

Graceful Retreats Travel Programs

Nurturing Your Spiritual Path

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Egypt

*"2012 - End of Mayan Calendar & Its Prophecy –
Ushering in the Age of the Lily"*

December 10 - 22, 2012

\$ 4,955.00 (5-star/all inclusive)

*Rates per person based on double occupancy: \$ 4,955.00

*Additional Single supplement for entire tour: \$ 800.00

*Land Only Rate: \$3,955.00

*"The greater soul development may be found in the study of those things that partake of the mystery,
yea of Egypt..." Edgar Cayce reading no. 590-1*

Led by: Grace Yuksek and local Egyptologist

***Tour/Retreat Highlights and Special Features:**

- **On 12/12/12- Group Private Time inside the Great Pyramid**
- **Lecture: "End of an Age - Mayan Calendar Prophecy for 2012"**
- **Lecture: "Ushering in the Age of the Lily"**
- **On 12/21/12-Experience the Winter Solstice at 11:11 universal time – Inside the Great Pyramid**
- **On 12/21/12-Find yourself inside the Great Pyramid for the End of an Age, Mayan Calendar Prophecy**
- **On 12/21/12- Join in Prayer and Meditation-"Ushering in the Age of the Lily"**

ITINERARY

Monday, Dec. 10: Depart from JFK on board Egypt Air MS 986 at 6:30 pm ET. Meals and entertainment on board the flight.

Tuesday, Dec. 11: Arrive in Cairo at noon and transfer to Le Meridien Hotel in Giza. Flowers and snacks on the bus; check-in at hotel and enjoy our first group dinner together. Enjoy a good night's rest.
***S/D**

Wednesday, Dec. 12: Experience a camel ride and panoramic view of the Giza plateau; a visit to the Great Pyramid and the other two main pyramids next to it, the Great Sphinx, the Solar Boat Museum, the Queens Pyramids, the Isis Temple and the Valley Temple. After lunch we will return to the plateau for an Up-Close visit to the Great Sphinx and its enclosure followed by our reserved "12-12-12 Private-Time in the Great Pyramid". After dinner we will enjoy a visit to the Perfume factory. ***B/L/D**

Thursday, Dec. 13: After breakfast we will check out of our deluxe, 5-star hotel and visit the world famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo dedicated to Pharaonic antiquities. It is home to its most famous collection - King Tutankhamun's treasures. Among these fantastic artifacts is also the famous Mummy Room (Museum entry does not include the Mummy Room). The tour will continue on to Old Cairo for a visit to the Citadel and the Mosque of Mohammed Ali, a visit to St. Sergius Church where the Holy Family rested during their Flight into Egypt, followed by a visit to the Synagogue of Ben Ezra where a hoard of ancient manuscripts were found at the end of the nineteenth century, including the ancient Torah dating to the fifth century BC written on gazelle skin, a drawing of a seven-branched candlestick on deer skin, and the manuscript known as the Atlas of Moses. Next we will visit the Hanging Church, dating back to the seventh century. Its name is derived from the fact that it rests on the remains of the bastions of the Roman fortress of Babylon. Before leaving the area we will make a short stop at a fabulous Pharaonic jewelry store. After lunch at a local restaurant we will transfer to Cairo airport for our flight to Luxor and check-in to the Sonesta St. George Hotel. ***B/L/D**

Friday, Dec. 14: After breakfast expect an early departure from the Sonesta St. George Hotel for a visit to the temples of Abydos and Dendara. Abydos was the chief cult center of Osiris and the most sacred temple in all of Egypt. According to legend the god Seth killed his brother Osiris and scattered the pieces over the various provinces of Egypt. The goddess Isis, collected 13 of the 14 pieces and placed them in the Osireion in Abydos. The phallus was never found, so she rose into her higher self and immaculately conceived Horus, the Messiah god. The Osireion is also where the famous drawing of the "Flower of Life" can be seen carved on the wall along with helicopter and tank glyphs believed to be an Atlantean power device. Additionally, the city of Abydos was of prime importance to all Egyptians as a place of pilgrimage. A box lunch containing Falafel, Pita bread, fruit and juice will be provided on the bus en route to the Greco-Roman complex of Dendera dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love and beauty, and to her companion Horus, the Messiah god. The temple is vast and largely intact. Much of the original color still remains. The main hall inside the temple is supported by massive columns. The ceiling is divided into 7 bands. The central one symbolizes the union of Hathor and Horus. The other bands are decorated with astronomical scenes. The famous astronomy temple shows an elongated figure of Nut, the sky goddess depicting the path along which sail the boats of the gods who represent the stars. Inside are represented the hours of the night, the signs of the zodiac and the planets. The bands on either side of the center show the daily course of the sun and the

moon. On the back wall of the main temple is carved a clear representation of the famous Queen Cleopatra VII with Caesarion, her son by Julius Caesar. Also, you will not want to miss visiting the two birth houses, especially the one depicting the ram headed god Khnum creating the divine child Horus on his potter's wheel. Dinner and overnight will be at the Sonesta St. George Hotel.
***B/L/D**

Saturday, Dec. 15: Early morning check-out of our Luxor hotel for a tour of the Royal Necropolis of Thebes or the valleys of the Kings, Queens, Nobles and Artisans. It is the largest known resting place of the Pharaohs in Egypt. We will visit three sites. The Tomb of Ramses VI shows a greater emphasis on the sun god Re. On its walls we will view the chromosome structure of the human body. At the crossing of the double helix, glyphs indicate the actual part of the human body controlled by the chromosome. At the tomb of Tawosret we will view an entire wall scene of an open pyramid supportive of the teachings of the High Priest RaTa referenced in the Edgar Cayce readings. In the Valley of the Artisans we will visit the beautifully painted tomb of Sennedjem. This tomb is so well preserved you can't help but marvel at the quality of the art work and the paint used. Its paintings are among the most beautiful and vibrant in color found in the entire valley. We will also visit the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, a famous and powerful female pharaoh, then on to the Memnon colossi. Check-in to our deluxe Nile River Cruise Boat and enjoy a leisurely lunch and dinner. In the evening we will visit Luxor temple by night. Luxor Temple was built on the east bank of the Nile by Amenhotep III during the 18th dynasty. This temple was dedicated to the Theban triad: Amun-Ra, Mut, and Khonsu. It is also symbolic of the human body. The Luxor Temple is joined to the complex at Karnak by a long avenue of sphinxes with ram's heads. ***B/L/D**

Sunday, Dec. 16: This morning we will visit the temple complex at Karnak which is made up of a series of temples built by a succession of pharaohs dedicated primarily to the state god Amun. A multitude of pylons, avenues of sphinxes and sacred lakes mark two main axes: east-west, following the daily course of the sun and aligning with the royal monuments of Western Thebes. Additionally, the great Temple of Amun is the largest temple supported by columns in the world. One of the most amazing features is the hypostyle hall. With countless historical texts, rituals, hymns and prayers recorded on its walls, Karnak remains a primary source for all aspects of ancient Egyptian culture after the Old Kingdom. Enjoy a free afternoon/evening as we sail toward the temple of Edfu by noon. ***B/L/D**

Monday, Dec. 17: Today after breakfast we will visit the temple of Horus at Edfu. Its name is derived from the ancient Edfo; meaning "The Town of the Piercing" and refers to the triumph of Horus, the Messiah god over Set, the evil god. The temple of Horus is entirely Ptolemaic. This temple contains some of the finest art and architecture of the Ptolemaic period. It is also the best preserved of Egypt's monuments. Edfu gained great prestige and popularity when the festal journey between Horus of Edfu and Hathor of Dendera was instituted as a regular ceremony in the New Kingdom. Our day continues with a visit to the double temple of Sobek and Horus at Kom Ombo. This temple is of the Ptolemaic period and is symbolic of our dual nature. Kom Ombo means "Hill of Ombos". At this location there is a curve of the Nile with a large island in front of it. This island may have been a haven for crocodiles that were later venerated by the local people. Here you will learn of the Gods Re-Herakhty, and Sobek, the Crocodile God, and the Egyptian priests who practiced as oracles for healing at this location. Wall etchings depict surgery as one of the healing techniques that were practiced there. We sail on to Aswan.
***B/L/D**

Tuesday, Dec. 18: This morning after breakfast, we will visit the island of Philae also known as, "The Jewel of the Nile". According to tradition it is from Philae temple that the goddess Isis watches over the tomb of Osiris declared sacrosanct because its earth is considered part of the god's mummified body. We will visit the temple dedicated to Isis, Mother goddess of ancient Egypt. The temple of Isis and Horus

the child dominates the group of monuments erected on the island between the 26th Dynasty and the Roman period. Also, we will visit the unfinished obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut. In the late afternoon we will visit Elephantine Island by Felucca (large sail boat). There, we will enjoy the exotic gardens and small museum. This island was believed to be the place where god Khnum fashioned human beings at his potter's wheel. It is also said, the ancient ruins remaining at this location are the sites where the Ark of the Covenant was kept during its movement. Another curiosity of the area is a well whose vertical sides are only illuminated by the rays of the sun on the day of the summer solstice due to its proximity to the Tropic of Cancer. Lunch and dinner will be aboard our deluxe riverboat. Remember to pack your bags for tomorrow's early morning check out and departure. ***B/L/D**

Wednesday, Dec. 19: Today after breakfast we will check out of our deluxe riverboat and fly to Abu Simbel for a visit to its great temple complex. This site is located south of Aswan near the magnificent temple of Ramesses II of the 19th Dynasty, one of the most powerful Pharaohs of ancient Egypt. This shrine was dedicated to the gods Amun and Re-Horakhty, and to the memory of Ramesses himself. A court and terrace were designed to emphasize the striking façade's primary feature, four colossal seated statues of Ramesses measuring approximately 65 feet in height. Inscriptions added to the structure identify it as Ramesses' mortuary shrine. The temple has a great hall, elaborate pillars, vestibules and reliefs. This hall is surrounded by other chambers and royal apartments, no doubt prepared for the pharaoh's convenience and that of his retinue and harem. Also on site is a second rock-hewn temple dedicated to his wife Queen Nefertiti. Lunch will be either at Abu Simbel or Aswan. This afternoon we will fly back to Cairo via Aswan. Late check-in at Le Meridien Hotel, enjoy a group dinner and settle in for a good night's rest. ***B/L/D**

Thursday, Dec. 20: After breakfast we will board our deluxe motor coach for a visit to the Saqqara Complex for a view of Egyptian life as depicted on the beautiful walls of Merneptah's tomb. Next, we will visit Teti's pyramid with its wall text and starry ceiling; on to the Jubilee temple and the "Step" pyramid of Pharaoh Djoser, and the Museum. From there we will visit Dahshur to see the Red pyramid of Pharaoh Sneferu, the "Bent" pyramid, and the "Black" pyramid. We also visit the massive Alabaster Crystal Altar at Abu Ghurab Temple site.

The massive alabaster (Egyptian crystal) platform at **Abu Ghurab**

Lunch will be at the lovely Saqqara Garden Restaurant. After lunch we will visit the Carpet Factory and be shown how fine carpets are made. On our way back we will visit the Papyrus Institute where we will witness first hand a demonstration of how papyrus, the very first form of paper is made. This evening we will enjoy dinner at an authentic Egyptian home and enjoy the Sound and Light Show at the Pyramids followed by an evening presentation on the 2012 Mayan Calendar Prophecy. ***B/L/D**

Friday, Dec. 21: Today our group will enjoy a regular visit to the pyramids at Giza. Between 10:30 and 11:30 am, our group will be inside the Great Pyramid for the Winter Solstice - 11:11 universal time. This day and time also marks the end of an age according to Mayan Calendar prophecy. You are invited to join together in prayer and meditation ushering in the Age of the Lily. Last but not least is an afternoon visit to the medieval bazaars of the Khan El Khalili Bazaar. Here you may shop for Egyptian treasures. This evening, get dressed up and enjoy a farewell sailing dinner cruise with dance show and entertainment. A group picture will be taken during the dinner cruise. Please remember to pack and be ready for an early morning departure flight back to the U.S.A. ***B/L/D**

Saturday, Dec. 22: Early morning breakfast followed by check-out of Le Meridien Hotel and transfer to Cairo airport for our final departure on Egypt Air MS 985 at 09:20 am. Estimated arrival time at JFK is 3:30 pm. * **B/L/D**

***B/L/D = Breakfast/ Lunch/Dinner**