. The architect and overseer of the works of construction was the genius Amenhotep, son of Habu. The Temple run close and parallel to the river Nile from north to south. It was constructed on the site of a small Temple of Amon, built by kings of the 12th dynasty. At the time of Amenhotep III the Temple was only 190m in length and 55m in width. Basically, Luxor Temple was consecrated to Amon Ra in his fertility aspect.

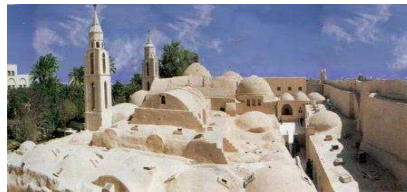
### Karnak Temple



The Temple of Karnak is the largest Temple in the World! The complex contains a group of Temples such as the Great Temple of Amon Ra, the Temple of Khonso, the Ipt Temple, the Temple of Ptah, the Temple of Montho and the Temple of the God Osiris. A 20m high, mud brick enclosure wall, surrounded all of these buildings.

**DAY07:** Breakfasts, drive to **Wadi Natrun**, (100 km from Cairo), where laying 50 Monasteries existed dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century, only 4 Monasteries still remain and visited on day to day basis. The **Monastery of St. Makar the Great** with its huge buildings, the opulent appearance of the church's interior is due to the Majesty of its treasury. Proceed to visit the **Suriani Monastery** with its three churches, the one of the Byzantine style is very distinguished, The **Monastery of Amba Bishoy** dates back to 390 A.C, with its 6 churches situated amongst fruitful wide gardens. Proceed to **El-Alamein** where we can visit the famous cemeteries dating back to the 2nd world war; continue to **Alexandria**, arrival in the evening, dinner and overnight.

### Monastery of Amba Bishoy



### Suriani Monastery



This monastery, one of the four well known of its kind in Wadi al-Natrun, was probably founded in the sixth century, though some might date it later. It is located about five hundred meters northwest of the Monastery of Saint Bishoi. Its establishment is closely connected with

Julian's heretical doctrine which spread throughout Egypt under the patriarchate of Timothy III (517-535). The Julianist (Gaianists, after Archdeacon Gaianus, a supporter of Julianist theology who was a bishop in Alexandria c.

**DAY08:** Visit the **New Bibliotheque of Alexandria**, and then continue to the **Pompey's** huge red granite pillar and the intriguingly decorated **Catacombs Pompey's** huge red granite pillar; and the intriguingly decorated **Catacombs**. Then proceed to the catacomb, Drive back to Cairo. Dinner and overnight.

### Bibliotheque of Alexandria



Library of Alexandria was the largest and most significant great library of the ancient world. It flourished under the patronage of the Ptolemaic dynasty and functioned as a major center of scholarship from its construction in the 3rd century BC until the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 BC.

### The Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa



The Catacombs (meaning underground tunnels) lie in the district of Karmouz to the east of Alexandria. The area was called Kom El-Shouqafa or a pile of shards.

The cemetery dates back to the 1st century A.D and was used until the



4th century A.D. It was discovered in 1900 when by pure chance, a donkey drawn cart fell into a pit, which led to the discovery.

The Catacombs in Alexandria are so called because the design was very similar to the Christian Catacombs in Rome.

**DAY09 :** Drive from **Cairo** to **St. Catherine** along the **Gulf of Suez** and arrive to the lush green **Oasis of Wadi Faran** (Biblical **Raphidim**) arrive in the afternoon to **St. Catherine** area, dinner and over night.

**DAY10:** Breakfast at the hotel, and then visit to the famed 6th century Monastery named after **St. Catherine**, the martyr of **Alexandria**. Transfer to Cairo airport for final departure. Afternoon, walk up to **Mount Sinai** 2285 above sea level, attain the summit named after **Moses** where God delivered the Ten Commandments, time on top to take in and photograph the imposing & spectacular view of the sun set from the hills of Sinai. Descent, overnight in the hotel.

**Mount Sinai**



**St. Catherine Monastery**



**DAY11:** Transfer to the airport for final departure