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ANCIENT ORIGINS TOURS

EGYPT TOUR 2023

14 NIGHTS/15 DAYS

Trip dates: 24 February – 10 March 2023

EGYPT TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1. Arrive in Egypt. Pick up at Cairo International Airport and transfer to Giza hotel. Orientation in evening. First night in 5* Giza hotel (Steigenberger Pyramids).

Day 2. Departure by bus for the el-Fayyum Oasis. In the morning travel by bus to the el-Fayyum Oasis. Visit the **Pyramid of Hawara**, built for Amenemhet IV, and also the site of the fabled **Egyptian Labyrinth**, one of the most mysterious constructions of the ancient world finished by Amenemhet IV's daughter, Egypt's fabled first female king, Sobekneferu. Lunchtime at hotel. Free afternoon with lecture on the next day's visit to Qasr el-Sagha temple. First night in el-Fayyum (Helnan Auberge Fayoum Hotel required).

Day 3. Journey by 4 x 4 vehicles north of the great **Lake Birket Quran** (the Lake Moeris of classical times) and arrive at the **Qasr el Sagha temple**. Made of polygonal blocks and cyclopean masonry, this mysterious megalithic structure is one of the remaining enigmas of ancient Egypt. We spend the entire day investigating the temple and the surrounding area looking for clues as to who built it, when and why. Experience the evening at the temple site before returning to the hotel. Second night in el-Fayyum.

Day 4. In the morning leave el-Fayyum for **Saqqara** (full ticket required to include *Serapeum, the Pyramid of Teti, Step Pyramid (entry inside), Imhotep Museum, Mereruka Tomb, Mehu Tomb, Saqqara New Tombs in addition to the old ones*). See the enigmatic **Serapeum**, a labyrinth of underground catacombs housing gigantic sarcophagi said to have once contained the mummified remains of sacred Apis bulls. See evidence of the advanced technology used in the construction of these massive granite sarcophagi. Visit the **Pyramid of Teti** to see the Pyramid Texts recording the journey of the soul of the pharaoh to the afterlife, and visit the Hed-sed court in front the **Step Pyramid**, built for the pharaoh Djoser around 2675 BCE. Journey on to Giza. Second night at Giza (Steigenberger Pyramids, Giza).

Day 5. **Private visit to the Sphinx** enclosure to watch the sunrise between 5-7am. The Sphinx is one of the most iconic monuments in the world. It is the head of a pharaoh and the body of a lion, thought to represent Khafre, the builder of the Second Pyramid circa 2550 BCE. Afterwards the exterior of the **Great Pyramid**, the panorama view, and **Valley Temple of Khafre**. **Private visit to Great Pyramid** 5-7pm. Third night at Giza.

A rest between the 2 visits will be taken for the comfort of the clients.

Day 6. Visit the **Grand Egyptian Museum** (full ticket). Depart to Cairo Airport for flight to Aswan. First night in Aswan Hotel (Movenpick Island Hotel, Nile view).
Note, the museum is not yet open but hopefully it will be by Feb 2023.

In case the Grand Museum is not open, we will provide visits to the Egyptian Museum and the Museum of Civilization including the Mummy Hall.

Day 7. Drive by bus to **Abu Simbel**. On the way stop off to inspect a natural rock mesa on the edge of the Libyan Desert. Examine its geology and take in the ambience of the desert environment. In the afternoon visit the iconic rock-cut temple of Abu Simbel, built during the reign of Rameses II and removed to its current position during a mammoth engineering project following the building of the Nasser Dam in the 1960s. See also the rock-cut temple of his wife Nefertari. Second night in Aswan.

Day 8. Visit the **Temple of Philae** dedicated to the Goddess Isis. Later, visit the **gigantic unfinished granite monolith** still attached to the bedrock in a quarry. Examine the methods used to extract obelisks and statues from the living rock including the inexplicable scoop marks suggestive of the use of a lost technology. **Felucca ride to Elephantine Island where you can see ruins of Khnum temple. Free time in the evening for wandering in Aswan old markets.** First night on Nile Cruise.

Day 9. Sail north to Luxor. Disembark to visit the **Temple of Sobek at Kom Ombo**, built under the rule of the Ptolemaic kings circa 180–150 BC. Second night on Nile Cruise.

Day 10. Continue on Nile Cruise. Disembark during the day to visit the magnificent **temple of Horus** at Edfu, built during the Ptolemaic period circa 175 BC. Its walls contain the most complete accounts of the creation of the world and the coming of the gods during the age of zep tepi, the First Time. See the temple's holy of holies which includes a wooden boat on which the God Horus came down from heaven. Third night on Nile cruise.

Day 11. Arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes, the capital of Egypt in the south. **Disembarkation, followed by a visit to Karnak Temple. Transfer to hotel and check in some rest. then in the early evening visit the Temple of Luxor**, illuminated by lights. Built during the New Kingdom period, 1575-1050 BCE, it marks the beginning of the newly reopened Sphinx Avenue, which has 1600 sphinxes - 800 on either side - lining the ceremonial to Karnak temple. First night in Luxor hotel.

Day 12. Journey north by luxury bus to the **Temple of Abydos**, built for King Seti I around 1290-1279 BCE. See also the extraordinary ancient structure known as the Osireion, a sub-surface temple located beyond the present temple and thought to be a symbolic representation of the Tomb of Osiris, god of the dead. See the building's cyclopean masonry and polygonal walls similar to those of the Qasr el Sagha temple in the el-Fayyum Oasis and the Valley Temple of Khafre at Giza. Ponder on its immense age and unique construction. After lunch continue on to the **Temple of Hathor at Dendera**. Visit its underground crypts where strange reliefs indicate the use by ancient Egyptians of advanced technologies. Return to Luxor. Second night in hotel.

Day 13. Cross the Nile by boat and enter the Theban **West Bank**, the ancient Egyptian realm of the dead. Visit the Valley of the Kings and see **the Tomb of Tutankhamun** as well as other tombs decorated with reliefs showing the books of the underworld. See also **the Ramesseum** with its astronomical ceiling and colossal statues of Rameses II, as well as the mortuary **temple of Queen Hatshepsut**. Stop off for photos at **the Colossi of Memnon**, gigantic statues of the pharaoh Amenhotep IV dating to circa 1375 BCE. **Additional night in Luxor.**

Day 14. **Visit West bank again to cover rest of the important sightseeing can't be missed there as Habu Temple, Deir Madina, Howard Carter House . In the early evening back to Cairo by flight, transfer to hotel in Heliopolis area. Overnight hotel.**

Day 15. Final goodbyes and transfer to Cairo airport.

TTU PRICE TO AO: \$4,845 per person I Single supp: \$845

INCLUSIONS

- All enquiry handling and follow-ups
- Tour liaising and trip documentation for booked clients
- Financial trust account protection for all clients
- Public liability insurance

- Arrival transfers for all clients and tour leaders (international flight)
- One shared group departure transfer at Cairo Airport (international flight)
- Accommodation: 14 nights in luxury hotels including daily breakfast:
 - Three nights in 5* hotel Giza (Steigenberger Pyramids – **Pyramid view upgrade**)
 - Two nights in 5* hotel el-Fayyum (Helnan Auberge Fayoum Hotel)
 - Two nights in 5* hotel Aswan (Movenpick, Aswan Island - **Nile View upgrade**)
 - Three nights full board on 5* Nile Cruise
 - **Three** nights in 5* hotel Luxor (Steigenberger or Sonesta Luxor - **Nile View upgrade**)
 - **One** night in 5* hotel Cairo (**Heliopolis area**).
- Breakfast, lunch and dinners on all days (except arrival and departure)
- Sundry tips (for local porters, local reps, etc.)
- Professional local tour guide/escort
- **Tour leader (1 tour leader if < 20 pax; 2 tour leaders if 20+ pax)**
- Pre-tour accommodation (1 night) and arrival/departure transfers for tour leader(s)
- **Private visits** to the Great Pyramid and the Sphinx Enclosure
- Domestic flights (Cairo - Aswan; Luxor-Cairo)
- All sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- All entrance fees
- All transportation including 4x4 vehicles for el-Fayyum Oasis expedition
- Transfers at arrival and departure at all Egyptian airports (for domestic flights)
- Entry to King Tut's Tomb in the Valley of the Kings
- All service charges and taxes

EXCLUSIONS

- International flights for tour leaders
- Entry visa for Egypt (\$25 on arrival)
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Bottled mineral water (discourage plastic waste)
- Laundry
- Personal items
- Drinks during meals
- Tips for the local tour escort

SUGGESTED PRICE AO SELLS TO CLIENT: \$5,995pp I Single supp: \$945

DEPOSIT REQUIRED: \$1,000 per person