

Day 1: Tuesday, Feb. 19th ~ New York / JFK - Cairo

Depart New York's JFK International Airport aboard our transatlantic flight to Cairo, Egypt with meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight.

Day 2: Wednesday, Feb. 20th ~ Cairo, Egypt

Arrival at the airport in Cairo where we will be met by private motorcoach for the drive to the first-class Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel & Spa for check-in. The remainder of the day is at leisure to familiarize ourselves with our surroundings. Dinner is at the hotel this evening. (Dinner)

Your accommodations from 2/20 to 2/23 and 2/27 to 2/28

Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel & Spa

El Remaya Square - Pyramids

PO Box 24 Pyramids

Cairo 12561 Egypt

+20 2 33777070

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, indoor & outdoor pool, complimentary bottled water

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien>

Day 3: Thursday, Feb. 21st ~ Pyramids, Sphinx and Sakkara

This morning, we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then visit Egypt's most loved sight - The Great Pyramids of Giza. We explore the Giza plateau, pyramids and massive lion-headed Sphinx. Later, we tour Sakkara - an ancient necropolis with many half-buried tombs and the famous Zhoser's step pyramid. Return to our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 4: Friday, Feb. 22nd ~ Egyptian Museum - Citadel and Khan El Khalili Bazaars

Breakfast at the hotel this morning. Today your guide will pick you up at the hotel and start your tour at the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, which was established in 1902 near the city center in Cairo. On display is a rare collection of 5,000 years of art — the largest, most precious collection of Egyptian art in the world. Over 250,000 genuine artifacts are presented, including an exhibit dedicated to the Tutankhamen collection of treasures, gold, and jewelry, as it was enclosed in his tomb for over 3,500 years before it was discovered in the 1920's when his tomb was excavated. Next on the itinerary is the renowned Citadel that was built by Saladin in the 12th Century and was the seat of power for the following 700 years. On the premises is the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali, one of the landmarks in Cairo whose minaret can be seen from any part of the city. The Mohammed Ali mosque was built in Turkish style, very similar to the Blue Mosque in Turkey. In the afternoon we will visit the Khan El Khalili Bazaars that dates back to 1382. Shops in this district are legendary for fine brassware, copper, perfumes, leather, silver, gold, antiques and more! Everything for sale in these shops is negotiable, be prepared to bargain for goods sold in this exciting maze of shops! At the end of the day we will transfer you back to your hotel in Cairo. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 5: Saturday, Feb. 23rd ~ Luxor: Karnak and Luxor Temples

After breakfast at the hotel, we check out and depart for Cairo Airport and our domestic flight to Luxor. Upon arrival at Luxor's airport we will be met and transferred to our Nile cruise vessel, the *M/Y Alyssa*. Upon boarding, we will check in and the ship will embark before lunch, which will be served onboard. In the afternoon, optional tours will be offered, including a "Sound & Lights" show at Karnak Temple or a city tour of Luxor by horse carriage. Dinner will be served onboard this evening. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board)

Day 6: Sunday, Feb. 24th ~ Luxor West Bank - Esna - Edfu

After breakfast onboard our vessel (or optional 4 am hot air balloon tour over Luxor with boxed breakfast), we cross the Nile to visit the West Bank of Luxor including the Valley of the Kings, the factory of the Alabaster Stones, then the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir El-Bahari and the two statues of Colossi of Memnon. Following that, we return to our ship and enjoy lunch onboard as we sail to Esna Lock, and then on to Edfu. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board)

Day 7: Monday, Feb. 25th ~ Edfu - Kom Ombo Temples

After breakfast on board, our vessel we visit the Temple of Edfu, dedicated to the God Horus by horse carriage. Then we sail to Kom-Ombo, with lunch onboard. Arriving in Kom-Ombo, we will visit the Temple of Kom-Ombo, dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris. Sail to Aswan. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board)

Day 8: Tuesday, Feb. 26th ~ Abu Simbel, Philae Temple, The High Dam, Perfume Shop & Felucca

Breakfast on board (or an optional excursion to Abu Simbel with boxed breakfast) before we visit Aswan, including the Temple of Philae, The High Dam and a perfume shop if you are interested. Back to the *Alyssa* for lunch, and then we'll tour by Felucca (small oared boat common on the Nile) or motorboat around Elephantine Island and the Botanical Garden, and then back to our boat (Opportunity to do an Optional Excursion during the felucca tour - Nubian Village). (Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board)

Day 9: Wednesday, Feb. 27th ~ Aswan - Cairo

Enjoy breakfast and then we will disembark from the cruise. Transfer to Aswan Airport for our domestic flight to Cairo. Upon arrival we will transfer from Cairo Airport to our original hotel, Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel & Spa. (Breakfast on board and dinner in Cairo).

Day 10: Thursday, Feb. 28th ~ Cairo - New York /JFK

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will transfer to the airport in Cairo to board our return flight to JFK with meal and beverage service, as well as stereo headsets, while in flight. (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE