

## YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF ONE OF TWO EGYPT EXCURSIONS:

### 1) CLASSIC CAIRO



Depart Port Said in luxury air-conditioned motor coaches enroute to Africa's largest city, Cairo. Your first stop will be at Giza Plateau where the only remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the Pyramids of Giza still stand. Your coach will park at the base of Chephren's pyramid and time will be allocated to explore the site on your own. Continue down the valley where the guardian of this mortuary complex, the mighty Sphinx lies watching the passage of time and men in eons of silence its expression an enigma yet to be unraveled.

Take time out to relax and enjoy a delicious lunch buffet.

After lunch drive to Tahrir (Liberty) Square, the heart of downtown Cairo. Visit the National Archaeological Museum and acquaint yourself with Egypt's ancient history, spanning a period of over 50 centuries. The Museum is the repository of the world's largest and richest collection of Egyptian Antiquities amongst them the priceless collection of King Tutankhamun.

Visit a Papyrus Institute where the art of paper making from reeds discovered by the Ancient Egyptians will be demonstrated for you.

Limited time for souvenir shopping will also be allocated before you commence the drive to Port Said.

## 2) THE PYRAMIDS & THE RIVER NILE IN STYLE

Our journey takes us first from Port Said to the largest city in Africa, Cairo. We travel through reclaimed cultivated desert and modern towns.

Our first stop in the Egyptian capital is the Giza Plateau where we find the last remaining of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid. And it truly is a wonder the behold. Our panoramic view from the Western Plateau takes in the entire complex which also includes the Pyramid of Khafre and the Pyramid of Menkaure. All were built during the Fourth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt. The area is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Parking at the base of Chephren's pyramid we have time to explore on our own before heading down the valley to visit the guardian of this extraordinary burial complex, the mysterious and enigmatic Sphinx. We leave Giza with a full appreciation of one the world's most magnificent sights.



Waiting for us on the banks of the mighty River Nile is a luxurious cruise boat to take us on the same timeless waterway travelled by the Pharaohs, the Queens, and Nobles many thousands of years ago. Sit back, relax and enjoy a sumptuous buffet in the elegant surroundings as we sail past Cairo's waterfront landmarks. A folklore show and belly dancing is performed for us.

We dock and drive to the Citadel of Saladin and the Alabaster Mosque of Mohamed Ali where we can admire the exquisite interiors and the fascinating skyline of Old Cairo from the top of the hill.

Our final stop is a Papyrus Institute to see the ancient art of turning reeds into paper before having a little time for shopping ahead of our return to our ship at Port Said.

# Egypt Today and in the Bible

Egypt is Israel's most prominent neighbor in the Bible, especially in relation to Moses in the Old Testament, and in the New – to Jesus. Since the rebirth of modern Israel in 1948, relations between the Jewish state and neighboring Egypt have only gained momentum, e.g. peace treaties, negotiations over the Suez Canal, mediation with Gaza, etc.

It is legal to be a Christian in Egypt, as long as you are born one. Every citizen has their religious affiliation specified on their identity card. If your passport or other document states you were born into a Muslim family, that cannot be changed. Freedom of religion is withdrawn at the moment of birth. Christians are forced to keep their faith secret if they want to avoid persecution or even death.

- **EGYPT WAS THE MOST POWERFUL AND PROSPEROUS NATION IN THE REGION.** The Bible relates that Egypt had wealth, a strong army, and powerful kings. That is why Abraham and many of his descendants sojourned to Egypt for food and shelter in difficult times.
- **EGYPT HAD AN ELABORATE PAGAN RELIGIOUS SYSTEM.** Kings were considered to be gods and superstition was common. After the Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt, the Bible instructed them not to follow the ways of Egypt (Lev. 18:3) and there would be consequences – which there were!
- **JOSEPH BECAME SECOND ONLY TO PHAROAH IN ALL OF EGYPT** (Genesis 41:39-41). Joseph, son of Jacob, did not end up in Egypt by choice (Genesis 37). God raised him to hold a very influential position in this foreign land. In the end, the entire family of Jacob moved to Egypt, escaping famine and drought. For as long as Joseph was remembered by Egyptian rulers, the Hebrews led a good and peaceful life among the Egyptians. However, that changed with a new Pharaoh “who did not know Joseph” (Exodus 1:8).
- **PASSOVER** begins in Egypt. The entire Book of Exodus (meaning ‘departure’ or ‘escape’) speaks of the Hebrews fleeing Egypt and finding their way to the Promised Land through the desert. Egypt was the enemy that oppressed the Jewish people and consequently endured many plagues and served pharaohs. Life conditions became progressively worse for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This situation deteriorated to the point that a few generations later, they became slaves to the Egyptians.

- **MOSES AND THE EXODUS:** But God heard their cry (Exodus 3:7-8) and raised up Moses to lead them out of this land and into freedom. Despite Moses being raised in the Pharaoh's house, it was no easy task to set his people free. It took some intense negotiations, ten plagues and the death of Pharaoh's own son for the Israelites to finally leave Egypt. The Bible says that the chosen nation spent a total of 430 years in Egypt (Exodus 12:40-41) before God set them free through **the Exodus from Egypt - undoubtedly the most significant event on the Nile mentioned in the Bible.**
- **MOUNT SINAI,** the place where Moses received the Ten Commandments, is likely located in present-day Egypt, on the Sinai Peninsula, where Moses received God's commandments.
- **KING SOLOMON** was King David's son and Israel's third king who made a grave mistake, *"And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David..."* (1 Kings 3:1). The many wives of Solomon weakened his devotion to the Lord. One of his biggest downfalls was building altars to other gods for his wives. His rulership ended with the Kingdom of Israel being split into two.
- **JESUS IN EGYPT** - The family of Jesus was instructed by God to seek shelter in Egypt from Herod's command to kill all children in Bethlehem two years and under (Matt. 2:13). They stayed there until the death of Herod.
- **MANY OF THE BIBLE PROPHECIES REGARDING EGYPT HAVE BEEN FULFILLED:** After enslaving the Hebrews and because of idolatry, Egypt became synonymous with sin and bondage. Compelling the Jewish people to choose life, God cautioned them about returning to Egypt and living in sin (Deut. 17:16). The glory of the Pharaohs is long gone, and Egypt is not as powerful as it was in antiquity. As the prophets had foretold, Egypt became a home of rebellion and internal conflicts.
- **EGYPT IN FUTURE BIBLE PROPHECY:** Just as God said Egypt will be smitten, He also promised that she will be healed. Thanks to the Prophet Isaiah, we know that to be true. *"And when the Lord will strike Egypt, strike and heal, then they will turn to the Lord, and He will turn to God, let them plead and heal them."* (Isa. 19:22)