

ROM

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 energetic 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 down 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 Valleys of the Kings and Queens. Along this remarkable journey we will travel by bus, motorboat, felucca, horse carriage, jeep and maybe even a donkey!!

Jordanian and Nubian families will showcase their delectable cuisine for us

and we can try out our friendly bargaining skills in the souks to land a unique souvenir or two.

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

Note that the trip dates may change and will be finalized as soon as possible.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights

Day 1 Arrivals in Amman, Jordan

Individual arrivals in Amman.

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 Petra

Morning departure south towards Wadi Musa to see Petra, an ancient city carved right into the sandstone rock face by the Nabataeans. Enroute, we will explore Mount Nebo and Kerak Castle. Built in the 12th century, Kerak Castle is the most famous Crusader-Islamic military site in Jordan. Mount Nebo is 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 will arrive to a welcome tea at our hotel for the night and time permitting, will visit the Petra Museum.

Day 4 Petra to Wadi Rum

This morning we will discover the famous treasures of Petra, the Siq, the Treasury, and elaborate rock-cut tombs with their intricate carvings.

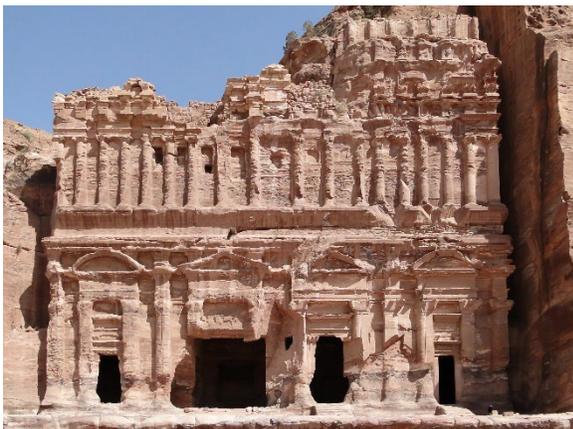


Figure 3: Facade of the Palace Tomb, Petra, Jordan. © Bernard Gagnon. Wikimedia Commons, 2010.

This afternoon we will leave for Wadi Rum, “vast, echoing and God-like” as described by T.E. Lawrence. A jeep safari

will take us 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 5 Wadi Rum to Amman to Cairo

Morning drive back to Amman. En route we will visit Madaba with its famous Saint George Church, home to the largest mosaic map in the world. After lunch in Madaba, we will catch our flight 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, the Egyptian Museum Cairo, the oldest street in Cairo, often known as the Qasabah, and the Khan el-Khalili market.

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

Day 8 Cairo Area

Today we will take a full day tour of Saqqara and Dahshur to visit the world's oldest step pyramid, the Pyramid of Djoser, and the Red Pyramid of Sneferu in Dahshur. The evening is at leisure to prepare for the next leg of our journey.

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. Evening is at leisure to enjoy our historic hotel.



Figure 5: Elephantine Island and Felucca, Aswan © Tourcan Vacations under license from Pixabay.

Day 10 Aswan Area

Morning flight to Abu Simbel to see the twin temples dedicated to Ramesses II and his wife, Queen Nefertari. 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. Evening at leisure or optional walk through the souks and spice market of Aswan.

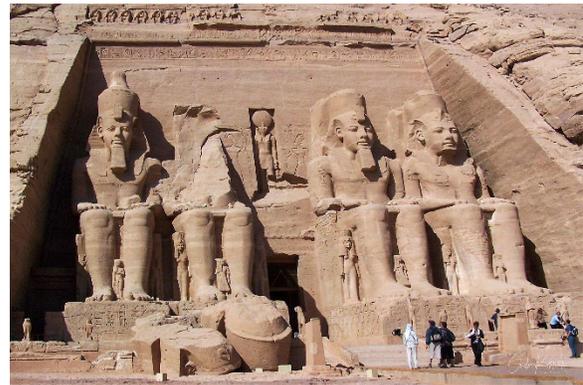


Figure 6: Temple entrance, Abu Simbel, Egypt. © Onder Kokturk, Wikimedia Commons, 2006.

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 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. Early morning hot air balloon ride to get a bird's eye view over Luxor. Later we visit the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Hatshepsut, and the Colossi of Memnon. Belly dance show and dinner onboard tonight.

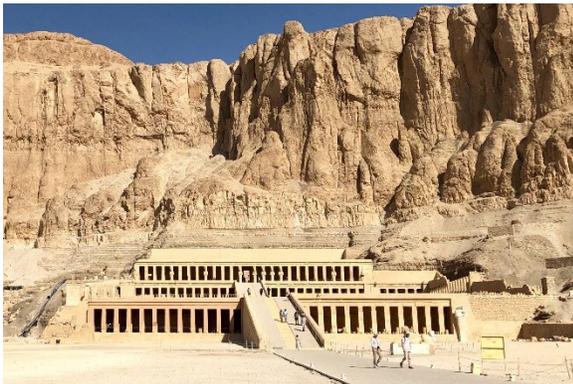


Figure 7: Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, Luxor, Egypt. © Warren LeMay, Wikimedia Commons, 2019.

Day 14 Luxor Area

We will disembark the cruise today and visit the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, the Ramesseum, and Deir el-Medina, an ancient Egyptian workmen's village, which was home to artisans who worked on the tombs of the Valley of the Kings and Queens. Hotel check-in Luxor.

Day 15 Luxor Area

Discover the colossal monuments found on the east bank of the river Nile today. Visit to the Luxor Temple and the Karnak

Temple complex. 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-foot)-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.

Evening at leisure.

Day 16 Luxor Area

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



Figure 8: Column in the Temple of Hathor, Dendera, Egypt. © Doctor Kei Yamamoto.

Day 17 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. We will finish our journey with a tour of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

Farewell dinner and flight departures.

Hotels

Amman

Fairmont Amman Hotel
2 nights

Petra

Movenpick Petra Hotel
1 night

Wadi Rum

Sun City Desert Camp
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
3 nights

Cairo

Fairmont Nile City Hotel
1 night

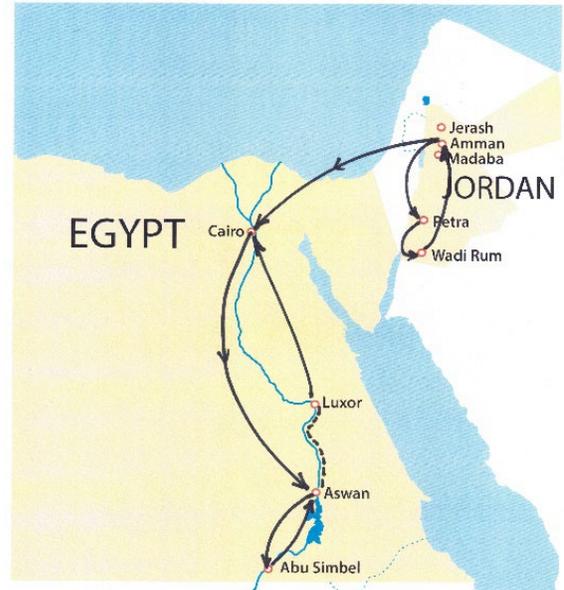


Figure 9: Map of the planned route.

Resource Person

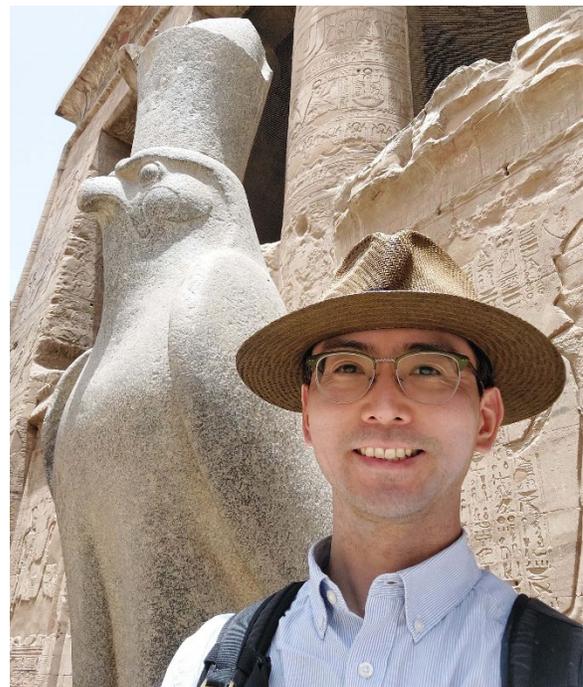


Figure 10: Doctor Yamamoto at Edfu Temple.

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 to be announced.

Single Supplement to be announced.

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. Regional flights costs are included.

Terms and Conditions

To be announced.

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