

Secrets of Egypt

Featuring: Alexandria, Siwa Oasis, Sharm El Sheikh, and the Nile River

Your tour at a glance:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>	<u>Accommodation</u>	<u>Meals</u>
Day 1	Arrive Alexandria	Four Seasons Hotel at San Stefano	
Day 2	Alexandria	Four Seasons Hotel at San Stefano	B,L
Day 3	Siwa Oasis	Adrère Amellal	B,L,D
Day 4	Siwa Oasis	Adrère Amellal	B,L,D
Day 5	Alexandria	Iberotel Burj Al Arab	B
Day 6	Sharm El Sheikh	Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh	B
Day 7	Sharm El Sheikh	Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh	B,L
Day 8	Sharm El Sheikh	Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh	B
Day 9	Nile River	Sonesta St. George Cruise	B,L,D
Day 10	Nile River	Sonesta St. George Cruise	B,L,D
Day 11	Nile River	Sonesta St. George Cruise	B,L,D
Day 12	Departure		B

DAY 1

Alexandria

Four Seasons Hotel at San Stefano

Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Burj Al Ahrab Airport, you will be met and transferred to your accommodations at the Four Seasons Hotel Alexandria at San Stefano. Situated in the majestic Grand Plaza shopping and residential complex, the hotel overlooks the Corniche and the beautiful Mediterranean Sea in one of Alexandria's most exclusive neighborhoods. The hotel occupies 19 floors of this distinctive tower complex, which takes maximum advantage of the stunning ocean views, and provides guests with the distinctive Four Seasons service 24 hours a day, an experience unrivaled in Alexandria.

The Four Seasons offers amazing guest rooms which provide sweeping views of the Mediterranean and the Corniche. The rooms are bright and airy, and the design by Pierre Yves Rochon lends a sense of the classic glamor and prestige of Egypt's legendary resort. All rooms are large and spacious, with chic décor, excellent views of the city or the hotel's private beach, and en suite marble bathrooms. The Sea View suites are located on the higher floors and offer unobstructed panoramas of the Mediterranean.

The Four Seasons Spa and Wellness Center offers a variety of services for guests' relaxation. Indulge in relaxation techniques, massage therapies, and beauty treatments in the comfortable treatment rooms, which include two couple's suites.

The hotel's nine restaurants and lounges offer a wide variety of dining options, from elegant and formal to casual poolside dining. The premier restaurant is Byblos, which features fine Lebanese cuisine in an elegant interior with excellent view of the Mediterranean. Stefano's offers Southern Italian fare with seafood specialties, and Kala is an all-day Mediterranean buffet. Fresca Café and Gelateria is a great place to enjoy light meals and snacks, while Sushi etc. features a menu of Southeast Asian cuisine. The pool bar and grill and the Bleu terrace lounge are open only in the summer. The lobby lounge offers nightly musical entertainment, and Le Bar is a chic place to enjoy martinis or cocktails.



DAY 2

Alexandria

Four Seasons Hotel at San Stefano

Breakfast and Lunch

After breakfast at the hotel, you will explore the fascinating city of Alexandria. The Pearl of the Mediterranean is the second largest city in Egypt next to the famous and historic Cairo. Since its founding by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, Alexandria has always been known as a capital of historic culture and Mediterranean ambience. With a rich history on its side, its subtle and persuasive beauty has made it a well-known tourist destination for all kinds of explorers and adventurers.

Begin with a visit to the Catacomb of Kom El Shoqafa, an extensive three level funerary complex dating from the 2nd century A.D. Continue to visit the Bibliotheca of Alexandria, one of the most



unusual architectural masterpieces of the 21st century and the meeting point of the three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Lunch is included during the tour and will be served at a local seafood restaurant.

Visit the Pompey's Pillar, a red Aswan granite column over 80 feet tall with a circumference of almost 30 feet, which was constructed in honor of the Emperor Diocletian. Originally from the temple of the Serapis, it was once a magnificent structure rivaling the Soma and the Caesareum. Next visit the National Museum in Alexandria and the famous Montazah Palace Gardens. Stroll through the Gardens and view the palace of the late King Farouk.

Head back to your hotel for the evening.

DAY 3

Siwa Oasis

Adrère Amellal

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Awake and depart after breakfast, aiming now for Egypt's Western Desert. En route, stop at the El-Alamein WWII Museum and Memorial, featuring many of Rommel's lost tanks and a British graveyard where Commonwealth troops from India, South Africa, Greece, New Zealand, and Australia are laid to rest. The modest village of El Alamein gained a place in history when, in the late summer and autumn of 1942, the advance of Rommel's Afrika Korps was halted by British forces in a series of bloody battles in which some 80,000 men on both sides were killed or wounded. Visit the British Military Cemetery, containing 7,500 graves, and the nearby Museum, established in 1965 and containing weapons, documents and displays illustrating the course of the battles. In the courtyard is a collection of armored vehicles, guns and other heavy equipment. Uniquely, there is also a memorial here for German and Italian soldiers who perished during the series of battles.

Take lunch and continue into the desert towards the Siwa Oasis. Alexander the Great followed this road in 331 BC, taking eight days to cover the 185 miles and getting lost on the way. Legend has it that two snakes led him to Siwa, where the Oracle of Amun declared him a god. Herds of camels, sheep and goats as well as continuous mirages entertain you along the way. Your first glimpse of Siwa is the refreshing site of many lush green date palms carpeting the brown desert

sands. In the distance you can make out the blue waters of Lake Siwa and the smaller lakes. Siwa is located over large quantities of water trapped in prehistoric aquifers. Most Siwans are olive and date farmers and are descendants of Berber tribes from North Africa. They still speak their own language, although most have learned Arabic, and they retain strong ties with Libya, 60 miles to the west. Many of the hand-woven baskets and rugs sold in the town market, as well as the silver jewelry, are collected from the Bedouin who still roam the deserts along the border of the two countries. Siwans are extremely conservative. In public, all married women wear a foot-length, bluish shawl and completely cover their faces with black gauze. Visitors are asked to dress modestly.

Siwi Berbers enjoy a simplistic existence in isolation, but modernization via electricity and satellite television is slowly creeping into the settlements and threatening a lifestyle and language that has existed since 700 BC.

Continue to Adrère Amellal, an amazing eco lodge located just a few miles from Siwa at the foot of the White Mountain overlooking Lake Siwa. This environmentally-sustainable and socially-conscious lodge has attracted distinctive guests including Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall. It is a true getaway with its romantic, otherworldly atmosphere and breathtaking views of the lake and the Sahara Desert.

Each of the 40 rooms at Adrère Amellal is unique and hand-built in the traditional Siwan style, blending naturally into the landscape and featuring traditional furniture and crafts from local artisans. The lodge does not have electricity, so rooms are lit at night by lanterns and beeswax candles. There are no telephones and cell phones are not allowed outside of guest rooms, providing a perfect escape into the tranquility of the oasis. Rooms are constructed using kershef for the walls, a mixture of mud and sun-dried salt, which keeps the indoor temperature down, and designed to make the best use of the desert breezes to keep air flowing through the spaces. In the evenings when temperatures are cooler, braziers are placed under tables and beds are heated with hot water bottles.



Most of the food used in the incredible traditional cuisine is organic and grown on the grounds or by local farmers. Little to no meat is used in the menus. Lunch is a poolside affair and dinner is served in a different setting each night. Enjoy your first dinner here this evening after getting settled and taking time to rest and refresh.

DAY 4

Siwa Oasis

Adrère Amellal

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Siwa Oasis offers an amazing array of desert activities. Ride out into the dunes in Jeeps, hike in the desert to see some of the salt lakes, or dine out on the dunes with the desert sunset as your backdrop. There are stables nearby from which you can rent horses for horseback riding excursions. You can also visit the city of Siwa to explore the local culture, shop its markets and experience its traditions.

The desert dunes appear like waves on the earth and as sunset approaches the shadows sculpt the sand into surreal shapes. Set out for a full-day 4x4 adventure into the desert to see the scenery and experience the peace of the region.



Visit Shali Fortress, the abandoned medieval capital of Siwa. Its mud brick houses used to soar up to eight stories high but today it looks like a sandcastle half washed away. In fact it was the chunks of salt used to reinforce the mud walls that eventually caused the destruction - they melted under rare but heavy rainfall. After the rainstorm in 1982, Shali was abandoned, apart from a few mud brick houses at its outskirts. Climb up the ruined houses to the top, from where you have a bird's-eye view of the whole oasis. Afterwards, stroll through Siwa's marketplace and engage with the local craftsmen.

Take another drive into the desert to the Great Sand Sea, an area where the ground is covered with marine fossils. Environmentalists are concerned for the preservation of these natural treasures and many areas here are designated as nature reserves. Legend has it that entire armies were engulfed by these sands and that somewhere under all the sand a mythical oasis named Zerzura is waiting to be discovered.

Return to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 5

Alexandria

Iberotel Burj Al Arab

Breakfast and Lunch

Check out after a leisurely breakfast this morning and depart Siwa today. Take a picnic lunch from the hotel to enjoy along the way. Arrive back to Alexandria and the Burj Al Arab Airport. Tonight you will stay at the Iberotel Burj Al Arab, located at the airport for easy departure in the morning.



DAY 6

Sharm El Sheikh

Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh

Breakfast

This morning fly from Burj Al Arab to Sharm El Sheikh, a vibrant resort town on Egypt's Red Sea coast. Temperate climates, pristine beaches and warm, clear waters draw countless visitors to the city's shores annually. Upon landing you will be met and transferred to your hotel, the Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh. This resort is an experience unrivaled in the Middle East. Find superb dining, exciting water

activities, and luxurious accommodations clustered in a hillside village overlooking the shimmering Red Sea.

All guest rooms and suites at the Four Seasons Sharm El Sheikh offer a private balcony or terrace, and yours features incredible views of the Red Sea. The luxurious suites offer extra space and enhanced amenities for families but are still perfect for couples seeking a romantic getaway to the beautiful Sinai Peninsula. All rooms feature spacious marble bathrooms with deep soaking tubs, and terraces and balconies are comfortably furnished for those who wish to enjoy the beautiful weather.

Spend the rest of the day at your leisure.

DAY 7

Sharm El Sheikh

Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh Breakfast and Lunch

This morning after breakfast depart Sharm El Sheikh with your guide and driver for proceed on your three-hour drive to the base of Mt. Sinai, towering over St. Catherine's Monastery at a height of 7,540 feet. It is revered as the place Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. Explore the world-famed St. Catherine's Monastery, built at the site of the well Moses used to water the flocks of his father-in-law, Jethro, and also where he saw the Burning Bush. This is the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery, predating the divisions of the Christian world, with origins extending to late antiquity tracing back over 17 centuries.



The monastery contains many works of art, including Islamic mosaics, Russian icons, oil paintings and relics donated by Russian leaders Tsar Alexander II and Catherine the Great. Enjoy a viewing of the Icon Collection and one of the largest and most important collections of illuminated manuscripts in the world at the monastery. The collection consists of some 4,500 volumes in Greek, Coptic, Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Slavic, Syriac, Georgian, and other languages. After this fascinating visit, return to Sharm El Sheikh stopping en route at Dahab for lunch.

Spend the remainder of the day at leisure in Sharm El Sheikh, enjoying the activities and amenities of the resort. Perhaps after a long day of driving consider a visit to the Four Seasons Spa and Wellness Center which offers 13 treatment rooms as well as a sauna and steam room. Enjoy massage therapies and beauty treatments that promote relaxation and renewal. The Wellness Center also offers a well-equipped fitness center and lap pool with a varied yoga menu.

DAY 8

Sharm El Sheikh

Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh Breakfast

Spend the full day today enjoying the Four Seasons Sharm El Sheikh's activities and pristine scenery. The resort is very family friendly, with an extensive list of children's services and activities and the Kids for All Seasons Center. There are three pools onsite: the Waha pool features an



outdoor whirlpool, the Gezira pool is nestled among the family suites and features a kids' pool, and the Aladdin pool is the children's pool, with a playroom and playground nearby.

The hotel has 328 feet of private beach where guests can enjoy the use of complimentary chilled towels and chaise lounges. The jetty lets swimmers and divers have easy access to the sea beyond the coral reef, and Jeep and boat excursions can also be arranged. The resort can also arrange scuba diving and snorkeling activities for guests, and the nearby golf course is only a ten minute drive away.

DAY 9

Nile River

Sonesta St. George Cruise Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

After breakfast you will be met and transferred to the airport for a flight to Aswan via Cairo. Upon arrival into Aswan you will be met and transferred to embark on the Sonesta St. George Nile Cruise. Considered one of the most elegant vessels currently sailing on the Nile, the Sonesta St. George I offers truly memorable experiences at some of Egypt's most important historical sites.

The Sonesta St. George I provides luxurious accommodations, and you will enjoy a Presidential suites in utmost in comfort and elegance. All cabins are equipped with amazing bathrooms that include a steam bath, Jacuzzi, and water massage, and rooms also feature panoramic French windows that provide stunning views of the Nile and the amazing Egyptian scenery. Cabins are appointed with rich and elegant décor, with comfortable furnishings and hardwood floors.

The ship features a main dining room with sophisticated décor on the lower level, and the piano bar serves a variety of cocktails and beverages under the warm glow of a handmade chandelier. The panoramic lounge on deck four provides spectacular views of the Nile, and the sun deck features a bar for refreshments. In addition, there is a lounge with a dance floor and stage where nightly entertainment takes place.



When guests are not on their expertly guided excursions, there is also a Spa & Wellness Center where they can indulge in luxurious massage services. The ship features an oversized swimming pool that includes a shallow water extension and a Jacuzzi to relax in while taking in the incredible scenery.

After lunch on the ship begin the cruise with the world famous High Dam, considered an engineering miracle when it was built in the 1960s. The Dam is 11,811 feet long, 3,215 feet thick at the base, and 364 feet tall. Today it provides irrigation and electricity for the whole of Egypt. From the top of the two-mile long High Dam you can gaze across Lake Nasser to Kalabsha temple in the south and the huge power station to the north.

Transfer by motorboat on Lake Nasser to the Island of Agilka. Even when it seemed that Philae Temple was destined to be lost forever beneath the rising waters of the Nile, it was moved to this island in a cooperative effort by UNESCO and the Egyptian Antiquity Organization. It was saved



from being submerged and eroded by the waters of Lake Nasser, a project that began in 1972 and was completed 1980. The romantic and majestic aura surrounding the temple complex of Isis on Philae is a must see for all travelers to Aswan.

Later this afternoon take a delightful felucca sailing excursion around Elephantine Island and Kitchener's Island, and past the Agha Khan's mausoleum. Stop for a visit at the Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island and marvel at the myriad flora Lord Kitchener brought to Aswan from around the world.

Return to the ship for dinner and continue the trip along the river.

DAY 10

Nile River

Sonesta St. George Cruise

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Have breakfast on board while sailing to Kom Ombo, where you have the opportunity to visit the temple shared by two gods, Sobek and Haroeries. Be sure to see the mummified crocodiles in their new museum and the Nilometer where the priests determined the current year's taxes. Everything is duplicated along the main axis: two entrances, two courts, two colonnades, two hypostyle halls, and two sanctuaries. The left, or northern side, is dedicated to Haroeries who was the falcon-headed sky god, and the right to Sobek the crocodile-headed god.

After your visit, return to the ship and continue cruising through the luxuriant Nile to Edfu to visit the Temple of Horus. Of all the temples of ancient Egypt, the Temple of Horus at Edfu is the most complete and best preserved due to being totally submerged under the desert. When excavated it was found to be in near-perfect condition.

This afternoon enjoy a special Egyptian cooking demonstration by the ship's Master Chef as you sail to Esna. The remainder of the evening is free for onboard activities.

DAY 11

Nile River

Sonesta St. George Cruise

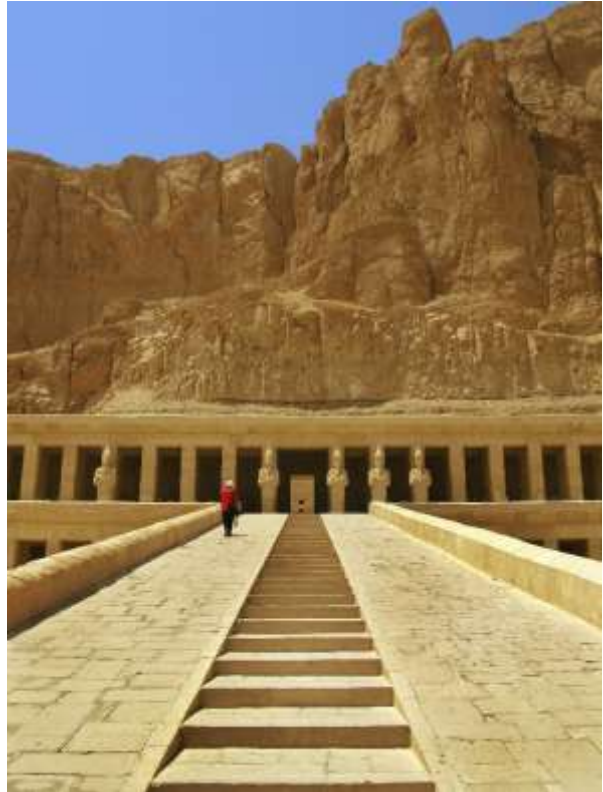
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Early this morning, pass through the Esna locks and sail to Luxor. Enjoy a leisurely morning with breakfast and lunch on board before your arrival in Luxor and an afternoon visit to the East Bank of ancient Thebes with the ship's Egyptologist.

Tour the tombs of the ancient Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings and see where new excavations of the tombs of the sons of Ramses the Great are taking place. Tour the extremely famous yet rather modest Tomb of the boy-king, Pharaoh Tutankhamon.

Continue to the beautiful, almost neo-classical temple of Queen Hatchepsut at Deir el-Bahri. It is magnificently situated at the foot of the sheer cliffs fringing the desert hills, the light-colored sandstone of the temple standing out prominently against the golden yellow to light brown rocks behind.

Nearby, stop to admire the 75 foot tall, 1000-ton statues of Amenhotep III, the Colossi of Memnon, as they sit like giant sentinels overlooking the Nile. These massive sandstone statues once flanked the entrance to Amenhotep III's mortuary temple, but now stand virtually alone in a field now that the temple has eroded away over the last 3,400 years.



DAY 12

Departure

After disembarkation, explore the massive Karnak Temple complex, a vast conglomeration of ruined temples, chapels, pylons, and other buildings. Approximately thirty pharaohs contributed to the buildings, enabling it to reach a size, complexity, and diversity not seen elsewhere. Few of the individual features of Karnak are unique, but the size and number of features are overwhelming. Be sure to circle the giant scarab to ensure a long healthy life and successful return to Egypt. Continue to the fabulous Temple of Luxor, with its Avenue of Sphinxes. Most of the Luxor Temple dates to the New Kingdom period of Egyptian history. At one time the avenue stretched two miles from Luxor Temple to Karnak Temple.

This afternoon you will be transferred to Luxor Airport for your flight to Cairo, connecting with your final international departure.