

February 2021

Land of Egypt 2021

Dear Friends,

We are writing to invite you to consider a trip to Egypt, **December 2-12, 2021**. As you may know, we had rescheduled this trip due to the pandemic. We are delighted that the progress in the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine can make it possible for us to once again travel as a group to these remarkable lands by fall 2021.

In many ways, ancient Egypt was the “mother” civilization for the entire biblical drama, its culture and outreach leaving their mark throughout the Middle East. The people of Israel were forged during their sojourn in Egypt. Their miraculous deliverance from Egypt in the Exodus remains a constant reference point for the biblical story. In the New Testament, we hear of the flight of the Holy Family to take refuge in Egypt, and we learn about the movement of early Christianity to Egypt and northern Africa in the Acts of the Apostles and from allusions in Paul’s letters. In Egypt began the monastic movement, and it remains a stronghold of the Christian faith today.

Our Itinerary

The history and archaeology of Egypt is nothing less than awe-inspiring, and our trip will take it all in. We will begin in Cairo, with the classical guided tours of the Cairo Museum (which some have described as the “attic” of human history!), the pyramids and sphinx of Giza, the ancient capital of Memphis, and all the fascinating wonders of this world-historic city and its environs. From there we fly to Luxor in upper Egypt, the site of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens with their spectacular royal tombs, along with the magnificent Temple of Karnak and the Luxor Temple. Our visit to Luxor will be punctuated with a boat ride on a Faluka, the ancient type of sailing ship that still rides the Nile River. After our stay in Luxor, we return to Cairo for further visits to the sites of that great city and for a tour of some of the ancient Coptic monasteries in Wadi Natrun, a half-day drive north of Cairo, which claims to be the birthplace of Christian monasticism. We will cap our Egyptian tour with a moonlight buffet and boat ride on the Nile! (See the attached itinerary for more detailed information.)

During our trip we will stay in five-star hotels in Cairo and Luxor. In Cairo, our hotel in Giza is in view of the pyramids, and in Luxor our hotel is on the banks of the Nile. All travel will be in deluxe air-conditioned coaches, and we will have the benefit of a professional Egyptian guide (a government requirement; I will supplement our guide’s presentations with further biblical connections).

The price for this trip is *estimated* at **\$4,500 per person** based on double occupancy (\$650 additional for a single room). This price includes all accommodations with breakfast and dinner,

all internal transportation (including the round-trip flight to Luxor), all entrances, guides, gratuities, and taxes. Not covered are the transatlantic flight to and from the United States (currently cited on most airlines as around \$1,000 economy class), lunches, Egyptian visa (required for U.S. citizens), and any personal costs such as additional drinks, gifts, or personal excursions not part of the travel program.

Please note: With regard to final costs for the trip, we are in contact with our travel agents in Egypt. The process is taking longer than usual because of the disruption in tourism during the pandemic. We project that the cost of this trip will be \$4,500 per person, perhaps with a modest increase. We will confirm the exact cost as soon as we receive word.

Circumstances in Egypt

Anyone who has been to Egypt knows that not only does it offer spectacular sights, but the Egyptians themselves are exceptionally friendly, hospitable, and welcoming to tourists. Since the onset of the new government regime a few years ago, conditions have been stable and safe for tourism. Tourism has rebounded in a remarkable way.

We also anticipate requiring proof of vaccination for everyone on the trip. It is likely that transatlantic flights as well as our host countries will require this. We will keep you informed.

Reserving a Place...

If you are interested in joining this exciting tour, please fill out the attached information sheet and return it by May 1, 2021. Indicating your interest does not oblige you to join the trip but gives us an indication of your interest at this point.

Also, if you know of a family member or friends who might be interested in the trip, please feel free to share this information with them. Or, if you prefer, please send me their contact information and we will make sure they receive an invitation.

So, dear friends, I hope you will consider going on this adventure of a lifetime, exploring an amazing part of the world, and becoming familiar with a region that stands at the roots of our biblical faith. As always, I will be joined on this trip by my colleague, Colleen Kennedy, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at CTU. She is a most gracious host and an experienced traveler to the Middle East. We both are looking forward to hearing from you. Once your reservation is secure, we will be sending detailed information to help prepare for the trip, including suggestions about flight arrangements.

Sincerely yours,



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