

The Mythology of Ancient Egypt

March 8 – 19, 2025

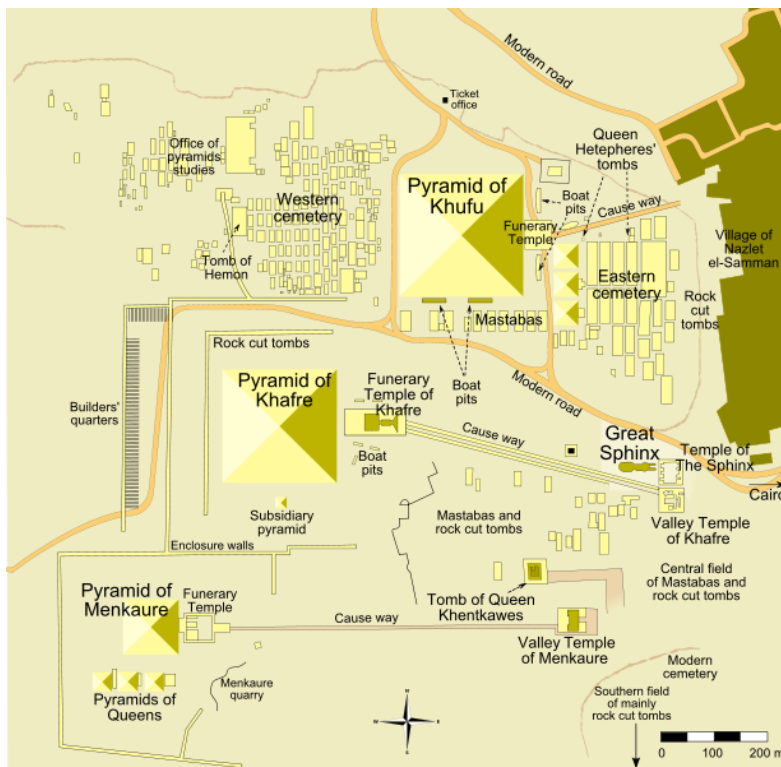
\$5,995 Double Occupancy; Single Supplement Applies

Day 1 - Late Evening Arrival in Cairo – Travel Day

Arrive at Cairo International Airport
Transfer to the hotel for check-in. No activities scheduled.
Overnight in Giza

Day 2 - Cairo and the [Grand Egyptian Museum](#)

Our day starts with a visit to the largest archaeological museum in the world, the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). The new structure houses 100,000 masterpieces from several periods of Egypt's glorious history, 20,000 objects of which will be displayed for the first time such as King Tutankhamun's complete collection.
After touring the GEM, we will stop at a restaurant for a late lunch.



After lunch, we visit the one and only standing monument among the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Great Pyramid of Khufu, followed by The Pyramids of Khafra & Menkaure, the well-preserved valley temple of Khafra, and the Great Sphinx.

The most famous of all the landmarks of present-day Egypt, and one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, the Giza pyramids were the burial places of the Fourth Dynasty kings (c.2613 – c.2494 BC): Khufre, Khafre, and Menkaure.

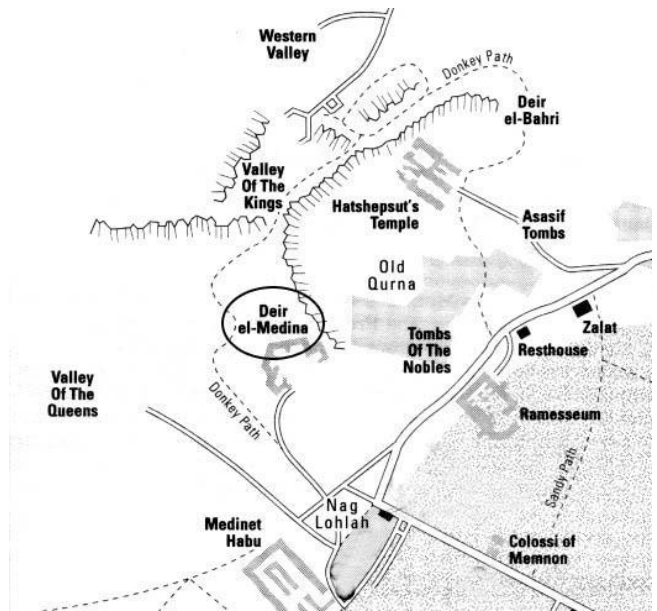
The Great Sphinx is Egypt's earliest colossal royal statue and is an integral part of Khafre's complex. The lion's body symbolizes royal power, while the head is a portrait of Khafre.

(Breakfast and lunch included)
Overnight in Giza

Day 3 – Memphis, Sakkara and Old Cairo

We explore some of the early religious monuments of Cairo. You'll visit the **El Muallaqa Church**, dating to the late fourth and early fifth century. This basilica was named for its location on top of the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon. Muallaqa means "suspended or hanging." Destroyed in a ninth-century earthquake, the church became the center of the Coptic (or Christian) Church of Egypt from the time it was rebuilt in the eleventh century until the 14th century.

We will then make a stop at the **Ben Ezra Synagogue**, built sometime between the sixth and ninth centuries AD. The temple contains a Jewish Heritage Library, containing documents found here in 1896 that describe the economic and social conditions of Jews under Arab rule as well as descriptions of relations between various Jewish sects.



After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue to **Memphis**, founded around 3,100 BC, which is the legendary city of Menes, the King who united Upper and Lower Egypt. Early on, Memphis was more likely a fortress from which Menes controlled the land and water routes between Upper Egypt and the Delta. Having probably originated in Upper Egypt, from Memphis, he could control the conquered people of Lower Egypt. However, by the Third Dynasty, the building at Saqqara suggests that Memphis had become a sizable city.

Sakkara is one section of the great necropolis of Memphis, the Old Kingdom capital, and the kings of the 1st Dynasty as well as of the 2nd Dynasty are buried here. Each discovery has a fascinating story, with many adventures for the archaeologists as they reveal the secrets of the past.

Overnight in Giza

Day 4 - Travel to Luxor, East Bank Nile

Early morning, arrive at Cairo International Airport to catch the flight to Luxor. Initial lecture by guide about history of the ruins in and around Luxor.

Meaning "The Palace" in Arabic, the city of Luxor is home to the ruins of many ancient Egyptian temples. It is the site of the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes.

We begin with the outstanding Karnak Temple, the largest cult temple ever built in Ancient Egypt. "Cult Temples" were centers of worship for specific deities in ancient Egypt.

Then, we will head to the Temple of Luxor. Dating back to the Middle Kingdom (c.2055-c.1650 BC), the Temple of Luxor was dedicated to the god Amun-Ra, the chief deity of the Egyptian empire.

Overnight in Luxor
(Breakfast included)

Day 5 - Luxor West Bank Tour, Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride

Today there is the option to enjoy a hot air balloon flight in the early morning. Our guide's in-depth knowledge of the Valley of the Kings will give us a solid understanding of what we are about to see.

After breakfast, we visit the Valley of the Kings. Throughout the New Kingdom (c.1550-c.1069 BC), Thebes (Luxor) was an important religious and administrative center. The kings were often in residence there, and the Valley of the Kings became the obvious location for their final resting place. Soon after his coronation, the king would begin work on his tomb where a suitable spot would be chosen, plans drawn up, and the decoration of the walls decided.



We explore the unique two tombs of Rameses V & VI, the Tomb of Tutankhamun, and the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

The last stop of the day will be the Colossi of Memnon, the only standing monument of Amenhotep III's temple on the west bank of Thebes.

Overnight in Luxor
(Breakfast included)

Day 6 - The Valley of Queens, Tomb of Nefertari

Lecture by our guide on the mythology of the Valley of the Queens.

Our day will start with a visit to the Tomb of Nefertari in the Valley of the Queens. Nefertari was one of the most famous queens in ancient times, equal to Nefertiti and Cleopatra, and she was the beloved wife of King Ramses the Great. To express his love for her, King Ramses built the most beautifully decorated and splendid tomb of all tombs in the Valley of the Queens.

Drive to Medinat Habu. In ancient times Medinat Habu was known as *Djanet* and according to ancient belief was the place where Amun first appeared. Both Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III



built a temple dedicated to Amun here. Later, Rameses III constructed his larger memorial temple on the site.

Enjoy a *felucca* ride in the evening. A felucca is a traditional Egyptian wooden boat with a canvas sail.

Overnight in Luxor
(Breakfast included)

Day 7 – Dendera

Breakfast at the hotel. Lecture to discuss the mythology of Dendera.

Today we visit Dendera. The ancient Egyptian name of the town was *lunet* and was the goddess Hathor's chief center of worship. Her husband, Horus, and their son, Ihy, were also worshipped at Dendera.

Evening, Luxor by night

Overnight in Luxor
(Breakfast included)

Day 8 - Edfu, Kom Ombo, Philae Temple, and High Dam Tour

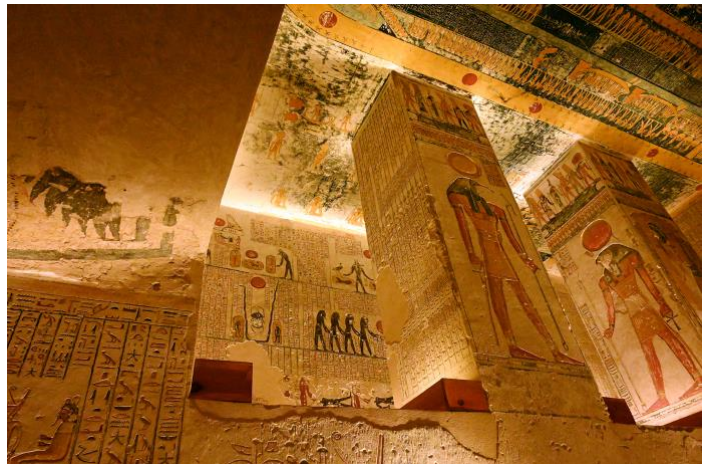
Drive to Edfu to explore the Temple of Horus, the largest and best-preserved Ptolemaic temple in Egypt.

Next, we head to Kom Ombo. One of the most unusual temples of Ancient Egypt, Kom Ombo was mainly built during the Ptolemaic Dynasty from 180 - 47 BCE.

After lunch, visit the Philae Temple in Aswan, a well-preserved island temple complex dedicated to Isis.

Visit and tour the Aswan High Dam
Overnight in Aswan

(Breakfast included)



Day 9 – Aswan, Nubian Village

Embark on a private three-hour tour to Sohail Island and discover the rich Nubian heritage of Aswan. Meet the friendly locals and visit their family home to learn more about their culture and history. Sip on a freshly brewed glass of tea while listening to fascinating stories about the Nubian people. After your visit, enjoy some free time to wander around the island, known for its vibrant and colorful houses.

Overnight in Aswan

Day 10 – Travel Day - Transfer to Luxor Airport to fly to Cairo

Today we fly from Luxor to Cairo. Relax in the hotel at Cairo.

Overnight in Cairo. No activities scheduled.
(Breakfast included)

Day 11 – Travel Day - Early Departure

Early breakfast at the hotel included

Transfer to Cairo International Airport for Departure back to the US

Itinerary subject to change

There are many books on Ancient Egypt and we highly recommend that you read at least one to better understand the mythology and context for what you will be seeing.

We recommend the following book which can be found on Amazon:

Sacred Sites of Ancient Egypt: An illustrated Guide to the Temples, Tombs, and Pyramids
By Lorna Oakes

<https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Sites-Ancient-Egypt-Illustrated/dp/0754806715>