

## CHAMPION

**DAY 01:** Arrival at Cairo airport, meet and assist through formalities transfer to the hotel for overnight.

**DAY 02:** After breakfast drive to **Memphis** at the edge of the western desert, the capital of the ancient kingdom, and one of the most important monuments throughout the history of ancient **Egypt**, from here we drive to **Sakkara** the vast necropolis of ancient **Memphis**. Visit the **Step Pyramid of Zoser** (3<sup>rd</sup> dynasty, 2668 BC – 2649 BC). Then visit the Pyramid of **Unas**, in the afternoon, drive to the **Pyramids of Giza**. **Cheops** Pyramid, the largest of the three, was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty about 2690 BC,. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world .In front of the pyramid of **Chephren**, there stands the **Sphinx** a lion with a Pharaoh's head thought to be a portrait of the pharaoh **Chephren**. Transfer back to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

### Pyramids of Giza



There are no more famous ancient sites within Egypt, or for that matter elsewhere in the world, than the Great Pyramids at Giza. They are, without question, the icon most associated with the Egypt. They have been both the main destination for tourists and a source of imaginative thought to the world for over three thousand years.

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### Pyramid of Zoser



Pharaoh Zoser was the first king of the Third Dynasty. The serdab, on the northern face of the pyramid, contained his statue; this was the place of his "ka," which could see the offerings made to him. The original statue, now in the Cairo Museum, is thought to have recorded his exact features. This pyramid and the buildings comprising the funerary complex were designed by Imhotep, the first architect whose name is recorded. They were also the first major constructions in stone. Prior to this, sun-dried brick had been the usual building material. It is also the first tomb of monumental size. It was begun as a large mastaba, oriented to the points of the compass, but was enlarged twice to a final height of about 200 feet

### Memphis.



**Memphis** was the ancient capital of Aneb-Hetch, the first nome of Lower Egypt. Its ruins are located near the town of Helwan, south of Cairo.

According to legend related by Manetho, the city was founded by the pharaoh Menes around 3000 BC. Capital of Egypt during the Old Kingdom, it remained an important city throughout ancient Mediterranean history.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> It occupied a strategic position at the mouth of the Nile delta, and was home to feverish activity. Its principal port, *Peru-refer*,

harboured a high density of workshops, factories, and warehouses that distributed food and merchandise throughout the ancient kingdom. During its golden age, Memphis thrived as a regional centre for commerce, trade, and religion.

**DAY 03:** Breakfast, visiting the **Egyptian Museum**, famous for its antiquities from **Egypt's** Pharaonic period, dates back some 50 centuries, and includes the fabulous treasures of **King Tut Ankh-Amon**. Afternoon excursion to **Old Cairo**, the old Coptic churches, and the oldest **Jewish Synagogue** of **Ben Ezra**. Continue your visit to the **Citadel** of **Salah El-Din** and **Mohamed Ali alabaster Mosque**, followed by a visit to the Medieval bazaars of **Khan ElKhalili**, where you can bargain for your jewelry and hand –tooled leather items. Transfer to the rail station to get the sleeping train to Luxor.

### Egyptian Museum



Egyptian Museum famous for its antiquities from Egypt's Pharaonic period, date back some 50 centuries, and include the fabulous treasures of King Tut Ankh- Amon. The Egyptian Museum owes its existence to the Egyptian Antiquities Service, established by the Egyptian government in 1835 to limit the looting of Egypt's priceless artifacts. The museum opened in 1858 with a collection assembled by Auguste Mariette, the French archaeologist retained by Ismail Pasha. It was originally housed in an

Annex of the palace of Ismail Pasha in Giza, the museum moved to its present location in 1900.



**The mosque** is situated in the Citadel of Cairo in Egypt and commissioned by Muhammad Ali Pasha between 1830 and 1848.

Situated on the summit of the citadel, this Ottoman mosque, the largest to be built in the first half of the 19th century, is, with its animated silhouette and twin minarets, the most visible mosque in Cairo. The mosque was built in memory of Tusun Pasha, Muhammad Ali's oldest son, who died in 1816.



**The citadel** was constructed by Salah El Din on the Moqattam hills in 1183 AD overlooking the whole city to be his defensive point against the attacks of the Crusaders. Salah El Din appointed to be the governor of Egypt after the death of the Sultan of Damascus, Noor-el-Din.

**DAY 04:** Arrival at Luxor then transfer to visit the stunning monuments of **Luxor and Karnak**, the greatest cities of Ancient Egypt

### Luxor Temple



Luxor Temple, or the Temple of Luxor, is among the most beautiful Temples in Egypt. It was known in the New Kingdom period as Ipt-Rsyt, which means the southern shrine. This was to differentiate between this Temple and Karnak Temple, which was the northern house of Amon Ra. Amenhotep III built Luxor Temple. The architect and overseer of the works of construction was the genius Amenhotep, son of Habu. The Temple runs close and parallel to the river Nile from north to south. It was constructed on the site of a small Temple of Amon, built by kings of the 12th dynasty. At the time of Amenhotep III the Temple was only 190m in length and 55m in width. Basically, Luxor Temple was consecrated to Amon Ra in his fertility aspect.

### Karnak Temple



The Temple of Karnak is the largest Temple in the World! The complex contains a group of Temples such as the Great Temple of Amon Ra, the Temple of Khonso, the Ipt Temple, the Temple of Ptah, the Temple of Montho and the Temple of the God Osiris. A 20m high, mud brick enclosure wall, surrounded all of these buildings.

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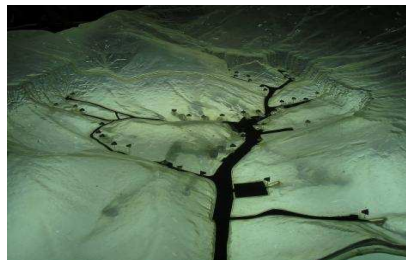
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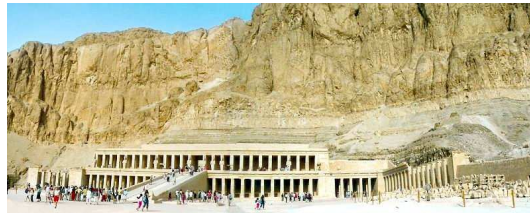
**DAY 05:** Focus on west bank of the Nile to visit the **Valley of the Kings and Deir El-Bahari, Queen Hatshepsut's** monumental rock-cut temple. Stop for pictures at the two **Cossi of Memnon** guarding the valley. Transfer to the luxor rail-way station to get the sleeping train to Cairo (1<sup>st</sup> class), dinner on board

Valley of the Kings



The Valley of the Kings was the royal cemetery for 62 Pharaohs, and is located on the west bank at Luxor. The only entrance to this place was a long narrow winding path. This was a secret place, where sentries were placed at the entrance of the Valley, as well as along the top of the hills, in the hopes of discouraging tomb robbers, who had in the past plundered all royal tombs, including the treasures of the Pyramids! Some thefts were probably carefully planned, but others were spur of the moment, as when an earlier tomb was accidentally discovered while cutting a new one and workmen took advantage of the opportunity.

## Hatshepsut



Hatshepsut was one of the most interesting female figures and most capable Pharaohs of Egyptian history (1490-1468 BC), so our visit to her 3,500 year old mortual temple in the Valley of Kings (Thebes West) was in many respects a quite special experience

**DAY 06:** Breakfast on board Arrive at Giza rail-way station, then transfer to Alexandria, visiting **Wadi Natrun**, (100 km from Cairo), where laying 50 Monasteries dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century, only 4 Monasteries still remain and visited on day to day basis. The **Monastery of St.Makar the Great** with its huge buildings, the opulent appearance of the church's interior is due to the Majesty of its treasury. Proceed to visit the **Suriani Monastery** with its three churches; the one of the Byzantine style is very distinguished. The **Monastery of Amba Bishoy** dates back to 390 A.C, with its 6 churches situated amongst fruitful gardens. As well as the Roman **Monastery of Amba Baramus** this was built and dedicated to the Virgin Marie. Proceed to Alexandria, short stop en route to visit the relics of **St. Krolous** (Patriarch), continue to **Alexandria** the pearl of the Mediterranean. Arrive in the evening, dinner and overnight.

### **Monastery of Amba Bishoy**



### **Monastery of Amba Baramus**



The Monastery of Anba Baramus is also sometimes called the Monastery of the Romans and is very probably the first monastery established in Wadi El-Natrun. In fact, it is said to occupy the place where Macarius the Great settled in around 340 when he devoted himself to the monastic life.

There were 20 monks here in 1960. Now the numbers have risen to around 50. The monastery is surrounded by a huge, massive enclosure wall, while the Church of the Holy Virgin, situated near the western side of the wall, dates from the last decade of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh century. It contains beautiful paintings, as do the two chapels attached to the Church of the Holy Virgin.



### Suriani Monastery



This monastery, one of the four well known of its kind in Wadi al-Natrun, was probably founded in the sixth century, though some might date it later. It is located about five hundred meters northwest of the Monastery of Saint Bishoi. Its establishment is closely connected with Julian's heretical doctrine which spread throughout Egypt under the patriarchate of Timothy III (517-535). The Julianist (Gaians, after Archdeacon Gaianus, a supporter of Julianist theology who was a bishop in Alexandria c.

**DAY 07:** Visit the **New Bibliotheque of Alexandria, Greco-Roman Museum**. Then continue to the **Pompey's** huge red granite pillar and the intriguingly decorated **Catacombs**. Then proceed to **Montazah Palace** gardens. Back to Cairo.

## Bibliotheque of Alexandria



Library of Alexandria was the largest and most significant great library of the ancient world. It flourished under the patronage of the Ptolemaic dynasty and functioned as a major center of scholarship from its construction in the 3rd century BC until the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 BC.

## The Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa



The Catacombs (meaning underground tunnels) lie in the district of Karmouz to the east of Alexandria. The area was called Kom El-Shouqafa or a pile of shards. The cemetery dates back to the 1st century A.D and was used until the 4th century A.D. It was discovered in 1900 when by pure chance, a donkey drawn cart fell into a pit, which led to the discovery.

The Catacombs in Alexandria are so called because the design was very similar to the Christian Catacombs in Rome.

### Montazah Palace



The extensive Montaza Palace grounds first had the Salamlek Palace, built in 1892 by Khedive Abbas II, the last Muhammad Ali Dynasty ruler to hold the Khedive title over the Khedivate of Egypt and Sudan. It was used as a hunting lodge and residence for his companion.

The larger Al-Haramlik Palace and royal gardens were added to the Montaza Palace grounds, being built by King Fuad I in 1932, as a summer palace. It is in a mixture of Turkish and Florentine styles, with has two towers, one rising distinctively high above with elaborated Italian Renaissance design details

**DAY 08:** Transfer to Cairo int'l airport for final departure.