



Eternal Egypt and Jewels of Jordan

November 19 to December 5, 2024

A ROMTravel Art and Culture Trip



Figure 1: The pyramids at Giza, Egypt. © Ricardo Liberato, Wikimedia Commons, 2006.

With a civilization dating back some five millennia, Egypt is a country rich in history, archaeology, and antiquities. We will explore its timeless treasures, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites. Before embarking on our journey on the river Nile, we will first discover the

mystical country of Jordan. In Jordan we will visit Amman, Jerash and Petra. Jerash, known as Gerasa in ancient times, was a member of the Decapolis, a group of ten wealthy, self-governing city-states during Roman times. Buried for centuries under blown sand, Jerash

is the only city of the Decapolis to have survived and we will explore what history has left behind. We will visit Petra, sometimes called the "Rose City", founded by the Nabateans in the 6th century BC. It was hidden for centuries until discovered in 1812 by the Swiss explorer Burckhardt. We cannot leave Jordan without experiencing the dramatic landscape of Wadi Rum and so we will explore by jeep and camel, and stay under the stars for a night.

We will then fly to bustling Cairo to start our exploration of Egypt. We will begin with a visit to the awe-inspiring Giza Plateau, then discover Islamic Cairo, as well as the pyramids of Saqqara and Dahshur. Next, we will fly to Aswan, where you will feel you have been transported back in time. We will take a day trip to Abu Simbel to behold the temples dedicated to Ramesses II. From Aswan we will cruise on the Nile aboard a deluxe riverboat and explore the Temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo. Our cruise will end in Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes. Luxor is known as the world's finest open-air museum, with an unparalleled range of historic monuments. This is where we will experience majestic temples and the tombs of the Valley of the Kings and Queens. Along this remarkable journey we will travel by bus, motorboat, felucca, horse carriage, jeep and maybe even a donkey!!

In both countries we will have special encounters with Jordanian and Nubian

families and share their delectable cuisine. In the souks, we will have a chance to try out our friendly bargaining skills to land a unique souvenir or two.

Join Resource Person, Doctor Kei Yamamoto, and ROM Travel Coordinator, Neera Chopra, on this adventure and let Tourcan Vacations help make your dreams a reality.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights

Day 1 Arrivals in Amman, Jordan

Individual arrivals in Amman. Transfer to hotel.

Day 2 Amman to Jerash

Drive to Jerash, the "Pompeii of the East", to behold the best-preserved example of Roman civilization in Jordan, including the Temple of Artemis, Hadrian's Arch and the Hippodrome. Afternoon city tour of Amman. We will visit the Citadel, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Archaeological Museum, and much more.

Welcome dinner.



Figure 2: The Arch of Hadrian, Jerash, Jordan. © Azurfrog, Wikimedia Commons, 2013.

Day 3 Jerash to Wadi Rum

Morning departure south towards Wadi Rum to witness the dramatic landscapes of the red desert. En route we will visit Kerak Castle. Built in the 12th century, it is the most famous Crusader-Islamic military site in Jordan.

Arriving in Wadi Rum, “vast, echoing and God-like,” as described by T.E. Lawrence, we’ll take a jeep safari through the dramatic desert landscape, complete with a maze of monolithic rocks and canyons.

We will stay overnight at Sun City Desert Camp for a magnificent view of the stars.

Day 4 Wadi Rum to Petra

This morning we will drive towards Wadi Musa to discover the famous treasures of Petra.



Figure 3: Facade of the Palace Tomb, Petra, Jordan. © Bernard Gagnon. Wikimedia Commons, 2010.

In Petra, an ancient city carved right into the sandstone rock face by the Nabataeans, we will journey through the Siq and behold the breathtaking sight of

the Treasury. We will have lunch within this UNESCO World Heritage site and further discover elaborate rock-cut tombs with their intricate carvings. Time permitting, we will visit the Petra Museum.

Day 5 Petra to Amman to Cairo

Morning drive back to Amman. En route we will visit Mount Nebo, mentioned in the Bible as the place where Moses was granted a view of the Promised Land. We will visit the basilica built by Egyptian monks in memory of Moses. We’ll continue to Madaba to see its famous Saint George Church, home to the largest mosaic map in the world.

After lunch in Madaba, we will catch our flight from Amman to Cairo where a private vehicle service will transfer us to our hotel for some well-earned rest.

Day 6 Cairo Area

Early morning drive to the Giza Plateau to see the grand Pyramids and the Great Sphinx. Lunch at the beautiful Marriott Mena House and afternoon visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum.



Figure 4: The Sphinx, Giza, Egypt. © Egyptian Tourist Authority, 2005.

Day 7 Cairo

This morning we will have a later start to visit Islamic Cairo. We will visit Ibn Tulun Mosque, the Citadel of Saladin, and the oldest street in Cairo, al-Muizz. This historical street stretches between two of the gates of Cairo's old city walls. We will visit Cairo's Egyptian Museum in the afternoon. Dinner will be at the famous Naguib Mahfouz restaurant in Khan al-Khalili market, named after the Egyptian Nobel Prize winner in literature, Naguib Mahfouz.

Day 8 Cairo Area

Today we will take a full day tour of Saqqara and Dahshur. We will visit the world's oldest step pyramid, the Pyramid of Djoser, and the Red Pyramid of Sneferu in Dahshur.

For those who wish, there will be an optional visit to see the Dervish folk show in Wekalet El Ghouri theatre this evening.

Day 9 Cairo to Aswan

Morning flight to Aswan and hotel check-in. This afternoon we take a motorboat to visit the Nubian Village on Sehel Island, where we will visit a local home to see day-to-day life. We will experience pottery making and a Hibiscus tea-making demonstration.

Day 10 Aswan Area

Morning flight to Abu Simbel to see the twin temples dedicated to Ramesses II and his wife, Queen Nefertari.



Figure 5: Temple entrance, Abu Simbel, Egypt. © Onder Kokturk, Wikimedia Commons, 2006.

The complex is part of the “Nubian Monuments” UNESCO World Heritage site. It is most impressive as this entire site was disassembled and moved here to save it from the floodwaters caused by the Aswan High Dam. Afternoon flight back to Aswan. Late afternoon we will take a motorboat to visit Elephantine Island. Evening at leisure or optional walk through the souks and spice market of Aswan.



Figure 6: Elephantine Island and Felucca, Aswan, Egypt. © Tourcan Vacations under license from Pixabay, 2023.

Day 11 Aswan to River Cruise Ship

Morning at leisure until check-out. We will then board the Nile cruise ship and enjoy lunch on board. Afternoon half-day

tour of the Temple on the Island of Philae, the Unfinished Obelisk, the High Dam, and the Nubian Museum. Dinner and reception onboard this evening.

Day 12 River Cruise Ship

Early morning visit to see Kom Ombo Temple, the unusual double temple dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Horus.

Get back on board to sail towards Edfu. Afternoon visit to see Edfu Temple located on the west bank of the Nile. This temple, built between 237 and 57 BC, provides important information on language, myth, and religion during the Hellenistic period in Egypt. Galabeya party on board this evening. A galabeya is a loose-fitting, floor-length, traditional Egyptian garment.

Day 13 River Cruise Ship to Luxor

Overnight arrival in Luxor. This is one of our longer days. Early morning hot air balloon ride to get a bird's eye view over Luxor. Morning visit to the Valley of the Kings and Queens.

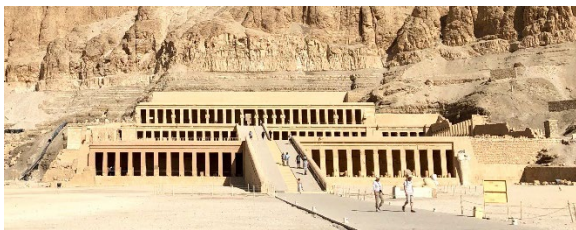


Figure 7: Funerary Temple of Hatshepsut, Luxor, Egypt. © Warren LeMay, Wikimedia Commons, 2019.

In the afternoon we visit the Temple of Hatshepsut, and the Colossi of Memnon.

Belly dance show and dinner onboard tonight.

Day 14 Luxor Area

Discover the colossal monuments found on the east bank of the River Nile today. Visit the Luxor Temple and the Luxor Museum in the morning. Visit the Karnak Temple complex in the afternoon. Walk through the Great Hypostyle Hall of the Karnak Temple, where expertly aligned columns soar to 24 m (80 feet) high. View the large statues of Ramesses II, the Courtyard of Ramesses II, and the Colonnade of Amenhotep III, with its 15 m (50 feet)-high columns. Marvel at the astonishing feat of engineering exhibited here since antiquity. A full day of walking to see these UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Day 15 Luxor Area

A full day's exploration of Dendera and time permitting, Abydos. In Dendera we will see one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt dedicated to Hathor, one of Egypt's most important goddesses. In Abydos, one of Egypt's oldest cities, we will tour the Temple of Sety I.

Day 16 Luxor to Cairo

Morning flight to Cairo and hotel check-in. Afternoon tour of Old Coptic Cairo to see the church of Saint George, Ben Ezra Synagogue, and the Hanging Church.

Farewell dinner.

Day 17 Cairo

We will finish our journey with a tour of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization this morning.

Our tour ends with a noon check-out. Transfer to airport.

You'll have some time for some souvenir shopping before flight departures. Afternoon and evening on your own.

Hotels

Amman

Fairmont Amman Hotel

2 nights

Wadi Rum

Sun City Desert Camp

1 night

Petra

Movenpick Petra Hotel

1 night

Cairo

Fairmont Nile City Hotel

4 nights

Aswan

Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel

2 nights

Nile Cruise

MS Sonesta Moon Goddess

3 nights

Luxor

Hilton Luxor Hotel

2 nights

Cairo

Fairmont Nile City Hotel

1 night

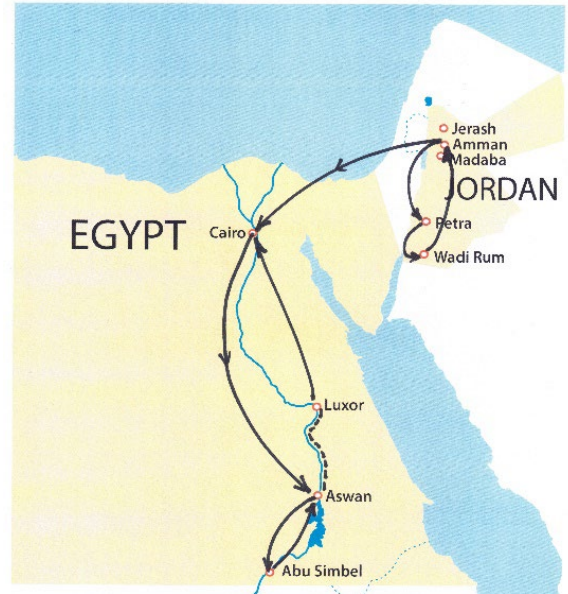


Figure 8: Map of the planned route.

Resource Person



Figure 9: Doctor Yamamoto at Edfu Temple.

Doctor Kei Yamamoto is an Egyptologist, having completed his PhD from the University of Toronto. He has profound knowledge of the history, art, and

archaeology of ancient Egypt and Nubia. He has over 10 years of curatorial work at museums such as Royal Ontario Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and, most recently, the Grand Egyptian Museum where he assisted in the development of permanent galleries in collaboration with Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

ROMTravel Coordinator

Neera Chopra is a ROM Trustee, ROM Patron, devoted volunteer, avid traveller and passionate supporter of art and culture. She has visited over 50 cities spanning five continents and has led trips to North and South India for

ROMTravel. She thoroughly enjoys her role in helping visitors to learn more about ROM's collections.

Trip Cost Per Person

Double Occupancy \$13,300

Single Supplement \$3,995

Tour begins at Queen Alia International Airport (AMM).

Tour ends at Cairo International Airport (CAI).

International flight costs to and from your home are not included. Flight cost from Jordan to Egypt is not included. Flights costs within Egypt are included.

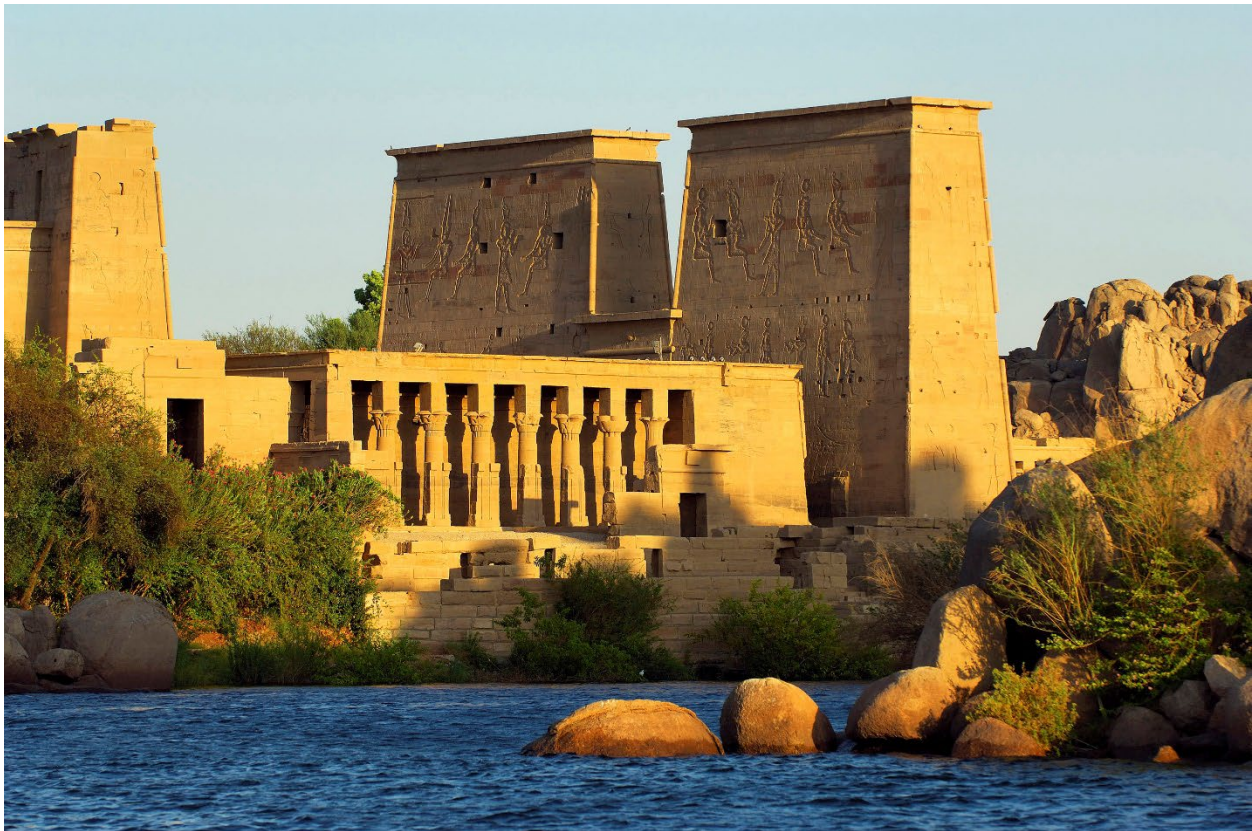


Figure 10: The Island of Philae, Aswan, Egypt. © Yolande Baldachin, 2006.

Terms and Conditions

Eternal Egypt and Jewels of Jordan

November 19 to December 5, 2024

All participants on this trip must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All trip leaders, guides and drivers will also be fully vaccinated.

Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.

Trip Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy: \$ 13,300

Single Supplement: \$ 3,995

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Amman, Jordan; between Amman, Jordan and Cairo, Egypt; and between Cairo, Egypt and your home. Tourcan Vacations can assist with booking flights.

Trip Cost Includes

Transfer from Amman's Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) to hotel on Day 1. Transfer from hotel to Amman's Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) and from Cairo International Airport (CAI) to hotel on Day 5. Transfer from hotel to Cairo International Airport (CAI) on Day 18. Transfers within Egypt as per itinerary.

Flights within Egypt from Cairo to Aswan; Aswan to Abu Simbel; Abu Simbel to Aswan; and Luxor to Cairo. Ground transport in private air-conditioned luxury coach (with toilet) for transfers and excursions as per itinerary. Luxury cruise ship, boats, jeeps, and other transport as per itinerary.

Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person at the hotels, where service is available.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities in hotels listed or similar. Internet access at the hotels.

Meals: Buffet breakfast daily, 14 lunches and 12 dinners, including choice of water, soft drinks, coffee, or tea. Bottled water daily on the bus (at least 2 per person). Welcome and farewell dinners with wine and beer.

All visits, entrance fees, still camera fees, speakers' fees, and events as per itinerary.

Assistance from Tourcan Vacations to complete visa application for Egypt and Jordan (for Canadian citizens only). E-visa recommended.

All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotels, restaurants, and guiding staff related to the basic trip.

Services of a Resource Person, a ROMTravel Coordinator, accredited English-speaking national and local guides, and a travel agency escort.

Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion.

A trip handbook.

Not Included

Flight costs not included. Fuel surcharges.

Internet access outside the hotels.

Items of a personal nature (for example, laundry or phone calls).

Airline baggage or video camera fees, if any.

Visa fees, if any.

Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason.

Emergency evacuation costs.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance.

Costs

All costs quoted herein are based on rates, fees, and taxes as of September 1, 2023. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should trip costs increase, Tourcan Vacations (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Tourcan Vacations reserves the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines, vehicles, or

vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to the itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A second non-refundable deposit of \$6,000.00 is due on July 31, 2024. The balance of payment, \$6,300.00, and single supplement of \$3,995.00, if applicable, are due on September 2, 2024.

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later. ROMTravel, Tourcan Vacations and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing to Tourcan Vacations. All payments are non-refundable. No refunds will be given for payments made or unused services.

Documents

A passport valid for six months after the return date is required. It is the individual participant's responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and/or any other documents that may be required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Tourcan Vacations nor ROMTravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete.

ROMTravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else. For this trip, Tourcan Vacations will not publish a list of participants.

For this trip, Tourcan Vacations will not use photographic images of you for future promotional purposes.

Insurance

Travel insurance is available and is highly recommended. Insurance can be purchased from many different insurance providers. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out of province medical, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover changes in health or other circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant. Insurance purchased through Tourcan Vacations is underwritten by First North American Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Manulife Financial. The insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and/or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. Travellers may provide their own travel insurance or purchase travel insurance through another provider. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required if the participant does not purchase insurance through Tourcan Vacations. Proof of medical insurance is required. For coverage options and complete

coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Tourcan Vacations for a quote.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the trip, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this trip however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the trip. The applicant, by applying to join the trip, hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Tourcan Vacations Inc. and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the tour. In case of an

accident occurring during the land portion of any tour, the passenger must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither Royal Ontario Museum nor Tourcan Vacations Inc. nor any affiliated or subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Tourcan Vacations Inc. and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or to retain any person as a member of this tour for any reason. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the tour or portions thereof. All tour services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors. Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.



Figure 11: Temple at Luxor, Egypt. © Yolande Baldachin, 2006.

Contact Information

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ROMTravel is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

ROM