

Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

THE NILE

February 22 to March 7, 2022

Explore Egypt's historical and cultural riches with Travel/Study favorite Ed Steidle and experience exclusive tours of its temples, tombs, mysterious pyramids and great cities. During the trip, we'll take a seven-night cruise aboard the elegant riverboat *Nile Adventurer*, visiting Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel. Enjoy dining at a private home and talking with locals about the changes their lives have undergone since the Arab Spring of 2011. Our group will discover the largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities in the world, including the tomb of the boy pharaoh Tutankhamun, as well as other millennia-old treasures.

FACULTY LEADERS

Edward Steidle

Edward Steidle, since joining the Stanford faculty in 1984, has taught in the Western culture program and in the literature and the arts track of the English department, for the graduate humanities program and for the Continuing Studies program. His area of study is focused on comparative literature of late antiquity and the Middle Ages. When considering themes to explore during our trip, Ed says, "Egypt is a wonderful treasure trove to all students of comparative culture. Not only is it one of the oldest civilizations on Earth, but it is also one of the most influential. Its influence on North Africa, the Middle East and Western Europe is enormous. The Great Pyramid of Cheops, the legendary beauty of Nefertiti, Ramses II's stunning temple at Abu Simbel, Cleopatra's seduction of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, Saladin and Richard the Lionheart's rivalry during the Third Crusade, the crushing defeat of Saint Louis at Damietta, Egypt's Mamluk victory over the Mongol juggernaut at Ain Jalut and, of course, Egypt's significant impact on the Judeo-Christian tradition are some of Egyptian history's most pivotal events that I intend to discuss on our journey. Understanding Egypt's hugely rich legacy—historical, artistic, literary and metaphysical—offers us a window into understanding our own cultural heritage."

- BA, English literature and Eastern philosophy, Franklin & Marshall College
- MA, comparative literature, Johns Hopkins University and UC Berkeley
- PhD, medieval comparative literature, UC Berkeley

Egyptologist

Fetich Posma-Zaalouk specializes in the culture, history and architecture of ancient Egypt, as well as issues relating to women in the Middle East. After graduating from Helwan University in Cairo, Fetich was appointed Official Guide of the Egyptian Parliament for its French- and English-speaking guests, including dignitaries such as former French President François Mitterand, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and the late Aristotle and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Fetich is a prominent Egyptologist for numerous academic organizations and has worked with Travel/Study for more than 20 years.

Guest Lecturer

Dr. Tarek Swelim is an art historian whose expertise is in the fields of Egyptology, and Roman and Islamic art and architecture. During his career as a guide in Egypt, he earned his PhD from Harvard University in 1994. Later he became a lecturer for academic groups throughout the Middle East and North Africa. He is currently an associate professor of Islamic art and architecture at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. He is the author of *Ibn Tulun: His Lost City and Great Mosque*. Tarek has lectured extensively throughout the U.S., Europe and Kuwait and at the University of Oxford. He has been lecturing on Travel/Study programs for more than 30 years.

ITINERARY

Please note that the sequence of site visits during the Nile portion of our itinerary is subject to change, depending on water levels. The following includes a tentative cruise program, which our tour staff will confirm once we're on board.

Tuesday, February 22

Cairo, Egypt / Giza

Arrive in Egypt and transfer to our hotel in Giza. MARRIOTT MENA HOUSE

Wednesday, February 23

Giza / Dahshur / Saqqara

Following an orientation at our hotel, travel to Dahshur with its early-era Red and Bent Pyramids that provide insight into the trial-and-error process of pyramid building. After lunch journey to Saqqara, the necropolis of Memphis renowned for its roughly 5,000-year-old-step pyramid and mastabas (tombs), which reveal the architectural origins of the pyramid. Our extended expedition includes a descent into the underground galleries of the nobles' tombs, with their mural reliefs serving as a captivating chronicle of daily life in ancient Egypt. Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner this evening. MARRIOTT MENA HOUSE (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 24

Giza

This morning visit the awe-inspiring monuments of Giza—the quintessential symbols of ancient Egypt. Explore the massive pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Menkaure, and be treated to privileged access to the area at the foot of the enigmatic Sphinx. Have dinner at a private home this evening. MARRIOTT MENA HOUSE (B,L,D)

Friday, February 25

Giza / Cairo

Take an exclusive tour of Islamic Cairo today. In the morning head to two of Cairo's major mosques, Ibn Tulun and Sultan Hassan. After lunch relax at our hotel or remain in Cairo to continue experiencing the city independently. Dinner and the rest of the evening are on our own. MARRIOTT MENA HOUSE (B,L)

Saturday, February 26

Giza / Cairo / Luxor / Embarkation

Hop on a chartered flight from Cairo to Luxor, where we begin our appreciation of the Nile Valley with a guided tour of the East Bank of Luxor. Board our luxurious riverboat, where our gracious ship staff welcomes us with lunch. Spend the afternoon at leisure, then depart for a special sunset excursion to the Temple of Luxor, whose graceful cluster columns, designed to look like papyrus, were built by Amenhotep III and later embellished by Ramesses II, Tutankhamun and Alexander the Great. Return to our ship for a festive reception and dinner. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 27

Valley of the Queens / Valley of the Kings

Drive to the West Bank of Luxor to view the Valley of the Queens, including a special trip to the tomb of Queen Nefertari. Explore Deir el-Bahri, whose highlight is the magnificent mortuary temple of Hatshepsut, the queen who declared herself king and whose mummy was discovered in 2007. Then wander through the Valley of the Kings, with its stunningly painted royal tombs and long corridors leading into deep burial chambers symbolizing the passage to the world of the dead. Learn about a variety of these tombs—including those of Tutankhamun,

Seti I and Ramesses IV—from a local archaeologist. This afternoon tour the Luxor Museum, which provides an excellent overview of the temple complexes and burial sites of Upper Egypt. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Monday, February 28

Luxor / Tombs of the Nobles / Medinet Habu

Return to the West Bank of Luxor to visit its most beautiful tombs—those of the nobles—set in the limestone cliffs that stretch far into the valleys of the western desert. Proceed to the Mortuary Temple of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu, with its impressive wall reliefs. Also stop to admire the Colossi of Memnon, two massive sandstone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 1

Esna / Aswan

After a calm morning on the water, call at Esna to admire the Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum, with its great hypostyle hall. Continue cruising to Aswan this afternoon. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 2

Aswan / Temple of Isis

Devote the entire day to exploring Aswan, beginning with the Temple of Isis, which was carefully moved to higher ground before the rising waters of Lake Nasser submerged its original location on Philae Island. Take a motorboat to Agilkia Island, where we attempt to decipher the well-preserved hieroglyphics at this temple. Head to the granite quarries that supplied ancient Egypt with most of the hard stone used in its pyramids and temples and which still hold a huge, unfinished obelisk. Later today board a felucca, a traditional Nile sailing vessel, to navigate around Kitchener's and Elephantine Islands and view the stately Mausoleum of Aga Khan. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 3

Kom Ombo

Spend the morning at leisure as we begin our cruise back downriver to Luxor, stopping in Kom Ombo for a visit to the Temple of Sobek and Horus. Built by the Ptolemaic rulers who governed Egypt after its conquest by Alexander the Great, the temple is unique as it honors two gods. This evening enjoy a festive dinner party, including a meal of local Egyptian specialties. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Friday, March 4

Karnak / Luxor

Indulge in a relaxing morning on board, delighting in scenic views of life along the banks of the Nile. On our return to Luxor, stroll around the temple precincts of Karnak, admiring Ramesses II's magnificent hypostyle hall with its 134 columns, soaring obelisks and the enormous temple dedicated to Amun, the god of the air. Attend the captain's farewell dinner on board as we toast the conclusion of our Nile cruise. *NILE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Saturday, March 5

Luxor / Disembarkation / Abu Simbel / Cairo

Bid farewell to our riverboat early this morning and board a charter flight to Abu Simbel, one of the greatest temple precincts in ancient Egypt. Built by Ramesses II, the temples are famous for the colossal statues of the pharaoh and his favorite wife, Nefertari. As waters from the dam in Aswan rose toward the temples in the 1960s, an international team, in an extraordinary feat of engineering, raised the site 200 feet and relocated the statues about 600 feet from the water's edge. Fly to Cairo and relish an evening at leisure. *FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA* (B,L)

Sunday, March 6

Cairo

Marvel at the 100,000-plus relics and artifacts, including the extraordinary gold treasures of Tutankhamun, at either the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities or, if the collection has been moved and the new museum is open to the public, at its new home, the Grand Egyptian Museum. Continue to Coptic Cairo to see the Hanging Church and the Ben Ezra Synagogue. Gather for a farewell reception and dinner this evening. FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L,D)

Monday, March 7

Cairo / Home

Transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Covid-19 and Travel

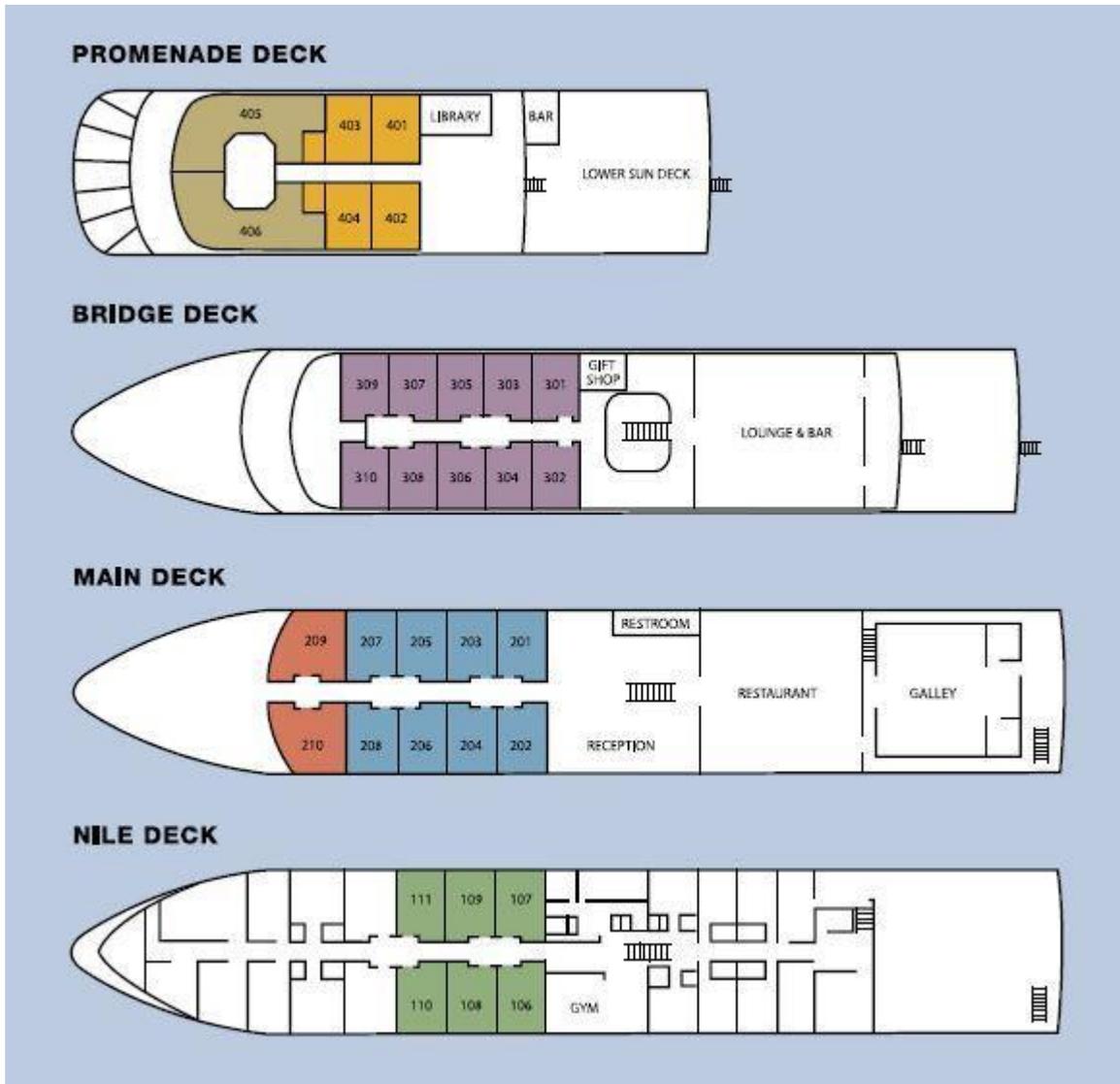
With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

Size

This trip is limited to 48. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited.

About Our Ship

The elegant riverboat *Nile Adventurer* accommodates guests in 32 beautifully designed cabins. Originally launched in 1990 and refurbished in 2019, this graceful vessel offers delicious gourmet meals in the restaurant, afternoon tea in the stunning lounge and refreshing cocktails on the sundeck. Two decks provide ample space for watching the passing Nile scenery, as well as a heated pool and exercise machines. All cabins have Nile views, a minibar, a safe-deposit box, an LCD television with satellite and in-house movies, a private bathroom with bathtub and shower, and air conditioning with individual controls. Wi-Fi is available for purchase in each cabin and in some public areas.



Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

Category	Double Rate	Single Rate
Nile Deck Cabin (178 sq. ft.)	\$10,995	\$13,795
Main Deck Cabin (178 sq. ft.)	\$11,895	\$14,695
Bridge Deck Cabin (178 sq. ft.)	\$12,795	\$15,795
Promenade Deck Cabin (178 sq. ft.)	\$13,695	
Main Deck Deluxe Cabin (229 sq. ft.)	\$15,295	
Presidential Suite Cabin (456 sq. ft.)	\$17,295	

*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

Included

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- 6 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 7-night cruise aboard the *Nile Adventurer*
- Internal Egypt flights on chartered aircraft: Cairo/Luxor, Luxor/Abu Simbel, Abu Simbel/Cairo
- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 10 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

Not Included

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

What to Expect

We consider this program to be moderately strenuous and at times physically demanding and busy. We will have a very full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events and most days will require early-morning starts. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. Daily excursions in Cairo and from our riverboat are busy and involve one to three miles of walking, with tours lasting as long as three hours. Much of the walking takes place at ancient sites covering a large area, where paths can be rocky and uneven, and involving high thresholds and steps without handrails. Many buildings do not have elevators, and some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus requiring a walk of several minutes to reach the entrance. The air pollution in Cairo is particularly bad and can affect the respiratory system. Busy days are contrasted with the relaxed pace aboard our riverboat, where daily shore excursions are complemented by lectures and leisure time on board. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. The nonmember fee is waived for anyone traveling as a paid guest of a current member, as well as for emerita or emeritus faculty and staff. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with general medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the ship's ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

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