



EGYPT TOURS & TRAVEL OFFICE
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GOLD PYRAMID HOUSE OFFICE
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EGYPT 2018 February 15th - 27th
11 Nights / 13 Days
Giza / Abu-Simbel / Aswan / Luxor / Cairo / Nile Cruise
Ancient Site Seeing with Rocko Onan

My love for Ancient Egypt started when I was a young boy, watching my dad perform experiments on pyramid power back in the 70's. His experiments led his desires to build a pyramid, plated in 24k gold, as a home in the countryside of Wadsworth, IL. After living in this unique house for about a year, it was opened to the public for 10 days in the summer of 1984. This caught the attention of the Egyptian Government who asked if they could help my dad to create further interest in Egypt and sent representatives from Egypt including Dr Zahi Hawass - this was the first time I had ever met him.

Dr. Hawass gave many lectures inside our house to visitors, talking about many different subjects and believed I listened to every one of those lectures which intrigued my passion for this history even more. After selling so many trips to Egypt during these event, my family was invited to Egypt as guests of the Egyptain government. During this trip, I met so many interesting people and was allowed to visit places most people could not. It was then that I fell in love with everything about Egypt.

In the 90's I finally had the chance to visit Egypt again as a Tour Coordinator and traveled there several times but stopped as soon as we closed the Pyramid House for tours. Since re-opening the Gold Pyramid House 4 years ago, I have been asked many times if i would put together another trip because many people felt uncomfortable going by themselves and felt better traveling with someone they knew. I always said, "maybe someday," but it wasn't until 2015 when I attended a lecture with Dr Zahi Hawass in Chicago that he convinced me to start bringing groups back to Egypt.

Last Nov of 2016, I took 18 people to experience Egypt the way i thought it should be experienced and with the success, I decided to go back this November. This time i slowed it up a bit.... or did I? I always wanted to go on the Lake Nasser Cruises, as this is the best way to see Abu Simbel at night and several Nubian temples, and I thought it would be nice to stay in Aswan for a couple of days to see more of what it has to offer. I was surprised to see how much interest i received over the pictures i posted on Facebook and hope you feel the same. Please join me on a once in a lifetime trip and fall in love with Ancient Egypt the way I did so many years ago. This itinerary is busy with early mornings and lots of walking. This itinerary also has sites not typically viewed and therefore has limited space.

11 Nights and 13 Days with a 3 Night Deluxe Nile Cruise

Price is based on double occupancy

\$3495 per person (not including International Air)

Single occupancy add \$890

Pyramids view room Supplement per person add \$100

Accommodations Included:

- 04 nights accommodation at Meridien Pyramids in Giza on bed and breakfast basis.
- 03 nights accommodation on board of Sonesta Moon Goddess Cruise on bed and all meals included (drinks are not included).
- 02 nights accommodation at Sonesta Saint George (Nile Side View Room) Hotel in Luxor on bed and breakfast basis.
- 02 nights accommodation at Kempinski Hotel based on Deluxe Medina rooms in Cairo on bed and breakfast basis.
- Domestic flight Cairo / Abu-Simbel / Aswan – Luxor / Cairo.
- Meals: As per each day (**B**) Breakfast, (**L**) Lunch, (**D**) Dinner
- All meeting and assistance, baggage handling, entrance fees to sites mentioned below, transfers, hotel service charges, cruise port charges and taxes are included.
- All transfers and site seeing are operated in a private bus with driver and a professional Egyptologist tour guide during the site seeing, or a driver and a tour escort during transfers available with you at all times

Sites Included:

Memphis (open air museum)

Saqqara Complex Pyramids and tombs

Pyramid of Titi

Unas Causeway

Serapeum

Tomb of Mereruka

Tomb of Irukaptah

Mastaba tomb of Niankhkhnum-Khnumhotep

Giza Great Pyramids, Valley Temple and Sphinx

Dahshur Pyramids

Fayoum oasis

Pyramid of Hawara

Pyramid of Lisht

Temple of Sobek

Meidum Pyramid

Temple of Abu-Simbel

Temple of Philae
High Dam
Unfinished Obelisk
Temple of Kom Ombo
Temple of Edfu
Valley of the Kings (3 tomb pass + King Tuts)
Valley of the Queen
Valley of the Nobles
Queen Hatshepsut's Temple
Temple of Medinet Habu
Colossi of Memnon
Temple of Dendara
Temple of Karnak
Temple of Luxor
Cairo Egyptian Museum
Old Market of Khan El Khalili
2 hour Felucca Ride
The Hanging Church
St. Serguis
St. Barbara
Church of St. Simon in Mokattam (Cave Church)
The Citadel
Mohammad Ali Mosque
Sultan Hassan Mosque

Package Rates exclude:

- Entry visa (To be paid in US Dollars, approximately \$26 in Cairo Airport)
- Tips to Local guides / drivers, Reps, etc.
- Entrance fees ***“Giza Pyramids from inside, Solar Boat, Nefertari Tomb, Mummies room in the museum.”***
- Optional Excursions.
- Personal expenses (laundry, telephone calls, etc.)
- Beverage during meals.
- Any items which is not included above.

Feb 15, 2018 **Leave America “Thursday”**

International Flight is not included. Please don't forget to advice us with your arrival and departure flight info, so that we can arrange for your pick ups and transfers

Feb 16, 2018 **Cairo / Giza “Friday”**

Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, you will be met by our representative who will assist you through the immigration and customs formalities. Transfer by our deluxe coach to hotel for check-in at Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel.

1st Overnight in Giza Le Meridien Pyramid Hotel

Feb 17, 2018 **Giza “Saturday”**

Day tour visiting: **Memphis, Saqqara Complex Pyramids and tombs, Zoser, Titi, Mus Unas Causeway, Serapeum, Mereruka, Irukaptah, Niankhkhnun, Khnumhotep. (B)**

The ancient city of **Memphis** was the capital of Egypt during the Old Kingdom and most of the Pharaonic period. It is thought it was founded in about 3100 BC by King Menes, the ruler responsible for uniting Upper and Lower Egypt. There is an open air museum with many impressive statues, one of them being the largest statue of Ramses II.

Saqqara is one of the richest archaeological sites in Egypt. Its monuments span 3,000 years, from the earliest ancient Egyptian funerary structures to Coptic monasteries. The centerpiece of the Saqqara Necropolis is the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the prototype for all other pyramids. This pyramid was built for 3rd Dynasty King Djoser by his architect, the high priest Imhotep. There are several very important and interesting tombs and pyramids that can be seen at this location, like the Serapeum, which is the largest tomb found for sacred bulls.

2nd Overnight in Giza Le Meridien Pyramid Hotel (Breakfast Included)

Feb 18, 2018 **Giza “Sunday”**

Day tour visiting: **Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and Dahshur. “Abusir is closed for the present time”**

Lunch en route at local restaurant. **(B, L)**

The Giza Plateau. Nearly 5,000 years ago, Giza became the royal burial ground for Memphis. In less than 100 years, the ancient Egyptians built the three pyramid complexes to serve as the tombs for their kings. This is the largest pyramid complex in the world and is one of the seven wonders.. These 4th dynasty pyramids were built for Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure. Khufu’s pyramid sits on 13 acres of land, is 481 feet high and 755 feet on each side with 2.3 million blocks of limestone. In front of Khafre’s pyramid is his Valley temple and the Great Sphinx.

If **Abusir** is open, there will be no extra charge for this site. Abusir has a cluster of four 5th Dynasty pyramids which has not aged as well as the ones in Giza.

Dahshur is a remote desert pyramid field of great significance in the history of pyramid building. The two Old Kingdom pyramids at the site were constructed by 4th dynasty King Sneferu, father of Khufu, the builder of the Great Pyramid. The Bent Pyramid is considered to be Egypt’s first proper pyramid because until this time pyramids were stepped. It is believed that the base couldn’t support the weight so the change the angle half way up, giving it the name Bent. Not happy with Bent Pyramid, Sneferu constructed the Red Pyramid, which was the largest smooth-sided pyramid until his son, Khufu, out did him at Giza. In the distance you can see the Black Pyramid of Amenemhat III which is badly eroded.

3rd Overnight in Giza Le Meridien Pyramid Hotel (Breakfast & Lunch Included)

Feb 19, 2018 Giza / Fayoum “Monday”

Day tour visiting: **Fayoum, Meidum, Hawara, Lisht and Sobek Temple**
Lunch en route at local restaurant. **(B, L)**

Amenemhat I moved the ancient capital from Thebes to the area around Fayoum. His pyramid was built in **Lisht**. He wanted his funerary monument near his new capital. In fact, all of the 12th dynasty kings wanted to be buried near it. This new capital has never been found, but it's believed it must be near the Fayoum Oasis, figuring all of their sites, surround it.

Fayoum is Egypt's largest oasis and has scenic site with waterfalls and watermills. Lake Qarun was linked to the Nile by a series of canals built by the 12th dynasty pharaoh, Amenemhat III. The area later became a favored Pharaonic vacation spot. The Greeks knew the area as Crocodilopolis, named after the reptiles in the lake, which they worshipped. **Crocodile temple** is where the Egyptians would of worshipped the god Sobek.

Near Fayoum is the pyramid of **Hawara**. This is Amenemhat III second attempt for a pyramid. The first one was the Black Pyramid in Dashur, which he had to abandon because of structure problems. Amenemhat built Hawara Pyramid with a much lower slope so it would have better stability. This pyramid core was built entirely of mud brick stones with the outer mantle in limestone. This was the largest Middle Kingdom funerary complex.

Meidum is the site with Sneferu's first pyramid. This 306 foot high strange shape pyramid is the first one with an aboveground burial chamber.

4th Overnight in Giza Le Meridien Pyramid Hotel (Breakfast & Lunch Included)

Feb 20, 2018 Giza / Cairo / Abu-Simbel / Aswan / Nile Cruise “Tuesday”

Check out and transfer to Cairo Airport for flight Abu-Simbel via Aswan.

Arrival Abu-Simbel and transfer to Visit **Abu-Simbel Temples (Ramses II and Nefertari Temples)**.

Depart to Abu-Simbel Airport for flight back to Aswan.

Arrival Aswan and transfer to Cruise.

Overnight on board in Aswan. (B, L, D)

The Great Temple of **Abu Simbel** and the smaller Temple of Hathor are a breathtaking sight. The Great Temple was built to honor Ramses II. Its 108ft high facade, with four colossal enthroned statues of Ramses II wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt, was intended to impress and frighten. This Temple was relocated in the 1960's, as Lake Nasser threatened to engulf the temples. Lake Nasser is the largest man-made lakes in the world. The lake was created as a result of the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

1st Overnight on Nile Cruise (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included)

Feb 21, 2018 Aswan / Kom Ombo / Edfu “Wednesday”

Day tour visiting: **Philae Temple, High Dam and Unfinished Obelisk, Sail to Kom-Ombo. Visit Kom-Ombo Temple Sail to Edfu. Overnight on board in Edfu. (B, L, D)**

The Temple of Philae is the cult center for the goddess Isis. This was an important place of pilgrimage for worshippers until long into the Christian era. This beautiful temple complex is one of the most picturesque in all of Egypt. It site on Aglika Island and you must ride a water taxi to the ruins. The temple was also relocated during the contraction of the High Dam.

The **High Dam** was built between 1960 and 1971 and it measures 12,562 feet across and 3,214 ft wide at its base. This dam was to stop the flooding of the Nile so the farmers could grow year around crops and as a result, it created the largest artificial lake in the world.

The Aswan granite quarries were used though out ancient times. Here was left behind an **unfinished obelisk**. It still lays attached in the quarry and has cracked. Had it been completed, it would have weighed 1,197 tons and stood 134 ft high.

The **Temple of Kom Ombo** is surrounded by fields of sugar cane and corn, a pleasant agricultural town, home to many Nubians displaced by the creation of Lake Nasser. This temple is overlooking the Nile. The temple building is totally symmetrical with two entrances, two halls and two sanctuaries. This unusual structure is the result of the temples dedication to two gods. The left side is for Horus the Elder and the right side is for Sobek the local crocodile god.

2nd Overnight on Nile Cruise (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included)

Feb 22, 2018 Edfu / Luxor “Thursday”

Visit Edfu Temples. Sail to Luxor Overnight on board in Luxor. (B, L, D)

The **Temple of Horus at Edfu**, which was buried under sand and silt for nearly 2000 years, is the largest and best preserved Ptolemaic temple in Egypt. Construction of the temple began under Ptolemy III in 237 BC and took around 25 years to complete. The inscriptions on its walls provide important information on language, myth and religion during the Greco-Roman period in ancient Egypt.

3rd Overnight on Nile Cruise (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included)

Feb 23, 2018 Luxor “Friday”

Check-out after breakfast and start Full Day tour to the West Bank visiting: **Valley of the Kings (3 tombs + King Tut), Valley of the Queens “excluding Nefertari Tomb” Habu Temple, Nobles Tombs, Hatshepsut Temple and Colossi of Memnon. Overnight at Hotel in Luxor. (B)**

The Valley of the Kings is a remote, barren valley where lays the necropolis of the New Kingdom pharaohs. For a period of nearly 500 years, tombs for the pharaohs and

powerful nobles of the 18th to the 20 dynasties were constructed. Today there are 62 tombs that are exquisitely decorated, most famous being King Tut and Ramses II.

The **Valley of the Queens** lies to the southwest of the Valley of the Kings and holds the tombs of many royal wives and children. Of the nearly 80 tombs populating the valley, the most famous is that of Queen Nefertari. If it's open, well worth the extra charge.

The **Valley of the Nobles** is made up of more than 400 tombs of Theban nobles and high officials, mainly from the New Kingdom. The tombs lie close to the surface of the hills overlooking the Nile. Vivid artworks cover the walls, providing an invaluable insight into daily life in the New Kingdom

The Mortuary **Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir al-Bahri is a breathtaking sight. It was designed by Queen Hatshepsut's architect Senenmut, in the 18th dynasty and is an extraordinary monument which rises from the desert plain in a series of imposing terraces with mountainous backdrop.

Medinat Habu is Ramses III's magnificent memorial temple and is perhaps one of the most underrated sites on the west bank with the Theban mountains as a backdrop and the sleepy village of Kom Lolah in front. This was one of the first places in Thebes to be closely associated with the local god, Amun.

The **Colossi of Memnon** are two enthroned statues, soaring 60ft in the sky and weighing 1000 tons, of Amenhotep III are the first monuments most visitors see on arriving in the west bank. They originally guarded Amenhotep's mortuary temple, (thought to be the largest ever built in Egypt,) which was plundered for building material by later pharaohs and gradually destroyed by annual floods.

1st Overnight in Luxor Sonesta Saint George hotel (Breakfast Included)

Feb 24, 2018 Luxor "Saturday"

Day tour Dendara visiting: **Dendara Temple.**
Visit Karnak & Luxor Temples at Sunset
Overnight at Hotel in Luxor. (B)

The Temple of Dendara was Hathor's cult center from pre dynastic times. Buried under sand until the 19th century, Dendara is one of the most iconic Egyptian buildings, mostly because it remains virtually intact with a great stone roof, columns, dark chambers, underground crypts and twisting stairways all carved with beautiful bright painted hieroglyphs.

The Karnak Temple is the largest religious building ever made, covering about 200 acres, and was a place of pilgrimage for nearly 2,000 years. It was dedicated to the Theban triad of Amun, Mut, and Khonsu and the greater glory of pharaohs. Everything is on a gigantic scale as if the gods lived on earth.

The **Luxor Temple** is an elegant example of Pharaonic temple architecture. Also dedicated to the Theban triad of Amun, Mut and Khonsu, the temple was largely completed by the 18th dynasty pharaoh Amenhotep III, and added to during the reign of Ramses II in the 19th Dynasty. It is best to see at sunset when the columns are all lit up.

2nd Overnight in Luxor Sonesta Saint George hotel (Breakfast Included)

Feb 25, 2018 Luxor / Cairo “Sunday”

Early morning transfer to Luxor Airport for your flight Luxor / Cairo.

Arrival Cairo Airport and start your tour visiting **The Egyptian Museum, and the Old market of Khan El Khalili, Felucca Ride and Sailing for 2 hours**

Transfer to hotel, The Kempinski for check-in and overnight. (B)

The **Egyptian Museum** was founded by Frenchman, Auguste Mariette, Egypt’s first national museum of Pharaonic antiquities opened in 1863. More than 120,000 items are on display here, with another 150,000 stored in the basement. Pride of the collection are the Tutankhamun Galleries containing artifacts from Tut’s tomb, but there are great pieces from every period of ancient Egyptian history, from the Narmer Palette, dating from around 3100 BC, through to the Graeco-Roman Fayoum Portraits of the 2nd century AD.

The **Khan el-Khalili Market** today is mainly occupied by Egyptian rather than foreign merchants and shop holders, but is significantly geared towards tourists. Shops typically sell souvenirs, antiques and jewelry, but many traditional workshops continue to operate in the surrounding area.

Transfer to downtown Cairo to embark on a 2-hour “Felucca” (sail boat) ride, exploring downtown Cairo and riding in a sail boat exactly the same way as the ancient Egyptians did thousands of years ago.

1st Overnight in Cairo Kempinski Hotel (Breakfast Included)

Feb 26, 2017 Cairo “Monday”

Start your day tour visiting **The Hanging Church, St Serguis, St Barbara, Church of St Simon in Mokattam area (Zabaleen area), The Citadel, Mohammad Ali Mosque and Sultan Hassan Mosque.** Overnight at Hotel in Cairo. (B)

The **Hanging Church** is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and is called “hanging” because it was built on top of the Water Gate of the old Roman fortress of Babylon. This is the most beautiful of Cairo’s churches.

The Church of **St. Serguis** is the oldest church in Coptic Cairo and perhaps the most famous church because of the belief the the Holy Family sheltered in the cave here during their time in Egypt.

The Church of **St. Barbara** was built sometime in the 4th Century and has some of the writings of St. John.

The Monastery of **St. Simon** (The Cave Church) is located in the Mokattam mountain in southeastern Cairo. The church was carved into the mountain.

The **Citadel** was home to Egypt’s rulers for almost 700 years and is today one of the most popular tourist sites in Cairo. Originally founded in 1176 by the famed Muslim commander Salah ad-Din, its mosques, museums and battlements reflect a diverse heritage.

The **Mohammad Ali Mosque** is dominating the eastern Cairo skyline, was constructed in the 19th century. It was erected on the orders of the reformist ruler Mohammed Ali, who is regarded as the founder of modern Egypt. When he came to power in 1805, Egypt was a backwater province of the Ottoman empire. By the time of his death in 1849, the country was once again a regional superpower.

The **Sultan Hassan Mosque** is one of the most interesting of the capitals mosques; it's Cairo's finest example of early Mamluk architecture. The construction of the mosque was funded with money from the estates of people who had died in the Black Death, which struck Cairo in 1348. This policy increased the unpopularity of the sultan Hassan, who was already renowned for his greed.

2nd Overnight in Cairo Kempinski Hotel (Breakfast Included)

Feb 27, 2017 Cairo / Final Departure "Tuesday"

Transfer to Cairo Airport for final departure. (B)

General Information, Terms & Conditions

Traveling Overseas

Participants in our tour packages are encouraged to travel with an open mind, active curiosity and thoughtful courtesy to others. We believe that it is very important to maintain a positive attitude towards the people of the host country, their culture and way of life. Lodging and meals, particularly away from large metropolitan cities, may vary and be quite different from what you are used to at home. Enjoy them with a spirit of adventure, which is the reward of foreign travel. Egypt Tours & Travel reserves the right to refuse service and/or terminate the participation of any tour participant whose health or mental condition or physical infirmity impedes the operation of the tour, or whose conduct is discourteous to others.

Reservations and Payment

A deposit of \$600 per person is due at the time of booking. Final payment for all tour packages is due 70 days prior to departure date. We reserve the right to cancel any reservation if full payment is not received by the due date, and assess appropriate cancellation charges.

Refunds and Cancellations

Penalties for cancellations. After deposit is made, \$250 is NON refundable from the \$600 at anytime. 69-45 days: 22% of total tour cost; 44-15 days: 35% of total tour cost; 14-7 days: 50% of total tour cost. If cancellation is received 6 days or less before departure date, registrant will be considered as a "no show" resulting in NO REFUND.

All arrangements are inclusive. No refund is granted for unused accommodations, meals, or if cruise ships alter their itineraries. All cancellations must be made in writing and within 60 days from tour date.

Travel Insurance

<http://egypttours.com/insur.htm>>Travel insurance is available. We strongly recommend and advise that you obtain travel insurance. Policies are available to cover loss or damage to luggage, medical emergencies that your regular insurance might not cover when you are overseas, travel interruption, trip cancellation and unforeseen expenses if you have to cancel your trip.

Not Included in Tour Price

Charges not mentioned in tour itinerary: passport, visa fees, laundry, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages including wine and beer, mineral water, insurance of any kind, custom duties, gratuities to tour guides, tour escort, Egyptologist and drivers, excess baggage charges, etc. and extra charges for food ordered a la carte or from room service. These charges must be paid directly to the hotel or restaurant.

Documents

Final documents, vouchers, and general material will be forwarded approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure provided final payment has been received.

Price Guarantee

Our prices are based on foreign exchange rates; however should currency values change substantially prior to departure, prices may be subject to change. The quoted rate will be confirmed at the time of booking. Once your deposit is received your tour price is locked and guaranteed, so make sure you book early! If however for reasons beyond our control, such as flight schedule changes, any necessary or additional expenses arise, including any extra night accommodations, such expenses will be transferred on to you.

Airfare

All Domestic flights within Egypt are included.

Meals

Meals are provided as indicated. The cruise portion of any itinerary includes breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Plus Breakfast daily.

Responsibility

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Any litigation concerning the trip may be brought only within the state of Illinois and nowhere else, and the Illinois law will be applicable to any such litigation.

By embarking on his/her travel and by accepting the tickets and/or vouchers issued, the traveler voluntarily assumes all responsibility involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected.

The receipt of your deposit and/or full payment will indicate that you have read and consented to these terms and conditions of your own free will.