

ARCE Member Tour

Grand Tour of Egypt

February 15 – March 3, 2024



The Great Pyramids of Giza





Dr. Louise Bertini has served as ARCE's Executive Director since April 2019 and previously as Director for Egypt since 2018. She is an Egyptologist and specialist in faunal analysis who has worked on more than 25 archaeological projects in Egypt since 2003. She obtained a M.A. in Egyptology from the University of Liverpool, and a Ph.D. in Archaeology from Durham University. Her research interests include zooarchaeology, bioarchaeology, paleoecology, paleopathology, domestication, subsistence reconstruction, and animal mummification as well as other areas of Egyptology. She was previously a lecturer Egyptology at the American University in Cairo from 2009-2017.

Dear Traveler,

Welcome to Egypt! Ahlan wa sahlan! We are honored to have you join us on our special Member Tour: “Grand Tour of Egypt”. This special journey lead by Egyptologist, Dr. Emily Teeter will explore the diverse cultural heritage of this ancient land.

This tour has been specially curated to include beloved, iconic sights of Egypt, such as the Pyramids of Giza and the Valley of the Kings, as well as lesser-known gems like the Hawara Pyramid of Amenemhat III and the Meidum Pyramid, and of course ARCE conservation projects.

We will be visiting the Red Monastery, a Byzantine church dating back to the fifth century, nestled in Sohag, Egypt. ARCE's dedicated conservation efforts since 2003 have breathed new life into its sanctuary and nave, adorned with breathtaking depictions of saints and the Holy Family. This church is now among the rare few worldwide, from the early Byzantine era, to have survived with a substantial portion of its original, rich decorations intact. We will also explore the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's most significant female ruler and first woman to rule in Egypt with the full authority of a male, and view the elaborate scenes of her legendary trade expedition to Punt on the Red Sea.

ARCE has maintained a constant presence in Egypt since our inception in 1948, and our deep-rooted partnership with our Egyptian friends and colleagues will allow you to see Egypt like never before. You will have the opportunity to see the sites with the experts who oversee their research and excavation.

While visiting both current and past ARCE projects, I look forward to introducing you to the scholars, archaeologists, and Egyptologists who have dedicated their careers to uncovering Egypt's past and are helping to preserve these places for future generations. It is our sincere honor to have you with us in Egypt to see the sights and experience the culture of this beautiful and magnificent country. Please know our ARCE staff is here to guide and assist you every step of the way.

Dr. Louise Bertini
Executive Director, ARCE



The Red Monastery - Sohag

Tour lead

Emily Teeter, PhD, is an Egyptologist who specializes in religion, social history, art, and the history of Egyptology. She is the author of many books including *Religion and Ritual in Ancient Egypt*; *Baked Clay Figurines and Votive Beds from Medinet Habu*; and *The Presentation of Maat: Ritual and Legitimacy in Ancient Egypt*, as well as numerous academic and popular articles.

Emily has been associated with ARCE for many years: she is a past President, served on the Board of Governors, and is currently the editor of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt (JARCE)*. She has curated many permanent and temporary exhibits of Egyptian artifacts at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago and in major museums in the United States. Emily has led many tours to Egypt and the Middle East.

Emily is currently writing a book about the history of the University of Chicago's Epigraphic Survey and lives in Chicago.



ITINERARY

Thursday, February 15 |

[Arrive in Cairo](#)

Meals Included: Dinner

An Egitalloyd representative will meet you before passport control to assist with acquiring your visa stamps, moving through passport control, collecting your luggage, and transfer to the Marriott Omar Khayyam Hotel for check-in.

Dinner and overnight at the Marriott.



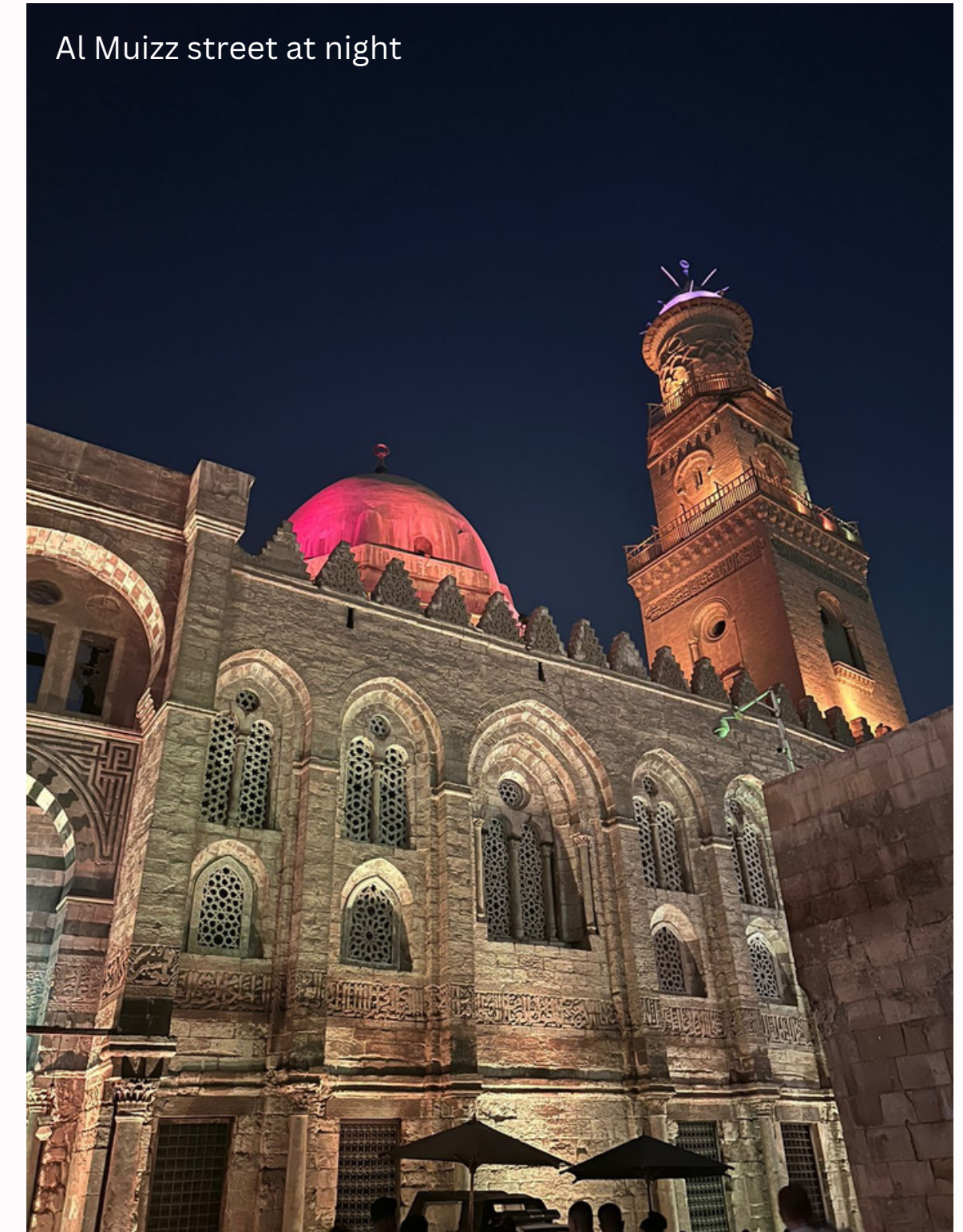
Cairo skyline - City of a thousand minarets

Friday, February 16 | Sakkara, Coptic Cairo

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

Our journey commences at Sakkara, an archaeological treasure trove in Egypt, housing tombs and pyramids spanning from the early Dynastic period to the Graeco-Roman era. Our first stop is the Step Pyramid of King Djoser from Dynasty 3, preserving invaluable insights into architecture, engineering, and the pharaoh's cult during the 27th century BC. We then proceed to the Serapeum, a vast catacomb for the burials of the sacred Apis bull.

Following a late lunch, our path leads us to Coptic Cairo. Here, we explore the Hanging Church (4th–5th centuries AD), aptly named as it rests atop the south gate of the Roman Fortress of Babylon. We then continue to the Church of St. Sergius (5th century AD), built over the cave believed to have sheltered the Holy Family. Our day concludes at the Coptic Museum, with its spectacular collection of manuscripts, ceramics, sculptures, and textiles dating from Christianity's earliest days to the early Islamic era.



Al Muizz street at night



Sphinx - Giza plateau

Saturday, February 17 | Giza

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

Today, our journey takes us to Giza, where we're treated to an exclusive briefing nestled between the paws of the Great Sphinx. Following this extraordinary experience, we explore the Great Pyramid of Khufu from Dynasty 4, including the option to ascend to the king's burial chamber. Our visit also includes Khafra's Valley Temple, renowned for its alabaster floors and striking red granite walls.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue with a visit to either the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) or the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, both of which house state-of-the-art exhibits.

In the evening, we have the honor of attending a private reception at ARCE's headquarters, where we'll meet with Executive Director Dr. Louise Bertini and her dedicated team. Dr. Bertini will provide us with the latest updates on ARCE's activities throughout Egypt, followed by dinner at Taboula, a nearby Lebanese restaurant.

Sunday, February 18 | Historic Cairo, Citadel, Egyptian Museum

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch](#)

Our day begins with a visit to Zawiya-Sabil Farag Ibn Barquq, a previous ARCE conservation project. Next, we explore Bab Zuwayla, the southern entrance to the original Fatimid settlement of Cairo that was founded in AD 969. We have the privilege of meeting the manager responsible for ARCE's conservation efforts here.

We continue our walking tour to the Sabil Mohammed Ali. This elegant sabil (public fountain) built in 1820 was the first in Cairo to have gilded window grilles and calligraphic panels. It has been meticulously restored by ARCE, and features displays about Muhammed Ali who built the Sabil to honor his deceased son Tusun. We also see the cistern below the sabil and the schoolrooms in the kuttab (Quranic School) upstairs, which welcomed students until 1992.

We continue down el Moaz Street, the old main boulevard of medieval Cairo, with its magnificent examples of Mamluk architecture, passing el Azhar Mosque, the center of Sunni jurisprudence, and then explore the Khan el Khalili suq, nestled within a warren of ancient buildings.

After a late lunch at the Naguib Mahfouz restaurant in the center of the khan, we drive to the Citadel built by Saladin (ca. AD 1200) to visit the Ottoman-style mosque of Mohammed Ali.

In the afternoon, we visit the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square to see its world-renowned collection of pharaonic art spanning the Predynastic through the Greco-Roman periods. The museum has recently been renovated by a joint European Union project.

Monday, February 19| Meidum, Hawara, Lahun

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

Today we explore some of the less visited, yet historically significant pyramids. Our first stop is the Meidum Pyramid (Dynasty 3–4), a highly experimental engineering project to create the first true pyramid. Probably begun by king Huni (3rd Dynasty), it was completed by his successor Snefru (Dynasty 4). Design flaws caused the structure to collapse sometime after its completion.

We then proceed to the Hawara Pyramid of Amenemhat III (Dynasty 12), built of millions of mud bricks once sheathed in limestone. Herodotus described the pyramid’s enormous mortuary temple as a 3,000-room labyrinth. Our next stop is the Lahun Pyramid of Senusret II (Dynasty 12). The builders of this 48-meter-high pyramid reduced the amount of work necessary to construct it by ingeniously using an already existing 12-meter-high limestone hill as its foundation and core.



Meidum pyramid

Tuesday, February 20| Beni Hassan Tombs, Tell el Amarna

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

Today, we visit some of the best examples of Middle Kingdom private tombs at Beni Hassan, including those of the nomarchs (provincial rulers) of the area. The walls of the rock-cut tombs are covered with colorful scenes of industry, sports, hunting, and autobiographical texts.

We then continue to Tell el Amarna, the city of Akhenaton and Nefertiti, where we visit the remains of the Aton temple and the palace, and the private tombs of the officials with their scenes of the life in the city and images of Akhenaten and his family.

Remainder of the evening at your leisure. Dinner and overnight at the Grand Aton hotel, Minya.



Dynasty 18 Amenhotep wall

Wednesday, February 21| Tuna el Gebel, el Ashmunein

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

This morning we visit the western-most of the boundary stelae of Akhenaten's city Akhetaten. Rock-cut statues of the family stand by a long text that describes the foundation of the city.

We continue our drive south to Tuna El Gebel where we see the temple-tombs of Petosiris (4th century BC) and Isadora (2nd century AD), along with the Ibis catacombs that contain millions of ibis mummies given as votive offerings to the god Thoth.

Our next stop is el Ashmunein, ancient Egyptian Khmun ("8-town"), named for the group of eight deities (the ogdoad) who represented the world at creation. It was the main cult center of Thoth, the god of healing and of wisdom. In the Graeco-Roman era it was known as Hermopolis after

Hermes, the Greek name for the Egyptian god Thoth. Here we visit the ruins of a temple of Amunhotep III with its colossal statues of baboons and the Graeco-Roman agora.



Thursday, February 22| Athribis, Red Monastery, White Monastery

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

In the morning we head to Athribis, the site of a temple dedicated to the goddess Repyt (Triphis) constructed under the reign of Ptolemy XV Caesarian and later Roman emperors. We continue to the 5th century Red Monastery (Deir al Ahmar). Since 2003, ARCE has undertaken a massive conservation project of its sanctuary and the nave with its spectacular paintings of saints and the Holy Family which, until ARCE's intervention, were almost completely obscured by centuries of soot. We meet with Dr. Nicholas Warner, the project director, who will tell us about the project.

After lunch at the Red Monastery, we visit another ARCE project, the White Monastery (Deir al-Abyad), also from the 5th century AD. Named for the color of its masonry, the monastery was built by the Coptic saint Shenouda using chunks of white limestone taken from local pharaonic temples.

Friday, February 23| Abydos, Dendera

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

Today, we tour the temple of Seti I at Abydos, the walls of which are carved with some of the most beautiful reliefs in all of Egypt showing the rituals that were enacted in the temple. ARCE is sponsoring documentation at the temple, and we meet with the project director who will brief us on it.

We drive south to the temple of Hathor at Dendera, one of the best-preserved Ptolemaic temples. The temple has recently been conserved, revealing the brightly painted astronomical ceilings.

Saturday, February 24| Luxor, West Bank

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

We spend the day on the West Bank at Luxor, exploring the New Kingdom tombs and temples. We see the Colossi of Memnon, the remains of the vast temple of Amenhotep III (Dynasty 18), and Medinet Habu, the walled complex of Ramesses III (Dynasty 19), where we meet with members of the University of Chicago team who will tell us about their work. We continue to the Valley of the Queens that served as the burial site of queens and some royal children of the 19th and 20th Dynasties (1292–1075 BC). Our visit includes the tomb of Nerfertari, the chief wife of Ramesses the Great that is famed for its paintings of the queen before the gods.

Sunday, February 25| Luxor, West Bank

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

We continue our exploration of the west bank to visit several ARCE projects. The first is the Qurna Site Improvement Project (2011–2014) that was developed in response to the demolition of the village of Sheikh Abd el Qurna and el Khokha, and the economic crisis that followed the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. ARCE managed a site presentation project, clearing debris, creating pathways, and opening groups of tombs to visitors. The project was also designed to employ hundreds of locals who were left unemployed when tourism paused following the 2011 revolution.

We continue to the Valley of the Kings to visit the rock cut tombs of New Kingdom pharaohs including of Ramesses VI and Tutankhamun and meet with the project director of one of the conservation projects. We then head to the house of Howard Carter, who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun, which has recently been conserved and restored by ARCE.



Luxor - Valley of the Kings

Monday, February 26 | Deir el Medina, Hatshepsut Temple, the Ramesseum Temple, Luxor Museum

Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

We return to the West Bank to continue our exploration of the funerary monuments. Our first stop is Deir el Medina, the town that housed the workers and craftsmen who built the tombs in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens. We walk through the village and visit some of the small rock-cut tombs with their brightly painted religious scenes.

We continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el Bahri. Hatshepsut (Dynasty 18) was the most significant of Egypt's female rulers. Her terraced temple is most famous for the scenes of her trade mission to the land of Punt on the Red Sea. The temple was a focus of New Kingdom festivals, and it continued to be a place of pilgrimage into the Christian era. We then visit the

Ramesseum, the temple of Ramses the Great (Dynasty 19), the pylons of which are decorated with scenes of the battle of Kadesh. A ruined colossal statue of the king in the first court is thought to have inspired Shelley's poem "Ozymandias."

We have lunch on board our ship the Mayfair. After lunch we visit the impressive Luxor Museum that features objects from the immediate area





Khonsu temple

Tuesday, February 27| Karnak Temple, Luxor Temple

Meals Included: [Breakfast](#) / [Lunch](#) / [Dinner](#)

We spend the day on the East Bank, exploring the great temple of Amun. We approach the Karnak temple via the newly restored Avenue of Sphinxes. Of special interest is the Khonsu Temple, dedicated to the son of Amun and Mut. There we see the ARCE site management and conservation projects to clean the wall reliefs and repair the flooring and roof blocks.

We also visit the ARCE conservation laboratory near the temple where ARCE staff explains the scope of their work.

Afterward, we tour the Luxor Temple, the home of the god Amun and site of rituals of the king's rejuvenation.

Wednesday, February 28| Temple of Edfu, Temples of Kom Ombo

Meals Included: [Breakfast](#) / [Lunch](#) / [Dinner](#)

We start our morning with a horse-drawn carriage ride to the Temple of Horus at Edfu. Of special interest are the reliefs that record the "Triumph of Horus" showing the battles of Horus and Seth.

We return to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, we visit the Temple of Kom Ombo dedicated to the hawk-headed god Horweris and the crocodile god Sobek. After our visit, we sail to Aswan.

Festive galabeya party this evening, dinner and overnight on board the Mayfair.

Thursday, February 29| Philae Temple, High Dam, Unfinished Obelisk

Meals Included: [Breakfast](#) / [Lunch](#) / [Dinner](#)

We begin our tour with a visit to the High Dam that was completed in 1970. We then take small boats to the Temple of Isis on Philae Island. The temple was dismantled and moved during the Nubian Salvage Project. We also visit the Unfinished Obelisk of Hatshepsut, which would have been the tallest known obelisk, but it was left in the quarry when it cracked. It gives us the clearest idea how such monuments were made.

Lunch on board the ship. Afternoon felucca rode around Kitchener's Island.

This evening, we see a Nubian Folkloric show. Dinner and overnight on board the Mayfair in Aswan.

**Friday, March 01| Disembarkation, Kalabsha Temple,
Nubian Museum**

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

After morning disembarkation, we visit the Kalabsha Temple, built by Roman emperor Augustus. The temple was dedicated to the Nubian deity Mandulis. During the Nubian salvage project, it was moved to a new location, as were the Temple of Beit el-Wali (Ramses II, Dynasty 19) (dedicated to the gods Amun and Anukis), the charming Kiosk of Qertassi, and remains of the temple of Gerf Hussein, all of which we will see.

After lunch at our hotel, we visit the very fine Nubian Museum, housed in an Aga Khan award-winning Nubian-influenced building. The exhibits feature painting, sculptures, weapons, pottery, textiles, and utensils that document more than 6,000 years of Nubian history.

Dinner at the elegant 1902 Restaurant at the Sofitel Old Cataract Hotel. Overnight at the Cataract Legacy hotel in rooms with a stunning view of the Nile.

Saturday, March 02| Abu Simbel, Cairo

[Meals Included: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner](#)

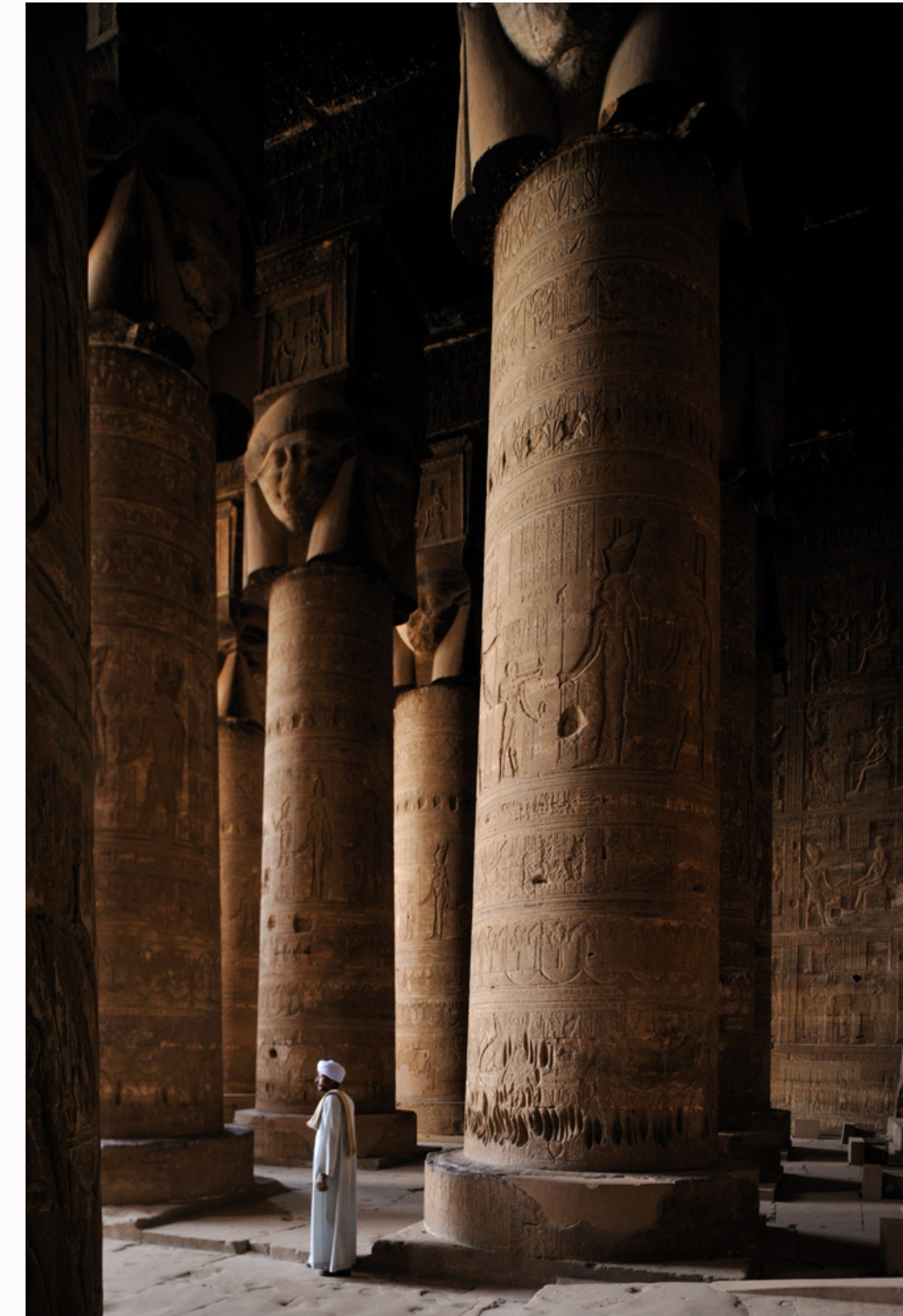
This morning we fly to Abu Simbel to see the rock-cut temples of Ramesses the Great and his wife Nofertari. The Great Temple is dedicated to Amun-Ra, Ra-Horakhty, Ptah, and Ramesses. Threatened by flooding after the construction of the Aswan High Dam, the temples were cut apart and relocated above the level of the new lake.

We return to Aswan, then fly to Cairo, where we transfer to the Intercontinental City Stars hotel.

Sunday, March 03| Final Departure

[Meals Included: Breakfast](#)

Depart Cairo for home or for independent travel.



Dendera

Payment information

	20 paying passengers
Per person in double	USD 9.975.00
Single supplement	USD 1,700.00

In case you booked an early flight on February 15, arriving in Cairo before the check-in time, you are requested to book an extra night at the Marriott Omar Khayyam so you can check in upon arrival (check-in time at hotel 02:00 PM):

<u>Nile view room</u>	\$ 170.00 \$ 320.00	Per person per night in twin Per person per night in single
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Extra night at Marriott Omar Khayyam from February 14 – February 15

City	Hotel/Cruise	Dates	Nights	Category
Cairo	Marriott Omar Khayam	Feb 15-19	4	Nile view rooms
Minya	Grand Aton	Feb 19-21	2	Nile view rooms
Sohag	Coral Cruise	Feb 21-22	1	Standard rooms
Abydos	House of Life	Feb 22-23	1	Standard rooms
Luxor	Steigenberger Nile Palace	Feb 23 -26	3	Nile view rooms
Cruise	Mayfair	Feb 26 - March 01	4	Deluxe Cabins
Aswan	Old Cataract	March 01-02	1	Nile/garden view rooms
Cairo	Intercontinent al City Stars	March 02-03	1	Deluxe rooms

Payment Schedule & Cancellation Policy

Payment Schedule

- \$750 Deposit Per person Due on Confirmation
- Final Payment Per person Due 16 weeks before departure

Cancellation Policy

- 0% Cancellation fees From 16 weeks to 12 weeks before departure
 - (Less \$300.00 Per person handling fee)
- 35% Cancellation fees From 12 weeks to 8 weeks before departure
- 55% Cancellation fees From 8 weeks to 6 weeks before departure
- 75% Cancellation fees From 6 weeks to 3 weeks before departure
- 100% Cancellation fees Any cancelation from 21 days before departure

A full refund will apply in case of “Force Majeure”

Force Majeure is identified as acts of God, war, and revolution, acts of terrorism preventing travel to Egypt, natural disasters happening within Egypt and not outside the country.

Payment through bank wire transfer for DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS

Please find below Egitalloyd bank details and contact information:

Account name: Egitalloyd Travel

Bank name: Export Development Bank of Egypt

Address: 71 Mesadak street, Dokki

Giza – Egypt - Post code: 12311

Account Number: 16258

Swift: EXDEEGCXXX

IBAN # EG540061008502020001625801021

Phone: +202-33-386-810

Payment by Credit card for DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS (Visa & Mastercard ONLY)

- 3% to be added to the per person rate (Credit card fees)
- Needed:
- Credit Card holder name
- Cell phone number

To participate, individuals must be ARCE members in good standing.



Contact Information

Egitalloyd

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Abu Simbel

