

7 OPTIONS

InsightCruises.com/LUXOR/



Luxor: Eclipse

Late July through early August



1
July 28 – August 4, 2027
**SOFITEL
WINTER PALACE**
(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)



2
July 28 – August 3, 2027
**Aboard the
ms HAMEES**
(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)



3
July 27 – August 13, 2027
**17-NIGHT NILE
RIVER CRUISE**
(from Aswan to Cairo)
Aboard the ss MISR



4
July 26 – August 1, 2027
**6-NIGHT
NILE RIVER
CRUISE**
(from Aswan to Luxor)
Aboard the ss NUBIA

SKY & TELESCOPE

Insight  Cruises
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

of the Century

July to mid August, 2027



August 3, 2027
**SHORT NILE
CRUISE**
(Aswan to Luxor)
Aboard the *ms Darakum*



July 27 – August 13, 2027
**17-NIGHT NILE
RIVER CRUISE**
(from Aswan to Cairo)
Aboard the *ss Sphinx*



July 28 – August 4, 2027
**HILTON LUXOR
RESORT & SPA**
(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)



July 28* – August 4, 2027
**JOLIE VILLE LUXOR HOTEL
& SPA, KINGS ISLAND**
(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)
*3-nights minimum

Nile River Cruises: 3 4 5



ss Misr



OPTION 3

July 27- August 13, 2027
17-NIGHT NILE RIVER CRUISE
(full map image on left)
plus TWO NIGHTS IN ASWAN
(Cruise from Aswan to Cairo)
Aboard the *ss MISR*

MÖVENPICK
HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES

ms Darakum



OPTION 4

July 26 - August 3, 2027
6-NIGHT NILE RIVER CRUISE
plus TWO NIGHTS IN ASWAN
(Cruise from Aswan to Luxor
plus cruise-to-Cairo option)
Aboard the *ms DARAKUM*

MÖVENPICK
HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES

ss Sphinx



OPTION 5

July 27 - August 13, 2027
17-NIGHT NILE RIVER CRUISE
(full map image on left)
plus TWO NIGHTS IN ASWAN
(Cruise from Aswan to Cairo)
Aboard the *ss SPHINX*

UNIWORLD
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES

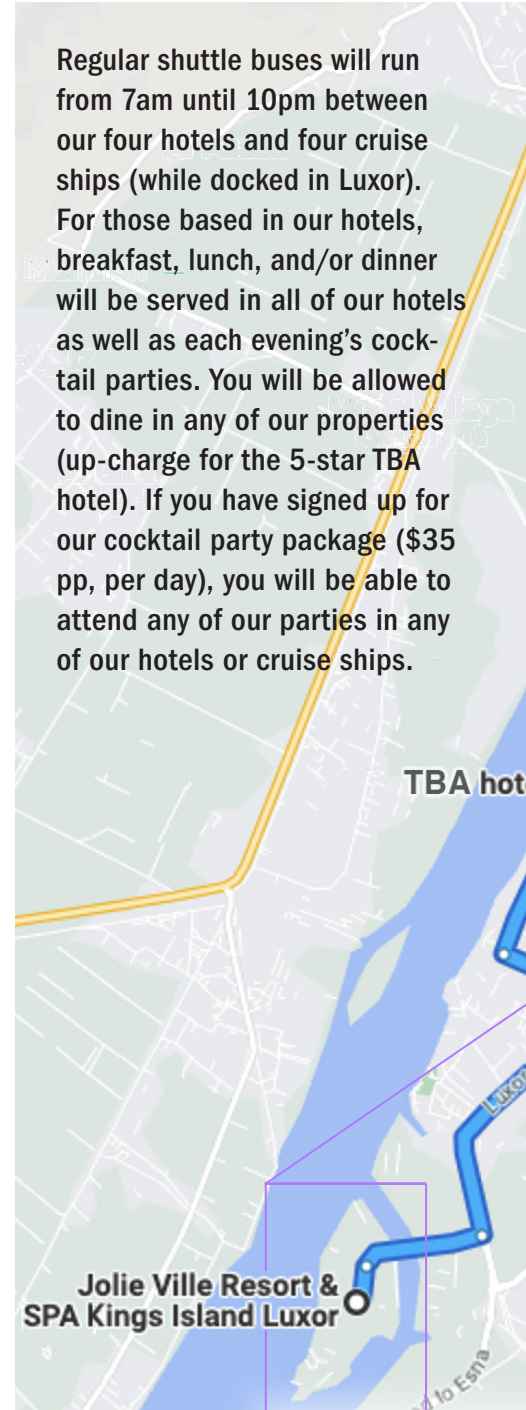
Hotels (and the one cruise ship, *ms Hamees*, docked): 1 2 6 7

OPTION 1

July 28 – August 4, 2027 – SOFITEL WINTER PALACE
(Luxor-based plus cruise option to Cairo*)



Regular shuttle buses will run from 7am until 10pm between our four hotels and four cruise ships (while docked in Luxor). For those based in our hotels, breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner will be served in all of our hotels as well as each evening's cocktail parties. You will be allowed to dine in any of our properties (up-charge for the 5-star TBA hotel). If you have signed up for our cocktail party package (\$35 pp, per day), you will be able to attend any of our parties in any of our hotels or cruise ships.

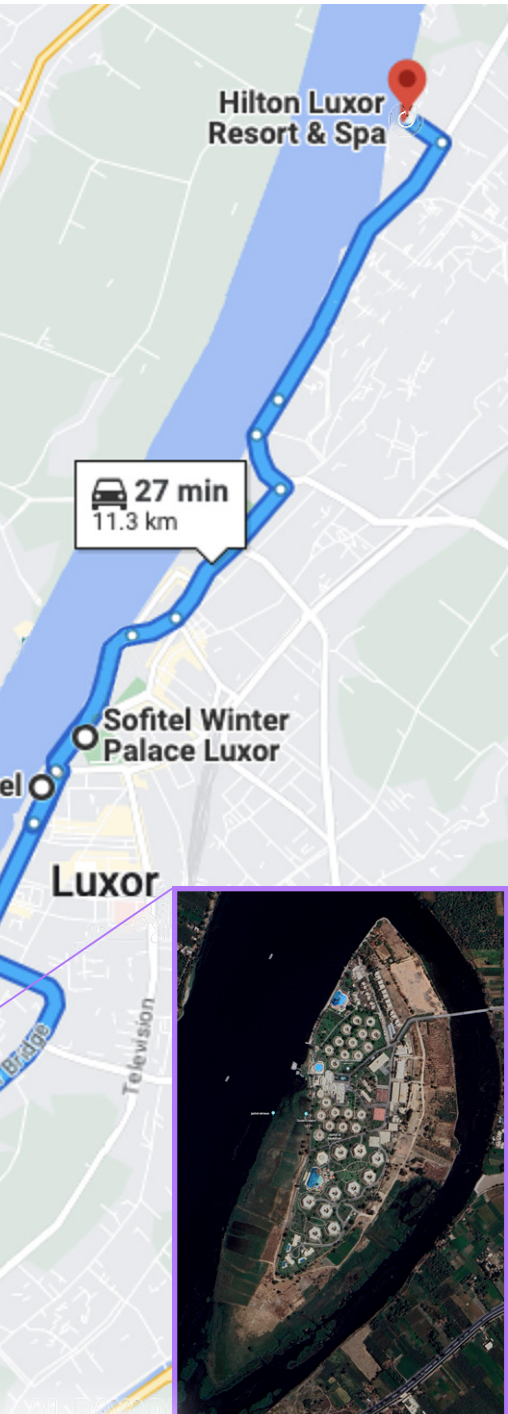


OPTION 2

July 28 – August 3, 2027 – ABOARD THE *ms HAMEES*
(Luxor-based – i.e., ship will be **docked across the street from the Sofitel** – plus cruise option to Cairo*) NIGHTLY DINNER CRUISE PROVIDED

OPTION 6

July 28 - August 4, 2027 – HILTON LUXOR RESORT & SPA
(Luxor-based plus cruise option to Cairo*)



OPTION 7

July 28 - August 4, 2027 – JOLIE VILLE LUXOR HOTEL & SPA,
KINGS ISLAND (Luxor-based plus cruise option to Cairo*)

*See next pages for info on our cruise option to Cairo on the *ms Hamees* or the *ms Darakum*

Your Seven OPTIONS: Summary

Venue Name (code)	Sofitel Winter Palace (st19)	ms Hamees (st20)	ss Misr (st21)
OPTION #	OPTION #1	OPTION #2	OPTION #3
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st19	InsightCruises.com/events/st20	InsightCruises.com/events/st21
Start	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2027	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2027	TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2027
End	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2027	TUESDAY, AUGUST 3	FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023
Total number of nights	7	6	17
Lodging or cruise fare (based, on double occupancy), from ...	\$325/night	\$325/night	\$645/night
Maximum per-person price based on double occupancy	\$1,500/night	\$325+/night	\$1,175/night
Cocktail party addon	\$245	\$210	\$490
Excursions addon	\$2,050	\$2,050	\$3,850
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	\$100	\$100	incl.
Conference addon	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,750
Gov't taxes and fees	\$365	\$265	incl.
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	\$40	\$60	incl.
Venue gratuities	\$175	\$150	incl.
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	\$580	\$475	incl.
Cairo package addon (available pre or post your OPTION)	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf	incl.
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	\$6,499 - \$6,999	\$6,499 - \$6,999	incl.
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (including transfers)	\$325+/night	\$325+/night	2 nights incl.; add'l nights inquire
Name of hotel for add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights	Sofitel Winter Palace	Sofitel Winter Palace	The Old Cataract Hotel (Aswan)
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st19/pdf/st19_combined.pdf	InsightCruises.com/events/st20/pdf/st20_combined.pdf	InsightCruises.com/events/st21/pdf/st21_combined.pdf

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	ms Darakum (st22)	ss Sphinx (st23)	Hilton (st24)	Jolie Ville (st25)
	OPTION #4	OPTION #5	OPTION #6	OPTION #7
	InsightCruises.com/events/st22	InsightCruises.com/events/st23	InsightCruises.com/events/st24	InsightCruises.com/events/st25
	MONDAY, JULY 26, 2027	TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2027	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2027	Varies: 3 nights minimum
	TUESDAY, AUGUST 3	FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2027	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2027	Varies: latest WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4
	8	17	7	3-7
	\$544/night	\$675/night	\$325/night	\$295/night
	\$1,094/night	\$1,175/night	\$400/night	\$1,500 pp (first two people) + \$225 pp (add'l people)
	\$210	\$490	\$245	\$35/night
	\$2,650	\$3,850	\$2,050	\$2,050
	\$95	incl.	\$100	\$100
	\$775	\$1,750	\$1,250	\$1,250
	incl.	incl.	\$365	\$50/night
	\$80	incl.	\$70	\$10/night
	\$120	incl.	\$175	\$25/night
	\$200	incl.	\$610	\$85/night
	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf	incl.	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf
	\$6,499 - \$6,999	incl.	\$6,499 - \$6,999	\$6,499 - \$6,999
re	2 nights incl.; add'l nights inquire	2 nights incl.; add'l nights inquire	\$325+/night	\$295+/night
h)	Movenpick (Aswan)	The Old Cataract Hotel (Aswan)	Sofitel Winter Palace	Jolie Ville
f	InsightCruises.com/events/st22/pdf/st22_combined.pdf	InsightCruises.com/events/st23/pdf/st23_combined.pdf	InsightCruises.com/events/st24/pdf/st24_combined.pdf	InsightCruises.com/events/st25/pdf/st25_combined.pdf

*See next pages for info on our cruise-to-Cairo add-on the *ms Hamees* or the *ms Darakum*

Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

Luxor, Egypt: Eclipse Day

ALL OF OUR CRUISE SHIPS WILL BE DOCKED AT THE SOFITEL WINTER PALACE HOTEL

Watch the August 2027 Total Solar Eclipse like a King. Experience over six minutes of totality in Luxor, the heart of ancient Egypt – with cold beverages, ample shade, and air conditioning right at hand.

Regular shuttle buses will run from 7am until 10pm between our four hotels and four cruise ships (while docked in Luxor). In addition to being able to dine in any of our properties (up-charge for the 5-star TBA hotel), you can watch the eclipse from any of our venues, too. From intimate cruiseship decks to 165 acre grounds!

View the Eclipse from any of our 7 options:

- 1 17-acre Royal Garden's of the Sofitel Winter Palace Hotel, or
- 2 several decks on the *ms Hamees*, or
- 3 several decks on the King Farouk's luxury yacht, the *ss Misr*, or
- 4 several decks on the *ms Darakum*, or
- 5 several decks on the *ss Sphinx*, or
- 6 the Nile-lined grounds of the Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa, or
- 7 the stunning 165-acre grounds of the Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, or

Legend: ms (motor ship), ss (steam ship)

Egypt

25° 41' 48.05" N <—> 25.69668°
 32° 38' 13.68" E <—> 32.63713°

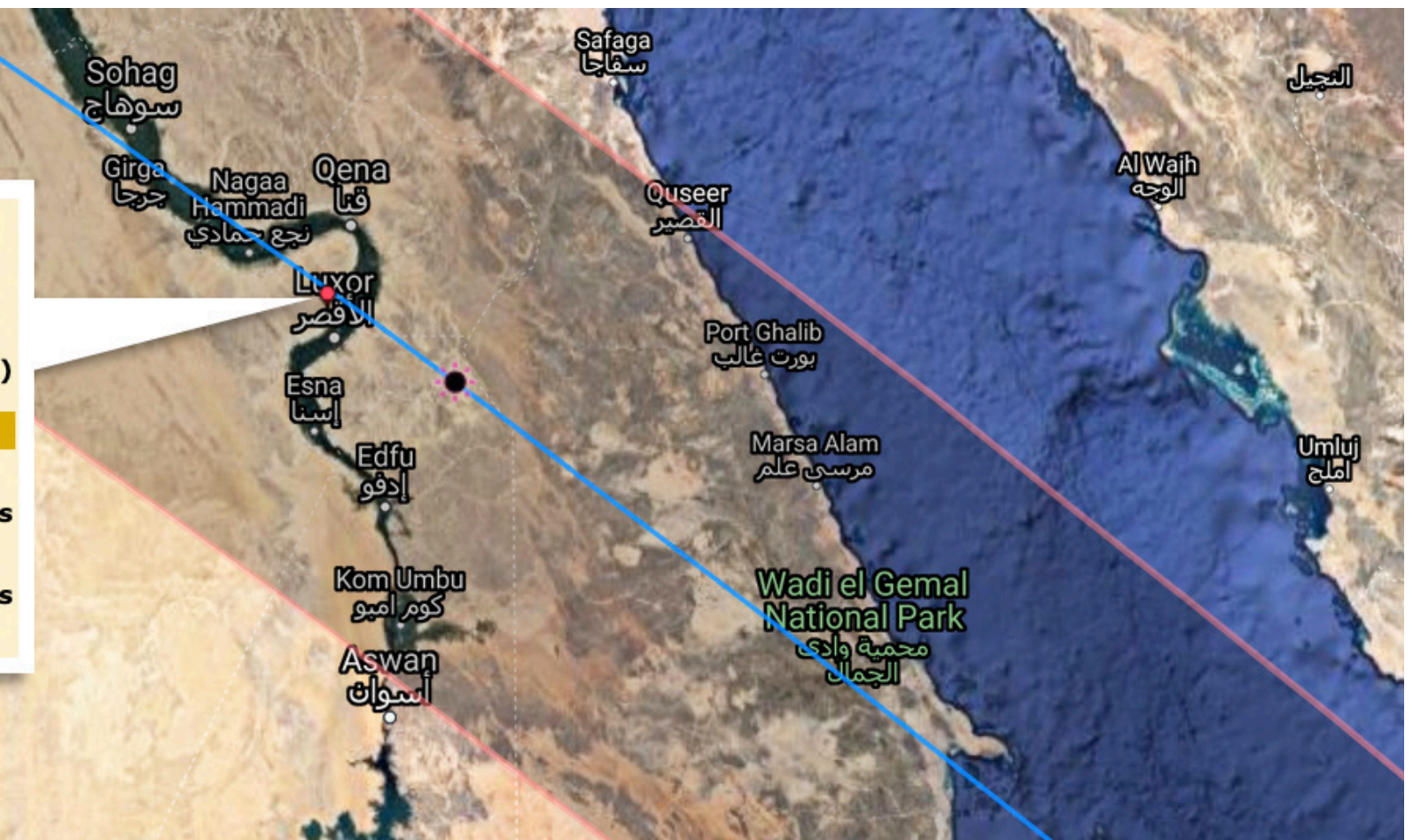
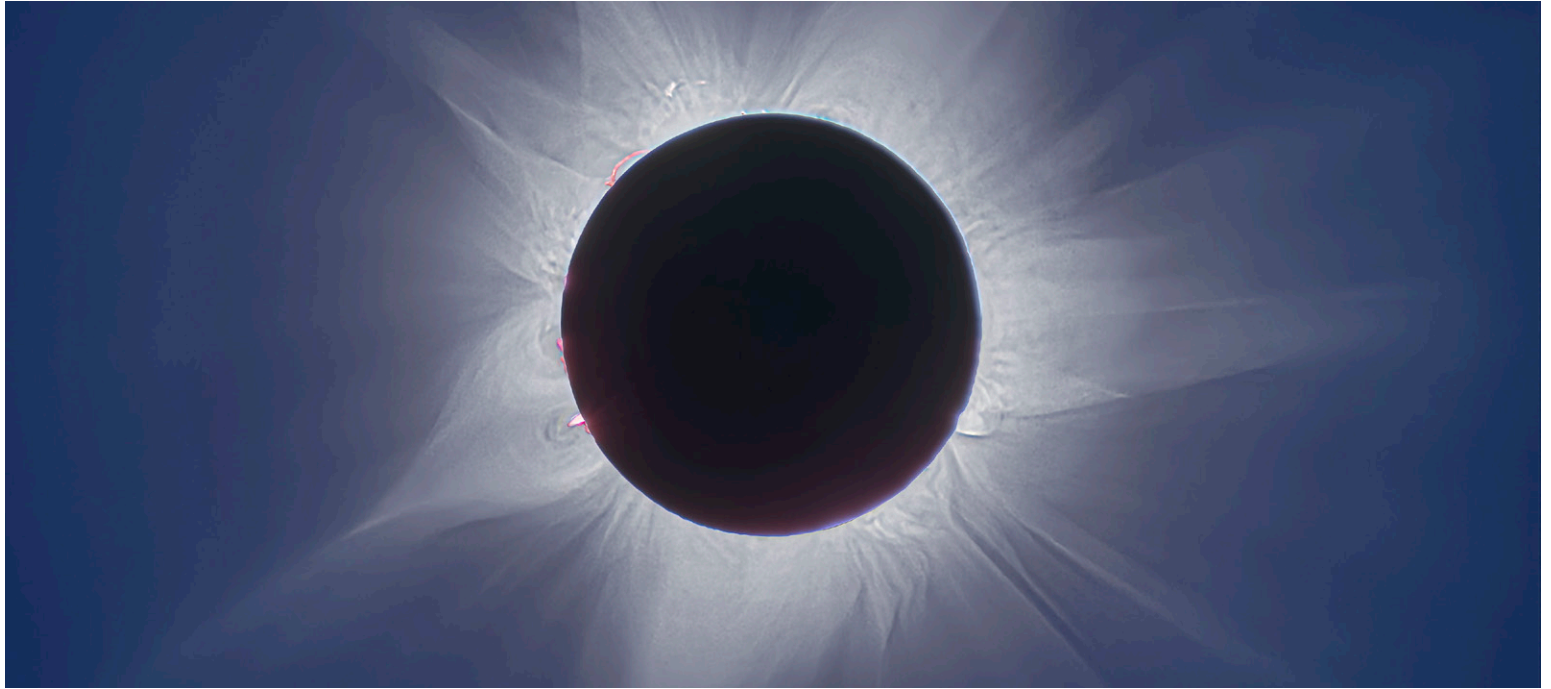
Umbral depth : 87.85% (113.1km)
 15.6km (9.7mi)
 Path width : 257.4km (159.9mi)
 Obscuration : 100.00%

6m 20.3s (total solar eclipse)
 6m 19.0s (lunar limb corrected)

Magnitude at maximum : 1.03472
 Moon/Sun size ratio : 1.07904
 Umbral vel. : 0.667km/s (1492 mph)

Event ($\Delta T=76.0s$)	Date	Time (UT)	Alt	Azi	P	V	LC
Start of partial eclipse (C1) :	2027/08/02	08:40:06.3	+70.8°	110.5°	303°	11.8	
Start of total eclipse (C2) :	2027/08/02	10:01:56.6	+81.9°	190.5°	132°	07.9	-0.7
Maximum eclipse (MAX) :	2027/08/02	10:05:06.9	+81.8°	195.8°	035°	11.3	
End of total eclipse (C3) :	2027/08/02	10:08:16.8	+81.5°	200.7°	298°	02.6	-2.0
End of partial eclipse (C4) :	2027/08/02	11:26:23.9	+67.5°	253.8°	125°	10.0	

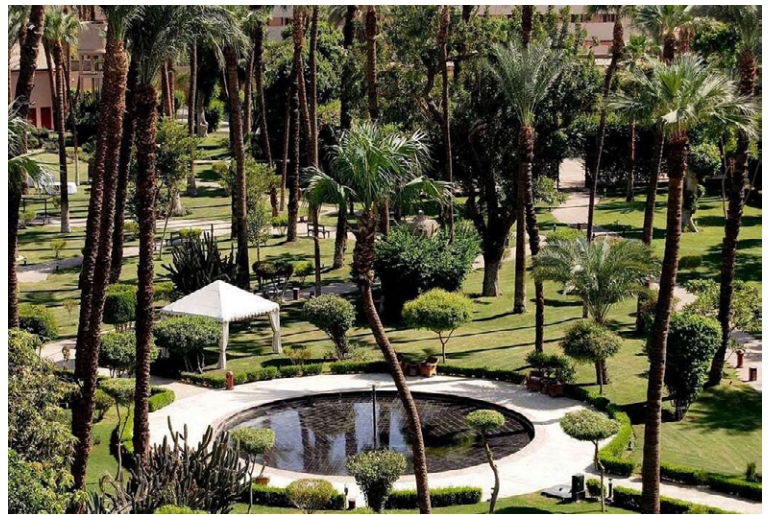
Duration of totality: 6 minutes, 19 seconds. Luxor is less than 0



one hour south (by air) of Cairo. Map made by Xavier M. Jubier.

Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 1** : Sofitel Winter Palace Garden





Eclipse Day *(...continued)* **OPTION 1** : Sofitel Winter Palace Garden



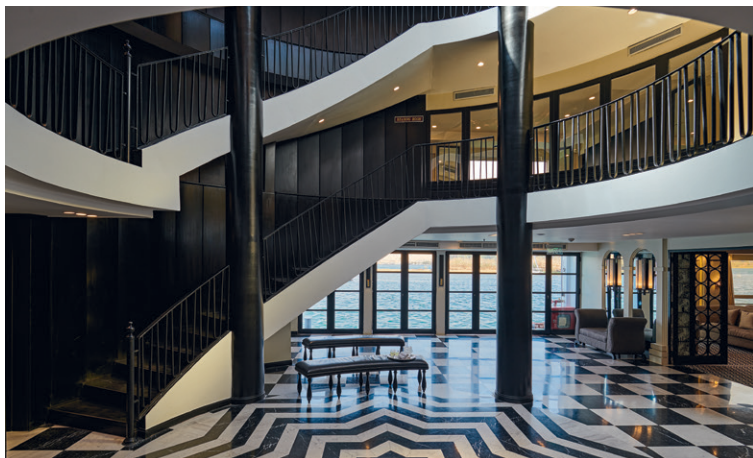


SOFITEL
LUXURY HOTELS

Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 2** : *ms Hamees*



(continued...)



MÖVENPICK
HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES

Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 3** : *ss Misr*

ss Misr



(continued...)

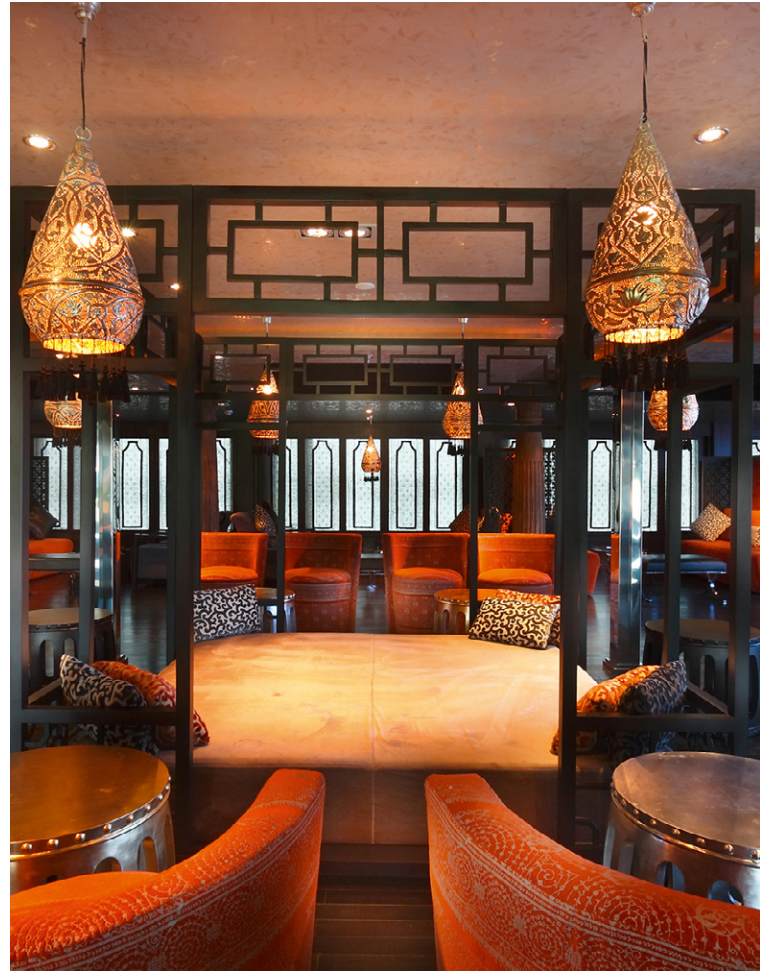


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HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES



Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 4** : *ms Darakum*

ms Darakum



MÖVENPICK
HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES

(continued...)



Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 5** : ss Sphinx

ss Sphinx

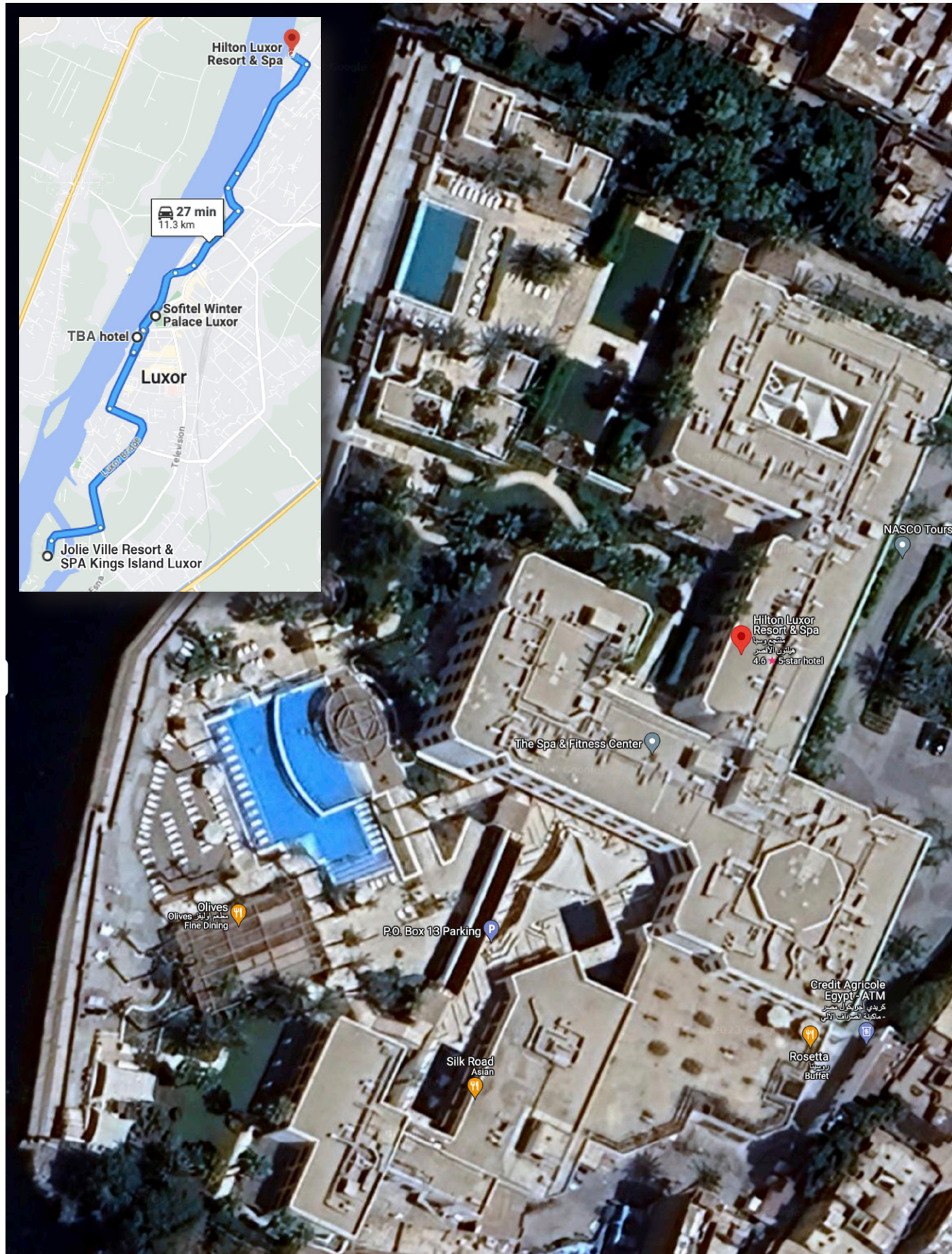
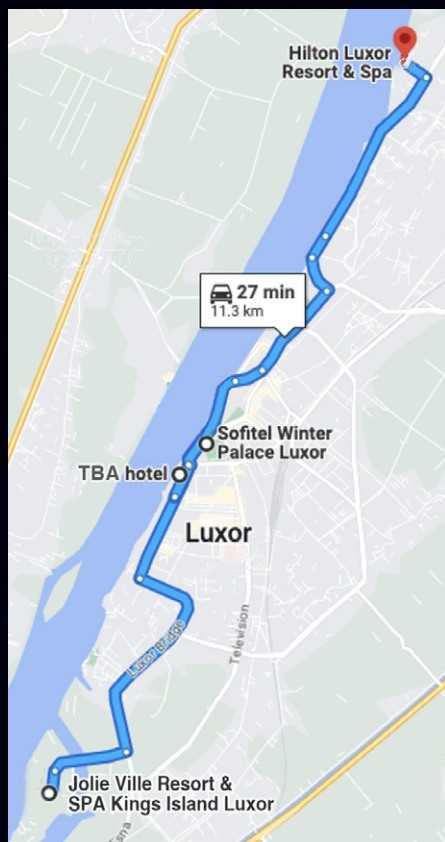


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UNIWORLD
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES

Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 6** : Hilton Spa & Resort



(continued...)



Eclipse Day (...continued) **OPTION 7** : Jolie Ville



jolie ville

HOTEL & SPA
KINGS ISLAND LUXOR



Eclipse Day *(...continued)* **OPTION 7** : Jolie Ville



(continued...)



Felucca Main Restaurant

Eclipse Day *(...continued)* **OPTION 7** : Jolie Ville



(continued...)



jolie ville

HOTEL & SPA
KINGS ISLAND LUXOR

Eclipse Day *(...continued)* **OPTION 7** : Jolie Ville



jolie ville

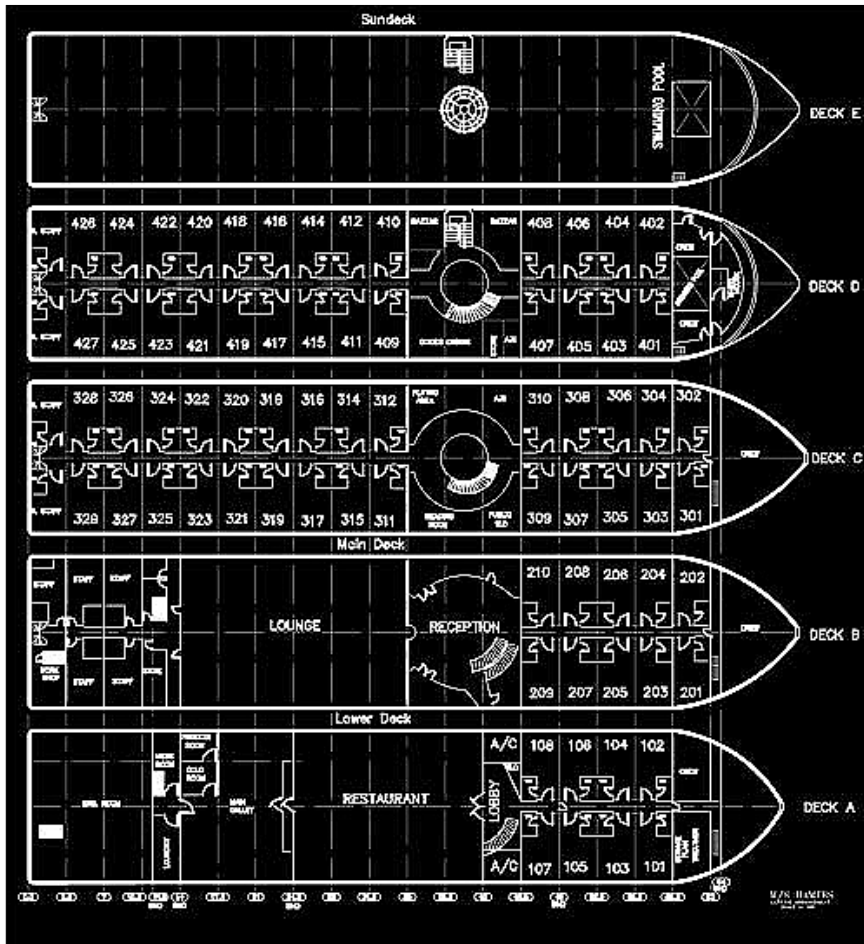
HOTEL & SPA
KINGS ISLAND LUXOR

(continued...)



OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON on the *ms DARAKUM* or on the *ms HAMEES*





ms Hamees deckplan

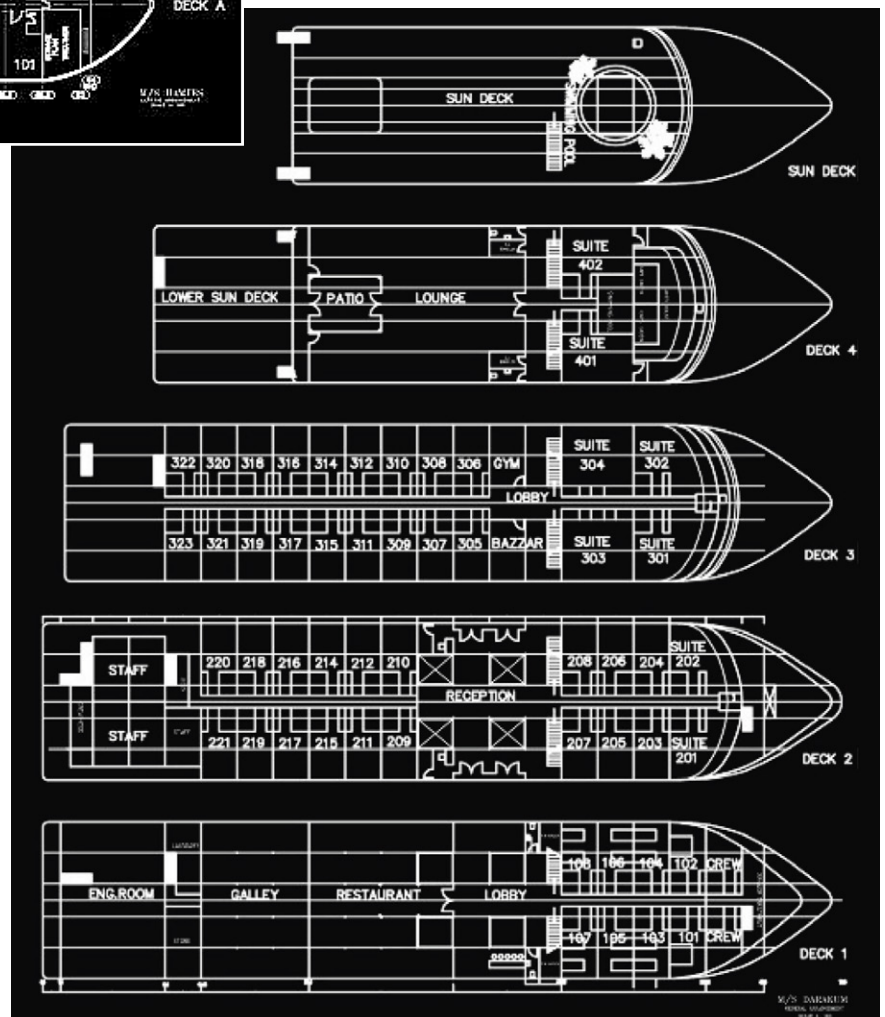


Join us August 3-11, 2027 for a 5-night Nile River cruise to Cairo and then **four (4) nights in Cairo** to experience the culture, archaeology, communities, and daily details that make Cairo the informal capital of the Arab world.

Cap your Luxor Eclipse adventure with a cruise north to Cairo where you'll spend *three full days* amidst the ancient treasures and modern bustle of the Cairo region. Visit the Pyramids at Giza and their ancestors at Saqqara; see Egypt's archaeological treasures in new and modernized comfortable settings.

Whether this is your first trip to Egypt or another chapter in your explorations as a confirmed Egypt buff, gain a sense of why ancient Egypt has such a powerful impact on the imagination through time.

ms Darakum deckplan



(...continued) **OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON** on the *ms DARAKUM*



ms Hamees



OVERVIEW AND PRICING (ms HAMEES)

Price is \$6,499 (Standard cabin) or \$6,999 (Superior cabin) per person (pp) for nine (9) nights onboard the *ms Hamees* (add 50% premium for singles – or share and pay no premium!). Nile River cruise package price includes: 5-night cruise to Cairo and then four (4) nights onboard the *Hamees* while docked in Cairo; all meals (breakfast only on day of departure); our **TOURING PACKAGE**; our **EXTENDED LECTURE SERIES** (three lecturers onboard delivering about a dozen talks/Q&As); entrance to all touring sites and museums with all transportation to/from our ships; and all taxes, fees, gratuities, and port charges. Add a drink package for \$315, which includes an open bar at our nine (9) 90-minute cocktail parties. **NOTE: Program is subject to change. There are only 70 cabins on the *Hamees*.**



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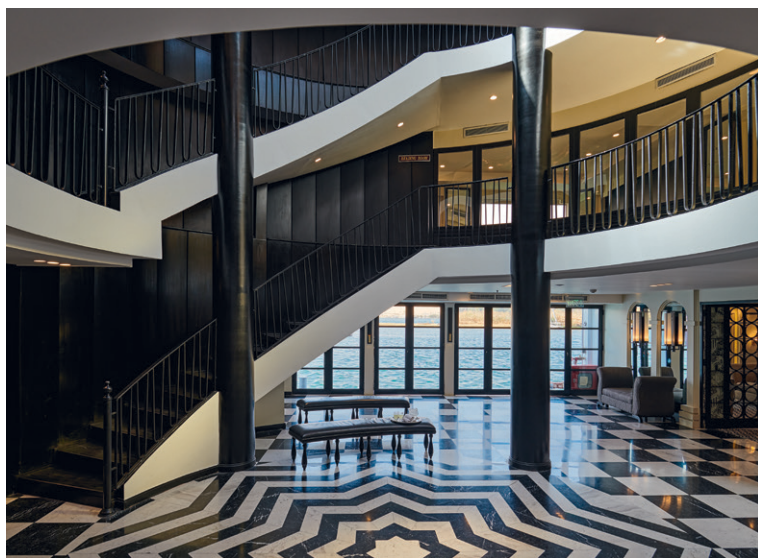


MÖVENPICK
HOTELS, RESORTS & CRUISES

or on the **ms HAMEES**, available with options

- 1
- 2
- 6
- 7

(continued...)



(...continued) **OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON** on the *ms DARAKUM*



OVERVIEW AND PRICING (*ms DARAKUM*)

Price is \$6,999 (Standard cabin) or \$9,999 (Panorama Suites) per person (pp) for nine (9) nights onboard the *ms Darakum* (add 50% premium for singles – or share and pay no premium!). Nile River cruise package price includes: 5-night cruise to Cairo and then four (4) nights onboard the *Darakum* while docked in Cairo; all meals (breakfast only on day of departure); our TOURING PACKAGE; our EXTENDED LECTURE SERIES (three lecturers onboard delivering about a dozen talks/Q&As); entrance to all touring sites and museums with all transportation to/from our ships; and all taxes, fees, gratuities, and port charges. Add a drink package for \$315, which includes an open bar at our nine (9) 90-minute cocktail parties. **NOTE: Program is subject to change. There are only 52 cabins on the *Darakum*.**



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OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON (...continued) **SPEAKERS:** on the m

DAY	ACTIVITY	ARRIVE	DEPART	NOTES
TUE., AUG 3	DAY 7 (CRUISE DAY 1): DENDERA		1pm	Lunch onboard
WED., AUG 4	DAY 8 (CRUISE DAY 2): ABYDOS	—	—	Visit the Temple of Seti I
THUR., AUG 5	DAY 9 (CRUISE DAY 3): AMARNA	—	—	Amarna Site Museum & Visitor Center
FRI., AUG 6	DAY 10 (CRUISE DAY 4): AMARNA & TUNA EL GEBEL	—	—	The Royal Tomb and the The Great Palace of Akhenaten, more
SAT., AUG 7	DAY 11 (CRUISE DAY 5): BENI HASSAN	—	—	Tomb of Khnumhotep II, more
SUN., AUG 8	DAY 12 (CRUISE DAY 6): ARRIVE CAIRO	1pm	—	Islamic Cairo
MON., AUG 9	DAY 13 (CRUISE DAY 7): DAY 2 IN CAIRO	—	—	The Great Pyramids, Sphinx, Saqqara
TUE., AUG 10	DAY 14 (CRUISE DAY 8): DAY 3 IN CAIRO	—	—	Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, more
WED., AUG 11	DAY 15 (CRUISE DAY 9): DAY 4 IN CAIRO	—	—	Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Cairo
THUR., AUG 12	DAY 16: DISEMBARK	9am		Fly home anytime



J. KELLY BEATTY



Kelly Beatty joined the staff of *Sky & Telescope* in 1974 and served as the editor of *Night Sky*, a spinoff magazine for beginning stargazers, in 2004–07. He retired from full-time work in 2018 but remains actively involved in many *Sky & Telescope* articles, tours, and other projects. Specializing in planetary science and space exploration, Kelly has been honored twice by the Division for Planetary

Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society. In 2005 he received the Harold Masursky Award for meritorious service, and in 2009 he was honored with the inaugural Jonathan Eberhart Journalism Award. He is also a recipient of the American Geophysical Union's Cowen Award for Sustained Achievement in Science Journalism (2009).

You'll occasionally hear his interviews and guest commentaries on The Weather Channel and National Public Radio, and his work has appeared in numerous other magazines, newspapers, and encyclopedias. In fact, Kelly enjoys speaking to audiences of all ages and interest levels about his passion for astronomy. He observes when he can through one of his eight telescopes, and he is active nationally in the fight against light pollution.

Kelly hails from Madera, California. He holds a Bachelors degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. During the 1980s he was among the first Western journalists to gain firsthand access to the Soviet space program. Asteroid 2925 Beatty was named on the occasion of his marriage in 1983, and in 1986 he was chosen one of the 100 semifinalists for NASA's Journalist in Space program.

JUAN ANTONIO BELMONTE, PH.D.



Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D. is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the "Carlos Jäschek" Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the *Journal*

for the *History of Astronomy*.

He is author or co-author or more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor or more than 20 books on these topics, among them *In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy* (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and *Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo* (2012, in Spanish); he is finishing, with José Lull, *Ancient Egyptian Astronomy: a Cultural Approach* (to be published by Springer in 2023).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the "Astronomy and World Heritage" initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 "World Heritage and Astronomy". A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.

DENISE M. DOXEY, PH.D.



Dr. Denise M. Doxey is an Egyptologist and Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Denise received her M.Phil. in Classical Archaeology from Oxford University and her Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania. Her teaching experience includes Egyptology courses at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. She

has participated in excavations in Egypt at the sites of Abydos and Saqqara. In addition to numerous articles, she is the author or co-author of five books, most recently *Arts of Ancient Nubia* and *Jewels of Ancient Nubia*. She is a sought after lecturer for both academic conferences and public lectures. Currently, she is Vice President of the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, the leading North American organization promoting research on Egyptian history and culture. She also serves on the Board of the International Council of Museum's International Committee for Egyptology.

In her more than 25 years as a museum professional, Dr. Doxey has overseen the renovation of galleries for Predynastic and Early Dynastic art, Old Kingdom art, and Middle Kingdom funerary art. She curated special exhibitions, including co-curating *Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC* and serving as curator for *Ancient Nubia Now*. She is currently the curator for an international traveling exhibition featuring art of Nubia.

OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON (...continued) TOURING PACKAGE, from

On your optional 9-night add-on cruise from Luxor to Cairo, you will visit the 11 sites below. These site visits, as well as all entrance fees, are **included** in your optional (post-eclipse) Cruise-to-Cairo add-on package. Two (2) of these sites require “**Special Access**” which we have secured.*



DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



ABYDOS — Examine the superb bas reliefs and Cosmology of Nut and walk among some of the earliest astronomically aligned buildings. We hope the ruins of what may be the world’s oldest brewery will be accessible on our visit, too.



ROYAL TOMB OF AKHENATEN — Akhenaten, one of the most famous of the Pharaohs, ordered: ‘Let my tomb be made for me in the eastern mountain.’

*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.

CO-PRODUCED BY:



— — — — —
[Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.]
— — — — —



TUNA EL GEBEL (Tomb of Petosiris) — See the god Thoth's many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You'll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god's responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you'll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories.



AMARNA (Royal Tomb, Palace, Temple of Aten, and more) — Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti's city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten's new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten's bold initiative.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION — Get the big picture of the world's oldest civilization at the NMEC. You can use its artifacts to chart the evolution of Egypt's culture through prehistoric, pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic, and Islamic eras. You'll have the opportunity to see the Royal Mummies Hall, resting place of 20 kings and queens of ancient Egypt's New Kingdom.

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OPTIONAL CRUISE-to-CAIRO ADD-ON (...continued) TOURING PACKAGE, from



GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX — Visit the Great Pyramid and its Old Kingdom royal kin, the only surviving members of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Getting your bearings on the Giza Plateau gives you a sense of the precision (achieved with astronomical skills) with which the Egyptians aligned the Pyramids to the cardinal directions and to symbolic topographic features.

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



BENI HASSAN (Tombs of Baquet III, Khety, Amenemhet, Khnumhotep) — Time travel to the Middle Kingdom period of Egyptian history at Beni Hassan where regional governors and military figures were buried. Gain a sense of ancient life in the desert, and see scenes of life in the provinces — hunting, wrestling, weaving, baking, fishing, and wine-making.

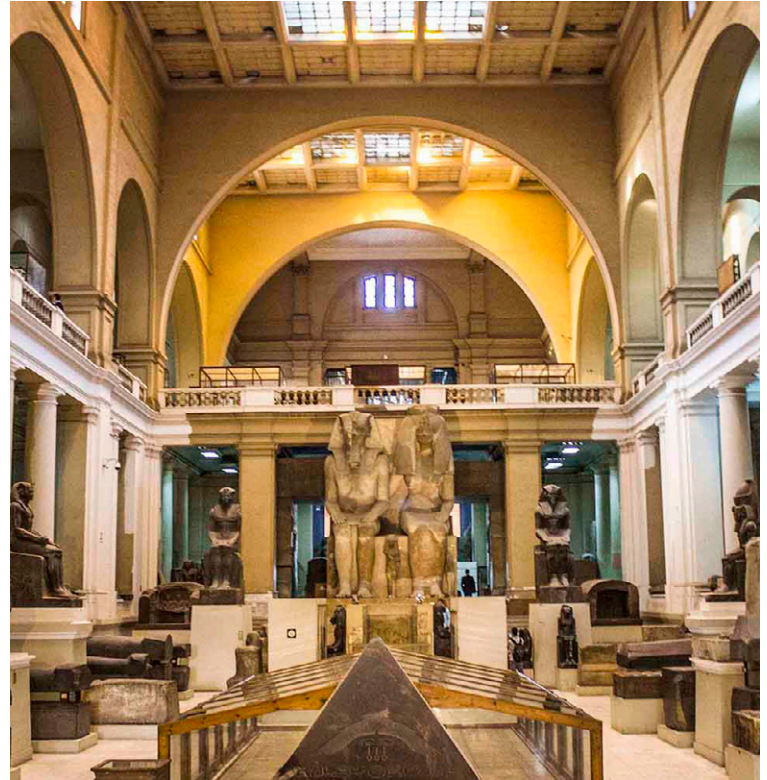


SAQQARA WITH PYRAMIDS OF DJOSER, UNAS (Special Access Visit), AND TETI; AND MASTABA OF TI (Special Access Visit) — Visit the ancestor of the Pyramids of Giza — the Step Pyramid complex of Djoser. Venture into the small Pyramid of Unas, and see the earliest known Pyramid Texts, spells guiding the pharaoh to the afterlife. The Pyramid of Teti offers you a written mention of Sirius, Orion, and the Big Dipper, solidifying your proof of the astronomical underpinnings of Giza and Saqqara.

CO-PRODUCED BY:



GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM) AT GIZA – GEM is home to 100,000+ artifacts of Egypt’s ancient history! Immerse yourself in the richness of Egyptian culture and put a memorable concluding chapter on your eclipse adventure.



EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AT TAHRIR SQUARE (aka Museum of Egyptian Antiquities) – A fabulous collection of antiquities focused on Ancient Egypt. Dedicated guides will curate our visit so you can be assured you have seen the most important artifacts.

In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPT

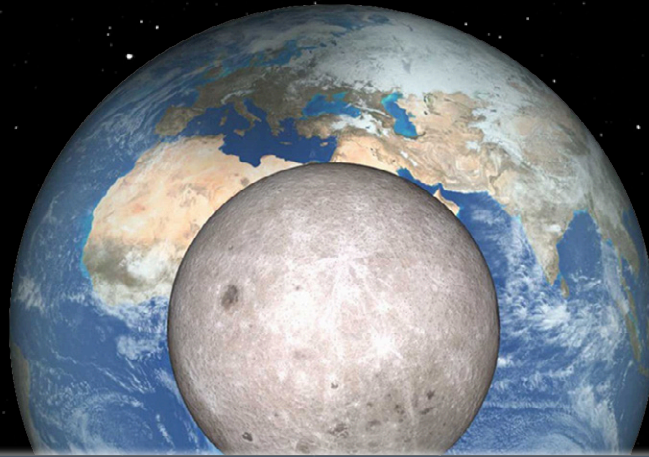


TION



OPTION

1



Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 28 – August 4, 2027

**SOFITEL
WINTER PALACE**

(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)

OPTION 1 Summary

(continued...)

Venue Name (code)	Sofitel Winter Palace (st19)
OPTION #	OPTION #1
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st19
Start	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2027
End	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2027
Total number of nights	7
Lodging or cruise fare (per night, based on dbl occ.), from	\$325
Max price (per night, double occupancy)	\$1,500
Cocktail party addon	\$245
Excursions addon	\$2,050
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	\$100
Conference addon	\$1,250
Gov't taxes and fees	\$365
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	\$40
Venue gratuities	\$175
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	\$580
Cairo package addon (available pre or post this OPTION)	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	\$6,499 - \$6,999
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights	Starts at \$325/night
Name of hotel for pre- and/or post hotel nights	Sofitel Winter Palace (Luxor, Egypt) or our Cairo hotel
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st19/pdf/st19_combined.pdf

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE



Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTION 1 Sofitel Winter Palace



(continued...)



OPTION 1 Sofitel Winter Palace (...continued)



(continued...)



OPTION 1 Sofitel Winter Palace (...continued)



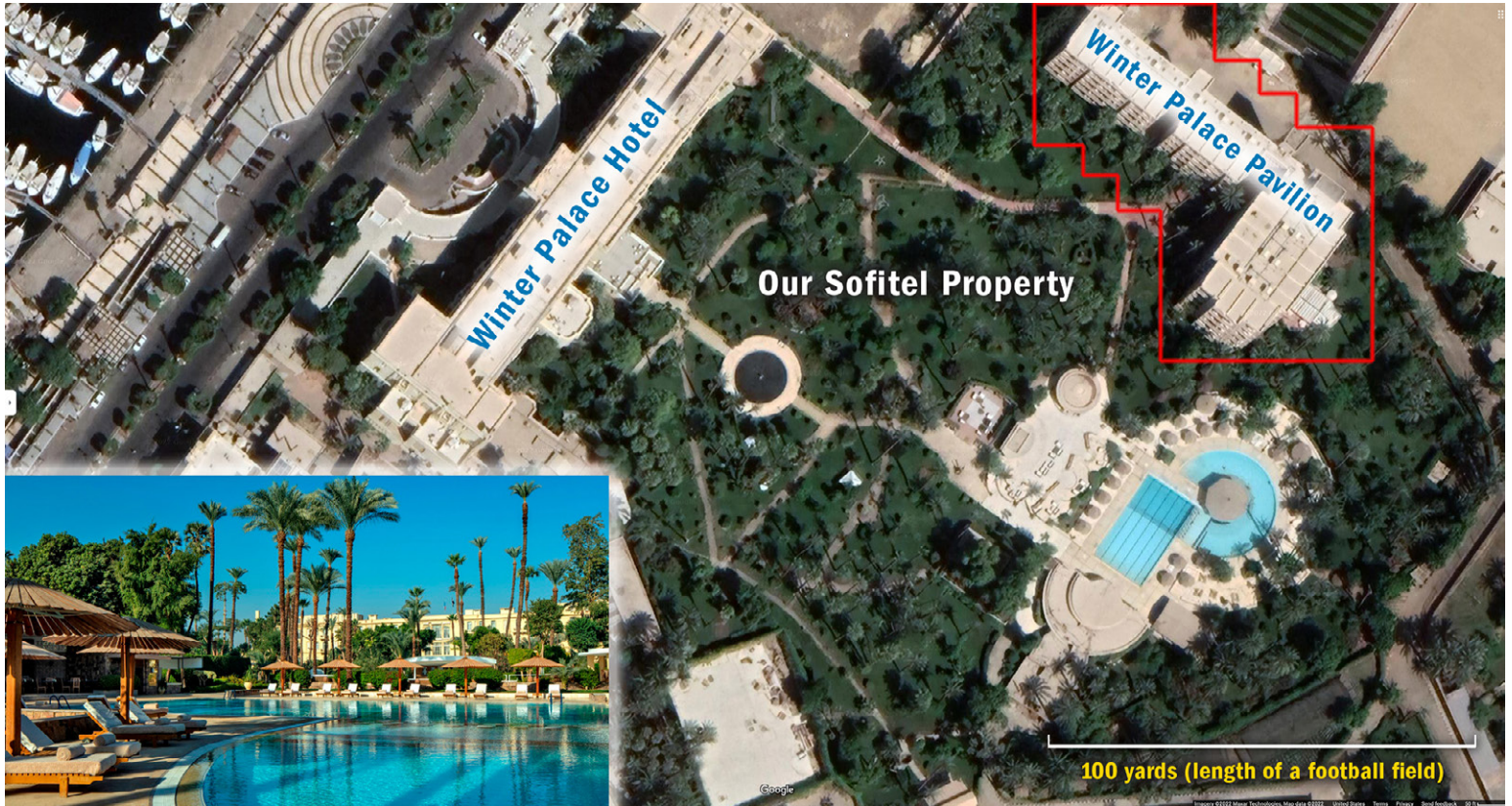
[CLICK HERE FOR
HOTEL INFO.](#)



(continued...)



OPTION 1 Sofitel Winter Palace (...continued), the PAVILION BUILDING





OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) ITINERARY

DAY	ACTIVITY	START	END	NOTES
WED., JULY 28	DAY 1: ARRIVE <u>LUXOR</u>	when you arrive!	9pm	L, Welcoming Reception, CP*, D provided
THUR., JULY 29	DAY 2: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>LUXOR TEMPLE</u>	9am	9pm	LECTURES: 11am – Noon & 1:30pm – 3pm B, L, CP*, D provided
FRI., JULY 30	DAY 3: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>VALLEY OF THE QUEENS, DEIR AL BAHIRI, & RAMESSEUM</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SAT., JULY 31	DAY 4: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>VALLEY OF THE KINGS, & KARNAK TEMPLE</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 1:30pm – 2:30pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SUN., AUG. 1	DAY 5: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>ESNA, KOM OMBO, & EDFU</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
MON., AUG. 2	DAY 6: <u>ECLIPSE</u> & <u>LECTURES</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
TUE., AUG. 3	DAY 7: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>DENDERA & LUXOR MUSEUM</u> or <u>JOIN US IN CAIRO</u> (optional Cairo extension starts August 3)	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, Farewell Reception, CP*, D provided
WED., AUG. 4	DAY 8: FLY HOME	8am	varies	B provided

Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.
LEGEND for NOTES: B - Breakfast L - Lunch *CP - Cocktail Party including open bar (add'l \$245 pp for all seven) D - Dinner
 Welcome/Farewell Receptions include beer, wine, and soft drinks

OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) Ancient Engineering LECTURES

OUR SPEAKER:



Stephen Ressler, Ph.D.

Stephen Ressler is Professor Emeritus at the United States Military Academy at West Point and a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

A registered Professional Engineer in Virginia, he earned a B.S. from West Point, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He served for 34 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired at the rank of Brigadier General in 2013. While on active duty, he served in a variety of military engineering assignments around the world. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan to create a civil engineering program for the newly created National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul.



Dr. Ressler is passionate about communicating the joys of engineering to inquiring minds of all ages. His three video lecture series – *Understanding the World's Greatest Structures*, *Understanding Greek and Roman Technology*, and *Everyday Engineering* – are among the most highly-rated offerings in The Great Courses' 600-course catalog. He served as an on-screen expert for the Discovery Channel documentary *Superweapons of the Ancient World: The Ram* and *Blink Films' The Real Trojan Horse*, which aired on PBS in 2015. His award-winning Bridge Designer software has been used by over two million middle-school and high-school students worldwide. He is also a developer and principal instructor for the ASCE Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Teaching Workshop, which has provided teacher training to more than 500 civil engineering faculty members from over 200 colleges and universities.

Dr. Ressler has received numerous national-level awards from the ASCE and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), including the 2011 ASCE Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award – the society's highest honor.

DR. RESSLER'S SEMINARS

- The Mystery of the Meidum Pyramid: Ancient Engineering Catastrophe
- The Great Pyramid of Giza: Engineering Marvel or Big Pile of Rocks?
- How They Built the Pyramids: Scholarship, Speculation, and Space Aliens
- Cities by Design: Ancient Urban Planning and the Making of Alexandria
- From Shaduf to Aqueduct: Water Supply in the Ancient World
- Astonishing Ancient Machines!
- Ancient Ships and Shipbuilding: A Technological High-Water Mark

OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) Ancient Egyptian Astro. LECTURES

OUR SPEAKER:



Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D.

Juan Antonio Belmonte is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the “Carlos Jaschek” Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*.

He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor of more than 20 books on these topics, among them

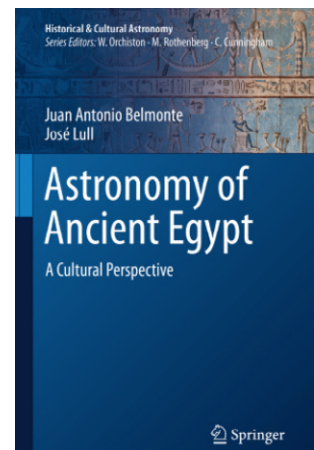
In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and *Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo* (2012, in Spanish). And just published in April of 2023, with José Lull, *Astronomy of Ancient Egypt: a Cultural Perspective* (click to download 50 excerpted pages).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the “Astronomy and World Heritage” initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 “World Heritage and Astronomy”. A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.

DR. BELMONT'S SEMINARS

- The At the Light of Ra: the Astral Deities of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- From Decans to Zodiacs, the Starry Skies of Ancient Egypt (2 hours)
- The Egyptian Calendar: a Gift of the Nile (2 hours)
- Light in the Temples: Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2 hours)
- The Astronomers of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- Astronomy at the Service of Ancient Egyptian Chronology (90 minutes)



OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) Egyptology LECTURES (continued...)

OUR SPEAKER:



Diana K. McDonald, Ph.D.

Diana McDonald is an art historian and lecturer specializing in Ancient Near Eastern Art, and Ancient American Art. She is retired from the History of Art Faculty of Boston

College, where she taught Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Greek art and archaeology, as well as Ancient American art.

Dr. McDonald started out as a 16 year-old intern in the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum, and subsequently worked in the Ancient Near Eastern and other departments at the Metropolitan. She wrote her undergraduate thesis at Harvard on Egyptian art: Theban Tomb Painting of the 18th Dynasty – and received her Harvard A.B. magna cum laude in the History of Art. She received her M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D from Columbia Universi-

ty, in Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, where she was a Presidential Scholar and taught Art and Humanities.

Dr. McDonald is a Great Courses Professor, the author and lecturer on the DVD *30 Masterpieces of the Ancient World*, and author of numerous articles. She is one of the authors of the books *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*, (Boston Museum of Fine Arts) and *The Looting of the Baghdad Museum*.

She received a Henry Luce Fellowship and worked at the National Museum in Jakarta, Indonesia. She also worked and lectured at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Arthur Sackler Collection, The Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and other venues.

She now lives in New Mexico, and lectures on Ancient Art, for Insight Cruises — for the New York Times, Scientific American, and Great Courses – and for the Albuquerque International Association.

Dr. McDonald is a Board Member of the The

Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund, a past judge for the National Endowment for the Humanities, current President of the Harvard and Columbia University Clubs of New Mexico, and formerly a member of the Collections Committee of the Harvard Art Museums. She has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Central and South America.

DR. McDONALD'S SEMINARS

- To come

OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) (...continued) Luxor Touring Package

Below is the list of the 17 sites you will visit, as part of the \$2,050 TOURING PACKAGE add-on, during your stay in Luxor. Four (4) of these sites require “Special Access” which we have secured.*



LUXOR TEMPLE — Get a concrete sense of the resilience of Egyptian culture at Luxor Temple. Fittingly for a symbol of rejuvenation, it has survived floods and foreign invasions to awe visitors with its ancient precision.

In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.



DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS — Celebrate fulfilled dreams of exploring pharaohs’ tombs, satisfied curiosity, and newly inspired avenues of archaeological inquiry once you trek through the renowned Valley of the Kings.

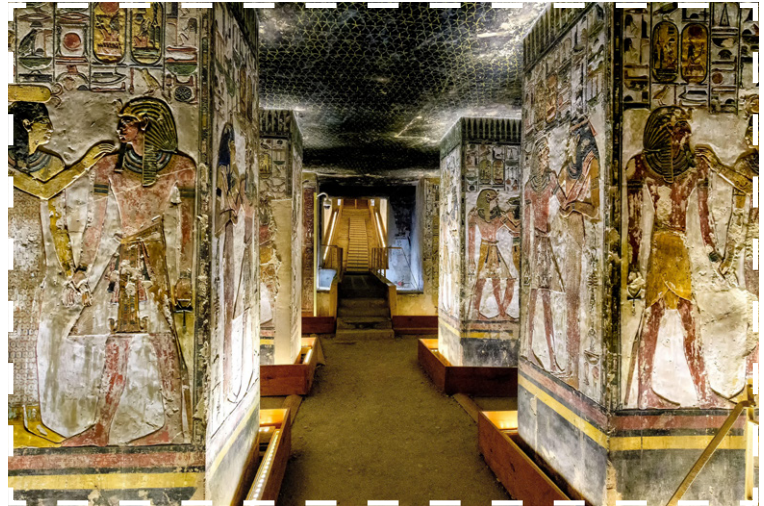


*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.



KING RAMSES V AND VI TOMBS (Special Access Visit) — Feast your eyes on two different copies of the Books of Day and Night, paintings of the sky goddess Nut, and the Egyptian astronomy how-to embodied in star clocks. Deepen your feel for the pharaohs' worldview with a study of ancient Egyptian rocket science.

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



KING SETI I TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Seti I's Tomb served as an inspiration for most later Egyptian tomb art. Its indelible celestial diagrams and stellar clocks will enrich your stargazing forever.



EDFU — It's easy for Edfu to blend in as yet another Egyptian site that checks many boxes: massive, pharaoh smiting the enemy on the facade, halls of columns, lots of side rooms. Dig in to Edfu a bit, and heighten the experience: the hall of twelve columns refers to the Book of the Underworld and the twelve hours of the night; ceilinged halls help you picture the building in use; the carving of "The Stretching of the Cord" unifies Egyptian astronomy and architecture. All this and more will give you a memorable sense of Edfu Temple as a working building, used by humans.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) Luxor Touring Package (...continued)



TOMB OF TAWSERT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Stepping into Tawsert and Setnakt's tomb is stepping on to the stage where rivalries and political feuds played out, religious traditions were ignored, and names and faces were covered over. The highlights of the visit are visual, though Tawsert's tomb has beautiful illustrations from ancient funerary literature and many striking depictions of the gods.



KING TUT TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Have you glimpsed King Tut's opulent burial goods in a documentary or at a museum? Now you can picture them together with the narrative paintings you see in Tut's burial chamber.



KARNAK TEMPLE — At least 30 Egyptian rulers from ~2,000BCE to ~300BCE built, modified, demolished, and moved parts of Karnak Temple. There's so much to see. Karnak can activate your mind's eye, too. Armed with Dr. Belmonte's archaeoastronomy tips, you can picture Karnak's orientation to the Winter Solstice, to the northern Milky Way, and to the topography around you.



ESNA — Venture into the entry hall of the Temple of Khnum, and see the vibrant results of its very recent restoration. The Temple was decorated during the Roman period circa 100-300 AD, which means that you'll be seeing the youngest/most recent body of Egyptian hieroglyphics known. It's the astronomical ceiling that brings us to Esna, with its unparalleled depiction of lunar phases, and a detailed stellar clock.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE **Insight Cruises**
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



KOM OMBO — The first rule of temples: Location, location, location. Kom Ombo lives in popular media as an elegant Graeco-Roman temple set on a high Nile embankment. You'll tune in to its nuances: depictions of the pharaoh boating in a marsh; an astronomical procession on the beams of the hall; and reliefs of (perhaps) early surgical instruments. Come for the photo op and take away glimmerings of early technology.



TOMB OF NAKHT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Even though not much is known about the 18th Dynasty priest Nakht, his tomb draws visitors with its detailed depictions of offerings and for paintings of fishing and fowling that are both realistic and imbued with symbolism.

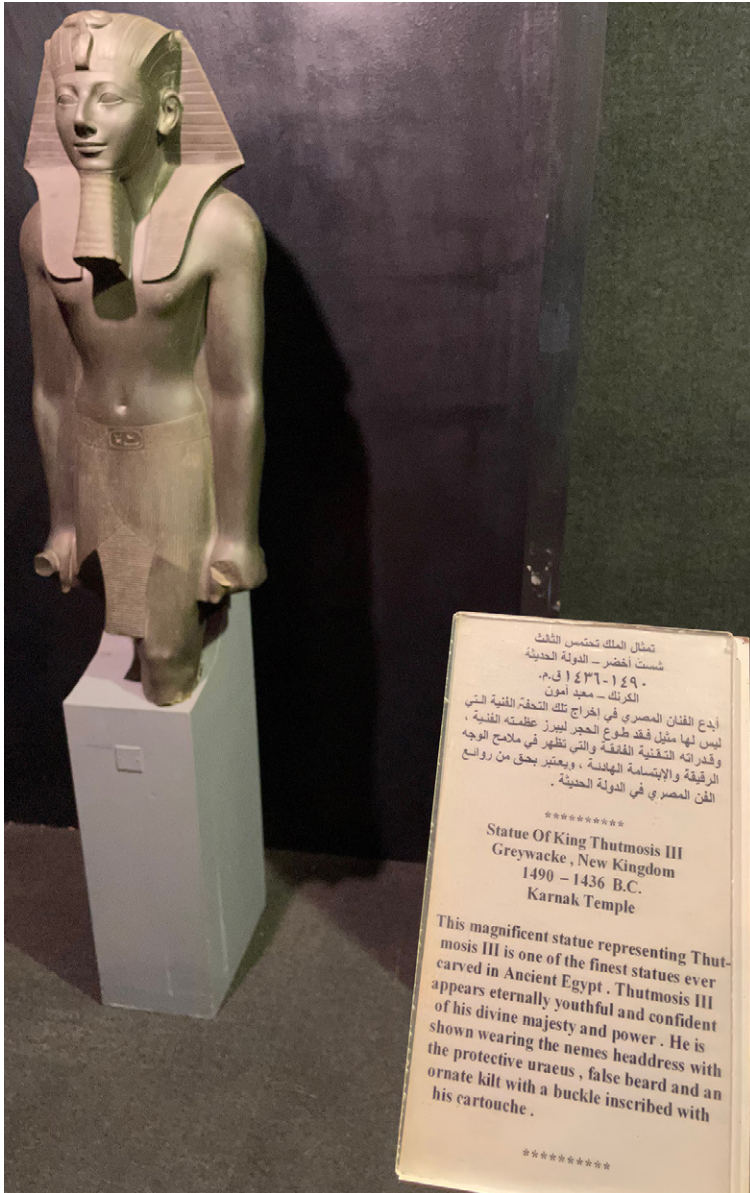


TOMB OF NEFERTARI (Special Access Visit) — We go to “The place of beauty”, Ta-Set-Neferu, to experience the rarely seen Tomb of Nefertari, often considered the most beautiful in Egypt. Its vivid colors and beautiful draftsmanship underpin its artistic appeal; astronomy buffs may find its theme of timelessness and eternity thought-provoking.



TOMB OF MENNA, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — A visit to the Tomb of Menna shows us how the elite of the 18th Dynasty lived. The tomb is known for its beautiful depictions of daily life and recreation. Many of the faces of Menna in the tomb's illustrations are defaced, perhaps showing us the long history of court rivalries. We owe Dr. Melinda Hartwig great thanks as she helmed the project that documented, conserved, protected, and published the archaeological riches of Menna's tomb.

OPTION 1 (2 6 & 7 also) Luxor Touring Package (...end)



LUXOR MUSEUM – This wonderful museum has a well-chosen and brilliantly displayed and explained collection of antiquities dating from the end of the Old Kingdom right through to the Mamluk period, mostly gathered from the Theban temples and necropolis. The ticket price puts off many, but entrance to this museum is included with your tour! This is one of the most rewarding sights in Luxor.



DEIR EL BAHIRI – The temple complex of Hatshepsut must be one of the most beautifully situated buildings anywhere. It was known as the “Sublime of the Sublimes” in ancient Egyptian. Explore its structure and you’ll get an organic sense that the temple is oriented to the winter solstice and The Temple of Amun (Hatshepsut’s claimed father) at Karnak.



RAMUSSEUM – Designed to remind all who behold it of the greatness of Egypt (and of the modest builder himself) the Ramessesum gives you a picture of the vast wealth Ramses II had. After sizing up the innumerable storehouses, you may be drawn to the astronomical ceiling of the Barque room in the temple, to see civil, religious, and lunar calendars so you sharpen your ancient Egyptian time-telling skills.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

Health and safety in Egypt regarding Insight Cruises' Egypt TOURING PACKAGES



We have a safety auditing process in place and, as a minimum, request that all of our suppliers comply with local health and safety regulations. In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we will visit.



We therefore ask that you take note of the safety and cautionary information provided below.

Eligibility

You must be in good health, free of infectious illness, and have a level of physical and mental fitness that would not impair other participants' enjoyment by slowing them down or by absorbing disproportionate attention from the tour leaders. Please read 'Fitness', below, and take the self-assessment tests described there; by signing the booking form you are stating that you have understood what we are asking of you and are fit to participate. If you have a medical condition or a disability which may affect your trip or necessitate special arrangements being made for you, please discuss this with us before booking; or, if a condition develops or changes subsequently, as soon as possible before departure. Our Egypt TOURING PACKAGES are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters, or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour it transpires, in the judgment of the tour leaders, that you are not able to cope, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

Fitness

With the exception of our museum visits, the land portions of our Egypt tours will be active. Walking, stair-climbing, extensive hill climbing, and standing around for 10-minute

periods are unavoidable aspects of tours in Egypt. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support, or lack stamina.

For example, in several of our site visits there is a lot of walking on dirt and/or poorly paved streets. On some paths you may need to scramble over large rocks and very uneven ground. Mostly, fortunately, it is just a case of walking from one place to another – and getting on and off a coach a few times a day.

Secondly, the tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else. We therefore ask that everyone wishing to join our Egyptian TOURING PACKAGES take the quick and simple self-assessment fitness tests described below.

If during the tour it transpires that you are not adequately fit, you may be asked by the tour manager to opt out of certain visits, or requested to leave the tour altogether. Each day's visits can vary in their physical demands.

Some of our site visits require walking (for an hour, to and from), through hilly and dry desert, and require a different scale of fitness and agility.

Fitness tests

1. Chair stands: Sit in a dining chair, with arms folded and hands on opposite shoulders. Stand up and sit down at six times in thirty seconds.

2. Step test: Mark a wall at a height that is halfway between your knee and your hip bone. Raise each knee in turn to the mark at least 30 times in two minutes.

3. Agility test: Place an object three yards from the edge of a chair, sit, and record the time it takes to stand up, walk to the object and sit back down. You should be able to do this, somewhat easily, in under 10 seconds.

An additional indication of the fitness is that you should be able to walk unaided at a pace of three miles per hour for at least half an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 20 minutes.

Middle Eastern Conflicts

In reference to recent developments between Israel and Gaza, it is imperative to acknowledge that this is not the first time such events have taken place -- and it is possible that they will occur again in the future. Egypt has traditionally played a crucial role in facilitating peace between the two parties. It is also worth pointing out that the distance from the Gaza border to Luxor is 400 miles.

Tourist Police

The police presence is all over Egypt, but especially in touristic areas. It is not uncommon to see police at almost every intersection in Cairo and other cities and there will be larger numbers of security personnel around certain institutions and important buildings. Nearly all of the police will be equipped with rifles. This might be an unusual sight in your home country, but in Egypt this is normal. It is not a reflection of any additional danger or instability. In fact, most Egyptians are glad to have the police back in the street in such numbers after they were largely absent in the year following the 2011 revolution (read more).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdel_Fattah_el-Sisi

At tourism sites you will find police officers with a special badge on their shoulders that says, "Tourism Police". These officers are designated specifically to make sure that visitors to Egypt are safe and as a convenience to tourists since they speak English. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to seek out the tourist police. You can be confident that the Egyptian tourist police will ensure your safety throughout your stay.

Booking detail

We reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.

OPT

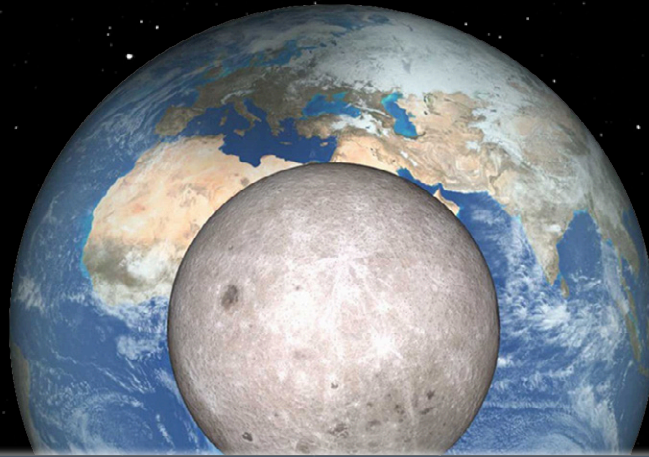


TION

2

OPTION

2



Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 28 – August 3, 2027

**ABOARD THE
*ms HAMEES***

(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)

OPTION 2 Summary

(continued...)

Venue Name (code)	ms Hamees (st20)
OPTION #	OPTION #2
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st20
Start	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2027
End	TUESDAY, AUGUST 3
Total number of nights	6
Lodging or cruise fare (based on dbl occ.), from ...	\$325/night
Max price (double occupancy)	\$325/night
Cocktail party addon	\$210
Excursions addon	\$2,050
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	\$100
Conference addon	\$1,250
Gov't taxes and fees	\$265
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	\$60
Venue gratuities	\$150
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	\$475
Cairo package addon (available pre or post this OPTION)	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	\$6,499 - \$6,999
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (incl. meals & transfers)	Starts at \$325/night
Name of hotel for pre- and/or post hotel nights	Sofitel Winter Palace (Luxor, Egypt) or our Cairo hotel
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st20/pdf/st20_combined.pdf

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE



Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTION 2 Aboard the *ms Hamees* (...continued)



(continued...)



OPTION 2 Aboard the *ms Hamees* (...continued)



CLICK HERE FOR CABIN & SHIP INFO. 

(continued...)



OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) ITINERARY

DAY	ACTIVITY	START	END	NOTES
WED., JUL. 28	DAY 1: ARRIVE <u>LUXOR</u> AND CHECK-IN ONBOARD the m.s. HAMEES	when you arrive!	9pm	L, Welcoming Reception, CP*, D provided
THUR., JUL. 29	DAY 2: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>LUXOR TEMPLE</u>	9am	9pm	LECTURES: 11am – Noon & 1:30pm – 3pm B, L, CP*, D provided
FRI., JUL. 30	DAY 3: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>VALLEY OF THE QUEENS, DEIR AL BAHIRI, & RAMESSEUM</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SAT., JUL. 31	DAY 4: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>VALLEY OF THE KINGS, & KARNAK TEMPLE</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 1:30pm – 2:30pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SUN., AUG. 1	DAY 5: <u>LECTURES</u> plus <u>ESNA, KOM OMBO, & EDFU</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
MON., AUG. 2	DAY 6: <u>ECLIPSE</u> & <u>LECTURES</u>	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
TUE., AUG. 3	DAY 7: bus to <u>DENDERA & THE LUXOR MUSEUM</u> or OPTIONAL <u>NILE RIVER CRUISE TO CAIRO</u> or <u>FLY HOME</u>	6am	9pm	B, L, CP*, D provided
WED., AUG. 4+	OPTIONAL DAY(S) ON YOUR OWN IN LUXOR	—	—	B, L, D provided

Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.
LEGEND for NOTES: B - Breakfast L - Lunch *CP - Cocktail Party including open bar (add'l \$210 pp for all six) D - Dinner
 Welcome/Farewell Receptions include beer, wine, and soft drinks

OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) Ancient Engineering LECTURES

OUR SPEAKER:



Stephen Ressler, Ph.D.

Stephen Ressler is Professor Emeritus at the United States Military Academy at West Point and a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

A registered Professional Engineer in Virginia, he earned a B.S. from West Point, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He served for 34 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired at the rank of Brigadier General in 2013. While on active duty, he served in a variety of military engineering assignments around the world. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan to create a civil engineering program for the newly created National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul.



Dr. Ressler is passionate about communicating the joys of engineering to inquiring minds of all ages. His three video lecture series – [Understanding the World's Greatest Structures](#), [Understanding Greek and Roman Technology](#), and [Everyday Engineering](#) – are among the most highly-rated offerings in The Great Courses' 600-course catalog. He served as an on-screen expert for the Discovery Channel documentary *Superweapons of the Ancient World: The Ram* and *Blink Films' The Real Trojan Horse*, which aired on PBS in 2015. His award-winning Bridge Designer software has been used by over two million middle-school and high-school students worldwide. He is also a developer and principal instructor for the ASCE Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Teaching Workshop, which has provided teacher training to more

than 500 civil engineering faculty members from over 200 colleges and universities.

Dr. Ressler has received numerous national-level awards from the ASCE and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), including the 2011 ASCE Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award – the society's highest honor.

DR. RESSLER'S SEMINARS

- The Mystery of the Meidum Pyramid: Ancient Engineering Catastrophe
- The Great Pyramid of Giza: Engineering Marvel or Big Pile of Rocks?
- How They Built the Pyramids: Scholarship, Speculation, and Space Aliens
- Cities by Design: Ancient Urban Planning and the Making of Alexandria
- From Shaduf to Aqueduct: Water Supply in the Ancient World
- Astonishing Ancient Machines!
- Ancient Ships and Shipbuilding: A Technological High-Water Mark

OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) Ancient Egyptian Astro. LECTURES

OUR SPEAKER:



Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D.

Juan Antonio Belmonte is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a

degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the “Carlos Jaschek” Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*.

He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor of more than 20 books on these topics, among them

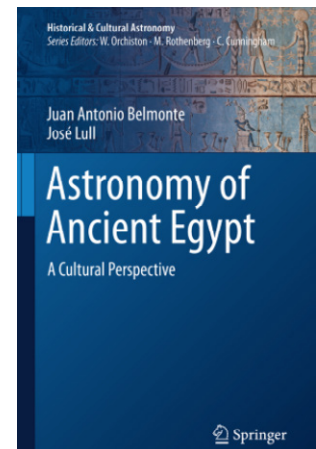
In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and *Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo* (2012, in Spanish). And just published in April of 2023, with José Lull, *Astronomy of Ancient Egypt: a Cultural Perspective* (click to download 50 excerpted pages).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the “Astronomy and World Heritage” initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 “World Heritage and Astronomy”. A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.

DR. BELMONT'S SEMINARS

- The At the Light of Ra: the Astral Deities of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- From Decans to Zodiacs, the Starry Skies of Ancient Egypt (2 hours)
- The Egyptian Calendar: a Gift of the Nile (2 hours)
- Light in the Temples: Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2 hours)
- The Astronomers of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- Astronomy at the Service of Ancient Egyptian Chronology (90 minutes)



OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) Egyptology LECTURES (continued...)

OUR SPEAKER:



Diana K. McDonald, Ph.D.

Diana McDonald is an art historian and lecturer specializing in Ancient Near Eastern Art, and Ancient American Art. She is retired from the History of Art Faculty of Boston

College, where she taught Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Greek art and archaeology, as well as Ancient American art.

Dr. McDonald started out as a 16 year-old intern in the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum, and subsequently worked in the Ancient Near Eastern and other departments at the Metropolitan. She wrote her undergraduate thesis at Harvard on Egyptian art: Theban Tomb Painting of the 18th Dynasty — and received her Harvard A.B. magna cum laude in the History of Art. She received her M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D from Columbia Universi-

ty, in Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, where she was a Presidential Scholar and taught Art and Humanities.

Dr. McDonald is a Great Courses Professor, the author and lecturer on the DVD *30 Masterpieces of the Ancient World*, and author of numerous articles. She is one of the authors of the books *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*, (Boston Museum of Fine Arts) and *The Looting of the Baghdad Museum*.

She received a Henry Luce Fellowship and worked at the National Museum in Jakarta, Indonesia. She also worked and lectured at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Arthur Sackler Collection, The Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and other venues.

She now lives in New Mexico, and lectures on Ancient Art, for Insight Cruises — for the New York Times, Scientific American, and Great Courses — and for the Albuquerque International Association.

Dr. McDonald is a Board Member of the The

Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund, a past judge for the National Endowment for the Humanities, current President of the Harvard and Columbia University Clubs of New Mexico, and formerly a member of the Collections Committee of the Harvard Art Museums. She has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Central and South America.

DR. McDONALD'S SEMINARS

- To come

OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) Luxor Touring Package (...continued)

Below is the list of the 17 sites you will visit, as part of the \$2,050 TOURING PACKAGE add-on, during your stay in Luxor. Four (4) of these sites require “Special Access” which we have secured.*



LUXOR TEMPLE — Get a concrete sense of the resilience of Egyptian culture at Luxor Temple. Fittingly for a symbol of rejuvenation, it has survived floods and foreign invasions to awe visitors with its ancient precision.

In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.



DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS — Celebrate fulfilled dreams of exploring pharaohs’ tombs, satisfied curiosity, and newly inspired avenues of archaeological inquiry once you trek through the renowned Valley of the Kings.



*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.

OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) Luxor Touring Package (...continued)



TOMB OF TAWSERT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Stepping into Tawsert and Setnakt's tomb is stepping on to the stage where rivalries and political feuds played out, religious traditions were ignored, and names and faces were covered over. The highlights of the visit are visual, though Tawsert's tomb has beautiful illustrations from ancient funerary literature and many striking depictions of the gods.



KING TUT TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Have you glimpsed King Tut's opulent burial goods in a documentary or at a museum? Now you can picture them together with the narrative paintings you see in Tut's burial chamber.



KARNAK TEMPLE — At least 30 Egyptian rulers from ~2,000BCE to ~300BCE built, modified, demolished, and moved parts of Karnak Temple. There's so much to see. Karnak can activate your mind's eye, too. Armed with Dr. Belmonte's archaeoastronomy tips, you can picture Karnak's orientation to the Winter Solstice, to the northern Milky Way, and to the topography around you.



ESNA — Venture into the entry hall of the Temple of Khnum, and see the vibrant results of its very recent restoration. The Temple was decorated during the Roman period circa 100-300 AD, which means that you'll be seeing the youngest/most recent body of Egyptian hieroglyphics known. It's the astronomical ceiling that brings us to Esna, with its unparalleled depiction of lunar phases, and a detailed stellar clock.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE **Insight Cruises**
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



KOM OMBO — The first rule of temples: Location, location, location. Kom Ombo lives in popular media as an elegant Graeco-Roman temple set on a high Nile embankment. You'll tune in to its nuances: depictions of the pharaoh boating in a marsh; an astronomical procession on the beams of the hall; and reliefs of (perhaps) early surgical instruments. Come for the photo op and take away glimmerings of early technology.



TOMB OF NAKHT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Even though not much is known about the 18th Dynasty priest Nakht, his tomb draws visitors with its detailed depictions of offerings and for paintings of fishing and fowling that are both realistic and imbued with symbolism.

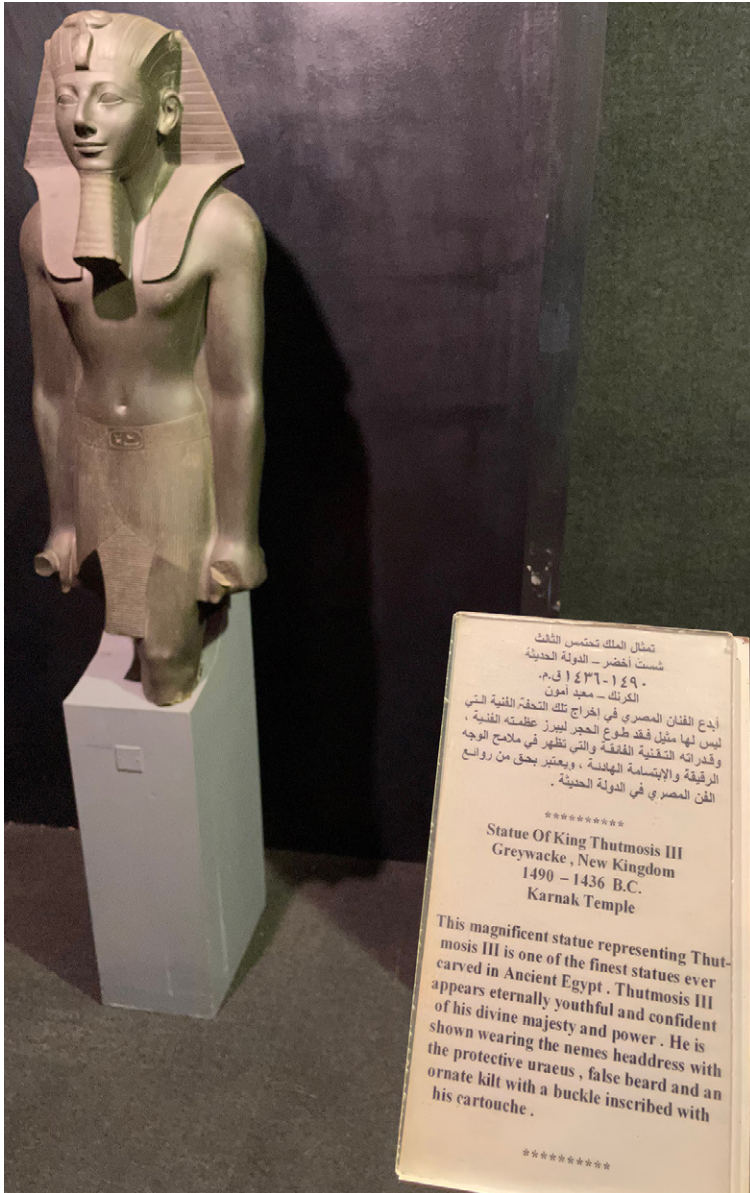


TOMB OF NEFERTARI (Special Access Visit) — We go to “The place of beauty”, Ta-Set-Neferu, to experience the rarely seen Tomb of Nefertari, often considered the most beautiful in Egypt. Its vivid colors and beautiful draftsmanship underpin its artistic appeal; astronomy buffs may find its theme of timelessness and eternity thought-provoking.



TOMB OF MENNA, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — A visit to the Tomb of Menna shows us how the elite of the 18th Dynasty lived. The tomb is known for its beautiful depictions of daily life and recreation. Many of the faces of Menna in the tomb's illustrations are defaced, perhaps showing us the long history of court rivalries. We owe Dr. Melinda Hartwig great thanks as she helmed the project that documented, conserved, protected, and published the archaeological riches of Menna's tomb.

OPTION 2 (1 6 & 7 also) Luxor Touring Package (...end)



LUXOR MUSEUM — This wonderful museum has a well-chosen and brilliantly displayed and explained collection of antiquities dating from the end of the Old Kingdom right through to the Mamluk period, mostly gathered from the Theban temples and necropolis. The ticket price puts off many, but entrance to this museum is included with your tour! This is one of the most rewarding sights in Luxor.



DEIR EL BAHIRI — The temple complex of Hatshepsut must be one of the most beautifully situated buildings anywhere. It was known as the “Sublime of the Sublimes” in ancient Egyptian. Explore its structure and you’ll get an organic sense that the temple is oriented to the winter solstice and The Temple of Amun (Hatshepsut’s claimed father) at Karnak.



RAMUSSEUM — Designed to remind all who behold it of the greatness of Egypt (and of the modest builder himself) the Ramessesum gives you a picture of the vast wealth Ramses II had. After sizing up the innumerable storehouses, you may be drawn to the astronomical ceiling of the Barque room in the temple, to see civil, religious, and lunar calendars so you sharpen your ancient Egyptian time-telling skills.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.

Health and safety in Egypt regarding Insight Cruises' Egypt TOURING PACKAGES



We have a safety auditing process in place and, as a minimum, request that all of our suppliers comply with local health and safety regulations. In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we will visit.



We therefore ask that you take note of the safety and cautionary information provided below.

Eligibility

You must be in good health, free of infectious illness, and have a level of physical and mental fitness that would not impair other participants' enjoyment by slowing them down or by absorbing disproportionate attention from the tour leaders. Please read 'Fitness', below, and take the self-assessment tests described there; by signing the booking form you are stating that you have understood what we are asking of you and are fit to participate. If you have a medical condition or a disability which may affect your trip or necessitate special arrangements being made for you, please discuss this with us before booking; or, if a condition develops or changes subsequently, as soon as possible before departure. Our Egypt TOURING PACKAGES are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters, or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour it transpires, in the judgment of the tour leaders, that you are not able to cope, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

Fitness

With the exception of our museum visits, the land portions of our Egypt tours will be active. Walking, stair-climbing, extensive hill climbing, and standing around for 10-minute

periods are unavoidable aspects of tours in Egypt. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support, or lack stamina.

For example, in several of our site visits there is a lot of walking on dirt and/or poorly paved streets. On some paths you may need to scramble over large rocks and very uneven ground. Mostly, fortunately, it is just a case of walking from one place to another – and getting on and off a coach a few times a day.

Secondly, the tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else. We therefore ask that everyone wishing to join our Egyptian TOURING PACKAGES take the quick and simple self-assessment fitness tests described below.

If during the tour it transpires that you are not adequately fit, you may be asked by the tour manager to opt out of certain visits, or requested to leave the tour altogether. Each day's visits can vary in their physical demands.

Some of our site visits require walking (for an hour, to and from), through hilly and dry desert, and require a different scale of fitness and agility.

Fitness tests

1. Chair stands: Sit in a dining chair, with arms folded and hands on opposite shoulders. Stand up and sit down at six times in thirty seconds.

2. Step test: Mark a wall at a height that is halfway between your knee and your hip bone. Raise each knee in turn to the mark at least 30 times in two minutes.

3. Agility test: Place an object three yards from the edge of a chair, sit, and record the time it takes to stand up, walk to the object and sit back down. You should be able to do this, somewhat easily, in under 10 seconds.

An additional indication of the fitness is that you should be able to walk unaided at a pace of three miles per hour for at least half an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 20 minutes.

Middle Eastern Conflicts

In reference to recent developments between Israel and Gaza, it is imperative to acknowledge that this is not the first time such events have taken place -- and it is possible that they will occur again in the future. Egypt has traditionally played a crucial role in facilitating peace between the two parties. It is also worth pointing out that the distance from the Gaza border to Luxor is 400 miles.

Tourist Police

The police presence is all over Egypt, but especially in touristic areas. It is not uncommon to see police at almost every intersection in Cairo and other cities and there will be larger numbers of security personnel around certain institutions and important buildings. Nearly all of the police will be equipped with rifles. This might be an unusual sight in your home country, but in Egypt this is normal. It is not a reflection of any additional danger or instability. In fact, most Egyptians are glad to have the police back in the street in such numbers after they were largely absent in the year following the 2011 revolution (read more).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdel_Fattah_el-Sisi

At tourism sites you will find police officers with a special badge on their shoulders that says, "Tourism Police". These officers are designated specifically to make sure that visitors to Egypt are safe and as a convenience to tourists since they speak English. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to seek out the tourist police. You can be confident that the Egyptian tourist police will ensure your safety throughout your stay.

Booking detail

We reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.

OPT

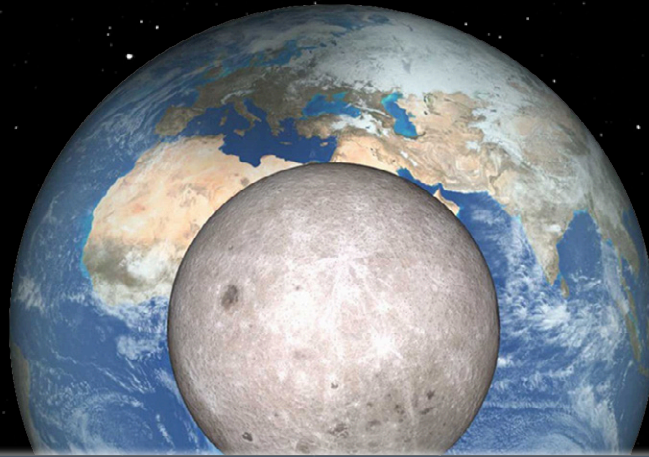
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OPTION

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Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 27 – August 13, 2027

**17-NIGHT NILE
RIVER CRUISE**

(from Aswan to Cairo)

Aboard the *ss Misr*

OPTION 3 Summary

Venue Name (code)	ss Misr (st21)
OPTION #	OPTION #3
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st21
Start	TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2027
End	FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023
Total number of nights	17
Lodging or cruise fare (based on dbl occ.), from	\$645/night
Max price (double occupancy)	\$1,175/night
Cocktail party addon	\$490
Excursions addon	\$3,850
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	incl.
Conference addon	\$1,750
Gov't taxes and fees	incl.
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	incl.
Venue gratuities	incl.
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	incl.
Cairo package addon	incl.
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	incl.
Add'l pre-hotel nights costs (incl. meals & transfers)	2 nights incl.; add'l nights inquire
Name of hotel for pre-hotel nights	The Old Cataract Hotel (Aswan, Egypt)
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st21/pdf/st21_combined.pdf

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE



Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTIONS 3 & 5 Nile River Cruise Map



CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPTIONS 3 & 5 Egyptology Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Melinda Hartwig, Ph.D.

Dr. Melinda Hartwig is an Egyptologist and a Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. She has

a distinguished teaching career as a Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology at Georgia State University and as a Visiting Professor at American University in Cairo. Dr. Hartwig holds a Ph.D. in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Art and Archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. Her expertise is recognized internationally and she has numerous books and articles to her credit, including, [Tomb Painting and Identity in Ancient Thebes](#) (2004) and [The Tomb Chapel of Menna](#) (2013). Her book, [A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art](#) (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014),

received the 2016 PROSE award. Dr. Hartwig is past president of the Board of Governors of the [American Research Center in Egypt](#) (ARCE), the leading North American nonprofit organization that supports research on Egyptian history and culture. She is also a member of the AIA, IAE, AAM, ICOM, and CIPEG.

Melinda has actively worked in Egypt since 1983, directing conservation and documentation projects in Theban tombs, and received numerous awards to further her work. Dr. Hartwig lectures around the world and is a frequent on-air expert for television programs and documentaries on ancient Egypt, including those for the BBC, Discovery Channel, the National Geographic Channel, PBS, the Science Channel, the Smithsonian Channel, and the Travel Channel. Recently, she completed a video course [The Great Tours: A Guided Tour of Ancient Egypt](#) for The Great Courses/Wondrium. She is currently planning a major exhibition for Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum in 2023 entitled, "Life and the Afterlife: Ancient Egyptian from the Senusret Collection."



DR. HARTWIG'S SEMINARS

Melinda Hartwig, Ph.D. will deliver ten (10) one-hour talks. In addition, you will be able to attend the majority of the 12 talks given by Drs. Jennifer and Josef Wegner on the *ms Sphinx*, sailing along side us for our entire trip. Our speaker program is subject to change. Speakers have confirmed their intent to participate; however, scheduling conflicts may arise. This optional conference program is \$1,750 pp.

OPTIONS 3 & 5 Egyptology Lectures

OUR SPEAKERS:



Jennifer Houser Wegner, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Houser Wegner is Associate Curator in the Egyptian Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, as well as Adjunct Professor of

Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania. Jennifer received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 and her Ph.D. from Yale University in 2001, and has worked extensively in Egypt, at the sites of Giza, Saqqara, Deir el-Bersheh, and Abydos since the 1990s. Her research specialty is Demotic language and literature, but she has published on many other topics. She is author and co-author of: [Akhenaten and Tutankhamun, Revolution and Restoration](#) (2007); [The Sphinx that Traveled to Philadelphia: the Story of the Colossal Sphinx of Ramses the Great in the Penn Museum](#) (2015); and co-editor (with Z. Hawass), [Millions of Jubilees, Studies in Honor of David Silverman](#) (2010). Jennifer is lead curator of the new galleries devoted to funerary traditions to open in the Penn Museum in 2024. With her husband, Dr. Josef Wegner, Jennifer has been a featured speaker on many tours to Egypt.



Professor Josef Wegner

Dr. Josef Wegner is Professor of Egyptian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also Curator

in the Egyptian Section of the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Dr. Wegner's has excavated in Egypt since the 1990s. His primary work is at the site of Abydos where he has been excavating the funerary complex of the 12th Dynasty pharaoh Senwosret III. Although he specializes in the archaeology of the Middle Kingdom, he has published widely in the history and archaeology of ancient Egypt and Nubia. Dr. Wegner's most recent books are: [The Sphinx that Traveled to Philadelphia: the Story of the Colossal Sphinx of Ramses the Great in the Penn Museum](#) (2015); and [The Sunshade Chapel of Princess Meritaten from the Per-Waenre of Pharaoh Akhenaten](#) (2016); [King Seneb-Kay's Tomb and the Necropolis of a Lost Dynasty at Abydos](#) (2021). Dr. Wegner has been a featured speaker in many television documentaries including, most recently, *Murdered Pharaoh* (Smithsonian Channel), discussing

the discovery of the tomb of King Seneb-Kay at Abydos. With his wife, Dr. Jennifer Houser Wegner, Josef has been a speaker on many tours to Egypt.

DRS. WEGNERS' SEMINARS

Drs. Wegner will each deliver six (6) one-hour talks – for a total of 12 talks. In addition, you will be able to attend the majority of the 10 talks given by Dr. Melinda Hartwig on the *ss Misr*, sailing along side us for our entire trip.

Our speaker program is subject to change. Speakers have confirmed their intent to participate; however, scheduling conflicts may arise. This optional conference program is \$1,750 pp.

OPTION 3 Aboard the *ss Misr*



(continued...)



OPTION 3 Aboard the *ss Misr* (...continued)



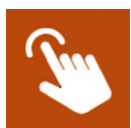
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OPTION 3 Aboard the *ss Misr* (...continued)



**CLICK HERE FOR
CABIN & SHIP INFO.**



(continued...)



OPTION 3 Aboard the ss *Misir*: Incl. with this package are two nights, pre



WHERE HERITAGE MEETS MODERNITY

“Your sojourn leads you to the gates of Egypt. The warmth of the Nubian Desert presses against your skin as you behold the majestic Nile. A 19th-century Victorian palace rises from a ledge of pink granite. Welcome to the Sofitel legend, Old Cataract Aswan.”

— *Selim Shawer, Hotel Manager*

Step into the legendary site where King Fouad once entertained and Agatha Christie sipped cocktails: the 5-star [Old Cataract Aswan Hotel](#). [Located](#) in the Nubian Desert on the banks of the Nile, opposite Elephantine Island, the majestic hotel sits on a pink granite cliff overlooking the

world’s longest river. This ravishing hotel with its legendary guest list of royals* and dignitaries is ideal for romantic getaways.

If you can tear yourself away from the beauty of the magnificent Old Cataract, a world of fascination awaits you. Elephantine Island and the Aswan Museum are at your feet. Aswan city center is a stroll away. Other attractions to tempt you during your stay: the Nubian Museum, the Philae Temple, the Unfinished Obelisk ... then return to indulge in French and Egyptian cuisine and wines.

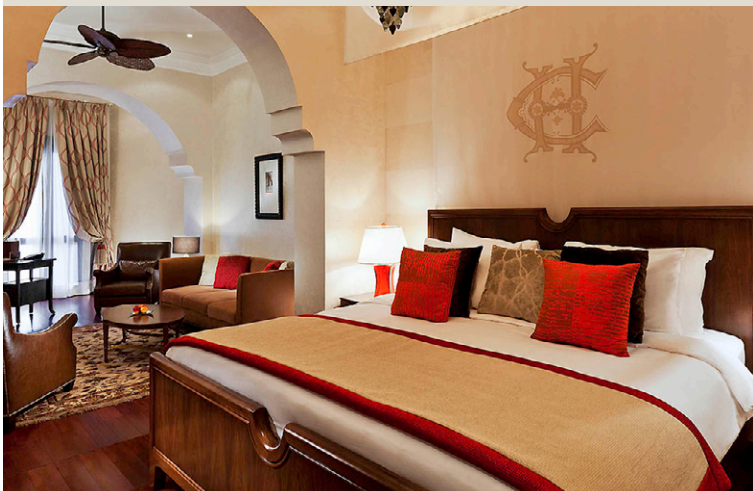
*Former guests of the [Old Cataract](#) include: Tsar Nichols, Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Jimmy Carter, François Mitterand, Princess Diana, Queen Noor, and Agatha Christie.

-cruise, at **THE OLD CATARACT ASWAN HOTEL, a Sofitel Legend**

(continued...)



OPTION 3 (...continued) **Aboard the ss Misr:** Incl. with this package are two nights





OPTIONS 3 & 5 Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Touring Package

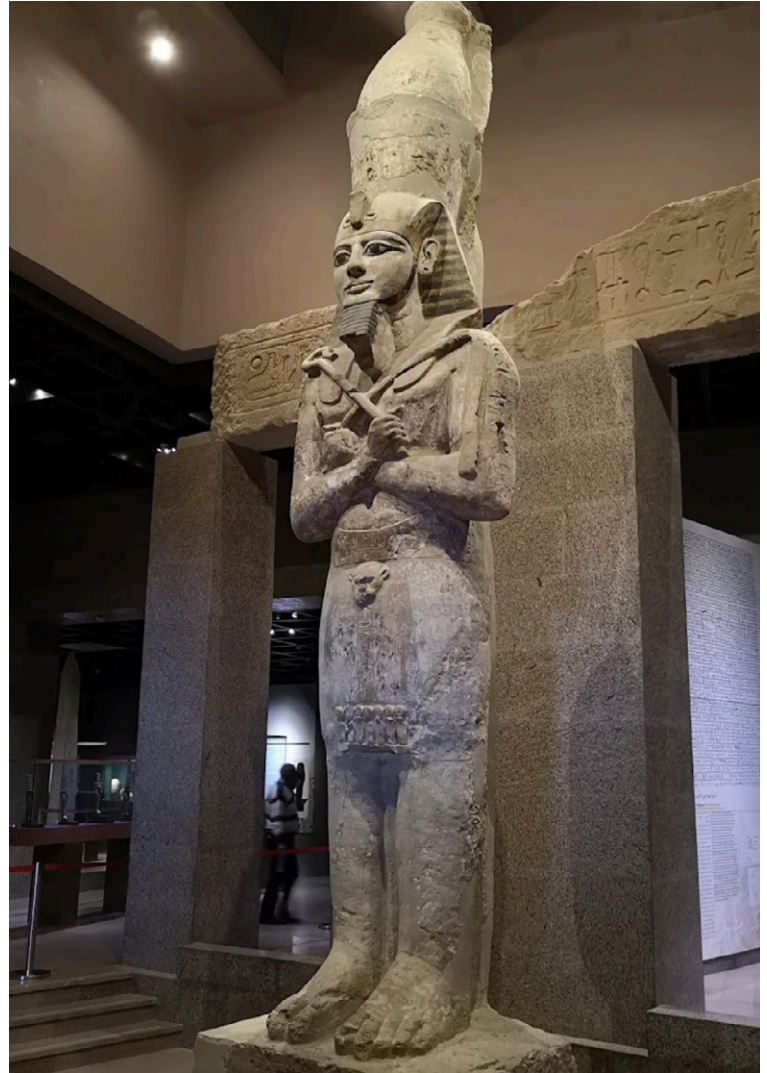
On your cruise from Aswan to Luxor, you will visit the 30+ sites referenced below. These site visits, as well as all entrance fees, are included in your optional \$3,850 Tour Package. Four (4) of these sites require “**Special Access**” which we have secured.*



PHILAE TEMPLE — The Temples of Philae on Aswan's Agilika Island were rescued like Abu Simbel from submersion due to Aswan Dam. Philae is a memory of the region's worship of Isis, the goddess of magic and maternity, enduring through Greco-Roman times and as a pagan vestige in the Byzantine Empire. Set foot in the temple and experience firsthand the beauty of the buildings and its undetectable relocation adventure.



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OPTIONS 3 & 5 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Touring



TEMPLE OF NEFERTARI AND HATHOR — Ramses II built the Temple of Hathor to honor Nefertari (below, left), his favorite wife, the one “for whom the sun shines.” The temple is known for its graceful depictions of Nefertari and Ramses II making offerings to the goddess of love, Hathor (at right).



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In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

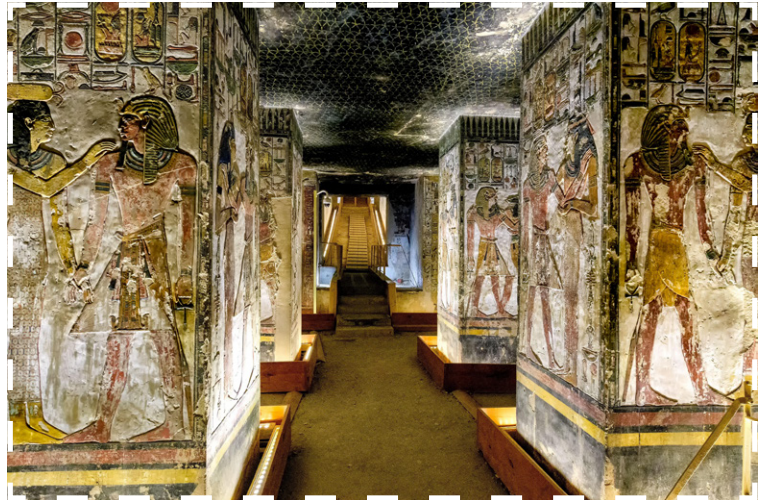
SKY & TELESCOPE

Insight Cruises
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

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DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



TEL EL AMARNA — Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti's city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten's new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten's bold initiative.



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ABU SIMBEL — Visit one of the most recognizable symbols of Egypt, the Temples of Abu Simbel. Renew your sense of wonder and awe at both the ancient and modern engineering that went into its construction and dramatic relocation. Gain a perspective into Ramses II's human nature when you find an inscription on a main temple buttress: "for the Great Royal Wife Nefertari Meryetmut, for whose sake the (very) sun does shine".

OPTIONS 3 & 5 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Touring



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ABYDOS — Examine the superb bas-reliefs and Cosmology of Nut and walk among some of the earliest astronomically aligned buildings. We hope the ruins of what may be the world's oldest brewery will be accessible on our visit, too.

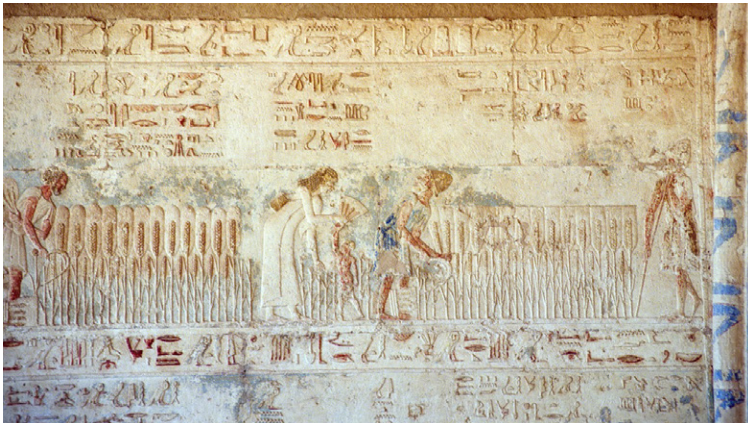


ROYAL TOMB OF AKHENATEN — Akhenaten, one of the most famous of the Pharaohs, ordered: 'Let my tomb be made for me in the eastern mountain.'

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE **Insight Cruises**
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

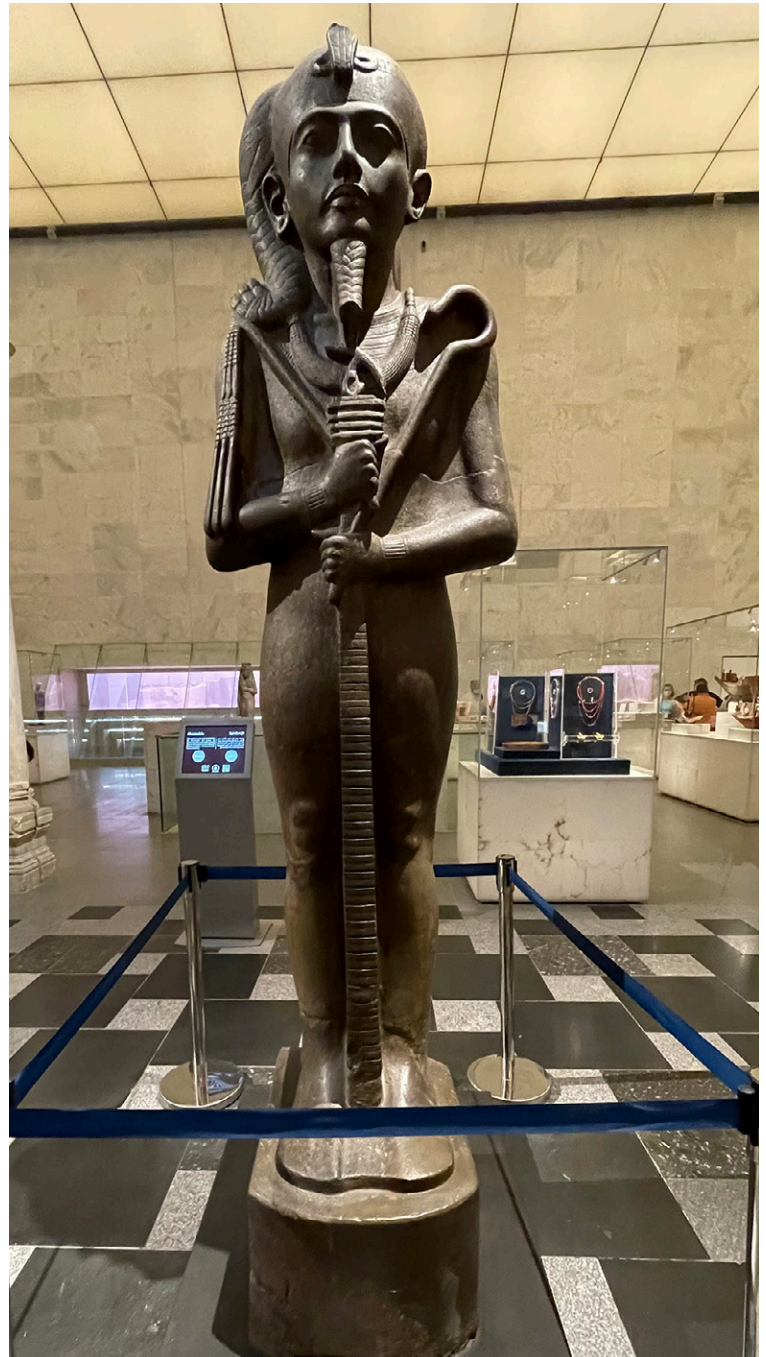
Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



TUNA EL GEBEL (Tomb of Petosiris) — See the god Thoth's many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You'll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god's responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you'll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories.



AMARNA (Royal Tomb, Palace, Temple of Aten, and more) — Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti's city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten's new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten's bold initiative.



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OPTIONS 3 & 5 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Tourin



GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX — Visit the Great Pyramid and its Old Kingdom royal kin, the only surviving members of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Getting your bearings on the Giza Plateau gives you a sense of the precision (achieved with astronomical skills) with which the Egyptians aligned the Pyramids to the cardinal directions and to symbolic topographic features.



TOMB OF NAKHT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Even though not much is known about the 18th Dynasty priest Nakht, his tomb draws visitors with its detailed depictions of offerings and for paintings of fishing and fowling that are both realistic and imbued with symbolism.



TOMB OF TAWSERT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Stepping into Tawsert and Setnakt's tomb is stepping on to the stage where rivalries and political feuds played out, religious traditions were ignored, and names and faces were covered over. The highlights of the visit are visual, though Tawsert's tomb has beautiful illustrations from ancient funerary literature and many striking depictions of the gods.



SAQQARA WITH PYRAMIDS OF DJOSER, UNAS (Special Access Visit), AND TETI; AND MASTABA OF TI (Special Access Visit) — Visit the ancestor of the Pyramids of Giza — the Step Pyramid complex of Djoser. Venture into the small Pyramid of Unas, and see the earliest known Pyramid Texts, spells guiding the pharaoh to the afterlife. The Pyramid of Teti offers you a written mention of Sirius, Orion, and the Big Dipper, solidifying your proof of the astronomical underpinnings of Giza and Saqqara.

OPT

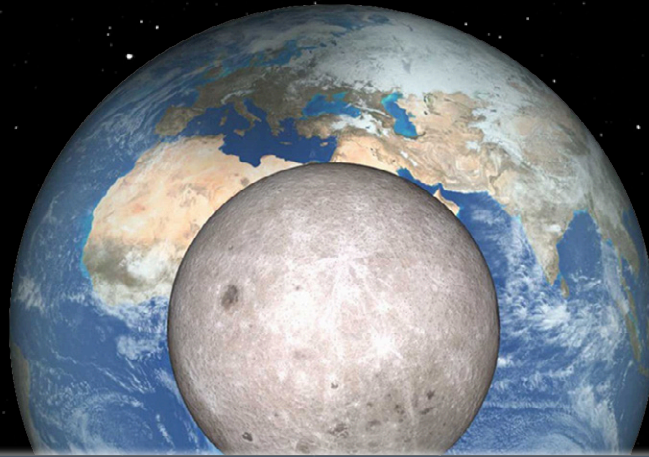


TION



OPTION

4



Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 26 – August 3, 2027

**6-NIGHT NILE RIVER CRUISE
PLUS TWO NIGHTS IN ASWAN**

(Cruise from Aswan to Luxor plus
cruise option to Cairo)

Aboard the *ms Darakum*

OPTION 4 Summary

Venue Name (code)	ms Darakum (st22)
OPTION #	OPTION #4
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st22
Start	MONDAY, JULY 26, 2027
End	TUESDAY, AUGUST 3
Total number of nights	8
Lodging or cruise fare (per night, based on dbl occ.), from	\$544/night
Max price (per night, double occupancy)	\$1,094/night
Cocktail party addon	\$210
Excursions addon	\$2,650
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	\$95
Conference addon	\$775
Gov't taxes and fees	incl.
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	\$80
Venue gratuities	\$120
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	\$200
Cairo package addon (available pre or post this OPTION)	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	\$6,499 - \$6,999
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (incl. meals & transfers)	2 nights incl.; add'l nights inquire
Name of hotel for pre- and/or post hotel nights	Movenpick (Aswan, Egypt) or our Cairo hotel
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st22/pdf/st22_combined.pdf

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SKY & TELESCOPE



Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTION 4 Aboard the *ms Darakum* (...continued)



ms Darakum



(continued...)

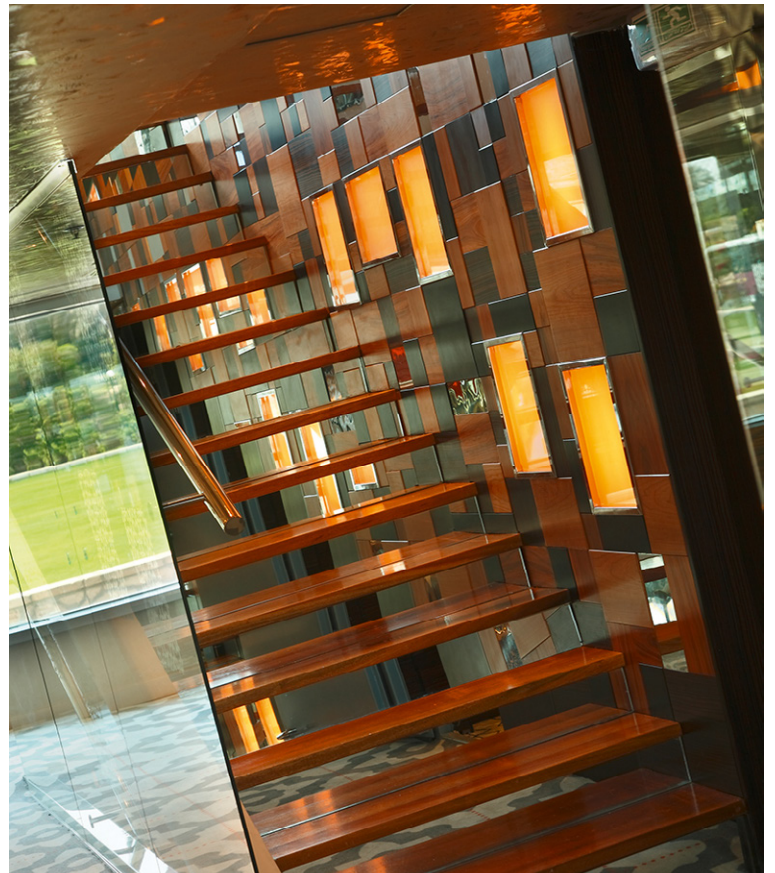


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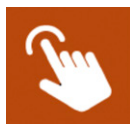




OPTION 4 Aboard the *ms Darakum* (...continued)



**CLICK HERE FOR
CABIN & SHIP INFO.**



(continued...)



OPTION 4 (...continued) **Aboard the ms Darakum: Included with this package**



... are two nights, pre-cruise, at the **ASWAN MOVENPICK HOTEL** *(continued...)*



OPTION 4 (...continued) **Aboard the ms Darakum: Included with this package**





OPTION 4 Itinerary

DAY	ACTIVITY	NOTES / HIGHLIGHTS
MON., JULY 26	DAY 1: ARRIVE ASWAN	Two nights in the Mövenpick Resort Aswan (images)
TUE., JULY 27	DAY 2: NUBIAN MUSEUM	Nubian Museum (morning) (images); last night in Aswan
WED., JULY 28	DAY 3: BOARD OUR CRUISE SHIP	Visit Abu Simbel (images); (<i>ss DARAKUM images</i>)
THUR., JULY 29	DAY 4: ASWAN → KOM OMBO → EDFU	Philae Temple (images); Kom Ombo Temple (images)
FRI., JULY 30	DAY 5: EDFU → ESNA → LUXOR	Edfu Temple (images), Esna Temple (images)
SAT., JULY 31	DAY 6: VALLEY OF THE QUEENS (LUXOR)	Tomb of Nefertari (images); Luxor Temple (images)
SUN., AUG. 1	DAY 7: VALLEY OF THE KINGS (LUXOR)	Deir El Bahri (images); Karnak Temple (images)
MON., AUG. 2	DAY 8: SOLAR ECLIPSE (LUXOR)	approx 12 noon: 6 minutes, 20+ seconds (map)
TUE., AUG. 3	FLY HOME (if not on the OPTIONAL CRUISE)	Take the optional 9-night cruise to Cairo (SCHEDULE) (MAP)

Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.

OPTION 4 6-Night Nile River Cruise Map



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Insight Cruises
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

OPTION 4 Egyptology Lectures

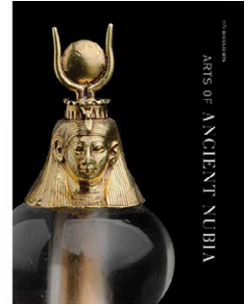
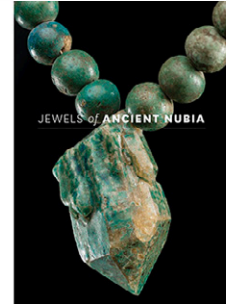
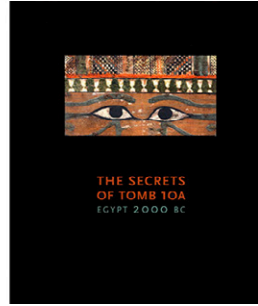
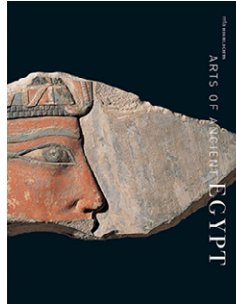
OUR SPEAKER:



Denise Doxey, Ph.D.

Dr. Denise M. Doxey is an Egyptologist and Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Denise received her M.Phil. in Classical Archaeology

from Oxford University and her Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania. Her teaching experience includes Egyptology courses at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. She has participated in excavations in Egypt at the sites of Abydos and Saqqara. In addition to numerous articles, she is the author or co-author of five books, most recently [Arts of Ancient Nubia](#) and [Jewels of Ancient Nubia](#). She is a sought after lecturer for both academic conferences and public lectures. Currently, she is Vice President of the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, the leading North American organization promoting



research on Egyptian history and culture. She also serves on the Board of the International Council of Museum's International Committee for Egyptology.

In her more than 25 years as a museum professional, Dr. Doxey has overseen the renovation of galleries for Predynastic and Early Dynastic art, Old Kingdom art, and Middle Kingdom funerary art. She curated special exhibitions, including co-curating *Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC* and serving as curator for Ancient Nubia Now. She is currently the curator for an international traveling exhibition featuring art of Nubia.

DR. DOXEY'S SEMINARS

- To come

OPTION 4 Astronomy Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Kevin B. Marvel, Ph.D.

Dr. Kevin B. Marvel, is the Executive Officer of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), the foremost research organization for astronomers, planetary scientists, and

heliophysicists. After earning two B.S. degrees (astronomy and physics) from the University of Arizona, an M.S. and Ph.D. from New Mexico State University, and postdoctoral research at Caltech, he began work with the AAS in 1998 and took up his current duties in July 2006. He has written two books, including *Astronomy Made Simple*, and has authored research papers mainly focused on interpreting the observations of astrophysical masers around both young and old stars.

Dr. Marvel has a strong connection to *Sky & Telescope* magazine (a publication of the AAS), having been a reader from a young age. In fact, he decided to attend the University of Arizona after noting how prominently it was featured in the magazine. It was the honor of his lifetime to be able to facilitate the acquisition of *Sky & Telescope* by the AAS in 2019, and he deeply enjoys the ongoing challenges of making the magazine even more successful and impactful than it was pre-acquisition. Throughout his career he has been dedicated to bringing the excitement of astronomical discovery to the public, from his first days browbeating his family to come outside on a cold Texas winter evening to observe the planet Venus in his brand new 2.5" refracting telescope (thank you Santa!), to subsequent experience showing Comet Halley to tens of thousands of people with the telescopes on the campus of the University of Arizona, to his current role advocating for astrophysical research with the nation's policy makers and overseeing the operations of the AAS.

He and his wife, Jennifer Kerns, M.D., M.S.H.S., are both passionate sailors and gardeners — she growing primarily rare heirloom tomatoes and he New Mexico Big Jim Peppers. Their young son Graham is looking forward to seeing his second total eclipse on this once-in-a-lifetime trip down the ancient Nile river, by which time he will be a well-behaved 10 years old.

DR. MARVEL'S SEMINARS

- To come

OPTION 4 Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Touring Package

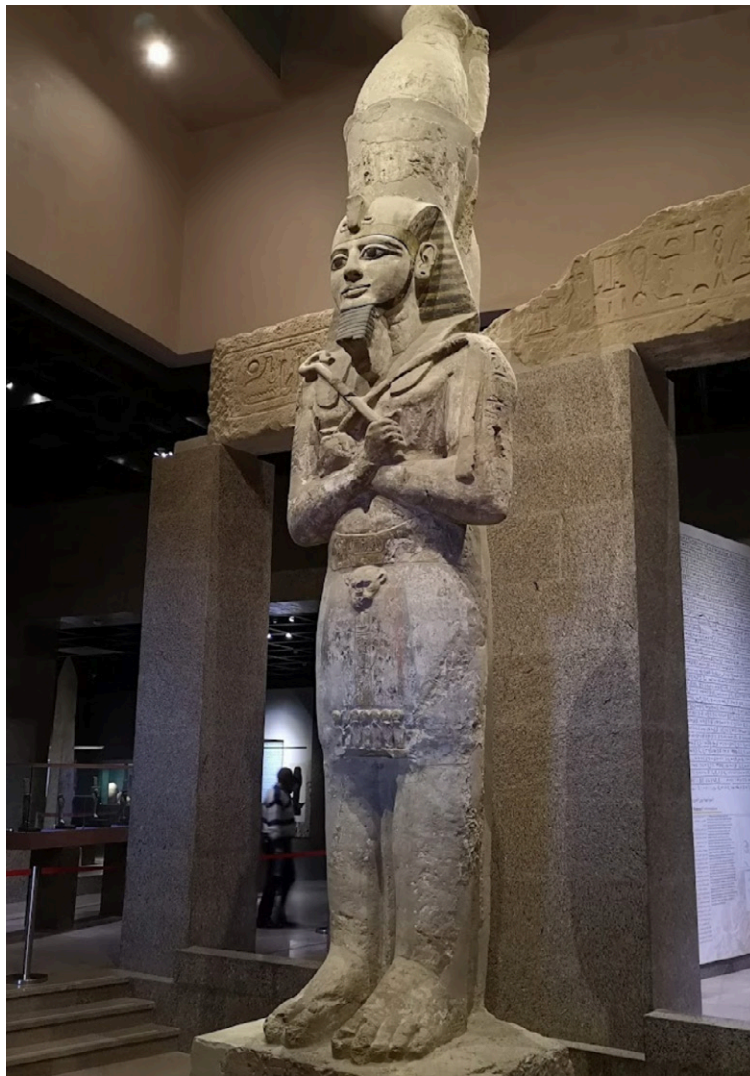
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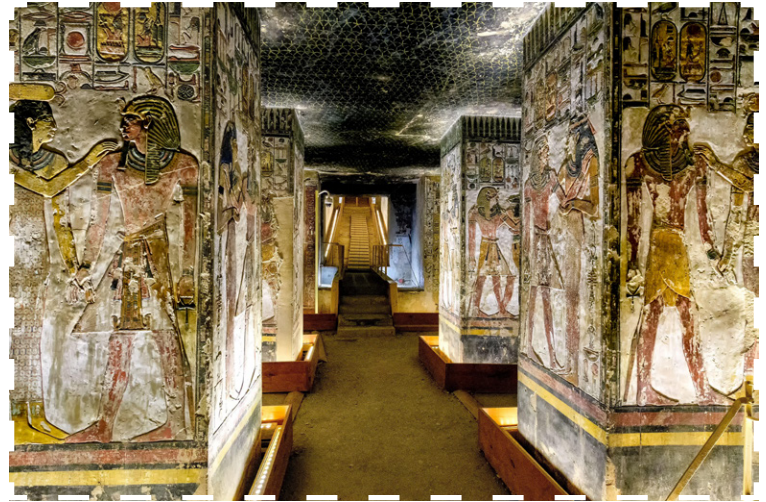
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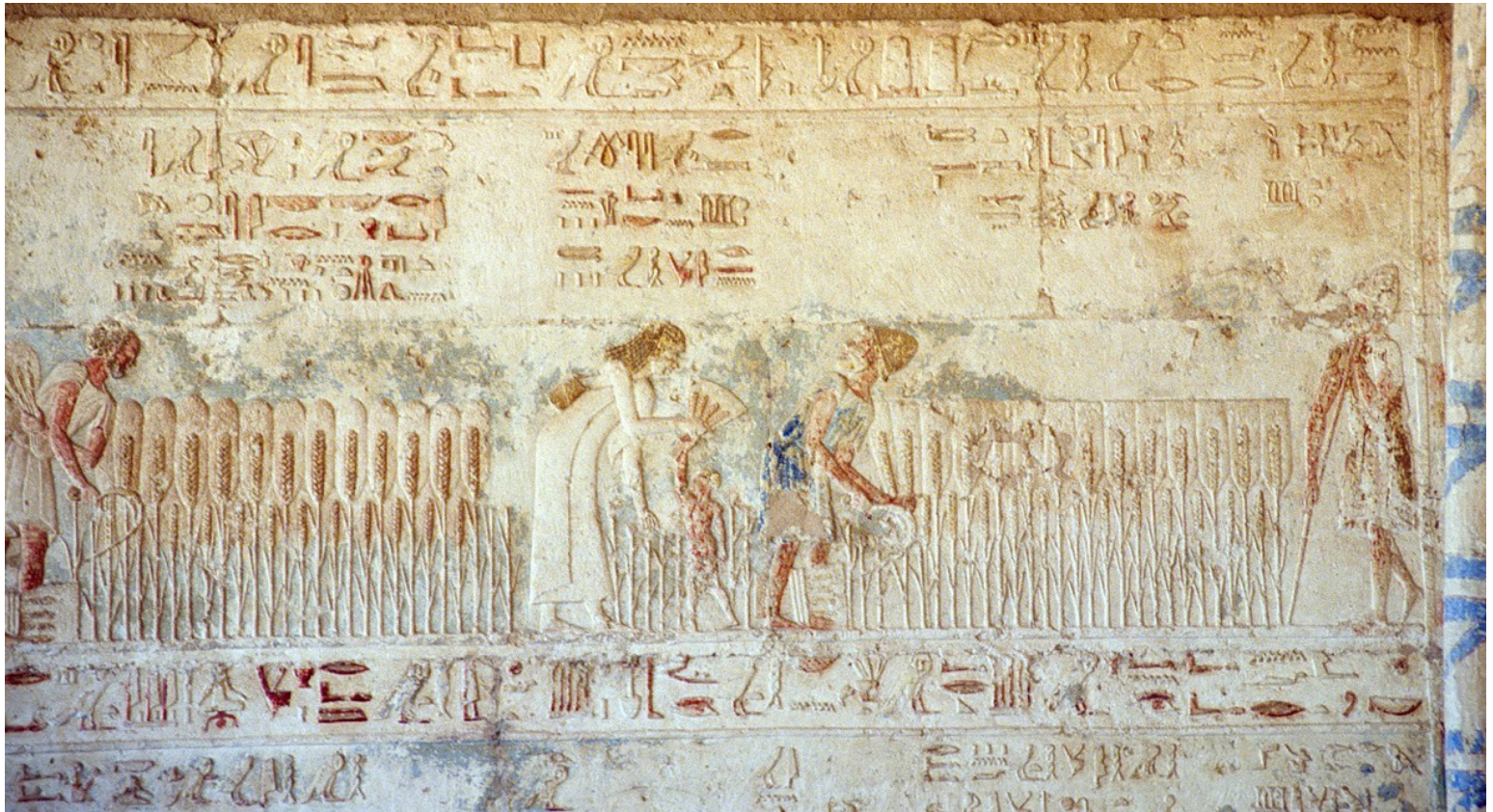
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ABU SIMBEL — Visit one of the most recognizable symbols of Egypt, the Temples of Abu Simbel. Renew your sense of wonder and awe at both the ancient and modern engineering that went into its construction and dramatic relocation. Gain a perspective into Ramses II’s human nature when you find an inscription on a main temple buttress: “for the Great Royal Wife Nefertari Meryetmut, for whose sake the (very) sun does shine”.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPTION 4 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Touring Package



TUNA EL GEBEL (Tombs of Petosiris and Isadora) — See the god Thoth's many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You'll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god's responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you'll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories.



ABYDOS — Examine the superb bas reliefs and Cosmology of Nut and walk among some of the earliest astronomically aligned buildings. We hope the ruins of what may be the world's oldest brewery will be accessible on our visit, too.

In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

Health and safety in Egypt regarding Insight Cruises' Egypt TOURING PACKAGES



We have a safety auditing process in place and, as a minimum, request that all of our suppliers comply with local health and safety regulations. In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we will visit.



We therefore ask that you take note of the safety and cautionary information provided below.

Eligibility

You must be in good health, free of infectious illness, and have a level of physical and mental fitness that would not impair other participants' enjoyment by slowing them down or by absorbing disproportionate attention from the tour leaders. Please read 'Fitness', below, and take the self-assessment tests described there; by signing the booking form you are stating that you have understood what we are asking of you and are fit to participate. If you have a medical condition or a disability which may affect your trip or necessitate special arrangements being made for you, please discuss this with us before booking; or, if a condition develops or changes subsequently, as soon as possible before departure. Our Egypt TOURING PACKAGES are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters, or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour it transpires, in the judgment of the tour leaders, that you are not able to cope, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

Fitness

With the exception of our museum visits, the land portions of our Egypt tours will be active. Walking, stair-climbing, extensive hill climbing, and standing around for 10-minute

periods are unavoidable aspects of tours in Egypt. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support, or lack stamina.

For example, in several of our site visits there is a lot of walking on dirt and/or poorly paved streets. On some paths you may need to scramble over large rocks and very uneven ground. Mostly, fortunately, it is just a case of walking from one place to another – and getting on and off a coach a few times a day.

Secondly, the tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else. We therefore ask that everyone wishing to join our Egyptian TOURING PACKAGES take the quick and simple self-assessment fitness tests described below.

If during the tour it transpires that you are not adequately fit, you may be asked by the tour manager to opt out of certain visits, or requested to leave the tour altogether. Each day's visits can vary in their physical demands.

Some of our site visits require walking (for an hour, to and from), through hilly and dry desert, and require a different scale of fitness and agility.

Fitness tests

1. Chair stands: Sit in a dining chair, with arms folded and hands on opposite shoulders. Stand up and sit down at six times in thirty seconds.

2. Step test: Mark a wall at a height that is halfway between your knee and your hip bone. Raise each knee in turn to the mark at least 30 times in two minutes.

3. Agility test: Place an object three yards from the edge of a chair, sit, and record the time it takes to stand up, walk to the object and sit back down. You should be able to do this, somewhat easily, in under 10 seconds.

An additional indication of the fitness is that you should be able to walk unaided at a pace of three miles per hour for at least half an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 20 minutes.

Middle Eastern Conflicts

In reference to recent developments between Israel and Gaza, it is imperative to acknowledge that this is not the first time such events have taken place -- and it is possible that they will occur again in the future. Egypt has traditionally played a crucial role in facilitating peace between the two parties. It is also worth pointing out that the distance from the Gaza border to Luxor is 400 miles.

Tourist Police

The police presence is all over Egypt, but especially in touristic areas. It is not uncommon to see police at almost every intersection in Cairo and other cities and there will be larger numbers of security personnel around certain institutions and important buildings. Nearly all of the police will be equipped with rifles. This might be an unusual sight in your home country, but in Egypt this is normal. It is not a reflection of any additional danger or instability. In fact, most Egyptians are glad to have the police back in the street in such numbers after they were largely absent in the year following the 2011 revolution (read more).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdel_Fattah_el-Sisi

At tourism sites you will find police officers with a special badge on their shoulders that says, "Tourism Police". These officers are designated specifically to make sure that visitors to Egypt are safe and as a convenience to tourists since they speak English. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to seek out the tourist police. You can be confident that the Egyptian tourist police will ensure your safety throughout your stay.

Booking detail

We reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.

OPT

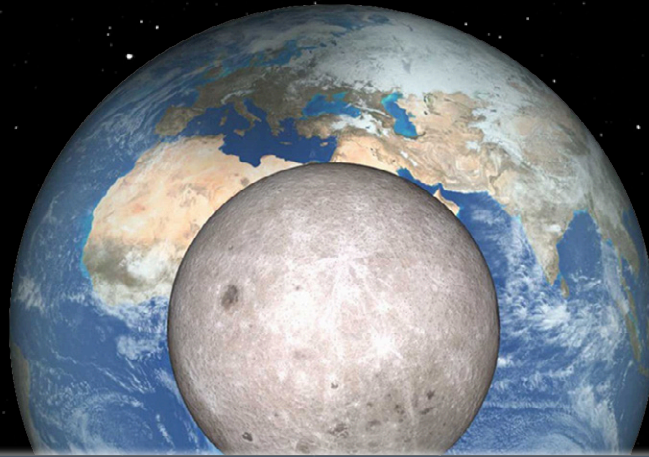
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OPTION

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Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 27 – August 13, 2027

**17-NIGHT NILE RIVER CRUISE
PLUS TWO NIGHTS IN ASWAN**

(Cruise from Aswan to Cairo)

Aboard the *ss Sphinx*

OPTION 5 Summary

Venue Name (code)	ms Sphinx (st23)
OPTION #	OPTION #5
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st23
Start	TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2027
End	FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2027
Total number of nights	17
Lodging or cruise fare (based on double occ.), from ...	\$675/night
Max price (per night, double occupancy)	\$1,175/night
Cocktail party addon	\$490
Excursions addon	\$3,850
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	incl.
Conference addon	\$1,750
Gov't taxes and fees	incl.
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	incl.
Venue gratuities	incl.
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	incl.
Cairo package addon	incl.
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	incl.
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (incl. meals & transfers)	2 nights incl.; add'l nights inquire
Name of hotel for pre-hotel nights	The Old Cataract Hotel (Aswan, Egypt)
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st23/pdf/st23_combined.pdf

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE



Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTION 5 Aboard the ss Sphinx



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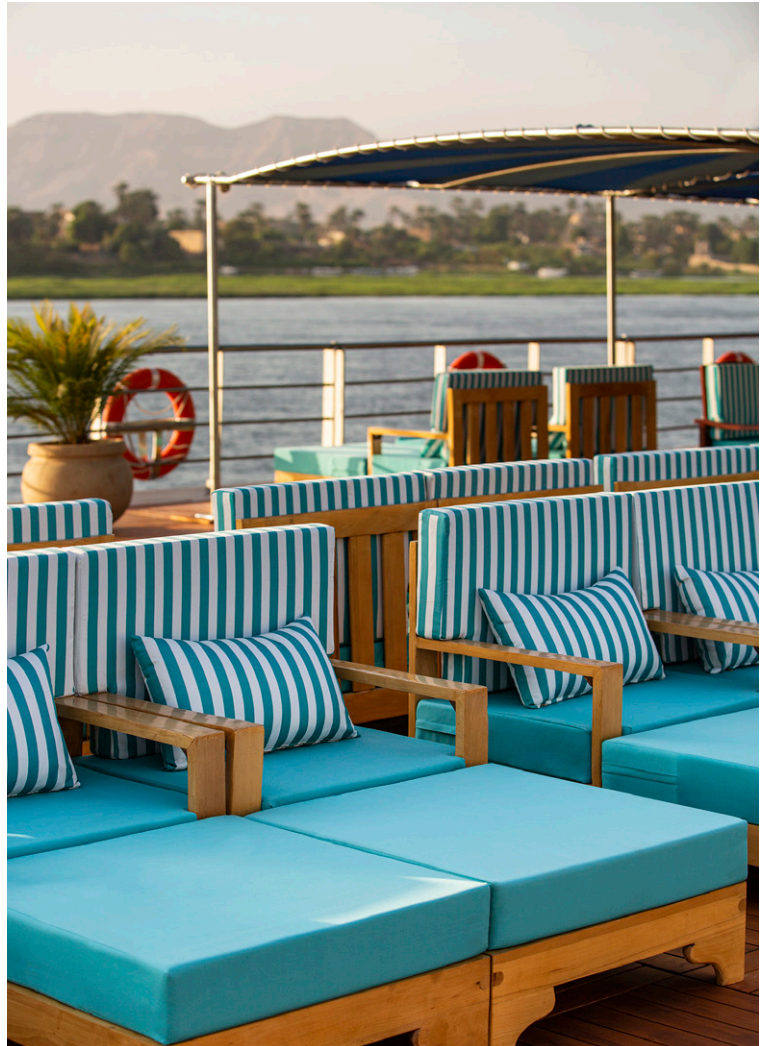
OPTION 5 (...continued) **Aboard the ss Sphinx**



(continued...)



OPTION 5 (...continued) **Aboard the ss Sphinx**



**CLICK HERE FOR
CABIN & SHIP INFO.**



(continued...)



OPTION 5 Aboard the ss *Sphinx*: Incl. with this package are two nights, pre



WHERE HERITAGE MEETS MODERNITY

“Your sojourn leads you to the gates of Egypt. The warmth of the Nubian Desert presses against your skin as you behold the majestic Nile. A 19th-century Victorian palace rises from a ledge of pink granite. Welcome to the Sofitel legend, Old Cataract Aswan.”

— *Selim Shawer, Hotel Manager*

Step into the legendary site where King Fouad once entertained and Agatha Christie sipped cocktails: the 5-star [Old Cataract Aswan Hotel](#). [Located](#) in the Nubian Desert on the banks of the Nile, opposite Elephantine Island, the majestic hotel sits on a pink granite cliff overlooking the

world’s longest river. This ravishing hotel with its legendary guest list of royals* and dignitaries is ideal for romantic getaways.

If you can tear yourself away from the beauty of the magnificent Old Cataract, a world of fascination awaits you. Elephantine Island and the Aswan Museum are at your feet. Aswan city center is a stroll away. Other attractions to tempt you during your stay: the Nubian Museum, the Philae Temple, the Unfinished Obelisk ... then return to indulge in French and Egyptian cuisine and wines.

*Former guests of the [Old Cataract](#) include: Tsar Nichols, Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Jimmy Carter, François Mitterand, Princess Diana, Queen Noor, and Agatha Christie.

e-cruise, at THE OLD CATARACT ASWAN HOTEL, a Sofitel Legend

(continued...)



OPTION 5 (...continued) **Aboard the ss Misr:** Incl. with this package are two nights



, pre-cruise, at **THE OLD CATARACT ASWAN HOTEL, a Sofitel Legend** *(continued...)*



OPTIONS 3 & 5 Nile River Cruise Map



CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPTIONS 3 & 5 Egyptology Lectures

OUR SPEAKERS:



Jennifer Houser Wegner, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Houser Wegner is Associate Curator in the Egyptian Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, as well as Adjunct Professor of

Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania. Jennifer received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 and her Ph.D. from Yale University in 2001, and has worked extensively in Egypt, at the sites of Giza, Saqqara, Deir el-Bersheh, and Abydos since the 1990s. Her research specialty is Demotic language and literature, but she has published on many other topics. She is author and co-author of: [Akhenaten and Tutankhamun, Revolution and Restoration](#) (2007); [The Sphinx that Traveled to Philadelphia: the Story of the Colossal Sphinx of Ramses the Great in the Penn Museum](#) (2015); and co-editor (with Z. Hawass), [Millions of Jubilees, Studies in Honor of David Silverman](#) (2010). Jennifer is lead curator of the new galleries devoted to funerary traditions to open in the Penn Museum in 2024. With her husband, Dr. Josef Wegner, Jennifer has been a featured speaker on many tours to Egypt.



Professor Josef Wegner

Dr. Josef Wegner is Professor of Egyptian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also Curator

in the Egyptian Section of the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Dr. Wegner's has excavated in Egypt since the 1990s. His primary work is at the site of Abydos where he has been excavating the funerary complex of the 12th Dynasty pharaoh Senwosret III. Although he specializes in the archaeology of the Middle Kingdom, he has published widely in the history and archaeology of ancient Egypt and Nubia. Dr. Wegner's most recent books are: [The Sphinx that Traveled to Philadelphia: the Story of the Colossal Sphinx of Ramses the Great in the Penn Museum](#) (2015); and [The Sunshade Chapel of Princess Meritaten from the Per-Waenre of Pharaoh Akhenaten](#) (2016); [King Seneb-Kay's Tomb and the Necropolis of a Lost Dynasty at Abydos](#) (2021). Dr. Wegner has been a featured speaker in many television documentaries including, most recently, *Murdered Pharaoh* (Smithsonian Channel), discussing

the discovery of the tomb of King Seneb-Kay at Abydos. With his wife, Dr. Jennifer Houser Wegner, Josef has been a speaker on many tours to Egypt.

DRS. WEGNERS' SEMINARS

Drs. Wegner will each deliver six (6) one-hour talks – for a total of 12 talks. In addition, you will be able to attend the majority of the 10 talks given by Dr. Melinda Hartwig on the ss Misr, sailing along side us for our entire trip.

Our speaker program is subject to change. Speakers have confirmed their intent to participate; however, scheduling conflicts may arise. This optional conference program is \$1,750 pp.

OPTIONS 3 & 5 Egyptology Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Melinda Hartwig, Ph.D.

Dr. Melinda Hartwig is an Egyptologist and a Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. She has

a distinguished teaching career as a Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology at Georgia State University and as a Visiting Professor at American University in Cairo. Dr. Hartwig holds a Ph.D. in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Art and Archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. Her expertise is recognized internationally and she has numerous books and articles to her credit, including, [Tomb Painting and Identity in Ancient Thebes](#) (2004) and [The Tomb Chapel of Menna](#) (2013). Her book, [A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art](#) (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014),

received the 2016 PROSE award. Dr. Hartwig is past president of the Board of Governors of the [American Research Center in Egypt](#) (ARCE), the leading North American nonprofit organization that supports research on Egyptian history and culture. She is also a member of the AIA, IAE, AAM, ICOM, and CIPEG.

Melinda has actively worked in Egypt since 1983, directing conservation and documentation projects in Theban tombs, and received numerous awards to further her work. Dr. Hartwig lectures around the world and is a frequent on-air expert for television programs and documentaries on ancient Egypt, including those for the BBC, Discovery Channel, the National Geographic Channel, PBS, the Science Channel, the Smithsonian Channel, and the Travel Channel. Recently, she completed a video course [The Great Tours: A Guided Tour of Ancient Egypt](#) for The Great Courses/Wondrium. She is currently planning a major exhibition for Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum in 2023 entitled, "Life and the Afterlife: Ancient Egyptian from the Senusret Collection."



DR. HARTWIG'S SEMINARS

Melinda Hartwig, Ph.D. will deliver ten (10) one-hour talks. In addition, you will be able to attend the majority of the 12 talks given by Drs. Jennifer and Josef Wegner on the *ms Sphinx*, sailing along side us for our entire trip. Our speaker program is subject to change. Speakers have confirmed their intent to participate; however, scheduling conflicts may arise. This optional conference program is \$1,750 pp.

OPTIONS 3 & 5 Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Touring Package

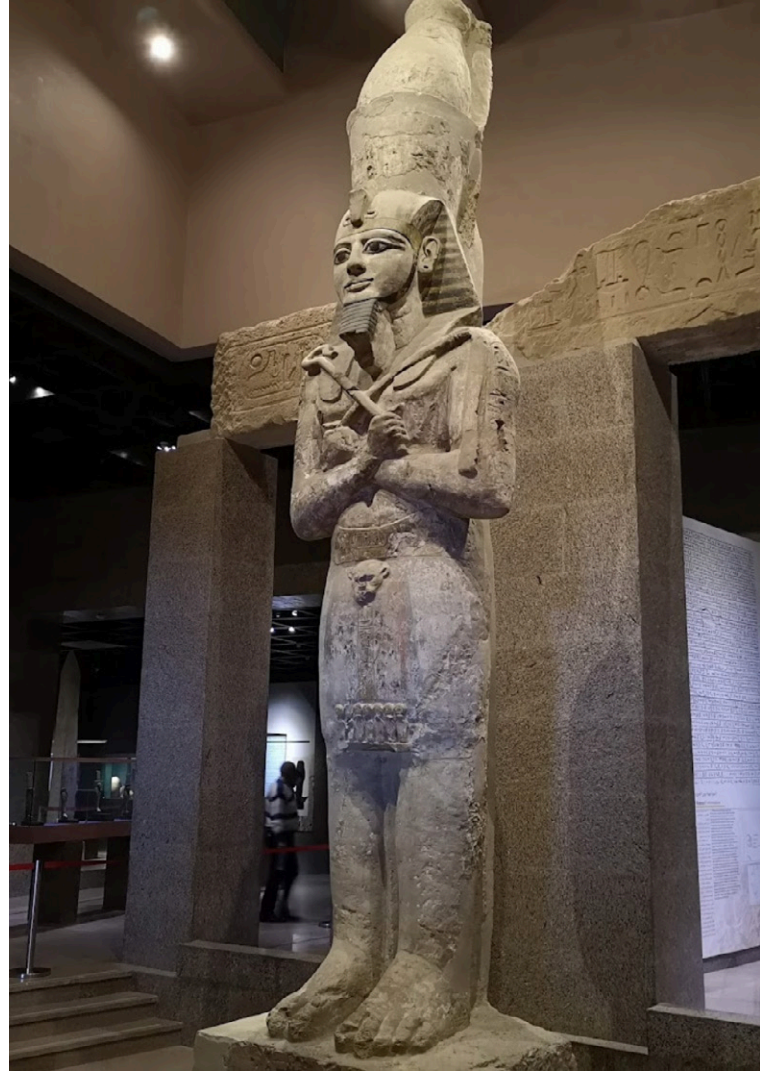
On your cruise from Aswan to Luxor, you will visit the 30+ sites referenced below. These site visits, as well as all entrance fees, are included in your optional \$3,850 Tour Package. Four (4) of these sites require “**Special Access**” which we have secured.*



PHILAE TEMPLE — The Temples of Philae on Aswan’s Agilika Island were rescued like Abu Simbel from submersion due to Aswan Dam. Philae is a memory of the region’s worship of Isis, the goddess of magic and maternity, enduring through Greco-Roman times and as a pagan vestige in the Byzantine Empire. Set foot in the temple and experience firsthand the beauty of the buildings and its undetectable relocation adventure.



KARNAK TEMPLE — At least 30 Egyptian rulers from ~2,000BCE to ~300BCE built, modified, demolished, and moved parts of Karnak Temple. There’s so much see. Karnak can activate your mind’s eye, too. Armed with Dr. Belmonte’s archaeoastronomy tips, you can picture Karnak’s orientation to the Winter Solstice, to the northern Milky Way, and to the topography around you.



NUBIAN MUSEUM — The Nubian Museum presents cultural gems and touchstones from Nubia’s prehistory into the 20th century. The region of Nubia, known in ancient times as Kush, spanned the Egyptian-Sudanese border and was greatly affected — a large swath of its land submerged — when Aswan dam was built. Get to know the history of a mighty empire with a visit paying respects to Egypt’s now vanished neighbor.

CO-PRODUCED BY:



*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.



KOMO OMBO TEMPLE — The first rule of temples: Location, location, location. Kom Ombo lives in popular media as an elegant Greco-Roman temple set on a high Nile embankment. You'll tune in to its nuances: depictions of the pharaoh boating in a marsh; an astronomical procession on the beams of the hall; and reliefs of (perhaps) early surgical instruments. Come for the photo op and take away glimmerings of early technology.



Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



EDFU TEMPLE — It's easy for Edfu to blend in as yet another Egyptian site that checks many boxes: massive, pharaoh smiting the enemy on the facade, halls of columns, lots of side rooms. Dig in to Edfu a bit, and heighten the experience: the hall of twelve columns refers to the Book of the Underworld and the twelve hours of the night; ceilinged halls help you picture the building in use; the carving of "The Stretching of the Cord" unifies Egyptian astronomy and architecture. All this and more will give you a memorable sense of Edfu Temple as a working building, used by humans.



ESNA TEMPLE — Venture into the entry hall of the Temple of Khnum, and see the vibrant results of its ongoing restoration. The Temple was decorated during the Roman period circa 100 – 300 AD, which means that you'll be seeing the youngest/most recent body of Egyptian hieroglyphics known. It's the astronomical ceiling that brings us to Esna, with its unparalleled depiction of lunar phases, and a detailed stellar clock.



TEMPLE OF NEFERTARI AND HATHOR — Ramses II built the Temple of Hathor to honor Nefertari (below, left), his favorite wife, the one “for whom the sun shines.” The temple is known for its graceful depictions of Nefertari and Ramses II making offerings to the goddess of love, Hathor (at right).



TOMB OF NEFERTARI (Special Access Visit) — We go to “The place of beauty”, Ta-Set-Neferu, to experience the rarely seen Tomb of Nefertari, often considered the most beautiful in Egypt. Its vivid colors and beautiful draftsmanship underpin its artistic appeal; astronomy buffs may find its theme of timelessness and eternity thought-provoking.



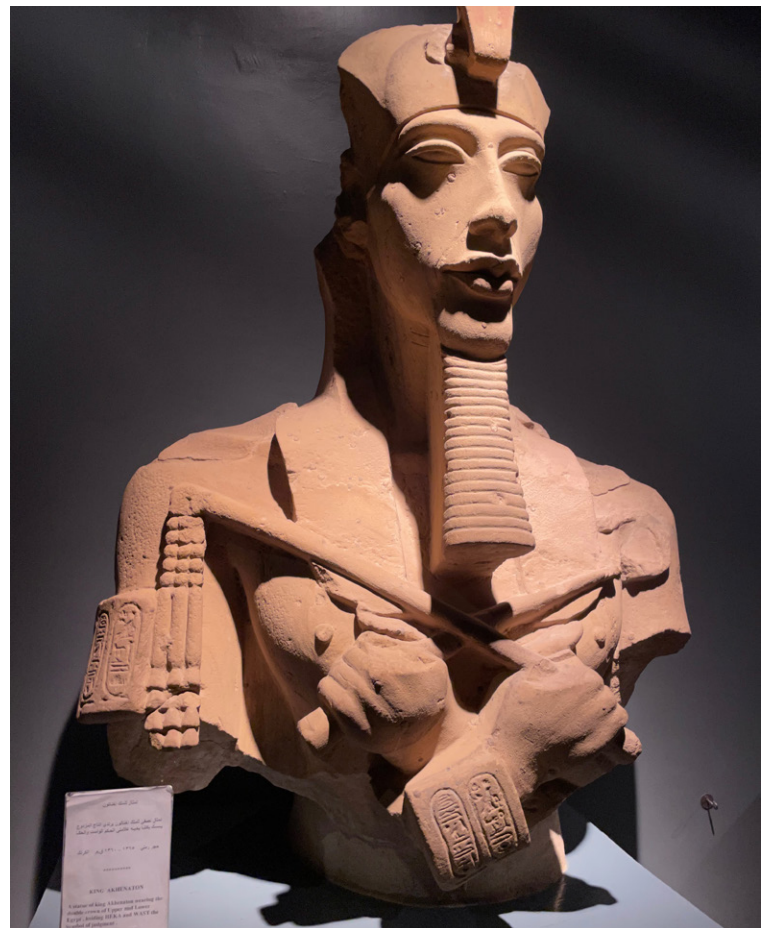
RAMESSEUM — Designed to remind all who behold it of the greatness of Egypt (and of the modest builder himself), the Ramesseum gives you a picture of the vast wealth of Ramses II. After sizing up the innumerable storehouses, you may be drawn to the astronomical ceiling of the Barque room in the temple, to see civil, religious, and lunar calendars so you sharpen your ancient Egyptian time-telling skills.



VALLEY OF KINGS — Celebrate fulfilled dreams of exploring pharaohs’ tombs, satisfied curiosity, and newly inspired avenues of archaeological inquiry once you trek through the renowned Valley of the Kings.



LUXOR TEMPLE — Get a concrete sense of the resilience of Egyptian culture at Luxor Temple. Fittingly for a symbol of rejuvenation, it has survived floods and foreign invasions to awe visitors with its ancient precision. We’ll visit at dusk for creative photo opportunities.



LUXOR MUSEUM — Choice archaeological artifacts await you at the Luxor Museum. In selecting among statues found at Luxor Temple, relics from Tutankhamun’s tomb, mummies, and professional tools to display, the Museum’s curators focused on quality, not quantity. You’ll get a close look at ancient items and a sense of the society-wide focus on the afterlife.

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If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

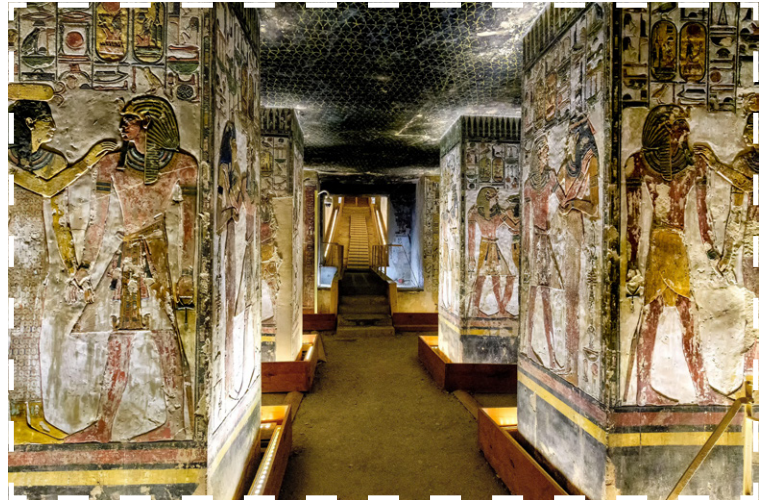
SKY & TELESCOPE



OPTIONS 3 & 5 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Tou



KING TUT TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Have you glimpsed King Tut's opulent burial goods in a documentary or at a museum? Now you can picture them together with the narrative paintings you see in Tut's burial chamber.



KING SETI I TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Seti I's Tomb served as an inspiration for most later Egyptian tomb art. Its indelible celestial diagrams and stellar clocks will enrich your stargazing forever.



BENI HASSAN (Tombs of Baquet III, Khety, Amenemhet, Khnumhotep) — Time travel to the Middle Kingdom period of Egyptian history at Beni Hassan where regional governors and military figures were buried. Gain a sense of ancient life in the desert, and see scenes of life in the provinces — hunting, wrestling, weaving, baking, fishing, and wine-making.



KING RAMSES V & VI TOMBS (Special Access Visit) — Feast your eyes on two different copies of the Books of Day and Night, paintings of the sky goddess Nut, and the Egyptian astronomy how-to embodied in star clocks. Deepen your feel for the pharaohs' worldview with a visual study of ancient Egyptian "rocket science".

CO-PRODUCED BY:



DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



TEL EL AMARNA — Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti's city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten's new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten's bold initiative.



DEIR EL BAHIRI — The temple complex of Hatshepsut must be one of the most beautifully situated buildings anywhere. It was known as the "Sublime of the Sublimes" in ancient Egyptian. Explore its structure and you'll get an organic sense that the temple is oriented to the winter solstice and The Temple of Amun (Hatshepsut's claimed father) at Karnak.



ABU SIMBEL — Visit one of the most recognizable symbols of Egypt, the Temples of Abu Simbel. Renew your sense of wonder and awe at both the ancient and modern engineering that went into its construction and dramatic relocation. Gain a perspective into Ramses II's human nature when you find an inscription on a main temple buttress: "for the Great Royal Wife Nefertari Meryetmut, for whose sake the (very) sun does shine".

OPTIONS 3 & 5 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Tou



DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



ABYDOS — Examine the superb bas-reliefs and Cosmology of Nut and walk among some of the earliest astronomically aligned buildings. We hope the ruins of what may be the world's oldest brewery will be accessible on our visit, too.

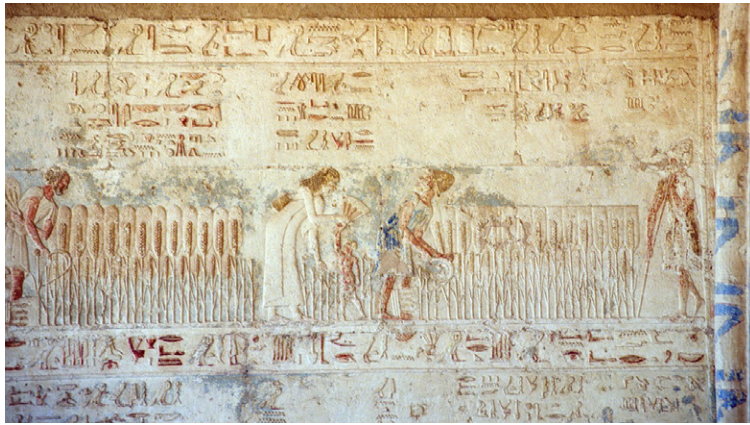


ROYAL TOMB OF AKHENATEN — Akhenaten, one of the most famous of the Pharaohs, ordered: 'Let my tomb be made for me in the eastern mountain.'

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE **Insight Cruises**
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

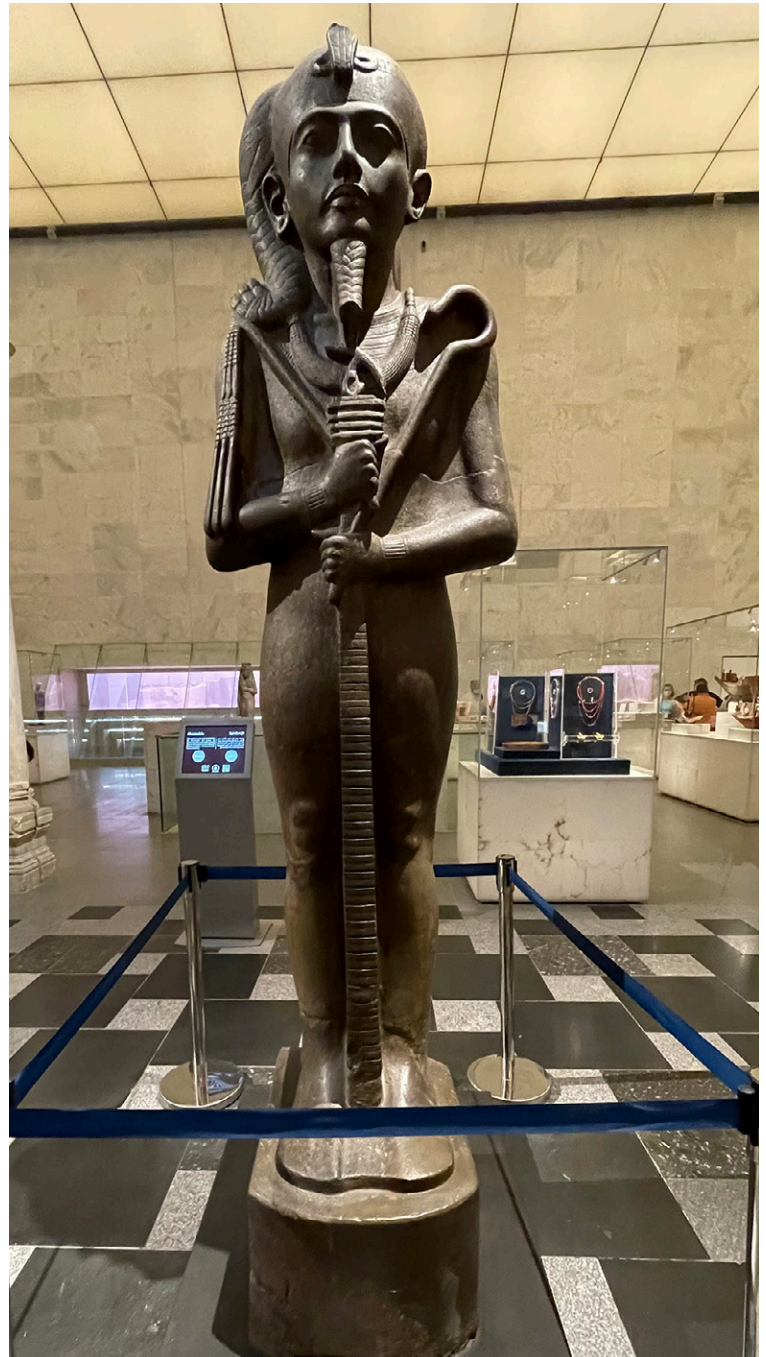
Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



TUNA EL GEBEL (Tomb of Petosiris) — See the god Thoth's many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You'll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god's responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you'll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories.



AMARNA (Royal Tomb, Palace, Temple of Aten, and more) — Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti's city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten's new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten's bold initiative.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION — Get the big picture of the world's oldest civilization at the NMEC. You can use its artifacts to chart the evolution of Egypt's culture through prehistoric, pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic, and Islamic eras. You'll have the opportunity to see the Royal Mummies Hall, resting place of 20 kings and queens of ancient Egypt's New Kingdom.

OPTIONS 3 & 5 (...continued) Nile River Cruise (Aswan to Luxor): Tou



GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX — Visit the Great Pyramid and its Old Kingdom royal kin, the only surviving members of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Getting your bearings on the Giza Plateau gives you a sense of the precision (achieved with astronomical skills) with which the Egyptians aligned the Pyramids to the cardinal directions and to symbolic topographic features.



TOMB OF NAKHT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Even though not much is known about the 18th Dynasty priest Nakht, his tomb draws visitors with its detailed depictions of offerings and for paintings of fishing and fowling that are both realistic and imbued with symbolism.



TOMB OF TAWSSERT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Stepping into Tawsert and Setnakt's tomb is stepping on to the stage where rivalries and political feuds played out, religious traditions were ignored, and names and faces were covered over. The highlights of the visit are visual, though Tawsert's tomb has beautiful illustrations from ancient funerary literature and many striking depictions of the gods.



SAQQARA WITH PYRAMIDS OF DJOSER, UNAS (Special Access Visit), AND TETI; AND MASTABA OF TI (Special Access Visit) — Visit the ancestor of the Pyramids of Giza — the Step Pyramid complex of Djoser. Venture into the small Pyramid of Unas, and see the earliest known Pyramid Texts, spells guiding the pharaoh to the afterlife. The Pyramid of Teti offers you a written mention of Sirius, Orion, and the Big Dipper, solidifying your proof of the astronomical underpinnings of Giza and Saqqara.

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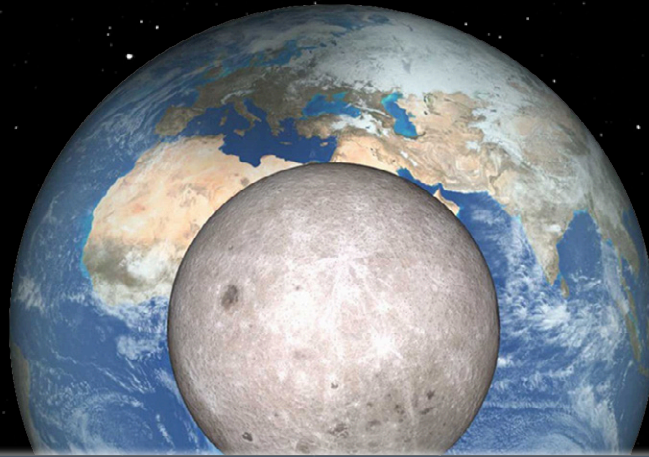
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Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 28 – August 4, 2027

**HILTON LUXOR
RESORT & SPA**

(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)

OPTION 6 Summary

Venue Name (code)	Hilton (st24)
OPTION #	OPTION #6
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st24
Start	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2027
End	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2027
Total number of nights	7
Lodging or cruise fare (based on double occ.), from ...	\$325/night
Max price (double occupancy)	\$400/night
Cocktail party addon	\$245
Excursions addon	\$2,050
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	\$100
Conference addon	\$1,250
Gov't taxes and fees	\$365
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	\$70
Venue gratuities	\$175
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities	\$610
Cairo package addon (available pre or post this OPTION)	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	\$6,499 - \$6,999
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (incl. meals & transfers)	Starts at \$325/night
Name of hotel for pre- and/or post hotel nights	Sofitel Winter Palace (Luxor) or our Cairo hotel
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st24/pdf/st24_combined.pdf

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE

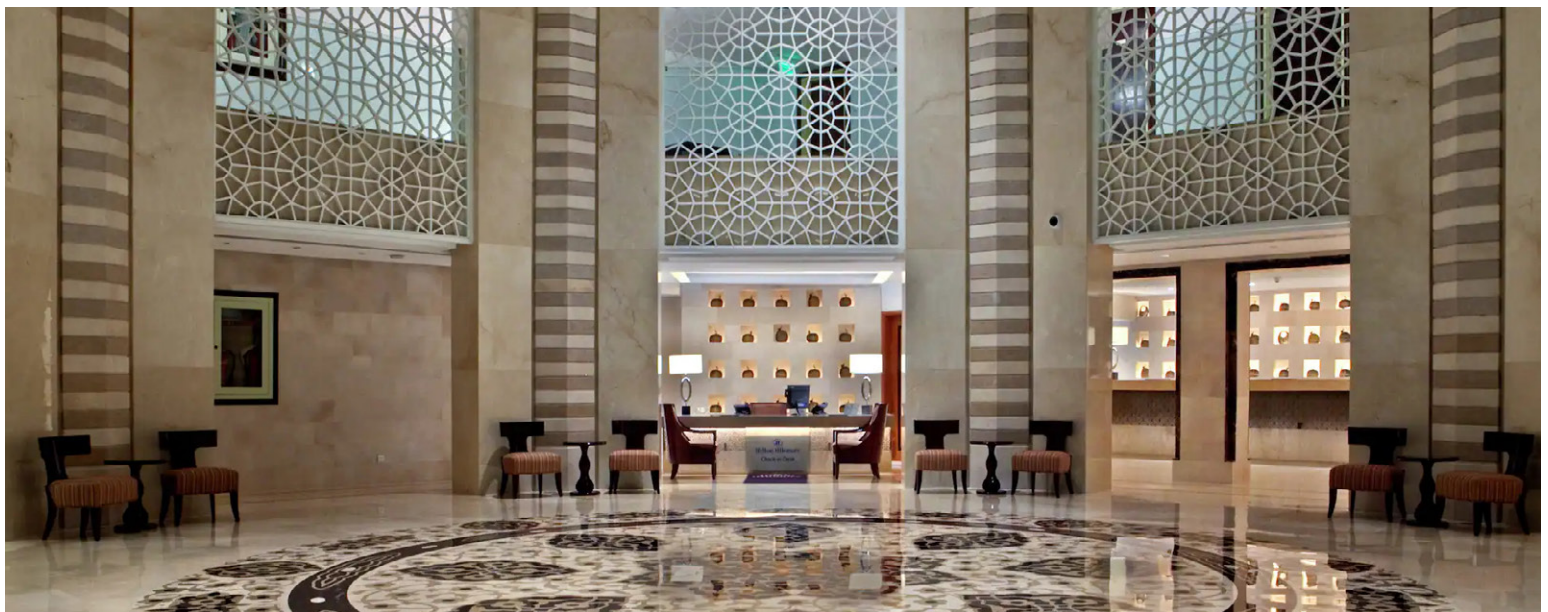
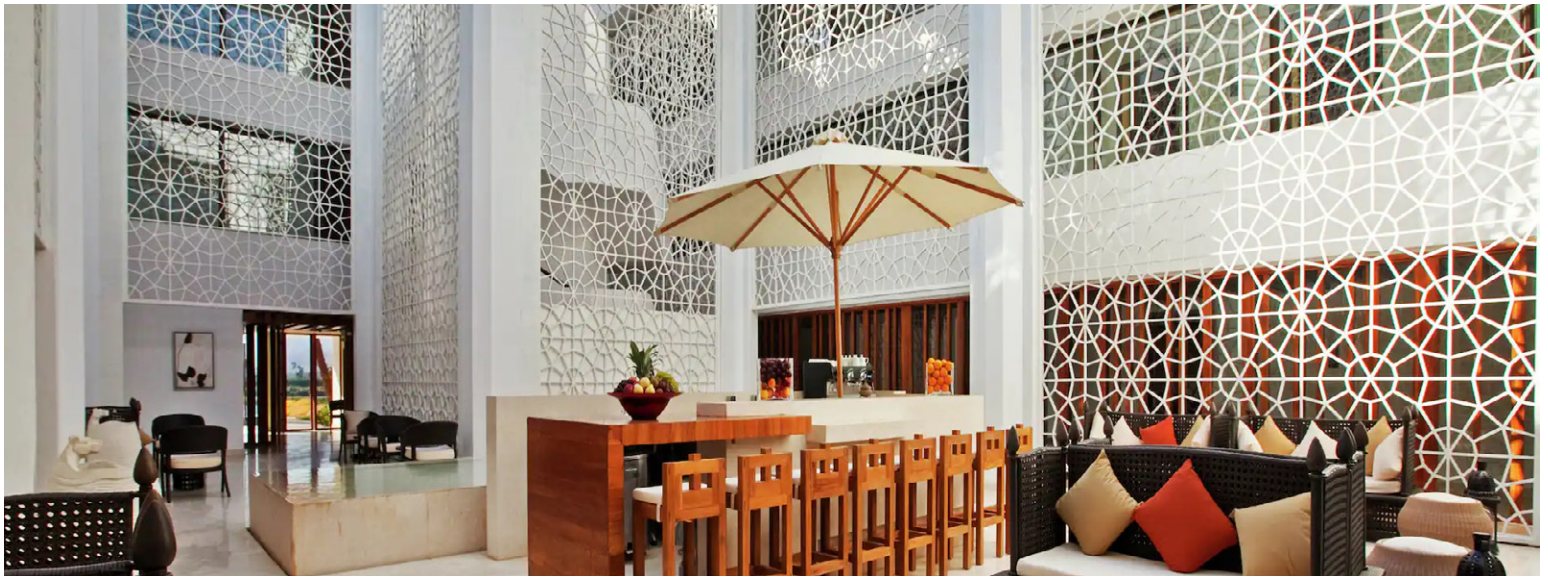


Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTION 6 Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa



(continued...)



OPTION 6 (...continued) **Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa**



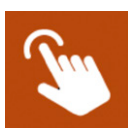
(continued...)



OPTION 6 (...continued) **Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa**



**CLICK HERE FOR
HOTEL INFO.**



(continued...)



OPTION 6 (1 2 & 7 also) Itinerary

DAY	ACTIVITY	START	END	NOTES
WED., JULY 28	DAY 1: ARRIVE LUXOR	when you arrive!	9pm	L, Welcoming Reception, CP*, D provided
THU., JULY 29	DAY 2: LECTURES plus LUXOR TEMPLE	9am	9pm	LECTURES: 11am – Noon & 1:30pm – 3pm B, L, CP*, D provided
FRI., JULY 30	DAY 3: LECTURES plus VALLEY OF THE QUEENS, DEIR AL BAHIRI, & RAMESSEUM	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SAT., JULY 31	DAY 4: LECTURES plus VALLEY OF THE KINGS, & KARNAK TEMPLE	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 1:30pm – 2:30pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SUN., AUG. 1	DAY 5: LECTURES plus ESNA, KOM OMBO, & EDFU	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
MON., AUG. 2	DAY 6: ECLIPSE & LECTURES	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
TUE., AUG. 3	DAY 7: LECTURES plus DENDERA & LUXOR MUSEUM or JOIN US IN CAIRO (optional Cairo extension starts August 3)	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, Farewell Reception, CP*, D provided
WED., AUG. 4	DAY 8: FLY HOME	8am	varies	B provided

Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.

LEGEND for NOTES: B - Breakfast L - Lunch *CP - Cocktail Party including open bar (add'l \$245 pp for all seven) D - Dinner
Welcome/Farewell Receptions include beer, wine, and soft drinks

Download the FULL [36-page brochure](#). Also consider our 1-, 2-, or 3-day [OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS in CAIRO](#) (before or after this event).

OPTION 6 (1 2 & 7 also) Ancient Engineering Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Stephen Ressler, Ph.D.

Stephen Ressler is Professor Emeritus at the United States Military Academy at West Point and a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

A registered Professional Engineer in Virginia, he earned a B.S. from West Point, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He served for 34 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired at the rank of Brigadier General in 2013. While on active duty, he served in a variety of military engineering assignments around the world. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan to create a civil engineering program for the newly created National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul.



Dr. Ressler is passionate about communicating the joys of engineering to inquiring minds of all ages. His three video lecture series – *Understanding the World's Greatest Structures*, *Understanding Greek and Roman Technology*, and *Everyday Engineering* – are among the most highly-rated offerings in The Great Courses' 600-course catalog. He served as an on-screen expert for the Discovery Channel documentary *Superweapons of the Ancient World: The Ram and Blink Films' The Real Trojan Horse*, which aired on PBS in 2015. His award-winning Bridge Designer software has been used by over two million middle-school and high-school students worldwide. He is also a developer and principal instructor for the ASCE Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Teaching Workshop, which has provided teacher training to more

than 500 civil engineering faculty members from over 200 colleges and universities.

Dr. Ressler has received numerous national-level awards from the ASCE and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), including the 2011 ASCE Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award – the society's highest honor.

DR. RESSLER'S SEMINARS

- The Mystery of the Meidum Pyramid: Ancient Engineering Catastrophe
- The Great Pyramid of Giza: Engineering Marvel or Big Pile of Rocks?
- How They Built the Pyramids: Scholarship, Speculation, and Space Aliens
- Cities by Design: Ancient Urban Planning and the Making of Alexandria
- From Shaduf to Aqueduct: Water Supply in the Ancient World
- Astonishing Ancient Machines!
- Ancient Ships and Shipbuilding: A Technological High-Water Mark

OPTION 6 (1 2 & 7 also) Ancient Egyptian Astro. Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D.

Juan Antonio Belmonte is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a

degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the “Carlos Jaschek” Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*.

He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor of more than 20 books on these topics, among them

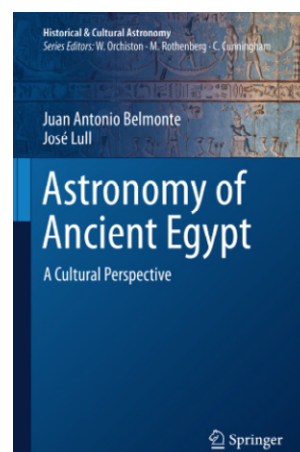
In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and *Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo* (2012, in Spanish). And just published in April of 2023, with José Lull, *Astronomy of Ancient Egypt: a Cultural Perspective* (click to download 50 excerpted pages).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the “Astronomy and World Heritage” initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 “World Heritage and Astronomy”. A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.

DR. BELMONT'S SEMINARS

- The At the Light of Ra: the Astral Deities of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- From Decans to Zodiacs, the Starry Skies of Ancient Egypt (2 hours)
- The Egyptian Calendar: a Gift of the Nile (2 hours)
- Light in the Temples: Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2 hours)
- The Astronomers of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- Astronomy at the Service of Ancient Egyptian Chronology (90 minutes)



OPTION 6 (1 2 & 7 also) Egyptology Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Diana K. McDonald, Ph.D.

Diana McDonald is an art historian and lecturer specializing in Ancient Near Eastern Art, and Ancient American Art. She is retired from the History of Art Faculty of Boston

College, where she taught Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Greek art and archaeology, as well as Ancient American art.

Dr. McDonald started out as a 16 year-old intern in the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum, and subsequently worked in the Ancient Near Eastern and other departments at the Metropolitan. She wrote her undergraduate thesis at Harvard on Egyptian art: Theban Tomb Painting of the 18th Dynasty — and received her Harvard A.B. magna cum laude in the History of Art. She received her M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D from Columbia Universi-

ty, in Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, where she was a Presidential Scholar and taught Art and Humanities.

Dr. McDonald is a Great Courses Professor, the author and lecturer on the DVD *30 Masterpieces of the Ancient World*, and author of numerous articles. She is one of the authors of the books *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*, (Boston Museum of Fine Arts) and *The Looting of the Baghdad Museum*.

She received a Henry Luce Fellowship and worked at the National Museum in Jakarta, Indonesia. She also worked and lectured at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Arthur Sackler Collection, The Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and other venues.

She now lives in New Mexico, and lectures on Ancient Art, for Insight Cruises — for the New York Times, Scientific American, and Great Courses — and for the Albuquerque International Association.

Dr. McDonald is a Board Member of the The

Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund, a past judge for the National Endowment for the Humanities, current President of the Harvard and Columbia University Clubs of New Mexico, and formerly a member of the Collections Committee of the Harvard Art Museums. She has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Central and South America.

DR. McDONALD'S SEMINARS

- To come

OPTIONS 1 2 6 & 7 Luxor Touring Package

Below is the list of the 17 sites you will visit, as part of the \$2,050 TOURING PACKAGE add-on, during your stay in Luxor. Four (4) of these sites require “Special Access” which we have secured.*



LUXOR TEMPLE — Get a concrete sense of the resilience of Egyptian culture at Luxor Temple. Fittingly for a symbol of rejuvenation, it has survived floods and foreign invasions to awe visitors with its ancient precision.

In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.



DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS — Celebrate fulfilled dreams of exploring pharaohs’ tombs, satisfied curiosity, and newly inspired avenues of archaeological inquiry once you trek through the renowned Valley of the Kings.

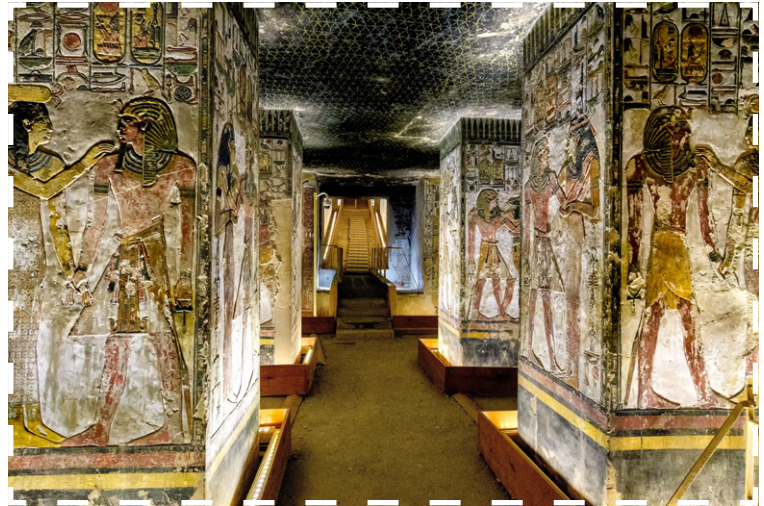


*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.



KING RAMSES V AND VI TOMBS (Special Access Visit) — Feast your eyes on two different copies of the Books of Day and Night, paintings of the sky goddess Nut, and the Egyptian astronomy how-to embodied in star clocks. Deepen your feel for the pharaohs' worldview with a study of ancient Egyptian rocket science.

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



KING SETI I TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Seti I's Tomb served as an inspiration for most later Egyptian tomb art. Its indelible celestial diagrams and stellar clocks will enrich your stargazing forever.



EDFU — It's easy for Edfu to blend in as yet another Egyptian site that checks many boxes: massive, pharaoh smiting the enemy on the facade, halls of columns, lots of side rooms. Dig in to Edfu a bit, and heighten the experience: the hall of twelve columns refers to the Book of the Underworld and the twelve hours of the night; ceilinged halls help you picture the building in use; the carving of "The Stretching of the Cord" unifies Egyptian astronomy and architecture. All this and more will give you a memorable sense of Edfu Temple as a working building, used by humans.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPTIONS 1 2 6 & 7 (...continued) Luxor Touring Package



TOMB OF TAWSERT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Stepping into Tawsert and Setnakt's tomb is stepping on to the stage where rivalries and political feuds played out, religious traditions were ignored, and names and faces were covered over. The highlights of the visit are visual, though Tawsert's tomb has beautiful illustrations from ancient funerary literature and many striking depictions of the gods.



KING TUT TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Have you glimpsed King Tut's opulent burial goods in a documentary or at a museum? Now you can picture them together with the narrative paintings you see in Tut's burial chamber.



KARNAK TEMPLE — At least 30 Egyptian rulers from ~2,000BCE to ~300BCE built, modified, demolished, and moved parts of Karnak Temple. There's so much to see. Karnak can activate your mind's eye, too. Armed with Dr. Belmonte's archaeoastronomy tips, you can picture Karnak's orientation to the Winter Solstice, to the northern Milky Way, and to the topography around you.



ESNA — Venture into the entry hall of the Temple of Khnum, and see the vibrant results of its very recent restoration. The Temple was decorated during the Roman period circa 100-300 AD, which means that you'll be seeing the youngest/most recent body of Egyptian hieroglyphics known. It's the astronomical ceiling that brings us to Esna, with its unparalleled depiction of lunar phases, and a detailed stellar clock.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE **Insight Cruises**
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



KOM OMBO — The first rule of temples: Location, location, location. Kom Ombo lives in popular media as an elegant Graeco-Roman temple set on a high Nile embankment. You'll tune in to its nuances: depictions of the pharaoh boating in a marsh; an astronomical procession on the beams of the hall; and reliefs of (perhaps) early surgical instruments. Come for the photo op and take away glimmerings of early technology.



TOMB OF NAKHT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Even though not much is known about the 18th Dynasty priest Nakht, his tomb draws visitors with its detailed depictions of offerings and for paintings of fishing and fowling that are both realistic and imbued with symbolism.

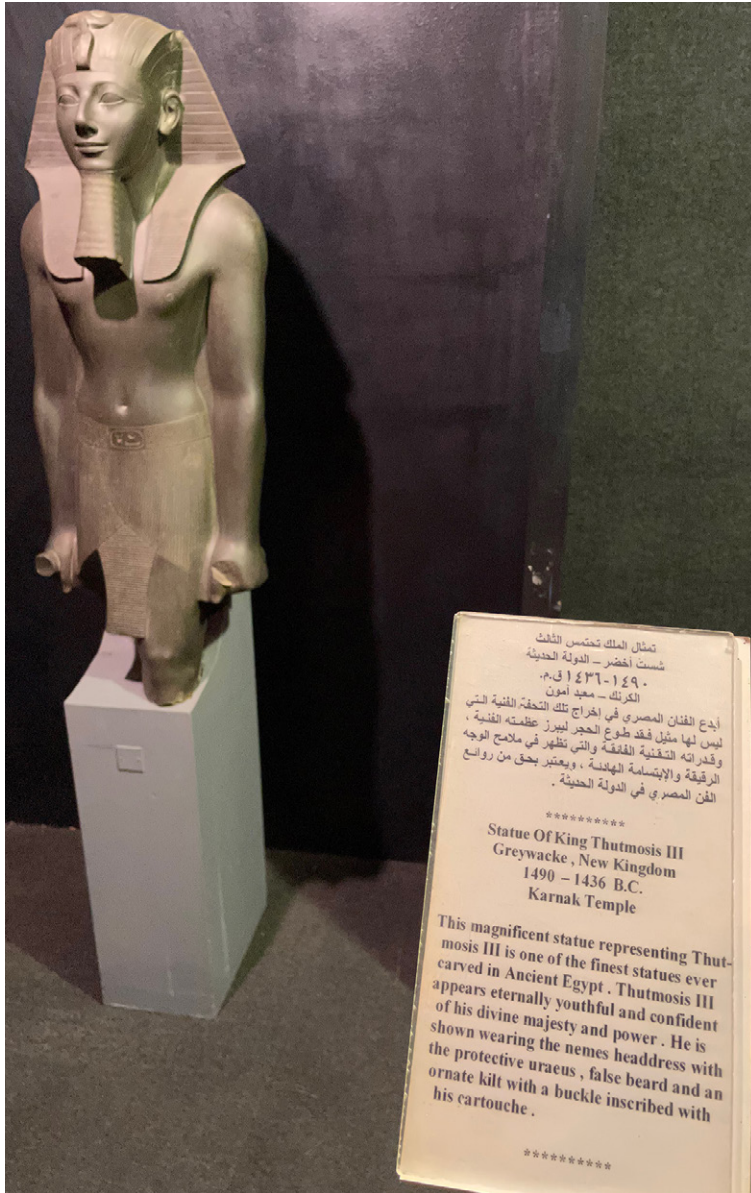


TOMB OF NEFERTARI (Special Access Visit) — We go to “The place of beauty”, Ta-Set-Neferu, to experience the rarely seen Tomb of Nefertari, often considered the most beautiful in Egypt. Its vivid colors and beautiful draftsmanship underpin its artistic appeal; astronomy buffs may find its theme of timelessness and eternity thought-provoking.



TOMB OF MENNA, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — A visit to the Tomb of Menna shows us how the elite of the 18th Dynasty lived. The tomb is known for its beautiful depictions of daily life and recreation. Many of the faces of Menna in the tomb's illustrations are defaced, perhaps showing us the long history of court rivalries. We owe Dr. Melinda Hartwig great thanks as she helmed the project that documented, conserved, protected, and published the archaeological riches of Menna's tomb.

OPTIONS 1 2 6 & 7 (...continued) **Luxor Touring Package**



LUXOR MUSEUM — This wonderful museum has a well-chosen and brilliantly displayed and explained collection of antiquities dating from the end of the Old Kingdom right through to the Mamluk period, mostly gathered from the Theban temples and necropolis. The ticket price puts off many, but entrance to this museum is included with your tour! This is one of the most rewarding sights in Luxor.



DEIR EL BAHIRI — The temple complex of Hatshepsut must be one of the most beautifully situated buildings anywhere. It was known as the “Sublime of the Sublimes” in ancient Egyptian. Explore its structure and you’ll get an organic sense that the temple is oriented to the winter solstice and The Temple of Amun (Hatshepsut’s claimed father) at Karnak.



RAMUSSEUM — Designed to remind all who behold it of the greatness of Egypt (and of the modest builder himself) the Ramessesum gives you a picture of the vast wealth Ramses II had. After sizing up the innumerable storehouses, you may be drawn to the astronomical ceiling of the Barque room in the temple, to see civil, religious, and lunar calendars so you sharpen your ancient Egyptian time-telling skills.

CO-PRODUCED BY:



Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.

Health and safety in Egypt regarding Insight Cruises' Egypt TOURING PACKAGES



We have a safety auditing process in place and, as a minimum, request that all of our suppliers comply with local health and safety regulations. In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we will visit.



We therefore ask that you take note of the safety and cautionary information provided below.

Eligibility

You must be in good health, free of infectious illness, and have a level of physical and mental fitness that would not impair other participants' enjoyment by slowing them down or by absorbing disproportionate attention from the tour leaders. Please read 'Fitness', below, and take the self-assessment tests described there; by signing the booking form you are stating that you have understood what we are asking of you and are fit to participate. If you have a medical condition or a disability which may affect your trip or necessitate special arrangements being made for you, please discuss this with us before booking; or, if a condition develops or changes subsequently, as soon as possible before departure. Our Egypt TOURING PACKAGES are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters, or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour it transpires, in the judgment of the tour leaders, that you are not able to cope, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

Fitness

With the exception of our museum visits, the land portions of our Egypt tours will be active. Walking, stair-climbing, extensive hill climbing, and standing around for 10-minute

periods are unavoidable aspects of tours in Egypt. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support, or lack stamina.

For example, in several of our site visits there is a lot of walking on dirt and/or poorly paved streets. On some paths you may need to scramble over large rocks and very uneven ground. Mostly, fortunately, it is just a case of walking from one place to another – and getting on and off a coach a few times a day.

Secondly, the tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else. We therefore ask that everyone wishing to join our Egyptian TOURING PACKAGES take the quick and simple self-assessment fitness tests described below.

If during the tour it transpires that you are not adequately fit, you may be asked by the tour manager to opt out of certain visits, or requested to leave the tour altogether. Each day's visits can vary in their physical demands.

Some of our site visits require walking (for an hour, to and from), through hilly and dry desert, and require a different scale of fitness and agility.

Fitness tests

1. Chair stands: Sit in a dining chair, with arms folded and hands on opposite shoulders. Stand up and sit down at six times in thirty seconds.

2. Step test: Mark a wall at a height that is halfway between your knee and your hip bone. Raise each knee in turn to the mark at least 30 times in two minutes.

3. Agility test: Place an object three yards from the edge of a chair, sit, and record the time it takes to stand up, walk to the object and sit back down. You should be able to do this, somewhat easily, in under 10 seconds.

An additional indication of the fitness is that you should be able to walk unaided at a pace of three miles per hour for at least half an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 20 minutes.

Middle Eastern Conflicts

In reference to recent developments between Israel and Gaza, it is imperative to acknowledge that this is not the first time such events have taken place -- and it is possible that they will occur again in the future. Egypt has traditionally played a crucial role in facilitating peace between the two parties. It is also worth pointing out that the distance from the Gaza border to Luxor is 400 miles.

Tourist Police

The police presence is all over Egypt, but especially in touristic areas. It is not uncommon to see police at almost every intersection in Cairo and other cities and there will be larger numbers of security personnel around certain institutions and important buildings. Nearly all of the police will be equipped with rifles. This might be an unusual sight in your home country, but in Egypt this is normal. It is not a reflection of any additional danger or instability. In fact, most Egyptians are glad to have the police back in the street in such numbers after they were largely absent in the year following the 2011 revolution (read more).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdel_Fattah_el-Sisi

At tourism sites you will find police officers with a special badge on their shoulders that says, "Tourism Police". These officers are designated specifically to make sure that visitors to Egypt are safe and as a convenience to tourists since they speak English. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to seek out the tourist police. You can be confident that the Egyptian tourist police will ensure your safety throughout your stay.

Booking detail

We reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.

OPT

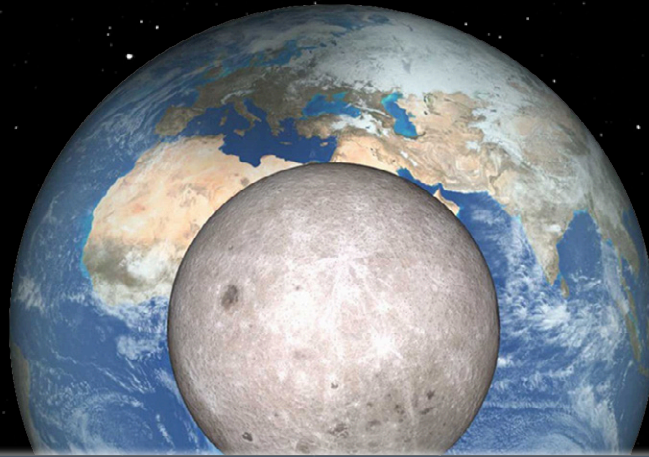


TION



OPTION

7



Luxor: Eclipse of the Century

July 28 – August 4, 2027

**JOLIE VILLE LUXOR HOTEL
& SPA, KINGS ISLAND**

(Luxor-based plus
cruise option to Cairo)

OPTION 7 Summary

Venue Name (code)	Jolie Ville (st25)
OPTION #	OPTION #7
URL	InsightCruises.com/events/st25
Start	Varies: three (3) nights minimum
End	Varies: latest WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4
Total number of nights	3-7
Lodging or cruise fare (based on double occ.), from ...	\$295/night
Max price (double occupancy) (per night)	\$1,500 pp (first two people) + \$225 pp (add'l people)
Cocktail party addon	\$35/night
Excursions addon	\$2,050
Excursions tour guides gratuities (if signed up for the tours)	\$100
Conference addon	\$1,250
Gov't taxes and fees	\$50/night
Insight Cruises tour leader fees	\$10/night
Venue gratuities	\$25/night
TOTAL of taxes, fees, gratuities for 1st & 2nd people only	\$85/night
Cairo package addon (available pre or post this OPTION)	InsightCruises.com/pdf/Cairo_Pre-and-Post_Luxor.pdf
Cruise-to-Cairo addon	\$6,499 - \$6,999
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (incl. meals & transfers)	Starts at \$295/night
Add'l pre- and/or post hotel nights (name of hotel)	Jolie Ville (Luxor) or our Cairo hotel
Event brochure	InsightCruises.com/events/st25/pdf/st25_combined.pdf

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE



Prices shown are per person and include all meals and all transfers for all of our trips and cruises as well as all pre- and post- hotels and tours. Prices, features, options are subject to change.

OPTION 7 Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, Kings Island

DISTINCTIVELY LOCATED ON KING'S ISLAND, A PRIVATE ISLE IN THE NILE.

The Jolie Ville is surrounded by 150 acres of spacious gardens and expansive landscape overlooking the banks of the magnificent Nile River. The island has a huge variety of trees over 50 years old (some named after regular guests), alongside many species of palm trees. It's a relaxing bit of

paradise. This captivating four-star deluxe property offers 507 spacious rooms & suites, with terrace view of lush palm fringed gardens. All rooms and suites have air-conditioning, satellite TV, and tea/coffee making facilities. The Jolie Ville is reachable by boat and car.

jolie ville

HOTEL & SPA

KINGS ISLAND LUXOR



CO-PRODUCED BY:

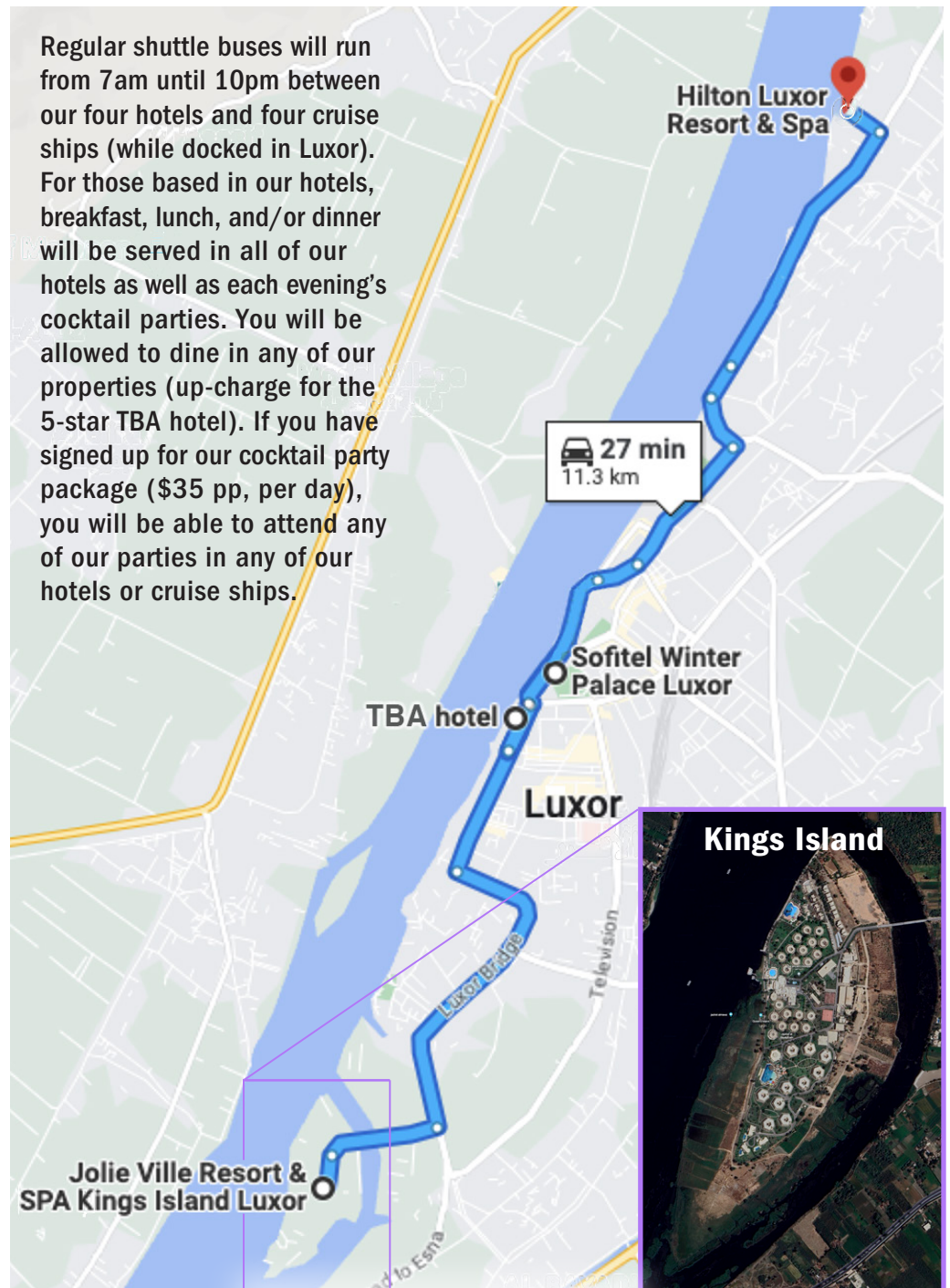
SKY & TELESCOPE



Jolie Ville Luxor Hotel & Spa is an oasis of lush tranquility nestled on an exclusive paradise – “Kings Island”.



Regular shuttle buses will run from 7am until 10pm between our four hotels and four cruise ships (while docked in Luxor). For those based in our hotels, breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner will be served in all of our hotels as well as each evening's cocktail parties. You will be allowed to dine in any of our properties (up-charge for the 5-star TBA hotel). If you have signed up for our cocktail party package (\$35 pp, per day), you will be able to attend any of our parties in any of our hotels or cruise ships.




See next page.

OPTION 7 (...continued) Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, Kings Island

MONDAY, AUGUST 2: SOLAR ECLIPSE (10:40AM - 12 NOON) PLUS LECTURES

On Eclipse Day we'll take advantage of our very comfortable quarters on the eastern bank of the Nile. Observe six minutes eighteen seconds of totality in the comfortable surroundings of our hotel or any of our other venues. Our viewing prospects are superb, only matched by all the features/amenities you need on a summer day: beverages and lunch (included), luxurious surroundings, and plenty of shade. Post eclipse we'll relax a bit, and round out our day with lectures from Drs. Belmonte or Ressler.

25° 40' 05.52" N <-->	25.66820°	6m 19.0s (total)	
32° 37' 23.42" E <-->	32.62317°	6m 18.1s (lunar)	
Umbral depth : 85.23% (109.7km) 19.0km (11.8mi)		Magnit	
Path width : 257.4km (159.9mi)		Moon	
Obscuration : 100.00%		Umbral v	
Event ($\Delta T=76.0s$)	Date	Time (UT)	Alt
Start of partial eclipse (C1) :	2027/08/02	08:40:06.5	+70.8
Start of total eclipse (C2) :	2027/08/02	10:01:58.3	+82.1
Maximum eclipse (MAX) :	2027/08/02	10:05:07.9	+81.5
End of total eclipse (C3) :	2027/08/02	10:08:17.2	+81.1
End of partial eclipse (C4) :	2027/08/02	11:26:25.6	+67.1

Duration of totality: 6 minutes, 18 seconds.



(continued...)

(solar eclipse)
limb corrected)

[Help](#)

ude at maximum : 1.03368
/Sun size ratio : 1.07904
el. : 0.667km/s (1492 mph)

	Azi	P	V	LC
8°	110.4°	303°	11.8	
0°	190.5°	133°	07.9	-1.4s
8°	195.7°	035°	11.3	
5°	200.7°	296°	02.8	-2.3s
5°	253.9°	125°	10.0	

Data provided by Xavier M. Jubier.



OPTION 7 (...continued) **Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, Kings Island**



(continued...)



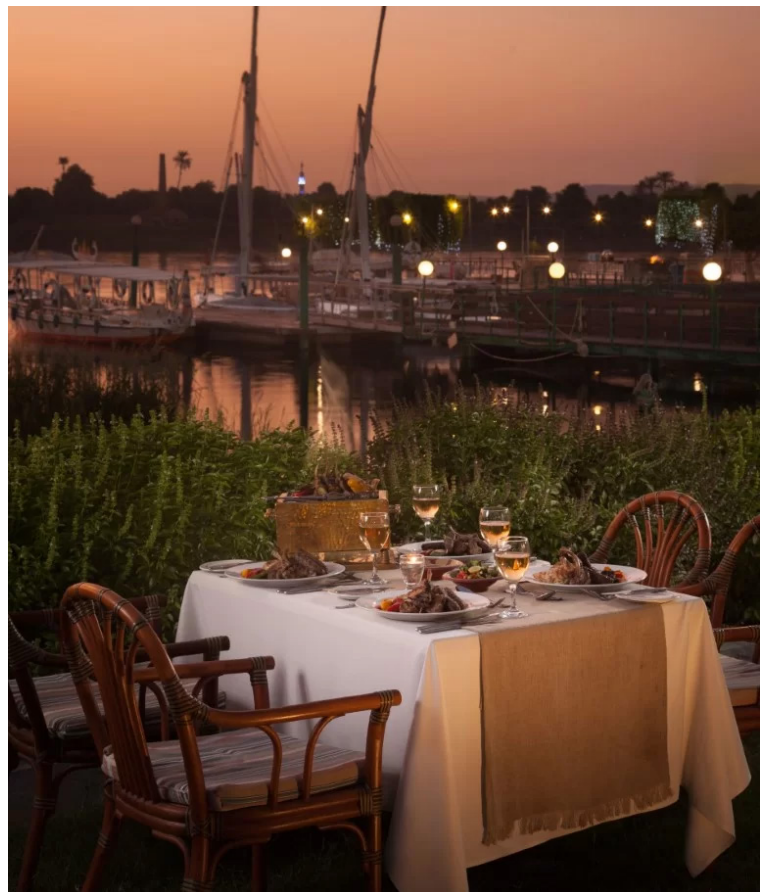
Felucca Main Restaurant

OPTION 7 (...continued) **Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, Kings Island**



The King's Bar

(continued...)



OPTION 7 (...continued) **Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, Kings Island**



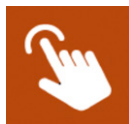
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OPTION 7 (...continued) **Jolie Ville Hotel & Spa, Kings Island**



**CLICK HERE FOR
HOTEL INFO.**



(continued...)



OPTION 7 (1 2 & 6 also) Itinerary

DAY	ACTIVITY	START	END	NOTES
WED., JULY 28	DAY 1: ARRIVE LUXOR	when you arrive!	9pm	L, Welcoming Reception, CP*, D provided
THU., JULY 29	DAY 2: LECTURES plus LUXOR TEMPLE	9am	9pm	LECTURES: 11am – Noon & 1:30pm – 3pm B, L, CP*, D provided
FRI., JULY 30	DAY 3: LECTURES plus VALLEY OF THE QUEENS, DEIR AL BAHIRI, & RAMESSEUM	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SAT., JULY 31	DAY 4: LECTURES plus VALLEY OF THE KINGS, & KARNAK TEMPLE	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 1:30pm – 2:30pm B, L, CP*, D provided
SUN., AUG. 1	DAY 5: LECTURES plus ESNA, KOM OMBO, & EDFU	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
MON., AUG. 2	DAY 6: ECLIPSE & LECTURES	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, CP*, D provided
TUE., AUG. 3	DAY 7: LECTURES plus DENDERA & LUXOR MUSEUM or JOIN US IN CAIRO (optional Cairo extension starts August 3)	8am	9pm	LECTURES: 2pm – 4pm B, L, Farewell Reception, CP*, D provided
WED., AUG. 4	DAY 8: FLY HOME	8am	varies	B provided

Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.
LEGEND for NOTES: B - Breakfast L - Lunch *CP - Cocktail Party including open bar (add'l \$245 pp for all seven) D - Dinner
 Welcome/Farewell Receptions include beer, wine, and soft drinks

Download the FULL [36-page brochure](#). Also consider our 1-, 2-, or 3-day [OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS in CAIRO](#) (before or after this event).

OPTION 7 (1 2 & 6 also) Ancient Engineering Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Stephen Ressler, Ph.D.

Stephen Ressler is Professor Emeritus at the United States Military Academy at West Point and a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

A registered Professional Engineer in Virginia, he earned a B.S. from West Point, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He served for 34 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired at the rank of Brigadier General in 2013. While on active duty, he served in a variety of military engineering assignments around the world. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan to create a civil engineering program for the newly created National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul.



Dr. Ressler is passionate about communicating the joys of engineering to inquiring minds of all ages. His three video lecture series – [Understanding the World's Greatest Structures](#), [Understanding Greek and Roman Technology](#), and [Everyday Engineering](#) – are among the most highly-rated offerings in The Great Courses' 600-course catalog. He served as an on-screen expert for the Discovery Channel documentary *Superweapons of the Ancient World: The Ram and Blink Films' The Real Trojan Horse*, which aired on PBS in 2015. His award-winning Bridge Designer software has been used by over two million middle-school and high-school students worldwide. He is also a developer and principal instructor for the ASCE Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Teaching Workshop, which has provided teacher training to more

than 500 civil engineering faculty members from over 200 colleges and universities.

Dr. Ressler has received numerous national-level awards from the ASCE and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), including the 2011 ASCE Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award – the society's highest honor.

DR. RESSLER'S SEMINARS

- The Mystery of the Meidum Pyramid: Ancient Engineering Catastrophe
- The Great Pyramid of Giza: Engineering Marvel or Big Pile of Rocks?
- How They Built the Pyramids: Scholarship, Speculation, and Space Aliens
- Cities by Design: Ancient Urban Planning and the Making of Alexandria
- From Shaduf to Aqueduct: Water Supply in the Ancient World
- Astonishing Ancient Machines!
- Ancient Ships and Shipbuilding: A Technological High-Water Mark

OPTION 7 (1 2 & 6 also) Ancient Egyptian Astro. Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D.

Juan Antonio Belmonte is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the “Carlos Jaschek” Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*.

He is author or co-author of more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor of more than 20 books on these topics, among them

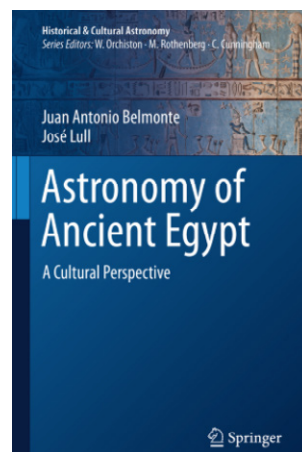
In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and *Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo* (2012, in Spanish). And just published in April of 2023, with José Lull, *Astronomy of Ancient Egypt: a Cultural Perspective* (click to download 50 excerpted pages).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the “Astronomy and World Heritage” initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 “World Heritage and Astronomy”. A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.

DR. BELMONT'S SEMINARS

- The At the Light of Ra: the Astral Deities of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- From Decans to Zodiacs, the Starry Skies of Ancient Egypt (2 hours)
- The Egyptian Calendar: a Gift of the Nile (2 hours)
- Light in the Temples: Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2 hours)
- The Astronomers of Ancient Egypt (90 minutes)
- Astronomy at the Service of Ancient Egyptian Chronology (90 minutes)



OPTION 7 (1 2 & 6 also) Egyptology Lectures

OUR SPEAKER:



Diana K. McDonald, Ph.D.

Diana McDonald is an art historian and lecturer specializing in Ancient Near Eastern Art, and Ancient American Art. She is retired from the History of Art Faculty of Boston

College, where she taught Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Greek art and archaeology, as well as Ancient American art.

Dr. McDonald started out as a 16 year-old intern in the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum, and subsequently worked in the Ancient Near Eastern and other departments at the Metropolitan. She wrote her undergraduate thesis at Harvard on Egyptian art: Theban Tomb Painting of the 18th Dynasty – and received her Harvard A.B. magna cum laude in the History of Art. She received her M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D from Columbia Universi-

ty, in Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, where she was a Presidential Scholar and taught Art and Humanities.

Dr. McDonald is a Great Courses Professor, the author and lecturer on the DVD *30 Masterpieces of the Ancient World*, and author of numerous articles. She is one of the authors of the books *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*, (Boston Museum of Fine Arts) and *The Looting of the Baghdad Museum*.

She received a Henry Luce Fellowship and worked at the National Museum in Jakarta, Indonesia. She also worked and lectured at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Arthur Sackler Collection, The Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Albuquerque Museum of Art, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and other venues.

She now lives in New Mexico, and lectures on Ancient Art, for Insight Cruises — for the New York Times, Scientific American, and Great Courses – and for the Albuquerque International Association.

Dr. McDonald is a Board Member of the The

Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund, a past judge for the National Endowment for the Humanities, current President of the Harvard and Columbia University Clubs of New Mexico, and formerly a member of the Collections Committee of the Harvard Art Museums. She has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Central and South America.

DR. McDONALD'S SEMINARS

- To come

OPTIONS 1 2 6 & 7 Luxor Touring Package

Below is the list of the 17 sites you will visit, as part of the \$2,050 TOURING PACKAGE add-on, during your stay in Luxor. Four (4) of these sites require “**Special Access**” which we have secured.*



LUXOR TEMPLE — Get a concrete sense of the resilience of Egyptian culture at Luxor Temple. Fittingly for a symbol of rejuvenation, it has survived floods and foreign invasions to awe visitors with its ancient precision.

In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we visit.

Walking, stair-climbing, steep ramp walking, and standing around for lengthy periods are unavoidable aspects of this tour. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters; or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour, in the judgment of the tour leaders, you are not able to cope and keep pace with the group, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.



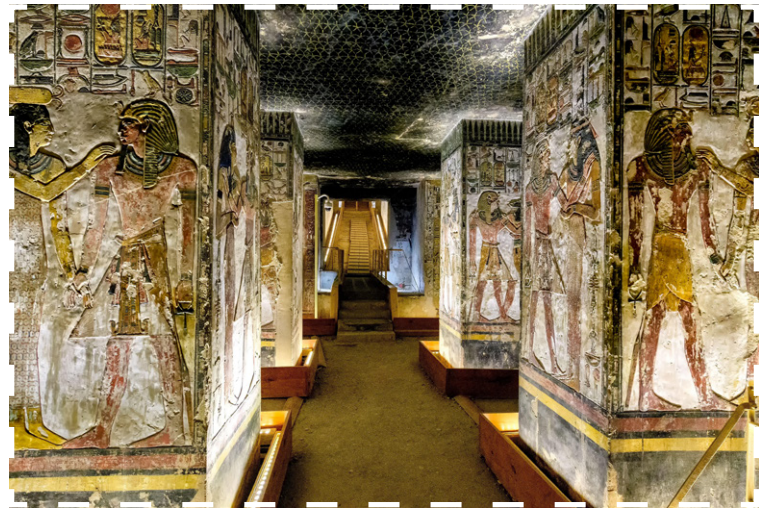
DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS — Celebrate fulfilled dreams of exploring pharaohs’ tombs, satisfied curiosity, and newly inspired avenues of archaeological inquiry once you trek through the renowned Valley of the Kings.



*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.



KING SETI I TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Seti I's Tomb served as an inspiration for most later Egyptian tomb art. Its indelible celestial diagrams and stellar clocks will enrich your stargazing forever.

KING RAMSES V AND VI TOMBS (Special Access Visit) — Feast your eyes on two different copies of the Books of Day and Night, paintings of the sky goddess Nut, and the Egyptian astronomy how-to embodied in star clocks. Deepen your feel for the pharaohs' worldview with a study of ancient Egyptian rocket science.



EDFU — It's easy for Edfu to blend in as yet another Egyptian site that checks many boxes: massive, pharaoh smiting the enemy on the facade, halls of columns, lots of side rooms. Dig in to Edfu a bit, and heighten the experience: the hall of twelve columns refers to the Book of the Underworld and the twelve hours of the night; ceilinged halls help you picture the building in use; the carving of "The Stretching of the Cord" unifies Egyptian astronomy and architecture. All this and more will give you a memorable sense of Edfu Temple as a working building, used by humans.

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

OPTIONS 1 2 6 & 7 (...continued) Luxor Touring Package



TOMB OF TAWSERT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Stepping into Tawsert and Setnakt's tomb is stepping on to the stage where rivalries and political feuds played out, religious traditions were ignored, and names and faces were covered over. The highlights of the visit are visual, though Tawsert's tomb has beautiful illustrations from ancient funerary literature and many striking depictions of the gods.



KING TUT TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Have you glimpsed King Tut's opulent burial goods in a documentary or at a museum? Now you can picture them together with the narrative paintings you see in Tut's burial chamber.



KARNAK TEMPLE — At least 30 Egyptian rulers from ~2,000BCE to ~300BCE built, modified, demolished, and moved parts of Karnak Temple. There's so much to see. Karnak can activate your mind's eye, too. Armed with Dr. Belmonte's archaeoastronomy tips, you can picture Karnak's orientation to the Winter Solstice, to the northern Milky Way, and to the topography around you.



ESNA — Venture into the entry hall of the Temple of Khnum, and see the vibrant results of its very recent restoration. The Temple was decorated during the Roman period circa 100-300 AD, which means that you'll be seeing the youngest/most recent body of Egyptian hieroglyphics known. It's the astronomical ceiling that brings us to Esna, with its unparalleled depiction of lunar phases, and a detailed stellar clock.

CO-PRODUCED BY:

SKY & TELESCOPE **Insight Cruises**
THE JOURNEY WITHIN

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.



KOM OMBO — The first rule of temples: Location, location, location. Kom Ombo lives in popular media as an elegant Graeco-Roman temple set on a high Nile embankment. You'll tune in to its nuances: depictions of the pharaoh boating in a marsh; an astronomical procession on the beams of the hall; and reliefs of (perhaps) early surgical instruments. Come for the photo op and take away glimmerings of early technology.



TOMB OF NAKHT, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — Even though not much is known about the 18th Dynasty priest Nakht, his tomb draws visitors with its detailed depictions of offerings and for paintings of fishing and fowling that are both realistic and imbued with symbolism.

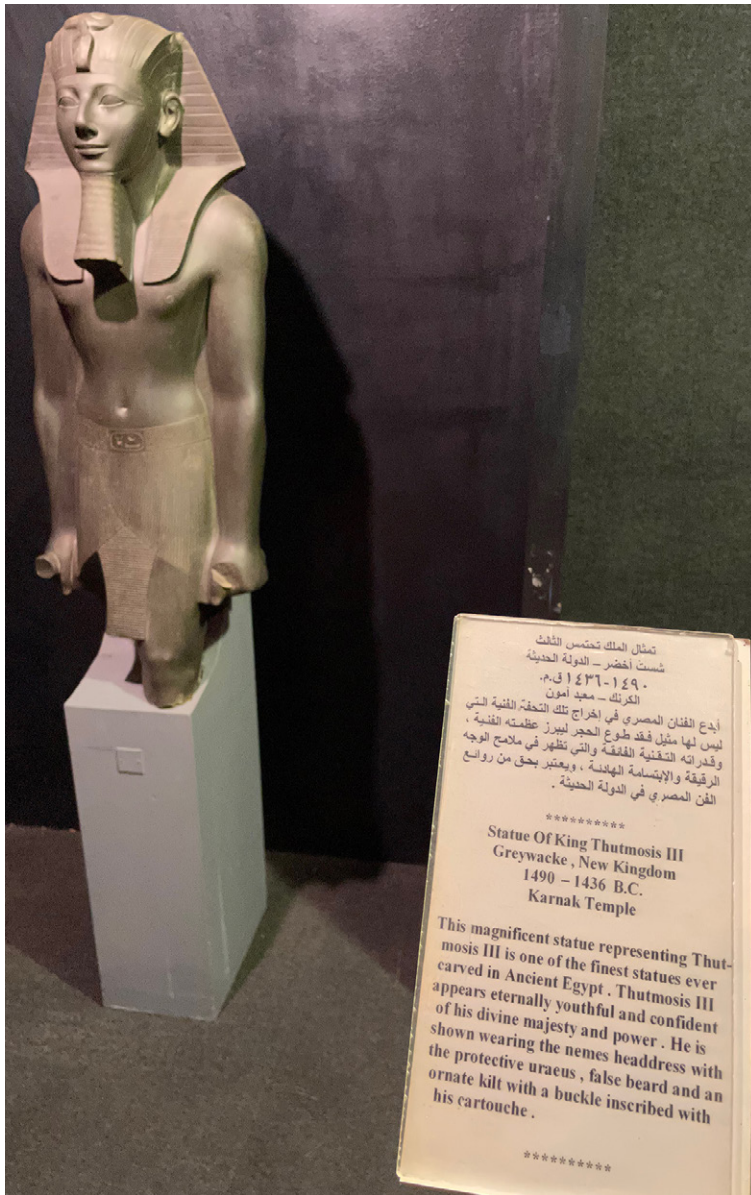


TOMB OF NEFERTARI (Special Access Visit) — We go to “The place of beauty”, Ta-Set-Neferu, to experience the rarely seen Tomb of Nefertari, often considered the most beautiful in Egypt. Its vivid colors and beautiful draftsmanship underpin its artistic appeal; astronomy buffs may find its theme of timelessness and eternity thought-provoking.



TOMB OF MENNA, VALLEY OF THE NOBLES — A visit to the Tomb of Menna shows us how the elite of the 18th Dynasty lived. The tomb is known for its beautiful depictions of daily life and recreation. Many of the faces of Menna in the tomb's illustrations are defaced, perhaps showing us the long history of court rivalries. We owe Dr. Melinda Hartwig great thanks as she helmed the project that documented, conserved, protected, and published the archaeological riches of Menna's tomb.

OPTIONS 1 2 6 & 7 (...continued) Luxor Touring Package



LUXOR MUSEUM — This wonderful museum has a well-chosen and brilliantly displayed and explained collection of antiquities dating from the end of the Old Kingdom right through to the Mamluk period, mostly gathered from the Theban temples and necropolis. The ticket price puts off many, but entrance to this museum is included with your tour! This is one of the most rewarding sights in Luxor.



DEIR EL BAHIRI — The temple complex of Hatshepsut must be one of the most beautifully situated buildings anywhere. It was known as the “Sublime of the Sublimes” in ancient Egyptian. Explore its structure and you’ll get an organic sense that the temple is oriented to the winter solstice and The Temple of Amun (Hatshepsut’s claimed father) at Karnak.



RAMUSSEUM — Designed to remind all who behold it of the greatness of Egypt (and of the modest builder himself) the Ramesseum gives you a picture of the vast wealth Ramses II had. After sizing up the innumerable storehouses, you may be drawn to the astronomical ceiling of the Barque room in the temple, to see civil, religious, and lunar calendars so you sharpen your ancient Egyptian time-telling skills.

CO-PRODUCED BY:



Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.

Health and safety in Egypt regarding Insight Cruises' Egypt TOURING PACKAGES



We have a safety auditing process in place and, as a minimum, request that all of our suppliers comply with local health and safety regulations. In Egypt accessibility standards are lower than those you are used to at home, particularly in the areas of unpaved surfaces, curbs, stairs, uneven surfaces, and handrails. Regrettably there are no accommodations for people with mobility issues at the sites we will visit.



We therefore ask that you take note of the safety and cautionary information provided below.

Eligibility

You must be in good health, free of infectious illness, and have a level of physical and mental fitness that would not impair other participants' enjoyment by slowing them down or by absorbing disproportionate attention from the tour leaders. Please read 'Fitness', below, and take the self-assessment tests described there; by signing the booking form you are stating that you have understood what we are asking of you and are fit to participate. If you have a medical condition or a disability which may affect your trip or necessitate special arrangements being made for you, please discuss this with us before booking; or, if a condition develops or changes subsequently, as soon as possible before departure. Our Egypt TOURING PACKAGES are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support such as canes, walking sticks, or scooters, or lack stamina. You need to bluntly assess the status of your joints, your sense of balance, and your mobility skills as you contemplate this adventure.

If during the tour it transpires, in the judgment of the tour leaders, that you are not able to cope, you may be asked to opt out of certain visits or to leave the tour altogether. This would be at your own expense.

Fitness

With the exception of our museum visits, the land portions of our Egypt tours will be active. Walking, stair-climbing, extensive hill climbing, and standing around for 10-minute

periods are unavoidable aspects of tours in Egypt. These features should not present problems for anyone of normal fitness, but these tours are not suitable for those who walk slowly, need support, or lack stamina.

For example, in several of our site visits there is a lot of walking on dirt and/or poorly paved streets. On some paths you may need to scramble over large rocks and very uneven ground. Mostly, fortunately, it is just a case of walking from one place to another – and getting on and off a coach a few times a day.

Secondly, the tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else. We therefore ask that everyone wishing to join our Egyptian TOURING PACKAGES take the quick and simple self-assessment fitness tests described below.

If during the tour it transpires that you are not adequately fit, you may be asked by the tour manager to opt out of certain visits, or requested to leave the tour altogether. Each day's visits can vary in their physical demands.

Some of our site visits require walking (for an hour, to and from), through hilly and dry desert, and require a different scale of fitness and agility.

Fitness tests

1. Chair stands: Sit in a dining chair, with arms folded and hands on opposite shoulders. Stand up and sit down at six times in thirty seconds.

2. Step test: Mark a wall at a height that is halfway between your knee and your hip bone. Raise each knee in turn to the mark at least 30 times in two minutes.

3. Agility test: Place an object three yards from the edge of a chair, sit, and record the time it takes to stand up, walk to the object and sit back down. You should be able to do this, somewhat easily, in under 10 seconds.

An additional indication of the fitness is that you should be able to walk unaided at a pace of three miles per hour for at least half an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 20 minutes.

Middle Eastern Conflicts

In reference to recent developments between Israel and Gaza, it is imperative to acknowledge that this is not the first time such events have taken place -- and it is possible that they will occur again in the future. Egypt has traditionally played a crucial role in facilitating peace between the two parties. It is also worth pointing out that the distance from the Gaza border to Luxor is 400 miles.

Tourist Police

The police presence is all over Egypt, but especially in touristic areas. It is not uncommon to see police at almost every intersection in Cairo and other cities and there will be larger numbers of security personnel around certain institutions and important buildings. Nearly all of the police will be equipped with rifles. This might be an unusual sight in your home country, but in Egypt this is normal. It is not a reflection of any additional danger or instability. In fact, most Egyptians are glad to have the police back in the street in such numbers after they were largely absent in the year following the 2011 revolution (read more).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdel_Fattah_el-Sisi

At tourism sites you will find police officers with a special badge on their shoulders that says, "Tourism Police". These officers are designated specifically to make sure that visitors to Egypt are safe and as a convenience to tourists since they speak English. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to seek out the tourist police. You can be confident that the Egyptian tourist police will ensure your safety throughout your stay.

Booking detail

We reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.