EGYPT
PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE
aboard the Nile Adventurer
March 11–24, 2021

Optional post-tour extension to JORDAN March 24–28

Featuring study leader JOHN MEFFERT, National Trust for Historic Preservation
DEAR COUNCIL TRAVELERS,
From the moment I laid eyes on this itinerary, I knew what an incredible experience this tour would be and, that I wanted to experience it along with you!

I invite you to join me as we follow the course of the Nile River into the very heart of ancient civilizations on a 14-day exploration of Egypt’s rich heritage, including privately chartered on-tour flights between Cairo and southern Egypt and seven nights aboard the elegant Nile Adventurer, fully refurbished in 2019 for outstanding comfort throughout the vessel. Among the many highlights of this itinerary are the Great Pyramids and special private access to the paws of the Sphinx of Giza; the Valley of the Kings; the spectacular funerary boat of Cheops; the fabulous Temple of Karnak complex; the double temple dedicated to the gods Sobek and Horus at Kom Ombo; and the colossal statues of Ramesses II and his favorite queen at Abu Simbel.

The Nile River, upon whose waters we travel between Aswan and Luxor, is the heart of Egyptian civilization; most of the cultural and historical sites of ancient Egypt are found along its banks. As you enjoy the Art Deco elegance and modern amenities of the Nile Adventurer, cruise to the sites of millennia-old pyramids, monuments, and tombs, including exquisite reliefs and stylized paintings and carvings. Along with Study Leader John Meffert, learn about the unparalleled architectural and engineering skills of master pyramid builders and enjoy unique behind-the-scenes access to archaeological sites. In Cairo, enjoy a dinner at a private Cairo residence and learn about contemporary issues that are most pressing for Egyptians from a U.S. Embassy representative.

As we share this departure with other institutions and with just 31 cabins on the Nile Adventurer, space is sure to go quickly on this unforgettable exploration of the treasures of Egypt. Call now to reserve your place at (215) 561-4700 x217 or x209 or email travel@wacphi.org.

Sincerely,

Shoshana Altrichter
Vice President of Travel
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

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JOHN MEFFERT, consultant on Heritage Conservation Services, has a long tradition with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has served as the Director for our Southern Office from 1982 to 1988 and was the director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, the oldest nonprofit organization in the United States. John has delighted countless study tour groups with his lectures and insights on preservation and receives rave reviews as study leader.
Thursday & Friday, March 11 & 12

HOME / CAIRO, EGYPT
Depart home on overnight flights to Cairo. On arrival, transfer to the historic Mena House Hotel. From its early days as a royal hunting lodge and later transformation to a deluxe hotel, Mena House has hosted dignitaries and world leaders visiting the Egyptian capital. Spend the afternoon at leisure, then gather for a welcome orientation meeting and reception. Afterward, stroll the grounds and admire the pyramids lit in the evening shadows.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL (R, MAR 12)

Saturday, March 13

CAIRO
Marvel at the last standing monument of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid on the Giza Plateau. Then enjoy specially arranged access to the “paws” of the 4,500-year-old half-man, half-lion known as the Great Sphinx. In the afternoon, journey to the unique Djoser step pyramid at Saqqara, a precursor to the grand Giza pyramids. Explore the underground galleries where floor-to-ceiling hieroglyphs depict daily life during Egypt’s 3rd dynasty (c. 2670–2613 B.C.E.). Gather for a special welcome dinner this evening.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL (B,L,D)

Sunday, March 14

CAIRO
After a special guest lecture, visit the expansive newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, described as the largest archaeological museum in the world and featuring the first exhibition of the full tomb collection of King Tutankhamun. This evening is free for independent pursuits.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL (B,L,D)

Monday, March 15

CAIRO / ASWAN (EMBARK)
Take a short tour of Coptic Cairo including the Hanging Church, one of the oldest churches in Egypt, dating back as far as the third century C.E. Fly by private charter to Aswan to embark the Nile Adventurer and enjoy a late afternoon sail on the Nile aboard a traditional felucca past Kitchener and Elephantine Islands.

NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 16

ASWAN / PHILAE
Venture to a nearby quarry to view the “unfinished obelisk”—the largest known ancient obelisk. Continue cruising to the island of Agilkia, where the Temple of Isis, once on Philae Island, was relocated when the Aswan Dam project got underway in the 1960s. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the island has numerous ruins including the Kiosk of Trajan.

NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 17

EDFU / LUXOR
Upon arrival in Edfu visit the best-preserved ancient temple in Egypt, dedicated to Horus, the ubiquitous falcon-headed god of the Egyptians. The main building includes a great Hypostyle hall and, just outside, an entrance colonnade that still has original colored reliefs. Back on board, take part in a cooking class to learn some traditional Egyptian recipes before a visit to Luxor Temple, constructed around 1,400 B.C.E. and known in ancient Egyptian times as the “Southern Sanctuary.”

NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 18

LUXOR
Enjoy special access to the evocative tombs in the Valley of the Kings, hidden for thousands of years—including the tomb of the young pharaoh Tutankhamun. Also cross the Nile to visit Thebes, ancient capital of Egypt, and the Valley of the Nobles. Then marvel at the size, architecture, and artwork of the mortuary temple of Tutankhamun.

NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)
Ramesses III at Medinet Habu, an important structure acclaimed for its inscribed reliefs. In the late afternoon, visit the Luxor Museum, on the corniche overlooking the west bank of the Nile.

**NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)**

**Friday, March 19**

**LUXOR**

Visit the remarkable (and rarely included) tomb of Queen Nefertari, widely regarded as one of the most beautifully preserved monuments in the country. Continue to the Colossi of Memnon, two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III that have stood in the Theban necropolis since 1,350 B.C.E. In the afternoon, visit a local children’s art center.

**NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)**

**Saturday, March 20**

**ESNA**

Explore the fabulous Karnak Temple complex, the largest ancient religious site in the world. Wander among the enormous 134 stone columns, and marvel at the myriad well-preserved obelisks telling stories of the ancients. Continue to the small city of Esna to see the Temple of Khnum, one of the last temples constructed by the ancient Egyptians, later amended by Romans.

**NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)**

**Sunday, March 21**

**KOM OMBO**

Cruise to Kom Ombo to explore its unusual double temple, half of which is dedicated to the crocodile god, Sobek, the other half to the falcon god, Horus.

This evening enjoy a festive *galabeyya* (traditional Egyptian garment) party featuring lively music and dancing aboard ship.

**NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)**

**Monday, March 22**

**ABU SIMBEL / CAIRO**

Take a short privately chartered flight to see the astounding monuments at Abu Simbel, located in former Nubian lands. At the twin temples built by Pharaoh Ramesses II, huge statues depict him and his favorite wife, Nefertari. Between 1964 and 1966, during construction of the Aswan High Dam, both temples were dismantled and reconstructed 65 meters higher than their original site to protect them from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. Fly to Cairo this afternoon and spend the evening at leisure.

**FOUR SEASONS FIRST RESIDENCE (B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, March 23**

**CAIRO**

This morning’s activities will focus on Islamic Cairo’s significant monuments, including the Ibn Tulun Mosque, the oldest surviving Muslim place of worship in the country, and the Mamluk-era Sultan Hassan Mosque and Madrassa. Late this afternoon, gather with guest speakers to discuss current events of Egypt and the area. Gather at the hotel this evening for a hotel dinner.

**FOUR SEASONS FIRST RESIDENCE (B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, March 24**

**CAIRO / HOME**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
Fully renovated in 2019, the elegant Nile Adventurer has just 31 cabins, offering a luxurious yet relaxed cruise on the Nile. The fully renovated ship’s decor combines modern Egyptian culture with seven thousand years of heritage. Gourmet cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs as well as sightseeing experiences with the country’s most experienced Egyptologists offer a taste of genuine 5-star luxury on a timeless river. The extensive sun deck areas, with their elegant teak floors, include private cabanas around the pool area, the perfect spot for relaxing while taking in the scenery. All cabins and suites have Nile views and are fully air-conditioned with individual control. Each bathroom includes a bathtub, shower, and hairdryer, mini bar, and television with satellite. A library and game room with computer and internet access. Complimentary Wi-Fi (intermittent) is available in public areas.

**PROGRAM RATES** (per person)

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<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nile Deck Standard</td>
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**PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE**

- All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including 5 deluxe hotel nights and 7 nights aboard Nile Adventurer
- Private charter flights between Cairo and Aswan, and Aswan/Abu Simbel/Cairo
- Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations
- Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates
- Baggage handling
- Gratuities to ship staff, porters, wait staff, guides and drivers
- All entrance fees and port charges
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks with dinners aboard the ship
- Bottled water throughout
- Professional tour manager

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your flights through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about booking your flights will be sent to confirmed participants.
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RESERVATION FORM
To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: World Affairs Council, 1 South Broad St. 2M, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

For more information please visit our website at www.wacphil.org or email travel@wacphil.org. To reserve by phone, please call (800) 942-5004 or (215) 561-4700 x217 or x209; or you may fax the completed reservation form to (215) 561-5660.

NAME #1 BIRTHDATE
NAME #2 BIRTHDATE
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE
HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE
E-MAIL(s)
PAYMENT
O Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):
VISA MC AMEX Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD
CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE
SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

O Enclosed is my check for $________($1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve ______ place(s) on EGYPT | Past, Present, and Future

SINGLE TRAVELERS
O I prefer to have single accommodations.
OR O I plan to share accommodations with:

OR O I’d like to know about roommates
I am a O Non-smoker O Smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 11, 2020, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Cabin category preference:
1st Choice ______________ 2nd Choice______________

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): O One bed O Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE DATE
SIGNATURE DATE
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National Trust for Historic Preservation

Marvel at the Great Pyramids and enjoy special private access to the paws of the Sphinx of Giza; most guests can only view them from a distance.

See highlights of Cairo, including the Hanging Church and the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum.

Explore the labyrinthine tombs in the Valley of the Kings and Queens, with specially arranged access to one of the most beautiful: Queen Nefertari’s Tomb.

Fly to Abu Simbel to view the colossal temples built to honor Pharaoh Ramses II and his beautiful wife Nefertari.

Visit an art center for children and engage with two of Egypt’s leading thinkers and writers, along with a U.S. Embassy briefing to learn more about Egypt’s present and future.