



EGYPT

The LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

October 15 - November 01, 2024
Led by Lecturer, & Art Historian, Dr. Mehreen Chida-Razvi

Includes 5 nights Luxury private sailing yacht on the Nile

Whether it is your first visit or your tenth, this is the perfect time to see Egypt, with its incredible monuments, temples, artifacts, and history. Cruise along the eternal NILE River in the style of the "belle époque of the early 20th century" on a yacht that was built for the nobility and explorers of Egypt. Witness time standing still, evidenced by the rhythm of life along its banks. Visit all of the classical sites of Egypt but also the unique and less traveled parts of the country that will reveal to you some of the most magnificent sites barely ever seen by travelers, such as Siwa with its beautiful green lake that sits among this ocean of yellow sands, and it carries a culture of its own. A highlight of this tour is the visit to the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, the largest in the world and a valid showcase. Visit temples, tombs, pyramids, and markets and explore the Coptic Christian heritage of Egypt and its Islamic monuments. Explore Khan el Khalili bazaar in Cairo for a slice of life, both past, and present.

This tour will also take you along the Mediterranean to visit not only the crown jewel of the coast, Alexandria, but additionally the historic location of WWII battles in El Alamein, culminating in Siwa Oasis, a Berber settlement with layers of history, beginning with Alexander the Great and ending with more modern influences the byproduct of which is a colorful, unique culture.

No trip is complete in Egypt without flying to see the most majestic and monumental of its temples: Abu Simbel. Let this superbly crafted exploration of Egypt captivate you with the bountiful treasures of ancient times and the hospitality of modern natives.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Tuesday, October 15

Arrive in Cairo



Upon arrival at **Cairo International Airport**, meet and transfer to *Cairo Marriott Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(D)**

Note: Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm. if you arrive on October 14 or early morning of October 15, an extra hotel night needs to be booked. Dinner is provided for those arriving in the Hotel prior to 8:00 PM

Wednesday, October 16

Cairo (Pyramids & Grand Egyptian Museum)



After breakfast, we will be picked up by the driver and guide for a full day of touring, starting with a visit to Cairo's iconic **Giza pyramids** (from outside), where the city meets the desert, and the **Sphinx**, constructed around 2000 B.C. It is one of the largest and oldest statues in the world. Then, **Enjoy 30 Minutes of Camel Ride at the Pyramids Site**. After lunch, head to the newly opened **Grand Egyptian Museum**, the largest museum dedicated to a single civilization and housing over 100,000 artifacts. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

NOTE: optional entrance to the pyramids (separate ticket-on own)

Thursday, October 17

Cairo (Islamic Cairo & Old Museum)



After breakfast, enjoy a full-day tour of the city, starting with a visit to the "old" **Egyptian Museum of Antiquities** located at **Tahrir Square** (the birthplace of Egypt's Arab Spring revolution of 2011). Then, head to the **Citadel of Saladin** overlooking the whole city of Old Cairo and **Sultan Hussein Mosque**, as well as the medieval labyrinth alleyways of **Khan El Khalili Bazaar**. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, October 18

Cairo (Coptic Cairo & Civilization Museum)



After breakfast, we will start our day by visiting the **Coptic Museum**, which offers a unique collection of art and artifacts from the history of Coptic Egypt and an exhibit about Christianity history in Egypt. Continue the visit to the **Hanging Church**, one of the oldest and most iconic in Old Cairo. It was built on top of the Roman fortress gatehouse called Babylon, and the nave is suspended over the passageway. Then we will head to **Ben Ezra Synagogue**, the oldest Jewish temple in Cairo, dating from the 9th century AD. It is named for the legend of Ezra the Scribe, who gave the Egyptian Jews a magical Torah scroll. The synagogue was the site of the famous Cairo Geniza, a massive hoard of documents written primarily in Hebrew, Judeo-Arabic, & Aramaic, which illuminated much of Jewish, and ancient history.

Head to visit **Saint Sergius & Bacchus Church**, which was built and dedicated to the two Martyrs (Sergius and Bacchus) and is traditionally believed to have been built on the spot where the Holy Family rested at the end of their journey into Egypt. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then head to visit the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, located on the archaeological site of El-Fustat in Old Cairo. It is the first museum in the Arab world to focus on the first civilization in history. Return to the *Hotel* for your overnight. **(B,L)**

Saturday, October 19

Cairo - Luxor



Transfer to Cairo airport for our flight to **Luxor**; upon arrival, cross the river to Luxor's West Bank to explore the **Valley of the Kings**. Visit the well-preserved tombs of several rulers of Old Kingdom Egyptian dynasties along with **King Tut Tomb**. Visit the Mortuary **Temple of**

Queen Hatshepsut (18th dynasty of the Old Kingdom, ca. 1490 BCE), one of Egypt's most successful pharaohs and the longest-reigning female; **Deir El Bahari**; and **Medinat Habu temple**.

Drive back to Luxor's East Bank for lunch, then tour the graceful **Luxor Temple** in the heart of town in the afternoon. Head to Luxor Temple in the evening to attend the impressive **Sound & Light show**. Transfer to *Sonesta Luxor Hotel* or similar for check-in and overnight. **(B,L)**

Sunday, October 20

Luxor - Esna (Start cruising)



In the morning, visit **Karnak Temple** and then drive to **Esna**, where you will pass the Nile locks to embark on *Queen Farida Dahabeya*. After lunch, set sail toward **El Hegez** village, just north of Edfu, where we will moor for the night, relaxing on the deck and taking in the sights along the way. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, October 21

Esna - El Kab - Edfu - El Fuaza



Sail to **El Kab**, where we will disembark after breakfast to see the seldom-visited site of **El Kab**, with its vast pre-dynastic cemeteries, early New Kingdom tombs, and the temple of Thoth. Return to the cruise and continue sailing to **Edfu**. Disembark and tour the **Edfu Temple**, the complete example of pharaonic architecture. Set sail for the island of **El Fuaza** and spend the night onboard. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday, October 22

El Fuaza - Gebel El Silsila



After breakfast, set sail for **El Ramadya**. Enjoy the view from the cruise while sailing to **Gebel el Selsela** (3 hours). After lunch, visit **Gebel El Selsela** and continue sailing to **Fares village** (1 hour), while enjoying dinner and overnight onboard. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, October 23

Kom Ombo - Harbyab Island



Sail to **Kom Ombo** to visit the temple, which is unique in its dedication to two deities. The most spectacular river temple, Kom Ombo, is honeycombed with crypts, secret passages, and tunnels under the floors, the source of the gods' human voices. Return to the Dahabeya cruise and depart for **Harbyab Island** on a two-and-a-half-hour sail on the scenic river. Dine and overnight onboard near Harbyab Island. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, October 24

Harbyab Island - Aswan - Abu Simbel - Aswan



Enjoy breakfast on the cruise while sailing towards **Aswan**. After breakfast, disembark and head to the domestic airport for your flight to **Abu Simbel**. Ramses II (r.

1277-1212 BCE) built the monuments on the bank of Lake Nasser south of Aswan. See the two temples excavated in the mountain by Ramses II to his wife Nefertari in the guise of the goddess Hathor and to himself if opened). They were moved when the High Dam at Aswan was built to avoid being flooded. Return to Aswan, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then start the visit with a boat ride to explore **Philae Temple** (dedicated to Goddess Isis). Then visit the **High Dam**. Free time (On own) to enjoy the Nubian baskets' market or have a drink at the terrace of the *Old Cataract Historical Hotel*, then return to the cruise for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, October 25

Aswan - Cairo



Enjoy breakfast, then disembark, head to visit the **Nubian Museum**. Then, Head to visit the **Elephantine Island** by **Felucca**, the location of the Satet temple (goddess of the star Sirius). Elephantine is famous in Jewish archeology for its Jewish temple and hoard of documents about Jewish life in the 5th century BCE. Allegedly, the site where the Ark of the Covenant had reportedly been hidden before reaching Axum in Ethiopia. End by visiting the **Unfinished Obelisk**. Transfer to the airport for our flight back to **Cairo** and upon arrival, meet and transfer to *Marriott Cairo Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner & overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, October 26

Cairo - Alexandria



Begin the day with a morning drive to **Alexandria**, the second largest city in Egypt Alexandria, Egypt's Hellenistic capitol, known as 'The Pearl of the Mediterranean.' Enjoy a full day of sightseeing, including the **Alexandria Library** and the **Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa**, which consists of a series of Alexandrian tombs, statues, and archaeological objects of the Pharaonic funeral cult with Hellenistic and early Imperial Roman influences. Also, visit **Pompey's Pillar**, one of the most immense monoliths in the world, and the **National Museum**, ending with a visit to the **Montazah Gardens**. Then transfer to *Sheraton Montaza Hotel* or similar for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, October 27

Alexandria - Alamein - Marsa Matruh



After breakfast, we will begin our day with a drive (2 hours) to **El Alamein** and head to visit the **El Alamein Battle Ground** and **Cemeteries**, where two battles took place during WWII. The War Cemetery houses the graves of allied soldiers who died during this time, mainly in the Battle of El Alamein of 1942. The cemetery contains over 7000 commonwealth burials from the war, of which 815

are unidentified. There are also more than a hundred war graves belonging to men of other nationalities. We will continue our drive (1 hour) to **Marsa Matrouh** and transfer to *Belle Vue Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, October 28

Marsa Matruh - Siwa



Enjoy breakfast and have a free morning at leisure, where you can swim in the Mediterranean and enjoy the city. In the afternoon, head to a local restaurant for lunch, then drive (4 hours) to **Siwa**, situated in the Western Desert region of Egypt. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in, head out to visit the **Old City of Shali & It's Market** and have a panoramic view of Siwa Oasis. It is the ancient capital of the oasis, founded in the Middle Ages and built with karshef, a mixture of salt and clay that was made with a unique technique in the world. This city of mud' was abandoned in the 20th century after being ruined by torrential rainfall. Today the site is under restoration. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday, October 29

Siwa



After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to **Gebel El Mawta**, which means "Mountain of the dead." The tombs are dated from the 26th Dynasty, and they were carved into the mountain during the Greco-Roman Period, including the tombs of Si-Amun, the crocodile, and the hieroglyphs. We will continue to visit the **Temple of the Oracle**, the ' *Temple of Amun*,' built during the 26th Dynasty (though the Oracle's origin is reputed to be much, much older). It is known as the Temple of the Oracle because of Alexander's visit when he conquered Egypt in 332 BC. It is one of two temples dedicated to Amun at Siwa. It sits atop a flat rock and is a spectacular sight.

Enjoy a Bedouin lunch and swim at **Cleopatra's Bath**, a warm water spring that dates millennia back. Then return to the *Hotel* for some rest. At 3:00 pm, head to enjoy **BIR WAHID Desert Safari** By 4X4 Cars and visit the **Sand Dunes**, the **Shells**, the **fossils** area, & the **Hot Spring** of Bir Wahid (98F), where we will enjoy swimming. Visit the cold lake & enjoy sandboarding. Later, relax on the highest point of the desert while watching the sunset. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner & overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, October 30

Siwa - Alexandria



Today is the longest driving day in this tour but it will give us a chance to rest and absorb the vistas of the drive to

the coast and then along it. After an early breakfast, drive (4 hours) to **Marsa Matrouh** and stop for lunch, then continue the drive (4 hours) to **Alexandria** and transfer to *Sheraton Montaza Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, October 31

Alexandria - Wadi El Natroun - Cairo



After breakfast, begin the day with a drive to **Mar-Mina Monastery**, named after St. Mina, who is believed to have fallen as a martyr in the early 4th century when the Roman Empire was persecuting Christians. Then we will head to visit **Wadi El Natroun**, the birthplace of Christian Monasticism and home to several well-known 4th-6th Century AD monasteries. We will have Lunch at one of them, then continue the drive to Cairo and, upon arrival, transfer to *Le Meridian Cairo Airport Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, November 01

Cairo - USA



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)**

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".

Sailing the Nile...aboard a Dahabiya: It is also spelled (Dahabeah, Dahabeeyah, Dahabiah, Dahabiyah and Dahabia). These river-going sailboats were common in Egypt in the days of the monarchy (1880-1940s) when travelers loved to cruise the Nile in style. We have revived those elegant days, but with modern comforts and facilities. It is an original and peaceful option to navigate on the river Nile and discover the most unique landscape places in a more intimate setting while in absolute luxury, exploring some of Egypt's ancient sites in the same manner as those nearly 100 years before you.

Single Cabins on board are limited to two, so availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis. One cabin is a suite (supplement applies).

Tour Cost (Land Only): \$10,495.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$2,495.00

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 14 participants

Trip Grade: I Lodging Level: ****

About your Lecturer, Dr. Mehreen Chida-Razvi is an Art Historian specializing in the history of Islamic art, architecture, and material culture in the early modern era, with a particular emphasis on the Persianate regions of Mughal South Asia, Iran, and Central Asia. She earned her BSc and BA from the University of Florida, Gainesville, before completing an MA in Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London and a second MA and a PhD in the History of Art & Archaeology from SOAS, University of London.

She regularly teaches courses and lectures on Islamic and Indo-Islamic art at universities and museums in London and Oxford, works for The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art, and is an Assistant Editor for the International Journal of Islamic Architecture. Dr Chida-Razvi has numerous publications to her name, has guest-edited academic journals, and is currently writing a book on Mughal tomb architecture. She has shared her academic expertise with wider audiences through her participation and consultation for documentaries on the Taj Mahal, programming on BBC World Service Radio, BBC2 and BBC4, participation in the Lahore and Jaipur Literary Festivals, and has worked as an expert lecturer on cultural tours since 2016, leading tours to Iran, Central Asia, India, Pakistan, and Lebanon.



Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Accommodation at mentioned Hotels or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Domestic flights ASW/ABS/ASW & CAI/LUX - ASW/CAI).
- Entrance fees to all mentioned sites and museums.
- Escort of lecturer (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- Travel by modern A/C motor coach.
- Bottled water during touring on bus.
- Visit of King Tut Tomb.
- English Speaking Licensed Guide throughout the tour.
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, and porters (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

Tour does not include:

- International Airfare USA - CAIRO - USA.
- Entry visa (Currently \$30.00 available upon arrival).
- Entrance inside any of the Pyramids or Tombs.
- Meals not mentioned & drinks with or without meals.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, emails, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Any increase to entrance fees imposed by government or new taxes or fuel surcharges.
- Gratuity to your tour manager (optional).
- Travel protection insurance. (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

Trip Grade

I Easy: Reasonably paced sightseeing, easy walking, and leisurely days. No particular physical challenges.

Lodging Level

★★★★ Luxury: Regular style- usually large - hotels, typical western standard with ample venues, and full amenities. (4 or 5 stars).

